

free agency

August 23, 1987
Florence, Mississippi
Route 5 Box 91-A 39073

Dear Family and Friends;

We are now well settled into our work. We have been blessed with people to teach the precious truths of the gospel to the extent that we are doing all we can do physically. So we are busy and the time is flying by.

Our health is reasonably good. At least as good as it would be at home. Joy and I walked nearly two miles a couple of nights ago just for the fun of it. I am holding my weight exactly the same as when I arrived here. I am not sure what Joy is doing in that respect. She keeps it a secret. We plan to arrive about six thirty and retire about ten thirty. Sometimes we are able to have a nap during the day and some times we just sleep in in the mornings if we have had a eleven or twelve hour day the day before.

We are really trying to teach by the spirit of the Lord. So many little things happen that it is impossible to try to be correct all of the time without the guidance of the Holy Ghost. You see we realize that we are dealing with peoples lives in matters that will carry over into eternity. We are able with authority and with conviction to teach that there is no where else on the earth that the people we are teaching can gain the knowledge; that; That Jesus Christ is in very deed the Creator, Savior and Redeemer of the world; That he still has the body that He raised from the tomb in the resurrection; That He is a personage, an individual; That God our Heavenly Father is a personage, an individual with a body of flesh and bone; That the Holy Ghost is a person of spirit, but that He has a body and is an individual; That Christ was perfect and therefore he made no mistake and therefore the way he was baptized was to set a perfect example for all of his people on the face of the earth; That the church He organized was also perfect and therefore if the true church is on the earth today it must be a replica with the same officers practices and authority that it had when the Savior organized it while He was upon the earth; That the gifts of the spirit have to be in the church; That the church has to be a missionary church; That the church must be prepared to teach and save the people who have not had a chance to hear the gospel while living upon the earth so that they may be judged when their resurrection comes according to men in the flesh but live according to men in the spirit; That the law of tithing, the ten commandments and love of God and love of our neighbor is still part of the true gospel; That man is not without woman in the Lord, or in other words that family relationship with marriage is ordained of God and is part of the teachings of the true church.

With all of these beautiful truths to teach it is very important that we have the love, the spirit, the right environment and complete preparation so that real learning can take place.

I will tell you about one of our experiences to demonstrate what we mean by, "little things", We were introduced to a man about forty years of age who attended the Magee Branch because of his girl friend. This introduction was by our asking for a teaching appointment. Because of his schedule and ours the following Friday was as soon as we could meet. As that teaching period ended we felt the Spirit saying; "Teach him quickly", As I was doing the speaking at the time I thought, At least twice next week. I felt that that was not right and could settle on nothing except a teaching appointment every day the next week. The only time that could be done was before he went to work in the mornings. So Joy and I got up at five thirty or a quarter to six every morning and drove the thirty five miles to his Mothers place where he was living in order to teach him. At the end of the next teaching appointment on Monday I felt impressed to challenge him to be ready for baptism the next Saturday night if he liked what he heard and gained a testimony of its truthfulness in the meantime. He agreed reluctantly.

We were able to have the interview and make all arrangements and he was baptized on Saturday night in a beautiful baptism service. The branch president gave a beautiful talk and Joy gave a marvelous talk about the Holy Ghost. The next day Sunday, we found out why we were instructed to hurry. The mother who is a staunch Baptist and the brother in whose house he lives instructed all concerned that they would not tolerate any more Members of our church on the premises.

The bottom line is that just one more day and this fine young man may never have had a chance to become a member of the true church upon the earth. You see his Mother and brother boss him around. In fact he works for his brother. The Mother and Brother are fine christian people who love the Lord, but they do not claim, nor do they have the beautiful truths that I mentioned above, and they are not willing to listen. If only we could have the soft sweet spirit of truth from our Heavenly with us all of the time wouldn't it be wonderful.

We have fifteen people who we have taught from two to ten times. We think that each one of them knows that the Book of Mormon is scripture, written by prophets just like the New Testament and that it teaches the identical doctrine in plainness. Because of prejudices, family persuasion, peer pressure etc. ^{I suppose} that we will be able to only baptize a few of them. However we have planted the seed of truth and the people will never be without that knowledge and maybe someone at a latter time can again take up the process of teaching them.

Son David will you try to tape the first football game and send it down to me. We have a preparation day every Monday when we have some time to do some things we want to do. Since we have been here Joy and I have never taken any time off except to do our laundry, claeing ets. I have been saving some time so that I can watch some of the games on our preparation day.

The temperature in our apartment is about 85 degrees, the temperature outside is about 95 degrees, the humidity is about 90 percent. This is not to make you think we are complaining. It is just to let you know that it is different down here. We are pretty used to the rain and heat and humidity now. It bothers us very little. For one thing when it rains I sometimes am not sure whether I am more wet from the outside or from the inside.

We have a young couple and their daughter coming over to dinner with us. They will be here in a few minuites and I must think, and prepare a lesson for them. So I will leave you just a last thought or two. We love to hear from all of you. Grandchildren write to us. Periodically when you are sitting in our football seats or basketball seats remember that perhaps, at a later time I will be sitting with the new Brigham Young University hat that David and Debra sent me for my birthday, on my head watching the game.

We love each of you and wish you well.

Edgar and Lita Lee

Dear Ida Rose & Tracy: - We surely did enjoy & appreciate your letter from Arlington, Virginia, Ida Rose. We saw in the Ward paper that Virginia's baby had arrived. Six children - that's wonderful. You are indeed blessed to have those wonderful, beautiful grandchildren - up in the thirties. We that, sadly, that with David's five (they say no more - but I'm hoping they do after a little rest for Debra, she so wants a daughter). But Mary Ann has #8 baby coming in November. This baby will be the 1st one ^{here} I haven't been there to love & care for (Sonny was out 2 weeks old when they came back from Georgia (Army for him) including Rachel who was born in Germany. I hope all goes well. She has been so ill the last two especially. She seems to feel pretty good as for this time. Yes, we do have a noisy but very good air conditioner - thank goodness. Our neighbor says the reason it is good - an air conditioner - is that it takes the moisture from the air. A Swamp cooler would help much, I don't think. The air is already so moist. We're taking it in stride. Acclimated, I guess.