

AEROGRAMMES HOME

Jeffry Paul Belnap

1977 January to February

SERIES FROM KOREA

[1976.12.16](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff's first mission reflections, expressing happiness, cultural curiosity, early teaching and proselyting experiences, budgeting concerns, Christmas activities, Korean language struggles, and strong optimism about missionary purpose.

[1977.01.04](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff describes adapting to Korean housing, bathhouses, finances, New Year activities, English classes, traditional games, cleaning challenges, cultural observations, and gradual adjustment to missionary life despite slow language progress.

[1977.01.10](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff reviews delayed correspondence, financial planning, English teaching, proselyting frustrations, transportation experiences, cultural encounters, physical discomforts, companionship spirituality, and continued determination while struggling to learn Korean.

[1977.01.17](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff covers mission logistics, acquiring film through APO, rising transportation expenses, investigator progress, ward support, Korean hospitality and meals, language improvement, and resolve to persevere despite financial and communication challenges.

[1977.01.24](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff reports slow language comprehension, anticipation of first baptism, memorizing gospel discussions, birthday reflections, minor illness, musical interests, street contacting, difficult mission zone, and cautious hope for improvement.

[1977.01.31](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff reflects on finances, mail delays, selling Books of Mormon, strong investigators facing family pressure, Korean social life, stake conference experiences, continued absence of baptisms, and renewed goals for discipline.

[1977.02.07](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff details routine missionary work, cultural observations, lack of baptisms, teaching efforts, fasting, meals with investigators, impending transfers, housing arrangements, mailing frustrations, and reliance on patience and faith.

[1977.02.14](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff discusses upcoming baptisms, promising investigators, time-management frustrations, continued language development, Korean family customs, education values, and heartfelt gratitude for family prayers and support.

[1977.02.21](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff describes mission transfers, a new companion, Lunar New Year events, English classes, commitment to member work, crowded living conditions, leadership impressions, and renewed missionary resolve.

[1977.02.28](#) Aerogramme Home: Jeff recounts companionship tensions, cultural misunderstandings, completion of first baptism, spiritual reassurance, teaching confidence, maturity and optimism.

General Summary (January–February 1977)

During January and February 1977, Jeff describes his first full months serving as a missionary in Seoul, Korea. This period is marked by cultural adjustment, intensive language learning, financial awareness, and gradual spiritual and missionary growth.

Jeff begins the year settling into missionary life, adjusting to small living quarters, Korean customs, and a rigorous daily schedule. Much of his time is devoted to studying Korean, learning gospel discussions, teaching English classes, visiting members, and contacting investigators. He frequently expresses frustration with the slowness of his language acquisition, especially during lessons and promises, but also notes steady improvement and increasing comprehension week by week.

Culturally, Jeff records many observations about Korean society, including housing styles, family life, food, transportation, social manners, and religious influences such as Buddhism. He experiences both admiration for Korean kindness and moments of culture shock. Daily life involves extensive walking, crowded buses, cold weather, traditional meals, and frequent hospitality from members and investigators.

Financially, Jeff is very conscious of his limited mission budget. He tracks expenses carefully, discusses housing and transportation costs, and relies on family support as well as selling Books of Mormon. He makes ongoing efforts to remain within his allowance while managing unexpected expenses such as film, transportation, and customs charges.

Missionary work during this time is slow but meaningful. January passes without baptisms, which weighs on him emotionally, especially as his area is one of the lowest-producing zones in the mission. Despite this, he works diligently with investigators, members, and fellow missionaries, participates in splits, conferences, English classes, and stake events, and focuses on improving spirituality and companionship unity.

February brings significant developments. Jeff experiences companionship changes and increased responsibility within his area. By the end of the two-month period, he performs his first baptism—Ko Sung Heon—marking an important milestone and boost in confidence. He also reports growing confidence in teaching discussions and a clearer sense of purpose as a missionary.

Throughout the letters, Jeff consistently expresses gratitude to his family for their emotional, financial, and spiritual support. He reflects often on personal growth, patience, discipline, and long-term goals, showing a transition from early uncertainty toward greater commitment and maturity in his mission service.

1976.12.16 Aerogramme Home

Dear Family,

This is my first official “mission to home” letter. I hope I can write all the things I’ve thought about this week. First off, I am really happy. Besides little inconveniences like small living quarters and lacking things I should have brought, the life of a missionary is okay. I like talking with members and proselyting.

This past week gave me opportunities to teach, to visit, to try communicating, proselyting, Christmas activities, and more. I bought many things to go. I’m sure glad you gave me that check at the airport—you really knew what I would be in for. I shouldn’t need much more. The expenses will be housing and travel only for a while. I’m going to try to re-establish a budget before buying too many souvenirs.

I’ve already started a box to be sent home. As I obtain little trinkets, I put them in the box—this boy and Christmas things (gifts) and some things I don’t need. I will probably send it in a month or so.

Where to begin? I moved in Monday. My companion is Elder Kerry Ballard from Las Vegas, Nevada. He has been here a year. We do well together. One thing we do is teach an English class. We are technically the teachers, but mostly it’s a sister and her friend, and some of the students, who help us teach the gospel at other times around the English class hour.

