

My
Mission
Letters

Written From
September 1973
to
August 1975

by

Thomas J. Redd

Sept 1973 (I entered the mission home on Saturday, September 15, so this would have been after the first week of being on my mission. Probably around the end of September)

Dear Family,

This has been an eventful week. We have gone through everything including getting kicked out of our "home". BYU is having a football game today and the Holiday Inn said that they would put the visiting team up. In order to do that, they had to move us out for the week end. The mission decided to put us in the women's gym so that is where we are. There are about 80 of us in here and the sad part is that our bedroom becomes a chapel every Sunday. I don't know how the ward that comes here manages with all these beds. Maybe it would be nice to lie down through church. They told us that rather than moving us back to the motel that we would stay here for the rest of the time.

The French language isn't very easy, I have found, when it becomes necessary to speak it all the time. However we have memorized one of the discussions and part of another one since last week.

We are going to the football game tonight. My companion, the football player, is all excited about it and so am I but not for the same reason. I can't wait to see the band march again. When we went to the temple on Wednesday I could hear them practicing.

I got so excited I could hardly hold still but I couldn't say anything to anyone because I didn't know any French words to use.

Ellen, remember Elder Graham, the district leader? He sure has talked a lot about you. Maybe it is just to make me work hard. Elder Hunt is my scripture study class teacher and he told me about things that happened to you. He told me about you and the wheat chopper. Elder Heyborn is my language teacher. He was in your mission and has been home for something like 2 months. He worked in the mission home for the last of his mission. He says that he didn't know you. Maybe you know him. Do you? Elder Housen is in the mission home now and he has a brother in "Our" mission. Do you know him? I haven't yet decided how I am going to get this letter to everyone. As you can see I am not using any carbon paper and I don't want to have to write all this again. Maybe I will photo copy it for Will and Joan.

Learning a language sure can mix a person up. When we are in class and the teacher tells us what a word means, I end up writing the definition half in English and half in French. It sure can get hard to translate. I guess I am writing a new language "Frangla" or something. The way I speak French is something else, also. I don't know how anyone can understand me.

Maybe the time table of the day would be interesting to you. At 6:00 you have to get up. You break mission rules if you get up a few minutes earlier or later. At about 6:15 you leave the gym and walk to where Ellen and Will lived to eat at 6:30. At 7:00 you have to study scriptures or discussions and then get to a French Zone meeting at 7:30. At 8:00 we have a grammar class until 11:50 and then we eat. At 12:30 we are to study the language and at 1:00 we have a grammar class until 4:30. Then we have a scripture class until 5:45 and then we eat again. At 6:30 a grammar

class begins and it goes until 9:40-9:45. Then we walk home and get here about 10:00 and we have a short time to study whatever or do whatever we want. It is short because it is a mission rule to go to bed at 10:30. Not before and not after. All together we have about 45 min to study the things taught that day and shower and do everything else that is done at one's house.

I sure miss good music. I shouldn't talk that way but it is true. Did you ever hear a football player sing? Well, I must admit that as much as he is sports minded he is the best singer in the district. Each day when we start and stop our classes we sing a song everyone tries to sing the melody except me and my companion. We try to sing parts but as soon as I stop singing his part and try to sing another part he gets lost. It ends up in about 15 part harmony---13 parts quite similar to soprano and 2 parts quite similar to bass.

My companion and I have fun when we go walking to and from the LTM--however we don't know any words to sing in French so we whistle church songs all the way. It is fun but our numbers are limited in number. I can see that the time spent walking is going to have to be put to better use in the near future however. We will have to start reciting what we have memorized so that we can still remember it.

I can't believe how many of the songs in the French hymn book are songs that use tunes out of the English book.

Well, I have my washing done and I have pressed some of my things that got messed up in our sudden move yesterday. We only had about 15 minutes to get ourselves all together and out of the motel. Needless to say I didn't do a good job of folding anything. I just stuffed all my stuff in as tight as it would go. It sure was a mess. Elder Low, David Redd's cousin, is in my district. It is kind of neat to not be a lone Canadian.

As they say in French, "All the world" is ready to go eat so I had better start stopping. We are having a great time here and working hard. (Some sights that I see are really interesting --basketball hoops for closets--80 boys showering in the women's bathroom each day--a chapel full of beds, etc., but it sure is neat).

Goodbye for one more week. I love you all. I will photo copy this for Will and Joan.

Love
Elder Redd

Oct 6, 1973

Dear Family,

I hope that you don't worry too much about what is on this. One of the kids from my floor last year told me what the conjugation in Spanish went like and I told him about French.

We just watched conference and we really enjoyed the messages given us. They sure stressed

storage in the last session today. The first session was about Jesus Christ and it was really good. We watched conference here in the Zone 6 chapel. Maybe Will and Ellen know where that is. They put two TVs in there and it was just about like being in Salt Lake. It even had stereo speakers like you get from the two speakers at the side of the tabernacle organ. I have seen 3 kids that just got here on Thursday who were in my branch last year. It was really good to see them. They are the kids I got the closest to.

I got the box of stuff that you sent me. There was only one problem! It was all gone on the night of the day I got it. The note in your letter said that maybe some of the elders would help me. Well, they did! All our zone just loved the candy and chewed on it every break they could get during the day. That wheat stuff was really good, too. Myself and about 3 others of us were all that ate a lot of it. The district leader and his companion and mine and myself ate your birthday cake. We hummed "Happy Birthday" because we didn't know the words in French and we had some pop with it. Thanks so much for that package. I don't think that there is anything more exciting than a package (Maybe I'll place an order for another package. Make it for 8 elders and 3 sisters. The sisters don't care now how much or what they eat. In fact one of the sisters, I dare say, ate one quarter of the candy. Put some fudge in the next one.) Hey I thought that was all just a joke because no one will be coming down to bring it. But maybe you will take me seriously when you send Ellen down. Don't worry about it because Ellen said she would fatten me up when she got here.

I don't know how but we are a week ahead of where we are supposed to be right now. I don't know how long they have used the same books here but if it is very long, you might understand me when I say that we have finished level one grammar. We are supposed to know enough French right now to not have any more grammar classes. We are supposed to start memorizing discussions full time right now but they are going to have us review for a week before we do.

I think that I told you that we had already memorized one of the eight discussions. Well, we have almost learned two of them right now. I really don't know how or where we had time to do it because we only have 3 ½ hours a day to do everything in. I mean eating, walking to our gym (bedroom) and getting ready for our days. We are supposed to do some extra studying in the scriptures, too. Well, I hope you have all been getting your letters from me. It just hit me that I have sent Joan's to Grassy Lake to be sent on but I have not said who to give it to in Grassy Lake. I have to get Joan's address. I have sent Will's to a place that doesn't exist but when I saw him on Tuesday he told me his address. I wrote a letter to Doug and Steve Schramm last week and am kind of interested to know whether or not they got it because I don't know how to spell "Shram".

I have been living my language and I think that that is good for everyone. I don't bother everyone by talking to them because I don't know how to say anything. When I do talk I learn how to say something, and when the end of the week comes I get to talk all I want in letters. That way everyone gains--even you--I hope. Well, Mom, I guess you think that I forgot your birthday. Well, you are right but I only forgot it on Saturday and I remembered it the rest of the week. It is a mission rule to write letters only on Saturday so when I remembered it all I could do was keep on remembering it until another Saturday. I thought once that I would write you a special letter for your birthday but the way the time looks today you might get to wait for another week. Also I haven't bought any writing paper yet. This is the last of the pad that an elder that was leaving

threw away, and it is closer to the end now than it was when he threw it away.

We have the greatest devotional meetings each Tuesday. One reason is because Will has a class in the Joseph Smith Auditorium and he gets out just as we get there. Also, brag, brag, I will be in the choir that sings on Tuesday. One of the Sisters in our district is the conductor and one of the elders plays the piano. I am the tenor section. That all happened when about 6 elders, all bases, were all that showed up for the first practice. I was brave and said that I would try to sing the tenor. Then I looked at the music. Most of the notes are above middle C and that is about where I start singing in falsetto. I don't know how to spell that word.

Our girls gym is getting pretty empty right now. A lot of Elders went on Tuesday and a lot more went this morning. In about 3 more days most of the ones still there will be leaving too. That will leave about 10 of us in that whole big gym with 100 beds. They don't like to have to move kids into the gym so we might have it all to ourselves. We have interesting facilities there. There is a big shower room with lots of showers and there is only one that works right. There is one that you can monkey around with and if you monkey long enough you can have a shower there. Then there are two side by side that half work. One shoots hot water and the other shoots cold. If you stand in the middle of the two, when you aim them together and spin fast enough you don't get too scalded or too frozen, but you can't just stand because the water is hot on the hot side and cold on the cold side. Some kids have tried shooting the hot shower across the room and showering in it after the water has had a chance to get cooled off. That way the temperature is about right but it is hard to shower with only a few drops of water that makes it far enough to get cool. There are 2 sinks and one small mirror in the bathroom. That is the boys' bathroom. But we do have it nice. The girls' bathroom is big and roomy. There are more showers and they are all individual and the best part of it is that lots of them work. Another hard thing is that not many boys want to be found showering in the girl's bathroom so you don't find too many kids in there. There is one room that has mirrors all the way on 3 walls and lots of plugins. There is an iron and lots of benches and there are lots of lockers.

It still seems funny to me, however, that our bedroom gets used for a church house each Sunday. I also learned that there is a language class in there all day long every day. It must seem strange to them to go to school in a bedroom for 100 people.

Thanks for all the letters. I really am lucky to get that many since I saw you. One of the elders has only gotten two letters since coming into the mission home. One sister has received letters from her parents but I think she would rather not get them. Her dad is a minister in another church and when she joined the church, her parents "kicked her out" of the family. She always looks happy but it seems to me that she is ready to cry each time she reads her letters.

Well, I pity you. I just tried to read this mess and that is almost impossible. I haven't yet written an English/Tom Redd dictionary but maybe I should. That way I could spell things my way and scribble it my way and you could translate it and it wouldn't be all a waste of paper. (I mean this letter).

Ellen, the longer I am here the more I hear about you and your mission. I want the time when I can see you to hurry up. Will said you are fatter but I couldn't believe him. Are you? When is

that date that you get here and what Tuesday do I get to see you? I guess I shouldn't say it that way because we are not supposed to arrange meetings with people but I will keep my eyes open after you arrive.

Someday I am going to get brave and go see what my grades were for spring term. I haven't done that yet. Did they ever get sent home?

Guess what I did one day! I washed my clothes. That isn't the interesting part though. I put my shirts in one washer and my socks and garments in another washer. The shirts were fine but the garments came out pink. Before I let them get dry I tried to wash the color out and I put a lot of bleach in them but they are still a little pink. This way I don't have to have my name written on them. No one wants pink ones and no one but me has them either. I guess that some of the brown from the new brown socks was all that it took.

Last Saturday we went to the football game. I can't remember if I told you about the game last week or not. I suppose that I didn't. If I had had my way I would not have gone, but I knew Elder Cammack wanted to go and couldn't go unless I went. After the game started I was really glad that I went. I got to see the band march again. I loved every minute that the band played but I wrote letters while the band didn't play. I didn't even find out who won the game. With the kind of band the Cougar Band is though, the BYU team had to win.

Ellen I am giving you an assignment. In fact I am going to give you two. First, go sing in the Choir. You would love it if you did. They will probably do a concert with the Utah Symphony Orchestra. Second, tell me what you think of the Cougar Band. I want to know if I am crazy to like that kind of music or not. I hope that you will listen to them once in a while, even if it means that you have to go to some of the games. I guess that you are not the same as me. You would enjoy the games and don't need some extra reason to make yourself go.

Well, I have collected a nice cold while I have been here. There are a lot of colds around here in the mission home right now and I guess I opened myself up to them about Monday night. It was a cold night and I didn't put on enough covers. It is so awful. I don't own any Kleenex and I haven't been to the store for any. I did bring one hankie with me and it goes everywhere with me. It sounds awful but I will say it anyway - it sure is getting stiff.

Today we were supposed to do our washing but we have been here at the Home all the time and I never brought it with me. All my clothes except for about one pair of socks are dirty. I guess that I will just have to be dirty for a while. Monday when we are practicing our song for Tuesday maybe I can put it in a washer.

That reminds me! I was a big brave nut one week ago. Our district leader said that he needed four volunteers for talks and I said to myself that I would talk and that way I might learn a little about talking French. So tomorrow or rather Monday I have to give a French talk. We are able to write them and have our French teachers correct them though, so it might not be too bad. I have written my talk and given it in our class already. It is short but it lets people know what I have noticed while I have been here and that is that many of the missionaries don't keep all mission rules that they are asked over and over again to observe. I don't know how it will be.

Well, I have just about come to the end of both time and paper. This is the last sheet and I only have a half hour to study. I guess that I will photo copy this again. Good-bye and I love you all.

Tom Redd

Oct 6, 1973

Dear Mom,

I guess that I have time to write you a short birthday letter. I don't know whether to say that you get special paper or whether to tell you the truth and say that I don't have any other.

You sure have gone through a lot for me. I am always doing things that I shouldn't and you always love me just the same. You have done, and are doing so much for me that I don't know if I can ever repay you.

You have such a great love in your heart for me that I can feel the love and concern you have for me here both in your letters and in the spirit of the Gospel. Your love, eternal and devine is a testimony to me that God lives and wants us to be happy.

I hope that the things I do in my life can eventually make you happy with me. Happy Birthday! I love you.

Tom Redd

Oct 13, 1973

Dear Family,

Ellen, I found another name for the person you seem to like. Elder Hunt was talking to us about how you should always start your day by getting up and getting going. He said that one of the companions he had used to like to run all the time. He said that at the mission home there was a course about two miles long and he said that "Running Indian" broke the record time for the run. He let it slip out that Elder Hyde was his companion.

Well, right now we are supposed to know how to speak French. We are finished with the first level time table and now get to spend all our time memorizing. I am not sure how it is all going to work out, but I doubt that it will be too bad. We will memorize for something like 1 hour and then we'll repeat what we've learned as many times as we can for the next 1/2 hour and then start over. They have also told us that learning the discussions is not enough. We will be challenged to say them to the wall or our bar of soap or anything a minimum of 10 times a week. That's a lot of blabbering.

Well, Gilbert, I remembered your birthday, but I don't know if I remembered it for the right day. Mom, did you get your "beautiful" card?

I must be able to say more things in French right now because today it doesn't seem half as easy to think up things to write in English. It must be because I am able to say more to everyone during the week.

Last week it was conference so I guess I will start talking from that point in my memory. The talks at conference were fantastic. Mom, Dad and Ellen did you listen to them during the night. Some of the things that were said kind of scare you into being good, don't they?

Last week in our family home evening we made some goals that are going to make us work. I don't know if you know it but in the LTM the missionaries are only expected to learn 6 out of the 8 discussions and we committed to learn all 8 of them. Thank goodness our teachers have started us out on the discussions a little ahead of time. By Monday the day we are to start learning we will have finished 2 of the discussions. There is, however, one problem. Our district is so big that it will take just more than 11 hours to pass the next discussion off and it is only 45 minutes long. One of the discussions is 2 hours long. That will stop us for a few days. While we are passing discussions we'll not be able to do as much learning so I really wonder how we will do it.

I am beginning to feel lost in the French language. It takes me three reference books to say any sentence not in the present tense. First I decide what I want to say. Then I look up the words to use in my French English dictionary (sometimes I have to look up how to spell the word in my English dictionary before that step). Then I have to look up in another book for what kind of tense the verb should be in, and then I have to look up in another book how to conjugate the verb in that tense. I wish that someone would write a book that would do all three jobs at once. I guess that that is the book that we each have to write in our own heads--and thank goodness there are books to help you write it.

Tuesday our choir got to sing our song and it went over really well --we thought. Will, did you stay and hear us sing? If you did, what did you think of it?

Monday I had to give my first French talk. I told you that I had to do it in my other letter but that didn't tell you how bad it was going to be. I got up to the mike in the Zone 6 chapel (Remember, Ellen?) and said my little ooh, that I told myself that I wasn't going to say and it came back to me through the speaker like the stereo in the Galaxy used to. My natural reaction was to plug my ears--and ooh some more.. And that is just what I did for the next few seconds without even realizing it. The first thing I realized was that everyone was laughing and I was standing there with my fingers in my ears saying ooh. We could only take notes with us and I couldn't read my writing. Boy was I in a fix! There I was scared to death, my fingers in my ears, and not able to read my notes. I was so scared that I had even forgotten the first part that I had memorized. With an "uh" in between every other word I managed to spit out the talk and tear for my seat.

The next talk was given by one of the girls in my district that had studied French for ten years. (her major is Communications and her Dad teaches Communications at the U of U). Then one that had studied in France got up and gave a perfect talk. It sure didn't do much to make my talk look

good. Then I found out that Elder Graham, the District Councilor, had taken notes on our talks. He said a couple of words to Soeur Holstein and then I had a grammar and pronunciation class. Well, I guess that it is better to have those kinds of classes here rather than in France where I can't understand what they are explaining to me.

Wednesday, we were told that my companion was to be one of the assistant zone leaders. I'm glad it is he that is to stand up in front of everyone and talk French every third day. Well, they turned our bedroom into a chapel again for the meetings tomorrow.

Thursday we got an important announcement that made us all laugh. We got home to our gym and someone had put one of those "Important Campus Memorandums" on each one of the beds. All it told us was that we were required to change the sheets on our beds the next morning. Can you beat that? One hundred copies! I guess they figure it was important but the sad part of the whole thing was that the notice came out a day late. Most of the beds had been changed and there was a mountain of sheets at the door. I guess some people don't see too well.

Yesterday I talked to Elder Graham and he remembers you still Ellen. He asked how you were doing. He couldn't quite remember when you came into the home but he knew that you were to arrive home sometime around September.

I made a fool of myself in front of your old teacher "Elder Streeter". He stuck his head in our class and asked if an Elder Redd was here. That got me all nervous and upset and excited...you know how something like that does when you are right in the middle of a class. He started rattling something about Ellen Redd and ended with what sounded like a question so I tried to invent some kind of an answer that would work. He asked something about "comprehending". Well, this time I knew I was lost so I blurted out "encore." Well, he rolled back the "tape" and played it through again only he sped it up because he thought I could understand. Needless to say, I didn't. So I rolled back my tape and re-ran it.- encore- by that time he was kind of flustered and embarrassed about holding up our class so he replayed his "tape" faster than ever. This time I couldn't think straight so I said "Oui" and closed the door in his face. Jim Skeen, my teacher then said what Elder Streeter had said but he said it slower and I wasn't nervous. What he had been saying was "I taught your sister Ellen and you are just like her." I guess he doesn't think that I am just like her any more.

William, Michael and Laurel thanks for writing me the letters. It was really fun to go to the mail box and see your letters in it. It sounds like you had a really neat holiday. I guess those are things that I won't have for about 2 years.

Tell the branch "Hi" for me. I guess I should write a letter to the Bishop. I sure don't know what to say when I write it. I also don't know when I will have time to write. The reason for lack of time is that my companion likes football games a lot and if I don't go waste the time with him on Saturdays he can't go. The game today was interesting but BYU lost by 2 points.

I saw Will, Peggy and Sharylin today. I had just finished remarking to my companion that everyone on the BYU campus that knows me must hide when I go walking. All I did from then on was run into people. I saw Kent Bangeter, Will, kids from my Branch, kids in the band and kids

from my classes. We walked home from the ball game the exact way I used to walk every morning except when we got to the place where you walk through the Harris Fine Arts Center I couldn't let myself do it. Had I gone in there, I would have died to pass by the studios and News writing labs, etc. The pipe organs would have been mighty tempting also. The Ball Rooms in the "Y" Center are bad enough.

I just got the official word from an unofficial source that we are going to move out of the gym Monday or Tuesday. They have 50 bunk beds in the front end of the gym. In the back end there are chairs for church and a pulpit and everything. The chairs face the beds and that is how they use our bedroom for a church. Is that any clearer, Ellen? Here is a picture. Back by the doors of the place there is a blackboard and a table where a class is held every day - all day long. Now maybe you can better understand our multi-purpose bedroom.

Mom, you asked me to send some stamps for when Canada has a postal strike. Well, I just bought some from an elder who is leaving and will send them to you.

Well, I can't think up much more to say to any of you. Maybe I will read the letters and see if you have any questions.

Joan, we won't know when we fly until 3 more weeks are up. How is Gilbert's new band coming?

Ellen, thanks for the "Four Missionaries".

Everyone, thanks for all your letters. It is nice to have something to read. I hope that you are all able to read this.

I guess that I had better do some packing tonight. Maybe go to bed early. However that isn't a good idea since we have 8 pages of memorizing to do for Monday.

Housing is now \$130.00 a month for BYU and possibly more for hotels. I don't say this because I need money. I still have too much to take care of.

All my love and the Lord be with you.

Elder Tom Redd

It has arrived! I am not sure how, when, or how much but it is here. Ellen has arrived. We just got back from the gym and here was this great big Elder Redd--Wow! Did it ever look good. I only wish that I had been here when it arrived. This is awful. This week she is the one that delivers the most to me and I have not made a copy of this for her. I don't know her address either. Maybe you could let her read this, Will. I suppose that you will see her occasionally.

How did you come and -Fudge- when did you get here, Ellen? Elder Streeter really wants to see you.

Joan, it was good to get your letter. It sounds like with 4 kids you are kept kind of busy. The

cookies are most interesting. We haven't figured out what kind they are yet though. Thanks for the fudge, whoever made it. The popcorn is really good also. All the district seemed to be the most excited about the toffee, Mom. They really liked that.

By the brownies, it looks like Ellen had her fingers in the kitchen again. I couldn't get anyone else interested in them and frankly I am happy because I sure like them. I sure hope you go to class with Will on Tuesday, Ellen. I don't know what will happen if I see you though. I just might break the arm's length rule.

What are you taking this semester, Ellen? I have to collect myself to catch the bus. I'll write more later if there is time.

(Later) I don't know what I have told you all in the letter and I am afraid that I can't read it to find out. I can't remember if I told you that we are living in a motel again. That means sleeping in double beds with your companion and long bus rides. Ellen, if you happen by the LTM at 9:30 at night that is me getting on that bus.

I have to do some other things before this day is done so I had better get started. There is only one hour left. I have to polish my shoes and get ready for another week of brain storming.

Oh, today when we were at the Field house I went exploring and made myself homesick - rather studio-sick, when I found all kinds of stuff common in a studio--patch boards and video cables. Well I guess that all that really isn't too interesting to you but I sure liked it. There are places for 6 cameras (TV) that I found.

Well, It is time to stop. I love all of you and am thankful for your prayers and letters. Hope to see at least some of you soon. 4 weeks but we aren't certain as to the day and time.

All my love,
Tom Redd

Oct 20, 1973

Dear Family,

Well, here it is one week later. I can't believe how fast the time is going. There is only four more weeks before I should be out in the world of actual missionary work. Wow is this ever hard to believe. The Elders that were our leaders are now gone and there are elders here four weeks fresher than us.

I got Ellen's letter today. It sounds like she is down here already. I sure wish that the Lord would pull a trick or two and have us meet somewhere soon. I am dying to see her. She also said something about a package Mom was cooking up. I wish Ellen would hurry and cook up a way to get it here soon. They told us when we got here that we were only to look for packages in the package room once a day. We are lucky however, because that room is one of the main entrances to this building for missionaries. Also, other members of the district will be looking in the room all day long. I can't help but keep wondering where Ellen is right now. I keep going out in the hall hoping to see her but it doesn't seem to help out.

