

International Voluntary Services, INC.

C/O USAID / Laos APO 152 San Francisco, Cal.



Dear Folks,

Returned to Luang Prabang Tuesday, December 8th after a real enjoyable trip. I went down to Vientiane and spent two days waiting for plane on 30th of November to Bangkok. While there I played tennis with Hank who is getting ready to leave for the states. Sunday I watched a 8 foot python being fed. It was a pet of some people living in Vientiane. They feed it a live chicken every two weeks. It was quite a sight watching the snake attack the chicken then swallow it. I took quite a few pictures which haven't been sent in yet.

I left Monday then for Bangkok. Arrived there about 10:30 in the morning and went to the Bangkok Christian Guest House. It was located about in central of Bangkok and was much cheaper than hotel. IVS'ers also get missionary rates while staying there. It cost me 12.50 for three nights and 6 meals. The first afternoon I spent just walking around and looking at everything. I went around to some of the large wats also during that time. Monday and Tuesday evening I went to movies. Saw a Walt Disney picture and a detective movie. After movies I went bar hoping. Tuesday morning I toured the floating market which was very interesting. Wednesday I took another tour then in the evening went around with a group of missionaris to look at the lights they were putting up for the Kings birthday. They look like Christmas lights in states but far more elaborate.

Thursday morning I took train out of Bangkok for Bon Phai. Arrived there about three in afternoon. From there I took bus to Maharasarakam. Bus had 43 seats and 70 passengers. Found Smarn and he give me a tour of the Agricultural College and took me out for supper. I stayed with the director of the school. Took bus early next morning for Ubon Rajadam where we have a large A Force base. Had to spend the night there and catch a bus early next morning for Pakse. (actually rice truck) Each of these bus trips took most of the day. I spent Saturday evening Sunday and left for Vientiane at noon on Monday. Then left Vientiane the following morning.

I bought several things in Bangkok and had them mailed home. Should be one statue and 4 rings. Let me know when they arrive. Did the other three packages arrive yet?

I received packages from Carolyn and Ruby and the two that you sent. Please thank them for me because I have not had a chance to write them. After being gone a week I found that I am about 50 letters behind and have enough going on at school to keep me busy.

I had thought about buying myself a camera but was going to wait till just before I came home. Was planning on getting a Minolta Camera with zoom lense. Camera cost about 80.00 in Hong Kong and the lense another 160.00. Usposed to be the best camera on the market. From here I will allow close to

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their address. I am revising the mailing list after the first week in January and putting names of those on it from whom I have received a letter at least once a month. So those who haven't written will not receive the letter.

I sent several post cards while I was in Bangkok and have mailed several Christmas Cards since then. As a result I am out of stamps again. I will have to wait till I can get some more before I can even mail this letter.

Did small colored pictures arrive ok. I have some more to send but am waiting till I receive word from you on how they arrived. It was the black and white pictures that stuck together wasn't it. I also have three boxes of slides that will be coming back next week.

Between Thanksgiving and the Banana Splits that I had while in Bangkok I think my weight is back to normal. In fact I think it is above normal. Since commissary arrived I have been piecing a lot and that puts on pounds.

As I stated in another letter I think, I have accepted an invitation to spend Christmas with the missionaries here in Luang Prabang. Some of the other ~~IVS~~ IVS'ers wanted me to travel with them to northern Thailand. I have also had to turn down several invitations in Vientiane. To attend all of them I would have to stay in Vientiane from now till first of January.

Would also like statement form bank. I have no record over here right now and would like to have one so I won't be overdrawing my account.

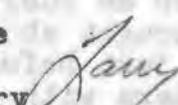
Please tell Aunt Nellie hello and that I will write her as soon as I get some more stamps. I have mailed her post card and Christmas card.

Please check and find out what action that 42H club is taking? Also check with Dave Gaumer and have him send me more information on his ideas concerning People to People. I will also write him when I get some more stamps.

Do you want to hear a good joke? Starting the first of the year my assistant is going to start teaching beginning English two night a week and I am going to teach the advanced class. Advanced class meaning they understand a little English. I think I will also teach a few other things. Time will tell. Most of the people want to speak English so they can eventually get a job with USAID as interpreter. It pays almost as much as any Lao government job. My assistant for instance gets more than three teachers put together for a month. Even at that he only gets about 1.00 per day. Of course he just rented a house for 3.00 a month so he has plenty of money.

Have to go back to school so will close for now. If I don't get another letter off before Christmas please have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I will be thinking of you. Convey my wishes to others also.

Love

Larry 

P.S