

Subj: Lili Letter #3
Date: Sunday, March 5, 2000 8:50:28 PM
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Sister Lili
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ma Famille #3
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Envelope: 3.5 x 6.5 inch, hand-made from gift-wrap paper featuring purple pansies.

Address label: white with filigree black/white border.

Stamp: US 33 cents, John & William Bartram, American Botanists, 1999, Franklinia alatamaha (white 5-petalled flower)

Postmark: [PO illeg but undoubtedly Provo] Feb 28, 2000

Letter is hand-written carbon copy on 6 x 9.5 inch paper, 9 pages. Page numbers {x} at bottom center.

Not triple-checked, but I believe the few misspellings are preserved from the original.

Transcribed by H Tracy Hall, Jr. Sunday, March 5, 2000

Sat Morning, feb 19, 2000

It's already Saturday! Oy oy oy!

I still love it here!

Last night was especially good.

We broke up into groups to discuss the first discussion one more time in-depth in English before jumping into it in French.

I was w/ Soer NorthCraft & Elder Worthen, and we had a good productive discussion.

It was interesting to see what separate experiences each group had.

I think for some reason the Spirit was especially strong last

night, for each group.

Sister Kennedy, Zimmermann, & Elder Woodruff were in a group, and (I know -- some may raise their eyebrows) actually didn't get to the first discussion.

Soeur Zimmermann is the only member in her family. She has one older sister. Her parents have had a very difficult time letting Soeur Zimmermann go, and they really don't understand why she can't just call once a week to {1}

let them know how she's doing -- to let them hear her voice.

Then 2 nights ago Soeur Zimmermann had a dream that her parents would not rest about it. They sought her out.

So, Sister Simmermann says the thing is that *she's* fine, but she worries a lot about her parents, and wishes they could be ok.

So, last night when we broke into our groups, she really felt prompted to share this with Sister Hall (our teacher).

And Soeur Hall shared D&C 31 with

Soeur Zimmermann, using her first name in the opening passage (Morika).

It was *so* beautiful (This was in the small groups, but Sis. Kennedy & Sis. Zimmermann shared this w/ us that night).

Everybody is growing and being nurtured so much by the Spirit, it's just great.

We already have trials as a district. The Lord probably put us together on purpose. Of course we all love Elder {2}

Sandor, but it's no secret that each of us has the hardest time getting [inserted after "hardest" in ink:] (meaning he's harder to get along w/ than anyone else in the district) along with him. Luckily he has a really good companion who is very good to him.

One challenge is that Elder Sanders has studied French for 10 years, therefore he is quite fluent. I think this is great, and he's a great resource to me, and I don't think anyone in the district is threatened by this, but I wonder if Elder Sandor thinks we are? Anyway, he says it's hard to speak French to us all the time, because he feels like he's showing off.

(A) The other reason is just that, well, he's a little self-absorbed, and he takes simple things (like "shh" when we're trying to hear the teacher) quite personally.

So, it is a challenge to all of us. We have to be charitable & Christlike, I know, but (for instance), he tries to invade Soeur Zimmermann's boundaries too often, and it definitely wouldn't be right for her to lay down & take

it; she has to maintain & protect those boundaries.

{3}

Now, I don't know if I'm "supposed" to write about this kind of thing, because it sounds negative, but I don't think it's so bad because we all know we need to try harder, and we don't try to single him out or anything.

Anyway, it's a personal goal of mine (we're supposed to, anyway) not to talk negatively (especially join in negative talk) about Elder Sander.

And the sisters in my room certainly do enjoy talking about him.

But we as a district actually already have a lot of love, and I know we'll only continue to grow closer.

Now I must get ready for the day!

Goodbye!

Sun, feb 20, 2000 (02202000!)

Hey Family -- Did you see the article in the Ensign about NewCaledonia yet?

C'est hypersupermegacool! Nést ce pas? The N.C. elders & I were excited. Maybe they'll get a stake while I'm there(?).

Last night the Madagascar sisters got a hold of some pics that some

{4}

who served there had taken. Now they're *so* excited. "It's Africa!"

Someday I'm going to go to Africa, especially since I'm learning French now!

When the Madagascar missionaries get there, they'll probably have to learn Malagese. Sheesh.

Au jourd'hui je suis la petite français. Parce que je suis la, c'est pourquoi il faut que je parle

tout les mots en frane que [? illegible] je sais.

Of course we should try anyway, but this gives us extra incentive because at the end of the day we guess who it was, based on who we think made an extra effort to speak French that day. I haven't done too swell. I'll have to try harder.

Now it's off to Lunch! (They don't feed us breakfast on Sundays, so we're especially excited for food on Sundays - - don't worry, we've already learned the

trick of hoarding snacks).

