

Calcutta

February 10, 1972

Dear Folks,

I'm going to try to start writing a little more. I've decided that some of the things we're experiencing here should be recorded. One of the themes of the Church is record keeping so I shall try to do a little better in this respect. I am, perhaps, even more stimulated to write seeing the millions of faces around me about which no record has ever been written, indeed, no birth certificates, school diplomas -- nothing in writing at all. I won't tie myself to any schedule - I'll write if and when I feel the urge - such as now. I will try to write at least once a month. I'll keep a copy for myself and supplement Margaret's family record, and forward copies to the Taylor's and Dickerson's.

Calcutta ---

Two quotes about this city appear to me to be appropriate. The first from Fodor's 1971 Guide to India: "Calcutta is the graft of a large European industrial metropolis onto the body of rural Asia." Down at Dalhousie square on early Sunday morning you would behold what could be the empty financial district of almost any city of the west. Stately, though decaying, Victorian buildings; the Trinity Church, which certainly doesn't suggest Siva or rope tricks; the sighs- Mercantile Bank, The Chartered Bank, The Calcutta Stock Exchange - on Sunday morning, when all's quite you might wonder, "Am I really in India?" You would know where you were Monday noon. All manner of noise. A veritable cacaphony of sounds ranging from the beggar asking for paisa, to the Sikh horn on the overcrowded bus, to the ding ding of the trolleys jammed with people so much that some are riding on the bumpers and even on the top of the car. All manner of transportation - trolley, bus, car, bike, ox cart, hand cart, and yes, even hand pulled rickshaw. Forgot to mention horse carriage and exhaust spewing trucks. Life, teeming, dirty, burly, sprawling, stinking, outrageous life. Not men in business suits (though, of course, there are a few) or mini skirted secretaries hurrying to the office, but beggars, cows, vegetable vendors on the side walks, naked children hurrying hither and thither, a man defecating near some wall. All this in Calcutta's financial district.

The second quote comes from John Kenneth Galbraith in his "Ambassador's Journal". "Despite its squalor, Calcutta is a city of much magnificence." Go to the Bengal Club just off Park Street. You will see Calcutta's wealth. Wealth indeed. Bejewelled women speaking English as you will never hear it in the United States is perfectly. World travelled Marwari's each worth millions. One may have just returned from exercising his horse at the Turf Club, or from 9 holes on the Tollygunge golf course. 2 percent of Calcutta's citizens live a standard of living never dreamed of by most Americans.

Delhi, as a touristic center may be more interesting than Calcutta. It is the center of Moghul history. It has some International class hotels which keep the tourists happy. But as far as we're concerned, we like reason after reason for our

our preference of Calcutta. After all, where can you see a "rat zoo?" A section of Calcutta's maidan (large park) is full of rats which are as playful and tame as squirrels. People stop to feed them nuts and tid bits. What other place can be as fun for antique hunting when it comes to old campaign chests (camphor) and carriage clocks? Where else can Phoebe on a whim (and when her parents agree) go right around the corner ~~xxxxxx~~ and watch the elephants chomping on their sugar cane and hay (at the Calcutta zoo) - not to mention feeding peanuts to the rabbits, monkeys, ducks etc. at the childrens portion of the zoo.

Don't be misled, the squalor of greater Calcutta can be unbearable. Millions of people live from day to day with no more than a rag to keep them clothed. West Bengal, the state of which Calcutta is capital, is where CPI and CPM India's two branches of the communist party hold great sway. The law and order situation of the city has gone from poorest to poor between 1968 and present. Overpopulation has put a stranglehold on the area's industrial development. Militant politically motivated labor unions have formed and have sapped the initiative of would be entrepreneurs forcing them to shift their capital and expertise to other areas of the country. When business is slowed down it certainly does not augur well for banking. A short description of my job will bring this out more clearly.

FNCB Calcutta -

I am in charge of Operations for the two Calcutta branches. Reporting to me are 23 operations departmental officers and about 175 clerical and non clerical staff. I am concerned about volumes and productivity. We don't want to hire too many people. Right now our volumes (number of remittances, number of checks processed, number of letters of credit opened etc.) are short of Delhi's, a branch employing about 2/3 the people. In certain departments our output per man is about one half of the All India FNCB average. Viewed from another perspective, our output per man is double ~~xxxx~~ the Calcutta industry average. So we are in the middle. Pressures come from our organization saying that volumes wise we are doing poorly. Our experience in Calcutta tells us that we are twice as good as anyone else. What are our orders? Reduce head count by 10 over 1973 and increase productivity. Easy to say, tough to do. Why? The union. The FNCB Employees Federation of India. Led by skilled, committed, Marxists these people campaign for the eventual nationalization of the bank. However, this is a long term goal which does not find expression in day to day union subversive activities. What is happening Now. The long time scourge of the union M.K. Kanjilal, clerk bills department was recently refused a housing loan he required. The refusal was based on the fact that Mr. Kanjilal possessed a negative attitude. This was the catalyst that set present union agitations in motion. This incident, however, was little more than a pretext for agitation, where, in truth much deeper motives existed.

Kanjilal is at present out of power. While he is at present

an office holder on the All India FNCB Employees Association, he was ousted last year from his leadership of the local group. He desperately wants to regain control of the local unit in order to fortify his power on the All India basis.

~~XXXXXXXX~~ Having his loan refused served as the catalyst to force the local unit into action. He went to the local union leaders asking how a bank could possibly refuse one of its employees a loan. How could the local union stand by without taking some form of action. Indeed, the local union was forced into taking a stand on the issue. To make the situation appear more credible they brought in a few extra issues.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ Agitation first began with the union asking the staff to refuse all overtime. It was aggravated when certain individuals began refusing critical job instructions. We refused to give in on the loan issue. Most of the other issues brought up were insignificant. However, when jobs necessary to keep the bank functioning properly did not get performed, we took the necessary disciplinary action. ~~XX~~

In the Indian system an individual accused of an infraction is first issued a show cause notice. He is asked to produce in writing a reason ~~for~~ justifying his infraction. If the management is not satisfied with his explanation, the individual is issued what is called a Charge Sheet. This states in effect that the individual is accused of gross misconduct and that he must present himself at an enquiry held x days hence. If the enquiry board (a kangaroo court made up of management representatives) finds the individual guilty he ~~is~~ can be punished from an extreme of dismissal to a light punishment such as a memo in the personnel file.

Certain individuals were in fact charge sheeted for refusing to follow reasonable work orders. (I am now typing on March 10, 1973) For all of February we underwent severe agitations because we (management) refused to withdraw the charge sheets. The accused individuals indicate that their refusal to perform the instruction was a form of agitation and was done only because of the intolerable conditions existing in the bank. We for our part maintain that legal Trade Union activities do not include non performance of critical functions and hence we should not give credence to this type of behavior by withdrawing the charge sheets.

Agitation took the form of go-slows, pen-down strikes, slogan shouting, insulting officers, threats. In short it was quite an experience. I have been called a dirty imperialist dog by various members of my own staff. I have been surrounded by as many as 65 people during office hours for a period of 2 hours. These people were shouting slogans (anti-bank, anti-yankee etc. for most of this time, and trying to get me to admit the banks errors for the rest of the time.

March 13

Slogans are in Bengali or English. Its too bad I don't have a recording. Bruce does, perhaps I could get a copy from him. They are usually very lyrical and are chanted either in Bengali or English. In English, the slogan leader would shout, "Withdraw chargesheets!" and 60 to 80 people would then shout, "Withdraw, withdraw!" This would be repeated 5 or 6 times and then the slogan leader would jump to a new slogan, "Go home Yankees!", "Go home, Go home!" "Go home Taylor!", "Go home, Go home!" A Bengali slogan, the phonetics of which still ring in my ears sounds, "Ha-lai Ha-lai, ha-lai, chay!" "Ista chay, Busta chay"

Some of the slogans were limited to the issues demanded by the union: Pension scheme, Bonus increase etc. These are traditional trade union demands. Other slogans centered around politically sensitive issues in West Bengal: employment, increase in headcount, the making of our small branch at Brabourne Road into a Main Branch to increase employment. The remainder of the slogans were strictly ideological: Nationalization now! Go home Yankee! Down with FNCB management and so on. Some of the slogans in Bengali insulted the local Indian officers calling them Dalals or "agents." (Lackeys). Indians insulting Indians is not as bizarre as it might seem as many of our local officers are from Regions other than West Bengal and Regions to India are almost like what countries are to Europe. An individual from Gujarat in West India, here in Calcutta, is almost as much a foreigner as I am. To be sure, we have many Bengali Officers and they take much of the abuse also.

Generally after one of these slogan shouting sessions a Union leader such as Kanjilal will stand up and give what sounds like a very Eloquent speech (it is in Bengali, so I can only assume that it is eloquent). One really sees what it must have been like in the time of Hitler. This speech creates such an emotional fervor that by the time it is finished certain individuals in the crowd appear almost to be foaming at the mouth with hate and bitterness. They are actually convinced by their skillful and talented leaders that the bank management is out to get them and give them the screw, and that their only hope is to resist, intimidate, divide officers in their loyalties and if need-be to threaten and perpetrate violence.

We are in a different world here. The only thing funny about it is, however, that this "world" is what most of the real world is at present. China, Russia, the Eastern Block all make up well more than half the population of the world. Add to that minority Communist Parties such as are to be found in India, ~~and~~ France and other countries, including Latin America and ~~XXXXXX~~ the figure is even more staggering.

In this branch participative management is little more than a far off dream. How does one have faith in an individual's propensity to respond to positive encouragement when that individual is actually convinced that you are out to exploit him? Any attempt on my part to develop a rapport with a clerical employee - any effort to encourage him or to make him see the value and potential for self fulfillment through achievement is met with ~~xxx~~ mistrust. Those individuals who may be somewhat achievement motivated are usually too afraid to step out of line. To do so would mean ridicule, and even threat. The "rate-buster" here is not only subject to ostracism by his group, but also to overt challenges and persecution. Received your letter (Dad Taylor) Dad. True when one looks at the big picture he sees motive and purpose behind such political efforts. To see the dilemma from the point of view of the unionist, or even the non-participative sympathizer helps for an overall understanding of the forces at work, but when one is in the forest and can only see trees, the problems and difficulties become very real: How to get the General Ledger posted during agitation; how to remit profits on profit day when your accounting entries are 6 or 7 days behind? How to repay your call borrowings to other banks when clerks refuse to make out the check required. What do you do when you have 75 people surrounding you and yelling at you? Well, I guess, you tend to lose sight of the big picture. You start singling out the bastards and trying to figure out ways of giving them the screw. How can I get this Marxist out of the bank? If he were out, most of my problems would be over? Can I catch him in the act of gross misconduct? More than likely I can't - because he's too smart. He's trained in subversion, and part of his training is how to subvert without "breaking the law." It's the dummies or the stupid, usually the dupes or lackys of the union leaders that get caught doing something that will provide significant reason for management to discipline them. But these aren't the guys you really want. How do you try to "understand" a man who has called you an "imperialist pig?"

We learn at Business School that management ~~is~~ situational. That is a good administrator must be able to adapt his style to the problem. I think I must have mentioned to you Dad (Taylor) that the B School professors were down playing theory Y, but only to the extent of saying that it was "one" management style which may work given the right circumstances. It followed that the task being performed, whether manual and ~~repetitious~~ repetitive or creative and less well defined, was the most significant variable in determining the type of leadership style required. Based upon my experience here, another variable can be factored into this situational model: politically motivated trade union activity. Perhaps the variable could be more broadly and adequately entitled from a sociological point of view: the ideological temper of a region or a nation. The tasks required of an FNCB overseas operation are the same in Paris as in the Philippines as in Lebanon as in etc. etc. Why are the same Managers and administrators able to use persuasive and participative styles in Japan and achieve AI operations in their branches?

unable to achieve the same in India? Why does Authority and the Iron Hand seem to carry more weight here than does reason, persuasiveness and encouragement? The reasons are much as you have stated in your letter Dad Taylor. Indeed, I have had to adopt a management style with which I may not be completely comfortable in terms of how it fits into my upbringing and background, but which is more effective here because of the particular situation involved. Nonetheless, it is an interesting, challenging, educative, and exciting experience. I consider this to be an experience which enriches my life--hopefully providing me with a perspective of certain dynamics of human relations not easily acquired in a Western culture. How valuable this will be to me in the long run is difficult to determine. Enough of this

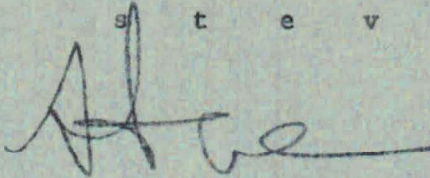
It is now March 15. I've got to get this portion of the letter to a close so it can be mailed. Perhaps I can finish up. We are presently operating as close to normal as we can hope for given the circumstances. The original charge sheets are still outstanding and we are still contemplating disciplinary action against the offenders. A couple of weeks ago a moratorium on all agitation was asked for by the Bengal Provincial Banking Employees Association (the parent union body) on behalf of their own union. Their hope was to stretch the matter out, expecting that once we saw "normal" operations again we would think twice about pursuing disciplinary action and risking agitation all over again. We had some things going for us, however. We had succeeded in obtaining a Calcutta High Court ad interim injunction enjoining the union from posting signs and demonstrating on the premises. This took much of the steam out of the agitation, perhaps prompting them to ask for a moratorium. Also, we docked a total of 24 hours pay due to lightning work stoppages - strikes. The deterrent of a pay docking in India is a good one and has legal precedent. It is clear to us that the Union had picked a dangerous point (for them) on which to agitate. There was no middle ground. We cannot give when it comes to the right of a departmental officer giving a work instruction. They should have known this. In essence, Mr. Kanjilal, the brains out of power has forced the Union into taking foolish action. Once the staff realizes that 24 hours pay has been docked and nothing has been achieved, he will stand up to say that this is what you get for voting me out of power in the first place. Vote me back in at the next election. ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXX~~ The moratorium is now over, and disciplinary action will be taken soon. I'll leave off here, because I don't know what is going to happen next.

