

PLATT FAMILY RECORDS CENTER

LETTERS

Volume 2.2

compiled

by

Lyman D. Platt, Ph.D.

Platt Family Records Center
The Redwoods, New Harmony, Utah
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The Platt Family Records Center

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INTRODUCTION

Over many years the collections that comprise the Platt Family Records Center (PFRC) have been gathered from a diversity of sources and locations. These have been cataloged as they have been received, or in the order that they were initially organized. It was not felt in preparing this final version that a re-cataloging was necessary due to the versatility of the indexing systems used. The index to these collections begins with Volume 12.1. Sometimes an individual referenced in a letter can't be identified by their full name; therefore, they are indexed by that part of the name that is available, or not at all depending on the importance of the entry. Women are indexed under the maiden name, or if not known, under the married name.

There has been no attempt made to retain the spelling of originally misspelled words. Sometimes they are allowed to remain because of the flavor of what is being said; other times they are corrected so as not to detract from the tone and meaning of the letter. Most grammar has been left as in the originals to show how our ancestors or relatives thought and spoke. It has been corrected for the most part in modern letters.

The letters have come from a variety of sources: 1) research done by others; 2) correspondence with me regarding the family; 3) family letters; 4) letters of ancestors and others about them; 5) miscellaneous sources. Some letters were received as collections and are numbered consecutively within that set of letters as part of the whole. Other letters were numbered consecutively as they were received or cataloged and have no order except the arbitrary assignment of a number. Copies of these volumes have been given to: 1) Special Collections, Marriott Library, Brigham Young University, Provo, Utah; 2) The Church Historical Library, Salt Lake City, Utah; 3) Special Collections, Southern Utah University, Cedar City, Utah, where the original letters will be placed at my death; and 4) The Daughters of the Utah Pioneers Museum, Salt Lake City, Utah. Additional copies have been given to each of my siblings and to our children.

There are twelve divisions to the PFRC: 1) Documents; 2) Letters; 3) Notes; 4) Family Histories; 5) Diaries & Journals; 6) Manuscripts; 7) Photographs; 8) Maps; 9) Books; 10) Genealogies; 11) Bibliography; and 12) Indexes. The collection that follows - Letters - is divided into several volumes, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, etc.

For a chronological index to the letters, see **Time Line of Letters** (next). The date of the letter, the letter number, and who wrote the letter are included. Thus, if you are doing research on a particular person, you can see everything they wrote that is contained in this volume. A full index will appear with the **Indexes**: 12.1, 12.2, etc., which will be compiled after all of the other collections are published.

Lyman D. Platt, Ph.D.
The Redwoods, New Harmony, Utah

LETTER 600 Lyman De Platt to Gordon Leavitt Platt, January 24, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dear Grandpa Platt: that has a good ring to it; just one more step towards becoming immortal. I was happy to receive your letter on your half birthday. We are now no longer 2/1; because I'm 23½ and I can't for the life of me double that to make 46, so that time's happily history. The next round comes when you're fifty-two and Joe is twenty-six.

That idea that you have of putting in eight to ten fruit trees sounds like a winner. I'd already thought of the same idea for our house except it would be about twelve. I thought you'd just be pruning those two elms; I wasn't aware that you cut them down. Were they the two in back of the garage?

Last night I discovered that I can come over here after getting out of the Air Force and draw \$1,200.00 a month working as a radio operator. That includes hazardous duty and living allowances. I couldn't have Bertha with me though, so I won't even consider it. It does give me an idea that maybe I can use my radio knowledge when I get out, but I think not in Provo. Like I mentioned before, unless Heavenly Father has other plans, I'll work my profession around something Utah Valley has or needs.

It would be possible by staying in the Air Force six more years to pay for our home and be fairly set but again I see these disadvantages: 1) I wouldn't be able to complete college until after I was thirty-one; 2) I'd be separated at least one more year from my family; 3) I've been away from the strength the mountains give me for five years too long now; 4) I want to be with you, mom and the family, near the Y, enjoying the spirit of the area, doing things together; 5) Mama Lazo will very likely be up this year if Bertha is actually going to get her visa. She would have a Spanish Branch within a mile of home; 6) My children can start school and finish (maybe) in the same area: 7) I could start making the necessary contacts, etc. that would allow me to find a decent job after graduation in 1971 – ten years after the end of my high school days; not bad: four years college, four years service and two years mission; all accounted for and well spent.

So as I look at financial success which would be almost assured on one hand as opposed to these seven positive factors on the other, despite the fact that I'll have an uphill haul all the way, there's nothing wrong in work, and I'll be doing what I want to, not what money wants me to. I've been with you long enough to know that money is nice but you've been able to live and be relatively happy without an abundance of it. I figure if I stay in one place for even ten years, I'll have my home, family, no debts, and a good job. That's what I'm basing it on: staying in one place. We'll have to be in debt for the home, but nothing else. It'll take awhile to get all we need but then it'll be ours. After thinking of all the angles and then presenting them to Father, the one he said "yes" to just as plain as the "yes" to join the Air Force, was: "extend nine months in the Air Force if profitable and in a good position (this was my addition to the consequences of the answer), get out and start into school, drawing \$150 for studies from Uncle Sam. Save \$500 before leaving the Air Force for a baby in 1970 (number three). We'll have one in 1968. At the end of school, come to me for further instructions (or inspiration). The road may be back into the Air Force as an officer, but we'll wait and see come 1971. Heavenly Father told me it was right

to join the Air Force and I've never regretted it. Now He tells me to go ahead and get out come time and what lies ahead is His desire, so it will work out okay: "If I'm for you, who can be against you," or something like that.

So, with the knowledge of where I'm going for the next five years, I've made my overall study schedule and am now carrying it out on a daily goal basis. By March 30th I should have three credits of an A in European History, then I'll order second semester Book of Mormon plus one more subject, to finish while I'm here.

I'm writing two pages a day in my novel and although it isn't the best, it's a great learning process. The end result will be an average, but interesting novel of Utah. I've started one on a theme around Inca ruins, Spanish guitars and lovers – the romance of Bertha and I, construed to be more interesting and exciting. The setting is what makes it good. With persistence at two pages a day, I'll have 600 pages written by November on both novels. After these and a few more for experience, I'll be ready to take your life, your dad's and mother's and on back at least through Thomas and that generation – eight books written with all the facts presentable, along with general conditions and customs of their different eras, plus a tinge of romance, tragedy, work and play. This should take me until I'm forty to forty-five. Then we'll see what comes up from there.

B.Y.U. is certainly on the road to success. If they can win one of their duels with Utah, they've got it made, if two – no one will touch them. It might prove interesting if they come up against U.C.L.A. They need some more polish but have the height to *slow down* Alcindor. No one will *stop* him. He is definitely good. Have you read his percentages?

It will be good to get back home but the time will go by daily so if I can stick to my schedules, things should work out fine. Today is one of two a week where I have fairly easy goals and some relaxation. Yesterday was twelve hours worth of goals. I reached them all but one letter, which I'll write today. Thanks for your letter, you love and you, your eldest, L.D.

LETTER 601 Lyman De Platt to parents, January 26, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dearest folks, all my goals are done today except writing to you. Today is Helen Haycock's birthday. She was certainly a hard girl to understand. I hope she's happy. I got a letter from Grandpa and Grandma Lyman and one from Joe today. Grandpa seems to write more and find a greater joy in his grandchildren than he did five years ago. I guess he has been less and less active recently. Both he and grandma are really special.

Mother thanks for taking time to make copies for others of Joe's and my. The grand folks seem really tickled to get them.

I went to a show about zombies and voodoo last night. It was certainly realistic. It caused me to have a rather enjoyable night. Among other dreams, I was home in one of them.

Dad in your next letter, write and let me in on your work condition. Are you back with Sears yet? Be sure and let me know if the house is going to be sold or not. It would surely be nice to live there and we've got a lot of plans if it comes through, but if it doesn't we'll have about \$6,000 for a house when we get out of the Air Force, so maybe that would be better. That way there would be none of that to pay for interest and if we could find a \$10,000 home we'd really whack a chunk out of it. Sell it if you can; if not we'll be glad to have a try at it.

This enclosed clipping happened down in our area while I was on day shift. The base gives me a feeling of false security. Right now the soft lights, beautiful music and lack of swearing, is kind of peaceful. We're well fed, housed and taken care of here. I do my own washing and ironing and have a lot of time for study, planning and reflection.

Ed, Gene and Roberta, how about a line! I know you're busy but it's also your turn. I owe McKay and Gordie letters now as they have written to me recently. Irene you don't have to write. Just be good to Patty and don't let her scare you when she fights back after you try and kiss her.

I want to thank all of you for being good to Patty and Bertha. I suppose it's rough having so many in the house, but keep trying.

Well, it's time to watch "F.B.I.," news, and sports. It is good to be able to relax for a while each day after studying, working and reading; pretty soft, though; it's going to be hard to get back a working habit.

I'll be anxious to hear what became of Bertha's interview in Salt Lake. I hope we can finally get that blooming thing [visa].

The Y could get back into the top ten this week if they are lucky. It would help their ego to beat Texas Western. Things are looking good for them so far this conference.

Please continue to write as often as possible. I could receive a letter a day and not feel badly at all but I know you're all busier than that. Just continue to hold home evenings.

It appears as if a lot of moisture is being laid down in the mountains this winter. That's good. Take care; love, L.D.

LETTER 602 Lyman De Platt to parents, January 28, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dear Mom and Dad, it's Saturday night as I sit here watching the Cotton Bowl. We get them late but they do pretty good by us T.V.-wise.

I feel sort of blah tonight. I worked mids last night and slept during the day. The heat while you're sleeping wears you out faster than the sleep revives you, so I'll be happy to go to bed shortly.

This afternoon I got carried away on my novel and wrote a whole six pages. By the time I finish it I'll have to go back and re-do the beginning. It's really a lot of fun and more and more I feel able to express what I want to write.

Starting February 1st I will be working straight swings. It will really be great in my opinion because I'll feel like studying every morning and if we keep it that way I might get a lot more done than I had planned.

Finally we're in double figures week-wise. Ten weeks gone out of fifty-two makes things actually look bearable. I surely miss you all though.

That was too bad about the Apollo astronauts today. It was too bad it happened, but it was bound to with all the dangers involved. That will probably set back the mission somewhat.

Things seem to be going along pretty well here and though each day passes fairly well, things seem to drag. You know what I mean? Well, it'll pass. See you in a few days – like 292; love, Lyman D.

LETTER 603 Lyman De Platt to parents, February 2, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dear mother and father, it has been about fourteen years, I believe, since Uncle DeAlton died, but I still remember the day although not the year.

Gordie has been on my mind a lot lately but I haven't said anything in my letters. I just keep seeing him like that little boy who died – a sacrifice – so to speak. He was not eight yet so he would have his exaltation. But his family was in need for a few reminders of love and action. I'm so grateful that we can still have Gordie with us and change those little things that this accident brings to our mind. We have a good family as families go but we have a great deal more blessings than most, too, so maybe the Lord was just reminding us. Some would say this was just an accident and has nothing to do with what I've mentioned – that doesn't change how I think.

No one actually told me what happened. Mom said Bertha would; Dad said mom would and Bertha said mom would. I've got the jist of it though. Let me know how things turn out.

Mother you forgot to sign your letter. You didn't tell me how you felt but that indicates to me that you were of course worried and not your methodical self. I hope you're all okay now. It was undoubtedly hard on everyone.

Dad, I realize I'm only kidding myself when I say that the time is going by fast. War is hell whether you're in the thick of it or not and I'd junk all my planned projects to be home tomorrow. I can't come though, so I have to desensitize myself a bit to maintain my sanity. Each night I hear the eight inch guns pound V.C. areas and the bombs going off all around and I know *kids* on both sides are dying; yet I'm safe. No more attacks have been perpetrated against the base – despite what the papers say. Usually we get attacks in the city or on any one of scores of army outpost, but even if they attack the base I'm a quarter of a mile from the helicopters, ½ mile from the ammo dumps, one mile from the jets; so living in a converted mortar shelter “I fear no evil.” It doesn't even enter my mind that anything bad will happen to me, but if something did I'm mentally well enough off to take it in stride. Don't worry too much about me. If ever I'm in danger you know I'll tell you. That I haven't reported attacks indicates they didn't affect me.

There's nothing I'd like better than to play you a game of pool. Life will get back to normal shortly – nine months – one school year.

Has the Church assigned another generation this year? What is the new program you talk about? Please do keep me informed. One main reason we're going to live in Provo is to be able to do genealogy work. My books are yours if you need them but if you're on your fifth generation you'll have a bit of research to do.

Dad, if the Campbell's do buy the ninth west place, Bertha and I will be in condition by 1969 to almost pay for a small place. I'd like to buy a place with an acre or so and build from there but the 900 west place will be fine and I doubt the Campbell's will be in a position to buy it. If they don't I hope to make a deal with the next door neighbor for that quarter acre of land. It would be ideal for about six chickens, a few rabbits and a nice garden. If it's legal even a sheep or beef to fatten could do okay there. The best bet is to go easy and build slowly. When I'm thirty-one if I have a house paid for then I'll start looking around for five to ten acres and build them up.

I have a question. When May comes and you ask the Campbell's if they'll buy or not, if they say no, would you mind planting some fruit trees for me? The places and cost will come if they don't buy. If they do, well ----. I'd like to get some started now so that we can have some fruit by 1972 and baby number four.

If you and mom will concentrate on getting out of debt and not planning any new deals, come 1973 we should both have our home paid for and *then* we could look for a small farm to raise animals, fruit, etc. I don't think any sooner than that would be wise, but once we get our homes our own then I'd consider using my GI loan to get us a little farm. Between you, possibly Joe, Ed and Gene, if they're in condition to help, and me, we could pay off a \$10,000 farm in five years or less and have no financial problems. I won't be a part of any deal, though, until I get a solid foundation from which to build, but I surly would like to farm with you again. You'd be fifty-three then and still have about seventeen more years or a few more where you'd enjoy work on a farm without it bothering you. Give it some thought. I'm tempted to use the loan now, but I'll be hanged if I'll fall for that temptation. I've learned a few lessons from life that better profit me something. In the meantime we best be content with what bit of land we have to put a garden and

a few trees in. At least that's my idea. You may have some others. I'd like to hear them if you do.

I'm well, though lonesome; and love you all very much. One month or so more of snow and you'll be out of it; take care, love, L.D.

LETTER 604 Lyman De Platt to parents, February 7, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dear family how's life in the United States? I imagine you are having some nice days and some not so nice. The snow will soon give way to the grass, though, and the robins will return – spring will arrive. You know I haven't spent a spring in Utah for five years. It would be nice but will have to wait.

The last seven days have buzzed by. We are re-doing our trailer where we work. Most of the floor has been replaced and tonight I got quite a bit painted and varnished. It will add a bit of cheer to the dreary radio life to see the walls smiling and hear the floor squeak with newness.

I suppose Gordie is feeling a bit better. Will he have any permanent scars or damage? Has he had any more pains inside or has he outgrown them? Take care of yourself Gordie!

That organ is a lot nicer and bigger than the one I had pictured. How does it play? Good tone? Do the kids still know enough to brighten up the house with pretty melodies? It will be nice to have around I'm sure and should add a lot to home evenings.

It's been a month now since I've been to church. I could have gone last Sunday morning but it just didn't fall my lot to have the gumption to go. There were various excuses I made to myself, none of which hold water. Things should be rather stable now that I'm working straight swings and I'll have no excuse for not making it every Sunday. After you've been away for a few weeks on account of work or anything else I suppose, it's definitely harder to get out of bed and go the four miles. Not having any jobs makes it easier to slough off. I read the scriptures every day and study the missionary lessons and say my prayers but everyone needs or should need that Sunday lift you get from the Church services. I do and I feel rather vacant lately, if you know what I mean.

This week as you've probably read, begins Tet – Christmas, New Year's and Easter – for the Vietnamese; seven days of celebration. The war already has slowed down two days before the beginning of Tet.

We haven't had any action to speak of here in our section. The army is continually being attacked and the siren of an ambulance or two is hourly. There are a lot of forces around Saigon and the helicopters bring the wounded in right near my barracks. I've been lucky and haven't seen any yet.

I went with the captain a couple of days ago to get plywood for our floor. We went over on the other part of the base. I didn't realize how big it was. It's as big as the Provo area at least. The

place where the V.C. were mortaring us from, on December 4th, is almost two miles from my barracks and is on the perimeter of the base.

I guess not much excitement was caused by semester exams at home this year. It will probably be the last for a while though. We should have parts of the family in for the next twenty years and then my kids will be starting.

Bertha has mentioned the possibility of moving into the home on 900 west with her mother if she can come shortly – say in July – and if so we'd like to buy it then and pay you what we owed you. I've explained to her a few disadvantages of moving too soon and suppose we'll not do anything until December at least. We'll buy it then but depending on my assignment may not move in; all this assuming no one buys it first. Things very likely will work out the best for all concerned.

I'm expecting some lean years after we get out of the service but they'll be welcomed compared to the waste of time and energy I have to endure in the service even with all of my projects. I'll have to learn to work again but if I can hold down a fair job I'll be satisfied.

It has been good talking to you all again. Please write as often as is convenient. Though I enjoy your letters I know you're all busy and Joe needs more support because of his work than I. Spiritually he is fine – I could use a boost, like going to church, and letters of course help a lot. You're all in my prayers and recipients of my love and thoughts. Try to always take the right path when faced with two choices; love as always, L.D.

LETTER 605 Lyman De Platt to parents, February 13, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dearest family, I want to get this to you as fast as possible. If Joe has to buy a recorder, unless he can get it fairly cheap I suggest that he let me buy one here for \$20 to \$35 and ship it to him. I believe along that line I'll probably pick up a recorder and a five-band transistorized radio; FM, AM, and shortwave. In the U.S., I'll be able to pick up Mexico, Canada, and on good nights South America, Europe and Asia. It only costs \$44 and in the states it runs around \$90. Also I may get a tape recorder for about \$80 that is a \$170 jewel. I probably won't get it unless I make Airman 1st in June, but I have minimum time in grade; however, I'm the only one applying from this section. It would put \$50 more a month in my pocket.

It's a big relief to know that little Gordie is going to be okay. Give him my love and tell him, "I'm doing missionary work." They gave me a job today teaching the missionary class in Sunday School. I'll be doing basically the same that Bertha is but in English. They are also looking for a companion for me so it shouldn't be too long before I'll be a district missionary.

That's certainly too bad about Denzil. I was lying in bed the other night and the thought struck me that I've been very narrow-minded towards the members of our family who have had the most trouble in life: Bob's kids, Aunt Jo, and Denzil. I have a special feeling for Bob personally that I only feel for George, Art and Kay. But I've never had much to do with his kids and the day I left for my stay in Texas I promised to write to one of them and never

have. I believe sincerely that a lot of the blame for their troubles will be because of this exact same non-acceptance on my part as well as on the part of others in the family. I don't have Denzil's address but I would like to write to him. Have you heard from Darwin lately? Is he all right? Many of my relatives are not close I guess because there has never been a closeness mileage-wise so consequently no wise. About all that remains is to try to remedy that situation and thus try to help the ones who need it more so than the majority of us. I don't mean this as much spiritually as I do physically. Sickness, loneliness, need for confidence and friends. It looks like the wound that was with Uncle Roland and Aunt Dorothy is healing nicely, no?

Ed and Gene, do you two rascals still exist? You couldn't tell it from the amount of communications you emit or omit; let's get on the ball! I believe you better write to Joe first, though, and then if you never get around to writing a second letter, I'll be able to beat you up, as he won't be back for a while and might forgive you in the process of being a missionary and all. Just sweat it out for the next nine months if I don't hear from you before at least half of that time is up.

It's definitely hot over here now. It would be nice to be able to milk some cows in fifteen degree below zero weather again for about five minutes. I suppose it's starting to get a bit warmer there. It ought to be a good year for crops. I hope everything doesn't freeze like it did last year.

The G.I. bill that I'll study under just might be a real blessing before I get ready to use it. Now it provides \$150 a month. It will likely provide \$180 to \$200 by the time I get out. I'll be able to study for forty-eight months at that rate, taking a full course or however I wish. I believe I'll try to make my masters in that time and be all set up for work after that. I should have slightly over a year and a half of working credits when I get out in 1969, so I guess I could get 2½ years in two years of steady study and then have two to work on my masters. If I get it in less than that I'll get a few more credits in subjects that will be just for the knowledge of it.

I had an offer by a big shot in the State Department here to work with him as of today, but of course I can't. He's in the USAID program and spent a lot of time in Bolivia. He gave me some interesting thoughts to think about concerning the possibilities that are awaiting me even now with my limited education but knowledge of Spanish and government service. I'll probably never use it but I never can get the idea out of my head that my mission in life is back in South America. It may or may not be. We'll see, right?

I definitely don't want to leave Utah after I get back there in 1969, but the embassy-attaché diplomatic type work appeals to me and it just may be that I end up in it. It's nice to be undecided as you can dream all you want and not have to do anything; but seriously, I'm considering every angle on many subjects to see just what I finally will be. In the meantime it's a job to force the mind back into the books and dig out the facts and stuff them into the mind for future reference.

How are the home evenings coming? We are supposed to get our books here shortly and then maybe I can follow along with you all.

Mom is Bertha still teaching you and McKay Spanish? She said you two were the only ones who were interested enough to set a definite time. You will very likely have to use it this year with Mama Lazo so I hope you are being diligent in your homework. If you need any help let me know. I think it's great that you'd try to learn it. I'm sure you can too if you just think, practice and read in Spanish. Read for twenty to thirty minutes a day in Spanish, aloud, and you will be speaking it in no time. There are so many words that are similar; so that after learning the main conjugations and practicing them by reading, it comes fairly easy. I know twenty to thirty minutes is a lot, but do the best you can. I'm all for you.

What do you think about the idea of Bertha moving into the 9th west home in time to get it fixed up and furnished with things enough to rent out to four to six girls come September? We would pay the extra amount to you that the Campbell's are paying now, and should have enough on hand to make a \$1,000 down payment plus buy some furniture. Then with the rent we could get back on our feet after six months and have our debits paying credit. Bertha is game enough to find the girls and do the work and I feel she's got enough spunk and initiative to make a nice deal on the thing. We would have only to pay the three months extra rent that the Campbell's wouldn't pay between June and September if you feel it's all right with you. She has some sound ideas about finances and I'm willing to bet that it will pay in the end. Let me know what you think. Well, that's "bunch" (enough) for tonight. I love you all, your war correspondent, Lyman D. Platt.

LETTER 606 Lyman De Platt to parents, February 17, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dear family, 500 V.C. in five battles within forty-eight hours. It is a bloody war, but freedom is worth it. There are other countries that deserve it more, though, in my opinion. There is very little national pride; nor, try as I will, can I find a love for these people. I see so little difference between those we're fighting and our *friends*. I wish we fought more like the Aussie and Korean forces. They give no quarter and take no prisoners and are feared by the V.C. If we would adopt this plan we'd win the war, but we have to be the example of Christendom to the world it appears.

One of our forward air controllers is of the same opinion. They are supposed to fly at 1,500 feet but he got some shots from a V.C. sampan and it made him mad because they would get away if he followed the regulations. He got his M-16 and with the throttle stick in one hand and his rifle on automatic in the other he killed all four of them strafing them at fewer than 200 feet, and with

phosphorus rockets used only for marking, he fired two V.C. huts. If we had more like him and the Aussies and Koreans we'd be done here this year but the lunkheads and their cease bombing, cease fires, while the V.C. shift thousands of tons into South Viet Nam, will not let us win the war. It will cost dearly their way. I wish Goldwater had gotten in. He'd have bombed Hanoi like we need to and would stop our allies from trading with North Viet Nam right in front of our eyes. It's sheer stupidity.

I'm not bitter, but if I hear many more of my friends getting killed over the radio, I will be. Then we send these V.C. prisoners back to the U.S. and put them in concentration camps that are palaces compared to our slums. Where's the justice in that.

I walk by the mortuary on the way to work every day and I've seen thirty to 100 coffins a day come in from all over Viet Nam and yesterday I went in to see some of the boys. No further comment.

The time is going by rapidly. Each day is full of air strikes and recon missions and the nights are interrupted with B-52 bombing and artillery fire on the V.C. concentrations trying to bomb Tan Son Nhut.

Physically I feel fine. My spiritual and mental health varies with news reports, letters, etc. I try to go to several shows a week and read a lot and study. It helps pass the time. I got a nice letter from Joe today. He's doing fine; love, L.D.

LETTER 607 Lyman De Platt to parents, February 21, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dear family, hi! How are things? Here we are rather agitated and somewhat busy. The Air Force took one of our two planes; thereby leaving the group over-manned. We are still working as much, however; and there is a slight possibility we will remain here at Tan Son Nhut; but most likely we will be disbanded and divided between a group downtown and a station fifteen minutes out of Saigon. If we leave here it probably won't be for several months. We have the major in charge of our operation working full-time on trying to prove to the dipstick chair officers that there is justification for a continuance of our operation. I will inform you of the progress.

Today I took the back seat as a co-pilot in an air strike on a V.C. base camp. It was the first time a radio operator from here has gone up and the major wouldn't have allowed it, but we managed to pull it off without his knowledge. Don't tell anyone of the following data for several months as it may come back and get the captain in trouble who took me up. Armed with an M-16 and a '38, I took a Nikon camera with a telephoto lens and got some good close-up shots. We directed three F4C fighter jets loaded with eighteen bombs in on the camp. They destroyed three housing areas and a trench system. This was right down by the South China Sea. There were a lot of big ships coming into the main shipping channel and the multitudinous rivers were full of sampans, patrol boats and fishing boats. After the strike we buzzed numerous villages checking the activity and then went to Bien Hoa and changed planes. While there I saw a U-2 spy plane taking off (quite a sight); F5's, F100's, C120's, C121's, big constellations, etc. It was an interesting hour and a half at that base.

Next we assisted in a sweep west of Saigon by a lot of troops that are weeding out the V.C. from anywhere they find them. They got a lot of prisoners and killed some who fought back.

Also I saw a bunch of paratroopers jump into an area; quite a sight. There are too many little details I noted that are hard to describe but I'll try some: the mounds of dirt in almost every field just high enough to escape incoming tide, on which the people bury their dead, the tide coming up to forty-sixty miles inland. When it recedes whole areas are stranded. Sampans are the main mode of transportation. The rubber trees, palms, bananas, little village clusters, rich countryside, well-cultivated, the bobbing round oriental hats of the farmers, the water buffalo, the amazing look of prosperity and even luxury in Saigon suburbs. I saw it all. This will be a day to long remember.

I now can be considered a war ace with a whole three hours on an air strike: not really, but it sounds cool. I doubt I'll get the chance again, but at least now I know what the area is like. From one photograph-map we have in our office I have pretty well become familiarized with the area and I never got disoriented and was able to identify a lot of towns, areas, etc.

Yesterday approximately 1,000 V.C. were killed in five main battles all over the country. The V.C. are discouraged and a lot are giving up but the end is not in sight yet. Bloody as it may seem, if we could have more days like yesterday, I think we could end it this year. I'm well and happy, busy and lonesome. Always write; thanks for the clippings; I will write more in a few days; love, L.D.

LETTER 608 Lyman De Platt to dad, February 26, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dear dad, [some sports stuff] ... I've not received any *Era* or *Church News* yet. Be sure they have my full address as shown on my letter heading and maybe they aren't coming airmail. You might check and pay the extra for the ward. They'll take months to get here by boat. If you can handle it personally and send it airmail, there should be no problem.

I'm glad the financial situation is improving. Keep it up. I see no financial problems for my family until about 1974. I can't see beyond that point and, of course, not everything to then; but I feel confident to that point.

About the fruit trees; Bertha and I decided on buying the place and come May we should know if the Campbell's intend to or not. I assume they won't and if that is correct I've asked Bertha to give you the money to buy ten fruit trees (miniatures). Come 1971, when we will be there permanently, they should just about be ready to bear. I'd like them west of the garage, two on the north lawn, and three on the south lawn and two by the clothes lines. I would certainly appreciate it if you could help us with this. It will be a definite financial savings between those years we'll need the most: 1974-1984. Please let me know if you would rather not do the trees. I know you're busy.

I'm writing to Joe tonight and will include all scores up to February 25th. He appreciates my letters and I his. We are getting a lot closer.

Would you mind checking sometime between now and June as to what the price is for a big, beautiful orchid. I want to have you help me get one for Bertha's birthday. I'll send the money in May.

Joe and I will go from sophomores through seniors together if he doesn't join the service. We should have the same credits in April of 1971.

Signs are towards me staying in Saigon, possibly in my same bed, but my job will likely be moved downtown; nothing definite yet. We're fighting against c.o.'s and big cheeses who don't have the proper facts.

I feel fine, a bit weary from seven-day work weeks and always lonesome, but happy writing my novel, studying, trying to live a good life, 'midst semi-iniquity. Thanks for your letter. It was much appreciated; love, L.D.

LETTER 609 Lyman De Platt to mother, March 12, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam.

Dearest mother, I know why mothers are so special. It would be hard to explain all the ways that you make my life so much more livable. I think you maybe feel that I love you less now that I'm married and also now that dad and I are on a more lovable basis than we were a few years ago, but my appreciation and love for you have definitely increased because of these two factors and also because I'm now able to appreciate better life in general.

Thank you for your regular letters and the rich amount of information that they afford. I know that despite all avowals of negative tensions they must exist with the two families, but I know your sweet influence is going a long way towards making this year bearable for all of us; love ya, L.D.

LETTER 610 Lyman De Platt to parents, March 21, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam; copies to Uncle George, Aunt Rene, and grandparents.

Dearest family, one third of my tour of duty has gone by here and I want to take this opportunity to bring you all up to date on how things are going and my opinion of our efforts here in South Viet Nam.

Two weeks after I arrived here, things began to feel like living through the year would be possible. My first impressions when I got off the airplane were: the bunkers made of sand bags, the barbed wire strung strategically all over the area, the guards, the humidity, the slope-eyed natives, and the musty smell of the airport. These quickly became part of my being as I assimilated my surroundings. Just as I was thinking things were okay, Tan Son Nhut got mortared. It started about 10:00 p.m. and continued sporadically throughout the night. Two of the closest mortars fell about 100 yards from the mortar shelter which constitutes our barracks. It shook us up but far from hurt us.

Since then it has been my job to work with the forward air controllers as a ground radio operator. Every day our FACs put in between one and three air strikes of F-100s, F4Cs, F-105s and A4s. Our job is to protect ground troops on operations, encounter and engage the enemy, call in immediate air strikes when we do find enemy positions and bomb V.C. base camps, supply areas, infiltration routes and concentrations. Usually our work is routine. The pilots fly about ten hours of total recon and strike work. Mostly when the enemy is encountered it is in numbers of two or three and then they are disguised as farmers herding cows, or working in the rice fields. Once in a while they find a sampan with several men in it, in an area that is restricted and so strikes are called in or ground troops or navy PBR boats sent to intercept them.

In the Rung Sat Special Zone, an area under the control of the navy, to the southeast of Saigon, our little office here is the only air support they have and they have to protect the main shipping channels into Saigon as well as the farmers and towns in the area. It is swampy and well-intersected with canals and streams. The place is infested with V.C. who has trenches, bunkers, and huts in areas that seem to be all water. We have four pilots who know the area well and they are finding more and more of these areas, which we are systematically destroying. Our reward is greatest when we get a secondary explosion or know that the V.C. has been in the area when the strike has been put in.

In the four months we have worked together we have had about ten secondary explosions and known of six enemy killed in actions. One or two were killed when we called in an air strike on a fox hole that was firing a double machine gun out of it. We bombed it and the fighters hid up in the clouds while the FAC tried to draw fire again. He succeeded because the V.C. thought the fighters had gone. This time they put the bombs right through the foxhole entrance. Another time four V.C. in a sampan shot at our FAC and he just took his M-16 in one hand, the throttle in the other and headed right for them. He killed all four. This is illegal but very effective and tends to discourage similar attempts by the V.C.

Yesterday we put an air strike in on a known V.C. base camp, known because of ground troop sightings. When the FAC went down to check damage, he saw one body in front of one of the destroyed bunkers. We have succeeded in destroying hundreds of bunkers and aided many ground troops in ground sweeps, one that killed 118 V.C. These are grim statistics but they show the importance of our job here. Last night, for example, we had a report that the V.C. had been sighted three miles west of the base with rockets, which presumably meant they would attack the base. Within three hours of visual reconnaissance and coordination with ground forces, we succeeded in postponing if not completely foiling the attempt. Any action that takes place around

the area is controlled through the FAC if air support is needed and so as you can imagine the job is a very interesting one and provides many opportunities to work under pressure and in such a way that you can feel that you are contributing the maximum effort possible to the war against the communist aggression.

Tan Son Nhut is a big base – about five miles square – and is becoming more and more a well-fortified area. Along with the protection are many recreational facilities. We have radio, television, a nice little theater with many good movies, a swimming pool is just about finished; basketball courts, a library, a BX, and a brand new chow hall that serves excellent food for being in a war zone. Our barracks have hot and cold running water, latrines and fans to cool the area.

All of these luxuries are usually only found in Air Force facilities but are used by all of our armed forces. They boys in the field have it a lot rougher than we do, of course, with cots, C rations, long working days, and fighting.

The church is growing. We have two missionaries to the Vietnamese here in Saigon and some more district missionaries working with the GI's in seventeen groups scattered throughout the district. Soon we will be starting a chapel here in Saigon and they have completed one in Bien Hoa, twenty-five miles to the northeast of here. Last Sunday in the district conference, four high councilmen were called to aid in the increasing responsibilities of the district. There are about thirty Vietnamese members of the church here in Saigon and very few in other parts. The church doesn't want to strand any members and so the only work among them is here in Saigon. There is one Vietnamese elder, several priests, teachers and deacons. There are three sisters studying now at B.Y.U. and as a whole they are a lot more active and leader types than I expected. One is Elder's Quorum president, one is Sunday School superintendent, one Relief Society president and others are teachers and counselors. The church has dedicated Viet Nam and Thailand to the preaching of the gospel but it will take time, just as it did in Italy and the servicemen will have a good foundation laid when they leave here. We're under the Southern Far East Mission out of Hong Kong.

Contrary to what the newspapers say, most GI's don't feel it their patriotic duty to be here. Most are here because they were called and a lot of them do all they can to spoil the relations between our nations, through their drinking, catting around, obscene language, etc., but there are a lot of dedicated men here who are here for more than just the money involved and in the end I see a situation similar to the one that exists between Korea and the U.S. as shown in the high number of Korean troops fighting here in South Viet Nam.

Medical facilities are good, with dentists, doctors, a few nurses, and a lot of conscientious aids-de-camp.

That about wraps up what I can discuss; some things are of a necessity secret, but I feel that the press is doing a better coverage job than they were four months ago. My love is to all of you. Enjoy the liberties you have and show our Father in Heaven a sincere devotion and constant righteous living; I remain yours, Lyman D. Platt.

LETTER 611 Lyman De Platt to parents, April 2, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear Family: Hi, how was the trip to Blanding? What did you learn about the land? A couple of weeks ago dad asked me to write you about certain customs over here. During the next two weeks Bertha will be receiving the rest of the slides I took last month. I hope she will be showing them to you all along with the descriptions I sent her; maybe in a family home evening.

The people here are not nearly as poor as those in India, Latin America, or Africa. The land is rich and the food is abundant. There are poor people of course, but the ratio is less than in other areas.

In the last two years Saigon has grown from a quiet little town of 800,000 to a sprawling, ugly giant of 2,000,000. Roads are poor, construction not fast enough to house all the war refugees, and it is hot. The town lies twenty miles in from the ocean but is only about ten feet above sea level and the rise of the tide can be seen in the rivers.

The people here are Buddhists and Catholics. Their pagodas and cathedrals are expensively beautiful in town and miserably poor in the suburbs. The thirty-five Vietnamese members of the Mormon Church seem more devoted than any other people I've seen.

The people themselves are repulsive to me. I never have liked or trusted Orientals and it is hard to try and like them. I'm succeeding somewhat, but they are as a nation dishonest, slovenly and I'd rather not have to work with them. The Latinos are also dirty, more insulting towards Americans (openly anyway) but they have an outward dignity that is typical of them, the Japanese and the Spanish.

Our government tries to build up this people in the eyes of America as a proud, noble people, fighting to preserve their freedom. They may get their freedom, but it will be the most expensive constitution in history, and 90% of it will be American.

The women hide their faces from the sun because the whiter they are, the more beautiful in their custom. If they can get an American to give them a baby, which isn't hard with the G.I., they feel it an honor rather than adultery, because of the white skin that will result. Their clothing is thin, revealing, and in its revelation sickening. I have little love for them and to my condemnation probably won't have. But this can possibly be pardoned because of the three maids I have contact with I feel friendly towards them and even somewhat lovingly towards mama-san. As you can see I have conflicting feelings.

The only contact I've had with the Vietnamese Air Force has been impressive. They seem to be good fighters. Their bombing is improving, although it leaves much to be desired. Their flare-dropping seems adequate. They are paying highly in manpower for this war and deserve a lot of credit for their persistence. If they were more like the Thais from Thailand, we could win in a short while.

The problem here is routing an enemy and destroying his thousands of miles of trenches and hidden bunkers that have been entrenched for twenty years. In the Rung Sat Special Zone southeast of Saigon we have defoliated large areas and now can see many previously hidden base camps. In two days we destroyed thirty structures with three sets of three fighters each last week. This is becoming typical. I believe we can more or less destroy their twenty years of work within three more years, but it won't be necessary if we block Haiphong and bomb more vital areas. I believe this war and the tension in Korea will force us into war with China by 1980. I don't feel the Chinese will be ready before then.

It's good to hear you're holding home evenings regularly. I would like to participate. If you will tell me what lesson you're on I'll read my home evening manual and comment each week.

We'll that's if for this week. Please write and tell me how General Conference was. I'd like the *Church News* of that week if possible. I'm getting the ones Bertha sends just fine. It takes about eight days to get here. I still haven't received any *Eras*. Say hi to the ward members when you get a chance; maybe in testimony meeting. The gospel is growing nicely here. Today we expect to raise \$30,000 to start building a chapel in Saigon. Bertha and I have given \$65.00.

Enjoy spring and the mountains; everything and everyone around you; within the coming years Ed and Gene first will realize how much this all means to you. I feel only half here without my wife, the mountains, you all and the atmosphere of the gospel; love, Lyman.

[Mother's note: You can send this one of Lyman's back when you write, please. She typed this letter and sent it to the grandparents.]

LETTER 612 Lyman De Platt to parents, April 12, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear family, it hasn't been a week yet since I wrote but it is lonely tonight and I'm tired of studying for my history test. I received a letter from Joe yesterday. He seems to be thoroughly sincere and humble in his attitude and I'm sure the Lord will continue to bless him in his efforts.

By the looks of the temperatures spring has sprung. Have you started to get the ground ready for garden planting or is it used for tree space? How are the little trees doing? I don't believe it has frozen for the last couple of weeks. I hope this season will be fruitful. Tonight I'm watching the 1966 circus awards. They certainly have had some fine acts.

We about killed some of our troops a couple of days ago. One of our FACs was given the go-ahead on a target and was putting the jets in when green smoke started coming up out of the trees about 100 yards from the bombs – friendly troop position; luckily no one was hurt. Our agency (Navy) who okay's strikes in the area didn't read our request coordinates correctly.

Yesterday trooped found 153 tons of rice down in our RSSZ area. That will feed a lot of hungry people for a while. Every cache like this weakens morale for the enemy and will eventually cause their fading out of the picture. I say that because I doubt it will be a surrender-type affair.

There is still no word on future happenings here. I may stay here at this station seven more months if we're not moved before long. There seems to be a lot of confusion in the higher ranks as just what to do.

So far I've earned four medals while here. That will probably be all unless I do some extra-special activities. [Later I learned I should have received a command citation which I never got; and the Silver Star for saving all the troops that I did; but was never put in for it. Also, I should have received the Army and Navy commendation medals, but headquarters in Hawaii wouldn't grant them because they didn't think I was that good.]

Can you imagine a person jumping rope on a high wire? I just saw it. He almost fell too, the crazy dude! He just jumped both feet two feet above the wire. He's marvelous.

The time is so lonely over here. It is going by fairly fast but it can go faster if it likes. Next month begins the rainy season for us here in the south. In the northern part it is becoming nice now.

503 jets over the south are down now. That's over one billion and some 300 pilots.

Hey we got a Bob Hope special tonight. It's from Acapulco. Wow, what a bunch of dames. He sure collects them. Acapulco – the sand box for tired businessmen; dancers from Colombia; Dolores del Río, Glenn Ford, Elke Somers, James Mason, Eva Rinsi, Michael Caine, Sylvia Peñal, Cantinflas, Bob of course, Jane Mansfield and scads of others. Bob's talking to the Mexican Navy and has a beautiful movie star translating for him. He knows how to make anyone laugh. His jokes are international. He touches the heart. He certainly made life a lot happier for a lot of the guys over here.

Well, I guess that's it for tonight. I feel so much happier than I did when I started this letter. It doesn't take much to be happy. It's just that sometimes it is hard here to find that "much." I'm well and working hard; love, Lyman.

LETTER 613 Lyman De Platt, to parents, April 18, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dearest family, well I suppose Bertha has told you that I'm going to Japan for a week but maybe she hasn't filled you in on the details. I'll leave here either on the 4, 5, 6, or 7th of May and will spend five nights and six and a half days there. We will fly into Tokyo International aboard a Douglas 707 jetliner from Pan American which will take us from Saigon to Tokyo in four hours fifty-five minutes. I'm going with a friend – Jeff – and we will stay at Camp Zama somewhere around Tokyo in rest and recreation facilities provided by the Armed Services. Rooms will be \$.50 a day. They will take us on three tours that will give us a good idea of what Japan is like and of course we'll go to Tokyo and eat a couple of times and see the sights, maybe hit a few recent hits from Hollywood, and shop-see. I plan to buy two tape recorders, together about \$50.00, which will give us a better means of communication during this last half year. You can record your family home evening songs, the organ, your voices, and I'll record some of the things that I hear over the radio, etc. It should be fun. The main reason I'm buying them though is for future use in our family for some teaching programs Bertha and I are preparing for our children when they get a little older.

Mother, I believe it was you who sent the paper of the conference reports and I want you to receive a big kiss for it. It really makes it nice to know what's going on and of course there are a lot of little things the paper says that are not thought of in letters; so thanks.

Hey Ed, what's this about you finally getting the girl bug? Oh well, I guess it's that time of year. You too Roberta? Man, what's this family coming to? If we aren't careful, within the next ten years you'll all be married. Take care.

Reni, when I send Bertha the tape recorder, I want you to sing me a song that you know in Spanish, okay? The picture mother sent of you is really cute.

Gordie, I hope you're feeling completely better now and don't have any more problems from your accident.

McKay, I don't believe I've answered your letter yet, but plan to do so shortly. Thanks for writing. How's school coming? You'll all be out in about a month. Don't let down now. During the summer vacation, I expect a few more letters than I've had for the last five months.

Our new swimming pool is now open and I try to get down there three or five times a week. It is a lot of fun but I can't swim 1/25 as far as I could when I was eighteen. I expect to regain a lot of that back though in the next seven months.

My companion and I gave the fifth lesson to one of our investigators last night. He took it really well and I've no doubt whatever that he will be baptized, but I don't think we will get to do it as he's in the artillery and has to go north in a day or so; but he has progressed tremendously this week and now has a strong testimony. His girl friend back in the states is a Mormon. He didn't know anything about the church when we started with him except that she wouldn't marry him unless he was a Mormon. He's the only investigator I've ever taught that took notes and asked a lot of questions.

On May 1st I'll be taking my history test. Before that I may take the Officer's Qualifying Test again. I'd still like to pass it but don't know if I can or not.

There's still time to send a note stating what you want specifically from Japan if any of you want anything. I'll do what I can.

I suppose shortly if you haven't done so already, you'll see all of the slides I sent home with the little dialogue that goes with them and I hope they prove interesting. I expect to take about 100 pictures of Japan and they should prove interesting as well.

The trip doesn't cost anything by the way. It's like the R&R that dad took to the Himalayas during the war. With the recorders and all I figure on spending around \$80.00 so you can see that they will pay for almost everything. I could have gone to Hawaii, Hong Kong, Manila, Bangkok, or Malaysia, but I think Japan will prove the most interesting. Tokyo is the largest city in the world with ten million or fourteen million including the suburbs, so you can imagine if it's twice as big as Los Angeles was when we were there it will be crowded, dirty, and all, but still I think one week will be bearable and fun.

Well, I guess that's it for this time. The days are going by really fast and I'm looking forward to spending Thanksgiving with you and if they let me off twenty days early like they are with a lot of the G.I.'s, I possibly can get in on the end of the deer hunt. Lots of love and appreciation for you individually, as ever, L.D.

LETTER 614 Lyman De Platt to parents, April 25, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dearest family, what a pleasant surprise today to receive two vicarious letters from Joe, one from the grandparents, mother and dad; it really boosts my spirit. Gene, I hope you got your VW from off its precarious perch without any damage.

Dad thanks a million for your letter and the info about the trees, raspberries and strawberries. You know last night I was making a few more plans and one of them was to build a strawberry planter west of the garage. Each day I dream and plan a little more. A lot of it is just to pass time but mostly I believe the final results will be similar. I appreciate your reasoning now about planting one tree and will await the results with hope. Of course if the Campbell's decide to buy, it will save us money because we'll be able to put our savings plus two years of interest on a house later on, but I'd just as soon get started; so either way I'll be happy.

Bertha and I have done a lot of talking about whether I should re-enlist or not and as stated before we're pretty sure we'll get out. Staying in would mean another tour in Southeast Asia and it's not worth it. I'm just sorry that Joe and Ed will also have to come.

We're winning but if you read much about the war you have to admit that the V.C. are good fighters and only lack proper equipment and a just cause. Even without these two factors they are doing well.

I'm so glad Washington is finally starting to bomb the Haiphong and Hanoi areas. Now if they'll blockade the port it will force the commies to use land routes and these we can hit with tactical air.

The main headquarters for this air war has been fifty feet away from my working area up until now. They've moved a block away now into a new building. They're called TACC (Tactical Air Control Center). I've been into the Combat Operations, Strike Plans sections many times and seen the tremendous amount of work they have. Rows of officers, maps, light boards indicating strikes, immediate request section, etc., and it's beautiful and I'm proud to be a part of it.

The VNAF (Vietnamese Air Force) is just about set up with its own FACs (forward air controllers) to guard the Saigon area (our present job). They are not authorized to fly at night, however, so Bien Hoa is going to take on that job as they still want to disband us. This will cause fifteen minutes difference in time on target during immediate requests. As the V.C. hit and run within fifteen minutes (usually) this will not be a good setup for this bases' protection, but more and more this area is becoming secure, so possibly we'll be okay.

When we leave this job, one officer and two operators will go to CMD (Capital Military District) Headquarters in Saigon. The officer will act as ALO (Air Liaison Officer) and we will be directly under him. As CMD is Army our job will be to coordinate all airstrikes in III Corps area (there are four corps in Viet Nam) with the Army and VNAF.

Usually air strike request begin in the platoon, company or battalion levels of the Army. They're called into CMD. The Army generals consult with the VNAF general (three stars) and he makes the final decision for III Corps air strikes. Then the final immediate air request goes in to III Corps headquarters at Bien Hoa. While the generals are deciding, I or the other operator (whoever is on duty) have contacted III Corps headquarters via our radio net that has 24-hour direct contact and tell them to put a set of fighters on alert for possible immediate air. We tell them what bombs we want (500 pounders, 750 pounders, rockets, general purpose, napalm, etc.) and they fill the request as nearly as possible. When VNAF approves, CMD advises us and we give the go sign to III Corps. They in turn pass us fighter call signs, mission numbers, frequency and we pass this on to the FAC who has become airborne during this time. He then directs the fighters in on the enemy position. We then listen in on the UHF (ultra high frequency) radio and monitor the air strike and copy the BDA (bomb damage assessment). These reports are passed back to III Corps; and then to the central point somewhere in Saigon and finally the sum total of the day's activities is reviewed by the big boys and some semblance of the truth is passed to news media.

I don't know how soon we'll be leaving but half of our operation is now moving to the RSSZ and will be doing the same as we are doing now except that their CMD will be the Navy counterpart; so between our two stations we'll be handling everybody but the Marines and there are none in this area [they were in I Corps, II Corps and IV Corps].

I've told you before how I feel towards all this. It will be a point of brilliance in the memory of my Air Force years when I think back on it. I realize this and try to make the best of it but I'll be glad to get back home. I hope I haven't confused you any. I think you'll get the general idea of my work anyway.

The major has given me permission to fly a few times before I take the Air Force Officers Test again, so I may get some pictures of a strike yet. [The main problem I had in failing the two attempts at passing the test was my inability to visualize the angles being shown on the test from the cockpit of the plane; I still was unable to get the proper perspective with the limited flying that I did and therefore never qualified. I didn't want to be a pilot anyway, and passed the other parts of the test just fine; so had to reconcile the fact that it was not meant to be.]

Mother, bless you; your letters are so informative and make me so much closer to you all. Thanks so much for the live action reports each Sunday night. This gives me (and Joe) a much clearer insight into what we hunger for (family association). Keep it up.

Tell Peg (Velyn Stevens) I think of her and love her. She is so sweet to us. I wrote her once but don't have much time to write to everyone as often as I'd like. Be sure to tell us what the VW incident resulted in when you write again.

My trip to Japan has been at least delayed until June and possibly I'll forget it, although I'd still like to go. I'll let you know later on.

In the midst of so many exciting things and being so profusely blessed as we are, I sometimes forget to pray for our relatives who are having sickness or other troubles but often when I remember them, I do pray for them and hope that they can all resolve their problems so that when we die we can all be a joint family. This is a constant desire for the immediate family and I hope we can all remember to live all of the commandments as often as possible. [The Ten Commandments are not multiple choices.]

Well before this gets any longer and I have to publish it under "Memoirs of a U.S. Airman in Viet Nam," I'll sign off with love and thanks. Continue to write as often as possible.

Gene, I'll be sending you a letter in a few days. I say this so I'll be obligated. I'm not as far as owing you one – you rascal. I'm glad you didn't ride your VW like a rollercoaster over the cliff; take care.

All of you: I love and appreciate your companionship and brotherhood. It makes me so proud to be a member of a real family. I feel so sorry for 98% of the boys and men I meet over here in many ways, but especially because of their poor family relations.

I feel in our letters a spirit of more closeness one to another and a growing awareness of even a more harmonious unity with gospel standards. I pray for its continuance; love as ever, L.D. P.S. Mom, could you make a copy of this letter for Joe. I'm sure he likes to know what I'm doing. Or, you can send this one. I wrote him two days ago.

LETTER 615 Lyman De Platt to dad, May 4, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Querido papá, Hola, ¿cómo está usted hoy día? I was very happy and surprised to receive your last letter so soon after the one before. I'm glad you wrote and I appreciate your concern and consideration. I feel your suggestion about the trees and the property is a wise one and we will follow that course of reasoning. Of course it would be nice to have the trees in now, but they wouldn't receive the proper attention during the next two years.

I've talked to Bertha about renting, etc., and I believe we are agreed to let the Campbell's rent at least until September and very likely for a year after that if they like.

We'll be more than happy to buy the mirror and stove from you. There are so many things to buy that it will be nice to finally get everything and move in. Let us know what the mirror and stove are worth and we'll make additional payments to you after we pay you what money you have in the home, okay?

I believe we can say that half of my time over here is now gone. I'm pretty sure that I'll be able to get away two or three weeks early and that will put me right near the half-way mark. It's a good feeling because the down-hill trip won't be nearly as rough or long, I don't believe.

I bought a little tape recorder a couple of days ago and boy I'm having loads of fun with it. We have a tape center here on base where, by appointment, we can go and tape for three-hour sessions, and now that I've got thoroughly acquainted with this little gem, I expect to tape upwards of 500 classics, ballads, Latin sounds, etc., before I come home. Taping on 3¾ speed that gives five songs to a side, ten to a tape, or in other words, I'll need fifty tapes, but I think \$40.00 worth of tapes is a good investment to spend as it will provide countless hours of pleasant listening and enjoyment plus will teach our children to appreciate the finer music as you and mother have taught us. I hear things from the Student Prince and others that we've had and I still remember them and sing along.

Tonight I'm listening to some songs recorded off the radio: Climb Every Mountain (Sound of Music), Swan Lake, and many other really pretty ones. Along with the really heavy rain that we are having, it isn't really a way to fight a war. I'm extremely lucky and blessed in not having to be in any of the dirty part of this affair and yet I'm in it in a way that makes me feel good and important. All of the guys here have been recommended for the Distinguished Service Medal (three airmen and three officers). It would be a nice one to have as I won't get over six or seven

during this four-year hitch, but if I don't get it, it's no big thing. Most medals in the service are not earned in an honest, brave way.

Tell Ed: "Ed thanks for the letter and I've checked on cameras for you. You can get an Olympus Pen like mine for \$25.00 or a Canon like Bertha's for \$35.00. I'm allowed to buy two cameras while I'm here. Also they have radios really cheap."

I'm somewhat happy as the days go by so fast because I know that it is one less and now I'm under 200; that constitutes a short timer over here, but it will be a lot more satisfying to be a 100-day short timer. Until next week, I'll sign off and leave you with this thought: Duh! Sharp, huh? Love always, Lyman

LETTER 616 Lyman De Platt to parents, May 9, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear family, hi ya'll! I hope you have received and listened to the tape I sent. Joe says he has a recorder now, so that will make it nice for all of you. As soon as I get one, we can have a regular hay day.

I received today a notice that I am to take the Air Force Officer's Qualifying Test again on the 17th. Even if I pass I don't know if I want to stay in the Air Force. We'll see if I pass it.

Hey, mother, that's swell about your \$30.00 raise. That will help a lot. In fact, if you saved it for a year you could make the trip to England. What? I didn't hear you. Yes, it certainly would be a lovely experience. You say dad is pestering you to go with us? Wonderful!

You know what? I'm now on the downhill run of my time over here. I can put in to leave on November 1st, no earlier. However, that's over three weeks off and I think I can get it, so 5½ months is all I have to go.

I just got the information on costs for flights. I can fly from New York to London on military aircraft for \$124.50 or \$250.00 round trip. Economy civilian costs \$210.00 one way or about \$400.00 round trip. That will give you an idea of what it will cost. It would cost considerably more for you dad and/or mom. You would have to take a bus or etc. to New York. I can get a military standby from anywhere in the U.S. to New York for free. So the trip will probably cost me \$400.00 and you close to \$600.00. I don't think I can afford to pass up this chance. You may not want to spend that much, but I would like to hear from you either way and then I can let Joe know how to plan things.

Things here job-wise are slow. It certainly doesn't seem like a war is going on. As far as our moving, nothing is definite yet and we very likely will be here for a good while. I was just telling Bertha about a new system they're perfecting and that is now working well, that is allowing about 80% of the Southeast Asia Air Force personnel to receive the general area of choice when returning to the U.S. We have priority over all others so the chances of getting Hill AFB are increasing nicely. All the guys I talk to who are getting assignments are really happy. Also it will be *impossible* under new rulings to get me back here before I get out under present war

situations. That is a relief. Things are looking like I might still be able to go to Japan. I'll hang on to this \$15.00 and see how things work out. I'll write more next time. I only got three hours sleep last night and I'm bushed. I love you all, bye, L.D.

LETTER 617 Lyman De Platt to parents, May 15, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

My dear parents bless your hearts for the sweet, heart-warming, and constant letters that you send. Today is mother's day and my thoughts have been warm as I reflected on the years spent at home under the counsel and guidance of one of the better mothers of this world. I have realized again how fortunate we have been to have your constant attention and dedication and consolation in these growing-up years.

Now, as this day comes to a close and I realize that I have decided to finally express my innermost thoughts to you both, I feel good because it will relieve some of the uncertainty and tension that has built up over the last months. This letter has been attempted three times before and after waiting a day to see how it looked being cold, I have thrown previous attempts away. Now after five months of studying what I want to say, praying about it, writing and rewriting it, the final attempt is before you.

Bertha and I have been holding weekly home evening by letter for the past three months, and with each new lesson I am impressed of my many weaknesses. For example: this last week we had a lesson on being completely honest with ourselves and others. I have found out now that the week is over, that: 1) when I exaggerate, I have a tendency to lie; 2) I have been deceiving myself too long by "dreaming of my mansions on high." I have fallen into a habit of complacency: avoiding my "consecrated" responsibilities to my church, my family and to the more important "lost souls." This is one of the reasons I feel it is time to write what follows.

I have been impressed with the quality of these home evening lessons and feel it my duty to tell you that if you will be more consistent in having them, it will cause, in the children and you a deep sense of purity of mind and heart. I have a tendency – speaking honestly – of blaming some of my weaknesses on that fact that, as a family, we haven't been close knit and "schooled" in home evenings to a burning recognition of our responsibilities to others and ourselves. In part I'm justified in this line of thinking because if we had held regular meetings, my character would be more solid in places where it is weak, yet I tend to excuse myself too much because of this justification.

There have been some ten incidents during this week in which I have come out about 50% on each side of being honest and of exaggerating (lying). This indicates a basic lacking in my nature, which is being impressed on me now, but which could have been stressed more through family association in a learning process.

My wife's letters express sadness at the inability of the family to hold constant home evenings and I mention the above to bear testimony to the fact that unless we are more diligent in this, these little things are going to keep us and our children out of the Celestial Kingdom. I'm not finding fault in the sense that I feel blameless, but I don't want to withhold my pleas until I become perfect, because that is going to take a while.

I have hesitated because of the possibility of misunderstanding to express some of the following ideas, but please bear with me now in this sincere attempt.

As you are now right in the middle of raising a family you are faced with some problems that I won't have to cope with for several years and so your reaction to the below may differ somewhat from my line of thinking; nevertheless, I will proceed.

The key to all the rest of what I will state lies in determining what course to take and then in being diligent in sticking to that course.

Starting in January I began interviewing my family on a monthly basis. This is in accord with a plan that we have been developing ever since Bertha came to Colorado back in December of 1965. Well we have it fairly well-advanced now and we call it "Circle of Gold." I am going to explain only certain parts of it in this letter.

I have reviewed each month the answers I have received to my questions (which are changing and improving with each month's added knowledge and practice) and made notes and comments in a section in our Circle of Gold set aside for this specific purpose. I expect to continue this throughout our married life and as each child comes along proceed with them in like manner, until they leave home or get married.

This part of our Circle of Gold has resulted from a study on our part of the need of constant, close, accurate interpretation of each other's feelings and later on that of our children, as well as from a thirst in my soul for a similar treatment as a son.

By doing this we are able to have a fixed time each month where we can sit down in a calm state of mind and hash over misunderstandings, get an intimate insight into each other's characters and help each other towards perfection. We realize at times it will be necessary to hold consultations other than this monthly meeting and they have been taken into consideration and planned for.

When our children get old enough – from ages two on up – we plan to discuss each one of them in a council meeting each week and any problems that are encountered will be worked into the monthly interview, which will be my job. After these monthly interviews, I will discuss the results with Bertha and we will decide on the actions to be taken. No "on-the-spot discipline" will be allowed unless it is of a minor nature. My wife will have charge of discipline and education in its major scope of responsibility, and I will back her up in her decisions, which will actually be a culmination of our consideration of the problems. My part in this will be subtle, so to speak. In home evenings, it will be my responsibility to work into the meetings anything that I

feel will aid in remedying the existing situations. This of course will also be after consultation with my wife.

