

April 21, '52
Oa, Ponape

Dear Alice,

I have just made a list of things which I should or could be doing at this time and after looking at it thoughtfully and prayerfully I have decided that getting a letter off to you and also a report of our time in Truk is the one which should get my attention at this time. There are so many things from time to time which I would like to write about but just let slip by due to lack of time for proper correspondence. With the possibility that Florence and the baby may arrive next week, I would like to be putting lots of time in on the work around the house as we are making their coming an additional impetus to get the house more toward completion but since I think things really are adequate as they are I shall try not to neglect things which are perhaps more important. I find that I forgot one item on my list of activities but Michael has reminded me of it--his "school". He is sitting beside me coloring just now so there are lots of interruptions to find colors etc. Merrill has now joined us so I am flanked on both sides by two little boys who demand a great deal of attention. As yet I haven't had to start any really organized schooling for them as Michael is just five and Merrill not yet four. I hope to have Michael get a full year in school during our furlough and Merrill the same in kindergarten. Then after our furlough I shall have to devote a good deal more of my time to their schooling as both of them will be the age for it then. In many ways I am challenged by the prospects of teaching them myself but of course, in other ways I can see so much which I could do in the work here but when the children must be my first responsibility. Perhaps before too long they will be adding a good deal to the work themselves. Michael is doing much better at learning Ponapean than I expected as he was slow in English language development.

When I finish this letter I shall endeavor to get together from my notes a report of the educational conference we attended on Truk. When one of us was invited we came to the conclusion that I might represent Ponape, with of course Harold and Anna from Truk. Then when it was apparent that Harold would not get back from Kusaie we felt that Chet should get instead but when Harold sent a dispatch saying that he felt we should both go if we could, it turned out that Chet and I had a bit of a time away together. It was very hard to leave the boys for that long--12 days--knowing that there was no transportation between the two points in case of emergency but we did break away leaving them under Miss Morgan's supervision with a native girl whom they have known since coming here to do much of the actual work. I'm sure the break was good for all of us. At first I had thought I would merely send on a copy of my notes and have completed the first session in that way but in looking over the remaining material I have decided to take out mainly those things which are of interest to us and our work. I will send a copy to Harold but if you think that any of the others should have copies I would appreciate their being sent out from the office there. Perhaps it would be of interest to Eleanor. We had expected the Catholics to be represented more than they were. The feeling was expressed to us that the educational department felt they would stay away from the meetings but say plenty later. In private conversation we learned that the Catholic had been very critical of the administrative educational policies and had sent a letter above the heads of local authorities all the way to Washington. Several of the conference members expressed appreciation of our presence there. In reality the conference concerned public education almost exclusively and only touched on private education but we did learn

what they are thinking and trying to do, also their frustrations and problems and as you will read in the notes, their admission that they can't say much yet about private education when they cannot in many of their schools meet the requirements they would like to set up for private schools.

About two weeks ago in the late afternoon we were thrilled to see a sail moving along about in front of us a few miles outside the reef. We felt certain that it was the Star and of course were excited at the prospects of meeting Chris. I signaled with the mirror for over a half hour but although they saw us they didn't realize that we were hoping they would come in our passage here. They could have made it here before sunset but since they didn't know they could come in here they continued on to Kelenia and did not make it in time to enter before dark so spent the night going north and returning in the morning. The next evening Chris arrived here and we had a nice visit but a brief one. He left the next day for Truk as he felt that the folks would make it down from Guam last week. Unless Anna didn't have the latest news they were not expected at Truk until today so we trust that they are all reunited soon. It will be quite a gathering. We do hope that Chris arrived safely. He had made wonderful time getting here from the Marshalls but with the Star in its present condition he was really going by faith. Our prayers have been with him and we trust that he didn't encounter any bad weather. He seems to be a very sensible individual and capable of the job which is here. We think that he will be a real addition to the work. He felt that Florence could make the adjustment to life here best by staying with us at Oa so when he left the thought in his mind was that they would make their first start here. He is hoping to spend some time here in getting the Star fixed up a bit and in getting Florence settled. These plans are fine with us and we hope that they find life here pleasant and challenging. I think that at some future time she might make her home in Kabanua, when we get our second couple here at Oa, and the new house built in Kabanua, and she is on to life in these parts.

Now just a bit about our thinking concerning furlough. If time didn't pass so rapidly here we wouldn't even be talking about it yet but the way time flies, it will soon be upon us. Chet mentioned a few of the things we hoped to do during that one year and sometimes I wonder if we'll get it all in. Perhaps I am just being persistently stubborn in thinking that I should graduate from college. I know that the additional few hours which I have left will not add a great deal to my knowledge and certainly could not really change one's ability to do much of anything but I do think that since I am so close to the end I should finish it. At least a college degree would be helpful in regard to our school work etc. in the eyes of some people. I can finish quite easily at the U of H. I have thought some of writing to Wheaton to see if I could transfer back but I am afraid that it would be a much bigger job to get my work in here as Wheaton has much more rigid major requirements etc. Likewise work at Wheaton is on a very high level and requires more concentration than the U of H where I found it quite easy to get ~~really~~ good grades with much less time than I would like to have for study but as a busy mother and housewife one has to swallow one's ambition for top grades. The plan I am thinking about is for me to go six weeks or so earlier than we had planned and take the children with me to Honolulu. That would leave Chet really free to do a fine piece of work in a last round of visitation in all our churches which I feel would really strengthen the work before we left. I think that he would do this better with us

away than he would with us here as a married man with a family has certain ties which I feel often prevent him from putting himself into the work in the most profitable manner. This plan would also allow for our two boys to make the adjustment to school and more "civilized" life in the best setting possible. Honolulu is still close in Michael's experience and the life there is so much more similar to the life here that I think it would be wonderful for them. That is also reason why I would be in favor of taking my work on the way out rather than the way back. Another reason for this is that I understand that I am supposed to finish my work for my degree by '53. I could perhaps perhaps get an extension on this however, if it didn't work out right. Then when Chet joined us later he could do deputation work in Hawaii until I was finished with school. This would give him just about the right time there I feel as we do have lots of contacts but I felt too that four months was quite a time to spend there if it meant it would cut down so much on his time in the states.