It is kind of fun, but I am sure slow to understand Korean. The Korean people, so far, seem just like Americans. They have many things within their culture that are just like us. I am told I will come to know the differences in their thoughts from ours the longer I am here, but sometimes even their faces look like people I know from back home—only Korean. I really have no problems liking them. They are a cool people, especially many ward members. And the kids are incredible.

Well, it’s a late day. I’ll finish tomorrow.

Christmas: Something happened. We had basketball, ping-pong, table games, etc., until suppertime. Then we headed to orphanages to sing. We went to a place which literally amazed me. After we arrived, they put on their show for us. They all sang like no kids on earth can—just about 38 of them lifted the ceiling with music. They had a little band with two violins, five tambourines, snare drum, cymbal, brass array, and a triangle. They spiced it well with dynamic sound.

Then a five-year-old director, baton in hand, conducted better than we are at home. He had full command of the ensemble. He played a violin solo at one point in the program. A girl also gave a solo which was so fine and pretty I couldn’t believe it.

The next day we stuck stickers—"The Lord Jesus Christ wishes you a Merry Christmas with your family"—on people (25,000) all over Seoul. After that we met for a testimony meeting where I met Tim Belnap from Seattle. He goes back to Gilbert somehow.

It turns out I paid the tax on one package because it got mixed up. Straight now, I got your letter. It was in Korea before I was, but I really appreciated it.

Christmas Day we met for a fireside at 2:30 PM after a fair morning. After dinner and clearing the table, the Tender Apples (the new missionaries) did their program. These girls sang. You'll get the tape in 2 or 3 months. The new missionaries are okay—not great. They are sweet but can't compare to the girls that age I have ever heard.

Sunday, the highlight was my 22-minute talk in sacrament meeting. I said more of what I wanted, but I need to understand more.

We went to buy thermal underwear. I picked up my excursion set. It is warm. We use them every morning before dressing. It is survival. It costs about \$3.00 here—\$12 in America. I think I can get along fine now as far as clothes are concerned.

Another day has passed. I really need to get more organized with my companion. Our teaching and English class is interesting. I find it funny sometimes—when we get going repeating questions in English, someone stops a second and rattles off in Korean.

I know I can do it with your support. I've already met some goals because of all the help. I want to get out and do some good in this country. Once I get going, I want to—or have a goal for—four baptisms a month with my companion. That seems low to me, but the mission average will be three. I guess it is feasible.

I am amazed at how fast the days go. We get up, study the gospel, then eat, then I grab some grammar. In no time it is 10:00 o'clock and we are on the streets. Before I know it, we're home to eat, then out again teaching some discussions. Then to bed. We enjoy that very much—it is the only time we are really warm, when we're under that electric blanket. Then, just as you put your head on the bed, the alarm rings. I can't believe it.

The men I work with are all great. One is from Bles, who I already knew. I sure am happy.

Love, JEFF [Go Top](#)

1977.01.04 Aerogramme Home

Dear Family,

It is 1:30 AM on January 3rd, which means it is 9:30 PM January 2nd where you live. I have spent most of today cleaning this room. Boy, is my nose runny from all the dust. Some of these places have never been cleaned at all. Koreans are not extremely clean people, but they are conservative. The garbage men are responsible for sorting everything that is thrown away, and what actually gets thrown out is a very small amount. They use almost everything again.

The elders aren't very clean, so I'm doing my best, but it is still not home. Today we started by going to the bathhouse. Usually we shower here at the boarding house, but this bathhouse costs 40 won. The sauna felt good and the hot water was great. It is really a nice place. It's nothing like the movies with all the flowers and such — it's more like a whirlpool in the middle of a big shower room.

Then we came back, I got dirty cleaning, and now I am writing. Our "hassook mom" (we call her "Mom") knows a lot of English, and her husband does too. She was just at our door — the sliding door that separates us from a hall leading to the bathroom or the dining room. The dining room is unusual, but the house was built with Americans in mind. It is a small carving space, but it is a lot nicer than most Korean homes.

Many families live in one room, with an entrance from the outside containing the kitchen and storage. Four or five rooms like this are gathered together in a horseshoe shape under a roof, then a big cement wall surrounds the whole house. The road and walkway are directly outside the stone fence. Walking down a street in Korea you see big walls everywhere (in the city) with metal gates here and there. It is different.

We have a chapel down the road from our house. Sister Boyle is here and handles services for the downtown area of Seoul — about 5 million living here and 5 million working in the various businesses. It seems funny, but I guess that is the mission field.

I hope you can read this. I am slowly preparing a package for home. I will be taking a few black-and-white prints of members and investigators to help on cost. If you get this letter before you send me film, send Ektachrome — I can develop it here cheaply. If not, that's okay. Also tell me when you deposit money in my account. I have no travelers checks left.

I cleaned out my checking account today. I spent 123,030 won in my first month in Korea. That is \$244. Two-thirds of that was for housing, so I have 91,139 won for this coming month. I only change about \$4 at a time (2,000 won). The rest is safe at home. Our next biggest expense is buses and taxis.

This past week was slow. I studied fairly well, but it is not the best atmosphere. I could use two weeks in the “Zen San.” We had some New Year’s parties with some members. In our English class we did a lot of visiting. That is an important procedure to get the members working.