What a week! I told you that we were starting the "Second level" this week - We did. And boy it keeps us busy. We start the day just normal - that is we get and dressed at 6:00. We are to study as much as we can between 6:30 and 7:30 and we are supposed to eat our breakfast. We have to repeat all the lines we learned the day before out loud to our companion and pass it off to him. That generally is all the studying you have time for. You say a half hour's lines and then he says his lines. We have a deal going where we each have advantages and we each face disadvantages. My companion says his lines first. The advantage for him is he just says them until he gets done. The disadvantage for me is that I get whatever time is left. He says his lines in the quiet of getting here and I say mine between bites of breakfast however when he goes first, it is a really good review for me. Then I am more prepared to say the lines.

We started this week on Sunday by spending the whole day except for enough time for church trying to say the discussion we learned last week. Actually I had to relearn the whole thing-- 8 pages this sized typed. I didn't quite have it learned Monday morning but I was almost there. I had an interview with the mission President at noon and that didn't help my concentration any but after 1:00 I was able to say the discussion. We have to pass all of them to our teachers so I gave it a try. We were given 45 minutes to say it all in. I made it but it took all the time. That discussion talks all about the church sort of generally. It talks about the prophet and the apostles and other leaders. It talks about scriptures and it ends by committing the investigator to take responsibility for his own salvation. The other members of the District passed the discussion when I got done--that sounds wrong. I was about the 5th person. Not the first. It took all day Monday and Tuesday for everyone to pass it off. One rule here is that you can't start another discussion until all the district is finished with the previous one. What you have to do is repeat what you have learned as many times as you can. I said the long one 18 times and the short one 12 times. We finally got to start the next discussion and now I wish that I was still repeating the other one. We have to learn 40 lines in a half hour and then repeat it as many times as we can to our companions for another half hour. Then we learn 40 lines more and repeat them as many times as we can. By the way when I talk about companions and study I don't mean my real companion. Each day we get a new study companion to be with for all the classes that day. After that it is time to put all 80 lines together and say them for 45 minutes. Then the best part of the day comes. We get to eat- but you find that you learned so little that day that you memorize between the bites. At 1:00 you put the first 80 lines out of your head and start the program all over again with some more. (Hey, I just looked at my book and I have the numbers all wrong. It is 80 lines a day and 20 lines per half hour)

Well, I started to tell about the next discussion. It includes 5 pages of Joseph Smith story most of which is taken out of the Pearl of Great Price. Gilbert and Ellen you probably know more what that means than I do. All I know is it is like learning another new language. All the teachers say about it is they use different tenses in books than they do in speech. But we know that that isn't all that is different than what we know. Books seem to like big sophisticated words that we don't know the first thing about. But I finally got all of that stuff under my belt and am now ready to learn normal discussions. Discussion "C" is divided into two parts. The first is the Joseph Smith story and the next is everything from the first vision to the organization of the church. It is 27 pages long and only 5 are in the first part. After three days of memorizing stuff I didn't understand or know, I got the first part learned and passed it this morning in class. I guess by now

you can guess that it took me the full time 30 minutes to pass it off. It is nice to have it passed. Now I have to repeat it all day and all day Sunday and Monday until everyone else passes it off. Then we get to start memorizing all over again.

Monday we had a meeting with the mission president. We got told that BYU wanted their gyms and we had to move back to the "nice" hotels. Frankly I think the gym was nicer than a motel 5 miles away. (That is not a fact. All I know is that it is clear out past where University Ave. goes over the freeway. There are really nice rooms out there but I don't know why we have to be in nice rooms. Some Elders are terrible. They wrote letters to the President about how bad the gym was and had their parents write about how picked on their poor little Johnny was. What was the worst was that the president came to church and in a way apologized for the bad housing. We have to write a letter to the President each week so I told him that I quite enjoyed having a bed and roof and shower (even if it doesn't work) and the spirit of the Lord in the gym. I almost said that the kids that didn't have the spirit of the work in the gym won't be any better off than they were in the gym now that they are in the motel. There will always be something wrong. One of the first at the motel is putting 122 elders and a driver on a 41 passenger bus. That was quite an experience. The seats were full and there were people sitting on the laps of those in the seats. The isle had about three rows of people in it and needless to say we could hardly breathe. The bus driver was the master packer and that is really what he did. He took us and pushed us into the cracks and put other people in front of us so we couldn't move. Nobody had to hang on while we drove here because nobody could have moved. When we got off the driver said we had broken the record for that kind of bus by 60 people. How's that for great?

I saw Will on Tuesday and he said that he would have Ellen at the meeting in one week. That is only 3 more days. I hope she's there.

Thanks for the letters. It sure is neat to get something in the box. That is an interesting name for hippy bus. I wonder if it will stick. It looks more hippy than happy at first sight but when you get to know the beast it is more happy than hippy.

I heard that you have a little time now. Mom said something about going to Calgary and getting the car on the same day. Where did the car come from? Calgary or Taber?

Mom, how is your Sunday school class? Did Doug Schramm ever say anything about getting a letter? Have you got the class tamed yet? Dad what ever happened with the theme presentation? Joan, I forgot what your job was but it had to do with music. How do you like it? Michael, how do you like primary? William how is Kathleen doing? Laurel, do you get to see the Doctor some more?

Did you do anything with the 70 dad? What did you do with the cow? Ellen said you were hauling straw--where and what for?--to winter the cows?

Do the seats lay down flat in the new Datsun? I guess they must or you would have thought more about buying it.

Elder Hyde and Sister Redd must have been good missionaries! They are used all the time for

examples in our scripture class. I don't think Elder Hunt knows that you like Elder Hyde, Ellen. I sure hear a lot about him especially.

It is time to go stand in line for a while so we can eat.

Oct 27, 1973

Dear Family,

Ah! This is nice! I got some carbon paper that is easy to write with. I don't have to push holes in the first paper, and the last one is readable. It is more messy. But I like the thoughts of less work on our Saturday afternoon.

First of all, thanks for the letters, Ellen, and the candy. It was really neat to see Ellen again and see that she is still herself. Our meeting was all an accident. One day I was sitting eating a simple meal and someone changed it for me. Elder Plummer walked up to me and said calmly that "your sister is in the package room." I don't know how he kept calm about the whole deal because I sure didn't. As soon as I heard the word "sister" in English, I knew something was up and was off on the run the full length of the cafeteria. When I got to where I had to go through the dinner line, I was too excited to slow down and just kept on going full speed. I didn't look back to see how many broken legged Elders were rushed to the hospital. I think I ran over a few nice quiet sister missionaries that were peacefully minding their business also but finally I got to the right sister--the real one.

The whole district eventually got word that she was there. I don't know how. Maybe I was a little bit excited and talked a bit loud. There was only one bad part and it was not for me...All the world (as we say in French) said that Ellen looked like me. You poor girl! I don't know how you'll make friends if that is true. Ellen, you are really yourself. The only thing wrong is that you are shorter. I can't believe that I have grown in the past 1 ½ years. Maybe my memory blew my big sister up. It sure was good to see you again. Thanks for the "truth". It sure tasted good. For those who don't understand, Ellen baked a cake and wrote the truth on it and sent a neat little thought and recipe with it. It tastes like she is as good a cook as she used to be way back when. Ellen, I hope that the recipe works for me like it does for you. (This was the crazy cake recipe)

I can't remember where the last letter ended but a lot has happened this week. Last Saturday our district played a football game - not real football but French football - I forgot the name... Soccer- with another district and I was stuck there because my companion was there but finally I ran into another Elder who didn't want to play so the teams were even, even if I didn't play. I went in the field house and did some exploring. It sure made me miss communications when I ran into television cables that led to a control room. It looks rather run down and the monitors are gone but it is a control room. I found about 10 places to plug in TV cameras. That place was really built well. BYU only has professional cameras though. I don't know if you know much about cameras. There are about ten TV cameras at the BYU that look just alike but there are different kinds of tubes in them. For professional camera work you have to have a tube that loses its images very fast or a close eye would see an overlap of the movements in the picture. Wow, that sure isn't

clear. Maybe I will try again. A tube in a camera can easily get a picture "burnt in" which means that when the scene on the camera changes it takes maybe one second for the first image to be totally lost. Some tubes are so slow that the image, if it were extremely bright will stay there for up to 5 minutes. For professional use a tube that loses the image very fast is necessary. These are very expensive (\$1000,00) and easy to waste. If a person aimed a good camera at the sun it would have that picture forever. Well, BYU has two really good cameras and the rest are so so. A lot of the productions here are done with more than two cameras and most people don't know the difference. All the education video tapes are made with ancient cameras that surprise some people that they still work. They are handy though because they are really little and easy to handle. Wow! Is that ever a weird topic for a missionary to write about! I sound like a missionary from the communications department at BYU.

Monday I saw Jill Bosworth in a dance class. She couldn't say much to me because they were dancing an exam.

Sunday we had a neat home evening. Each member of the district took a few minutes and told the others what they were like, what their families were like and what their goal in life was. It was most interesting and very spiritual. I read a lot of the scriptures and had a nice day. We had a mission sacrament meeting and all the Elders in the LTM were there. There were about 800 or 900 of us. The talks and songs were in English. That was kind of neat for a change. The prayers were not in English. They weren't in French either, but we get used to that. When we have our devotionals all the things but the guest speech is done in some language other than English. It is kind of funny to hear the page number for a song announced because they go through about ten languages including English. English, French, Tahitian, Navaho, Spanish, German, Portuguese, and I think some others. They have good meetings for us here.

I saw a card one day that said, "I repeat, we certainly are not fat. We're simply developing big muscles that enable us to sit for long periods of time without getting tired." I think that is what happens to us here. We eat and think but that is about all. We do go to the gym each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, for about 20 minutes but that is all. I am back to riding the bus to the mission home so I don't even walk. Will has a class in the place where we have our devotion each week. I have managed to see him each time I have gone there but not for very long. I didn't know what to expect the last time I went there because Will said he might have Ellen come to class with him. I didn't know whether I was going to break mission rules or not by hugging her and if that kind of a thing was going to happen I did want it to happen with 800 missionaries and the mission presidency watching. I got there and found I didn't have to worry. Ellen wasn't there. I saw Will for a little while and then Peggy walked in. It was good to see her.

Wednesday morning I was to give the spiritual thought in our morning class. Like me, I had forgotten all about it so I had my first experience of talking French without preparing. It was quite a scare. I tried to read some scriptures but I don't think anyone understood. They asked me to read them in English after I was done. I didn't mind reading in English but I found out that maybe my French is not too good yet.

Wow, it doesn't seem possible! In maybe my next letter I will be telling you all where and when to go. That didn't come out too well. I might have my flight plans in a week but it might be

more. I will let you all know as soon as I can when I get them. Mom I might have Ellen phone you when I get them. That is if she has to pick up something like a cake pan.

One day this week we had to give the E discussion to a member of the district and that member was going to be a really questioning investigator. Wouldn't you know it! I got the person who speaks the best French in the district, one who has studied French for 10 year. It was quite a challenge but I think it was really good for us. My investigator asked the hardest questions and I really had to think to find what she was asking and then find an answer in words that I knew. It really opened my eyes to how much we need the spirit of the Lord in doing his work. There was a little humor in this situation though. I was explaining how we are blessed by serving the lord in the church and how most of the people in the branch had responsibilities. (This is part of the discussion.) I got to the line that says that they know that faith without works is dead -- ils savent que la foi sans les ouvres est morte... And my investigator gave me the funniest look and said she didn't believe it. What had happened was I said "they know that the liver without the eggs is dead." I hope that doesn't happen in France but I guess things that are sad and funny are going to happen. We got told that in some language a missionary was giving the Joseph smith story and he got to the part where it says... And I saw two personages standing above me in the air" and the Elders said, "I looked and saw two carrots standing in a bowl of soup." I have had a lot of trouble with pronunciation and I keep coming up with new and exciting lines. I have a lot of trouble keeping my "heart" and "body" separate and Ellen informed me that I call the Sisters suet. I came up with a line that was rather startling to French people. (One day at the table) I was trying to say I didn't want any more to eat and I thought I did a pretty good job... Until all the world started laughing. I said I was full but that doesn't mean the same thing in French. It ended up that I said I was pregnant. Needless to say I did a little living up to my name and did just that--turned red.

Mom or who ever made all that candy, thanks from most of the French speaking mission. Not really, but a lot of people sampled the candy and said it was good. My district and the district of Huy really liked it. (Huy came here with us and we do most everything together) we had all the stuff gone in about one and a half days. My district was rather sick for a day or two but it was bliss. It was about the funniest thing I've seen to see all the weight watching Sisters dive into the fudge and toffee. The Elders really liked the popcorn and I liked it all. Thanks Michael and William and Laurel for the cookies.

Joan, you're really comical...But thanks for the letter. Your first paragraph was sure the truth. The way you said that the note was just so I would have an envelope to open was really a winner. The district laughed and laughed when I told them what I was laughing at. That paragraph has to go in my journal in a place where I can use it in other letters. Maybe it wasn't really funny; maybe we are just all tired and never exposed to the funny papers.

The Elders in the district are playing soccer now and it is about time to eat. Maybe I had better go and see if they are finished.

We do get to go to the show tonight in one of the chapels and it is about time to leave. (I will be able to play producer and criticize a film--how fun.)

I have to quit and use the rest of the time for something more useful. Good bye for a week. I

love you.

Tom Redd

P.S. Being in the LTM reminds me of when the two women have leprosy in the show the Ten Commandments. The only thing we see of someone is what they leave and that is all we see of them. There is a little room here like where they put the food for the lepers. I love you all and I am not contaminated.

Nov 3, 1973

Dear Family,

Well, the thing I wrote at the last of the last letter needs to be added to. It is true that the only way for me to communicate with the world is through our little "cadeau" room. I am beginning to think that I have leprosy and all the rest of the world is blind. I don't know what I can do with the cake pan so you will see it Ellen. It is in the bag that the cake came in with your name in big letters and I have tried everything to make its presence known. When we finished the cake, we sat the pan on the "outgoing" shelf and then I got your note that you couldn't make another until you got the pan. That way I knew that you never saw it so I put it on the shelf about in the middle and it stayed there for a while. I don't know if you ever came while it was there or not but it stayed there so I put it in the shelf for the people from P to R and I got told that someone saw you in the room Friday night. The pan stayed there, however, so I wrote a note telling you where it was and wrote on it and put it on the tack strip. I found an interesting cake out in the room this morning and also the letter I wrote and the cake pan. I think I might have to deliver it myself. The cake was truly interesting today. The icing was good and the taste wasn't too bad but it didn't win the beauty contest. Frankly I like it that way because then it doesn't hurt to be myself so much. The district named it the "lost cake" and they did an experiment with it. They put some of it out the window with some bread to see which the birds thought was best. The birds have been eating the bread but not the cake. They sure chose poor judges for that contest.

Wow! Was it ever a surprise to get a whole envelope full of dad!!! It sounds like you are keeping busy inventing new things. (Now I know how it feels to get one of my letters...I had to read a whole letter in dad's writing. His is better than mine because he always makes the letters the same. Once you know the code you're off but my code changes for each word. (Good luck.) It must be interesting driving the truck while you are in the back but it sounds like a good idea. How much straw do you have up now?

This has been a discouraging week with a happy ending. The discussion "D" is not supposed to be hard but it sure was hard for me. My week was started on the wrong foot by going to the movie here last week. It was shown by the mission president and it is a show that I would highly recommend not seeing. It just kind of knocked the spirit out of me and it took me about 4 days to get back to where I was to start with. I think it is the kind of a film that BYU wouldn't even show but we get to watch it right here in the LTM. Maybe I am a real weirdo or something because I hear a lot of Elders thanking the president for the show, and everyone I talked to thought it was

great.

We have finished the D discussion but I think I will have a lot of re-learning to do. We are to give this discussion in 1 hour and for 4 days I took about a ½ hour to say the lines we learned the day before. That will make me say the whole thing in about 2 ½ hours without Mr. Brown's responses. It is good that we have this afternoon and Sunday to learn it. If I can make it I think I'll try to be the first person to pass it on Monday and then I will be able to repeat all the other discussions while I wait for the rest of the district to pass the discussion.

I really don't have anything to say this week. I have spent all my time digging at this discussion. One thing I do have to say is thank God I have the kind of a family I do and that I have been trained to have respect for authority. This past week has shown me what can happen to a person who has not been taught how to work and to respect leaders. Monday morning to our surprise we had a new teacher walk into the room. (Our native teacher) she said that she was going to be our teacher for the rest of the time and also that she didn't know why Sister Rasmussen had quit. I personally think that a few members of the district drove her to quitting. As you all know there is an arm's length rule while you are on a mission. Well some of the Elders in the district were going so far as hitting her in what they called fun, and she would start talking in class and someone would have the nerve to tell her that she didn't have to talk so loudly. She has been talking to the district leader at times and people have told her to shut up. I'm sure glad that I have been taught to respect teachers. The first thing the teacher (new) made us do was turn into missionaries. She made the class sit in their chairs right and has told us in no uncertain terms that she is the teacher and she is going to run the class the way her rules tell her she is supposed to. Wow, that sure rubs a lot of people backwards. In fact I only know of three people out of ten that are willing to respect her. (I hope it is 3 and not just 2 and me thinking I am one of them.) Last night I was just about sick when I heard members of our district who I once thought knew what they are here for, dragging Sister Nguyen through the mud for doing her job. Then I got slammed in the face with someone saying that mission rules are simply asinine and you don't have to do what Sister Nguyen says. If you know me, you will know that that was just about all that I could take so I said, "it's not Sister Nguyen who made the rules and it's not her that asked you to keep them. The Lord made the rules and you wrote a letter to the Lord's representative on the earth and signed your name to it and said that you would live them for the next two years". I was so mad at people for blowing Soeur Nguyen for doing what the Lord has asked her to do. By the way she is the only instructor we have that sticks to all the rules and judging from the other districts she taught she does a good job of turning out missionaries - when they are willing to listen. Those people went right on talking about how dumb everything was and bringing up "proofs" to show it. I thought their proofs were rather funny--not then but after I cooled off. They were saying that the learning methods were dumb and they didn't work and they knew because they had tried them by living the rules and doing what they were supposed to for any number of days between 1 and 3--I know that they didn't. One of the simplest rules to keep is to be in bed by 10:30 and out of bed at 6:00. I know for a fact that these Elders hadn't kept that rule but I don't know about all the others. I know they don't live their language like they are supposed to because they talked the whole "battle of words" in English. They are the kind of people who say comment dit-on. The school is down the road but there are no busses going to it. We are constantly told that comment dit-on (how does one say) is only a last resort for making yourself understood and then you use it only for one word. It is not a license to talk English. Well, I guess the thing that I want to say instead of all this griping

is "thank you, mom and dad and Joan and Will and Ellen for helping me to learn to respect leaders and rules and thank God for leaders and rules to follow".

Well, I guess I should start to tell about the week. Because I had a discussion to prepare to pass Monday, my week end was pretty busy--except for that dumb show. Sunday I gave the discussion a lot of times to myself and then in our sacrament meeting the president and his wife bore their testimonies. It was really good to hear them speak and to know that they were here because the lord called them here to do the work of the lord in the "school of the prophets"

Monday wasn't very exciting but I did find out that there is an easier way to study than the way that we have been doing it for the past 6 weeks and that is the way the mission says to do it. Thank goodness we have a new teacher because it is with her I found out how to memorize fast and easy. It's nothing new. It is simply the way you have taught grade 1 to say poems and stuff all along, mom. I started to mark my French book Monday--I mean to mark scriptures in my French standard works that I have marked in my English books and I think that shortly I will start finding scriptures in the French that are good and marking them into my English. You know I really get a lot out of reading scriptures in two languages because the meanings of different words are more pin pointed. Sometimes I hit a word in English with a wide range of meanings and the French has just as wide a range but there is only one meaning common to both. That doesn't happen often but I think it is interesting when it does.

Finally we got the discussions. We have been working with the editor's copy and it is really hard to follow. There were lines leading everywhere and words added here and there and it was hard to read but now we are able to read right down the page with few problems. We did find - one obvious error but that is all. We haven't got the picture book for the French people so we may have to make do with the English pictures--when we go over.

Halloween was interesting. One teacher and about 3 of us had a Halloween surprise for the district so we had some candy to eat on that day after all. Ellen your treat --to hear that Richard was ok was the best treat of all. I sure wish I knew what was going on with him. I don't know whether to send a letter to the hospital or just wait for his birthday and send a card and gift.

One of the Sisters in our district left for France on Friday. She was one of the really spiritual, hard-working members of the district and it was sad to see her go. In our zone meeting we did - one of those nice but mean things to her. My companion was conducting and her talk was supposed to be first. He had the other Elder speak first and then our district got up and sang page 103 (French) god be with you. Needless to say we had her crying and there she was with a talk to give that was totally against the spirit in the meeting so she didn't give it but bore her testimony and talked about something like the love of Christ. (Her talk was a humorous thing in which she was going to present the 8 discussions too sort of, only she used the pictures to show what we were being like on our missions. It was really good. For example she said that we were going to return in two years as a different person and we would shock the people and then she showed the pictures in our flip charts where Christ is visiting America. It is like in the paper back B of M. She gave the talk after the meeting in our class.) She gave each of us a little thing that she said was very necessary. She gave me a piece of paper with "un moment" written on it. That is the word I seem to use the most and say the most incorrectly. The best gift of all was when she gave

a fake diamond to Jim Skeen, our instructor, and assured him that that was the thing he needed the most. She left at about 3:00 and we all had to cry with her for a while in the middle of the discussion--we were learning. The bad part is she is not in my mission and I may never see her again in this life.

Our flight plan meeting was scheduled for Friday --the plans and tickets never came. I don't know what that means because they are supposed to get here two weeks - at least - before we fly but they didn't come. Maybe it means that because of the heavy holiday traffic we will be delayed one week so that will be less than 2 weeks to let you know in. I don't know which choice would be the nicest. One extra week to learn French in would not hurt but I sure want to hurry and get there.

Dad, you told me to make a list of all the stuff I needed you to bring down. Well, money is the first thing on the list, but I don't know how much. We are supposed to have \$350.00 for our emergency fund and money for the first month. I don't know what has happened with Elder Hyde and the bike or how much one costs, but I do know that I will have to pay extra housing and buy a few more books. I should have about ten dollars left when that time gets here. You should be able to judge how much money to bring with all that.

List money--for me to buy checks in my name tape recorder tape recorder mike white cord for recorder 2 or 3 take-up reels that are empty (i don't have weight for any tape) brown leather case that was on my desk with whatever of mine that was in it. (Wires and ends for recorder)

I will leave some space for the list to grow but I think that is all. The little black mike is mine but if you don't use the mike that came with yours, it does a better job.

If you can find a cheap really light briefcase that is hard-sided, something like one of the things they have at Eatons, I surely would like it. Mine weighs about 10 lbs. Empty and that is 1/4 of my weight limit. Be prepared to take back a box of stuff. I don't know how much but I do know I won't use all of what I have. I really should quit this letter and write one to the ward. I love you all.