In these monthly interviews, where added counsel or correction is needed, I will be at an advantage in that I will have before me a rather complete list of my children's characteristics and habits. By prayer and fasting during these touchy times, I will be able to direct them and get closer to them with the end result being their desire to comply, reform and feel good in doing so.

The effectiveness of interviews has been forced with great success into my mind during my mission. I was on both ends of many and have a definite testimony as to this part of our Circle of Gold. I know that this is going to work. We have planned carefully and are adding each week more valuable information for use in interviews, in teaching, etc.

I suggest that something similar would be good in your family and would give you, dad, the role of patriarch in the sense that the church is stressing it today, and would give to you mother a more complete support from dad in discipline.

Now here is where I hope you will both be receptive to a loving criticism. It is no secret in the family, because a plan like this hasn't existed, that mother and father don't always agree with each other. In fact it has been the cause of some rather lasting disagreeable memories. I feel that if a similar plan to this one is introduced into your family, that there will be no further arguments as we have been accustomed to experiencing. You, dad, would give mother the right to discipline, after having had council with her on the type and extent and this would do away with any unjust or hasty punishments, done in anger and therefore of a damaging value. When punishment is necessary the children would understand exactly why and this would cause them to become wiser and punishment meted out less.

Mother would never have the need or the right to argue or disagree with father in front of the children because any disagreements, misunderstandings or problems would have been resolved in councils and interviews.

I can't reconcile the fact that mother feels it her right to disagree when she knows she is right when it is at the cost of, permit me to say, belittling the role of the patriarch and king. There have been times when mother has been righteously indignant with a just cause, but, as we reflect, family arguments are not edifying and have caused father to "not speak," "feel hurt," "feel unsupported; non-kingly." This is a dangerous situating for the head of the house to fall into. It hurts me to know that this has been the case at times and that I have been a part of it on occasions, and I hope to see it change.

I have experienced in the last year what it feels like to be a king and a patriarch so I strive each day to perfect my life and curb my passions in order that my wife will never have the right to feel any different than she does now and if I should fail and she needs to correct me, which will happen on occasions, it will be done in private and thus I will be able to be the patriarch of the home in my family's eyes at all times without them having to take sides in arguments as we have done or as it sometimes seemed to one or the other.

This will lead to an enjoyable home life; one where discipline will be maintained, where the father's role will be accentuated as it will when we are again in Zion, and it will allow the Holy Spirit to rest upon our home and yours at all times.

I will use as justification for this program, if you need any, the examples of church and business groups. There is no successful business, nor a progressive ward, that does not have a fixed time for preparation meetings, councils, interviews, and teaching situations. As we are individual kingdoms and as we will progress in the Celestial Kingdom in accordance with set rules and requirements, I can see no other way to so order our lives, if we are to succeed.

I don't see that you can doubt my sincerity nor my love and therefore with that I will close. Please don't just read this once or twice. It has taken hours to prepare and certain parts are inspired from our Heavenly Father. It is because of that fact that I have spoken frankly and at this time, your devoted son, Lyman D. Platt

[In retrospect from forty-two years into the future [2009] I can honestly say that this whole concept failed in both my home and in my parents' home because of the dynamics at play in both environments. Dad never took my suggestions to heart. My wife never honestly supported my efforts. I was not as lovingly patient as I should have been with the failures of family members to "toe the line." I suspect the system was too rigid and it certainly never gained support from those for whom it was built and dedicated. The concepts are still valid, but individual accountability, free agency, and consequences need to be more fully dealt with, as our Father in Heaven does with us. On the surface it appears that His plan is failing miserably as well, in this corrupt, self-centered, violent, and permissive society. However, underneath the surface there is the one-on-one, continual striving on His part to bring His children individually back into His presence. It is this individual attention despite the overall failure that is the genius in His long-suffering patience.]

LETTER 618 Lyman De Platt to parents, May 19, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dearest family, hi again; things never fail to be uninteresting over here. I'll fill you in on the few that have happened this three-day week. Tonight we are on alert for a possible attack on Tan Son Nhut, as tomorrow is Ho Chi Minh's birthday and the V.C. have been stepping up their attacks everywhere in the last few days in order to have some favorable propaganda.

Yesterday I took the Air Force Officers Qualifying Test and failed navigation again, so that lets me out. I did pass the pilot part this time and the officer quality, which made me feel good.

Also yesterday while I was on duty we monitored the attack of V.C. on an armed helicopter which was hit by fifty caliber bullets and had to get out of the area. We got our bird right in the air. While he was getting airborne I called TACC and requested immediate air, gave them the reason, coordinates, frequency to meet the FAC on and received the fighter call sign, bomb load and passed this on to the FAC when he checked in on VHF. We got a set of A1H Vietnamese fighters with a total of fourteen 250 general purpose bombs and they did a good job of putting the bombs in the area where the fire had come from. We had finished the strike and were just figuring up the results when we got another call. The same helicopter had been hit and the co-pilot wounded.

Well, we've been in a big controversy for the last three months as you know, with our superiors and finally yesterday about five minutes after the first strike was done, Major Morgan (our immediate boss) came in and said that we had just been relieved of the Rung Sat Special Zone and that from now on it would be controlled out of Bien Hoa. Well, before he could inform us of the consequent changes which some of them he didn't realize, I got a call from the Rung Sat headquarters requesting the second immediate air request, so as usual I called TACC and requested the air power, but they didn't have any fighters on standby at the time (that's how busy we've been) and they said there would be a forty-five minute delay, so I advised RSSZ and they said they would take the jets in forty-five minutes.

So with forty-five minutes to work with, I called up the organization that was taking the area off our hands and advised them that they would be having a strike in forty-five minutes in RSSZ and for them to order the air power, and I gave them the details that they needed. They stated that they could not take it on such short notice and asked if we would put it in. Of course we said yes as this makes one more strike in our favor when the final count is in. Just then the big boss at Bien Hoa called and I was on one phone while Major Morgan was on the other. He started in by bawling us out for: 1) going to TACC for the immediate air request and said that from now on it was handled by his office (one thing no one had informed us of), and 2) that it wasn't our responsibility anyway to request air power for the Rung Sat as that was no longer our responsibility; that Rung Sat should call him directly (another thing that neither Rung Sat nor we knew anything about). Well I informed him that (his) FACs had told me they couldn't take it and that they had asked us to. That shook him up in a very enjoyable way because he is always boasting how good they are. Well, he said, go ahead and take this one.

We fly an average of two strikes a day while the FACs at Bien Hoa have been averaging two a month; their main job being just visual reconnaissance. Well, this morning the picture changes around completely. It seems that the FACs up there suddenly realized what was being thrown into their laps and they balked. They called us up and told us that the boss had now stated that we would be backup for them in case they couldn't put the strikes in and requested one of our FACs come up there and start training them how to put in strikes (the couple they've put in to our area have been very poorly done and have taken too much time plus being off target a good ways). The jets only have a half hour time limit they can put the bombs in. We get them done in ten and these boys were taking thirty, which is disconcerting to the jet pilots. Well anyway it looks as though they realize our value now and will let us stay a little longer but they have the actual control and will get the glory. The FACs aren't to blame as they have had no practice nor

do they know the area, but the superiors have been determined to make their plan work. We don't care who get the glory as long as we can keep working as we have and this looks like what will be the situation (all work no glory) but the ones who need our help know the quality and rapidity in which we aid them, or have, and I don't think this thing will work out like they had planned it. As it progresses they keep finding places where they have erred in judgment. Of course the idea of putting the VNAF in control eventually is a good one (basically). It isn't too much fun being the ones who have to teach them and then have them take over, but that is our job in the CMD area around TSN and Saigon now. Unless they call us from Bien Hoa for backup, which they undoubtedly will do for a few months until their FACs are trained well enough, our only job is visual recon and protection of Tan Son Nhut. Tonight will be a hairy one with all the activity that is expected, but most days are going to drag now.

We had some choppers shot at this morning out in the fields west of the base; and we put our bird up to help out and to add to our woes, the VHF set was shorted out and the high frequency set in the aircraft was smoking, so we had no contact with our aircraft. His VHF was good so I called another control and advised them to tell the FAC to land at Bien Hoa as our maintenance couldn't repair the UHF set and I called in the maintenance for our VHF which we need badly as it's our main communication channel between the aircraft and the station.

Just now Captain Thomas (one of our FACs) and a colonel are going to start a recon of the area. They have the latest information on the bombing of Bien Hoa and Da Nang and several others that have happened in the past and our job is to find the V.C. digging in and stop them before tonight or the night they do decide to lob them in here. Another chopper just now got shot at and was hit in the tail, just west of here. There is definitely something in the wind, but this is a weekly feeling around here so we will take it in stride.

As I mentioned once before we have all been submitted for the Commendation Medal (similar to the Bronze Star) for the Air Force and now the Navy wants to submit us all for the good job we have been doing in the RSSZ. They have been really appreciative of our efforts and feel like they're getting the raw end of the deal just like we do. Two commendations would go a long way towards being recommended for sergeant promotion.

Well, that gives you an idea of what has happened in the last few days. Three days ago I took my history final and I'm glad that it finally over. I enjoyed it but it was getting old. Now I can take second semester Book of Mormon.

There's always the possibility that the next letter you receive will come from a Red Cross nurse stating I've been injured or something. Four days ago my friend Ron, the one I helped confirm and then later ordained to a Deacon, got hit by a big truck and is in the hospital with bad internal injuries. He can't move and I feel really sorry for him. He had two months to go and was looking forward so much to being with his wife again. He'll be with her sooner undoubtedly, but will be laid up for quite a while. He is ready to become an elder and soon will be able to take his wife to the temple. They've been married two years and he's a member now of six months.

The monsoon season is here now. Each day it rains. Yesterday it rained for three hours in what we would call a thunderstorm back home, but it was heavier than that, the heavens just open up. The little stream that runs in front of our barracks had to be pumped out to keep from flooding out our area. It rose from six inches to over five feet during the storm and didn't subside for five hours afterwards. All morning it rained, which is unusual (it rains usually in the afternoon), but now it's hot again.

Thailand, Hong Kong, Israel, Syria and Egypt, China, Berlin, Korea; wars and rumors of wars. The poor marines here are really taking the casualties but they are giving seven times more, which really doesn't mean too much except that at that rate by the time we get them all killed off we will be extinct also. The V.C. are good and determined fighters and apparently believe in what they are fighting for. Don't pay too much attention to the news reports that tell how many are defecting and how bad their morale is. Rather, read of their determined assaults and the frequency of them and you can see that they aren't aiming on giving up. They may defect but a lot are left and they are trained professionals in subversion, guerilla warfare and blitzkrieg hit hard retreat fast attacks. We will either lose into the hundreds of thousands of troops before we win this war or we'll get out at a tremendous cost to the free world's fight against communism. It can't go anywhere but expand into a major conflict in more nations. If it doesn't it will be only because the communists have decided to strike elsewhere. I doubt they'll do that though because this is definitely a testing ground for them.

I'm happy with my work and if I weren't married I would ask for an extension of my tour, but I will be glad to get home and see you all again. It's half over now and maybe 7/12 with luck. P. S. you can think I'm a dreamer, but I'm going to England in 1968; love, L.D.

LETTER 619a Lyman De Platt to dad, May 20, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear father, one thing for certain: you've been much better at writing letters while I've been in Viet Nam than you were during my mission and I'm not at all displeased; if they will continue to come at their three-weekly rate.

I agree completely that we should spend a weekend at some nice camping area when I get home and if you will prepare for it we'll do it. I'll have over thirty days of leave after I leave here but only about a week of it will be earned, so we probably won't spend over seven to ten days before we go to the next base. At least four of those days I'll need to spend at the genealogical library so that I can make sure all possible avenues of research have been exhausted before going to England. I have done no research with microfilm yet and it's possible that we can find a few more generations, dates, etc. that will save time while in England. As you now know, I can make the trip without cost while on leave status, so my expenses will be only daily necessities and the cost of transportation while in England. I've sent Joe the approximate itinerary: London, Nottingham, Beverly, York, Leeds, Saddleworth and area, Crompton and area, Manchester and home. With the Lord's help in Beverly we can get many more dates and names on the Leavitts and from all the other towns mentioned Platt names. I hope to spend a day or two in London going through their library, the temple, and sight-seeing. It's going to take a lot of preparation record-wise because I don't feel we've exhausted all leads yet within the states.

The main idea I have in mind while in England is to search as many records as possible and put everything we find on a tape recorder. This will allow us to search twenty to thirty times more than we could by writing everything down. Then when we get back home we will put them all on sheets, put them with the hundreds of Platt names you and I got at the Los Angeles Public Library and start preparing them for temple work. This will give us years of work; I estimate we'll have close to 2,000 Platt names and I don't know how many Leavitt name, but in them all we're bound to make some connections.

Also taking pictures of these areas will make the final edition of the book which will eventually results in a much more efficacious masterpiece.

I'm sure you can see the beauty in the idea. It will be the greatest piece of genealogy work done in our family next to Aunt Cretia's *My Lyman Ancestors*.

Now let's talk about your project of copper. I read your letter three times in succession trying to grasp every detail and inflection and I'm convinced that you are sincere, that Vern [Bullock] is sincere and that it would appear from the facts you have given me that a find is very likely. I really do hope so for yours and his sakes and I hope it will give you both what you want out of it. However, I don't think Bertha and I can take the chance with what little we have at this time. If we get stationed in Utah we are going to be short as it is and if not we need all we can put in on a down payment. I appreciate the information anyway; can see where it might be very advantageous; so won't dismiss it completely. How much does Vern estimate the cost of core drilling to be?

Where is the approximate area of this copper load? I would like those two questions answered if you would before I consider it further. Prophecies state that vast mineral resources are yet untapped in Utah and so I don't doubt it's very possible, in fact it quite entuses me, as it would give us the opportunity to buy some land outright and be able to do that which we both love the most next to our families. Please keep me informed. In less than three months I'll know where I'm going to be stationed and a lot more can be done in the way of plans. I have "prayed that what is right will be" and will continue to do so.

Dad, if you and mother could possibly spend five days of four hours apiece at the library going through the microfilm and the Yorkshire books it would be of tremendous help in eliminating certain areas we need to cover before going to England. I know you're really busy and this would require a sacrifice but it would not be a very big one and the blessings would be great.

With this I also leave you with the desire that you continue in righteous prayers and ask that they include the five-page typed letter I sent last week. Twenty-four weeks or less to go, love, L.D.

LETTER 619b Lyman De Platt to mother, May 20, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear mother, thank you always for your letters. They are inspiring and make me sure that our family is in good hands. You only have about twenty-two letters left to write before I'll be home.

I think the decision to wait until fall on the house is a wise one. We will know within eighty days where we'll be going and that will be a big aid in future planning.

It sounds like the financial situation is indeed better than when I was on a mission and I'm happy and hope that you can continue getting out of debt rapidly. The idea of putting the income tax into storage is very sound. That is one of our first projects when we get settled and it will be none too soon for me.

I contemplate the job situation when I get back home and I believe it will be good because more guys are going to have to serve in the war and this is going to leave shortages. I'm so thankful I was inspired to come right in. I should be out before it gets too bad and then only a full-scale war could touch me. Joe, Ed and Gene are in rather less enviable positions and I pray the Lord will be good to them as he has to me, and protect them while they serve.

Mother I will send you \$5.00 for a corsage and also a card if the \$5.00 doesn't arrive before her birthday please buy her a nice one and the money will be shortly forthcoming. I know she will be very happy. Thank you so much.

Well we made it through last night without any mortars. Tonight and tomorrow are still critical according to the experts so we will wait them out expectantly. I slept like a log last night.

I'm really quite excited about this opportunity to go to England. Brother Tetley [Whittier genealogy teacher] wanted to go so badly before he died and he never made it; now this may be the only chance any of us get to go there and I solicit yours and dad's conscientious help and that of Ed, Gene, Roberta and McKay if they are so inclined. I first started doing this work back when I was fourteen so if they will they can help too.

The main things we need to do are search the Yorkshire records – especially around Saddleworth and the Beverly areas. If we can exhaust the areas then all the research we do while in England will be so much more effective. I have every step planned out how I'm going to get ready record-wise for the trip and if the family will do the research requested we should all be highly gratified at the end result. I realize the probable result of finding very little in England, but then I've never been in that situation of not being able to find something, so as yet I can't feel defeat in any sense of the word as far as genealogy goes. It's the Lord's work and if we are completely prepared when we go over there we'll be successful in finding many more names of ancestors who are ready to be exalted.

Please work it into your summer plans. I can do it alone if necessary but would rather not as it's such a great joy to have succeeded in finding new names, love, L.D.

LETTER 620 Lyman De Platt to parents, May 25, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam [Box 1827, 505th TCMS, APO S.F. 96307]

Dear family, after this letter, you should only receive twenty-three more and probably less before I'm home again. The weeks are getting down there. When I remember how short a week is and that there are only twenty-five to go, it makes me feel really good.

After the 1st of June, supposedly, we will no longer be required to pull night duty, so technically we will be able to move our equipment downtown and set up shop at CMD, but as I've stated before, things don't work out as planned and if we quit pulling night duty around the first, it will surprise me, but I do believe that we will be moving downtown within the month of June.

My R&R for June was turned down, so I guess I'll have to try again for July. I was close to getting on this time so there should be no problem in July.

I think everyone is out of school now, is that right? I'm happy for all of you, except mother and Bertha as it will mean that much more work for them unless you all do your part as I hope you will. Vacations can be a lot of fun for everyone if we are all mindful of our responsibilities.

Ed, are you going to take advantage of the scholarships and go to summer school, or not?

How about you Gene? I think now is a good time to break down and write me. At that rate you can get that one off and then by the next one I should be home. Do you plan on working at JB's this summer or do you have something else in mind?

Things are going pretty hot over here. This morning B-52s dropped bombs pretty close to the city and really got us shook up for a while and the air war in the north is really stepping up as I'm sure you're keeping a watch on. Things are getting pretty bad and I don't think it will be too long before the people of the U.S. ask for an all or nothing fight so we can get out of here to some extent. Before we can do that we'll probably get involved in the Middle East conflict and then we will be spending the dimes.

When this Middle East conflict started up, I read up for a full day on Jewish prophecies and the history of their new government and have followed with interest their problems over there. It would seem to me that this will tend to unite the Jews a little bit more all over the world and be an added incentive for them to return to Israel. There are now over two million there of the thirteen million in the world and there are notable migrations from Poland, Hungary and Africa.

I just finished reading to book on the conquest of England from William the Conqueror to the Magna Carta and it was very impressive. I did it mainly to make some royal genealogy sheets and occupy my time. It was a lot of fun.

You know, now that I'm over six months the time doesn't seem to be so far away for my coming home. In a few months I'll have my orders and then things will start to roll along faster than they already have.

Things seemed to have warmed up back home and I'm glad that they finally did. How about a report of the fruit situation when you write next time?

I guess you're all looking forward to the Lyman Reunion shortly. I believe Bertha wants to sit that one out and just go to the Platt Reunion, but that's up to her. I hope you all enjoy the reunions and that you'll give my love to all who inquire especially, and to all in general.

Well I'll close this time until I receive mother's letter. I'm well and doing a lot of studying and exercising. For the first time in my life I could be considered unworthy to be recommended to the temple. I have only attended church once in the last month and a half. My missionary companion told me that some of the brethren were worried and the way in which he said it made me somewhat angry and hurt, but I don't have to answer to them (except the branch president) and don't feel other than desirous of going to church every chance I get. At times I have to push myself, but most times I miss are due to the job. We keep changing around our schedule so much that it's hard to know what will happen from one week to the next. It will be good to finally get onto a day shift only. Last Sunday a general authority was here and I missed him, but listened to the Church of the Air and studied the gospel all day, love, L.D.

LETTER 621 Lyman De Platt to parents, May 28, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dearest family, I am happy that this is the last time in May to write you. That leaves only five complete months to go and a "peck" more. That really sounds good, as each month goes by fast.

Last night I awoke to one of the strangest sensations I've ever experienced. The B-52s were saturation-bombing about ten miles from here and the only similarity to it happened while I was watching "How the West was Won" when the buffalo hooves beat down from the screen; but the bombing was more magnificent, frightening and of course it shook the foundations. I awoke to the wiggling of my bed. They were supposed to have hit a V.C. concentration.

As of June 1st we no longer will have to pull either night shift so there will only be two radio operators and we will move downtown or at least work there. I'll stay on base. On June 10th

we'll move our radio equipment downtown. Maybe this will allow me more Sunday's off. I've certainly missed going the last while.

The situation in the Middle East looks bad. I follow it more closely than I do the war here. The reporter tonight said "Israel is an armed camp," with 275,000 troops combat ready. It sounded like a Bible quotation. It is bound to come, so I say "let it come."

Bertha writes that the Campbell's are moving. I agree with your ideas of renting it out for a year. If we get assigned to Hill, we'll rent at Ogden until the year is up; if not, no sweat. I'll write more after I get your weekly letter. I'm fine and only anxious to see you all again, love, Lyman

LETTER 622 Lyman De Platt to parents, May 29, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear mother and family, as you will see by the rapid succession of letters I received your expected letter the day after sending my short one.

I understand your outlook on a trip to England because it is so far in the future and if I were more grown up I would quit being so definite in the things I say. I am planning to go to England and have done a lot of study on prices, modes of travel, etc., but of course the trip will depend on various conditions: 1) I am unable, after more research, to locate any further names in the library and others places; 2) Bertha's physical status at the time I desire to go (very likely she'll be close to having kittens again). I appreciate the fact that you are trying to get out of debt and am glad that is being given major consideration. I keep praying that you will be quickly successful in that.

Ed, I hope you get your desires to go on a mission shortly, or let's say within the year. If mother and dad have any trouble in supporting you and Joe, there will be no problem as Bertha and I will be more than happy to help. Good luck on your summer studies and dating, etc. Drop me a letter or two more during the next six months. I have enjoyed the two so far.

I'm humbly grateful that my letter of the 15th was received as it was. I see in your answer, mother, much wisdom, and know that you are right when you say that the first years are not the hardest. Our adjustment to each other was easy and has not been nor should be a problem in our life, but as you say there are many things during a family's growing up that will cause pressures and difficulties. I feel that the financial problem will be minimized due to the plans we expect to fulfill before getting out of the service. We have thought of putting all we make in the next two years into the house, but have finally decided to have one year's rent in savings, \$500 for our third child (that should put us past college graduation) and about \$500 for miscellaneous. We hope to get our year's supply as soon as we move to Provo; so if these financial areas are covered, with nominal setbacks, we should weather the first five or six years in good shape, and by then we'll be in a position to breathe slightly. As I review our family life, we have really had no major problems except with finances so if the Lord continues to bless our endeavors as he has so far, that aspect of any future problems in raising a family will be minimal.

Gene, I was really happy to hear that you received such a complimentary honor in being chosen to receive the scholarship. I'm sure you realize it means more than just the \$100.00 and I'm really happy for you. I'd like to hear about the seminary graduation when you write (if you do).

Bertha informs me in her latest letter that you have the house rented out for \$90.00 a month on a year contract. That is really fine. I'm happy you were able to do so with so little effort. I'm sure when we see where my assignment will be that there will be no problems involved; as I doubt we'll get Utah as stated before.

I received the land forms and will write out a check [homesteading], fill in the missing information and return it. Also as soon as I get paid I'll send an additional check for \$20.00 to cover the initial \$15.00 fee and \$5.00 for the orchid for Bertha's birthday. Thank you so much for sending the forms and I'll drop Kay a line also to thank him for his efforts. It would really be nice to have a chance like this to have land. I believe within seven or eight years it would be possible to start a little ranching and gradually build up, but I won't do anything on that line until I'm sure we have the home securely paid for. It will make for a nice pastime for dad, the boys and me as we contemplate cattle, fences, deer hunts, etc. Oh well, no use getting too excited yet.

Sometime this week I hope to get part of a tape to the family again; and will look forward to receiving the first one from you; especially singing, family evenings, and little get-togethers. I hope you can tape the family reunions and send them to me and I in turn will forward them to Joe. You can feel free to borrow the recorder if Bertha decides to go and it would surely boost the daily routine to hear from everyone in that way.

Have you received your income tax back yet? Are you going to be buying fruits or vegetables or what? Was all the fruit killed during those cold days and nights? It certainly warmed up all of sudden. I see where you're already up in the 90s. How's the garden, the trees, etc. coming along?

I don't feel at all bad about the time passage. Now with close to five months left with any early release or even a week or so, I am beginning to feel the end approach and the time certainly isn't dragging yet: keep writing. I love you all and am really happy to be part of the family. Thanks all of you for your co-operation and help with my little family this past ½ year, love, L.D.

LETTER 623 Lyman De Platt to parents, May 30, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear family, hi! I got mother's letter today with the check and pictures. The pictures are surely cute. The one of Irene is very nice and the ones of Patty are thoroughly enjoyable as also are Bertha's.

Folks, my trip to Japan has been postponed at least or maybe cancelled. If it happens that I'm unable to go within a couple of months, they have some nice silks here mother, as well as trinkets. We have things in the BX from Siam, Thailand, Japan, etc. Ed, if you want a camera before I come send the money and tell me what you want. They have good ones for a lot less here than in the U.S. and everything I bring home is duty-free.

I'm sure sorry to hear about Mr. Allred dying. Please extend my sympathies to Sister Allred when you see her.

Now that you have talked to the Campbell's and found out that they will not buy, we can plan a bit better. I don't want to make a deal with Sister Allred until I get home and can do it personally if it's possible. In October (probably) G.I. loans will go from 6% to 5³/₄% and I want to see if I can make a deal with her for 5³/₄%. It may not be possible but I'd rather keep the ¹/₄% in the church if it is possible, preferably in my own pockets.

I've figured the costs of furnishing the house with minimum furniture and I don't advise Bertha to move in until I receive my orders. If we'll be close then she can, but I doubt we will and I'll want that money for a down payment. During seventeen months we can save for furniture. I'm glad you folks enjoyed the Spanish "fiesta." I'd like to have been there.

I've received something that only about 5% of the radio operators in the Air Force receive as of May 1st. It was a pleasant surprise and indicates to me the goodness of the Lord. I'm not going to tell you and I haven't told Bertha. I want it to be a surprise to all of you when I get home. It makes a career in the Air Force more of a possibility but we'll wait on that point to see what future events take place. We're just about determined to get out, but nothing is definite.

Getting back to the house, I've figured we can furnish it with the base necessities for close to \$1,000, but \$2,000 would put it more as we want it. We are working towards having \$1,000 for furniture and \$1,500 for a down payment if we get assigned to Utah, or \$2,000 down payment if not. I'm confident we can make that, but we may be a few hundreds of dollars short. It depends on if I decide to get certain things here or decide to wait.

I'll appreciate hearing about your talk with Sister Allred and what she feels about the change over. I guess we've paid \$350 to you so far.

A few days ago two V.C. shot at our FAC as he was going down to get a bomb damage assessment. What they didn't realize was that the jets still had 20 mm and on okay from the FAC they riddled the area where the shots came from. Next day ground troops found that the two were dead. They also found some ammunition caches that the bombs hadn't blown up. We did get one secondary explosion. The base camp was obliterated.

Within a couple of months, I'll be putting in for a twenty-nine day leave and if it is approved I'll be home in time for the end of deer season and possibly the start, plus a few football games.

Bertha and I will undoubtedly rent a station wagon to make our trip to our new base. I hope to show her Yellowstone if we go north; Bryce, Zion and Grand if we go south, or California parks if we go west. If we end up on the east coast all we see will be new to both of us.

Just a note – you're going be grandparents a second time about when Joe gets home.

Ed, we're surely proud of you and your scholarships. That's a big help isn't it?

Gene, I'm glad you got the VW back with as little trouble as you did.

That's too bad about the fruit again. I was hoping we'd escape the weather this year.

Six months to go or less with the curtailment. That surely sounds good. It can't go fast enough, love you all, L.D.

LETTER 624 Lyman De Platt to parents, June 5, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear family, are you ready for another interesting letter? On the 3rd I became a pilot of sorts. Captain Thomas asked me if I wanted to accompany him on a flight. Naturally! So away we went. The day was very clear and the area was very beautiful. I'm impressed every time I go up of the actual smallness of Saigon. It isn't any bigger in area than Salt Lake.

We checked out all of our area around city and outlying areas without any significant sightings – not even any sampans except where they were supposed to be. There was a lot of river traffic in the main channel.

We went up to Bien Hoa briefly and after that checked the area over again. We monitored a conversation in which a helicopter had found and killed a V.C. We arrived just after it happened then accompanied the choppers into another area. They fly about twenty feet off the ground and we at 500 feet. They found some more V.C. unloading a sampan and started unloading their rockets and fifty-caliber on the area. There was a bunker there also with a tin roof and they said they saw 100 eighty-one millimeter mortars right by it. They plastered the area. It really was beautiful to see: the tracers, rockets, etc. go in and explode and the fifty-caliber kick up dirt as they strafed the canal shores. They started fires that really cleaned the area. This was just seventy yards or so over into another area of control and we shouldn't have been in there. Another FAC came into the area (probably his) and started playing around with us like the jets do with the commies. I now know what it feels like to tail and be tailed. Some of the dives and turns we made were cool. I tried lifting my foot on one of them and it was as heavy as lead.

Right after that I took over for about ten minutes and using flaps and the stick, circled, dove, climbed and circled the area the choppers were wiping out. We just about got jets into the area to put bombs on it but it got dark and they didn't want to. We were in the area after it got dark and

all of a sudden we saw a light start out across the swamps. We made sure with headquarters that there were no more choppers in the area and then I got my M-16 ready and we prepared to go in after whatever it was (probably a motorized sampan). The light went out and we were lost. It would have been fun to try and get it but we probably wouldn't have. I'm going up with him tomorrow on an air strike (probably) and we'll be more ready next time.

As we were starting back we saw a mortar attack. The mortars were big bright flashes; there were also blue and red tracers coming from both positions. It was south of our area so we let it alone. The stars were very bright and beautiful. The Southern Cross and big dipper were both really clear. Well, that does it for this time. I'm fine, happy, and anxious to see the time go by, love, L.D.

LETTER 625 Lyman De Platt to parents, June 8, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear family, well June certainly is going by nicely. It's quite possible with any time off that I now have less than five months and that definitely sounds good. Starting on my birthday we will be operating out of CMD downtown and also I'll go on separate rations as I won't be near the chow hall. With wise management I can save a little there.

Boy, Israel sure did well by itself against the Arabs, didn't they? Just like Biblical times. I bet they don't give Jerusalem up now that they have it all. This was even a quicker campaign than the one two decades ago.

I'm glad to hear there is fruit left. I hope you can get a good amount bottled this year. I've asked Bertha to help and also to put up as much as she can for us. Would it be possible to store what we can down in your basement if we are assigned away from Provo until we come back in 1969?

I'll most likely be able to go to Japan in July. I've submitted my request again. Once again if any of you want cameras, radios, etc., send a little do-re-mi. I'm really enthused about the trip and know it will be a marvelous experience.

Thank you mother for getting the corsage for Bertha; I know she loved it.

Now that all you *inteligencias* are out of school how about a short note from each of you. When you all leave home on missions, etc., you'll want to hear from me and I may just be too busy unless there's a few hi's before too long. Four letters in seven months isn't a very good total for five people. Dad, I'd like to hear more about your copper deal if anything new happens. How are your fruit and berries coming along? Did they all survive the weather?

Well, I don't have much else this time. I'm glad to hear Joe's in London. That will give him the opportunity to check out some genealogical references on his days off which I have sent him. You mentioned, mother, that it was quite an honor his move and the circumstances. I haven't heard from him so don't know why. Until next time, this is your wraving leporter lanting lacously in a ret laincoat (have to get in the Japanese swing of things, love, L.D.

LETTER 626 Lyman De Platt to dad, June 16, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear dad, I hope this gets to you before Father's Day, but if it doesn't I was thinking of you anyway. I suppose you spent your day in Blanding. Did you go to the Hole again this year? I hope one in the family will be designated to give Joe and me a complete rundown of the reunion.

Five months definitely isn't very much time, but right now it sure seems like it. I'm sure you and the family know what I mean. Twenty-two weeks to go. In six, I'll probably be put in charge of the station down here where I work as the sergeant I work with is going home. It won't mean anything really, as there are only two of us working together. This setup downtown is not going to be as plush as the one on base was – it never is working with the Army. I have my radios in front, the Army on the left and the Vietnamese on the right. It makes for a hectic working situation. Also we help out the Army with their switchboards when they are busy. I work – this is the good part – from 6:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m. one day and from 12:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the following day. This means six on twelve off and it allows for sufficient time to do what is needed personally.

I got back my European History score: 82%. That was the final and nothing else I did counts. The 1st of July I'll take out second semester Book of Mormon. It will cost \$6.00 and I should be able to finish it in two months. After that I'll be ready to attack some math. I now have 28½ credits – three to go before I'm a sophomore. I'm not doing as well as my brothers and sisters but I still have a 3.2 average, so I'm not complaining.

I have a private taxi for bringing me to work each morning. It is definitely an experience to travel through the Saigon traffic each day. That takes more courage than any other thing I've done over here. You can't believe some of the stupid things these drivers do and there are so many of them. Pray for me! Really, if anything happens to me in the next five months it will be on the highways.

I'm feeling good; just always lonesome and hot. The weather over here just doesn't quit.

I'm happy the Jews have Jerusalem back. Now they can start to build it up again. They surely did a bang up job didn't they?

Well, that's all for today. I can't send any more tapes until I get back from Japan, which should be about July 12. I'll know in seven days; love, L.D.

LETTER 627 Lyman De Platt to mother, June 21, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear mother, hi! How are things? I promised to write today and it's nice to have the time to do so. I'm on quite a nice time schedule now. I work from 6:00 a.m. until noon one day, am off until noon the next day, at which time I work until the plane comes down for the last time; usually around 6:00 p.m., but sometimes as late as 8:00 p.m. and then back to work at 6:00 a.m. This could last for the five months I have left unless they have a shortage when the sergeant I work with goes home and I have to pull twelve to thirteen hours every day. I don't think it will come to that, but it may. He leaves in five weeks. I have 154 days left as of today – not counting off any time at all. With luck, I only have 124 days left. Oh well, it isn't very long any way you look at it. I've got so many things I still want to do that it should just about take me five months to do them.

I was wondering if the family would be able to understand the tape on the airstrike. My ears are accustomed to hearing all of the static and I listened to it without any problem, but it takes a while to get the hang of it.

Bertha informed me in her last tape that you weren't going to be able to stay in Blanding more than Sunday and maybe Monday. I hope you had a good time while you were there anyway.

It looks like the summer is going to be almost as busy as the regular school season this year. I'm sure really pleased with the good success that Ed is having and it will be a real boost for him in getting a decent job in the service when he does have to come in. They take the intelligent guys and send them to electronics schools or the like for over a year and they really learn the business. Then when they get out they are really in demand by the big aviation and industrial organizations. We'll see how it all comes about within the next ten years. There will be a lot of changes in that time.

I'm almost skeptical of buying any household things because each year they are coming out with stuff so much better and at such reasonable prices. I doubt we'll get a television until it can be color. They're really some machines. Some of the refrigerators they are making now are really dreams. I have a lot of plans and needless to say a lot of them won't succeed because there will always be the unexpected, but at least until the unexpected comes along I can be hopeful.

From the sound of things mineral-wise, you're going to be in the money during 1968. I hope you can make a little on it anyway, at least enough to get out of debt and be able to breathe a little.

Mom, I appreciate the help and good example you are to Bertha. I suppose she must get lonely for her family at times, but most of her letters tell me how wonderful you and dad are. As far as the family goes, well, she is learning what it is like to live in a big family. I hope she is patient and will profit by this year.

Your family is going to be cut down quite appreciably in two years. Joe, Ed, Gene, and I and family will be gone. That will only leave you with four. It will be like a graveyard around there. Oh well, by then you can expect visits from scads of little grandchildren. I'll try and keep things hoping until Joe and the others get on the ball. We won't let you get lonesome; fun, fun!!

I'm starting to get soft. I hope I get an assignment somewhere where I can have a little place to work up a sweat everyday in a garden or something similar. Almost five years now of virtually no physical work and it's beginning to show. Can you believe that it has been five years since I left on my mission? It seems impossible.

Well, mom, I best close for now. I wrote a lot yesterday to dad, but of course it was to you also and I'm just about out of things to talk about for another week. I got a cholera shot yesterday and will take a typhoid shot in a few days. Tomorrow I will know if I'm going to Japan in July or not; here's hoping! Love, L.D.

LETTER 628 Lyman De Platt to dad, July 20, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear dad, the date of course shows where my mind is. I keep trying to make the time over here shorter. With less than five months to go, it would seem that I'm having success. The year is actually going by very fast and I'm happy for that. It will be no time at all before I'm able to see you all again and bask in the autumn sun, and see a few football games, take a few hikes, go to a few shows, have a few family meetings, go to the temple and do genealogy work; all this before I have to pack up my little family and move whithersoever the Air Force will that we would go.

I have re-read several times your statement that a person is held accountable for getting himself into a circumstance where he is required to kill in order to live. I can see to an extent what you mean but here are my feelings on the cases as we encounter them here; please correct me if I'm wrong.

Having no front lines to which we can direct our military actions, logistical strategy requires that we seek out the enemy as he hides among the friendly allies. This is our job as a forward air controller office. Every day we fly at least two to four hours all over the Saigon area looking for sampans where they shouldn't be, or any other movement that looks suspicious. When we find these enemy movements it is our responsibility to suppress them as they are invaders from an alien country here in South Viet Nam for the sole purpose of taking away the free agency of this people.

If I stay at my radios, I am required to help coordinate all activities against these enemy positions and am just as responsible for killing them as are those that fire the guns because without the radio support they wouldn't receive the permission to fire, sometimes they wouldn't know where the enemy was. Various times, of my own initiative I have relayed information from central commands to attacking forces so that they could expeditiously fulfill their mission of destroying the enemy. If I fly and do the shooting I see no difference. An example: the last time I flew, we assisted the choppers in suppressing an enemy position where there were three V.C. and 100 rounds of mortars. We were unable to persuade the Army to let us put an air strike on the

position and so as we were leaving we observed a motorized sampan heading toward the area where the mortars were. It was our duty to try and stop him, but we were unable to do so and the next day the 100 rounds of mortars were gone. In a future date they will be used to kill U.S. or ARVN troops. Can we morally let them go and kill our troops? There have been a least five times when our little office has prevented attacks on Tan Son Nhut and saved untold thousands of dollars and even more importantly the lives of our friends and others over here and possibly our own.

Having flown the four times I have, I am better able to assist the pilots from the ground in many little ways and consequently we are doing more and more effective work against the enemy. As long as I am in the service of my country I can not see that it is morally wrong to persecute and kill the enemy in any way and every way possible. I agree that aggressors shall be held accountable for their actions but South Viet Nam has asked the U.S. to help them fight the V.C. and the minute the V.C. cross the northern common boundary, they become the aggressors in my opinion and any actions against them are justified except willfully killing them after they surrender or are helpless to defend their own lives. This is done by the Koreans and the South Vietnamese and they are feared by the V.C. and are less active in areas where these contingents are stationed but that type of action is not justified. I think you will agree with me. I would like to hear your opinion again. [I believe dad was referring to the word "fun" that I used in the letter above referring to attacking from the air with my M-16. The word was inappropriate, but the "rush" of war can be explained in few ways that are acceptable from the position of those not involved.]

It certainly tickles me that you are having positive results in the mining affair. The traces of copper that have been found seem like a good omen for further success. I hope that all goes well. I would like to get involved, but I feel that we best try to go slowly but surely. One hundred dollars at this time is a lot of money and we will need all we can get when we get ready to furnish the house, etc. Nevertheless, I would like to venture a little, but would like to wait until I know where my assignment will be and what demands will be made on our present resources.

I'm sorry to hear you confirm my feeling about the faithfulness of the Saints in that area as it doesn't speak too well for the strength of the testimonies of many, but I do completely agree with you and this has been one of the factors Bertha and I have talked over in making our decision to make our home in Provo; we want to live where we can do the most good in our church activities and yet still be able to do so without sacrificing ourselves to the point of going into debt and having to dedicate too much time towards that end of life.

I love to think of living in the mountain valleys, of helping you, my brothers and sisters, mom, our relatives and in turn be helped by each to grow and live in constant vigilance for the time when Christ will come and we will (hopefully) be able to look at him with love and without guilt and say “We have been diligent in complying with our consecrated duty and we are glad that thou hast come.”

Dad, I’ve got a long way to go in this sense. We are supposed to dedicate our time, talents, money, etc. to the building up the kingdom and if we don’t we will be damned; I know that but it is so hard at times to go out and try to convince the inactive brothers to come back to church. Moneywise I think I give all that is required and more and I believe this will never be a problem, but I have to overcome this selfishness you talk about in your letter. I have had an added boost this week in being set apart finally as senior companion, district missionary in the Saigon District, Southern Zone, in the Southern Far East Mission. The second counselor in the district presidency set me apart and he said just the things he needed to say to inspire in me a desire to do my best. We had a meeting last night with two investigators and talked with an inactive member for an hour. Needless to say I feel great today, but it won’t last unless I do this three or four times a week and it’s so easy to excuse yourself and not do it, but I hope to have the strength to continue strongly in this calling.

Sunday they divided the Saigon Branch into two branches and the second one is one block from my barracks. My companion and I being the only ones that play at all, we have decided to each take one of the branches and provide them with music. I will take the one on base. He likes the one in town and I am happy to be a part of a new organization. Last Sunday I was able to find an inactive brother, returned missionary, and accompany him to church. I believe he will go now on his own accord as he was inactive only because he didn’t have the courage to go downtown alone and try and find the church.

Thank you for your admonitions and living counsel. I have had this same fear of tempting God and the consequences of it. And that is just what we do when we don’t do something that we know we should, especially we that are so blessed as a family.

I have taken heart-felt joy from The Book of Mormon this week. I am starting Mosiah now, but I have rejoiced at the works and words of Jacob. He was such a humble and great prophet. He is very near Nephi, his brother, in the great words that he has left us.

Well, I believe just one more book of Perry Mason and I will have finished them all. The last one is *Drowsy Mosquito*. I have certainly enjoyed them. They are wholesome, interesting and intelligent reading.

I quote from a birthday card from Joe: “Things are going real well. I’m working in London – we have a very accelerated program. We have some young boys approaching baptism in the next few weeks. We work a lot on the street here – approaching people and inviting them to various functions; teaching from street boards, etc. My companion and I were top in the mission last week for proselyting, teaching, Book of Mormon’s distributed, etc. (sounds like he’s doing really well) We hope to keep going strong and really push the district along.”

I'm so happy for Joe. I thank the Father every time I remember the tremendous change the spirit has wrought in Joe and the good influence he is having on all of us.

I have started to retouch my novel for the last time. I'm retyping it and adding, correcting, etc. It is about 120 pages along now and only lacks the final three to five chapters. I'm proud that it is turning out as well as it has. It has taken me three years since I started it, so in about four more months it should be done.

Well, the length of the letter is running into quite an extensive oratory, so I'll say goodbye for this time. I was pleasantly surprised to receive your letter so soon after your last one. You're doing fine; I'm grateful, proud, and happy.

Tell mother I enjoyed her letter and will answer it tomorrow. I love you all. Let's show our Father in Heaven that we are worthy of the blessings we receive; as ever, L.D.

LETTER 629 Lyman De Platt to family, July 23, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dearest family, if we continue as inconsistent in our letter writing as during this last month, only eight more letters will be necessary. Imagine! Seventeen week to go. Oh, it sounds so good. I'm starting to lose some of my sense of purpose with time going so fast. I received your (mother's and dad's) letters the day after I sent mine but have been too busy to answer. We are building a new radio console at work that has taken a lot of time and energy and leave no ambition at the end of each day.

Today I got a good buy on tapes – nine 600' reels for \$8.55. That's twenty hours of recorded music. I'm starting tonight at the tape center to get some choice sounds – Latin music by Connie Francis, Henry Mancini, etc. It makes me happy to be able to start on this music collection so soon. I'm also going to get some "noise" Joe wants. He says it's "unhumble" music – I agree. They don't have any stereo tapes in the center but I can buy commercial ones for \$5.00 apiece. I'll wait on that to see if I can't get them some other way.

Bertha tells me I've received a letter from Salt Lake containing a request to cancel ownership on the Chevrolet. Is something like that urgent or can it wait? The license is in the box of mine downstairs. About the Rambler, I feel it would likely be a waste of money to try and fix it. We'll probably get a VW for our first car when we get one, but it will be cheaper to rent one when we need it for a while than to put a lot into one now.

I'm starting to get writer's cramp again as during my mission. It is becoming harder to write with so little time left. I hope to get at least twelve more letters to you but don't hope to get more. I'm happy that you were able to bottle some cherries and I'm glad Bertha is getting the experience. How is the fruit prospect for the fall? July is gone already – August will fly and the harvest will be on.

I was thrilled to receive the *Universe* and see the schedule for football and basketball. It looks like I'll get in for the final football game and possibly the first basketball before leaving for our next base. Another ten days and we should know what base that will be.

Wanda – it's been a long time since I've heard her name. She is a sweet girl or was. Has she changed much? How many children does she have?

Mother, I enjoy and understand your letters. There are little things in them that make me love you more and more. You've been a good mother; I appreciate that fact. I hope to never make you regret having borne me. Lately I've drawn closer to dad and Joe and it seemed away from you, but I feel myself coming back and with the return a deeper understanding and love. I seem to have a flighty spirit that doesn't want to offend anyone but so close to the surface is a well of chained hatred that can so easily be released. At times it escapes at the wrong times and hurts the ones I love. This is one thing bad about a religious life. It doesn't leave escape for hatred because there isn't supposed to be any. Do you understand? Probably you don't; I don't either. [In retrospect this hatred was built upon frustration. I was in a war that I didn't want to be involved with; it wasn't me; I wanted nothing to do with it. The majority of the people I had to associate with were spiritually awash, surrounded by easy-access sin-filled activities. I wouldn't associate with them in a normal situation. But through it all I set an example and made some impressions that changed lives and that was worth it all.]

There are many unreal feelings that come to the surface in a war-type situation. I have such a strong desire to bash some mouths to the extent that it leaves me with no desire to pray or feel humble. If it wasn't for the missionary experiences I'm having, I'd be hard-pressed at times to feel the spirit at all – this is bad, too, because I have so many blessings for which to give thanks. This, along with the difficulty in finding a quiet place to pray except at night after everyone has quieted down, leaves me at times feeling unhumble and unworthy of my calling and priesthood.

I'm glad the family is able and willing to participate in welfare activities and thus grow in unity and spirit. There is so much to be done before we will be prepared to meet our Savior. I'm well, relatively happy, very busy, not begrudging at all the time here, but anxious for it to pass away and it is. I'm short and it feels good, love always, L.D.

LETTER 630 Lyman De Platt to family, August 13, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear parents, it gives me great pleasure at this time to salute you on your silver wedding anniversary. It is an accomplishment that all too few marriages reach now; much less attain in that time what you have attained. I would like to buy you something big and beautiful and let that represent what I feel for you, but that is probably not the best way of doing it. So I will wish you as successful another twenty-five years as you've had during this first quarter century. Certainly the world which we live in will be a lot different at that time than it is now. In fact 1992 could see us in any number of possible positions.

I have been very busy this last five days as I have had the writing bug again and I've tried to extract the maximum effort while it remains with me this time. I can happily say that if I can

keep up for two more days, the novel will be almost finished. I have eighty type-written pages finished, with about forty more typewritten to go. I lack only about two hours of concentrated writing to finish the final scene. The end result will be about 130 pages. It is not a long novel, but will suffice for my first one and will stand as an incentive for future ones. It has taken over three years of intermittent work now.

Yesterday my trigonometry course arrived and so I'll be burning up a lot of time in that during the next three months. It is a high school course – I didn't take trig – but it is still challenging and should prepare me sufficiently for the college math I want to start taking shortly.

Today is Sunday. After going to my meetings in a few hours, I plan to go to "The Greatest Story Ever Told." I believe you saw it in Salt Lake and saw it being filmed in Kanab, right? The previews certainly give the impression that it will be inspiring and uplifting. The acting appears superb.

Would you believe three months and one day and I'll be home. It will go by so fast that it doesn't even bother me. By the time I get all the things done I want to, it will be here, so that is good. This has been a very profitable year so far – very inspiring and challenging.

Bertha tells me you got my tape – one side – last week. I'm happy for that. It makes things so much nicer to be able to listen to the voice and hear its inflections, etc.

This afternoon I'll be playing "Oh My Father" for one of the boys while he sings it in Sacrament Meeting. It should be interesting. We didn't do too badly in rehearsal.

Well, I'd like to get a few words in to Bertha before I leave work, which is in twenty-five minutes, so I'll sign off with my best wishes for your enjoying the 17th; love always, Lyman D. Platt

LETTER 631 Lyman De Platt to family, about September, 1967, from Saigon, Viet Nam

Dear mom and dad, the days are short and hot, the nights shorter and cool and I'm fine, loving you all and hoping to see you in short order. Bertha wanted me to tell you a few things in my English that she didn't feel capable of telling you in hers without being misunderstood. I'll say it word for word and trust that knowing her you'll draw out the right meaning. "Love thanks for understanding that I am as happy with the family as I can be without you. Don't forget to tell them every now and then and also thank them for everything they are doing for us, and also I want you to know that sometimes daddy tells me I am not a servant in this house and I believe this recommendation is unnecessary.

Tell them, please, that everything I do is done because I want to help, because I consider myself a member of the family and what I do, I do because I feel it my responsibility as the oldest daughter and I never think of doing it as a favor to anyone. I could tell them but because of my poor way of expressing things in English I am afraid to be too harsh and not have myself understood as I desire to be. Do you understand? Tell them also that if they consider me as a daughter, they have the right to tell me to do things, counsel me, and correct me when I do something they don't like. I will accept it and try to correct my faults and in these ways I'll be much happier. I don't want them to say nothing when I make mistakes because that makes me feel like a stranger." Bertha

We all realized there would be some adjustments to make in a marriage such as Bertha and I contracted and this is the most serious – communication – and, consequently, being misunderstood. You both know she is probably over-sensitive and she feels we should not hold this against her anymore than she us for being under-sensitive. There are many things she doesn't yet realize about our culture and one is that as a nation we are definitely less outwardly emotional than the Spanish people. Neither is right nor wrong and I trust you'll understand this also.

She receives very few letters from her family or life ties and with reason feels insecure and lonely at times. She needs to feel like she fits as a daughter into our family. In America we don't usually go to the extreme she requests, but she never knew a father or a father's correction and counsel and I'm sure she needs this as every girl does. Many things we do are new to her, mother, and she needs advice and correction. I married her partially because you all thought so much of her and because she has all the qualities to be a queen. Please help her adjust and go to the extreme she desires if that's what's necessary to make her feel as one of us. It is my problem, so to speak, but you've always been good parents and I'm sure you'll do all you can to help us make our marriage a success. I appreciate the fact that you've not interfered like many parents do into the more personal side of our marriage and I thank you, but a mixed [cultural] marriage as our requires another duty as I've explained above. Thank you for your understanding, love, Lyman

LETTER 632 Lyman De Platt to family, December 22, 1967 from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear family, I guess it's time for a little better explanation of our situation here. We have a little two-bedroom house about fifteen miles from Columbus Air Force Base and five miles from the center of town. There is a big shopping center four blocks away and our church is just 100 yards away.

It will be my job to operate a MARS station as soon as we get it set up. There is a big controversy going on right now. The base commander doesn't want a MARS station so the squadron has gone over him to headquarters SAC and it looks like we'll get approval shortly. I'll be under a staff sergeant who is a maintenance man. I'll be the only operator.

With my Spanish I'll be able to communicate with the HAMM operators in Latin America. It will be a fun and interesting assignment.

We bought a little tree and decorations two days ago and decorated it during home evening. It was a lot of fun. Patty helped put on the icicles.

I finished in processing yesterday. I'll probably get both Christmas and New Years off plus as much time as I want until word arrives about the station. There's not much I can do in a maintenance squadron but my job.

When we get the station set up I'll work from 7:30 to about two or three in the afternoon for five or six days a week. This will allow me to get a job at the commissary packing groceries. That will put us right where we want to be.

We have a two-plate burner and an ice chest for a stove and a fridge, two beds, a four-chair – table set and I've made a few things. We're all set for now. Our back yard is big enough for a garden, which we'll put in next spring. Dad, I've sent a letter to Farmers Insurance and to the realtor so I should get results there shortly. Thanks for your help. When the renters pay you, please put that money in our savings account with this yellow savings deposit slip as a guide, and then advise us of the deposit. When we put money in, we'll send our book and they can bring us to date.

When Bertha's checks comes, if you'll put them in our checking account (number of blue cards enclosed) then we can use that money for writing out our bills each month. As both accounts are in your bank there shouldn't be too much extra work and we surely appreciate it.

Please send mother our love when you write or call [she was in Los Angeles giving a kidney to her brother Almon]. We're so glad they both came through everything okay. When will mother be home? Send us Joe's new address when you write. We hope you all enjoy Christmas and the vacation. Bertha says hi; love, L.D. and family.

LETTER 633 Lyman De Platt to family, December 28, 1967, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear dad and mom, I don't suppose mother is home yet (we decided to call and we're delighted to know that you are home, mother). How our hearts ache for Uncle Almon, though [the kidney got a blood clot and died]. You mentioned mother that possibly they would try again. If we, either Bertha or I, can give one of our kidneys, we'll be glad to help. We can have all the check-ups done here. Let us know.

Dad, about the house, we should have the \$1,000.00 we need for a down payment as of the first of January. If you want to make January's payment and take January's rent, that's okay, or if you want us to do it or if you want to go half-half, let us know. Take the money out after the first and let us know how much we need to complete the \$1,000.00.

It's been kind of rough these last few days and we've had to skimp a little but we should make it okay after the last of the month. I've made two tables, three shelves and we're getting a little better situated. We got a heater for our room. Now we don't have to snuggle so close together and we've got the double bed now that Isabel [Bertha's sister] has gone.

Well, I guess that covers that. I don't feel like writing any more. We both feel bad about the unsuccessful operation. I'll write more in the morning.

A new day; I have to go out to the base to a meeting and also to get my teeth cleaned. I'm going to check out some books on English history so I can make the histories I'm writing more lively.

Now, I need the following sheets for these histories. I don't know why I left them there. They're family group sheets: John Radcliffe and Mary Kershaw; Matthew Bentley and Elline; all the Travis sheets (family groups); William Radcliff and Esther Bentley; William Crompton and Margaret Neild; Thomas Standring and Susan Heaps; James Taylor and Mary. The above are on the Platt lines. Those that have only a little information you can put on a piece of paper if it's easier.

For the Leavitt lines, some of these I may not have, but send those you can find: any Sturtevant sheets; Thomas Shannon and Ann Rand; Jeremiah Sanborn and Lydia Dearborn; Amos Rand and Esther Philbrick; Joseph Bryant and Mary Highland; Shubael Thompson and Susana Perler; Elnathan Wood and Mary Billington; Daniel Davis and Margaret Ralston; Ervin Davis and Nancy; Andrew Ralston and Sophia Walternyne; Solomon Parker and Hipubah Douglas. That's it. I'm a bit handicapped at writing these histories until I have these sheets and I've about finished all others on the Platt/Leavitt lines back six generations. Thanks for your help, love, L.D. and family.

LETTER 634 Lyman De Platt to family, December 31, 1967, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear mom and dad, in reference to the down payment on the house, I would like to give you the statistics as we have them. If they don't agree with your idea of things, we'd appreciate hearing from you so we can get things straightened around on our books.

Bertha's account of what we have given you goes thus: \$70.00 a month from and including November 1966 up through and including December 1967 which totals up to $14 \times 70 = \$980.00$

On our savings account it runs thus:

Date	Credit	Debit
December 9	120.00	

Date	Credit	Debit
December 20	026.00	
January 5	111.50	
January 9	015.00	
January 9	005.00	020.00
February 1	110.00	
February 10	015.00	
February 24	015.00	
March 3	100.00	
April	100.00	
May	017.68	
May	110.00	
June	135.00	
July	180.00	
July	005.00	142.00
August		
September		
October	150.00	
Sub-total	1215.18	162.00
	-162.00	
Total	1053.18	
Subtract	250.00	borrowed from account
Total	803.18	
Use of acct	25.00	
Total	778.18	

The \$778.00 is what we figure we have in our savings account. Now, you borrowed \$200.00 and \$50.00, I don't remember the amount for the latter which we decided would go for the car, plus another amount which we'd give you, which I believe we set at \$225.00 plus \$100.00 which you credited us for our old car, making the car worth \$575.00 as you sold it: please confirm or correct.

To the \$778.00 we will add Bertha's check that you should have received recently of \$123.10, plus the interest the money has drawn; or \$891.10 plus interest. We have \$50.00 in checking or \$941.10 plus interest, so the difference in the total with interest and \$1,000.00 we will send you as soon as you let us know the difference.

Now, concerning the \$980.00 we've paid in principle; if you want to, we can subtract your actual principle from that number and the difference we'll take off the money we owe on the car. That should take care of the financial end of things, except for January's payment. If you pay Sister Allred that will add to your principle which will of course figure in the difference between your total and our \$980.00

I hope everything is clearly put down. We're anxious to get everything cleared up as I'm sure you are so that we can be sure of where everything stands.

We're getting along fine in our bare home. It certainly beats paying \$115.00 plus utilities which was what we would have had to do on base. This is a nice little house except that it gets cold easily and it'll cost a bit to keep it heated.

Thanks for the blankets for Christmas – one red, one green. They are just what we needed.

Ed, let us know as soon as you get your mission call. I remembered your birthday and when we called from Blanding it was for that and then we forgot while talking about other things.

Mother, we hope you're feeling and getting better from your operation. Mother Lazo can now say the blessing in English. She is a good learner; love mucho, Lyman

LETTER 635 Lyman De Platt to family, January, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear mom and dad, enclosed are the contract and a check for \$65.00. I talked to a lawyer yesterday and in reference to sixteen, the part before and including A, he doesn't believe it's possible to enforce such a provision. I would like Sister Allred to cross out that part if she would and initial it. If she won't let it go. Everything else is okay. Be sure to check though before you close the deal and give her the money that we don't have to pay an \$80.00 payment – as the contract says – until February 15. If we do – we can't and we possibly could lose the \$1,000.00 so check carefully.

Part of Columbus is flooded right now. If it rained one more day we would be isolated from the base. However, we're in no trouble where we are.

Monday I start to work alone on the maintenance job control. It's not really hard work but requires five days a week of all-day work. I won't be able to work part time as long as I have this assignment.

We miss you all but one month out of sixteen is gone already. As things look, we'll be home before we realize it. Mother, we're glad you're human again. Be careful and go slow. We are all well and happy. I'll write Joe and the grandparents shortly, love, L.D.

Dear Grandma and Grandpa Platt, hi! I'm Patty. I miss playing at your house. I miss Reni. Daddy brought me home a pretty cat last week. She is very pretty and gentle. I like to pull her tail and grab her by the neck because she cries and that makes me laugh.

