

Misaão da Chissamba, Nova Sintura,
Bié, Angola - Nov. 16, 1951

Dear Folks,

We're dashing off this hasty letter to let you know that the big event is over and that everything went very well. Betty started having pains about 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. Patricia Elizabeth arrived at 8:10 p.m. There were no complications and none have set in. Your newest grandchild weighed seven pounds and thirteen ounces, a real heavyweight.

It is a miracle, though, that we have a live baby. A strange thing occurred, sometime back, apparently. When the baby had come and was being cleaned up, the doctor noted something unusual about the cord. It was knotted. When he should it to us he remarked that it was most rare to find a living baby with the cord knotted as the one by which Patricia was attached. It had a double knot which had been in for some time, as near as anyone can judge. It must have been done by the baby moving about in the mother. Another kick or twist and the movement might have caused the knots to tighten like a noose. Some of the cord was also wrapped around the baby's neck. We call it a miracle that we have our fourth with us, and as healthy a baby as one could ask for.

Susan wants to put the baby on her back already. It's the custom of the African women to carry the babies on their backs. Susan has learned to carry dolly that way. Patricia E. being just a good-sized doll now Susan is already to go with little sister.

We think ourselves very fortunate indeed. We were hoping for a girl. We thought it would be very nice for Susan. Occasionally it happens that parents get what they hope for, doesn't it. God has been good to us.

Betty wanted to tack a note on the end of this, but we want to get letters off to Boothbay Harbor and Strong and the mail is about ready to go. Since feeding time has arrived and the mother is quite busily engaged we think it well that Daddy finish the letter.

Betty feels very well. She says that the pains were a little worse with Patricia than with Susan, but that because of the rest we had here in Chissamba beforehand she has not felt as well ever after the confinement. Love to all.

