

Dear David:

Your letter that arrived yesterday was a pleasure and a delight to read since we had not heard from ~~you~~ in a long time. Your activities are interesting although you might not think so when on security duty from 4 in the afternoon until midnight. However, besides earning you are learning since you are permitted to study during your off moments. We think that is wonderful. Besides that you will be self-sufficient and by that I mean ^{NOT} a drain on your parents' pocketbook. Since you no doubt will be working during the Thanksgiving Holiday as you will not be able to leave your job, we will send you a check so you can go out and have a real big thanksgiving turkey dinner somewhere according to your choice.

You spoke about chapel and the good spiritual atmosphere. I understand that in part but Grandma fully understands what you were saying as she had the privilege to speak at chapel ~~not too~~ many years ago. I had never been to Wheaton but

she had that joy to minister to the students at chapel and on campus.

That was when she was at the Moody Church, speaking at their mis. convention, representing the C. M. A. She also spoke at St. Peter's Church.

We are so happy you have Dr. Tenny as your counsellor or advisor whatever he

is called. You could not have a better man. He is everything you expect from

a man in that position. He is wise and learned; spiritual and human which ^{are a} ~~do not~~

rare combination

~~contradict themselves.~~ You can go to him at any time and he will listen and

help.

We shall be praying for you all the more now that you have launched into your

studies. When you say that you recognize your ~~weakness to~~ ^{lack of} concentrate and ^{you} ~~lack of~~

discipline yourself, that is a big admission and half the battle. That is better

than your parents telling you as you found out your needs by yourself and will

work on them with the help of the Lord. I suppose your studies will be rugged,

especially Greek which is necessary but you can make it and we have confidence

in you. May the Lord bless you, Grandson.

Maybe Grandma will add a few lines if she is up to it as she has not been ~~up to~~

well at all

✓ ~~was~~ lately, fighting the flu and after effects.

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

It has been such a long time since I have written, I feel like a P.O.W. coming out of years of imprisonment, having lost touch with everyone. School is finally out and I have time to breathe for a change. Thank you very much for the card and check you sent for Thanksgiving, that was great. Wow, it has been so long since I have written that I haven't even thanked you for your Birthday gift. Thank you so very much. I trust that you had a good trip south. Its funny I missed you both in New York and in Fla., I guess you were at Uncle Bill's at the time. Obviously, I didn't stay in either place very long (Nyack for about two days.) My Toyota had some problems on the way down, which got worse on the way back and made it die when I got back. It literally quit on entry into Wheaton, Praise the Lord it didn't along the way and leave me stranded. I have been having problems with it ever since. Last week I bought a new car that gets good mileage, I should say it is only new to me and was new quite some time ago. It's a 1960 Valiant with the slant six motor and the push button automatic (like on your old Rambler). Its in great shape and runs real well. It cost me \$50.00.

I have a course this past quarter with Dr. Jerney - Galatians - Philippians. We used the book he wrote on Galatians for our text, had daily assignments and 2 of what he called "quizes", each was more like a final exam. Then we had to write a paper on Philippians. I learn an awful lot from that class, he is a great teacher and really knows his stuff!! In a way, knowing him is almost a disadvantage because he calls on you more and everyone I have talked to never really ~~feels comfortable enough~~ feels like they have adequately prepared to be able to give an adequate answer to his questions. I really enjoyed studying under him and hope to take some more courses from him before I leave here.

You have probably heard by now that I won't be able to make it home this Christmas. This is the first time we haven't all been together for Christmas. I'll be working the whole time both here at the guard job and at the church - we'll also have winter youth camp from the 28th to 31st. This year there are quite a few of friends who also had to stay so I guess we'll end up celebrating it together. The Leppard

The people who run the house, have a nice tree set up and have made stockings for everyone in the house to which we'll all contribute to stuff. On Thanksgiving one of my kids brought me over some of everything from their table, and had to work 16 hrs. that day.

The Samuel Alliance is going to be in church on Sunday for the morning service.

Tom Mangham had a bad attack of appendicitis and was flown back to New York.

Ken Opperman was the special speaker for special meetings in Lombard back in the fall.

