

Ponape, Eastern Carolines  
Trust Territory of the Pacific  
March 21, 1957

Dear friends,

It is Spring Vacation time for the P.T.T.S. (Pastors-Teachers Training School) students, and thus an opportunity for us to have a little chat with you.

I said "spring" vacation; today is the first day of spring. However, "spring" is not in the Ponapean vocabulary. There are very few seasonal weather changes in these islands; except, perhaps, a little more or a little less rain.

We usually don't have a school holiday at this time of the year. However, during June, July & August we are to have a special music school, so we think a break appropriate now. Robert C. Carbaugh, at present on the Moody Bible Institute staff and our friend from Honolulu days when he was Director of Music for the Hawaiian Evangelical Association, is to be with us. Music is a vital part of island life, so we are happy this whole summer can be devoted to it.

The P.T.T.S. is a real encouragement. This June we graduate our first class, 20 young men. At present I am interviewing these Seniors individually. What a joy to listen to their accounts of their years with us! Some came to us with little understanding of personal commitment to Christ. While here they have come to grips with the demands of Christ upon them as individuals. Many have unconsciously revealed to us their growth in Christ. As we observed their field-work we saw a real love for people, and a resulting desire to communicate the Christ they know to others. Their teaching sessions in the classroom show how deeply they have thought through

Ohwa to help with the teacher couple, complete their work. Silliman this month. A single young man for Ohwa with Agricultural experience has been approved by the American Board, and at this writing they are processing his papers. Stations are asking for larger quotas for incoming students so it is evident that the worth of P.T.T.S. is being seen out on the field. Our physical plant is continually improving and for this we are grateful to individuals and churches who have sent special gifts. The cost of living has risen here in the Trust Territory as in the U.S.A., so our regular budget can only cover routine operating expenses. So for the expansion of our library, improvements in our buildings, purchase and installation of needed equipment, we continue to look to you who have caught the vision of training indigenous youth for the future leadership of the Church.

According to present plans our family moves out to Ohwa this June, as the Hayhows, our colleagues, leave on furlough. Michael & Merrill look forward to the move. At this stage I think it is the animal life, cows, carabaos, pigs which appeal to them. Marshall has only known Kolonia, but I think the open spaces of Ohwa will fit nicely into his roaming spirit. We shall miss Kolonia. Here one can better appreciate the life of the island church. Our new student-center-religious education building now in the process of being built is a reminder that this village is the Trust Territory's student center. Then there is the large island population concentrated in this area, and the American personnel of the government are stationed here. It is a consolation to know that we leave all of these important aspects of the work in the able hands of Dr. and Mrs. Hanlin.

We have appreciated the numerous gifts coming in through Friendly Service. Some of these have gone into Audio-Visual materials as you suggested. If you would like a look at the work being done here, enquire of the American Board for the sound film-strip we have just completed, and which they have for distribution. It will interest you who have personally been supporting some of the P.T.T.S. students to know that after graduation a few of these young men will probably go to Hawaii for further education.