Rereading this letter it appears pretty incoherent. It is full of misspellings and grammatical ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ errors. Consider yourself lucky that you are getting this much. More to come: Phoebe - her quirks, talents, problems, friends, likes, dislikes etc; Our trip to Puri; Church activity; Our House; friends; The chicken hawk nest outside the window; Tagore; Margaret and the leper; the Indian Masses. Aren't you excited?

20-12-67

Dear folks: It's noon hour and I have a little time à vous écrire. Guess whay? I can go by way of Madrid and Lisboon at not extra cost. If I fly at night I won't hav to pay too much at all. The way it is scheduled out. (It isn't sure yet, because the arrangements with the airlings haven't been made yhat. But the way I wrôte it out, it will be Paris Madrid the Morning of the 4th. Madrid Portugal the morning of the 6th Portugal Newyork the morning of the 8th and I will be home the 10th. I hope you don' feel bad not getting any Christmas presents, but you will have to wait until I get home. The time is fast approaching isn't it. I doubt that this letter will get to you before Christmas but in any case have a happy one. Later: Elder Winston and myself have just finighed talking with the president. We confer with him about transfers and other missionary problems. It is sometimes quite eye-opening to see what goes on and have to counsel or help make decisions on seemingly unsolveable problems. Well, I'll terminate this short note in hopes that I'll get to you today or tomorrow my exact schedule.

l o v e s t e v e

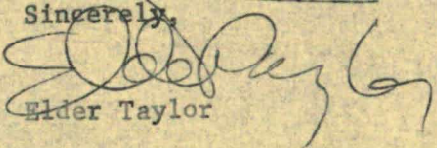
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Steve", written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

18-12-67

Dear Janet: Thank's for the letter and all the news. I think often of Tours, and each time I pass thru there, it brings back a lot of fine memories. Everyone except Sister Shone is still around. Elder Houze is District Leader in Pau. Elder McKay is still in Bordeaux (I just saw them both at the last Bordeaux Conference. Elder Owan was just named to be a Zone Leader in the South Zone. He's a good missionary and merits his calling. Sister Johnson is in Angers. She has just made what amounts to a triangle transfer, that is from Tours to LeMans, to Angers. Staying right in the same area. I just saw her at the Conference in LeMans. I'm glad I got to see all those people before I go home. It seems that in Tours there are more American members of the Church... a family dont the father teaches English or something. It was also fun to see the members from Tours at the District Conference. Frère Roux is the District President, Frère Burrer was ordained ancien, and frère Coudert was ordained Instructeur. At the bal Frère Roux gave Soeur Bouyssonnie (sp?) the thrill of her life by whipping her around the dance floor a few times. Fun to watch to say the least. The band was terrible but the people had fun. The missionaries had fun mocking the band which consisted of an accordian , a tenor sax, and a drum. Can you believe it?

Paris is beautiful this time of year - when isn't it? There are so many Christmas lights that there isn't too much difference between day and nite. It's nice anyway. I'm glad to hear about Carol, that she is married etc. etc. Give her my best. I was just thinking that by the time this letter reaches BYU, you'll probably be gone for Christmas vacation. I hope things are going well and that you are being as good a missionary there as you were here.

Sincerely,


Elder Taylor

11 (23-25) 67

Dear folks I think it is about time that I write. I don't keep track any more of how often I write, nor do I have a special day that I write. This is almost impossible. We are busy preparing for Conference. This time the Paris Zone will be first, followed by the West Zone, then the Bordeaux Zone. The theme of the conference is "A Task and a Vision." I think I told you in a previous letter about the workshops we'll be having. I sent in that application without knowing too much what it was. (Missionary Training). I also had president Anderson write a letter of recommendation. The weather is quite cold and topcoats are a necessity. I am glad that this will be the last season for the one I'm wearing now. My suits are in terrible shape and it seems that all my shirts have started fraying at the collar at the same time. I hope those shirts you were talking about came thru. Regarding Christmas presents, please don't send any. I have several confessions to make. It seems that I'm just beginning to realize that I'll be coming home soon, so I'm starting to look for things that I'd like to take with me. For example, I went down to the big Map store in Paris and bought a metro map and a map of the Paris area. I also picked up some travel posters at the Tourist bureau. I'd just as soon call things like these Christmas gifts. Confession no. 2: An Elder from the British Mission came in the other day after having traveled around Europe. He was broke and had a camera for sale. It was a good German camera (a Werramatic) with a light meter, timer, plunger, etc. Along with it came a flash and a good tri-pod. Well, I bought the whole thing from him for \$35. The missionaries told me that I got a good deal and I should be able to get the pictures that I've been wanting my whole mission but never have been able to get. I want to get a lot of the Paris Christmas decorations at night. (Photos). That will be my Christmas. I also bought you something Mom and I have something in mind for Dad and Dee. This all makes me in debt to the Mission financial Secretary to the tune of about \$50. I didn't want to miss the chance of getting some good bargains, nor did I want to waste available time I had to do the stuff, so I got a loan. I really feel guilty about all this, but the supplementary check will be welcome. It seems that towards the end there are a lot more things to take care of. This month the mission has had so far 18 baptisms which is pretty good. We hope to have some more and perhaps beat February which had 27. Baptisms have been going down in a year by year trend and we hope that this trend can be reversed. Thankyou for the information on the Bball team. I see all the Elders from Provo every now and again. Elder Goodman, nelsen, Henderson. As far as traveling goes. Your suggestion to hop to Madrid and Lisbon for a day or two each before flying home sounds real fine. I've scrapped the idea of taking a boathome, I hope there will be no danger of the draft. This whole idea could be scrapped too if my expenses in France toward the end of my mission should be too expensive. I realize what a financial burden I am and will await your commands. By the way, Sister Anderson just prepared a tremendous Thanksgiving dinner today. Everything from the Turkey to the pumpkin pie. We all gorged ourselves and had a real fine time. I have quite a cold and we were invited by sister Dubois in Chatillon to go over and have dinner Sunday. She found out I had a cold and started acting like my mother telling me what to do. The next day she brought in a big bag full of medicine and candy. It was really nice of her.

It is now Saturday. I must get this letter off. I have a lot of things to do today.

Sister Sorenson of the Primary Board is here, and we have a meeting with her today. She is going to try to help us implement the Home Teaching Primary program. We are taking busses away from all the districts meaning that the people or at least some of the people will find it more difficult to get to Church. I just received the check. Thank-you. Elder Sabey just came in. He is DL of the Colombes District which is to the north of Paris. I stayed up until 12h30 last night writing my talk for conference. I hope you have an enjoyable time in Arizona. Bernadette tells me that she received a letter from Housing that they could not help her until she received her money. She was quite frantic because she had sent an international mandate to the sum of whatever they required before for this. Could you call and see if they have received it?

No more space
Love Steve

Nov. 17. 1967

Dear Folks: Today we had the opportunity of having as visitors Harold B. Lee, his wife and Sisters Gaarf and Lindsay of the primary board. Almost all of the missionaries from the Paris Zone attended talks given by them. President Lee and his wife had been on conference assignments in Germany and were persuaded by President Anderson to devote part of their Paris stay to speaking to the missionaries. Of this we were very grateful inasmuch as such an experience does not come often in the French Mission.

First of all, President Anderson bore his testimony and made allusion to the recommitment theme of the last Zone conference. He stated that in us there is much power, but that this power can only be used in virtue of the priesthood and only thru the help of God. He has stated on other occasions that he, as a humble professor never would have thought that he would be called to direct a mission. Now he finds himself in that situation and he testifies to us that he is not doing it alone. President Anderson then proceeded to introduce the order of the following speakers. First Sister Anderson.

Sister Anderson in her usual smiling manner leaned against the pulpit on one elbow with a handkerchief and her glasses in her hand and let the missionaries know about the more or less successful month of November as far as baptisms go. "Here we are in the middle of November and we already have 17 baptisms" She then proceeded to tell us of the wonderful opportunity we have to meet our leaders.

Sister Lindsay spoke next and stated that she had been on a mission 8 years before in England. She had also come to Paris with some of her friends after her mission and had visited the Mission home at 3 rue de Lota. She was not on an official visit and was delighted at the opportunity to listen to Apostle Lee speak.

Her traveling companion, also a member of the primary board was sister Gaarf. She spoke of how the missionaries reminded her of her own son who was on a mission in Brazil. It is the first time that she has been to Europe but the experience of seeing Europe for the first time is nothing beside the opportunity to meet with the saints and see their progressive and courageous spirit, especially in the light of the problems they have, many of which we don't have in the USA.

The thing that I remember most about Sister Lee's message is that she felt so much power kneeling in prayer with her husband this morning. She felt as if he really was talking to the Lord. Quotation: He who dares to teach must never cease to learn. She also recounted an experience about a swelling leg which the doctors told her was dangerous. As she was on her way to the temple in Cardston, she said that if only president Wood of the Temple there could give her a blessing she would be alright. Her hopes and faith were confirmed.

President Lee's address is too ~~complete~~ to enumerate everything. Needless to say one feels the power and importance of this man. He told us many things: Priesthood is the power by which God acts through man. He talked of the projected growth of the church, 1985 - 5,000,000 to 7,000,000; 2000 - 10,000,000. The growth of the church is stepping up. Alvin Dyer new apostle. 69 regional directors. He talked of repentance and washing sins with the saviors blood. He talked of opposition. It takes a rough sea to make a good sailor. The closer a man is to God, the greater the influence of Satan is upon him. He mentioned George Albert Smith's experience of meeting his Grandfather after his death, his grandfather asking him if he had abused his name. This is somewhat what it will be like for us too. He mentioned many other things and bore a strong testimony which we will all remember. The meeting started out with song 175 Quand ton Fardeau and finished with We thank thee O God for a Prophet.

17-11-67

Dear Grandparents: I think it has been a while since I have written you. I have been working in the Mission Home as Assistant to the President now for the last 9 weeks. It has been a great experience to travel around the mission and get to know the other missionaries. It seems that when one gets the big picture of something, it is easier to see why the work should go on. The time when I will be near you again is drawing closer and I am really looking forward to seeing you. I regret deeply that I cannot be with you on your 50th Wedding anniversary.

We just completed a trip to the Western part of France. We took around a film presentation to the Districts. They showed these films to their investigators and members. Perhaps you have heard of the film entitled "Man's Search for Happiness" and "Windows from Heaven." The turnout was very good and we appreciated the spirit of the missionaries which was very good too. The beautiful fall countryside, the leaves changing, and the slight drizzles all went into together to make me realize that I really appreciate this country and the opportunities it has given me to get to know a new people, language; to get to know the gospel better and to increase my testimony of it. I regret very deeply the times that I have wasted and not put to good use over here because I'll never be able to make them up again.

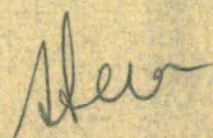
The Mission Home is found in a very fashionable part of Paris and oft times bums come around begging and giving their different stories in order to persuade us to give them some money. This happened tonight. This fellow came in and told us that he knew the missionaries very well and that he had attended several conferences in 1964. He asked us if we could give him a little money and we told him we didn't make a habit of doing things like that. He then asked us if he could go up-stairs and take a shower. This we forbid him to do also.

Yesterday, Elder Harold B. Lee came for a 3 day visit to Paris. He was accompanied by his wife, their daughter and her husband, and the mother of their daughter's husband. We had them for dinner and were able to feel their spirit there. Today all the missionaries in the Paris area were called in and Elder Lee spoke in an impromptu Zone Conference. He did not come for this reason, inasmuch as he was just finishing conference assignments in Germany. We were very happy that he consented to speak to us. He gave us a wonderful talk incorporating many personal experiences of his own missionary life.

What we call trimestrial Zone Missionary Conferences are approaching. Inasmuch as we have three Zones, that means three different conferences. One will be held in the South Zone, that is to say in Bordeaux, the other in the West Zone (Le Mans) and the other for the Paris Zone (held in the Versailles chapel). We will have to prepare for them assigning talks, talking ourselves, preparing workshops on the missionary lessons, scriptures, and French. At this time are held interviews by the president where each missionary has a chance to be interviewed. ~~MyXXX~~ The Member conference will be held at approximately the same time and this is also a thrilling experience as I'll have the chance to see many of the people with whom I have associated with over the last 28 months.