Tom Redd

Nov 10, 1973

I got the package when I got back from the game. Thanks.
Dear Family,

I have come to another one of those discouraging kind of days. We just finished the next discussion "H" and now we have to get it ready to pass. We will have today and Sunday for getting it ready. Will told me that I was nice and excited each time he saw me on Tuesday. Well, there is a reason for it--Monday we pass the discussions. You see me just when we get our heads "unloaded" for another week. You have seen me on the odd Saturday and that is the best day for discouragement. I hope that I will have this discussion ready for Monday. It is the discussion that has to be the most perfect at certain places. It talks about the law of chastity and the first time we read it we sure embarrassed our teacher. It had a lot of new words and we knew words with

different meanings that were really close. Apparently we were saying pretty naughty things about this law because we got a pretty "not-y" monolog from our teacher. We are at the football game again and the band is doing a good job again. Well, that has just about unloaded my head so I can start writing about the week. This first paragraph sure is a mess to get any meaning out of but you will never know that because you can't read it.

I guess this week starts with the big disappointment of not getting our flight plans Friday at noon but I was ready for that because we got told that we would get the plans 2 weeks before we left and also we heard that we might have to wait an extra week because of the holiday down here. Just the same it didn't help the weekend out. We were able to be excited then because there was an element of surprise. When that happens you kind of live in the future anticipating the plans. (I just did a little repair work on the letter. I hope the last copy is better now). Saturday we spent writing letters and studying as normal and also a game of soccer was played. I don't know how it turned out because I sat in the field house and wrote letters.

Sunday was an interesting day. I didn't study the discussion as much as I should have and I paid for it by studying all day Monday. Sunday after Sunday School and testimony meeting I spent about 3 hours writing the English names of the songs in my French hymn book. It sure shocked me to find out that a lot of the songs are out of the English book and have at the top where the writers name goes, after the English words by so and so. Really that didn't shock me Sunday but it shocked me when I first got here. At the first of our family home evening we got a hint that our flight plans were here but we didn't know. After our lesson we found out that we were right. Wow that is quite a feeling- sad, happy, excited, nervous, and scared all at once. That might take some explaining....Sad - because we didn't want to leave and we didn't want to have to say goodbye. And because we didn't think that we could tell our families that day and live the rules. Not write letters except on Saturday. Happy - we thought it was about time to get the word that said when we would get to start. Excited - because we want to get going and telling other people about the gospel. Nervous -because we don't hardly think that we know very much about French and really aren't sure if we will be able to do the job the lord has given us - at least for a little while. Scared - mainly because we weren't sure which one of the other feelings was the strongest. After our meeting last night I think that I know which feeling is the strongest --fear. Mais, c'est (le, la) vie. I don't even know if life is f or m.

One part of finding out about our flight that wasn't too good (we thought) was that we got told not to talk about it for 2 weeks. They want our life to continue just normal and that is good but our life is not the same. We walk by someone and we have a great big smile and so does he. We both know what we are thinking about.

Monday I worked hard on the discussion with the goal of passing it Tuesday morning before the devotional. One of our teachers came by on Monday night and asked if I was ready because she had come to listen to another Elder but he wasn't ready. I did it --passed the discussion. It was nice to be done and have one day - Tuesday for repeating all the discussions. Each week we have to give a total of 10 discussions. That is really hard if you are learning new lines each day.

Wednesday part of our exercise program was changed. Instead of running on the spot for 30 seconds we had to run up and down the stairs that go down the hill to the Richards P E and the field

house. That made us work hard.

Thursday was just a normal day except half our district had left for their missions. There sure aren't very many people left here for our meetings but I guess there are enough for the talks and stuff.

Friday we had a meeting about leaving. It kind of scares me to think that as soon as we leave the LTM the preaching part of our mission starts. We have been given a few scary challenges. We are to talk to the first French person we see and we are to get some talking done on the plane. I guess that I will get to see some of you in about 10 days at 5:00 in the morning. Wow! It doesn't seem possible that 2 months are gone already. Boy if the next 22 months go that fast I will be home right away.

Mom, that that you told me about the LTM is really true. We really are there to be made more different or whatever you said. We are really kept away from the world and it is good. I have found that it is work to learn the discussions and the language at the LTM but I have also found that it is next to impossible any other place. When we have to go to do the exercises I do them all fast and instead of trying to play football or something with the other Elders I have gone to one of the class rooms at the P E building and tried to study the discussions. It is almost impossible to learn them in that building. If I don't know the lines for the day when we go to the hotel each night my 20 minutes of time there is almost lost there too. It is plain to me that the LTM is set apart and dedicated for the learning that takes place there.

I haven't got the box yet but the whole district is looking forward to its arrival. I am glad that the Schramm kids got the letters I wrote them. They are about the only people but you that have been "privileged" to hear from me.

Laurel, thank you for the letter you wrote to me. It is really fun to get letters from people like you that I like.

Well, I only have 8 minutes of ball game left to write this letter in. I don't know anything more that I want or need.

Without about 3 pages of complaining, this is going to be a shorter letter than some of the others. After this game I have a pile of stuff to do to get ready to go to France. We got a list of things to do the 3 weeks before we leave and we only have one week to do it all in and also we only have Saturdays to do it in. I don't really understand why my time is spent here each week. My companion is writing letters just as fast as I am.

Saturday we had to go sit through a performance of the group from BYU that you didn't really like, mom and now I know why you didn't like them. The first of the program was bad but then they did some extra specials for the LTM and they stood still and sang. The music was nice when they got tamed down but I didn't think it was anything to get excited about. Frankly it wasted a lot of my time. The LTM president said that we were required to be there. They handle my "major" horribly--lights and sound systems.

Well, it is about time to leave. I love you all and am looking forward to seeing all that can make it to SLC on the 20th.

Love, Tom Redd

Nov 17, 1973

Dear Family,

Well here we are once more at that time of the week that is very discouraging but this time I think there is hope. The last discussion is not a very big one and that makes it nice for us. We all have lots of extra worries on our minds even if we don't talk about them. We are all wondering who will be at the airport but we don't say anything about that specifically. Once in a while someone comes out with I wonder when I send my box home; Now in the mail or on Tuesday. Whatever happens on that day, Tuesday, will have already happened before you get this letter. But I guess I will tell you what little tasks I have volunteered for you all. Mom and dad, I told Elder low from Coaldale that you would take a box of stuff home for him so he wouldn't have to mail it. I don't know what it all is but it is not very big. Ellen, I have volunteered you to drive our instructor to the airport. I told her that you were going to be there when she said that she was going to be there and she asked your phone number. I don't know what to say...I hope you had or I hope that you have...A nice visit with her. She is a really neat person. She is truly dedicated to furthering the word of the lord. I can see that simply by the amount of jobs she does for the church. She is a translator for conference. She is a translator and character for BYU film studios each Saturday. She teaches at the LTM. She teaches at BYU. She's a student at BYU. She teaches Sunday school here at the LTM. And she is the instructor that is always ready to help us. She goes to the temple whenever we go. She comes to our home evenings. She is here to help us pass discussions and she is the only one of the three that is here at times other than the time she teaches. Well, I guess that I have said enough of nothing to start the regular run-down of the week.

Saturday, like always, my companion decided that he had need to waste more time at the football game so being the nice person that I am, (ha,ha,ha) I went along with him and wrote my letters there. I got a letter from Richard that said that he was mad at me for never looking up. He said he watched me from the side of the stadium through field glasses but I was busy writing. He had the right person alright.

We went to the temple as a district and I got myself all worked up about that. We were told to leave our class early and be there for the 10:00 AM session. Somebody got the idea that there was going to be a bus for us to go there on but I couldn't see why there would be for just 18 people.

I kept asking our district leader. If there was a bus and he kept saying he didn't know. Finally the other district left on foot and there we were, 10 people, waiting for a chartered bus to take us for a 20 minute walk. I was getting pretty upset about the whole matter - you know I little like to be late. I finally talked the district leader into asking the district councilor if there was going to be a bus and there wasn't a bus. We only had 20 minutes by then to get to the temple and ready for the session and then I got even worse worked up. The district took it like it was a picnic or something

and walked all the way at a turtle's pace. Finally I told my companion that I didn't feel right about not even trying to do what we were told to do and talked him into walking "fast." His fast is really strange. I once thought that to be on a football team you had to be quick but I think I have learned otherwise. While we were walking "fast" it felt to me like I was walking slowly but he was complaining about the pains in his legs from walking so fast. We got to the temple at 10:00 but then we had to wait 10 minutes for the others. I hope they aren't late for the celestial kingdom. Thanks for teaching me to be on time at almost all cost. You know, it is interesting that it is a "sin" to be late for a ball game....It is all right for church.

Did I ever tell you about the Sunday we thought it might be nice to go home early? It was nice but I don't know if the way was nice. It was nice for me but I think that I am the only person that felt that way. We decided to take a taxi home and everyone that wanted to could get in and help split the cost when we got to the hotel. My companion was lost to study some place and when the taxi arrived I had to find him to tell him. By the time we got to the taxi there were lots of Elders in it. I don't know how many but it was full. It is a law here for the taxis to have only 2 passengers in the front seat but the driver told my companion to get in the front and I lay across the top of a pile of Elders. I was touching the roof and I was on the laps of 3 Elders who were on the laps of I don't know how many Elders. It was a small taxi too. When 3 people sat on the seat it was a squeeze. We made it there and when the door were opened people kind of fell out like when you squeeze a tube of tooth paste. The driver said we set a record and he radioed in the office to brag about it. The record was 6 passengers.

Saturday we had a big mess in our rooms. Everyone got the urge to start packing - even though we didn't have anything to pack. We got out all of our stuff and had it in big piles all around the room and right then the Elder that just goes crazy if everything is not put neatly in place came marching in. He was all upset and called us all pigs and went stomping out. Well, now I know what he thinks of me and you know what I think of him. He used to undertake cleaning the gym when we lived there.

I managed to do a little bit of honest study Saturday but not much. Sunday I used every minute I could scrape up. Because of all the studying there really isn't much exciting to say except that there is finally a class to teach us about France and the people. The only problem was nobody knew about the class until an hour or so before the time for the class and every one had "big" study plans for the evening. Well, that problem was worked out when the teacher forgot to come and we got to study anyway. We are ready for this Sunday and we might get something this time. Sunday we have the class.

Wow, we got to come to the basketball game tonight. The band is great. The game is also. I have to stop and watch.

Nov 24, 1973

Dear Family,

Well here I am finally in France. We got to Genève at about 9:00 Wednesday.

I guess I will start this letter like any other letter - that is to say to start with last Saturday. Wow, what a day. There we were trying to get everything done that we had to get done --a discussion, shopping and all and we were so excited that we could hardly think straight. I just about died at the basketball game. The band was so good and it was neat to see everyone that was in it. Before the game I went down to the place where band members come in and watched them all. Then at half-time I went over to talk with the band and while I was talking someone tapped me on the shoulder and I looked and saw mom. Wow! That was neater than the band. We went back to where the family was and I saw them all. About then it was time to go get my companion. That made it impossible to study any time for that day.

Sunday we had conference and I studied the discussion hard.

Monday I passed the discussion off and was ready to go. We checked out of the LTM and we gave up all serious study. We just had enough time to get packed and in bed on time and I was glad that I did it.

Tuesday we were up at 3:00 to get ready to go. We were picked up before 4:00 to go to the airport but we had to wait for some German people. Then we got to SLC and saw everybody that was there. It was good to see or hear from all of you.

We talked with some ladies in the airport in New York that were French and it was really interesting. We understood them! I think that that stage is over. They must have been speaking really simple French for us. The president and the assistants in this mission are really neat. I had an hour talk with the president. There is one thing that is too bad. The Elders here speak English when they are with each other. That doesn't help my French out much.

Wednesday night we went to Porte a porte. I got to go with one of the assistants to the president. Wow, was he ever a good missionary. We worked for 2 hours and got in four doors. It was neat to see how Elder Assey used the spirit of the lord.

My first city is Montpellier. We are in the zone of Toulouse. My companion is Elder Christensen. My address is: Residence Elizabeth, Ch (Drive) Des Sept Cans Bat A, No 21 F - 34000 Montpellier

Ellen, I have some problems with bike and box and all. No one knows where anything is. If you know anything about it all tell me.

Joan, I thought your kitchen was small! It is huge. Ours is 40 inches by 45 inches. (He drew a picture of his room here)

Well, there you have it. And I guess that I had better quit. It might be expensive to mail.

Love Tom

Dec 1, 1973

Dear Family,

What a week! Saturday I was beginning to wonder if we were ever going to do any work. Sunday was church only I didn't understand too much of what was going on. I can't figure it out ... The people here speak better French than I do and they didn't even go to the LTM! Frankly I don't speak French.

Monday our work began. It is funny the way your attitude changes in the first 3, or so, days. Monday I thought it would kill me to ring a door bell. And it almost did. I was a little scared. As the week went on, I began to feel a love for the people behind the door even before the door was opened. It hurts to see people close the door and not even listen to the first of our message. Monday I thought it was heaven-sent relief. We did everything on foot for the first three days and when my bike got here, that too was a heaven-sent relief.

Bikes too have their bad points. French drivers are something else! They get in their little go-carts and GO! If they want to go someplace, nothing can stop them. They go like 60, too. I think that there are only a few worse drivers in all of France — the Mormon Missionaries. We get out there on our little bikes and go shooting through all the cars. If they are parked at a red light for a while we shoot in between or around or over or anything and go straight to the front of the line. I think it is against the law over here to stop for pedestrians. If you see someone in the street you speed up and see if you can't hit him. It seems you didn't do your job unless you gave him a good scare. Well, enough for driving. It really is an interesting feeling to shoot down the road on a bike.

I can't believe how many appointments people don't come to. We had at least two rendezvous a day and we have only taught one discussion. All the others have had some excuse or were not there.

Ellen, I don't need the bill of sales anymore. Will, I do need the pictures and fast. Mom, I still think that you make the best bread. The bread over here reminds me of Woodruff's bread, tough and heavy. We don't have corn, we don't have Jell-O, and we don't have cool-aid.

Wow! I saw the neatest place! We got to go to the Orchestra in the theater. It is a theater built in 1888. It was just like one of the old pictures that you see. There were six floors with those fancy little booths for the rich people and a section of benches for the poor (us). Everything was carved up real fancy and it had all busts of famous composers at the places where the posts held everything up. It was really neat.

We were walking down town one day and my companion took me by some Roman ruins. That was really interesting.

I sure love you all and pray for your success and well-being.

Love Elder Redd

December 8, 1973

Dear Family,

Wow! I think that I know what it is like to be a Missionary. I don't think that there is anything as thrilling as telling someone about the church and having them listen and really believe what you say. There is also nothing as sad as seeing a person that needs the gospel and having them not even willing to listen or having someone that fixes a meeting with you and then laughs about what you say. During the past week we have had people in all these classes. We have two families that we are teaching and they are both really neat. One is the Rich class of French and the other is the Poor Class. Sometimes I can't understand my companion. The guy that is poor really listens to what we say. A lot of the information he knows before we give it and he says "yes" to everything we say. I think it is neat. Also he is the only person that says they will come to church. What I can't understand is why my companion always calls him weird. The other family is really neat and is able to come up with good answers and is really able to discuss it. They seem neat but I don't really know how sincere they really are. They say they don't have time for another discussion until after Christmas.

Well, I have a few more exciting things to tell you. I have already been in my first accident. There were no cars around so I had to pick my target carefully. The only thing that I could see to hit was my companion so I hit him hard and fast. He had stopped for a light that was red and I was looking at my clutch I think. I can't really even remember what I was doing or thinking but I know that I had been thinking about the adjustments I was going to make on Saturday and I was also thinking that I would open up my clutch and see why it makes a funny noise and then I hit. I saw my companion in time to stop but I pulled on the wrong things — the handle bars instead of the brakes. I bent up my companion's back fender but not a thing happened to my bike. His stayed standing up with him on it and something went wrong with the motor and it doesn't work to well. He just finished fixing it. My bike tipped over and went for a little slide and it was still running when we picked it up. We made it to the meeting and I looked at my watch and it straight way dropped to the ground. It stopped in the accident. I went down on the left side so I guess it hit the ground pretty hard. It won't work right now. Maybe with the extra money you said you would send for Christmas, Mom, I will put the time back on my wrist. Now for damages to me. I thought at the time nothing but since I have discovered that I have a mighty sore face. I whacked it into something and the right side is really sore. My top teeth on the right side are dead, I think. They don't have any feeling anymore. Should I do anything about them? I skinned my knee and ripped my companion's pants. And that's it. Well, I would like to tell you more but it is too expensive to send more paper. I love you all.

Tom Redd

P.S. Do you think you could read it if I wrote on both sides of this paper? Tell me. It is pretty thin stuff! The carbon copies are the hardest to read.

December 16, 1973

Dear Family,

My letters are finally getting answered. I have been wondering how long it would be before the letters got there and the answer got back. Will, thanks for the pictures! They are here just in time. Yesterday was the deadline, and the pictures were here when we got here yesterday. Christmas came too, Mom. Thanks! Christmas in two ways—check and package. We haven't gone to get the package yet but it is in this city. The check came and the French people at the Bank couldn't figure out what was up with the check in French Francs, but written in English. It took about 45 minutes to cash it. The bank people phoned different banks and other cities and then they decided to cash it. Only thing is the cashiers over here don't give you money. You get a number and you go to a little glass house in the middle of the bank and the man there gives you the money. The man in the box got the check and he didn't know what to do about it. He started running around the bank to find out what to do with it.

In my interview with the president yesterday, he told me what I should do with the money for Christmas. He said get yourself a hat. Wow, can you imagine me wearing a hat like dad's? He told all the missionaries at the conference that it was time we stopped looking like Eskimos and started looking like the best dressed business men. "If you ain't it, Fake it," he said.

We had a great mission Conference yesterday and Friday. As you can see, we are to write letters Sunday this week. Just like old times! We have been given high goals and everyone has the new discussions now. We are to teach nothing but the new discussions now. We are to know them all word perfect by next conference, January 18. I am still working on re-learning what I learned in the Mission Home. Ellen, almost everyone says to say hello to Soeur Redd. Eg. S. Pooley, E. Oblad, E. Assay, E. Hanson, Pres. Sager, etc. etc. etc. Feel told. I bought half of my Christmas yesterday. Since it sounds like the box of stuff went home, I bought an alarm clock. Ellen, the bike problems are all over.

All the Elders have been planning big outings for Christmas and New Year's. The president said they were not permitted. That sure made me feel good.

I still am rather lost when people start talking over here. They go so fast! I am getting more and more of what is said, but I still am glad I have a senior companion. We will be teaching a discussion that I don't know too very well tomorrow so I had better stop writing and study.

Joan, the cookies sound really good. It is good to hear from you and your family. Will and Peggy, I don't hear too much from you, but you are still alive—I got the pictures—Thanks.

Love Tom Redd

Mom and Dad,

I love you. Your Christmas Present was that card that you got. Maybe you can paint it. The president said that we are not to send gifts home, so I guess you won't be getting anything. We can send tapes but I don't have any tape yet. You might hear from me soon.

December 22, 1973

Dear Family,

Well another week is over. I can't believe that there are only a few days till Christmas. Mom, it wasn't your package that came but it was Joan's cookies and candy. Thanks, Joan. It helps me think it is Christmas. Thanks, Michael and William and Laurel for the presents. It isn't Christmas yet, so I haven't opened them, but I am sure they are just what I need.

We just cleaned our apartment and are all ready for Christmas. We got a letter that told us what to do today and it was very extensive—wash floor, walls, and all. It came in the form of "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

Well I am not planning on writing too much today because I am planning on sending a tape home for the holidays.

I just invented a way to make this tape usable. I may as well get started. I don't know what you are going to do so the others can hear it and I don't know if there is anything worth listening to. It is on the middle speed on the tape recorder, but you might have to have it on the fast speed to listen. I will say things to everyone so—here goes.

Tom Redd

December 29, 1973

Dear Family,

Well, here it is at 10:00 at night and I still have a letter to write. Wow, what a week! We had Christmas and that was fun and then we got our transfer. I am now with Elder Roper in Montpellier, but I have a new address. It is: Winter Quarters, 1719 Ave. de Maurin, Montpellier F-34000, France. How do you like that for an address? The Winter Quarters bit we had to think up ourselves. It is a new apartment and it is really nice. It is a bit bigger than the other apartment I was in, but it is colder. There are six elders here now and half of them are new to the city. That means that I have to lead my Senior Companion around on the bikes and I get more lost than anyone in this town. Mom, no package yet. Michael and William and Laurel—Thanks for the presents. They are just what I need to keep me happy! Will—The pictures are already on the boards, but the days we had permission to put them up, it rained.

We have taught some good discussions this week and even have a guy committed to baptism—but—I am not his missionary anymore. He is really neat. He knows all the answers and answers before we ask the questions.

Mom and Dad, thanks for the bed. Bye. I'll send the tape and a longer letter next week.

Love Tom

January 5, 1974

Dear Family,

As you know, I have a new companion and we are working hard. I think that I have made more teaching rendezvous with Elder Roper than I did for four weeks with Elder Christensen. With the holiday Monday and Tuesday, this wasn't a very good week for work, either, but the fruits of the work were greater.

I sure am learning how to drive in this city now. I have been good and lost in some of the streets but have made it where we had to be. Don't tell my comp that I was lost! He just thinks this is a really mixed up town. We had some interesting experiences this week. I guess I will start with the first. Elder Roper wanted to ride beside me one day, so he did. We got to where we had to turn, and it came up on us fast, so I swerved and he fell back and swerved too, and then I started to turn and to my surprise, there he was again right beside me. Again my faithful bike and me pulled through untouched. The only thing that did happen was a spoke on his bike got broken. It twisted all up around the axle and was clicking away. We stopped and untwisted that and rode on.

One of our accidents is not an accident. We started showering Monday morning, and found out that we only have hot water for about 10 minutes in a day. We talked to the proprietor and he says that the hot water heater only runs at night. The water will be warm all day if you don't use more than is in the hot water tank.

You know how missionaries are—always trying something new and exciting. Well, we tried the newest and most exciting thing. It took a lot of planning. We decided to burn down our apartment, along with about eight others, but the Lord wouldn't let us (thank goodness). Let me explain. We have a little Mazoote Heater—a stove that burns fuel like diesel fuel. There is a little gas tank and a burning chamber and a chimney. One day my Comp lit the stove. He hasn't done it before and didn't know how. He turned the gas on and dropped the match in the hole, but he didn't watch to see if it started, and it didn't. The gas just kept pouring into the burning chamber but it didn't burn. I thought that it was out of gas, so I looked at the gauge and it said it was empty so I went to work and filled the gas tank and proceeded to light the stove. Everything seemed to be just normal and it lit but pretty soon, the stove just started roaring. I ran over and turned it off, but it just kept going. It was burning the gas in the bottom of the chamber. It wasn't long until the stove was red hot and part of the chimney the closest to the stove. Wow, we were scared. I knew that water was not good for gas fires, so I didn't know what to do. My Comp just stood there in terror but I made some quick decisions and got a bucket of water. I told myself that with a piece of metal that hot, only about 2 inches from 3 walls, that something would start burning—and it did. (There weren't any flames, but the wall paper in the back of the stove is all burnt). I got back with the bucket of water and decided that I would just have to stand there and throw water on the walls as fast as I could to keep them cool. I knew it would be bad to put

water in the flame box because that would just spread the fire, but I knew that the stove wasn't going to last much longer in one shape or piece unless I cooled down the metal--so I did. (The wall was so hot that the water I threw at it boiled away.) I got the flame box cooled down a little--it wasn't red anymore, and all of a sudden, the flame stopped. Figure that one out. There was a half inch of fuel on the bottom still. I think the Lord helped us out a bit. Well, that is the story of another of my failures--I can't even start a house fire! We did some thanking the Lord in prayers and ran out to the Rendezvous that we were late for.

