

Missao de Eunjei
Galangue, via Nova Lisboa
Portuguese West Africa

Dearest Mother,

Seems to me that it's about time that I wrote to you once more. We reached our new home on the 12th, about 4:30 in the afternoon. Since then we've been right out straight trying to acquaint ourselves with some of the life of the station.

We were greeted by a few young people only, because we had been expected to arrive earlier in the day than we did. There had been a good number waiting for us at noon time, but because it had gotten to be so late in the day, the larger share of them had returned to their houses. However, the next day, Saturday, we were welcomed by a church full. The people came to the house in a body, then formed a double line in front of the house. We passed from the tail end of the line to the head through the center of the line. The pastor walked with us then as our escort and we went on over to the church.

Here I'll tell you that the church is the assembly room of the school. This station does not yet have a church building. Perhaps we shall be the ones to build the church building. In the meantime the church meets in the schoolhouse.

After reaching the schoolhouse assembly room we were seated on the platform and treated to some native music, played on native instruments, thumb harp, two different size gourds, and a basket of reed which was played by pushing a stick down across the ribs. I hope that I got some colored pictures of the players and their instruments. Part of the entertainment also consisted of native songs. We thoroughly enjoyed the welcome, and when it came time for me to get up and make my little speech, telling people how happy we were to have come to them at last, I was able to say it in all sincerity. Needless to say, we haven't learned all of the words as yet, but I got along passing well. Our teacher during the past year came down with us from Chissamba, and sat in the seat with us on the platform. She praised me for my having learned sufficient to thank the people and to greet them in their tongue. We were happy to think that we understood a good part of what was being said about us.

We're now busy with making some repairs on the house in which we are to live but in which we haven't been able to get a meal yet because the kitchen hasn't been put in order. We decided to fix up the kitchen and dining room first, along with the water system. The Board allots money for the purpose of house repair and we are trying to make it stretch as far as money will stretch.

We are all just fine. Max left yesterday to spend a week at Bondi at a Pastor's retreat. His first experience "camping out" in Africa. They will sleep in grass houses. Susan weighs 11 lbs. 9 oz. at 3 mos. Eat everything including onions and she loves it. I'm getting fat but

Aug 1949

Don't forget to give Ralph a fly by for us! Love to all five of yours

Don't know are in seventh heaven. I don't know what that is or what it means.