

AEROGRAMS HOME

Jeffry Paul Belnap

1978 March to April

SERIES FROM KOREA

[1978.03.01](#) Reports on museum research, public communications work, missionary responsibilities, family news, weather changes, and reflections on purpose and faith.

[1978.03.08](#) Describes springtime optimism, newspaper outreach, museum research on gold plates, teaching investigators, and anticipation of increased missionary effectiveness.

[1978.03.15](#) Easter letter detailing intense preparation for subway health exhibits, transfers, public relations work, missed birthdays, exhaustion, and gratitude for family.

[1978.04.07](#) Accounts exhaustive leadership of a national health exhibition, media exposure, sleep deprivation, personal reflection, and anticipation of returning to fieldwork.

[1978.04.12](#) Recounts accidental attendance at cultural center rehearsal, reflections on Korean arts, exhibition wrap-up, correspondence, and balancing mission responsibilities.

[1978.04.19](#) Focuses on speech contest preparation, media relations, visa administration work, cultural events, financial sacrifices, and renewed confidence in missionary service.

[1978.04.26](#) Expresses joy in spring, mission progress, new companion, welfare exhibit planning, language improvement, testimony growth, and gratitude for family support.

General Description (March–April 1978)

The March and April 1978 letters present a sustained, detailed portrait of a young missionary deeply immersed in an unusual and demanding phase of his service in Korea. Writing to his family from Seoul, he documents a period marked by intense responsibility, rapid personal growth, cultural discovery, and evolving spiritual perspective.

Across these letters, a dominant theme is his unexpected central role in public relations and large-scale health exhibitions sponsored by the Church. Rather than traditional door-to-door missionary work, much of his time is consumed by planning, designing, building, and managing exhibitions held in subway stations, public halls, and provincial towns. He describes long nights with little sleep, coordination with city officials, creation of posters and displays, media outreach, and interaction with newspapers and television. The strain of this work is evident, yet so is his pride in its success, measured in public attendance, media coverage, and inquiries about the Church.

Interwoven with these accounts of work are reflections on cultural life in Korea. He writes vividly about museums, Buddhist gold plates, traditional music and dance, modern cultural institutions, and rapid urban development in Seoul. An accidental attendance at a full dress rehearsal in the new Sejong Cultural Center stands out as a moment of awe, inspiring deep admiration for Korean artistic achievement and national resilience. These experiences reinforce his growing affection for the country and its people.

Spiritually, the letters trace a clear progression. Early entries balance enthusiasm with fatigue and self-doubt, particularly as administrative and promotional duties distance him from regular study and proselyting. Over time, however, his testimony strengthens. He reflects frequently on the eternal importance of missionary work, the symbolism of guidance and commitment, and lessons learned through discouragement and perseverance. By late April, he expresses a mature sense of purpose, gratitude, and conviction that his mission time has become one of the most meaningful periods of his life.

Personal elements anchor the correspondence. He comments on family news, missed birthdays, upcoming weddings, and financial sacrifices. He apologizes repeatedly for delayed letters and typing errors, revealing both exhaustion and concern for maintaining connection with home. Moments of humor—about food, age, or sleep-deprived dreams—soften the intensity of his workload and humanize the narrative.

These letters form a coherent record of two demanding months in which professional skills, cultural immersion, and spiritual insight converge. The letters mark a transition from uncertainty to confidence and task overload to reflective clarity.

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1978.03.01 Typed Aerogramme

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Dear Family,

It is already March and two months of this year are already gone by!

The change over of months is the busiest time of the month for me since I have to prepare reports of the month's activities and type, set, and print the missionary's monthly newsletter. Recently I haven't been doing much typing since my efforts were with displays and other types of work, but in the next two weeks I will have a lot of it. As a result, my typing today isn't as smooth as it might have been otherwise.