I wish I could take time to tell about the Missionary work here, but I have to start getting ready for a rendezvous in a half hour. I haven't sent the tape but it is coming. I got it wrapped. I love you and am thankful for your support.

Mom and Dad, I love you and feel the support of your prayers. We have some neat people to teach and are working hard. I feel a lot better about the work with Elder Roper than I did with Elder Christensen. My teeth are still "dead"--feelings are still gone.

With love,
Tom

Jan 12 1973

Dear Family,

Wow, I can't believe how time flies. Look at that date up there.

First...I got the telegram- thanks- and the check - thanks. I am still in the process of getting settled. I spent my Christmas money this past week (and then some). As you may know I had to buy an alarm clock to get me up in the morning. And then on Monday I finished off my Christmas money. I bought a watch. We were getting kind of lost. My comp's watch stopped and that was the only one we could depend on. After my accident mine never has worked right. Some days and sometimes it goes but it stops whenever- it wants. I didn't know what kind of a watch to get. I knew that I would get one better and cheaper in Switzerland but I couldn't wait any longer with my companion's watch stopped. I looked all over the town and found a lot of really expensive watches that were nice. The only thing I couldn't get happy with was the price. Finally I stopped in a little store that sells almost everything. It was not a watch store but it had a board of TIMEX watches and I looked the board over and got an electric watch that was TIMEX for only half the price of the other watches I found that it had the same features as the one I broke- self-winding, etc. I feel good about the watch because for me TIMEX is a proven name but I sure feel funny being this close to Switzerland and buying a watch that you can buy cheap - anywhere in America. Gilbert, forgive me.

Joan - Happy Birthday. I am regular at forgetting those birthdays. I hope you will all forgive me. Joan, this wish is the only wish that might get there on time. I missed Dad's until the Saturday after.

We have had a discouraging week. We have worked harder than I have ever worked here before -

thank goodness and we taught more discussions than before. There was only one problem- our two best families told us not to come back to talk about religion. We can go back just as friends but we are here to teach not just be friends. We don't know what to do about the problem. I hope the Lord will help us out. The guy that I thought was so neat when I was with Elder Christensen is coming to church and the other Elders are teaching him and his wife...not only him. We had a baptism here in Montpellier last night and that was really neat. We had it in the swimming pool. It was a really neat couple.

Well, time has just run out. It is 6:45 and we are leaving at 7:00. I have to iron my shirts and suit before that time comes around. I will have to quit. This was going to be a long letter, Mom - that is why I didn't carbon copy it. I am sorry. But I hope everyone will get a chance to read it. Maybe you can imagine the next 5 or 6 pages. I will send you a report on them next week.

I hope you got the tape. My teeth are still in my mouth -and they are there firm. They look normal but I can't feel with them. I don't know whether to go to the Dentist or not. What do you think? Send a cassette if you want to Mom. There are 4 cassette recorders in this town.

Tom Redd

Jan 21 1974

Mom & Dad

Dear Family,

Well, we have done a lot this week but I can't remember much of the things to tell you. I guess that the best place to start is to tell you that - I am looking forward to being a Senior companion so that I can have more things run the way they should be. You know how uninspired I was by modern music...I have no choice but to listen to it all day long on Saturdays and then the Tabernacle Choir all week long. It sure doesn't help study but my comp sure thinks it does. Another thing that bothers me is I get myself up all alone each morning. For example I was up on time but my companion got up at 8:00. What bothered me the most was that we just had a conference and the problem of sleeping in was really stressed. We spent the night at conference and guess who didn't make it up on time. He got up at 7:00 and he thought that was early. Well I guess that I shouldn't complain too much because I covenanted with the Lord to live the mission rules if He would help me to complete the mission he has in mind for me. I have had problems with the discussions -word for word but I am working hard on that. I just started to try a new method of study and that is to record the discussions and listen to it and say it before the tape does. It has helped me get better able to speak the thoughts before I give up and look at the book. Another thing that I have learned to be careful about doing is to have dual study each day. We only studied one hour together this whole past week. I guess it is partly my fault because I never pushed to have it but I don't like to always push my leaders around - even if lots of people do it.

Wow, I can't believe how much my companion likes to find weaknesses in people. He gets mad at the people at the door and tells them he doesn't believe them. Maybe they don't tell the truth but he sure doesn't help matters out any when he gets people mad at us. Other elders will have less of a

chance to get in now. It breaks my heart to see people say they aren't interested and I feel like crying, but I can honestly say I have not been mad at them yet. My comp always is talking down his nose at and about the French. Sometimes I feel like bawling him out for it but I am supposed to love him as well as the people. I have tried to talk to him about these things that bother me but all I get in response is a good yelling. Help me! What am I doing wrong? Or is this what we got told would happen-If you are always a missionary that lives the letter of the law other elders will think you are crazy. It embarrasses me to do shopping and have at least 2 bottles of coke in the cart each week. I told him that it was published in the New Era that Mormons were not to use it but he doesn't seem to care. He says that it is made out of all natural substance and doesn't have caffeine but I can't think of anything more natural than a bean with caffeine.

I thought that it was possible to talk-out differences but maybe I am wrong. I may well have to live with them for several months.

I remember how my letters used to be in the LTM. I would complain for the first page and then tell about the week so maybe I had better get to the part of the about the week.

First of all I will start with a dilemma. I am supposed to go 20 K per hour for the first 2 months of my mission and I am supposed to stick with my companion. Monday night we were coming home after work and my comp decided to go fast. I stayed going slow until I could hardly see him anymore and then I thought that I had better catch up. I did just that and was going maybe 40 k. The Lord decided to teach me to obey and that is what he did.- When I got to the last corner before we were home I slowed down like normal for the corner and started around it. It was the only time I went my speed limit and I had a bit of an accident. Again I was protected by the Lord in that there were no cars to hit and my comp was too far away to hit so I hit the road. Again my faithful old bike stayed running and I just had to stand it up and ride off. But I sure made a mess out of one of my suits (and one knee and hand). The suit with two pairs of pants now has only one pair. About a foot of the leg is just threads from where it rubbed on the highway. I have a great big scab on my right knee and a few on my right hand but I am all right. Thanks for your prayers in my behalf. I ripped the suit I liked the best too. I sure don't have very good luck with clothes.

I fell out of the district leader's window one day and fell one story and landed on my bike. It decided that it wasn't going to stand up to treatment like that so it lay down and I came down to the royal thrown of a petal. The hole in the back of my pants is not very big and it will be under my suit coat. I am going to put an iron-on patch over it.

Well from what you are getting here today, I don't sound much like a missionary but we are teaching and finding people to hear the gospel. We are working hard with 2 families now and I hope that we will make it with them. One of the families is the Dazon Family. There is a fun and bad situation there. It is almost impossible to teach the wife but the man and his girl are interested. The woman is really fat and funny and that is what makes it hard to teach her. She is always cracking a joke and then she sits and laughs. Everyone else tries hard to keep a straight face but it is almost impossible. I don't know if you remember in "Man's Search for Happiness" the place where it talks about the fact that the time is yours and you're free to choose what you'll do with it. Right when that starts there is a picture of an amusement house with a clown on top and a terrible laugh. That laugh is just like Mrs. Dazon. We showed "Man's Search...."to them and when the clown

started laughing you couldn't tell if it was another joke of the lady's or really the film. (How lucky can I be? My companion's batteries just ran down.) Mr. Dazon is interested in electronics just like I am! He had a great big tape recorder (big for France - smaller than ours) and he had us listen to Beethoven's 9th one day. Was it ever neat!

Montoya's are the really neat people though. He is an insurance salesman and is really a sharp person. He is interested in the church but is a strong Catholic. It will take some work to break him away from that church. He tries to look up proof of everything we say in a Catholic Catechism book. He doesn't find too much there to prove what we teach but we will get him I think. We are working with a member family that is strong in the church so we should be able to get him.

Tuesday my companion was sick so we stayed home. I got a lot done. I wanted to make a little book for a teaching aid and I had the day to do it. I couldn't have asked for anything better. Since the big approach in the mission is Family Home Evening, 1/2 the book is on Family Home Evening, 1/4 Joseph Smith, and 1/4 Book of Mormon.

I keep getting asked about teeth. They are in my mouth but I can't feel with them yet. I think I will keep them there but it will feel like they are out.

Money is neat. I think someone asked me how it was. I have had enough to get pleasantly settled and ready for a mission here in France. We have had a conference a month and a lot of things to get to be able to live comfortably - sheets, blankets etc. but I don't think I will need as much in February as you sent in January and December.

Ellen I had a nice long talk with Soeur Butler. I filled her in on everything to do with Montpellier and she told me all about the box. She did send one to Grenoble but it never got there. What was in it? Is it worth the bother of having Soeur Butler put a tracer on it? She said that she would do it but that it might not be worth the cost.

We had our 1/2 mission conference last Friday and Saturday. We got told a lot about how to teach with the new discussions. I guess the leaders of the church are concerned that the missionaries are still using the old ones. We are to teach nothing but the new discussions as of this month. President Sager promised us that if we teach all 8 of the new discussions we will have baptisms. So we know that the Lord wants it done that way and that we can baptize people into His kingdom. The conference was a really good lift for me.

While we were there we slept at the member's houses. I got to sleep in a bedroom with a "mixer". Was that ever exciting for me. A mixer is the thing in a radio or television station that produces all the noise. There are 2 record players and 2 tape recorders and a mike and a few extra places for extra mikes etc. Was it ever neat to see that stuff again, I do miss the "Y" and even more "KBYU". I will have something to look forward to when I go back there.

We had the great privilege of riding in "2 horses". That is what they call a car over here that has two horse power. It is ugly and looks like a pre-historic Volks Wagon. There were 5 of us in it and when we got going I thought it was going to fall apart. Since it is against the rules to ride in anything but mission cars I thought I would never have that experience but the President let us ride

to Moles in it to sleep Friday night.

Because of the conference, I am writing this letter on Monday. We got today for preparation day and I do have a lot of things to do. I have studied for 1 hour and written letters but that is all. I only have a few minutes left and I have a lot to do. I don't want to quit without filling the page so maybe I will draw a picture or something.

Love you all. Thanks for your support and prayers.

With love, Tom Redd

Jan 26 1974

Dear Family,

I really don't have a lot to say this week after all that I said last week. I do have a few more complaints to be made however. During the past week my comp said since we don't think at all alike it will be best that we don't say anything at all. I told him that if that is what he really wants I would try to do it for his sake but since then I think I have got some of the problem solved. We had a long talk one day about how he listens and how I do other things. I found out that he used to be a "drug freak" (his own words) and he thinks that I am just a "goody-goody". Well I am glad I am a "goody-goody" rather than a "bady-bady"

Ellen, I got the box. I just had to ask the right people. The assistance didn't know anything about it but Sister Sager did. Now I can keep warm at night. I also decided that I was going to buy the film "Man's Search for Happiness" but I won't have to now. Thanks for all the stuff.

I got Christmas this week too! Thanks for all the stuff. The cake was delicious and we haven't had time to eat anything else yet.

One of the members here in the branch was in a motor bike accident the other day and his leg and arm are broken now. He will be in the hospital for one month.

We are teaching several people now. We have the same few neat families and the Lord has helped us find some other neat people. I hope that we will be able to show them the way the Lord will tell them the Gospel is true.

Mom, you asked when I want the money to come. It really makes no difference to me. I just have to plan it out so it will last a month whenever it comes. Send it at which ever date is the best for you at home and I will plan my month from there.

Ellen, if you want to you can keep writing letters in French. It really makes no difference to me. It probably will be good exercise for both of us.

It sounds like you are keeping busy, Joan. I surely miss the family of yours and I guess I get to keep

missing them until 2 years are up.

I sure love you all (and my money). That's why the letter is short.

With love,
Tom Redd

Feb 2 1974

Dear Family.

Wow, I can't believe that another month is here. It doesn't seem like Christmas was very long ago.

This has been a good week. We got in about 40 doors and talked to a lot of people. We found a lot of new people to teach. I hope we get them all taught. We got so many appointments that sometimes we didn't have time to come home and eat and it is only about 3 minutes to where we are working. I am sure glad that most of our last conference was on getting organized. It is kind of neat how you can worry about so many people all at once. There are so many of them that are really neat.

Our neatest family, Montoya, told us this week that we could come back as friends but not to talk about religion. That was sad but the neat family Dauson, that we were teaching came to church.

I just cleaned the apartment. We are going looking for a new apartment now. We only have hot water for 10 minutes here each day and there is no really good heating here.

When I was waiting for a medical exam for my "carte de sejour" I talked to the lady that was there waiting and I got my nose into business that I shouldn't have, maybe.

I was with Elder Brooks from Cardston and we told her we were Canadians and why we were here. We aren't supposed to GQ ladies so we just talked and she told us that life in France was hard. We should have stopped there but we asked why. She said that they could not get work and they had not eaten for 4 days. She said here little baby was sick too. The whole time she talked she was crying. I can see why. I shook her hand and gave here 10 Franks while I did it. I don't know if I should have but I did anyway. We went and saw her today and she said that she no longer had power but that she would get some kind of support from the Government at the end of the month. It kind of hurts to see people starving and be in rich peoples' houses and see that they have so much money they can't spend it.

I just finished making doughnuts, (They are bad) for district meeting and my time is all gone. I love you all.

Tom Redd

Mom and Dad--I love you. Thanks for all you do for me. Tom

Feb 9 1974

Dear Family,

We are finally home - 9:10 at night. We had a good day and got a lot done. I was not too pleased about the start of the day. We got up at about 7:30. We slept in because we had several nights that we were out late to teach several people. That hour, 6:30 to 7:30, was wasted and then we met the other elders at 8:00 at their apartment. We rode out to an old city that has a wall around it. It was kind of neat but several things didn't sit right with me. There was really nothing to see. The District Leader and his comp rode their peddle bikes so we took 2 hours to get there. We ate food during the time that the "sights" were open and then tried to see things when people were home for Lunch.

My comp and I had a discussion at 2:00 so we had to leave right then to come home to teach. We had to really fly to get here in time. I had lots of time to figure out how fast my bike can go. That is about the only time I have ever gone as fast as it can go. I timed myself for several kilometers and I went a Kilometer in 60 seconds. That is 60 kilometers an hour. I can't believe it is possible but I did it.

I have almost decided that the best treasure of our mission would be for Ellen and I to have a bike shipped home. We sure grow to love them. You almost live on them.

We have been looking for a new apartment. Don't send anymore mail here. We will be leaving "Winter Quarters". We have found a really nice studio for less than we are paying now and it is a lot better. Send all my mail to: Residence Elizebeth Chemin Drive des Sept. Cans, Montpellier Bat. 21 F-34000. That is the same old address and if I blew it you can spell the thing right and stick the Montpellier at the end. As soon as we get moved I will let you know the address. Don't worry about mail coming here. We will have the key to here for 3 more weeks. With a change in apartments we will have a big hit on the pocket book at the 1st of March. It might help if you sent the money so it could be here before the 1st of the month this time. Don't worry if you can't. It is time to go to bed.

Good-night and I love you all. I wish I could tell more but I guess that will happen next week.

Love Tom

Thanks for the letter, Dad

Feb 16 1974

Dear Family,

I can't believe that another week is gone. That means that I have been here for almost 3 months. 5

months since I was home. Wow! One bad part of it all is 19 months sure seems to be a long time to be here under situations like I am. If all 19 months go as fast as the last 5 months, it won't be long till I am home again.

It is really interesting to look back on mission life. I have been more tried and tested here in France than anywhere else in my life. Most of the temptations come from within the church membership too. For example, it seems to be the thing to do for missionaries to talk about the mysteries of the Gospel. I don't think I have ever heard as much criticizing of leaders either. It sure gets hard to remember your standards when you live in a place like that. One day my companion asked me what I thought we should put as the baptism date of one family. I said about three years and I meant it, but did I ever get heck for saying that. He thought the family was super cool but I couldn't even get a good feeling about teaching them. I found out Friday that my feelings weren't too far off. They told us not to come back.

It sure is neat to work with Elders that know why they are here. I worked with E. Brooks and E Christensen yesterday and we really felt good about our work. I got to work with the ZL tonight.

Wow, Time and paper are gone. Ellen did you get the letter? Is there anything I can do? I love you all.

Tom Redd

Mom and Dad,

My razor doesn't work anymore. Can you tell me what the guarantee says? It is not the razor itself but it is the cord thing. If I can get something done to it, tell me and I will send it home and let you send it wherever it has to go to get fixed. Maybe it is just the kind of electricity over here so you can check it at home before you send it somewhere. Let me know whether or not I should send it.

I love you

Tom

Pay careful attention to address on envelope. I don't have it and can't get it before Monday. There --It won't be in the letter but on the outside only.

Feb 23 1974

Dear Family,

This letter is bound to be a short one like the last one. We are in a new apartment and it is really nice. It gives you something to come home to at night. We now have hot water and heat for the price that we were paying before. It sure is a nice deal we think but it is on top of a 4 story walk-up. That means we walk up 6 floors. One floor before we get up to the door. Then because the 2nd floor is always called the 1st floor, we walk up 5 floors inside.

I bought a mattress for \$10.00 and we are all settled now.

We are slowly getting X'ed by all our investigators. It is sad because I think that it is all our fault. I still don't have the right picture in my head of a "Madame." I sure get shocked. Someone talks about Madame So and So and I think of some old, fat, snob of a lady. I go and see Madam So and So and she is really nice and little.

I haven't seen the other elders since Tuesday so I haven't got your letters yet. We will see them today and if there is something I have to answer I will add a note tonight.

I have another accident to report. I was moving my trunk over here on Monday morning and I got right to the parking lot of the building. Let me explain something first. The trunk is about 3 1/2 feet long and 2 feet wide and 1 foot deep. You can carry it on your bike if you stand it on one of its edges and balance it across the back fender. Before you get it there though, you load it up. It is so big that you get it so heavy that you can't lift it alone. It takes 2 people to get it on the bike. From there on, you just have to balance it. Like I said, I did just fine until I got to the parking lot. There I saw a car coning straight for me. I don't think that it knew that I was heavily loaded and could only use one hand to drive. You use the other to hold the trunk on. That creates another problem. The only brakes you can use are the front ones. That is generally fine but with a heavy load on the back there was no weight on the front to give me any traction. And when the front wheel of a bike stops but the bike doesn't, you don't have very good control. I tipped over and bent the handle bar on the bike but pulled the bike on its side out of the way of the car.

Later...we went for a tour of the district. We went on a 60 Kilometer trip around some of the scenic parts of our 25 Kilometer circle limit. We saw some really neat things. I got some neat pictures of France. I don't have any time to waste and I didn't see the other elders yet. If I got a letter, they still have it.

I did take some good typical pictures of France. I think you'll like them when you get to see them. We only have 8 days left until conference and I am happy. We will get the chance to talk to the president.

I did a little bit of work on my bike and have it ready for several more months, I hope.

I love you all,
Tom Redd

Mar 2 1974

Dear Family,

Here I am in Antibes. I decided that you aren't mixed up enough so I decided to send another new address. It seems that I have told you a new address every week for the past few weeks. I just got you straight on where I lived in Montpellier and now I am not there anymore. The card I send had

the wrong address on it too. I got told that when I got here. Here the change is:
Residence Saint Jean, Bloc A No. 14
Chemin Des Autrichiens
Antibes F-06600
France.

I am sorry I have been mixing you up so badly lately but I do think that this will be a little bit more permanent.

I don't know if I ever told you about what I finally did about the problems. I was having with my companion. I thought the problem over. I discussed it with him and the District Leader and then I went to the Lord. I told Him that I didn't feel good about what was going on and that I really wanted to keep His commandments and rules of the mission, His commandments for me here at this time. I told Him what was going on and told Him that I could only think up one way out of the problems and that was to get a transfer, so I asked to get transferred to someone who tried to do what he was here for. On Monday it happened. 3 days after my prayers, I got my transfer. It is almost like the Lord was seeing if I would depend on Him for help. It scares me to see that the power of prayer is as great as it is. The Lord wants us to be able to do our best but he won't push us. We have to do the asking.

I didn't want to say good-bye to Montpellier but I was happy to get here where I will be able to do my best. Maybe I am talking too soon but from what I have seen and heard of my new companion, it will go a lot better. We visited several members last night and it looks like the work here will be interesting. One inactive member here has a non-member husband with a short wave radio in his living room.

I got here with the stuff I carried on the train and my trunk and suitcase but my bike got lost. It should be getting here today sometime. Right now I am with a comp with 2 bikes so I am not walking.

We have a neat little apartment here. I like it. It is really new and warm but it is small. Our table is 1 1/2 X 2ft, and when we have two beds out, the floor is all used up. My bed rolls under my companion's so we have a little bit more room. We have a kitchen built into the closet and we hang our clothes in 2 big plastic clothes bags. This is a little resort town on the ocean so it is an expensive apartment but it is better than it could have been in a bigger apartment.

The town is so small we have to go to church in Cannes but that isn't very far to ride our bikes. I am going to have to tell you more about it all next week--when I know more. I have used up my money's worth of stamps so I'll stop. I love you all.

Love Tom

Mar 9 1974

Dear Family,

We have had an interesting week this week. I can't believe I have only been in Antibes for one week. I am really enjoying the town, the people, and English. It is really interesting that about half the people we talk to are English. Priesthood meeting is in English and it is really different. Les Priere sont toujours en Francais.

Monday I visited with the police for a while. When you go to a new city you have to check in with the police. You wait an hour or an hour and a half then you go in the office and he tells you what you need and then that you can come back and wait another hour or 2 to give them the papers. They tell you to come back in a while to get another piece of paper.

Tuesday the muffler came off my bike. The motor is so small that it doesn't make too much noise. It's not like the "R" when it loses its muffler. You won't have to send ear plugs. (Besides I put it back on on Thursday.

Wednesday we had Zone Leaders' switch day. I sure like those days even if most other elders don't enjoy working with their leaders. I think that the Lord has really blessed me by giving me the chance to learn and watch from the way those elders work. They are special people and the Lord has given them a special job. As long as I follow their example I can't go too far off track.

Today we spent the morning moving the "Salle". That is the room where we have church. We found a bigger Salle and are excited about it. There is a Gold and Green ball in it tonight. How is that for a beginning? Not every church has a party the night it is first used. Frere King has a bus and we used that to haul all the stuff to the new place.

There are some interesting stories hitched up with that. To begin with there were 2 cars parked in front of the Salle. Frere King tried to push them out of the way and they wouldn't move. So I went over and lifted the car up and moved it.

Our piano is terribly out of tune. It was so bad we really couldn't use it for singing with. After we got it moved, I decided to do something about it, and I did. I tuned the middle 4 octaves with a crescent wrench. It still is terrible but you can almost listen to it. I didn't have the time or energy to do anything with the ends so I just got the middle done. It is funny. I used to think the piano at Montpellier was bad but you can get a little use to anything. I get an especially big feeling of accomplishment when I know what I hear was tuned with my ear and my wrench.

Well, our wash is almost done. Here it's eight o'clock at night and we haven't taken time to prepare for the week to come. We have to still go to the store and do everything at home. It is sure good we got lots of member work today because we sure won't have anything else today. The wash is next to finished and the store is closed. It is done now. Good-bye and you will hear again next week.

Love Tom

Mar 16 1974

Dear Family,

Wow, how time flies! I just barely wrote to you and I have to do it all over again. My companion was sick yesterday and today. I spent the time working on my bike. I had to change the clutch and the other most expensive piece of the bike.

