AEROGRAMES HOME
Jeffry Paul Belnap
1977 May to June

SERIES FROM KOREA

1977.05.02 **Aerogramme:** Jeff describes a new family-focused proselyting schedule, early-morning door knocking, cultural door interactions, limited investigators, financial stability, mission conference plans, and happiness with his current companion.

1977.05.16 **Aerogramme:** Jeff recounts moving to an improved living situation, cultural housing details, eating out affordably, managing mission expenses, photography needs, zone leader responsibilities, musical interests, and overall contentment and health.

1977.05.25 Songni Letter: Jeff reflects on a spiritually powerful mission conference, mountain hike, testimony meetings, motivational workshops, Elder Hinckley's visit, personal inspiration, strengthened testimony, and renewed commitment to planning and effective missionary service.

1977.05.30 **Aerogramme:** Jeff expresses deep spiritual growth, personal revelation while preparing a zone workshop, gratitude for family heritage, leadership learning as a junior companion, ongoing teaching experiences, and encouragement to siblings about journaling and perseverance.

1977.06.05 **Aerogramme:** Jeff discusses zone meetings, challenges supporting senior companions, successful door-knocking contacts, families progressing toward baptism, difficulty translating Korean meetings, cultural encounters, health concerns, and continued happiness and motivation.

1977.06.13 **Aerogramme:** Jeff reports intensive teaching hours, upcoming baptisms, strong family investigators, observations of Korean discipline through sports, unique household circumstances, wartime history, cultural insights, and gratitude for continued family encouragement.

General Summary (May–June 1977)

During May and June 1977, Jeff enters a season of increased confidence, spiritual depth, and productive missionary momentum while serving in Seoul, Korea. These months reflect a noticeable shift from earlier discouragement toward clarity of purpose, leadership growth, and meaningful teaching experiences.

Missionary work intensifies as Jeff participates in a revised, family-focused proselyting schedule emphasizing early-morning door knocking. He reports improved success finding investigators through direct contact rather than English classes, which he increasingly views as ineffective for lasting conversion. Several investigators accept baptismal challenges, marking Jeff's first experiences teaching individuals from initial contact through advanced discussions.

A major highlight of this period is the mission conference at Songni-san, where Jeff is deeply inspired by testimony meetings, workshops on motivation and goal-setting, and teachings from senior church leaders. These experiences strengthen his testimony, increase his sense of urgency, and reinforce principles of planning, preparation, and disciplined use of time. He repeatedly emphasizes personal revelation, study, and organization as keys to missionary effectiveness.

Leadership development continues as Jeff assists in zone-level meetings, workshops, and interviews. Though still serving as a junior companion, he becomes more reflective about leadership, obedience, and supporting seniors despite personal differences. He views companionship challenges as a valuable, though difficult, learning experience that is shaping his character and future leadership style.

Spiritually, Jeff describes sustained periods of inspiration, deepened testimony, and a growing desire to honor both his heavenly and earthly parents through faithful service. He feels increasingly connected to the gospel's message and its relevance in the lives of Korean families. He also demonstrates greater cultural appreciation, noting Korean politeness, discipline, hospitality, family structures, and perseverance—often contrasting them with American norms.

Personally, Jeff remains closely tied to his family, frequently expressing gratitude for their letters, encouragement, and sacrifices. He offers heartfelt

counsel to his siblings about journaling, work ethic, perseverance, and recognizing blessings. While occasionally fatigued or overwhelmed, he consistently reports happiness, motivation, and confidence that he is progressing and fulfilling his purpose.

By the end of June, Jeff presents himself as more grounded, spiritually aligned, and optimistic than earlier in his mission, with clear signs of growth in discipline, teaching ability, leadership awareness, and commitment to missionary work.

1977.05.02 Aerogramme Home

Dear family, I received your last letter last Monday. Just after I finished writing the letter I sent. It was that close to not crossing letters. A few months ago, we crossed 3 letters. Somehow the last few letters have come fast. You might get this by Mother's Day so happy Mother's Day to mom.

It has been a long week because it seems like a long time since my last letter. We had a lot of meetings and door knocking this past week. We have changed the whole schedule around in our zone. So this morning we started this new system and door knocked from 7:00 AM to 10 AM. We found fathers at home. The rest of the day is payday. The regular week we do the same morning activity from 7:00 to 10:00 AM. Breakfast 10 to 1030 more proselyting till 1:00 PM. At 1:00 study. 1:00 PM is scripture study, 3:00 PM is more language study, dinner at 4:00 PM and teaching from 5:00 to 9:00 PM. It will be good. It's family oriented.

