

41 Blvd. P. Pasquier
PhnomPenh, Cambodia
Indo-China
April 24, 1954

Dear Nelly and Jake,

It has taken me a long, long time ~~for me~~ to get all the cards and messages answered but this is the last lap of the journey for there remains only one after yours. I am so ashamed to have been so slow but we had over seventy letters as well as gifts etc. at the boat and they have taken so much time to get done. I answered the sixteen thank-yous on the Queen Mary but no letters en route from France to Saigon for I wasn't sure of the mail out of the ports. Then many have had to wait since we arrived, for there were many which I had to do for Arthur first. But they say that it is better late than never, so no more excuses. From now on I am sure I shall keep up to date.

Our trip back to the field was just the best ever, especially from Marseille to Saigon on that new Chargeurs Reunis line. The personnel did everything they could to make the six of us happy and comfortable. The food was just delicious and the Jeffreys and we have decided it is the very best trip the four of us have ever had since we have become missionaries, and we have traveled on all kinds of boats and with different companies. Arriving in Saigon so rested and then on to Cambodia. We only stayed in Saigon long enough to get out boat baggage through customs and then came to this city. Ellisons had announced our coming to the three church groups so there was a large group of Christians from the Cambodian, Vietnamese and Chinese. It was a thrill to meet these dear ones again and it did something to our hearts which we shall never forget. Now we are settled and back to work. So far I have only two children's meetings a week but hope to get others started when we can get meeting places. I teach the man who goes to Oudong each Sunday and he is getting the work going there again. Then I help with proof-reading from the press. Arthur keeps very busy, reprinting books and tracts. He is doing some new translating, and also hymn work. The new press is due to arrive on the same boat as the Sechrists, the end of next week. Then Arthur hopes to get some more typesetters trained and more work done. The old, small press is fast dying of old age. Has to be sort of pampered and petted most of the time to keep going. The press equipment which we used at Nyack has arrived and is in use. The men like the new font of type much better than the old.

No doubt you heard of the terrible accident to the PhnomPenh-Battambang train Monday April 11. Word has come that ~~the~~ two of the VietMinh chiefs and two hundred rebels have been captured, ones which aided in the mining of the train. Some forty Buddhist priests were murdered, and some Cambodian soldiers shot and the others led off into the jungle. Many were injured, that is citizens traveling to Battambang. On this train were six Christians who had just attended the Cambodian conference at Ta Khmau. As the train hit the mines, hitting the coach in front and the one to the rear of them, they dropped to their knees and prayed. Nghin, one of the older men and at one time a worker, recited the 91st Psalm three times to quiet the others. None of these folks were injured at all, though when they left the train some of them were covered with blood from the fleeing injured and those who were killed near them. Finally they left the train, one woman taking her suitcase with her. The others were told to go back and get theirs, only to find they were gone. One Christian lost 30,000\$, but all are rejoicing that their lives were spared. Worldly goods mean nothing in a time like that. The Battambang pastor has sent Arthur the details of the slaughter, for that is all it can be called, but Dave hasn't given it to us yet. We want to put it into English and have it printed in tract form. He sent it in a letter which he wrote to Dave. He wants to read it first. It is real thrilling for it shows the wonderful care God gives His trusting children.

God marvelously answered prayer for the Cambodian conference and many met the Lord in a very real way. Sunday afternoon twenty-four young people were baptized and it was such a precious sight. Many of them I had the joy of leading to the Lord last term. Five dedicated their lives to full time service when they finish the Lycee. How we need such young folks these days!

Steiners have just arrived back and they look so well. Sechrists are due in Saigon next week. I believe the Sawyers and Mitchells are due soon and the R.M. Taylors are here too. One by one the couples are returning to a troubled land, full of all sorts of threats of war. All field conferences have been cancelled from Dalat. Ours will be held here, beginning next Friday. Dalat and Bannethout have been threatened according to the papers, but we do not know if this is true or not, but there is something brooding. God knows and we can only pray and keep faith in Him, who knows all. He has never failed yet. Taylor covered most of the main places

of all the provinces of Cambodia and found thousands of open hearts. May the thousands of Scripture portions as well as books and tracts bring forth an abundant harvest.

How are you, Nelly? I trust you are rapidly regaining your strength and will be able to return to service here, the Lord willing.

Both of us are keeping well, but it is sure hot. I have a real crop of prickly heat and it does PRICK. Our cook was ill one day this week and I suffered in that kitchen over a hot dirty charcoal fire. Folks who were looking forward to a vacation at Dalat will have to stay through the heat this year. But then we know the Lord will take them through for years ago we all stood hot season after hot season. But cool weather is surely a treat too.

I don't know much of what is going on in the other sections but no doubt you get letters from some of the folks there. Just keep praying with us all. Arthur joins me in loving greetings to you both. May His richest and best ever be yours.

Lovingly,

Arthur

Our trip back to the field was especially from Marseille to Saigon on that new Singapore service like the personnel had everything they could to make the six of us happy and comfortable. The food was just delicious and the Jettys and we have decided it is the very best trip the four of us have ever had since we have become missionaries, and we have traveled on all kinds of boats and with different companies. Arriving in Saigon we rested and then on to Cambodia. We only stayed in Saigon long enough to get our baggage through customs and then came to this city. Missions had announced our coming to the three church groups so there was a large group of Christians from the Cambodian, Vietnamese and Chinese. It was a thrill to meet these dear ones again and it did something to our hearts which we shall never forget. Now we are settled and back to work. So far I have only two children's meetings a week but hope to get others started when we can get meeting places. I teach the man who goes to Udon each Sunday and he is getting the work going there again. Then I help with proof-reading from the press. Arthur keeps very busy reprinting books and tracts. He is doing some new translating, and also hymn work. The new press is due to arrive on the same boat as the booklets, the end of next week. Then Arthur hopes to get some more typewriters trained and more work done. The old small press is fast dying of old age. Has the sort of papered and pressed more of the same to keep going. The press equipment which we had of paper and ink and is in use. The new font of type much better than the old.

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Others have just arrived back and they look so well. Booklets are due in Saigon next week. I believe the Carters and Mitchells are due soon and the M. Taylors are here too. One by one the couples are returning to a troubled land, full of all sorts of threats of war. All the field conferences have been cancelled from that. Ours will be held here, beginning next Friday.

That and somewhat have been threatened according to the papers, but we do not know if that is the case. I am somewhat proceeding. God knows and we can only pray and keep faith in Him. I have never failed yet. The Lord covered most of the main places. He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most high shall rebuke all of his enemies.

Do not know of the assembly