He was really good, had pretty good turn outs. for a youth nite we had 54 high school kids showed up - which was an all time high. The AYF group is growing, with its fair share of problems all of which will result in more growth I'm sure.

I trust you all had a good visit with the folks when they were up in New York. I hope Donna is feeling better and over everything now. Love you all a lot. I have to run now.

Love,

Joe

P.S. Christmas morning the people who run the house are having breakfast for those of us that are around. Then I'll be at the demons at dinner at 3:00.

Merry Christmas to you.

17 Fifth Avenue
Pelham, New York. 10803
October 5, 1973.

Mr. David Fitzstevens
Box 722
Wheaton Grad Schl
Wheaton, Illinois 60187

Dear David:

Your letter that arrived on Tuesday was a pleasure and a delight to read since we had not heard from you in a long time. Your activities are interesting although you might not think so when on security duty from four in the afternoon until midnight. However, besides earning you are also learning since you are permitted to study during off moments. We think that is simply wonderful. Besides that, you will be self-sufficient and by that I mean not a financial drain on your parents' pocketbook. Since you no doubt will be working during the Thanksgiving Holiday as you will not be able to leave your job, we will send you a check so you can go out and have a real big Thanksgiving turkey dinner somewhere according to your choice and think of us.

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We are so happy you have Dr. Tenney as your counsellor or advisor whatever he is called. You could not have a better man. He is everything you expect from a man in that position. He is wise and learned; spiritual and human which are a rare combination and also a perfect gentleman. You can go to him at any time and he will listen and help.

We shall be praying for you all the more now that we have these details and you have launched into your studies. When you say that you recognize your lack of concentration and lack of disciplining yourself, that is a big admission and half the battle. That is better than your parents telling it to you as you found out your needs by yourself and will work on them yourself with the help of the Lord. I suppose your studies will be rugged, especially Greek which is necessary but you can make it and we have confidence in you. May the Lord bless you dear Grandson.

Maybe Grandma will add a few lines and if not she will write later. She is simply not up to par lately and not well at all fighting the flu and the bug with all the after effects.

We send you our love and rest assured that we are praying for you.

Lovingly yours,

Grandma & Grandpa.

22 September 1973

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

I hear you all had a nice time in Switzerland. I registered on Tuesday this week and talked to my adviser about my courses on Monday, which made me decide that I should write to you sooner. My adviser is Dr. Merrill Tenney, he was telling me that he went to school with you grandpa and sent his warmest regards to you both. We had a very nice chat while he was filling out some forms for me. He is, as you know Mr. ^{Hess} Jackson's first cousin or the other way around. I've heard nothing but good about the man and was very impressed with Dr. Tenney. I'm looking forward to getting to know him and to having a course, next quarter, with him. This quarter I'm only taking 12 hours which include Elementary Greek, Old Testament Overview with Dr. ~~Schultz~~ Schultz and Biblical Theology with - (Dr. Hawthorne) - Dr. Horne. They are all sound kind of interesting, Greek that is, the others are going to be good courses. They are all background courses so I'll be able to take the Background courses they are offering. Right now I'm in N.T. Theology but am considering the thought of going into Communications after I get a Bible background.

Tuesday after I registered I picked up my mail and first of received the news that Mom and Dad got the O.K. for the funds for Int. student work. The next letter was from Jack Sheppherd with a letter telling me of the scholarship and the check for \$400. Praise the Lord, that made the already beautiful day into a more beautiful day of rejoicing.

I worked for 2 weeks when I got here, after getting settled in my small room, at Container Corporation of America as a guard. That was the first place I filled out an application but I didn't want to work the shift they had available during school so I went elsewhere. One of the places I went to was where I am right now, at National Accelerator Labs (Atomic Energy Commission). The new job opened up just when work got low, because someone came back from vacation, at the first job. I moved from \$2.30/hr at CCA to \$3.00 at NAL and we'll be getting a 35¢ raise per hour. This is an answer to prayer because I had asked for either the funds or the means to pay the bills. I'm working full time 4-12 pm and have ~~an~~ opportunity to get a lot of work done, so far I've had probably at the least 6 hours out of eight of free time. Now, on this part, I have 8/p. I also have a lot of time during the day since I only have 12 hours (12 because I want to get the hang of things and do well.)

