

General
Correspondence

CHURCH NEWS



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September 30, 1981

Stephen D. Taylor
1290 Gladiola Street
Dasmariñas Village
Makati,
Philippines

Dear Mr. Taylor:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Church News editorial, "What About Creation?"

The editorials for the Church News are written by a member of the Council of the Twelve and are read by the First Presidency prior to publication. We do little or no editing of the editorials and do not determine the contents thereof.

Thank you for your interest in the Church News.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dell Van Orden', written over a horizontal line.

Dell Van Orden
Church News Editor

DVO:mg

50th YEAR 1931-1981

To Jack + Maria Goolsby

9/17/81



Though I'm somewhat late,
Myself I truly would hate
If I didn't take the time,
To compose a little rhyme
That expresses our deep gratitude
For Rival-country's pastoral solitude
For the chance we had to ~~roam~~^{roam}
On the land of the Goolsby home.
For your kind hospitality
Which is obviously your specialty

Thanks again
Margaret + Steve Taylor

29 August 1981
1290 Gladiola Street
Dasmarinas Village
Makati, Philippines

The Editor
Church News
30 East 1st South
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111
U.S.A.

Editorial: What About Creation?
Church News--Week ending August 22, 1981

Dear Sir,

I believe your editorial may be misleading. You seem to suggest an "either-or" relationship between scientific and biblical explanations of the Creation:

It is like material given by many lecturers who also try to give explanations that they themselves admit are based on supposition but which they present as established facts.

Why are biblical and scientific explanations of the Creation necessarily contradictory in the first place?

Is it not possible for the Bible to be directed toward the "why's" of the Creation and for science to deal with the "how's"? The Bible doesn't really deal in "how's." To be sure, it does tell us the sequence of the Creation eg. animals were created before man etc. As to the actual process of creation/organization, the Bible is silent.

Just as the Bible is silent on the process, or the "how's," so science offers little or no help on the "why's." Implicit in many scientific explanations of the earth's creation is that chance or happenstance was the driving force. Indeed, the word evolution is taken to imply random change. However, no scientist can say with certainty that even evolution is not driven by a purposive outside force, the nature of which we do not currently understand with today's levels of understanding; that the "big bang" theory of the creation of the universe is not God driven. A scientist of the future may well define evolution as an archaic term once used to describe what we now understand to be a logical process used by a higher being (God) to create a physical location on which he could "bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man."

We tend to be blind to our own assumptions when we are locked inside them. Yet, we don't have to look far in Church History or scripture for support to the idea of a harmony of biblical and scientific knowledge. Joseph Smith said that the Gospel embraces all truth. These words have been endorsed by Brigham Young and Farly P. Pratt among others. Eternal progression implies an infinite unfolding of layer upon layer of knowledge/truth, all internally

(over)

consistent and in harmony. Who is to say that "evolution" is not a tool of God with ultimate causal rationale--the basic elements of which we are currently unable to understand, but as future knowledge unfolds will harmonize with biblical explanations of the Creation? Perhaps we need a new word for that tool. We are limited not so much by our tools as by our vision, and our vision is limited by words. Evolution has too many adverse connotations in today's language to describe a process of God. But perhaps one day there will be a new word that describes a process of creation not unlike what some call evolution; a process behind which there is divine method and purpose. I quote from Edward Abbey in Desert Solitaire:

Language makes a mighty loose net with which to go fishing for simple facts, when facts are infinite. If a man knew enough he could write a whole book about the juniper tree.

Rather than put the biblical and scientific explanations of the Creation in opposition, one to the other, let's seek to find the harmony between the two.

Very Truly Yours

Stephen D. Taylor

Church News

EDITORIAL PAGE

What about creation?

A new and very interesting book has recently been published by Reader's Digest. It is a story of the American Indians, and in many respects, reveals what a tremendous effort they have made to rise above their past.

But it is like many other books being published now, including textbooks for use in the schools. It is like comments made by forest rangers at our national parks as they attempt to explain the geology and other features of the landscape.

It is like material given by many lecturers who also try to give explanations that they themselves admit are based on supposition but which they present as established facts.

