

# **AEROGRAMS HOME**

## **Jeffry Paul Belnap**

### **1977 November to December**

## **SERIES FROM KOREA**

**1977.10.31** – After a few days only in Mission home, sent to 7<sup>th</sup> ward to cover for sick missionary, serve with Kevin Coleman.

**1977.11.07** - Still in 7<sup>th</sup> ward. Edler Jim Jones, who was ill, headed home for 2 moths and an operation. Jaquie Woord, Margie Christiansen on USO Tour.

**1977.11.14** – About door knocking, the responses heard. Thoughts on “Slender Now” and acne treatments.

**1977.11.23** – Retuned to life at the mission home. Days are different. Coming activities reporting for Church magazines on Korea missionary activity.

**1977.12.07** – Sending Christmas packages, the less of a “big deal holiday” in Korea. Importances of scrap books, books of remembrance, and journals.

**1977.12.14** – Getting into the Public Communications activity at Mission Home. Some issues about the orphan girls’ group, Tender Apples. Like to be close to President Hawkins.

**1977.12.21** – Thoughts on Christmas. Story of a door-knock-met investigator. Preparations for Mission Wide Dinner – 150 missionaries.

## **General Summary (November–December 1977)**

During November and December 1977, Jeff's mission enters a reflective and transitional phase marked by temporary field reassignment, increasing administrative responsibility, cultural observation, and a deepened focus on remembrance, record-keeping, and long-term purpose.

November begins with Jeff being reassigned from the Mission Home to Seventh Ward to substitute for a hospitalized missionary. This return to full-time proselyting energizes him, providing renewed contact with investigators and door-knocking activities. He works closely with a capable companion, Elder Kevin Coleman, teaching a variety of people including a bilingual Chinese family with Buddhist background. Jeff reflects thoughtfully on Korean cultural norms at the door—politeness, indirect refusals, and quiet forms of rejection—while noting the absence of overt hostility.

Throughout November, Jeff also processes physical concerns such as acne treatments, diet changes, minor illness, and fatigue, alongside ongoing uncertainty about purchasing a camera and arranging shipment of drums and festival items home. His letters show increasing awareness that material concerns distract from long-term meaning, prompting restraint and discernment.

By late November, Jeff returns to the Mission Home, where a significant shift occurs. He steps fully into his Public Communications role, learning typing, organizing historical materials, initiating a mission scrapbook, supporting filmstrip production, coordinating media outreach, and helping prepare articles for Church publications. This work exposes him to senior leadership thinking, historical continuity, and the broader narrative of missionary work in Korea.

December is quieter outwardly but spiritually focused. Jeff observes that Christmas in Korea lacks commercial emphasis, allowing deeper reflection on the Savior's life. He emphasizes the importance of journals, scrapbooks, genealogy, and "books of remembrance," encouraging his family to preserve spiritual and family history over acquiring possessions. These themes recur persistently, signaling a maturation in perspective from immediate activity to legacy and continuity.

Jeff participates in mission-wide Christmas preparations, including planning a large dinner for 150 missionaries, producing skits, filming televised programs, and coordinating public relations efforts. He encounters issues surrounding the orphan girls' singing group, Tender Apples, reflecting thoughtfully on cultural identity, well-being, and long-term consequences of Western influence.

Throughout these months, Jeff's tone becomes more measured and introspective. While still motivated and engaged, he acknowledges the need for endurance now that novelty has faded. His gratitude toward family support intensifies, and he repeatedly emphasizes gratitude, humility, and refinement over ambition.

By the end of December, Jeff stands firmly transitioned into his second mission year—no longer new, no longer idealistic in early ways, but grounded, reflective, and purpose-driven. He closes the year expressing resolve for personal improvement in the coming year and a deep sense of privilege serving in Korea.

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### **1977.10.31. Aerogramme Sent Home**

Dear family, how was your Halloween? Haven't seen any Spooks around here. About a few Korean members mentioned they were aware of our strange holiday. This past week was somewhat of a strange one. In my last letter I believe I told you about my job in the staff and actually I was there to learn and therefore dispensable. An elder in 7th ward is in the hospital so I went to take his place while he is out. He may be serious, it seems, so I'll probably be here one or two weeks, depending on what President Hawkins says. So, I had one day of mission PRFS Conference and then out to 7th ward with a few bare essentials - like socks, shirt and 내복 (“Underwear”).