Sun. Night, feb 20, 20000

How can I possibly record all the amazing spiritual experiences I've already had,
{5}

and that I'm certain I'll continue to have? Perhaps I'll just mention the event, and then I'll hopefully be able [to] remember a tad of what I felt.

Firstly, I went to choir. Aah . . . *HEAVEN* I want to go every week. I hope sister Zimmermann will want to. She really enjoyed it. This MTC experience is the first time I'm outnumbered by the men, even in choir! We sang "Where can I turn for Peace?"

Secondy. tonight's devotional/fireside thingy was wonderfu. Pres. Edman & his wife took turns telling little stories and bearing testimony, and we *sang*.

A district going to Philippines sang "How Great thou Art" in English, Samoan, & one of those many Philippino languages (not at the same time). I discovered I love the way Samoans & Tongans sing.

I just feel so edified after tonight. In the fireside, we sang "Armies of Helaman." I've been wanting to sing that ever since I got here.

So I cried big crocodilly tears; *So* many

people here, as The Lord's Missionaries!
Plus, there's an MTC version of the words.
{6}

"And we are now the Lord's missionaries"
I want to try to write them down
next time.

Played stomp again yesterday (we had to --
Friday's & Saturdays are so long). I didn't
win this time. The elders are getting
better, yeah? (That's how my comp. talks).

The moon & Venus were beautiful
last night. We couldn't see the big dipper

because of the blaring MTC
lights. Ah well.

I'm bringing a star chart w/ me to
the southern hemisphere, because I know
I'll want to know what I'm seeing.

Tonight we had orientation for the
Referral Center, & this week we'll spend
a *lot* of time there. I'll admit I'm
a bit scared, but I bet I'll love
it, and I'll learn some good skills (like
how to type? Yikes!)

The woman conducting asked if there
were any media-referral converts.

An elder raised his hand and she
had him come up (Elder "Kevin," as none
of us will remember his last name --
I guess he wears [in margin:] (his last name) it) and tell his
{7}

story. It was cool. I just love
all of these missionaries. They all
have different stories of how
they came unto Christ and how they
chose to serve missions; And here we
all are together!

So my family, Here's my question:
Is this letter simply *way* too long?
Would you prefer short and sweet

letters? I would *completely* understand.
I'd be happy to do it either
way:

Parts of my journal, or most of my
journal.

Well, which will it be? You tell
me. Maybe short letters and long?

Whatever.

I'll return!

Tues Feb. 22, 2000

Hey family, did you notice that on the day
I entered the MTC, they didn't crack the

"lbs. of Captain Crunch Consumed" joke? I feel
cheated!

Today was good. I was scared of the referral
center (still am), so of course today when we
took calls for 15-20 min, I got the tough
{8}
ones.

The computer prompts you and tells you
what to say, but it didn't tell me what
to say if a woman from CA calls and says
that she ordered 2 Bibles, one for herself
and one for her daughter in prison, and
today is her daughter's birthday and she
told her daughter it was coming, and it
hadn't come yet, and what could I
do about that? ("Please hold while I get
my supervisor" . . . What would we do w/out
supervisors?!)

Anyway, it's all good. And it is pretty
fun. I'm a little scared about out-going
calls.

OK, so, I guess I'll get this letter
off to you!

Oh one more -- nope, 2 more -- things:

1) Mom, I lost your last letter to me before I
got to *really* read it (it came while we're in class,
so we usually only get to skim-read), would you

please send it (the Andy's b-day email) again?

Also, remember how you said you'd imagined I'd have slept well that first night? I don't think *any* missionary sleeps well the first night. But after a few nights I adjusted to my rock-hard pillow.

Now I sleep well. That first Sat. was the hardest tiredness-wise. Now I'm ok! Love, Lili
{9}

</XMP>

----- Headers -----
Return-Path: <helenv@itsnet.com>
Received: from rly-yc03.mx.aol.com (rly-yc03.mail.aol.com [172.18.149.35]) by air-yc04.mail.aol.com (v69.17) with ESMTTP; Sun, 05 Mar 2000 21:50:28 -0500
Received: from smtp.efortress.com (smtp.efortress.com [205.181.175.207]) by rly-yc03.mx.aol.com (v69.17) with ESMTTP; Sun, 05 Mar 2000 21:50:13 -0500
Received: from helen (91-65.dialup.itsnet.com [192.41.91.65]) by smtp.efortress.com (8.9.3/8.9.3) with ESMTTP id VAA12073; Sun, 5 Mar 2000 21:49:54 -0500 (EST)
Message-Id: <200003060249.VAA12073@smtp.efortress.com>
From: "Helen Van Orman" <helenv@itsnet.com>
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Subject: Lili Letter #3
Date: Sun, 5 Mar 2000 19:46:54 -0700
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X-Priority: 3
X-Mailer: Microsoft Internet Mail 4.70.1157
MIME-Version: 1.0
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Content-Transfer-Encoding: quoted-printable
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