

April 2, 1961
Mission Evangelique
Banmethuot, Vietnam

Dearest Mother and Ruth,

This has been a very beautiful Easter Sunday — the sun was just beginning to come up in the east when a number of the Christians gathered here on the front lawn singing "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today". What a blessed hope we do have because of our Risen Triumphant Lord. Peter speaks of it as a living hope that has assured to us an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for us." Because we know Jesus we have a purpose for which to live and a goal before us. Hallelujah! I trust that it has been a blessed Easter Day for you too — we have been thinking about you and praying for you, and we know that you have continued to pray for us. I preached this morning here at the Raday church in Banmethuot from Mark 16:1-8 and the Lord truly helped me. The church was full and there was very fine attention. Tonight at 8:30 I am to preach at the Vietnamese church in town but at that time I shall be preaching in English and my message will be interpreted by Franklin Irwin. There is a program of music at the Raday church at 7:30 to be given by the young people.

During this week we received the tape that Dilgarts made at Christmas time on which all of you spoke for a little while. We received it on Wednesday but had company for supper — then prayer meeting after that, so we didn't start to play the tape until everyone had gone home — and then we were up until about 1:30 in the morning listening to it. It was so good to hear the voices of each one again — only mother, Ruth, Paul, and Mary didn't talk long enough — just a little bit and your voices were all finished. We were so very happy to hear Beth's voice too. We received a nice Easter card from her yesterday and a nice letter that came through again in five days. For a long time her letters have taken longer than that — but this week the time was shorter again.

Since last writing to you we had occasion to make a quick trip to Dalat over last week-end. It was almost 3 months since we had seen Tim and Miriam and we were indeed happy to see them again. Miriam is quite poised now and seemed to us like a little lady — but the night before we left she wept quite freely again. But there are only 5 more weeks of school until they are through for awhile until our field conference is over. Perhaps we shall have them come to Banmethuot for a couple of weeks before we go over to Dalat to the Conference this year — otherwise it is so long for us to be away from our station — and in days such as these it is just not too wise, I think, to be away for long periods of time.

This is the crucial week for this country, for next Sunday the presidential election is to take place. We continue to hear reports of roving bands of rebels making trouble among the villages, and we are expected not to be travelling about at night — I believe I wrote this before. We know that you are praying much for this country as well as for Laos, that God may be pleased to keep the doors open for the preaching of the Gospel.

The school at Dalat has been further enlarged and a beautiful new boys dormitory has been completed — also included is a combination auditorium-gymnasium. When the new semester begins in June I believe they expect over a hundred children to be enrolled. The Fitzstevens have the oversight of the school and are doing a good job. They just had a new baby boy born into their home during this past week. Mrs. Fitzstevens, you know, is the daughter of the Van Hines.

At Dalat last week three more tribes preachers were ordained to the gospel ministry. Gradually we are seeing more and more set aside to real leadership for their own people. One of these in particular needs prayer — his name is Sau A, and his life has been threatened by the rebels.

It has been a long time since we heard from Ruth. In fact, the last letter we received from her was the one that she wrote from Albuquerque, New Mexico. If she has written since, let us know — undoubtedly she has just

been too busy to write.

I think most, if not all of our letters have been getting through lately.

Perhaps you could call Mr. Zbinden on the phone and ask him if he received my letter sent on January 21st — I had enclosed 3 sets of new stamps in it. It may be that the letter was opened and the stamps stolen. I don't want to put him under a burden of writing for he may not be well, but I am just interested to know if the letter reached him or not. Other than that I think our letters are getting through. At least, I think that you and Beth receive our letters.

We do trust that you are well — glad that Spring is here and that the cold weather of winter should be over for awhile. We have been having very nice



weather here. Usually at this time of the year it is much warmer than at other times, but for some reason we have had cooler weather this year — we are glad for that.

Tomorrow we have a wedding to attend at a village 91 kilometers from here on the main road to Nhatrang. We will be going in the morning and returning in the afternoon so it should be alright.

Mangham's just dropped in so I think I shall close — it is about time to get ready for church anyway —

We all send our love — our prayers continue.

Your children,

Bob + Marie