Last week was interesting in that I did some investigating on the gold plates (Buddhist sutra) in the National Museum. The new Visitor's Center on Temple Square may put a replica in their displays on gold and other metal records in the world. I was asked to get a better picture of the plates and to copy characters off of them for rewriting, but I was able to find a book which had the very same characters in it and I will send that. The contents of these gold plates are very well known among Buddhists and therefore it is a simple matter to find them. The reason the gold plates were used by some monk in the past was so he could obtain more status in heaven for making the expensive offering to his ancestors. I don't know much about the religion but I've come across some interesting things in my investigation.

I was glad to hear the drums and stands have all arrived and I am relieved at last! You may do whatever you think is best in restoring the stands to their proper form so they will have strength. I realized the pieces that were on there were not sufficient. You asked what the trophy was for, and it might be a little humorous since you've been displaying the other trophy as the Drum Dance prize when it was one for the Speech Festival I was involved in this past December. The trophy you just now received is the Dun Drum Dance award! It was a Second place prize.

I find it hard to believe that Scott and Marshall Crawford (Our Student Body Pres.) have returned already. And not only that but his marriage is so close as well. I guess we all make the fatal step sooner or later, but it is something hard to picture for my cousin who I used to play with.

We just about had Spring here but it snowed up a storm and cold weather again yesterday. I sure do welcome the warm weather and I imagine that it will all be here in just a week or so. Of course, we get a lot of rain right away too, but it isn't as cold as the winter.

It also means the summer where Elder Belnap sees his big successes now that I am a master of the language and an expert at the work. I am fairly enthused about getting out and reaping the harvest. In the next few months I plan on making some big movements which I hope will allow more missionaries into more doors.

As I tried to explain before, I am working on outlining and producing the pageant but I'm not really writing it. Nor is the President writing it, but together we are trying to organize something that a real pro can work with in putting it in script. We really aren't sure since the whole thing is still in embryo stages.

My main work right now is with news stories and releases and public image type things. The Public Communications program in Korea is just starting to come to official organization and I've been working on Press books, Fact sheets, biographies of the local brethren, etc. I am also trying to prepare for a schedule of exhibits and open houses in the near future.

In our last Korea Area Public Communications Council meeting, I suggested we try an exhibit in the Subway in a place designed for that purpose. We can rent the space for only 20 dollars a day, which would be feasible for a week or two. The Welfare Service missionaries are also making preparations for an exhibit before they return home in April so I am helping with that as well.

Some of my big hopes for Television and Radio are on ice right now since Salt Lake has said wait until Keith Atkinson comes and films the Korean Mormon Introduction movie for television release. Things really go slow here. I often wonder if I am able to get anything done with the lack of time I am working under.

For example, I usually have about half a day to do any work of my own since I go to the post office every morning with my companion. That takes a lot of time in which I am not able to do anything unless I am taking pictures in to be developed or picking them up. I'm making a go of it though. I am having quite a bit of trouble myself today trying to type this thing.

I'm excited to hear about Mom's teaching and that her schooling was still credible. It ought to be fun to get involved with it. President Hawkins is a teacher, and if time and other things work out right for him he would like to teach at a University level. He often speaks of his Jr. High experiences.

I spent some time with him yesterday in an interview type thing for his biography, we started talking about what we were planning to do upon arrival home and neither of us really knew.

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He spent a year in Korea with his wife and would have stayed longer but Jennifer decided she would rather be born. He was over here on a Fulbright Hayes Foreign Studies Grant and spent a lot of time with President Palmer (The Mission President at that time) to go and view many places in Korea. He has a MA from BYU in History and spent two years at Columbia studying Asian Language and Culture.

But the most important thing I learned from him is that there is no more important work than the one we are doing now. Nothing can replace or come close to the work which has eternal effect compared to one which lasts only a lifetime.

President Hawkins has referred to this life as a play in which we enter for our minute and a half. We don't know the beginning or the end but make a big part of our time in the play trying to figure that out. The only thing that can save us and keep us going in a direction of desired destiny is the iron rod which runs through the middle of the stage. That is "The word of God."

Well, I would much rather try to rehearse these things in person and I will some day. I want you to know that I think about even the very Sacrament meeting at which I am to make a report. I really want to stir the Ward up. President Hawkins encourages that and suggests from time to time possible topics. It's great to be here!

I wish you could see it all somehow although I don't think it practical right now.

