

1851 N.E. 60th Ave.
Portland 13, Oregon
Jan. 28, 1954

Dear Friends,

As I saluted you with our regular "dear friends" I was tempted to substitute a brogue tainted "hoot mon", just a hearty "hello" or a deep-throated Ponapean "ran mau". Perhaps all three are in order for this letter is sent to bring greetings from Chet who is studying in Bonnie Scotland at the University of Edinburgh, from Michael, Merrill, and Marge now visiting in Portland and from many of our Ponapean Christians who asked that we give their "ran mau" to "all the Christians in America and Hawaii". In fact the last greeting might be sufficient for all of us for although we have been away from Ponape for about a year, we find that our hearts are out in the middle of the Pacific.

Until about half of our Christmas cards were sent back from Ponape I thought that our friends didn't need a circular letter to inform them of our whereabouts. Now I realize that some of you have not heard from us since the fall of '52. At that time we were preparing to graduate our first class from the Oa Christian Training School. December 30th was the big day and a large group of friends and relatives filled the school building to over-flowing. Our hearts were thrilled as the students sang in their beautiful harmony a group of songs they had sung together so often. The one which touched us most was one they had learned in English—"I have decided to follow Jesus, no turning back, no turning back". They had chosen to sing it and we know that it was an expression of the hearts' desire of at least some of them. We realized how young, weak, and inexperienced they were yet our prayer was that God would use them in some way as a "witness of good things". We have asked praying friends to remember them and we trust that you will do the same.

On January 23rd the boys and I had put things away in the trunk cases, and bidden many farewells to our native friends. We boarded the little amphibious plane which stops at our island and with much spray and splatter took off from our familiar lagoon. We sensed the Lord's hand upon us throughout our trip and arrived safely in Honolulu on January 28th several hours before we had left Guam! (You guessed it, we had recrossed the International Date Line.)

We asked your prayers in regard to my finishing my college work in Hawaii and we feel we are debtors to give praise for His goodness and blessing. He helped us find a nice conveniently located duplex and moved friends to temporarily furnish it. Nearby was a fine Luthern Church School Kindergarten which welcomed the boys and even chagge d the hours when I mentioned that they didn't fit intoo well with my class schedule. In spite of a very full schedule the Lord made the semester one of the most enjoyable and profitable I have ever spent in school.

Of course we missed Chet but we knew that with us our of sight he was free to devote his energies to a trip around the island visiting in all of the churches, many of the homes, and to make a run to the southern islands in our district. His time was well spent preaching the Word, encouraging the sick, and saying his farewells. It was a most appropriate way to close out the term on Ponape. As she left the people he was of course concerned about the work during our furlough but he have left the people in the Lords hands with many prayers that He would strengthen Martin and other of the native leaders and that He would bless Miss Lela Morgan and Miss Louise Meebold who were to carry on in Kolonia and Oa respectively. Chet had a quick and direct trip via Kwajalien and joined us in Honolulu on April 9th. In a couple of weeks he was off again on a three weeks speaking tour on the outer islands—Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii.

I will stop tracing our itinerary from here of you will be lost in a maze of dates and destinations. Suffice it to say that we have visited Portland and Grand Rapids, spoken in churches and done other things which missionaries on furlough are prone to do. Chet left from New York on September 30th aboard the United States bound for Scotland. He has enjoyed his studies very much and spent a profitable Christmas vacation doing research at the London Missionary Society Library in London. During the three days that the library was closed he made a flying trip to the Netherlands—the land of his forefathers.

Now the boys and I are preparing to join Chet. Before returning to the field there are a number of things which must be done and that brings us to one of the main purposes of this letter. It is time to revise our mailing list. We know that many of the addresses are not up to date. We'd also like to know if you are still interested in receiving our letters. Perhaps some of you hear the letters read at a missionary group and would rather have one less letter lying around. If you wish to receive future letters will you send your correct address to me at 1851 N.E. 60th Ave., Portland 13, Oregon. The enclosed post card is for your convenience. If you will be seen in us you may give us the information personally. Since I plan to leave here March 1st we would appreciate hearing from you before then.

I would like to take this opportunity to once again thank both individual friends and church groups for the offerings and gifts which have been passed on to us. All of them are being put toward the purchase of supplies and equipment which we will take back with us. We thank you for your interest and know that the Lord will not forget what you have given in His name.

If all goes according to plans we will be back in the Trust Territory by June. We may be going via Europe and Asia. We covet your prayers as we travel and during our coming service on Ponape. We long to see a real revival here. We are praying for the lives of many of our people whom we have learned to love so dearly.

One further item—we know of a couple, close friends of ours, who are considering joining hearts and hands in the work on Ponape. Will you pray that if this is His will they might be accepted to Sarzeffahour station.

In His service,

Bebe and Margery Terpstra