I'm sorry my thoughts are so messy today I've just listened to a movie. My companion has a tape of the Nuremberg trials that he got from our mission president. It once again reminded me of the terrible things that have happened on this earth. One statement which really got me thinking is quote, “logic is not always right.”

Well, we have very few investigators. One is a nice old man who has been a Jehovah Witness for 30 years. He had talked to missionaries a lot but it seems like he is afraid to read anything about what we have told him. He knows the Bible well but he has never left us wondering. Every scripture he told us is used as what it said removing all the interpretations he used. Several times he was has been left with nothing so say or he says, “I'll check on that.” We continue with him because he is a very kind man. He speaks English very well.

From other people we have met during our door knocking and we just have high hopes for them. The door conversations are a riot. People will say, Nobody is here” or “Come next time.” We say things like, “Who are you?” and “When is next time?” Another way the door answers is, “Who is it?” to which we say, “Missionaries” or “Foreigners” or “Some Friends.” Then they come and open the door and say, “why or how did you come?” or “Why is that way?” That is how it literally translates. In America some might say, “Can I help you?”

or something like that. Another thing about the door meetings is they never slam it. In fact, if we don't say goodbye or finish it, they would just stand and look at us. They are really nice. “Oh, we believe Buddha” or “We're busy now.” But they wait for us to say thanks and good bye. I've never seen anger. The funniest response is the door is answered, they see us, smile, and slowly close the door and lock it.

Panel 4
My passport picture order sheet might be thrown away or somewhere, I don't know. Cherie, get good sleep for those tests! I will be in that room (in my thoughts with you), so do it!

I want to send something home about Christmas time. That is why I asked for the cards. I was going to send Denis something but I'll wait till Christmas. I hope your music lessons are working out. I know how much you missed it (I really know, now). My mind is spinning. I always appreciate your letters, Mom. They tell me just what I want to know. I'm not always sure what I can say so questions always help me.

May 23 to 25 is a mission conference to a place called Song-Ni-San -- where the biggest Budda statue in the world is. It is an extra $30. President Till has done a few of these things so we can see Korea. He's a fine man.

I seem to be doing fine on money. I try to be tight.

My companion is terrific. All is easy for stats and stuff and at taking study time. I'm happy.

Love JEFF Go Top

1977.05.16 Aerogramme Home

I just read your last letter. This one won’t cross if it goes as fast as yours came. Sorry about the dirty letter. I found it when we moved into our new house Saturday. I don’t remember how much I told you about our new house or the old one, but at any rate I am still in 3rd ward but in a new place. Our old *Agima* is going to America next month, without her family, so we thought we’d better

leave them home a while. And, this *Agima* has had a lot of bad influences on other missionary *Hassooks*, raising prices, scandalous, unbelievable.

When we started looking for a new place, every little real estate office we stopped in called her and told her we were looking. They all know her for the business she has made for them. These little real estate places are all over Seoul (**복덕방** "real estate office", they are helpful when you're looking addresses. So, one day we asked at a file and that took us to this place.

As you enter the gate, you walk up a curved cobblestone driveway. On the left is a big old Korean style house and on the right and ahead is a large yard with grass all beautifully landscaped with bushes, trees, fishponds, fountains, and a picnic pagoda. We live in 1/3rd of the house with 3 big rooms. Our room (zone leaders) has a beautiful Korean floor called "ondol." It is very sunny and clean.

We sleep on a sponge-mat called a "yo" that supports the back well. We have a separate bathroom too, living room with carpet, chairs. The laundry is done for us too. For meals, we eat out! Really. We have met a real nice family who runs a shik-dang **식당** ("restaurant") who fixes us whatever we like for very inexpensive prices.

I won't be raising any costs for all this, except this month. We are going to see (GL) **[성리산?]** ("Sung Ree San") for a mission conference. That costs $35 extra, so that raises the month a lot. We will see the world's largest Budda, etc. I'm really going through film fast.

I hope it is o.k. after you have seen my last slides. I hope you will tell me how to improve my shots. I also could use more film. As much as is financially reasonable, it is very, very expensive through regular mail, but it isn't sold over here, only prints are sold here, mind they are very, very expensive.

I can have ECHTO CHROME developed here, which would save costs, but let me know if you send a package — by boat real soon, I could get it in time for my needs. I may also need a battery for my camera. What about flash. Cubes cost $1.00 + square over here. Do you think a strobe could be sent? Talk and decide with Ron, we might be able to figure out my need or desire. If you think it is too much, ok.