I am glad that I have collected a little bit of change. The Lord really takes care of you if you do His work. He has had me save up enough money over the time I have been here to not even know that I am having a strain put on my pocket.

I guess the fact is that the strain doesn't hit me but hits you. From what we hear the strain is getting pretty tough over there. If you start straining I can strain a lot more. I have been going along with my comp in most everything that takes money but I could live for a lot less if you wanted me to.

Well, all our day is gone and I won't have much time to finish this letter. Maybe you can make up some good stories about trying to find dead people's graves. That is what we did all day, Monday. One of the sisters died and she was burned without anyone knowing about it. Six of us found the grave and had a dedicatory prayer on the grave.

Wednesday I taught my first English Club where I have to teach and not just talk in English. It was a real challenge to teach English in French. I am getting scared for the next week already.

Well, I have to quit. Thanks for everything.

Love Tom

Mar 23, 1974

Dear Family,

Wow! This year is almost a quarter finished. I can't believe it! If the rest of the time goes as fast as it has here at Antibes there won't be any time left before I'll be home. I don't think I like the sound of that!

My companion was sick the first 2 days of the week and we have only spent 3 week-days on the work. That makes time go even faster... (Slower while you are in the apartment but faster when you look back at the work you did.

Monday we had an interesting American Club party. It was planned by the elders in Cannes for their English Club and they only have one American Elder there. He got sick and my comp ended up being the only American there. I was able to pass for the same but the French Elders didn't make it. We had pancakes and jello and we were the savers of the party.

There are 4 big ships at Cannes. We night go visit them.

Ellen, how did you keep your bike in good shape? Did you work on it or did someone else?

(Sunday) This is against rules but I will finish now.

I had an accident today. Tell you more later. My razor cord is coming. Try it. Current is different here and that might be all that's wrong. If that is all that is wrong don't do anything. Keep the cord there for me for when I return. If there is anything wrong, get it fixed and keep it anyway. It probably is not working right because of the electric current over here and would just have more problems if I used it again.

The electricity I used in it was 110 volts, 50 cycles. That might help the people that fix it.

I love you lots,
Tom

Mar 30 1974

Dear Family,

Here we are again at the wash-o-matic. This has been a good week but has gone too fast. We had conference in the middle of the week and I got to talk to the President again. They really are trying to get all the missionaries to live all the rules and it was encouraging. I guess that I am about the youngest elder in the zone because most of the conference was on what you get asked at your final interview. It was good to see how to prepare yourself for the end. That is --go out and do some work.

I have had a headache almost constantly for the past month and I ask the President what it could be. He told me all about it. I have arthritis in the neck. How's that for fancy? I know how you feel Mom, when you say your arthritis is hurting. I even know why you don't like to go places when you hurt. Each Tiny pebble feels like a nail getting driven in the joint, eh? Don't worry about me though. It is just one of those things the Lord is doing to see how bad I want to work.

With the amount of work my senior companion doesn't want to do, I am getting pretty disgusted. We only tract a bit and spend all kinds of time visiting with the members. There are not too many members so we get to be a big bother. He doesn't seem to realize it even when he gets told. I hate to sound like I am aspiring to a position but I will be glad when I can make the decision to work. I hope I never make a Junior feel like I feel.

I have to stop. I don't have any more paper.

Love
Tom Mom and Dad

I got the check. Thanks. The banks here are on strike so I can't cash it till next week.

I love you
Torn Redd

A note on the end of Mar. 16 letter read:

What do you do if you forget something that you got told to always remember in the temple? I am not sure I remember the right thing. What shall I do?

P. S. Mar 30 letter:

About the temple, it was a rough day when I remembered that I couldn't remember so I sat down later and remembered what I was going to remember. Therefore I have now remembered what I remembered I couldn't remember.

Apr 6 1974

Dear Family,

I sure know that this week went by. It went so slow I could hardly believe it. My camp has been sick for the past week so I have been sitting here in this little apartment all week with nothing to give a change. Just study or do nothing at all.

Last week we did everything on Saturday that we should have done. It was really neat. We got everything done but then at 6:00 when we are supposed to get out of the apartment E Pettit decided he would have to stay in.

Sunday it felt so dumb not going to church. I think it is about the first time when I have not a thing wrong with me but have not gone to church. I just sat in the bathroom (I was in there because I get too tired watching someone sleep to study) and study and read.

Wow, this is driving me batty. We are listening to music that I think is good - (not modern) and I just about cry when I hear the clarinet. This is the first time in France that I have really missed being able to pick it up and play it.

Before I came to Antibes I got told that the people here don't dress too well. Monday we taught a discussion to a girl that didn't dress too well. All she had on was a little coat that looks like a doctor's coat. She didn't have it buttoned and just sat there. Wow, I could hardly believe what I saw. It looked like we should have taught an "H" discussion. It talks about commandments and has a big part on dress.

During a week with nothing to do I had time to think about all my problems. One of them was my bike. I went and had a look at it to decide to make myself sit down and fix it up. I have been having a lot of trouble with it lately. It is in pretty bad shape. I guess after 3 years of being driven in missionary style is really hard on it. Missionaries never have time to check or fix things and I am to the point where I have no clutch and the main drive transfer is fully shot. It is made of plastic and the insides are all gone.

The bearings went out and the pulley is getting eaten to pieces. The chains don't like to stay in

place anymore because they are so stretched out and the motor doesn't run too hot now. Besides all that, I lost the bearings in my wheels. What I am getting around to saying is that when I went down to price all the parts I needed I discovered that I was going to have to put my life's earnings into the parts.

I have to quote a little piece of a song I really like right now and then I'll continue: "Why do I love you? I love you for forgetting the possibilities of the fool in me, and for laying firm hold on the possibilities of the good in me"---Well, the fool in me told me to ask how much they wanted for a new bike and how much I could get out of the old one. Then the "good" in me said: "Look, you idiot, you can't do that". Then the fool in me said: "There is not much difference between the new bike and fixing the old one." Then the fool in me went to work counting my money and said you can do it, but the fool miscounted. So the fool finally won out.

I traded bikes with the dealer. It was really a steal to take what I took for the other bike but he says he will make money off it. What it comes down to is the fool in me has to think up a way to get out of its problems now. I am sending a Post Office money order home that I can't cash in France and wondering if you can cash it and maybe send me about \$30.00 more for this month. I am sorry I have to ask for more. When I counted my money I counted wrong and I was planning on a better rate of exchange at the bank. With the strike and all, the rate has really fallen. I am sorry I am so wasteful, but when I think about it, you must be used to it by now.

It really sounds exciting that the blunder bus is getting something done to it. Did you get a new motor in it yet or not? When you get time, it would be nice to get a plan of what you are doing on it.

By the way, now that I have a bike that will still be valuable when 2 years are up, I really do want to bring it home. Maybe you could look into customs and see if there is something that won't let me bring it. I sure would like to know if it is possible.

Joan, your new place sounds interesting. Ellen, how does it feel to be almost out of the "Y"? Sad--What or when are you going to Graduate school- Will? What's that about Kindergarten in Grassy Lake? Are you teaching it, Mom?

Well I guess I am out of paper- and time and money. I love you all.

Tom Redd

Apr 13 1974

Dear Family,

We are living still. I don't have anything to say today but I will say it anyway. Oh, I know one thing that I was going to tell you last week before I ran out of paper. I wanted to tell you about the accident I had 3 weeks ago. As I have said we go to church in Cannes. It is about 11 Kilometers away. There is this road down by the ocean that we go on. It is really pretty. Lots of people use that road and French traffic is slow - for cars. Bikes go fast. It takes about 20 minutes by bike. That is

because bikes have to stop. Well in that road down there the curb is really sloped. Every little while they leave out the slope of the curb and make it square. There is a hole there to let the waves back to the ocean. Because the cars were so thick, they were really close to the curb, we decided to ride on the sloped part of the curb and go beside all the cars. That worked fine but all of a sudden I fell in a hole. It was fine to fall off the first piece of curb, but the hole is only about 1 ft. long. When I got to the other curb the wheel on my bike shot out sideways. I almost got run down by a car but I got the bike pulled out of the way in time. I scratched my knee but I wasn't hurt bad. I made a hole that matches the hole in the road in the pants of one of my suits but I patched it up.

It's too bad some missionaries don't have the picture of the work in their heads. Wednesday we got up and the wind was blowing. It was a cold morning. We were already to go to work and my companion said it was too bad of a day to go out. I couldn't understand why because we would be in big buildings all day. He made the decision that we would stay in but had to go buy a newspaper first. It is farther to the store for English newspapers than it is to where we are tracting and besides that missionaries are not supposed to buy newspapers. We got the paper and came home and did nothing all day. I probably told you he was sick for a week. It was the kind of sickness where you can go to the store and go look at the ocean. You can do what you want but you can't go and knock on doors in those big warm buildings.

My comp has been here for more than 4 months and we are still in the same tracting area as when he first came. It is supposed to take 6 weeks to do any area. You can see we don't do much real work here. I wish that I could really work hard. I hope the Lord doesn't take too much longer to give me the chance to follow my leaders and really work hard. I have really gotten along with my companion well, but I need to get along with the Lord and His Spirit to do the work. I hope I can really feel good about the work someday.

One quarter of my mission could have been better I think. I hope I make three quarters of it good.

Got to stop--Love you all—

Tom Redd

Mom, try your artistic hand and draw me the buses insides. I would like to know where you put everything. I got the package. It was good but I thought, like you, that it wasn't worth that much postage. I love the candy and cookies anyway.

Apr 20 1974

Dear Family,

Another week and another companion are gone. Elder Pettit got transferred and now I have Elder Poffandis. He is a Canadian! He lives in Toronto and has been a member of the church for only 3 years. He was born in Egypt. He is a Canadian like you, Mom, naturalized. He is a good missionary and it looks like we are going to have a good time working together. I have to say that

Elder Pettit and I had a good time together but we didn't do much work. I used to get so upset that I would be almost ready to cry.

We went for a little ride today and I found that I am as lost in this town as he is. In fact, he led me home. How's that for sad. I was kind of glad for the transfer. In fact I prayed for it. I told the Lord I wasn't doing what I was here in France for and told Him that as a Jr. Companion I was doing all I could. I was following and pushing to get better work out of us but it never happened. I got the answer to my prayers and could have told Elder Pettit 6 days early that he was getting changed. Instead I just did my best to prepare myself to be a little better acquainted with the town. When you always follow you don't really care where you go. The transfer said it was temporary. I wonder-what the next change will bring.

Monday, .Jesse Markazi went tracting with us and he taught us a lot about French manners. He is a really new member and a good friend.

So you know what has been going on here, I will tell you what we did Monday night. My companion decided at 4:00 that he was tired so we came in and he slept all after noon (or rather evening) Tuesday it rained so we stayed in. That is when the Lord blesses you - when you work in the rain and wind and you are sick and cold. Wednesday, we took a "holiday" and went to Cannes to see the other elders. They weren't there but we ate by the ocean and went back and found them. Thursday was spent getting Elder Pettit ready to go. We are going to go to work now. We are going to rededicate the city and then baptize. That is why the Lord has us here. The Zone Leaders told me last Friday that we were the only district in the Nice Zone that didn't make the goals. We will surprise them now I hope.

It is interesting how much you can learn from companions. You don't have to have good ones to learn from. I have learned more what not to do than what to do so far on my mission. I can't wait until I can put the things I have learned to work.

I am out of things to say and maybe that is good. I only have enough money to send this much and no more paper. I will be out of luck if I get a transfer in 2 weeks. It could happen since the transfer was temporary.

I love you all and think lots of you but I don't hear much from you any more it seems. We didn't get enough letters to speak of this week. Well, I am out of time and space and have to quit.

I love you all.
Tom Redd

When does Ellen graduate? I would like to send a card if it is not too late
I love you—Your support and the blessings you ask in your prayers for me.

Thanks,
TOM

Apr 27 1974

Dear Family,

Because of lack of paper, I will only send one copy this time. This has been a good week. We worked. Elder Profondis is an elder that wants to work hard and that's what we did. First, I got the money. Thanks. Yes, it was just right.

What is happening at home? Where are Will and Peggy? Where is Ellen? Tell me about the blunder bus. Has the weather at home been as mixed up as it has here?

I guess this weather - spring- and the time of the year it is are making me homesick. I sure wish I could fly home for a little while.

It is the time of the year when I should be getting excited about going home but nothing like that is happening. Instead I have to wait 17 months. I am sure happy that I got to go to the LTM so I would only be here for 2 years and not 2 1/2. Maybe that is the wrong kind of blessing to count. It will be nice in 72 weeks when I can do what I want and feel good about it.

Back to the mission now! We have taught one of the best investigators a good discussion. I have helped teach an investigator that got baptized and I think I am going to be here to baptize this one. I may have been instrumental in finding several others. That is the 3 parts of the work-finding, teaching and baptizing.

I can't hardly believe that I am actually speaking a different language over here. It makes no difference to me now if I get spoken to in French or English. I never thought it would happen.

I have been rather troubled about, some of the mistakes in my life and I was praying to find out if my life was OK with the Lord. I got the neatest feeling I have ever had. I got to look at the world through new eyes. I took it to mean that my life was OK up to this point and now all I had to do was keep it that way. Since that time I keep getting troubled about it all over again and I am wondering if it is Satan trying to discourage me. What do you think about it all?

I caught myself a cold on Wednesday night. It was a really cold day and started out just like it was a normal day. We had a referral out in the pyramids --some apartments 10 Kilometers away. After that trip in the cold and the time it took to look for the guy (we never found him) I was about frozen. The next morning I woke up with a cold.

Thanks for your letters. I used to think at BYU that I lived on letters but I didn't know what it meant to really want letters. The only problem here is we can't take time to answer all of them.

Joan, you asked about arthritis. I have a really sharp type of pain in the back of the head-right where your neck hitches or if you don't move it, it doesn't hurt too much but each move you make makes it hurt like someone was pounding a nail in your neck. Just the jar of walking can make it really hurt. It hurts worse when the air is damp and also when the back of your head and neck is cold. The headache kind of has no real center that you can say because it makes your eyes hurt like

you needed your glasses changed. But the most of the hurt is in the back low down on the skull bone. Tell me what your ache is like.

I love you all and pray for you.

Love

Tom Redd

May 4 1974

Dear Family,

I don't know how many of you are where right now so I will send only 3 copies. If you want another copy, tell me.

It is about that time of year when I can't help but think of home on the farm. It seems like this is the time of year when BYU should get out and Joan should come home to us and we should all be together on the farm for another summer. But, I guess the years have changed those old memories. I will always have precious memories of those fun years.

Joan, I got your tape yesterday and listened to it today. Thanks! I want to keep it but I don't know if I can afford to buy another tape to talk back to you on yet. Hey, tell Mom to do the same thing. If you move I hope that you are happy with what presents itself. I wish I could slip home for a day or two and help you out.

Will, I sure never hear much from you. You must be busy lately. That birthday present you gave me - the B of M - is getting well used. Thanks.

Ellen, where are you now? Home? That was an interesting P.S. PS me again if you do more than kiss some guy.

It is interesting, Gilbert, to hear that you were in Nice for a while. The chapel is really beautiful but I don't know if you knew it but it got burnt down. The class rooms are OK. The chapel and the recreation hall were destroyed. They will start to build the chapel again this summer. This is a really nice area to be in. You are right! It is pretty. We have had a lot of rain this year though. That isn't fun on a bike or tracting Villas, you know.

Mom, thanks for all your letters. I really appreciate you and the way you write whether there is anything to say or not. It is so great to have a letter from someone you love.

Dad, what are you doing? I never hear much about you. I wish I could sit down and talk to you for a while but I have to wait a quite a few whiles before I can do that.

I am finding out what home sickness is. It is not just something that someone made up. I really do

get home sick from time to time. It just about makes me throw-up and all I can do is turn to God. Wouldn't it be awful to be home sick for all eternity? I sure hope I live worthy of living with all of you for all eternity. The Lord sure is nice to give us the chance to repent and work toward that great reward.

I have to tell you a little about me now. Not just that I am home sick. Last Sunday we were in Cannes at Sacrament meeting and a little old lady came in and got all excited about church. She walked to Cannes from Antibes -11 Kilometers. We asked her if we could go to her place and teach her. She told us that we couldn't and went into why. She has no water, electricity or gas at her house and she doesn't think she is presentable.

Monday we taught a discussion to a girl who really didn't want to have the discussions for the right reasons. She got off onto a side track telling us all about how unjust she thought it was that men could tell her that she should be morally clean. I don't know how she got that out of the Joseph Smith Story. She told us that she wasn't a dog and that people couldn't stop her from doing what she wanted to like they can stop dogs or cats.

Thursday we visited Sister Powell and took her a new book of Mormon. Hers was falling to pieces and she needed one in French to follow the French Sunday School. She gave me her old book. It was written in 1888 and is really interesting. It is "the story of the Book of Mormon" It'll be quite a treasure to me.

We knocked on the door of a rich guy's house this week. Or rather we pushed the bottom out at the gate. Some flood lights turned on and a camera (TV) took a picture of us. We stood there waiting for- someone to talk but instead the gates went open and we had to walk to the house. What a yard! Swimming pool, fish ponds, lawns, forests, everything. The owner wasn't there though.

Well, I have to stop. I love you and pray for you. Write soon.

Love
Tom

Note on the back of May 4 1974 Mom, Dad, and Ellen,
If you know Homer's and John's addresses please sent them to me.
Love Tom

May, 8 1974

Dear Mom

I just want to add a special note to you because it is Mother's Day on the 26th over here. I guess the best way to say it is like I did last year but I can't sing loud enough for you to hear. "Mother Dear I love you. Does home sickness happen in one direction or do you get it too? I guess that it isn't really home sickness but loved-ones sickness. Isn't it neat that the Lord didn't let us remember our pre-earth life. All our life would be a long time to be home sick even if from time to time we do get

home sick for that life we can't even remember.

Mom, I love you more than words can ever tell and "I will try all day through to please my heavenly Father, I'm so glad he gave me you." Or rather gave you me.

With deepest love,
Your son Tom.

P.S. Don't let this make you sad on your special day. I am not homesick any more.

May 11 1974

Dear Family,

Time went fast this week. It is too bad that you can't all take a vacation and come to Antibes. It is so much like one of the holidays we would take as a family down here. The trees, the ocean, the hills, rocks and houses make me think we are all together traveling but then I realize that it is only myself here.

Thursday we had a special seminar with President Griffin. I found out what makes me homesick. He told us. He was talking about how the devil tries to brake us down. He said he does it from inside. He works with pre and post mission thoughts and pride and jealousy and girl problems and 5 other things. The first 2 are why I have been so down every Saturday. Saturday is the only day I have time to think about my life and home so I would always get homesick then.

I went to get my card of travel in France on Monday. The officer took me into the office and looked at my recite and wrote on it to come back in 3 months. That means that it has already been 5 months I have waited and I will have to wait for 8 months all together. I hope I get it then. I might have a transfer by then and then I will have to wait another 2 months in another town. The bread man just came and I bought some bread.

I have a new student in English club. He has never studied English so I get to start from nothing to teach him English. My other 2 students are really getting good at English. They can almost express themselves in English now.

I hope you aren't worried because my last letter got mailed so late. My comp didn't get his check until Wednesday. We had to pay our rent and everything a week before. One check can do it but then you don't have enough money to have 2 people eat on for very long. He has been out of money for 2 weeks so he has been living on my money. It runs out fast with 2 people spending it. We were down to eating fried flour and water. It wasn't bad but I hope it doesn't happen too often.

My last few letters have been really depressed letters. I am sorry. I do get enough letters but you know how it is when you are away from home. You look in the mail box every time you go by it. That means you go by it and look about 12 times a week. I am sure glad it isn't by the door. Thanks for all your letters. I love you all and pray for you.

The zone leaders were here on Friday to help us out a bit. We have a switch day once very month. It is nice to watch someone new tract. It is good for- a change. We taught a discussion with them. We taught our star investigator the discussion about all the commandments. We didn't have anywhere to teach it so we taught it in the zone leaders' car. It was different. Well I have to quit. I love you and feel the support of your prayers. Thanks.

Tom Redd

Mom and Dad and Ellen

Did you get my razor cord? The slides are not very good ones, but maybe they will bring back some memories for Ellen

We are tracting in one of the richest parts of one of the richest towns in France. The people are really high class and you sure can feel funny walking up to some of their palaces. Oh, give me a home where the Buffalo roam! A little one too.

Love you,
Tom Redd

May 18 1974

Dear Family,

I got your letter with the money today. It sounds exciting to earn your own living or rather wages, Ellen. You have always earned your living even if you haven't earned wages.

I thought that after the scratching for money I did last month I would not need the extra money I asked for but I got a letter from another elder asking me to go see his agent for his bike insurance. I did and found out that if the insurance for him was good I would have to pay 150 FF to keep his insurance for him and do it that day. So I did. That was my food and conference for the month. In other words until he sends me 150 FF I will be eating next month's check. Thanks.

Joan, no I am not a senior companion now. My companion goes home in about October.

Last Sunday there were only 7 people at church. 3 of us are young men. 4 of us were old ladies.

Our star investigator should be getting baptized soon. I guess that means that I will get a transfer. I hope I get to see him as a member of the church. He is really something. He says prayers at Sunday School and really knows what the church is all about. He knows it's true. We taught a discussion about all the principal commandments and we would mention a commandment like the law of tithing and he would explain it to us and tell us he was living it already.

There was one commandment he knew about but didn't want to accept it very easy even though he knew it was true. That is the law of chastity.

I am sure glad that I was raised knowing the importance of the complete gospel. People here go tan on the beach and it is enough to make you sick. All the little kids don't have anything at all on. I don't understand why they change when they get older - or I guess they really don't. If guys my age go to the beach they just take off their pants and shirts and tan in their underwear. The girls wear a "bathing suit" and sometimes the guys do too but the bathing suits cover less of them than their underwear. We got told Tuesday that Juan-les-pains is off limits for Elders and I was sure glad. That is the town with the most beaches.

Well, Ellen, it sounds like you and I both have rheumatism. Now we can feel sorry for Mom. I used to think it was funny when she hurt every time she moved but I now I know it isn't funny but it hurts.

Ellen, thanks for the slide. It is so neat see the little kids again --and the big kids. It sounds like Mother's Day is all over over there. It is next Sunday here. I am sorry I waited this long Mom, but I was planning to write this week and it would be there right in time. Well, I am to the end of the paper so I will stop.

love you all
Torn

May 25 1974

Dear Family,

This has been a really interesting week. It has gone from the most spiritually, uplifting to the most satanic thing I have ever imagined. Sunday was our member conference. It was really good and really motivated and uplifted all the people. Monday and Tuesday were our conference days and we really had good talks. I took a scribbler to write notes in and almost used half of it writing as fast as I could. We have a zone goal of a "Spiritual experience" a day.

Wednesday I had a neat thing happen. I spent an hour changing my flip book. I felt like I had to do it and I would be sorry if I didn't. During our afternoon we got in a door and gave a discussion. I had just put all the pictures in the book for that discussion. How the Lord helps us.

My Thursday experience came in the form of clear and precise answers to prayer.