Well, I hope this letter finds you in good health and that you are enjoying the fine Arizona sun. Please excuse the typing errors and the spelling. I guess there aren't too many excuses for that.

l o v e s t e v e



(T) (A) (K) (T) (B)

Dear Tim: I can't remember who owes who a letter, but I'm willing to sacrifice my vicious pride and write? How's things? Cheryl? Have you seen Tom? How is he? I suppose you are still playing ball. I feel like I've been out here 900 years. Nothing seems familiar to me anymore. I still have the mind of a 19 year old. It's terrible. I can't stand the thought of going home and being intimidated by the filles for those first few weeks. I am really grateful for the experience that I'm having here. It is really great to be associated with such a fine fraternity. I think that if the world were to be destroyed right now except for the Elders of the French Mission, with the help of the female sex, we could keep the world going. There are air plane pilots, river runners, electronics engineers, lacrosse players, Calculus experts, and anything you want. When I look at the French people and the lack of opportunity they have to develop their talents, it makes me even more grateful to say that I can associate myself with America and its opportunities. It looks as if, however, America is going to the dogs somewhat. Reading about all these demonstrations and riots are really discouraging.

How is your family? I'm really looking forward to see them. You're an uncle how many times?

Taylor will be home in 2 months ready to face the world. He will probably fall flat on his face losing prestige left and right. I don't know right now if I am really looking forward to the idea. One of my ex-companions came back to France this year leading a bunch of students. He met this French chicken who is rich rich rich and fell in love with her. Upon arriving home he wrote me a letter asking me to go visit her as his friend. Well, we did, and there were not only 1 of them but 3, three sisters. Gad. It was terrible. Beautiful, a breath of spring, rich etc. etc. etc. We went to dinner at which the Madame (their mother) rang the little bell and the maid came in and served us the dinner. This stuff really exists. The butler was missing but one would have never noticed his absence. As you can see I've forgotten how to spell.

I have led somewhat of a liberal mission, but someone felt that I should be chosen to be an AP (Assistant to the President) so I'm having some of the most wonderful experiences. The President, his wife and myself just got back from a trip of the South Zone including the Pyrénées, Biarritz, Bordeaux, Limoges (where they make the porcelaine) The French countryside was beautiful the leaves just turning colors. We got to pilot a new DS 21 Citroen too, so this was nice. It was an opportunity to share the spirit of the other missionaries, all of whom feel that there will be a breakthrough in France for the work very soon. For once there appeared an article about the church in France which was fairly objective. In the French Version of Readers Digest they published the same article that was printed several months ago in the Readers Digest. We are trying to work a lot more towards publicity and referrals now. Tracting is a solid way to contact people but it is certainly not the most effective. And as all through the Church, we are trying to get away from it. Paris is beautiful this time of the year. It feels like football weather here too. I'm glad to see that the Y beat Utah. Yes, man I'm fat with the pot. I'd better muscle up so I can fight the honeys off. They're probably lining up now. Write and tell me what's coming off when you get a chance. Cela m'intéresse. That's French I'm speaking Brothers and Sisters! Mission slang: Grunt, Scrud, Barf, Dink, Man, Out a sight, etc. Church is true.

Love Taylor

Hue

Friday 15, 1967

Dear Folks and Dee: Sorry about the tardiness of my letter. I hope you received my card from LaRocheville apologizing for not writing sooner. I have been for most of the last week in the South, Principally for the mamber - missionary conference. We had an excellent donference there: it was the last time I adressed a group of missionaries. I guess I am on the home stretch now. I don't really realize it though. I think that I'll probably have a hard time adjusting when I get home. I had the chance to come up through LaRocheville and I spent a day there. I saw sister Rambeau and several other people that I knew there. I think I ressurected a couple of old investigators for the Elders there. We came up through Tours and picked up an Elder who was transferring to Paris. We didn't stop for long though. I had Elder Hodgson with me. He is from Madison Wisconsin. He's what they call a Jr. Zone Leader. Meaning that he is a Jr. companion to the Zone Leader. His position is something that most Jr. companions aspire too and it is an extra added incentive to them. President Anderson's son is here from MIT with his wife. His other son in the French East Mission will be here next week. I received the check that you sent. Thak-you. I think I'll put this letter aside for a while until I think of something interesting to say. I promise you that I'll get it off by this evening.

I still don't know what I'm going to do to come home. By, the way, I've started writing again. Perhaps I can tell you about my last conference. We drove down to Bordeaux in the President's DS 21. (Elder Bingham, the coordinator, Elder Winston, and myself). We drove as far as Poitiers, having stopped and visited the Chateau at Blois along the way. I really love the Touraine and the Chateaux country. We spent the nite at Poitiers. We would have continued on further, but it started to snow of all things, and the roads were quite dangerous. The next morning we started off, but it took us all day to get to Bordeaux. The roads were icy-slick and there were accidents all over. One ambulance passed us going at an unsafe speed on the slick roads and 5 minutes later just as he was about 700 yards ahead of us heslid into an alfa-romeo and knocked it into the ditch. It thru one out of the car and he had superficial wounds. We stopped and helped all we could, got quite wet and then continued on. Arriving in Bordeaux Saturday nite we went to a restaurant that Elder Winston knew about and I had what is called a brochette with lamb; We then went back to the chapel and saw the end of the Gold and Green Ball. It was quite sucessful. The Bordeaux branch is a pretty good one and the missionaries enjoy working therfe. We stayed that evening in the Auberge de Jeunesse which is a hostel type affair. Sunday morning was priesthood meeting and conference. Between the conference sessions is held a buffet inasmuch as the members stay there during the period between the two sessions. The missionary conference was hedd (the first session) at 6h00 that evening. We had a talk on the Theme (A Task and a Vision) by Elder Winston, then a lesson workshop where we worked on the proselyting discussions. Then returning we heard a talk on Gospel doctrine by Elder McKay (Tours) Sister Anderson closed out the first session with an inspiring discourse. Monday morning was late in starting because Elder Brady had the key to the Pau bus, the district and the bus being at the Auberge. I took him back to get it and we got underway about 8h30. Conference started with workshops in Scriptures and French followed by talks by JR. Companions on the history of their cities. Elder Frogley gave a talk on Perigeux and Elder Okelberry gave one on LaRocheville. We then took time to listen to 4 special lessons devised and prepared by the districts of Angouleme, Pau-Tarbes, Limoges, and Bordeaux. This session closed with a talk from the Jr. Zone Leader, Elder Hodgson. The afternoon session (by the way we fasted this afternoon) was lead out by a workk shop on scripture memorization. Each of the missionaries was requited to memorize about 30 scriptures during the conference period. Some of them did royaly and some of them found out that they should study harder the next time. Next was a Talent Show where each of the districts presented something. The talen show in the South (Bordeaux) Zone wasn't as good as those in LeMans and Paris, but interesting and entertaining just the same. The last session, after dinner (about 5h00 PM) was started with a talk by me on Total Commitment, testimony meeting, and then President Anderson/ close off with some words and some challenges. It looks like I'm running out of papter so I'll close for now. Hope I can get to this machine again real fast early next week to pound you out another one. If this letter is incoherent and grammatcly incorrect (sp) I'm somewhat pre-occupied, busy etc etc

Love Love

5 Nov 1967

Dear family: This may be the last chance I get to write you this week. It is early Sunday morning. Th 5th. This afternoon, Elder Winston and I are leaving on a Tour of the west Zone. We will be taking film presentations around and will be gone for a week. The President has been gone the past week and has been assisting at a military conference at Bertchesgaden in Germany. I received the catalogue and will be studying it. I really don't know what to look for however. Dad, thanks a lot for the counsel; and for the calling cards of these men. I will be looking forward to taking advantage of the situation. A big envelope came in the mail today, I thought it was a resumé of your conference as you had stated. The French post, however, for some strange reason had put a tax on it of \$3 which is ridiculous. The postman himself thought it ridiculous also and told me to go to the post office and see what the problem was. This I won't have time to do, but will do it next week. I hope it was a mistake and that they'll let me have it without paying. In any case they'll keep it for 2 weeks before returning it to sender. But incase I don't get it, don't be surprised if you get it back. First of all is it worth the \$3? The weather is changing and it is getting cold. It seems funny that my mission is nearing an end. The times with Elders Jolly and Daniels seem so long off. I'm sure grateful for the companionships I've had; they've helped me a great deal to grow I'm sure. I still feel like a 19 year old kid and not like an adult. I sometimes wonder if you'll find me changed that much. The shirt situation is really poor. All my shirt collars are fraying since I've been here in the mission home. If it isn't too much trouble, you might send a couple more. I am down to 5 shirts even including the 3 that you sent me. This means I have to go to the laundry every other day. The president just came in ready to go out to Chatillon to reinstate the new branch President. I'll try to get a card off.

l o v e s t e v e

13 Nov. 1967

I was going to mail this letter to you before I left for my trip. Elder Winston and myself, we (sorry for the French grammatical construction) took a tour of the West zone and took the films "Windows from Heaven" and "Man's Search for Happiness" to the different districts. It was a very successful trip, the missionaries having quite a few investigators out. We saw a good part of the country too. I suppose you received the cards that I sent you. On the way back yesterday between Paris and LeMans the fellow a hunter, tried to make a ~~HE~~ U-Turn across the highway and he did it without looking. Elder Winston was driving, he hit the brakes but it wasn't enough and we smashed him broad side. The other fellow had cuts on the neck and was in a semi state of shock. The gendarms came and studied the wreck and came to the conclusion that the other fellow was at fault. I think our seat belts saved us from getting hurt. They were the kind that fit over the shoulder. My ~~knee~~ knee put a dent in the glove box and that is all. The VW stationwagon we were driving had the front end pretty well taken care of. The other fellow was driving a DS 19 Citroen and we took out his 2 right doors. It is too bad accidents like this have to happen. The other fellow couldn't figure out why we hit him and all his friends who didn't see the accident were sticking up for him trying to tell the gendarms how it all happened. The ~~XXX~~ flics (cops) were pretty perplexed when Elder Winston showed a Holland registration, Holland immatriculation German car, French insurance, French Drivers license, and American citizenship. The French countryside is extremely beautiful, I wish you could see it. It is starting to get a little colder and I myself have picked up a little cold. I've been catching a little but it is not too grave. I seem to be thinking faster than I'm typing today. Sorry. I received your letter Mom and agree with the suggestions you have made. Perhaps I could fly home via Madrid as you say. Or even directly, it doesn't really matter. I was wondering about the advisability of taking a boat home from say, Lisbon. 5 days of peace and time to think and collect one's thoughts is very tempting. What do you think?k

3. Nov. 1967

[illegible]

Well, not much time to go. I guess we'll be seeing you soon. I'm having a wonderful experience here in the home. Mission has a new DS. See frère Thomasi and soeur Baudry (who said to say hi to you) all the time.
By.

Love, Steve

Have

30-10-67

Dear folks and Dee: I think it has been a while since I have written. I'll tell you truthfully that I haven't found the time to write. I guess you received my cards from la côte Basque (Biarritz) and la côte Normande (Deauville). I have been all over France in the last two weeks. Two weeks ago I accompanied the president on his trip to the South Zone. We held the District Leader Study Class in Bordeaux and visited Biarritz to see if it was susceptible to open for missionary work. We then visited the Pyrénées District, which includes the towns of Pau and Tarbes. We went then to Perigeux and met with the missionaries there. Those who work in Angoulême came to Perigeux to meet with us. Then to Limoges and back to Paris. That is a lot of traveling. We got to inaugurate the new Citroen DS 21 which replaced the Mercedes. It was really a dream car to drive and we had a most pleasant trip. The leaves are changing and the countryside is beautiful. The missionaries are generally in good spirits and we were quite pleased with the attitude in the South Zone. The day after we arrived in Paris. Elder Winston (the other Asst.) and myself took a film presentation down to Limoges, and then we came back the same day. It was quite a hard journey. We drove down the green VW stationwagon belonging to the mission. There are some beautiful pieces of Limoges porcelaine that I would like to get for you, Mom; Some of the pitchers are just what you would like for your collection. It is your money so sometimes I feel rotten about doing it. I guess about the only way I could make it mean anything is to sacrifice a bit my self. In any case I'll pick something up the next time I'm down there. Just let me know if there are any of these French things that you want, and I'll pick them up for you. Perfume etc. The day after we returned from Limoges we went up to Caen to take care of some missionary problems and then down to LeMans for the West Zone DL study class. I'm still waiting for the catalogue. I hope it comes soon. The Mission seems pretty healthy as of now. It is surely an experience working with so many fine men. I am grateful for the chance I have to fulfill a leadership position and get the big picture of the Church and of the mission. Sunday Elder Sayley and I were invited by one of our old investigator families from the Nogent District from the town of Maisons-Alfort to dinner. It is the Gasc family. They are really wonderful French. They are staunch Catholic, the father voted communist in the last election, but above all they lead what appears to be a Christian life. We have testified to them and perhaps one of these days it will sink in. It is a wonderful experience to get to know another people and be able to communicate with them. They are interesting. They have ideas which often times are not yours but this incites a communication and an exchange of ideas which I just love. Bernadette, the girl who is applying for graduate work at the Y, came in last nite to ask me some questions about student housing. I knew nothing about it so I couldn't help her there. She was quite thrilled when Professor Hawkins sent her an English Chemistry text to help her adapt to the terminology etc. I think it would be OK if you sent the papers necessary to insure her stay in the US. She is honest, and a strong member of the Church. Her Father is one of the chief tv repairmen for one of the big dept. stores in Paris. He drives 2 cars (unusual for a Frenchman) and being Chinese (naturalized french) his pride wouldn't permit his daughter to end up depending on someone else. His desire is to see that his daughter receives a degree. He is not a member of the Church but is more than friendly towards us. I owe this family a great deal. As I do many others. Regarding proposed plans for the end of mission. Elder Hutchings parents think he could spend his time more usefully than going to Israel. Their friends have told them it is commercialized etc. They just don't get the point do they. In any case I think it would be a waste of time and money to travel in Europe and now that I think of it, if would be wonderful to go