And what is this similarity? It is that they attempt to explain creation, or at least the origin of man, according to the hypotheses of science, leaving God entirely out of the picture.

We do not attempt to argue with science. Most scientists are brilliant and honest, and they give their deductions as they see them from their studies. And so they should.

But why leave God out of the creation story?

It could be that worldwide faith is diminishing, despite the Gallup and other surveys that indicate that most people believe in God. But the fact is that most people do not obey Him, and if they do not obey, do they really believe?

The Bible is the best selling book in the world, and may it long remain so. But do people understand what is in the Bible? If most people believe the Bible would they brush aside the story of creation that is in that holy book?

God does not work through accidents. He is purposeful in all He does. He is the Creator, and He made the universes with a firm objective in mind. That great objective was to provide a place on which we, His children, may live out our mortal existence.

This same creative effort will transform our earth into a celestial globe where even God and Christ may dwell. No accident could accomplish that. No act of evolution over a period of millions or billions of years could do it, either.

God is the Creator, through His Son Jesus Christ. If we lose sight of that fact we become blind to the purpose of life. That purpose is that we may become like Christ and like our Eternal Father, whose spirit offspring we are. (Acts 17; Heb. 12; Rom. 8.)

What did Paul say about creation?

God, through Jesus Christ, made the worlds! (Heb. 1:1-3.)

Christ, Paul taught, "is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature; For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible . . . all things were created by him, and for him . . . and by him all things consist." (Col. 1:15-17.)

Isn't that plain enough for anyone?

If we believe in Christ, shall we not believe His own word? He Himself said that He created all things. Numerous modern scriptural references make this clear, as for instance, D&C 76:24; 93:9-10. The Pearl of Great Price is especially firm on this point. (Moses 1:32-35.)

IT IS WELL to study science, it is well to consider what scholars say, but when it comes to reaching conclusions, let us remember the word of God.

ally talk to your children

BY GEORGE D. DURRANT

Director, Priesthood Genealogy program

Down 20 to 4, I was winning because he was speaking to me from his heart. With the score 30 to 8 for him, he became silent. I didn't need an answer to his problem because I was listening and I cared. Often the best answer is to just listen and care.

It was time for supper. The interview (one of almost daily informal ones) was over. We had both won because we had talked. Interviewing your children is really just talking with them and listening to them. The only time I've ever talked with my children is when I've been with them.

But what of the more formal and less frequent interviews? Extend an interview invitation by saying, "Son, I've got something I'd sure like to talk to you about. When can we get together?" Cancel out if the feeling isn't right. Both of you need to be feeling good.

Once you are alone together, you might say, "I really appreciate your taking the time to talk

with me, son. What could you accomplish that would really make you happy?" He may respond by telling you his goals. If he doesn't, then tell him some of yours.

"Is there anything that is bothering you in any way?" He may tell you his concerns. Don't be upset if his answers are not what you wish they were. Relating concerns is the beginning of working them out. Reply by saying, "I can see why you feel that way. Here is the way I see it." Don't give "final word" answers. Reason with him in a respectful way.

If the time seems right, smile and ask how he is doing with the commandments. Give plenty of time for response.

"Now is there anything you want to ask me?" Be positive, don't criticize, bear your testimony.

"Thanks, my dear son. Now are you ready to be thrashed in ping pong?"

Feelings most important

We start with interviews when the children have the desire to participate, at about age 3.

I encourage them to talk about anything they wish. The feeling is more important than the subject. I choose a scripture and discuss it briefly. We start with a prayer and end with a hug. I make notes and follow up where necessary.

We look forward to special events such as baptism or an advancement in the priesthood. A special interview is held right before these events. — Kent Palmer, West Valley City, Utah

Psychologist backs idea

I have been holding personal interviews with my children for many years and feel it is the No. 1 reason our teens have never rebelled or experimented with undesirable practices, and have kept close and obedient.

As a school psychologist I recommend it highly to the parents of children I see.

One of the most important ingredients of good counseling is the follow-up. If you discover children need something that will help them feel as good as an older sister or the accomplished friend up the street, you can help them discover and develop a talent on their own. Professionals can't do that.

FUTURE SUBJECTS:

Aug. 29 "How to prepare a lesson."