Love you all

JEFF

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1978.03.08 Handwritten Aerogramme (Transcribed)

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Dear Family,

I chose this color by accident, but today just happened to be a beautiful spring kick-off and orange tells the feeling.

Several of us are sitting outside in the sun making letter writing enjoyable. It's common knowledge among missionaries that it is better (or easier) to receive letters than to give. It's of course a pleasure to tell about your activities and experiences to those you love, but to sit behind a pen and paper seems treacherous!

Last week I took several newspapers a news release as one activity. It was fun to see the different reactions I got. Some were surprised at an American's entrance who spoke Korean. Others were careless-like and almost didn't accept my offer.

Also, these past few days I sent off a letter to the Church Exhibits Division about the Kum Geong-Pan or Buddhist scripture on gold plates. I've made several semi-interesting trips to Seoul National Museum in that project.

Other than these things I'm working on routine filmstrip, news articles, Church News, etc. In about 3 weeks we'll have a health exhibit in the subway before a group of health sisters go home (the group that came in 1 month before me).

Sunday night we had a fireside at the Hawkins home with Joe Christensen, associate commissioner of education for the Church. He gave a few good remarks. He's here looking over the seminaries and institute.

We also had some teaching last week, a Brother Kim who should be getting baptized this month. Our other family is coming slowly. The kids have been so involved at the Church with their new friends, they come home late and are neglecting their studies. Our parents aren't too happy about that.

We will spend the next week solving that matter with the Cards and Brother Chung, our investigator. We also had a young man about 25 come into the office

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One day asking to attend Church if he could. We will teach him tonight.

It's turning so beautiful and it's so great to be here. Time is now for big things on my mission: the last quarter is around the corner. The time when an elder is supposed to be most effective, and this one plans on it. I hope all is going well for you. It is for me.

Love you all. JEFF

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1978.03.15 Handwritten Aerogramme (Transcribed)

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Dear, sweet, wonderful, patient family,

Today is my Easter Sunday. Last night, instead of painting eggs I was painting posters. I've stopped for a few minutes on this day of rest to let you know I'm alive and well and even though it doesn't sound kind — I am going all out, late at night, working on the completion of the health fair which is March 31 and April 1 in TaeJun — a country town and then here in a subway exhibit room, April 5–8th, Seoul [downtown].

I've been spending time the last month on this and it was the ward newsletter that told me of Mom's and Cherie's birthdays. I felt terrible. I hope it was a happy one for both of you.

I'm not sure how to congratulate you this late, but this letter is dedicated to that.

Tomorrow is another transfer. Moving. I get a new companion, Elder Christiansen from L.A. Elder Dave Merrill goes to 3rd Ward to be AZL [Assistant Zone Leader], my old job!

The exhibit is called "A Healthy Family Is a Happy Family" 건강한 가족은 행복한 가족. It discusses five health aspects: dental hygiene, T.B. prevention, parasite prevention, cancer & smoking, and mental health with family home evening.

I've been building displays, smoking machines, large smoke packs, a translite man, and repairing FHE advertising window displays, etc. Not to mention coordinating, organizing, and meeting city authorities, etc., to get it approved.

I still have P.R. work to do, and after 2 weeks I will be able to let you know more detailed what's going on. I think I'll miss...

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...this P-day's letter as well, so please forgive me and be with me in your prayers.

I love you all very much and trust the Lord is watching over you!

Congrats to Ron, and all!

Letters coming soon!

Love

JEFF

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1978.04.07 Typed Aerogramme

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Dear Family,

It's been a long time since I last wrote one of these typed letters, that is it's been a long time since I wrote a letter at all. I have finally found moments to breathe from the hectic schedule I've been running around here doing this Health exhibition and all.

Today is Friday, April 7, 1978, National Health Day in Korea. That is one of the reasons we are having this Health Exhibition this month along with the reason that the group of Sisters doing the fair are going home next week.

So, you may ask, how do I get mixed up in a Health Fair? Well, I have been asking myself the same question a lot lately. I am PR and I have understood my purpose to make this event known to the public like I do any other event, but I never figured out how I became in charge of the whole production.