My mommy and daddy don't like me. I like to do things my own way and they don't let me. They're real dumb, too! I tell them things and they just always say "huh?" or "uh huh!" It's sure hard to get them to understand but I'm learning how slowly. I can say "Come on grandma," "Si, daddy," "all gone," and "vamos." It's hard because everybody here says two things meaning the same thing.

Today daddy took me outside and we played in the snow. It's still snowing but not very much. Yesterday I went out to the base all day. We watched squirrels playing in the trees and jumping from tree to tree. We saw blue birds and cardinals and had a lot of fun. Daddy finished his driving class and the number one spot. He's real smart. Well, bye, I'll write again sometime, love, Patty.

LETTER 636 Lyman De Platt to family, January, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear family, while I've got a few minutes I think I'll take them to write to you. I'm very busy every day working at the base. Work-load control is a hectic job but I'm getting a handle on it and things are going more smoothly. I'll be here for about two more months and then I'll probably go to tactical communications and work for the rest of my hitch. There I'll be working with the B-52s. I can't say more. It will require a top secret clearance and that takes about four months to get so things aren't certain. The MARS station is out. SAC says they don't need it now.

Patty has been sick for a few days. We took her to the hospital today and got three medicines for her. She's feeling better. I was chosen as Young Marrieds president Sunday. We are having our first get-together tomorrow.

I hope things are okay house-wise. I still haven't received the letter you mentioned when we called last so don't know how your breakdown of the money matter goes. I hope that it will soon get settled. With fifteen months to go, we should then be able to take care of everything ourselves. We appreciate your help and understanding.

We're all fine. The weather has been nice the last three days. It seems the weeks are flying by. It's good to know that one ninety more and I'll be a civilian again (probably). We'll probably call before you receive this letter so any more news would be old. We love you and hope you're all well, as ever, L.D.

LETTER 637 Lyman De Platt to family, January 19, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear folks, we received your letter today telling the good and bad news. We're surely sad to hear that grandma's stroke was as bad as it was and pray with you all that she may be able to recover without too much problem. We'll write her right away.

Today I took Bertha to the hospital. She had colic and nausea and a cough. They have given her medicine and are running blood and urine analysis. She had this before and the doctors couldn't find the cause. She's a little better this evening.

The article, mother, is very nicely done. I'll send it to Joe as soon as I get his address. I don't have even the mission home address.

Ed, we're certainly thrilled at your call. Brazil is a good mission. You'll like it a lot. Get some good pictures (slides). I'll pay for some. I'd like to have a collection on Brazil. We'll be able to speak to each other without much problem.

In reference to the house payments, they sound fine. We'll call you folks on the 29th or 30th of every month to make sure the renters have paid and if you'll put their check in our checking account then we'll write on and send it to Sister Allred. In a few months we'll have reserve enough to write it before you put the renters check in. Thanks for doing the work for us in getting things changed over. You should have the contract and passed it on by now.

McKay, we remembered your birthday but didn't call or write. I hope you're feeling better now. How does it feel to be a teenager?

We haven't received the genealogy sheets or one letter that I believe you sent about financial status. I hope they're not lost. We haven't changed the Relief Society Magazine. I will do so shortly. We're glad you're feeling better mother. Go slow and easy. We love you all, as ever, L.D.

LETTER 638 Lyman De Platt to family, February, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear family, I have a few minutes here at work as it is nearing the end of the day, so I think I'll drop a few lines. It was good to talk to you Monday. Things seem to be working out really well for everybody. Good luck Gene on your finals at West Point. I hope you make it. [He did but then got rejected because of being color blind.] Ed thanks for lending us the \$100.00 and by now you should have been paid back. We all wish you the best of luck on your mission.

I received the genealogy sheets okay and am going great on the histories. Thanks, mother for sending them.

Next Thursday, I'm going to have this boil operated on. Right now I'm taking antibiotics and trying to localize it more. Things are surely going badly for us over in Viet Nam and Korea. The year protection rule we used to have is no longer in effect and I could get sent back, but they'll have to hurry because after I have less than a year they can't send me unless I sign for an extension.

All the family is feeling well now. Nothing was found wrong with Bertha and they ran tests on the liver and gall bladder plus the regular ones. She does appear to be pregnant, though. We hope so.

I'll send the things you've sent on to Joe. Don't send the picture of me back. We have extras. We're glad grandma was able to go back south and hope she soon recovers. Well, I've got to run. We love and pray for the day when we can be together and do things; love, L.D.

Friday, February 9: got your letter last night with bank balances, etc. Thanks. It's a big help. The next check of Bertha's we'll write you a check for \$100.00 and that should square us house/car/all-wise. Do you agree?

We're happy for Uncle Almon and glad that grandma is getting better. We'll probably receive a new assignment before June. I'm trying to get into some openings as airborne radio operator. It'd pay about \$125.00 more a month and I'd get to fly a lot.

Thanks for sending the W-2 forms. Today they're going to take my boil off. Patty has been having bowel problems the last few days but doesn't seem sick. Bertha's going to have a baby. We're all fine. We're anxious to be home or have something stable. If I get the airborne job we'd stay in a while longer. Things are uncertain so we'll just be content with what we have for now. We miss you and hope you'll write often, love, L.D. and family.

LETTER 639 Lyman De Platt to family, February 17, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear family, we received your sweet letter today and it made me realize how fast the time is passing and how little I've written to you since moving here. There is only one excuse – I feel within myself like I'm fighting against a deadline in finishing these genealogical histories. Today I finished up with all the Platt lines back six generations. Now I'm working on the lines from the 6th to 11th generations and I expect it will take about two months to finish them. I've been working on them in all my spare time, and now have about 100 pages typewritten on both sides.

There's so much to tell you I don't know where to begin. Bertha wants to say a few things so we'll start with her.

Isabel says mother's ring is ready but that she lost dad's size. Please send it to us. They are all fine and send their love.

Mother, Bertha wants you to send her ten rolls of flower wire. You can get it at the Relief Society store. McKay bought it last time. It's white and an example is enclosed. We'll include the price in our March 1 check to you. We'll be calling you February 27th at night. Bertha left a blanket in the bedroom that belonged to the Piñón family of the Spanish Branch. She would like you to call them if you would.

The other day Grandma Lazo asked Patty to go into her bedroom and get her glasses that were under her pillow. Bertha said "She won't understand all that." But she did and on top of it all she brought her the Bible thinking, I guess, that she wanted to read.

Patty is finally learning to use her potty. She says a few more words but not many more than when we left.

We'll be anxiously waiting to hear about Uncle Almon. Please let us know ASAP.

Dad, we're glad you've got the job at the church. We hope it will let you be home a little more. Write when you get a chance. My operation came off okay. It took twenty-five minutes. I had three cysts that were well-rooted. They put in three stitches. I got them out today. My face doesn't look the same without that ugly old thing I'm so used to – seven years now.

Enclosed are some pictures you may keep. Please give the big one to the next door neighbor.

Bertha is about five weeks along. She has an appointment with the doctor on the 23rd. She has the typical symptoms – headaches, nausea, etc. She says this one's a boy.

I had my flight physical the other day. It's the best one I've had – ears, eyes, x-rays, blood, urine, a complete physical by the doctor and an electrocardiograph. With the results I'll send my application in for airborne radio. Headquarters says they can't use me so I'm stuck in maintenance unless I get airborne.

Please take care of the fire policy. We'll get it later, okay?

Bertha is a Primary teacher and doing fine. She teaches seven and eight-year-olds. I teach genealogy and am a home teacher.

Grandma Lazo is finally through with the first lesson in English. She can form sentences, knows about seventy words and is doing really well. When we come back she'll be able to talk some. Bertha does really fine.

Ñusta – our cat – is okay now. She's so cute. Her tail will always be broken on the end but whatever her problem was when we got her, it's gone now. She and Patty have a lot of fun.

Ed good luck in your mission training. You'll have started already. Learn it well. Don't be discouraged. Accept the challenges you're given. Be humble. Your mission will be so much the better if you go prepared. São Paulo should be nice. They have a stake there now I believe.

Gene, we're crossing our fingers hoping you make it into the Academy. Good luck at Hill.

Well, it's time for home evening. We love you all and are happy we're where we can know of your welfare. Please write often, love as always, L.D. & tribe.

LETTER 640 Lyman De Platt to family, February 26, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear parents, it's Saturday night as I sit here at Patty's bedside in the hospital and write to you. She's been sick off and on for several weeks. Then Thursday she started vomiting and wouldn't hold anything down so Friday morning we took her to the hospital and they recommended not giving her anything for four hours. We tried this and then followed instructions and gave her a little jell-o; up it came. As a last effort we gave her a little coke – up it came. So we came back to the hospital. While we were in the doctor's office she threw up again. We entered her in as a patient and they tried jell-o several more times but up it came. When it's over she'll have been

fed intravenously for thirty-six hours. She's doing fine now and in the morning after thirty-six hours of complete rest to the stomach, she'll be given a little jell-o. We expect to take her home Monday morning.

Last night to keep her from taking the needle out we had to tie her spread-eagle. She fought the knots for five hours, crying and kicking and twisting almost constantly. Being hungry and having her own little temper on top of it was rough. But she finally succumbed to being tied – probably the first battle she's lost – and has been submissive ever since. I hope this will effect a change for the better on her strong-minded will.

Yesterday we bought a nice little sofa for \$20.00. Next week we are going to get a fridge. We have a small one lined up that shouldn't cost over \$20.00. I now have three passengers that ride to work with me that give me \$24.00 a month. I average \$25.00 a month for gas so I am breaking even. The car went over 80,000 miles this week. I've had no trouble with it. Thanks for hints on license plates. I'll be getting them shortly.

Bertha is supposed to have her next baby on October 3rd. We're hoping for the seventh [mother's birthday]. She is not as sick this time as she was last time but she feels bad longer during the day. She's happy though.

When we come back to Utah it looks like we're going to have a good little bit of furniture to bring. It'll cost \$50.00 to rent a U-Haul from here to Provo, so we've decided to go ahead and get things when we can do so cheaply and then we won't have to pay so much when we get there. I believe I've got Bertha talked into buying the gas stove in our home. We'll pay you for it when we get there.

We've talked about helping you out with the two missionaries but have decided that our \$10.00 a month to Peru is enough for now. If you do get in any straights we'd want to help but feel that we'd best not for right now. There are so many things we need that we don't have. Bertha's washing everything by hand, etc. Occasionally, however, we'd be able to if you'll let us know a few weeks in advance when you're going to be hard-pressed to meet both missionaries' needs.

With every passing week as I read and hear the build-up in troops and commitments in Asia, I'm more and more determined to get out. I'll spend another year in Asia if they have to have me but if not I think it's a waste of time. The war is being fought all wrong. Personal political ambitions are too intermingled with decisions to make good judgments.

Mama Lazo sends her love as do Bertha and Patty. She (Patty) misses the kids and we all miss you all. We're well and happily blessed. Please send our love to A. P. and family and keep us informed, love, L.D.

LETTER 641 Lyman De Platt to family, March 23, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear family, it is Saturday and snowing. It looks like it's over now. We had about six inches but not all of it stayed. Memphis had over fifteen inches.

I want to write about five letters today so I won't spend too much time on this one. They have sent in my application for the IBM school. I feel badly that this has to be our choice because we want to come home really badly but we feel we'll be better able to do so for good if we build a little stronger foundation. By December, 1970 you folks should also be in a more stable condition and able to do more things like trips, etc. Ed will beat us home by about two months if we get this assignment. We are going to shoot for four children by then and then decide how many more after we see how well we can take care of those four.

This decision is going to be a bit more inconvenient for you folks as that means we need to leave our things there longer and we'll need longer help with bank accounts, rent, etc., but we plan to make it worth your while. We appreciate what you've done for us so far.

Mother, the deposit slips enclosed are the only ones I have left. I'll try to order more before these run out.

Our garden's cold but hasn't frozen yet. The cat is about ready to have kittens. Everybody is fine. Bertha is feeling better. The doctor gave her new pills and instructions.

I'm working one or two nights each week with the full-time missionaries giving lessons. It's good to be working with them.

We're glad to hear that Ed is okay. Give him our love if you see him. We hope to call grandma and grandpa in April. We'll call you on the 28th; love you all, L.D.

LETTER 642 Lyman De Platt to family, March 30, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear family it's Saturday morning and not much is happening, but we'd like to drop a line anyway and include a five spot to show our gratitude for helping us with bank accounts and other numerous things.

Little Patty is talking like a blue jay. We have to speak behind her back if we want to fool her because she seems to understand everything. Today we about had a wreck. A car pulled out of a tight line of cars right in front of me. Luckily I was driving under the speed limit. We paid for our fridge and couch today so we are out of debt again except for the house, which isn't a debt. It was so good to talk to all of you on the phone. I'm glad you're all doing okay. We hope Rene gets better fast. I had the car greased and a bit of welding done. The car is in good condition right now. There's a small hole in the radiator which is next on the repair list.

It's getting hot down here. The days are so nice though and the nights fresh. Did you know Columbus is where Memorial Day originated? There is a lot of southern history in the town. We are getting to know it bit by bit with pictures to show "you all;" love, always, L.D.; P.S. 2½ years of marriage today.

LETTER 643 Lyman De Platt to the folk's ward, April 10, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear brothers and sisters, I have been asked to give a brief résumé of my life that can be used in the meeting you're attending this evening. My life has been an exciting and joyful experience up to the present.

When I was sixteen I received my patriarchal blessing which inspired me towards genealogy work. In the nine years since then it has been my inner joy to see the names grow to over 1,500. This month I finished their histories using what data could be obtained on each. There is yet much to do in order to have records "worthy of all acceptance." To further this effort my plans are to go to the National Library in Washington, D.C. during May. In several years, when ready, I'll spend several weeks in England.

During all my life the Lord has blessed me with a desire to work in the church. It has therefore been my lot to work in all of the church organizations except Primary and Relief Society. These positions prepared me well for my full-time mission in Peru where I was also put to work as a branch president and a supervising elder. While on my mission I met a sweet, dedicated member of the church that lately has played an increasingly important part in my life.

After my mission I asked the Lord what he wanted me to do and he told me to join the Air Force. This was hard for me and continues to be as I miss my family, the mountains, Utah and all it stand for. However, the Lord still needs me here. While on my mission I learned to play the piano and since then have helped brighten the lives of members through music in Texas, Mississippi and Viet Nam.

Just before going to Viet Nam – the day before I received my orders – Elder Bruce R. McConkie set me apart as a Seventy. In Viet Nam and here in Mississippi it has been fun to work in the service of our Father through missionary activities. In Viet Nam I was a district missionary but saw no baptisms as an immediate result of our efforts.

However here in Mississippi, using to full advantage the priesthood quorums, the full-time missionaries and the members, we've been able to have good baptisms and at present have four good families coming along very well. Several nights a week I assist the full-time missionaries and at other times I am busy giving our new members the six fellowship lessons. Using the criteria my father has given me of "how does it affect the free operation of your priesthood and church activities and does it maintain or tend to increase the responsibility and use of these," my wife and I have decided to extend our current enlistment until December of 1970 at which time I'm sure the Lord will direct us further.

He has blessed us to the point of making us forcefully aware of all His blessings. If we work all day long and go to bed beat, it still seems we are in His debt. But we are growing.

To young men who dare to face the uncivilized characters they'll find in the service and do so with a "you live your way and I'll live mine and then you'll see my way is the best attitude," the service offers unfound depths of opportunity to grow spiritually. I know that we are engaged in an important work. I love the gospel and how it lets people grow. I joy in watching converts progress from milk to meat. It is my hope that you'll support your servicemen and let them know you're behind them. I have missed this written support although I know it's there and I love you for it; in Jesus' name, Amen.

LETTER 644 Lyman De Platt to family, April 11, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear family, it was good to get the four letters in one yesterday and know that you are all okay and in the best of spirits. For our part we are okay except where we are concerned with the political situation in the country. It doesn't look good. Socialists are very strong in the government at this time and are continually taking away our freedoms. I don't want to dwell on that subject very much though as that is all I hear every day, and likely it is the same with you.

I was a bit disappointed with the talks Sunday in General Conference. Although they were good they were majorly patterned toward new converts and didn't fill the spiritual vacancy that I'd hoped they would.

We have been going great guns here in the last few weeks in missionary work. A report of that is in the enclosed talk so I won't expand on it but it has been a lot of fun and very rewarding.

Last week a request came down from Central Communications for a radio operator that speaks English and Spanish to attend the International Latin American conference at Washington, D.C. between May 10 and May 22. I immediately requested through a telegram for the position – several slots are open – and feel certain that I'll be able to go. This will be quite an opportunity to do some research in the National Library and get to see some of our history, as well as associating with some of the dignitaries of the Latin American nations. I'm sure hoping it comes through. I haven't heard anything yet on the computer school, but I'll let you know as soon as we hear anything. Thanks for the box of clothes, papers, etc.

Our cat had kittens the other day. There were four. I cut the number in half and we'll probably keep the two little rascals and get rid of the mother before we leave. You know how Bertha is with cats.

It's rained about twelve inches this year so far, possibly more. My garden never has been dry yet and I get more and more the impression that it would be easier to raise rice than anything. Nothing froze during the cold spell.

Please inform us when your rings arrive. They have all been sent; one with Carlos Montero, and the other two with a missionary.

I'm at a dead end as far as genealogy goes right now. With all the histories done and all the sheets made up I'll just have to bide my time until I can get somewhere that I can do research. I'm having some members from here pick up my two genealogy binders during May, so if you would give them to them I'd appreciate it. Well, I have got to work so I'll sign off for now. I love you all, sincerely, L.D. Platt.

LETTER 645 Lyman De Platt to family, April 17, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Fairy tales can come true; it can happen to you; if you're in the Air Force. From Central Communications, Tinker Air Force Base, Oklahoma to Columbus Air Force Base, Mississippi; information Kelly Air Force Base, Texas; subject: bi-lingual (Spanish & English) radio operator 293X0; 1) reference our 021719Z, April 1968 and your replies. 2) Sgt. L. D. Platt, AF19833220, 1948th Comm. Squadron, has been selected by Headquarters AFCS for TDY to the annual inter-American Air Force Chief's Conference; 3) place Sgt. Platt on TDY to 2044th Comm. Group for period 10-22 May, 1968; rations and quarters are available and will be utilized; TDY funds provided...; 4) airman should be thoroughly briefed that during the period of TDY he will be in direct contact with inter-American Air Force Chiefs.

Dear family, needless to say I'm extremely happy. The job is at the pentagon according to my 1st sergeant. I'll leave the 9th by plane and come back on the 23rd by plane. During the time I'm there I don't have the foggiest what my official work will be but unofficially I'm going to invade the National Archives, the Library of Congress, the Library of the D.A.R., sit in on a session of Congress, see the Smithsonian Museum, White House, Capitol, etc., etc., etc.

Officially I can imagine that those two weeks will be very exciting also. As of yet I hear nothing on the desired assignment to Keesler Air Force Base.

The calling of President Alvin R. Dyer sounds very interesting. The ways things are happening, the end might easily be wrapped up in a hurry. I don't see how it is possible for ten to twenty years yet, but the rate things go who knows.

Ed will be terminating his studies soon. Give him our love and wish him every good blessing of a diligent, humble elder missionary. Joe will soon be home and I'd like to be but forces greater than my desires are forming my life and patterning my future. I now have 150 type-written pages of Platt and Allied histories. With luck the trip to Washington will give me fifty more.

Anytime one of the family wants to help out I can give you the names I want and tell you where to find them at the B.Y.U. library. I still lack an “acceptable” record.

Patty is getting more and more temperamental every day. She is an extremely difficult person to try and control. Her character has both the good and bad of each of her parents.

Our garden is doing fine. We are eating onions and radishes already. I haven't planted much because we're expecting to leave. Bertha is doing really well in her English and with her Primary class. Things go along rather normally for me at work. I usually work about three hours all told during the day and the rest I do genealogy. It is a convenient job but a headache too. Some days I work eight hours without stopping even to eat.

We are grateful to our Father that He has been so good to all of the family. Certainly King Benjamin is right when he says that we are paid immediately for any good we do and stay always in His debt.

The trees are so green and pretty here. The dogwood and flowers are abundant everywhere. It is a pretty but backward area. The whites call the blacks black trash and niggers and the blacks call the whites white trash. They are all for the most part prejudice and thus cursed, even many of the members.

Last Saturday I helped plant 2½ acres of cucumbers for our ward project. We have a contract and expect to make about \$2,000.00 for a new addition to the chapel. It is going to be a busy six weeks of picking though.

Bertha sends her love and says she love me too. Rufina also sends her love. We are anxious to be back with you; and the Lord willing, we will see you in 2½ years or earlier if at all possible. My love for you all will be shown by the way I live and the record I leave. I cannot but honor the good name I have, love as always, L.D.

LETTER 646 Lyman De Platt to family, May 17, 1968, from Washington, D.C.

Dear family, I just got through talking to Isabel by radio-telephone – she was loud and clear – exceptionally so. It was so good to hear her voice. She informed me of what we have been hoping and waiting to hear. She is about 4½ months along with baby and has overcome her body's attempts to get rid of it, at least that's the way she feels about it. She is happy in some ways. She had resigned herself to not having children and had arranged her life accordingly, but now that is going to apparently have to change. It likely will be a very good thing for her and Felipe.

She sends her love and hugs and kisses to everyone. You notice my shorthand. I've been using it so much the last eight days that I have to write slower and not abbreviate.

I'm finished at the Library of Congress. The final result was 109-longhand, semi-shorthand pages of genealogy. The end result is yet to be seen but we have about thirty new direct

ancestors; have untangled what were really a few messed up lines and have enough information to now very nicely make up a book on the Platt and Allied lines.

An example of one correction, Zadock Parker and Mirriam Parker in our record were Mirriam Barker or Parker. We had his parents as Solomon Parker and Susan Beedle and no parents for her. As it ended up I was checking and found the dates impossible so took out Solomon Parker, Jr. and Susan Beedle as his folks and had laid them aside. His now folks were Solomon Parker, Sr. and his wife. The end result proved in an old history of Lyman, New Hampshire, confirmed my moves. The latter are his parents and the surprise is that the former were parents of Mirriam. Zadock and Mirriam were cousins. We now have untangled several such problems but several remain and for the life of me I can't figure them out. I hate to throw names away but I'm almost positive on another line that the couple claimed as parents of X never existed. I found this to be the case on a closely allied line with this other headache. It's fun anyway.

There were only about five names on the Leavitt side for which I found nothing. The Platts I didn't even look for as they are not from New England and the Library had nothing to speak of from England.

Yesterday, from 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., I snuck in with the workers at the capitol, looking official, and calmly toured the building. I talked to the senator from North Dakota and he showed me the Senate Chambers. It is a fabulous building. I also toured the Supreme Court building.

I would like to go up and see Ed off but I'm working the night he'll be in New York City. When you see him, wish him the best of success from me. He will be well-rewarded for the honest efforts he puts forth.

This job is most interesting. We talk to all Latin American countries. It's a lot of fun but I wouldn't want to stay here. It's too expensive, 2/3 of the city is Negro and it's a long way from the mountains.

I cry inside at the utter lack of desire or what-have-you on the part of the majority of the people I meet to be sons of God. The majority is not bad, but indifference is not an outstanding quality. It makes me feel that we have come close to weeding out the House of Israel. Well, I'm busier than a dog chasing ten rabbits, so I'll sign off, love always, L.D.

LETTER 647 Lyman De Platt to family, May 26, 1968, from Columbus, Mississippi

Dear Platts: this is a good opportunity to write you – Patty and I are alone as the others are sleeping. Patty is standing here looking quite lovingly at her daddy who she missed very much while he was gone. She called for him in her sleep and had a long face while I was gone. When she'd hear the airplanes go over, she'd look questioningly at Bertha and ask "Papa?" She is a loving little devil. She stands out on the front porch and says hello to all the kids she sees. It is hard for her not having any close little friends. She now tells us "pichi" and "caca" when she has to use the bathroom or else sits down herself. I'm afraid and happy, too, that she'll always be overly independent to the point of disobedience if she can't conveniently do what she's asked.

Thank you very much for sending my books. They arrived fine as did the sheets. It is good to be home again. The trip back was nice. The afternoon before I returned, I spent at the White House, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, the Washington Memorial, Resurrection City, the reflecting pools, walked across the Potomac under the cherry trees of the tidal basin, saw the city from 555 feet up on top of Washington Monument, etc. It was a thoroughly fascinating vacation. Coming back I came down through the lovely Shenandoah Valley to Roanoke, Virginia, then over to Knoxville and the beautiful rolling eastern part of Tennessee with its verdant abundance and lakes and streams – really the most beautiful part of the whole U.S. that I know. Next we drove to Nashville and Memphis then down to Oxford, Tupelo and Columbus. I've now seen just about all of Mississippi. The trip south will do it.

The car apparently rebelled at a two-week vacation. It has had to have new points, new ignition and a new carburetor. It will cost me all of \$50.00, but with those fixed and having just put in new front brakes, it should ride nicely for a while. It's been a good car.

The genealogy is coming fine. With the new information and having revised three of the histories I wrote previously, it appears that the end result will be about 300 pages of histories and fifty pages of index, illustrations, maps, table of contents, etc. I plan on making four copies: for Roland, George, Dad and myself. After that the family organization can do what it wants to as far as publishing it, revising it, etc. I can't see it being finished much before the end of 1969. There is a lot of cross-checking to do. I'm in the process of sending requests into the index bureau of temples [TIB] to find out what work hasn't been done. They send me sheets showing what work has and has not been done. I will get as much of this as possible and for work that is not done, space will be left in the book to fill in later. I'm humbly grateful to the Lord for allowing me the opportunity to have the success I have had. I can say, I believe sincerely, that 80% of what is on record will be in the book. There is a lot to do, however, and when it seems everything is done a new line opens up. The most pressing thing that I can't do that one of you could do, would be to search the microfilm of ward records for Nauvoo, Santa Clara, East Tooele and Hebron for the children of Zadock Parker and Mirriam Parker. I can find nothing [because there were only the two children].

I guess Ed got off okay. I thought of him flying south to a great adventure as I traveled west. I've thought that if Joe entered the Air Force when he got home he might be in Biloxi for a while with us, but it probably won't happen.

The family had the house fixed up so nicely when I got home: new chair covers, table covers, curtains, etc. The place looks more and more like a home. Well, I'll leave some space for Bertha, love you loads, L.D.

Hi mommy and dad: I want to say many things, but it is difficult to express myself in English. Here in Columbus we have many friends whom we love very much. They have been so sweet and helpful. I haven't missed my Spanish Ward as much as I thought I would. I like my work in the Primary but it is hard to teach and discipline at the same time, but I am having fun trying.

I miss you very much and I long for the day when we are back in Provo near you. When I see Patty growing so fast I wish you could see her so that you could enjoy her with us.

We are happy with the opportunity of going into computers. It is the best thing for us for now. We will see about later – later. I send a big kiss for you mommy and for the kids. I hope you had a nice Mother's Day. I thought of you a lot that day and the wonderful mother you are. I love you all, Bertha.

PREFACE TO THE MISSIONARY LETTERS

During my mission I bound three journals, two of which (volumes 2 and 3) include letters from the family. These are books 10, 11, 12 in the PFRC collection.

On April 7, 2009, I visited Lucy Ruesch Webster in her home in Middleton, next to St. George. We talked for half an hour – the first time we had talked privately since I left on my mission in 1962. She has worked for the voting commission the last two elections in St. George and we have gone to vote early and I met her there twice in the last two years. She told me she had saved my letters and said I could come and get them. So today I did and now need to incorporate them into the letters that I have been typing for that period. She had one letter from herself and several from mother that are included hereafter. Their numbering will not be at the end of the current collection, but worked into the following letters chronologically so that the history of my mission is intact. The original letters were returned to Lucy after I typed them, at her request. I am unaware of where my letters to the family are for the period of August 1962 to May of 1963, so the letters I wrote to her are the only ones extant. If I ever find them [assuming they were preserved] they will be numbered and typed at the end of the current collection. Lyman De Platt

LETTER 648 Lyman De Platt to family, from Salt Lake City, Utah, August 22, 1962

Dear family, I thought I ought to write and let you know how things are doing. Today I was set apart by Elder Antoine R. Ivins and also received my ministerial certificate.

We have also received our airplane tickets. We leave here Monday night at 12:25 a.m. Tuesday morning. We fly to Chicago, arrive at 6:30 in the morning, are there until 9:00 and leave for Miami. We arrive in Panama at 3:30 for one hour and arrive in Lima at 6:30 August 29. I am enjoying the mission home very much. There are four of us going to Peru. We are all in the same room. Elder Robinson from Kanab is my companion. Don Halterman has a companion from California.

Our mission is number one on the list in order, so we get out of class earlier than anyone else. We all four met President McKay today. It was very inspirational.

So far this week – Wednesday – Richard L. Evans, Gordon B. Hinckley, Milton R. Hunter, Bishop Vandenburg, S. Dilworth Young, John Longdon, Alvin R. Dyer, Howard W. Hunter, Marion G. Romney have talked to us. All the talks were very good.

We are memorizing the first lesson and I'm on schedule. We are kept busy all the time, and it's hard to find time to write. I was told they aren't letting mail out of Peru right now, so I don't know when I'll be writing another letter.

Please bring my one pair of garments, my binoculars, a long-sleeved white shirt if I left one, and Lucy. I am off Saturday night at nine until 10:30; Sunday from 1 to 5 and all day Monday. So arrange accordingly. The testimony meeting starts at 5:00 p.m. Sunday. P.S. I'm fine. Gained 12 pounds and not homesick. Eat at Hotel Utah. Go to Logan Temple all day Friday. Sincerely yours, Lyman.

LETTER 649a Lyman De Platt, Casilla de Correo 4759, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, Springdale, Utah [postmarked August 29, 1962].

Dear Lucy, right now I am in Georgia preparing for take-off to Miami. The trip has been wonderful. We stopped in Denver, Chicago, and Atlanta. The country is just beautiful. We saw the Mississippi, Ohio and other rivers. We passed over Louisville, Indianapolis, and the Appalachians. The land is very beautiful. The farms, trees, lakes, hills, rivers, and clouds from six miles up are just super. Lucy I sure wish you could be along. The humidity in Atlanta is heavy though. It's sure depressing. Well, here we go. It's sure fun to taxi down the runway at 200 miles an hour and then feel yourself suddenly airborne. It's just like a modified rollercoaster.

I really enjoyed my weeks at the mission home. I was sorry you couldn't come, but I respect your very fine judgment. I love you the more for it; and we're off; tremendous; we're up. Looks like we're gonna get into some clouds. This is sure neat flying through the clouds. I've always wondered what it would be like.

I was saying that I love you and I do; more than you'll ever know. My folks think you're the nicest girl I've gone with, too, so that makes me feel good. Please be around when I get home.

We'll we're up to six miles again. The land is mostly timbered swamps. I think it looks like it anyway. We're way above the clouds now. As far as the eye can see are big thunderheads dotting the land with their shadows. We may get rain. We got it. Had a little trouble landing at Miami, but made it okay.

We stayed in Miami for twelve hours. Some people took us around to Miami and Miami Beach and showed us the sights. We boarded the plane Wednesday morning at midnight and headed out. We had a lot of rain and fog between Miami and Panama. We had the crash crew ready for us at Panama but everything was alright after a couple of attempts at landing.

We arrived safely in Lima, where we were met by President and Sister A. Theodore Tuttle. After going through a bunch of lines we finally got our luggage and drove to the mission home. Now that all the fun is over, I'm starting to get homesick a little.

Everything is quite different than expected. There is a lot of construction going on and there are many new homes one of the elders said. Lima is one of the most modern towns in South America. Of course there is the poverty but it is in the outlying areas.

The country is very beautiful and overcast. The crops are all starting to grow and the life is quite different. It never rains here but the humidity sometimes gets to the point of 100% so who can tell.

Three of us are staying here in Lima, one is going out. As yet we don't know which is which, but will let you know.

We will be in the mission home until Friday and then sent out to our various places of abode.

Well sweetheart my mission has started. Each day will bring me closer to the time I will see you again. Of course my heart right now is in converting souls; not in seeing you; so I will be happy in my work and enjoy every minute of it.

Last week a couple of traveling elders were held up and their money and watches taken. Human life means little to the poverty-stricken people; so we will have to be careful. The church is growing fast here. There are 130 missionaries in Peru. Our new mission president will arrive Friday.

I can't think of anything more to say so I will close. My letters will come as often as I have time to write. Our mission mother said any girl who gets a letter more than once a month could be sure her missionary wasn't doing a good job. She maybe was joking; I don't know. Anyway please be patient if they are far between and be assured of my love. Please write as often as you can, sincerely yours, Lyman.

LETTER 649b Lyman De Platt to family, from Salt Lake City, August 29, 1962

Dear family, we all arrived safely in Lima on Wednesday morning at 8:00. President A. Theodore Tuttle and Sister Tuttle met us at the airport. I've been talking to one of the counselors; he said there are 2,000 members in the Andes Mission. The church has only been here five years. There are twenty-three branches here and they are just building their first chapel. They plan to have a stake house here in two years. There are 130 missionaries right now. President Sterling Nicolaysen will be here Friday. They also said that right now their mission is just starting to pick up. They are concentrating on baptisms in the individual branches.

We will be in the mission home until Friday when one of us will be sent somewhere else and the other three will stay in Lima.

Lima is the most modern town here. There is a lot of construction going on; new buildings everywhere. The crops are just coming up; some quite big. The climate is overcast right now. It never rains here but the humidity makes it damp enough.

We had a little trouble landing in Panama. They had the crash crew ready for us. The pilot passed by a couple of times and finally made it safely. We have had rain and fog clear from Miami, but we're safe, so that's all that matters.

While we were at Miami we had a couple take us on a tour of Miami and Miami Beach. They showed us the hotel strip and several other places. It was very interesting. We rented a room at the Congress Inn and slept most of the time we were there.

I really can't think of much to say. It looks like a nice place and once I get the language down, I'm sure it will be okay.

The trip across the U.S. was wonderful. Now I've seen the Mississippi, Ohio and Missouri Rivers; Chicago, Denver, Atlanta, Miami, Panama, Gulf of Mexico, Appalachians, Frankfort, Indianapolis, the Andes and Lima. All in all it has really been a wonderful trip. The airplane people were very nice and the flights were very interesting.

I don't know when I can write again, but it will be as soon as possible. Give my love to all. I will write others if I have time. Hope Joe enjoys his bike, sincerely yours, Lyman De.

LETTER 650 Lyman De Platt to family, Lima, Peru, August 30, 1962

Dear family, well, it's Thursday and I have my assignment. My companion is Reginald D. Clarke, and I am assigned to the San Isidro District of Lima, which is perhaps the highest classed part of town. The buildings are the nicest, etc.

We have all received our Spanish Bibles, copies of the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, etc., and are already studying Spanish from a regular text book. We have regular lessons we have to turn in along with learning the lessons in Spanish and memorizing one scripture in Spanish per day.

We start at 6:00 in the morning and retire at 10:00 at night. We have Friday afternoons off to do the necessary things.

It looks like it's going to be a long haul before I have sufficient knowledge to teach the Gospel, but that is what I am here for. The missionary work has been going slowly the first part of the year, but it ought to pick up. Well, I have a class now, so I'll write later, Love, Lyman

LETTER 651 Lyman De Platt to family, Lima, Peru, September 1, 1962

Dear folks, another month passes. I'm now situated in a branch called San Isidro. It is the oldest branch in Peru and consequently the best established. There are 150 members and more coming in all the time.

Our branch is in a house and our rooms are upstairs. There are six elders – two supervisors and four other elders. We have our own maid. She does our washing, ironing and cooking. She is a member of the branch and we pay her 550 soles per month, which amounts to \$20.00 or so in our terms. So we have a lot of time for tracting, studying, etc.

Lima has a population of approximately 2,000,000. We are in the richest district, and consequently we have less converts and have to pay more money for what we get. I have had to get a lot of stuff – lesson books, sheets, towels, pay rent, etc. that won't always be necessary from now on, but which have taken a lot of my funds. I will be able to cash checks, but my money will go faster than I thought.

I am in charge of all expenses and income for the branch or for the elders, so I have a nice job. They just about got me playing the piano, but I got out of it finally. The people are very friendly here in the branch. I came down here in a midst of confusion. President Nicolaysen is just here today. President Tuttle has been assigning elders new positions and making new branches, so I haven't done any tracting yet. So far all I've done is study lessons, memorize scriptures, play ping pong, go to a show – a show cost 47 cents or 12 ½ soles. You can get anything for ½ or less than you can in los Estados Unidos (U.S.). The food is almost the same as I'm accustomed to. So if I'm transferred out of Lima, I'm afraid I'm going to be spoiled.

My Spanish is helping me tremendously. I have already learned Eph. 2:19-20 and James 1:5 and the blessing on the food, plus the door approach.

It costs 12 cents approximately to mail a letter from here, so I'm going to write them over a period of days. If you would care to let Lucy or anyone else read these, please do so, as I'm not going to be able to write too many letters to anyone.

Sunday: We have been having a general conference today. President Tuttle has just installed our new president. I never understand much that is said, but I get along alright. Some people ask me how many months I've been down here because I talk pretty well. I've picked up several main phrases that help me quit a bit. The people are very nice in helping me and correcting me. The people are very friendly, especially in the church. We met in a ballroom with about 300 of the Saints in Lima for our conference.

Our meals are very good. We get all we want to eat for about fifty cents per meal. The meals aren't so different that they've given me any trouble adjusting. We have a very good maid for a cook.

Whenever we have to go a very long distance we get a *colectivo* or a taxi. They cost eight cents to go wherever we want. Of course stuff is cheap but there surely are a lot of ways we have to spend it. I'm trying to spend as little as possible. I have 600 soles or about \$20.00 right now. We are supposed to keep \$70 on hand, so I have about \$80 in travelers checks put away for emergencies.

The meetings today have been very inspirational even though I haven't understood completely everything that has gone on.

Monday: Today we went tracting and got into a few places. There are a couple of people that are perhaps interested. We also went to a special missionary conference where President Tuttle outlined for us a way to get more baptisms. It's really not anything new from our regular organization, but he explained it in such clear detail that I'm sure we will see a big boost in our baptisms. So far this year we only have 300 out of an expected 700 by this time. So you can see they are behind schedule. However, there is a new baptism spirit and a new working spirit in the mission that ought to result in more success. I'll keep you informed so that you can enjoy my experiences with me. I am very happy in the work and I hope to be able to speak the language fluently enough in two months to begin teaching a Peruvian brother how to ward teach.

Tuesday: Well, they had me take charge of the Gospel Study class today. They are taking advantage of me because I have had some Spanish, but I don't mind. I'm glad they are. I want to learn the language fast.

Please mail these letters to these addresses, will you. I wrote them during part of conference when I got tired of listening to the Spanish.

Well, that's all for now, I guess. I'll put a little to you each day when I have time. Boy they sure keep me busy. I hope you are all okay. I'm just fine. See you soon; all my love, Lyman.

LETTER 652a Lyman D. Platt to family, from Lima, Peru, September 3, 1962 [the family received this letter on September 18]

Dear family, Tuesday: well, we got into this one house twice. They think right along the lines of the lessons. We have given them the first lesson. There are three young people my age and one older lady. We have spent the rest of the day tracting. I get half the doors now and go as far as I can; then Elder Clarke takes over. I've gotten into a few homes. We usually get into between four and eight homes a day where we actually discuss something concerning our religion. Elder Clarke has to give all the lessons. I know what they are saying, but as yet can't put my feelings into words.

Saturday, 8th: Well, it's been awhile since I sat down and wrote a letter. We have been doing a lot of tracting, but as yet haven't been successful. The days fly by very fast. We are constantly on the move, so I don't have time to enjoy being homesick. The time will go by so fast that I can't afford to get homesick or anything else for that matter. I have had no trouble adjusting to the food or conditions so far. They say usually something will happen to cause a missionary to get sick, but as yet I feel fine. I exercise every day plus walk between five and ten miles a day. My spiritual health is also okay. I feel very happy and pleased to be doing the work of the Lord. In August there were eighty-four people baptized in Peru. We'll get more this month I'm sure.

I am catching onto the language very rapidly. I say the blessing, offer prayers, etc. Of course I'm not perfect, but I'm slowly achieving a degree of fluency. We went to a show last night. It was in French with Spanish sub-titles. Boy, if you don't think that was a big problem. It was a very good Spanish lesson, though, and French.

Tuesday 11th: Boy time sure flies by fast. By the time you get this letter it will be just about a month since I left. I hope it all doesn't go that fast. I received your letter of September 5 on the 10th. I was glad to hear Joe's pig had little ones. It's too bad the other won't have them. Glad Joe enjoys his Honda. Hope he's more sensible with it than most kids his age are. It doesn't seem possible that school has started again. Who is going to take care of Gordie? Who's going to watch the place? Where is Dad working?

Thanks for telling me the bank balance. Also I appreciate every little dollar that is put in. Each dollar is worth twenty-seven soles. A sole is about the size of a dollar and so I treat it as such. I had a lot of extra expenses last week, but I'll soon be able to start figuring an approximate average. It won't be any higher than is necessary. If you've got my \$80 check, put it in also. I want to keep myself here as long as possible.

My companion is from California. Well, I'm enjoying the work very much. I'm constantly busy. Yesterday we worked on actual proselyting eleven hours plus Spanish study, gospel study, etc.

Don't ever try to send me anything, because it probably won't get here. Also, mark your letters so I can see if I get them all.

I'm still not homesick, but I haven't been discouraged yet. I do miss the association with girls; but that's just tough! Every once in awhile I see a beautiful woman that really shoots down the spirituality, but for the most part *norteamericanas* are the best.

Wednesday 12th: Well, another day. I just can't seem to get this letter off. The time is so busy and goes by so fast. Will you do me a favor and drop a line to the Selective Service System, Cox Building, St. George, and tell them I'm now a missionary and give them my address. Thanks.

Enclosed you will find a small part of an herb. This herb tastes just like it smells and tastes very good [it is called *hierba luisa*, or chamomile]. The sister that gave it to me says it can cure cancer. You may want to show it to Grandpa Chidester.

Last night after mutual an investigator came up to me and introduced himself and said he would like to talk (in Spanish). So we sat down and I would answer his questions about Church history, doctrine, etc. It was of benefit to both of us as we talked for 1½ hours.

The family I mentioned earlier said they would be baptized on the 22nd. The mother and one boy dropped out, but the married couple stayed. They have four young children, which really thrills me. They aren't really hot on the gospel and so we haven't pushed them too hard. He is trying to stop his smoking and wants to study more. You might add them in your prayers. It would be very much appreciated. Their name is Díaz. I want so much for them to join because of the joy it would bring them. We don't have more people than these but we're supposed to baptize one a week according to the new President. We knock on many doors a day but there aren't very many people interested in church.

Thanks for telling me about Lucy. Now I'll know why she doesn't write for a few weeks. It's been an awful struggle to decide just who I want any more. Gerry, Shirlee or Lucy would all make good wives. I'm glad I don't have to worry much about it. They'll eliminate themselves as times goes on maybe.

It's going to be a close shave this month to see if I can get by on \$75.00 after the \$20.00 expense at the home, but if I can do it, my money may last longer than we thought.

I love you folks very much and want you to know I appreciate the upbringing I've had. None of the elders went to church much before they came down here and so they more or less envy me when I can quote the place where a scripture is found when they read in Spanish. Believe me I'm mighty glad for my upbringing.

Could you do me another favor? I have some time to practice the piano, so if it wouldn't cost too much, could you send down the "B" book if the kids are through with it. Put on it "libro sin valor." If it costs very much, don't send it.

Saturday, 15th: Well yesterday I gave three Joseph Smith lessons. It surely scared me. Also our Díaz family came out to the investigators class last night. They are coming along fine. He stopped his smoking for four days.

Well, I guess I'd better end my letter. Please write as often as you can. I've only received the one letter from you. Nobody else has written.

I hope all of you are well and happy. I've sure learned to appreciate more the U.S.A. since I've been here. The poverty the Catholic Church creates in these peoples' lives is terrible. So long for now; I love all of you and pray for your welfare, as always, L.D.P.

LETTER 652b Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Peru, to Miss Lucy Ruesch, Springdale, Utah, Septiembre 3, 1962.

Dear Lucy, I'm in a general conference and can't understand much of what they are saying so I will write you a few lines. I've been so busy with getting situated that I haven't had much time to think of you. Every time I do I get a little bit homesick, but I am really enjoying the work and am sure that once I really get involved I won't have any problems with getting homesick.

I really enjoy it down here in Peru. We live in a mansion compared to some of the houses here. We have a maid that does our cooking, washing and ironing; so we don't have to do anything along that line. We spend most of the time studying, having cottage meetings, tracting, etc. I enjoy all of this even though it is hard to do and hard on the health.

We have two classes a day of an hour each: gospel study and Spanish study. During the rest of the day we tract and hold meetings. On Fridays we have a half of a day off to do what we want to do, which usually will consist of going to a show or playing games; but just relaxing from religion and religious duties. The mission presidency feels that is a good way to keep missionaries happy and to get a lot more done in the long run. We went to the show Friday and really had a good time.

We have been given strict rules concerning females of any kind. People down here usually don't get married because the Catholic Church charges too much. Consequently there are more members in our church that when we convert them are living in adultery. Many different problems have to be settled. Both the married and single women love the American elders and will try any way they can to seduce one to have an affair with them. They really don't see that it's wrong yet. A lot of education will have to take place and is beginning to take place right now in this meeting. They expect to have a stake here within two years. That is quite a dream as all we have now are branches with a skeleton of an organization. I'm sure it can be done though and I'm going to give it all I've got to see this fulfilled before I come home. They expect to have beginnings of wards within three or four months.

Anyway about the females; we are not supposed to be with a woman, married or not, if we are alone. We always have to have our companion with us. Some of these peruano señoritas are very beautiful and have aspiring mothers, which makes it all the harder. But we manage to find ways out. I really don't have much trouble. With a young woman like you at home it makes a lot of things worth while. Lou, I want you to know that you mean a lot to me. You're all I've ever wanted in a wife as I've told you. Please remember that, if my letters are far between and you have reason to doubt my love.

I hope to hear from you soon. As yet I haven't had a letter from anybody. I'm not very homesick but a letter would cheer me up. Please let me know how you are getting along and what your plans are. I guess you will quit work on the 4th still and go to Sun Valley, so I will delay the letter for a few days and add some more. I love you very much Lucy.

LETTER 652c Lucy Ruesch, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Lima, Peru, September 5, 1962 [this letter may never have been sent to me, because it was in her possession. I did not keep her letters, so this is the only one from her in this collection.]

Dear Lyman, today, I'm going to get a letter written to you if it kills me. After about seven other attempts it's about time that I do, don't you think?

Monday was my last day of work and I'm now free to do what I want to do with the exceptions of a few things. We traveled to Salt Lake on Monday and that night we went to the show "Music Man." It was certainly a tremendous show. It was also good to go to a plush theater again. Yesterday we traveled from Salt Lake to Sun Valley, Idaho. I was playing the role of "navigator" and in one of my unguarded moments Rulon [her brother] turned off on the wrong road. We certainly had a fabulous time trying to get back on the main road. But it was sure fun. Rulon doesn't think I'm such a neat navigator anymore.

I was really happy to receive your letters, Lyman. They set me back on my feet and made me a happy girl again. I was sure surprised to get a letter from you so soon, especially from Peru. Please forgive me for being so slow about writing letters. But you already know that I didn't promise to write more than once a month. What your mission mother said about missionaries writing to their girl friends only once a month is plain torture for a girl. My goodness, having the missionary gone is bad enough, but only hearing from them once a month is mean. If most missionaries follow this policy then all I can say is it's their own fault if they get "Dear John" letters.

Of course I understand that you said your mission mother may have been teasing and I hope she was; however, if there are times that you don't have time to write then I'll forgive you. I'll try to be understanding as long as you're on your mission. But you just wait till you get home. I'll show you how mean I can be.

You asked me if I would like to have you relate your missionary experiences to me, and the answer is yes. I would love to have you relate them to me. I would be and am honored just knowing that you wanted me to share them with you.

I am glad that your parents like me – 'cause heaven knows I sure think a lot of them.

Maurine and Dannell left to go to school last week and it won't be long till the rest of the kids will be leaving. Pretty soon Springdale will be a quiet town and gee whiz I'm sure happy that I don't have to be there till the last of October. Madsen's want me to come back to work after I get back from vacation, but I'm not planning on it, and I told them not to plan on it.

I got quite a discouraging letter from John Schiefer the other day and to help matters out, I wrote back and told him off; really nice kid aren't I?

Rulon and I will probably go see Gary Platt while we are in California. He is laboring really close to where Rulon was so Rulon thinks we should go see him. I don't know whether this will be too good for the missionary or not but his mom sure wanted us to go see him. In fact she came up to me the other day and told me to give him a big kiss for her. I really don't think I'd better though.

I'm sure glad you had a good flight to Peru. Flying really sounds fabulous the way you describe it. This afternoon we are going out to see the sights, guess what? All the kids I know up here are either going to school or getting married so Sun Valley is definitely out of my plans for the winter.

Lyman, don't worry about me, just work really hard in your missionary work because that's what I want you to do. I already know that the Church and all it stands for is your first love and I'm glad because that's the way I want my husband to be. If you, and the Lord, are still willing in 2½ years; that I, and the children that we would have, become your second love then it's okay with me. Nothing or no one could make me happier than you can (I'm sure). I hope and pray each day that I may live worthy of your love, that I may be able to live up to the standards that you desire that your wife should have. If I can succeed in this, then I will be well on my way to a successful and happy life. They say absence makes the heart grow fonder and I believe it's true. Because I love you more each day, it becomes easier to live without you as the days go by, but it's because (like you said) each day that goes by brings us one day closer together.

Well Lyman I don't really know too much news, as I've been concentrating on myself too much lately. Pray for me will you? I will try to write a little each day of my vacation and let you know where I am and what I'm doing, okay?

I'd better close for now; everyone is yelling at me to hurry, so bye for now. I love you and may God bless you, Lucy.

LETTER 652d Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, The Zion Park Motel, December, 1962, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apartment 307, Salt Lake City, Utah.

Dear Lucy, the time has come when we have decided that in order to keep in touch with all our friends in the various sections of the country where we have lived, we will have to resort to a mimeographed letter. For the past number of years we have enjoyed getting this type of letter from many of our friends and feel it is a good way to send a personal message without taking the time to write separate letters to everyone.

Our weather here at Zion Canyon is anything but Christmasy, if you choose to think of Christmas as snowy and white. The sun is shining brightly on these beautiful cliffs and only the dry grass and bare trees suggest that it is winter.

1962 has been a good year for our family. Gordon finished out the school year at Springdale Elementary and then tended the motel with the help of the family during the summer months. The past few months he has been spending most of his time working in the Park on construction.

I have been working most of this past year at the Visitors Center at Zion. We have a lovely new administration building that houses the offices for the Park and I have a very pleasant place to work as the Mails and Files clerk. The office is only a few minutes from our home, and I am able to spend the noon hour at home. I couldn't ask for a nicer place to work with more pleasant conditions, but as I told Gordon the only thing wrong with it is that it takes me away from home for eight hours five days a week. One of these days when we get our feet on a little firmer ground I shall stay at home and try to be the kind of a mother I should be to my family. One of our neighbors takes very good care of Gordie, and the rest of the children are in school about the same hours I am at work.

Perhaps the most important event of the year for our family was when Lyman received his call to the Andes Mission in Peru. We went to Salt Lake to see him off the latter part of August, and our feelings were mixed when we saw him take off on the big jet plane. We were thinking of course about the 2½ years we wouldn't be seeing him, but our main thought was of gratitude for the opportunity he had of serving in the mission field and taking the gospel to the people in South America. He is very happy with his work, and we are so pleased with his attitude and the things he is accomplishing in Peru. His address is Apartado #328, Piura, Peru, in case any of you might wish to correspond with him. His Spanish has progressed very well and should progress even better now with a Peruvian for a companion.

Another highlight for our family was the family reunion we had at our place in August just prior to Lyman's leaving. Mother and dad and all the family except for Anthon (Clessa's husband), Gordon Dee (who is on a mission to Brazil) and several of Bob's and Lois's children, were able to be there. Almon and LaRee and family came from Stockton, California; Bob and Lois from Salt Lake City; Rene and Art from Provo (we were afraid they weren't going to make it, but little Charles put in his appearance just a few days before the reunion date, so they bundled him up and brought him along with the rest); Maureen and John and baby came from Arizona; and mother and dad, Kay and Velma and family and Clessa and family all came from Blanding. We all decided Springdale was a really nice place for a reunion and especially with a motel room to give each family a little place of their own and a big lawn for the kids to play ball on. There were fifty-one present and this is the first time so many of us have been together. Some couldn't stay as long as others, but parts of the family were together for four days. Many of them were here for Lyman's farewell program, which made it really nice, and then we had a family program in our home that we will always cherish and remember. We all enjoyed ourselves so much that we decided to make this a regular reunion every two years. Mother and dad will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary next February and that was thought of in the starting as a get-together to help them celebrate this anniversary. But we decided on a little earlier date for various reasons. It was so nice to see cousins getting acquainted and having so much fun together, and it was quite a thrill for mother and dad to have so many of their family together at one time.

Also during the summer months we had many of our friends come by to see us – some to spend a few days and some to visit just briefly on their way through. We did enjoy and appreciate each visit and want you all to know how we love you.

Our family is growing up so fast. When we think how big they will be by the time Lyman comes home, it rather scares us. Joe, Eddie and Gene all go to Hurricane High School and are busy with school and church activities. Roberta and McKay go to school in Springdale and have only a short distance to walk to school. Our baby is just about two years old now, and of course we all enjoy and spoil him very much. We are all busy with our church activities. Those of you who live or have lived in a small ward such as Springdale know there are always several jobs around for each of those who are willing to work.

We are hoping to spend the Christmas weekend in Blanding with the folks there. We are hoping that nothing comes up to prevent our going, as we haven't been to Blanding for about four years.

We are very thankful for our blessings and for each one of you as our family and friends. May you each one have a very pleasant Christmas season, and we hope that the new year brings many good things to you all; with sincere love, Gordon, Allie, Lyman, Joe, Eddie, Gene, Roberta, McKay and Gordie.

[In mother's personal handwriting: guess we will be seeing you at Christmas time. Or maybe not – depending on how long you will be home. We plan to be away for a few days. Do hope you are enjoying your school and all is well with you. Lyman does appreciate your letters and I hope you enjoy his as much as we do; love to you from all of us, Platts.]

LETTER 653 Lyman De Platt to the family, from Lima, Peru, September 22, 1962

Dear folks, well, I finally got a letter from somebody besides you folks along the relative line. Grandma Lyman sent me a really nice, encouraging letter. Thank you for carbon copying my letters and sending them around.

Today is Saturday. Finally after weeks of work we brought Brother Díaz into the Church. I baptized him and Elder Clarke will confirm him tomorrow. It was a really wonderful experience and Brother Díaz will really be a good member. We baptize his wife next week.

My soul is feeling happy, for I am living the mission rules, getting the necessary amount of sleep, keeping in shape by exercising daily, trying constantly to get closer to Heavenly Father. I know that I am making my beloved parents happy because I am living as they've taught me, because I am doing their will and the Father's. I hope I can keep the same attitude all my life that I have now. This mission is doing a lot for me. I am quickly learning the language and culture of the Peruvians. The church is being accepted by hundreds of honest-hearted people. Ten months ago there were five branches in Lima and two in all the rest of Peru. Now there are ten in Lima and ten in other parts. The branches are rapidly being taken over by Peruanos. The missionaries in this branch will have nothing to do but preach after tomorrow. The Lord is pouring all his spirit out upon the people in this last short time. I pray that you won't get discouraged with the way the church is in Springdale. I hope my letters can carry enough spirit to keep you as thrilled about the work as I am. Surely we are going to see this church grow with astonishing rapidity and spirit. There is no doubt any more in my mind of my responsibilities. I love the gospel of Jesus Christ. I hope I may always be worthy to be called thy son and our Father's.

I paid for the testimonial programs, so don't pay them again. I paid for them when I received them.

Monday: I'm glad Dad got a job working for the construction people. They're good men. I wish they could see the gospel the way they should. Dad, if anyone can change them, you can.

I appreciate the newsy letters you send me. Please don't make them too short because I ravish everything that I get from home. I have been having a few pangs of homesickness but only when I think how old my brothers and sisters will be when I get back. I miss the hills and friends, family and farm, etc. When I saw the picture of Lucy, well, frankly I felt sincerely good. The love I have for her isn't the same as I had for Maurine, but I will refrain from feelings about this, as I realize now how sure you can be, but how wrong. Anyway, she's a very sweet, humble girl, and I hope you get along together. I appreciate hearing what you are doing. If you are keeping track of your events in your diary, then I won't have to, if you're not – well you better be.

I'm glad Joe made the team. I hope he enjoys it. I certainly missed a lot of opportunities in high school, but it's over. Hope the boys are still busy with their Eagles. How are Roberta and McKay doing this year? Does Gene like junior high? What are Eddie and Joe taking? I'm interested! Tell me please. Thanks loads for the pictures. It's good to see old faces again. I guess I'm really homesick but just don't have time to worry about it, love, Lyman.

LETTER 654a Lyman De Platt to family, from Lima, Peru, September 28, 1962 [family received the letter October 1]

Dear family, I received both letters one day apart. The one had about seven stamps on but I don't have to pay anything.

Thank you McKay for your sweet letter. It is very nice down here, but there's no place like Zion. We haven't baptized and confirmed any more people yet, but this month there were 100 new members added to the Church in Peru. You be sure and study hard in your school work, because it's very important. Does Joe take you riding on his Honda?

It sure made me feel good to receive the news that Kirk is going on a mission. He will make a great missionary and it will help him tremendously, I'm sure.

If I had more room I'd say many things, but it'll wait. Lucy finally sent me a letter telling of all the latest news in Springdale. She says she's reading the Book of Mormon by Christmas, so that makes me feel good. I'm trying to read it by then in Spanish.

I hope my letters come often enough. I send them off here every Friday. Of course the planes aren't always on the same schedule here, but at least I do my part.

I've got the plan memorized to the point where I can give the lesson and make a return visit. The people are very receptive but it's hard to keep them in the spirit when we get them, because everybody is always taking a trip and too much time elapses. But the work is progressing rapidly.

We had a fiesta in mutual Wednesday and I was asked to sing again. This time I had an accompanist. So it was a little better. I hope you can send that music book, as I want very much to learn more about the piano.

The Spanish is progressing amazingly well; and I want to learn faster. I have a small dictionary which is always being whipped out and looking up words.

Is the family going pine nut hunting this year? Lucy said they were. It sounds like a lot of fun. I guess tourist trade has slowed down quite a bit, now, hasn't it? Here September is already gone and October will be shortly. Boy, my mission won't last long if I can have as good and hard working companions as Elder Clarke.

I got my draft board card, so thanks for sending it. Well, I'll close for a few days but I pray for your happiness and well being. Take good care of yourselves, and I'll see you in no time. May God bless you all in your school work, home and recreational activities, your son and brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 654b Lyman De Platt, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, Springdale, Utah, September 28, 1962.

