

Missão de Chissamba
May 13, 1949

Dearest Mother,

Am I chagrined. We didn't get a card to you on your birthday. Well, perhaps the pictures arrived. Even if the pictures arrived, however, it would not be like a birthday card. We'll see if we cannot straighten out our schedule before your next year's anniversary.

Please excuse the slipshod appearance of the letter "r". The typewriter went on the blink and I haven't got it properly fixed yet. I'm learning " by guess and by gorry " how to make minor repairs on this machine. We really ought to have two machines out here, so that we could both have one to use, but when one goes bad, we would still have one which both of us could use. It's so much ~~hazz~~ better way of putting a lot of words in a small space. Then, too, now we must be prepared to write more and more reports by machine.

Well, at last we know where we're going to be stationed for a few years. Our next address will be the Missão de Bunjei, Galangue. What we plan to do from now until the last of July is to get ourselves in readiness togothere. We shall be studying with Miss Mackenzie of the Chissamba mission until the end of June. By that time we hope that we shall be accustomed to having a baby around the house as well as having studied a good deal more Umbundu. Also we hope that by the middle or end of August, when we expect to arrive at our new home, the other missionary on the station will have the open wells closed in. There have been no children of missionary's families there for some time, so that not quite as much attention to the places dangerous for small children to play around has been paid recently. The missionary there now is Sam Coles, an American Negro, who was one of the first to go to Galangue. Curtis McDowell, whom you met at Auburndale, was the founder with Sam Coles of the work at Galangue, McDowell arriving first. The McDowells are still at Elende. The shuffling of missionaries ~~is~~ about at annual meeting in Dondi last week resulted in everybody staying put among the senior missionaries. One family goes home on furlough. The Welches go to Missão de Bunjei and the Hendersons to Lobito to take care of the work at the coast. We don't want to think of ourselves as the only ones who could have gone to the Galangue mission. Certainly McDowell would make the field a going church if he were there, but it is a place in which we may send down such roots as missionaries may be rightfully permitted to send down anywhere. Everything being considered it was thought better to send us there than to one of the other stations from which we would have to move in a year, or year and a half, because some other couple with much experience in that field had come back from furlough to pick up his work again and we sent off as a result to some other station needing a family. We'll write more of the work later.

Now as to other news of us. Betty is still in Dondi, patiently waiting after false alarms of confinement during annual meeting the first week we were at Dondi. However, she may come home this afternoon. We've had no word from her, and no word either from the people with whom she hoped to come back to Chissamba. But everyone here at the station is expecting that Dr. Strangway of the Canadian mission will arrive here today from Dondi, where he will have stopped on his way from the coast. He came into Lobito last week, found his goods already thru the customs and ready for shipment up country, where we have been putting them under cover. We shall be disappointed here if he doesn't arrive today, for all are in readiness with the grand welcome. He is known over a considerable part of Africa, at least over all of Angola. We have heard him spoken of everywhere with high respect. He's not only a good doctor, but a fine man, loved by both Africans and Portuguese. We expect that the baby will be in his care for a while also that he will see to tonsil and adenoid operations on Kenny and Tommy.