I have made all kinds of arrangements with people to obtain our place of exhibiting, designed and built displays for all aspects of the fair and completely prepared the Family Home Evening aspect. I directed the making of posters which included the requesting of a very talented member to do much of the lettering and some of my own efforts in Hangul lettering, etc.

I also designed and painted the four large advertisements which are placed at the entrance to the Subway, the location of the Seoul Exhibition. I have spent several nights of the past two weeks up past 1:30 and an occasional stay till 5:30 in preparing many of the parts, titles, and sections of the show.

The end of March and the first of this month we took the show to a town called Taejun about 2 and 3 hours out of Seoul and set up and prepared that show, rode the bus line home, did more preparations on the Seoul show and then spent Saturday in setting up the General Priesthood Broadcast at the Institute building.

I started again the first of this week with final preparations for the Seoul show including setting the room. I have taken some pictures of the exhibition to let you all see the wonderful work that has given me a cold which I am now getting over due to the past two days sleep and eating.

Yesterday I went to bed at 5:00 pm and awoke at 8:00 am the next morning with only one interruption about 9:30 when I awoke from a dream which suggested I still hadn't

completed a display. I awoke, relaxed myself with a bowl of Korean cereal called Jolly Pong and returned to bed.

It isn't all over either. Tomorrow I will be taking the show down from the exhibit room in the Subway first level (not where the trains run) and setting it aside only for a short while until some of the local branches utilize the show, probably throughout this month.

But since all the posters are made and the real heavy work is done, I won't be as busy as I was. I even spent the night in the room at the Subway Tuesday in order to protect some of the equipment and borrowed goods.

Everything was fine between 12:00 and 4:00 when everything is shut down, but after that the trains start running regularly, and even though they are a level below the exhibition room, they are right below the room and it didn't allow for much sleep.

I wouldn't have stayed that night but there were too many things that still had to be prepared and so I worked that night till 1:00 am, slept for three hours, layed awake for one hour and then began the final tasks at 5:00 am until 9:00 when we opened.

I have really been through some experience, one I don't think I want to have again, but I believe this is having a lot of success. We have had I think over 6000 people go through the show, it's been in the papers and on T.V. news and many many people have made inquiries about the Church.

One thing about the whole deal is that I seem to have missed the personal missionary feeling about the show. Because I was building, designing, setting, etc., I was far away from study of Korean, the scriptures, or even the schedule of a missionary.

So now more than ever I am waiting for my transfer out to the field, although I still have goals to accomplish before I go. I have a filmstrip to finish and I want to establish the PR relationship with the media before I go just as the manual suggests.

The big pageant I used to talk about is still in embryo form and is probably beyond my length of stay in the mission, but it's hard to say. Pres. Hawkins has sent in some of the ideas we worked on to Salt Lake for help, approval, etc.

But my major concerns are no longer with such. I am excited about the possibilities for the filmstrip which I composed from many of the materials that the Church has put out to publicize FHE. Pres. Rhee Ho Nam said it was "wonderful" and as time permits we'll have it translated in Korean and begin filming.

I also have other responsibilities and hopes for some local news releases on the Church that I have written. I will be doing a story on the Fair for the Church News and that might be something to watch for in the next month or so.

It's a strange mission I'm having, one I never imagined was so. It also just occurred to me that I haven't sent anything to the ward for a long time, and I plan to, but until then say Hi please.

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I just was handed your letter of the 29th and read it and I feel a need to apologize again for my slothfulness in not getting the letter of each week to you. I really have been busier than any other time I can remember ever, so I am grateful to still be alive and kicking.

I would imagine you have a good feel for what it's like to be busy, maybe more than anyone else. The activities you are involved require a lot, I know, and I'm not sure how you're going about doing them all.

I will be typing a letter to Ron right after this so I can congratulate him on his news, and explain my tardiness. Again I continue to feel remorse for missing the birthdays, and I hope Cherie had a fine one. How old does that make her anyway?

I am to a point where I have to sit back and figure out my own age, 21 seems like marrying age, but this kid doesn't feel like marrying!!!

