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July 5, 1982

Dear Elder & Sister Hall:

I imagine by now you have your branch under control and are probably building a ward. Wish we were having that much success. Harmon has been making lists for the Stake ever since we came and in the ward we are in, they found 800 non active baptized members listed which is costing the other 200 active members £4,000 for welfare assessment. A month ago after much persuasion, they finally decided they would survey the ward and those who had moved and couldn't be found could be taken off the ward records and turned in to Solihull. But even then they get such a poor response to go out just 2 nights a week. The Bishop hasn't been over on one yet. They are going out Tues and Wed of this week and try to finish up (it has to be turned in for the 1st of July to count). They were pleased to announce that they could take 280 names off the list. We went out one night for them for 5 names scattered all over this large city and found 3 addresses where the whole block had been demolished for sometime (probably even years) and one man had moved at least 10 years ago, but the lady across the hall after talking with us awhile, said she knew his sister and so called her and found out his address and where he worked. She was a real nice person and would have made a good Mormon but wasn't interested. She liked the beautiful church of Scotland that she attended, but we hope we might have laid a foundation for someone to teach her when she finds out her church doesn't have all she wants. They really have some good people, but they are satisfied with what they have and just lack any enthusiasm at all to do anything different. As Harmon says, they just listen to us and ignore us and say to themselves, "they will probably go away and leave us alone soon." The interesting thing about them is that they say to one another, "I think I'll go inactive." And it is just a statement like they were going on a trip, and they go.

We have found the culture and the traditions are different and difficult to overcome. But we have loved the people and the beauty of Scotland. We do hope before the next ten months pass though that we will have some success. Our Mission President says we are not here to do any of their work, just shadow leadership, and they, of course, think Americans are pushy anyway and that they are doing all right and do not need any changes. Of course, again they are all converts and 14 or 15 years in the church is really a long time. Most are under 3 years and we are amazed at the number who have been baptized in the last 18 months and have become inactive and unknown. The membership fellowshipping is very poor.

We are still here at the mission home and work 10 or so hours a day here just doing the mundane things that have to be done to keep the mission office going -- reservations for those going home, letters to those coming in and going out, etc. We had a tremendous number take early releases when the opportunity came and so the number of missionaries in our mission has dropped tremendously, from 220 when we came in December to 172 in June.

Time seems to be going fast. Just another year and we will all be meeting at B.Y.U. for Education Week. It doesn't seem possible. We do miss our grandchildren and children and a few holidays, but our health has been good, we have enjoyed the people and the City of Edinburgh and the association of the members. Some of them are really fantastic just like at home.

hope all is going well with you. Let us hear of any successes you have with your good ideas. I guess the Lord knows why he sent us here.

We saw a flower show from South Africa and it was gorgeous. Of course, all the flowers here make our roses, peonies snapdragons, etc. look stunted. They are all beautiful.

Great country & great people in Scotland but they seem to want to hoard their "one talent". We are enjoying our mission but wish there were more visible results of our effort. There have been 5 or 6 that have been activated by the programs we are pushing. Occasionally, a pay day comes along. Sis Walker ~~sister~~ President of Young Ladies of the ward said recently, "There is a feeling of excitement of things happening and it's good". There are few & far between however.

Best of luck & satisfaction to you  
in your efforts -

Sincerely,

Harmon + Lonny Johnson