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From: E.C. Maynard (9/6/60)

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Mr. John Allen Chalk,
Cooksville, Tenn.

Dear John and Sue:

We, by God's providence and kindness, arrived in our new home and all the strange episodes which troubled our minds before we came and already we think we are old English veterans: I have actually learned to drive on the left side of the road (most of the time) and have about learned to multiply shallings and flourines and get pounds: I am getting so I can even hold a conversation with these starch-faced English chaps --- I have had a jolly lot of fun in all of it.

John I wish you were here with me: you are so full of life and work so dedicatedly: I drive all around over the island in this little Morris Minor car, with a lot of Advocates or Firm Foundations (rolled up with tracts inside them, each stamped with the church location on them) stopping wherever I see anybody, black or white or Portegese, and talk with them and invite them to church and give them these to read -- there is so little reading material here -- they read everything you give them: I do this hour on end. Then I watch for those waiting for the bus and I pick them up and take them to where they are going, and teach them about the church: they are so respectful, attentive, and kind.

On Sunday morning I make from 2 to 3 trips for children: we are reaching a lot of homes through these: God has opened many doors to us. I am especially impressed with the Portegese children and their parents: they are an industrious people and very hard workers: they are so nice and appreciate anything you do for them: I pick up a full car load every time we go to church.

God has given us favor in the sight of all men here: we live right by the Post Master General of the island -- he brings us bananas now and then -- has a grove: then a Customs Officer lives back of us, and he comes and talks to us (brought some bananas also the other morning): I have gotten acquainted with an Immigration Officer who also lives close to us: I have become acquainted with the son of the Colonial Secretary (by driving around looking for some one to pick up and carry, I found him --- so many walk here -- not like it is in the States, even among the upper class), who is second in command of the island only to the Governor himself, and has a seat in the House of Parliament: God has given us many doors and with these have given us favor among all men. John there must be a lot of good people like you and Sue and the fine church members there and other places praying for our work: we always remember where all our strength and success eminates from: John said, "a man can receive nothing except it be given to him from heaven".
The meeting house is under construction: looks like the masons will get the walls up to the first floor by this weekend. But it is hot and sweltering here and the natives work so slowly --- we will be fortunate if we can worship God in it in six months from now. I will send you some pictures of it along.

I know you will hate me for writing this letter to you: I don't blame you, for it is disgusting I suppose to get so many hard-luck stories from these sponging missionaries. But I would like to explain something to you, and ask you to consider a plan for my immediate needs.

We paid 80¢ for one cabbage head and 1.02 for another: eggs (smallest pullet) 75¢ doz. Bacon 1.00 lb. All other things are as outrageous: well you know how it is, churches sometimes promise support, and either get overloaded or drag before getting started -- little do they realize that man and his family are depending on them for food. Well anyway the last month I got 56.00 a week for 3 weeks and 25.00 the last one (until itoess came out of that one): that much doesn't go far John when you start paying double price for musty food, and 54¢ for gasoline. But John, we can do without and cut corners and make it on that as far as current and daily bills are concerned. But now I will explain my problems and then my need.

It is always expensive to get squared away and settled in a new place and somewhat the more so in a place like this one, and under these peculiar circumstances. Week after next my boys will begin school: they have to have uniforms before they will let them enter -- these cost about 70.00: then Javan has to pay tuition 33.00 every 3 months and I have to have this before they will let him begin -- all this is governmental rules and school policy: now I think I told you I had to borrow 500.00 before I came here with which to buy my small car: I have some of that money but not all: I had to sign a note for 255.00 for Tish for her last semester at Harding. All this is due this month John. I am writing some close friends who know me and know that I would never worry them unless I absolutely had to, explaining this to them, and am positive every one I am writing will make a special attempt to help us. Would you consider presenting my plea before the elders there, and tell them it is not within my plans to be writing and troubling them at every little financial obstacle that faces us, but that, at this crucial moment, 50.00 would be a huge fortune in helping us solve these prevalent problems: whatever they may be able to do, I will use it in a way that, God willing, some lost heathen here will see a great light, and those that sit in darkness will understand, and both they, you, the angels of God, and we can stand at God's judgement and rejoice, after we all go home to eternity. Perhaps if you do not have sufficient funds, these fine men may give you permission to ask the good Christians there to help us through a special contribution after your regular contribution is taken up.

John please, before God, consider these things: do what you reasonably can: if you cannot help us, we will understand and know you have tried: we know also if the elders do not help us, they will have good and proper reasons: it will make no difference in our opinion of them.
But if you are able to help us, consider our immediate need. I know if you cannot, God will remember this need also. We are not worried but that he will provide a way somehow for all our difficulties.

You will be pleased to know that God has put it into the minds of our brethren to help us more, in the near future: I received a letter this afternoon, asking for a record of my work in the past, my stand on the anti questions, and interested in being our sponsoring congregation, providing my report pleases them: of course this will take some time, but I had to rejoice when I got it and thank God: I know this makes you all very glad also.

I hear from Tish and Larry: they have recently moved to Bay Town Texas where he will teach and she will continue toward her degree. They are getting along so good, and God has blessed them in their first few months of married life in many ways: Adrian will enter FHC right away now. I heard from Lefty this week: he is about the same as he has been so long: they took him to Cincinnati to visit our sister a few days ago -- they said he enjoyed it very much: God surely has a purpose for this -- God help whoever is to prosper by this never to lose such a vastly lesson, if this should be the case. Oh! would to God I leave this work and go back to him and stay there and comfort him -- how it breaks my heart to stay away -- and yet, there is no convenient road to God's City of Peace for the soul -- I have to go on and do this job. But I pray most humbly for him and for his good family. You pray for him too John.

I must close this letter kids: write to me when you can: do what you can reasonably, without hurting your own local work. Give our deep regards and devotion to the fine people there: we love them. We love you all in a special sort of way.

In love and respect,

[Signature]

E.C. Maynard.

PS. My wife is getting along real good: she seems happy, and very pleasant through all this upheaval -- I'm fortunate: she never complains -- uses a lot -- or gets along on a little. She makes a lot of home made bread and we carry it to people about us: I call it my "missionary bread".