

June 28, 1954  
Aboard S.S. Steel Admiral  
in the Subic Bay, Philippines  
Enroute to Haiphong and Saigon

Dearest Mother, Ruth, Paul, Mary and Family,

We are now docked at the Subic Bay in the Philippine Islands but I shall only begin this letter here and hope to mail it either in Haiphong or when we arrive in Saigon. The Subic Bay is about 65 miles to the north of Manila and according to reports it is destined to become the largest Naval Base in the Far East. It is in the process of construction and will take the place of Corregidor near Manila. The Philippine people did not want the defensive base too near their capitol city lest it mean further danger for Manila — so it is being built here in the Subic Bay. We have brought considerable supplies to this point from the Naval Base in Oakland, California. This is a beautiful Bay and quite cool after the heat of the last four or five days that we experienced just before arriving at Manila.

We docked in Manila at the Navy Base there about 4 PM on Friday afternoon, the 25th. We were happy indeed to receive nine letters there and two of them were from Mother and one from Ruth. We were glad indeed for all the news of Toledo. Then we had letters from Marie's folks and her sister, her aunt in Indianapolis and the Dillies, from Rev. Bryan and a couple we met out in California.

I shall try to let you know what has taken place with us first and then try to respond to your letters. Rev. and Mrs. Gulbranson came to the ship to meet us. It was almost supper time so we ate on the ship first to save them some work. They took us to the Alliance Receiving Home in Manila. I believe Ruth has not seen this yet. It is a very nice house made of wood and all screened in. We slept upstairs for two nights and it was cool enough to be pleasant. It was the first two nights the baby has slept all night without waking up, despite the horses that were clip-clopping by all night and the dogs that were barking and periodically fighting outside. The street noises kept us from sleeping soundly — but not the baby — she slept like a log. Manila is a city something like Saigon only there are not so many bicycles. There are Jeeps running all over the town that have been made over to look like little busses. No cars ever stop when they come to corners — they just bluff their way out into the intersection and try to make anyone else stop who will be uneasy enough to do it. If you blow your horn at people walking in the street they will pay no attention to you. You will have to slow down and drive around them. We visited the first night that we were there — the next day — Saturday, Mr. Gulbranson took us to town where we bought a few things and went to the post office to mail some letters. We didn't buy much in Manila because prices were terribly high. Anything from the United States costs just double what it does in the States. In the afternoon we went to see Rev. and Mrs. Eonger of the American Bible Society. They are Ruth's friends. The baby went to him right away and he seemed to like that. He held her most of the time. Later that same day a group of Chinese and Philippine young people, mostly students from the universities there, came to Gulbranson's house and a service was held. I spoke to them — there were about 16 or 17 when I spoke — and later more came so that there were over 20. I met Ruth's friends there — Pet and Ding Villegas but the other girl had gone back to Cotabato. There were others that knew Ruth but I cannot remember their names — there was a nurse and a young lady who is a school teacher now — they knew Ruth too. I didn't see Manuel. I believe this is the second such meeting Mr. and Mrs. Gulbranson have had and they hope it will eventually mean the opening of a new work for the Alliance in Manila.

I am very happy that you were able to have your furlough extended, Ruth, and Mr. and Mrs. Gulbranson seemed pleased about this too. Saturday evening Rev. Hann Brown and his wife and daughter came over to visit us — you remember them, don't you, mother? He used to be a preacher in the Central District. He now works with Radio Station DZAS, the Far Eastern Broadcasting Company there in Manila. He had been conference speaker over in Indo-China this spring and had just been back from Barmethuot for about three or four weeks. He was all enthused about his visit with Gordon Smith. Rev. Louis King, our area secretary, Mrs. Gordon Smith, and her son Leslie, had all passed through Manila just the day before we arrived there. So the son has been permitted to go back with the Smith's. When we were in New York Rev. King was wiring the tribes field to make a decision whether or not Leslie should come out with the mother or not. They must have decided that it was alright.

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H. J. G. G.

We also heard in Manila that Grady Mangham has been elected chairman of the Tribes field. The Jackson's are going home for furlough and that would have left only Gordon Smith or Grady for chairman. We are glad that Grady was chosen. We don't know whether he is back in Pleiku or not.

So an Assistant Pastor has now been chosen. He is the young man who was at the Tabernacle the last day that we were there — May 2nd. They are now paying out more than they ever paid out with Betty and Paul, aren't they? I believe more than with Betty, Mrs. Steiner and Paul even — well, I trust that everything will work out alright. I believe as time goes on they will appreciate Dad's ministry more and more. Let us know what happens when the doors in the annex are up and the classes are changed around — who goes where and so forth. The Bible School attendance seemed to indicate that there was a good group coming out. Yes, I believe public busses were chartered last year also. I don't know how much was paid, however.