Sept. 5 "How to 'love thy neighbor.'"

Professionals can't deal with their children.

August 27, 1981

40 Woodbury Road St. Ives

After 6 weeks at Beauty point, we located a house in a suburban area named St. Ives. Not on the harbor, SI is 16 km north of downtown Sydney. With nice homes and well kept yards, SI was said to be the homing place ~~xxx~~ of numerous middle/upper level executives with high mortgages. I guess it was the swimming pool that caught my eye; for, in retrospect, the house was rather plain. White, brick frame, one level, four bedrooms, 1 shaped living and dining area, kitchen off the family room. For us, however, it was a return to suburbia after close to 3 years in India/ or the Philippines.

The owner was an American botanist who went to Rockhampton for 2 or 3 years to teach college. They seemed like nice people and thru in care for the garden and the pool into the lease. We later learned a lesson from this. The people they had hired were teenagers who proved to be quite unreliable with out the hands on supervision of the owner. We watched our pool get dirty, weeds grow in the garden and the lawn go without care for long periods of time. In the end we ended up doing much of the work ourselves.

Being at this home was not particularly a good time for me. I'll point out in a later section that I was somewhat frustrated by conditions at work, and I let it affect me at home. I watched a lot of TV; didn't read too many books -- if any and generally drifted in terms of my personal development. Did some swimming in the pool. Enjoyed taking Jake and Phoebe swimming. Jake took to the water without fear and on 2 occasions we nearly lost him. Margaret left him near the pool to answer the phone one weekday afternoon. The phone was just inside the door and one could see the pool by leaning out. Margaret picked up the phone, then turned around to check on Jake and saw him floating face down in the pool. She rushed out --he was blue in the face. ~~xxx~~ The party on the other end of the phone Mrs. Moskovitz, another bank wife, sense the danger and called an ambulance. In the meantime, Margaret pulled Jacob out of the pool and began shaking him by the legs. She later found out that this was the correct procedure in such a situation though she did not know it at the time. An ambulance did come, but Jake had revived by that time.

It was in the back yard at St. Ives that Jacob first started noticing airplanes. One or the other of us would hold him, and upon hearing a jet flying overhead he would point up and yell, "Hee, hee, hee," So Jacob's word for airplanes ~~ix~~ was hees.

We always enjoyed going as a family to the Mc Donalds at Waitara. This was a regular Saturday exercise. Two Big Macs, two cheese burgers, two large French fries, two large Cokes, two small Sprites and sometimes two apple pies. We pretty much kept this custom throughout our stay in Australia. Byt the time we left in late 79 I'm sure we had visited over 25 different MacDonalds in the greater Sydney area.

Phoebe started Nursery school her over on Bobbin Head road. I remember that when Dad and Mom came to visit us at St. Ives, Dad couldn't remember the name of Bobbin Head road, and called it Robin Hood road. The excursions out into the Australian bush land North of Sydney/ were enjoyable -- including Bobbin Head, an inlet from the sea off the Hawksbury river not more than 3 miles from our home in Ku-ring-gai Chase National park. We rarely saw animals, but they did have reserves or enclosures where they had kangaroos. Phoebe would walk around and tried to pat the kangaroos.

We bought some bicycles in Sydney had child seats put on the back, but in the end we didn't ride them too much as the area we lived in was quite hilly.

I won't say that I was unhappy, because I derived a great deal of satisfaction from being with Margaret and the kids. Extracurricular times were generally spent with them on drives, outings, church functions, with friends. It is also true, however, that I was tremendously preoccupied with work. Many things were happening there which challenged my views on how things should be done. I began to gain a greater appreciation for difference in individuals, but not without strain on my own long-held, strong sense of values.

Our only concern
you'll want to learn —
The cheese cake will make us
too ~~grr~~ girthy.

May thanks for a
nice evening
Steve + Margaret
Taylor
5/27/81

Carol + Richard



The steaks were fine,
And so was the wine,
An evening very well spent.

We blessed our luck
To talk with Chuck —
A really lovable gent.

So here's to you
Our gratitude true
We are honored you that us
Worthy.

(over)

Cally + Joe



We wondered not about our fate;
We knew the food would be great.