Friday I got Ellen's letter that talked about home sickness and why we get it: the fact that it is our soul crying out to the Lord for righteousness. (I read that letter about 5 times in a row. What a lift. Thanks, Ellen.) Right after I read it we went out and got in a T.J's door who was always trying to chop us down. My goal for the experience was to be specifically guided by the spirit at one of the doors during the day. It was that one. During the discussion, (my camp has a temper and T.J's like heated discussions. Let your imagination do the rest) The spirit told me what to tell the man. I had been guided in the first place and I just happened to have a B of M with me. I opened it up and had him read Moroni 10:3-5 and then asked him if he wanted to know if the things we said were true. He said "No" so we got up and left. It was really neat. There was no bad feelings about us

leaving all of a sudden, we, us and his family, seemed to know that we were just going to get up and leave.

Now is what I analyzed as the most satanic thing I have seen; the Grand Prix. We went to Monaco today to watch that race. I, or rather my soul, had a good talk with the spirit and we analyzed the whole mess. It is a huge waste: It wastes time, money, people, cars, tires, roads, wood, steel, oil, chemicals, and gas. I asked myself how the Lord felt about how the wisdom and scientific knowledge He gave us was being used. I don't think he developed radio to help control races, nor TV to put it on the air, nor motors to have an excess of speed and noise, nor roads to turn into race tracks. When I thought about it, almost everything we have developed all through history was being misused; colored flags, cameras, TV, radio, chemical for film, rubber for tires, motors, oil, gas, asphalt, steel for cars and guards, oils, electricity, doctors, etc, etc. Maybe I should just enjoy it like everyone else.

I love you all but have to stop.

Love
Tom

Mom, and Dad, and Ellen

I love you. Happy Mother's Day tomorrow Mom. Thanks for all you have taught me. I am sorry I am not smart enough to always appreciate my background but I sure do here in France.

Love Tom

June 1 1974

Dear Family,

It is hard to believe that it is Saturday again and even harder to believe that it is the 6th month of the year.

I sure must be weird! I never can understand how some Elders can feel good about the work they do when they don't put everything they have got into the work of the Lord. I don't understand how I got raised so different than all the other people in the world. Thanks Mom and Dad and Will, Joan and Ellen for your examples and teachings. 3 out of 4 of my companions have been on the "wrong track at one time or other. Two of them were on drugs; one of them grew up drinking coffee and smoking. The other one was raised in a Mormon Home but it is the kind of person that thought he was saved because he was baptized. He was even going to buy wine to cook with. Before my mission I thought that I would have companions that were strong in the church and going all out for the work of the Lord. I am beginning to wonder if there is such a thing as a person that thinks and feels like me.

I guess that this page of writing needs an explanation. Saturday we got home from the races about 8:00 PM. Preparation day ends at 5:00 PM and you are supposed to work until 9:30 PM. We got home and went to bed. We came home on our bikes at 60 Kilometers an hour and the President just

finished asking us to have a speed limit of between 25-30 Kilometers an hour. Sunday after church we are to work and get our reports to the president finished but instead we or rather my companion went to bed. I wrote my report.

Monday we spent getting his report written and all the stuff we should have done on Saturday finished. Friday it rained. We worked half the day in the rain but "had" to quit because my companion's shoes were wet.

Maybe I am a dreamer but I think with a little planning and dedication it wouldn't be hard to get 70 hours of work a week. I can't wait till I can try it--and then do it regularly. I sat down one day and figured out my "perfect week" and I had 69 1/2 hours of work planned in with not too much strain. I want to work but I can't. I have to follow. Maybe that is the test the Lord has for me, or maybe He is teaching me not to ever do that- make someone not do as much as he wants to do - to anyone else as long as I live.

Dad, remember when you gave me a father's blessing, you said that I would be able to understand the language and would be able to talk enough to make the work of the Lord go on. Later you told me that I might not have a perfect knowledge of the language and I could even forget it when I got back but that I would have the "gift of tongues for teaching the gospel to people. I am in the midst of the blessing being fulfilled. I have had little or no trouble talking French when I have been doing missionary work but I am lost when I start doing something else. I have had no trouble understanding people for ages either. Clear since I was in "Winter Quarters" in Montpellier I have understood almost every word people have spoken to me. Even words that I know I have never heard. Example: one of our investigators was talking about how people don't teach their children and he came up with "fessee". From the context of the sentence I am sure I wouldn't have ever figured it out. (I had to look it up to remember what it was, too.) I understood clearly as day that he was speaking about a spanking. Without some of the blessing that the Lord gave me and told me about with you as the patriarch or mouth-piece, I think I would give up and go home. Thanks for being in tune with the Spirit of the Lord so you could tell me things that would help me not only in that blessing but in all the ones you gave. The one you gave me before I went to summer school changed my life.

I don't know if you know it but you do now.

I love you all more than I can say. It must be really something to have perfect love like God's love. It must really hurt Him to see His children go astray. I feel the influence of your prayers and faith. Thanks so much for your letters and love.

Goodbye for another week.

Love Torn

June 8 1974

Dear Family,

It is time to write again. I can't believe that time goes as fast as it does sometimes. When you have a lot to do the times goes the fastest. It is too bad it doesn't work the other way around. It should go slow when there is a lot to do and you would have time to do it.

I just finished making a tape to send home and am writing because it seems that tapes take too long to go back and forth.

My comp's bike didn't work on Thursday so we walked all day long. We finished teaching the last discussion to our best investigator but his mom and his grandmother, who adopted him, won't let him get baptized. They are not against the church but they want to make sure Christien will be a good member before he is baptized. That means that I have finally taught all the discussions.

I can't think of anything to say now that I have talked for almost an hour on the tape. Also I don't have much time to spend writing either.

Joan I will send you a tape back next week --maybe. I hope you get a copy of this one or at least get to hear it. Thanks everyone for your letters.

I love you all and feel your prayers and support. Thanks.

Tom Redd

June 15 1974

Dear Family,

Thanks for your letters. I really do enjoy hearing all about home and new homes. The letter with all the colors got here, Joan and also the card. Thanks. It sounds like an exciting life to start a new house. You deserve it finally.

School must be about over for all you teachers.

Monday we got to work with the zone leaders. That is always special because they are really there to help us do the work. They give us the chance to have a change of pace for one day a month. We have to pass 74 scriptures to the zone leaders. I already passed 1/8 of them and worked hard on the others. I was all ready with 7/8 of them and I thought I would pass them all off and be done with it. But the first scripture I had to say was one of the 1/8 I passed 2 months ago. I had not reviewed them at all so I told them I wasn't ready with them and now I have to wait another month to get that all done.

It is so sad to see someone that has a testimony of the gospel kept from joining because of parents. Christien, our prize investigator can't get baptized because of his mother and grandmother. He has no father. It really hurts to see that precious spirit being held back. I guess I have always been highly sensitive to other's pains and that made it even worse. I could tell that Christien had been

crying before we got to his house to talk to his mother and grandmother. Then all the way through our talk with them he was fighting to hold back the tears. I knew it and I knew he knew it, but we were the only ones that knew. After the talk he walked us to the gate and I took the lead to talk to him for a while. It made us late for our English club and I made my companion rather mad, but the Spirit told me it was important to put my arm around him and tell him I loved him; he was special; I always prayed for him; and that with the Lord's help all things are possible. Then our spirits did some communicating as we searched the eyes of each other. I told him to work hard in school - since he is passing his Bac. I told him that way he would give his family a reason to love him. His mother told me that since he started talking with us his grades have gone up. He is much the same as me. He has always avoided things in life that I avoided - language and actions of others. Because of it, he has lived a rather lonesome life; no real close friends. He sure is special to me. When you pray, pray for him or rather a better situation for him so he can be baptized. OK?

I am out of paper and have to quit. I love you and pray for you.

Tom Redd

June 22 1974

Dear Family,

Another Saturday is here already. We did our shopping and laundry and now are ready to settle down to write letters.

I got the money. Thanks.

I am rather out of things to say. I guess you feel the same way sometimes.

Dad, did you keep a record of your life during the army? We got to look at a history the French people wrote about the war and gave to the USA. It was really interesting. It was top secret when it was made and has never been published. One of the sisters in the branch was a secretary for it and she got to keep about 10 carbon copy pages of it. She let us read them and it really showed the integrity and quick thinking it took to be in the army at that time. I see now where you developed some of your qualities. I really want to find more out about what you went through.

English club was interesting this week. I showed slides of as much of Canada as I had. I talked the whole time in English and my students understood. I think that is remarkable since they learned English in 9 months going to "club" 1 hour a week. We have a party next week and then it is all over. I will miss that tool.

We found a lot of people that said they would come to church on Sunday. This branch might begin to grow this summer even with 1/2 of them away in the USA.

We sure are lucky to be members of the Church of Jesus Christ. I have been reading the conference

talks lately and they sure are touching. I sit there and cry most of the time. OH, that everyone could feel the joy to know that God guides his church today by revelation. What a privilege to read God's will concerning our lives now.. ..today.

President Sager has changed the day for us to have preparation day. We will have Preparation day on Friday and we will work on Saturday when fathers are home. That will start in July. That will make you get my letters on a different day.

Well, I guess school is over for all of you. It is too bad that you can't just slip over here for your holiday. It is sure pretty country around here. It is something we would travel days to see if this place was on the Americas.

Last Saturday we went to several perfume factories in Grass. It was really interesting. Perfume is aged like wines. Light affects perfume. We toured one factory in English and one in French. It was really interesting to see.

I sure felt stupid about forgetting Father's day. I am sorry. I even found out that it cost too much to send a telegram, so I didn't even do that.

One of the members here is learning "Fantasy Piece". Remember Joan. The triplets and the eighth notes! It was sure good to hear again.

Well I have to stop. I love you all.

Tom Redd

July 5 1974

Dear Family,

Does it ever feel funny to write July on a letter. I think it is the first time in my life I have ever written a letter in July. It used to be when the holidays came, my few and far apart letters took holidays. I guess I did write when I was in Edmonton though.

It seems that this is one of those days when there is nothing to say. I think that happens to you every Monday, eh Mom! A lot has happened this week. I just can't remember it all. So, I will start with Tuesday evening.

Tuesday morning was pretty uneventful. We taught one of the hardest to teach discussions in the afternoon. The man has written a 500 page book explaining everything without a God. All the way through the discussion we were stopped by his theories and stories. He won't pray. Then we taught one of our slow investigators the discussion about commandments. She will be baptized on August 3rd. At 7:00 we were to go to Sister Powell's to eat supper. We were going to be there a little early because we were a little late the last time we went to her place. We took off in time to be 10 minutes early. We were 2 blocks from her place when what I have been waiting for for 2 months

finally happened. My comp always rides really, really close to the cars on the side of the road. The President knows that some Elders ride really close like that and asked us all not to. He told us to be wise. He was going along merrily until a lady opened her door. He kept on going merrily but his bike kind of stopped. We were lucky we were going almost as slow as the President asked us to. (That is one thing that bothers me. The president said have a speed limit of 20 Kilometers per hour but my comp has only stayed that slow for 2 days since the president told us.) He sprained his wrist but other than that was unhurt. We went on to Powell's and were just about ready to sit down and eat and Elder Poffandis stood up and said he felt dizzy and he thought he should go to the Doctor. Then he started to say, "I think I am going to..." and he fainted. He was in shock so I got to play boy scout and after that I gave him a blessing. Then we all got up and ate. The doctor came and checked him out he was completely OK.

I am sending Ellen a birthday present. There are some slides and junk with it. I don't care what happens to all the junk but I want the slides kept. The little kids might be able to use the junk. (There is not much junk.)

I don't know where to send stuff now nor how many copies of this to send. Keep me posted. I love you all. Goodbye for another week.

Tom Redd

July 12 1974

Dear Family,

It is Friday already. I can hardly see where the time goes so fast. This week I got a clear definition from my companion to me why I don't get along the best with my companions. It came on two different days. In study class one morning I was rather pleased that we had managed to get as many rendezvous with people as we had. It was so nice and full of an afternoon that we weren't free until 6:30. I got ask where I thought we should eat. I said I thought we should just work until a reasonable hour and then come home for good and eat and all. He told me in no uncertain way that food was just as important to him as the work was. Thanks for not raising me like that. The next part of the definition came about 11:00 AM one morning. We knocked on a door. It was my companion's door. The lady came to the door to spy out the little hole in the door and she asked who was there. My companion hates people to look without opening the door so he didn't say anything. The lady asked who was there about 7 or 8 times and then my companion decided to "X" her and go on to the next door. I thought that was wrong so I told him not to "X" her. She didn't say she was not interested. He burst into flames and told me that I was really dedicated and that I wanted to do the work but I had to realize that the work wasn't everything. That shocked me. To me it is everything. It is the only reason I came to France--to do the Lord's work. I was too shocked to say anything to find out what he meant.

Three days ago I started having trouble with my bike. I thought for sure it was the spark plug so I cleaned it out. I even put a new one in it. It got worse. I checked the points. It got worse. I cleaned the carbon out of the cylinder. It got worse. I cleaned the carburetor. It got worse. I decided

to check the holes where the gas goes into the cylinder and the exhaust comes out. I had to go into there through the hole for the muffler. I got the muffler off and started the bike and it ran like a charm. So I took the muffler apart and found out that 6 little holes about the size of a pencil were completely plugged. I dug them out and now the thing runs like new.

Thanks for the letters everyone. Thanks Mom and Gilbert. It was your letters I got this week. Thanks for talking about the bus Mom. It is neat to read about. Please do send some pictures. Thanks for your lift and support Gilbert.

Well I am almost to the end of paper and time. I love you all. Thanks for your prayers and support. Joan, I bought a tape to send back.

Love
Tom Redd

P.S. to July 12 1974
Dad Mom and Ellen

One day in Montpelier I found 2 bags to go on my bike for less than, \$4.00 a piece so I bought them. I wish someone would have known how cheap they were because I went to get on my bike one day and they had been taken. I didn't mind losing them as much as what was in them - tools, rain, clothes, umbrella, and (most precious) my flip book. I guess that is life. At least the bike is still there. (It was down in the cave too.)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY in a little while, Ellen

July 19 1974

Dear Family,

This has been an exciting week. We have done a lot of work and I have received a lot of letters. Diana Layman, my BYU sister is getting married. My brother and sister from BYU are married and have their first kid. Mike McClung from Edmonton (when I was at summer school) wrote a letter to me. I got Dad's letter about the bus. Thanks! It is neat to read about how simple all the big problems are. I got a letter from Ellen and Joan and Will and Gilbert too. What a jackpot.

I have tracted out 3/5 of this town now and will soon have 3/4 of it all done. We had the zone Leaders working with us yesterday. They always give me a big lift and a drive to do better. Elder Strong quizzed me all afternoon on the discussions and scriptures we were to have learned.

We had a great fireside last night. It was the start of a new program that is going to replace Summer Caravan. We call it open house or in French Open Doors. It is to give members a chance to invite friends to watch the new film called "Meet the Mormons". It should be really good. Date August 22.

I have got to quit. I love you all and pray for you. Thanks for your support and letters. Thanks Will,

that is neat to hear from you.

Love Tom

July 26 1974

Dear Family,

I can hardly believe where all the time is going. I guess it all goes fast when we have lots to do.

Monday and Tuesday we had a zone conference and got all motivated again. It seems that I need it the most when they come.

Christien, the boy, is on holidays right now so I don't know what is happening to him. The law in France was just changed so he can get baptized without permission. I don't know if he will or not because his Mom made him promise not to be baptized for 2 years.

We are going to baptize 2 ladies on Sat. Aug. 3. They are really neat women that are all out for the church. They are rather slow learners but it was fun teaching them. After each discussion they tried to give away 1/2 their kitchen. They were going to give us some kettles one time.

I almost finished rebuilding my flip book that was stolen. I have to work some more on it before today's over so I will quit.

Love Tom

Ellen am I doing Better? You know what I am talking about.

Mom and Dad, it sure was fun to read about your little trip. I am sure glad you got away and took one alone together.

I love you all
Tom

Ellen, the President and his wife send you their best. They say to tell you to write. Elder Cook and Elder Anderson, the assistants say "Hi" too.

Aug 2 1974

Dear Family,

Here I am again! The call signals are T.D.M. Come with me as we tour the area of Antibes. After 5 miles of pleasant driving we are here in the middle of no-where. There is nothing man-made around the area but the road that brought us here. No noise; no worries; no problems. Just here in

nature - trees, grass (rare) flowers and rocks. We decided this morning to get away from everything and everybody so we did everything we had to for the week in the morning and we will spend the afternoon here in nature.

Meanwhile back at the mission; we will be baptizing 2 old ladies tomorrow. They are really nice and just about give their house to us when we visit them. One is 81 and has really beat-up legs. She has broken them a lot. The other is 45 and is mentally slow. She is a good head if you take time to teach her and that's what we did. We will be in Nice most of the day tomorrow to arrange everything.

I sure love you and feel your love and support. Thanks. God bless you all.

Tom Redd

Mom and Dad and Ellen.

I got the check on the 29th. Thanks. Mom, I got my birthday present package and the stuff looks good. Thanks.

Aug 9 1974

Dear Family,

I can't believe that August is about 1/3 gone already. It doesn't seem possible that I have been in Antibes for more than 5 months. We sure do get to talk to a lot of people that are from all over in this holiday town. We see Americans, Canadians, English (it is normal to see people drive their cars on the wrong side of the car. It used to scare me to see a car without a driver) Germans, etc. etc. We get to send lots of referrals to all over the world.

We tried to find a little town up in the hills where the people that lived there were home and not just tourists so we could do some really good tracting. We didn't find anything but we sure saw some pretty country. We got away from the coast traffic and really had an enjoyable search.

My bike quit all together this week and I had quite a time fixing it. I don't know how you ever managed, Ellen. I sure get stumped sometimes. It is so simple but it really has hard to find problems. I have to go do more work on it before the day is over.

Love
Tom

Morn & Dad & Ellen

Thanks for the letters. I love you and think of you often. Ellen you will find your husband. Don't get too discouraged. Remember he is looking as hard as you are.

Love

Tom

P.S.

We did baptize those 2 ladies. It was neat to see them join the church.

Aug 16 1974

Dear Family,

Well, I just defrosted the fridge. It hasn't been done for ages. It was so iced up there was hardly any room in the top part.

I only have a few minutes for this letter. Thanks for the slides, Mom. How about some more of Home?!

It seems like the hottest part of summer is getting over. This has not been a very eventful week. We have tried to put posters up for our open house next week. It has made us do a lot of walking with little success.

I got my hair cut today. Mom, you are still the best barber I ever went to. Ellen, you are next in line. I got all the pictures from you Ellen. Thanks. We are in the middle of making a flip book and boards so they will come in handy. I tried to figure out if you were trying to tell me something by them but I can't tell. Maybe I will get a letter that explains them.

I hope all goes well with everyone for the last leg of the summer. Love you all and pray for you always. Goodbye.

Love

Tom

Mom, Dad and Ellen

I am beginning to think the Lord forgot he has missionaries in Antibes. I keep thinking I'll have to go but it never happens. Guess I am here till November or December.

Love Tom

Aug 23 1974

Dear Family,

I can hardly believe it's Friday again. If you don't pay attention the world goes right on without you.

We had our open house on Wednesday. It was really great. We had 4 missionaries, 13 investigators, 9 Antibes members and 1 visiting member. It was a great day. The Zone Leaders worked with us and the Cannes Elders came for the day too. That is the first time I worked with 6

missionaries in a town since Montpelier. One of the Zone leaders was in my Religion class the first semester. It was good to see "Dan" again. I never knew his last name. All that was on the roll was Dan and his seat number. We had a great talk about BYU and brother Scousen.

Joan, I am sending Michael's birthday gift tomorrow. Tell me if it gets there. It is going by air.

I have to do some studying now. We are giving a lady the baptismal challenge today. I will let you know what happens.

Love
Tom

Mom, Dad, Ellen.

One of my English Club students asked me how she could get some mapline. I told her I would ask about the price and if it was possible have my family to send me some for her. She said she would like a lot and would pay for it if she could get it. She asked for me to check on about 12 bottles. She wants a year's supply. If you could, could you send at least one bottle. Thanks.

I love you all. Hope school is great for you two teachers.

Love
Thomas

Joan's letter is separate.

Aug 30 1974

Dear Family,

Almost time to quit so I had better start. I can't believe that August is almost gone! I don't understand where all the time goes!

I got the check. Thanks.

Antibes is turning into Antibes again. The weather is getting cool enough to enjoy. It is still hot but you don't have to ring out your clothes after a day. All the tourists are going home too. The cars are leaving by the 100s. Soon it will be possible to drive around again. Since the town really doesn't have many people that live here there will be a lot of empty buildings at the start of September.

It seems that this week has been a "clean up" week. We have been cleaning up on hang-on investigators. We told them we couldn't teach them more unless they accepted the challenge to be baptized.

Boyd K. Paker is going to speak to us on the 19th of September. That should be great! We have

another conference on the 21st & 22nd of October. (If I am still here.)

Well, I have to stop. I am looking forward to your letters.

Love you all.
Thomas Redd

Mom and Dad

I guess you have to settle down now. It sounds like you had a great summer...but you can't beat mine. I saw people join the church. I saw the ocean and trees and cities.

Love you dearly.
Tom

Sept 6 19-74

Dear Family,

As you can tell by the stationery, we are not home. We decided to come here to Monica to see the town and it started to rain on us. We are not at all prepared for rain so we stopped here in a restaurant to wait for the rain to stop. I couldn't stand to waste the time so I went to the store (junk) next door and asked if I could buy a paper bag. She wasn't going to let me do it but she finally gave me this for about 2 cents. So now the time is not as wasted.

I just got your letter this morning, Mom. I was so excited when I read that about the Bishop and you two I could hardly sit still. You have my full hearted support and approval. I can't think of anything better for you and Dad to do for the next 2 years. I will do all I can to help. I told the President once that my money was fine and I had no worries along that line. He put me right straight into the most expensive city with one of the poorest companions. Elder Poffandis only gets about \$20.00 from his family. I will tell the president as soon as I get the word from you that I need to be where I can squeeze the money a little farther. (That will give me a reason to work for KBYU when I get back in a year).

Later - Home again and I just have a few minutes before I have to be in bed. We just about froze on the way home---Winter Is Here. We put our coats on for the first time this winter.

Will you please find out for me what I have to do to get back into the "Y"? Ask Ellen if I have to apply for anything before school starts or not. She should know. She just did it. I would like to late register and get into band and choir. If I wait until block, I can't get in them for a whole year. Can you ask about late registering for me too? I was going to ask you to apply for BYU housing in D. T. - U hall 2 floor too, but maybe with your mission coming up (hope, hope), I had better find something cheaper.

Could you apply for me to be eligible anyway. If I work there I might feel rich enough to enjoy the towers. Don't apply for September though. Apply to start in the second block. I'd hate to have to

pay all the rent for Sept and Oct. if I were not there. I won't know the time till next spring when I will be going home. It can be anywhere from Sept. 1 to Sept 29.

Well, have a great mission. If there is anything worth telling the family in this letter Morn, maybe you could copy it. Thanks.

Love
Tom

Sept 20 1974

Dear Family,

I have been 20 for 1 week. It is hard to believe' Pretty soon September will be gone!

This has been a good week, especially yesterday. We had a conference with 1/2 of the mission with Boyd K. Packer in Marseille. We really had a good meeting. He is really a neat person. He stood up there for the first hour of the conference and answered questions. He asked us each to say our name and where we were from. I said I was Elder Redd from Grassy Lake and he said is your Dad Smellie or Phillip.

I said Smellie and he said I knew your Dad before you did. He said to tell you "hi", Dad.