I would enjoy nothing more than traveling with you Mom. Just make up the itinerary and I'll be your escort. Perhaps you could come to Paris for a few days and then we could take the train to Madrid, Portugal etc. and fly home from there. Let me know what you decide. How is the dog. I think you owe me a letter dee! I read in today's paper that the Y took care of the U. I'll bet that made everyone happy. Looks like Wyoming really has the squad. The air was a little cold today and one could sense that Winter is really coming on. I guess it is the same for you. The President and his wife are now at the Bertchesgaden Military conference in Germany. Elder Hutchings who is the Presidents Secretary was the lucky dog that got to accompany him. That's about all I have to tell you know. Oh Yes! Thank-you for your letter Dad. The counsel I really appreciate. I am giving it serious deliberation. Concerning the application for the Language Training program, Mom, I filled it out today, and am sending it in. I won't be able to have the president write a letter until he returns next week. What are the advantages of this program. What is the \$\$\$ aspect? I don't know yet what I'm getting into. Love, from a grateful son,

Stephen

16-10-67

Dear Folks: I shall try to remember all that I wanted to say to you. Dad, I guess you know Donald Sloan. He says he knows you quite well and that he has had, or will have the chance to speak at your workshops or something. Well, he, his wife and a stake president named Bro. Stone (who, parait-il is the chief fund raiser for BYU) and his wife came to Paris and visited the Mission home, I guess it was last week. They seem like very distinguished people and they had a lot of advice to give us. Bro. Sloan said we should choose our carrerrrs as soon as possible inasmuch as we could always direct our thoughts and actions toward that field even when we weren't put in an activé studing situation. This made me feel kind of lousy in that I have no idea what I want to do. Elder Daniels referred to us a girl he had met in France hoping that I could find out if she was worth the trouble to make a pitch for. She was very ribh and came from a very snobbish household. She, however was not the least bit snobbish and received us very nicely. We made ad date to go back to her place to discuss religion. Paris is starting to get rainy. I guess I won't see the leaves on the trees in France for quite a while. Line, invited Elder Crosby, the Secretary of the Mission, and myself along with Elder Sabey to her birthday party, which consisted in attending the movie, "The taming of the Shrew" with Liz Taylor and Richard Burton. It was a good film, I thot. After, we went to a Tunesian restaurant wich was really tremendous. Line's folks are quite rich and that was shown the other nite by the spread that was put on at this place. I am really pleased that I have the oppurtunity to work with all of the Elders of the Mission. It is really an experience that will be invaluable I'm sure. There are a lot of proplems and a lot of events that really build your spirit. The French Mission is in the midst of somewhat of a change whereby publicity will play a greater role in proselyting. For example, an article just came out in readers Digest, the French edition. Also therewas one in another less read magazine called "Historama". The missionaries are gaining on the whole a better spirit also. Next weekend I will be traveling down to the south of France to Biarritz, Pau, Tarbes etc. We will be interviewing (the president will be) missionaries and checking out new cities to open up. The week after that we'll be going to LeMans again. The other day this fellow came into the mission home and told us that he had a girl friend in Tahiti who was LDS and he told us that he would like to receive some information about the church. I found out a little later that he had earlier sent a letter to the Mission asking for information. The letter had been processed as all letters are, but I guess that no one had had the time to visit hem. Anyway, I gave him what resembled a first lesson, and piled him up with brochures and sent him on his way back to Tahitik where whe was going. This ks starting to happen more offen now. More and more people are beginning to hear about the Church through other methods than seeing two Elders at the door tracting. How is everything at home. How is the dog.? The football team? If you get the chance you mife send me a few choice editorials about the team. Don't break your pocketbook, because it doesn't interest me excessivly. Egad, I can hardly believe it will be November in 15 days. Frère Bourroux came in this evening and asked me to play for him at Talent nite at the Paris District Conference next December 19. I hope by the time this letter gets to you, a disision will have been made about the fin of my Mission. It would sure be easier to get things settled. Today we went out at 6h00 to "zap" an apartment. It was in the Clichy district. We found two Elders in bed at 7h30. They were good natured about the whole thing and so were we. I hope they will get the message. We then went to an apartment that was infested with bed bugs. That is really a plague let me tell you. Like I said before, I'm going to have to start writing down the things that I want to tell you. Because I can never remember them when I am actually writing

Until next time. XXXX

l o v e v e

Stephen

13-10-67 (Friday the 13th)

Dear Home: I'm adresssing this letter more to Mother than anyone else, however it will be Dad who makes the final decisions. You wrote, Mom, concerning several questions. I just confirmed the student reductions with El Al and Air France. One can fly (a student) from Paris to Tel-Aviv and back for 160 dollars. I am not sure what the regular fare is for you. You quoted the price of 247 dollars I think. Perhaps you are taking advantage of the miles difference from Salt Lake to Tel Aviv via Paris for that low price because I just called up Air France and they quoted the same price Paris-Tel-Aviv as El Al on tourist class: 1815 francs, which is to say about 360 dollars. In any case, this student rate of 160 dollars is pretty good. I hope I can prove that I'm a student. Perhaps you could send me my permit to register. I have the old activity card. How would we get reservations on the same flight from Paris? In any case, The mission will give me the money for a ticket equivalent from Paris to Salt Lake which is about 355 dollars. Consequently, my total fare would be \$160 plus \$355 aprox. the 355 dollar. being paid by the Church. It would not be too advisable for you to come over a week before my mission ends, but what could be done, is that I could shorten my mission by a week. The mission president has the authority to shorten missions by as much as 2 weeks without the authorisation of the missionary committee. Elder Hutchings is not yet sure what he is going to do, or if his parents will give him the OK to travel. He also has a friend (Presidents Andersons son in the French East Mission) with whom possible plans might be made on his side. One possibility is that we went all three. Also, this wouldn't matter inasmuch as if I didn't go with you, I would prefer to go alone. (I enjoyed a great deal traveling alone in Aswan you'll remember) One can do what he wants, and the opportunities to meet people are much greater. (This ofcourse does not mean that I would not want to go with you Mom. That is first on the list. I sure hope that you let herX come Dad. Voici les possibilities:

1. Could come right home on Jan. 6.
 - a. Could come home two weeks early, just before Christmas.
 - b. Possibilites of being subject to draft before receiving student defferement should be considered. Or if I'm too tall (a freak) this factor would be nulified.
2. You could come on the 6th (the date of release) and we could take off right then for Israel, Madfid, and home etc.
3. You could come on the 6th and we could stay in Paris for 3 or 4 days visiting the theatre, Opera, etc. and then we could go to Israel staying a shorter time than we would have in number 2(.
4. You could come to Paris for a week and then we would fly straight home. There are, of course, many things to do here.
5. I could go to Israel alone, or with Elder Hutchings providing you couldn't come.

Therefore: You could come over anytime after Christmas and something could be arranged. Oh yes! I didn't add that to the last. Numbers 2 and 3 could be ~~XX~~ changed to "anytime between 2 weeks before the 6th to the 6thXX" I could shorten my mission up to two weeks.

I know that it mite be difficult, but a quick decision there at home could sure help matters. I hope this letter helps you.

Love Stephen



10-10-67

Dear Folks and Dee: The time is rapidly approaching that I will be in your midst again. I don't want to sound trunky, but I can't help not thinking about it. Last nite we went to see Andr s Segovia the famous Spanish classical guitarist. It was really a tremendous concert and really inspiring to see such talent. I suggest that if you get a chance, you could get one of his albums. It is beautiful listning music. It reminds me of the French countryside. I which you co uld tell me just what is coming off. Are you coming over Mom? That would sure be nice. Do you want me to come right home? Do you think that I'll have more chance to be drafted if I do? In doing an errand with the President yesterday, I had the chance to stop in at the Bureau Nationale de Tourisme d'Isra l to get a little information on trips. It appears that ther is a student reduction in the price of airline tickets to Israel on El Al and Air France from Dec. 25 to Jan 15. Consequently, a round trip ticket Paris-Tel-Aviv-Paris would run about 160 dollars. I also collected information on Youth Hostels which are abundant there and they run anyplace  from 40 cents to 80 cents a nighy. Now if you, Mom, were to come we wouldn't want to stay in Hostels so it whold be somewhat more expensive. Anyway, I think a regular round-trip ticket Paris - Tel-Aviv - Paris is about \$200. If for exaple Elder Hutchings and I were to undertake such a trip par avion we could probably swing it for, say 10 days, at ~~MMH~~ about \$5 a day plus the air ticket. Another possibility is a Mediteranean cruise. Stopping at about 6 to 8 ports along the way. The Greek Islands, turkey, etc. on an Israeli boat. There are 2 week cruises. It is , however, a little more expensive and the tours on land are supplimentary and much of your time is spent on a boat. This seems somewhat frivolous. I think the most profitable situation would be to fly there spend a week to ten days visiting Tel-Aviv, Haifa, Jerusalem, and the Neguev, and fly back to Paris. Let me know your plans. I'm sure you would enjoy visiting Paris however. I would be more than glad to show it to you. There are so many things to do. Saturday we went to the auto show. This makes the third year that I have seen it. It passes fast. I went first with Elder Jolley, who incidentally I understand has grown a mustache   la Beatle, has started to smoke and drink etc., then with Elder Saybey and now with part of the mission home staff. The shirt you sent jast arrived. I will nedd it. It seems that my other shirts have started fraying just since I've been in the missionhome. We live on the third floor of the mission home. I have a room to myself. There are washers and dryers. There is a cook and we pay 3 francs a meal (60 cents). This is paid all in one big lump sum. Incidentally, I hate to make a plea for more money. Everything is more expensive in the 16th arrondissement and I am starting to find myself a little short. I have to press my suits more often, send out the shirts more often, and they are more expensive etc. Also life in the mission home is more expensive. A little boost would help. \$20 for exaple. I sure hate to ask for money like that. I didn't have to go to that Segovia concert and other little things like that which could save me some money. The president has taken the other assistant to the west. Brest, Cherbourg; Rennes, Lemans etc. Next week I will accompnay hime to the South. Bordeaux, Pyren es (where I have never been.) Line tells me Dee that your are going to Grenoble. C'est vrai? ce mensonge?

What did you send Elder Bridge and his wife.? My Social Security No. is: 529-62-7709. ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ I don't know if I have spoken to you about Sister Bernadette Kuo or not, but her picture is undoubtedly in some of the slides that I have sent you. She is the half Chinese girl. She is planning graduate studies in the United States, at BYU particularly. She will have finished her equivalent of a Bachelors degree at the University of Paris by the end of the 1967-68 school year. She has applied for the Y, housing, etc. The Chemistry dept. has sent her forms etc. Professor Hawkins has been handling the correspondence from the Chemistry dept. She is waiting on a judgement for an assistantship. In any case she will be needing a sponsor. Under what conditions would you be willing to accept this responsibility? My recommendation? I don't ask you directly now, because I don't know how you feel about this. Could you in your next letter let me know. I know her quite well - she is an excellent member of the church, honest, and an all around fine person. Just to stifle any suspicions that might arise, I have no interest, romantic or otherwise, in this. She is about half my size. We are just good friends. She trusts me, and I am usually the first person she turns to when there are problems in the family etc. She is planning on coming to the Y the School Year of 1968-69. She has given recommendations to ~~MEYER~~ me, the President, and some of her professors to fill out. Dad, if you ever get a chance to speak to professor Hawkins, you might bring up the matter and mention to him that I know her and I think she will be an asset to the university, and the church. Anyway, let me know of your views on this matter. I enjoy your letters.

