

Obviously not written by Gabrielle -- perhaps dictated to a Western staff person.

Minh Quy hospital.
Kon Tum.

23-11-74

Dear All: Băc Sĩ JOHN.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from all of us at Minh Quy Hospital. The dry season has finally begun here with its cool windy days and cold nights. We had some late rains this year that interfered with harvesting.

We are expecting two new nurses in 1975; hopefully they will each be here for at least a year. Currently there are seven foreign volunteers with us (2 Americans and 2 New Zealanders and 1 Indonesian).

One of our instruction projects at present is operating room techniques. A former Army medic who has been learning to speak Bahnar is working with 3 of our Montagnard boys and they are now capable of assisting on major procedures.

Housing for six staff families is now under construction across the road from the hospital; we hope the building will be completed by Christmas.

Our pig project is doing well and we have already placed 30 young pigs out in the villages to help develop additional sources of protein feed. Construction of the pig barn at the hospital was completed about 4 months ago and the pigs were flown up from Saigon by the Air Force. A former Navy veterinarian helped get the project under way and it will now be turned over to indigenous staff. Some of the pigs will be used for hospital feed supply.

Last week we sent one student to Saigon for one year's training in x-ray. H'Kong, the present head of our x-ray department is going to have to terminate his hospital employment next year due to family obligations, so we will need someone with proper training to take his place. Our physical therapy student is still studying in Quang Ngai and should be finished by next April. Yel has finished her year of nurses training in Nha Trang and is now working here. We hope to send more young people for training next year.

Our hospital continues to grow and overflow with patients. Plans are being made for two new wards in addition to the five buildings already in use. We are sad about the military situation around Kon Tum but there has been little nearby action to date. We hope for a peaceful Christmas and New Year.

Pat's two boys Dot and Wir are growing like weeds. Along with their fluent English, they are learning and re-learning Bahnar and Vietnamese. Wir claims he can understand Sedang also.

I would like to thank you for the stamps and envelopes you have sent. Hopefully more letters will be coming your way. However, please note that all voluntary agencies in Viet Nam are losing their APO privileges, so we will no longer be able to send mail out in this manner, and when you write to us, you should use international mail and the address Minh Quy Hospital, Kon Tum, South Viet Nam.

Saturday all of our sisters will go on a religious retreat in preparation for the coming Noel season.

Things remain the same here with many people to care for, challenging problems, and interesting days. We wish you all Christmas blessings and a joyous New Year.

Sincerely yours,

Apin sh ne-jô Băc Sĩ
vĩn bi hómaw -chih kô sh pãng mớỉ Bahnar.
Bmê kô sh xang chih kô nhôn hlabar.

Ya Gabrielle.