

**NEWSLETTER # 2**  
**January 1986**  
**Hiva Oa, Marquesas Islands**  
**French Polynesia**

This is the third island we have visited, and this place is the most modern. The port is big, so the cargo ships can dock, bringing cars, trucks, and building supplies. It came in while we were here, in fact, we were anchored in its way and had to scramble to another anchorage! Still, we are the only American sailboat in the Islands. There are two other sailboats at the wharf with some Frenchmen living onboard. They teach math at the Catholic School in town. We enjoyed meeting them and found they could speak English too. Tonight, they are coming to dinner on board our boat. They are "Catholic" as most all of the natives here are. No one is "born again" that we can discern, and so we talk about that to most all we meet as the Lord leads. It is a challenge to communicate because only a little English is spoken. Also, the Islanders have a different idea of the word "love". We hope to understand more on this discovery later and share with you about that. The custom of gift-giving is strong here. If you give anything to them they bring fruit and fish back to you. Once Lisa gave a little boy a penny and his mom had him bring back a bag of avocados. What a treat for us! Usually the fruit gifts are mangoes, pomplamouse (like sweet grapefruit), bananas, and limes. We see that the young people have cassette tape recorders and so our gifts to them have been Christian cassette tapes. I am running out of tapes! Our Christian books haven't been shared yet as the people don't read much. However, a fellow who was traveling on the cargo ship I mentioned, came by to visit, seeing our American flag. He hadn't been able to communicate with anyone for two weeks as he only spoke German and English. The man shared that he had escaped from East Germany and has been free in West Germany for 2 and a half years now. He said how dreadful the Communist way is. He has a burden to help others, and so far, has helped 10 others escape. He could read English, so I gave him the book "Exodus II" by Steve Lightle, which is about the anticipated escape of some 4 million Russian Jews out of Russia and back to Israel. He was delighted to receive that book and we want to remember to pray for him as he returns to West Germany in March. Tonight, we are serving Mexican food to our guests—thanks to Lisa. Brenda baked brownies and I made Jell-O. The girls were on a 10-mile hike yesterday, into the next valley with a friend. They brought back fresh lettuce and carrots from a rare garden they came across. The people's yards are pretty with flowering trees and shrubs, but they don't do much gardening. The stores have most of the canned goods we have, only French brands. Things are expensive, except for French bread which is only 35 cents a loaf. We exchange our American money for French francs which is now 132 francs to one U.S. dollar. Lisa found a favorite box of cold cereal from Europe and it cost her about \$13—American dollars to buy it! Pray that we can communicate with all we meet and understand how to share the "Good News" with them. Thank you all, The Murphy's—Loren, Georgia, Brenda, and Lisa Zick.