

California  
June 11, 1953

Dear Esther and John:

There is so much to write to you about that I actually have a little outline right next to me to remind me what I should say. Recently, my letters have been so short and almost curt which was due to being so busy at Council and Missionary Conference, then coming here which did not give us a busy time but actually I felt all washed out and did not have an inspiration to write. I only felt like eating, sleeping and lounging around like a good for nothing lazy bum. It is the first time in years I felt like that. Now, I am starting to get spry again and as a result you will get a long old fashion letter, all jumbled up and you can unravel it after reading it a few times. Your letters are always interesting and we look forward to them.

We are still curious to know what is in that package waiting for us in New York. According to our allowance, we had to pay duty on it which is alright. That increases the value and also the curiosity. Maybe it is an early Xmas gift. Right or wrong? Well, it will stay that way until we get those orders, OPEN.

Mother has written to you and also sent a lot of printed material by boat mail. There is the Council folder that you no doubt would like to see, some Fuller pamphlets that we picked up the other day when we visited the office with Dan. The secretaries there send you their greetings. When we visited the new seminary, a Mr. Curley wanted to be remembered to you. He and his wife like you and thought you were a good worker at the Camp. Dr. and Mrs. Fuller also came over after supper for a few minutes at Dan's house. You will like Dan's wife. She is very sweet and seems to be efficient. She should be if she was a teller in the bank. Their two children are really darling. Naturally, we showed them the pictures of our David and gave them the very latest news.

We thought of you on June 5th, your wedding anniversary. Then again on the 10th, yesterday, when David was 2 years old. He is a big boy and we miss him a lot. He would enjoy this beach where we are resting and where nobody bothers us, even the Fullers never come around. It is rest in the fullest meaning of the word.

Now for your letters, yes, we did receive that stack of pictures, 30 in all if I remember correctly from Ruth. Mother has already sent Ruth a letter thanking her for them. That was a trip you will never forget and maybe never get a chance to make again. Both of you look so nice on those pictures, in the ruins, in the boat, here there and everywhere. If you think I should visit that steel man in his New York office sometime, then give us his name and address. I will not be back in New York until July 11th. You can continue sending your mail to Mr. Yaggy until you hear further from us.

We notice in your last letter you are going to move. That will give you less work and more time to study. Furthermore, it will make things easier for you when you have to pack and leave for the field. We hope things will work out nicely in this Pension and that you will not find a hitch like with Mrs. Stierlin. You told this lady you would stay until September. I wonder if you should have said that because by that time you might be on the field. Have you heard when you are expected to arrive on the field? Have you heard officially that you are going to Tourane? I would suggest that you write to Dr. Snead, Mr. Jeffrey or Mr. Wagoner, whoever you write to in the Foreign Department and ask them when you are to leave Switzerland. You might put in a line saying the former Chairman of Vietnam suggested that you arrive not before September on account of the heat. You should not make any move until you have official word.

Here is something else. You mentioned that you were thinking of sending your winter things ahead to the field. That is something I would not do. Everything is so uncertain with the Korean situation which has a direct bearing on Indo China, that it would not be wise to separate with your things. Keep your baggage with you and then you have it when you need it and to do so there is only one way and that is travel by steamer. We heard from a number of missionaries who want to fly back to Indo China that they were told they must sail. The freight charges have been too heavy for those that fly so now all must sail. That must be a new regulation that I had not heard about. Ask when you write to New York, who will make the booking for you and if you are to make the booking, then you must know soon as bookings must be made a long time in advance. Ever since leaving you folks, I have given your travel much thought and after all considerations, it is best that you go by steamer. I certainly would not separate with baggage right now. You might send it ahead and then the last minute something turns up and they hold you a little

longer in Switzerland. By no means send it ahead, keep it with you. That is wisdom that will pay dividends. The only thing is, write right away to New York and ask them for definite word.

If you go by boat, you will see ports and parts of the world you can never see by plane. There is the Suez Canal, Port Said, Djibouti, Colombo, Singapore and finally Saigon. You will gradually get use to the orient instead of dropping there over night.

Please write this address down while I think of it. Mr. La Jeune, "Le Phare" 131-133 rue Ferrari, Marseille, France. When you go to Marseille, write to them ahead of time, they will meet you at the railway station, drive you to their home, take care of your baggage, put you on the ship and take care of many things that are necessary to leave the country. Our missionaries go there and they liked it. You will save money and you will be in good hands. They are naturally Christians and love to take care of missionaries. When you go to Marseille, we will send you Dr. Daspect's address so you can visit them some afternoon. Go to Marseille a week in advance so you can visit around and see the Mediterranean coast. If you go to Menton, ask Tante Lucie for the number of Grandpa Bayer's grave, a tomb in the rock so you can put some flowers on it. I just wish we were in Europe now to be with you.

When you write to New York, tell them you want to know so you can give the order to send your baggage from New York to Saigon. That baggage should be there when you arrive and if you plan now, it can be. You get your official orders and when I get to New York next month I will check and see that your baggage gets off instead of an order being on somebody's desk the way it has happened to some of our missionaries. They waited and waited and here the baggage was still in N.Y.

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in large cities because they cannot get out in the districts like before on account of this war which can still last many years, then this is one way to have an impact on the whole country through teaching. I wonder if you heard that Evangile Travis and her husband are not going to Indo China at all. Mr. Jeffrey said so without giving a reason.

Have you heard from the Branaghs or Barcleys? We saw the Coronation by television. It was really impressive and a very solemn occasion.

This is all for now, so will sign off with much love and lots to David. It must be wonderful for him to get out in that sunshine and Swiss air these days. I wonder if you get a chance to go swimming.

Again I will sign off with

Much love,

A few more thoughts about your appointment. You have been allocated to Tourane. That does not mean to the Bible School although indirectly it might come that way if you folks are suited for that type of work. You will have two years there to see the school, breathe in the spirit and know if that is God's place for you. If the Lord leads that way, it is a wonderful ministry and one that is vitally necessary for a stronger Church in Viet Nam. If we have a strong spiritual Bible School, we will have a strong spiritual Church. It is something for you folks to pray about. Through the Bible School, you have a ministry that reaches the entire field. Right now we only have two men for the Bible School, Mr. Olsen and Mr. Carlson. Olsen will not go back as he is Chairman. Carlson is getting up in years, his wife not well and nobody knows how long they can hold out. Somebody must get the vision of the Bible School. It will take you two years to learn the language, get out in district work with part time in Bible School and perhaps by your second term you might fit in there. First term missionaries are never put in charge of the Bible School but work in part time. I wonder if the Lord is leading you folks that way since your appointment has been changed. It is a work to give much consideration and prayer. If missionary work is going to be held only