And so it was, ^{We're} I'm glad to say—
Not average and cooked just any old way.

Interesting guests and terrific host.
To dine at the Nagy's is really the best.

Thanks again for
nice evening Tue. mite

Steve + Margaret
8/26/81

Our only concern
you'll want to learn —
The cheesecake will make us
too ~~grr~~ gitty.

May thanks for a
nice evening
Steve + Margaret
Taylor
5/27/81

August 13, 1981

Maurine Ward
Bookcraft
Salt Lake City, Utah

From Adam's Rib to Women's Lib

Dear Mrs. Ward,

I am about 1/2 way through your book and would like to take up a point with you. You quote from a piece written by Judy Syfers in the early '70's on how she would like to have a "wife" to care for her, minister to her etc. etc. Then, you state(quoted from page 83):

"But ominous beneath these flippant words is the attitude that to serve is to be abused; or further, that service in marriage is all one-sided. How can she forget the man who works long hard hours not for pleasure cruises, but for children's braces, not for sleek race cars but for the grocery bill?"

I think you may be missing an important point here. From my observation and experience, most traditional husbands do not work because they want a boat or for the purpose of paying a grocery bill. Certainly those are by-products of work—the one a "nice-to-have" the other a necessity. The real pay-off of the job however comes from the satisfaction of performing the task; from a sense of participation with work mates; a sense of involvement in something important etc. This, of course, is not the case with all husbands lest I be accused of making a generalization. Certainly, there must be many husbands in nuclear families with a non-working-outside-of-the-home wife who consider their jobs in the context of your above quote. In the main, however, I don't believe the modern husband works to pay for dental bills and luxuries. He works for benefits that are intangible.

On the other hand, many stay at home wives have been unable to obtain comparable intangible benefits from their home tasks. Lets face it, these tasks do not involve a multiplicity of work associations. Society as a whole has not ascribed to these tasks a sense of importance etc. etc. Working at home inhibits, to a great extent, a person's ability to learn, grow, and develop in intellectual capacity. Under these circumstances, is it so unusual that some wives yearn to be participants in environments where they can not only see their intellect stimulated, but where they can feel a sense of involvement in the main stream?

Trying to impute societal value to staying at home is a challenging task. In the church we do a lot of talking about it, but over the long term it won't work. The fact that we have been unable to attribute some economic value to home tasks is part of the problem. Another, part of the problem is that the wife works under no supervision (unlike her husband), and while she may yearn to achieve, she lacks that motivating force of a kick in the tail, the threat of which her husband sees daily in his job.

I think your book is extremely well written and I enjoy it very much. I'll wait to see what the conclusions are before I send a final evaluation(if any!) I just wanted to raise the above point, as I don't see that Judy Syfers was being as "one-sided" as you suggest.

Very Truly Yours,

Stephen D. Taylor
c/o Citibank
Box 7506 MIA
Pasay City, Philippines

August 6, 1981

ARRIVAL AND FIRST IMPRESSIONS -- INSTALLATION

Bob Osborne met us at the Sydney (Mascot) airport. Volvo station wagon as I recall. Hair medium length and somewhat curly, he was about 45. I had been informed earlier by Rick Wheeler that he was fairly senior in the comptrollers Division under Bernie Stott, and had been sent to IAC to be head of Administrative Services, supposedly supplying some of the Control and Process expertise of the Bank to the uneducated out in the Australian "backwater." Bob later emerged to be the most incompetent man I had ever met in the bank up until that time... indeed, he still holds that status even at this writing. He has since left the bank, divorced, added 4 inches to his hair length, and remarried a Hungarian immigrant to Australia. The last I heard, he was serving as a management consultant in Sydney for an executive leasing firm. But, more on Bob later.

