

Feb 4, 1983

Dear Ones,

Time for another report of the comings and the goings of the Goodmans in the England London mission.

February
has been
a lot
colder
than
Dec^{end}
Jan.

The mild winter has been a great blessing to us and especially the missionaries who are out in the weather most of the time. But when the wind blows we know it has come off the North Sea! Our flat is warm and comfortable. The only time we notice the cold is when we go to our zone meetings and the buildings aren't warmed sufficiently. After you sit in those buildings for four hours you begin to get cold. The good news is that the sun is getting back in the East and making a bigger arch in the sky and it isn't getting dark now until 5:00! Quite a contrast from a month ago.

England has had a water strike now for two weeks.

2.

now in
its 4th week

7.5
million

We haven't as yet been bothered but there are millions of people in other areas having to carry water and millions having to boil their water. I suppose we'll be ok. up until a main water pipe breaks, etc.

England also passed a law which went into effect the end of January for everyone in the front seat of a car to wear seat belts. Seat belts have always bothered Harold but he is complying to the law without too much fuss! It's a 50 pound fine (£5) to be caught without a seat belt.

We had great zone meetings in January. We are starting to attend a district meeting each Friday also. This gives us a chance to get into the flats with small groups. The first flat was a real shock, the first missionary flat I had been in. It is really hard for missionaries to find places they can afford to rent over here. There are

lot of places for sale but almost none to rent. We are trying to upgrade the housing but it is a slow process and you have to give the land lord four weeks notice.

Harold had done business with the Hill Violin Makers in London for years and he wanted to visit them and found that they had moved out of London and someone told him there was a Hill Violin Shop in Welwyn Gardens. So we drove out there, a lovely country area, but it was the wrong Hill. But they knew where it was, so last Saturday we drove out to Great Messiden about 40 miles out in the country.

Just a beautiful area. We found the country estate, but the gates were locked. They told us down the road they are closed on Saturday, so we intend to go back soon. We took a picnic lunch and ate in the car. It was such a relaxing day, we are looking forward in going

back. We would like to explore the old part of town. We saw some buildings dated in 1600.

Elder and Sister Simpson had a stop over in London on their way home from India, Micronesia, Singapore, and Hong Kong. We picked them up at the airport and they had lunch, dinner, and breakfast with us, then we took them back out to the airport. They wanted to attend a theater production while here, so Harold was able to get tickets to the dance production of "Cats". It is the best production running in London right now as well as on Broadway in New York. Anyway we were a little nervous taking a General Authority to a modern dance production, knowing what modern dance can be. But we thoroughly enjoyed it. The music and dance was created for J. S. Eliote's poem - "Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats", and a few of his other works. But it was very cleverly done

very
creative

production. And the stage set was really outstanding. It was fun to be with the Simpsons.

Feb 13, 1983

12
new
missionaries

You wouldn't believe the busy week we have just had. Monday we had leadership meeting with the zone and district leaders of the mission. Early Tuesday the new missionaries arrived at the airport. Two from South Africa, one from Germany and the other nine from the States. They are first taken to the Mission Office and finances and the Bank taken care of. They are brought to the home for a lunch of chicken soup and toasted cheese. Then they are taken to a hotel across Hyde Park to catch up on their sleep. Then they are picked up again for dinner and an evening of testimony and a quick tour of London. Wednesday morning they eat breakfast at the hotel and brought again to the office for an Orientation Meeting. While they were eating and being picked up Harold was racing back to the airport to pick up Elder Cuthbert who wanted to hold

8
trips
in
about
10
days.

Hope this isn't making just you tired to read this!

Elder Ceithbert he saw you in Jan! Zone Conference and fireside while he was here. (What a busy time for him to arrive) Wednesdays, the missionaries going home attend the Temple and then have dinner in our home before they return home on Thursday. So this same day, the new missionaries meet their new companions and are taken out to their areas. It is always hard to send the missionaries home. Elder Whitworth our first assistant from Boise, Idaho has now gone home. It is so interesting to get so attached to those you work closely with. Elder Devashrayee from Salt Lake along with Elder Castleton also from Salt Lake are our assistants. So early Thursday morning another trip to the airport and farewell to some special Elders.

So we couldn't think about the zone conferences coming up until those two and a half days were spent. Then Thursday afternoon we traveled to the Staines Stake and held zone meetings with the two zones in that area and a fireside in the evening. And wouldn't you know it started snowing while we were there.

But the roads weren't too bad. The next morning we held a zone conference at Hyde Park with four zones and in the afternoon drove to St. Albans to hold a meeting with those two zones. And a fireside in the evening. This was a busy two days, but very successful and we enjoyed having Elder Cuthbert visit us.

This was supposed to be done before we came. We finished Elder Cuthbert's room just the minute he stepped in the door!

During the last two weeks we have had painters, plumbers, and carpenters in our flat to add to the confusion! Which just goes to prove there is never a dull moment in the England London Mission!

All our love,

The Goodmans

We were so glad to get your card. We have thought of you so often and can't believe you just have a few months left!

Three ~~months~~ ^{years} seemed like an eternity to me, but when I saw how fast the first six months passed and I could see how fast a half year went by, It helped me realize I could make the three years!

Just knowing what a challenge we have had with a different culture, we know you must have had a very difficult adjustment to make. But we surely love and appreciate your efforts. We could surely use a lot more couples, but can't seem to get them. We've just been told that the one we get in April have ^{since} been called as mission Pres. somewhere so will only have them a few months. Bishop Hall, you were great in finding missionary couples, maybe you can find us some when you get home!

We love the missionary work and know this is for our own refinement and salvation.

All our love,

The Goodmans