Your letters are great. I sure miss all the activity around there. I know I'm not as bush is you are all. I work with a lot of people who are not speedy and anxious. Z.L. work takes a lot of slow written work too. We are still looking for some investigators I slice...

Panel 4

I think your selling that stuff is amazing. I didn't think I'd ever hear of that. What do you say at the door? "I can see this product was made for you" — or — "do you want to go on a diet?!" How, or what kind of door reactions do you get? Sounds *chemy*.

I wish you are luck in what ever your doing. Sounds like the production is going to be something. Sounds like you've opened a whole new world in drama and music now. I sure wish I had a piece of it.

Did I tell you about my Buddhist band. That was fun. I'm looking to a Korean foreigners music contest in September. One Korean performance is a square of 12 drums, a man in a tall hat. A costume goes wild on them. I'm checking on it.

If I had a chance to play with New Horizons, I'd dig it too, but a general authority has said "no drums" play with New Horizons. I'm hoping for a chance or mind. Anyway, I'm happy, healthy, and humble.

Love JEFF Go Top
(APTEST - good luck Cherie)

1977-05-30 Aerogram Home

Again, I have your last letter. Wow, I am impressed. I have a mother who is a

수고쟁이

(su-go-jaeng-i) and that means "hard worker." I take every opportunity I get to tell the other missionaries how much we don't do. How easy we have it. I tell them about my mother for all her activities and how successful they are. I know where I learned how to work if I learned how to work at all.

I'm looking to senior companion days when I have the opportunity to put my ideas into effect. Right now, I have to remind myself that it is my senior's turn to do his ideas no matter how lousy they may seem. I think I am learning to support leaders, no matter how many faults they have, because they have qualities I can learn from and they have abilities to lead. They are learning just like anyone else. Anyway I can hardly wait for senior days when I can utilize my ideas.

Did you figure out my letter from Song-Ni-San? That was a super experience!

I have experienced the feelings and promptings of the spirit for a week's time. I had a testimony growing experience. It wasn't always burning and I still committed a few sins, but it lasted with me. I was almost translated, but then I slept in late one day. I think I experienced a little personal revelation too. I am in the progress of preparing for a zone workshop and I am in charge. I had decided to make it about study that missionaries need. So during scripture study, I started brainstorming and I got a piece of paper and started writing. Before I knew it, thoughts were flowing like mad and I had outlined a whole program. With further examination, I could see how all of the things I wrote were for me. It was *chemi*. Earlier that day I was researching scriptures from the discussions and felt real good about the concepts I was reading.

The gospel means more to me every day. I am motivated to spread it not only to make my Father in Heaven happy but my earthly parents and family. I am so blessed to have a family history in the church. Realizing those blessings reminds me that we must have been valiant in the pre-existence and that means we got responsibilities here on this earth now. Let's do it! I sure appreciate the letters from Ron and Yvonne.

Cherie ought to have a little time now too. I have a graduation card coming for her too. **축하합니다** ("Congratulations") Cheire. I sure brag about you too. It sounds like you have been a great success in high school. I know some of the feelings you have now and the memories you're storing and friendships you've made. Cherie, write your feelings down. I mean it. Get a diary and say, "The day I graduated…" and start from there. I love you. Proud of you and pray for your well-being.

Denis too. You are a talented fellow and I have a great future and blessings ahead of you. Denis, you have some of the most special people in the world

for parents. You also have incredible brothers and sisters to follow after. I know because I grew up with them like you weren't able to.

Panel 4

I'm still growing of course and still loving sharing and bugging them. So, I know what a super family I got. This past week we got laughed out of a home. We also taught some good promises (“appointments”). I've missed a little sleep myself so I zonked out in church. The first counselor probably saw me and asked for a standing rest song.

Well, I wish, hope and pray the best for me. Mom, and your production and sales and at work and around the yard and house, the rest at school. I sure love you all and long to be with you and experiencing the excitement. Always appreciate the super letters.

Love JEFF

P.S. I received a letter from Alan (Heath) and it seems he hasn't ever received mine. But it was good to hear from him. I hear from Steve too. I'm still waiting on Van. One request I made was measurements. This past month I really spent money. I will be slower in June. Any questions? Could you read this? Urim and Thuman was probably needed.