I had a letter from Rev. Bryan and his secretary written on the electric typewriter. It makes a letter look like a page out of book. It does do a very neat job. In May we received marked offerings of \$182.00 and Miss Tyreman was reporting this to us. We appreciated this a great deal. \$150 of this amount came to us from Joe Wilson and his wife. I shall be writing to him. That was very nice of him. The Gulbranson's wouldn't charge us any board and room for the two days we were with them — he said for Ruth's sake — so when we left we gave him \$25.00 of our tithe money to use for whatever they wanted it.

No, we didn't stop in Honolulu. It was rumored we would because an engineer had sprained his ankle and was requesting to see a doctor — but it must have gotten better because we didn't stop. We are going from here over to Haiphong — this is in the war zone and we trust the Lord everything will be alright — then we will go down to Saigon from there.

Yesterday I talked to the Adventist man — I told him that we classed his lady founder along with Mary Baker Eddy and that it seemed they are saved by works instead of God's grace — he kept insisting that keeping the sabbath is obedience after an individual is saved and that they believed keeping Sunday to be the mark of the Beast. He is evidently a more liberal adventist — or else more subtle, I don't know which. I guess it doesn't do much good to talk to them — only the Spirit of God can reveal the truth to them.

I tried to find out from Mrs. Gustafson what happened about the EML but she didn't tell us — she only said they weren't working for them anymore. Yes, he is on an Alliance tour now. I see that Ruth is going to a camp in Pennsylvania the first part of July. I have never been there and don't know just where it is. Maybe it will be something like Mahaffey or Summit Grove — you can let us know. I hope that Virginia Francis is recovering. It is hard to think of her afflicted in that manner. We will keep on praying for her.

I see that it isn't working out so smoothly for volunteer help in the nursery. You thought that was the way it would be, didn't you? I thought the Ready's would get everything cleaned up nicely — no, I won't mention this to anyone else so don't worry about it. Now, I believe this brings us up to date to the present at least and I shall leave the letter at this point and plan to write more later on.

July 2, 1954 - PM -

† We are now in the port of Haiphong — anchored to a buoy out in the river and I am on the deck on a deck-chair so will add a bit to this letter. This is right up in the war zone. Before we arrived we had a special life-boat drill and everything was put in readiness in case we should be fired on up here. It gives one a rather different type of feeling. We arrived yesterday — all last evening — then during the night and until 5 PM today cargo was being unloaded — cotton, jeeps and military trucks + cranes — but when they were finished this afternoon it was too late to put to sea again because of the tide. We will have to wait until 1 PM tomorrow until the tide is in again. There is a lot of activity here — all day long gun-boats were up and down the river. Loading and unloading soldiers — yesterday the French abandoned the southern section of this delta to the Communists. It is reported they thus lost 1600 square miles of territory and 2 million



people - many troops had to be evacuated and undoubtedly it was some of these that we observed. These large LST's (landing craft) sail up this river with native soldiers (and even entire families) packed in like sardines and discharge them here. This morning there were literally hundreds of soldiers standing on the shore. We could hear the booming of the big guns in the distance - and all day planes are flying by. We haven't tried to go ashore here because there are so many soldiers and were not at a dock but would have to be poled to shore in a little native sampans. So we've just remained on the ship. I believe everything will be all right - we claim the Psalm we read the morning we left, Mother - Psalm 91 - WE are all quite well except that the baby and I have prickly heat - it has been very hot but now and then we get a pleasant breeze. WE are due to leave for Saigon tomorrow about 1 PM - It will take about 2 days to arrive there so we should be in Monday sometime - then our boat trip will be at an end again - we know you are praying for us and we are remembering you in prayer - too -

Thursday - July 8, 1954

We arrived safely in Saigon yesterday - we are all well but are getting rather tired of living out of suitcases. A letter from Gordon Smith said we should leave our heavy baggage in Saigon awhile because the fall of An Khê means that Bannier-Thrust is vulnerable to attack - we will be going to Dalat first to get the children settled in school. I want to get this in the mail so will write more in detail later -

Ruth I have a letter from Monumental Life saying our policy with them was cancelled as of July 1st because our return to Indo-China was too great a risk - I hope you haven't paid that last premium - if you have I shall ask them to return it to you -

We all send our love -

Bob -