We stayed at the Wentworth hotel in down town Sydney for about 4 days. The hotel was the best in town, but seemed kind of tacky compared to the Hong Kong Hilton where we had passed the previous 4 weeks. There was a coffee shop on the bottom floor called "The Last Train," and I found it amusing that we couldn't ~~ring~~ sign for our breakfast, but had to pay cash. Of course it was reimbursable later on, still, it was a minor inconvenience. It had been all settled by Bob Osborne, we were to move temporarily into a house in Mosman at Beauty Point, near the Spit bridge on Middle Harbor. Bob and his family had leased this house for 6 months on their arrival and the lease had 3 months to run. We could save the extra cost and hassle of a hotel existence and start our settling in and house hunting from a more permanent situation. This was ok with us. The house was lovely. Only a road separated us from the harbor, located about 50 yards down a 30 percent grade. On the other side of the road was typical Australian bush landscape of gum trees, bottle brush, and other unique vegetation. From the bay window of the white ~~one~~ one storied house we could see the Spit Bridge open and close on the hour. Off to the ~~right was the main section~~ left was the main section of Middle Harbor. It was fascinating for us to see the sail boats passing thru the narrow spit into the Harbor.

In a couple of days our air shipment came. A blue steel trunk and a couple of suitcases. I was at work, but as Margaret tells the story. The delivery man knocked on the door. Margaret told him that he could put the items in the entry hall. In the true spirit of Australian egalitarianism he said, "can yer come help me 'em, lie-dee?" Months before in India, and later in the Philippines, Margaret had had 20-30 coolies help her. I say this not because Margaret was upset at having to help, but rather to illustrate the contrast between the undeveloped and developed country. The surplus of labor on the one hand, and the intransigence of the worker on the other (insolence)?

The setting of Sydney is something to behold. Beautiful harbor - the water actually appears to be clean. There are in fact some very nice beaches on the harbor. There is a main section to the harbor and a series of inlets or fjords on the north and south sides. On the south side is the famous Sydney opera house, with its curved, insect, winged look. The harbor bridge spans the harbor. A cantilever bridge?

I remember in the first week of our stay we took a ferry from the City, having walked to Circular quay from the Wentworth hotel, to the Toronga park zoo. There we got a first hand view of the harbor. It was full of sailboats and other pleasure craft. There were naval installations with their grey warships on both sides of the Harbor. The zoo was great, especially with its preponderance of marsupials. Phoebe was 4 at this time and Jake just over 1 year.

Manila, August 2nd, 1981

I didn't write much in Australia. Yet the events there contributed perhaps disproportionately in shaping who I am today and who I am likely to become tomorrow. Sometimes I step outside of my self and look down and say "what are you doing here?" "What are you doing in Australia? You don't belong here! You belong in the US where normal Americans are living out their lives, fulfilling the standard roles of society." And yet, there I was! I knew my paternal grandfather spent an LDS mission there back in 1911. William Weldon Taylor. I believe that as a young missionary he was even the mission President for a year or so. So did my Uncle Paul Taylor ---spend a mission in Australia I mean.

What were my impressions of the country prior to going? Kangaroos, beaches and bush. I thought the people would probably be somewhat backward in the way of fashion, education. The country image predominated over the urban image. I had met one Australian before. Sister Sandra Shone from Frankston, Victoria. We were in the French mission together, assigned to the town of Tours in the Valley of the Loire river. This area is famous for chateaux, and our missionary district, of which I was district leader, would take occasional trips by motorbike out to these beautiful castles. The proximity to this beautiful Australian drew me into a half mad infatuation with her, though as a good (scared?) missionary I never consummated my inner urgings. One of my true regrets was that I never took the time to look up Sandra Shone when I was in Australia. I went to Melbourne 10 or 12 times and certainly had the chance. I had even learned her married name from friends in Sydney. I don't know why I didn't call. I guess I was just lazy. For some reason it has never been in my nature to go out of my way to restore old relationships. Much of the time I regret this trait, though I still never seem to do much about it. Back to the story. But, I should back up a bit first.

A bank (Citibank) reorganization had put India under the direction of Rick Wheeler, SVP. He was in charge of Asia. In the latter part of 1973 he paid a visit to Calcutta and was nice enough to spend some time with Margaret and me at the Bengal club. He indicated that I had had close to two successful years in operations and that it was time to get some account management training. After a stint at Citibank's Asia Pacific training center in Manila (Philcad), I would be sent to Indonesia to be an account manager, the next step in the Citibank training process before branch management responsibility.

On our homeleave visit to New York in June of 1974 after completion of the Philcad course I picked up a message at the Drake hotel. Rick wanted to meet me for breakfast the next day.

