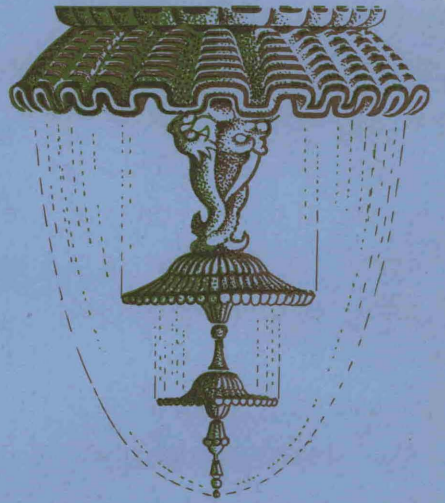


Elden + Sister M. Tracy Hall  
 106 Churchill Ave. E.  
 Brimhill, Salisbury  
 Gambia, Africa

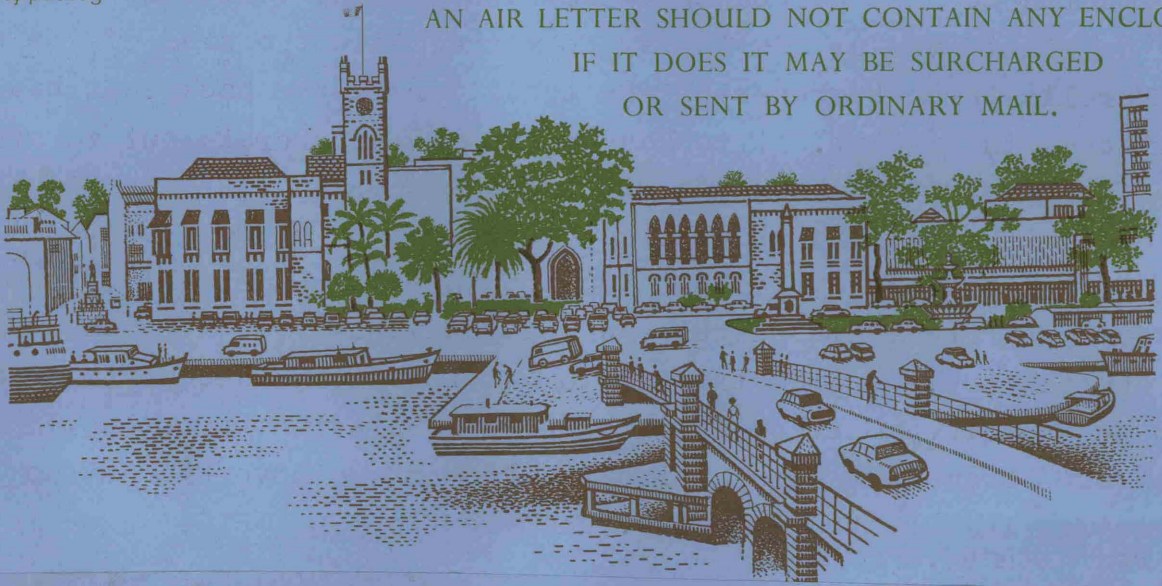


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Sender's name and address:

Elden O.F. Johnson  
 Christ Church,  
 Barbados, West Indies



May 21, 1982

Dear Elder and Sister Hall,

We were glad to get your letter; though it took a long time getting to us as it stayed in the mission home until last week. The AP's brought it down to us. We get to see someone from the Puerto Rico mission office about once every six weeks.

We have had many different experiences since we came to Barbados. We rented a car the first month we were here; then we decided that was a little expensive and decided to purchase one. We had just had our little suzuki one week when we met with an accident and nearly demolished it. The streets are very narrow here and people park anywhere they please. We were making our way down a narrow side street weaving in and out among the parked cars and failed to see a stop sign because there was a van parked right in front of it. We pulled around this van into the middle of a street, right in front of an oncoming truck. It's a good thing he wasn't going very fast or he would have run right over us. As it was he mashed into the side of the car and gave Verella three broken ribs and the Elder in the back seat had to have 11 stitches in his hip. It took us awhile to recuperate but we are 100% now. Most of our work has been with the Branch and its members. There has only been a Branch here about three years and being so isolated from the rest of the church they weren't functioning as they should. We do have a few very strong families but even they have only been in the church a very short while. We are striving to get the attendance up to an average of 40 so that they will be able to build a building here. Last Sunday we had 42 to Sacrament meeting which is the most we have had out so far. We are meeting in a rented home now. We have two young Elders working in the area with us.

We haven't had very many baptisms since we came; The ones that have been baptised seem to be good Latter-day Saints and are attending regularly; in fact a Mr. Sydney Jones that was baptised the last of March will probably be put in the Branch Presidency as 1st counselor when the mission president comes down.

The government has been reluctant to issue permits for us to do missionary work here. We are working with them and trying to overcome this problem. Frans has met with the head immigration official twice and is going to meet with him again next week.

They say the population here is 90 % black, 5% white and 5% mixed; but in talking to one of our members last night she feels it is about 50% mixed. We believe there is less color bias here than almost anywhere in the world. Everyone seems to be accepted. The literacy rate here is one of the highest in the world also. They have had a very good school system for a long time. They claim 98% literacy.

Most of the people here are satisfied with what they have and it is difficult to convert them to the gospel. It is a beautiful island and most of the people are very friendly and the crime rate is quite low; although we had a break in in the apartment above us last week.

It sounds like your mission is even more difficult than ours. It will be interesting for us to exchange experiences when we get together after our mission. We love the people here and are making many new friends but we get just a little homesick when we get word from home that we have new twin grandsons. This brings our total to 27 grandchildren.

*We will be looking forward  
to hear from you again*

*Sincerely  
Elder + Sister Yorgeson*