

5-17-1960

From: Charlie T. Garner - reply to above letter

Charlie T. Garner

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CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHARLIE T. GARNER - EVANGELIST
P. O. Box 83
Zamboanga City, Philippines



May 17, 1960

Mr. John Allen Chalk
542 North Washington Avenue
Cookeville, Tennessee

Dear brother Chalk:

We have your letter of May 10th and appreciate it immensely. Since you moved from Dayton on February 1st, I am wondering if you received my letter of January 26th. Air Mail letters require six or seven days to reach the eastern part of the United States.

Letters from brethren at home serve as a tremendous stimulant to my wife and I. Our stay in the Philippines has made us more aware of just how wonderful God's people are and what a unique relationship we have. Oddly enough, it is a lesson more easily learned while away and looking back on it all. It is true, while in the forest it is hard to see the forest for the trees.

In one of the back issues of the Christian Chronicle I read an account of your plans to move from Dayton. I trust your new work will prove to be a fruitful and pleasant experience. Congratulations on the new addition to the family circle. It takes children to give the finishing touches to any home. Little ones around the house are such a comfort and consolation. Our home has been blessed with three wonderful children - two boys and the youngest a girl. Should all go well, we expect our fourth about November. We hope your wife and little one are progressing nicely.

Our second son, Tommy, is doing very well at this time considering his condition twelve months ago. The limp that first drew our attention to his illness is completely gone and indications are that he will have no outward effects. He received his last T.B. injection about three weeks ago, but is still taking medicine by mouth. The Lord has certainly blessed us. The rest of the family is well, busy and without complaint.

Should all materialize as is being planned, we should have a second family in Zamboanga City by mid July. The Philippine government has already granted their visa and they are now clearing up the last minute details in view of a departure by the latter part of June. Jenet and I are very anxious for their arrival as the last family returned to the States in April of '59. Of course, the work in Zamboanga City has been so arranged that it demands the presence of two families at all times and it suffers

CHURCH OF CHRIST

CHARLIE T. GARNER - EVANGELIST

when two are not on the scene.

Zamboanga City, Philippines



The work itself has been an encouragement in the past few months. The membership has increased, the collections are up and the brethren themselves give the appearance of spiritual growth. Last month we had one baptism, last Sunday there were two and three have expressed a desire to be immersed this coming Lord's Day. Indications give rise to our hopes for the coming school year in the Bible School. We anticipate an increase in students for the second straight year. Last year thirty-two students were enrolled, an increase of seventeen over the previous year. However, this coming semester we are expecting an enrollment of forty to forty-five. A student body of this size will fill our physical facilities to capacity, but you may be sure, we would never complain about "cramped quarters" if growth was the cause. Those are the kind of problems we like.

May God bless your efforts to get the Broad Street brethren to sponsor a man in a foreign field. I would like to think you will give some consideration to the Philippines. At this time, there are only three of us serving a nation of twenty-six million people. It is absurd to think such a force is anywhere near equal to the gigantic task it faces. There are places in the islands that are literally begging for missionaries, and yet, their pleas have been given a deaf ear. The Lord help us to see the needs, the opportunities and possibilities of the Far East countries.

News from the Steele family has been scant. We have received no answer from our last letter, which was some months ago. Thanks for the information about Dottie.

Write whenever you have an opportunity, it will be much appreciated and especially so in view of your full schedule. We are grateful for your interest in us and the work we are attempting. Our prayers are with you and your family as you labor in His service at Cookeville. I remain,

In Him,

Charlie T. Garner