

P.S. We had an accident with Barwick's
thermometer for taking human temp.
Send another up in that box. Just
a cheap one.

Oct. 2, 1954.
Halan, Vietnam

Dear Folks,

I'll enclose a few lines with these pictures.
Bardon says its safe them for him.

Received your letter of the 22nd. It seems it
takes a little over a week for the International
mail to come through. How long does it take
our letters to arrive?

Well, Fall has arrived. Here the rainy season
is nearing its end although we still have
plenty rain. It looks nothing like Fall here.
I miss the seasons. Even snow & frost would
seem good although I do enjoy the mild climate
we have here.

Its wonderful you got such a good crop of
millet. It seems there is always something to
be thankful for.

No. He didn't get any crying spells from the
ride home from the leprosarium. In fact
he slept all the way - how I don't know,
it certainly was rough. He must have liked
it as when we got home & stopped he woke
up. Mrs. Barwick is beginning to advise me
now so I'll ask you what you think of her ad-
vice. He has been eating for such long
stretches. An hour at a time. "The Book" says
about 20 minutes should be sufficient. I asked
Dr. Trabill, he said it was rather long & I
should try & cut it down. But if I laid
him down any sooner he would wake up
& cry & want for more to eat. Naturally, I
couldn't bear to see him hungry so I'd
pick him up & give him more. Mrs. B. said
she had the same trouble & I must start
to discipline him right away. So today
the only got 2 hr. at a time regardless of any
fuss & had to wait 3 hrs. for his next
meal. He had been on a 4 hr. schedule. It
just about breaks my heart to hear him
cry. She says she doesn't much go for the
modern method of no exact schedule as with
a large family to take care of, some sort
of schedule must be followed. I'm very
green about this so any advice would

be appreciated. Yes, I'm using the baby things you sent. He wears these little shirts with the print on them with a diaper during the day & I add a night gown for the night. Most of the things are too big for him right now but the little shirts are just the right size. I told my people in Seattle not to send him any gifts as with what you sent & the shower I have plenty to last; rather if they wanted to give him something, wait til we come home as it will be winter & he has no winter clothing.

We had quite a tragedy there day before yesterday. An army truck came tumbling down the road at terrific speed. It had a trailer of some sort behind. It was going too fast & crashing such a racket & happened to glance out. As I looked, I saw the trailer flying through the air & then I saw a man on the ground. I said Oh my God & Gordon ran outside. My hands & feet went to sleep. It was right in front of our house. He had been on a bicycle & was a village with a wife & son. He wasn't dead but died in our ambulance on the way to B.M.T. The bitch broke & the driver was going too fast. The poor family, they carried on so. My heart ached for them.

My mother sent me a Toni permanent & I gave it to myself today. Well Mrs. B. cut it. I think it got alright but will have to wait until tomorrow when I comb it out to see the final results.

Dr. Krabill brought Lee some vitamins. They are in liquid form & he takes them in a dropper. He really likes it. He also gave me some SMA for an emergency. They have invited us the 2nd or 3rd & we will have our 6-week check up at that time.

I sure am glad for Lee's screened in bed as the mosquitoes are quite bad at night. I have to nurse him in bed ^(ours) for this night feeling as on the chair I get eaten up.

A message from Gordon - He wants Dad to make out another statement of his expenses, income, & bank balance. Also if Cleo & Lee haven't send the boy yet, include some 35 mm colored film.

We plan to take some more pictures of Lee tomorrow, black & white so we can send them home. This envelope will be pretty thick so I will bid you adios. Yours, Chil, Gordie & Lee

Halan, Vietnam
October 20, 1957

Dear Mom & Dad,

Am enclosing a group of pictures so will make this letter a shorter one and have Shirl type it up to keep the postage down. Two sheets like this costs about 8 1/2 piasters (12¢ American) but the next jump is 14 piasters, then 26 and so on. We got our spending money raised (150 piasters more per month, since we lost the FPO but it doesn't cover it when one sends pictures, etc. In a way I like this system better as we get mail regularly although the letters are shorter and cost more. The stamps with a man's picture on them are of President Diem. His picture is plastered over everything as this country is so devoted they almost worship him. He has a very strong propaganda program. I believe he's a good man but somewhat inclined to dictatorship. Example of this - opposing newspaper offices burned down, opposition eliminated by shady methods, and his cabinet include all his relatives. People are afraid to talk against him but after you get to know them better they hint at some dissention. Especially the Buddhists, he is very partial towards Catholics.