I received Scott and Kim's wedding announcement as well as Dave and Kim's. There sure is a lot of these things going around lately.

But I am far from those thoughts being in the thick of things and I will be in the thick of things for about six more months I believe. That is, I plan on being devoted to what I'm doing so any words of encouragement are eaten readily and thoughts that keep me here in Korea are terrific.

I am always grateful for the sacrifices you have made in my behalf and I hope to repay them with good works and baptisms. Peace and joy be with you all in these busy times.

Love

JEFF

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1978.04.12 Typed Aerogramme

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Dear Family,

It's April 12, 1978, and I mark 3/4 this week, and I'm not anxious for that. I am enjoying Korea very much, and especially the work that I'm doing here.

I had a very interesting day today, Friday and all. Elder Johns and I went out to see what would happen by being out and looking around. We started at a Junior and Senior High School that neighbors our Mission home and found a soccer tournament in progress. We took a few pictures and then went into the school to look around.

It was a very nice place, clean enough that one is required to remove their shoes before entering. We grabbed a few pictures of some classrooms and then headed on our way.

We got on the bus thinking we might try to look inside the new Cultural Center in the City. After getting off the bus we walked right up and into the auditorium, as the bus stop is right in front.

We began to look official (or rather like Americans who were lost) and found our way around quite easily. We noticed there was a lot of activity in the auditorium so went in to see what it was all about.

One worker asked if he could help us and we said we were just looking. He said, "Looking now, they're to start in ten minutes." He said we could sit down so we did. I don't think he was anyone with any authority, but we didn't mind being there.

What we seemed to have walked onto was a dress rehearsal for the big opening program that we later found out will only be attended by invitation. The timing was perfect, they began just as we sat down.

The director was there in the audience seats running everything just like a school production at home. There were occasional stops and "Again!"s as they proceeded with the rehearsal.

This is a brand new place, not quite finished and the program we saw in rehearsal will start the 14th. There were painters still going at the halls and other rooms and various other finish work projects going on in the building while this opening show rehearsal was going on.

It started with the National Symphony in the orchestra pit with an overture and I imagine all the music is original for this production. Then they added the great new organ on the side of the auditorium and that made my bones tingle.

Then a glorious color array appeared on stage as the curtain arose which revealed a court music orchestra of an enormous size (Korean style). I was impressed as the Western style music overture faded into the music of this group as they did a traditional classic piece.

I had the mission half frame camera and attempted several shots of all of this and I am just hoping they turn out.

Then the stage equipped with a large circular section rotated revealing another traditional style group of women playing Kayakums. It was fine and in recognizable meter so I assumed there is organization to this music which I hadn't seen before from Church group performances.

Then came some traditional dancing as they entered in from under a raising curtain which also revealed a large backstage which has a projection booth that showed several movies and slides on a see-through screen that added to the show.

Then what must have been the theme of the show began as two microphones popped from out of the stage left floor to greet a narrator doing a dramatic reading along with an operatic or musical type program.

This continued till the end and entailed ballet, modern dance, singing, Korean dance, etc., and presented what must have been a very patriotic show for the theme of the National anthem had a great center portion with the flag being projected on the screen from backstage as dancers danced and singers sang in front.

It was a thriller.

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The play continued to show trouble from war and Japanese occupation, etc., as well as development of the country. Some of the final scenes showed Seoul on the screen with more modern dancing and singing tying in the old and new through costume and two key characters, an older grandma who grew during the show and a younger girl.

The finale brought in the National Chorus and the organ and then the whole cast for bows. It was something. For this country who has seen so much war and upset to put this kind of a show together is amazing to me.

Now it was probably not as good as maybe Hollywood or Broadway but it was on a level just above University I think. It was neat to be there.

We found out that there are no tickets and it is only by invitation for sure when we found the main office and asked them. So we were two lucky commoners to see all that.

This past week we finished on the display at the subway and brought it all in Saturday night just as the curfew came on and we drove by the guards around the gates they had just started putting up on our way home.

The weekend I spent gathering tools and supplies and cleaning and organizing. I also did some work on this month's White Field, the mission newsletter.