"Steve, we've got some problems in Australia. We own 40 percent of a finance company down there and it has got into trouble because of some bad Real Estate loans. We have 4 guys down there now, but we don't have anybody to teach the people good credit practice, to introduce credit process into the company. Since you are a recent graduate of Philcad and have credit training fresh on your mind, would you like to go to Australia? We are sending a new Managing Director down there too. Charlie Kelly. One of Charlie's assistants will also be going with him, Chuck Holland."

At that stage of my career it was customary, so I thought, to go where you were asked. Margaret seemed ok on the idea, though beyond our impressions cited earlier, neither of us knew what to expect.

I spent about 3 weeks in New York working in the Real Estate section. Rick thought it would be a good idea for me to pick up some knowledge in that area. We spent almost 4 additional weeks in Hong Kong waiting for the difficult to obtain Australian visa and work permit. Then, in September of 1974 we arrived at Sydney airport. 3 hours previously we had seen our first Australians when the Qantas flight stopped to refuel at Darwin. The Aussies had short pants and long knee socks! Well there it is folks the first thing I remember of Australia is that the men wore short pants and knee socks. Were you looking for something more profound?

11 M & 1/2
2 Refer to me
or briefcase

Manila, August 6, 1981

M.M. Kaye
c/o St Martin's Press
175 Fifth Avenue
New York, N.Y. 10010

Dear Mrs. Kaye

I have just reached page 261 of, Shadow of the Moon, and am experiencing the same emotional surge that I experienced in Far Pavilions. Your crescendos take quite a while, but oh how exquisite they are.

I think the world yearns for romantic adventure. It is a reminder of a seemingly less complicated, more predictable past - a temporary respite from today's turbulent times. The recent royal wedding is a case in point. Why do people take such an interest in the wedding of a prince without real political power? It is, of course, the romanticism in all of us!

My wife and I spent over two years in India in the early 70's, so your writing has a special meaning to us. Your descriptions of that magical land are reminders to us of our own experience. Your imagery — your tone: "...a mongoose ran along the parapet, keeping to the shadows, and checked by the sight of the two motionless humans, fluffed out its tail and whisked away with a little chattering cry of rage..." beautifully enhances the romantic story line.

Well, anyway, I just wanted to thank you for your contribution towards enriching my life. ~~Thanks!~~

Very Truly Yours,

Stephen D. Taylor
c/o Citibank
Box 7506 MIA
Pasay City, Philippines

7/14/80

The Editor
The Daily Herald
Provo, Utah

Dear Sir,

I was raised in Provo, I attended Provo City Schools and graduated from BYU in 1969. I haven't lived in Provo since that time, however, I continue to think of this area as home. I own property in Utah Valley and return at least once a year to enjoy the climate, see family and renew acquaintances.

Most of my time away from Utah Valley has been spent overseas. I and my family (2 children) now live in the Philippines where I work for an American corporation. Because of the comparative unavailability of consumer products overseas, we look forward to shopping a great deal when we return to the Provo area on our once-a-year trips "home."

I thought your readers would be interested in our evaluation of shopping in the valley. Naturally we felt we had two choices for shopping areas: 1. The University mall area, and 2. Downtown Provo. What a choice! Who wouldn't prefer to go to the mall? Right? Wrong! For us, downtown Provo had the mall beat hands down.

It is easy to generalize. We didn't visit all stores either at the mall or downtown. But we visited enough in each area to give us the distinct feeling that service-wise, downtown Provo was far superior. We found it difficult to get service and help at the mall. In most stores at the mall there were far too many customers for the service people available. Many of the service people that we eventually did meet seemed uninterested and often discourteous. They were no doubt harried and hassled by having to cater to more customers than they could handle (good news for the merchants, but bad news for us!).

Conversely, in downtown Provo, service was always immediate and courteous. It is great to have a salesperson be able to spend some time with you explaining his or her product and supporting your purchase with some reassurance that you are taking the right decision.