I got your birthday letters Mom, Ellen, Joan, Dad, Peggy and Will. Thanks for them.

I am watching one of the funniest things I have ever seen. I cleaned the bathroom today so my companion is cleaning the kitchen. He is a champion wieght lifter - a big strong guy. But he is scared of bugs. There are some ants and a few cockroaches in the kitchen most of the time. When he sees them he jumps back and almost has a heart attack. He has to cover the ant or bug up with a sheet of newspaper so it can't bite off his arm and then he does a war dance on the paper to squash the bug.

It sure was neat to see all my old comps and friends yesterday. We went as a zone from Nice-- 10 of us. I saw all but one of my comps. I saw the ones I had at Salt Lake City, the LTM and here in France. Well I have to stop. I love you all.

Tom Redd

Mom and Dad.

I hope something about sports gets here fast. I appreciate your help.

I can't wait to hear where you will be for the next little while. I am getting all excited about your prospects of learning a new language. Wow that would be neat. Did you fill the papers out yet?

Did anything get done about BYU housing and me?

I love you all and pray for you always. Thanks for your support and prayers.

Love
Tom.

P.S. I told Tony Kusalik in a birthday letter that my gift for him was going to be to send the missionaries to his house. Can you tell the elders to go give him a "C". Tell them how to get to their place and that he is a Catholic-fairly staunch. Tell them to use my name. Tell them to be sure to talk to Tony--not just anyone there.

Thanks.

Sept 27 1974

Dear Family,

Mom, I got the catalog and addresses. Thanks a lot. That will really help the missionaries here have good people to teach. It looks like you went to a lot of work to get all those addresses.

It is really neat to read about how you are going through all the preparations for your mission. I can't wait to see, or rather hear, where you go. I wish you would come to Ellen's and my mission. It is so beautiful. If you went to Will's mission you could speak Spanish with him and that would make him not so all alone in his Spanish.

What is happening to you, Gilbert? Mom mentioned in the last letter that it must have been the easiest pay check you ever earned. Don't you have any students?

Joan, I still don't have Kathy's birth date. I don't want to miss it again.

Will, it sounds like you are really seeing the country with that pop truck assistant job. What is your work, Peggy?

Ellen, from what I remember of the Foremost seminary kids, you must have a neat ward. Who is the Seminary teacher now? Are Crosses still out there?

Dad it is good to hear you are always busy with scouting. Boys sure are neat.

And last but not least...most important for today--Happy Birthday, Mom. I love you.
I love you all. Have to stop.

Love, Tom

Morn and Dad.

Thanks for the BYU letter. I won't worry about it for a while since the deadline is July 15.

Love you lots.

Tom

Oct 4 1974

Dear Family,

Mom, how was your Birthday? I hope you got to hear from everyone. Maybe my letter got there on your birthday, too.

Did you notice the change in postage on my letters? The cheapest to Canada is 50 cents about now. The cheapest I can send is 2 Francs 20 centimes. I went to the post office to find out how much paper I could send for that price. It works out that to be light enough for the cheap rate it is only 1/2 sheet of this paper and one of my thinnest envelopes. That shows what prices are doing here in France.

It is even against the law to heat your apartments before the 15th of oct. (I'm glad I'm in the Sunny South).

We had a super good week. We found and taught some super cool people. We had investigators here at Sunday School and then some investigators took us to Cannes to Sacramento meeting. We challenged one girl to be baptized on the 19th and she said she would. It was a neat discussion. We were all crying.

My comp goes home next Friday. I am going to miss him. We have been together alone in our town since April 19th--almost 6 months. I don't know what the transfer will bring me. I will be here a while longer though.

I love you all. Goodbye.

Tom

Mom and Dad

I got the money the very day we had to pay the rent. Thanks.

Love you lots.

Tom

Oct 11 1974

Dear Family,

My companion left for Geneva today at about 6:00 this morning. I have been cleaning the

apartment all day while I'm waiting for my new companion. The transfer this week sure scared me. I got made Senior Companion--which is scary enough but to add to the scare I am getting an Elder from the LTM. He should be all fresh and full of life. I hope I can be as good for him as Elder Christensen was for me.

We have had real rainy weather lately. I hope it quits soon. By the way, I am still enjoying summer. What is it like at home?

Gilbert, I hope you have a happy birthday. This little thing isn't much but it might bring back memories.

Peggy, when is your birthday? Tell me and I'll send you a little French something.

We have some really neat people to teach right now. Some people just let you walk right in and sit down. It is really neat when it happens. It happened to us two days ago. We have another couple that are about like Mom and Dad. They are from Finland and reason like Mom and Dad.

We had a nice lot of food to eat this week. Members had us out to eat all week except one day. Well, I haven't got to the Gare. I love you all.

Tom Redd

Oct 18 1974

Dear Family,

This has been a very tiring week. I don't know if I can hack another like it. I guess there won't be any quite the same. We had to go to the Police two times to get Elder Brown checked into the city. All the running around sure seems to be a waste of time. Bike, etc. I am glad we will be able to just settle down and work next week.

We get to go to a 1/2 mission conference next Monday and Tuesday in Marseille. That makes 2 times in almost one month. It should be really good though.

The members are so neat here. I hope I get to stay quite a while longer. I keep thinking that I will be off to another "hunting" ground in about 2 weeks. It sure would be nice to be wrong. Now that I have spent the hot summer in the hot country I will probably spend the cold winter in the cold north.

My poor companion-- he can't stop wishing he were up in the north. He is always saying he wished he was in the north and not on the coast. He won't see that it is beautiful down here if he keeps that attitude. I am trying my best to make his stay pretty and nice.

Well it is interesting how time and paper and things to say all stop at once. I love you and appreciate your faith and prayers in my behalf.

Love Tom

Oct 25 1974

Dear Family,

This was a good week. We worked hard and had a nice time. All except for Monday and Tuesday we have done lots of work. We had a 1/2 mission conference on Monday and Tuesday. It was really great. President Griffin was here or rather there at Marseille. The President read the transfer out over the pulpit. It must have been inspired because when we got home there was a mail strike and we never would have got it to make the move.

That is something awful. I don't know when you will get this - or when I will get your letter and money. I hope it doesn't last long. I don't know what will happen if there is a strike for several months like in England last year. It is possible.

The zone leaders will be here to work with us on Saturday, Sunday and Monday. It should be a nice week end. The zone leaders are just about like part of the family. They are so neat. E Reuch was in my religion class at BYU.

Well, I don't have a lot of time left today. So I had better stop. This might be old by the time you get it, too.

I love you all and hope the Lord blesses you like He is me. I can't wait to get the letter about your mission, Morn and Dad.

I love you all
Elder Redd

Nov 1 1974

Dear Family,

Here I am, still at Antibes. I suppose that by the time you get this you will think I am dead. The mail strike doesn't seem to be coming to an end. It is more fixed now than ever before. There will be more strikes soon, too. There will be a strike on the trains, the electricity, the gas and telephone and post office. Everything has stopped-about. Oh, there is a strike on the TV and radio, too.

Brother and Sister King are going to the temple this week. They will be sealed and they are really excited about it. They are pretty excited about it all.

We have been working hard and finding lots of neat people to talk to. This is our week of proselyting excellence. We are doing 60 hours of really good work. 10 hours of teaching and 35

hours of teaching tracting. Also I am trying to get in as many doors as I can.

The zone leaders came and worked with us Saturday, Sunday and Monday. We taught 12 discussions with them. They took us to church in Cannes and we really enjoyed not riding our bikes.

I can't wait to hear about your mission, Mom and Dad. I sure wish I could get letters but I guess they will come sometime in the future.

We are doing fine, Working hard and keeping happy. Good-bye.

I love you all.
Thomas Redd.

Nov 8 1974

Dear Family,

Here I am!-off to visit the polar bears! I am going to Grenoble right now I am on the train to Marseille. I am happy to get a change right now. I don't know if I did my companion justice. We worked hard but he never really learned much. He always said that he couldn't speak. It's almost a month since he came and I have taught everything since he came. He gets scared at doors and won't do them. The change will be good for him. He will be able to start a new page in his "book of mission". Also I am going to enjoy not worrying about a whole town. One month was enough of that.

My new comp is Elder Willcox. I don't know a thing about him so I will tell you next week. Because of the strike, I am completely moneyless. By the time you find out, I should be rich though.

I was kind of sad to leave Antibes. I really learned to like it and its people--members and non-members. I have some lifelong friends there, I think. The boy that couldn't get baptized, for example and all the old ladies. I guess I was sent there to work with old ladies. All the members are old ladies and I baptized 2 old ladies. Well, I guess I have said enough. I love you and can't wait to hear.

Elder Redd

Nov 15 1974

Dear Family,

The strike is still on and I am still alive, I sure like this pretty town of yours, Ellen. All the members still remember you and think a lot of you. Frere Bonnamy was really excited to hear that I was your

brother. You will have to tell me all about Grenoble and the members and all.

We have worked hard this week and have had lots of success. This town is beautiful, my companion is neat, and all I have to do is worry about brand new investigators. We don't have any old ones. The Salle is at 19 Rue Rene Thomas. Is it the same? Where did you live Ellen? What do you know about Henri Jouve, and the Lougouala and Vernet families? They are the inactive members that are assigned to us.

We are working with the Families Bonnamy, Macaire, Mocellin, Patti, Ranamonjisoa, Tognon, and Yvetot.

The Gesonda family is really strong. Is there anyone you want to know about?

The weather here is almost nicer than it was at Antibes.

We didn't even wear coats today. It should get cold though. It is really nice at that. That is great for bikes. Well, I guess I have said enough. If you want to write to me sent things to the mission home: 8 Chemin William Barbey, 1292 Chambesy (GE) Suisse. I might get things that way.

Love you all.
Tom Redd

Nov 29 1974

Dear Family,

This strike is over! At least here in Grenoble. I don't even know if you know that I am here. I have been here since November 8, 1974. It seems like I have always lived here. Ellen, the members still think a lot of you.

The members that we are assigned to work with are Bonnamys, Macaired, Moiceliins, Patties, Ronamonjiso, Tognon, Yvrtot, Jouve, Loungouala, and Vernet. Do you know all of them? Lots of them know you. It is kind of rough to see pictures of you everywhere we go-- not too. bad though.

Mom, I go the letter you wrote to me on the 11th of November. It sure is fun to have money again. You kept telling me you told everyone about your mission but you never broke down and told me. I sure want to know what it is all about. Where are you going? When are you going? I sure can't wait to hear all about it. I got the cheque for \$175.00 - November 8, 1974. It came today without a stamp or postmark. How did you get it here? My address is: Les Missionaries 27A Champs Ulysses, Grenoble F-36000.

Hurry and tell me where you are going. I am sorry I missed your birthday, William Hornberger. I didn't want to but now it is done. I sure thought a lot of you on that day.

Dec 6 1974

Dear Family,

Another Friday has come and gone and I still haven't got any letters yet. I hope they come soon.

Today we went up to the bastille and went to the museum. Maybe you know what I mean, Ellen. We have had a great week this week. We worked hard and really accomplished a lot. We also got to go to a conference this week. It was a new kind. It lasted one day only and was for full-time and district missionaries. It was all done in English and I got my head all blown up when I got asked to be a French translator for the French people.

I never talked so much in one day in my life. They spoke as fast as they, could in English so that everything that they used to do in 2 days could get done in 1 day. My district leader and I were the translators. We never wrote notes and we sure got tired. We got the whole conference in 2 languages except for everything that was shown. We sat backwards and the French people were at the end of the hall. We are the only 2 that missed all the sights. Well, time and paper are about gone.

Tell me about your mission before I die.

Love you all.

Tom

Mom and Dad,

I want to wish you a Happy Birthday, Dad. We can't send things out of France yet so I can't send anything but a letter. I love you and am delighted about your mission. Tell me where and when --OK?

I got the \$175.00 that was sent the 11th of November but I am a little low on money. I never got a check at the end of October. It might come soon or it might not. Maybe you can see about cancelling it and resending it by the mission home. That is the only sure way to get it here.

Love you all.

Tom

Dec 13 1974

Dear Family,

Today I am really pressed! I can't believe that I am still going! We have had so much to do lately. We are going to have our first Grenoble baptism this week. 3 weeks ago my comp and I found a neat lady and her daughter to teach. Now, tonight they will be baptized.

We got a letter today. It was the first in the box after the strike. It was for me too. What luck! Now I know where you are going on your mission. It sure sounds neat.

It is starting to feel like Christmas. It snowed last night. That's the first snow I have seen since BYU. It was so pretty. It really made it feel like I was home again.

I still haven't got anything that came from Antibes since the first part of October. I didn't get a check for the end of October either. I sure hope I am not too big a pest. I don't know if I dare ask for more now or just wait till the check gets here. I have a bit of money from the mission home.

I love you all.
Tom Redd

Morn & Dad.
DAd - Have a happy Birthday today OK? I love you. Work hard on that mission.

Tom Redd

Dec 20, 1974

Dear Family,

I can't believe it! Another week is gone. We have had a great week! We are even getting mail now. That makes any day great.

We did have our baptism last Friday. It was really neat. The water was cold but it worked. Now we have a member of the church right close by. I haven't got any up to date news from you yet but I am starting to get some--all news that was written back in October. I guess a lot has happened since then.

By the next time I write to you, Christmas will be gone! It doesn't seem possible. I wonder where I will spend Christmas in one year. At home - all alone? Well, that remains to be seen. The past year has gone so fast that I can't believe it. If the next few years go that fast, I'll be an old married grandfather. Wow!

All you old married people. I can't imagine being as old as you. When are you tying the knot, Ellen? After I'm home? Or before?

I love you all and pray for you. Time is gone so good bye.

Tom.

Merry Christmas!!

Mom and Dad.

Prepare for that mission. There's lots of work to do out there.
I love you all.

Jan 3 1975

Dear Family,

It is hard to believe! Another Friday is almost gone. I haven't got much done yet. There are 4 of us living in this little apartment now. 2 other elders got kicked out of their home so they are here to enjoy our company. It sure is crowded now. There are 4 beds in a row and that's all the space there is.

We have had a pretty good week. We have worked hard and have been blessed. Our fridge doesn't work anymore so we put it on the balcony and that gives us plenty of room in the kitchen (to stand still) and the weather is cold enough to make things cold.

I guess that Morn and Dad are getting all excited about the 24th of Jan.

Some of my mail is finally catching up. I got 14 letters the day before yesterday. It is neat to hear from you all again. I am sure glad that my letters are finally getting to you. They aren't much and they are hard to read.

I guess Mom, you will have to give me a new address for your mission if you have it. By the time I get it you'll be gone.

I love you all.
Mom & Dad,

I got the telegram. Love you all.

Tom Redd

Jan 10 1975

Dear Family,

Wow! Can you believe that it is already the second week in January! I guess you are all excited, Mom and Dad. I got my October- check finally and the telegram. It sure is neat to be out of debt again.

We have had a neat week - We taught our star investigator an "H" discussion and when we talked about the Word of Wisdom she told us she wanted a special blessing to help her stop a drug

problem. We gave her one and it was during the blessing that she found out that the church was true. We all ended up crying. It was really special.

Yesterday was our day to work with the zone leaders but they had to run see some referral and we never saw them for the whole morning and afternoon. In the evening we went to eat at a member's house. It was a really good - French meal.

I just got my hair cut again. I sure wish that I could get you to cut it, Mom.

Well, our day is about gone, and the paper, too. I don't know what the good news in Will's family is.

Congratulations on the 24th, Ellen. I love you all.

Tom Redd

Jan 17 1975

Dear Family,

I sure don't know where you are going to get this but I hope that you do. It is hard to believe that it is almost Joan's birthday. We are really working hard and are about ready to baptize another person. We have found and taught an American girl that is really neat. She is to be baptized next Saturday. I am going to tell her to go to the "Y". She would love it.

We are really having a great time with 4 of us here in the apartment. It is really crowded. We have one big mess all the time. The weather has been really warm lately. We have been able to work without coats. It has been really windy but warm.

I guess that you are dying to leave, eh, Mom and Dad! I guess really by the time you get this you'll be gone.

It sounds like you are keeping busy, Ellen. I guess it is pretty exciting to plan a wedding. It sounds funny that you are that old. It scares me to think that it will happen to me.

Well, I haven't said much but what I have said might interest you.

Good-bye.

I love you all.

Elder Redd

Ellen,

How does it feel to take Mrs. Redd's place. I guess that you get called Mrs. Redd almost as often as Miss Redd, eh?

Love you lots,
Tom Redd (I live by the bridge on Blvd Joseph Vallier.)

Jan 21 1975

Dear Family,

We have had another really busy week. We had the zone leaders here to work with us. They do a great job of the work. They really help me to see my job and how I should do it. I got some help as to how to keep the town of Grenoble going.

I have the greatest companion in the world. He is just about like me. He likes "good" music and all. It is funny though because he goes home 3 months before I do and he is the junior companion.

We have taught at the school several times again and we have lots more rendezvous there. It sure is neat to be in a school again. The school is older than Canada.

It is cold in Grenoble finally. I guess it had to wait till spring for the cold.

At the school we saw a sign that talked about people that went to war for France. The plaque said "died for France and victims of duty." In French it says "....et victime du devoir," That says in other words "....Victims of homework." it sure was funny. Well, time, paper and space and ink seem to be running out, Good-bye.

Tom Redd

Ellen,

I am going to send Mom and Dad a separate letter from now on.
I love you and pray for your success.

Jan 24 1975

Dear Family,

This has been a very interesting week. Last Friday just as we were leaving someone rang the doorbell. I went to answer it and there was an Elder that just arrived. He introduced himself and said that he was my second junior companion. I about fell over dead. Well we lived through that week and a transfer came. The district leader and Elder Wilcox left town. Then the bottom of the paper said that I am the District leader. Well it is nice to be back down to 4 elders in our apartment but I will be even happier when it is just 2. My comp is Elder Nielson from Kaysville. He is a great person.

We saw the baptism of Sister Smith on Wednesday. It was really special. It was all in English.

We have got her talked into going to BYU. I hope she goes and gets into a really good bunch of kids. I hope to see her again over there.

Well, Mom and Dad how is the first week of mission life? I don't know what you are going to be doing. Tell me when you know.

I got the check. Thanks.

Love
Tom Redd

Ellen and Dave,
Have fun planning your big day.

Love
Tom

Jan 24 1975

Mr. and Mrs. William S. Redd
Box 698
Grassy Lake, Alberta CANADA

Dear Brother and sister Redd,

I'm delighted to inform you that your son has been called as a district leader in the France-Switzerland Mission.

This call is a credit not only to him but also to you. He is being trusted with the temporal and spiritual welfare of many other missionaries. He is expected to perform in such a way that both by his example and his encouragement all other missionaries will be made better.

Striving to be especially close to the Lord will be one of the primary goals and objectives at this time for Thomas. He will be doing all he can to concentrate entirely on his missionary work.

I'm sure you will give him full support in your letters.

Thank you for sending us so fine a young man. Please let me know if there's anything I can do to help you or him.

May the Lord bless you.

Sincerely your friend and brother,
Sidney F. Sager President

Jan 31 1975

Dear Family!

I can't believe that January is already gone. It has gone fast. I don't know if I ever told you that there are 4 elders in our little apartment. There aren't any more. They found their apartment.

I sure am lost without as much time to do the same amount of work. As a District Leader, I seem to get right in the middle of all the problems that were ever invented. It takes more time to do reports and interviews, too. It is really scary for me. I suddenly got the whole responsibility for the whole city of Grenoble.

Well, Mom and Dad, how is the first week of real missionary work? Do you still find time to do everything that is necessary? You have to remember not to work yourselves too hard. The spirit of the Lord will go to bed at 10:30. You better, too.

It would be interesting to share work schedules and ideas. If you see something that works well let me know. We are working on radio and TV programs now. Guess who is really excited! Me!

Well, I love you all.

Tom Redd

Feb 6 1975

Dear Family,

This is hard to imagine - that it is already 6th of Feb. and it is a Thursday. My comp and I will work with the zone leaders tomorrow so we are taking preparation day today. We are at the laundry right now.

This has been a bad week for me so far. I don't think that anything has worked like I wanted it to. We have been busy but we have chased all over the whole town to do odds and ends. Then yesterday one of the missionaries was really, really discouraged and he wanted to talk so I had to go talk to him.

On Sunday, I had to interview all the elders. That was a special experience but it sure took a lot of time.

I guess really though we have had a great week. We have been really busy but I guess there is more work to do. We have to prepare Open House and Fireside, a television program, arrange school programs and make announcements in newspapers and on the radio. It sure is fun but it takes a lot of Father's Finding Time.

Well, I love you.

Love
Tom Redd

Feb 14 1975

Dear Family,

It is hard to believe that another week is gone. The zone leaders never made it here last week. I guess that they had themselves an accident instead of coming.

I have really had a lot of new experiences this week. I went from being sick to helping 2 elders learn to get along to seeing another 2 of my elders sick to spending a day working for a TV program. We have our TV show tomorrow. On Tuesday we are going to conference in Lyon. It will be great to talk to the president again.

It sure is neat to hear from Morn and Dad. It sounds like you are really going to be busy.

We made doughnuts last week. They really worked out well. I hope that all my other experiments work out that well.

Ellen, did you ever sing a solo in Grenoble? All the members say that you had a really good voice and that you sang at a Relief Society party once. Was that you? Soeur Fries would like to hear from you. Her address is:
5 Rue Jules Ferry, Grenoble.

I love you all but have to stop,

Love
Tom

Feb 21 1975

Dear Family,

Here it is Friday again. We just got our wash done. This week has kept us busy. I can't believe that so much has happened. We have had a conference and head aches and lots of trials.

Our prize TV program is off for good. We will go do a little one tomorrow but it won't be anything great. Everyone has tried to stop the program we planned and somehow the everyone else won.

We had a birthday dinner for my comp. He is an old man now, too--20 years.

It sure is exciting to hear from Mom and Dad while you are out there learning discussions, etc.

At conference they gave us a set of exercises that we have to do each day. It is mission rules. I sure am sore this week. I hope I get used to them.

We are having beautiful weather. It is almost spring. Hope spring gets here before anymore cold weather. You know, I have not seen a real snow storm since I was at BYU. I guess that's where I will see the next snow, too.

Goodbye.

I love you all.
Tom Redd

Ellen,
I got the money, thanks! I love you and I thought everything works out for the best. I'll send the pictures back when Pres. Sager sees them.

Good-bye
Ellen,

Hi! You don't know me but I know you. I'm your brother's companion. Hope I someday can meet you and I wish you all the best of luck in all you do. Thanks for laying such a great ground work here in Grenoble for us. Your brother is really a super person.

God bless you.
Elder Nielson

Feb 28 1975

Dear Family,

This has been an exciting week. We have worked hard together and I have worked even harder all alone. I have some problems in my district that no one knows about but me.

Isn't that fun! It sure makes me pray earnestly and it really puts me in the hands of the Lord. I think things will be all smoothed out by next week.

Ellen, I have been looking in the district file and as you may or may not know a weekly evaluation of each missionary is made by the District Leader. It was really fun to read about you.

We have been showing films to all the schools that would let us, lately. In fact we start work today at 11:00. I hope I can get everything done by then.

Since a new month is here, I get to have the privilege of interviewing each one of my elders. That

really is a special privilege. I have had some really spiritually motivating talks with them. When my patriarchal blessing says people will come to me for advice and guidance, it is true.

Well, the paper is almost gone and time too.

