

February 19, 1971

Dearest Mamma & Olive

Another week and my turn to write to you all again! It doesn't seem possible. How much we are enjoying your package Tommy's favorite book since it arrived is "The Top Shop". I can almost quote it by heart, now. All of us like Kennie's poem. It is the best little book of selections I have ever seen. The calendar is just the sort of thing, both the picture which we love and its usefulness. But nothing that anyone could send in a package would mean half as much as your letters which come so regularly. Olive's arrival on Tuesday and mother's on Thursday, occasionally it is Wednesday or Friday. How long is the space between Thursday night and Friday noon when it happens! Again, we had a wonderful devotional meeting at Henderson's last Sunday night. The inspiration of it has stayed by me, all week. Last night I got to thinking about you and the spirit with which you sent Mary off. Surely someone has made as great a sacrifice in our going to Africa as you. Not the people in Everett who support us and not we ourselves. We miss our families in America and often long for them but we did the same in Alabama. The richness of the fellowship of the missionaries we have here has given us something we ~~never~~ never found elsewhere. We thought we were Christians before we came. Here we realize how many times we have to say "Lord, have mercy on us sinners". The thing that stands out to me today as strongly is the way you folks passed the real test of Christianity, and mamma you sent Mary off without malice without fear and without show of tears. We are both grateful and I don't forget to thank God for a mother like you. This experience in Portugal is being awful good for us. Our health - all of us - is really excellent. Kennie and Tommie are just getting over chicken pox but they had it very lightly. In fact if Kennie hadn't had it noticeably we would never have known that Tommie had it.

Feb. 12 -

On one letter sometime back you wondered if Kennie's sickness was the reason we didn't have Thanksgiving. It wasn't the reason. You see the students are Canadian and their Thanksgiving is in October and they don't observe it as much as we do anyway. Also, the Sunday before Thanksgiving the Hendersons arrived and we were busy getting them settled and attending classes so we just had a devotional service in the morning and saved the Turkey for Christmas.