

Lambarene Sept. 21, 1964

Nell Darling,

I left without being able to reach you once more - I would so much have liked to hear your voice again, but when I close my eyes I see and hear you always as if you were only in reaching distance from me... Again after two days in Lambarene it is as if I had never been away.. A.S. seems very well, good color, good appetite peaceful and happy, radiating it to us. Because of the trial case in the Courthouse there are fewer visitors at the moment than ever before.. imagine 20 Americans had been asked to turn back when they arrived in the Gabon... that would have been terrible if this had happened with Benny and Mario! I told Dr.Schweitzer about Benny and his beautiful voice and the "Winterreise" and about Mario, who came from the Mexican Monastery straight into the haven of your friendship... He would like to meet all three of you, he said, and I still hope that the day will come when this is possible...!

I talked to Trudi before I left and she told me that Kurt and Grace have arrived and I picture them with you ..o, Nell, you can't possibly know what you give your friends... the atmosphere you spread, the presence of you, once experienced never leaves one...

There are more patients, fewer doctors, at the moment, the young Swiss Doctor left after 4 years of service without taking vacation and the newer Swiss doctor with his charming pregnant wife will have to leave in March, we expect new doctors, new nurses and it is always with anticipation and wonder one expects these new comers.. will they feel at home in Lambarene ? Will they belong to the family ?Schweitzer likes old and new faces.. nothing phases him, he takes life as it comes.. Yesterday a whole side of a hill was washed down, this morning he planted " Vetiver " a kind of grass which was imported from India to hold the earth down again, then arranged to have huge log rolled onto the shore of the hospital, it had been floating down the river not belonging to anyone, so A.S. thought it could serve well as wood for him... after these outside activities comes letterwriting, in the pharmacy where he sits in the sort of middle of the nerve centre of the hospital.. everyone can come at all times to discuss problems ( and there are plenty ) and interrupt him.. Each evening after dinner I visit young members of the staff, sit with this one a little, listen or talk to them. It is interesting to hear the many different motives which make people wish to join forces here...



As things look now I will return in December to help Rhena arrange some showings of the movie, to take over Soyale because Anita and Stefan leave for a months of vacation and to have the checkup at the doctors because of the nod in my breast.... I hope that we will see each other then, Nell Darling and, if you can write to me once in a while, so that I can picture where you are.... My love is and stays with you, always, tell Benny and Mario to begin thinking about a new date to come to Lambarene, all is arranged now from this end, they can be sure of a hearty wellcome, and if you came along too this would make the Cup run over with joy and happiness,

Stay well Darling Nell,

yours always,

*Erie*