

Bailundo, March 26, 1955

Dearest Mother,

We are now preparing for an annual meeting and celebration of the landing in Benguela 75 years ago this year of the first missionaries to Angola sent out under the American Board. We have houses to clean up, grounds to put in order, orders of food to be placed, bedding to be put in readiness, helpers to instruct about their jobs and innumerable other little details to attend to. Betty is going to have a house full of children here at our house and the house across the way will have some children in it to be taken care of, altho there will be parents in that house. I have the task of setting up the public address system and arranging for audio-visual program set up in the line of the machines to be used. Besides this I am directing the choir here, and am now busy every day with rehearsals. The program begins on May 3rd and goes through until about the 15th of the month.

We are expecting the Okumas back here around the middle of July. Tom has written to us that he would like to have all the orders in his hands by the first of May. They are in Auburndale, living at Walker Home, address 144 Hancock Street. If you would like to send something with them, write to Thomas. M. Okuma. We plan to order some things to come out, but have not sent off the order yet because we don't have the necessary amount of money in hand.

I'm trying to figure out a way to get two more lenses for my Leica. I know where there are two good used lenses for around \$ 35.00 apiece, but as much as I'd like to have them, haven't been able yet to figure things closely enough so that I can say that I can get the lenses and a movie projector which I also want for the work and which costs a fat sum of money. We also need several things for the house to come from the states, but since we much watch that expenditures don't exceed income, we cannot put in our order until next week or the week after.

Our weather has improved considerably. Whereas we still have very little water in our well, we feel sure that we shall have in another few weeks. The rains came again on the World Day of Prayer, both here and in Bela Vista and other sections. We are confident that God answered our prayers. Crops will be short, but we think that there will be enough to go around. The government has begun to distribute some seeds, corn and beans anyhow, and it may be that there will be enough help of this kind to mean assurance of another crop before things get too bad. There were many, many of our people who prayed hard and sincerely to God to relieve them. We heard that the more pagan element carried on as in the past, that one native chief took one man to the Portuguese authorities because the man refused to plead guilty that he had stopped the rains. The chief wanted the man severely punished because he had refused to plead guilty and because he had also refused to let the native population punish him. Anyone with any standing and power was thought by some of the natives I hear to have some power to bring back the rain, in the same voice was accused of course of having been responsible for stopping the rain, for one or another reasons. Well, I didn't stop the rains, but I certainly prayed for their return and asked others to pray.

Love and prayers for you,

*Max*