Dear Lucy, Your 1st letter arrived on September 26th. You and mother both said you sent another letter but I never received it. I had another letter ready to send to you today and tell you to write but I'm glad I waited. Sweetheart your letter was just what I needed to assure me of your love. Never has a letter made me feel so good. I have been waiting to receive your letter so I'd know just where I stood before writing again. I can promise you that every letter you write you will receive an answer to. I would like to write as often as I can and will get you a letter once a week or every two at least, if you will write also. Thanks a million for your newsy letter. It was very interesting. I'm glad you had a wonderful trip. Our family took one about like that ten years ago: so I know what kind of country you saw and I agree with you, prejudice or not, that Zion is the most awe-inspiring of them all.

I have not learned the first lesson yet, but have learned the tracting lesson. This is what we use on all of our first visits. I have given nine or ten. We baptized one brother Saturday. The Spanish is coming fine. I understand about 80% of what goes on. I enjoy the people and language fine. I am extremely happy to hear you're reading the Book of Mormon. I'm sure you realize we are both going to have to progress the same in order to still love one another.

I appreciated your fine compliments. I will try to live up to them. You can be assured I'll have a "sold" sign on me for the next two and a half years until I see you again.

I'm glad your mother feels you should write often. I agree. I really love your parents honey. They have a mighty fine daughter to show their teachings with.

Well, I'm running out of room, but I'll write soon. I think the world of you Lucy, and although only 3% of the girls last who start out waiting for missionaries, I know you can if you love me as I feel you do.

Please write soon. I do have time to think of you and do a lot. Every time I have a minute free my mind wanders back to the good times we had together is such a short time. I am longing for the time to come shortly when I'll see you again. One month has gone already. Bye for now; I love ya loads, very sincerely, Lyman.

LETTER 654c Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, Springdale, Utah [postmarked October 1, 1962].

Dear Lucy, this letter may be quite long, but I have a lot of things of importance to say to you in it.

To be frank with you, I feel that for me you are the one I want for my wife. I thought that about Maurine once, too, but now I don't. The reason: because she wasn't a person that made me feel I was bettering myself by being with her. I realized that I had to find someone whose ideas of nature, God, life in general, were nearer mine; also, someone who had an active family church-wise; also someone who had a mother that had what it took to make a girl like I wanted. Well, Lucy, your mother is that type of mother and you're that type of girl. I feel your mother has taught you all the necessary qualifications for a good mother and wife. She has taught you to respect the priesthood, want a temple marriage, and have a happy, simple life in the church. These concepts are now a part of your life and to me they are very dear and precious. Well, you can see how I feel toward you.

Now for a few facts; as a rule only three percent of the couples stay together that start on a mission; 80% of the breakups are due to boys sending their girls letters. The reason: because the boys have progressed much more rapidly than the girls have. You have a head start on me now and if you can stay ahead of me, by the end of the mission we ought to still be about like we were. This will honestly be the biggest problem we will have in staying together. If you will study your scriptures for fifteen minutes a day, conscientiously, prayerfully, we will have no problems. I say this because I love you and want you. If you will promise me this along with attending all your meetings faithfully, we won't have to worry about being separated. I feel with all my heart that this is the way we should do it. If you have any other ideas, let me know, please. Also you have got to decide what you're going to do for two and a half years as I'm sure you realize. I'm praying for you daily to make the right decisions. Don't try and decide alone. Ask the Lord. He knows what is best for you. Myself, I won't say, because I don't know what you like to do. Whatever it is I'm sure it will be for the benefit of all concerned. Tell me as soon as you decide. I really am interested in your welfare.

My thoughts of you! I wonder if you know

How oft they span the miles and bring you near!
Each gesture, every smile, your words so dear
Across my memories, lingering, come and go:
The sunrise that we watched, in Zion – free
That piercing, knowing glance of your keen eye,
The way you touched my hand and said “goodbye;”
Our dreams and hopes and plans that are to be!

I miss the mountains Lucy. Enjoy them while you’re there. I wish that the family had moved to Springdale years ago. It would have been nice to get more acquainted with the area. I love the mountains and long to be back in them again.

I guess I really didn’t have too much upon my mind that I wanted to say. If I tell you I love you every line you wouldn’t last any longer than the other 97%. So I will try and keep “mushy words” out of my letters for the most part.

When you get time – soon – send me a picture of you. Time dulls the memory of beautiful things no matter how beautiful they are; so please hurry. If you know how much I wanted one you won’t keep me waiting. I should have kept your senior picture.

I love it down here most of the time. The people are very nice to me. They’ve asked me to sing in two meetings already. That’s one thing I didn’t get to do in church at home. Also I’m very happy because all my time that isn’t taken in tracting is spent in studying. I love to study the gospel because no matter how many times you read a scripture or story it always becomes a little clearer and makes you want to live a little better. Perfection can come by reading and living the scriptures but it takes a lifetime of conscientious study. You can’t say one day I’ll study and the next day I won’t, because perfection comes on by constant repetition. The majority of people feel religion is hard to live but it isn’t if you love the Lord. I love the Lord and love to do His will. It’s hard at times because Satan has had 7,000 years of constant practice and I’ve had only nineteen. But I have the priesthood and that’s more powerful than all the hosts of Satan. This priesthood will someday seal me to a worthy mate for all eternity. It will help me create worlds and populate them. Lucy, just think of the greatest creations and realize you could share them with me if you and I both live worthy enough. Isn’t that a good enough reason to be good. We don’t get rewarded now except in the joy we have, but imagine what is in store for us; no don’t; it’s impossible because of its greatness.

I don’t know where I stand right now with the Lord but I certainly want to improve and want you to also, so we can both find joy together in His gospel. You said I made you feel like a queen, but I can promise you, you will be a queen if you’ll do this.

I hope you don’t think I’m trying to preach to you, because I’m not. I don’t have that right, being less than you. It’s just that I’m starting to realize some of the purposes of God – which you probably already know – but that I’m so joyful with I must share them with you.

I have a strong testimony of this gospel. I have to have or I wouldn't be able to argue so forcefully and with such truth as I do when I talk to investigators. My companion and I have been talking to one man for a month now, who has knowledge of the gospel and its truthfulness but he wants a manifestation. Last night after finally running out of patience because we had explained everything so there could be no doubt, we told him in essence we didn't want to talk to him again until he wanted to be baptized. He knows the consequence too if he doesn't get baptized, because of the knowledge he has.

We get our Friday afternoons off here. During this time we relax, sleep, go to a show, read, anything – almost – we want to. A couple of Saturdays ago we went to a Cinerama of the South Seas. It was a tremendous show and it didn't cost very much. Shows cost \$.40 as do haircuts and food is very cheap. I think it is going to be easy to live rather cheaply here.

Last Monday we had a very inspirational Elders Conference. Our new president spoke as also did President A. Theodore Tuttle. We really had a lot of good instructions given to us. President Hugh B. Brown will be coming down here in December to check on the mission and see what needs improving. It will be a nice experience to hear from him.

I guess now that October is here it will become a littler cooler up there. Here the leaves are just coming out. People have their little gardens started and I guess this is probably about the nicest time of year. So far I've only seen the sun three times, but they say in the summer there is never a cloud here, so I'm enjoying it while I can.

Boy, the days sure do go by fast. In fact, it's all I can do to get a letter off before I have to send another one. I enjoy writing to you though, and don't have too much trouble in finding enough to say. I just received a letter today, dated Friday, September 29th, from the Madsen's. It came down with a missionary that just arrived. Thank them for me, will you? I just finished 1st and 2nd Nephi and am starting on Jacob. Keep me informed where you are so we can know we're staying on schedule.

As you can probably see by the different colorations of ink, I'm not writing this letter all at once. It takes quite a while to write a letter and I can't take it all at once. I as yet haven't received letters from any other girls, so guess I'm stuck with the best of them.

I have been doing my daily exercises and so I feel fine spiritually and physically. I've gained fifteen pounds since a month ago, but other than that I'm about the same.

Almost every night I go to sleep thanking the Lord for His goodness to me in answering my prayers. I wanted to know who was for me; who I could be happy with. He answered my prayers, but that doesn't make it certain. This girl has to prove herself these next two and a half years to see if she can overcome the almost impossible assignment of going out with others, having a lot of fun, comparing them to me and then deciding in my favor. If this were how I found the situation when I arrived home and if she had kept her spiritual side growing, she would be mine forever. This I solemnly promise under these conditions. Please write and tell me what you think of the idea.

I've been thinking also of where we would live, what I would do for a living, when we ought to get married: as soon as I get home; six months later; after a few years of dating; engagement and school; after I graduate. These are some of the thoughts I've had going through my mind. I'm glad we both have twenty-nine months to think about our problems because what we decide will affect the rest of our lives.

Well, I've said enough. You can see how I feel without me saying more. I hope you feel the same way. I will be glad to hear how you feel and some of your ideas. Please take care of yourself Lucy. Keep up your health; study the scriptures; pray often and live the commandments as best you can. I pray nightly and daily for your happiness; and for the presence of mind to make your decisions well. God be with you dear until I can, love always, Lyman.

LETTER 655 Lyman De Platt to parents, Lima, Peru, October 2, 1962 [family received the letter October 6]

Dear folks, these sheets aren't very big but they aren't very expensive, so I will use them and write small. Sounds like a lot of excitement goes on there compared to the life of a missionary. I enjoy each of your letters very much. I got the pictures and enjoy them very much. Sounds like a good idea for dad to go into insurance. Let me know the results. Thanks for keeping me posted on Lucy's doings. I've only received one letter from her. Hope the kids enjoyed their stay at Navajo Lake and did something on their merit badges while there. Sounds like you are getting a lot of nice moisture. I cashed a \$60.00. The balance I have is \$478.28. Tell me if it is different.

I was surprised to hear that Lucy was going to Salt Lake. I hope she enjoys business college. She told me she would probably go out in nursing; never can tell. Her letter was filled with good sound sense and I hope she does the right things. Hope she feels good about it.

I can't figure why you didn't receive a letter for ten days. I send one every Friday. Your last letter took five days to get here. Sounds like a lot of missionaries are leaving. The program calls for a lot though. We need all we can get. We have three or four come here every month.

Glad to hear Gordie is thinking of me as also the rest of the family. I miss all of you very much but keep so busy trying to stay on top of the list that I don't worry too much. I hope something will turn up for you dad. If you decide let me know what you're going to do. I can't help but worry where the money is going to come from when you have to assist me.

Well, I'm sending this letter today so you will get it before the 7th. Now that you're 40 mother, your worries are over. You're old enough that your children ought to start worrying about you and dad and young enough to take it easy more often and go out and have fun. Let Joe worry about the place once in awhile. He's almost sixteen and Eddie fourteen. I hope you are happy on your birthday. I wish I could do something more, but the only thing I can do is wish you happy birthday and then live so you can be happy with me. The next baptism will go on your record, okay? I'm thankful for your teachings and life Mother. God bless you and Dad.

Well, time to close. I'm very happy in the work. We have some pretty good looking prospects coming along. That blasted Devil is surely working hard though. He's had free reign too long. I'll write another letter Friday. So long for now; I pray for happiness and unity in the things you do.

I have been doing a lot of reading in the Book of Mormon in English and Spanish. I'm in Mosiah already in both of them. I am enjoying this opportunity to do nothing but the work of the Lord. I enjoy the scriptures and love to read them. I am also enjoying learning the language. It is very easy.

You asked about my companions once. Elder Halterman was at Callao but now is at Mollendo. The other two opened a branch in Lima called Colmena. I see them all quite often. They are coming along fine but my Spanish has given me a big head start on them. Enclosed is a five centavo piece: value about 1/5 of a penny; not used for anything of value of course. Food is very cheap. I bought five big potatoes, an apple and an orange for \$.20 yesterday. Bread costs \$.20 a loaf, sincerely, L.D.

LETTER 656a Lyman De Platt to family, Lima, Peru, October 5, 1962 [family received it on October 10]

Dear family, hope you had a happy birthday mother. That makes two years now. I guess the fact remains that our family won't be all together very often any more. Well, I guess it happens in all families. I'm thankful for the encouraging letters you send as this work can get pretty

discouraging, especially when the guys over us think we aren't spiritual enough. Some day I'll refer them to Section 121:34-40. As a whole I get along okay, though.

The only other letters I've received besides yours are one from the grandparents and one from Lucy. Of course I would like to hear from others, but they probably have as little time as I do. Some day when I get time I'll take some pictures and send you. As yet my camera has done no good.

You might be interested in some news. Starting on the 17th we are having four successive groups of missionaries coming down here. That will be a total of twenty-five. As we only have 130 you can see the problem. Our branches will change from four to six Elders and about thirteen new seniors will be made. It ought to be interesting to see who goes where. I may get changed, I may not – we'll see. Another branch will be opened up in Arequipa, making twenty-one in Peru. The mission is growing fast: July forty baptisms, August eight-four, September 110. You can see how fast the progress is and it will increase. Today we knocked on twenty-one doors, got in ten with nine return visits set up.

The people are wonderful. The Relief Society has been fixing our meals for two weeks while our maid vacationed, so we could spend our time working. They all have good, wonderful spirits. We'll have a stake here in two years or die trying.

Well, let me know how you are getting along. I am very interested in what the kids are doing, etc. Keep me informed about the weather, animals, town affairs and you. I am always anxious to receive a letter.

We get the *Church News* and it sure is amazing to see how the Church is progressing all over the world, especially in Scotch-Irish, Northwestern and California missions. Until next week at this same time, this is your news correspondent from Peru signing off; love always, L.D.

LETTER 656b Lyman De Platt Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, Springdale, Utah October 6, 1962 [postmarked Springdale, October 13th; forwarded to 825 Willowood Avenue, Murray, Utah]

Dear Lucy, as each day goes by I keep waiting to hear from you so I can send this letter to you and not to your folks. I suppose this being conference time you are attending it. We got Sunday's broadcast over shortwave. It was a very good broadcast.

October 8th: darling, I hope you are having a good time and that you miss me a little bit. I must admit I miss you more than I thought I would. Every day that goes by when I haven't heard from you, I just miss you more. I've read your first letter ten or twenty times assuring myself that you do love me. If you'll remember you promised you'd write more often; it's been three weeks. I'll wait patiently though because in the first place I can't do anything about it and in the second place I remember how I used to feel about writing letters. When I get a letter I usually sit down right then and answer it then add to it for a few days and send it off. You don't have to make yours too long, just send me one at least every two weeks. That's not an order; it's a wish.

Lucy, as the days and weeks go swiftly by I keep praying that you will remember me as I've tried to live the gospel. Also, I try to improve myself to be better prepared when I see you again. As I'm sure you realize our love is only going to remain as we want it to. With all my heart I pray you will continue to go out with other boys but remember the things you've told me, so that while you are in school and I in the mission field, we can write to one another knowing how the other feels. Our love will grow only as we grow in the gospel and learn of the wonderful blessings awaiting us as we devote our lives to the gospel.

October 9th: last night the elders said I was talking in my sleep about you. I know I did because I had quite a few dreams about you. So you can see I'm thinking of you quite a bit if I do in my sleep too. I hope you get time in the near future to send me down a picture. I want one so badly my teeth ache. Well, not quite that badly, but please send one as soon as you can.

Well, I didn't get a letter today either so I have nothing more to say for now anyway. I am reading in Alma now. I really enjoy reading it and hope you are keeping your schedule too. Sweetheart if I never heard from you again I'd still love you; but don't take advantage of me. You mean a lot to me and I don't mean to give you up very easily. I'll write again soon, probably; love as always, Lyman.

LETTER 657a Lyman De Platt to parents, Lima, Peru, October 12, 1962 [family received this on October 17]

Dear folks, today is Columbus Day. We have been very busy here this last week; so busy I've been unable to write anything. Elder Clarke's really a tiger and likes to stay on top of the list, so we spend a lot of time working. Today I'll be baptizing one of the other elder's investigators. As of yet we still haven't any more baptisms but we do have a lot of prospects. Today after visiting Brother Díaz, we had a policeman pick us up and take us to our next meeting. He is a member and a really nice guy.

The leading paper down here interviewed President Nicolaysen and his counselor to see what their opinion was on the church meeting in the Vatican. They said we weren't sending a representative because we were the true church and invited everyone to unite with us. This was front page stuff and got us in a few more doors.

Kirk sent me a farewell and a short letter. I'm surely happy for him. The mission will do wonders for him.

Well, it's beginning to feel like summer down here now. It is getting hot already.

Dad you asked for an outline of what I do. Here it comes. Every morning at 6:00 I get up and do a few exercises, get cleaned up, shower, etc., and get dressed. From 6:30 to 7:00 I read and memorize scriptures. At 7:00 we have gospel study where for half an hour we recite our memorized scriptures and the other half memorize our lesson plan. From 8:00 to 8:30 we eat. At 8:30 we have our prayer and go tracting from then until 1:00. This consists of knocking on doors, giving Joseph Smith lessons, and getting return appointments. We eat at 1:00 and from 1:30 to 3:00 we study Spanish, which we do by studying and doing lessons in a lesson book and reading the Spanish Book of Mormon. From 3:00 to 9:30 we usually have cottage meetings that we have gotten in the mornings. Somewhere between meetings we grab a bite to eat at some refreshment counter, etc. At 9:30 until 10:00 we fill out reports, get ready for bed and do fifteen minutes of exercises. On Thursday afternoons we visit a member who is sick, on Friday afternoons we play basketball, study, go to the show, etc. On Sundays we go to meetings here at the branch and often go out in the afternoons to a few cottage meetings. Usually, however, we just relax on Sunday.

Well, that's how my hours are spent. It goes by quite rapidly every day. I am enjoying it tremendously. I hope you are all well and happy. How's the weather? I miss the canyon. It has an attracting force to it.

Dad I hope you are doing okay in deciding what you are going to do. Let me know when it happens that you decide. How's your job mother? I hope you are enjoying it. It is really going to help the family a lot. Say hello to the kids. I think of them a lot. Tell them to be diligent in their studies, especially of the scriptures. I'm glad I studied as much as I did. It sure is a big help here. Well, until next week, God bless you and keep you safe. Sincerely yours, L.D.

LETTER 657b Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 15, 1962

My dear Lucy, I don't exactly remember how long it has been since I wrote, but I haven't because I've been waiting for your address. I'm glad I finally have it. These letters don't have too much space so I'll try to write one to you once a week, if you would like. It takes between three and five days to get from there to there so I'll send them every Friday and should receive them on Mondays or Tuesdays. I won't promise a weekly letter but I'll try.

Sweetheart, when you said you were clear through Alma, I about hit the ceiling. Nothing could have made me happier, because this gospel is most precious to me and you are the first girl I've ever gone with that has done this on her own. Thank you very much for this sign of desire to do the Lord's will. It makes it so much easier to believe when you say you love me. I was very, very happy about your comments on my letter as I expressed, I believe, my whole philosophy, my desire, etc. in life. God bless you for agreeing with all of them. Don't ever worry about our love "fizzling" out. I've found who I want and as long as she loves me and is loyal to my love for her, she need not think for a moment that we won't get married.

I'm glad you have finally decided what you want to do. It's wonderful you are in school. Take advantage of every opportunity to gain knowledge and if it gets a little hard remember what you are doing it for, what our plans are, and how you will make a better mother by this knowledge you gain in this short time. I'm glad you are having to put yourself through. I had to and I surely do appreciate it more. Don't worry if the grades aren't the highest; mine weren't but I gave it all I had and I felt proud of the grades I earned.

It sounds like you'll be in Salt Lake a while. I'm glad 'cause you like it there. I don't worry about you because I know if you love me as you say then you won't do anything to disprove your love. By all means have a good time, 'cuz I would be the first to not want you staying home. Don't let people make you anything other than more determined to love me. It has been done and you can do it.

Never promise me anything you can't fulfill because I consider a promise a debt owed and therefore I make very few promises; but when I do they're good.

I love pine nuts, but don't send them unless you want to. It would probably cost too much to send them. I'm glad you had fun getting some. I've only had that chance once in my life.

Well I'll close for this week. Remember that I'm always thinking of you and trying to live as you would like me to. I'm very happy and content and am really getting into the swing of things. I have almost finished the Spanish lessons that should have taken six months to finish. I only have ½ of the first tracing lesson, but we use that 80% of the time.

I love you very much, Lucy and hope you will continue to love me even though I'm only on Alma 20. I'll try and catch up; until Friday, love always, Lyman.

LETTER 658a Lyman De Platt to parents Lima, Peru, October 19, 1962 [family received letter on October 22]

Dear family, the time goes by so fast that I hardly can find time to write. Already I've been gone two months.

I have been working really hard on my Spanish lessons and finally finished them today. They are supposed to take six months, so you can see I broke a few records. Now I can spend all my time studying the lesson plan. It will be good to be able to concentrate on it alone.

Before I forget, I want to thank McKay, Roberta and Gene for your letters. They mean a lot to me. If I had more time I'd write. I was real sorry to hear about Aunt Cretia. If my letter reaches you before you send her a letter, send her my prayers and regards. Dad, I'm glad you enjoyed conference. It is surely a wonderful experience. We had a short wave set here at the branch and picked it up in Spanish, but couldn't get the English channel.

Mother, I guess you had better forget about sending the music book. I don't have time for it anyway. It sounds like too much of an expense. I guess you're going to have quite a little get-

together for hunting aren't you? It will be nice to have that extra business. If you see the Madsen's thank them for the card please.

Joe, I'm glad you're enjoying your football. Keep with it, but remember your studies are more important. The things you do in the next four or five years will determine a lot about your future life. Eddie, I hope your studies aren't getting you down. Keep it up and you'll be a strong person in church and life. Gene, I'm glad you're enjoying school. Put your studies before your girl friends though. Roberta, I'm sorry about your kitty, but you'll enjoy your little one, so will McKay and Gordie. McKay, keep studying really hard and read your gospel while you're young. You'll never regret it. I'll write you all more later.

Well, until next week, I'll sign off again. I'm still very happy and well. I've been having a little trouble with a wisdom tooth coming in, but it has finally made it I think. I love all of you and pray every night for your welfare and prosperity in the church. The time is going by too fast to worry about being away, so we ought to all be happy in knowing we are doing the will of the Father. I'm kind of expecting to hear Dad put in as Bishop, so I'll just wait until your next letter impatiently. Love, L.D.

LETTER 658b Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, October 20, 1962

Dear, I received your letter today. I was very thrilled and happy as I wasn't expecting one until Monday. Thank you for such a fast reply. I guess many of our letters pass each other on their way. I realize there isn't much either one of us can do except through our letters because of the many miles that do separate us. I won't hold you to a promise of a letter every week, but no longer than two. I realize you are busy and that it takes time to write letters. I certainly won't complain at a letter every week though; just so you realize I understand then you can decide for yourself.

Sweetheart, you just can't imagine how I thank the Lord for such a wonderful girl as you. Your sweet spirit makes me want to try all the more to live to be as you think I am. I'm glad you want me as it seems you do, because with your love helping me and guiding me there is no end to possibilities. I hope that I may always be worthy of you, or I should say someday be worthy of you. You don't have to worry about my feelings being hurt because you didn't write there for a while. I had an idea you were pretty busy getting moved around and all so I figured I'd just be slightly mean. It worked, though, because now you've received my forgiveness for breaking your first promise by making another. I don't hold it against you, because I realize it's sometimes pretty hard to keep promises; that's why I never make very many.

You are a rascal. Here I try to catch up with you in the Book of Mormon and you just hurry and finish it. I'll never be as good as you if you don't slow down. Darling I'm thrilled with your attitude. What books are you going to be reading antes, I mean before you start the Doctrine and Covenants? I'd like to know.

We just live seven blocks from the mission home here so I get to see our president quite often. We talked alone for about half an hour last Sunday. He asked me how I was doing. I told him and he gave me a fine compliment. He said if he had 150 other missionaries with my determination he would be happy. I just finished all the lessons in Spanish. It's a six month course and it seems I broke a record or something. Anyway he was happy.

Darling, what are you studying? You've told me nothing about what you are doing. I would very much enjoy hearing of what you're doing.

Blast it, the paper's running short. Maybe I'll write on the other side this time. Thanks a million for your snapshot. It's sure good to see you again after two months. Boy time flies fast; twenty-eight to go.

Lucy, I must confess that poem wasn't completely mine. I read one that I liked and took the ideas from it. I love to write but am not very good at it as you can see.

Well, I'll be looking forward to seeing your next letter and hearing more about you and your love. I don't worry about your love but I sure think about you a lot. I go to sleep every night wondering what our life together will be like and also about the next two and one-half years. Dear, I love you so much. God bless you for your life, your ideals, your heritage. I'll write next week. Until then this is your Peruvian correspondent signing off, love always, me. Darling, my address is Pumacahua. Make your P's more distinct. Maybe it's my fault. It would make it easier for the mailman. Other than that your writing and letter are just what this missionary needs. Well, dear, I just can't help wanting to be near you, but a mission comes first. Of course you can consider it as your mission too. I'll try and put in more experiences. I did tell you we baptized a person about a month ago didn't I? It was very good to see him come in.

LETTER 659 Lyman De Platt to family, Lima, Peru, October 21, 1962 [family received this letter on October 26]

Dear family, as we are on New York time here, I often lay in bed at night wondering what you are doing. There is such a long distance that separates us that it scares me at times, especially when I'm not really busy. It gets pretty lonesome once in awhile. It is very beautiful down here right now. The sun isn't too hot yet and things are all out now. In our little back yard we have two small banana trees, a fig tree, and a few others I don't know; also very pretty flowers. It is nice to see different parts of the world, but basically they are the same. There are rich and poor, good and bad, slave and free, etc. here. The Catholic Church appeals to me less and less every day. It is the church of the Devil and nothing less. Some of the things they get away with are fantastic. The whole country it seems does nothing but lie. It surely makes it hard to find the honest when their maids lie too. Oh well, we'll find them.

Monday, Tuesday. I got your letters today. They are surely newsy. Thank you all for your devoted time. I realize it takes quite a bit of time to write letters. Thank you McKay for your fine letter. I haven't received any from the other kids lately. I don't know if mother meant they had sent any or not.

Joe, I'm surely glad you weren't hurt much. That sounds typical of some kids to do stuff like that, but remember who you are. Being part of the best family in Springdale, you've got to set your goals high and make people look up to you for them. Dad, I was glad to receive your letter as always. Thanks for your counsel and feelings. I'm mighty proud to be representing two fine parents and have your standards (my standards) showing and in practice constantly. I've finished my Spanish lessons four months ahead of schedule; broke a few records I believe. I'm sorry you are having to have your teeth out. I guess it's best though. I've written twice to Shirlee but as yet haven't received an answer. There is something there on my part but it can't be one-sided. Of course I'll keep her in mind but I think quite a bit of Lucy right now. In fact, she's the only one that has written to me as far as girls are concerned, besides Diana [Johnson]. I'm sure the next two years will take care of the problems though. Marriage is important, though, and you can be sure I won't go into it blindly. Mine has got to be next best. You got the best. I sincerely mean that too. I don't know what I would have done without yours and mother's teachings.

I'm sure happy Shelly Pelliser (Whittier) joined the Church. I've written her once and will again now. That makes me proud to know that your teachings when put into practice could help produce such results.

So much to say. I don't know where that farewell receipt would be. I'm very happy for Oscar [Johnson]. Tell him so. Glad Aunt Gladys and Uncle Albert are better.

Bad news – someone stole my old suit and four shirts. I can get by for now, but I may need to buy one later. They are pretty cheap here, though. Always trying to save and this happens. I'm still enjoying life, however; love, L.D.

[The numbering is off here in marking the letters, so we'll input two of Lucy's letters rather than change the numbers on all the letters.]

LETTER 660a Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 E. South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 23, 1962

Dear Lucy, again the time swiftly comes for me to write to you again. I had a little extra time today and besides I can't let you get ahead of me in letter writing. It was sure good to get a letter from you so soon after your last one. I was expecting one from the folks but didn't get it. Look you little rascal, I may be conceited (that remains as it is) but I'm not spoiled. It's just that you know darn well the feeling you get after not receiving a letter from someone you love for a while. I've sure been showered with blessings with having a girl like you writing to me, though, and also loving me. Our romance reminds me more of a dream than anything, though. It doesn't seem possible that the Lord would be so good to me as to have me meet you when I did. I'm as sure of this as anything that the Lord did answer my prayers. He was just making conditions so that I would meet you just long enough before I left to have me realize that here was my girl that I had been praying for, and also been preparing for all my life.

Lucy, to me besides the priesthood, marriage is most sacred and dear. I don't like it talked about from a physical point of view like a lot of people do because to me it's something very spiritual. Of course there has to be a physical attraction to some extent, but not to the extent it is expressed in movies, etc. When I broke up with Maurine I figured the girl for me was in Springdale. That's why I went with all the girls or most of them there. It didn't take long to eliminate them either. Some it wasn't even necessary to go with. I went with you and Norma and Sandra because I didn't know any of you well enough. Of course Sandra and Norma were eliminated after twice each. They just didn't have it. Now you, that's a different problem; we won't go into all of your virtues, but suffice it to say you're religious, spiritual and physically appealing to me. You are fulfilling my expectations by reading the Book of Mormon, telling me you're enjoying church, etc. Nothing can make me feel happier than this. I love you more for it. Of course I don't even confess to love you as I will because this will come only through years of living together and sharing joys and sorrows together. The eternities are a long time to be married to a person so we must make sure and that is what these two and a half years will be for. Our letters will either determine it one way or another so they have to be honest, interesting, religious, etc. Darling, I love you as much as I can at this time. I hope it will increase and am sure it will, always, L.D.

LETTER 660b Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 E. South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 25, 1962

My dear Lucy, cómo está ud. ahora? Te quiero mucho y espero que también tu me quieres; just expressing my sediments sweetheart. I forgot to mention in my last letter what EE.UU. means. It stands for Estados Unidos (U.S.A), United States, North Amerca, The States, etc.; nuf?

Well we are proceeding bastante, I mean rapidly, here. I'm sorry if Spanish gets in once in a while. We think it and talk it all day. We have two really good investigators now. Next letter maybe I can report several baptisms. I hope so anyway. Friday: You know, sweetheart, you sure must have read a lot in the Book of Mormon. I'm finally starting Helaman. I sure enjoy reading the gospel and reviewing again the commandments and ways we should live. There are so many things we can do that it's easy to forget. I've vowed with myself to read the standard works once a year from now on. If I can do it, I'll sure be a lot better off. What are you reading now? I guess you really don't have too much school left this semester do you? You still haven't told me what you are taking. I'm very interested in your welfare, Lucy, so tell me doggone ya.

Today at noon we are going out to the Inca ruins at Pachacamac. They are some of the more famous ones down here. After that we may go to the beach for a while. We can't swim, but we can look. The ocean is only about one mile from the branch. It's very nice down here this time of year. We are going clear away from Lima about one and a half hours' drive. I'll tell you about it the next letter....

We are all getting along fine. The church is expanding rapidly and the first chapel is quickly approaching its finish. I'm sorry this isn't more newsworthy but I've had to hurry to even get one off to you. We have been so busy. We made top of the list out of 150 missionaries. It's hard in a way but enjoyable in others.

Write me soon and keep me informed how you're doing. By the way, Oscar Johnson got married in the temple. I'm happy for him. How are your folks? I miss them and you too. Well, so long for now, always yours, Lyman

LETTER 661a Lyman De Platt to parents, Lima, Peru, October 27, 1962 [family received this letter November 3]

Dear family, this week has surely been a hectic one. I'm sorry that the letter is a little bit late. There has been so much confusion around the branch. Elder Collings went to Arica, Chile; Elder Moulton went to Arequipa, and Elder Clarke and I are all alone right now. By the time you get this letter we will be a six-elder branch with two greenies and two other older elders.

Friday we all went out to Pachacamac. They are some Inca ruins south of Lima. We went out and spent a half day taking pictures and looking around. There is a baptismal font there as well as the Temple of the Moon. I can't explain them too well but I'll send you the pictures when I get them developed. Also Friday we went to the beach for a while. We did all this with one of our investigators. He's going to be baptized probably next Saturday. We also went to "The Man who Shot Liberty Valence." Good show. It doesn't sound like we're doing much missionary work but we are. We made the top of the list out of 150 missionaries in tracting and just about beat in meeting held. We probably got it best this week also with sixty hours and forty-six meetings. We've got four good investigators. I have been giving up to half of the first lessons. I just about have it all memorized. There are six to memorize.

Well, another month is down. I'm starting on my third already. It is surely good to be with a good companion. There are a lot of dinky elders down here that just don't work. I'm bound to get one once before I'm finished with my mission. When I do though it will be a good time to study. I'm hoping I don't though, because 2½ years is so short a time to do what is necessary. I've finished the book of Alma now. Also, I've been practicing a little on the piano. There are quite a few songs I can play. It seems the spirit even extends into that because it's so much easier than it was. I can get along without the music book.

I guess I will probably draw an extra \$40.00 for a suit. I haven't been able to find the one that was stolen. I guess someone needed it pretty badly.

We went over to look at the chapel on Friday. They have all the foundation laid and are soon going to start on the walls.

Kirk sent down an Articles of Faith card with one of the elders. I'm surely happy for him. Give my love to the folks. I'd like to write but the time just isn't sufficient as I have to go where my companion goes. Well, I'll try to get it off earlier next week. I love you all. Be careful, prayerful and happy, love, Lyman.

LETTER 661b Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 E. South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, October 28, 1962

My dear Lucy, today is Sunday and we decided to obey the Sabbath and not work as we are already almost on top of the list anyway. We neither one feel up to it anyway. Well, how are you getting along? I've sure been doing a lot of thinking about you lately, as well as a lot of praying. You mean so much to me....

We went out to Pachacamac Friday with our investigator. It was very interesting to see the old Inca culture. There was a baptismal font and a temple of the moon that had been restored. It was exciting to see living proof of the Book of Mormon. There were also other ruins of homes, storage bins, etc. in the process of being renovated by some of the Peruvians. I took a whole roll of film out there. Also we went down and saw some of the beaches, etc., then we went to the show "The Man who shot Liberty Valence," all in all we had an enjoyable and relaxing day.

Well as usual the paper goes too fast.... So long for now. Don't forget to write. Good luck in your studies and everything, love, Lyman.

LETTER 662 Lyman De Platt to family, Lima, Peru, October 31, 1962 [family received this letter November 6]

Dear family, I got your letter today. It was surely newsy and interesting. Mine is much shorter – I feel like a heel. I feel a deep responsibility to write, though, as your teachings and lives mean so much to me. I'll try faithfully every week to write. Dad, I hope you are feeling better now. That must have been quite an ordeal with your teeth.

How much longer do the cows have before they calve? Did you get your deer? I wish I was up there, but I'm not. I guess I won't be home too much anymore.

My stuff was in the room. We usually don't lock it and I guess during mutual somebody took it. I've already had Brother Castillo (he is 1st counselor and a tailor) do work for me, so I went to him. This will be my first tailor-made suit. Its costs \$42.00. I surely feel badly about having to spend that much, but it will last. I wrote out a check for \$110.00 this month. My balance is \$375.28. Does that agree with yours? For October I only spent \$60.00. When I become senior I can spend less, but as it is if Elder Clarke goes to a show, I have to go, etc. Still, I spent \$15.00 under average for the mission.

Sounds like Gordie is starting to talk pretty well. He's almost two now. Boy, time flies. You asked me a question about my Spanish lessons. We only live seven blocks from the Mission Home and get over there about once a week. President Nicolaysen said to me that if all the missionaries were like me, he wouldn't have any problems.

One dollar goes a long way down here. It equals twenty-seven soles which will pay for a haircut, two loaves of bread, a dozen eggs, an orange, banana, tomato and two or three potatoes. I save about twelve to fifteen soles every week by ironing my own shirts. I cut everywhere I can that isn't foolish. Of course I'm not endangering my health by ironing shirts or these other shortcuts, and it will help you and give me a better appreciation of money.

Two of the elders left Monday and four new ones came in, so I'm not the youngest here in the branch anymore. One of the elders that left gave me a belt, camera, two pairs of garments, etc. I'm going to try and sell that camera or mine, as I don't need both. It's a Brownie and not as good as mine, but it's okay for taking pictures.

This letter didn't last long. I guess I'll send another this week. I'm in Third Nephi now reading in Spanish. I understand most all that goes on but still have some problems conjugating the verbs correctly. As always, Lyman

LETTER 663a Lyman De Platt to parents, Lima, Peru, October 31, 1962

Dear family, to continue. We have seven investigators with baptismal commitments. How many we'll get for sure, it's hard to say. We are having a great time predicting. We spend about sixty hours every week on actual proselyting, plus twenty hours for studies, which give a double work week each week. We failed to make the list twice; both due to all-day conferences for all missionaries. Usually, we're pretty near the top and on top a couple of times. It really thrills me to see how the honest in heart hear the gospel and accept it.

One of investigators is quite a heavy smoker, but he just up and quit because he said he doesn't want to do anything wrong. All of them drank coffee or tea but they stopped that also.

Will you thank both grandparents for their letters and also Quince [Gwen Smith]. I'll try and get one to them in a while.

November 1 – Well, it's November already. I guess the deer hunt is over and Dad has his teeth in doesn't he? Boy, I just can't figure where the time goes, although I have a few figures for

October. Tracting: 87½ hours; cottage meetings 140 hours; knocked on 586 doors; held 178 meetings; studied 78 hours. I guess that's where it goes.

Lucy is the only girl that's written to me besides Diana so far. Do you have Maurine's address? Apparently I've got the wrong one. I got a letter back. Anyway, Lucy has written me faithfully every week. I get her letter usually the same time I do yours. She has a really sweet attitude and good outlook on life. I'm glad I broke up with Maurine. She's a sweet girl, but I guess not my type. I've surely made a lot of foolish mistakes in my short life. Dad, have you decided what you are going to do yet? Don't keep me in suspense longer than necessary. I hope you can get into something you like. I'm sure the Lord is mindful of your needs. I ask for your protection every night in my prayers.

Say hello to the ward for me. How is it doing? I wish something would happen to inspire a little more activity. Who has what jobs in the church now in the family?

How are you kids doing in school? I enjoy your letters and wait for each one. Ed and Joe – write soon you rascals.

I have been looking at a scout book. I could pass off a few more merit badges now if I had time. If you guys want to get your World Brotherhood, I'll be your foreign correspondent, as I've talked to the scouts here and know what they do, etc.

Well, I'll close for this week. Thanks for your encouraging letters, all of you, love, Lyman.

LETTER 663b Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 E. South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 1, 1962

Dear Lucy, thanks for sticking to your promise and having a letter for me each week. They sure help my morale a lot as I realize each one brings us one week closer to the time we'll be married. Do you have any particular choice of temples? I don't particularly care which one myself, just so it's one of them and you're the bride by my side. How does that strike you?

How did you enjoy Provo? What did you do? How many lucky boys did you go out with? And I'm noseay aren't I? I'll be spoiled but you're still a "rascal."

If you insist on sending those pine nuts I won't object but don't if it costs too much. I'm not worth a whole lot of trouble.

It looks like maybe we've still got our first fight to face as Russia sort of chickened out. That's all right by me. Lucy I appreciate your good spirit and your determination to get good grades. I wish you success. You pill! I knew you were at Henager's but you still didn't tell me what you were taking. I'm glad you've joined the genealogy class as that is one of the things most dear to me. I hate to think of you starting over too. Also, I feel it almost impossible for me. I have four books. I don't remember if I ever showed them to you or not. Keep up as much work along that

line as you can. My patriarchal blessing says that's my calling so there will probably be a lot of it in our family life together.

I'll try and answer your questions in my next letter about my future wife being in Springdale as it takes more space than I have here. The next letter may come with this one.

I'm really enjoying my mission. We have seven good baptismal prospects but as yet only the one baptism. I hope I can tell you of our good success next week. People are funny when it comes to being baptized. It's quite a change, though, and a big step in their lives. We have six elders in the branch now instead of four so I'm no longer the youngest. Two are fresh from the states.

You ought to see me. I exercise every day but still I keep gaining weight. I gained up to twenty-five pounds already. A little of it has gone on my ribs and stomach. I don't know where the other is. I guess we'll both be pretty different both physically and spiritually after two and a half years.

Well that's it for this letter. Keep up the good work and grow and progress just as much and fast as you can. It will mean a lot to our children as you will have the biggest influence on their lives. God bless you in your endeavors, very sincerely yours, Lyman.

LETTER 663c Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 E. South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 1, 1962

Querida Lucita, you wanted an answer: you probably will get a life history. Let's go back to Annabella, Utah to start with. When I was thirteen we lived in Annabella. About that time I started thinking about girls pretty seriously. That may sound funny at that age but it's true. I knew it wasn't going to be easy to find a good clean Mormon girl with high standards like mine because my folks had made my standards pretty high and they'd kept them there until I accepted them and realized the purpose. Well, none of the girls in Annabella were any good because they all had had sexual relations as far as I could find out, so I went to other towns around. In Central I met a really sweet girl, Geraldine [Larsen]. We went together for one year and then she decided she wanted to call it quits. I've gone with her since then every time I've been up to Central but we're just good friends as she is waiting for one of my friends [Lloyd Bybee] who is on a mission.

Then we moved to California. I made quite a big impression there and could have had a lot of fun going with all of the girls, but it was a "fad" to go steady then and after trying to break that fad up by going with all the girls, I got called various names so I settled on one girl, Wanda Norris. She's married now to a marine, in the temple. After I broke up with her I started going with Helen Haycock. She had lived in Parowan during her younger years and being the only Utahan we hit it off pretty well for a while. She had something in her though, or maybe it was me; anyway we had fights, make-ups, and more fights for the rest of my stay in California. She's married in the temple now to a navy guy. Anyway my life in California wasn't happy and I was determined to show those kids. When dad and I came up here to look for a place we had in mind a farm up in Heber but everything went against us so we decided to go back to California and try to make it there. At the junction in Richfield I suggested we take the Zion side trip. Dad did. We

accidentally happened to run into various situations that led us to buy the motel. All this I figured was inspired as we hadn't planned it at all. Anyway, I thought then that my wife was in Springdale because of the peculiar circumstances surrounding our move there.

So I started going with the first girl I met, Maurine. I was still out to show those kids in California. So when I went to the Y, I told everybody I was engaged and they thought that was pretty sharp. So I felt better. I really didn't feel Maurine was the one for me, though, even then. I prayed and fasted and prayed some more. I tried to interest her in church activities and various other things necessary for my wife's basic characteristics but her ideas didn't correspond so we broke off. Still feeling my wife was to be found among the daughters of Zion, after an easy elimination I found her and aim to keep her, love, Lyman.

LETTER 663d Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 E. South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 4, 1962

Dear Lucy, I was reading in the September *Improvement Era*, 1951, about a subject I'm sure you've given a lot of thought to. The story was entitled "Dear John." It was a tremendous article and makes the reasons so clear why 97% of the couples break up while on mission. I'd like to summarize it for you so that we can both be assured of our love lasting.

It begins with the fact that this girl, call her Lucy, had waited for two and a half years for her boyfriend, Lyman. When Lyman came home there was a feeling of something wrong between them. So they reflected back two and a half years when Lyman got his call. They had both been so happy over it. Lyman had told Lucy then that "I can't ask you to wait for me. I won't tie you with an engagement. I want you to be free to go on dates if you want to. Two and a half years is a long time when you're young and popular and beautiful." Lucy had said "But you won't be going on dates. If you can stand it I can." "It will be different with me," he reasoned. "I'll be working at something that I've prepared for and hoped for all my life. You will be going on much the same – school, church, family." So Lucy promised to try it.

As his mission went on the letters became less frequent. Lucy's were inhibited with fear after the excitement had died down of the experiences of travel and homesickness, etc. It was fear that caused them to make wrong statements in their letters; fear that caused her to make the biggest mistake of all; not to meet him at the station. She had waited; had been so faithful that there was no hope of Lyman getting rid of her. She had read everything possible in order to develop spiritually along with Lyman. Studying him under cover of the half-light she saw again how he had matured. He had gone away a boy – her sweetheart. He had come back a man – and a stranger. Now he was a person of authority, a man, with strong opinions, and with the poise that comes only from strength of spirit. No doubt he saw her in a different light too. He had been a good missionary in spite of the fear of losing her. All the other fellows were losing girls. He had expected his "Dear John" with every letter because of her noticeably cooling off in her letters. Now that they were in each other's arms again they knew it wasn't the separation but fear that had caused them so much worry and wondering when they met again.

Lucy, I know you can wait. You've got it in you. Just don't fear that I won't love you when I return. It will make it so much easier. Just be yourself in your letters as you have been so far and I'll be the same. We'll both change a lot; all the above is true, but we can still love one another through all of it. God bless you in your studies and all, yours forever, Lyman De.

I don't know if I explained myself well enough. I believe you can get the gist of what I meant though. I want so much for everything to work out. As I said before, you – I feel – are the one the Lord has said would be mine. I believe in you and I agreed on it in the pre-existence and that for nineteen years we have been preparing for the time we would meet. Of course everything is based on free choice. Just because the Lord says you would make me a good wife doesn't mean that you or I either one have to agree or carry it out. I'm sure we could be happy for all the eternities together though. Do your best and I'll do mine and it will work.

You'd be interested to know I've finished the Book of Mormon. I've now started the Doctrine and Covenants. I enjoy reading the scriptures. Every time you read them there is more there, either because your outlook and perceptions are better or because they just become easier to understand.

When's your birthday? You may be interested to know I have forgotten or else I never knew. I can't for the life of me remember.

You may be interested to know you are the only girl that's ever written to me since I left. I wrote one letter to all my old girlfriends but never a reply. That shows who really cares doesn't it? Thanks for your faithfulness in writing. I'm sure you won't regret it.

LETTER 663e Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 E. South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 6, 1962

Querida Lucita, how's that for a start. I think it sounds very pretty. Well you haven't disappointed once since you made your promise. I have gotten a letter from you every Tuesday for quite a while. Thank you dear; they really help a lot. The work can get pretty routine and a letter from you really breaks that up. Don't feel ashamed if I write more than you. I told you I'd reward you if you kept your promise and besides I love to write to you and talk of things we have done or will do. For example a few excerpts from my diary:

April 8 – came home from general conference with Lucy and Rulon Ruesch. Lucy and I had a very nice talk. She seems like quite a sensible girl.

July 14 – Went to Veyo with some friends; had more fun than I've had for years.

July 20 – Went swimming with Lucy at Veyo; quite a girl.

July 23 – Got stood up on a picnic by Maurine; went swimming with Lucy and took her out to dinner; very nice girl.

Well you see how it is. It's been just about four months, like you said, since we started going together. I never dreamed I would ever go with anyone else after I broke up with Maurine, before I went on my mission, but love doesn't take your plans into consideration at all. I'm glad though, or we might not have had the good fortune we had of finding each other at just the right time.

Sounds like you are reading some very interesting books. It makes me feel good to know you are. The only books I have are the standard works, *Jesus the Christ* and *Articles of Faith*. I'm not near enough read in them though, so I'll just read them over and over for these few years, okay? I'm about 1/3 through with the Doctrine and Covenants. Next task is the Old Testament; then the New Testament; then the *Articles of Faith*; then *Jesus the Christ*; then the Book of Mormon. That ought to keep me busy hadn't it?

I guess you must have had quite a nice trip down to Provo seeing everybody, etc. I hope when we get home we can take a really fun honeymoon. It doesn't matter to me if we go get lost in the mountains or take a long trip. It would be cheaper to get lost, but we've got a lot of time to think and talk and plan for it, haven't we. The time is going by fast though. I've been gone from home for three months. Think of that 1/10 of my mission already gone; so it's not such a long time is it?

You asked for a picture of me from that trip. As yet I haven't got them developed and it takes a long time here and secondly you've got to send me your picture before I'll even consider it, you rascal. I don't mind looking at this one of you, but I have to look at Brother Madsen every time too, so when you send one, we'll see what I can do.

I don't remember what I wrote in that paragraph except that I loved you and wanted you to be my wife. It wasn't a proposal though. I want to be there in person for that, love, Lyman.

LETTER 663f Lyman De Platt, Pumacahua 2246, Lince, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 E. South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 8, 1962

Querida Lucita, well, here's another letter. It seems I just don't have enough space to say what I want to in one of these things [thin airmail, one-sided paper]. Today I received a letter to participate in a special study group to better prepare me for proselyting work and (future) assignments. This assignment will be for an indefinite period of time and it's not certain I'll ever be back here again, so I'm moving everything. My address is El Dorado 195, El Olivar, San Isidro, Lima, Peru. How's that for confusing you. It helps the mailman though. I don't know any more about my new assignment than I've told you. I won't belong to any branch; we'll just live in an apartment (*pensión*) in San Isidro. I'll let you know what it is all about when I find out.

We have three Saturday baptisms ready. I'll let you know how that turns out too; I have the first lesson memorized, finally; it's twice as long as the others, so I hope to be getting them soon.

How are you doing in your school work? I hope you're getting good grades and learning a lot. It will help a lot in the future of our children. They will be growing up in a pretty corrupt world according to the scriptures. Only the people of Zion won't be at war and I'm sure we'll be around to see the finish if we live out normal lives. It will be a wonderful time when that comes.

Lucy, you can't imagine the love that is growing inside of me as I learn more about the gospel and what it will mean in our lives. I hope I can just overcome the bodily weaknesses that I have so I can become a better missionary.

I love you very much and long for the day to come when I can hold you in my arms as my newly married bride. Keep up your studies, prayers, faith and love and I'll see you soon, love as always,
Lyman

LETTER 664a Lyman De Platt to family, Lima, Peru, November 10, 1962 [family received this letter November 17]

Dearest family, well I have news for you. I have been moved. I am now in a new and quite different situation. I will explain it and then ask you to bear with me until I'm through.

They have started a new program here and are starting it out with four elders. I'm one of them. We've been put in an apartment away from everyone. We have an olive orchard outside that's just wonderful for what we'll be doing. We are the only ones in the apartment.

Starting Monday, we go into a concentrated study of the lesson plan. We are going to spend all of our time studying the plan for ten days. We have various methods we'll use: tape recorders, flannel boards, etc. The object is to learn the complete plan – ninety pages – in ten days. It's going to be a big, big challenge. We being the first are expected to memorize the plan besides help the presidency with ideas that will better the program. It is going to take a lot of faith and prayers and hard study to accomplish this, but the president has said that once we have learned it, we will probably become senior companions. But of course all depends on the need. He stresses a lot on need; a person may know the whole plan and still stay Junior, but of course he and the Lord decide. This plan is to prepare us for bigger and more important jobs, though. This is a chance in a lifetime, and I'm sure grateful for the chance. Several elders have been here seven

months and only know the first lesson. This will give me such a head start on the majority, because with the lesson plan memorized the sky is the limit on baptisms, if I can stay humble.

I will ask your pardon for no letters during this time, as they say I can do it, and I want to do it, because of their goodness to me for such an opportunity. I believe I explained about my stuff being robbed. It I didn't let me know. I now have the new suit made. I really enjoy it. It's the first tailor-made I have ever had and it surely fits nicely.

I guess you better just send your letters to the mission home until I get situated again. I love you all and am trying to represent you well, love, Lyman.

LETTER 664b Lyman De Platt, Lima, Peru, to brother Joseph, November 4, 1962

Dear Joe, thank you for your fine letter. I feel it deserves a personal reply. Each time I think of you lately, I'm glad for the closeness we've had together as brothers. I wish I'd taken more time to do things with you though. You are the oldest now, because I'm probably not going to be home much after my mission because of army duties, school, marriage, etc. So it's up to you to be the big brother and set the example. I tried but didn't do a very good job. You've got it in you to be just about anything you want. I was really happy to hear of all your jobs in the church and at school. Keep it up! But remember that you've got to know the scriptures too. I'm glad you've been enjoying your Honda. I've been thinking seriously about getting me one. We could have a lot of fun on two. Take good care of yours and we'll do some traveling when I get back. Shucks, you'll be eighteen then, almost a man. Oh, it will be good to see you again; that is if you're still around.

Man, be careful – first you get hit with a car and that didn't kill you so you try another method. I guess that puts you out of commission for football, doesn't it?

Now to answer your questions. So far Elder Clarke and I have only converted one man, but we have his wife and four more ready for baptism within the coming weeks. The people are different. You won't find better members anywhere in the world, but the other people. They have the custom of "wetting" anywhere they happen to be. It's not uncommon to see men standing on the corner doing just that. They go to the beach naked which present another problem. Their moral standards are very low. Some of the elders have actually seen them in the act in some of the parks at night. Also, it's very common to see mothers feeding their babies in the street. Well, you asked for it. Those are the striking differences I've noticed. The girls do the whistling at us and the flirting. Man, it's hard to stay in the spirit. Everywhere we look at times there's nothing but beautiful girls and are they beautiful. Some of them would take your breath away. Some of the prettiest I've ever seen are the cross between a Negro and an Indian. That's as far as it goes though. We have to ignore them and believe me it's hard.

They have all kinds of cars here and thousands of them, anywhere from a Model T or A to a 1963 Ferrari or Alpha or anything. There are some mighty rich people here, but the majority are poor. The reason – they don't want to better themselves. They're lazy! They will work for a few

hours during the morning, sleep during the afternoon and have parties at night. It seems like there's always a holiday. You just can't expect a person to get rich or well off if he doesn't work.

Their favorite sport is soccer. I don't know about their food as we have ours fixed almost like at home.

Sounds like you have a good scouting program going. Take advantage of it and get your Eagle while you can. Glad your pigs are doing well. Who are you going to sell them to? How much do you owe on your pigs and Honda? I hope you can get them paid for fast, as it's not good to be in debt.

Well, keep up the good work. Always remember to honor your priesthood and church. They are more important than family, friends, life or anything. Write again soon when you get a chance. I think a lot of you Joe and hope we can become closer as the years go by. Your hermano, Lyman.

LETTER 665 Lyman De Platt, El Dorado 195, El Olivar, San Isidro, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 454 E. South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 11, 1962

Dear Lucy, well, I finally got moved and have the inside story on what's going on. We, I should say I, have been moved from Lince District to San Isidro District and now live in a *pensión*. I will be here approximately ten days during which time I will do nothing but study in hopes of memorizing the lesson plan: ninety pages. The president gave four of us this opportunity out of 160 missionaries so you can imagine how blessed I feel for receiving such a chance. The purpose is to learn the plan so we can give it effectively. What a help this will be; you can't imagine. Some elders have been here a year and don't know the plan. Think what great possibilities there would be after only three months. I would be able to become senior companion and have twenty-seven months left in which I could effectively give lessons. We will be studying all day and using many varying methods: tape recorders, flannel boards, etc. It is going to take every minute to learn it and I mean every minute. I'll have to learn ½ a lesson each day which means five pages of Spanish. If you'll excuse me I'll ask to be given permission to wait on writing you again until I'm through here. I want my whole mind and body concentrated on just this one thing for this short time. So please excuse me. As I don't know where I'll be sent from here, send your letters to Andes Mission, Casilla de Correo 4759, Lima, Peru until I give you another address. O.K.? O.K.

You asked if I had a companion. Yes, I did! Now I don't; but he was a good elder and taught me a lot in how to get along with people that aren't anything like you.

Well, until ten days from now. Wish me luck and pray hard for me. I'm going to need a clearer mind than I've had for a long time, love always, Lyman

LETTER 666a Lyman De Platt to family, Lima, Peru, November 16, 1962 [family received this letter November 19]

Dearest family, well I suppose my letter last week was a little late, wasn't it? I hadn't intended on writing until after this class was over, but it wouldn't be fair and I have enough time today anyway. I don't remember how much I told you last time, but it couldn't have been too much as I didn't know too much. I'll explain it better.

On the 8th I got a letter from the president saying to report to this address on Monday and bring all my stuff with me as I probably wouldn't be going back to San Isidro. Well, I reported over here and got all unpacked Saturday afternoon then went over to the mission home Saturday night to a meeting. There were four of us elders from all different parts of the mission in the meeting, besides the four supervising elders that would be working with us. In this meeting we were told we had been carefully selected to start a program that would affect the whole mission. We were told we had ten days to learn the lesson plan (93 pages), after which time we would be made senior companions, junior companions again, supervising elders, or whatever was decided would be best for the mission at that time. The president said we would have upon our shoulders the problem of probably being put in branches where the other elders had lost the true missionary spirit with the purpose of bringing them all up to a higher level. They said this program would make leaders of us and that we would be expected to exercise a high level of leadership abilities from this time forth. You can imagine how unprepared I felt.

Today is Friday. I have learned through the 4th lesson. By Sunday night or Monday morning I will finish the whole plan of six lessons. That will give me two or three days to review and get everything I've learned down better. Wednesday or so we will probably be sent out to our different assignments. I feel the Lord has really been good to me this week in keeping my mind open and ready to learn. It's only with His help that I've been able to do this. It has been all good hard work but it will never be beaten as far as being profitable. Twenty-seven months left to use this wonderful opportunity to the fullest advantage in getting baptisms. Of course it will need constant reviewing, but after you give a lesson once it doesn't go away very easily. I've given the first and second now at nights.

Well, that's the story. The next time I write I'll probably be in a little different location and maybe in a new job. Wish me luck! This week has been expensive as I've had to eat meals out because we haven't had the time for anything but studying. Ten hours a day of studying would be enough to drive you crazy if it wasn't the gospel. The time just won't stand still so we just have to use every second to advantage. This two and one half years will be over way too soon to suit me, I'm afraid.

To answer your question about letters – it's just as cheap to send them separate from here as it is together. It's different than the U.S. Well, I guess I'll write another one, as this isn't all I have to say.

Sounds like fun going to Blanding for Christmas. I'm sure the grand folks would appreciate it. Ask grandma how she is doing on her history. I don't like to be a pest, but that history will be just as priceless to my grandchildren as some histories of your great-grandparents or mine that we don't have much record of. I'll always be grateful to you folks for writing yours. Tell both grandparents I'll write some time, but to excuse me for the time being. There just isn't a day long enough.

I hope you have a nice Thanksgiving. We (the supervisors and we four elders) are going to have a big get-together after this study session is over. It will be our Thanksgiving.

Dad, thank you for the paragraph on discouragement. It came just when I thought this was going to get me down. Also, thanks for your fine words about Lucy. I hope you are enjoying your false teeth. I hope your gums are better.

Mother, as always your letters help to cheer me up and make it all worthwhile. If I didn't know this was the only true church, I'd be home (tomorrow). Thank you for your information about the weather, the film, and your other descriptions. It's just what I need to make me homesick; really, I enjoy it.

As always, I'm thankful for your teachings and lives. They are showing results, in the jobs that I see in the future for me in this mission work.

It's beautiful weather here now. We have a park right by the apartment where we've studied. The trees, birds, blue sky with fluffy clouds are a good remedy for staleness of mind. The weather stays nice until the end of January or so and then it's sticky summer. I hope they send me south to fill a position there. Arequipa is 7,000 feet. About like Salt Lake as far as weather is concerned, except there is no snow.

Well, thanks for your letters. I'll write as soon as I get time. I don't know where I'll be though. I got Sandy's letter today. One month to get here. Love always, Elder Platt.

LETTER 666b Lyman De Platt, Misión Andina, Casilla de Correo 4759, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, Springdale, Utah, November 16, 1962.

Querida Lucita, you asked what "querida" means! Well, it means someone special, someone with what it takes to make a missionary miss her like crazy, etc., but literally it means "dear." It sounds like you're doing okay with your reading of church books. Keep it up. I'm on Section 75 in the D&C.