Mom, you can keep the picture of Lee, but put the rest away for us. We will be sending reprints of some to the kids very soon. I took quite a few flash picture of Lee but none turned out so have only a few. He is growing and looks very much like Johnnny in the pictures we have of him. Yesterday he was 6 weeks old. He is more contented now since Shirley started supplementing the bottle. She has also fed some bananas to him, I believe. The commercial baby food is too hard to come by here. We ordered 7 cases of canned food from Hong Kong which cost 46 US dollars so that will have to last him until he can eat meat. Tomorrow we are going to the Leprosarie to visit and have a checkup. Shirl is so excited already as she hasn't been away from here since the baby was born.

I have still not quite finished the plumbing on our house. All I need now for completion is a pipe 6" long. It is hard to realize the trouble one has to go through here. I have to do everything by myself like go to BMT - buy the pipe, then cut it and cut thread on it myself. So I come home and maybe don't have the right wrench and can't find one in Halan. It's too far to BMT to make an extra trip so have to wait until we go again. Yesterday I thought I'd finish and worked until dark just to find out that I was short 6" of pipe. Sometimes instead of learning patience I think I'm getting to a pessimistic outlook. But I have really enjoyed working on this house and learned a lot from it.

The next two weeks Shirl and I will try and finish all the loose ends on house, program, and records so we can leave around the 1st of Nov. for a month's vacation. She will be with me for a week or two then come back to Halan so you can gauge your letters accordingly (letters take about a week). While in Saigon we will try and send some packages home but don't expect them before Christmas.

Par Danforth and Phil Gullion are coming up next Friday. They will stay here a while then go up to Pleiku and see about setting up an IVS project there. The Cai San team looks like it will definitely be shifted. Have sure enjoyed working with Yates and Myers this last month.

Part of the team went to church this morning but are staying in BMT until tomorrow so Shirl & I didn't go. We are planning to go next Sunday. The church situation is pretty bad here. The only protestant one at BMT is the military service and far from ideal. One just has to rely on family worship taking the place. I welcome the chance for reading religious books but that sure doesn't take the place of the South Church.

The wounded elephant was right in our area but didn't bother us. It killed several people in a nearby village and they wanted us to shoot it. We didn't have a gun big enough to risk it.

I suppose by now you're through picking corn. Hope you got enough to pay for expenses. I certainly miss the beauty of fall season. It is the same here as summer only a little cooler and less rain. The only reason I'm looking forward to the dry season is that we can do some hunting in the forest without being eaten by leeches. One of the villagers shot a bear last week. Gene Myers bought the skin. Bears are not too common around here.

The monkeys are still onery as ever. They are housed next to the chickens and always reach through and pull out their feathers. They throw mash out of the feeders and even feed the chickens out of their hands then grab and pull them by the neck. Today we have them running outside - woe to the flowers.

Well, hope you are all fine and in good health. How is Grandpa feeling? Must close now and leave some space for Shirley.

Gordon has just about written everything but I will attempt to add a few lines.