With love,
Torn Redd

Ellen,
President Sager wanted to see the pictures of you two so I sent them up to him. When they get sent back I will return them promptly. They just went up this week. I love you for what you are and also what you are making of me.

Thanks. May God bless you.
P.S. I go on TV tonight!

Elder Redd-(Pretty close to Ellen, isn't it?)

P.S. Frere Gisonda told me the complete story about his wife's. Why wife # 1 died and when wife # 2 got married to him. Wow!

Mar 4 1975

Dear Family,

This is what you call keeping up with the Joans. (or the Moms or something) There is getting to be so much for us to do as district leaders that they would like us to write with a type writer if possible. We managed to get a hold of one so I will use it for all that I need to do so that I can learn to type again. I sure have forgotten a lot of the stuff I used to know. I get the letters all mixed up and I can't figure out what I should do. Then to make things even harder, they went and moved some of the letters so that I couldn't use it so easily. I guess that by the time I get done today I will have it all figured out.

This has been a very busy and exciting week. We went on a district outing to see a big castle out in some very little town. We really had a fun time and we asked some very neat people about the church, and if they knew what the Mormons were. It was a good chance to get to know the elders in the town. Since Ellen was here in the mission there has been so many changes that she would be lost if she were to return. There are no switch days and no district meals or anything. Our leaders thought that it was a waste of useful time for elders to be together and not just in twos. I guess that they are right. As the district leader I can switch with one team of elders if I feel that there is a need to do that. So they haven't completely ruled them out.

Conferences were two days long before but they have been cut to one day only. As I was saying we went out to see a castle where all kinds of kings and presidents have lived. It was neat to see their offices and everything. They were really big snobs. They spent at one time, 3/4 of their time eating.

We saw the big tables and all the chairs and everything that they used to use. The chairs had removable backs so the women who wore dresses with the bustles could sit at the table with all the other people. It sounds like a really good idea but then they couldn't lean back and enjoy the meal. Also, after they ate so much they were afraid to sleep on their backs so they slept in their beds with pillows behind them so that they were in a sitting position. They had a bed that about all the presidents of France have slept in for years and years and years. It was really small so that the presidents now sleep on a bed that is bigger that they put right beside the little old thing and then they say that it is the president's room. I guess that they need some way to make people go clear up there in the hills to see the place. It was really pretty even if I don't sound like it was. There was a big park that was the garden for the place. It had swans and everything. It was really neat, with trout stocked ponds and everything.

I guess that the man that made the place liked fishing. It really helps the tourist trade out. You have to pay a ticket to get into the place and then at 11:15 they take you on a tour of the buildings and then you have to leave for the French noon hour. That means that if you want to be in the park for the afternoon you need to buy another ticket to get into the place. They have regular French office hours there too. That means that you wait till 10:00 to get into the place to start with and then you have to leave at noon. It reopens at about 2:30 and you have to leave for the day at 4:30. Well that is enough of that.

As a missionary I have done a lot of different things this week. I managed to convert my companion to the gospel. He didn't have a testimony when he came on his mission and he hadn't gotten one yet and he wanted it. I told him that if he fasted and prayed and asked with faith that God would give him a testimony. So last Sunday we fasted and prayed together for him to receive a strong testimony and he got an answer to his prayers that he would not forget. He said that it was like electricity going all through his body and then there was this really neat feeling of peace. This week has really changed him. He has had a lot of questions about anything under the sun and I have been trying to answer them all for him. He is really smart and has been on his mission longer than I have been on mine. It is a challenge to tell him the answers to questions about the goal of life and our mission and all because he has more experience than I do.

Well, my paper is almost full so I will stop for this time.

I love you all.
Tom

Mar 7 1975

Dear Family,

Here I am again. It is hard to believe that another week has gone by so quickly. We have really had a great time showing films to classes at one of the schools here in Grenoble. One school teacher sent a referral to Salt Lake and we went to see her. She got really interested in what the Mormons are and asked us to speak at her school. We talked with her class and showed "Meet the Mormons". She went straight to work as a missionary and arranged about 20 other classes with 10 or so

teachers. We have really had fun talking with students at those schools and we have almost converted the projectionist. He has seen the film so many times that he even wanted a Book of Mormon. We have shown "Meet the Mormons", "The Voice of Ancient America", "The Three Witnesses" and we will show "Are you Listening". We have also had other schools ask us to come talk to them.

I almost feel like a roving school teacher. We even taught a "C" discussion at school. My companion is sick today but that won't stop our classes. I will take E. Singleton to school with me.

Well, I have a lot to do before 10:00 when school starts for the day so good-bye.

I love you all.
Tom Redd

Ellen,
Thanks for the pictures. I am sending the little one back to you now. I don't suppose that you have a copy of it. I appreciate all you do for me. Sr. Fries is the lady that is the voice therapist. She is short. She plays the piano. She has been a member for a long time. Her two kids are Pascal and a little Korean girl that would have been about 9 when you were here. She speaks with a really good accent. Almost too good to be true. She looks like the kind of person that would get picked on. I hope that is enough to help you write a letter to her.

With Love,
Tom

Mar 14 1975

Dear Family,

This has been an eventful week. It all started one week ago. Last Friday I was at a loss as to what to do to help 2 elders get along together, So, I phoned President Sager to ask what I should do. He gave me a transfer right there on the phone. I got the other senior companion for my junior. We are having a great time working hard together. My old junior is the junior of my junior's old junior.

It has been raining this week. It has been cold and snow is really low on the mountains. I hope it stays that high anyway. I don't want any of it down here.

Well, we made doughnuts today. They sure are good. They never last very long though. The problem is that everyone comes over.

Thanks for the music Joan. I think that it must be a neat song. I wish I could hear you sing it. I guess that we can sing it all together sometime in the future.

It is almost time for bed. I am sorry that I haven't written too much. I love you all anyway even if I

am not a good writer.

With love,
Tom

Mar 28 1975

Dear Family,

This has been a very busy and exciting week. My companion was sick Sunday, Monday and Tuesday but we had a lot to do anyway. There was a transfer in this town this week so I will have to interview someone new again.

The weather here has been acting funny. It turns from winter to spring and then to winter all over again. It just keeps changing. It would be nice if it would just stay warm enough to enjoy but not too hot.

I had a good long talk with my companion today. I tried to help him understand that he is not a failure. He thinks that since he was made junior after so much of his mission he had done some bad thing that no one would tell him about. I got him to the point where I asked him to write down and think about the good he has done on his mission and then decide if he was a failure or not. He told me this morning that he got it all figured out last night that he was a success. I was thrilled with and for him. Now he will be a good elder and missionary again. He sure is good to me. I never lived with anyone as much like me as he is. He does all he can to help me. He is great.

Well, I guess that I have to stop soon. I love you all, the Lord, my mission and my companion.

Love,
Tom

Ellen, I got the check.. Thanks!

Apr 11 1975

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This letter is for all of you except Mom and Dad. I don't know how you will read it but I will send it to Ellen and then you can send it to Joan and then to Will. OK? We have been having a good time here in Grenoble. It seems that something exciting is always going on. There is a lot of sickness among the missionaries of Grenoble but I think that as summer comes there will be less and less of that.

The weather here is unbelievable. It was warm all winter and then as spring came it started to get cold and now it is snowing. The first snow of the year in the city itself. I guess I have been lucky

for the past 2 winters. They were both really quite nice.

I sure have a neat companion. He is just like me. In fact we even wrote to BYU and asked to live together down there for the next school year. We are really helping each other grow even though he has been out 3 months longer than I have. That is a real challenge to have a junior companion that is going to go home sooner than I will be leaving.

We have interviews with President Sager on Monday. I am sure glad. There are so many things that I have to ask him about. Every day I find that I do less and less of what I should be doing. I have to talk to him about the Branch too. I don't know if he knows all the problems in the branch or not. I was asked to talk to him about it.

Well, I guess that my paper is running out and the clothes are almost finished. Ellen, you might want to make copies of this for the others. I love you all. May the Lord bless you in all that you do.

Love
Tom Redd

Apr 18 1975

Dear Family,

This has been an interesting week. It seems that everything happens all at once. We had the visit of Pres. Sager here in Grenoble to interview us. It was good to talk to him again. I got to drive his car. It was really neat to drive again. His wife asked me to drive her to the apartments because she wanted to check.

Wow! I can't type today. I had better stop while I'm ahead. It is really neat to drive even if it is in France traffic. French drivers are about like the Provo, Utah reputation. Maybe even worse. I drove from the Salle to all the apartments and then I went to the Gare to telephone Pres. Batailler and then back to the Salle.

It was neat to talk to Pres. Sager about the work here in Grenoble. I really need to talk to someone about it all. I never know if I am doing what I should do or if I am not doing enough. I was really concerned about my companion and the fact that he really feels bad about his mission in general. I hope that he gets a transfer so that he can become the elder that he wants to be. I really don't want to get rid of him though because he is the best companion I've had on my mission. I asked BYU if I could live with him next year.

That reminds me. Elder Singleton got a housing contract to sign and send back. Has anything come for me, Ellen? I think that some money has to be sent in for housing by the end of May. The first payment is \$237.50.

It sure is neat to get your letters Morn and Dad. It really sounds like you are having fun serving the Lord.

I showed the Gisondas my pictures of you and they really were happy to see that Mom had a shawl that they made.

Yesterday we went out to do a referral that was far out in Tullius. That town is about 30 K away. It was a really nice day (or we wouldn't have gone). We also visited with one of the inactive members out there. It was the mother of the branch president's wife. It was really strange the way we found it. We were driving around out there and we saw a policeman so we stopped him to ask where a certain part of town was and he told us. He said that he lived out there and that no one with the name of Charles Dubois lived out there but if we really wanted to we could go and look for his house anyway. We did and the first house that we looked at was their house. They were home too. We talked just for a few minutes and they said they were not interested in what we had for them so we left and started driving out into the country to see the member. They lived out on a farm. We just rode for a little ways and stopped to ask if the people knew where they lived and it was the member herself. It was a beautiful day so we took our time coming home. It was neat to get out of the city. Ellen we were out in the valley that goes to Lyon.

This next week is going to be a good one too. We will be going to Geneva to a conference with Gordon B. Hinckley. It should be really good even though it will be really short. We will go up to be there at 1:30 and we will come home that night.

It looks like spring has finally arrived here in Grenoble. I don't know what you are going through over there for weather but it is the nicest it has been in a long time. Not too hot and not too cold. Kind of like spring.

I asked Pres. Sager when he thought that I would be able to be at BYU and he said that he would release me the 29 of August. I hope that I can still get into the choir and band at that date. I don't have any idea when we register or anything. Could you tell me all about it, Ellen. Where are you going to be next year? Will you be in Provo? Let me know what all the plans are or will be, will you?

Thanks for all that you all do for- me. I love you all and will tell you all about conference and all next week. Good-bye for now.

With love,
Tom

Apr 18 1975

Dear Sister Ellen,

Boy it sure is good to know that you are thinking about us poor missionaries over here in Grenoble. Thanks for the Easter surprise. The root beer was super. It is kind of hard to buy it here. Elder Redd and I are not together any more but he and I will be friends for life. The work is going great. Still the same problem--not enough investigators or teaching but we're working on it. Well, take care.

I'm looking forward to meeting you some day. Thanks again for just being you. The Lord will help us out of anything. See you.

Love,
Elder Nielson

Apr 25 1975

Dear Family,

This week I don't have anything to say so this will be short. I really don't have too much time to talk. I got a companion today that comes from Philadelphia. He is a really great person. We should be able to work hard together. Elder Singleton is a senior companion now and he is much happier. I am sure that he will do a good job this time around.

Well, I really don't have time to write so I will have to stop. Good-bye

With love,
Tom

May 9 1975

Dear Family,

This has been a booked up week. We have really been busy this week and we have done a lot of really good work. Also we have done our share of playing around too. We have taught several really neat discussions and have had some neat experiences and meetings as missionaries.

Last Saturday we had a baptism where we baptized three wonderful members of the church. The service didn't work out the way that it should have but it was not very bad anyway. It was a really neat experience to get to give baptismal interviews. I really got to know those members better and found out why they are members or at that time wanted to be members.

Sunday not too much happened. The members were confirmed. The meetings were really good but then what happened was not so good. One of the members in the elder's quorum wanted to talk to me for two petites minutes. I thought that that was wonderful. Finally I was going to have a good relation with the members and our work together was going to improve. But to my surprise, that wasn't the goal of the short two minutes. They lasted two long hours. I was told that I was a liar and that I was the cause of all the problems with the home teaching in the branch. I got told that I should let the members work with one missionary at a time and not have two missionaries together all the time. I got told that I should let the missionaries do home teaching. I got told all kinds of other things and I was very unhappy with the whole two short minutes. Then I got a lift again. I got to give interviews to the Elders. That is always a good experience. The elders all seemed to have a lot to talk about and so I let them talk. That gives me enough duel study for the next three

weeks...not really.

Monday we ate Pizza at Gisonda's. They really are nice people. It kind of makes me think that I am at home again. They really do all that they can to help us out.

Tuesday morning we had a really special study class together with the district. We decided to rededicate ourselves to the work and to the Lord. We went up on the Bastille and found a nice quiet and beautiful corner of the old city wall and had ourselves a special meeting and kneeling prayer. We were where we could see the whole town. We sang "Ye Elders of Israel" and then we had a prayer. Then we read the fourth chapter ..section.. of D.C. and then we bore our testimonies. We were all crying and the Lord's spirit was really with us. Then we knelt together and had a prayer and promised to do a better- job of the work. That was one of the best mornings of my mission. Even though it was raining, we all loved every minute of it.

Wednesday, we took our cultural night. We went to the circus. It was really neat to see a real live circus. It might be the last one that I ever see. It was the first. It was the biggest in France. It was really neat to see the things that the people and animals could do to entertain people. We put the time to use too. We talked to the actors and the people about the church. It might never do anything but we might have planted some seeds for the future.

Yesterday was rather normal. Nothing big or good happened. I guess that we have had enough excitement for one week.

Mom, You said to ask for more money if I needed it. I hate to ask other missionaries to give me money..you..but I think that I am going to need a little more. The past four months have been hard. The rate of exchange at the bank is only 390 and it has been really low for a long time. Also it is still going down. The cost of living is going up though. You won't have to send any more this month but all my extra will be gone at the end of May.

May 16 1975

Dear Ellen,

This has been an interesting week. We have worked extra hard and a lot has happened. We taught school and I really enjoyed it. It was the last time that I will do it at Grenoble. As you know by now, I have been transferred to Perpignan. I will be the district leader down there and most of my district will be arriving with me. 136 missionaries are affected by the transfer. That doesn't leave too many as they were. I am on the train now and it is only 7:45 AM. I will be getting down south again at 1:15 PM.

There were so many things to get cleared up before I left. I had to say good-bye to so many people. It was like saying good-bye to my family to say good-bye to the Gisondas. They, are so neat. Our investigators are neat and I had trouble saying good-bye to them. Then there were the elders. Poor E. Holden is the district leader and he is scared of the job. I took lots of time to explain

everything to him. I hope he manages. Elder Nielson and Elder Singleton and I were just like brothers. E. Nielson and I cried when we said good-bye to Elder Singleton. Now we had to part. Then there is my companion, Elder Lenel. He really was a neat person.

I guess that I shouldn't complain too much though. I was glad to hear that I could leave some of the problems I had.

Well, I guess I have said enough. I need to tell you that I got the money. I will have enough for the month of June. The rate is still going down. It is about 3.80 now. It is really neat to get your letters, Mom and Dad.

I love you all and pray for your well-being. "God be with you till we meet again," and "May the Good Lord bless and keep you, till we meet again". I love you lots.

Love
Tom

May 23 1975

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This is a bad and good week. There have been all kinds of problems that have come up and there have been all kinds of blessings as well, I am now in Perpignan and the town is beautiful. I just got here last Friday and my companion left at 6 o'clock this morning. I am at the Gare waiting for the next companion to get here. (that's why you get special paper.)

The weather is hot, and I love it. It is the south of France again. The south has always been special to me after my stay at Montpellier and Antibes. The north is nice but it's not France.

I love you all and am praying for you and your success. May God bless you.

Love
Tom Redd

May 30 1975

Dear Family,

This has been an interesting week. We have had a lot to do and it seems that time is going too fast now. I don't know if you know it but I am going to see 3 missions before I make it home. I just got a letter today that told the district about the new France De Toulouse mission. That will include me unless the president transfers me out of this district. I hope I get to stay. The mission will take effect the 1st of July.

I have a new companion that has been out for a while and then sick in Geneve. He really is a great person. Our district is really a great group of people. We are almost too united. We have trouble getting an average of 55 hours of work. We should be doing better but I think as things smooth out the work will be up around 60 hours where it belongs (or higher).

I sure love the area here in the south of France. It seems like France again. We are rather close to the beach and we are on it right now. The district decided to write letters out here today. Needless to say we are having beautiful weather.

Yes, Mom, I am the district leader here and I am really enjoying the work. It is neat to do nice little things for sisters. They are so special. I really had some good interviews last Sunday and it will be time to interview them again this Sunday. The south of France is really becoming a part of me. I don't know if I ever want to go home.

We are working up a fantastic program to put on at schools as closing socials in either French or English. It is really going to be great.

Well, I made a cheese cake.

Tom

June 6 1975

Dear Family,

This has been an interesting week. I don't know if I told you but we will have a new mission and mission president soon. We are really working hard on a real program to show people what the church is. It is a program with a lot of music and slides and other aids to help. It will be a great help to the work.

We have had a great week. We are really united as a district and we have a lot of fun together. We always manage to be together for some reason or other. We end up eating in the Salle and all. I can't believe the great things we can all do together. I am really enjoying the city. I can't wait until we see our new president. We found out who he is. I thought that he was not American when I heard his name. It is Broshinsky. He has lived in France for ages, but he is American.

I made a lemon meringue pie today. It was so good that I am going to try it again. I never knew it was so easy to cook as I have discovered on my mission. I am getting so I don't have to be glued to a book to make sure that everything works out right. I just have to try experiments and it is not too bad if it doesn't work.

Right now I am at the Salle helping one of the sisters sew a dress. It is fun and kind of like old times at home with you women. I really shocked myself by the fact that I managed to do a lot of sewing better than the sisters.

We will have a conference in Cacosoni in 10 days. I am looking forward to the conference but I don't want to say good-bye to President Sager. Well, I guess that time and things to say and paper are running out. I love you all.

Good-bye
Tom

June 13 1975

Dear Family,

This has been a good week. We put on our program and it was really special. I was happy with the number of people that showed up. We felt that the time it took to prepare was well worth it. I would send a copy but it takes a long time to get it all copied out. I will have it with me when I come home but it is in French so it won't help too much anyway.

I am sitting listening to the tapes I have received from home. I wonder what all those voices sound like now. I can imagine the fact that the family has grown since I left. It doesn't seem possible.

Mom, I got your last letter that told about what President Sager said to you. He said that I indicated that I would like to visit you. That is interesting. I have never indicated anything to him but getting home in time for school. I like the idea but I wonder exactly what he means. I'd love to make a few-thousand- mile transfer. Is that what he means?--to come be a missionary with you for a bit? As far as that goes, the sooner the quicker. I would love to work with you. I am going to have an interview with Pres. Sager next week. It will be my last one with him so if I find out what he had in mind I will find out on Tuesday. If he has a move like that in mind I will likely have to change back to his mission field. When July gets here I will be in a new mission.

Ellen, you can send me that painting if you want. I am going to write to the guy soon and I think that would give me a good excuse. Thanks for the help.

I love you all and pray for you always. Will, let me know what's going on with you. OK?

Tom Redd

June 20 1975

Dear Family,

This has been an exciting week. We had another one of those neat conferences this week and we really needed to get told to get on the ball. I have been told so many things that are happening in Geneva that the missionaries wanted to do here (but those things were wrong) that I was super happy to talk with President Sager about the city, missionaries and the work. I was happy to find out that the president has not changed.

We got told about our new mission. It sounds like the elders that are to go into that mission are already there and we just have to wait for time to pass and we'll be there. Only 10 days now. It should be really interesting. We might even have to go to Toulouse for another conference at the end of this month. It is great to see the work of the Lord progressing and new and better ways of working coming. But it is good to see that the old ways of contacting are the methods that are time tested and will stand up forever as a useful way to serve the Lord.

The next 2 weeks will be full of excitement and change. I am getting excited about everything already. We should be able to be with some general authorities and everything again.

The president verified my release date. It will be the 29 of August. That was a surprise because other missionaries in the zone were told to forget their release dates and let the new President set the dates for them. I wonder if I will be transferring to another zone next week. I guess time will tell. I love you all and pray for you always.

Tom

June 27 1975

Dear Family,

This has been a good week. I am really happy with the work we have done and the people we have taught. We have found a really neat family that I think should really do a great job in the church. It is a widow and nine neat kids and the grandmother. They are a lot like us. Everyone has a job to do and they do it. I think that they will really love our Family Home Evening Program. They have FHE's all the time though. 2 of the younger boys work in a boulangerie where they make cakes and stuff.

We are going to have a baptism here today. It is about time that something happened in Perpignan. It was really lucky for a while but then it slowed down. We have managed to speed it back up. Next week when I write I will be in a new mission. There isn't too much organization done yet. We don't even know the address of our mission home. We don't have one yet.

We got to work with our zone leaders this week. They really are a great help. They will be back in 3 weeks too. I hope that there will be some changes in the district soon. I need them.

Love
Tom Redd

July 25 1975

Dear Family,

This has been and still is an eventful week: Ellen's wedding; her birthday; and all. I got a new

companion, too. He's French. That should help me be a Frenchman before I'm home. I never thought anything like that would ever happen to me.

I got the money Mom and Dad. Thanks. It sure helps to have enough to pay your companion off before he leaves. I cleaned up our house and it feels lots better. It is hard to believe that it will be home for only 5 more weeks. My how the time flies. I got letters from Oratorio and Cougar Band and they both invited me to play and sing with them next year. That made me really happy.

Well, it's about time to go to the gare and start living my language. I don't know what the future will be. I really had a hard time with my last few companions. I wish I could end off with someone just like me. Well, good-bye for' now.

I don't have any flight planes for definite yet.

Love all of you,
Tom

Ellen and Dave Eldredge,

How was your big day? I hope it was great. May God bless you in your new life together.

Love,
Tom

Note Added in 2012:

That seems to be the last letter that was saved that I sent home. It may have been the last one I wrote, because I would have known that they would not make it home before me. I was able to leave the mission a couple of days earlier than planned, on August 27, and spend two nights with mom and dad in Winnipeg, Manitoba on my way home. I arrived in Calgary late at night on August 29 where I was met by Joan and Gilbert. They drove me to Grassy Lake. I was in the stake president's office in Taber early the next morning being released and reported my mission in Taber Third ward that morning. In the afternoon, the ward had arranged an open house for my return Sunday afternoon. I went home Sunday evening and packed to go to BYU. Era and Gary took me to Great Falls to fly to Idaho Falls where Ellen was living. I got the Orange Datsun from her and drove to BYU that afternoon. After being at the Y for a week, I drove home to Grassy the next weekend to get my belonging and return to Provo. That was a rushed trip. I was called as a stake missionary at BYU and served as a missionary with my roommate for the next year. We taught and baptized every nonmember in our area. That was a nice change from France. I loved my mission and will be forever grateful for the trials and blessings and experiences I had that prepared me for life. A mission is a wonderful way to prepare a young man to serve the Lord with all his heart throughout a life time. May the Lord continue to bless me as He did then.