Yes, I know Gary Fowler. I guess he has returned home already and from your last letter it would be great if you were to aid the missionary effort. A referral or two wouldn't be a bad start. There are not of people you come in contact with every day which want to hear the gospel message. I'm still amongst regular proselytizing since I'm substituting in 7th Ward. I'm not going to have as much of a chance to proselyte from the mission home. So, I'm excited. Elder Kevin Coleman is from Logan. And has a pretty good musical background. He sings and I believe he did some traveling with his brothers when they were little. He also is a drummer - played with USU jazz bands a few years ago. He speaks pretty good Korean too. We are having a good time.

Of the many people we taught last week was a Chinese family. Born and raised in Korea so they speak Korean as well as Chinese (Mandarin I believe). It was weird to hear them talk among themselves in Chinese and then in Korean to us. Elder Colman's uncle, who lives in Logan, wanted to send a letter to him in Korean. He found this girl, although Chinese, who had lived in Korea. This girl's family is the Chinese family I mentioned found through corresponding with his uncle. Elder Coleman went and found this family. We taught them a first discussion and they liked it, but they're not so sure about much of it yet. They have Buddhist involvement. It's a real pretty family. I hope

it works out. At the end of the Promise, Elder Coleman recorded their voices to send to their sister in Logan. It was a fun night.

Monday night I received a phone call from Jackie Wood, who is in Seoul on the USO tour. And to prove I'm not prejudice about Korea, they said how much they loved it. They told me they were disappointed they were going to spend so much time in Korea compared to other places, but when they got here - they loved it. I can't blame them.

I've been thinking about the camera and asked a few elders' suggestions. If I buy a camera here, it is expensive, but as my first senior did. I could buy a setup with flash – a small, nice camera for about \$200 and sell it before coming home. Anyway, as tight as money goes, I feel a bit funny buying a camera. If I buy one, I can still wait and see about selling it before I leave. Please give me special instructions.

Resident Hawkins decided “no” on the other drum performance. So, I'll be working on getting the drums home. I'm sorry for these family financial hassles. I just want my second year to be smooth and successful. Love all your support and murmurless strength. I ought to make a goal on my handwriting too.

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### **1977.11.07 Aerogramme Sent Home**

Dear family, it is a bit rainy - seeing signs of winter on this November 7, 1977.

Well, here I am in 7th ward until November 21, when the new elders come in the country. They sent Elder Jim Jones home for an operation on his stomach. He had some “Born in Pocket” in his stomach that ulcerated. In one or two months he should return to Korea. We only sent half of his things home and

put the other half at the mission home. He was in good spirits but didn't want to go. He'll be back.

Monday night I got a phone call from Jackie Wood and her friend Margie Christiansen. They had called the mission home and found my number. We went to their hotel, which was near the mission home, to say hello. We talked for about 30 minutes about their travels in Korea. And they said they loved it. We even met Eugene Gelesnick (however you spell his name). It sounds like they have a pretty good deal. They get \$280 a week, \$140 they can spend and that they did. They told us of all the stuff they bought. It was an interesting experience. Their whole personality was so different from what I've been used to. The Oriental people are unique for things I'm not yet able to describe, but with a little comparison to the two jumpy, bubbly, almost witty Americans – vs. the quiet, subdued, service-oriented girls [here], it is very different. It is an amazing culture I'm associated with. I will be finding books to help me. They're fine just how they are. I wish I could write it down better. I guess I'll be sending a tape pretty quick too - for Christmas, that is.

This last week was a hassle running back and forth to the hospital and getting everything ready for Elder Jones. We did manage to get some teaching in and bless one of our investigators at another hospital, who hurt her hand. Then, I caught a little cold Saturday. I stayed in bed and read church history. I had all kinds of ideas of how I would like to make a study of the church history. I thought of maps and timelines to get everything coordinated in a spectrum. That ought to be fun. How is my English? Am I getting worse and worse at my handwriting? I just fear for my spelling. Korean is too simple to make mistakes in spelling. I'm not so confident in grammar yet, but I'm just as excited about the language as ever. I have progressed to being able to understand, but I still have bad days and good days. I told you who my companion was, Kevin Coleman from Logan, who went to USU and Jazz performance.

I also priced some cameras and they go about \$60.00 more than catalog prices. I could get a small Olympus for about \$300 here (the same camera for \$200 in Japan). I'm still hesitant. How about letting me know or send a few

packages of flashes hidden among the Christmas box. And give me the straight word on the pictures I've thus sent home. And my drum situation is going to be a lot. I'll let you know when I get them sent. I might be sending the trophy and other things right away anyway. As always, love you much. I've got little time left to really be working now. At this point. The newness of the work has left and it requires a little endurance, but what a blessing to be in Korea.