We played “Yut,” which is a lot like Aggravation, but we use four sticks — round on one side and flat on the other. You throw them like dice and decide moves by how they fall. The losing team bows to the winners on their knees. It is just fun.

I made a New Year’s resolution to write better, so we will see what happens. I hope Yvonne had a happy birthday and that your New Year was fun. I feel far away from it all. I feel good though — beginning to understand more and getting the hang of it all. I just hope I can meet my goal. My goal is to finish and pass off the discussions to the mission president’s assistant by March 1, 1977.

Sundays are also fun. I struggle to understand, but I get a little bit here and there. It sure seems like I am learning slowly, but I guess it is almost a matter of time (so they keep telling me).

We cleaned the floor today. Korean floors are weird. They are concrete covered with an oil paper. Underneath the floors they place charcoal briquettes for heat. It warms the floor. Because they are dangerous, all missionaries use gas-lamp heaters. We have a bright yellow linoleum-like floor, and it really is dirty. It is so-so now.

I’m sure this letter makes little sense. I’ll have to work on that. Ask me questions about things — it makes it easier. I’m going to like it here. The people are fun, and it is a great work.

Love, JEFF [Go Top](#)

1977.01.10 Aerogramme Home

Dear Family,

I can hardly believe another week has gone by. It seems like nothing has happened, but when I look through my journal I can get my ideas together. I received your letter that was sent on December 24th. It was nice to finally get it. It is a strange situation to correspond when it takes two weeks to get a letter.

About your letter — I was glad to see Grandpa and Grandmother. It was fun. They do know I have met Joyce Boyle and E. Pritchett, don’t they? My account has \$139.61, so I may be

wrong. Please deposit in my account — that will be super. I still have about \$60 in traveler's checks, but I drained the account last week. I should be getting down to a regular monthly finance now. I figure I am heading for about \$140 this month. I will need enough at the first of February to continue. I guess I just ran out of all I had earned. It didn't last long, did it?

I really am a lucky kid to have parents who support me. I have met many elders who aren't so fortunate. I guess we will have one or two baptisms this week, but they are investigators my companion started. I am continuing my study, but it sure is a challenge. I'd like to just study the language. The discussions aren't hard, but it takes more time until I get to learn them well.

We had a member split, and I really felt dumb. My companion was Korean, and I couldn't understand him or our students as we visited. So I showed a couple of filmstrips and said, "Hi!" One day this week we did a little door-knocking just above where we live. I couldn't believe it — a house with carpet and steam heating. It was a rich house. My companion said he had never been in one in his entire mission (one year). One man had a delicious tea — orange or lemon or something.

Friday night we teach an English class at the church. I took the advanced class because I couldn't do it with beginners — I didn't know enough Korean. So I got a chance to talk about a lot of things from home because they asked questions to practice listening to English. I sure miss the music and percussion. I understand the New Horizons band had a drum set at one time, but Elder G. B. Hinckley said "no" at the big conference. I think it's probably because the drummer wasn't really a drummer and didn't make good music. The president goes home in five months, so a lot of things will probably change.

On Monday night, between two appointments, I was surprised by a drunk Korean coming out of a bar. He saw us and said, "Hello, 미국 사람, how are you?" ("American"). Then he wrapped his arms around me and kept repeating the words. My companion was a little ahead of me and wondered why I was so slow. He turned around and started laughing. I just said, "Now, true, you see you later — bee-bee." Then he left. No big deal. It isn't common though.

I also enjoy buses. Sometimes they are crowded, but you just cram in. The girl takes tickets and money as you leave and pushes people out in the process. In some buses I have to bend my head down so I can fit in. It's fun. I picked up some books really cheap that have Korean and English (Ernest Hemingway). I'll study them after my discussions — once I know more about the language.

My knees get sore after sitting cross-legged for 1½–2 hours at a time. I hope I'll get used to it. I really feel big walking down the streets. People always stare at us. My companion said I really stick out in Korea. A blunder — a white overcoat in Korea is difficult. It is gray now.

It is easily washable, but I need to wear it. I can dry-clean it for \$1.00 if I need to, and I don't care. But I am in a dilemma — warmth or clean? Oh well. It does keep me warm. I can usually stay warm. It is cold, but I dress a lot.

As a companionship we are working on spirituality. We need it more in our appointments. He is a good man though, from Las Vegas. His parents are divorced and his father is excommunicated, but he does good work. I'm struggling with learning, but I like it here. It is new and interesting.

It is an important work.

Love, JEFF [Go Top](#)

1977.01.17. Aerogramme Home

Dear family, I received your reply to my first letter and I have learned I need to write with more continuity. When you're busy all day, and just write spots here and there in our letters, they don't make much sense. I will even proofread today.

The request I made was for film for my camera. Some elders have an APO military address through which they receive mail. Through this system, those elders avoid paying customs charges. I was planning on borrowing this system to get some film. I still want to do this, but through a different address and different elder. Please do not put my name on it, just the address I give you and your return address. It will take only two weeks to mail, just as if you were mailing it to California. The cost will be as if you were mailing to San Francisco (the post office should know).

