

St. Petersburg, Fla  
May 6, 1953

Dear Esther, John and David:

If I can get this typewriter to work fast, I will bang out a lot of thoughts that I trust will turn out to be a letter. As you can see we are in St. Petersburg where we arrived last night. We are staying with the Sanborns in their lovely home. They use to live in Erie, Pa and are grand people and very much Alliance. They sent a letter to us in Miami and since Barcleys are leaving this week for Europe, we thought we would be in their way. We are going to Barcleys however in a half hour where they are taking us out for dinner somewhere. We were supposed to have arrived here on Monday but we decided to stay over an extra day and show Mr. and Mrs. Fitzstevens whom we call John and Lillian now as they insisted and so it is Jake and Nelly too. They were so happy we were staying over. They took us out each time to a different restaurant and each time to a good place. On Friday night it was to the Lindsley Hopkins Hotel where we ate on the 15th floor, not on the floor, understand me well!! From up there we had a beautiful view. There is a vocational school in the same building and also a hotel. I am not making paragraphs to save space. Mrs. and Mrs. Fitz were very kind to us and we like them very much. She loves Mother dearly like a sister and some day if mother does'nt tell you I will tell you what she said. She is so cute and sweet and Mr. Fitz is very kind too. They would have done anything for us. We had long talks together. One night we drove up to Fort Lauderdale to see the Siggs but they were out. It was a nice cool drive, so we left a note. They came down for the services on Sunday night and they came again to Fitzs' home on Monday night to see the slides. They enjoyed seeing you children on the slides we had. Mr. Sizz was enthused about the pictures of the Christians in Indo China and especially scenes of Hanoi that he recognized. They are a lovely couple. She brought a picture of the head of Christ as a gift for us. That was kind of them. Sunday was a busy day as we shuttled back and forth to the Central Church and the Tab. Mother was in Ce Central for the morning service as I was at the Tab and she spoke to the Y.P at Central and then someone drove her over to the Tab. No doubt Mother Fitz will give you the details. Rev. Rich is still at the Tab but did not give us anything which is alright. The Tab gave us 25, not an offering as that was not mentioned, which is good and we will use it for refugee work. The Fitzs did not want us to leave on Monday night and asked us to come back sometime. She had made cookies for us on Saturday for us to eat in the car. They are real good, also a bag of fruit and peanuts, dates and I do not know what else. We felt like leaving home and that we were their children. The next morning, yesterday we were up early to pack and said goodbye to Bill and Yvonne. They sure were good to us. They cleaned all our clothes so we are off to a clean start. They also got a tailor to fix mother's dresses as there was so much sewing to do. My pants that Brian Coleman sent me, too small for him and too big for me were made to fit me. They are brown garberdeen. Tonight we are speaking for Pastor Drake. Pastor Drew is going out for dinner with us tonight too. His wife died two weeks ago. As you would say, I am leaving out seeds of mail. I suppose you have heard that Paul Snead was killed in a plane accident on Saturday. He was on his way to New Delhi to get the children from school when the Jet English passenger plane ran into a bad storm outside of Calcutta. It is sad. His wife was on her way to Colombo by boat and they were all going to meet there. There is heavy fighting in Laos now by the Viet Minh. I guess you follow it up by radio and newspaper. This is all for the moment. I might add some news and drop this off on our way out in the morning. We are leaving early and want to get to New Orleans, La on Friday. Bye now and

Much love