Naturally, service isn't all people look for in a shopping experience. Parking, location, price, variety, selection etc. are other equally important factors. But for people like us - interested in courteous, prompt service - downtown Provo is where we will be doing our shopping during our future trips to Provo. *Incidentally, we found that the selection, price, etc. were competing in downtown Provo.*

S. D. Taylor

if not better

we found the selection of goods adequate as well.

May 12, 1980

Bruce Hewett
Philippines Manila Mission
Manila, Philippines

Dear Bruce,

Sorry I have taken so long to reply to your letter of a few weeks ago. We have been pretty busy, with work and visitors etc. that I have had little time even for myself. I was happy to hear from you.

We have been here close to 8 months now and are really enjoying our stay. We are in a nice home in Dasmarinas Village in Makati, not far from Pres. Iba's home. We have had some visitors from the Greenwich Ward. The Brown family came up and spent about 10 days with us in February. The Mitchells from the Norman Hurst ward will be coming up for a week in June. They are on their way to assume the Mission presidency in Hong Kong. The Websters will be coming to visit us in August. During the month of July, we will be taking a trip to the US for our annual home leave.

I hope you are enjoying your Mission experience. I know it must be quite a change for you. Going on my mission was for me. Not only must you get used to a different living environment eg. living conditions, food, climate, but you must learn to adjust to two different sorts of people: 1. Your missionary companions and Colleges - indeed, many of these will be foreign to you and include Americans, Filipinos etc. and 2. the Filipino people themselves who, I'm sure you have found out by now live at a much different level of standard of living than you are used to seeing.

All these adjustments to make can seem quite overwhelming at first. Indeed there are a number of minuses that could make the experience seem rather dismal. What about the missionary companion you meet that might not be so keen on working according to Mission Rules? who would rather spend his time reading magazines than proselyting. Or, the missionary who does not seem wholly committed to the work he is doing. You may wonder why he came on a mission in the first place. I can only say that all people are not the same. One of the great lessons in life to learn is that not all people are equally committed to the same things. There are 2 main ways an Elder could respond to a companion that exhibited some of these so called "minus Characteristics." He could antagonize him, hound him, not talk to him or otherwise exhibit un-Christian-like behavior, or he could try to make the best of the situation, giving his companion positive support in areas of weakness.

2nd Nephi talks about opposition in all things. I am sure the pressures on your life have increased. But, I can assure you that rewards/blessings will flow in equally increased proportions if you persevere! You may have heard me say that the hardest steel must go through the hottest fire.

Another way of looking at the situation is this. You (or anyone for that matter) have 2 choices in looking forward at your mission experience. You can make it a good one eg. learn to find what is good in the people (there is much!), learn the Gospel in greater depth, learn to live in a companionship where one never always (nor should he) gets his own way (by the way, believe it or not this is also great training for marriage); or, you can make it a bad one, by fighting change, resisting difference etc. The choice is yours. But making the right choice will imply that work. It is not always easy, but it will be worth it in the end, because it will make you a better man, better prepared to make the most of your life and realize the potential inherent in you. Also, don't overlook the most important benefit of all: that of bringing fellow human beings into the Gospel. He who is in the service of his fellow man is only in the service of his God. I know you will make the right choice. Write me when you get a chance. I would be happy to talk to you alone, but you must get permission from your Mission President first. I know Steve Iba. He is a great man. Talk to him - open up to him. Margaret and I would love to have you and your companion over to the house when you are in Manila. Call us at 859504.

VTY, Steve Taylor

May 14, 1974

To the Officers of FNCB Calcutta:

I'm sorry that I haven't taken the time to write earlier. Margaret, Phoebe, Jacob and I wish to thank you for the lovely gift (ornate pitcher and matching glasses) you gave us, and for the welcoming/going away get together you had for Jim and myself.

I enjoyed working in Calcutta a great deal. The team spirit of the officers there went a long way towards creating an enjoyable work atmosphere, and atmosphere conducive to achievement. My best wishes to each of you.

In the immortal words of S. K. Gupta, well known branch philosopher, "all the five fingers are not equal." Please remember that piece of wisdom at the next working lunch so that you avoid biting off your thumb.

Drop a card when you can.

Sincerely yours,

in the rush.