Love, JEFF. [Go Top](#)

### **1977.11.14 Aerogramme Sent Home**

Dear family, it's been yet another week. And I hope I can bring up some worthwhile information or experiences. We don't have any success stories this week, but a few memorable door knocking experiences that make me want to stand up on a wall and cry repentance to the Presbyterians Who are bunglove it so bad. Among the many different door responses, the Presbyterian Church is the most common. On a tape, I'll explain about the Korean and the his Buddhist background. Which teaches them to lie so well at the door, "Oh, we already believe so preach to the non-believers." Then we say we'd like to talk to you about "our church," and they have another excuse like, "Oh well, we have guests." It's an interesting experience, but we never, seldom, if ever, get a slammed door or an angry reception. There are a few, but very seldom.

Last week we had one of these exceptions. We were invited to a party or something. As soon as they could identify with what they knew of us, it was a mess. All they knew was that other people said we were heretic. I left a pamphlet. And good wishes. And we were gone. It was the more "laughed at" type persecution, although we were treated politely coming in and leaving according to custom. I wish I could have it on film.

You asked if the drum dance was on tape, and it might be. I'll be able to work real easy with that next week as I will be up at the mission home. About the "Slender Now" products. It is very expensive to mail it and I am maintaining

my weight quite well. I put weight into my neck as my shirt buttons fit just snug around the collar now. I'm about 145 lbs. but I expect to gain yet. I was taking the "skin food" just with milk and none of the other stuff. I took it for about two weeks but suddenly stopped as I quickly went out to 7th ward with only a few supplies. Since then I've got a hold of it again but haven't taken it.

9th Ward had American breakfasts or pancakes and syrup and fried potatoes. And so does 7th Ward and in the mission home. My face is generally clear, but I have some bigger pockets like I used to under my ears, under chin, and I wondered if the "skin food" could possibly have a harmful effect. During the past here, I have often times doubled my tetracycline, so I figure that won't last past June. But then I hope I'll be OK. If I get in an area that eats Korean food which suits me fine, there will be no problem. It's the greasy American potatoes and pancakes that don't help.

Anyway, saave your money on sending me things. I ought to, or want to, send Korea home. I have everything I need here. Even if American supplies are in an emergency, I can get them here off base - no problems. Film is available in Korea but too expensive to buy and develop. It is because they have film here that they tax the film coming in the mail. I guess enough time hadn't passed to know about the camera. Did you get the roll through the Kodak mailing system? I [think] a nice Christmas present would be a cassette tape with a few motivating words from everyone.

Korera is a hard place for missionaries because there are so many things you want to buy and send home - blankets, material, clothes, pottery, books and more. It would be my pleasure to send things home rather than get anything. I hope you can figure this letter out. Send a tape.

Love you, JEFF

(My mind is boggled between two very different grammar style languages.)

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### **1977.11.23 Aerogramme Sent Home**

Dear family, this letter should be a little slower than usual and it will be the normal for several months while I am up at the mission home. P-days are on Wednesday. Oh yes, I am back up here since Monday. Also, Elder Jim Jones is already back in Korea. He got home and the doctors couldn't find any of the problems they found in Korea, so he didn't have an operation and is back looking very healthy. Had a fine month in his place at 7th Ward. Elder Coleman was a fun companion. We got along fine and taught some interesting people. I hope the Chinese family comes around, they were beautiful. 7th ward is in the process of building a Chapel and during the month I was there we met on a second floor of a bank for their meetings. It is a fine ward.

Big efforts are being made towards home teaching in the Stake these days. That's good. Korea is turning to winter and the smells and sights and everything reminds of one year ago when I [first] came. It causes me to reflect on the past and make stronger goals for the future.

Life at the mission home is decent and amongst the disagreement, it is a warm place to be for the winter. It is a famous hassle how the staff doesn't proselyte and stays in the office all day. And it is still hard for me to tell, but from what I've seen, hours *are* wasted in disorganization and indecision in these offices. I hope I can pull out and meet my goals. I want to get two hours first timing in every day, as well as my one hour language study and two hours gospel (One class, one individual). Right now, I spend two and a half hour sessions a day on the typewriter - learning how! I started that yesterday. Can you believe that? I came on my mission to learn how to type!

Christmas is here. Tomorrow the mission home elders have dinner in the Hawkins home for Thanksgiving. I have several items to get ready to send home. Being moved around so much lately I haven't been able to send anything. I plan on sending a few packages and waiting on the drums till after the Christmas rush now.

