

September 27, 1982

Dear Ida Rose and Tracy:

An article in the Wall Street Journal on Zimbabwe reminded us that we have friends in that part of the world. The article spent some time on the problem of land reform, system economic degeneration because of the loss of white farming leadership, and productivity decrease because of land reform and the population expansion. It reminds us a little of the experiences we saw Kenya going through when we visited there. Only they were smarter. They didn't kick all of the whites out. We would guess that missionary work might have its uphill battle, particularly in such areas as tithing, ward budget, building fund, etc. Somehow or other your letter seemed to indicate that you are taking a positive approach and that you are going to be satisfied with your accomplishments by the time your mission is over with. (We wondered often what kind of wave we might have set in motion with the Book of Mormon we gave to a young eager boy in Southern Kenya and the copy we gave to a well educated individual in a museum courtyard).

We have occasion to look across the street from time to time. Your strawberries are as healthy as weeds. The young man you have there certainly keeps the yard looking nice (maybe even nicer than when you took care of it yourself HaHa). We do note that an apricot died on our farm in Highland--and your tiny apricot tree closest to the street died just like ours. There must have been some anti-apricot viruses in the air this past year. Speaking about air there is a feeling of winter. We have had a siege of heavy rain just recently - someone has said that we only have two seasons - summer and winter - that has certainly been true this year. The mountain tops are already covered with snow.

You may know that Jens is the High Priest Group leader. If I quote him and you tell someone he is going to deny he ever said it but he sometimes feels like a large majority are dead from the middle both ways. That's really not quite true. We filled our quota tonight of 25 people for pear picking. It appears that cannery assignments are going to be filled fairly easy next week. We have the highest percentage of the 4 generation program finished (thanks to Sr. Alley). We are second highest in Stake Quorum dues.

You wouldn't recognize the ward. We have had an infusion of young people. You may know something about the difficulty with which young people are able to afford housing - further it is only natural that basements are becoming available for young married couples. Further we have had 5 grand kids at the Skibas house (thanks to Joyce) 4 people and a grass widow in the Mattenson house (she's/is/ --and a passle of kids in the Simons house (she is running a day school in the big area Simons added on. For a while we had so few Elders they were meeting with the High Priests. That was of course because the Singles Ward was started. Now we have 21 Elders on the roll. Many of them being fine young BYU students and return missionaries. They are meeting by themselves now in the Scout room.

Dan Soceaneantu has been baptized - and is so thrilled to have the spirit of the Holy Ghost to guide him. He gave a very nice talk last Sunday -0 and his grandmother was there to hear him. The Grandmother came via Rome and the mother and daughter are staring at blank walls and sleeping on a mattress which is lying on the floor. They are awaiting the go signal as expressed by Aurel's receipt of the green card. Aurel hopes to have the card by the end of October--and hopes his wife's nerves will stand the strain.

Karen will return the 19th of November. She continues to have great success and the violin has been responsible for over half her many converts. She has been in Frankfurt for 11 months now and is living on the street where all the general authorities land (the church has purchased 23 homes in the Frankfurt area to carry on European business and for the traveling authorities.)

We hope to know what to charge for the beautiful crocheted dresses. I have already purchased three of them and Norma Darais two from me--and I am positive as soon as we get them lined (which should be this week end) people will go wild about them when they see them. I still want one for Diane and Karen and Cindy--but it is terribly important that they try them on. I paid your account \$120 this early summer and am surely wanting to know how much we owe you. We don't want to take advantage. (Cindy just had a new baby and Diane hasn't been here--and I am sure Sara would buy one if she could try one on--The first one you sent just fit Norma Darais--and the 2nd one me but right now some of the extra ones are a little on the short side) They look like a \$300 outfit to me. I haven't seen anything so beautiful.

We certainly wish you well in your endeavors. We have great confidence in your capability especially when aided by the companionship of our Heavenly Father by knowing that you are involved in a worthy cause. We just hope the ants don't carry you away after Tracy's vivid description. Best of wishes and Love.

The Jonssons

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