

April 1949

Dear Folks,

We certainly love your letters! Saturday night is a red letter night with a capital R. Max did his first impromptu vocalization in public yesterday. He read the benediction in the binder. At the beginning of the service he was asked to do it.

We went to a pretty village that was clean and prosperous looking. The conquest of odds that is contained in these words clean and prosperous can only be seen and realized by seeing and hearing the problems these people have. There were over five hundred adults at the adult meeting and over two hundred children at the children's. We took Tommie and Kennie so that they could contribute and feel a part of it all even though they could not understand anything as yet. I mounted a couple of Christmas cards, one showing the three wisemen and the other showing the shepherds on construction paper. Kennie gave them to all of the leaders. Imagine the face of some poor boy in America when he was given a bicycle and you can have an idea of the joy of these two hundred children. In their big Sunday school room they had just one picture. The only pictures they ever get are the ones the missionaries bring. Your Sunday school children might find a similar use for old Christmas cards and mail them to one of your Methodist Missions at Malange or Luanda. Missionaries are good friends of ours. Their children played with ours in Lisbon. Other very special friends are the Leonard Mitchims in Guilundo Ouissico Portuguese, East Africa. Be sure to cut off any English words. Surplus pictures on Sunday school papers showing biblical scenes are grand too, especially any dealing with Jesus. Mr. Graffam could give you complete addresses.

Tonight there is a big party for all of the Africans and their wives who help us in our homes and also for the teachers and leaders in the schools. Max, Larry. And Hal have charge of the games, us wives are providing the refreshments – coon Johnny cake, coffee, and peanuts.

Christmas Eve we all go to the ladies house for a party for us. We'll have a tree and have exchanged names for gifts. Christmas Day the three families will eat dinner together as we did last year. At night we go to the big house for a carol sing and supper. Supper first and then carol sing. In the morning we all go to church. Christmas Eve all of our children are going to entertain us singing Silent Night and playing Jingle Bells with their rhythm band. Tommie plays the sticks and Kennie plays a drum. Are we ever proud parents!

We are taking a roll of colored film of us all and our house etc. and sending it to Rochester N. Y. to be made into slides and then they are to go directly to you for a Christmas present. We hope Mr. Graffam will be able to project them so you can see them on the wall. They won't reach you for Christmas but we hope not too long after. Merry Christmas to you all and Ralph don't you eat too many of your mumie's pumpkin pies or your gramie's whatever she cooks. It will be delicious I know but you are still kind of young. Bless you, I'd love to give you a big hug and kiss and rock you a bit, too.

Loads of love to all,

Betty