Other than that, it has been a more relaxing week. I took the time to write a letter to ASU today and find out what they think of my situation. I told them I wouldn't be able to return at the first of the year and asked for their feelings on that.

Then I don't want to do any more worrying about that for six more months. It looks like we will have a few more of these exhibitions too, so I am not through with it yet although the worst is over.

I was just looking at the program from the Sejong Cultural Center and found out the name of what we saw is "Our Time Has Come" and that fits the experience.

I sent off a tape to Dickson Burton this time too. I received Scott and Kim's wedding announcement and Dave and Kim's too. It seems like a lot of wedding announcements are around these days.

Suddenly it seems as though I said this last week. Well time is the excuse, it is flying by and I'm trying to find a way to slow it down.

I hope all your activities are turning out well and that Mom in school is doing fine and Denis too. I guess Ron has plans for the Summer and I await that news too. The W—ought to really be in the thick of things with my two nephews that sure would be fun to hear from, maybe a tape or something, huh?

Well, this didn't turn out to be the most spiritual letter I ever wrote but it hasn't been the most spiritual week, but it has been enjoyable. I imagine the days are coming when I will have nothing but spiritual successes from our proselyting.

I send my love as always and my apologies for the typing errors—mistakes. Have a super week please, O.K.? LOVE YOU LOTS

JEFF

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1978.04.19 Typed Aérogramme

Page 1

Dear Family,

Today is April 19, 1978. I have spent most of the day working on a speech. (Yes I already have done one but we need a certain amount of missionaries to participate.) I have written it over at least four times now. I think that is the most number of times I ever did a rough draft or copy in my whole English class life.

I'm still not completely satisfied with it, but I don't feel I need to worry because the problems will be lost in the translation to Korean. Time is also an element I work with. The application goes in on the 25th, and the Festival is on the 9th of May.

My last letter will give you a good idea of what my topic is about. I basically make comments about the Cultural Center as a sign Korea is stepping up in the world. I used as flowery language as I could muster up, and I imagine with the good help of a talented translator, it will be sufficient for the contest.

I had thought about this particular contest last year, but wrote it off with the excuse I didn't know enough Korean. Not to say I know enough Korean now, but I wasn't going to do it this year either since I did one in December.

But in trying to get Elders to participate it is difficult to say "Come on, do it, it's a great opportunity." when you aren't planning on the great opportunity either. In talking it up with the Elders I think I convinced myself to do it as well.

So that is what is foremost in my thinking right now.

Last week was very slow and comfortable. I did do some news releases, which hit at least the English newspaper. We have also been doing some defense against a Korean paper that did a false article about polygamy again. We get that every once in a while and I think I'm going to try and get a statement from Salt Lake and do an article clarifying our stand.

Other than that I did some work for my companion. He is the Mission Recorder responsible for visas and that sort of mess. I typed some letters requesting extensions on residence permits for several Elders and a similar letter from the President requesting the same permit from a different person.

It is quite a process to keep the Elders here, and I don't think they all realize the work my companion or the Mission Recorder goes through to keep them here. We can see how the Lord is in charge though by how we get through some hassles with governmental offices.

Transfers are out this month as of yesterday's announcement and I did not receive a trainee or a new companion, so it looks like I could be here at least two more months.

I think in that time the President has in mind improving the exhibit we have just done and expanding to include programs of the Church and how they provide the means for families to become self-helping and personally stable. We aim to look at the education system, genealogy, FHE, etc., etc.

I also still have that filmstrip in my mind. It tells a great message and I've spent enough time on it already so that if I were not to do it, all that time would have been wasted in some respects.

I hope I'm not overbearing in my typing errors. Do psychologists analyze people by their typing mistakes? Oh no.

You will also notice the indentation is set very deep. This is due to the fact that not much happened this week that is worth writing about or rather, I have told you the proceedings of the whole week already.

Ah ha, a thought.

We all purchased tickets for the New York Philharmonic with Leonard Bernstein in the Sejong Cultural Center the first of July. We had to buy them early to ensure getting them. President Hawkins and his family are all going the same night.

