

I guess you didn't get a copy of this. I just found the envelopes that made out for you & grandma. She put them aside thinking we would send letters in the same

Oa, Ponape
March 25, 1951

Dear Friends,

envelope. Probably you have seen some copy already.

Today is Easter. I am somewhere between Kusaie and Pingelap on an AKL. Marge and the boys are back on Ponape caring for the churches and schools there while I am making this eastern field-trip. She was scheduled to have services today- first at the Colonia church, and later for the Navy personnel stationed on the base. We had a service this morning aboard ship with natives, members of the field-trip party and the crew making up the congregation. A group of boys from Pingelap rendered our special number singing "Christ Arose" in Ponapean.

In dating this letter I am reminded that we have now been in this area a year, for it was on March 16 that Marge and the boys joined me at Ponape. The other day I tried to summarize what had happened during our stay here. I will share with you a few of the joys and sorrows which came with this reminiscing.

Just last night a young fellow, a Christian member of the crew, asked me how I found it working among these people. I will give you the reply he got. I said "you and I are used to the pattern which church life takes in America. A good many people are in the church, and a good many are not. Of the number in the church some have grasped the true meaning of their confession of faith, while others don't see things quite so clearly. Our churches are different. Practically all of the people in the Ponape district are members of the church, either Catholic or Protestant. At infancy they are dedicated by their parents and this act causes one to feel that he or she belongs to a church. I understand Europe has a pattern very similar to this. I remember Dr. Homrighausen of Princeton, after a year's survey in Europe, reporting that Dr. Barth said that all Germany was baptized. Two words: "so what" expressed Mr. Barth's evaluation of this church situation. Often I feel that way about Ponapean church life. So what- if all of the people are members of the church, but show very little evidence of ever being born again members of the Church of Christ. So what- though they are baptized if they do not show themselves dead to self and the old life and alive to Christ and good works. Barth gave his commentary "so what" because the majority of the people in the German church failed to manifest the Christian fruit which should accompany a profession of Christianity. Thus you can see why all of our recollections of this past year are not happy ones. Church members who are fornicators, adulterers, thieves, liars, drunkards, and practicers of paganism do not bring joy to a missionary's heart."

However, not for a moment would I have you believe that this is the only side to the Ponapean church. Here too, God has His remnant who have not bowed their knee to Baal. We thank God for this number of true believers. A few have a clear insight into all Christianity should mean in their experiences, and their Godly lives and passion for the lost are a real encouragement to us.

This is a picture of the field in which we labor. How would you labor in such a field? Some have advised me to forget about the adults and give my efforts to the pliable youth. That would mean primarily an educational program. Yet I can't see that approach. My heart goes out to those who have a false security. Those men and women who have gone through external, ritualistic acts, yet know nothing of inner peace and joy. Evangelism must be my approach. Not the evangelizing of those who have never heard; rather, I feel, a more difficult evangelism- trying to shake those who are in the ruts of an empty religion. I do praise God that already there are evidences of His working in changing lives.

To be sure, evangelism and education go hand in hand. We must plan today for our leaders of the future. That is why we have seen fit to reopen the Christian Training School at Oa, as well as continue the mission school at Colonia. One hundred and thirty-seven boys and girls attend these schools.

In our last letter we asked you to pray with us for additional personnel and we are most happy to report that Miss Lela Morgan of Hawaii is soon to join us. Both Marge and I worked with Lela while she was a teacher of religious education in the Honolulu public schools. Some of you know of her teaching experience in Alaska and Puerto Rico. Lela comes well qualified to serve the Lord here in Micronesia.

The mission house at Oa is finished to the extent of livability. Michael and Merrill enjoy this more rural setting more than they did Colonia. Both of them continue to enjoy good health.

We have appreciated your prayers and interest in this work this past year. To our prayer cards add the word "evangelism" and pray God that we may have a harvest of souls in this place.

Above I have mentioned that the year has brought to us both joy and sorrow. A sorrow of a different sort entered our life when Marge received a cable stating that her father had passed away suddenly on February the third at the age of fifty-two. Almost two weeks later we learned that his death had been attributed to a cerebral hemorrhage. Naturally, Marge longed to be with her mother, but at times such as these one begins to understand more fully what it means to leave father and mother for His sake.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Chit and
Marge

P.S. In many of the letters which I receive, I find the remark if there is anything you need let us know. Or, is there anything that our group could do for you? From many reports winter was a rather prolonged season in many parts of the country so perhaps some of you aren't completely finished with your spring house cleaning. Many of the things which you consider fit for the junkman would be put to good service here on Ponape. Of course, I realize it does involve a good deal of work to collect the things, package them up, and then send them off, but if any of you are looking for something which you might do for the Lord and us, I will offer a few suggestions. You might be glad to get the things out of the way and we would appreciate your labor of love,

From the attic, the clothes closet, or the rag bag...

1. Old clothing of just about any description, size, or vintage. The natives even like old shoes in spite of the warm weather, and the doctors think they will help in the fight against parasites.
2. Used curtains. Our girl's house would be brightened up a lot by curtains which most of you wouldn't have seen in your home.
3. Used buttons. For replacements on old clothing we have here.
4. Discarded toys. By the time you get this and get a package back to us it will be almost time for us to start thinking about Christmas gifts for the children here.

We are hoping to start a library for our school and our native workers who understand simple English, so...

1. Simple text books, children's books, picture books, educational magazines, simple Christian books and Sunday School papers. Old magazines which have pictures suitable for posters, etc. could be used. Remember printed matter comes at inexpensive book rate. Used hymn books are greatly enjoyed by the natives. Even if they don't understand the words they love the new tune.

Our dining hall is not yet built, but when it is, there will be a need for...

1. Spoons, knives, forks, plates, bowls, cups, pots, pans, etc. We can use those odd ones you are ready to discard.

Miscellaneous...

1. Old beads... the girls think they are beautiful.
2. Old reading glasses. They actually help some of the older people and others consider them distinguishing.
3. Old garden and carpenter's tools.
4. Used athletic equipment.
5. Your last year's Christmas cards could be distributed to our people with their Christmas gifts.
6. Musical instruments. Our students are very musical and love anything which makes a noise.
7. Flannelgraph lessons. Some missionary groups enjoy coloring and backing lessons to send away.

Some groups prefer to buy rather than to collect, so I suggest...

1. Chalk, tablets, pencils and poster paper for the schools.
2. Soap and yard goods for gifts to the natives.
3. Christian trinkets (pins, mirrors, etc.) for prizes and gifts.

Marge