Here is april paper which takes form of letter written to N. G. Pamnani
Staff Operations Officer, Citibank Bombay. May 13, 1974

Dear Nanoo,

I don't usually write thank-you letters for getting thank-you letters... but thanks! However, the main purpose of this letter is to divert much of the credit you gave me for Calcutta's 4 Operations Inspection rating from myself (per your letter) to Jack Carter.

Jack had a terrific organizational ability. His organization actually ran the way it was supposed to-- each sector responsible on its own for its own set of goals and targets. Jack would monitor and follow-up depending on the level of priority and the ability and performance of the individual responsible for those goals, to insure that, overall, the branch was headed in the right direction.

It was a good experience for all of the sector heads I feel. Jack let us think we were big shots (even though we were not) and boy, the motivation to do a good job and to achieve established goals surged under this type of environment. Jack's occasional suggestions, or indeed, instructions were not made by a distrusting, uncertain leader to suspect or incompetent subordinates. Rather, suggestions or instructions were made by one "colleague" to another in a spirit of mutual respect and trust. I feel a real self fulfilling prophesy was made manifest by Jack in Calcutta branch. All of us were treated as if we were good (despite our relative degrees of individual competence) and a real desire to fulfill that expectation ensued on the part of everyone. Those of us who were less competent received more council and intervention from Jack, but it was always constructive and on a colleague to colleague basis.

This is in contrast to the type of branch manager or Profit Center head who tries to run the whole puppet show by himself. Ultimately he misses some cues (there are a lot of puppets and strings to keep track of) and the whole show (the real results, not the leader's ability to polish his ego before others) turns out to be mediocre. Mediocrity is further encouraged by the demotivation of possible key subordinates who otherwise under good leadership would be able to pull the right string on cue

Certainly, also, the specific contribution of Bruce Brenn in forcing a no nonsense labor situation contributed to an atmosphere in the branch where operations could show improvement.

And what about the volumes reduction? That helped in contributing to operations improvement also

So, while I thank you for your congrats, I hope this not puts whatever achievements ~~manmade~~/improvements in Cal operations in perspective. Indeed, maybe a 4 rating is not such a good thing given the negotiating strength it may give the union as far as the court cases are concerned.

Hope all is well with you. Deeply appreciated your support and guidance and sometime harassment to get us off our tails when needed, as you did quite a few times. No small portion of Calcutta's 4 goes to you also. Thanks. Haven't mentioned the Cal Op officer's team here, though I did do so personally to them. Feel DNB should receive some recognition come review time in July. Anyway, best of luck. Look us up if you're in the area. Cheers, STEVE

the credit for

there were

COPY FOR DEPARTMENTAL FILES
FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK
CALCUTTA

September 7, 1973

Dear Randy and fellow Infinity members,

I've often thought about that luncheon we had and the commitments we made. People usually don't follow through on things like this, but hats off to you for doing so.

I won't be able to make the reunion (Margaret and I were in the States during parts of July and August), but you might show this letter and the enclosed pictures of the family to anyone interested.

I scored 100% on those predictions of 5 years ago. Did anyone else come close?

	<u>Forecast</u>	<u>Actual</u>
1. Wife's eyes	brown	brown
2. Wife's hair	brown	brown
3. Number kids	2	2
4. Salary	In excess of prediction.	

Lets try to keep up the contact. Any one of you guys on the road has an open invitation to stay with us. We'll be in Beirut, Lebanon from about Jan. 74 to June 74. After that, check with my folks at 1861 Oak Lane, Provo. Tel. 801-374-5860.

vty Steve and Margaret Taylor

Can you believe that it has been five
years since we all were at school giving
Rahš and Cheers?

Remember our club called infinity? A sharp
group we all agree.

We made predictions. The time has elapsed.
Did your dreams come true or have yours
collapsed?

Let's keep our date at conference time to
see who's bald or committed a crime.

Seriously now, lets renew old acquaintance.
It's truly needed for our brotherhood
maintaiance.

R.S.V.P. If you can come to Utah for confer-
ence this fall we will tentatively
plan to meet in the lobby of the
Hotel Utah on Saturday at twelve
thirty o'clock. Send any thoughts
you have on our reunion activities.

Randy Turner
2511 Artesia Blvd.
Redondo Beach, Calif.
90278