We are going to sit in the third balcony of course, since they were the cheapest seats. That's about the sum total of what I can afford at that place when foreign groups come in. It will be a one time shot, huh.

I have three months to revive my funds. This month I will be without a few cookies and extra things, but other than that it isn't a big deal. Joan Sutherland is coming, not to mention Eugene Ormandy, the Royal Ballet, etc. etc. We picked NY Phil. 6000~~W~~.

I hope we become able to get out at night again soon. With all the busy things we've been doing, there are still things that keep us here in the office at times.

I have hopes for one family that I've worked with since I've come here still, and we will be trying to see them in a few days. I had a chance to teach a young man who came in the office the other day, a result of the Exhibition, who we taught for an hour. It was great to bear the testimony and have the reassurance for myself as well.

It's a great place to be, and I am really happy, and excited about the next productive months.

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I have recently felt the sincere love for the work and especially the country that I wondered about before coming to Korea, and while I was here the first part of my mission. I couldn't see then what could possibly be meant by the best two years of your life, when all we did was exist here.

Well, now I'm beginning to know, but I don't think I could explain it very well. I do feel like I can say that the time I have spent here has been some of the best moments of my life, and that is true.

I have also learned some hard lessons and I imagine that they aren't over yet either, but nonetheless I have met and had to deal with some real discouraging times. I'm feelin' good these days though.

We had about three birthdays last week and that means Sister Hawkins feeds us ice cream and cake. We ate all three times, it was wonderful.

I think I have also gained an appreciation for food on my mission. I mean all the food you could never get me to eat at the dinner table. Be sure Denis hears how much his brother would like some of the things he doesn't want to eat.

I wouldn't mind a few of the things Denis likes to eat now either. Anyway, I do like many of the foods of Korea, and it's really been an enjoyable experience to test them all out. It is going to be fun to tell of some of the things I've eaten. TEE HEE.

Well the page is gone, let me say it again, as insufficient as it may be, I love you all, and especially Mom and Dad for your sacrifices on my account.

Thanks.

JEFF

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1978.04.26 Handwritten Aerogramme (Transcribed)

Page 1

Dear Family,

It's a beautiful morning here at the mission home. All the trees have blossoms and just yesterday they filled in with green leaves. It's so moody and wonderful. The sun is showing at us and it gives a luster to the trees and bushes with the dew that is on them.

If I were a great novelist I would describe it, but it is beyond my ability. Anyway, it gives me a great feeling.

I'm not able to use the typewriter since it is early. We will be going out at 11:00 to a place which displays export items to get ideas for our exhibits and then there is a zone or a mission conference with Elders Komatsu and Kikuchi at 2:00 pm. So I'm writing now.

I have a new companion as of Monday's transfer. His name is also Elder Christensen (Reed) from Montana. He will be my replacement P.R. man, so I could be out in a month — more or less?

Last week we put together another display at Cham Shil, a branch in southern Seoul. I also had some help in translating my speech for the Korea Herald contest May 9th.

A new group of missionaries came in and an old group went out. This group had 3 elders that family came to take them home.

E. Bingham, the assistant's parents spoke in our 4th ward sacrament meeting for a few moments. E. Bingham translated. It was strange to see those adults like that.

I have some goals to accomplish this coming month. We are working on an exhibit which deals with personal welfare basically, and we will include areas of education, genealogy, work, etc. It will show how the Church meets those needs.

Other than that I will be concentrating on tape studies again. Time is going to rip by these next few months so I've really got to give it everything.

I love it here. The season is super. I am able to talk and communicate. I can understand what I hear. The members and people are so helpful and great to deal with.

The culture is fascinating. The progress and change in Seoul in the time I've been here is

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Impressive.

I've grown in testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel and its importance. There is nothing I ever want to do but this kind of work for the Lord and His Church.

I have had some discouraging times, but today I feel on top of the world.

I do think about you as I feel appreciation for your sacrifices to have me here, but only when it doesn't interfere with the work.

I'm still looking forward to a tape or something. What's the plan this summer?

Take care.

Love

JEFF

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