

December, 1961 "Thanks be to God for His unspeakable gift,"  
I I Corinthians 9:15

Box 335, Waimea  
Kauai, Hawaii

Greetings from Kauai may come as a surprise to you who still envision the Terpstras on Ponape. We confess it is often hard for us to realize that we aren't just on our way back to Ohwa and "home."

Last year some of you knew that the boys and Marge were in Portland and sent your Christmas greetings there. Our Board provided the New Year's surprise of a lifetime by allowing Chet to join the family, reasoning that three years was a long time for three boys to be separated from their father and expecting that he could be replaced more easily on the mission field than he could be in our family. Actually we were very glad to see him, but are sorry that it has not yet been possible to replace him on Ponape. Our already-busy colleagues have had added duties and now with furloughs due there is of necessity a further curtailment of needed assistance in many phases of the work.

The house we had lived in for 30 days at a time was finally sold in July and we left, two hours after moving out, for Michigan to visit Chet's family. We returned to Portland in August for the marriage of Marge's sister, Nadyne, to Floyd Rogers. They left soon after the wedding for South Carolina.

Our leave of absence from the American Board and Chet's duties here at the Waimea Hawaiian and Foreign Churches both began September 1st. He and the two older boys reached Kauai that day. However, Marge and Marsh stayed behind, until the first week of October, with Grandma Williams.

The active membership of the two churches here is small, but the potential of the district is great. Won't those of you who have us on your prayer list remember us in a special way that we may be equal to the challenge. The opportunities are not limited to our parishes, but there are invitations to speak to service clubs, various organizations, schools, churches and missionary conferences.

We are interested to see who of the many promising us a visit will get here first. It was an unexpected pleasure to have our guest room occupied for the first time by Dr. Edman of Wheaton and Dr. "Uncle Joe" Evans, a trustee of the college. Dr. Edman was in Honolulu the week before Chet's installation service and was able to accept an invitation to give the charge to the minister and prayer of dedication. This was especially meaningful because Dr. Edman had a part both in Chet's decision to enter the ministry and his ordination.

The boys all seem to be making a good adjustment to things here. The parsonage is nice; the yard large and the garden prolific. At the moment it is raining an in-between Portland and Ponape downpour. Marshall shows more signs of becoming a Joe Marshall (a zoologist we knew on Ponape) than the Peter Marshall for whom we thought we named him. He is revealing in tropical fish, snails, two butterflies which just emerged yesterday from 2 of his 5 chrysalises. He let his praying mantis, lizard and frogs go because he has hopes of getting rabbits, chickens and/or a cat for Christmas. Mike was a member of Waimea's football squad, and is now training for track. Merrill has made up one of the grades he lost along the line. We were all happy at Thanksgiving to have two of our Micronesian students over from Honolulu. If they touched anyone's hearts as they did ours, it was a worthwhile experience.