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~

1
s

Stephen

10-10-67

Wow, what a set up. 2 good looking girls, money, snob 16th, rich apartment. You didn't know what you were getting me into. Arabella was real nice. You sure know how to pick 'em Selden. Well enough of that. Do I sound like an Assistant to the President? Well anyway, we set up a meeting with her to tell us our point of view. She seemed quite interested in discussing as soon as her exams are over. We popped over there about 8h30 one evening and Isabell came to the door. After I had caught my breath, lost a lot of prestige etc. I asked if she was Arabella. She wasn't. Then, all of a sudden there it was... coming from behind the door- there it was;; already to go to bed - a whisp of spring, smile of a goddess, - - - Gad Selden! Think of all the prestige involved! Multilingual kids, two homes: one in Paris the other in Sausilto. You could bring a French girl into the Kingdom. Really sharp. Really sharp. We have a meeting to go back and discuss in a week or two. We were received no hands down - like we lived there. The Father was kind of cold, not really, when he found out who we were. The motherf was a typical social Loretta Young who came breezing into the room to offer us a Whisky. I sure hate to turn people down like that. They seem so hurt. Guess who I saw at church? Frère Thomasi (? sp ?) and his wife. They remembered me and it was really good to see him. Everybody remembers you here. You are slowly becoming a legend of the French Mission (partly thanks to me). As one of the best, most qualified, totally engaged missionaries that ever hit the French Mission. I don't know the story on soeur Hugret. Just a second, I'll go ask sister Cynkovic what the story is. She might know. If not, the next time I get a hold of Romney and Phair, I'll ask them about it and tell you;; just a second. . . Well, it seems that there is quite a story to it. Her conversion story may be written up for the Etoile. If it is, I'll send it too you. But, in essence it goes like this. She was contacted a couple of years ago, by you and bridge, but either didn't feel she was ready or went on vacation or something like that. She was later contacted by Elder Phair, touched by him, Elder Romney took the suite and she was baptized. She expressed the desire that she wanted to get in contact with the missionaries that first contacted her because she was so grateful for what they did. Her address/ 80, Boulevard Albert Bartholome Paris 15eme France. I enjoy hearing from you. Have you seen Christine since you wrote last. Hey man! Isabelle may be the one. I'll writ you after our next contact with her. LOTS of Love

s t a e v e
a s s i s t a n t o r
t
t h o
p r e s i d e n t
l
m i s s i o n
f r a n c i s e

Adve

2 Oct. 1967

Dear Home: I don't keep track any more the number of times that I write. I suppose that it must be about that time again. The conferences are over, and it was a thrilling experience to be a small part of it all. This is a great "fraternaty" to be in out here. The president and I drove up to LeMans last week to sneak up on a missionary who refused to see the president and who had threatened to go home. The president talked to him for about 2 hrs. and decided to take him back to Paris with us. He had been causing, it seems, several problems with temper tantrums etc. in front of the French neighbors etc. creating a very bad name for the missionaries. The president does a lot of his own driving now. President Hart rarely drove. The mission president's car is a nice big Mercedes which moves right along. The mission is planning to get a new car: a Citroen DS 21. The kind of cars that uncle Richard used to sell. The readers digest article came out in the French issue this week. We hope that it will put across a more favorable impression of the Mormons parmi the French. Did you get the slides that I sent to you about 3 weeks ago? You haven't mentioned anything about it. What am I going to do about school? I haven't even written out an application yet. I don't even know what courses I'm going to take, nor what I am going to go into; which makes it that much more difficult. Didn't you say that you were going to send me the necessary forms. At the US cultural center here in Paris there is a BYU catalogue. Maybe I'll go over there. Went to the Israeli embassy Sat. but it was closed. They told us to go to the consulate which is right near here. Maybe Elder Hutchings and I will do that this morning. It would be preferable if you (everyone) could come over and we could spend the time in Paris. There is much to do around that time of year Dad. I thank you for the information about the military service: I'm still not clear as to the alternatives however. Do you want me to come home the day of my release? early? go to Israel? I is at yo mercy. % I should be getting some slides back of the last conference. Perhaps it would be better to keep them with me and then you could see them when I get home. I fear perhaps that I might need a new pair of shoes. What? you say? I go thru them pretty fast. Just sit tight, I'll let you know when I do. I haven't yet received the 3rd shirt you were to have sent me. When did you send it? I hope it hasn't been lost. I can't think of too much else to say. I'll write down things as they come to my mind this next week in hopes that I can interest you. I got a letter from Selden. He sent me the name of a girl to visit. One that he met when he was here this summer.

Love
Steve

Schedule Missionary Conference Paris Zone

September 24-26, 1967

Sunday evening - Directed by Elder Brady Zone Leader

Introduction and message from President Anderson

D&C question study groups - two-team competition in each group

Discussion period after. (1/2 hour)

Recommittment talk, dedication - Elder Winston

Closing talk - Sister Anderson

Monday morning-

Excursion to le chateau de Chantilly

Picnic and games

Monday evening- Directed by Elder Winston

Explanation of new programs, publicity, etc.

Talk by Elder Flynn - Personal preparation and companionships

Presentation of new study guide - Elder Taylor

Comment period on the study guide, bulletins, and mission rules

Talk on attitudes by Elder Taylor

Tuesday morning- Directed by Elder Taylor

Lesson review- District Leaders as group leaders.

Song

Talk by Elder Brady Zone Leader

French study- Zone leader and mission staff as group leaders.

Missionaries under 4 months or having no lessons learned will be in group led by the Junior ZL.

Ordinance review- in same class as French study (1/2 hour)

Sisters and BPs with auxillary responsibility to meet with Sister Adderson during the ordinance review.

Closing talk by President Anderson- "A Five Point Recommittment Program"

Tuesday afternoon- Directed by Elder Taylor or Elder Winston

Testimony service

Write résumé of conference in French (each missionary)

Closing song, prayer, and departure

Theme of the conference:

Oui, celui qui se repent, fait preuve de de foi, produit de bonnes oeuvres et prie sans cesse - à celui-là, il est sonné de connaître les mystères de Dieu; à celui-là, il est donné de révéler des choses qui n'ont jamais été révélées; oui, à celui-là, il sera donné d'amener des milliers d'âmes au repentir, tout comme il nous a été donné d'amener au repentir ceux-ci qui sont nos frères.

Alma 26:22

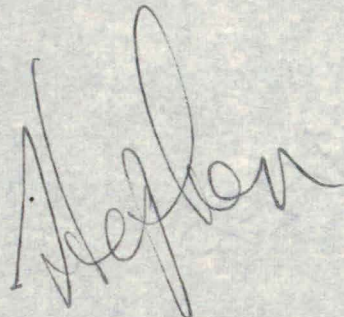
21-9-67

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
OFFICE OF THE FRENCH MISSION

Dear Folks: I can't remember how long it has been since I have written. I'm sure it has been over a week. Today we just got back from Rouen to see about a missionary apartment that was too expensive. Pres. Anderson felt the sister missionaries there were being charged too much for their apartment. Would you believe it? I haven't even had the time to move in yet. k My books are still down stairs in the trunk. The past three weeks have been plagued with conferences. This week the last conference will be held in Paris. After this we will have a little more time. This last week the conference in LeMans was one of the very best missionary conferences that I have attended. There was really a fine spirit there. As usual, the missionary conference was held the Sunday night, Monday and Tuesday after the member conference. Consequently we spent three nights in Le Mans. Did I tell you that LeGrand Richards came thru Paris? He just stopped by for a few hours and then went on his way. I have not yet written thank you cards to those who sent me money for my birthday. It is terrible I know, but I just haven't had the time. I'll have to wait for these conferences to get over before I accomplish anything. Elder Hutchings and I are going to the Israel travel agency one of these days for some estimates. I'll let you know as soon as something comes up. When I try to type fast on this crazy machine I sure do a lousy job. My duty in Conference is to conduct study classes on French, D and C, (I know almost nothing about it) and proselyting discussions. I have to give a talk on a change of attitudes also. The weather is starting to change here and we are getting a lot of rain. Rouen is sure a beautiful city. It is where Jean d'Arc met her death (Jeanne d'Arc is the correct spelling.) (Spelling is the correct spelling!) The French mission looks like it is undergoing a transition period. There are going to be a lot more publicity programs. At the end of this week the article that appeared in U S news. And the Readers digest. Finally a fairly objective if not positive article will be published about the church in France. I always look forward to Paris District conferences, and am looking forward just as much to this one. I don't have much to say now. Bye until next time.

l o v e
s t e p h e n

t h e s e
m a c h i n e s
a c h i n e s
f r u e n



THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

OFFICE OF THE FRENCH MISSION

3, rue de Lota, Paris 16, France

TELEGRAPH : QUICKMERE-PARIS

TELEPHONE : KLEBER 95-81

Dear Brother: I can't remember the time I have written to you. I have been over a week. Today we just got back from a missionary assignment that was too expensive. Pres. Anderson said the sister missionaries there were being charged too much for their apartment. Would you believe it? I haven't even had the time to move in yet. I hope we are still down stairs in the trunk. The past three weeks have been plagued with conferences. This week the last conference will be held in Paris. After this we will have a little more time. This last week the conference in Lebanon was one of the very best missionary conferences that I have attended. There was really a fine spirit there. As usual, the missionary conference was held the Sunday after, Monday and Tuesday after the main conference. Consequently we spent three after in the Paris. I'll tell you that Brother Richards came thru Paris. He just stopped by for a few hours and then went on his way. I have not yet written that you hands to those who sent me money for my birthday. It is terrible I know, but I just haven't had the time. I'll have to wait for these conferences to get over before I accomplish anything. Sister Hutchings and I are going to the Israel Travel Agency one of these days for some estimates. I'll let you know as soon as something comes up. When I try to type fast on this crazy machine I sure do a lousy job. My duty in conference is to conduct study classes on French, D and C. (I know almost nothing about it) and to conduct study classes on French. I have to give a talk on a change of attitudes also. The weather is starting to change here and we are getting a lot of rain. Rouen is such a beautiful city. It is where Jean D'Arc met her death. (Jeanne d'Arc is the correct spelling). (Spelling is the correct spelling). The French mission looks like it is undergoing a transition period. There are going to be a lot more publicity programs. At the end of this week the article that appeared in U.S. news and the Reader's Digest. Finally a fairly objective. If not positive article will be published about the church in France. I always look forward to Paris District conferences, and am looking forward just as much to this one. I don't have much to say now. Bye until next time.

Handwritten signature

14-9-67

Dear folks: I never seem to have any time to write. There is a lot to do and I'm still kind of lost. Last week we went to Bordeaux to the member-missionary conference. It was a good experience. Bordeaux is about a 7 or 8 hour drive. On our return home we were told that speed limits for mission busses had just been changed to 75 kph and for sedans 90 kph. Either way, one is often a traffic hazard on French roads. The brethren must know what they are talking about so I guess we'll follow the rules. It is going to waste a lot of time. The rules on staying with companion have been tightened. Up until now, missionaries have been going to the store to buy food, to the post office to mail letters etc. alone. We are now required to have a companion with us at all times without exception. This weekend we will be going to LeMans for the member-missionary conference in the West Zone. The following week will be for the Paris zone. Missionaries this past 3 months have been working on the Doctrine and covenants. At conference, a review will be held on what they read, as well as a question and answer period. Who is it that is in Tours? Jacobs? I passed through there the other day, and one of the Elders who was with us, Elder Stowell, had attended Stanford's branch in Tours. We therefore stopped and made sure that the LDS meetings were posted on the bulletin board. The lady told us that there were a family of Mormons there. I supposed that it must have been the Jacobs. I can't remember if it was they. Apostle Richards came through Paris yesterday. On his way from Switzerland he stopped off in Paris for the short time of 4 hours. He ate with us, was taken to see the Louvre and for a drive around Paris. He flew on to conference assignments in England. I got the letter concerning the army, Dad! Can you say for a certainty that I will not be drafted? because of my height? I haven't got any information on Israel yet. Elder Hutchings, (he came out with me) indicates a desire to do something like that. There is no difficulty in getting permission to travel. It entails your permission and the permission consequently of the Missionary committee. When does school start? Am I admitted? What do I have to do. Gad, I don't even know what I am going to take. I'd appreciate any counsel on my future you could give me Dad. I realize that it is me who has to decide but, you know more or less my aptitudes - What could I do? What does MBA offer. you sent me some information on that once I think but exactly what does it offer. Business on an international scale? In any case things are going ok. I'll go upstairs and get Elder Bridges address. He sent me a letter yesterday. He said he was really enjoying married life. I'm glad you heard from Selden.

l o v e

s t e v a

Hee

ÉGLISE DE JÉSUS CHRIST DES SAINTS DES DERNIERS JOURS

LA MISSION FRANÇAISE

3, RUE DE LOTA

PARIS (16^e)