What I would like is this: 12 twenty-shot rolls of color Ektachrome 110 (for my 110–40 camera); a battery for my camera (Mallory, size K) — it is an extra; and, if possible, a strobe. BYU has them for \$17, that is cheaper than here. It should fit a camera that usually takes magic cubes. Ron, if willing, can help. If you feel a strobe is no good, send 4–5 pkgs of magic cubes. The address is on the last page.

It is now Tuesday. I ran out of time yesterday to finish this letter. It was a high-up day. Korean is beginning to look so regular to me. It is fun. I tend to hear and understand just a little more each week or so. We saw a lot of [things] yesterday, after I picked up my package. It got here last Monday on the 10th. Not bad. The judge is gone. I [shaked] it, thank you.

Now is the money holding out! The expense that really kills me is transportation. Maybe it is cheaper than a car, but we are always doing buses and taxis. Because of this, and high hassook fees, the mission allowance has already risen to \$150 a month. I will write a \$150

check Feb. 2, and hope that lasts. I still can't tell if I'll last this month. Thank you for your support. It seems like I didn't even add a drop in the bucket compared to the whole mission. Twenty-one months isn't a long time if they go as fast as the last one.

I wonder if I will learn the language in time to do anything. We now have 10 missionaries in the 3rd ward. Two are new sisters who are really health missionaries that are proselyting. We turned some of our investigators over to the sisters to get started. It is better for us, to avoid trouble, to give female investigators our own age to the sister missionaries. Several investigators in Korea are female students. Just as more women are in the church, and more students investigate, we turn many over.

One of our girls finished reading the Book of Mormon last week. She's super. Her parents are against her, but she continues to attend church. It is a rule that students attend five months of church before they can be baptized.

One female member of our ward has three children and a deceased husband. She is known as "the lady." She introduces more investigators to missionaries than anyone. She is responsible for a whole ward in Pohang, a little community out of Seoul about halfway between here and Pusan. We visited her last week and she gave us many [treats]. In Korea, whenever people visit, the host always offers a treat — tea or something. Usually a kind of tea or something.

Anyway, later that night I split with another missionary to go with the mission ward rep to encourage members to help missionaries. So, where did we go? Sister Kim's (or the people she refers us to). She fed us her [two sons'] rice. We went and talked to some of her investigators. Then we returned to her home and read scriptures with her family. I read in the [Korean Book of Mormon], but I didn't know what it said.

We had a big Korean meal this week too with 7–8 dishes. I was various things from the table such as oysters [raw], octopus (like rubber), and rice and more things. Some of it was good. Other things... well, there was rice and kimchi of course. I really like Korean rice. It's good. They keep it hot somehow too!

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Paul B. Cameron

440-60-3319

1st Bn. 32nd Inf.

Camp Howze, Korea

APO S.F. 96251

Do not, please, put my name on it. Please put your name return address.

Cameron is buying the film from me. It is our bargain.

12 rolls Ektachrome 110, 2 "K" batteries (10 cm), (1 for E.C.), Strobe (from BYU bookstore,

\$17) or

4–5 magic cube pkgs, 4 rolls Ektachrome 135-36 exp. (in my companion). Thank you.

WRITTEN VERTICALLY

[I will receive money from these elders, and therefore the monthly check will be less. This is a big expense, but coming through APO is as safe as U.S. mail. Please send the prices so these other elders will know what to do. The problem is there isn't 110 film in Korea. Thank you. If you need to shell in to do this, OK. There isn't a big hurry, but try to send it in one shot, one package. It sure is hard on cash ending one month apart.]

My knees are sore after sitting cross-legged for 1½–2 hrs at a time. I hope I'll get used to it. I really feel big walking down the streets. People always notice me. My companion said I really stick out in Korea. A blunder — a white overcoat in Korea is difficult. It is gray now. It is easily washable all right, but I need to wear it. I can dry-clean it for \$1.00 if I need. But I am in a dilemma — warmth or clean. Oh well, it does keep me warm. I can usually stay warm. It is cold, but I dress a lot.

As a companion set, we are working on spirituality. We need it more in our promises. He is a good man though, from Las Vegas. His parents are divorced and father is excommunicated, but he does good work. I'm struggling with learning, but I like it here. It is fun and interesting, and it is an important work.

Love, JEFF [Go Top](#)

1977.01.24. Aerogramme Home

Dear family, [어떻게 지내세요?](#) How have you been? Boy, this language is fun, but I can't understand. I seem to be progressing in hearing and comprehending so slow. I can see some improvement.

My hang-up is during promises. I just know I could help answer questions (even in Korean), but I don't know what they are. I keep wishing I could be fully understanding the language so I could tell them how great the church is and how important it is to them.

Like I said to Ron, our first baptism is Saturday. It is a girl who is the sister of an English teacher. We have been helping him with his classes because of his financial difficulty. Of course, we have been teaching the gospel as well, and many blessings are likely to come from it. This will be number one. It's Yeon Shim Ko is her name.

Especially when we are teaching some of these people from the class, I can't follow, and I know I could be answering their questions. I've had opportunity to bear testimony, and they understood that. I feel good from contributing.

I have been through the discussions (reading and translating), and now will put them down to memory. Of course, there will be a while in doing so, but my first time memorization should be done by March. I haven't met an elder yet with them all just about perfect. They are weak on fourth discussions. You have to continually study.

