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Elder & Sister Tracy Hall

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Sender's name and address

Elder & Sister Harmon Johnson

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North Ireland

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36 Ardmore Road
Holywood, North Ireland
BT18 OPJ

14 October 1982

Dear Elder & Sister Hall:

Thought we might drop a line to you and the Yorgesens seeings our missions are passing by in time so rapidly.

We had been in the office in Scotland until the middle of last month when we came to North Ireland. It is quite a change from Scotland. Our accommodations here are the former mission president's home before the Scotland and North Ireland missions were consolidated into one a little over a year ago and the Elders say it is "posh" living in a house with central heat, and two bathrooms and one even has a shower in it. We also marvel at having an oven, in fact the stove has two (I'm not sure how to use them yet, they take so long to heat up and I either overcook in them or undercook. We didn't have an oven in our flat in Scotland-- or rather it just heated up to 200 degrees, which was as good as nothing, so I have not had any experience in cooking since coming over. The country here is real green though, rains quite often we find out, and it seems warmer than Scotland. Of course with central heat, I haven't had to wear my thermal underwear to bed at all yet. (I only took them off for two weeks in August in Scotland). But the problems seem about the same in both countries. Lots of inactives and lack of member fellowship. We have been tracking down the inactives in one of the wards and have found many have not been to church in 20 years and no one has even called to see them and they have joined other churches and don't want anything to do with us. It is sad, as they say they enjoyed their activity 20 years ago when they were in the church, but are happy in the ones they attend now and don't want us to come back. This week we have found a couple of families that had problems last year and haven't been to church since. The mother has been a member since she was ten and the father just a recent convert, but 5 children and none baptized. She did say we could come back to visit. That's one and the other is a single man about 45 who said we could come back, but he also needs member fellowship. Neither has had home teachers nor ward teachers since they became inactive. You can see we need lots of help and ideas to get them reactivated around here. What has been successful in your area?

A sister Dickson came in from South Africa, had been in the office and knew you and spoke highly of you. Hope her mother is better now and happier about her daughter's mission. We realize more each day how blessed we are to have had the gospel in our lives from our beginning. These part member families are wonderful and courageous.

Hope all is well with you and your families. We can't believe time has gone so rapidly and understand it goes faster from now on. So we will be seeing you at B.Y.U. Education Week before long.

Love,

Harmon & Donna Johnson