Now this plan does have some disadvantages. Of course, it would be hard for me to go alone with the children and to go to school too when I had their whole responsibility. We expect by then if everything goes all according to schedule that we shall have at least three children. I have sort of hoped for twin girls someday so it might be four. (This is of course a joke but there have been twins on both sides of the house.) The I have not gone for the doctor's confirmation but we expect an addition in October. Things have not been going too well and I had Merrill at seven months so it may not be Oct. We do hope for a safe arrival! Then we do hate the delay in getting to our homes as our families are so anxious for the day of our arrival. My mother has had a desire of long standing to visit Hawaii but although the financial prospect isn't good for her she still has a hope that she might meet us there. Chet's mother seems to be improving some and his sister feels that she was spared to see him again. I also have two wonderful grandparents on my mother's side who have nearly gone in the last year but who hoped to be spared until we return. Of course, these loved ones are on our hearts but we do not know if they will still enter into the picture by next spring or not. At least if we were as near as Hawaii a plane could get us to their side in short order if an emergency did arise.

We shall continue to seek guidance on the whole matter and I would like to know the opinion of you at the Board in regard to my leaving a bit early if I should. I would not want it to appear that I was anxious to leave my post. It will be very hard to leave as we have been happy here and it will be hard to leave. Some evenings I walk out in that beautiful part of the day and look at the lovely scene before us here and think of all that we will leave and although a year is not long to be home it is a long time to be away and I come in thankful that it isn't the evening before I am to leave, and yet I have always been one who has left home and family without tears. Truly our God given loves are greater than our human loves they make us stay in the hard places, and the lonely places, and love the unlovable more than the way and the place and the people who are the things which our human love would draw us to. I really do not feel that anyone would object to my leaving this bit early. We left the US. Dec. 31st Honolulu, Feb. 17th, and arrived on Truk and Ponape March 6th. I would need to leave in the month of January to get settled enough to start school the first week of Feb. I would fly and although the Board did fly he Hanlins out I would probably expect that they would ask us to make up the difference between surface and air travel. We had not planned to stay for a mission meeting as we thought a mission meeting was to be held this ^{fall} and there would be no need of another so soon.

April 28, '52

Whenever, I write, Alice I am usually sorry that I didn't write sooner and then before I finish I am sorry that I have written so much because I feel that I have perhaps taken more of your time than is necessary or I have wearied you with my many words. I have known for years that I am too verbose but so far I haven't been able to do anything about it. I have now finished the report of the Truk conference and a bit about the time we missionaries had together at Anna's after Harold returned. Please forgive the form of each, I should have done a much better job on them but when I feel pressed for time I get a bit too hasty. I find that I did not give true "reporting" of the Truk meetings but have injected some of our thinking into what went on. However this might be of value to those who could not be there.

I think that I shall put these things together and make up an airmail packet. I will include 20 copies of a short letter we sent out some time ago. Ghet says that he read somewhere we were to do this. He has another letter about ready to go out so I am somewhat late with this.

I shall also include a copy of an article I wrote last fall which is scheduled to be published in the Sept. '52 issue of CHRISTIAN LIFE. I thought someone at the Beard should see it before publication. I am writing to ask that they delete the sentence which mentions Mormons. If you see something else which you feel should be corrected feel free to mention it. Of course, it is written with the readers of this magazine in mind and I feel it is the type of thing they will be interested in. If there is anything which you feel might be prepared for Congregational publications I would be interested in doing it sometime as I enjoy trying a hand at a bit of writing once and a while. I would like to have more time for such things as they are good for you when you are cut off from outside stimulation.

One further word about the Loomises. If they should come before we leave things may be a bit crowded but if they are really meant to be here I am sure we can all make the best of it. We will be settling the Ketchums next month, and as I have stated we too will probably be welcoming a new arrival in the fall. The house in Kolonia, near the hospital, is very small and things will be a bit chummy to put it mildly. I wonder if it might be wise to have Dr. Nida, who is coming out in the fall, see the whole field first before any couple is placed. If Mrs. Loomis' condition is very normal she will do fine here, a number of women have, but if things are not going just right I would suggest she wait. This past year two American women have been sent out to have their babies. I hope that I don't sound like an alarmist but the facilities here aren't stateside or Honolulu standard. Neither of our doctors are OB specialists and they don't like complications. Their presence on the field would be of benefit during our furlough year I am sure. I do think however, that if Dr. Nida could see things first it might be good. We are hopeful that they will be able to do something other than pure linguistic work. We are a bit understaffed to bring in specialists, I feel. We would be interested in knowing more about them if they are to be considered further for Penape.

With Christian love,