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On Saturday, April 17, word was sent out to all of you, either ~~by~~ *by* phone or telegram, informing you that the Dalat School personnel were to be moved to Bangkok on Monday, April 19, aboard four U. S. Military aircraft. The move was completed as scheduled and we are awaiting a cable confirming their arrival. I thought you would appreciate a few details about this, one of the most significant developments on our Field in recent years.

Since the time of my last letter to you, I have received a cable from Mr. King stating that we should proceed to move the School, in accordance with decisions made while he was here. I contacted the Embassy and enquired as to whether or not they could assist us in providing plane transportation. I also asked about the possibility of their sending personnel to Dalat to facilitate the issuance of passports for all of the children who had not as yet gotten this taken care of. It has truly been wonderful the way the people at the Embassy have assisted us in every possible way. They assured me that they would try to get the aircraft scheduled but that they doubtless would not be able to give me final confirmation until two days before scheduled departure.

We had at first decided on the 19th in order to permit the children to have Easter and perform the cantata on which they had been working for weeks. Later we requested that the scheduled departure be delayed until the 22nd or 23rd. However, Mr. Bacon of the Embassy informed me that he had already requested aircraft for the 19th and he said in the light of the heavy demands on all available aircraft within the country at the present time, he did not wish to request a change in the schedule, if it was already in the making. However he did make a note of the preference for the later date. We then received a cable from Bangkok that the beds would be completed on the 21st. This was another reason why we were hoping for a later date.

Miss Smith of the Consulate Section of the Embassy went to Dalat last Wednesday and returned Thursday evening. She helped with the completion of all paper work for the issuance of passports. Harold Dutton was working with all possible speed in trying to get exit visas for everyone concerned. The Consulate also assisted in this by contacting the Director of the Immigration Service and requesting him to process all of these on a very urgent basis. Harold felt that the earliest possible time the passport work could be completed would be sometime Tuesday.

On Saturday morning about 10 o'clock I received a call from Mr. Bacon at the Embassy. He informed me that four C 123s would be at the Dalat City Airport (Cam Ly) at 8 a.m. Monday morning, and that they would be stopping in Saigon some time during the morning. Their expected arrival time in Bangkok was to be 2:30 Monday afternoon. As soon as I received this information, I phoned Dalat. I understand the news created quite a furor.

We have heard just very sketchy reports about the activity which followed. No one would have dared to believe that school could function normally through Friday afternoon and then have everything in readiness to board planes for departure by 8 o'clock Monday morning. I am sure if we had had a week's notice, they would probably have called off school for a few days at least. However, Gene Evans, Miss Wehr and others told me during the stopover at the airport here that everyone cooperated 100%. Special mention was made of those who were at Dalat but were not going to be leaving. They all pitched in and work<sup>ed</sup> with all might and main. Also the children cooperated wonderfully, doing every task assigned to them. In fact Cleo Evans said that again

and again a child would come to her and say, "Auntie, isn't there something I can do?" or "Auntie, let me do that. You're so tired and need to get some rest." I understand that on Sunday evening, when practically all of the work had been completed, Gene Evans called all of the student body to the auditorium and expressed the feeling of all of the Staff, thanking the children for the wonderful way they had cooperated during all of these past unsettled weeks, and especially the final two frenzied days. I heard that following this, Ted Dutton suggested that the children all give a standing ovation to the wonderful dorm parents and staff members.

Peter Dutton told his mother when he saw her here in Saigon that after the Sunday morning service, it didn't seem like Sunday any more because all of the kids had on their old clothes, and everyone was working! They went ahead and had their sunrise service as scheduled, and at the regular hour of Sunday morning worship, the Easter cantata was presented. Those who heard it reported that it was beautiful.

Jack Revelle who was in Dalat over the weekend, said that one of the announcements which got the biggest hand-clap was that since the children had worked so hard, and since there was still so much work to be done, they would all be excused from writing their parents this Sunday! This will explain why you won't be receiving a letter.

It was decided that they would take as much of the freight out to the airfield as possible in the hope that a part of it could be loaded on in addition to the clothing, school books, and other really essential items. The U. S. Military Advisory Group in Dalat provided all necessary trucks to move equipment and people out to the airport. I was told that over 15 tons of baggage and freight were piled up there. No one thought it possible that everything could be loaded on. However, every bit of the equipment and baggage that was taken to the airport was put on the planes! The departure time from Dalat was delayed because of this extra freight which the plane crews didn't really expect, but which they willingly loaded on. There are some things such as beds for individuals and I think perhaps washing machines, refrigerators, etc. which were packed and crated in anticipation of sending them by ocean freight. Major Quick, U. S. Air Force Advisor in Dalat, told Gene Evans that he was going to do everything possible to get all of this stuff sent over by plane. We cannot begin to sufficiently thank all of these who have given such wonderful help in this move.

