

Saturday, December 29, 1990

Dear Family,

I think I'll fax this letter to you, even though it means that the letters you get through the mail will be missing a week. So when nothing comes a week after the last letter I sent arrives, just read this again in its proper sequence.

It was wonderful to be able to talk to all of you on the phone. We're officially allowed to call home at Christmas and at one other time during the year, so I'll probably try to call again on my birthday, and then in another six months I'll talk to you in person.

I told you on the phone that I was probably going to be transferred to Croix-des-Bouquets, just outside of town. That has since been changed, and I am now going to Saint Marc instead. I would have been happy in Croix-des-Bouquets, but I'm glad I'm going to St. Marc -- I've thought before that I'd like to serve there. Both Croix-des-Bouquets and Saint Marc are supposed to have really good, if small, branches, but I'm glad to be going to a province. There are three provinces in the North Zone: St. Marc, Gonaïves, and Cap-Haïtien, from closest to farthest. (Port-de-Paix, the farthest one, was the place that was closed last month because it was no longer accessible.) There are also five provinces in the South: Léogane, Petit-Goâve, Jacmel, Les Cayes, and Jérémie. So far, I've been here for over a year, and haven't so much as seen any of them. The furthest I've been from Port-au-Prince in Haiti is Montrouls, just this side of St. Marc, when we spent the day there with the Carrefour-Feuilles branch. It's like a different country out in the 'bouk'.

I don't remember whether I mentioned the troubles they were having several months ago with people breaking into the St. Marc house -- anyway they haven't had any more for a good while, now. They're supposed to work with the *mèt kay* (landlord) to install better *fer fòrgé* (wrought iron) over the windows and doors.

This will probably be the last legible letter I write. There's a post office in St. Marc, so I won't have any trouble mailing things to you. You'll be able to send me letters at B.P. 18, St. Marc, Haiti. I'll still get mail from the Pétionville box number, just not as soon. (The Zone Leaders in Gonaïves don't get down to the office very often.) When you give people my address, go ahead and give them the Pétionville number, because that will still be the same after I leave St. Marc. All the mail going to provinces first goes through the central post office in Port-au-Prince, so send packages or anything vital to the old address. (I imagine small packages would get to St. Marc okay. I don't know.)

Actually, I won't be going directly there. Right now Elder Johanson is serving in Croix-des-Missions, just before Croix-des-Bouquets. He'll be training this month, starting on the 2nd, but his current companion is leaving for another area on the 31st, and they are only two in the house. So the day after tomorrow, they'll take me as far as Croix-des-Missions, and then the rest of the way to Saint Marc on Wednesday. (It's not that long a drive, actually. Only a couple of hours.) So I'll spend two years in Croix-des-Missions, but less than forty-eight hours.

1990 went pretty quickly -- the year I spent entirely in Haiti. New Year's Day and new year's resolutions are coming at a good time for me, I think -- I've gotten lazy during my stay in the office.

*John*

Speaking of December passing, I think I forgot to wish Susanna a happy birthday on the 4th. For goodness sake, Suzy, Happy birthday! Do you still feel shortchanged having your birthday so close to Christmas?

One of the members in Haut Delmas to whom I taught the New Member Discussions is originally from Saint Marc. (Somewhere outside of Saint Marc, actually. The population is not limited to cities.) She'll be going there some time in the next couple of weeks to visit her parents, and I might see her if she can make it out to church. Elder Dort is also originally from Saint Marc -- I think you might have mentioned that once. Speaking of Elder Dort, congratulations on the new child! Did you know that Elder Dort trained the person that trained Elder Wride, and that Elder Wride trained Elder Nebeker's trainer's trainer? Here's my genealogy for as far back as I can trace it:

Jun '83: An unknown forebear trained Stephen Maynard Pullen, from Phoenix, AZ.  
Apr '84: Elder Pullen trained Gary William Brown, from Echo, OR.  
Nov '84: Elder Brown trained Illens Dort, from St. Marc, Haiti.  
Sep '85: Elder Dort trained John Hyun Hong, from Mission Viejo, CA.  
Jul '86: Elder Hong trained Darcy Jones Wride, from Ogden, UT.  
Dec '86: Elder Wride trained Florent Gaby Gervale Julleno, from Passenans, France.  
Sep '88: Elder Julleno trained Channing Powell Galbraith, from Richland, WA.  
Jun '89: Elder Galbraith trained Peter Nevelle Nebeker, from Everett, WA.  
Dec '89: Elder Nebeker trained Huntington Tracy Hall, from Orem, UT.

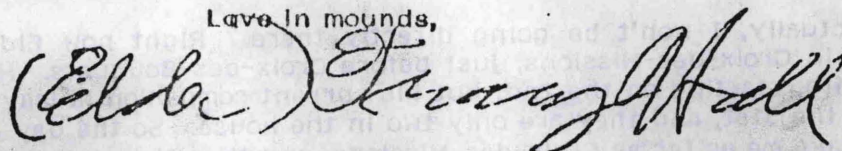
Now you can see how I spend my time here. I have no idea who many of these people are. It would be fun to get a hold of the records from the West Indies Mission, the Florida Ft. Lauderdale Mission, etc., and trace it all the way back to, say, Samuel Smith or Parley P. Pratt.

We finished up through the fifth discussion with Gérald, but his work has called him out of town for a few weeks, so I probably won't get to see him baptized. That doesn't really bother me so much -- I'm just glad he's prepared himself for it.

The choir never did get to sing for Christmas -- the curfew and problems with the chapel under construction combined to keep us from practicing for more than a week before when we were going to sing. I hope they're able to get things going again.

Well, ta ta for now. The next time I write you will be from St. Marc. Hopefully, I'll have more teaching experiences to write home about, now that I'll be proselytizing full-time.

Love in mounds,

(Elder) 

P.S. I just found out that Elder Pullen was one of the writers of the mission song.

P.P.S. (Sunday night) Today went pretty well. (Although I still haven't started packing.) We ate German potato salad tonight, along with a rice dish Elders Salmon and Longhurst made and the Stove Top Stuffing you sent me. Happy New Year!