I don't believe you asked for an opinion, but here it is anyway. Don't accept a job as a primary teacher if you're too busy; but check your time to see if you can't arrange it. I find when I arrange my time I can get a lot more done in a shorter time. I've never turned down a job in the church because I figured that was where the Lord wanted me and I've never regretted it. I'm just expressing my own views; although they aren't worth a whole lot I suppose.

I guess you're probably wondering about my new assignment. Well, I was told I would be given ten days to learn the lesson plan after which time I would maybe be made a senior companion. A lot of elders that have been down a year or more don't know the plan and so of course they can't be as effective as they might. I'll have it memorized by Monday or the time you get this letter. That will be so wonderful to have it learned because then there really isn't anything else to do except preach the gospel for twenty-seven months. I'll never be able to repay the president enough for such a great opportunity. He told us we would now be expected to start sparking up the mission with a new spirit of dedication.

It hasn't been easy to memorize ninety pages of Spanish and it would have been absolutely impossible without the help of the Lord, I know. Oh, it's going to be wonderful. It doesn't matter what position I hold, I know what the president, my folks and you expect of me and I'll do my best no matter what position I hold. The Lord has been good to me. I've got all anyone could want: a wonderful family, good health, a faithful sweetheart, and a strong testimony of the gospel. I need your support Lucy in order to be what's expected of me. Dad said in his last letter "a good wife is the best blessing a man could have." He thinks a lot of you and so do I. Don't let us down; just continue being what your conscience tells you to and before you know it two and a half years will have gone. Take every advantage you can to improve your knowledge and testimony because they're more important than all the power and wealth there is. And if you have a few minutes once in a while try and increase your love for me a little. Good luck in your studies. Have a nice thanksgiving. Sinchita Munaquibi (Quechua Indian) for I love you, always, Elder Platt.

LETTER 666c Lyman De Platt, Misión Andina, Casilla de Correo 4759, Lima, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 18, 1962.

Dear Lucy, well, I've got my new assignment. I will now be working in Piura; which is in the northern part of Peru. It is five degrees from the equator and extremely hot, but not humid. We don't have to wear coats or ties, though, so that will make it nice.

My companion will be Rolando Gregorio González. He is a Peruvian from Arequipa; so my Spanish ought to improve quite a bit. He is a little bit on the wayward or lazy side, so I'm supposed to help straighten him up. Neither of us will be seniors or juniors, just working together as companions.

I learned all the lessons finally after seven days. I reviewed the lessons for three days. I am actually the luckiest elder in the mission field because I have the lesson plan learned and only have three months down. The Lord has been good to me. So many elders get dinky companions to start with and that sort of spoils their whole mission. I hope I can exercise his (the president's) trust and faith in me by being a good elder for the rest of my mission.

My new address is Apartado 328, Piura, Peru. So I guess you can send your present now. I wish I could send you something, but this plane trip, new suit, etc., are draining me pretty dry. I can only send you my sincere love, saying again that you'll never regret waiting. I'll prove my love by working my heart out for the Lord. I guess that is the only way I can do it for now.

I hope you got my letter I sent to Springdale and that you had a nice Thanksgiving. Thanks very much for your sweet and understanding letter. Your faithfulness in writing and sweetness of spirit do a lot to keep my spirit high. So just keep being like you are, love ya loads, Lyman.

LETTER 667 Lyman De Platt to parents, Lima, Peru, November 21, 1962 [family received this letter November 26]

Dear family, well, I've got more interesting news for you. I've got my new assignment. It is to Piura, which is the northern most part of Peru. I am going up there as a companion to Rolando Gregorio González. He is Peruvian, so I'm sure my Spanish will improve considerably. He is supposed to be a rather so-so elder; sort of lazy. Neither one of us will be seniors or juniors; we'll just try to work together as companions.

Piura is about five degrees from the equator and is very hot. It is about 1200 feet above sea level and about 30 kilometers from the ocean. However, it isn't humid, just hot. We don't have to wear coats or ties, so I don't suppose it will be too bad. I'll let you know in the next letter. The address is simply Apartado 328, Piura, Peru.

I learned all the lessons in one week and spent the other three days reviewing. I have given the first two lessons twice and have them down better than the last four, but I'm surely grateful for the chance to have them learned. The other elders are all staying here in Lima for now. Two will be working in San Isidro and the other two close by. Not bragging; just presenting facts; I finished two days before anyone else and am the youngest here. The Lord has really blessed me with an open mind and one that would retain things today and these past ten days. I am actually the luckiest elder in Peru, excluding none, because I know all the lessons after only three months. It will be a tremendous assistance to me in my work. Also, I've learned some study habits that will be priceless in future use.

Well, have a good Thanksgiving. The president and his wife have invited us over tomorrow to partake of two turkeys imported from the states. It will really be nice.

Sorry, I have no time for more, but I have to pack and get ready to leave at 6:30 in the morning. That will give me a good chance to see one half of Peru for now, sincerely yours, Elder Platt.

LETTER 668a Lyman De Platt to parents, Piura, Peru, November 22, 1962 [family received this letter November 26]

Dear family, today at 6:30 a.m. I left the apartment in San Isidro and left for the Limatambo airport. At 7:30 I left for Piura. The ride was quite different from those on the jets. This was a four prop, and was rather noisy. The ride was fascinating, though. I got my first real good look at Peru. I was next to the window just in back of the wing, which is a really good seat.

Peru is a very unique place. Along the coast is nothing but sand except where frequent rivers come down from the mountains. In these fertile areas are the coastal towns with cane, corn, cotton, and rice fields surrounding them for miles. Then it reverts back to plain old sand. This sand gives way in a few miles to small rolling hills (the montaña) which continues until you reach the sierra or the mountains. I had the opportunity to see these three types today. The Andes were looking like fantastic monstrosities cutting the clouds along the entire trip. Down near Lima, some still had snow on. As we came north we stopped at Trujillo and Chiclayo. It was an interesting trip. On the way I gave one guy the first lesson.

Piura is more what I expected Peru to be like. It is quite a big town – 40,000 people. There is a lot of filth and dirt, though. I don't know it very well yet, so I can't say too much. There is a lot of agriculture in the surrounding area, but around that is desert everywhere. About the best comparison for humidity and heat is Las Vegas.

The five elders seem to be nice guys personality wise, but I will have my problems getting my companion to work, probably.

It cost \$25.00 to come up here from Lima. I drew out \$75.28 from my account, which to my calculation leaves \$300.00 even. I know I can live up here a lot more cheaply than in Lima, so I hope to start spending less and make that last a while.

It surely is a relief to have the lesson plan learned, the Spanish lessons done and the Book of Mormon read. I'm going to need a lot of help from the Lord in making this an active branch. The president expects a lot from me and I don't want to let him down. Your faith and prayers will help a lot – I'm sure – in the problems I've got to solve. I appreciate your letters; all of you; they help tremendously.

I hope you find some work dad. Congratulations! How are your teeth? I am still junior companion, but the president said if Elder González didn't feel like working enough, he may end up as the junior. Well, time to close; keep in touch, won't you? Sincerely yours, Lyman De.

LETTER 668b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 23, 1962.

Querida Lucita, well I made it just fine to Piura. I left at 7:30 on the 22nd and got here at noon the same day. We stopped in Trujillo and Chiclayo on the way. I got my first look at the Andes too. Some of them were covered with snow on the tops.

Piura is a town of about 30,000 people. It is at an elevation of 1,200 feet and is surrounded by desert after a little ways of farm land: corn, cotton, rice, etc. We are four hundred miles from Ecuador.

My companion seems to be quite a nice guy, but just a wee bit on the lazy side as most Peruvians are. I'm sure I can love him into doing what he should in time. We have quite a nice area to work in, and he has quite a few investigators. I didn't tell you did I that Elder Clarke and I only baptized one person out of those seven. The others will be, but it takes time on some. I hope we can get some here in Piura. It's a fairly new branch and only has sixteen members. We baptize in the Piura River, which is quite a good-sized stream. It's quite different to see people bathing in the river right out in public, but I guess I'll get used to it.

Elder Wahlin the branch president has made me branch secretary and teacher of the English class so I'm getting right into the swing of things. The English class is on Tuesdays and Thursdays. They get quite a good turnout too. I hope I can teach it right....

I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving. I was invited to eat at the mission home but was called to Piura too soon so missed it.... Always, Lyman.

LETTER 669 Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, Apartado #328, November 24, 1962 [family received this letter December 1]

Dear family, times goes by so fast that I feel like I'm not doing anything. Jimmy Hinton (Northwestern States Mission) who left at the same time I did just wrote me a letter saying he had baptized forty people so far. I've only baptized two. He said they had a goal of 4,000 baptisms in that mission alone for December. Can you imagine that? It will take us a year to baptize that many. Oh, well, at least we're trying.

I've been made branch secretary here in Piura, as well as teaching the English class we have to attract investigators. I hope I can make good in both positions. There is nothing I want more than to be successful as a missionary. If I can do that then my chances are good of having a successful life. As I see some of these elders who don't get up until 7:00 and don't go out until 10:00 and don't really apply themselves when they go out, I wonder what fate awaits them in life. It just determines me more and more to try and serve the Lord.

I made a mistake in my last letter. We're five degrees from the equator, or about 400 miles. It is pretty nice here right now, but it's going to get hot. I guess you're pretty well into winter now, aren't you? Keep me informed on the weather.

This morning we went out to Paita. It is on the coast and takes one hour by taxi. We had to go see a member. It was a little fishing village, very dirty. The people are so poor. This blasted Catholic Church. It makes me sick to think how people can profess to be Christians who live like these abominable priests do. I'll be glad when judgment comes around so some of the poor people can get their just rewards. It doesn't do any good to give them money, they just use it foolishly. The only thing we can give them is the gospel, but we don't have time to give it to everyone.

It looks like I'm in for a siege of inactiveness. My companion is a typical South American. He needs his siesta in the afternoon. I'm glad he doesn't have too much time left in the field. When I make senior it will be wonderful. I'll be able to work just as long and hard as I want. If you get more than a letter a week from me, you'll know why. I mean I've got to live with him. It's hard to make a person see he's wrong when he thinks he's right. He bears a strong testimony and we have good meetings when we have them and he has a way with the people, but he figures he can take his time about everything he does when really he doesn't have it to waste. Well, I knew this would happen sometime in my mission, because there are so many like him, so I'll make the best of it and perfect my lessons and Spanish to such a point that I'll make an effective missionary when I become senior, sincerely, Lyman

LETTER 670a Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru to Edward Partridge Lyman and Irene Perkins, Blanding, Utah, November 25, 1962

Dear grandma and grandpa, I'm quite a rascal for not writing, but I hope you understand. The time goes by so fast here and with so much to do it flies.

For the first two months of my mission I was in Lima. Lima was a very nice place to work and the elders are very successful there.

After working for two months I was put in a special school to learn the lesson plan. There were five of us and we learned it in ten days. That is a big help now and also a relief

I am now stationed in Piura which is in the north of Peru, about 400 miles from the equator. It is hot, but not humid. I quite enjoy it here. There are a lot of people ready to be baptized. My companion is a Peruvian. We get along pretty well together, although he doesn't work as hard as I wished he would. We get along okay otherwise. I am able to use the language fluently enough to be able to talk sensibly with him.

It was wonderful to hear that Kirk went on his mission. It will surely be good for him. I hope he can have a happy and successful time.

How are you both feeling? I hope you're well. I will always be so wholly indebted to you for having such a wonderful daughter as my mother. Her teachings have been of great importance to me thus far and I'm sure I can always look to her for an example to follow. She mentioned they might be going to Blanding for Christmas. I do hope you all have a good time.

Well, I guess Gordon Dee is just about ready to come home isn't he? How is he doing? How is everyone else doing?

How is the history coming along? I'm hoping it will be done when I get back so I can go right ahead with what I have in mind. I realize it takes time but it will be of so much value to my grandchildren and theirs.

Well, I guess I'd better close. Give my love to all the family there in Blanding. Thank Aunt Quince for writing will you? I'd like to write to everyone but my time would be best spent working at what I'm here for. Write as often as you can find time; love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 670b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, November 28, 1962

Dear Lucy, ... The time seems to be going by slower since I got up here in Piura. Maybe it's because we don't work as much. I was used to working ten to twelve hours a day. I have to push my companion here to get nine. I like him a lot and am learning a lot as I seldom get the opportunity to talk in English anymore. It is surprising how fast you lose your native language. It is much easier to say my prayers in Spanish now so I've just given up trying to in English. I may have trouble starting to talk English straight when I come home,

November 30th, well, this month is shot to pieces and December starts. Boy the time goes by, fast, in ways. Several interesting things have happened since I last wrote. I am now on a professional basketball team which plays twice a week here in Piura. It is a lot of fun and we are making many new friends for the Church. We have four or five other teams we play in a round robin. Also, I'm going to sing in an opera here some time around Christmas. It is a Quechua Indian spiritual. So again that makes another chance for the Church to become better known and gives me a chance to sing. Also, I sold my camera for enough money to keep me here for a month. It was so big and awkward. I have a little Brownie I'll use that a missionary gave me. I don't have any pictures of me, but when I get some, I'll send you one.

I hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving and are now back in the swing of things at school. I guess you don't have too much more left, do you? Have you decided where you will be working yet? The missionary work is coming along fine here in Piura. We have one "family" of four we have ready to baptize. You never can tell in this business as I've found out, so I'll just leave it at that. I really enjoy working here in Piura though. It's not going to be as bad as I thought it might. Elder González is shaping up a little and we might even make the list this week (55 hours of work or more). I don't remember if I told you what assignments I had but I'm branch secretary, English teacher and Junior Sunday School teacher, so that keeps me busy....

LETTER 671 Letterhead of James Vernon Sharp, Presidente de la Misión, Misión Andina, Avenida Orrantia 1210, San Isidro, Lima, Peru, Casilla de Correo 4759, November 29, 1962. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Platt, P.O. Box 6, Springdale, Utah; received December 3, 1962.

Dear Brother and Sister Platt, I would just like to write a note commenting on your son's progress here in the mission field.

Recently we experimented with a new concentrated program in which your son was one of five chosen to participate. The purpose of the seminar, as it was called, was to teach all of the six lessons of the uniform system to the elders and train them in giving the lessons. The progress of the elders was amazing, fulfilling completely our hopes for its success. Lyman has now had some extremely valuable aid, which if applied correctly, will be a real source of strength throughout his mission.

The seminar was taught by two pair of our most capable supervising elders so the elders also received some valuable instruction through words and examples on leadership. Lyman was the first in the study group to complete the learning of the six lessons, although he was much younger in time in the mission than the rest. He commented on how fortunate he felt to be so young in the field and know all of the lessons.

Lyman has been assigned to the branch in Piura. Piura is about three hours out of Lima by plane. His companion is a local missionary so he should really progress rapidly in his Spanish too. We are certainly proud of him as we know you are; sincerely, Elder Donald Lynn Jones, second counselor.

LETTER 672 Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, November 30, 1962 [family received the letter on December 3]

Dear family, another week goes by and it's time to report to headquarters. All is well and happy a way down under, here in Piura. Elder González has come out of it a little. I like him quite a bit; we get along great together, so I can jokingly tell him to get on the stick and let's get out of here and he'll do it. We maybe will even make the list this week.

I haven't received any letters from you for ten days or so, so I don't have any questions to answer, etc. I'm sure it's just because of the change. You probably noticed if you got all my letters that I wrote about every four days there for two weeks during the time you said you hadn't gotten any.

I sold my Yashica camera for enough money to last me through December, so I probably won't be writing a check out until January. So far I have written three: \$60, \$110, and \$75.28. That's pretty good considering a new suit, a plane ticket and the ten days in the apartment; boy that was expensive! We had to eat out twice a day. I figure I can still make the money last until June barring any more difficulties.

Did you get that one debt on the motel paid off? You know it surely would be nice if we didn't have to worry about money, but I think it's fun trying to get by with as little as possible. It's nice to have what we need, though, and I do, so I'm satisfied. I've not got a lot of riches except for two wonderful parents, five good brothers and a beautiful little sister, plus the priesthood, a testimony of the gospel, a healthy body, and a faithful girl friend; heck, what more could I want?

We have a wonderful family ready to be baptized, but of course I've learned it doesn't do too much to be confident until after they're baptized. Piura is a great town in which to do missionary work. We try any way we can. Right now Elder Wahlin, branch president, and I are on a professional basketball team. We play four or five other teams in a round robin. It's a lot of fun and gets the church in the paper a lot because we are "tall gringos." Also my companion and I are going to be singing in an opera around Christmas. I'll be singing Quechua Indian spirituals. Also, this English class is a good way to attract investigators. Besides being English teacher and branch secretary, I am now in charge of the Jr. Sunday School, which consists of three children. So I manage to keep busy.

Give me Maurine's address again, will you, so I can write her a birthday note on the 19th. I hope you have the right address. She won't write me until I do her, I'm sure, or at least get her a letter; I've written enough.

I can get ten haircuts here in Piura for the price of one (\$1.50) in the U.S.A.; pretty good, huh? Well, I'll sign off for this week. I love you all very much. Write soon. Love always, L.D.

LETTER 673a Lyman De Platt to Edward, Piura, Peru, December 4, 1962

Dear Brother Edward, well, you're growing up, aren't you? Do you realize you are going to have two more birthdays before I come home? Heavens, you'll be sixteen. I hope you have a good birthday and make a few resolutions for yourself. One is to start studying the scriptures. You know I'm about the only missionary I've ever talked to yet that has ever read the standard works clear through. It's sad but it's true. Think how much of an advantage you'll have over everyone if you start studying now. You've got five years to study and learn the gospel. So far you've relied upon the testimonies of mother and father, but now you're starting into manhood. You've got to gain your own testimony of the gospel or you'll never make it. There are many missionaries here who had never studied before they came on a mission, who still don't have testimonies of the gospel – who are here because their brothers went on missions and their parents wanted them to go. They are unhappy and are wasting their time as well as bringing condemnation on their heads for not being diligent servants of the Lord. I only say this to you to let you know how a mission really is. If you're prepared, you can feel that you are having the happiest time in your life – if not, the most miserable.

I can say honestly that I've tried to set a good example for you, being your oldest brother. I've not always done the best I could, and that's when you and our other brothers helped me, for which I'm grateful to you. I only say these things because I see such a great future for our family in the church. We are a good-sized family and have had the best training that any children could have had. I can't express my exact feelings because they run so deeply and are hard to bring out, but try your hardest to live the way our parents have taught us. Start reading the scriptures. If you only do it fifteen minutes a day, you'll be surprised how fast you'll finish the complete standard works. I've read the Book of Mormon, Doctrine and Covenants, Pearl of Great Price in these three months here. I've spent a little more than fifteen minutes a day because that's what I'm here for. Why don't you and I resolve to read the complete standard works for 1963? Okay?

Mother told me you were doing all right in school. I know I feel mighty proud to have a bunch of brothers like you. You're not ordinary spirits, so don't be like the rest of the crowd. Usually the crowd is wrong. Just be like you have so far and I'll be proud of you. I'd like to hear from you this month and hear how you're doing in scouting, church activities, school, sports, etc.; okay? Your brother, L.D.

LETTER 673b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, December 4, 1962.

Dear Lucy, I'll forgive you for going over a little there. If you find you don't have time during your examination don't worry about it, I'll understand. I just want you to get good grades. What are you going to be doing after this quarter of school is over with? If you know yet, I'd like to know. If you don't I'd like to know anyway. Let me know as soon as you make up your mind. O.K.? O.K.!

I like it here in Piura just fine. My companion and I are getting along just fine now. We still don't get along as far as how much time we should spend working yet, but its coming. There are a lot of really fine people here that are going to be Mormons soon I hope. Did you hear about the mass baptism in Valparaiso, Chile? There were 500 people baptized in one day there in the ocean. Boy, if that's not a miracle I don't know what is.

You know honey the more I read your letters the more I realize I've got a pretty sensible girl. I like your outlook on my mission. So many girls don't think of this as an important 2½ years for the Lord, and they make it hard for their boys to concentrate on their work. It's hard enough without girlfriends as it is, so just know that I'm very thankful for your fine attitude towards everything. I understand you gave a very fine talk in Church at Springdale on the 25th. I'm glad you did. My folks seemed to be happy to have you visit with them. I'm glad you get along with them like you do. It's surely too bad Don and Gloria are having a bad time. There are so many kids think that they are in love, but find out after they are separated that's it's only a physical attraction. They were so sure of everything weren't they? I believe we have about as good of a relationship between us as anyone could have. It's love, but yet it's not to any extremes in any part of it. Also, I feel that our outlook future wise in all aspects of a marriage are maybe a little better than most young couples. We can be thankful to our parents for that can't we?

Well I finished the Doctrine and Covenants. I've been really pushing it hard. I'm going to finish the Pearl of Great Price and then start the *Articles of Faith* and then the Bible at the first of the year. I've got really more time than I want to have for study. I'd rather be working. How are you doing on the Doctrine and Covenants?

Now look you rascal, don't get too skinny. I kind of liked you as you were. Oh well, we'll both be quite different after two more years I guess. Well, good luck on your exams. I'll write you a big long letter for Christmas. Be careful with yourself and write to me when you get time. I think I'm a pretty lucky guy, all my love, Lyman.

LETTER 674a Lyman De Platt, to family, Piura, Peru, December 4, 1962 [family received this letter December 10]

Dearest family, well, I finally got a letter after being here ten days. I was beginning to wonder if you had gotten mine. I guess we're all okay now.

Lucy said she enjoyed very much seeing you all again. I'm glad you all get along with my girl friends as well as you do. I, of course, don't know who I'm going to marry, and I am glad I don't have to decide now, as I'm still not old enough to know for sure. Lucy has been really faithful, though. I get her letter invariably every day I get yours, whether you're a day late or three days early.

It seemed to me that apparently the dentist dad went to, died according to your letter. If not, what's "bill to his estate?" Maybe you thought you'd said something about it, but forgot. I hope you soon get it straightened around dad. I'm sure it's no fun.

I don't suppose you've heard, but in Valparaiso, Chile, they just performed a miracle: baptizing 500 people in one week. It took place in the ocean, and they went on into the night (9:00). I'm very anxious to hear who, where, how, etc. about it. That is utterly fantastic for one town. That will mean they'll need four or five more new wards. Boy, the church is sure progressing rapidly. We have one family of six we are working on that if we can get, there's no end to the number of possibilities. There are three or four families just waiting for them. But, like I said, it's not done until they're baptized. Boy, missionary work is interesting. It has its ups and downs, but usually it's up.

The elders are all really nice guys. I like them all and we have some pretty good times together. There are six: each pair has a room. Elder González and I; Elder Harshbarger from Pocatello, Elder Iverson from St. George, Elder Gunn from Northridge, California, and Elder Wahlin from Prescott, Arizona. So you see we have quite a selection. Elder González is from Arequipa, Peru. We get along really well together, he and I. We are almost like brothers already. He's always smiling; a typical looking Peruvian; short, stocky, black hair, Lamanite features, happy and has a very strong testimony of the Gospel. We correct each other on a lot of things we do that aren't exactly right, and are working enough now to make me happy. First impressions aren't always the best, are they? I think I'll try my friends by actions not by what people say from now on.

We have many good investigators and hope to report some baptisms next letter. Here in Piura things are different than in Lima. There you are under pressure to work 10, 12 hours a day because of the Presidency, but here your quality of work improves because it's because we want to, not because we're being watched. That is why Lima has so few baptisms. Here there is more harmony between the elders and when we have this we have the Spirit of the Lord. Boy, Piura is just ready to burst wide open. President Nicolaysen is a tremendous president and we'll see much progress under him. His wife is very sweet too. She is going to have a baby just before Christmas.

Sounds like all the family is really getting good grades; that's great; just keep it up. Before you know, you'll be out of school and on missions, married, going to college. Life appears to be a very short time to me.

I just finished reading the Doctrine and Covenants in Spanish. I'm now starting on the Pearl of Great Price. Next the Bible again. Oh, it's great to have time to study the scriptures and to learn of the great things that await us if we live righteously. Also, I do my exercises every day, write in my diary (almost two years now) practice the piano when I can (it's coming) and try improving all aspects of my life. I believe I mentioned I was on a basketball team here and was going to sing in a concert, didn't I?

We work here seven days a week. There's nothing to do but go to the show, so we hit them after a day's work once in a while. They only cost a quarter. On Sundays we eat at a restaurant (the Three Stars or Tres Estrellas). We can order a full-sized meal (three tamales, a dish of raviolis, a plate of French fries and some drinks for \$.75. If you'd like to put a dollar in the bank I'll buy me a big steak on Christmas, as I've wanted one for so long. Other than that, I've got all I want or need, so you don't have to worry. I'll enjoy Christmas this year by singing songs with the elders, maybe going to the beach (1 hour) and playing around. Elder Harshbarger plays the piano, Elder Iverson plays the guitar, we all sing and all like to play chess, so we'll have a good time. Of course, missionary work is first, but there's time for others things, too. I went to Mass last night. It was very interesting, but I like being a Mormon.

Lucy is sending me a present (I think it's pine nuts), so if it gets here, I'll have a wonderful time eating nuts. I could say lots more but there are a 100 weeks to say it in so I'll close for now, Love, always, Lyman.

LETTER 674b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, December 7, 1962.

Dear Lucy, well, Friday is here again, so I'd better keep my promise. Your Christmas present is in Lima and will probably be up here Monday or Tuesday. Thanks for the nuts. I'm glad you sent them. I hope it didn't cost too much to mail them.

We have four baptisms for tomorrow and I'm pretty sure these will come through. I hope so. We've worked on them hard enough.

I finished the Pearl of Great Price and am on the *Articles of Faith* now. It is an interesting book. Have you read it? Boy, the weeks are going by fast. It seems like I just get a letter off and it's time to send another. In fact I'm not so sure I didn't send one this week. Oh well, that's life.

There have been a lot of baptisms lately. We had our best month in Peru (118 persons). We are trying for 200 this month. I don't know if we can, but we'll try.

I hope you do all right in your exams this month. I'll be praying for you to have a clear mind and remember what you've learned. Let me know as soon as you find out your grades.

Piura is getting hot, but I like it here. The people are very good and are ready to be baptized. I believe it might start opening up now. It's about time. It takes a lot to baptize some people. They just have to be pushed and pushed. There is so much work to be done. I just wish I were free to do all I wanted to. We are having good success, but it could be so much better.

I guess winter has set in there hasn't it? I wish I were back in the snow again. Let me know about what is happening and all. I miss Utah and you very much.

Well, I'll write soon again. Just keep your letters coming as they have been. Thank you so much for them. They are always such a lift to me. How's your Primary class? Do you have a lot of friends there in Church now? Be good and don't go with too many boys, unless you want to. I'll try to stay away from the girls, love, Lyman.

LETTER 675a Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, December 8, 1962 [family received this letter December 14]

Dear family, how's things north of the equator? They go counter-clockwise here. That's your cue to the toilet, dad.

I was allowed to play in all of the basketball game last night. We won by one basket 33-31, so we felt pretty good. Elder Waulin and I are "gringos" and "Mormones" so of course there is usually something about the team in the paper. It is surely a good missionary contacting idea. Many more people get to know us and we have a few contacts.

We have a little patio out in back that has a big high wall around it where we planted some grass. Also, there were some watermelons (plants) that were just started when I came. Nobody else knew what they were, so I've been watching them and taking care of the three of them. Two have started running already. So you see, I won't get homesick in this way at least. It relieves the mind a lot too when I can spend about ten or fifteen minutes doing something like that. Also, I moved my bed out on the patio. I surely sleep better. It's so much cooler.

I've been doing a lot of studying lately, as my companion has had the desire not to work. It's 8:30 in the morning and he's still in bed. I had gospel class by myself this morning, as two elders went on a pleasure trip to Tumbes up on the Ecuadorian border and the other two were listening to records, and my companion was dreaming. I don't see how they can figure they can get away with it. I certainly wouldn't dare try it. My conscience gives me a bad enough time even though it's not my fault.

Have you decided on going to Blanding or not? I hope you will have an enjoyable trip if you go.

How much times does Mulee [our cow] have left? Is Brownie with calf or not? Did Joe sell all of his pigs or not? How are Eddie's chickens doing? Are there any more little ones yet? You should have started harvesting the nuts according to my diary. How are they this year? How's the motel business? You still didn't tell me that you paid that one bill or not on the motel. Let me know, will you?

I got your first letter after the one you sent later that told of the dentist being killed. That's surely too bad. Have you decided what you'll do yet? Did you pay anything before your dentist died, dad?

Well, I'll write in a while again. I'm busy writing some letters to your for Christmas, so I'll sign off and get them done. I hope you had a good birthday, Eddie; love always, L.D.

LETTER 675b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, December 10, 1962.

Querida Lucita, the time is going fast isn't it? I'm afraid I won't be able to get all done before my mission is over. I want to baptize 100 persons while here. I'm sure I can do it if I can become my own boss. Shoot, we waste so much time it's terrible. I hope it doesn't last too much longer. I said we waste time, but I was only referring to that with other people. I make good use of the time that we waste. I've just about finished Genesis in both English and Spanish. I'm going to read them through together. They are interesting. I've been going through making a genealogy chart as I went. It's surprising how much more I've learned that way. Also, I get bored of reading. I practice the guitar a little, the piano, or drawing, etc. I don't have too much spare time, though. We usually work about eight hours a day. I'd like to work more, but I've done all I can peaceably.

Yes, we always fly wherever we go in Peru because the roads aren't the best in the world and there are quite a lot of dishonest people that travel the highways. A life is worth 500 soles so we have to watch it. My companion and I are accompanied here by four other elders. Perhaps you know the one, Claude Wayne Iverson from St. George. He said he knows you. He's going home in six months.

Hey, if you start to work at Holy Cross Hospital, look up Diana Johnson. She is a life time friend and I believe the only Mormon that works there. She would like to meet you.

I'm glad you are progressing so rapidly with the D. & C., and reading other books besides. Are you enjoying them and getting a lot from them? The D. & C. isn't too boring while reading the main ones.

I'm still praying and hoping you do all right on your finals. It looks to me like you will. You seem to be pretty conscientious about them. Let me know, won't you?

Thank you very much for those fine compliments. I hope I can make myself more worthy of you as the mission progresses. I realize I have many faults that are holding me back. It would be so much easier with you to help me.

Well, my next letter will be a long Christmas letter. It may be a few days late as I'm trying to write one to each of my family also, but I'll get it to you before Christmas. Keep up the good spirit and don't forget I need your letters to keep going. Before you know it I'll be home, love, Lyman.

LETTER 676 Lyman De Platt to mother, Piura, Peru [family received this letter on December 21]

Dear mother, well, I hope you enjoy my Christmas present. It isn't much, but I hope to say the things I want to so it will be of some value to you.

Of course you are well acquainted with the roll of the mother in the family and have fulfilled your part far above the call of duty. I'm grateful for to follow your fine example. Please accept my love for you for this from the deepest part of my heart. Your teachings have been such that make a child more or less ready to leave home and accept the responsibilities of life. You've taught me what was right and then given me my free agency. So many parents tell their children they have to be in at such and such a time and have to do such and such before they can go with friends; they have to go to church, etc. It's much easier as you've seen to instill in a child a desire to go to church, a love for the commandments of God. None of the family will go wrong, if you continue doing this. Well, anyway, thanks for it all.

I am building for myself a sound philosophy down here as I see how people actually are. I am beginning to hate more and more the things of the world. Nothing really matters to me anymore except my family, the church and the hope and determination of being a good missionary, so that I can be a good father, son, brother, etc. These two and one-half years either pretty well make or

break a personality. There are some missionaries who can hardly wait to get back and start their night-life again with the dollies. Although mine has never been to such a great extreme, I can see where there are going to be a lot of changes. The physical attraction to me has finally been put in its right place and the things that are much more necessary are on top now. I'm beginning to realize I think some of the actualities that come with marriage and that a person ought to be all ready to give and take, sacrifice a little and all these other important aspects of the family life. I see so many different kinds of family life down here that it isn't going to be hard to decide just what I want and don't want in a family of mine. If I can find a wife with some of these basic ideals also then I'm on the way to having a happy and wonderful family life. Your fine example has shown me what I want in a wife and what things have to be there or the marriage will be an unsuccessful one. I again am indebted deeply for this.

Also, I'm deeply grateful to you for the inheritance you've given me. I believe I can sense what my responsibility is as the future genealogist of the family. It certainly won't be an easy job and I need your help. I hope you can encourage your family, your folks to hurry and finish their histories. There is little enough time as it is. As I understand by my reading of the scriptures, both the living and the dead (the just) will be living on the earth during the Millennium and we will be able to have free contact with our ancestors who are now dead. This will make it so much easier, of course, but if we have it done, as much as we can, it will surely be a lot easier.

How is your work going mother? Do you still find it hard to keep everything done? I guess I should have saved that question until April 1st. I hope you aren't getting too discouraged. There seem to be a lot of problems we have to face, but I've thought for quite awhile that we were only given these to better ourselves. The Lord must love our family, as he has given us plenty of problems, but also He has also given us a way to solve them and blessings afterwards. We ought to be mighty grateful and humble during this season especially for all the wonderful opportunities, health, happiness and success we've received from this life. The Devil tries in many ways to get us started downward and as I watch these elders, I believe that wasted time is going to go pretty hard on us.

Mother, my letter isn't as long to you as to dad, but that's because of what I said concerning girls and girl in his. Please give me your opinion on what you think ought to be my course in this big decision. I don't know why, but I love Shirlee very much; not in the way I did Maurine or do Lucy, but in a way that is only explainable the way I have in dad's letter. Please pray about it and let me know in a future letter your personal feelings about Shirlee and this feeling I have.

God bless you in all you do mother. Nothing in the world can replace the experiences, the love, the tears, the joy and the life we've had together. Always will I cherish these by-gone days with a fondness never really explainable. I love you very much and pray you will always be the light I need to guide me; as always your loving son Lyman.

LETTER 677 Lyman De Platt to my father, Piura, Peru [dad received this letter December 21]

Dear dad, circumstances being as they are, I figured it best if I just sent you all letters as Christmas presents along with my love. I know you appreciate words of truth more than worldly

presents anyway. Of course it is a lonesome feeling that creeps over me as Christmas approaches and I realize I won't get to be with the family, but also I know it will be a happy Christmas for all of us as we know we are participating in the work of the Lord.

Dad, you've been a bigger influence in my life than you'll ever realize and eternally grateful to you will I be for your fine example. I realize we are both probably possessed with about the same portion of feelings on what is right and wrong which has caused many disagreements among us, but I feel I can honestly say I've never considered my reasoning power greater than yours. I always tried to follow your advice even though I didn't agree wholly with it, knowing as I'd been taught that you as the head of your family were entitled to revelation concerning your family. Please accept my thanks to you for being my father.

I'm sure you must feel at times that maybe it's not worth it all or that you've failed in fulfilling your calling in life, but don't. If I can become the kind of man I feel you are and then know what lies ahead of me as you do, I'll feel pretty fortunate. I realize you didn't have a mission as I've been having, but if you can raise your other five sons and instill in them the same kind of testimony you've given me, the world will be so thankful to you for your life. Imagine the worth of 500 souls in the sight of God. I may not get my fair share of those 500 souls for you, but my brothers are going to be on their missions at a time when it will be all they can do to preach to those that come to them. All I know is that it takes us all to make a final result and anything I do will be mostly a result of what you and mother have taught me. There really isn't much I can do as a junior companion except always be ready to work; and I am. Also, I can prepare myself for the time when I become a senior. When I do become a senior I expect to be able to report a baptism or more every week. I have 100 weeks left in the mission field. My goal is to get 100 baptisms before the end of my mission [I was directly involved in 62 and there were many more that came as a result of those; and other were baptized after I left, that I had helped teach; but all are God's not mine.] I'll be able to do it if I'm given the chance. Of course a lot depends on your faith and prayers, so give it all you've got. I've prepared all my life for this chance and I want so much to make this a successful mission.

You see, from what I gather here the three senior elders are ready to go home. One has four, one five, and one six months left. Two of them have had "yellow jaundice" while here, and you know that after that nobody is themselves again. Get the picture? They're just worn out, tired, and want to go home. The other one is a Peruvian which entitles him to a siesta every afternoon as well as taking his time in all he does. So you can see with three seniors that don't particularly care to work and three juniors that would like to get out and work, we have a little problem on our hands. I believe my next change will see me a senior, though, and then I can send home good news.

Dad, Shirlee finally wrote to me after I sent her three letters and told her that I couldn't write anymore unless she wrote. She said she would return a letter for every one I send, so we'll see what we can do. To be very truthful with you, when I was ten years old I told her I would meet her at BYU and we'd get together again. Well for all these years, I've kept this to myself knowing we would meet again. All the girls I've gone with I've compared with her as I remembered her. Of course at times I've been infatuated and more physically attracted than

anything else to most of my other girl friends. As I look back on them I can see that now, but couldn't then. Anyway, what I'm trying to say is that as far as I'm concerned (as you said) Shirlee is from better stock than any of the other girls I've gone with and therefore probably has been better trained than any of the others. As you said, the girls in Springdale just don't appear to be from the best stock. I've still got naught against Lucy and will continue writing to her, but at least you know how I really feel about Shirlee. She was everything I expected her to be after seeing her and talking with her; even more, I believe. I'll tell you honestly, I don't believe a guy could go wrong marrying her. You might put a few plugs in for me if you write to them, but nothing much for now, as she just wants to be good friends. I believe I know pretty well how to word my letters until one day she'll realize she's in love with me. Let's just keep this between you and mother for now, okay? I had this desire for so long and finally she has given me a chance to start. I've trusted you with something very special to me, so honor that trust as you see fit. There I feel better now.

Choosing the right woman for a wife is surely hard. I can see now that Maurine wasn't for me and that Lucy really doesn't leave me with a feeling I feel I should have when I'm in love. Try to understand my feelings as I explain to you my feelings for Shirlee and then tell me if it's love, will you please. First of all, I realize that love is a thing that grows as a couple progresses in life; as they meet the joys and sorrows of everyday together and as their children come and go. But try and think back on your feelings you had for Mother. Of course there had to have been a physical attraction and from remembering the talks we've had, you and I have about the same amount of desire for the physical aspect, so you can imagine what my feelings for her are. I am attracted to her this way. She is a very beautiful young lady. From the standpoint of poise and personality she is tops. Her parents are proof enough of her religious knowledge and faithfulness. As for my feelings for her, they are very hard to explain. When I try and explain it my mind is a jumble of thoughts spiraling as a whirlwind out of a deep, dark abyss and is twirling so fast I can't reach in and pull any specific one out. My stomach, when I think of her, becomes like when you are expecting something to happen and don't know when or where it will. You know, sort of a hollow feeling. My heart misses a beat and then tries to make up for it when I try to remember her. Well, that's more or less how I feel. I've never considered it important enough to try and explain to you about any of my other girls, so give it a lot of thought before you answer and express yourself.

Well, dad, have a happy Christmas and continue being the kind of father you have been and you will send all of your sons on missions. Good luck in your new assignment. Springdale Mormons are going to be harder to convert than Piura Catholics, so I leave my prayer for you with the Lord every night. Also, I pray that you might find something that you will be happy in doing. I'm too young to know of anything I could say that would help you except as we both know prayer is a mighty help and I'm sure you are using it. I will give you all the support I can. If you want me to fast, let me know, okay?

I feel a lot closer to you dad, since now I'm so far away. I saw a show that was a reproduction of the book by Hemingway "The Value of Man." It made me realize I have been so selfish with my time with you and that maybe instead of me just needing you, you had the same desire to be with me and have fun; hiking, hunting, fishing, or just sitting down and talking. I'm sorry if I haven't

been the best son in the world. I realize now that even though you're older than I, your heart is still as mine and enjoys the things I do and wants to be free once in a while just to be yourself, but due to family obligations you don't have the time sometimes. I'm sorry if I've misunderstood this at times. I hope we can build on our errors and have these times together when I return. My heart is so full of so many things I could say, but this will do for now. I love you dad and wish you success, your missionary son, L.D.

LETTER 678 Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru to Joseph Platt, Springdale, Utah [Joe received this letter December 20]

Dear Brother Joe, I look forward to writing to you each time as I have so many things I like to talk to you about. I hope I can express myself in a way you will realize that whatever I say comes only from the heart and is said only to help you be the kind of man you should be and because I love you as a brother should.

According to Lucy and mother you have been going with Della Stansworth. Why don't you write to me and tell me about her. She must be quite a girl to have attracted a girl hater like you or have you changed your mind? Like Lucy said, "We knew his turn was coming, didn't we?" Can I give you a bit of advice? Don't be free with your love and your kisses. I've been a little bit too much that way. Also, you are sixteen now and these next years before your mission are going to be full of fun, excitement, love, disappointments, temptations and many things. These next three years are the years that either make or break a man. Use them wisely. You can still have lots of fun and look back on them with fond memories. From your last letter, it sounded like you were doing okay without any advice, but still if I can help you at all avoid some of my mistakes, it will be worth it.

I remember back when I turned sixteen. I thought I was all grown up and so I tried to act it. This is good if we think we are and then try to be, but if we do silly things that are like children do, we won't be treated like grown-ups. Always try to remember to represent your family well in everything you do. You may think at times that nobody is watching your actions or if they are, you don't care, but everything you do will be talked about as you are of a family that is better and above most all other families. I'm not bragging or saying that because I'm part of it, but because it's the truth. Joe, we were all born to be leaders and our parents have given us everything we need to be leaders. So far in your life, you've relied on the folk's testimonies of the gospel to lead you. So did I – so does everybody, but now you're at an age where you can't do that anymore. You have got to study, pray, fast and find out the truth of these things for yourself. Why? Because without a testimony, a personal one, a person has no real purpose in life. If a person doesn't know the Church is true, they aren't going to serve it diligently after a certain age. You can see it all around you in Springdale. Grown men and women who have never gained a testimony and who have actually become lower than the bum in the street because of their opportunities and then doing the opposite. Well, you can see it there, and I can see it here.

How many missionaries do you think are devoted full-time missionaries? Well, let's take a look at last week's report (the best this year). The rules say we should spent at least fifty-five hours a week in proselyting, which consists of actual knocking on doors to find new investigators or

holding meetings with those who we already have met. These fifty-five hours can be done by working only eight hours a day, and we have the time to work ten and eleven. Well, out of the 160 missionaries in Peru, twenty did the required amount of work for last week. Can you imagine then how many actually have testimonies of the gospel strong enough to make them effective missionaries? It is sad, but true, that we need leaders in the mission field. Last week I went to four shows. That's a waste of time. Spiritually it degrades the person. Well, all I can do is study harder and be ready to be a senior companion when it comes. It has to start at your age, though. You can't prepare yourself for leadership overnight. Get the picture? I hope so.

I've looked back on the fun times we've had together with pleasure these last few months. I don't believe two brothers could have gotten along much better than we have. I'm thankful for you as my brother and hope we can always be strong in the Church and close together. The life our Father in Heaven wants doesn't appear to be an easy one in many ways, but we have so many blessings waiting, it will be worthwhile.

I hope you are enjoying your school a lot. These years can be so rewarding to you. Even your studies can be fun if you take them with the right attitude. I was very happy to hear you got good grades and especially the A in seminary. Take advantage of your youth and enjoy it. It's great to be young. I wish I were sixteen again. I surely would do a few things differently. Mainly I would study harder and be in more school activities.

How is your Eagle badge coming along? I hope you are working on it. If you get the time, you might send me the requirements for World Brotherhood and Business. I believe I've pretty well got them without much trouble, also Art. Keeping plugging away at the badges. Use your time wisely and you can do anything you want to.

How do you like your Honda? How is your arm? Did you sell your pigs? Let me hear from you soon. I miss you a lot. I hope we can have some good times after I get back and before you go. It will be hard though as the Army will be after me, you will still be in school, I'll be thinking about marriage, but we'll do it. Happy Christmas. I'll write you on your birthday; love, L.D.

LETTER 679 Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru to Edward Platt, Springdale, Utah [Ed received this letter December 27]

Dear Ed, well, again, I sit down and try to express my feelings and gratitude for my younger brother.

I will always be indebted to you for the part you played in helping me get my Eagle badge. I don't believe I could have gotten it if it hadn't been for you. When you passed me up in merit badges it made me determined to catch up with you. You still have more than I do, but I'm going to work on them when I get home. How many required ones do you lack for your Eagle? You better get them before too long. Get all you can this winter and finish it off next summer. It will be summer before you realize it and if you don't plan your time, you'll never be able to do it. I've found out here on my mission that you can do just about anything you want to if you just plan your time.

How's the school work going? I hope you are using every advantage you have to learn. Mom said you got pretty good grades. That is fine. Just keep plugging away. You will be out of school almost before you realize it and then wish you'd studied harder.

How are your chickens doing? Do you have more little biddies than those two when I left? Write me a letter during Christmas and tell me about everything: what you're doing in scouting, how the weather is, what you are doing in the Church, etc.

How are you and the girls getting along? I guess you'll grow up to be just like Joe: "I never was one for girls myself..." Just remember you are expected to represent our family well in whatever you do and especially with your association with other people.

Well, have a Merry Christmas and be good. Harlan wrote me and said you really gave him a lot of help in the scouts. Keep up the good work and remember anything you do in Springdale will be for the good or bad name of our family.

Study hard and be your ambitious self and you will make a good name for yourself in life; love, L.D.

LETTER 680 Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru, to Gene Platt, Springdale, December, 1962

Dear Gene, well, how's my brother getting along now after four months. It surely seems like the time passes by rapidly, doesn't it? Before you know I'll be thinking about the trip back home from my mission. You'll be fourteen then. I probably won't even recognize you. The picture mother sent of Joe hardly looked like him. I had to look twice to realize it was him. Think of the changes you'll make in two more years. I've changed quite a bit already too. I weigh 182 pounds now, which is about as much as dad weighs. Also I have to shave every three or four days. So you can see in two years, I'll probably be a great big bulky sort of guy. I exercise every day to keep trim and it makes me feel really good.

We've been playing basketball with some professional teams here in town. Our team is in second place. We won our last game over the champs by one point, 44-43. It was really a thriller. Before that we won by two points. It's a lot of fun and we get a lot of contacts that way.

It's pretty hot here in Piura now. If it continues, we will have to stop working between ten and two or three as it is almost unbearable now. We may have to start working early mornings and afternoons and evenings. I'll be as dark as the natives here before long.

How's your school work coming Gene? I hear you all get pretty good grades. And your scouting – are you a 1st Class yet? What are you doing in scouting now? Have you got a good scout master?

Are you starting to read the scriptures yet, as I suggested? It isn't hard to get a lot done by just a steady fifteen minutes a day. You've got seven years to prepare to be a missionary. Make good

use of the time. The Church is really the only thing that matters, so do your best with the time you have. Keep clean in your thoughts, words and actions and represent the family well. You'd be surprised how many people are looking to our family for guidance and leadership.

Have a good Christmas and enjoy the companionship of the family. I'm going to miss them a lot. Write to me as soon as you can and tell me how you're doing. Love, L.D.

LETTER 681 Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru, to Roberta, Springdale, December, 1962

Dear Roberta, how's my sister doing? You know I surely miss you a lot. I miss the smiles and the teasing way you had about you. I hope you are having a good time in your school and Church activities.

Always remember who you are, won't you Roberta. As a daughter of Israel you have a big responsibility ahead of you. Before long you will start going on dates with boys. Always remember the teachings of our mother and father. Most boys will be forward and want to do a lot of things that they shouldn't. Being as beautiful as you are there will be a lot of boys trying to get your attention and love. Just remember that you are going to be married in the temple and that the right kind of boy will do nothing to keep you from it. Also this marriage will be for eternity so start looking now for the qualities you want in your husband. I realize you might not even be thinking about these things yet, but it won't be too long, so just keep these things in mind.

How are the boys treating you? Are they giving you a bad time? If so, let me know, and I'll come home and fix them (in about two years). How's the piano doing now? I hope you are still practicing. You will never regret it I'm sure. I can play just about any song now with up to three or four sharps and flats, the top part that is. Gradually I'm combining the top and bottom. I can play several church hymns pretty well now. I wish I'd have taken more lessons.

Help mother all you can won't you sis, she's such a sweet person and at times it's pretty hard being a mother and doing everything. Help her and make it easier for her; also dad. You know there is nothing a father likes more than to have a young daughter that loves him and does the things he says.

Write to me soon, will you? I really enjoy hearing from you and about what you are doing. It's too bad you don't have another sister, but your older brothers all love you, especially I. It takes age and separation to realize just how important your brothers and sisters and parents are. Have a good Christmas and enjoy the family. Love, Lyman

LETTER 682a Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru, to McKay Platt, December, 1962

Dear McKay, how's my little red-headed brother getting along? Is he behaving himself and doing well in his school work? You know, I expect a lot out of you McKay. You're a lot smarter than any of us for your age. You've got a good life ahead of you, if you will take care of all the opportunities you have. Learn to love studying. If you can do that, you will be set in life, because you will be doing a lot of it in the next few years of your life. Also develop a love for music. It

will be good to start now, so you can be a good pianist or whatever you want to play. Also, find something you like to do as a hobby. It's good to have a hobby that you can work at while you are tired and need a little rest.

How is King? Nobody ever tells me about him, so I guess it's up to you. Also, tell me about the cows and the motel and the weather, your school, etc., okay? I guess I won't write to Gordie this year, but you tell him for me that I love him and wish I could see him again, okay?

Try to help mother all you can. She needs yours and the others help. Also help dad with the motel. Start saving the money you get for a mission. The folks are going to have kids on missions for ten years now, so they will need everybody's help. I will be able to keep myself out for about nine months and if all of you could do the same, it would surely help them out a lot. Just be a good boy and study hard. Write to me as soon as you can and let me know what you're doing and everything.

Have a really good Christmas and tell me what you got, okay? Be good and grow up fast. Love,
L.D.

LETTER 682b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Apt. 307, Salt Lake City, Utah, December 15, 1962.

Dear Lucy, looking at the calendar I saw to my amazement that I've been gone for 1/3 of a year already. It doesn't seem possible. It was just last week I was saying goodbye to you. Well, I won't worry about it. The faster it goes, the quicker you and I can get married and take off to the mountains for our honeymoon. I have often wondered what it would be like to just have the mountains to ourselves; hiking, fishing and just being together. I don't particularly care where we spend it just so we are together. A lot will depend on our financial condition. I've been thinking and don't know for sure how we'll work it. I'll get home in March and have to start working to get money for school. Of course it won't have to go for that. Also, it will depend on what you're doing. You said when I left you intended to have all the stuff you wanted bought and maybe a car. That is a pretty big order and I don't see how you can do it going to school and all. Well, we will be able to tell better after another two years. We can make our plans then. I don't know what your plans for marriage are but I feel if we get married right away after I get back it ought to be some time during the summer of 1965. Of course, that presents a problem. If you're like most girls you're going to want to work the first part of our marriage. That's fine with me. But we will have to wait on any children for at least two and better three years after our marriage, if it's in 1965. It would put quite a burden on us with you working and me working and going to school. Of course, if we are only going to have four or five we don't have to start right away anyway, or even if you decide you want more, we have plenty of time after we are thirty.

I figure four or five years of college, plus probably two years in the army would put us at twenty-nine years each. By then we could start a family and be able to provide for them. I don't want to do it like my folks did; they had four kids while dad was still in college. I remember my mother's twenty-ninth birthday. That's my opinion on things. By then, over the years we ought to be able to save enough to have a car and house plus the other things we need. One thing I won't do is to go into debt for things we can get along without. When you write your next letter, will you express how you feel about each of these things. I need your opinions so I can adjust mine and start planning and working towards a successful marriage. I don't want one of worries about money, because that is the biggest problem there is in a marriage, I believe. We can overcome this problem very easily. All we have to do is pay our tithing and not spend our money foolishly on things we really don't need. If we can pay cash for the majority of the things we buy it will be so much cheaper in the long run. I've seen the problems my folks have had and I don't want them. Of course we will have our problems, but I believe if we live as we should the Lord will provide a good life for us and bless us abundantly.

By the time you get this letter you ought to just about be finished with your schooling. Have you enjoyed this semester of studies? How do you feel about business, now that you've taken it? Can you write shorthand pretty fast now or not? You've not told me much about your schooling. I'd like to hear about it and your future in the next letter.

Did you hear about Don Halterman's little brother drowning? I'll bet that would be a hard blow to take. It's good to belong to this Church at times like that isn't it?... December 16th, I just got your letter of the 5th, 6th, and 7th and see you have heard.

I guess we can just be thankful that it wasn't in our family. I believe I mentioned that the package you sent was in Lima. I just sent for it. Someone at the office will get it for me and send it up so it ought to be here before Christmas. Thank you for sending it. I'm sure I'll enjoy them.

It sounds like you are really progressing with the D. & C. as well as reading other books. Boy that really makes me feel good to know there are still some girls like you left who want to do good and learn the scriptures, etc.

You asked how my companion is coming; well I'll tell you. I've tried every thing I can think of to get him to work as much as he should but he just doesn't seem to have it in him to work that long. Then when we do work we just visit girls and other people who aren't really interested. I don't know if I'm right in what I've done but I just don't say anything anymore. I study and study until he gets ready to go; then we go. I feel I'm wasting my time more by working as he works than staying here and studying. When he asks my opinion I give it in no uncertain terms but other than that I figure I might as well learn the gospel and the lesson plan better during this time so I can be a more effective missionary. The most it could last is six months as he goes home in June and I would probably be made a senior to do as I figured was right. So that's how it is. I just study, memorize, etc. and prompt him every chance I get. We get along okay otherwise. He has a really good personality and I'm learning a lot of Spanish from him.

December 17th, it is taking me a long time to get this letter written. We get mail here every day including Sunday so I got two letters from you in as many days. It floored me, but it's just what I needed. It is going to be a lonesome Christmas this year so all your letters surely help. I also received a letter and card from your folks yesterday. Thank them for me when you go home will you? It was a lovely little note and I must write to them soon and thank them for raising such a sweet, well-taught girl as I have. I'll ever be grateful to them for you. Of course, what you become from now on depends on you, so I'll be grateful to you for what you make of yourself in the future. I can see a great future for us if we will just be true to the commandments of the Lord and the covenants we've made with Him. As it says in the New Testament we must exceed and do the things we should before we're commanded if we expect to receive awards for our work.

It is hard to remember just what I've told you and what I haven't as I usually write to my folks at the same time, so if you don't feel I'm making my letters interesting enough, ask me the questions and I'll answer them. It isn't that I'm lazy in writing letters. I don't feel I can afford to let you go too long without a letter because as in preaching, when we only visit a family one day in seven we have just that percentage of possibility of baptizing them. So I figure if I let you go too long without a letter that gives the other fellows that much more of a chance to get a start on you. I don't aim to let anyone get that chance if I can help it. It is harder for me as I have to express my love in letters and they can do it in person, so you can see our love of necessity needs to be a lot deeper than the physical aspects. Of course it is! I mean, I'm considering spending an eternity with you and that takes a lot of thinking to reach a decision like that. It isn't every day that you marry someone forever; only once. That's why it is so serious. There isn't any room for any worldly considerations in a marriage of this sort. I believe with all my heart that you are the woman that can make me as happy as anyone, also the one by whom I'd be proud to have my children. Of course as you realize there are a lot of factors involved in that. I can't love a person

that doesn't love me, yet; so I've got to believe that you love me before I could say the things I have.

Also I'm judging my love because of what I know about you. I really don't know you as well as I should, but through your letters and during the time I'll spend with you after my mission, I'll be able to know for sure the love is real, sincere, etc., that your qualities are the ones I want in a wife. I wasn't wasting my time during that month I spent with you. I realized something in you I hadn't seen in others and so I studied you and your actions, personality, how you reacted to situations. I know more about you than you think, and enough of your basic qualities to have faith in your others I didn't get a chance to see; to test. I always want to be sincere with you; there were one or two things I'd have different, but they were minor things and we have to give and take in a marriage. I'm positive there are many things you don't like in me, so we'll have to adjust these things later. Suffice it to say I'm happier with you and your attitude than I've ever been with anyone else.

I hope you have a wonderful time this Christmas and that you enjoy visiting with your parents, friends, etc. Give my love to your folks and mine. I'm glad one of us can keep in touch with them. I write every week, but still that doesn't fill the gap or shorten the distance any. Remember that I'm always thinking of you and the plans we've made and will make in the future. I lay awake once in a while (every night) wishing you were here so I could talk to you for a few minutes. I don't know; I guess it is better the way it is. I miss you very much; in fact I miss you more than you'll ever realize. I hope you are praying for health and will continue to support me; missionary life is not easy and especially when you have a companion that doesn't want to work. Oh well, we all have our problems. Keep up the writing and studying. I expect we will have many interesting experiences this next year, yours forever, Elder L. D. Platt

LETTER 683 Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, December 18, 1962 [family received this letter December 27]

Dear family, the time is rapidly flying by isn't it? Here I've been gone four months already. I feel as though my mission will be over before it even gets started. The one good thing about this extra six months is that by then I'll be ready to be a senior companion and still have as much time to preach the gospel as those in the states do.

Thank you for giving me the figures on your debts. Now I can breathe easier. I probably worry as much as you do about them.

My companion has until June left in his mission. I will probably be up here at least until then and maybe longer. I've decided not to sing in that opera. It really would be nice, but there is too much else that has to be done. We are tied for first place in our basketball, so we're hoping to take the championship.

Yes, the haircuts are pretty good here; as good as in the states. The businesses are primarily run by Peruvians, but there are some Americans here. The majority of the Americans in Peru live in Lima, in San Isidro.

Say, would you thank these people for me; they've sent letters or cards: Bishop Ruesch, Sister Hardy, Harlan Winder, Pres. Reeves, Sister Morris and the Seventies Quorum (they sent or put \$10.00 in my account so remember that). Sister Morris also said she gave you some money.

One of these days when I get time I'm going to write a letter describing Peru and send some pictures. I don't know when it'll be. It seems as though there just isn't time for everything. I'll say now, though, that we have a very nice house here and a good maid. The only time we get Peruvian food is when we order it. Usually for breakfast we have juice, eggs, bread, potatoes, pancakes, and the regular. No milk, though. It's not safe to drink. I feel very good. My exercises are keeping me in shape although I now weigh 182 (how about that)? I'm not fat, just filled out. I shave every two or three days now.

The weather is summerish. Three of us sleep on the patio. It is very nice and cool at night. In the day it hits about eighty degrees now. Yesterday I watered the lawns for about one half hour and got the most beautiful sunburn. It will really make a nice tan. My watermelons are coming fine. I just planted some more this morning. We have some once or twice a week. They're surely good.

I'm reading in the Bible and Book of Mormon now. I'm in Alma and in Exodus. I get quite a lot of studying (three or four hours daily), so I'm thankful for that anyway.

Well, have a nice Christmas. We are having our party the 22nd here. We had a lady make some cakes and pies (American). We'll have picture shows, dancing, games, etc. It ought to be fun, but still I'll miss home.

P.S. I figure I can make it through my whole mission on between \$1800 and \$2000, or in other words, I'll only need (including what is now in the bank, about \$1500 more for the next twenty-six months. That's pretty good isn't it? You will only have to pay about \$1200 for my mission. I'm still going to try to make my money last until June. That will be only \$50.00 a month but I believe I can make it. Love always, L.D.