I hope your group gets together and has a merry time singing. The yard must be turning beautiful from the sounds of your letter - a SHED, huh? All right! I also hope your Christmas production goes well. "Here's Love" is the show I played at the past PMT [PVP-Promised Valley Playhouse – Not Pioneer Memorial].

Cherie sent me another letter. I'll be sending several beautiful Korean Christmas cards and one to her. She says she is mail hungry! Question! Since we don't listen to music anymore, shall I record on the tapes Ron sent and send them home or wherever? They sure and tell me.

Pres. Hawkins is a lot like I want to be? I guess you could say he is a perfectionist. I'm looking forward to be able to work with him. Big things coming up in the future. In the coming days, we won't be surprised to see articles in The Church magazines that came from my office or, news of the church in Korea. I have a role in that - big responsibility. I'm to become a reporter. *(Don't tell Mrs. Work, my English teacher. I got a C mark on my newspaper article. I remember it well.)*

This is going to be a beautiful Christmas. We are also going to be working on an article for 1978 issue of "The New Era" - of missionary activities on Christmas Day. I'm excited for the coming months, still need your prayers and love you for them. It's the best comfort to know of such love at home.

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### **1977.12.07 Aerogramme Sent Home**

미안합니다 나는 지난주의 편지를 부치기도 잃어버리였습니다.

[‘I’m sorry, --I---last week letter ----even though sent ---intend form---lost’]

Sorry about this late letter. Last week I made a tape I was going to send but I put it into the package I sent. Then I had a Christmas card, but I didn't get it sent either. Things are quite different here at the Mission Home. I don't think I

will be driving ever. President Hawkins is trying to cut down on the cost of our Toyota truck - that I would have driven.

I [now] know the whole keyboard typewriter and I get a little faster every day. I have initiated a mission scrapbook seeing none for the past 20 years. So, I've spent the last week looking through files, a few boxes and old tapes from General Authority visits and the New Horizons and Tender Apples. I was amazed to see how much they were on TV in the past. We also have been finishing up a new film strip. Our job is to publicize good programs of the church. Get the news out. I'll be trying to meet editors and media people a lot, and the ideas will be used if you have some

This ought to be around Christmas, so I hope you're not all caught up in the commercialism too much to remember the significance of this day. Here in Korea it is easy because it isn't a big holiday. Sister Hawkins said, "It is a blessing for us to be here so we can really know Christmas." My thoughts will be with each of you as I spend my Christmas taking pictures for The New Era.

I have been informed your package and Christmas letter arrived. Of course I can't see them until Christmas. Elder M Russell Ballard spoke to the mission Monday and had some good counsel. I go halfway around the world to see more of the church leaders than our own Salt Lake City.

For Christmas, try on the things I sent and let me know, they're a super bargain. As I reflect on various blessings, one of my choicest is my fine parents. I don't think there [are] many people in the world who have the love, concern and support of their parents like I do. Mom and Dad, be sure you have a great Christmas! Jay, Ron, Denis and the boys of the Wirig family, I want you to make sure you remember how lucky you are to have those toys. Yvonne, Cherie, Remember, this brother isn't perfect yet. Hope you like the "things" but remember I love you all more than I can wrap in a box. Have a merry Christmas!

For the New Year 1978, I challenge you to leave the television off for a few of those football games and sit down together and work on scrapbooks and

genealogy, books of remembrance, etc. This is a high opportunity while you have this time together, I still want to know how you're doing on those journals. President Hawkins talks a lot about “things of the world.” In 1978, let's not be after things, but perfection. Why don't we see about getting together to read the scriptures? Maybe losing or giving away some things. Suddenly I see pictures, scrapbooks, journals as the best valuable “things” you can have. Let me know how you are doing. My prayers are with you, and thanks for yours. 1978 is going to be a great year.

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### **1977.12.14 Aerogramme Sent Home**

Dear Family, Eve of tomorrow, day after yesterday, P-day. I have a good week this time. Last week, good too, but no much good like this one. We teach two or three times last week. No, really. We taught some good people last week that looked good for conversion. Only one problem. Monday night on our return appointment to teach I mixed up the times and went to each home at the others appointed time. Of course, I didn't know it at the time, and I was bewildered how such good families could break the appointment. We will try to meet them again tonight.