I'm enjoying the study, because the language is fun, but to get consistent time in to do it has been hard. I received a letter from Grandma and Grandpa. They mentioned the airport and said lots of nice things. They also wished me birthday greetings.

I am no longer a teenager. Good heavens, I am 20 years old. In Korea, I'm 21 years old. They count a year for time spent in pregnancy. It doesn't seem like I can be.

We are going to go see a movie, "Cassandra Crossing," for celebration. The sound is English with Korean subtitles. It is a science fiction movie. I might even [borrow some clothes] from one of the boys. I will take pictures today too.

I cleaned my overcoat, and it is almost white again. I'm scared to touch anything. I haven't been spending too much money, so this month might work out. I have money invested in Book of Mormons. I can sell those to get money back, but as of yet, we haven't been able to sell mine. We have been getting free lunches, which has helped.

I guess now to gap the past week: I had a sore throat at the beginning of the week, which has dwindled to a little cold. I wasn't able to sing in church yesterday, and it was frustrating.

I have been singing melody and alto to increase my range. It works, except when you're sick. In the mornings I can sing below the keyboard. During the day I can get "E, F" above middle. Boy, I miss the drums. I'm developing hope drumming. I play my legs and chest with my hands.

I have seen some of the ritual drumming that girls use in some of the Korean ceremonies. I'm anxious to see that. The Orient is the place to be. But Koreans ain't all great singers like the Tender Apples. There are people who sing well, but in church the groups often drop below the piano. I just smile!

We had a split this week, and my senior went with my junior companion. He is still talking about his girlfriend, but he has dismissed two people he said would do well. I've learned our zone is the lowest in the mission for baptisms. It is a hard district.

We sold Book of Mormons on the street one day. That was neat. I kept running out of things to say. My thought flow went like this:

“Hi, have you ever heard about the Book of Mormon?
It is about ancient America.
It is a testimony along with the Bible of Jesus Christ.
It costs 500 won.
It talks about prophets.
A modern-day prophet, Joseph Smith, translated it.
Do you want to buy?”

It was fun. I got some addresses and appointments, but no sales. We had a real good discussion with a student who accepts all our words.

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One of our investigators is going to try giving up the cigarettes even. It was a good week. Next week will be better. Kids sure are cute here.

One night we started a promise, and in a question over a word, our investigator started teaching us. Before we knew it he was into grammar and then Korean history. In one hour he went through two full pieces of chalk. Boy was he fast! I could understand just a little.

My companion spoke in church yesterday. He spoke about the scriptures, but I couldn't tell. I woke up this morning and could not believe our room. There are four of us in a room the size of Dennis' in the basement. Two elders came home late and dropped everything. What a mess. Because they all know I like clean, they said it was my birthday present. Ai-ee-Go [Korean for Oh My!].

I've plum run out of talk. Sure do love you. Love you a lot and can't thank you enough for being my family.

Love JEFF Can you read it? [Go Top](#)

1977.01.31. Aerogramme Home

Dear family, today I wrote a check for \$140 for February. I made it on last month's budget to spike, but that is temporarily in Book of Mormons until I sell them. It was a fun week. Time is moving so incredibly fast, I don't know when I am going to learn anything. Thank you for the cards on my birthday. I received three letters from you — at least. One was dated December 16. It was slow getting here. I have received my package. 68,000 won is

the amount of money I lose a month — that means about \$100. 500 won is about \$1.00. Glad to hear about your efforts in the music deal. I hope something comes of it. Boy, it's hard to communicate one month apart.

I hope you have been able to figure out that film mess. I guess I will learn to be more precise or suffer the consequences. I'm slowly putting together a box to send home. If you have some immediate desires, let me know and I'll send them — things like magazines, pictures, clothing, souvenirs. I'll send some rolls to be developed. I really like how the Belnap family holds onto my little pictures, so you decide where it's the best place. If they can be numbered, it would be good.

Well, this morning I sold a Book of Mormon to a businessman. We found him from his name card he gave us at a street contact. My companion felt he bought the book out of pressure — it is expensive — and the easy way to be rid of us seemed to be to buy the book. Anyway, he has it.

One of our girls (about 16) is a strong faith investigator. Her family makes it hard for her to check. They told her not to come to church, but have let her study. She sneaks out on Sundays to come to church. She has a good growing testimony. Her name is (Kim Sun Hee) [김선희](#). (Kim Sun Hee)

She is super. For Ron's birthday, we looked for new living quarters that were less expensive than our present trouble. Haven't found it yet.

Thursday, we basically were taken to a party by many of our students. Korea is neat. Spotted all over the city are bakeries and tea rooms. They're like little restaurants. Western food also exists here.

In between the tea rooms and bakeries are little places with music and decor. Koreans often will take newly met people or friends there to talk. You can have several kinds of teas — non-cafeinated of course. Most are good.

A famous tea is ginseng tea (인삼차, ginseng tea). It is named after a person since the root looks like a person. It's good. These kinds of things are what make Korea neat.

Friday, Franklin Richards spoke to the missionaries at the mission home. He really gave us some good ideas. Saturday was a lot of walking. Then, a great experience was experienced yesterday. We had stake conference in a movie theater. Pres. Richards and his wife spoke to the saints with translators at their side. I thought it was great. I knew what to expect as the translator spoke, so I could understand a lot more of the Korean that way. It was a good message too.

