

September, 1956

Dear friends,

Many of you have been praying for me these last eight months, and I surely appreciate this more than anything else. The Lord has answered prayer and given help each day, especially in the job of speaking about the work and about the five fellows. I have felt my time here to be very worth while and have enjoyed my days in Milwaukee with Ed's family, my visit to southern Illinois and seeing our many friends there, and my time here in Pontiac with my folks.

As you know, I have been praying much for guidance for the future. I have felt for quite some time that my place was in Ecuador where Ed and I lived so happily for three years. But I was not sure just where in Ecuador the Lord wanted me or just what I could do having a family of three children to care for. I have given much thought lately to my responsibility to my three boys—knowing that if I am going to fill the place of both mother and father to them, it is going to take a good deal of time. And as I have been thinking about this responsibility to my own children, my attention has been drawn to the fact that there are several children of jungle missionaries in Ecuador who need a home in Quito in order to attend the School for Missionaries' Children there. Last year some of these children were taken care of by the Gospel Missionary Union Children's Home, but this year they have so many of their own children that they have no room for any others. There are a total of seven children that need a home immediately. Of course there are many other small children who will need a home as they become of school age.

After praying and considering this, I have felt that the Lord would have me make a home for these children. It will be a big responsibility, but I am sure that the Lord has led in this first and big decision, and that He will also give help, wisdom and strength in undertaking it. Along with providing a home for these children, there will be opportunity for helping the jungle workers with buying of supplies, sending mail and supplies down to the jungle, making a guest home for these same folk when they are in Quito and many other opportunities with Sunday School and children's work there in the city of Quito.

Marj Saint, who lives in Quito, now working for HCJB has already found a house for us, and with the help of Dee Short and one of the mothers, they have cleaned the house and moved in. Two of the mothers are taking turns staying in Quito and caring for the children until I can get there. I am hoping to be able to leave in November. There is much to be done between now and then with many speaking engagements, buying and packing, passport, visa, shots, etc. I will surely appreciate your prayers that I might get the many things accomplished in connection with leaving by November. It will not be easy getting ready to leave alone. Ed took care of so many of the important details when we left the first time that I actually have no experience along those lines. I trust you will pray much for me these next two months.

" . . . forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before . . ." Phil 3:13.

Prayerfully,

September 1962

Dear friends

Dear Aunt Clara and Uncle Fred,

I've kept this waiting to add a note to it and you can see how long I've waited. Thanks for your last letter - it's always so good to hear from you. I'm so glad Betty is here working on the book and I can imagine just how happy and excited you folk are with the prospects of seeing both her and Valerie again. It's too bad it has to be so short though. I believe that even though the responsibility is great, Betty is the one to finish up the book. She surely has the gift for writing and with the Lord's help I'm confident she can do it.

You have no doubt heard that Olive is going back to Quito with me in order to help with the children. It is a real answer to prayer for me and I think it will be good for Olive too to get back there and be with the rest of us for Christmas. If she still does not feel that that is where the Lord wants her permanently, then she can dispose of her things which she left.

I get more anxious every day to get down there and get settled and begin taking care of the children. I'm confident that this is the Lord's plan for me right now and I'm thankful for the way He has worked out the problems and details. It would surely be wonderful if you could visit us again. I'm sure there would be no end of things Uncle Fred could do around the house and plenty of children Aunt Clara could help with. (Every time I opened the garage door in Milwaukee this summer, I thought of you folks.)

It was good to see Jane and Jerry at Wheaton. Guess they will have told you all about the dedications. They were simple but lovely and I felt it was a real honor given each of the fellows.

Matt has just grown into the blue striped suit and it surely looks darling on him. He's grown of course and looks more like Mike every day. I thank the Lord each day for my three boys.

The Lord willing I plan to leave Detroit on November 28th. and will arrive in Quito at 12:15 November 29th. Mikie is to have surgery on his thumbs next week but the doctor thinks he will be ready to leave by the 28th. (both his thumbs are stiff - what they call a fixed joint)

Well, I could go on and on but have dozens of letters literally to answer so must close for now. Should say though that I would love to have gone up to Portland to visit you folk and the others but I just did not feel it the thing to do this time. I spent a week in California and it was good to see all of our friends again and tell them about the work but I felt I shouldn't spend any more time traveling around. I'm getting away about three weeks later than I had hoped anyway. Maybe next time I will be able to visit Portland. Or better still, maybe the next time we meet it will be in Heaven. Wouldn't it be wonderful!

All now, much love to each of you,

*Marilyn*