

Missão Evangelica do Baifundo
Vila Teixeira da Silva
Angola, Port. W. Africa
October 12, 1955

Dearest Sister Olive,

How time has gone by! And now it's your birthday again and almost gone by unrecognized by your brother in any way. Perhaps Betty wrote something to you in the letter of last week, but I didn't have time to read the letter, and shall spend my time now putting something here rather than going to ask Betty if she did or didn't.

We came back last week from our holidays at Lobito and have been trying to catch up a bit. We reached the mission at five minutes to six Monday morning, the 3rd of the month instead of arriving at four o'clock Saturday afternoon, the 1st, as we had planned. We ran over a rock in the road about 40 miles from Lobito, in the mountains, and the rock, a heavy one flipped up its rear and caught the oil pan such a blow that the oil began to leak out. We caught the oil, but still had to go where repairs could be made on the punctured piece. In the Ford truck we have a small plate can be taken off the bottom of the oil pan. This plate was leaking; it was a lso bent. I had to go with it, after a kind truck driver had removed it, to a plantation about 20 miles away. This took all day, for I had to catch a truck going and one returning to where the car was. Fortunately there was a house there, too and Betty and the kiddos stayed there the two days, Sat. and Sun., that it was necessary to be there. When I reached the car again at five in the afternoon on Sat. darkness was coming on. Discovering that I could not put the plate on again, because the other section of the oil pan was bent too badly, I decided that I leave the matter until Sunday morning. Sunday morning left me with no doubt as to my efforts; I found I could not do the job without taking off the entire oil pan and that to take it off I had to take the starter off, and didn't know what else I might have to do then. It was then I caught a pick-up going back to Lobito. There I found a mechanic who would bring me back, for a sum of course, and do the job. We were on our way again about six Sunday afternoon and drove all night, altho with a number of catnaps, about 280 kilometers, about 175 miles. Slept until 1 p.m. Monday. Betty didn't sleep because of the kids, who had slept throughout the trip of course.

Wednesday p.m. we took the boys over to Dondi to school and stayed until Friday p.m. The boys are in the new dormitory this year with Robin and Frances Markham to care for them. We hope everything will go smoothly.

The Woodmans sail from Lisbon the last of the month and come here to study Umbundu.

This is the news for your birthday on your birthday. Shall endeavor as soon as there is water to get you those promised pics of the youngsters, as a birthday present. Hope they reach you before Christmas.

Lots of love and God be with you, *Jackie*