We had several investigators attend, and they were enthused. We are still awaiting my first baptism. It should be right quick. We have to get ten this month to make up for January. I guess that is the week in a nutshell.

My biggest problem is getting up in the morning. The zone leader stays up late and I don't get to bed, so I suffer in the morning. I'm fixing that this week.

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Friday afternoon we had dinner with an old missionary who returned to Korea and married a Korean wife. They will be going to the United States to work in the temple (serve) in April. Boy, the language barrier, but it's worth it. Even though he speaks Korean, it's no good... the meal was fine. He is a friend of my senior companion. My senior's first senior also returned to the country to marry a Korean wife. Koreans are beautiful people, but there are too many cultural differences for that to be suggested. I don't envy those men.

Well, I'm not worried about that. I've got higher goals to search. I'm loving it, and love your help and support.

Love, JEFF [Go Top](#)

1977.02.07. Aerogramme Home

Dear family, sorry about the wrinkles — when I was wrapping up on my idea to better mail to write, I landed on the aerogramme. I am now into my “pocket day-timer” — it's neat. It serves all my needs and recording purposes just perfect. Every Elder in our district is jealous. They know who has it all together.

Another experience; Edler Nelson (from Roy), an elder in our district, was riding the bus when a girl changed her seat next to his. He could only say “It is cold, isn't it.” Then he got off the bus — that's unusual. It's just fun. Yesterday, one of the bus girls who learned a little English from G.I.s, said to me “Hey, hey, what's your name?” She was just teasing. The bus girls are the hardest working people in Korea. They work 2 or 3 days, from 6:00 AM to 11:00 PM. They're only about 14–16 years old. They are responsible for the door and collecting fees.

Another activity of the missionaries In Korea is visiting members. The idea is to get them to introduce friends as other people to us. Besides that, it's a good way to get out of the cold. So far, because I am in the lowest producing area of the mission, no baptisms. I'm doing what I can, but always wondering when I'll conquer enough language to be more effective.

Often times, during promises, I knew I could add, but I'm not sure exactly what is being discussed. I think I have said this before, but I know for sure now.

I had a chance to teach in English to one of our investigators who runs an English class. I was even able to say and contribute what I wanted with the help of the spirit, of course. But I just somehow got to get it. Other elders say it is just a matter of time, but I don't like waiting.

Thursday, I did OK. I went on a split with another junior companion and searched out some business addresses. We found them easily, but nobody was there. We left a message with the office girls (not secretary) and left. I did make an appointment with an investigator, this Saturday was a great promise [appointment] with his family. It was the first whole family we taught all together. We are teaching three other family heads in their homes, but not even with their wives yet.

We fasted Saturday night and Sunday with the rest of the church to lift the cold in America. Has been cold there. It is cold in Korea, even some harbors have frozen, but I stay warm (kind of). Sunday afternoon, we went way across town to meet a family of one of our investigators. We ate "pull kogi" (fire beef) - it was *Mashi* [good].

Then Sunday night, a phone call came concerned transfers. In 3rd ward (where I am) — there are now 8 Elders and two sisters. The transfers left me and another junior here to work take care of investigators. We will get two seniors shipped in – making this area for only 4 Elders here now. I have a lot to learn in two weeks before that action happens. I will be here at least one more month. It's tough area, but I am going to be part in changing hat. Thanks for your help.

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This is a lousy pen. I'm going to answer in this space, but I'm waiting for the letter to be picked up from the mission home as this week's Elder. I just read your letter. I've been to a park and taken many pictures, also to a French movie with English subtitles. Anyway, I was surprised to read that you didn't send my package APO. I have not yet received it, but the import tax will be very high. APO has no tax - that was the thing. I hope it gets here.

Wow, I didn't even know Yvonne was that far along. I get the feeling Ron has now. I live in a *hasook* (boarding house). The family lives in their quarters, and we live in our room. The 아지마 (Ajima – means Aunt) - we call her "Mom", does the cooking & cleaning for us. She speaks English well. They are not members, but we will be baptizing their son in a week or two. They have housed missionaries about 8 months.

The 3rd Ward is one among 9 units in Seoul. We have a bishop and the whole bit. One of the best dentists in Korea. Forensic pathology is his hobby-he is the only one in Korea.

Our ward is the slowest in the mission for baptisms — and I'm staying.

Well, to Jay, Yvonne 축하합니다 (congratulations) Love to all, JEFF [Go Top](#)

1977.02.14. Aerogramme Home

Dear family,

Time goes fast between these letters, but it seems like a long time ago that I wrote. I still have no baptisms after two months, but Saturday should be my first few. One of the men Ko Seong Hui, he lives as of the family (Son) in our *hasook*. He has studied with several Elders that lived here, but he is finally going to get baptized. The problem has been whether he would remain active since his parents are not members. His parents are of no religion-completely agnostic. He has been attending church well. He is real smart too. He applied to one of the top universities in Korea – Seoul National (As prestigious as Harvard).

Another investigator man is Kim Hong Seop ([김홍섭](#)). We knew he could be baptized, but one month or so ago, he left the city and we couldn't find him. Last Monday, at a movie in the French Cultural Center, we happened to run into him. He had returned to Seoul the day before, he had studied a little with some Elders where he was. He is a university student who is also very smart. He is going to America in March.