LETTER 684, Lyman De Platt, to family, Piura, Peru, December 18, 1962 [family received this letter December 27]

Dear family, boy, what confusion. Today Elder Glenn Earl Bascom from Cuzco arrived to inform us that he was my new companion and Elder González was going to Lima. He is from Victorville, California and has eight months down. I am his new senior, I guess. Anyway we called the president to see what to do about González as we hadn't received his change. He'll be going out in a couple of days by plane.

We just received the change sheet in the mail and your letter today. Sure enough, I'm senior companion. Boy, the president surely shook up the mission field. There were about twenty different changes, so I guess there is as much confusion everywhere else as here. My new companion seems to be a good elder and wants to work, so maybe we can get something done. I hope so. I guess it's up to me now, isn't it? I hope to not be as strict as my companions have

been, but still follow the rules. That way we ought to work closer. I'm sure now that with the help of the Lord we will work better and get more accomplished.

According to what you received and what the Seventies gave me, my balance should be \$322, I believe. How's that with yours?

I have received all your letters I believe. Thanks all of you for your kind consideration. Brother and Sister Gifford wrote, too, so thank them also will you? I'd like to write all something, but they add up so fast and I have a hard enough time keeping them caught up. I'll try soon, but forgive me if I can't okay? I really do appreciate everything though.

Thanks Joe for your nice letter. I'll write you on your birthday.

Please forgive me for not writing more, but with everything in the turmoil it is, giving talks, preparing lessons, parties, studying, getting my new companion straightened around, etc. I wonder where I have been and what I'm doing.

Have a nice trip to Blanding and enjoy each others' company for me. I'll be thinking of you and wishing you success. Love, Lyman

LETTER 685a Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, December 21, 1962 [family received this letter December 29]

Dearest family, well, I hope you enjoyed Christmas and that you are all well. Did any of you eat too much? Everybody has been so good to send cards. Uncle George sent me a \$5.00 check. I wrote out a \$70.00 check for December, leaving a balance of \$252.00, including the \$22.00 you had in gifts. I decided I would buy me a pair of dress pants and save my suits. That way, I'll still have two new suits after about a year or so down here. We hardly ever wear coats here, so I figure that is a good idea.

My new companion and I get along fine. We read together and I'm sure we can have a good relationship as we both have about the same ideas as far as working is concerned.

It is surely nice here. I've sort of gotten used to the weather. It is not so hot that it's miserable yet, and from about 5:00 p.m. on it is very beautiful. The stars are so pretty at night. We have Orion, Taurus, the Pleiades, etc. here on our summer sky. It is very refreshing to sleep outside. My watermelons are growing rapidly and I planted some more, as summer officially just started. I found out the trees in back are coconut palms instead of bananas. We took a ride out to Catacaus (about ten miles) a week ago. We saw cotton fields, rice fields, coconuts, banana trees, etc. It is very pretty where there is access to water. Otherwise, it's desert, with mesquite trees and sagebrush growing everywhere. We have a big river (the Piura River) that runs by the branch (about ½ mile away). We do our baptizing in it.

We won another basketball game 33-31. We have one more, but it looks like we'll only be able to take 2nd, as we lost too many at first.

I am feeling very well. I realize I've got a big responsibility now being senior, so I hope your faith and prayers are with me. My jobs changed somewhat. I'm now 2nd counselor in the branch presidency; priesthood teacher, Sunday School Superintendent, English teacher, and integration teacher. I'm busy (rather).

Write to me as soon as you get time. I enjoy all the letters I receive. They make the time go by so much faster and I don't get so lonesome. I'm sure this next year holds a lot in store for us, doesn't it? I hope you all had a Merry Christmas and that we may get better situated during this next year. Love, L.D.

LETTER 685b Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, Springdale, Utah, December 21, 1962.

Dear Lucy, well, I doubt this will reach you before Christmas so I hope you had a wonderful Christmas and are enjoying visiting with your family. I guess it feels pretty good to be home doesn't it? What did you get for Christmas? All I got was a box of pine nuts, plus a little money and the love from a very wonderful girl. I'd say that was enough, wouldn't you? Thanks sweetheart.

Good news, I guess. I was made senior companion on the 17th. Elder González went to Lima and Elder Glen Earl Bascom from Victorville, California, came up from Cuzco. He has eight months down and we get along very well. We will be doing a lot of working now as I have the say and he's willing to work. I never expected to become senior so soon. I figured on waiting until González went home. I've got no excuse now have I?

Did you finish the Doctrine and Covenants? I haven't been able to do much. I am starting the Book of Mormon with my companion besides reading in the Bible. It is an interesting life; that of a missionary. I wouldn't trade it now for anything. If you were here I'd be content to spend the rest of my life here. Of course, that's impossible so I'll be anxious to return to you.

Darling, it's so much easier to be good when you have someone that wants you to be good, wants you to succeed. I hope you continue to be encouraging in your letters. It does a lot to make the time go by faster. I'm starting on my fifth month now. Does it seem possible? It doesn't. I don't know if I want it to go this fast or not. Oh well, I can't stop it so I'll just work my head off and start getting some baptisms.

I'm now 2nd counselor in the branch presidency; Sunday School superintendent; priesthood teacher, English teacher, integration teacher; I'm busy. In fact I've got to baptize somebody so they can help me. It won't be easy and for sure I'll need the help of the Lord.

We all went to "The Parent Trap" last night. It was cute. We have all day Friday off now, so we go to the show on Thursday night. During the day we write letters, study, shop, play chess, sunbathe (boy I sure have a beautiful sun tan), etc. It is quite relaxing after a day-after-day grind.

Well, write to me soon. I'll be thinking of you and wishing you the best in whatever you decide to do, love ya, Lyman.

LETTER 686a Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, December 23, 1962 [family received this letter January 11, 1963]

Dear family today is the 23rd of December. I don't expect to finish this letter very soon, as I would like to give you quite a few details that I've never given you in it about Peru, the people, their way of living, etc.

Since I arrived in Peru I've tried to be observant of people and conditions and have greatly benefited by it. To get any idea of the way the people live you must realize their background. Since the first Spaniards came over those people with any civilization at all have been Catholics. Only about 1/10 of the population of Peru lives in the civilized areas, and so you can see we really don't have our missionaries to a very big percentage of the people. We don't convert too many full-blooded Lamanites yet. Those we convert are usually a cross between the Spanish and Indians, usually called *cholos*.

December 25, 1962. We had a really fine party on the 23rd. We sang Christmas carols, the people danced; we had cake and *chicha*, a Peruvian drink made with purple corn. After the party, Elder Waulin and I played our last basketball game; we lost by three points, 35-32. That left us in third place out of eight teams. The top four are going to play another tournament now.

I bought a Christmas present with that \$10.00 you said to spend. I got me a pair of tailor-made pants to use while I'm here instead of using my suits. They are the ones I have on in the picture. It was taken in the Plaza de Armas, which is very beautiful. I will try to get some other pictures taken soon so you can see better where we are working and what kind of people, etc. I wish I could take more time to do stuff like that, but I just don't have too much extra time.

Well, I had my steak. It was a great big baby beef and it cost \$1.00, so I spent the \$10.00, also more than that. It is more expensive, I believe, to live up here than in Lima. We are in the process of changing maids, as this one never gets here on time and isn't the cleanest person in the world. So we've all had to spend some money on news ads. Oh well, I believe after the first of the year I can start getting by on a little less. We are having an Elders Conference in Lima in February, but it would cost \$40.00 for round-trip expenses, so I guess the majority of us will just stay here, unless we can get them to let us go down by bus.

This evening we went to a show "Pocket Full of Miracles" starring Glen Ford. It was based on a Christmas theme. It really did a lot for our spirits, as we none felt much in the Christmas mood all day. I've only seen three Christmas trees (if you could call them such) and hardly any decorations. It just didn't seem like Christmas. I hope you all enjoyed yourselves in Blanding. I would like to hear about the trip. Also, please take some pictures and send them to me. I miss the place something terrible; and take some of the family, when you get time, but soon. Of course, I'll expect to send you some, also.

December 27, 1962. Everything is going fine still. We are going to get a new maid next Monday because our other one is pregnant and is rather dirty anyway. Our new one is twenty-two, very beautiful, married, clean, knows how to cook, etc. We are paying 500 soles a month; more than even the millionaires pay, so we can afford to have the best.

The people here are sure a choice people. Once we get rolling here, why Piura will be one of, if not the greatest wards there is. The people here, that is quite a few of them, have big haciendas, factory owners, etc., but they aren't hypocrites. The Catholic Church is very strong here because of all the money, so once we break its strength, we'll really get rolling. I gave a Joseph Smith story to a nun on Monday. It was quite an experience.

There are more new cars here than you can imagine; brand new 1963 Dodges, Pontiacs, Chevys, etc. Even the small narrow streets here are lighted with great big modern lights like we have in Springdale. There are a lot of factories, cotton, wheat, ice, bottling, manufacturing, etc. here and also some pretty modern stores, plus two T.V. towers and stations. I would just as soon be here as I would in Lima.

December 29, 1962. Well, I bought some cards that show the main places in Piura. I hope you enjoy them and the things that are on the back of them. I wish you would save them. I believe they are a lot cheaper than film and take less time, but still give you the idea. I intend to take some pictures, but not too many. I am working hard now – ten and eleven hours a day and I love it. Every day seems the same, but they go by so fast I don't wonder. I can't believe that so much of mission has gone by so fast. In a way I can't wait to get home, but neither do I want to waste even a minute of my time. I want to make my mission one of the best on record. I've had a lot of good breaks, and so I feel pretty blessed for them. We are finding Piura very hard. The richer class here is among some of the wickedest in the world. They have their various women, a lot of wine and don't care much for religion. I don't know how much we can change their way of life; the Devil has had a free reign for years, but we are surely trying hard. It is horrifying some of the stories our contacts tell us about the adulterous life the Catholic priests live here. I've been told:

“I can see your Church is true, but I don’t have the fortitude to live the teachings.” I’ve been told this so many times. People don’t go to church because they don’t like confessing to someone they know is more wicked than they. So they are in a stalemate. I can see now why the terrestrial kingdom exists. The church, once we get a few of the more influential people that have the intestinal fortitude to back up their convictions, will start to progress very rapidly, but I believe I have as my mission here to get the people over their silly traditions and on the way to living good lives. I really don’t believe we’ll baptize too many people here unless we can get these few people right away, but this is the situation; we are fighting it as hard as we can, and we’re progressing.

I hope you all had a very nice trip to Blanding. I expect to hear the details on it shortly. I haven’t had a letter for a while, so it will be good to hear from you again. It is a pretty lonesome work, and discouraging way up here away from the Church, friends, etc. When you are the Church itself, it makes it kind of lonesome. But, we’ll plug along hoping to hasten the work of the Lord with our success. Your prayers are always needed to strengthen my faith, testimony, etc., because at times it is questionable whether it is really worth it all.

Brother and Sister Lewis sent me a \$10.00 bill for Christmas and Brother Christofferson a \$1.00 bill. I believe I will put them into my reserve as American money will always be good if the government goes to pot. It’s so corrupt it’s no wonder there are revolutions. If you can buy the December issue of *Life Magazine*, it has some good pictures of Lima. Well, so long for now. Be sure and write often. I miss you all very much and will work hard so the time will pass quickly. Love always, L.D.

LETTER 686b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, December 25, 1962 to January 5, 1963.

Dearest Lucy, today being Christmas we aren’t working and are just laying around the branch wishing we were home. I guess we all have a touch of homesickness. It is getting pretty hot now. It is about 100 degrees during the day, but it still gets cool at night. I just bought myself a hammock for a couple of dollars. It is really nice to relax in and read, study, etc. At noon we went to the Hotel Turista to eat. I ordered my Christmas present: a baby beef steak. It was really good and I feel pretty full right now. Also we went to a show which was really funny: starring Glen Ford. All of us had quite a lot of fun today. Still, it isn’t anything like being at home with the family and the girl that I love so very much. There haven’t been hardly any decorations except for yours.

We have sat around the branch most of the day listening to The Kingston Trio, Marty Robbins, Debbie Reynolds, The Tabernacle Choir, etc., or threw firecrackers at each other. We have been thinking about a trip to Ecuador one of these days. It only takes one day and we could do it on a Friday. We could just go to the border, but that would be far enough, just to say we’ve been there. Also, we are going to see some of the towns around here on days off.

December 29th, you know it has almost been impossible to get any letters written lately. I haven’t even written to my folks. I don’t know how long you’ve been without a letter from me but I

decided I would just keep adding to this one after you wrote and told me your new address. Will you forgive me? I also have about twenty letters I ought to answer, but don't know when I'll get the time. Being senior companion now we spend our 10, 10½, 11 hours a day working, so that gives us exactly no time for much of anything else.

I suppose you've been pretty busy too, what with Christmas and exams and all. I don't remember how long it has been since I received a letter from you, as one day here is like another, but it seems like ages, about 1½ weeks or so. I'll forgive you though, as I know it's hard to think about someone 7,000 miles away when there are relatives, parties, presents, friends, etc. to worry about. I hope you really enjoyed the holiday season and that you got some nice presents, finished reading the Doctrine and Covenants, etc. I'll be waiting to hear about it.

So far I still haven't received your pine nuts. It may be quite a while or I may never get them, it just depends on if I'm lucky or not.

You know the life of a senior companion is quite interesting. There are a lot of decisions and talking, all of which is good for me. I have sure been a lucky cuss getting so many good breaks. Everything will be just perfect now if I can keep my sweetheart waiting and writing. Of course my personality will be forgotten as well as many other things, which will be good, but I think just the assurance that our ideals are the same could keep us together. I have received several letters from old girlfriends saying certain things about waiting, etc. but I have more problems here right now without worrying about how many say they are waiting, etc. I figure 2½ years will pretty well take care of my problems concerning that. If I had figured any of these other girls could have waited, I might have asked them, but I decided you were probably the one that could if anyone could, because of your outlook on it. Most girls figure they've got to sit around and twiddle their fingers, but not Lucy, which is a good thing.

December 31st, Lucy, you'll forgive the lateness of this letter but the whole mail system of Peru has been on strike so we have not received or been able to send mail for a week. That is why it has taken so long to get this letter to you. I don't know how much longer it will continue either, so you may end up getting quite a long letter this time. I hope the next letter I receive from you will give me your new address and tell me what you intend to do in the future.

Sweetheart, I don't want you to feel that my love is decreasing; it isn't. I realize more every day how much I need a strong person near me to keep me moving, progressing, etc. It's hard at times down here to do the things I know I should. I feel like I'm letting the Lord down. I feel that I need your assurance of love and desire to be my wife. I can't expect to be at my best if I don't have these assurances.

January 2, 1963, boy, the time sure flies. I can't send this letter off until the mail strike is over, though, so I'll just keep adding to it. Yesterday Elder Bascom and I took a trip to Chulucanas a town forty miles east of Piura. We had a very fun time and saw a lot of interesting country. The picture I am enclosing was taken in the main square there. It isn't a very good one, but I'm not very good looking, so it will have to do. I will have a photographer take a picture soon and will send it to you if you will send me yours.

Lucy, I haven't seen you for four months and want your picture. I made my resolutions yesterday and believe me they won't be too easy to keep. For example: 1) no candy, carbonated drinks or ice cream; 2) fifteen minutes a day reading from each of the standard works; 3) fifteen minutes exercising daily, etc. I will be a lot better person in one year if I can fulfill these resolutions. I hope you have made similar ones.

January 4, 1963, well, we got a little mail yesterday. The government ordered the mail workers back to work or they would be fired. There are still problems and I don't know just when this letter will reach you as I don't have your new address yet. I hope to get a letter from you soon so we can get to writing regularly.

January 5, 1963, I've decided not to wait. I'll send this letter to your old address and hope you receive it. I just received your Christmas card yesterday. It is very beautiful and appreciated. It was good to hear about Frank. I really liked him as a person while we worked together on the mountain. He could be quite a member if he really sets his mind to it. He told me he wanted to go on a mission. That would do him so much good. I hope his little Navajo girl can get him worthy for the temple also.

I guess it will be safe to tell you now about what's happening in Springdale. You probably already know, though. Bishop Hardy is going to be bishop again with dad as first counselor and I'm not sure who will be second. They tried Austin Excell but he said he wasn't worthy enough yet.

Well, sweetheart, I will sign off this letter for now. I am enjoying the work tremendously. It will be very hard to get fifty baptisms this year if I spend half of it here in Piura, but I'll give it all I've got. There are only seventeen members now after six months here as a church. The people are hardened to the gospel. The Catholic Church is truly the Church of Satan. I see its bad influence in people's lives many times every day. Never would I be a member of such a church.

Write soon. I think of you a lot and will be waiting to hear from you. You've waited four months; you ought to be able to make the rest easily, love as ever, Lyman.

LETTER 687 Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, January 4, 1963 [received January 11]

Dear family, there has been a strike here at the post office for two weeks now, so that is why you haven't received any mail from me. I hope it will be settled pretty soon. The government has thought it best to order the workers back to work or they'd fire them. I don't know if everything will be settled for a while or not, but when it is you'll get letters regularly again.

The one picture I enclosed is of the Plaza de Armas in Chulucanas, some forty miles to the east of here at the base of the foothills of the Andes. It was very interesting to go there. We went on New Years and spent most of the day. It wasn't at all modern like Piura, but still it was fascinating. There was a pure-blooded Indian there selling things he had brought down from the jungle. He had a big snake skin about twenty feet long, along with other smaller ones; he had on an Indian costume with all sorts of feathers on. It was very pretty.

I've surely had a lot of problems with spending money. It seems like wherever I turn it costs. I wrote out a \$152.00 check. This money will last me until the end of March. That only leaves me a balance of \$100.00, so I will have to be more careful. It has been pretty expensive here at the first of the mission, but I believe I will be pretty well settled for six or so months. Piura is actually more expensive than Lima was, so I don't know what to do.

I'm glad that you all got a chance to go to Blanding. Grandma wrote me and said you got there safely. How was your visit?

We are having it pretty hot down here now. I imagine it is going to pretty well be unbearable during the hotter part of the summer. As you will see in the one picture, my arms are getting pretty dark where they are exposed to the sun every day.

Well, I'll close for now, but will try and write again soon. Sister Brueck sent me \$3.00, so I got quite a bit saved for Christmas. I have it stored all away for a rainy day. Love always, Lyman.

NOTE: There is a letter (Number 542) dated January 7, 1963, from Kirk Lyman to grandma and grandpa Lyman.

LETTER 688 Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, January 7, 1963 [received January 14]

Dear family, I will just drop a quick note to let you know everything is okay. I hope you got the pictures all right and that everything is straightened around again [with the mail]. I suppose it will take quite a while to catch up with their behind mail, so we'll just have to be patient. The time surely rushes by fast. Here a week of January is gone and I just got started. I'm afraid the Lord is going to hold me responsible for wasting a lot of time. I just can't seem to get everything done like I want to.

I haven't heard from you yet except the letter of the 20th, so I'll settle my accounts when I get your latest report. With the \$50.00 Lewises gave me plus what I got before Christmas, I figure I have \$150.00. I still don't plan to take any more money out until April 1st. Then with what is stored up by then, I ought to be able to go until the 1st of July. I have received \$14.00 by mail this Christmas plus a check for \$5.00, which I've saved, except the check. I figure if I can save what gifts I get I might be able to do some sight-seeing before I come home. That sounds like a fabulous idea of meeting you in Mexico City. If you are serious we'll have to all start preparing for it now. I've figured out a budget that I'd like to show you so you'll know what I have to have. This is for a four-week period. For food money for the two meals I eat each day at the branch: \$24.00 per month; rent \$12.00; evening meals \$10.00; shirts ironed \$1.50; stamps \$1.50; miscellaneous \$8.00. Total: \$57.00. So I can't get by on much less than \$60.00 a month and most months are a few days more than four weeks. Now of course there are places where I can skimp but you see about how it is. I'll write out \$55.00 checks or \$50.00 checks starting in April and you can send me the extra dollars in bills. Then if I can get along without it, I'll just put it away and save it for some time in the future. What do you think about that? Sending money that way is apparently okay, as I get it. Also I can exchange money for more than I can checks as they charge for checks – about \$.50 every check.

Well, I'll write you on Friday. Say hi to everyone for me and I'll be seeing you all before you realize it. Love, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 689 Lyman De Platt, Piura, to Joseph Platt, Springdale, January 6, 1963

Dear Joseph, as I sit here rocking in my hammock this Sunday afternoon after a week of good, hard, honest work, I'm trying to picture just what is going through your mind as you are now sixteen. Of course it wouldn't be too difficult if we thought alike, as I was recently sixteen also. Of course we lived in different circumstances when I was your age, so I can't give too much advice or council from experience. Of course, I don't remember that you've asked for any advice, but still I take pride in trying to be a big brother in word, example, help, etc.

I have found one very important thing out in the five months I've been gone from home. Those people with whom you live, with whom you have to associate are going to all have different personalities and you can't change them. You have to accept people as they are and work with them as a team despite their differences. So what's that got to do with me, you say. Well, we're brothers, we're a team; we're representatives of mother and father in whatever we do or say. You are going to be a missionary very soon, more than likely. If I remember right, I was about your age when I started really having an interest in religion. I decided then after I received my patriarchal blessing that the Lord had big plans for me, that I could become a great servant of the Lord if I wanted to. There is no sense in trying to be anything but frank with you, as you probably know me better than any other person alive other than myself. I haven't been the best guy in the world, as you know, but generally I've tried to follow our parents' teachings, those of the Lord and the Church. After three years of that kind of living, never turning down an offer to do something in the Church, I'm finally beginning to see the fruits of it.

Elders who have never taken much interest in the Church before their missions (and there are a lot of them: 70% to 90%) are seeing their follies and I just thank the Lord for a good head start and then I keep studying. I should be a greenie as far as missionary work is concerned because I still have over two years to go, but many elders look to me to answer questions about the scriptures, about puzzling doctrines, etc. I'll admit it's pretty humbling to have elders with two years out turn to you for guidance. I don't brag of myself only the goodness of the Lord unto me. I will never in this life repay Him for all the goodness he has bestowed upon me. I am now Sunday School Superintendent and 2nd counselor in the branch presidency and believe me there is a lot of responsibility tied up there. When I think of the blessings I'll receive if I do the job and the eternal condemnation if I don't well there really isn't much choice.

I hope you will realize, if you haven't already, the importance of knowing the gospel of Jesus Christ. Don't waste your time. Plan it, and arrange to study the scriptures intelligently and intently every day. I just about kept the resolution to study the scriptures every day and it really paid off. I've read all of the standard works at least once and some two and three times. I know a study of the scriptures is very important for anyone embarking upon the threshold of the Celestial Kingdom. Well, so much for preaching. Don't fear to talk to the folks about your problems as they are very wise to the ways of the world and understand so much more than we. Their only difference is experience and the wisdom they've received over the years to apply it correctly so until you are as old as they, always use them to help solve your problems. That's why the Lord gave them to us.

I've got a watermelon plant down here about nine feet long now. It is just starting to get little watermelons on it. It is quite an experience living in a different country but still seeing about the same things as at home.

How are you and the Honda and the girls getting along? Did you enjoy your trip to Blanding? How is basketball coming along now? We have started a summer tournament here now. I hope you'll write to me and tell me about your school and how it's coming. I suppose Brownie and Muley have had their calves but I haven't heard from you yet. The letter mother wrote on the 20th was delayed until the 4th because of the mail strike. I believe I should be getting it pretty soon though.

I want to thank you for your financial assistance that you have given me so far. You know a dollar goes quite a long ways here in some things. You can be assured all you give me will be returned while you're on your mission. You'll probably be leaving about one year after I get back. We are going to have to make a lot of that year, as it will probably be the last one as a whole family together for any period of time. After you leave on your mission, I'll be away to school, married. The other boys will be leaving on their missions. We'll have to start making plans for some things to do like motorcycling across the states or in the west or something. If we start now, we could save quite a bit in two years to accomplish your plans. What do you say? I'll be twenty-one, you would be eighteen, Eddie your age, Gene fifteen. We could have quite a lot of fun, I'd think. Also I liked dad's idea of meeting me in Mexico. That would be quite some vacation, but it would take all the family cooperating together to start preparing for it now. Let

me know what you think and some of your ideas on the matter. We've got lots of time now, but at the rate it's going, it will be gone in no time.

Give my love to the family; write soon and remember I'm always around to help if you need me even though I am so far away. Be careful of what you say and do and remember I always think of you and wish you success in your studies and problems life presents. Say hi to the gang; sincerely yours, Lyman

LETTER 690a Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, January 11, 1963

Dearest family, I have some things to say that are upon my mind that have been giving me a great deal of internal strife. I feel that the world is quickly coming to a wind up as far as the Lord is concerned. As far as man is concerned, it may be a few years yet. Such statements as "I'm sorry son, you were born too late to be a missionary," and "President Harold B. Lee will be the last president of the Church" sort of set me to a realization of what is yet to be done. I leave every morning for work as early as I can and come in as late. There are a lot of sins here in Piura and a lot of them will be on my head if I don't exercise all the energy I have in this work. A lot of condemnation is awaiting a lot of missionaries because of their slothfulness in the ministry. I love the 4th section of the D. & C. It points out so well what we ought to do; also, the parable of Jacob in the Book of Mormon. We are the servants that have been called for the last time to prune the vineyard to try and save a few more trees. I'm sure this generation will be the last one [oh the foolishness of men who when they are learned think they are wise]; that the Lord is getting pretty fed up with everything and how the people make a mockery of His commandments. Why, I've had people tell me that they could see the Church was true, that we were right, but that it was easy to be a Catholic, pay a few soles for their sins and then do them some more. The Devil has such a strong hold upon the people here that the majority feel that way. Old Satan knows he hasn't got too much time and he's putting forth every effort in every little way he can to thwart the work of the Lord.

Dad you've got a pretty big responsibility as a father of five more missionaries. So have you mother. They have all got to be better than I am, having a stronger knowledge and more powerful testimonies of this work, such strong testimonies and the Spirit of the Lord will be with them that they will be able to look at a person and know if it will be worth the time. I'm sure you realize your responsibility but I'm just trying to help you feel it more. I can see so clearly the prophecies being fulfilled down here right and left. Oh, I wish I could get rid of the blasted temptation that so easily besets me and be able to preach the gospel without any hindrances. I need your faith and faithful, prayerful hearts supporting me every minute. I've tried every way I know to get humble but can't to the point I feel I should. We are commanded not to fast more than two meals because of the energy we need to use each day. So when you have fast days, fast for me that I may be given the necessary faculties to be a good – extra good missionary.

I don't quite get how my bank account stands but I won't be drawing any more until April 1st, so we ought to get it straight. It ought to be somewhere around \$200 though. Here's the way the checks go. October 1: \$60; October 31: \$110; November 20: \$75.28; December 19: \$70; January 2: \$152; total \$467.28. That leaves \$100 in the bank counting the \$10.00 from the Seventies and

you and the \$2.00 from Rozelles, so my calculations make the balance at \$181.00. Now that is counting your \$10.00, so if it's not in \$171.00. You figure it out and let me know if you agree. I won't put anything down until I hear from you.

Now, I will try to answer your questions in your last three letters. I believe all the mail is cleared now, as I get your letters four days after they are sent.

Grandpa's \$5.00 will do fine. I'm just going to have them re-soled. It costs about \$2.00 a pair, but it's leather so I may be doing this quite often.

Sounds like you may have quite a job on your hands dad, keeping the records and all. It ought to really be an experience.

Mother, I'm really proud that you have started and kept to your diary. It isn't at all hard once you get the habit. I'm starting my third year now.

I believe my only employers during 1962 were Curly Black, the Fence-Government (that ought to be quite a bit), the Springdale Ditch and the House Constructors (Utah Valley Builders), tending Gordie for you and the Pipe Line once or twice.

Let me take time here to say I really appreciate the devoted way you all write letters. Everyone is a jewel that draws us all so much closer. Dad, I'm glad you've been faithful in writing. Your wise counsel means so much to me. Mother, of course you know your weekly letters are just what this missionary needs. They are filled with, well, just you. And you kids. I may be slow at times in answering a letter, but I'll answer everyone you write, so if you feel you aren't getting enough letters from me, don't blame me. Just write.

Like I said in my last letter, my determination to save money could surely be increased if I knew I could meet you all in Mexico City after my mission. That's my answer.

Mother you asked about Maurine and Mike Jones. Mo went with him before she went with me and I believe she always did have a soft spot for him. No, he's not the best guy in the world. Let's just say they'll make a good couple if they get married. Whew, I sometimes wonder about me. I'm glad I'm here. The girls can have all their problems. I'm happy and get along just fine without them. In fact, I may not even get married!!!!!!!

Lucy's present hasn't gotten to me but the pine nuts finally did. Boy, they surely have been good. I'm sitting here finishing them up now. My companion and I get along really well. He doesn't mind being junior because he doesn't have the lesson plan memorized and his Spanish is lacking, so he's accepted the fact. I'm not a very mean companion though, and he gets all he wants anyway. The only fault he has is that he's a Californian.

No, Schiefers didn't send money in their letter. I got money from Christophersons, Bruecks, and Uncle George. I believe that's it. I want my income tax return put in the checking account with the rest of the money when you get it. That will mean I still might be able to make it to July or possibly the end of August (1 year), before I need your help. That would make me feel good. I'm trying to make this go as long as it can so you'll be in a good position without having to scrimp, so don't let me down. I'd like to write more, but don't have time. I'm well and happy and glad I'm your son; love always, L.D.

LETTER 690b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 454 East South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah, January 11, 1963

Dearest Lucy, I guess about now you're thinking ole Platt here is tubbing on ya but don't you believe it. He loves ya and is more determined than ever to be "faithful" while he's gone. I hope you'll forgive me for not keeping the weekly schedule, but this holiday season has been messed up. I got your letters late, about two weeks after they were written but they are getting through fine now. I sure did enjoy those pine nuts. I can't tell you how glad I was to finally get them. As yet I haven't got your other package. I'm kind of anxious to see what it is.

You know this perfumed letter is giving off a beautiful aroma. I keep it all tight and every once in a while open it up to smell it. Boy, wow, gee, golly, gosh, it smells pretty. Don't send any more though. I want to last another two years.

You've got pretty high plans for me if you think I'm going to be a mission president. I'm doing pretty good just to be a missionary. I hope to have other positions in the Church as I get older and be worthy for any one position that I'm offered, as I don't believe in turning down positions. Whatever jobs I'm given in the Church, though, you'll have to be a big support.

Darling, I've been writing letters all day trying to get caught up and now I've run out of time. I wish you'd excuse this short letter and take the promise of one long one next week. Me being my own boss now I don't have time to write two letters a week and can only promise the one on Fridays.

I want you to know how much I do love and appreciate all you do for me. Your letters are so sweet and make me want to try so much harder to be a better missionary. I hope you will continue to remember my love if you forget me as a person and live on that love, making it grow and grow until it will blossom like a rose when I get home. Continue to tell me all the interesting things you do, how you feel about me, etc. I live from week to week on your letters plus a little food and sleep. I'm not quite that poor yet.

Please be my constant companion in my work by means of your letters until you can be the companion by my side forever and forever. Thank you for all the nice things you said about me. They are always appreciated and always go to my head, making me more and more spoiled, love always, Lyman.

LETTER 691 Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, January 14, 1963

Dearest family, the last two days we've had President Nicolaysen here counseling us and trying to help us with some of our problems. He surely is a tremendous man. There couldn't be a much finer mission president. He takes so much interest in every person and really makes them feel like they're somebody.

He also told us that President Hugh B. Brown will be in Lima on February 8, 9, and 10, and that we are going to hold some special missionary conferences and wants us all to be there. We have to travel by air and all total it will amount to \$60.00 or \$70.00 for food and transportation. I was planning on staying here with one of the other elders, but they said we'd better go because there were going to be a lot of important things talked about. So I guess I have no choice. I try every way I can to save money, but it seems that everybody else tries to get me to spend it. I'm sure it will be a very inspirational experience, though, and will get me in a better spirit so that baptisms will come more easily. That is the most important thing. The Lord has blessed us with good friends that help us, so I don't suppose you'll mind. There really isn't much we could do about it. I'm not about to go against the words of an inspired servant of God like our beloved president.

I am well, happy (physically and mentally) and love the missionary work. I'll be writing on Friday, so until then, so long, sincerely yours, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 692a Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, January 18, 1963

Dearest family, I'm happy you have finally started receiving my letters. I'm sorry if the lack of them caused you to worry. It sounds like they've all gotten through okay. I'm glad the pictures got through.

It sounds like the weather there is pretty cold and chilly. That surely sounds good right now. It gets up to about 100 degrees here, but the rays being so direct, it seems so much hotter, and they are I guess. I'm getting as dark as an Indian where I'm exposed to the sun all day. [I even began to sun tan through my white shirt and garments, except for where I wore the tie.] There is quite a contrast. It gets down to about fifty degrees here at night, so we sleep okay still. It's supposed to get pretty miserable during February and March though.

Boy, I wish you could see my watermelon plant. The cotton-pickin' thing stretches out eighteen feet long now. It has finally got little watermelons on it. They really grow well here. I hope I'm still here when they mature.

I bought my plane ticket. It cost \$43.00 for a round trip and it will cost about \$10.00 for everything else so that's that. I took it out of the \$152.00 check, so I've not cashed any more.

Our rent went up from 320 soles to 400 soles or from \$12.00 to \$16.00, so it will cost a little more each month.

I'm glad you found a job, Dad. I hope it will keep you busy and happy. The time surely is going by fast. Five months are gone already. I would appreciate it if you would send me the full figure of what I have in the bank so I can put it in my book. I'm still a little confused as to what I have.

Yes, the mission does print the *Chasqui*. It is in book form though. It costs \$1.50 to send regular mail and \$3.50 air mail. It is a monthly magazine and would be nice to have. If you ordered it then I wouldn't have to save all mine. If you want to get it, send to the mission home: La Misión Andina, Casilla de Correo 4759, Lima, Peru.

I look forward to each letter and will try to answer every one. Of course I can only use Fridays and then there are so many to write and things to do that it is very difficult to say all I want. Thanks Gene and Joe. I'll answer your letters soon. I'm very happy now. We are having a baptism this Saturday; first one for me in Piura; good boy of seventeen. The work of the Lord is progressing very rapidly and I'm happy to be a part of it. Please forgive me for so short a letter. My companion and I get along just fine. We get in 55 to 60 hours every week and work well together; love always, L.D.

Dear family, I've decided to add some more to my letter. It's Friday afternoon and everything is all done for another week except working. I have my letters written, studying and cleaning are done and all odds and ends taken care of.

This month has slipped by fast. I hardly can imagine it's gone but as long as I'm doing my best, I don't care how fast they go. I feel like I'm doing about right.

I haven't received an answer on that question I asked about a certain girl. I hope you haven't forgotten.

McKay, how does it feel to be a baptized member of the Church? I suppose it makes you rather proud, doesn't it?

Elder Harshbarger and I have been goofing around on the piano quite a bit today. He is an expert as far as playing goes, so I'd sing different songs while he'd play them. It was a lot of fun and very relaxing. I've been quite faithful in exercising and it helps physically. Also, I've learned how to do flips – quite a feat for a lanky guy like me. I've just about mastered walking on my hands, too. I've been reading most of the standard works again.

I'm in Judges in the Old Testament, II Nephi in the Book of Mormon and Section 29 in the D & C. It is nice to have some time to get studying done.

How's all the family? What's new around town? How is the little bull getting along? Is Brownie going to calve or not? How are the moisture prospects for next year? How is the ward doing? Are there any more re-activated members? Tell me a few things. I'm interested.

How do you like your new job dad? Have you decided if you are going to teach next year or not? I imagine teaching could be quite enjoyable if you taught what you wanted. Let me know. You just about owe me another letter.

So long until next week. I hope everyone is getting along okay. Thank you all for being so faithful in writing. Love always, L.D.

LETTER 692b Lyman De Platt, Box 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, Springdale, Utah, January 18, 1963.

Dear Lucy, I got your letter yesterday saying you were about ready to tube me. Of course it didn't make the mind very happy as a true love ought to withstand anything. But of course I understand your feelings on the matter, so I don't blame you. Letters, being the only mode of security we have, ought to be very regular. I want you to realize one thing though; I want to talk frankly but I don't want you to feel hurt in any way, as being frank sometimes is the only way an idea can be presented. I will try and use a little wisdom in what I say, though.

I don't know who you were referring to when you said there were other girls waiting for me; nor do I care, as I have the one waiting I want. I realize I'm not the best-looking guy in the world, but I have developed the characteristics that I feel are necessary for a good Mormon. Of course I've got a lot of faults but still I've tried to develop the desirable things a girl wants in a husband, and as such I feel it is my right to expect certain things in any girl I feel a possibility of having for a wife. Having that advantage makes it easier to say what I want. You can call me conceited if you want but nevertheless the fact is that the Lord has been good to me and blessed me with the desire to do His will. There aren't even very many missionaries of one or two years who have read the scriptures or have the understanding of the gospel as I feel I have. So when I say to a girl "I expect you to acquire this and this and this, as personal traits" and they don't do it, then they can just forget it. I don't believe I ever ask anything that won't make a girl a better wife or mother so I feel justified in what I do say.

You said it was probably bad news for me to hear of the engagement of Maurine to Mike, but as a matter of fact it was quite a happy surprise. Maurine didn't meet the measure I expected of her so I'm glad she is happy with Mike. To be truthful with you sweetheart, there are three or four girls I could be very happily married to as far as their personalities are concerned but I look more for a girl who lives all the commandments of God to the best of her capacity. I can be happy with any girl that will do that. Of course, that may not make you feel good to know you aren't the one and only, but I don't believe in that type of philosophy. To me you are a girl who is really trying to live the commandments of God, who really is doing it because she feels it and just isn't trying

to impress me. Of course your beauty and deport count a lot too; but I'm mainly interested in what's inside, not what you look like. That's why I love you, that's why when I feel the time is right I will ask you to be my wife, providing of course that you continue to progress as you have and don't start wasting time waiting for me to come home. That would be quits right then and there.

Reading over your two letters I've received this month I would like to make a few comments. You said your prognostication after ten years was that you'd be married to a mission president. I'll say just one thing. My patriarchal blessing says I will hold high positions in the Church if I keep myself worthy. There is nothing I would be happier doing than devoting my talents and time to the Church. Whatever positions I may hold will require a strong wife, so that's why I require a lot. That's any man's success; his wife; and you better believe it.

I've really enjoyed your sweet, understanding letters honey. I feel no regrets whatever in planning my future with you. I hope the time will pass rapidly for you. It is going too rapidly for me. I've never enjoyed life so much before. We are going to baptize a boy tomorrow. It is really thrilling to see people accept the gospel. He's only seventeen and has so much to look forward to in the Church. He will be able to progress in two years to the point it has taken me nineteen years to accomplish. He is already thinking of a mission.

You ask me my opinion about you going on a mission. Personally I'd prefer to have a wife who had had two years as a missionary, but I see the hardships these poor sisters go through to get any baptisms and it makes me wonder if they aren't wasting their time. If a girl would study the scriptures diligently like you have been doing lately and would try to convert her friends, I'm of the opinion she would be happier and just as prepared. Of course if you decide you'd like to go I'd be all for it. I'd come home and go right into the army and get it over with then we'd get done about equal and I could finish school, we'd get married and all would be better than before.

Well, sweetheart, this is running into a lot of time (two hours); so I'd better quit. I'll be going to Lima on the 9th of February to a missionary conference with President Hugh B. Brown. It ought to be most interesting and spiritually uplifting, so it will be worthwhile. We leave Saturday at 1:30 p.m. by plane and get back here at 12:00 p.m. Tuesday.

Lucy, I hope you soon decide what you want to do. I give you thought in my prayers hoping the Lord will be good to you. Please let me know when all is straightened out. I would like to write to you more than once a week, but I'm just too busy now. We get in between ten and twelve hours every day except Friday and Sunday, so that leaves no time. Please be assured of my love, though; and if you don't get a letter every week, blame it on to the mail, not me. I can't afford not to write to you. I really enjoyed the pine nuts. They were very delicious. I'm look forward to getting your picture.

I'm proud you are doing so fine in your reading of the scriptures and other books. It isn't going forgotten. Well, then, until next week at this same time this is your happy missionary signing off with love, best of success, and an intense desire for your well being. Say hello to your folks and mine; God bless you honey, truly yours forever, Elder Lyman De Platt.

LEETER 692c Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru to Lucy Ann Ruesch, Springdale, Utah, January 24, 1963

Dear Lucy, I haven't received your letter for this week but I suppose it will be coming shortly. I'm waiting anxiously for your picture. We got our baptism last Saturday; a young boy of seventeen. He will receive the priesthood on Sunday and be given a job as counselor in the M.I.A. We try and integrate them as rapidly as we can because they need to get their testimonies strengthened. We have mostly men in this branch; usually the women accept the gospel more readily. We have about twelve active men and one active young lady. We are giving them all positions so I just teach the priesthood class now. We have one more boy that is just about ready to be baptized.

I'm really enjoying the work. My companion and I get along well together and the Church is getting a good foundation and is starting to grow. We've had baptisms every week now for a month.

Four of us are going to Ecuador tomorrow. It will cost five or six dollars but it will be an interesting experience and probably a lot of fun. We're just going to the border. I'll tell you about it next time.... Sorry the letter isn't longer.... Say hi to your folks for me. I hope they are feeling all right now, love ya, L. D. Platt.

LETTER 692d Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru to Lucy Ann Ruesch, Box 96, Springdale, Utah [postman scratched it out and put c/o Ivan Topham, 133 N. 300 E., St. George, Utah], January 30, 1963

Dear Lucy, I don't know if I hurt your feelings in my last letter or if you have been busy or what but I haven't received a word from you now for over a week. I hope you remember the promise you made me. How's everything up there in chilly Springdale. It is getting rather warm down here. However, that's unimportant. The Church is constantly progressing and the caliber of people is those that will be our future leaders here in the branch and the coming ward.

Lucy, I'm all mixed up. Everything goes along fine when I get my weekly letters (I guess I'm spoiled), but I haven't lately. The other elders tell me I might as well forget you as you've tubed out already, but I know – they don't. You can't change your mind that quickly.

February 1, 1963, well here it is February already; still no letter. I lost a bet on you last night. I bet my companion two weeks ago that I would hear from you within two weeks, but I lost. It's been three weeks now since I last heard from you, but I'll keep my promise and send you my weekly letter.

I would like to hear from you and know how you are getting along, etc. I expect a letter any day now. We went up to Tumbes last Friday. Tumbes is almost to the Ecuadorian border. We really got a different view of Peru than we do here in the desert area of Peru. It is very tropical up there with bananas, coconuts, rice, cotton, dates, etc. While we were there we got in on the first rain of the season. Usually it is terribly hot up there but it was very nice and cool. The trip took us up along the coast and we saw some very beautiful country, beaches, small fishing towns, etc. The countryside was very luxurious as we got further north.

You know I believe that I sold my other camera; the big one. Well, just recently I bought me a little Olympus Pen. It uses 35 mm but only takes ½ size the picture so I get 72 instead of 36 pictures. It is a very nice camera and I'm very pleased with it. I intend now to start collecting quite a few slides to bring home. It has a lot of settings on it and an excellent lens. It will use black and white or color so I'm starting to take colored slides.

Well, we'll call it a letter for now. When I get a letter from you, I'll finish it out and send it off. I want you to know I think quite a bit of you Lucy and don't want to lose you, so keep writing.

February 3, 1963, well, I got your letter yesterday so I guess I'd better get one off to you so you won't be too long without one from me. I know it doesn't make me feel too good to be so long without word from those I love.

I'm glad you got back south all safe and sound again. You said you had been so busy you'd forgotten to write. That's a consolation, but it doesn't give me the slightest idea of what you are doing. I'm interested in all you do, where you go, how you're getting along, etc. Of course, when it has anything to do with boys, you can forget it, as I've got more to worry about than thinking of them. You can worry about them (if you want to). I'm perfectly happy in just worrying, or thinking, about you; how you're doing, if you're still waiting (the least of my worries); if you're progressing spiritually; and if you're happy, etc.

Maybe you think I'm conceited and I think you think I'm more conceited than I really am, but you ought to look up the word *conceited*. I'm proud to be a member of the Church; I'm thankful the Lord has blessed me with a good mind, looks, and body; to be able to bring to pass more effectively His work. I'm proud to have such wonderful friends, a family and a girl as I have. I glorify in having a testimony, the priesthood, and knowledge of the gospel. If these make me conceited, I'm happily and proudly conceited. I'm proud that I've helped in converting a few people, but remember, it's the Lord not I that converts them. I just try in an unprepared way to bring to these people the truth of this gospel. I by no means have anything else to do with it. I just baptize them after they and the Lord decide its right.

You asked me about my resolutions. They are coming along pretty well. Of course I don't expect to have them perfected until the end of the year, so I can just say they are keeping me busy.

Don't take me wrong when I say things. I guess I don't have much of a sense of humor. I'm trying to develop one but I guess I was born serious. You ask me if I thought you felt badly when Dave got married. No, I just accepted what you said as one of those little sayings that come from both boys and girls during the dating years that are done to try and clinch love affairs. Personally, I don't really believe you ever did care for Dave. At least I never worried about him. I certainly don't have to now. I think we both love each other quite a bit and that we'd do or say most anything to make our love even closer. I certainly didn't worry about Maurine because I felt she still really liked Mike a lot anyway. That was one of the reasons we broke up when we did. I didn't want to be getting a "Dear Lyman" after a few months. If she had really loved me she'd have still been waiting, hoping. Nevertheless I don't think she likes Mike enough to be happily married to him. Mike and I are two different types of people. Maurine belongs with my type but higher up the scale than I. I didn't have what it took to give her a really strong desire to serve God and yet I wanted to see her happily married to someone who would give her that; someone who would take her to the temple and give her the opportunities her parents and family haven't given her. Now on the other hand she can't see that. She told me if I didn't take her to the temple, nobody would. If you can, you ought to make her see it. If someone doesn't take interest enough in her before I get back she will have already started on the wrong path. I wrote her four times, never receiving an answer, so out of pride I must wait for a reply or never write again. I'll be frank with you Lucy, Maurine meant a lot to me and still does, but we are two people that could never make it together. Some personalities don't parallel. Ours didn't; it took me a year to find that out. Yours and mine do. I believe, of course, I would have to be with you for two or three months more before being of the unbreakable opinion because my temperament won't just go with anybody. It has got to go with someone who can put up with it.

Now I'll give you a little castigation like you gave me. I'm sorry if I made you feel badly when I said you weren't the one and only, but look at it this way. Women are made such that they love and when they love they give all their love, life and soul to the one they love. Men were given by God to love – different you might say, in one respect. As you know God has more than one wife. Does that mean He loves one more than the others. No, I don't believe that. I believe He can have 100 women each with the same amount of love. He instilled that inside mankind; at least He did in me. Therefore, it becomes possible for me to increase and increase my love depending on the amount of wives I will someday have. I don't know if you follow me or not; but it's a higher law of God. Someday the Saints will have to accept it again. All I can say is that I love you with all of my heart. I want you as my first wife for time and eternity. That and nothing else really matters at this time, does it? Love you loads, Lyman.

LETTER 693 Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, January 25, 1963 [received February 1, 1963]

Dearest family, long time, no hear. I guess it's better because I probably will get a bawling out for spending so much. Piura is undoubtedly the most expensive place to live in Peru because of the conditions being as they are. We have to have the very best. Our maid gets more money than any other maid in Piura, but she in turn makes some of the best meals I've ever had. She cooks food "states-style." Boy it's good. I probably should feel like a heel because I feel like I'm living like a king, but we use up all our food energy rapidly in a day's activities. For five days last week, we had no water in the house, due to a pump breaking. We were all pretty miserable. There would be a little water early in the morning before the town got up, so we managed to keep fairly clean, but believe me I'd rather not do that again. We just got water back today. It seems good to be all clean again.

My companion wanted me to find out where Mick O'Brien was on his mission. They were roommates at the Y one year along with Curt Atkins. Would you send his address so he can write? I seem to remember that he went to France, but I'm not sure.

We baptized a young boy (seventeen) last Saturday. He is really a sharp boy. He will receive the Priesthood next Sunday, and be given a position in the branch. We have now given most of the jobs to the members. We are getting less and less. All I am now is Priesthood teacher and Sunday School Superintendent. Of course, that keeps me plenty busy with everything else that I have to do. The Church is really shaping up here, as most all of the members are men who hold the priesthood, who are advancing very rapidly. We hope to get a branch president from among the Peruvians soon. Hopefully we can do it. I'm very happy here working as I really want to. The month of January has gone as though it didn't exist and when we get thirty months rushing by as if they didn't exist, it won't take long until I'll be wondering what happened.

We are looking forward anxiously to spending the time in Lima with President Brown, President Tuttle and others. I'm sure we can take a spirit to add to the meeting, as the branch has had baptisms every week now for five weeks. I'm looking forward to really seeing a progressive branch before I leave. I hope to add something here that will stay for a long time; an influence that won't be forgotten. Of course I need the Lord's help in all I do, but I feel really good about what might be done here if I put forth an effort.

I was hoping the \$152.00 check would last a while, but with the plane costs, copies of the Book of Mormon we have had to buy, renewing "foreign papers," up raises in rent and food (I'll take you at your word and let you worry about it). I can't save even if I want to. I have \$80.00 put away in reserve, but I want to keep it for emergencies, so at least you know I have it; I would like not to spend it though.

I hope you are all enjoying the winter there. I would enjoy a little winter. I haven't had any for almost a whole year now. How's everybody feeling? Do you boys still have the paper job? How do you like it? How about your new job dad? Is it keeping you busy? Have the ward members been to the temple lately? You know, there are going to be a few words said because of the lack

of diligence on the part of those people who have the chance, because the members here may never get a chance to go through a temple.

Today Elder Bascom and two of the other Elders and I rented a taxi for the day and went up to the Ecuadorian border. I tell you it was simply fabulous; the scenery tremendous. We left at 5:00 in the morning so we wouldn't hit so much heat, but to our pleasant surprise it was cloudy all day and we even got in on a tropical rain on the border area. The trip cost us each \$10.00 for food, car and other things, so we figured it was well worth it. The northern part of Peru near the border is very tropical where the rivers come down. We saw two huge rivers that were muddy from summer rains. The road is right along the coast most of the way and is just fabulous. Where the rivers come down there are valleys that are stretched flat for miles that are all planted in crops. We saw some of the fields being planted into rice; using water oxen to cultivate just like in the orient. They had the fields flooded and were planting the rice by hand. There were some fields up that just stretched for miles with pretty new green rice plants. Also we saw millions of coconut palms, banana trees, papayas, cotton fields, cattle, goats, horses, etc. I bought a coconut for \$.10 I had them whack off the top with a machete and drank the juice. They were green so the meat wasn't good. Bananas cost a penny apiece. I just can't explain its beauty. I'd like to be able to show it to you. One of the elders has a little camera that takes seventy shots to a roll (slides) and in seven rolls it will pay for itself compared to what it costs to have the other film developed. I would like to get one like it here and get a good collection of colored slides, so you could share all these experiences with me. The camera cost \$50.00. Of course I'll leave it up to you. I'm seeing the country myself and the film and all would cost some, but it would be nice to have a nice set of slides to show to friends and relatives. Let me know what you think.

Well, I guess I'll close for tonight. It's been a long day and I'm pretty tired. I would like to explain the trip more in detail and will in another letter. I will try to answer your letters you've written Joe, McKay and Gene, soon, but forgive me if they're not right away. I am well and very happy, enjoying the work really swell. The Church is coming along great. How's the ward doing there? Write soon, love always, L.D.

NOTE: There is a letter (Number 543) dated January 28, 1963, from Kirk Lyman to grandma and grandpa Lyman.

LETTER 694 Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, February 1, 1963

Dear family, I have here the letters of the 25th of January, which are very interesting. I might make a few comments. First of all Dad's: It is with thankfulness in my heart that I go to bed every night because of the blessings the Lord gives me. I'm so grateful that I am able to help this people in finding their God, which enriches their lives both spiritually and materially. Those who join the Church that can't afford to buy the Church books, we usually buy them – which are becoming one of my larger expenses, but it is being put to good use, so I don't feel badly about it. Other than that I can only look at these poor people and pray for them. If you try to give them money, they appear by the hundreds, and I don't have that much, so we try to be nice in other ways.

As far as my weight is concerned, I've dropped to 170 pounds. This summer sun is really taking the energy out of me. If it goes by as fast as January did and doesn't get too much hotter, I believe I can take it. Thanks for the information on the ward and the animals. I appreciate you keeping me up to date. I wish you'd send me some family pictures though. I don't want the family growing up without me seeing what they look like. Speaking of pictures: I have been thinking quite a bit about this camera I mentioned before. I'd like to give you a little more information so you can decide better. It's called an Olympus Pen (Japanese model) and claims to have the best lens of its type. It is the size of Joe's and my transistor radios, so it's very easy to carry around. Its aperture ranges from 2.8 to 2.2 (much better than my other camera) and takes from time exposures to 250th of a second. It takes pictures from two feet to infinity. Now as for cost. It would vary depending on what I used. The camera itself costs \$54.00. The film: black and white one dollar; colored \$6.50. But here's the interesting thing. The regular camera only takes 36 shots where this one takes them half the size, or 72 shots. I could use the black and white on every day shots and make little film strips of 72 pictures for \$1.50 total for film and developing. When I was going on special trips I could take color and make them up into slides or film strips, depending on what we wanted. Seventy-two pictures of a foreign country are quite a few for \$1.50 – just two cents apiece. Those could be made into pictures up to 16 x 20 if they were especially good ones. As far as slides go they could cost from ten to fourteen cents each; that is the colored ones. Of course I'd be careful while using colored film, as it would go a lot farther that way – getting the prettiest shots, leaving the others for the black and white rolls. Now as far as this other film I've been using is concerned, it costs a little over \$1.00 to buy, develop and print eight pictures. So you can see this camera would pay for itself in no time and we'd have better, clearer, longer lasting slides. Well, am I a convincing salesman or not? We could all enjoy slides so much better, because when I come home I'd have pictures from all over Peru, the ocean, mountains, a new country for you, possibly many Inca ruins (Cuzco, Pachacamac, etc.), Chile, Ecuador, Panama, Miami, or if we took that trip, Mexico City, etc. They would be things that we would use for years. I know quite a bit about camera composition of pictures, etc. I'm sure I could get some beauties. I've seen the slides it takes and I feel it's worth it. With what I got out of my camera, that would bring its actual cost down by half. So, let me know what you think next letter. I would like to have it when I go to Lima for the conference, so tell me one way or another, by the 8th. You'll get this letter the 4th or 5th and could have one back by the 8th.

Now for Mother's letter: Thank you for giving me my bank statement. It seems that I've been given quite a bit of money. Thank whoever gave me that \$40.00. I would like to know who it was, but I guess that's up to them. I had to write out a \$31.00 check because they said we'd probably have some expenses in Lima, so I believe that leaves the balance at \$180.00.

Our mission paper, *The Chasqui Mormón* is printed monthly for the missionaries of the Andes Mission, but is available to others by special subscription. The rates are for one year: \$1.50 regular mail; \$3.50 airmail. I would advise buying airmail, but it's up to you. They'll ship it out each month, if you send them your subscription.

It sounds like my little brother is growing up. I would love to see all of you again, but the time will be gone in no time. Why, I've almost been gone from home a half a year already. It surely doesn't seem possible. It is just passing so fast.

The Lord's work is progressing rapidly. It was good to see the December issue of the *Church News* and see the progress we are making. I suppose by now we have reached the 2,000,000 mark. Our mission is doing its part. We got 126 baptisms up to the 27th, which was our record so far. We set a new record each month. If each mission did as well as ours, we'd have 2,000,000 converts next year. Well, the group I came down with is scattered around. Elder Burningham is in Arica, Chile, just over the border; Elder Robinson is in Arequipa and Elder Halterman is in Mollendo between Arequipa and Lima, and Elder Platt is way up north in Piura. We couldn't be any more spread out. I haven't seen much of them since I got here. My first companion, Elder Clarke, is a junior companion again. It happens quite often under President Nicolaysen. Some Elders have been made juniors again with two years down – sometimes to shape them up, other times just out of necessity.

Well, folks, I am very happy, enjoying the work – working fifty-five to sixty hours each week in actual proselyting. President Nicolaysen said: "Don't feel discouraged if you don't baptize too many. Most people won't accept. Christ didn't baptize many." President Moyle said "You will be judged by your efforts and diligence, not by your baptisms." So from these sayings I try to face each day with the thought in mind that "it will be the last" and try to find someone to baptize. Believe me, it isn't tough. My companion and I get along just fine, although we couldn't be more different in likes and dislikes.

I thank you for your support, prayers, faith, etc. Please always just be my family, and I'll be happy.

It sounds like you have quite a good job Dad. The plan for buying Zion Park Motel sounds interesting. Let me know as it progresses. I won't say any of my feelings or get all excited until it's definite one way or another. If you could get what you are asking for our motel, it ought to be a worthwhile deal.

As far as girls are concerned, I've decided the particular one hasn't come along yet. I've not received letters from anyone but you know who for three weeks, so your letters become pretty important to me. Please keep them coming, as regularly as you have. I would still like a reply about Shirley though. Love always, L.D.

LETTER 695a Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, February 8, 1963 [received February 15]

Dear family today is Friday and we are almost ready to go to Lima. By the time you get this letter though we will already be back. We will only be there for two days. We have a full schedule all outlined for us, so we won't get to do any looking around. I didn't receive word on time about the camera, so guess it will have to wait. I would like to have taken pictures of the elders, the conference, etc. As you can see, I've sent some pictures of Lima and Elder Clarke. The next two letters you receive will have pictures of Pachacamac and the trip to Tumbes. Also, I may have a few pictures in and around the branch the third letter from now.

The mission has added another 100 soles (\$4.00) to our rent plus the last one which means we now pay \$20 for rent \$25 for food, etc. It is getting harder all the time to get by on what I want to. I've found out Piura for its size is the richest city in Peru, so I'm not getting by as cheaply as I expected to. What with all we've been putting out I sometimes wonder if it's worth it. Of course it is, but still I wonder.

Saturday, February 9. Well, it's Saturday morning. We are waiting for our people to come to be baptized. We just made a nice baptismal font out in back for \$30.00. It will save a lot of headaches and troubles now. My companion and I have one baptism for Tuesday, and a whole family (six or eight) for next Saturday if we can get the man married. A lot of people don't bother to get married, as it costs too much in the Catholic Church and the civil marriage doesn't mean much to them. The lady we are baptizing Tuesday is about sixty. She raised five sons, her husband is dead, and they were never married either, so you see it's quite common.

