



Rev. and Mrs. Chester Terpstra
Ohwa, Ponape
E. Caroline Islands
Trust Territory of the Pacific,
U. S. A.
October 24, 1960

Dear Friends,

I notice that in the next to the last paragraph in our last form letter Marge wrote, "A big question is how long the boys should be kept on the field."

Perhaps, most of you know that that question has been answered. Marge and the three boys are living at 1826 S.E. 113th Ave., Portland 16, Oregon.

The total explanation is too lengthy for this letter, but I will mention some of the factors involved. Marge and I, during our 1958-59 furlough, had thought very seriously of having Merrill and Michael go back to the States for schooling after two more years in Micronesia. However, this past spring it became evident to us that we should not wait two years, but shorten it to one. As the boys attempted more advanced school work, the "parent tutoring the child in his bedroom" approach necessary out here just became impossible - especially seeing that Marshall also had a Calvert course. Then there were the additional factors of the boys' lack of normal recreational and social life after school hours and the tropical climate. The total situation, we felt, was just too abnormal for the physical, emotional, scholastic,--the entire future of the boys' lives.

They are now all enrolled in a parochial school in Portland. When I say "all" I guess I could include Marge. In order to get Marshall into kindergarten she had to agree to teach a section or two of Latin.

In my bachelor estate I have been given lots of good advice. The most practical has been on how to keep my can opener from wearing out. Surprisingly enough my weight has kept somewhat up to normal, except for this week when I was hit by the flu for the second time. We are in the midst of an influenza epidemic here in Micronesia. Over twenty people on this island alone have already succumbed to this disease against which they have very little resistance.

The total prospects of the work, in my opinion, have never been brighter. Here at Ohwa, the Pastors-Teachers Training School (PTTS) has been running for 10 weeks. There is a wonderful spirit among the students and we staff members feel we are off to a tremendous start. These thirty-two students from almost that many scattered atolls here in the Pacific will be the island world's future pastors, evangelists and teachers. Forty of our forty-eight graduates are already serving in the above capacities. Six more are obtaining further training for full-time Christian service. We have appreciated your prayers and interest in this great undertaking. It is with pleasure that we mention that our Pastors-Teachers Training School is among the institutions which may receive help from the present gifts you are making to the Higher Education Fund.

In regard to the other aspects of the work I think a letter I wrote to Danny Leopold, one of our PTTS graduates and a former teacher at our local Ohwa Christian Training School (OCTS) who is now studying in Hawaii, will give you a clear insight. Danny had been asked to speak on "The Mission Work on Ponape and how it grows." Danny's letter to me asks that, seeing he has been away a year, I bring him up-to-date on the work of his home district. To his letter I replied:

Dear Danny,

I am glad, Danny, for this, another opportunity you have to represent your people to the outside world. I actually feel that no one can be a

a better mouth-piece than you Micronesian young men who are further preparing yourselves for the Christian ministry. You, Albert, Johanny, Moses and other PTTS graduates who have had or are having the advantage of study outside the Trust Territory are also a part of the answer to the topic you have been assigned.

This past week Albert worked with Mr. Simon in one of the courses of the deacons' school. Their class period on the responsibility of lay-leaders in the church proved a real inspiration. Our deacons received many new ideas from Albert who related to them observations he had of the participation of laymen in the churches of Hawaii. Later today, Albert with his family and Mrs. Terpstra go into Kolonia for a summer workshop with our Sunday School teachers. Albert himself has prepared this quarter's lessons and, as you probably know with Mrs. Terpstra's leaving, he is adding to his duty as principal of OCTS, the responsibility of the Sunday Schools.

I enclose a check for \$50 from the deacons. This is only a small amount, they commented, but yet they wanted you to know that this gift is a token of their interest in you and the goal of your education. Our people have for years assumed full-support of their local churches. However, this interest in financing you young men for overseas schooling is new and a sign of growth. The value of this type of growth, Danny, cannot be overstressed.

It will interest you, seeing you taught here at Ohwa, that Moses and Baie, your classmates at PTTS, will be joining our staff for OCTS. This means, D.V., that the school will be fully staffed by Micronesians by the time you return next year.

Our gospel teams from PTTS will visit each of the twelve churches of Ponape twice this year. At these times the churches will donate food to OCTS. The people think they have recovered from the typhoons sufficiently to once again assume this aid. This church help, the money received for copra we make on our own campus plantation, plus the food raised here and that donated by students' parents, should make it possible for OCTS to be completely self-supporting within a few years.

It will interest you to know that we are admitting 30 new students, 28 boys and 2 girls, to PTTS this year. Yap has submitted its first application. The students here are wondering if the boy will wear only a loin cloth like his people back home or if he will invest in a pair of trousers.

These are some of the things which came to mind as significant factors in the growth of the work here on Ponape this past year. In closing I mention something you will be glad to hear. 61 responded during the island-wide Evangelistic Mission which closed a week ago Wednesday. All we do, Danny, has one final goal, reaching people for Christ and nurturing them in the faith. God's blessing on you during these summer months.

In Christian love,

I may, if present plans materialize, see some of you while passing through Hawaii this coming April. I am an American Board delegate to a Conference of Churches and Missions in the Pacific to be held in Samoa.

Do remember all of us, Marge and the boys in the States, and me out here, in your prayers. We need guidance for the future.

Change of address should be sent to Missions Council, 14 Beacon St., Boston 8, Mass. and must mention the Terpstras' name.

Sincerely,

Chester Terpstra
Chester Terpstra