



August '78

Greetings - I don't know what I can say to convince you guys of the complete contentment, the satisfaction, the challenge of a new life here that we share. Look around you to see what peace and security people there have. Our kids live in the fresh air - it's like always being at the park. They don't know allergies or additives. They are free to choose whatever they want to do with no age or sex restrictions - they don't have to wait til bananas come in to season. I mean they can repair shoes, make soap, drive heavy equipment, train for medical or teaching positions and dozens of other opportunities. We'll be sending them to schools thruout the Caribbean and elsewhere for advance studies, where needed. Our seniors have a life you wouldn't believe either. They have their own gardens, stay in cottages if they prefer - or in a care facility close to the medical people if they need special care. Remember we have folks over - well over 100 & lots of them are out exercising, playing soccer, dancing and using the kids playground equipment daily. They do handwork to decorate here & to sell up ideas at our little store - quilts, rugs, etc. I can't tell you how many years have been added to lives here. They don't have to worry about walking at nite - like in the city. I guess they even mug folks nowadays in the daylight! Like I said - you can't believe what you read in the press. You'd have to see it to believe it. I always knew the press was bad - ever since Tanzania - witnessing things there and then reading about them in the press. But I never knew it could be this vicious. It's because they are making \$ - you know - anything to sell papers & mags. And it's worse than that - it's a conspiracy. We have alot of friends there in the States - important pastors and influential community leaders and it's so bad - that when they talk on the radio - they can't ever use names over the air. Somebody even stepped forward with an affidavit in San Francisco that our mail has been interfered with by order of the Government. What are we doing



order of the Government. What are we doing - living in  
Dowdell's 1984? - at any rate - life continues here much  
the same - baby pigs, baby cows, baby chicks & baby  
babies. Each week people from around the NW district  
come into our medical clinic & bring their families.  
Most have babies & Diane and Angela Casanova  
(Mary Ann's oldest girls) spend all day with them. I  
wouldn't be surprised that they end up being pediatricians.  
Since I always wanted to do that - but couldn't - it's  
great having some of my kids follow thru for me!  
Nawab is working in the machine shop and has come  
alive. No where else could a kid his age have that kind  
of opportunity! The legal problems involved not to  
mention every other road block - would keep him  
out of a shop until he was 1/2 grown and too  
discouraged to try. Our kids are in every area here  
from food preparation to watch repair to intensive  
gardening - yes - we are doing intensive gardening.  
We want to get the most out of the land without depleting  
the soil - and without the use of heavy equipment.  
We have the machines - but use them to clear bush  
and improve the roads, etc.

That's wild about Bob going to Guatemala. Is it a  
training program or what? - and what country are  
they training for? Glad you are passing on my letters -  
I have good intentions of writing - but time gets away.  
Sure glad you sent the school stuff. Heard you got a  
visit from Vee Hollins. She's nice, huh? I keep telling  
you that we are doing fine here - I'm sure she confirmed  
a lot of what I've been telling you. Haven't had a chance  
to write Ben & Mary Ann yet - maybe I will tonite??  
Both Bob & Linda wouldn't take any prizes in the  
correspondence department - so I don't feel too bad!

Glad you are enjoying your painting. Will enjoy seeing some of them. Our kids are writing poems & stories about life here. When we get them printed up - I'll send you a copy. Tell Germaine to let me know what the latest info <sup>new</sup> on methods of teaching reading is. We don't use Sullivan for all - just for a few kids that need the organization and follow thru. We use all approaches that work. I prefer Language Experience for lack of materials and rich expanse of ideas that the kids have to draw from here. It's so nice to see them transformed - they're not angry anymore. We still get visitors all the time from everywhere -

Ministry of Education GUYANA, South America.

since this is quite a model community. Prime Minister Burnham is on his way soon - which will be quite a thrill for all of us.

You mentioned in your letter you always get all the "details" about us. What do you mean? Write soon, & quit worrying - Who from? I'm beginning to think you are In what form? just jealous! ha-ha.

Love,

Pat

P.S. went to the jungle w/ the kids again today & collected buckets full of plants that you guys would pay hundreds of \$ for. Eat your heart out! 😊