The planes arrived in Saigon about 11:45. All of our Saigon missionaries were out to welcome and bid goodbye to the 116 people who were moving. In addition to our own C. M. A. children, there were the following: Mark Overgaard (WEC, Thailand), Carol Jane Smalley (Thailand), Bonnie Kauffman (Hongkong), the two Hayes boys (Southern Baptist, Dalat), and Mrs. Johnson and her three children (Overseas Crusade Dalat). The ladies here in Saigon had prepared sandwiches and we had been able to get cold drinks in order to give a little refreshment during the stopover. Everyone was in wonderful spirits. Miss Dittmar (sister-in-law to Dr. Nathan Bailey), who is here for this one semester as art teacher, said, "Oh, I wouldn't have missed this for anything!"

Mrs. Johnson and her children were informed that they would have to get off the plane here in Saigon because her passport had not been sent ahead to take care of necessary formalities in getting exit visas as required. This was a disappointment. However, they planned to take a commercial flight within a day or two. About 1 o'clock everyone was ready to board the planes. We were informed that one of the

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planes would be delayed for one hour and a half because a cable on the steering apparatus for the landing gear was frayed. This was the plane on which Mrs. Johnson and her children were manifested. Harold Dutton said right away, "We will go immediately and see if we can get the necessary formalities taken care of even though it is siesta hour." The other passengers on this plane were taken to the Airmen's Club where they were all treated to soft drinks on the house, while they waited the repair. The other three planes took off about 1:30. As we were returning to the airplane for its departure at 2:30, we saw Harold Dutton driving up with the Johnson family. All of the work for exit visas had been taken care of and the Johnsons were able to go ahead with the rest of the group. Mrs. Johnson said, "I know the Lord wants me to go."

Later as I thanked the major who was the officer of the day in the Operations Control room, he apologized for the delay on the one aircraft. I told him about the Johnsons. He said, "Perhaps they said a little prayer." Everyone has been so much impressed with the wonderful way every detail has worked out. I am sure there is no question but that the Lord has marvelously helped in everything.

The C. G. Ingrams have been requested to remain in Dalat to be in charge of the school facilities there. We are also maintaining a skeleton servant crew. The Foreign Department has made provision for the financial requirements.

As I informed you in the telegrams, the new address is 63-65 WIRELESS ROAD, BANGKOK. Probably it should simply be designated at THE CHRISTIAN & MISSIONARY ALLIANCE SCHOOL. I am sure all of us will be praying for the Staff who will be meeting many new problems as they seek to carry on with as little delay as possible. It was felt that they would probably lose not more than two school days, a remarkable accomplishment I am sure.

As of now we are planning to have CONFERENCE in Dalat at the time originally scheduled, beginning JUNE 19TH. All of the members of the School Staff are very anxious to come back to Conference. A request has been made to the Foreign Department that they be permitted to do so. I am sure there would be no problem in getting some family in Thailand to care for the children who must remain during the short vacation period. If you want your children to come home during that vacation, you should understand that this will be at your personal expense, for the Mission pays only one round trip per year. You can inform Gene Evans some time between now and June as to your decision regarding this. REV. JOHN KLINEPETER of the International Church in Vientiane, Laos, and former professor at Toccoa Falls Bible College, will be our conference speaker this year.

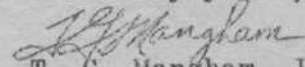
I am sure all of you will be interested to know that ASTRID CATHEY went into the Navy Hospital here in Saigon on the 14th for a gall bladder operation. She has recovered very well and will be returning home in a few days.

I just received word today that JUNE COLLINS is improving. The doctor has definitely diagnosed her condition as complete physical and nervous exhaustion following hepatitis and two miscarriages.

The FRANKLIN IRWINS arrived in Hongkong today. We do not yet have any definite arrival date for them here.

I believe that brings you pretty well up-to-date.

Sincerely yours,

  
T. G. Mangham, Jr., Chairman.

TGM/c

P.S. Word has come through the Air Force here that planes arrived safely in Bangkok.  
(4-20-65) c.g.