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Letter from Patti Mattox Bryant to F. W. and Mildred Mattox

Patti Mattox Bryant

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Dear Mother + Daddy,

We're here in Nigeria + doing fine. Hope you got the telegram we sent the day after we arrived. It wasn't possible for us to send a telegram the day we arrived because we landed in P.H. after the office had closed. We were supposed to land at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, but the plane schedule had been recently changed to arrive at 3:30 p.m. When we were approaching P.H. we saw a big storm ahead & turned around and went back to Enugu. We waited there about 30 min. then took off again because the pilot had heard that the storm was lifting. He said if it was not possible to land we would fly to Lagos & go to P.H. the next day. We were able to land, however, and were surprised that practically all the missionaries had waited till we got there about 5:30. They had waited from 12:00 till 5:30. The inbound picture was made right after we got off the plane. Rees had changed into a sport shirt after we went back to Enugu. Sara Jo looks that way because she had just been sick on the plane. It was the only time anyone was sick + she was sick only from Enugu to P.H. The last time she was real brave + asked for the paper bag. I think when she gets to be Helen's age she will be just as graceful. I've never seen a neater sickness. We were all a little tired since we had been traveling since 2:45 that morning when we boarded at Tripoli.

We had a wonderful time at Tripoli. It was cool and pleasant. We went to the beach + let the children play. Rees went skin-diving with snorkels. We saw an old Roman ruin which must have been magnificent in its day. We made some movies which we will develop or which will already be done when they get to you. The fluorescence pictures be developed when they get to you. The fluorescence pictures are fine. They are doing a good work among the children
people, but almost none among the Moslem. They are not allowed to proselyte the Moslem but can teach them if the Moslem voluntarily come to see them. But the American work is very encouraging—many church members become stronger by being put to work and go back home stronger Christians. I am very happy they have more baptisms than the average church in America.

Katie & May are fine. They have decided to come to Fulbrooke. May would like to work with Jim and learn how to do good personal work. They are very concerned about Bob.

Gerald & Bobbie Baden are coming home after 7 years in Italy. December is the time I believe.

The Massups are so wonderful. We are making it fine with our 6 children although at times it gets pretty hectic. Moses the woodcutter hasn’t showed up. He was supposed to come yesterday - today. Our spirits are high. Our sense of humor are good, but our spirits are high. It is so good to be back and start getting settled again.

Our African Friends seemed happy to see us and we were so glad to see them and catch up on some of the news.

Jerry & Bill are being getting ready to leave.

Tomorrow people from all the churches around here are coming for a combination welcome and farewell program. All the missionaries will be here too. The program will last all morning and there will be sports ("sports" was Abandu's say) in the afternoon.

Next Sun. & Mon. we will have a short "retreat" at Ukpom - Bible study + speeches from the men.

We got your good letter. Sara Jo enjoyed the stamps.

We look back on the past 6 months with pleasant memories. I think we did very well. If our love and memories can stand 6 months of living together, it will last forever. We know having us there was a big strain but you were always so good to us. We love you so much and we're proud of you too, Patti.