I want to thank Vivian and ~~Yee~~ Mom for their good advice about Lee's feeding problem. I had thought already of supplementing the bottle but didn't want to do it without first seeing Krabill. But when I got Vivian's letter saying she had the same problem, I gave him the bottle the same day. Our evenings used to be terrible as Lee would cry continually from his six o'clock feeding until I fed him again. Poor fellow. Now he falls asleep right away after he is done eating which he has never done before. And I feel so much relieved as I know he is content. I thought I had plenty of milk as it always oozed out before each feeding but maybe it still isn't enough. So now I am giving him both breasts at each feeding for 10 minutes and if he still isn't satisfied I give him the bottle and he usually takes from two to four ounces. He takes the bottle about twice a day. I haven't started giving him cereal as in the first place it is next to impossible to get and Dr. Krabill said it isn't necessary to give them solids until they are three months as their digestive systems aren't developed enough and much of the food value goes to waste so being it is so hard to get I will wait until he is three months. It is hard to be so far from anyone who could advise me. Mrs. Barwick has good intentions but ~~ha~~ it has been so long since she raised children and she has no grandchildren that her ideas are a little old fashioned. She insisted that I make him wait at least 3 hours between feedings and my poor baby has been almost starving. Well, maybe that is ~~a~~ a rather strong statement. It seems he is smiling already but we don't know for sure. It sure is sweet anyway. Today he rolled over twice from his stomach to back while we were playing with him. It sure was a thrill to see it.

I certainly have a lot of visitors to see Lee. We have to be careful what we do in our house as we never know when someone will be looking in the windows!

I'm in the unit house typing this letter and the cats are really running wild tonight. Usually the Barwicks pen them up in the shed outside for the night but no one has done it tonight and they are really having a good time.

Be sure to keep on writing when Gordon goes on his vacation as letters will even be more welcome than if that is possible.

Thanks again for the advice and if you have any other tips I would be glad to hear them. Wish we could get together and talk for a while.

*Love
Shirley*

Saigon, Vietnam
November 12, 1957

Dear Mom & Dad,

Well we are in Saigon now on our vacation. We got here last Wednesday and moved into an apartment 105 got from USOM. It is nice - fully furnished - and with fan, electricity, and hot water. We are planning to stay here another week and next Tue I will go on to visit Bangkok, Thailand and Cambodia. Paul may travel with me.

Certainly enjoy our vacations here and is running us fairly cheap. Have been or will go to the Mennonites, Wes Smiths (not Hunter Smith), Honeycutt, Angelas, Gullions, Austins, and others for meals. In between times we either eat out or at the apartment. Am doing a little work here too now, as I wrote a pamphlet on raising chickens in Vietnam and am working with the translator and artists. We are planning an extensive education program in chickens & pigs when I get back to BMT.

It is certainly warmer here than in BMT. In fact next month or so will be time for sweaters there.

Something rather interesting is taking place here now. As you know we were working for Resettlement Division, USOM, with Phil Gullion in charge. When we first came here nobody knew who we were and nobody was too interested in us fellows living up in the bushes. Now all the other divisions in USOM such as Land Development, Ag Education, Extension, and Animal Husbandry are fighting tooth and nail to get us. I guess by going out there and working we have made a good name for ourselves and people realize we ain't a bunch of clowns. Land Development is especially out to get us but Gullion doesn't give up easily. These divisions are all really working for the same thing but from a little different approach. Our work wouldn't change much if we changed, but some other division would get the credit which Resettlement is getting now. Personally I would

prefer to stay with them as Isullen has done so much for IUS and for each member personally. He has even offered to take care of Lee for a week or two if Shirl & I want to go on to Bangkok or Singapore together. He has also drawn up a program to get eight more IUS teams to Vietnam in about a year. So you see we aren't doing too badly.

We received your letter, Dad, just before we came to Saigon. Also one from Jim, Glens, & Shirley on the same day. In Saigon we got a letter from Wilenes and Cally Waltner. In regard to the Saigon bombing it was mostly of military hotels and busses. It happened on Vietnamese Independence day and was sort of expected. They have still not lifted a traveling ban for Americans in Saigon. There are no doubt quite a number of communists in this area and one has to be careful. A short time later there was a more severe tragedy here when 39 persons (Vietnamese) got trampled ^{to death} by people crossing a bridge at a fair. Rather a freak accident of mob caous but tragic nevertheless.