I stopped at Mom's Nyack roommate's house to see The Reeds and Mrs. Neuburn had a very nice talk w/ Mrs. Neuburn before leaving the next day from Indianapolis. The Westergens and Ellisons and Arnolds are here on furlough. I met a couple of Chinese guys here that lived in the house I'm in, we went to China town for Chinese food and wow, was it good! Especially after doing my own ^{limited} cooking and hamburgers. Now I'm

February 8, 1974

Dear Grandma and Grandpa,

I have finally come out of hibernation for a while to get a breath of fresh air, while the weather is still nice. School has been super busy this quarter, somebody commented before it began that it would start off with a bang and before you even realized it, you would be left in the dust trying to catch up. This happened in a very real way, which is my only excuse for not having written you all or anybody else. I know that my negligence appears to be a sign of lack of appreciation, but this is not true in any respect. I thank you so much for your Christmas gift which I put toward buying a sport coat and pants to match. I have been thoroughly enjoying your gift, and really do appreciate it.

Part of my problem is that I haven't learned to write short letters and notes, which I realize the thought counts an awful lot even if it isn't very long. I can't sit down and write a short note without writing a long letter which ends up taking an amount of time that in some ways I really can't afford. This is not to say that I don't feel that I can afford to take the time to sit down and have a chat with you all, I only wish I was disciplined enough to be able to get done all that I need to get done. I had lunch with Dr. Tenney this past week in the cafeteria and he said life is made up of a constant struggle of priorities and making decisions in trying to come up with some kind of balance. I have found this to be true in my own life.

The factor that is allowing me to get a breath, or rather catch my breath, is I am finally dropping a course. Last quarter I took 12 hours but they didn't require a whole lot of work so I figured that I would be able to take 16 hours this quarter, well, as I already said I got left in the dust and just kept hoping that I would be able to break out, I have been saying that for the last couple of weeks and have had to come to the realization that I really can't afford to keep it up, or it will get to me physically. You see, I have 16 this quarter and each course requires an immense amount of work and research, which in turn has made it impossible to keep up and do the kind of work that needs to be done for each one, rather I am having to a hit and miss job. Enough of my complaints, things are going quite well otherwise, my work with the church is doing well, I am working with a great bunch of kids, but it is going to take a while to get some of them going. This work really needs prayer so I would really appreciate your prayers, I realize that you all have been praying for me and really appreciate it. You can pray more specifically that the kids in my AYF group

will really commit themselves to the Lord and come to a stronger realization of what it means to be filled with the Holy Spirit, especially the leaders. Also pray that I will be sensitive enough to them and their needs and be able to provide the proper leadership and have the wisdom to answer their questions. We already have an increase in attendance which is good to see, I just hope it keeps up and that we have something to give them. We are starting to use the SUCCESS WITH YOUTH program, and on Friday nights we have a training session for potential sponsors which has proved to be very beneficial for them and myself, right now I am a director - sponsor. The experience is really great. I haven't been working out at the National Accelerator Lab like I was last quarter, as a matter of fact I have only worked one ~~am~~ day since the beginning of the quarter.

My stay at home was only so short, it hardly seems like I was even there, as the folks probably already told you. But, it was really great to be home and see how everybody was doing. It sounds like things are going well with the International and American students in the church, which is exciting to hear. I hope to get home during the break at the end of this quarter for a couple of days.

At the beginning of the quarter Dr. Johnson and Langfor (sp?) were through here to talk to interested people about home and missionary service. I had lunch with the two of them and talked to them about some ideas I had that I would like to incorporate into a project while I am here at Wheaton, concerning witnessing to the International Students here in this country. It is a lot more involved and complicated than just that but they were in favor of seeing me doing something like that and were very receptive to my thinking. It would have something to do with Mom and Dad's work but for a body of believers in a church where they may not be so culturally minded and sensitive-being a witness and helping to meet their needs through friendship evangelism. There is a problem however, which is basically that people aren't generally in tune with another culture and don't know what to do or how to do if they had the opportunity to. This all sounds kind of ambiguous but right now it is kind of hard to get it down on paper, which needs to be done soon. When they were getting ready to go I told them to ~~xxxxxx~~ take my love to you all when they saw you and then came to the realization that you had retired, so to speak, when they said you weren't in headquarters any more, and that they had a farewell party for you or whatever. I guess I am behind in the news in what is happening up there in Pelham.