1977-05-25 Letter from Song-Ni-San

I am sitting outside at a cafe table at this hotel waiting for a mission group picture and the return trip to Seoul. The scene is beautiful! It is peaceful - besides all the people. It is covered with trees and greenery etc. Yesterday, we hiked to the top of the mountain and could see forever. At the end of the climb - I was pooped. As we were running down the mountain so as not to be late for the seminars - my legs shook with weakness. Feel great this morning except for being tired.

We had a testimony meeting last night from 7:30 to midnight with the whole mission. President Till offered a special prayer since he is going in one month and this is the last big meeting. We had super workshops yesterday. Elder

Pritchett from Boise did one on goals - just super. He compared goals to temptations “to do right” something to “focus fires that flow through your body.”

Our assistants talked about motivation – incredible! Elder Bingham expressed other things that motivated him and asked us how would it be if we were that excited about the work. He said he liked to “duck hunt.” During the season he took every chance he could to hunt, nothing else mattered, not his girlfriend, school or comments “you can't get ducks here.” He got them his way! This Elders speaks, moves and is exciting. He's great - to listen to him speak and enthuse is something I wish you could experience.

President Till's wife taught a very well prepared section on the life and mission of Jesus Christ. She showed us how our missions need to be patterned after His. He prepared before He ever started. He prayed. He was a master teacher. It was super. I have really been inspired this past week.

Sunday, Elder Hinckley divided the Seoul Stake into East and West. I have been able to witness this big history in Korea. Elder Hinckley offered a special prayer on behalf of Korea at the close of his sermon. President Rhee Ho Nam translated as well. It was the most inspirational and spiritual experience ever felt by this people. Every member, missionary and investigator was moved to at least slight tears. This apostle, Man of God, expressed his love to this people so fervently. Especially since this will conclude his assignment to the Orient. The Twelve are being released from specific assignments so to be able to travel the world more freely.

Elder Hinckley also told the missionaries he has been resigning from several of his business positions. He gave us a few words as we began our mission conference last Monday morning. He told us the future of the growth of the church in Korea rests in our hands. After this conference, I know it. I know what I need to do. President Till told us 12 things we need to do. One thing was plan, prepare, organize. I have heard this before but now I'm going to put it into action. Every day just everything you need to do. Then decide priority A,B and C. Do the “A” first - it will work.

Last week we had begun a little movement we taught 13 C discussions period we had one investigator at state conference. And she shook elder hinckley's hand. I also still working on discussions will be picking up and finishing those bears.

What have you decided on film? If you'd like, I'll still take Kodachrome and send it home or I can develop Ektachrome here - but Ekto is or might be less quality - you decide. I do like slides anyway. How have my pictures turned out so far?

Well, my testimony is burning today and I sure love you all a lot. I want to work to make you proud of me and so we can serve our Father in Heaven.

Love JEFF Go Top

1977-06-05 Aerogram Home

Dear family, It was a real mixed up week. We had several appointments with all the districts in our zone so we filled all of last week with these meetings. Each time I spoke about using time effectively. My companion was supposed to speak about time too but in his style of speech he didn't really talk about anything. He says “I've never prepared a talk in my life.” I don’t tell him it is evident. He is entertaining when he speaks, uses a bunch of personal experiences and analogies - but they don't relate to any one subject. It is pretty interesting. He's a good missionary and has many good ideas, but I'm yet to meet a companion who thinks like me. It is always a growing and learning experience.

I realize I'm new in the country and I have a lot to learn and I am willing to do so. But it is a bother to me sometimes when the abilities and confidences I have aren't allowed to be used. I'm making a list of things which are hard for me as a junior so I can help my junior out or rather so he will feel like half of the companionship. What scares me is my seniors were dissatisfied when they were Juniors and yet they seemed to have forgotten them.

This companion thing is probably the best learning experience I will get on my mission. The reason for so many problems is me. I don't know. My thoughts ramble and this letter probably doesn't make sense. What I might be trying to say is the only difficulty I have in missionary work right now is trying to keep my Senior companion satisfied.

하여튼 *"Anyway"* Back to the week I'm really grateful for our investigators. Everyone we are teaching now we found by first timing knocking doors. We have three or four people who have accepted the baptism challenge so this means I have my first real taught-all-the-way from the first discussion to the last baptisms coming up.