About last Thursday, one of our friends (a business man) here in Piura, took us down to the Hotel Turista to talk. He bought us pops while he drank whiskey and told us his life story. He's been in world wars, killed men, seen them die, doesn't have a belief in God (or so he says); and we talked. After about one and a half hours of drinking whiskey he was just about out of it. He confided in us that he was actually scared of us and had gone out of his way at times to avoid us because he didn't feel capable of answering our questions (we had already given him one lesson). He said he knew the gospel was the only one that he had seen that could give him what he wanted. He challenged us to convert him and told us "when you're by my side it's as if there were 200." You show me the way to eternal life, give me a faith and God to believe in, a belief in the salvation of my soul and anything I have, including my influence in this town, is yours." Needless to say, we are trying. He may be our answer that we've been looking for to get some of the big shots. Well, that's one of just such interesting experiences we have often. Missionary life isn't dull for sure. It also is becoming quite a challenge. Brothers, study the gospel, get a fearless testimony and a fearless desire to meet anyone who wants to talk the gospel. Believe me I thought I was more or less prepared, but I'm just a punk kid trying to box a professional champ. The only thing I have in my favor is the Church, thank God. I couldn't be a missionary for any other Church. Why two weeks ago we were talking to a Nazarene minister and after two hours we had him so befuddled about God, the nature of matter and spirit, the concept of gospel in general that he had nothing more to say. He just sat there with his mouth open. I'm afraid he will never be the same. He couldn't believe the progress we've made, turning money matters, etc., over to our Peruvian branch presidents. He said they've been here fifty years and they still can't do it. Think what the Church will be like here in fifty years if the Lord allows the earth that long. Why, we've just started.

Mom, you asked if there were any lady missionaries. Yes, there are about ten in Peru. None of them is up here though. Personally though I haven't met any that I'd even consider. Of course, I'm always ready to be shown. Frankly, I think a girl; girls in general, don't belong on missions. Compared to what they do and what most elders do, they are wasting time. None of them has any baptisms, but they are still sweet girls. [Over forty years of experience since writing this has taught me that I didn't know much at that time; like I said earlier – just a punk kid.]

Sounds like the boys and Roberta are all doing fine in school; that's swell. I'd like to write all of you, but I frankly find it hard to even get two letters off a week as it is. Thank Mr. Wilson for the \$5.00. We surely have been helped a lot haven't we?

Joe, it sounds like you're following in the right path and living as you should. Don't any of you be afraid to call a friend to repentance. Any one that commits sin only does it because he thinks it makes him look bigger in his friend's eyes. All we have to do is reverse that and we'll have a pretty good old world. Keep up the good work. All of you prepare yourselves for missions now. If you don't you'll find yourselves regretting it. Also, take a foreign language if you can. I've had people compliment me on mine and it makes me thankful to have taken what Spanish I had.

Well family, we are far away, but yet so close. I'm very happy and interested in your well being. It sounds as though the Lord is being good to all of you as he is to me. We have one of the best families I believe there is in the world. The Lord has blessed us all with good health, strong bodies, good looks, the Church, a love for doing what's right, a chance of living our lives as we want, etc. I feel we all ought to give thanks to the Lord every day for these things. There are a lot of people who don't have them. One of the brethren here (the 1st counselor) had his wife run out on him taking his two children and all their stuff. We all gave him some of our clothes (I gave him my pants, so I've got to buy some more). We just don't appreciate what we have, I don't believe.

Well, it's almost time to leave. I'll write you about the trip next week along with sending you the pictures of the ruins of Pachacamac. I love you all very much and will see you soon. The way the times passes, it won't be any time at all. Four more one-half year periods like this last short one won't be any time at all.

Thanks for all your letters, your faithfulness, and regularity in writing. It adds to the spirit. Gene, I'm glad you are progressing so well in scouting; keep going; Eagle is just a start; love always, L.D. Note: There are three letters (Number 543A, 543B, and 543C) from mother (Allie L. Platt) to her parents, dated February 9, 1963; from mother to Rene and Art, no date; and from mother to her parents, no date.

LETTER 696b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, Box 96, Springdale, Utah, February 9, 1963

Dear Lucita, it is about an hour before plane and I haven't had time before to write you this week. I guess if you judged my faithfulness by the regularity of my letters, you'd be married to

someone else by now. I hope to get back on a better schedule before long. When I get back from Lima I'll send you that long one I promised last week, okay?

Boy, did you sound in a happy mood your last letter. I'm happy; thanks. I'm serving the Lord the best I can. I have a terrific girl waiting; I'm in good health; I love life; my companion and I get along fine.

I don't know what Brother Madsen's translation of slumgullian is but if it means pretty, good natured, sweet, pure, lovely, etc. I agree with him that's what you are. Tell him my choice of girlfriends was made on logic. I decided if Brother Madsen had her as his head waitress she must be the best, because he couldn't be wrong. Of course a few other factors are to be considered.

You asked me which book I was going to read. Well, you pretty well luckily picked it. I'm reading a *Marvelous Work and a Wonder* in Spanish. How's that for a coincidence. Let me know how you are progressing so we can keep together. I just bought it and have just started it. That is the one I mentioned.

You know, you'd probably look cute in glasses. It ought to make a small difference in the world, though. I'm sure glad I have mine.

I'm glad you've got your movie camera and me my slide camera. We ought to be able to make a life history on films....

Time just slips by so fast I will be home sooner than is imaginable. Keep up your gospel studies, Church going, praying for me and everything. I hope you decide what you will do soon. Let me know when you do; chou my darling, Lyman.

LETTER 696c Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, Box 96, Springdale, Utah, February 10, 11, 12, 1963

Dearest Lucy, here I am in Lima after the conference, worn out physically, filled to the brim spiritually. I guess I might as well start from the beginning. Saturday morning after a rough day off Friday; of going to Paita, a big ship port about thirty miles from Piura; hitting two flicks: "Boy Night Out" with Kim Novak and James Garner, and "The Great Imposter," with Tony Curtis, we were in a big rush to get all packed to go to Lima. We just got us a baptismal font completed so we had to try it out by baptizing two people before we left. It sure beats baptizing in the river (as the dam above us holds up quite a bit of the water. Anyway we got the two men baptized and one hour later left for Lima.

It was pretty rough weather a lot of the way, but I got some very nice pictures from the plane of the area between here and Piura so you can all see what it's like. We all arrived safely here at 5:30 with just enough time to drop our stuff off at one of the branches and get over to the missionary meeting with the president. From 6:30 to 10:00 we listened to words of advice, counsel, praise, warning, blessing, etc. President Nicolaysen of our mission, his wife, President Tuttle (First Council of Seventy): president of South America and his wife, and President Hugh B. Brown of The First Presidency, all talked to us, instilling in us urgency in the work, a desire to work harder and with more devotion, etc.

Those missionary conferences are really something. The leaders feel more at ease than in the big ones and we get so close to a prophet of God (ten to fifteen feet) and then being able to shake his hand and receive a few words of counsel and praise from him; well, if you can, then you might be able to feel a part of the feeling I felt during that meeting. I want to live a good life so that I'll be able to associate with men like that if God sees it that way. I don't intend to aspire to any office, but I would like to be prepared for any office the Lord wants me in. You know, I've sort of changed my mind about you and a mission. I think it would be the best thing that could happen to you. Of course after seeing the lady missionaries here, what wonderful spirits they have, etc., I couldn't say anything else. I will have to leave it up to you of course, as you must be able to decide for yourself.

Well after the conference was over we all went visiting our member friends until about 12:00. We got up at 7:00 on Sunday morning, read and studied until 9:30 and then went over to a big movie theater close to where I'd stayed in San Isidro, where we attended conference. I was assigned to guard one of the doors up front and so was again close to the prophet. We had a very inspirational meeting; in fact after the meeting we talked to every investigator that was there asking them if they'd like to be baptized. We baptized thirteen that morning before the second session. I was one of the witnesses and got to confirm one man.

After the second session which was not quite as uplifting as the first we baptized five more which made a total in Lima of thirty baptisms. Our mission record for one week in fifty-six right now, so you can see how it will be broken when we get the figures from the branches north and south. All in all it was a good conference. After the conference was over we went over to Todos, had a glass of milk (the first in three months), two hamburgers (likewise) and a sundae (also). Then we went downtown Lima and looked around at everything again. Lima is sure a big city. I'm glad I'm in Piura. I'm so used to the heat that Lima is cold to me, but to the elders here it isn't.

I've been sending pictures to the folks lately. If you get some time and would like to see them I'm sure they wouldn't mind. I've taken enough of Peru now to keep me busy for months sending home one to five with each letter. I'd send you some but they're too expensive and I'm not made of gold so just see the ones the family has, okay? This mission is a growing experience. I feel that if either of us is going to be where it does any good church-wise, we've got to study everything: languages, people, religion, science, math, etc. I hope to be able to master the Spanish language sufficiently to be able to study German, French, Italian, Portuguese, and Russian and possibly a few more before I die. I see the general authorities (wonderful men) who

don't have knowledge of anything but English and being blessed as I am with the gift of tongues to a degree, I feel I'd better take advantage of it.

Man this page of life as a missionary is certainly going to be a choice one to look back on. I don't have very many qualms about what I've done so far. I've got to still study harder and become more devoted though. I saw two of the three people we baptized in conference, which really made me proud of them. There were about 1,000 people to each session. The Church has baptized 500 members since I came down five months ago. The members are becoming the leaders and everything is going fine. Peru is going to be one of the strongest countries of the Church. According to President Brown the future apostles would be coming out of Peru and it was up to us to baptize their fathers. This is quite a responsibility isn't it? Anyway that's our job so we need all the support we can get spiritually from home. That's your job.

February 12, I'm at the Limatambo airport right now with a forty-five minute wait before my plane leaves for Piura so I might as well talk to you for a while. Last night after a day of recreation, riding around Lima, buying necessities we all went to the show "Mutiny on the Bounty" with Marlan Brando. It's the new version of the show and was fabulous and lasted four hours. It would have been so much better if you would have been there of course. Of course I'm glad you weren't there though; I'm afraid I wouldn't have been able to concentrate on the work. I would like to bring you back here some time because it's really a fabulous place to see, so maybe we can if we make good in this life.

I bought some music yesterday and am slowly learning to play. There is a shortage of piano players in the mission so I take it as a responsibility to learn as the Lord has given me a half talent as far as music is concerned. Also I bought some German and French dictionaries. Language seems to be another talent I have so I want to improve on it to be able to be a more effective Church worker in whatever part of the world I may be. Of course only time will tell; but I hope to be able to have several languages as life accomplishments. If it were possible to devote six months to it as I have here, there wouldn't be any problem at all in learning them. Well, its plane time so I'd better sign off for now.

Hi again, we are aboard the plane almost back to Piura now. Everybody else almost, except five or six of us got off at Trujillo and Chiclayo so we have free run of the plane. It has been a rather uninteresting trip because it has been cloudy and I've been tired anyway....

This is becoming quite a long letter but that should prove to you I will write long ones when I have time. This one has taken two hours so far.

February 14, happy Valentine's Day; the time snuck up so fast I didn't even know what time it was. Then too, down here where they don't celebrate it, it is so much easier to forget.

I have enclosed a picture of me because knowing how much I want one of you I imagine you might feel the same. Apparently the one letter you sent didn't get here. I sure have had trouble getting a picture of you. I guess you'll just have to try again.... Be good and prepare well, love ya loads, Lyman.

LETTER 696a Lyman De Platt to parents, Piura, Peru, February 13, 1963 [received February 21]

Dearest family, I guess it is time again to write and bring you up to date, and I might as well start from the beginning. We left Piura at about 1:00 and had a very nice trip down. There is some fascinating country between Piura and Lima and I'll be sending you some pictures along with further explanation of the country in another letter.

As far as these income tax forms are concerned, I'll give you what I have according to my diary. The medical expenses are: glasses \$8.00 and \$26.00 with a \$10.00 discount, so I don't know how you count the discount. My dentist bill was about \$65.00 and I believe that is all I can remember. I looked through my 1962 diary and can't find anything more so I guess that's it. As far as contributions go that I received that you may not have record of: \$10.00 from the Lewises; \$5.00 from Uncle George; \$2.00 from Grant Christofferson; \$2.00 from Bruecks. I believe that's it. You're right – I didn't work for Curley except for one day during 1962.

Now to continue with the trip. I figured maybe my letter wouldn't get to you in time about the camera, so I bought it out of the \$70.00 reserve, figuring you would probably see it my way, which you did. I have taken one roll of film (given with the camera) and I am very happily pleased with the results. The camera will use three types of film: the regular black and white that you make pictures with and the black and white and color reversibles that you made slides with. The color costs between \$5.00 and \$10.00 but when I buy that I expect it to last two or three months and get only good shots. It won't cost much in the long run, as I explained considering the benefit we will get. The mission says we should always have \$70.00 on hand in case of emergencies, so I'll write out a \$60.00 check to restock the depleted fund. I figure that should leave \$120.00 in the account. Gee, that's kind of low. I'll be glad when you get my income tax return so you can put it in. I hope I can make it all last until June.

Anyway, as I've started to explain a number of times, we left Piura for Lima Saturday at 1:00. The missionary conference was scheduled to start at 6:30, so we wondered if we would make it or not. It was a very beautiful trip down. I believe I got some very good shots to give an idea of what Peru looks like. I hope they all turn out well. We all arrived in Lima one hour before meeting time, so we took our stuff over to the branch where we were assigned to stay and then went over to the meeting. It was good to see everyone again, to share in the experiences they had had since we last met. The missionary meeting was a very spiritually uplifting experience. President Nicolaysen, his wife, President Tuttle, his wife, and President Brown all talked to us. President Brown told us some very personal experiences that he had had during his life and

exhorted us all to be more diligent, have more faith and stamina, work harder, etc. He is such a humble man, so high, yet so personal. After the meeting, we all got to shake hands with him and receive words of encouragement and blessing from him.

Sunday we went over to the theater where the conference was being held. The morning session was wonderful, being about 1,000 there (over 500 baptisms more than my first conference when I came down). I was asked to guard a front exit, so I got to be up close to President Brown. After the meeting we (the missionaries) all organized and asked all investigators if they would like to be baptized. Some accepted. We went over to the baptismal font and baptized thirteen people. I was one of the witnesses and was allowed to bless one brother with the Gift of the Holy Ghost. The second session was equally fabulous, but there were only five baptisms out of it. Anyway, I felt it was worth the money I spent, and felt I may have helped in adding to the spirit – I hope I did so. After the meeting was over we went to Todos to eat, and I had my first hamburger, glass of milk and sundae in three months. It is good to be without things at times to appreciate them. I hope you appreciate the milk, mountain water, mush, etc. you have. I would happily trade you; also each other's company.

Monday we had a day off because we couldn't fly back until Tuesday morning. We went downtown and looked around, shopped, fooled around, etc. At night we went to the new production of "Mutiny on the Bounty." It was very exciting – and beautiful. We got out at 12:00, so we went right home and went to bed. Next morning at 6:00 we left for Piura. It was cloudy all the way so we slept a little. All in all it was a fabulous trip. I enjoyed it very much, so now we are all home safely and working again.

Well, I promised more pictures, so here they are. I have also pictures of Elder Clarke with some pictures of Lima and some of Tumbes and some here around the branch I've taken with the new camera. The black and white finished shots cost about four cents apiece with developing and printing. I don't remember which photos I sent, but I'll be keeping you in a flow of pictures and negatives until I get them all home. I hope you'll safely store them away so I can review them after I get home. In this set you are getting is a picture of all the elders here in Piura. There is quite a variety as you can see. I have others of them and me that I'll send in the weeks following.

Well, I guess I'd better close. I'm happy to hear that McKay got baptized, that Joe has his license, that everyone is happy, etc. I will be writing each individual letter soon I hope. It's not that I'm a negligent letter writer – just that I haven't the time always. Give my love to the members of the ward. I would like to write to the ward shortly so I hope to do so. The heat here is starting to become rather sultry. It is passing rapidly and the summer is mostly gone. Here February is already ½ gone and I've been ½ year away from home, yet it seems as yesterday. Thanks to you all for being so good in writing, in keeping me informed as to what is going on in the town, school, home, etc. I appreciate all of you very much, your good lives, etc.

Dad, you said to recheck my weight to make sure so I did and I weigh 178 pounds; a little more than you I believe. I suppose I'll be a whopper when I come home. It is interesting to see the changes that take place in a person.

Well, I'll write you next week and send more pictures. I hope you will be able to agree on a little more money for the film and pictures, because I'm sure you will enjoy them. With the rent raise, etc., I'll probably have to write out a \$70.00 check, as the average is \$80.00 now. I've been above average so far, haven't I, but the Lord has been good to us. So long for now. May God be with you, protect you, watch over you, and keep you safe from harm and evil, love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 696b Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, Springdale, Utah, February 16, 1963

Dear Lucy, yesterday the 15th I finally got your picture. It was a pleasant surprise. You said you sent it by airmail but I believe it came by boat and for that reason it took so long, besides being sent to the mission home. Anyway, it's here and I'm really happy. It's so life-like that it's like having you here. It is a very lovely picture of you and it will stay right in front of me constantly. I get razzed for having a girl waiting, but I think it's sharp and I feel really good about it. I'm sure you do to or you wouldn't be waiting.

I am very happy. We have a really sharp family that is just about ready to be baptized. I get your picture, your letters and the folks' letters. I couldn't be happier unless I was with you. Of course that can't be so we just talk of it for now. The time goes by so fast that I'll be home before I feel I'm ready. It has been seven months now since I started to think very seriously about you. Can you imagine that? It seems like yesterday we were swimming at Veyo, riding in the park, going to Bryce, etc. I guess we will have to improve every day to be ready for each other when I get back home.

Well I don't want to make another long letter. You'll get the idea I'm in love and it would be nice to keep you on your toes. Have you decided what you are going to do yet? How is your mother getting along? Where are you going to work? Do you love me? I love you! I'll fight anybody that says I don't. Be good; I'll write next Friday, love ya Lou, Lyman.

LETTER 697a Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, February 22, 1963

Dear Lucy, well guess what? I didn't get a letter! But knowing that you are having a ball in St. George working at Dick's Café then I'll forgive you; but I want one next week after you're all settled around. See! I'm glad you got a job. Mom told me you were there; that's how I know. How do you like it?

All is quiet on the Southern Front. We are slowly, drearily, dragging through the hot, sultry summer here in Piura. One more month to go and it ought to start cooling off a little bit. The branch is progressing nicely. So is Elder Platt's weight: 175 now I believe. But I'm still stringing upward too. So by two more years I ought to be quite a different chap than the one you knew. You haven't changed much in this picture except maybe somewhat on the slimmer side. I surely do enjoy the picture; thanks again.

Say, I read a book last week: *Prophecy*, by Duane S. Crowther. It is just fabulous. It would be worth your time to read it. You get it there at the Seventy's Bookstore probably....

I can't express how much your letters have meant these last six months. They have lifted me up many times when I was pretty discouraged. Between you and mother, you have both helped 1/5 of my mission go by as though it never existed. I usually don't receive letters except from you and my family, so I look forward for each letter and your sweet way of saying things.

I am very happy in my work and look anxiously forward to each new day with renewed determination to do better. In that way I feel I may become what I'm supposed to be. I'm trying to prepare myself for the time when we get married by studying a lot, honoring my priesthood, etc. I'm sure you are too.

This is a short letter this week but I just about didn't write one because I hadn't received one, but that's how break-ups start so here is my love and wish of success in whatever you are doing unless it has to do with boys. Besides that you have my blessings. Until next week this is me signing off. I love you Lou, para siempre, Lyman.

LETTER 697b Lyman De Platt, to parents, Piura, Peru, February 22, 1963 [received March 1]

Dear folks, well, here we are now 1/5 of my mission gone and it seems just like I got here. The time just keeps on flying. I can see I've changed some and I'm sure the family has changed quite a bit, haven't they? I'm looking forward to some pictures of them before long – at least by spring.

I've enclosed a few more pictures. I hope you will enjoy them. I've got a roll I took around the branch that has me in quite a bit which I'll be sending between two and three weeks from now, as I have others I want to send before then. So you can expect pictures for two or three months on what I've got now.

The time isn't sufficient to write all I want to. We are having a party here tonight and we have to decorate, etc. Also, I've been making charts all morning to put on the bulletin board, which has taken four hours. I just finished reading the book by Duane S. Crowther, *Prophecy*. It is a tremendous book. I wonder if it would be possible to get one. I would like to have it to study when I get home. It tells about many interesting things that will be happening before and during the 1,000 years of Christ's reign.

You asked if I had been sick. Well, just recently, this week, I've had quite a bad cold. I stayed home one morning, but other than that I've had perfect health. My face is cleared up so that I have very little problem with it now.

As you'll see by the pictures I've sent, I cut my hair. I just cut it again the other day - for the last time short. When it grows out this time summer will be over and I'll let it get long again.

My companion and I get along fine. We never have hardly any disagreements, because we both try to do what we should. One of the elders was moved out - Elder Iverson from St. George - and Elder Cox from Idaho replaced him. Now we have six elders that work.

I'm very thankful for a family. I have received many advantages and opportunities because of you. I realize we must always help each other, as we can't get to Heaven any other way. I hope I make you proud to be my folks, because I try. I want to set a good example, and be as close to my Heavenly Father as I can always. Well, excuse me, I'll write more as soon as I can, love always, Lyman.

LETTER 697c Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Miss Lucy Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, February 23, 1963

Dear Lucy, realizing as I do what your letters mean to me and knowing very well the things I like to hear, it is always with a certain amount of humility that I try to express my feelings for you over such a long distance by such an insufficient method. With that thought in mind I ask your forgiveness if at times my letters don't fill the gap between us. As far as your letters are concerned, they are just fine because every time I read them I put myself in tune with the spirit of the words and then look at your lovely picture here on my desk. I just about transport myself from here to where you are.

It was good to hear you had obtained work and it was also a relief. I'm sure you haven't been wasting time but we have to continually be progressing or we'll retrogress. It sounds like maybe you don't get along too well. How are you doing now that you've been there a while? Has the ice broken down quite a bit? Are the waitresses and bosses friendlier?

I'm glad you wrote me your viewpoint as to what you thought about Maurine. You know you have quite a head on you. I liked the way you explained about temple marriage being for those who wanted it bad enough. I know you won't settle for anything else, and as far as I am concerned "there is one baptism, one marriage, on faith, one Christ." I would never consider any other nor could I marry anyone who would. My testimony of the gospel wouldn't allow me to do anything else. I love this gospel with such an inner passion you might say that I would die before doing so. I'm sorry if the letter I wrote made you feel badly or hurt you Lucy. That is the last thing in the world I would want to do. I don't believe in being hypocritical though. When I have a feeling I express it. That way people know what I am, what I think, and can decide to stick with me or not. Know this that as long as I know that you want me to love you I will. I am very pleased in the progress we've both made. I can see yours, you know mine. I'm sure this match was meant to be. We can be happy together and have a nice family sealed to us for time and

eternity. I marvel at the goodness of God for giving us such wonderful blessings and opportunities. I hope we will always be grateful for the gospel especially. So long for now, love ya, L.D.

LETTER 698a Elder Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Miss Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, March 1, 1963

Always my dearest Lucy, Friday has come again and I'll attempt once more to express myself in a way that will be beneficial to you and not boring. I received your letter of the 21st one day late but being as there was a holiday you're released of any guilt. It's good to be able to look forward to getting a letter from you each week. It helps so much in making my weeks go by faster. I am glad that you stick to your word. I realize of course a strong desire to hear from you as often as you can write and certainly wouldn't object to letters twice a week. Of course that's up to you.

I'm glad that you get out once in a while; that you are making new friends and that your work is apparently turning out all right. How long do you plan to work this time? Are you going to enroll in any classes at Dixie during your spare time or are you just going to work? It sounds like you are making nice wages. Hope it keeps up and you can get done all you want to do during two years. It will go by fast. Do you realize my family has lived in Springdale for almost two years now? If my mission goes by that fast we'll just have left home.

I was reviewing my first six months last night before I went to sleep and I was quite happy with all of the lucky breaks I've had. Also I've learned to play several Church hymns and can read notes a lot better. I feel physically a lot better and have increased some spiritually. All in all it has been a profitable six months. I hope to make this next six months go by just as fast and improve as much and hope to help in bringing a few more good souls into the gospel. The reward of seeing them and helping them progress is a good feeling. I hope to make myself worthy of quite a few more blessings as well as increasing my love and devotion for you. I am sure there will be times when we will doubt each other, but let me promise you something now Lucy. I've not always been as true as I should have been to those you have trusted me, but I will not be untrue to you without first you knowing about it. If any gossip ever starts as it does many times, I'll consult you and you me before we ever decide anything. Gossip is a terrible thing and it can ruin anyone if they believe it.

I write to other girls now and then but my love is expressed only in my letters to you. When and if it should ever change, I'll be the one to tell you. Other than from me you should not believe otherwise, okay? I have met a few girls in all the moving I've done, a few I've helped in seeing the gospel truths. I still think they are swell girls and will of course write when they write me, but you are the only one that can expect one from me every week even if you don't write. Of course if you don't write my letters may not be too pleasant, but they will come. Fair enough? You are a swell girl. You better stay true. I need you.

I would like to commend you thus far on your faithfulness. Of course I've never said I didn't want you going out or ever will because that's none of my business yet, but you have been faithful in your letters and between them, your progress in reading the things you've told me

about in your letters. I can see I have increased in respect and love for you. I hope the feeling is mutual. It appears to be as far as I can see.

Well I would like to write more but I've got quite a few other things that are pressing, so with your permission I'll sign off for now. Remember the words of the Lord "and they shall become one flesh." I'm trying to get myself in a position to comply with these words because we do have some differences and they are mostly changes that need to be made in me. I hope during the next two years to prove myself sufficiently worthy of you, adios querida mía, Elder Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 698b Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, March 1, 1963 [received March 8], Dear family

I don't know if you saw Mike O'Brien's name in the *Church News*, but it's in the January 12 edition, 5th page; interesting.

Thanks for the letter and pictures that were sent. It's good to see the family again, and King, and to see how the place looks. I'm looking forward to some more this week. Sounds like you are having wonderful weather up there. I'm used to the heat now so I quite enjoy it, even though it's at its hottest almost.

It's good to hear that there are more new members and the inactive ones are coming out. I'm glad they are coming out. They are good people. I don't know if you have heard yet, but Maurine finally wrote. She said she never was engaged; and it was just because Mike gave her a ring on a chain for her birthday that the gossip got started.

How is all the family now? Has Joe lost his cold sores? Dad, have you got your set of teeth yet? I guess it's getting pretty springy there now. No? It surely is nice down here most of the time. It gets rather hot in the noon time, but the mornings and afternoons are beautiful. Our senior elder Waulin will be going home in a month now. There are apt to be quite a few changes made around here. Our branch is progressing marvelously. We have an organization of one year, branch of two years. I just turned my Sunday School Superintendency job over to my counselor and became the second counselor. All I have now is that and the priesthood class. I really enjoy teaching them. Well, I won't write more. I'll send letters to the others next week along with some more pictures. Thanks for the letters, prayers, and help financially, etc. It's good not to have to worry about anything, love always, L.D.

Dear Brother Joe: well, I've finally found time to write after such a long time. I've got six months officially of time down today. The time surely goes by. Remember the trip Dad, McKay, you and I took. That was two years ago and that's how short of a time I'm going to be gone from home. When I get back you will have less than a year before you go. I hope you are preparing yourself. The mission field is a place to preach, not to study so much. There are in the mission field too many elders who decide they don't know too much about the gospel and so they study when they should be preaching. There is plenty of time to read and study all you need to if you already have a good idea of the gospel. Of course it's up to you, but it would be smart to do all you can now.

I'm glad you got your license and that you're getting along okay in school. From the looks of the pictures, you must be approaching six feet pretty fast. You've changed quite a bit in six months, believe me.

Joe, I'm looking forward to having some fun times together after I get home. Always remember whatever you do though that it's got to be a good example to your younger brothers and sister. You're the big brother now. Be a good one. From the sounds of things, you're following the correct way. I shudder to think that one of us might go astray. God forbid it. It would be terrible.

I am enjoying my mission tremendously and can see that it is going to go way too fast. You've got no time for screwing around on a mission. You either become a success or a failure in life depending on what kind of mission you serve. Well, good luck in school. Be careful of the girls and study hard, as always, Lyman

Dear Eddie: when I got the pictures Mother sent I looked at the family and wondered where you were. I could see the stranger, I thought, but after re-looking two or three times, I decided it was you. You've grown taller and changed more than anybody during these first six months. How are you doing in school? I hear you're getting closer to your Eagle badge. Keep it up. It will be well worth the time you spend. How are you doing in your studies of the scriptures? I hope you are really trying to prepare yourself. It certainly is going to take missionaries with really strong testimonies. Do you realize when you go out as a missionary, if you get the chance, the Church at its growth rate now will be having between 150,000 and 200,000 converts a year. Our Church only has two million people right now. Can you imagine what type of missionaries you'll have to be? You'll need to know the gospel backwards and forwards. You really ought to start now.

It will be good to hear from you again and know how you are getting along. Tell me about the scouting, what you're doing in the Church, how you're doing in school, etc. I am enjoying my mission really well. I'm glad I knew as much about the gospel as I did when I came. I've learned a lot more, but I have had some good breaks because of what I knew. Take a language in school if you can. I guess this year will soon be over for school, won't it? Be good; write soon, your brother, L.D.

Dear Gene: Hey, boy, you looked sharp there in your black suit. Looks like you look more like me complexion-wise than any of the others. Too bad. I hear you got your first class badge. That's really swell. Keep it up. You may catch up with Joe if your hurry.

How are you doing in school and in Church activities? I hope you are taking your studies seriously and trying to get the best grades you can. Also, I hope you are studying the scriptures too. I can't impress upon you boys the importance of it like I would like to. We are in a situation right now in the world when prophecies are being fulfilled all over the place. The members of the Church are going to have to be strong and prepared with good, strong testimonies of the gospel. Within the next fifty years we are going to see a 3rd world war, a gathering of the Saints to the Western States, and the starting of New Jerusalem almost for sure. [Wrong!!!] We've got a lot ahead of us in our lives and now is the time to prepare. Hope you are enjoying life and having a

good time. Looks like the family really had a time topping trees. How is the weather? Have you taken any hikes yet? Hope the girls aren't giving you a bad time. Well, I'll close for now; write soon. I'm having a good time. We have baptized five people now and expect quite a few more in the near future. Be a good brother and help the folks all you can. They need all of you to help them; so long for now; always your brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 698c Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, March 2, 1963

Dear Lou, One good turn deserves another I believe. I've gotten quite a few letters from you lately and of course I'm in the 7th heaven or top spirits. It really helps the time fly by so much faster when there are letters from those close to you.

I'm glad you liked the picture. Just for that I may surprise you with some more once in a while.

It sounds like you are in top spirits: having your apartment all done, earning money head over heels, having more friends. That's good. I don't like to see anybody unhappy, especially you and the folks.

I might mention a little bit more about the growth of our mission. We have baptized 300 people in January and February. Can you imagine that? We only baptized sixty a month eight months ago. Also we started another chapel in Lima (which makes two under way). Boy this is a sharp work! It is going to be my reward after I get home to read in the *Church News* about the formation of the Piura Stake, seeing people the Lord let me baptize up there in high positions. That will be when the reward comes.

When I asked you what you were going to do, I didn't know and still don't. You must have explained it in the letter you put your picture in that never got here.

You could say I didn't love you teasing or serious, but facts are facts. Just as gravity is an eternal law, so is my love for you an eternal thing. Of course, if I let you know that you might figure to take advantage of me so I won't tell you.

Your apartment sounds like a cozy place to spend the evening hours with someone like you. I guess we'll just have to forget it for now though. I miss curling up on a couch with a pan of popcorn and watching television. A mission certainly has its inconveniences. But I've got to start building us a house in heaven and you've got to start furnishing it. It's sure not going to be the easiest thing in the world either.

Well I guess I'll sign off until next Friday. Remember what I said in my last letter: unless I tell you I don't love you don't believe it and I'll never tell you.

Keep up your good spirits Lucy and we'll pass through what is an ordeal for some couples as though it didn't exist (*si quieres*); *je te ame*; *ich du liebe*; I love you, L.D.

LETTER 699 Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru [received March 9]

Dear family, boy, from the sounds of the letters, the family has really made a revolutionary move. I have been waiting for it but didn't expect so many changes. I'm glad you're glad I got the pictures coming. I have quite a few black and white negatives (two rolls – 140) that ought to keep me busy sending pictures home for awhile. Of course they are not all going to have me on them, but I've got quite a few now. My camera is loaded with colored film now. So after about two months of that one and allowing developing time, I'll start sending slides home. I'm very happy with the camera. It is a good one and well worth the money. Thanks for the other pictures.

It sounds like everyone is going to be pretty busy earning money. It appears to be all based on good judgment. I hope it works out fine. That will give you good opportunities at home, won't it mother? Nice that you'll be able to stay with Gordie and will be able to raise him with his proper mother. Also it will be good to have the mother home with everyone all the time. Dad, it sounds like you are enjoying your work. I hope it all turns out okay. I'm sure the Lord is really blessing us abundantly. It never ceases to amaze me the blessings the Lord gives to those who obey Him even a little. It seems I don't deserve all mine, but the D & C says we get blessing only because of complying with laws.

Mother, as I know it, my bank account stands at \$120.00. I'll be writing out a check for March of \$60.00 for tomorrow, so that leaves \$60.00. With the other donations you've not yet put in, I don't know what it will be so let me know as you put them in. It was too bad to have to sell the livestock, but I suppose it was better. It will leave more time to do the things that will be added to this other responsibility. Don't sell your motel if you can help it. I think I would like to go into the business myself. Of course, I wouldn't be able to for a few years, as I'd need to go to school, but I could run it during the summers. Knowing me, I'll probably be getting married shortly after I get back, so --- well let's just see how things develop. I have an idea it will all be for the best.

President A. Theodore Tuttle is going to be here in Piura on the 14th with President Nicolaysen. They are going to tour the mission and talk privately here and throughout the mission with every missionary. Elder Waulin (branch president) will be going home at the end of the month and there are likely to be some big changes here, as well as in the rest of the mission. Elder Jones, the one who wrote you (2nd counselor in the presidency) is also going home along with three more branch presidents in the mission.

Well, I really better close. I promised the kids letters. I love all of you and am so glad to be serving as a missionary. I'll mention one more thing about my account. In case of changes, etc., revolutions, air mail delays, there should probably always be in the account at least \$100.00 in case of these emergencies when I can't tell you I'm taking it out. I hope my tax return will help.

God bless you all in your endeavors to serve him. I am glad all of us have a desire to do well. Perfection will come in time. Love always, Lyman.

Dear Roberta, it has been too long since I've written. How's my sister getting along? I guess you're growing up pretty fast aren't you? What do you think about all this moving around the family is doing? Do you think we'll ever settle down? I guess you'll be able to go swimming all you want now, won't you? Be careful of Gordie. How are you doing in your school work? I bet it's nice to have new kids in the school, isn't it? How are the primary and Sunday School classes doing? Is Dad doing a good job as counselor?

Your big brother is having a good time down here. This mission work is wonderful and although I'm not getting too many baptisms, the branch is growing slowly and surely and it will some day be a strong part of the Church.

Be sure and follow the teachings of Mom and Dad, won't you? You are a beautiful daughter of Zion and ought to be as pure and sweet always as the flowers that grow in the virgin highlands untouched by the hand of man. You are a sweet girl Roberta, but you'll be growing up under many temptations. Start now to fortify your soul with a good, strong testimony, teachings of the gospel, and the life of the Savior. You'll never regret it.

Well, be good! Take good care of the folks and the little brother. The next two years will pass very rapidly and I'll be home for a short while in no time. I love you sis; your brother, Lyman De.

Dear Brother McKay, well I finally got around to writing again, didn't I? I hear you are getting along pretty well in school and have also joined the Cub Scouts. Let's see, you'll be ten years old when I get home, so you ought to have a few badges by then. How's old King getting along? Did the family sell all the animals or just the cows? I suppose they sold them all, didn't they?

Gee whiz, boy, you guys will soon be out of school again won't you? I'll bet you will have fun hiking and swimming again. You ought to enjoy yourself while you can. You'll grow up so fast that you won't know where you came from or where you're going. You better study really hard too. The Lord loves those who keep His commandments and learn and study about Him.

What do you think about moving around to a new place again? I bet it's probably lots of fun, isn't it? I wish I could come and see all of you for a while but the time will pass quickly enough. Already I've been gone ½ of a year.

Well, be good and write soon. I hope you get really good grades and learn a lot. Take care of King for me and don't let him get too old. I think I miss him more than the family, because he probably won't be around as long. Be good to him; love, Lyman De.

LETTER 700a Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, March 4, 1963

Dear Lucy, say, you're keeping up on your promise. I've received five letters now in 2½ weeks. It sounds like the weather is wonderful up there. I've never liked the heat, but we've got only one month more of it, and then we'll take the cool turn.

It sounds like you're sort of set against alcohol and stuff like that. That's good. It has no place in the Church nor ever will. I'm glad you're enjoying your work. I hope you make lots of money and get everything you want. It will be quite a while, comparatively speaking, until we get married, so you ought to do okay. I wish you luck of course. If you don't I'll have to.

It appears as though Brother Madsen is really going to get a big set-up going there. When do they propose to start? I believe my dad is working for them now and so maybe he will be in on helping build it. I guess my folks are moving up to the Zion Park Motel. I really don't know too much of what's going on.

Today four of the elders went to Talara. It is a seaport and a lot of American people live there. We bought some American food and goofed around; took a few pictures; it was a lot of fun.

Well, darling, I don't have too much to say. I can say, however, that you may be surprised with a picture, now and then for a while. I hope you like this one. It turned out pretty well; just for you. As you can see, I'm kind of proud of the picture you sent and the other elders have to watch what they say about it.

I'll try and answer all your letters but as I said, no promise. I have been really thrilled in getting so many from you. Be a good young lady; study and work hard and don't forget the promises I've made if you do your part; love ya always, Lyman, SWAK.

LETTER 700b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, March 6, 1963

Dear Lucy, I start here so I can write more. Since you said you would write twice a week, I have received two a week. It has been a pleasant experience, having them so long and filled with such nice words. I think I struck me a goldmine when I found you. I'm happy you are enjoying yourself in St. George and making lots of friends, especially ones that have your ideals.

Don't let your letter-losing upset you. I believe I only lose one every two or three months. I get enough to keep me happy. I know you are and I know if you don't write you have a good reason.

I'm glad my letters have the effect on you they do. That will be the only way I'll be able to keep you loving me for two more years. At the rate the time is going by though, that will be as nothing.

This month (the 14th) President Tuttle – Seven Presidents of Seventy – and President Nicolaysen of the mission, are coming to Piura to talk to all of us. The branch president, Elder Waulin is going home as his mission is over and some of the other elders will be leaving probably, as they have five and nine months here. I may go. So there ought to be quite a few changes in the near future. I'll let you know next week or else the end of March depending when they make the changes.

I might give you a run-down on my reading: Book of Mormon (English): III Nephi; (Spanish): Mosiah; D. & C.: 65; Bible: I Samuel; *Marvelous Work and a Wonder*: chapter seven; *Introduction to the Gospel*: chapter twelve. What are you reading now?

Darling I'm glad that I inspire you to better works. That of course makes me want to try harder to please you and live a better life. You have been a big influence in my life too, already. A lot of elders are glad they don't have girls, but I am glad I do. I don't have to worry about you; you cheer me up more with every letter; and each week is just that much closer to our marriage date which is creeping up so fast. I'm very pleased and proud to have you as my *novia* and hope that we can always encourage each other to high and higher goals. A man has to have a good woman to get anywhere in life.

Well so long for now. I may get another letter in this week but it's no promise. Keep up your good spirit and study, study, study. I think you're quite a woman, love ya, Lyman.

LETTER 700b Lyman De Platt, Piura, Peru, to family, March 15, 1963 [received March 21]

Dearest family, here we are in the middle of another month and still very little has been accomplished. I hope you got the letter I wrote. I thought I wrote to McKay and Roberta too. Sounds like things are working out for the better motel-wise. I'm glad you have someone to run our motel for us. Also, I hope you both, all in fact, enjoy the work at Madsen's.

Thanks for the pictures. Most of all I miss the family, of course, but those two pictures of the mountains did something for me you will never imagine unless you can remember our feelings when we were in California. Thanks! Please send some more of the mountains when it gets summer. It surely helps the spirit a lot; and also the family.

Sounds as though the town and ward are progressing nicely. I imagine it will be quite different from the Springdale I knew. Time and things change people and memories so much. It seems almost unfair. How I long already for my younger days again. Kids, take advantage of every opportunity to enjoy life in its fullest.

President Tuttle and President Nicolaysen were here last night and this morning. It is a wonderful experience to talk to those men. Oh, they're just men, but what power they possess. They have overcome many obstacles over the years. Might I pause here just to say all great men are not authorities. As far as I'm concerned, our Father – Roberta and the boys – is a man chosen of God to teach us salvation and give us the example. Follow his advice and Mother's, of course, also.

President Tuttle interviewed each one of us and encouraged us to greater works. They were pleased with the branch. We had fifty-five people in attendance at the meeting last night. This little branch was packed plumb full. It surely was pleasing to see. There come the fruits of the labor. I'm enjoying my mission so much. It is going too fast is the only problem. I wish it would slow down. If I stop working it will; but I won't do that. I'm thankful for the opportunity of serving the Lord and the family in this capacity. I hope I won't let you down.

The mission said it was going to discontinue sending our monthly magazine to anyone but the missionary group. So, if you haven't ordered it yet, don't. I'll send you a few now and then, okay?

How is everyone doing in school? Be thankful you can go. Down here they have a limit to those who go, the rest are out of it. 40,000 people, only three high school, two Catholic owned. It is a pretty bad situation for the Mormons, especially. How are the grandparents? I hope everyone is feeling well now. It was too bad to hear about Joseph L. Wirthlin dying. We don't get the *Church News* very early so time places our knowledge back of yours. Well, I'll close till next Friday. Hope everyone is happy and enjoying life; I am. I hope to really do a lot of progressing on my mission – spiritually, physically and mentally; love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 700c Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, March 15, 1963

Dear Lucy, Well how is my hard-working little girlfriend getting along? It sounds like you are doing really fine on your reading, at work, etc. Looking through our book, I've got a lot of reading to do to catch up. I'll quit a little on the scriptures. I'm on chapter eight.

I hope you enjoy the pictures. I still have some more to send you. No objections I hope! That article in the *Church News* sounded interesting. We saw some figures today that are astounding on baptism progress here in South America. President Tuttle interviewed each one of us and encouraged us to be dauntless in doing the work. We had a very good meeting with him and President Nicolaysen. It was good to see them and receive inspiration from them. They were very pleased with the progress that we had done with the Lord's help.

President Tuttle told us that the most important thing we could do after fulfilling an honorable mission would be to go home and get married. He said "A wife will either take you to heaven or hell." So you can see the faith I am putting in you Lucy. I need a wife who can stand by me through thick or thin. I know you can do the job, but you'll have to work at it constantly. I know it's a lot to ask, but you are the most important thing I have next to my priesthood and immediate family. I commend you for your steadfast and firmness so far and exhort you to study, search for truth and be faithful. I trust you now with my love, and later my life.

These things are very important to me as they are to you too. I am trying in my feeble way to live worthy of the trust you have in me and expect your full devotion too. I'm glad you have friends like Susie who have their ideals set high. They will be a big help in strengthening my position with you and also your testimony and love for the gospel will grow and increase. I'm thankful for my friends.

Re-reading over my letter makes me realize that perhaps I am talking too seriously. I never have been much on the light-minded side though. Maybe I ought to acquire it. What do you think? Do I talk too much like I was trying to change the world? That makes me sound rather dry. I hope you don't take my letters that way.

I see you are still thinking about a mission. My uncle once said, "Don't marry a girl unless she has been on a mission." He was lucky and got one that did [Uncle Art and Aunt Rene]. From a personal standpoint it would solve one of my problems. I could get my service over while you were on a mission. Our love having lasted that long wouldn't very easily be dissolved with two more years of separation. I'll probably be away from you whether you go or not. As I said before, though, the decision is yours, not mine. You couldn't help but be a better mother and wife for it. And of course the love between us certainly wouldn't decrease. Still it's your choice. But by the time you got out of the mission field, I would be financially better off to start into married life. Still, I wouldn't say one way or another, but the chance of a happier life together would be a lot greater plus the fact that we'd be ready then to settle down. Of course, I won't say a thing. I wouldn't think of letting my selfish desires cause you to do something against your personal desires. [The rest of letter missing: Lucy didn't give me either the first or last letters I wrote to her, and apparently she took a few pieces of letters out that she felt were too mean or too personal.]

LETTER 701a Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, March 19, 1963

Dear Lucy, well, I'm writing my letter a little early this time because today is a holiday, so we are taking it off instead of Friday. So my next letter may be over a week in coming. I'm glad you were able to go to stake conference. I am going to conferences every chance I get where there is a general authority speaking when I get home. They are such wonderful men.

It sounds like you are getting along pretty well at the café and progressing very nicely. I hope you become the best waitress they have. You are the best as far as I'm concerned. I've watched you work.

Well, you are having less and less odds against you. If you don't understand, I'll explain. One girl I was writing to got married in the L.A. temple, another one is engaged to be married this fall and the other one is waiting for my buddy who is on a mission in England. So it looks like you don't have anyone at all to compete with now which makes my position sort of bad. Of course in the end I want you for my wife but want to think that there may be others; but I don't have anyone else now to make you jealous so I'll have to depend on myself to keep you, okay?

How is the weather up there? It is starting to cool off here quite a bit more at night but the days are still pretty hot. About one month or less and we'll be in the middle of fall, so it ought to be quite nice pretty soon. I guess spring is almost there again isn't it? I sure miss the mountains and you and the fun times we had there. The best way to forget you is to really get involved in the work. So I try to keep pretty busy. The time has passed rapidly. I've almost completed ¼ of my mission already, although it certainly doesn't seem possible.

I'm having good luck on learning the piano. I usually practice fifteen to thirty minutes a day. I can play a few hymns now. I hope to be a lot better within two years.

It will be nice to have your mother over there with you. It will be nice for the both of you, won't it? Have you ever thought of getting your endowments and doing temple work while you are there? I know a lot of girls like to wait, but personally I think it would just bring us closer together. Just an idea; tell me what your opinion is, okay?

Well, sweetheart, another letter closer. I may drop a little aerogram later this week. Keep up your studies, your wonderful encouraging letters and know that I am praying for you every night to stay strong and become all I know you can. I think you are probably the woman that will be of most help to me in life (except mother); love ya, L.D.

LETTER 701b Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, Apartado #328, March 19, 1963 [received March 29]

Dear family, today being a holiday, we decided to take it off instead of Friday. So I guess I'll write my letter earlier, but I don't have anything to say, as I haven't got your letter yet.

Shirley wrote me and said she was planning on getting married this fall or next spring, so I guess that is that. But I think quite a bit of Lucy anyway, so we'll just let things go like they are for now. She has been as faithful in writing as the family, so she's doing pretty well. I don't want to

say anything like I did about Maurine, but Lucy has some good ideas and is working towards a future date with certain goals in mind.

March 22. Well, I didn't get my letter off very early, did I? I still haven't received your letter this week, but I suppose it is the fault of the mail system.

There are things going on around here today. My companion got a change notice yesterday and will be leaving for Lima (Miraflores). My new companion will be coming in shortly, probably. I don't know why they moved my companion so soon, but I have my ideas. I don't think he liked the idea of me as his senior and asked for a change. It is hard at times, it seems, to please everyone. I guess I must just be a hard guy to get along with. This will make my fourth companion now. President Waulin (branch president) said to me that I had changed for the worse since I got up here and that I ought to accept the fact that I was born to be a leader and shape up. So, I've been doing a little soul searching and repenting, as I certainly don't want to get off the track, and I want to be a good missionary.

How is the family getting along now? I guess the kids will be out of school pretty quick now. It doesn't seem possible that nine months could pass so quickly.

Well, my new companion arrived. He is John William Watson. He is from Alhambra, California and has 4½ months down. Seems like quite a nice elder. Our features, height, weight, etc. are just about the same. I suppose we will get along fine. It looks like it anyway. He has a good personality and a desire to work. I'm sure we will both be a big help to each other.

Still no letter, so I guess I'll close for this week. The language is coming fine. I'm learning a lot more about the gospel and am happy in the work. I hope with the help of the Lord to find someone to baptize shortly. Say hi for me to the family; love you all.

P.S. Mother, I had to cash my April check a few days early; it as for \$60.00 as that was all I had on my records. I will try and make it last through April, but I may need a bigger one come May; love ya, as always, L.D.

LETTER 702a Lyman De Platt to family, Piura, Peru, March 28, 1963 [received April 5]
Dear family, well, the week has rapidly passed and again it becomes my desire to write and see how the family is and explain my joys and problems. And believe me, I have a lot to say.

This week has been full of emotion, problems, good experiences and bad ones. My companion, Elder Watson, and I get along very well. He has only been in the Church four years and likes very much the gospel and the work. We have worked much harder this week than Elder Bascom and I ever did. I believe it has been because there hasn't been any fighting back. I like to leave right after breakfast at 8:30. So now every morning we leave at 8:30, are the first ones out and the last ones in. It has left me with a lot better feeling and I feel the Lord is a lot more pleased also. Anyway, we're working and finding good people.

Elder Waulin, the branch president, has been getting ready to go home this week. And I have bought quite a few things. The suit I bought in Lima was a bad buy. For some reason the material just didn't hold up. The pants are completely shot, but the coat is still good. So I bought a suit from Waulin for \$20.00. It's from the states and a good one. Of course that leaves me broke. I also bought socks, two shirts and a sheet. He gave me two pairs of shoes and a lot more socks and some garments. So as far as clothes go, I'm set with enough clothes to last a long time. If I buy one pair of pants, I'll have three suits and two other dress pants. I also bought a pair of Levis, so I'm set probably for the rest of my mission clothing wise. At least you won't have to worry about my clothes any more. As far as other expenses are concerned, I've paid my food until the 1st of May, as well as my rent I have \$10.00 left to use from my savings. I'll try to get by on this until the 1st of May. After that I'll have to start writing \$75.00 checks. I guess I can't get by on less. So that's my situation money wise. What do you say?

Now another maybe funny situation. There are hundreds of girls here in Piura. Of course knocking on every door we run into the majority of them. There are three or four especially trying to get Elder Platt off the missionary list and on their dating list. Of course these girls here are very beautiful, and it's hard to say, "And Joseph Smith saw ..." when they are smiling and being pests. But it is helping me to grow and become like the guy I should be. I am still planning to marry a good old U.S.A. girl because there is too much Negro and Spanish blood here. So another picture of the life of missionaries passes into history. I wish it would forever, but it won't. These Peruvian girls just like *gringos* too much. We are just like Saints to most of them...so they say.

Well, how is everybody getting along at home? I suppose spring is well under way, no? It has cooled down here considerably. I am hoping we can get some baptisms pretty quickly. The time passes so rapidly, that we just can't afford to waste time. We just don't have it to waste. Here we are going into April already – ½ of this year gone. How do the prospects look motel-wise for this summer? Is it starting to pick up at all yet?

Last week's letter was sure a diller. I bet all of you boys are pretty proud of your teams this year. Keep up your good work; be good sports and good clean examples of Mormons. You can't afford anything else. It sounds like you're also doing really well on scouting, all of you. Get your Eagles and Duty to God awards. When summer comes, Ed and Joe ought to both get yours; Gene by next summer; McKay hurry too.

You asked how you could improve your pictures Ed, but they look fine to me. If you like the stamps I can get them from many countries down here.

Mother, thank Aunt Rene and kids for their letters. I'd like to write to them all but I'm a poor enough missionary now writing only as I do. Time is too precious. Tell them I think of them and am glad to hear from them whenever they can write. Also, give my love to everyone else. I guess Dad owes me a letter pretty soon now, don't you? I forgot to answer one question. Gene you can be my foreign correspondent if you'll send me the requirements for World Brotherhood, so I can get it too.

I'm glad you are all settled down now and are enjoying the change. How is it working out? Do you still work in the Park mother, or have you quit? How do you like your job Dad? It is keeping you busy? Is Madsen going to build that big motel, etc. yet or not? It sounds like the family is really changing a lot. I know I surely am. I weigh 180 now. I shave quite regularly and even am getting hair on my chest. Also, spiritually, I believe I may be making some progress; never been sick yet.

Well, that is all for this week. Be sure and write often all of you. My mission is ¼ over already so it won't be any too long until I'm home. I love you and pray for you always, Lyman.

NOTE: Letter 545, dated April 1, 1963, is from Kirk Lyman to the grandparents.

LETTER 702b Lyman De Platt, Apartado 328, Piura, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, March 29, 1963

Dear Lucy, your letter of the 22-23rd arrived yesterday (six days getting here); seems they take longer lately. Anyway it was good to hear from you and hear what was going on up there. I sometimes get so involved in the work that I forget there is a St. George or a Utah, etc. Believe me, that is when the time passes rapidly.

It sounds like you're doing okay as waitress there at Dick's. When are you going to become head waitress? I hope you enjoy it there and are happy doing what you are. Sounds like you have your moments of doubt as to whether I'll keep writing or not, once in a while. Well, to calm your fears and reassure you again, I'll say what I think. People will talk and say it's better for missionaries not to have a girl; to have their mind only on their work, etc., and will try and convince you of any number of things they've seen or heard, but the fact remains. I'm not an average missionary or person and don't pretend to be. My folks raised me to be different; to stand out and I must fill that calling, so each situation concerning me and missionary work has to be handled differently. I need you as my girlfriend. If you ever drop me I'd have to find another; because I need to have goals that I'm working towards that are visible, that I can see progressing. So for that reason, I wouldn't quit writing unless you did. Another reason, the most important, is because I love you. I don't make any pretenses at it. I love you; I need you. Of course, the possibility of us getting married will depend largely upon you, because if you have been faithful to me for 2½ years, I'll ask you about a month after I get home. So when the people rib you and say it'll never work, just smile to yourself and know I'm getting the same treatment except worse. For a bunch of pests

there's nothing worse than a group of missionaries. I could almost believe my mother would stop writing if I listen to them talk.

So if you ever again doubt my love check the reasons why, because it won't be because I don't love you. Something may happen that I can't get a letter to you for one, two, three or four weeks in a row. That doesn't mean I won't be thinking of you. Why every time I look at this picture I just figure Elder Platt was the luckiest guy in the world when he accepted the chance to go to conference last year in April. Riding back with you from Salt Lake made me realize that the girl I had been looking for was sitting by me in the car. The talk between Cedar and Springdale brought to life a girl I'd never known, a girl who had changed considerably while at Sun Valley. And as we sped along the highway I kind of thanked God for being so good to me and giving me the idea of what it was I really wanted.

From that day on I kept my eye on you, waiting for the chance to break into your heart. I didn't realize it would be as easy as it was but after dating a few of the other girls on pretenses of looking for someone, you were convinced or something that you ought to go with me and so the story continued. In the future only God knows His plans for us. I only hope they're together as I've dreamed they would be.

Well, honey, I'm kind of a *flojo*, a, oh, blast it I can't even express myself anymore. Anyway I'm on chapter twelve of *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*. I am trying to catch up but I've got too sharp of competition. Maybe I'll catch you by the time we finish the book.

Gracias for telling me I don't have to be a clown to make you happy. I guess it just isn't in my nature. There is one elder here who doesn't do anything but jokes and I'm learning a few things, but don't want his constant practice of it.

Thank you sweetheart for telling me I don't have to get married when I get home, although not getting married will probably be about the farthest thing from my mind. I'm glad you are interested in my welfare and you can even be my boss if it doesn't interfere with what I want to do. So I guess you'll have to sit down and figure what you are going to do. Well I guess that's it for this week. I'm doing fine down here and really working hard with my new companion Elder Watson. We have some pretty sharp investigators coming along and may have some investigators baptized shortly.

There has been an interesting situation going on in Piura. There have been a few sharp looking "dollies" here trying to get your Elder Platt off the missionary onto the dating and available list. It makes things exciting but doesn't help the work out any. They were investigators but I had to drop them for self-preservation. These girls down here just don't have any morals. I would sure like to see a girl again who does. Anyway, I'm being doggedly faithful to you. I don't believe I could fall in love with a Peruvian. They are very beautiful but their breeding and background consists of Spaniards, *cholos* (Indians) and Negros. So I'm still yours.

Be good and stay out of mischief. It sounds like you could get into plenty in St. George. Is your mother staying with you now? Are you happy? Well? Waiting? I love ya Lucy, always, Lyman.

LETTER 703a Lyman De Platt to family, Callao, Peru, Heros 216, Bellavista, April 3, 1963

Dear family, well I guess I better write you again and let you in on some more news; that is it will be by the time you get this letter. Seeing as Elder Waulin is leaving today, we went down to the airplane office to check and see if there were any other tickets. And there was one waiting for me to leave on the 4th. So I cashed another check because I will have to pay for my ticket when I get there. It was for \$53.00 which I believe leaves \$100 and some odd cents. So I am all packed and have my ticket before I'm even supposed to know I'm leaving. I know I'm going though, as the office sends up the tickets. We get the letters pretty quickly and will know quite a bit then, I hope.

We just got back from seeing Elder Waulin off. He was a really sharp elder and will be missed here in the mission field. A lot of the leaders are terminating their missions right now. It won't be too long, though, before I am thinking the same thing. Well, that's it until I get to Lima.

April 5, 1963, Here I am one day later situated in a new branch with a new companion. His name is Richard Val Cowley. I knew him before in the seminar and as the supervising elder in the north. He's from Ogden. He is the branch president here, so I'm back to a junior. But I'm happy as he's a good hard working elder and this is where they said I can do the most good right now. The branch is in Callao, almost in Lima, but a different city. The address here is Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru. It is a very beautiful location, a very big house and a beautiful patio. The branch has been here two years, though, and still doesn't have as good of a foundation as Piura, although it has 100 or so members. The majority, I believe, are inactive. President Nicolaysen told me our job was to get a branch president while we were companions, so we have our job lined out pretty well.

I had a big long talk with President Nicolaysen just before I came out. He is just like a second father to me. He exhorted me to a rigid self-discipline and a feeling of urgency in the work, telling me to get rid of any faults I had as they had plans for leadership for me in the future if I lived up to their earlier expectations. He is a strong president and a wonderful leader. I hope I can fulfill their expectations of me, as I can't face his eyes if I'm not. He has a way of bringing the truth out from the bottom of your soul.

Callao is a seaport and is quite a humid area and a lot colder than Piura ever thought of being. I enjoy the cold but don't like the humidity. However, it looks like it will be quite and interesting place to work. My companion is short, wears glasses, very jovial and a really good elder. I've enjoyed working with him before and am sure we will get along fine.

It sounds like everything is shaping up in Springdale. I hope the family is all happy and well. I had the flu for a few days, but I feel fine now. Thanks for your advice about girls. I'm always open for advice. I just wish people who have had more experience would give it more often. I've always thought I could take advice pretty well and like other people's ideas. How is everyone getting along on their different jobs? It's good that mother can be home to watch things isn't it? I hope you all are happily engaged in the things that are worthwhile. Have you gone to the temple

yet, folks? I hope so! There are so many people here who would give much to be able to, and I feel we'll be condemned if we live close and don't go, no matter what the circumstances.

It sounds like there are a few changes in the town. That is too bad about Harry. I sure liked the old guy. He was always nice to me and I'm sure he will receive a good reward for being friendly.

Joe, I'm glad you enjoyed your trip to Salt Lake. I hope you guys take advantage of all the chances you can like that to progress and spread your personal influence as Sons of God. I hope all of us can always be the kind of examples our parents would like us to be. I'm sure we can if we are humble and pray for guidance and direction at all times to decide what is right and wrong.