TÉLÉPHONE : KLÉBER 95-81

TÉLÉGRAPHE : QUICKMERE-PARIS

4-9-67

Dear folks: Well here I am up to my old habits again writing late. I'm sorry (gad) but you know how it is, don't you? I really feel kind of lousy inasmuch as I more or less took off the week last week and didn't get too much done. It is really a terrible feeling to get into a hole like that. You don't feel like doing anything and the longer you stay home the more you hate yourself. One is under a lot of pressure in the missionfield and when the work is hard, wow. I'm sure you Mom and Dad, especially you dad, know that 1000 times over so I shouldn't be talking. I felt even lousier when Pres. Anderson called me in and asked me to become one of his assistants. (There are two) That kind of knocked some sense into me making me realize the hole that I was in. I felt totally unworthy to have to become an example for the mission. I as an old missionary had slipped into some bad habits. I wasn't helping my companion like I should have, my reading wasn't limited to the church or edifying material, I had started to slow down in my work, I had oft times unclean thoughts etc. etc. Well I guess I'll have to share up know. I think I've been what is known as a liberal missionary - I don't hesitate to go to the theatre, a movie, or hop in the bus and go over and visit in Nogent, or take some investigators to a chateau out of the district. All these things are more or less wrong and I've always known that I could have been doing something else. In proselyting hours I've never been on the bottom, never or (rarely on the top) most of the time above average however. In any case I feel like the last one that should have been called to such a task. I hope that I can remember that I'm doing it for the Lord and not for my own glory. In any case my address is 3, rue de Lota, Paris 16e, France. The transfers won't come out until Wednesday (we are Monday) so that will give him perhaps ample chance to change his mind, and put someone else in. I haven't received the letter that you said you were sending mom, perhaps it will be in this morning's mail. In any case I am waiting to see just what my plans should be. I learned from a new Elder in our District that the height limit is 6-6. I know I am over 6-6, but can I trust the judgement of this Elder who wasn't sure himself. I want to know for sure that guys over 6-6 won't be drafted. I am not sure either. It's really rottin, isn't it, to try to get out of the army like that. Perhaps an experience like that would help me. Don't worry I'm not planning on trying to enlist. Perhaps I could tell you about our interesting Thursday. In the morning we gave sort of a going away party for Elder Barnhurst who finished his mission in Chatillon. We had a breakfast, and gave him a book on Paris. A normally reserved person he seemed quite pleased. We then took Elder VanValkenburg to Versailles (a transfer), picked up a German hitchhiker on the way (one of those against the rules things) and first contacted him. He had heard of the Mormons. We then came back to the town of Villejuif and interviewed a young candidate for baptism. It is Marc Ramos the son of the guy that owns the salle de cinema at place Clichy. My companion will baptize him and I will confirm him on Thursday. They had us for lunch and then we went to the Roy families to help them move. I really love that family, he was baptized in LaRoche 13 years ago. He is only now 28 or 29? We helped him move his heavy stuff. I hope I don't get a herny. We then went out of the district to Maisons-Alfort to dinner with another member family that I love an old couple, the wife member. Perhaps I have told you of the flamants. They are quite bourgeois but very humble and not snobbish. That was kind of a tiring unusual day. But it is the kind of day that I like. I can't help it. I think we accomplished some good. Well until next time.

was winning the contest when all of a sudden (I ought a be a writer; I know all of the clichés!) la vache lui a arraché le pantalon. Egad there he was on nation-wide TV devant des millions de télé spectateurs in this strange looking white knee length underwear. That poor boulder was so embarrassed he took off his jacket and wrapped it around him. Guy Lux interviewed him after word. That poor boulder - Lin embarrassed when the people across the street see me! Well not much new. I took the District to Fontainebleau, the Chabillon Branch may shape up a little bit à la rendrée. It tell ya man I sure am full - I just took another bite of this last piece of pie and I'm going to burst. any fine. Say hi to folks + Linda + Christine who give a white back, while you were in Evan. I wrote her back. Says she's going to SLC love Steve

29-8-67

I think he has left FRANCE by
now but several weeks ago it was
a ~~David~~ ^{David} Boshard (where else) for the European
surf championships. At just so happened that
~~the~~ Guy Lux + Pierre Sabboch, two of
the ORTF's entrepreneurs were down there
with their TV programme "Impossible n'est
as français" One of the stunts was
a riding contest sur des vaches landaises"
you guessed it, a nation wide T.V. there he
was - David Boshard, one of the contestants.
Big deal! you say? Well shut up a
minute + listen. He got on the cow, and

16-8-67

Dear folks and Dee: Now is a good time to catch up on my letters to you. It is Wednesday morning, 8h45. Elder Poulsen is in getting ready and then we were going to Massy, a town bordering on Antony to the South to tract. Yesterday was a national holiday in France, Assumption Day. We profited from it by taking a District trip to Fontainebleau. I can't remember if you went there when you were in France, but it was tremendously interesting. The little that I understand concerning the various forms of art and history probably dampens the effect that the chateau and its grounds could have had on me. I enjoyed it just the same. We bought some sausages, ham, cheese, bread, and drink and went into the Forest of Fontainebleau on somewhat of a scenic drive. It is a very famous forest with lots of history. It is too bad that we didn't get to see it all, especially Barbizon where French impressionism took much form. (Millet, Rousseau^o). I went out with frère Trèhin that evening to look for an inactive member with whom he had made rendez-vous. She wasn't there, so we sat on a bench and talked for a time. Frère Trèhin is the present Secretary of the branch and in my judgement the most mature and capable person in the branch also. He is a victim of the class society in France whereby many fine minds don't get an adequate chance to develop themselves in higher education because of the low standard of living and the expenses it takes to send someone through school. Many young intelligent people end up having to start working to earn a living, thus cutting short their schooling.

Speaking of schooling, it is high time that I decide on my future plans and what I am going to do after my mission. The way I look at it, the 2nd semester at the Y starts somewhere around the end of Jan. beg. of Feb. I am not too keen of getting drafted therefore it would probably be wise to be in school before I report to the draft board 5 days after my arrival in the states. In looking over the certificate to leave the US. The board had given me 2 free months before they will start looking after my records. That is to say, I have 32 months allotted me by the board for my mission. The solutions that offer themselves are: I would want to ~~get to school~~ get home the day I register (or the day before), get into school, and then within the 5 days report to the board. My release date is the 6th of January, leaving my approximately 3 weeks after my mission before I come home. This would all be changed considering there is a height limit in the army for the draft. I have no "official" response on this question, only confusion from varying replies. What are your opinions? suggestions? I wouldn't have a hard time finding things to do during the 3 wks., especially if you could come over. What are the possibilities if Elder Hutchings could accompany me, of going to Israel? I hope either one of those requests doesn't sound too selfish. Realize that I am at your complete mercy, and what you have done for me is already more than enough. I await any suggestions or orders.

Well by till next wk.

Love, Steve



21:8:67

Dear folks and Dee: It is Monday morning and I'm listing to a tabernacle choir record. I did all my reports yesterday. We had a fairly interesting week last week. As you know we went to Fontainebleau. We taught some interesting people. There was this one fellow he worked with the Americans at NATO before it was moved to Brussels who took an interest in the Book of Mormon and read it almost entirely. That makes two people who have taken the time lately to read it all the way through. The one lady is on vacation and we will go back there in Sept. We will go back to this fellow in 3wks inasmuch as he will be leaving too. Friday, soeur Dubois and her daughter invited us to dinner and after we went to see Cecil B. DeMilles "Les Dix Commandements." That of course was the second time that I had seen it. "I can't remember under what circumstances I saw it the first time. It must have been with you. It was very interesting. We tracted out some Jewish people (two families) who were nice enough to receive us. One of them was from Israel. Saturday, the Panigot family invited us to attend "les fiancailles" de their daughter Jacqueline. She announced the engagement on the same day as ~~XXXX~~/birthday her birthday. She was 20 years old. They put 2 extra candles on the cake for me. That same evening we took a family home evening with the Roy family. They are getting along better and we enjoy going there. This morning I am going to have to take the bus in to get serviced inasmuch as the transmission has no oil and it is making horrible noises. The month of August has been kind of cold. We had the hottest month of July since I have been here. But, it has cooled off quite a bit. It would sure be nice if you could come over and spend the holidays in Paris. There are a million things to do even though it is cold. The theater, opera, restaurants etc. Like I said in the last letter. I hope it doesn't sound like I'm talking to selfishly because I don't mean too. But, it would be nice. I would appreciate some suggestions telling me what to do, whether it be come right home after or what. I gave you some details to consider in the last letter concerning the military. We visited the Rinos family last week (the fellow who owns the movie house) we hope to baptize his son and reactivate the family at the same time. Well, this isn't too long of a letter, but I've run out of things to say. Until next time.

Love, Steve

Steve

Dear folks: (and Dee) I had a fine birthday weekend, thanks to you and some fine people here. By the way, Mom, Happy Birthday to you too. You must really think you've raised a bum not to send you a card. I don't have any excuse. An investigator that we have who is as tall as me (just about) gave me the address of a place in Paris that specialized in large size shoes. Elder Poulsen and myself went up near Republic in the 11th and after negotiating some one way streets with which I wasn't too familiar we found it. I bought a nice pair of shoes that fit me just right. They are black. They are nicer looking than the ones I had made last year. These two pair of shoes will be more than sufficient to finish my mission on. One of them, I'm sure I'll be able to wear home too. They cost 24 dollars. I also bought a book at the mission home. "The Way to Perfection" by Joseph Feilding Smith. I am reading it right now. In a Feilding Smith sort of way I am getting a well needed insight into many vague (heretofore) parts of the gospel. Speaking of books, you might be interested in what I am reading. I have very poor reading habits, in that I can't stick to one thing and finish it. I have to be reading many things at a time. Right beside my bed is a pile of books that I read when I come home at night, or at noon, or when my companion is faking sickness as he is now. (This happens occasionally when he is afraid of the work, or when I have assigned him with a particular lesson) I don't know what to do about him. He has been out almost 18 months now and isn't yet capable of reciting the JS story with out looking in his book. I feel in a way that the responsibility is mine, but he is the kind of person that when he is pushed he rebels even more. For example, I'll say we want to go at nine and he'll do stupid things like hop in the shower at 8h55. We will get to our rendez-vous at 9h15 instead of 9h00. But, if I would have pushed him even with the kindest gentle persuasion we would have got there at 9h30. So I take the chance of not creating an animosity and being late 15 minutes. He is putting himself in a very poor position trying to act like a missionary with the experience and the knowledge he doesn't have. It is very unfortunate because others are aware of his situation. The only time that I'll have a problem in getting along with him is when I try to help him learn (comp. study class) or push him in any way fashion or form. I'm content to live in a civilized relationship, so I don't push.) I was talking about books wasn't I? By my bed right now is The way to Perfection, bible, that Art Book, (I like to read about the art in the museums we visit from time to time) family home eve. book (french) Discourses of Brigham Young, (Triple combination, I am reading the Dand C., Jules Verne's to the moon and back, in the original French version, The French during the Occupation, in French, two guides of Paris, diet onary. One of these days I'll finish them. I enjoy Brig youngs discourses. I am also learning how to use the Chinese abacus which along with a book about it the Nogeng folks gave me for my birthday. They also gave me a tie, a giant fountain pen and a really nice card signed by those in assistance. We drove over to Bourroux's place and had dinner. Elder Sabey and his companion was there. It was really nice of them. I hope I won't forget about the nice things the people have done for me here. Took a lesson this morning with a Catholic priest who tried to ridiculize us. We were humble and bore our testimonies. One sure has the temptation to cut his doctrine to bits but it doesn't accomplish anything; We had some pretty good teaching last week. We are still teaching the Sapina family and whoope we can bring them around to baptism.

We tracked out a lady last week who read the whole BoiM in a week, she really read it too. It is raining outside. It looks like the people who went on vacation this month aren't going to be too lucky. I was in the mission home the other day and found out that I had to type something up. I sat down at the typewriter which made me think that I'm going to have to switch back to an American typewriter. I had to have someone else type the letters for me. I thought I was getting rid of the bed bugs but I found some more today. I haven't been bitten for a while. That's all for now;

Love Steve

7-8-67

Dear family, I just had the horrifying experience yesterday of finding a letter that I had mailed to (or should have mailed to you 2 or 3 weeks ago. I found it in my brief case. I'm terribly sorry. You probably went through a dry spell there. I'd hate to think what would happen if your letters stopped coming. Last week we went to try to find an old fellow that Elder Jolly and I used to visit. Elder Jolly and myself used to come out to Antony every Thursday (egad that was 2 years ago!) to give the fellowshipping discussions to an old fellow, frère Peret. I remembered that his house looked over a valley, and after about one half hours searching we found it. He was glad to see us. He is almost blind. He thought he was being forgotten by the church. He belongs to the Paris branch, which is so big, that half the members are unknown and not much effort is made to find them. He is kind of senile as he didn't remember me. I showed him my card which was in his files so he believed me. On Thursday, my companion and frère Gorri, Secretary of the Sunday School accompanied me to the house of the BP, frère Robineau to do our part his (frère Gorri's) home teaching. Frère Robineau had since moved from the area of the branch to the Versailles branch. He lives in a little town called Vilpreux; a real country town with winding streets, an inn etc. It is situated to the west of Versailles about the same distance that we are to the East. That is to say about 20 kilometers. It was a nice evening drive, and we (frère Robineau) and myself got the chance to know each other a little better. I think that he is sincere, but when you choose a leader for a branch, you can't choose someone who has to start from 0 (and then hope he will grow into the job. You have to choose someone who is at least halfway prepared. In the process of "growing into his job, frère Robineau has had differences with 3 major families of the branch making them in different degrees quit the church. If something doesn't happen fast, there will be some more. His main shortcoming is that nothing but reproaches come from his mouth. I sympathize with the French member who finds that they would rather stay home in peace rather than undergo reproaches. However, everyone understands that these kind of problems build members with a stolid faith (those who do stay) and who are willing to work for the Lord, malgré les conséquences. I don't think that the Church in France is in such a state where one can go under the philosophy that problems (serious ones) build good members. The French member has enough serious problems, only to have them augmented by an "unprepared" BP. Saturday we were twice invited out to dinner. Frère Tréhin the Branch Secretary and his daughter Jocelyne invited us, and then we went to a bi-weekly fam. Home Evening at the Roy family's. Frère and soeur Roy are young marrieds who let little things create big differences among them and every two weeks they tell us, and expect us to decide who is right. Wow? What am I doing here? We have a sharp (seemingly) referral from the French East mission that we took Sunday morning. A lady and her kids. We are still teaching the Sapina family. They have cooled off somewhat but there are still possibilities. They are humble, and not too intelligent so we have to go slowly. Yesterday, Sunday, Elder Poulsen went into see the musée Jeu de Paume where are housed the major works of the French impressionists (I can't even spell any more. The week before at the ~~Châtelet~~ Châtelet theater we saw the "Prince of Madrid" and operetta I guess you would call it. You would have enjoyed it Mom. I love you all.