One morning we were out knocking doors and came to this one where the wife answered with the typical "too busy." So, we went on - after a minute or two this lady came running after us and told us to come back. We went in and met the father and talked awhile. He invited us back to meet the whole family. He has four children - the oldest son is a grad student from Seoul National University (the best), the next daughter is at Seoul National in pharmacology, the next daughter is in Physics, the last son is pre-med, he plays the piano and does Taekwondo (Korean martial arts). It looks good! We had a super first discussion and we will try again this week. Another lady (who shook Elder Hinckley's hand) is preparing for baptism on the 25th. It sure is fun to teach.

Oh! Last week I suffered the experience of trying to translate for a Korean Elder. I was supposed to translate the proceedings of the meeting and the talks in one of our meetings. This was miserable. I knew so few of the words that I paraphrased four or five sentences into some short thought. I think I am ready for that kind of work yet.

Panel 4

Well I have met so many bilingual people lately. In our house lives an old man who had several sons who have lived or now live in America. One son works here and the other is visiting this week. Not only that but several friends from America (Koreans) have been visiting. All these people speak English like any other American and they are Korean too. I have been spazzed out.

I just have been talking to Elder Collins. He was Elder Shields companion too. We just told each other common feelings and complaints. He is some good missionary. Poor guy has a boil on his knee. He has been inside four days because he can't walk.

Gosh! I hope you're praying I don't get boils. I sure don't need any trials like Job. My face is doing better but my chest isn't -- maybe because of my diet. Oh well, I'm happy.

Love you all, JEFF Go Top

1977-06-13 Aerogram Home

Dear family, Mom, Dad, Cherie, Denis, Yvonne, Ron, JP, Dustin, etc. (friends):

안녕하십니까 Well, this week was long seems like a month since I last wrote. Your letters come in the first of the week so it seems I miss a lot of communication. I sure love them though. They enthuse me! I got another one from Ron (and money he sent to). His words are a comfort and useful in my various trials.

Well if you're counting it is 1/3 over. I think I am into a little of the work but I wouldn't mind being a Senior even if I am not ready. I'm trying to study the discussions to finish them up soon so I can be ready. This past week we had 20 hours teaching and some of the later discussions. I have two or more baptisms coming up on the 25th. I don't know if I have said much but the knocking on their door. One lady came to Stake Conference and met President Hinckley and the other has just been studying well. We also have met about four or five families which are good possibilities.

We took an opportunity this past week to watch a volleyball team practice at a nearby girl's high school. This is a girls team that plays pro for some company. They are our next door neighbors. And on the other side is the Saudi Arabian Embassy. As I may have said. Anyway we watched them one day doing all the various drills and workout. Do you remember Olympic Games and the film clips on Japan well this was that. Starting they did the chest passes with such fingertip control it was something. Then they smashed the ball to each other and practiced bumping. That is how you relieve the serve. Again control. Among many other things they did drills from all angles on the court where they dove set the ball up and rolled back up to their feet ready for another one period they know how to fall and get right back up part of the skill in the game.

One girl had to do an extra drill for something -- but she was alone running, diving, rolling and returning the ball from wherever the coach placed it. She did this until she dropped - but the coaches kept smashing the balls at her. She was screaming a little and barely crawling. We happened to see her later that day and she was still alone. It's tough stuff. I was excited by it. She didn't give up, quit and walk out - but gave it all she had till she dropped. You don't find that discipline in American sports very often - especially in volleyball. That is the kind of volleyball I like. Skillful! I'd love to do it.

Our house owners wife just had a baby girl - but she hasn't come home yet. The house owner is in another hospital as well. He's about 68 and had a near stroke or something. He should be OK. It is an amazing household we are in. I don't know what I have said but it is a rich family.

All his sons studied in America. One lives there with an American wife and three kids. The others are back in Korea with their kids.

Panel 4

Now, since the owner has a new baby daughter, his sons have a sister younger than their own kids. Only the son in America doesn't know it. The owner didn't want him to know about this second marriage of his young wife (he visited last week but she was in the hospital). He may know now but it is crazy. Anyway it is going to be an amazing conversion story!

You're right - sounds like you're working hard on the yard. I didn't mention - but the house we're in was occupied by North Koreans during the war - they used it as offices. Also, one son told us of an experience when he stood in the very room (I'm now writing in) with a gun pointed at his back asking where his father was.

Our yard here has rocks brought from Japan (why I don't know) and is the only terrorist style big yard in Seoul. It's interesting. About pictures - even though they are small are they clear? A camera is too expensive in Korea. I don't think I mind the size but how was the quality? I hope to send a talk tape home in a while. Some elders do it by just sticking it on in an envelope. I might try when you send stuff be sure and talk.

Love JEFF Go Top