Yesterday in playing Public Relations, I escorted 2 elders to TBC-Television to film a comedy show. Something like “All in the Family,” Korean style in old days. I stood on for rehearsal, makeup and filming to make sure everything went well. I also took some pictures for history, etc. I did change one scene from inappropriatism. Two Americans get shipwrecked in old Korea, 1870. Koreans think they are boogeymen at first. Later, teach them a little Korean, try the food, meet an official, etc. They have an alarm clock and a tape recorder that startled them[the people]. All in all, it was a very funny. [In] In both episodes, both the elders were made-up with full beards and wore funny Korean costumes toward the end. I took a lot of pictures. We sold one Book of

Mormon among the group. It sure was a worldly bunch though. It was a good experience.

This morning I went to see the National Theater (Western architecture) and see what Korean culture I could get it on. We also stopped at a few other places. We just finished dinner at the USO. I'd rather eat Korean, but no one else will. I can't understand what attachment these guys have to American food. It only gives you zits. If I could eat a Korean diet, I'd be beautiful. There are plenty of foods besides rice and kimchi in Korea. Anyway, the only suffering I do in my mission comes from trying to live American in Korea. I just feel fine about taking on this lifestyle for two years. Well, I'll have to convert them.

There are a few signs of Christmas around Seoul, places where you can find Western influence. I have been doing a lot of thinking for the new year, like I still have a penmanship problem. [In cursive...] Maybe I should write this way a while it's hard to write like this, it has been a long time since I last tried it. How does it look? [End cursive Writing].

The Tender Apples are in a little bit of trouble according to the Korean priesthood brethren. They can't make it in Korean lifestyle as a good member of The Church by singing. They could go to America, but it is too different and they really couldn't be happy in a mixed marriage. They perform the most on army bases, which are a bad influence. So, they have they have advised to stop. But they haven't. Relations are too good with the T.A. [group] and the mission. I wonder what will happen. They sing so fine and yet must not sing in order to do better in school and really be happy. It was a fine group and yet it seems it isn't turning out so well. No worry, all will be OK.

The work is exciting in my new call, I really like it, because being close to President Hawkins. He's an old teacher from Murray, a good one!!

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## **1977.12.21 Aerogramme Sent Home**

Dear family, it is another day that come quicker up here at the Mission home than anywhere. Past two days we were out all over the city getting the tape machines fixed, buying for the PR office, learning where places are, delivering exhibit materials, etc. The time just flies. We are especially busy because of Christmas and preparations for [the] all mission dinner Sister Hawkins is putting together. Have you ever tried cooking for 150 missionaries? We have 10 turkeys in various freezers sacks of potatoes and rolls, etc.

The staff has put together a simple skit we will do along with Jenny, the mission presidents 11 year old daughter. We might practice a little more today. Also, last week I met a man and his family of seven and taught a great first discussion with [Elder] Jim Jones. We returned tonight for our third meeting. They haven't had much involvement in church before, but they were impressed with the message we brought. [We] first knocked on the door and met his older son, who reported no one was home. We left and moved on to more doors. But before knocking, a man passed us and we said greetings and he stopped and asked who we were. We told him we were missionaries and could we come in and talk to him and his family. He said sure, come on in. And we did. We sold a Book of Mormon and made a return appointment in 2 days. Then we left and returned two days later, being a Saturday and had a promise with all but two of the family. Great!

We tried to get out at evening time to proselyte and soon, according to new programs of President Hawkins, more often.

Yesterday we learned a former assistant for nine months who had been out proselytizing for months, was returning for the remaining months of his mission to be an assistant [Corey Bingham]. He is a motivating elder, one who first introduced me to Sister Till in a meeting for new incoming elders. He was sort of a guideline to me at first, so now I will be working with him.

Hey, I'm starting to get a little feeling back in my mouth. I went to see the dentist today, 최옥환 [“Choi Ook Hwan”]. He is first counselor in Seoul Stake –

I had my teeth cleaned and one cavity filled. It cost \$28.00 and during Christmas so I'll need to make up for it next month. January with \$180 check, OK. If I send you a receipt and insurance do anything? He did a fine job, no pain. He has a good setup, just like an American almost.

It is cold these days but we stay warm In the mission home. We have a Christmas tree too, a real one. We got it from the military base. When you read this, it should be 1978. I hope you had a great Christmas and the New Year will be better than ever. I am really looking forward to the upcoming. There is a talk of pageants, news, movies, etc. from my department. Be watching The Church News for articles on Korea. They may have come from my office. Well, things are fine and fancy as I start my 13th month in Korea – “The land of the morning calm.” It's a fine work the Lord has us doing. I'm sure been blessed. I have some improvements to make for the new year and I will do it.

Love you all, JEFF [Go Top](#)