I suppose you have had snow by now and suppose the corn is all picked too. Almost unbelievable to us as we can't keep track of seasons. Sometimes I think its still summer 1957 and sometimes I think its 1958 already. World Series + football results have helped to keep things straight though. Also when you mentioned it was pleasant seem-

As for borrowing the \$400 from us, that certainly is O.K. It doesn't draw interest for us anyway & sure is no use for you to pay interest to the bank. Feel free to do so at any time. I wrote two checks while in Saigon - \$43 baby food from Hong Kong and \$10 passport for Shirl. We had a separate passport issued for her & Lee in case we travel home in different directions. Otherwise I have not written any checks for a long time. Not too much chance to spend money here as all of the necessities are given to us. The piasters Shirley made

tracking are still not all spent and some help out. The clothes we have should last us till we're through and will be able to bank \$150 clothing allowance next year. Our baby has not cost us anything yet due to the Mennonites here and our good mother Lillie and sisters.

wrote to Glenn & Viv today too. were certainly shocked to hear of Johnnys vision trouble and hope and pray that it will not get them down. But we know they are good parents and equal to the task. Am trying not to repeat myself in this letter in case you exchange with them. From the pictures Viv sent Johnny is sure a cute little rascal.

As I mentioned in the letter to them we finally got the box packed for home. Took out the tray for Eileen & sent that separate. Also took out much of the excelsior so those things don't break. write & tell us if anything does. More packages will follow shortly by international mail. By the way - Happy Birthday Dad and we wish you many more healthful years.

Suey just came with some ice cream & good China mans tea so this will be a good place to stop. She can finish this letter but see is kind of fussy tonite so she may have to wait until tomorrow.

Nov. 13

I guess See overate last night & after he went to sleep he was C.R. He sure is a good little boy & takes as much moving around. Sometimes he gets fed in a taxi or while we are walking. Poor little fellow but he seems to enjoy it all & is thriving. just got done doing "the early dozen".

My, how we enjoyed the pictures Viv sent. See's really has changed. In the picture where he & Freddie are nose to nose his nose looks like Jim & Johnny looks like See on that particular picture. Scott & Meil's haven't changed much.

There is a new commissary going up for those people on contract with USOM which should include us. We are going over there tonight to find out for sure. They won't let food in for another month or so but they have been storing items now. I would really be glad if we can use it especially for baby foods & cereal. I'm going to ask Dr. Kuebel about using oatmeal as that is plentiful.

We definitely decided to go back to BMT and let Gor-

don go on alone or with Paul. Williams advised me to go to the Dispensary & get something to take away my milk but being I have a doctor I think it wise to take his advice, so before I do anything rash, I will see Kobil.

We wash lots of clothes & take lots of showers. We change clothes twice a day & take 2 or 3 showers - we even get baths. We feel so uncomfortable that all the time.

I got a letter from Mrs. Calvin Walter asking if their club could have some sort of project in connection with the villages. She's probably waiting for an answer. Her letter was here in Saloon & I must have been here for some time. I can't understand it as she had the right address. Anyway, tell her when you see her that I would like to talk it over with Mrs. Barwick. Without a doubt there is a great need but the problem I have in mind is what can one do when there are 5,000 people in Halan A & B & 300 families combined and all of them are needy. Mrs. Barwick is experienced in this type of thing & maybe she will have a good idea. Tell Shirley I will write to her around Thanksgiving time when Mrs. B is back from vacation.

There is something in the water that turns my diapers blue. Hope it will come out.

You isn't too skinny as she looks on this picture but notice the Brockmuller ears!!

Gordon got a pair of pants made & are they ever nice. I'm going to have a few things made for myself. Would you believe it. They have no ready made clothes. steps. You can get children's clothes ready made. So there are many tailors. Even shoes can be made to order. Our clothes wear out quite fast with the frequent washings.

About what age do babies eyes change. Eyes are still a beautiful blue. I rather hope they stay that way.

I must get a letter off to my parents now. Happy Birthday Dad & have many, many more.

Lots of love,

Gordon & Shirley