

Trust Territory of the Pacific
Ponape, Eastern Caroline Islands
October 9, 1956

Dear Friends,

The longer I live the easier it is for me to understand how "a thousand years are but as yesterday" in the Lord's sight. I used to consider a year a fair amount of time but now it seems almost as nothing. This is especially true, it appears, when it comes to getting out general letters. We more or less aim at two or three a year and have ambitiously thought of one per quarter, but this one is pushing it close to one per year. Maybe with the coming year we will ~~have~~ ^{perhaps} have to make some resolutions. of 1957

Talking about the passing of time, I will answer the question that a number of friends have been asking of late, namely when is furlough. On June 8th, while at our Mission Meeting in Truk we celebrated Merrill's birthday as well as the second anniversary of our return to the field. Since this is a regular term of four years rather than the short first one of three, we are now well into the second half of this stay on Ponape, if all goes according to schedule. We are expecting this latter period to be a time of reaping some results from the efforts of the past two years. We have much to thank the Lord for as we look back on what has been accomplished even though there have been rough spots along the way. We know that your prayers have given strength to many endeavors and we trust that they will further water the seed that we may see much come to fruition.

Our Mission Meeting on Truk actually only demanded a week but to get to and from our next station, with the transportation available, consumed more than five. Perhaps in some ways it was a vacation, as they say that a "beach" is as good as a "rest", but after several weeks of sleeping on the ground, ~~in the open air~~ under various and sundry conditions, etc. we were most happy to see our home, sweet home, be it ever so humble.

Getting away from one's work does renew one's perspective and I think that both