Steve

Dear Folks: Again I postpone my letter to the end of the week. Today is Sunday and we had the opportunity of having another baptism in our district. Elder Nutter and his companion Elder Burton taught and baptised an Estonian lady and her son. I presided the service and interviewed them. Erère Roy and soeur Brulahrt gave talks. It was a fine, spiritual service. I kind of got into an argument with the BP as to where to place the cover for the baptismal font. These people are so proud of their new chapel-salle that they really want to take over. Actually it was your, not theirs, tithing money that paid for this inasmuch as the French members pay relatively little tithing and put out relatively little effort in the construction. They have less leisure time, this is true, but they have not yet attained the "spirit" necessary to become true Mormons. Don't get me wrong, there are many people among the french members that are tremendous. Anyway, the B P. Robineau, wanted to put the top to the font right in front of the pulpit. (an ugly old beard) I said no, he said yes, I said no, he said yes, I moved the beard, he said nothing. Where does the application of the principles of the gospel come into all this? Well, I don't think any feelings were hurt too much. I didn't want that ugly beard marring the effect of a spiritual baptism in a newly finished salle. The baptism was excellent. We had 7 investigators out to it. It is a family whose brother is a member of the church in the North of France. This family brought some friends along. We teach them every Saturday morning about 10h00. Do you remember the Youth Conference last year? I went again this year and played the same piano with the same orchestre. I am getting a little better on the piano, however I am still lousy. I was more than thrilled at the chance at seeing the people I knew from the other branches. I have not yet had the chance of meeting the new President. He is down in the Bordeaux district, meeting the missionaries. From what I understand, he will interview us next week. I sat in on a District Leader study class with him, but never formally introduced myself to him. The weather is excellent. The parisiens are really enjoying the sun that they have missed for the last two summers somewhat. We are working with some wonderful member families. The Roy family. He was a sailor and went around the world in the marine française. He has a lovely wife and a 9 month old daughter. The Dubeis, a mother and her daughter with whom Elder Ribera worked 2 years ago, are really wonderful and do more for us than we could every hope to do for them. We are trying to convince her to go to the temple. The Tréhins: he is the branch secretary. His wife and one of his daughters are members. I think I told you about the Panigots; Elder Saby was just made DL in a district north of Paris, Colomb. He is coming from Bordeaux. It will be good to see him this Wednesday at DL study class in the Mission Home. I saw Selden again before he went to the east of France with his group. He had to take a girl to Orly for a flight to Germany. He sent me a telegram, and inasmuch as we are not far (Orly is in our district) we went out and had lunah with him. I don't think we'll be seeing him again before he leaves. I got a card from Elder Bridge (a wedding invitation). I don't have much more to say. I love you;

Steve

31-7-67

Dear family: Another week has passed. I am in kind of a hurry now, and can't think of much to say. The second month of French vacationing is up on us. August is the biggest month for the french vacations. They all leave Paris. Dee! thanks for the letter Cela m'a fait grand plaisir! I hope to get one off to you soon. How is the dog. Don't worry about my birthday. Wy don't you just send me the money you would have spent on presents. I am not broke, for I'll get something that I could use over here. I am down to one pair of shoes for example. The ones that I bought last Christmas. I'd like perhaps to even get a couple of nice French shirts. Concerning the mission, there isn't much to tell. Some of the people in Nogent are holding a birthday party for me. I'm going into Paris this morning to cash my check. I'll write in a couple of days and tell you more.

Love, Steve.

17-767

Dear folks. I think I'll write one out this time.
Got a letter from grandma. Thanks for your letter
Dad + I. Well summer is here & it is easy for
one to slip into kind of a laziness. Last wk-end
was the 14th of July. A member family (a
widow + her daughter) invited us over for the
day. In the morning we went to the champs
Elysees (not with them) to see the parade. (We
met Helen there. At noon we went to Dubois
(the family) they stuffed us on chicken, peas,
beans, charcuterie (pork, sausage etc). Then took
us to see "Doctor Jivago". We came back to
their house + they stuffed us again. Then we
went to Parc Montsouris to see the fire-
works. We went home + flopped into bed.
Sunday was the first 2 sessions of the
Youth conference, therefore there were no
services in any of the branches, everyone
going to Versailles. It was really great seeing
many of the people I knew in La Rochelle, Rennes,
Tours & of course always the Nogent people.

We brought an investigator family with us
in the bus, and tried to take care of
intigating them at the same time.
They invited us to "casser le croute"
Cold meal taken into café-bar, so we
went along. They had a fine bottle of
Bordeaux (wine) they were impressed
with the conference & its spirit & we hope
the wine will be among their last. It
is the Sapin family. They live in
Antony & are a referral from their brother
in the Franco-Belge mission. We have
given them the 1st & Second lesson. Next
lesson is the word of wisdom lesson.
Helden was at conference as was Linda
Myers. You would have gotten this letter
sooner had it not been for no postal service
over the 14th. We got bed bugs & are
trying to get rid of them. A itek all over. Fred
Payet called us over to give blessings to his sick
family & Pierre Roy wants us to come bless his baby.
Bye now Love Stephen

6-7-67

Dear Folks: It is thursday afternoon on quite a warm day. I have been in the mission field 2 years today. The new mission president is supposed to get into town today also. Elder Daniels probably arrived yesterday. I didn't have the time to go to Bourget airport north of Paris to meet him. I'll get in contact with him later. I got the package of soap and cologne - merci beaucoup. By the way Dad has a late happy birthday. Last Sunday I had a date to go with everyone of the Negat members to Versailles to what they call the fête de nuit, which is a sound and light affair at the Grand Versailles chateau. There are fireworks too. I was to meet him at the porte d'Orleans in Paris which I did and it turned out that Elder Beshard was with them. Remember? The surfer crew in La Rochelle? I went out to Versailles and got soaking wet in the rain, and had a very enjoyable time. Paris is more or less emptying itself with its population heading south. The other day Elder Poulsen and I went to the Versailles to work on the yard. I helped trim the hedges and cut down the heavy long grass. A nice meeting place is taking place in Châtillon. President Hirt was invited out to say a good-bye last Sunday and was presented with a gift from the local branch. I got some pictures of it which will be interesting to you. We went out this morning and there was a hard time of the year in much as the heat takes a lot out of you. Well I don't rate the letter just yet, but I have to go. I'll have something else to say later on. I just got back from a little place about 20 k's away called Gif sur Yvette. It is on the way to Chartres. We went out there to take two referrals. One we talked to, and the other wasn't there. Upon my return, I found your two letters containing the bon conseil from Dad, the news from mom and the 5 dollar bill. Thanks very much. Tonight we are going to have a family home evening with a family. The father, from Madagascar is inactive, and the wife, French, is inactive, and kind of against the church. We hope to change this situation. His name is Pierre Payet. See, it is local to know that you are learning French and receiving les bonnes notes! (see you le savez m'etonne pas, d'ailleurs.) I guess that I am going to have to start thinking about my future (not that I haven't thought about it until now). International business has very few appeals to us somewhat. I'm all bit up by fleas. I don't take baths or showers anymore to clean up, I take them to put scalding hot water on my flea bites. I shall close not being able to thank of anything more to say. Until next wk.

Love Steve

30-6-67

Dear Everybody: I'm a little late in getting this letter off this week. At the beginning of the week, we had District conference. President Hart and his wife bid adieu to every one. They will be leaving on the 10th. The next day was the missionary conference. All of the outlying districts from the Paris zone met. Tuesday, all of the "inlying" districts of the Paris zone met - this included us. We had workshops on the lessons etc. and testimony meeting. Wednesday I took the V to get greased. The transmission was almost dry too, and it was making horrible noises. Wednesday eve; and Thursday evening, the BYU folk dancers were there. They danced in Versailles chapel the first nite, and then for the general public in L'Hay-les-Roses - to a just up the street from where we live. They really did well and were very much appreciated. I was surprised to see Scott Bowen playing the guitar. At first, I didn't think that it was him he had grown so much. He talked for a few minutes both nites. Elder Daniels also told me to look up one of his old girl friends among the group, Gloria Beckstead - I talked for a couple of minutes to her also. Daniels will be coming this next week, and also this next week will mark my two year anniversary. Sister Shone, the sister who came out with me will be going home this next week also. I am slowly becoming one of the old codgers of the mission. There are still 6 or 7 groups ahead of me however. Tomorrow starts the "saison de vacances" and inasmuch as we live on one of the main south-bound thoroughfares, the road will be packed with cars all of tonight and tomorrow. 700,000 parisiens are expected to leave the first four days. I received the check the other day. The Châtillon branch is still one of the trouble branches of the mission. It is my opinion that the BP is a flake, but he is an active member and what can you say. At any rate there are approximately 16 people who will automatically reactivate themselves when he is demissioned. I have never heard a word of encouragement for any member since I have been here. About all one hears are criticisms and critiques. We are working with some fine people now. Some of the other teams of the district are expecting some baptisms soon. There is the Ramos family who, after 6 years of inactivity is starting to make an effort to become active. We will perhaps get the opportunity to baptize their son. Frère Ramos is an owner of one of the big cinemas at Place Clichy in Paris. He has déjà invited us to see 12 films. The Roy family: He is a member of 12 years, baptized in La Rochelle. He understands the gospel very well but sometimes when he sees things that he doesn't like he becomes a little too obstinate, and adds fuel to the fire. His wife is the nicest person, and they have a baby of 9 months. They are both about 27 years old. The Dubois family is made up of a widow and her 21 year old daughter. They both work like dogs for their meager french apt. and salary. We teach them family home evenings. Elder Ribera was very close to these people two years ago. The Bridou family is a family of timid inactives who were run out of the branch because of lack of encouragement. Their eldest daughters fiancé was taken an interest in the Church from the talent nite at conference and the BYU dancers and we hope that he will want to be taught. The Boniget family, very much pro-American and anti-DeGaulle and anti-France lived in Lebanon for several years. She is native Corsican and consequently has a hot temper. They won't come back to the branch as long as Robineau the BP is still there. This

15 all the next time Love Steve

1-7-67

Dear-Rode: Thanks for your letter of a while ago. Sorry that I'm not a bit more prompt in answering it. So you're marrying Carol. I guess those long distance phone calls paid off. Selden will be over here on the 5th leading another group of "brats", as he would call them. President Hart will be leaving us on the 10th and will be replaced by a French prof. H. Duane Anderson from some where in California. He will be glad to go after 33 months of constant problems, and reserved Sister Hart will be even more Happy I'm sure. It has (in my view) really been hard for her. She still can't communicate as I'm sure she would like to with the French members. Châtillon is a den of wolves with many problems. Of this, I guess, you are quite aware. I have been here for 2.5 months now, and already I long for the peaceful tranquility of the Loire. I was very happy in Tours. My sister missionarie will be going home this week too. Do you realize that I am where Daniels was when he was shipped down to LaRochele. Gâd! One more piece of pie to go! Stowell is Assistant to the President. Chas. Crosby is Mission Secretary and Mission Coordinator. David Sorensen Financial Secretary. Bruce Ellis is mission recorder. (Ran away, so was put in home.) Ross Hornberger is Supply Sec. and Printer. Gordon Barker and Brent Andrus are the zaps. They came out 2wks before I did. Rosha is still Jr. in Angers where Miller is DL. Steven Heaton is DL in LaRochele. Romney is DL of Paris (a prodige Walker is DL in Versailles (the 2 mo. Sr. quoi) I had the priv. to be the first one to baptize in the Chatillon baptismal font. The salle there is about through and it looks very nice. Pareee is hot, and the vancansers are filling the routh. As every summer of my life, I have the kiss-off fever. Barclay left in all his glory last week. He wrote a letter to the president during one (or after rather) big transfer asking if is letter notifying him that he was to be made zap had been delayed. He received a lot of s from the Elders in the Pyranées (sp) telling him that he was a sure fire bet. Lots of humor in that one. I can't remember when you said your marriage date was to be, but I wish you the best of luck. Carol too bien sûr. There goes a marriage honking by right now. The BYU dancers danced in Versailles and L'Way les Roses this past week. This year it was much better inasmuch as national tele did some publicity. Perhaps we can recueille les bénifices. Sabey is down in Bordeaux working as Sr. comp. I like him but haven't seen him for 8 months. Ewer was just mad DL of Orléans. He is already BP. It wasn't really a shock to anyone, because Eweur is a good man, but everyone knows that he was a member of the mission butts. Haven't you heard of the missionbutts? Sorensen was the king, but he had to abdicate. Jeff Anderson is now king and Ken Payne is Prime Minister. Members include Turpin, fischer and a few others. SamYou and Ellis until he got to the home. What a bunch of charaeters. Well, this has been a little bit of the French Mission just about at changeover time. All and all, I think the pres. is pleased with the present working level and dedication of the missionaries, it being above the average of his mission. It is going to be interesting to see the changes that will take place in the course of the next several months. Say hi to any one I know. Here's hoping that we'll be seeing you soon. Would be kind of cool to reunite 186. Gad, that was at least 10 years ago. Keep your nose clean