We have a few other possibilities but not for sure. I often times think we're not working as fast and adequate as we need to be. Last year at school, my use of time was a science, and I seldom wasted it. When you work with another person it is 3x as hard to get moving. All elders want to baptize and yet, the time just isn't used to its fullest. I've had great experiences with my 1st companion but next week after I get a new one, I'm going to start right off by pushing. I have the upperhand because I know the investigators. I'm getting more and more of the language all the time. When I really listen, I can understand the conversation, but a lot of words still go by that I don't know. I would like to hear from Ron and Jim about how they conquered the language.

As of yet, I have received my Christmas package and several letters, I have not yet received the film. I hope it works out. Now to answer the questions of the week. Happy Valentines Day!

{just died} Then for the first time in my life, I just finished a Bic pen that I used all the way by myself.

I bought it in the LTM and it has lasted till now. Wow.

How did the candy break your tooth, which one is it, and how bad? Where exactly is Bobbie going? Tell him chook-a-ham-ni-da! 축하합니다 (Congratulations). With have two (4) months gone by with no words from Ron, or the other real busy people, almost 1/6th of it is over and Ron's letters are almost as few as mine were.

I meet more cultural shock all the time. Korean family's for the most part are real close, esp. Mormon families. Often times, they all sleep in the same room, which in some cases is the whole house. Usually in a room there is no furniture, and we sit on the floor. It's kind of neat. Now there are exceptions.

A doctor or adult is richer and will have 4 or 5 rooms with chairs, and a library of a million books.

Books are very important in Korea. Anyway the stake presidency has these kinds of houses.

They have learned English in order to meet their professions, and it seems English is also necessary so they can communicate with the general authorities. To be a success in Korea, you have to speak English.

It's kind of sad.

Well, no matter who we visit we are always given something to eat or drink, even sometimes from people we just knocked on the door over. Buddhism is responsible for a lot of this kindness. It has been said Buddhism is closer to Mormonism than most Christian churches.

Another shock, when we teach families with babies, it's a no bother to guests for the mother to take care of her children even as we teach. Koreans don't talk while they eat, not at all, and they slurp and are very noisy. There is no matter brought up from burping. In some cases, it's good not to worry about such things, but in other ways no kind of simple crude manner.

Monday I went to a graduation, wow, a zillion (1,000) junior high girls all with same haircut, color, and uniform. It was interesting. It was the girl in our house parent's family, we just taught and worked regular the rest of the week. Yesterday, or Saturday we saw a bright red-headed and bearded American. He was friendly (unusual) and we talked to him. He said he graduated from Harvard and

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[I need addresses if you can find these please: Kim Aragon, Karen Kirkham, Ron Belnap, Bruce Barton,

Dave Merrill, Bishop Drake, Steve + Alan Heath, Amy [crossed out], Van Pilkington + folks, Jay & Yvonne, JP + Dustin, Aunt Marcia, Hoskings. Anyone else you think I might want. I lost many. I will be sending a package home soon, 1 or 2 months or less. I will have film to

develop, a few tapes, and souvenirs. Anything you want? Tell me if you know of anything].

(Cont. from Page1) was traveling around the world, or being paid to do it. He is a writer. He also plans to study some mental institutes in Europe. He was in a big coat, high boots, and was just wondering about the city seeing what he could see. He was cool.

I have really felt some good feelings when doing a little teaching to some good investigators, and the spirit was strong as I bore testimony. I have also had some dead experiences, when the lesson just went poor. I really appreciate your prayers, help in, and letters. I really dislike the time lapse in the mail, but it is all we got. Hope things work better.

어른 분들 많이 사랑해요 (I love and respect the you all). Love, JEFF [Go Top](#)

1977.02.21. Aerogramme Home

Dear family, It's now 3 o'clock PM, meaning 11:00 PM on the 20th for you. I am 16 hrs ahead of MST. Ron asked for that info in his fabulous letter. Boy was I glad to get it. He told me what I needed to know. Thanks Ron.

Well the BIG transfer was today, what a hassle! It is over now. My new companion is Steven L. Sheilds, from Toole and now from Nauvoo. He is a good speller. He is the author of "Divergent Paths of the Restoration."

He's smart & seems good, and is Language is one of the best. Elder Ballard, my old companion, was a good Elder and shall be a District Leader in a country town. You sure meet a lot of people on a mission. Elders coming and going all over the place.

Hey, am I proud? Congrats to Yvonne and Jay. Dustin – wow, where the name came from, I'd like to know. Great Cheire! Brigade only held 537 lbs. What's the secret? How did you do it? How is math anyway?

How do you like your new tooth Mom? Our Bishop is a dentist, most dentists or doctors in Korea are scary, you're lucky to be there for your needs. Doctors, in almost any case, first want to do an I.V. and then examine. Several elders have had a lot of fun with the doctors.

I would have liked to hear the choir you directed, I hear little music around here. In the future, I may get a chance to compete in a foreigners music fest (they have speech contests too). The Korean drums - called "Chang Ku" is what I might attempt. Other elders have won prizes in this thing, playing the "Kai Yut"! It is hard to Romanize Korean, it can't be done. There are methods, but so many it is impossible to read from

romanization. You will have to learn Han-Gul! I am going through film like mad, 4 rolls all ready. Is it OK? I still haven't even begun to get pictures of what I want.