Saturday. I just got the mail this morning and hadn't finished this letter yet,

over

Thank you so much for the Valentine's day card and the check, I really do appreciate it!!!! Again, I'm so sorry for the long period of silence which seems like the thousand years of silence from Wheaton College. It came at a time of need so I know that will tell you that it is appreciated even that much more.

How is the gas situation out your way? I spent about an hour trying to get gas this afternoon and then had to wait in line. I normally get it during the week, but it snowed alot this week and the roads were all slushy so I stayed off as much as possible. I don't like to drive in the snow unless I have to. The weather around here is really strange, it will be over cast and then sunny and clear skies then rain, then nothing, then snow then blue skies. Very unpredictable. Well, I need to get this in the mail before I go to supper, on the way down, so I must sign off for now. By the way, what kind of a car did you all get? Must say good bye for now. Thank you again so very much.

Love,
Dave

HAPPY
VALENTINES
DAY

Dear Grandma & Grandpa,

24 April 1974

Thank you so very much for the beautiful Easter card and the gift which made my Easter much more enjoyable. Spring is here so I had to come out of my cave and see what people were doing and how they were doing, (I came out with my clothes on, I read where some forgot) and finally am getting a note off to you, at least something to break the silence, maybe its rubbing off - the guy across the hall is a Quaker, I went through another period of silence. Thank you for going through the trouble of finding the card you sent. I really appreciate the message and the prayers that come from you! There are times when things are rough that I can really sense that people are praying for me and I know that you do. I have found that even when I am striving but with the wrong motives that I have problems and cannot have any happiness, I am learning to evaluate my priorities as I go, to make sure that I do follow His way. I really Praise the Lord for wonderful Grandparents like the two of you. Thank you Lord! Its' prayers from you and others that have gotten me here along with a desire/willingness to serve.

Incidentally, about that guy I stayed up with - school hadn't started yet, it was during the break. The following week he went to Institute in Basic Youth Conflict along with about 10 other young people who went with me. That week was a beginning of break throughs with the young people - problems have come

that we have talked out + prayed about that have drawn us together. This all happened very shortly after getting my priorities straightened out. PTL. Several weeks later the group gave me a shag-throw rug for my room which was really nice & made me feel like something. They had this little poem with it which is cute:

We offer this gift
to give you a lift
A little bit off the floor.
We thank you a lot,
and now you may trot
Right from your bed to the door.
When in it toes wriggle,
don't let out a giggle,
But think of us all we implore.
At times we're not so good,
we know that we should.
But you love us the same, all the more!!!

I hope you all are feeling better now than when you wrote. I thought you would get a kick out of the poem (a lifting kick). [Oh yes, the church is only 6 miles from my house.] I am praying for you and the decisions you all are faced with. Heard from Donna - seems to be doing some growing and connecting to getting people in the room so I must go & am out of room. Thank you for the gift - Hope your EASTER WAS AS MUCH BLESSING & AS MINE. Love you, Lots, Dave.

You can pray ~~that~~ for our June 1st Mtg, we're trying to get one started - from scratch, & the problems of choosing sponsors - some want but shouldn't etc. We also have the program June 16 Sun Day night (youth night)

We had our ~~reunion~~ Dalat Dalat Reunion Easter weekend, which Don Lemon and I organized and planned. It went really well, The Lord really moved at our Sunrise ^(ing) service which lasted for 3 hours. Mr. Lemon came up and did the service. People opened up to each other and started a spiritual dimension to many old relationships. PTL. I used your gift for the weekend. We went into China town Sat. nite - there were 64 of us. I chose the menu and planned all that. The Nyack group missed the whole thing or there would have been many more. Bonnie Persons & Evan Evans ^{And Carol Smullen & Marcie F. came out from Nyack area.}