Love Steve

Steve

342 2
236 37
219 18
199 60

124 30
130 30
600 30

21 33
77 28

4 276
836 76

143 10
124 80

10 2 6

162 184
836 76

194 95

Y6 19-6-67

Dear Family -

Well, another week completed. We are preparing for conference which will be held in the Versailles chapel. It will consist in a member conference, and later a missionary conference. President Hart has just finished up with the conferences in the South zone and the West Zone. (As my mission stands now, I have been in the Paris zone 3 times: Paris, Nogent, Chatillon. The West zone twice: Rennes and Tours. And the South Zone once: La Rochelle. I would like to get back to the South zone if I could to see some of the people I knew down there. It has been about a year and a half since I have been down there.) My companion and I had the opportunity of baptizing an old fellow of 80 years. It was the first baptism to be held in the new fong at Chatillon. I baptized him and a member, frère Tréhin confirmed him a member. He lives just above the salle and has known the church for about 7 years. His name is Albert Rémoleur. Well for once, my room here is fairly clean. My bed is in the right hand corner looking north, and right next to it is a table on which is situated a Paris directory, and alarm clock left to me by Elder Daniels, a few coins, a key, a sack, a felt pen and my English bible; Right under it are my shoes (black keds and white socks) which are drying out. I cleaned the baptismal font in there last Saturday. Continuing south is the door leading to the hall on which is taken a hanger of my ties, my Pendalton, sweatshirt, belt and my black vest. Next comes the wall that I'm sitting in front of. It is full of shelves on which are found books, papers, slides, trombone and every thing else that I have accumulated in the last "5" years. On the next side of the room is a window and a balcon overlooking a noisy intersection called the "Croix de Berny". I can see two café (bars) a bicycle shop, a few houses, a few buildings in the distance and lots of cars going into Paris. My chest of drawers is on the other side of my room along with my bed. The room is painted a light green, and the shelves a dark green. As in most miss. apts. the walls are full of holes, from tacks, the floor isn't waxed etc. This morning I have to finish the reports and send them in to the mission home. I'm not sure whether I will get any proselyting done this morning or not. Last Monday morning I spent the day in bed with a bad cold and sore throat. It was the first time since that sick week that I spent in La Rochelle that I have had to spend ~~all~~ that time in bed. I got your letter from Cal. thank-you for the two Dollars. I hope you had a nice time there. Dad one of the Elders just transferred to my District is called VanValkenburg. His Dad is head of the Electronical engineering dept. at Princeton. Perhaps you know him. I had a long discussion with him (the Elder) and found him very interesting. His father is very anti-Wilkenson and perhaps even a little anti-BYU even though the elder wouldn't admit it. Elder VanValkenburg himself is a very liberal intellectual, left winger. He has a subscription to Dialogue for which pres. Hart has expressed his concern, but has not forbidden it. The publishers have even written the Elder asking him to find some French members to write articles. The Elder voluntarily sent this request to the president where it has been stopped. His father sends him loads of liberal, anti-BYU literature, not anti-BYU literature, but just what is written about the school on the exterior. He has a copy of the accreditation committees report on the school which is not very favorable. The school of business is not mentioned. He told me that president Wilkenson has a copy of this that he does not let out of his office and that it is not made public. I don't know if you have seen this or not, but I could

15 June 1967

Dear folks: The week seems to go by so fast, and I keep putting off the letter for lack of time. The time can always be created but a lot of times I don't make the effort. Yesterday in the DL mtg. in Paris we learned that Pres. Hart will be leaving around the first of July and that we will be having a new pres. H. Duane Anderson from Calif. who is a French professor moreover. I got a letter from Bishop Pratt. He told me that all of the missionaries are returning over in the 8th ward. Got a card from Lawrence Parish from Nairobi where he went after the evacuation. He didn't say much, but perhaps we will get the chance to see each other in Paris. The time is really flying. In 3 weeks I will have been out 2 years. The other nite I went over to Nogent and played the piano for frere Bourroux at a talent nite there. It was good to see all of the old members and investigators. Like a fool, I accepted another dinner appointment which will mean taking the time getting over there, and neglecting my own district members and investigators. We shall be having some baptisms at the end of the week. I'll tell you more about them when they happen. Clothes wise 2 year old missionaries become rather funny. Right now I am wearing my only wearable pair of shoes (the French ones I had made). The florsheim imperial right shoe rotted away because of all the gasoline and oil that had leaked out of the solex tank on it over the months. The brown pair of shoes still are barely holding together, but the outsides are all hacked up. The other black ones are out of shape and are coming loose at the seams and have no heel. Each one of these pairs of shoes has been resoled twice too. Don't worry however. The French ones are doing fine inasmuch as I had an extra thick sole put on. I am in no danger from that point of view. I usually wear. The pants I bought in Tours with my black coat. Also the French suit a great deal. The herring bone whose "bottom" was worn out and then reinforced in Nogent, has worn out again. I don't have any more than 5 more wearings out of that suit. I wear the brown suit, which has leather reinforcing on the seat, but it goes out of shape after 4 or 5 wearings. I find myself in the "very shabby but not worth buying any new clothes period". Sabey is in Bordeaux. I shall tell you last weeks visits just to show you a cross section. Monday: A catholic priest to whom we gave bofm. Shot it down as "obvious fake" etc. We had discussion on authority. In reality we accomplished not much. Bre our testimonies and left. Dan studdt. interested in Church. Comes out regularly. Says parentll consent lacking for baptism. Against US effort in Vietnam etc. A lady who has a son in Chicago who is starting to read B of M. A sexy girl whose dad is an Air France pilot and whose mother is a pacifist. They are all atheist. We went to go back and talk to the dad. Friday we visited a Professor who thinks as he reads the JS could have invented the bofm. We will try to show him otherwise. Also a music professor who thinks he has found the truth thru some inner change from reading some book. We went and taught a couple of members also. The branch here seems to be improving somewhat. Some of the inactives are starting to come out. Knowing the French people has helped me understand a point of view I think not understood by a people like us who has never undergone major disasters. I'm grateful for my mission and if I can dure out the summer, I'll be in good shape.

Lots of Love,
Thanks for your support!

5-6-67

Dear folks and Dee: It is Monday morning and my room is quite messy. I have just finished doing the reports and am getting them ready to send off. Last week was kind of a difficult week, not that the work was so hard, but that the weather made me rather lazy. The first days of June were really magnificent. Saturday evening, Sister Vialatte, a member of the Secretariat to one of France's foremost violinists, Alfred Leebenguth (who gave a concert in Providence) got us places for a concert at his private residence in Sceaux. Sceaux is a town right next to us that is very plush and rich (bourgeoise). It was very nice and interesting to mingle with the snobs and listen to the Mozart violin concertos. The construction for the Chatillonville is progressing steadily. Saturday the Elders from Chatillon went there to work. We put radiators back on their fittings and cleaned up. Some of the Elders made a rope swing from a tree and swung for a while. The bus was hideous and it needed to be cleaned too. Elder Pond, Jensen, and I washed the outside while Elder Poulsen, my comp, and two member girls Monique and Nicole Leveux washed and scrubbed the seats. Saturday we went to see M. Blondin and investigate a building located on the second highest point in the Paris area. This of course gives us a tremendous view of the countryside and part of Paris. We can see 20 kilometers away to Orly and watch the planes take off. This city (as a housing dev. is called) was constructed before the war and at one time was a model city for the world. M. Blondin's apt. before was a swank club that many dignitaries had visited including Ho Chi Minh. The French are very concerned about the events in the Middle East and many of them are volunteering to help Israel fight. Although the French govt. has taken a neutral stand, the people sympathize with the Jews and think that Nasser is a fink. The French people's stand on our activity in Viet Nam is that we are making a complete mistake; that we will lose, "that the people should be left to decide their own fate. The Americans are in agreement with this and of course their interpretation is different as to the means. The French say that even though we say we stand for liberty we have no right to impose it on another people. etc. etc. We contacted a Catholic priest last week who "condescended" to take a look at the BofM. We are going to talk to him today. It will be interesting. The Chatillon branch is really a prob. Many animosities and many people that think they have already attained perfection. This gives them, of course the right to criticize and chastize others who admit their faults, moreover, creating inactivity and a very poor spirit. The BP the chief protagonist was absent this week from fast and testimony mtg and consequently we had an excellent meeting with an excellent spirit. I guess it is the vacation there at home. It is hard to believe Dee that you will be in college. How is the tennis. This will be my 4th summer in a row in Paris and my 5th summer outside of the United States in a row. My last 4 birthdays will have been spent in Paris. Say, if you ever decided to send me anything, a couple of Avon Deordnts, and a bottle of English leather would be great to have. This is very expensive in France as the Frenchman hasn't completely caught on. This, with one of my galabeyas by sea mail would be very fine. Got a letter from Elder Daniels who will be coming next month. He said he was going to drop by to see you before he left. J'ai akhez écrit, d'ailleurs je ne trouve plus de temps. Je vous aime tous.

Steve

26-5-67

Dear Home: I guess I'm pretty delinquent in not getting my letters off to you. My thoughts are often with you. I think that I have one letter to make up. I shall try to get it off. We had a strike a week ago which for the French is nothing more than another day off work. The weather the last couple of days has been very un-May. Lots of rain and wind. When it rains I figure that the extra money I have to spend taking the bus is worth it. However I don't use the bus as much as I did in Nogent. We have been doing a lot of teaching lately, and have a pretty good pool of investigators. We're hoping for a couple of baptisms in June. Perhaps it would interest you to hear about the District. My companion is Elder Poulsen from SEC. He went to East High School and graduated in 1965. He has been out about 14 months and by mission standards hasn't progressed as much as he could have, not knowing his lessons etc. He is however a good man and a very enjoyable person to be with. He seems to need more sleep than any person I have ever seen, sometimes falling to sleep in mtgs. with investigators or members. He was shocked the first couple of days with me because I got him up at 6 O'clock. I have gotten up at 6 my whole mission until I got to Nogent, and then sometimes the late hrs. forced me to call myself pragmatist and I sometimes got up latter. Back in Tours, late hours were scarce and I was up at 6 again. All the time. Right now I get up at 6 if I get to bed by 11. This is perhaps 4 days out of the week. In our apt. are Elders Ellis from Ogden (SR) and Elder Wickenbotham (Jr) from Garden Grove Calif. Ellis has been out 12 months and Wick. 2 mo. Elder Ellis seems to be going thru a bad stage. He has done nothing for a month but moping around the apt. He says he wasn't made for this work and that his personality wasn't conducive to getting along with people and talking to them. His companion, therefore is getting a peer start on his mission. Elder Ellis is a good guy and in his own element (math, science etc.) he would progress very easily. In the other apt. there is Elder Jensen (sr) from Idaho, and Elder Nutter from Wisconsin. Jensen has been out for about 17 mo; and Nutter for about 12. This is a good team. Elder Jensen has been doing the good work, finding lots of Investigators and doing lots of teaching. Part of his reasons for doing so well is so that he could convince the pres. that spiritually he could afford to go to the LeMans 24 hours. He is an avid grand prix racing fan and cried when the Italian Ferrari pilot Bandini died. The president has banned the race this year and Elder Jensen is very upset. I think personally he could afford to go to the race, but the pres. has 180 other Elders he has to worry about. Elder Nutter is a good Elder and is ready to be made Sr. companion. The other temp in the apt is made up of Elder Pond 16 mo. from Idaho (Sr) and Elder Cook 12mo. (Jr) from Washington. Elder Pond does little work and is to be found quite often in bed thus creating a friction between he and his comp; he is intolerant of "kissing it off" It is tough out here. It takes a lot of self starting and decision making, and I am by no means the Perfect missionary, but right now we are steadily plugging along and doing so we are finding the people to teach. Perhaps I can tell you a little about the branch the next letter.

Love Steve

18-5-67

Dear folks: I'm still a letter behind. I said I'd catch up this last week, but I didn't did I? This letter may get to you late also because of the holidays and the strikes that are taking place in France now. Last night I went into Paris to discuss with several other District Leaders and a psychologist (sp) Dr. Jean Rice Kenmore (la recently back from a long stay in Thailand and now head of the American foundation for the blind here in Paris. She is a member of the church and she wanted to hear our ideas on the mission, where she thought that improvements could be made etc. It was all very interesting, but I don't think anything will be that of that hasn't already been conceived and tried by someone. I'm sort of in the process of integrating myself here in Châtillon. There is about 10 percent activity in this branch and it has lots of problems. The area which we have covers most of the southern outskirts of Paris, and it is very hilly. Today is a strike (general) in France. No electricity, no gas, no mail etc. These are the communist unions working for more benefits from the govt. A strike in France usually covers a period of about 12 hours. During this period there are no trains, busses or transportation of any kind. This means that the roads and arteries into Paris, including the one on which we live are literally clogged with cars - people who usually commute by train or bus to get into the city. There are also army trucks which take the place of the busses to help transport people. I have a new companion now. His name is Elder Poulson from SLC. Elder Smith was only to stay long enough to get me more or less integrated here. He has gone to the of Bourges. I told you that in Châtillon a chapel-house is being done. We are waiting anxiously for its termination. It should be a boon to the members and an aid to proselyting. I'm anxiously awaiting your next letter as always Love, Stephen