Well, now for the past week, Monday, we had a call from a girl we met in a post office. We met her, but she said her only interest was in foreigners. It was interesting, but not profitable. Tuesday, we called lots of old people, who had not been found or were lost. One card we had, from who knows where, was profitable. Taught the English class this night. We did some situation playing. We assigned roles for a chain robbery. It was OK. I returned the doctor's pen on Wednesday. Friday was a big Lunar New Year. We had 3 dinner promises. Every time, we had 'deok kook' (mashed to a cake pieces of rice and egg, meat (little), and soup). It is O.K. But after 3x we dreamed pieces of "deok" marching all over us.

Sunday, several missionaries spoke because of their leaving and then our stake presidency.

If you ever see a "Meet The Mormons" film strip, the Korean is Rhee Ho Nam, our Stake President. He is a fantastic speaker. I could understand so very little of his words, but I thoroughly enjoyed it. He is loud, forceful, and fast. Tonight, I was blasted out. Picture this: 5 Elders packing and leaving. 6 Elders coming to the same place. I and the other just could watch. We left and went to the mission home for business and I got another haircut. It felt good. Wish, nails, and all.

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I have plans to work with members a lot in the future, so I have almost personally taken up the responsibility of doing a member file which was started by others, and got no where. It is a good system, but no one has done the work. There are many good Elders on missions, but they just don't work how they should. I want to be a great missionary.

With your help, prayers and support, my work desire, and the Lord's help, it can be a reality. I love you all very much and I so grateful you can support me.

I'm keeping down to \$140 a month.

I must do better than that next month.

Love, JEFF [Go Top](#)

1977.02.28 Aerogramme Home

Dear Family,

I started looking through my things for a package, but there isn't enough to send. I will send a small package from here next week after I have picked up a few things. I do have 4

rolls of film you can develop.

I should tell you, that the film strip projector gets good use. I am glad I have it.

So, I have a new companion. He is quite a story. Steven L. Shields was a member of the reorganized church for 4 years and about 3 years ago he "apostatized back" as he sees it. He speaks Korean well, and our associate mom says he has good grammar. He has an unusual personality, and tends to dominate our companionship.

There are two incidents which particularly describe him. One day we were looking for an address and not with much success. As we were walking down some street, we were stopped behind a car that had to stop ahead of us. There wasn't room to walk around the car so he (E. Shields) tapped on the car with his knuckle.

The car moved up enough to let us by, and I began to wonder as we continued down the road until the same car snuck up behind us and blew the horn. Elder Shields immediately turned around and pointed at the driver.

I moved out of the way and watched him move to the car window and start arguing and yelling. I didn't know what to do, so, I said to the girl who was watching just beside me, "미국 사람 화가 났다" (The American is mad). She just said in her best English, trying to be helpful and apologetic "Excuse me."

The car finally just left and we continued down the road. I was just silent. We continued looking.

Later I told him I hoped that wouldn't happen again. Don't get me wrong. Elder Shields is smart, he has written and published books, but he is a problem. I have been told he has had similar experiences, and I'm to be patient and loving.

Another instance. We had a lot of walking, back and forth to do one day, and we had little time. E. Shields likes to walk fast and I had trouble keeping up, so I was trailing him. I was carrying a film projector and my briefcase. It was the day of my first baptism. Anyway, I decided I wouldn't trail him, and I would stay by him no matter how fast he walked. In Korea, it is like a wife to follow someone, so I began to try and catch him.

As I got closer, he saw me catching. As I speed up, so did he. He could not let me get beside him. I gave up and let him go ahead, but thanks to the crowd he only led about 10-15 feet. We have not argued or had any problems. I will not do it. I think I am going to learn a lot in the next 20 months.

So, Saturday I baptized [고성현](#) (Ko Sung Heon). He is an English teacher and speaks English well.

He has studied with elders 3 months and came over many problems like Word of Wisdom, Prayer, Chastity is all that is necessary, etc. He still has some problems, but I don't care about those. He's a good man.

He has been responsible for several of our present investigators who he teaches English to. He has a wife and a son, but his wife is pregnant and his son is only 4 yrs. He wants to

baptize them when they are ready, so this man is my first who I reached to be the last of my 1st baptisms. More should be coming.

I have so called learned all the discussions (true now) but I have to keep working so I can teach.

It is not to put down in memory.

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That about does the week too. I hadn't heard about Dixon, and still haven't from him.

When does he go?

I priced a drum set here the other day. The quality is not the best, but the most expensive was \$140.

That's it. I don't think I'll ever get one, not for two years anyway, but it is interesting.

My knees are still hurting after a long sit, but it is getting better or easier. I don't know of a Chris Kush.

There is a lot of military people. There is a branch out near the base. Missionaries work there, but don't get much practice in the language. When you do your letters, please leave a little room at the top. I have missed a few first lines.

My writing seems to be changing, but not better. The Korean cursive is what you might say a fast, lazy print, so my English may run together sometimes. I do write a little Korean since I have been working on that member book & finished all of that I could. It is up to the rest of the missionaries now.

Well, I say open thanks and much love. JEFF [Go Top](#)