Thanks mother for the poem or short idea. I surely do appreciate little things like that. Well, I'll close for now leaving my love and telling you that I'm really trying to please you and our Heavenly Father by doing what's right, but I need your faith and prayers to keep me strong. Love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 703b Lyman De Platt, Heros 216 Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, April 5, 1963

Querida Lucita, I imagine you are going to wonder if your companion (to be) will ever stay put and I am beginning to wonder the same thing. I am not writing this letter from Piura. I am writing from Callao (pronounced *kaiyow*). It is a really big city just a few miles out of Lima, right by the ocean. I have been assigned to work in Callao Branch as companion to the branch president, Elder Richard Val Cowley from Ogden. It was quite surprising to me when I received my change as I had planned on being in Piura a while longer. But they decided they needed someone who knew the lesson plan and Spanish to help Elder Cowley, as it is difficult being branch president and teaching a new companion; so here I am.

It is very nice here in Callao. The ocean breeze keeps it rather cool, but also there is quite a bit of humidity. We have a really big house for a branch and a lovely patio with pretty flowers and a little *gazebo* (if you remember the show) in the middle of the back yard, in which we can study and write letters, etc. I believe I will really enjoy it here.

Lucy I want to thank you for your loyalty and the love you have shown me in your letters. It makes the mission so much more enjoyable and go so smoothly. My new companion's girl is still waiting after sixteen months, so I expect not to get bothered so much now as I was before. It's nice to know there are a few loyal girls. It makes the idea more of a reality as you see a few faithful ones wait all that time. I have a belief in you that would say you'd wait, for that reason you are the one I am building my future around and I hope you will allow me time to prove I am sincere.

I hope you are getting along all right at your work and are enjoying Church and your friends and family there in St. George. Are you really sincere about buying a new car this summer? It sounds like you've got some pretty big plans. I hope they all come true.

Just a word of advice if I may without being overbearing: please don't go into debt for anything. I can see so clearly why the Church leaders don't want us to. It enslaves us so.

How are your folks and family? I hope they realize the reason I don't write is because of time not lack of desire. Give them my love and take plenty for yourself. I guess that better be all for this week. I've got a number of things yet to straighten around. I think of you a lot but not too much and I hope you realize the extent of my love for you, as always, Lyman.

LETTER 704a Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, April 12, 1963

Dear Lucy, today being Friday again I'm all ready to write again. I hope I can say all I want to in the time I've got. We are on a baptism drive and so will be working most of today. I received your letter of March 30th unexpectedly a few days after I got here. One of the elders went to Piura and brought it back with him. So I have a few things to say.

Thank you very much for your compliments. I never have had trouble with smoking, swearing, etc. but I do have other weaknesses that I hope you never learn and that I can overcome before my mission ends. I am increasing in abilities; and I hope to be ready to be a good husband in two more years.

I'm glad you are happy and are enjoying your work. It sure relieves any problem about you as far as I am concerned. That is the only way a thing like we're doing could work. I hardly have to give you a second thought (no offense) all week and so my love increases. Those missionaries that fail are those that have to worry about the honesty of their girl or what she's doing, etc. Me, I don't have that problem, so our love will last.

I don't believe you can find any word that doesn't have a *u* after the *q*. I don't know of any. I haven't had much time to study French and German lately. I've been too busy. It's good to know you have been though. I just finished the Book of Mormon again and have started the New Testament. I'm still reading the Old, D. & C. and *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*. It has really been easy to read one hour a day here as Elder Cowley always has a few branch duties he has to do. I really enjoy it here. We have such a beautiful patio and we have good weather right now and the investigators we have are good, and I love you and you love me and God is being good to everyone I love so I'm happy.

Well please forgive the briefness of the letter. I wanted to write more but time won't allow it. I love you. I pray for you to keep strong and be a good member and I know you are doing the same. Keep up the good work. I'll write more this week, love ya loads, Lyman.

LETTER 704b Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, April 12, 1963

Dear family, today being Sunday, we are sitting here listening to General Conference over short-wave. This morning we listened to the morning session directly. It came over the short-wave very well for such distance (an amazing age we live in). This afternoon we are listening with the

members to a translation into Spanish over shortwave that was taped for Latin America. The talks were very good. I was especially thrilled with the prophetic talk of Apostle Benson on waking us up to a sense of patriotic loyalty. I don't know if you heard it or not. I remember the canyon is pretty hard to get waves into.

I really enjoy it here in Callao. We had two baptisms in our new baptismal font Saturday night. Sunday we had about sixty-five to the Sunday School and fast and testimony meeting. Such a beautiful testimony meeting, I have never attended. These Lamanite people are truly a chosen people and a blessed people. Their simple yet dynamic faith is a further testimony to me of the veracity of this wonderful gospel.

Friday we went into Lima to the show and I saw Elder Clarke and Elder Bascom there also. It is good to be back down here where the Church is so much stronger and where so many of my friends are. It is much easier, of course, but it also helps promulgate a better personal uplift.

Well, I've been in Callao one week today. The time surely passes by fast. We tracted up one really nice family this week and have been giving them the lessons. They accepted everything and agreed to be baptized, but the custom down here of living with four or so generations in the same house; surely paid off for old Satanás again. The grandfather (a firm Catholic) after praying to one of their dad-blasted Saints goes into convulsions and hysterics. It scared the rest of the family so badly that they gave us back the Book of Mormon, the tracts, and told us they knew we were right, but didn't have the fortitude to stick up for it. If nothing else, I've surely gained a testimony that Satan is the head of the Great and Abominable. He has gotten a hold on a lot of good people down here, who are in fact scared of us because we're right and they know it.

I'm happy, otherwise, for being here. It is a good branch and good elders, but there are a few too many girls who like to flirt with the elders. It is okay; we don't mind the attention, of course, but it doesn't add any to the spirit of missionary work.

Sunday I'm giving a half hour talk of the Resurrection in Sacrament Meeting. It ought to be interesting, as I've never given one that long in Spanish.

I am impelled to say a few words again to my brothers and sister. I have learned a lot during my mission and I feel to depart a little of it to you (hoping you will take the advice). A mission is a place where there is only room for good, wholesome, spiritual thoughts. The Lord won't bless you unless you get in a good spirit and stay there. [ending to this letter is missing in my collection.]

LETTER 705a Lyman De Platt, Heros 216 Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, April 16-20, 1963

Dear Lucy, today I got your seven page letter, which of course didn't dampen my spirits any. You surely have a way of cheering a fellow up. You know in my change I didn't miss one week in any of your letters. It's been two weeks since I've heard from the folks, but yours all managed to get at the right place at the right time.

I'm sure happy Lucy. I'm teaching the boy scouts here and really having a ball. I guess I just like to serve others. I hope to make my scout troop the best in Callao. Anyway, I'll have fun starting it if I don't finish it. We had a big clean up with your boyfriend here having about as much fun getting dirty and cleaning things up as the boys did. They are a fine bunch of boys, eight or nine of them, and all like me, so I hope I can put the "spirit of scouting" into them as it has been put into me for the past ten years. I'm also trying to let them (the *jefes*) let me start a genealogy class here. If I could teach scouts and genealogy plus the missionary work I would be pretty happy. The baptisms are not as many and as often as we'd like so I have to find other things to inspire me. Of course that doesn't mean we stop trying to get baptisms; not on your life.

Elder Cowley is a sharp elder and I'm learning a lot from him. He does have to spend a lot of time with the branch duties, though, so I have a lot of time for other things. I told you I finished the Book of Mormon I believe. Well, I'm just about done with the D. & C. and am in I Kings in the Old Testament and Mark in the New Testament and chapter 15 in *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*. I hope you read the Pearl of Great Price. It is so full of inspiration and interesting reading.

Well, I'm glad you've got such big plans for the future. I admire your courage and desire to do all you're doing. I hope you can earn the money you need to get the car and go to school all year. That would just be all right. Darling, I would like to tell you again how grateful I am to you for your faithfulness in writing and in other ways. I hear what the elders say when their girls don't write so I believe it is usually this lack of writing on both parts that breaks up partners; the worry and wondering; the doubt can't afford to enter into this "game" of love. Really it's no game; its serious business and I believe it. You say you'll give two more years to prove myself. That's

fine. I realize that there always is the possibility that we won't get married but that possibility is getting more and more remote every day.

I realize you are probably no more than natural in your feelings that something has to go wrong because everything seems to be going so perfectly. If I may I'll use an example here. All through the life of our family it seems that things were going too good to be true; why? Because the family was prayerful and did as the spirit directed. Now, I know you know the Lord blesses richly those who keep His commandments, sometimes to a point where they think it's just too good to be true. So, sweetheart, stop worrying! The only part you are obligated to do is live the commandments. If you are doing that, the Lord will bless you and I will continue loving you. Don't pre-occupy yourself with what other people say. I have found out in my short life of trying to live higher ideals that your friends especially are more often wrong than right. That may be a sadistic outlook on life but that's my opinion. I've relied on what my folks have said before I've ever given any of my friends a thought. If you do the same I think you won't have too many worries. Of course you have to season yourself against doing what others say because you don't like to be different. That has been my biggest fight in life, but I've accomplished it. I do what I want to do because I feel it's right and I don't change my mind unless someone in Church authority says I'm wrong; then I change. You can usually be sure you're wrong in that instance because they're inspired; enough preaching.

My companion is not directly related to Matthias Cowley but he is back into England somehow.

I'm glad I'm out of Piura too. It is so far out of contact with everybody and if you don't have that contact – pressure you might say – of the leaders nearby, you can get into a few bad habits. I love it here in Callao although the people here aren't as receptive. The branch is a lot bigger (it is two years old) and it's a lot cooler, etc. I've gotten a cold trying to adjust, but that's not a grave problem.

I'm sitting out in the patio with the various species of birds playing their love games, a dozen different kinds of flowers giving off their fragrant aromas and soaking up some of the nice warm sun. It is going into winter down here now and the sun will be behind the clouds (literally) for eight months. So I'm enjoying it while I can. We get a pretty damp, cool breeze coming in from the ocean (seven blocks away) and a lot of trouble here with our stuff mildewing but I still like it.

As I sit here enumerating my blessings, I'm extremely grateful for the love you have shown to me in our month of romance and your charming letters since. Please don't doubt my love and you will not have anything to worry about. I love you as much as I have any other girl I've gone with and then the extra part that brings about marriages. When I do something good I know it is to make me more prepared for you. When I do something bad I resolve to overcome that weakness so you'll never see it in me and destroy that love you have for me. I think by the end of my mission I will be ready for you. Right now I'm not.

April 18th, hi again; well, I got over my cold pretty well. It was quite a change from a hot to this cold climate but I believe I'm about used to it.

I don't know if I've ever told you this before but it is a thing, an emotion that always seems to accompany me. What I'm trying to say is "I love you." I don't care what people think or say or do I still love you and will continue to do so indefinitely.

April 19th, today being Friday we've been taking it easy as I still have my cold; I talked too soon. I've been in bed most of the day just resting and reading. You can surely develop a love for reading down here. We have been solving most of the problems in the organization of the branch during the last two weeks. We are now working a little bit harder on our proselyting. We have one baptism this Saturday. We have given lessons to our maid and she wants to be baptized. I'll do it if I feel better.

Well Lucy I guess I'll wrap up this letter leaving you with an assurance of a continuation of my love if you continue being to me as you have in the past, always, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 705b Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, April 20, 1963 [received April 23]

Dear family today is Friday. I'm lying in bed stuffed up with a cold. I have been more or less sick for four days but have worked anyway. I haven't gotten a letter now from you for two weeks, but I suppose you have written, so I'll just wait patiently.

I sent off my first roll of colored film today. It has to go to Panama City to be developed, so I'll start sending slides home in a month more or less. I hope you will not show them to anyone, as that will ruin my firesides when I get home. I won't send all of them home, but enough to give me room.

Things in Callao are going fine. Elder Cowley and I just started working in an area that has never been worked before, so we may get some baptisms. We have one this week. Callao is a nice city. The water front is very interesting but not much good for tracting. A lot of Negroes are there and we are not supposed to say anything to them unless they demand it.

It is getting cold down here. I've put another blanket on my bed and wear my long-johns.

Boy the time is passing rapidly. Why, in another month the kids will be out of school. It doesn't seem possible, but it is. It has been two years since we moved back to Utah and one year since I was building fence for the park. That seems just as though it were last week. I guess that is what life consists of, isn't it?

How is everyone getting along now? It seems like ages since I've heard anything. I was in Piura and so much has happened since then. How is your work getting along Dad?

Mother? I'll bet everyone is happy to be able to work together. How is our motel coming along? I do miss helping the family and growing with it. I guess I've got to accept the fact, though; I won't be home much any more.

Well, until I have something to write about, I guess I'll sign off. I hope you are all feeling okay and are enjoying each other's company. Good luck on your endeavors; love always, Elder Platt.

LETTER 706a J. Leo Seely, Mt. Pleasant, Utah, April 22, 1963. Mr. Edward P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah

Dear Brother, I am glad I have had the opportunity of making acquaintance of you and your good wife. I always like to meet good people.

I have read the book and Sister Seely is reading it now and when she has finished I will mail it to you.

William Jordan Flake was some man indeed and I am glad I got to read about him. He and my father were so much alike and they both went through similar experiences. My father fed and fueled the widows. Gave every man a job that asked, whether they needed them or not. Along with his other holdings father ran a saw mill. People of the town and county would get lumber from him to build. A great part of that lumber is here on the books never paid for. He never forced the collection of an account in his life. How well I remember father would have my brothers and me delivering wood sawed in stove lengths to the widows and needy all over town year after year.

My grandparents on my father's side came to Utah in 1847 with John Taylor's company. They had three children when they arrived in Salt Lake City. Had two born in Salt Lake City. They too were called to go and help settle San Bernardino in California. They left Salt Lake City in 1851 with the five children they had then. While in San Bernardino they had three children born, my father was one of them. He was born in April 1855.

When Brigham Young called the Saints back to Utah, my grandfather and grandmother and children left San Bernardino the day before Christmas 1857 and arrived in Salt Lake City in April 1858. They located in Pleasant Grove. Brigham Young called grandfather and grandmother to go with others to settle Mt. Pleasant. They came in March 1859 and started the settlement of Mt. Pleasant.

So they like the Flakes heeded the calls as they came. Kindest regards and best wishes,
Sincerely, J. Leo Seely.

LETTER 706b Lyman De Platt, Heros 216 Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Miss Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, April 23, 25, 1963

Dear Lucy, needless to say your Elder Platt is a very happy guy today after receiving three letters at the same time. I got one of the 3rd in a package from Piura and two-in-one on the regular weekly schedule; so of course I'm happy. This morning we got up at 5:00, had class at 6:00 and went over to the San Isidro Branch to get some gamma globulin shots to protect us from hepatitis (yellow jaundice). A lot of the elders have been getting it and the precautionary measures had to be taken. Needless to say I have a sore arm, but I feel all right.

Well I'll see if I can answer your letters now. Do you know I surely do miss you too, sweetheart. If you weren't so faithful in your writing I don't believe we could keep up such a good relationship. Yes honey I realize it has been almost a year since everything started going all around and around for us. As I told you, it started with me April 7th or 8th.

Hey you're really earning the dough aren't you? I hope the prosperity keeps up and that you will fulfill your plans. I think the Lord is surely blessing everybody. My family is all well and happy and is enjoying life as you are. It makes missionary life easier when the Lord takes all the problems.

You asked me how my work was getting along. Actually there hasn't been too much actual tracting done lately. Elder Cowley and I have been so blasted busy with branch organization problems, getting a wall built around our Church property and member problems that our investigator list is rather scant. We did baptize our maid and do have two good families, however. We have also been making a big display of charts showing various things in our Church: scriptures, temples, education and history, etc. that has taken us two weeks to finish. They are really good displays. We are going to start using them along with some films in large investigator group meetings here in the chapel. We don't yet know who or what we'll get out of it but we hope to get a few baptisms. Also Callao has been selected to try a new tracting lesson to see how it works, so back to memorizing.

Also the branch is having its yearly conference next week and following that a mother's day program and an Aaronic Priesthood program; these are keeping us hopping; along with branch presidency meetings, district M.I.A. meetings, ward teaching, etc. All in all I'm a busy, happy, hard-working missionary and I love you. The time goes by so fast that it is all I can do to keep myself straightened around. I decided to quit studying French and German for now. I can't give them proper attention and be a good missionary so they'll have to wait a while. I will be in college before I realize it so I'll study them then.

My family has moved, yes, and they all seem to be enjoying themselves tremendously. The idea of having full time missionaries in Utah sounds great. I believe there are a lot of people there that they'll baptize; as well as helping the members shape up quite a bit.

Sweetheart the things you say in your letters are really appreciated. It isn't hard for me to be faithful, being a missionary, as every time I receive a letter saying you love me as much as before it does me a lot of good. Keep it up and work hard. Have a good time and enjoy yourself. I trust and respect your love for me and am not going to feel badly if you go out. In fact I challenge you to find someone like me. If you can then I'll just make more effort to get ahead of him. I want to always be thought of by you as someone special and I want to be able to have it within me to live that type of life too. If I can't then I don't deserve a sweet woman like you.

April 27th, well, we finally got the posters done. I spent twenty four hours in total and was up until midnight last night finishing them. That's why this letter will be a little late.

I hope you don't get too bitter against the opposite sex. I realize a man and a woman's ways are almost completely opposite, but have faith. The men that count are those only who honor their priesthood. If a man doesn't honor his priesthood you have every right to lose your respect for him.

I hope you enjoyed waiting on the "Wagon Trail" bunch. I suppose I'll hear of it in your next letter, so I'll wait to comment later.

It sounds like you're a pretty busy girl with your work, helping your sister, trying to study and write too. That's good. The time goes by faster that way ¿no?

We are still driving for a lot of baptisms. We always are. I realize now the error I made in setting as high a goal as I did. It is something good to get fifty in a mission here. Nevertheless, I'm giving it all I've got.

Say hi and thanks to Susie. I hope I can live up to what you both think of me. I sure try. Be good honey and don't do anything I wouldn't. Keep your chin and letters up, love you, Lyman.

LETTER 706c Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to grandparents, April 27, 1963

Dear Grandma and Grandpa Lyman, once again I feel within my soul a burning, living love for you and all those who have given me the fine heritage that I have; more than anything the gospel. I have come to realize more fully the many sacrifices you have gone through to bring this about and so from the bottom of my heart I send my love and thanks for your noble lives and shining examples.

From the day of my birth I was given a desire almost supernatural to think and search out my ancestors. In the research I have done, I have gained a testimony of the gospel and the spirit of Elijah, and I hope you have that same spirit and are doing your histories.

How are you both feeling? I hope you are both feeling well and that the Lord is blessing you abundantly for your service to him.

I suppose you have been informed of my changes and other information, so I will give you my love and sign off as I don't have time to write more.

Give my love to the rest of the folks in Blanding; especially Uncle Albert and Aunt Gladys. God bless you and keep you safe until I can see you again. Love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 707 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, April 27, 1963 [received May 2, 1963]

Dear family, I received your letter of the 21st yesterday, with joy of course. I believe it is the weekly news from home that keeps the spirits up. Dad, I also appreciate those monthly letters, filled with the good counsel, advice and love. Thanks for your diligence in writing. It sounds like you are really keeping busy working around the place there. It's good you'll be able to raise the pigs so cheaply, and that you still have a few animals. If the boys raise that corn below that ought to keep you all happy and me homesick. I shall look forward to the next epistle of Platt to the wayward Saints in Callao.

Mother, I will be cashing a check for May for \$75.00. I believe that will leave \$25.00, right? It looks like finally the time comes for you to start paying. It has been a blessing to be able to go this long. I believe I mentioned sending \$1 bill in each letter and then I'd write out a check for less. What do you think? I've used my traveler's checks and would like to have American money in reserve for emergencies.

I got a letter from Piura telling of your trip north. I'm glad you had a nice time and got to see some of the folks. I'll try to get a few letters to them. I have been negligent in writing to other people other than the family and a few girls.

It sounds like things have been pretty exciting with visitors, work, etc. I guess everybody is enjoying themselves now that school is about out. I hope to get a few more letters from you kids after school. Thanks Gene for the requirements for World Brotherhood. I'll probably be sending it back completed in a few weeks. I hope someone will do the necessary things to get my badge.

Yes, I appreciate your ideas or feelings on the Springdale area. I realize how easy it would be for one of the kids to grow up not appreciating the gospel as they should. It makes me shudder at the possibility, as I have come to realize so clearly what's in store for so many of the Utah Mormons right now, if they should die. It is a fight to do everything right. It isn't hard if you just have a few things, but just when you think you're doing okay, you find out you're only doing three fourths of your duties, so you get a failing grade.

Well, I'll cut it short this week, as I want to write to a few others. Thanks for your faith, faith that really helps. My love to the Saints in Springdale; your brother in the gospel and your son in the flesh, Elder Lyman De Platt, Epistle from the Chalecos to the Springdalian.

LETTER 708a Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, May 3, 1963

Dear Lucy, another Friday rolls around rapidly and so I'll try and catch you up on the latest and the greatest south of the border. Seeing as I haven't received a letter this week I can't answer any questions, so I'll do it next week. One of the elders (of two months down) received a "Dear John" from his seventeen-year-old girlfriend who is getting married in October. He was shook up, but the elders usually realize it's the Lord's way of handling things. Of course there are a few, like my companion and me, who don't have problems. We don't think enough about our girls to let it affect our work because they don't give us reasons to worry. I'm, of course, thankful to you for that reason and know it will work out as long as you don't give me any worries. The work of the Lord is first right now, so if a girl tries to take that position she usually ends up without anything. I think that's why so many don't work out.

Well sweetheart I've over my cold and am feeling as good as ever. Elder Cowley and I have been having some good meetings and have one baptism for tomorrow and some others ready for next week. The Lord is blessing his people.

Well I've been studying a little harder on my *Marvelous Work and a Wonder* to try and catch up with you. I'm on chapter twenty now. It is a wonderful book isn't it? It really brings to light new things.

We've really been having a hassle down here. My companion and I have been in charge of getting a wall put up around the Church lot and also of leveling the land which is pretty hilly. We just about have the wall up and men are starting to level the land today. Maybe in another week we can devote more time to proselyting. Also, Sunday is branch conference and we've been really busy getting it ready. And also we have reorganized the Relief Society, the Mutual, have to divide the priesthood and organize the Junior Sunday School. So we have enough to keep us so busy it's a wonder where the time goes.

Honey, we've also got to go into Lima most of today to talk with the president about some of these problems and it will take the rest of my time, so I'll close this letter with my love; I'll write more when I get your letter, love ya, Lyman.

P.S. I got your letter of eight beautifully filled pages. I'll now attempt to answer your questions and make a few comments. I'm glad you had a good time flirting with the movie stars. I guess it does get a little tiring just having pictures to look at. If I could do anything about it I would because I get terribly jealous. I'm glad you finished the book. I'll be along shortly. I have nine chapters left. I also borrowed *Discourses of Brigham Young* by Widtsoe today. I plan on reading it next. I have it for a month. It has 500 pages, so I may quit on the scriptures for a while.

The *jefes* are the mission presidency and office staff. The word means *chiefs* or *bosses*. It sounds like you're doing okay in the money for your car; keep it up.

You asked me where I get all my ambition to read. It doesn't take any when there is time. I am fanatical when it comes to reading gospel books. I really eat them up. I have quite a bit of time because of all the things Elder Cowley has to do. Of course I spend all the time I can reading but am always ready to go. My values are where they belong. Yes, I've read the Book of Mormon twice and the D. & C. also just about twice. I wish I had more time to study.

It sounds like you really had quite a little flood in your room. I hope it didn't damage anything. Yes, we baptized our maid. I confirmed her as I still wasn't up to the cold water. We also have some more sharp baptisms lined up for this and next week. I'll let you know how they turn out.

Honey, I'm proud you are keeping your standards up. You'll never regret it and may help a few to see their errors. Most of the missionaries drink coke so I've had my problems too but a few less drink now. Thank you Lucy for the nice compliments you gave me. I'll admit that was a tricky way you did it. I thought this Lou was quite a guy until I found out it was me; prejudice, I guess. I didn't know my eyes sparkled when I was about to pull a prank. I'll have to work on getting rid of that give-away.

Well, sweetheart, I could write all day, but you would soon tire and I also; so I'll once again leave my love with the sweetest, purest, nicest girl I know. Keep your ideals high, love ya more, Lyman.

LETTER 708b Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, May 3, 1963

Dearest family, I received your letter of the 24th yesterday with the post card McKay sent. Thanks, it is very pretty. It was good to hear once more from the family and know that everything is all right.

I am now over my cold and feel pretty spry. It is getting rather chilly down here and of course I'm enjoying it, but the sun will shortly become covered with clouds and is unseen for five or six months, so I suppose I'll be glad to see it when it gets summer again. That's too bad the fruit froze.

I'm sure the "apartness" feeling is mutual. I know I won't even recognize the family when I get home, but it is worth it. We have some real sharp baptisms ready for tomorrow. There have been baptisms by one couple or other of elders every week since I got here, so it really keeps your spirits up. Piura was the top branch in the mission on baptisms this last month. It had ten, so they halved their membership. I hope some of those were my old investigators. The mission is growing rapidly. Our goal this month is 185 baptisms and Callao is supposed to get twelve. We already have two and tomorrow possibly four more. So things look good. The Spirit of the Lord is being poured out on his chosen people and they are accepting and being baptized within a week or two after receiving the gospel, giving up the old life completely and accepting the new one. It is a testimony to me to see their faith.

It sounds like everyone is pretty anxious to get out of school and following in my wayward footsteps. It also sounds as if you are having quite a lively time around there. I hope the Lord will continue to bless us. The scripture says where a blessing is given it is because of compliance with a law, but I find it hard at times to believe we are worthy of all we receive.

I hear from Lucy still as regularly as yours and sometimes I get two (not very often). She is a really sweet girl and knows how to behave herself in the things she writes. I won't say she is

going to be my future wife, though. I've learned better, but she is a very well-bred cultured girl. I still write to Maurine and Gerry about once a month. Other than that most letters I write go through you. I do get a letter once in a while from Lloyd or Kim or some other of my old friends. There are a lot of them on missions now.

Sister Morris sent a letter the same day you did. Would you give her my love and tell her thanks for her thoughtfulness. I appreciate her and her good life and that of her husband.

I'm enjoying tremendously my mission. The only thing I dislike is that it is going too fast. I have quite a lot of time to study as my companion has quite a lot of branch duties. I help all I can, but he has to do a lot of it alone. So consequently I am becoming more familiar with the scriptures and the other Church books. I love to delve into them and lose myself in their beautiful simplicity and their forewarnings of things that are soon to come to pass. I am gaining a love for the gospel that makes my love for everything else expand. Each day I memorize a new scripture and try to read for one or two hours, depending on the day. The books literally come and go. My Spanish is also increasing nicely and the Lord is making it much easier to learn other things also.

The elders are sharp and we have a lot of good times together. One elder (of two months) got his Dear John yesterday, but he's forgotten her already. It is better for most of them not to have girls during a mission.

Well, I've got to cut this letter short. Sunday is branch conference and we have to spend most of our free day doing things to prepare for it. Right now we've got to go talk to the president about dividing the priesthood and the Sunday School, and we've got to buy benches and a pulpit for the new Junior Sunday School that will be made.

I hope you are all happy and feeling well and that everyone will make good grades in school. I'll be looking forward to letters from all of you in the near future. I did cash the \$75.00 check and of course I will be very happy to know that there will be more money in the bank. I'm sure you may have to sacrifice a little but it looks like the Lord is going to take care of most of it. I love you all and hope you live and practice the gospel better than anyone else. Love always, L.D.

LETTER 708c [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 398] Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, May 3, 1963

Dearest Lyman, This will be short but I do what to get it off on today's mail. Grandma Chidester died the morning of the 1st at the Salt Lake hospital. We were called to Richfield late Monday night. Dad and Gordie and I left here about midnight and got up there at 3:00 a.m. Grandma was in the hospital and the doctor didn't think she would live until morning. They were giving her blood transfusions and she was losing it faster than it was going in. When she was still alive the next morning the doctor thought there might be a chance if we got her to Salt Lake and operated, so they flew her up in a small Cessna. Dad and the doctor accompanied her in the plane and they took her to Holy Cross Hospital in Salt Lake. The rest of us then drove up in cars and spent the day at the hospital. When they operated they found her to be clear full of cancer and knew that it was of no use to hope for her recovery. So we all held a prayer circle and prayed that she might be taken and relieved of her suffering. She passed away a little before five the next morning. Of

course she was under sedatives a lot of the time, but her mind was never affected and she rallied every once in awhile and talked to some of us. We were all relieved to see her out of her suffering.

So as soon as we could arrange things we came back to Richfield. Dad, George and Roy came in George's station wagon and brought the body and the rest of us were in Roland's car. I had left ours in Richfield and driven up with George. Then we came on home that night. We were all pretty worn out and Dad hurt his back and has been quite miserable. He has been on the bed about every since we got home. Just within the last couple of hours a girl who lives here came and gave him a treatment (she learned Swedish massage from her grandmother) and he is feeling quite a bit better. Do hope that he continues to improve so the driving won't be so hard on him tomorrow. We will all leave in the morning and be in Richfield for the funeral at 1:00. I guess the rest of the kids will come from California. Aunt Ellen was there and had a chance to visit with Grandma before she got so bad, so we were glad for that and also Jo had a chance to visit a few weeks with her recently. Darwin is the only one who hasn't been up and seen her recently.

I will write you more after the funeral, and tell you more about things. I called my folks in Blanding and Mother had just gone to Provo, so I wouldn't be surprised to have her and Rene and Art come to Richfield for the funeral. I visited with Bob and Lois in Salt Lake awhile and had a chance to read Kirk's last letter He seems to be doing fine but is having a lot of sinus trouble and may have to be transferred. I'm hoping now that you are down by Lima again that you and Gordon Dee will get to see each other when he comes home. I sent him your present address, and if he comes by Lima, I am sure he will look you up, as he wanted to see you.

Well, son, wish you could be with us tomorrow, but know that you are doing what will make Grandma happy. I'm so thankful we don't look on death as most people do. We do love you and will write more soon. Mother.

LETTER 709a Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, St. George, Utah, May 7, 1963

Dear Lucy, it is the middle of the week, but my companion is doing others things and I'm sick of reading (I have a headache) so I thought I'd drop you a few lines and say hi. Hi! Love Lyman.

No, seriously; I've got a few interesting experiences to relate. I told you about the man we had ready for baptism. Well, he's been submerged, as the elders so crudely put it. I got to baptize him. He is really a sincere person and my testimony grows so much every time I see him it's astounding. He's good branch president material. He was smoking four to five packs of cigarettes a day, but he quit at the snap of the finger. He didn't protest at any of the commandments or anything. He is one of those "perfect contacts" you hear missionaries talk about; but rarely encounter.

We also started the Junior Sunday School in Callao on Sunday. It was rough getting things straightened around but we did it. Also, a division of one class and the start of another, making six classes in total brings us that much closer to being a ward. We have 115 members.

I've been doing quite a bit of work lately re-doing old records and trying to get them out of the mess they're in. Some elders! I like doing things like that though.

We are progressing rapidly towards making stakehood within the next few years. We, as a mission, have come from the bottom almost to 11th place in foreign missions and we're still rising rapidly under the excellent leadership of President Nicolaysen. Our two chapels in Lima are coming along fine; one to be done in November, the other next May. We just organized into a district; which is the blueprint or embryo of a stake, so it looks like things are pretty well on schedule.

Sweetheart the Lord's work is progressing because of the power we have been given as elders of God's church, but we all receive our joys or sorrows (including baptisms or no baptisms) from home. I appreciate sincerely the support you have given me; and in continuing to do so will be required after marriage. Just try me. I love you, yes, with every fiber of me I love you and appreciate all you do and have done to help me get as far as I have. With your continued support nothing is impossible. Until Saturday, this is your roaming, romantic, roaring, restless reporter signing off (off), love ya Lucita, Elder Platt.

LETTER 709b Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, May 10, 1963

Dear family, I was saddened but not shocked from the news of Grandma's death. I had had premonitions that she was going to die. Did my letter get to her in time? I think I waited a few days too long. I'm sure you will express my feelings to the family. I will be interested in the details next week.

Things have been going really well for the Church and for the elders down here. My companion and I had a baptism last week. He was one of the sharpest men I have ever seen. His testimony of the gospel is so sharp and he can see things so clearly that he is good branch president material. He paid budget, tithing, and building fund before he was even baptized. Most members don't do that. Anyway, he has surely helped my testimony grow and want to help to find more like him.

Elder Cowley and I opened up a new area here in Callao that has never been worked before. We are right by the ocean, the naval academy, the shipyards, etc., and the houses are pretty nice. We are getting some good contacts and meetings too.

Thanks for the dollar. If you'll do that every week, then I'll have some little saved to buy things at the end of my mission. Maybe I can bring back some gifts. Tell me something. Do you want me to get some llama rugs (made from llama skins) for the house or not? They are very beautiful and most elders get some, but I'd never thought of it as we usually don't go for stuff like that. Other types of souvenirs are little llamas made lifelike, gold and silver, pretty cheap, etc. So let me know and I'll see what I can do.

Mother, I hope you had a happy Mother's Day and that you will realize my love for you is strong and devoted. I realize the importance of your teachings and good example and appreciate the fact that you have been the mother you have.

Dad, I hope your back is feeling a little better now and you are able to do what you have to without any trouble. How did Grandpa Roy take Grandma's death? What does he plan to do now? I hope he won't feel he doesn't belong to the family, as he is the only Grandpa on that side I knew, and I've enjoyed so much his counsel and advice. I'm sure you were glad that Grandma didn't have to suffer so much. I know how you took her death, as you've taught me how you want me to take yours. I'm so glad we know that the family is only separated for a time. The rest of the world just doesn't get with it on that point.

You know it is almost comical the way these people down here take our doctrine on it. If you tell a man that he shouldn't worry about death because he'll have his wife of the other side, he almost kicks you out of the house. It's all they can do to put up with their wives in this life, they say without having the hell of living with them in the eternity. Love just isn't the same down here. Even the best have their love degraded to a little higher than animal love it seems. The Church is sure doing a lot to help this.

How is the reactivating program coming along in the ward? I hope the members are realizing their responsibilities and doing them. How is the ward as a whole coming along? Well, kids, I guess this letter finds you in the middle of your finals. Study hard so you can get good grades and make everyone happy. Write me as soon as you can and let me know how you are all getting along. Thanks for the pictures Roberta and McKay. I can see you have both changed a little. You are both in the years where the habits you form will be your exaltation or condemnation, so use the Gift of the Holy Ghost which you are entitled to and be good. It isn't hard to be good one minute and then another and then another until it's an hour and so on until it's a year, if we practice all the time, every minute.

When does Gordon Dee plan on coming through here? I would like to see him and know we could have a good visit. It doesn't seem like he's been gone 2½ years, does it? The time goes by so fast you don't have much time to do anything if you don't have a schedule and stick to it.

Well, family, I guess I'll sign off again. I would like to see you all again but if I did I would want to stay there, so it's better this way. It will be nice when we are all united together in one big family in the Kingdom of God with our ancestors and having such a way of life that promotes only well being. I love you all and pray you will always stay healthy and happy.

Starting June 1, will all of you who write me use the same type of paper. I'm going to bind the letters, as it costs so little and would be a nice genealogy piece. Okay? Preferably the white type.
Love always, Lyman De Platt

LETTER 709c Elder Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, May 10, 1963

Dear Lucy, it is Friday again and of course I'm ready to write to my long lost roving beauty. It's been a long time since I saw you. It's all right, though; I probably appreciate you more now than I would have done if we'd have been dating all this time. By the time two more years is over I'll be so afraid to hold a girl's hand for fear of lightning striking me that I'll probably get an inferiority complex. You know with all of the pretty Peruvians running around her bothering the elders you have to almost be a cold, unsociable slob or you get teased or pestered to death; so when I come home with a sneer on my face every time you or any other girl talks to me, you'll know why. No, it's really not that bad; it's worse. No I'm only joking. It's really only unbearable. Anyway I don't have much trouble being true to you. You're not a very hard girl to be faithful to anyway. Anyone that is faithful deserves faithfulness so you know why everything is going so smoothly. As long as both of us are doing our best it always will too.

I was happy to know you have been going out with boys, but frankly displeased to hear the one wasn't Mormon. Enough said. You know what leads to what in courting so I'll say no more. I hope you continue to go out though. You will make a much better and more faithful wife for me if you satisfy yourself completely between now and the time of our marriage that I'm the only one you want or can give you what you want. I realize you're human and I don't blame you a bit for going out. You'll have to have double fun, though, as far as the (worldly) things are concerned as I don't have time or desire right now. Don't take that wrong. Maybe worldly isn't a good word to use. Thank you for saying the nice things about me you did. You know every time I read one of your letters I realize more and more your wonderful characteristics. You have that reserve you need when writing to me. I appreciate the fact that you don't put a lot of flowery, lovey-dovey stuff (trash) in your letters. It makes my love for you remain as it is, or increase. This is one of the many reasons why I love you so much.

Well, I'm just about finished with *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder*. Also I'm getting well into the *Discourses of Brigham Young*. It is sure interesting and inspiring. Of course you can imagine some of the teachings that the book contains as Brigham Young was such an intelligent man.

We have been having pretty good luck lately, but no baptisms this week. One of the other pair of elders got three though. We've had baptisms every week since I arrived here, or five weeks in a row; about ten baptisms in total. They are good people too and are going to be good for the branch.

I guess, or suppose you have heard that my grandmother Platt (Chidester) died the 1st of May. She was, they discovered, full of cancer and wasn't in any condition to live so they had a prayer circle that she might be spared from suffering. I expect a few more of my close relatives to pass away before I get back; so I'll have to get used to it.

Well, I can't think of anything else that would be of interest. I'm happy and trying to live as I know you want me to, love sincerely, Lyman

LETTER 710 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 288-290 {PFRC Book 11}] Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, May 11, 1963

Dearest Lyman, time once again to get our weekly letter off to you. There is always quite a lot to say about the happenings of the week. Guess I had better start back where my other one left off. Last Saturday we all went up to Richfield. We left here about 8:00 a.m. and Joe drove the first half of the way. Dad's back had been so bad that we didn't know if he was going to be able to drive up or not, but on Friday a girl here gave him a treatment that really helped him a lot and he has felt fine ever since. We got to Richfield about 11:30 and got our clothes changed and then spent an hour or so at the mortuary greeting friends and relatives there.

Grandma looked so nice and much more at peace than when we had last seen her while she was suffering. They had a beautiful casket, and many lovely flowers. It was a big funeral. The bishop didn't get back from the temple in time to take charge, so he had told George to take charge in his absence and he did a fine job. Many relatives and friends were there. Of course we would like to have had you there with us, but glad you are doing what you are. Grandma Lyman came down with some of Roy's folks. Rene and Art were planning to come but their baby got sick. It was nice to have Grandma there and have a nice visit with her. After seeing her buried along side Grandpa Platt, we all had dinner at the church (furnished by neighbors) and then did some more visiting. All the kids were there from California. Dian was the only one that came with her folks and Darwin and Zanaan came with them too. Ellen and Greg were already here. We left late that night to come back home and got here about 3:30 a.m. We will all miss Grandma but are glad that she is out of her suffering and away from the cares of this life. It should be a welcome change for any of us. Sorry it has taken you so long to hear about it, but know you still see the wisdom in not trying to call you.

More missionaries going out. Andy Mikesell leaves a week after his school is out, for the French Mission. Dan Dennett got his call today for the Northern California Mission (of which this area is now a part). In fact, we just had two Elders stationed here in Springdale a couple of days ago. They have been staying here at our motel but will be living in one of Madsen's little cabins behind their store. They are furnishing them a place to live without cost – isn't that good of

them? One of them, Elder Ginn, is from North Carolina and the other Elder Chambers is from Sunset, Utah. They have been out about five or six months. Hope they can do a lot of good here. Maybe Dan will be sent right back to Springdale, but don't suppose they would do that to him. Guess Don isn't going now.

That was nice of Sister Morris to write you. I shall thank her. I gave your letter to Bishop Hardy to do with as he likes. They had Open House for Brother Morris the other night for his 80th birthday. There were lots of people went to wish him well. They are fine people.

Had a nice visit with Maurine last Sunday. She and Dannel were down for the weekend and came in to visit with me. Maurine looks better than she did and seems to be getting along pretty well. She said she had had her patriarchal blessing and it really had made her stop and think about things. She says she wants to go on a mission. She also said that her Dad had made quite a change since being in Nevada where the missionaries had been seeing them.

Yesterday we had dental appointments for all the kids. Joe got four of his eight cavities taken care of. Gene had two extractions. McKay had four filled and Roberta had the roots of two teeth taken out that we had pulled out previously. Eddie didn't have any cavities (remember he had so many the last time they all went). Joe has to go back on the 30th and Roberta has one cavity to be taken care of then too. Glad to have this taken care of as it has been quite a while since they went to a dentist.

Eddie stayed over in Hurricane last night and I guess will stay all this weekend with Steven Staheli. Joe went to work last night for the second time so far this summer. Guess he will be on now more and more as the season progresses. Eddie will wash dishes too. Joe does pretty well on tips. He has it in his head to buy Dan's and Don's old car for \$50.00, but don't know if he will or not.

Yesterday the old sow had thirteen little pigs (mostly he's). One is a little runt and Dad has him up here feeding him trying to save him. Quite a family all at once, don't you think?

Sounds like the Church is really growing down that way. Hope it continues to do so and that you will enjoy your labors. We are proud to have you for our son and want you to know that we love you very much and are very pleased with your efforts in your mission and toward life in general.

Dad and Gene are cleaning out the pool today so we'll have it ready shortly for use. We have had some warm enough weather but the last day or so have been too cold again.

Hope you are getting the dollar bills I am sending in my letters now (this is just the 2nd one). Love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 711a Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, May 16-18, 1963

Dear Lucy, I got your letter again on time bless your heart. I don't know if I don't believe everything is too good to be true. Hey, in case you've not heard, Dan Dennett is going on a mission; we've got missionaries in Springdale; the Church is fabulous and I love you and, and ...

Things are going tremendously down here. We are 600 baptisms along towards our goal of 1800 this year (on schedule) and the Lord is blessing us abundantly.

Look, you can chew me out, or bawl me up the one side and down the other, but, if I want to I'll be jealous. If I wasn't I wouldn't love you and I do so I am; so there. Hey, did you understand that? I didn't. I'm glad you enjoy looking at my pictures although I'm sure an intense study of a book would be much more to your advantage. Of course I can't stop you from looking and wouldn't if I could, so look to your heart's content.

You know I sometimes stop to wonder if I'm doing what I should letting you wait for me, but I get kicked by myself as the thought leaves my mind. I'm happy you are as understanding and wise as you are respecting your attitude towards the missionary and his needs and what he doesn't need. You are surely getting yourself in deep for a marriage promise in the near future if you aren't careful. Each week that goes by that I get a letter from you I love you more and realize the time is just that much closer.

Today we went to work on one of the chapels in Lima. It was a lot of fun. We helped pour the concrete for the chapel and the recreation hall. I love this Church. If it wasn't so sharp I don't know what I'd do as my life is the Church.

We heard a shortwave direct broadcast of Gordon Cooper's space flight and it was tremendous. That's just okay isn't it?

Well, don't be mad for not having this longer, but I will try and drop you a short letter during the middle of the week and say a little more. I love you and am glad you're you. Please just keep up the good work, be humble and prayerful and write often, love ya, Lyman.

May 18th, dear Lou, got an unexpected letter from you today and seeing as how I hadn't sent the letter off, I opened it up and put this one in. Your epistle was really a good one. I didn't know you cared so much. A ... sweetheart, I would like to straighten up a few things concerning these Peruvian girls. Afterwards you can decide for yourself. I like one thing about them, or two: they are short, dark and pretty and can tease. Now what I don't like: the more important things to me. Even after their conversions they don't rid themselves of many of their customs; laziness, lack of desire to comply with all the Church rules, etc. They are so intermixed also with Negro blood that you can never tell. They just don't compare at all with someone like you for example. Maybe in a few generations but I wouldn't be worried about them. You decide.

As far as going with the boys, Lucy, if you don't want to and do it just because I want you to then don't. You will make a good wife and I'm sure dating doesn't matter that much. I just don't want you to sit around like a lot of girls do. If you can find other things to divert yourself that are more fun and more rewarding, do them. Anyway, all I want you to do is progress the fastest way and in the best manner you can; your problem. Don't get scared or worry what other people say, though; unless: 1) certain basic standards aren't applied and practiced; 2) faithful Church devotion isn't complied with; and 3) love for me becomes other than desire for eternal companionship. If you are always doing your best to please the Lord, your parents, and your Church leaders, you don't have to worry an instant where you stand with me. You will be expected to do no more. But less than that wouldn't be true love and I couldn't honestly say I was being a true Saint, respecting your love, my priesthood or any other virtuous thing.

Frankly, I don't know if water has food value but it is extremely necessary. I'll see what I can find out. Thank you for your beautiful and I believe sincere compliment; and for your undeviating loyalty and love and for being you, love forever. L. D. Platt.

LETTER 711b Lyman De Platt to family, Callao, Peru, May 16, 1963

Dear family, got your letter today – a little late in the week, but in time to answer it so it's all okay. Thank you for the funeral card and the other dollar. I've gotten both you've sent. It will put me a little short to get by on \$70.00 this month (June) as I've got two rolls of seventy-five pictures each (film) coming in shortly and they cost \$4.00 each for development, but I maybe can swing it. However, I still may have to write out bigger checks, as we have an increase in living costs (food, maid, police protection, lights, etc.). I'll let you know if I do though. Frankly, I think it's amazing how I can get by on what I do, as the others write out \$90.00 and \$100.00. But it makes it more interesting and I'm not worried that it'll hurt me.

Sounds like you really got in quite a bit of visiting. That's good. Get some for me, as I miss seeing everybody.

Glad to hear more missionary success going on. I hope Don will make it shortly. Lucy told me they also had full time missionaries in Cedar City and St. George. I hope that the members will realize their part and help a lot; as they will have a rougher time getting converts than we do. It will be good for everyone, though. That's nice of the Madsen's to furnish the board free. That would really cut down on expenses.

Say, I'll be getting slides made up pretty quickly now. I was wondering if I sent them home one or two at a time – would you store them together in a place where nobody (preferably not even the family: that's up to you) could find them, and when I get home it will be just as interesting for the family as for everyone else. I could send them home in boxes, but I think it's surer one or two at a time. Let me know next week, okay? I still have a few snapshots to send first.

Dad, I hope your back is feeling okay. It is a miserable old world when one part of you is out of whack. Hey, I guess you are still in the animal business if we have fourteen pigs. That's okay! Well, it sounds like everything is going alright up that way, so I will let you in on a few things south wise.

We heard the direct short wave broadcast with all details of Gordon Cooper's space flight here this week. We kept up our work schedule but the "go ahead" signals for 1-7, 17 and 20 orbits were all while we were in the branch. We had a really good forecasting and being on the same time as Cape Canaveral; we had quite a new experience. Maybe we even got better coverage than you (there in the canyon). Anyway it was interesting and fantastic.

Church wise we have had 600 baptisms in the mission this year and are on schedule for our goal of 1800 by the end of December. The people are accepting it and the missionaries are accepting the added responsibilities. We have had a lot of elders going home lately (weekly), finishing off their missions, so of course we are all realizing how fast and short a mission is. I only wish it were longer.

Out at Callao, we've finished enclosing the Church lot with an eight-foot fence and we have leveled the land off, also, spending about \$1,000. Also today we all went over and worked on the Magdalena chapel (two in Lima are under construction – Limatambo and Magdalena). We helped pour cement for most of the chapel and recreation hall floors. It was good to do manual work again. One chapel should be done in December and the other next March.

That about runs me out of words. I'm well and very happy; enjoying a spirit of contentment and a desire to work harder. My companion and I really get along fine. I have a good family and a faithful girl and a strong desire for improvement. So you can be satisfied.

The Church will continue to grow rapidly. If a member or an elder tries to slow it down, the Lord knows how to take care of it. The work will not be stopped and anyone is foolish that isn't trying with all his heart to keep the stone rolling.

Sincerely I pray for your welfare and protection and desire to be good Saints. Until next week may you all be happy and well, love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 712 Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah to Lyman, May 17, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 292-294 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, before I forget, as I have in the past few letters, I had better tell you how your account stands. I deposited \$150.00 from my retirement check and am depositing another \$20.97, so you can add those in your book. Ten dollars is from Grandpa Roy on shoes. The other \$10.97 is your state income tax return. I told Grandpa not to do this now, as he has enough expenses meeting what he has to, but he insisted it was “earmarked” for this purpose and that he wouldn’t miss it. I think he is meeting the hospital and doctor expenses and the family is taking care of the burial expenses. From now on don’t worry too much about what is in your account – just let us know how much you spend each month, and we will try to keep enough in to cover your needs. Of course if you prefer, we can let you know of our deposits in your account too.

Well, here it is Monday the 20th and I haven’t gotten this letter off yet. Joe has had the typewriter tied up over the weekend getting a research paper done, and I’ve been busy at others things too. We are really having summer now and as yet the lobby doesn’t have a cooler in, so I’m sitting here getting quite warm. Won’t complain yet though, as I remember too well how long and cold the winter was.

Grandpa Roy came down last Friday night quite late and spent the night with us, then went on to St. George and back to Richfield. I guess he is getting along pretty well, though he got quite run down before Grandma went. I think he will continue to feel at home in our home, and we want him to.

I think I told you about our missionaries here in Springdale. They seem like nice boys and I hope they have some success here. Yesterday one of the traveling elders was here with them. He asked if Joe could go to St. George with him for the morning to do a little work, so Joe said he would have to write and tell you he was a missionary too.

They finally got the pool ready for use, and the kids have enjoyed it the last couple of days. Wish you could come and take a plunge with them. We are going to have to restrict them once there are quite a few tourists using it, but it will be nice for them anyway. This morning Eddie and Gene got right up out of bed and jumped in it for a few minutes, though it was rather cold. Gordie doesn’t think much of it yet.

I guess three of the little pigs died since I wrote last about them, so there are ten left, and they all seem very lively and healthy. Joe said they were having quite a time this morning jumping around like little lambs and bumping into each other. Did I tell you about the sheep they got? Two ewes and two lambs (with black faces). They have them up at our place fenced in the orchard. Guess they will move them down below when they get it ready. Saturday Joe, Eddie and Gene went up above the Park with the station wagon and got a load of posts (thirty-six I think),

so tonight they are going down and set some of them. Not trying to make you homesick, as I know how this type of thing appeals to you, but just trying to keep you “posted” on things.

Hazel and Larry have a baby girl born a couple of days ago. I think he wanted a girl, so guess they are real happy. I’m glad she is through as she was getting quite miserable.

Starting with my next letter, and I’ll try and see that everyone else does the same, I will send it on white paper of uniform size, so you can bind them. I’m sorry you don’t receive more letters from the rest of the family. Maybe you can remember how you disliked writing at about their ages and will forgive them. Dad should write more often, but he figures I tell you everything – though I tell him I know you would be happy to get more of his letters. You might as well resign yourself to it though – as that is the way with lots of fathers (mine included).

Glad that you are having some success with baptisms, etc. It must really be a thrill being instrumental in teaching a person the gospel and seeing the change in their lives after they have joined the church. You said you hoped my Mother’s day was a happy one. You are doing the thing that will give me more happiness than anything else, so thank you for your love and your service to our Heavenly Father.

You also asked about gifts that you might bring home. How much do the rugs cost that you mentioned? We might want one for a novelty, and the kids would like anything small and inexpensive for a souvenir. The longer I live the less important material things become to me. I was never quite as impressed with this as when Grandma went. There she was one day with all kinds of things around her that she had loved and cherished (I don’t mean anymore than anyone else) and the next day she was gone and had no desire or claim on any of these things. They are just here for someone to distribute around or dispose of one way or another. So as far as I am concerned, it would be nice to have one thing for each of us as a souvenir of your mission, but don’t worry about bringing a lot of things home.

I don’t know when Gordon Dee plans to be going through there. I have sent him your address and told him to be sure and see you if he could, so maybe one of these days you will see him. I think that would be very nice for you to have a visit with him clear down there.

Dad’s back is fine now. We’re glad it didn’t keep him down long. They are really pushing the construction of this bridge here in the center of town, so maybe one of these days they will get it straightened out so we won’t be in such a mess. It has really hurt these two businesses (Grandma’s and Zion Park Motel).

Guess I better get some other things ready to go off on the mail. So, so long for this time son. We love and pray for you always, all our love, Mother.

LETTER 713 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to father, May 23, 1963

Dear Dad, I guess it has been a longer time since I wrote than you to me; so I shall attempt in my feeble way to express some of my “sediments.”

The time has been going very rapidly as each week goes by. I wake up Monday morning and before I can hardly turn around it is Friday. When you are working, it's hard for time to stand still.

May 24: today is Friday and my day off. I'd like to bring you up to date on a few things I've been doing. Last week I finished the D & C and the *Discourses of Brigham Young*. I've been doing quite a bit of reading lately and have had a greater desire to read and study. Even doing all you're supposed to, a mission gives you a lot of time to study. I've just about finished the Pearl of Great Price again.

There really isn't much to tell you as about all we do is tract. We haven't had too good of luck or success lately. But, all we can do is keep on working and praying. They come hard, but when they come, it is sure worth it.

Hey, Dad, how's the motel business coming along? Is Canyon doing better this year? How is the business at Zion Park now?

My companion, Elder Cowley, and I were told to prepare a branch president so he could take over when Elder Cowley is moved out. We have a few good men we are trying to get ready, but I don't know: these people sometimes just get lazy and seem to not give a hang, but they will be okay after they've been in the Church for a few more years.

I was glad to hear that you got over your back problem. I'm thankful you're feeling better. It doesn't do any good to not feel well and have to work.

Well, if I don't get another personal letter to you before Father's Day, I hope it is enjoyable and that it finds the blessings of the Lord being poured out abundantly on you.

I'd like to write more as I have a few things to say concerning my thankfulness to you but we have a meeting. Just remember that I'm very grateful for the example you've given me and the things you've done for me; sincerely your son, Lyman.

LETTER 714 Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, May 27, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 296-298 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, my letters are becoming consistently late; guess I'll just have to figure on them going out from here on Monday instead of Friday. I just can't seem to find the time until the weekend to write anymore. I will be even more tied now, as they have installed a PBX switchboard in the office with twenty extensions to all the units and Madsen's business and residence. It's a neat little setup and very versatile, and I have to admire the genius of people to

figure things out like that, but I am quite tied down with it. I will gradually teach Dad and at least part of the family how to operate it, so I won't have to be with it all the time.

We have the Woffindens down here for a few days: Tom and Jenalyn and their two little ones, Gene and Jaren. Peter stayed at home. Gordon is in England, and Anna Joy is teaching in Jordan. They are staying in one of the units down at Canyon Motel. Tom is still Bishop [Lehi 4th Ward] and has quite a responsible new job at Dugway, and between the two of them he was about to have a breakdown, so they took a few days off to come down here and relax. We aren't able to spend as much time with them as we would like to, but they come up in the evenings and visit. Hope he can get rested up a little and that the trip will be good for him. They are nice folks. Anna Joy is going to tour Europe this summer with the BYU Program Group. Last summer they toured the Orient, so she is getting some wonderful experiences. She is also a candidate for Miss Utah this year (being Miss Lehi), but if she goes to Europe she won't be here to compete in the Miss Utah contest. I personally think that the trip to Europe would be better anyway. Gordon has had some interesting experiences that I shall tell you about sometime. He has a similar setup to yours right now, being companion to a branch president. I'm glad so many of you boys are having this experience – you will always be glad for it.

Lyman, if your mission takes more than you have been spending, please don't hesitate to use what you need. We know you are getting along on less than almost any other missionary we know, and we do appreciate your concern, but be sure and use what you need – we will be able to provide it. I guess we will cash in one of our Hamilton certificates and pay the June payment to Olsen, as we can't seem to ever get \$800 ahead for these payments. The stock isn't up very high, but we are used to taking a loss on things, so guess it won't hurt too badly.

Sounds like you have been getting a little physical work in. That is good for you, and glad that you enjoyed it. It will certainly be nice to have a chapel down there won't it? Whatever you want to do about the slides, you just let us know. If you want us to keep them without showing to anyone, we can do that, and I will put them away in a safe place. Glad you got such a nice broadcast of Cooper's trip into space. Isn't it wonderful how far advances are in those fields? We watched it on television from time to time during the day.

I'll enclose two clippings on the missionary work in Peru. Maybe you heard about him. I never did see yet just what the outcome was. That would be a pretty hard blow to take for his parents over here waiting for his return. You be careful once you get released, won't you.

This is the type of paper I shall try and have everyone of the family use to write their letters on, as it is thin for airmail and I have quite a lot of it.

It was conference here yesterday. I stayed at home, so missed out on the spirit of it, but the family seemed to get a lot of good from it, so glad they could go. Their system has changed quite a bit, as you have likely read in the *Church News*.

We thought we were going to have President Hugh B. Brown here with us for a few days. He is recuperating from a stay in the hospital, and they had invited him down here to spend a few days.

He was supposed to come last Thursday; then a special meeting delayed him. So he was supposed to come today. But he called Bishop Madsen and said there were some more special meetings and he just couldn't get away for as long as he wanted to come. So he would plan on coming in July when he is supposed to have a vacation. The stake presidency and bishopric here want to talk with him about the problems and possibilities here, so surely hope he can make it down. They really fixed up this suite in the big house above us in preparation for his coming, and we were all rather disappointed at the delay, but it may be better this way.

The kids are on their last week of school – doesn't seem possible, the year has gone so fast. That is the way with time though – doesn't stop for anyone.

Guess I had better get this in to the post office, so it will go off today. Hope some of the rest of the family will soon write. I know my letters likely get a little tiresome – or at least letters from the others would be welcome, so I'll have to try and get them on the ball.

We do love you son. Gordie said the blessing the other day, and when he got all through, he said as an after thought – Bless Lyman – so you see you are always in our thoughts and prayers, and we are grateful you are filling your mission there; all our love, Mother.

LETTER 715 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, May 23, 1963

Dear family, I got your letter today and of course I was happy as I enjoy so much the letters from home. They make me happy and give me the desire to continue doing the best that I can in the work. Thank you all for your support and faith and prayers.

According to my check book, my account stands, after the \$80.00, at \$115.97. If I am right or wrong, let me know. I would appreciate it if you would keep me up to date on the account. You say not to worry about the money, but if you say that and I don't, then I spend more than I should. The \$80.00 was a rare one. I'm hoping that I will have things under control by the end of June. With the shoes, added food, bills, film, the month of May was a little expensive.

Thank Grandpa Roy for the money. I would be hesitant in accepting it except that I know he's right; it will come back some day, some way.

It sounds like everything is getting well under way there in the canyon. It makes my heart long to be back there once again, but realizing that soon I will be back and looking back to Peru with fond memories I try to use my time to the best advantage and enjoy my opportunities here.

I wish you all the best of luck in your endeavors. I figured the family was going out of the animal business, but it doesn't sound like it. That's all right, though. Shucks, if we can't make good memories like those, and then life isn't worth living. I was born to be close to nature and animals and when I'm not, a part of my soul dies; I become restless and feel for some reason unsatisfied with myself. So, I am with you in your projects brothers even though I'm not there.

Thanks Mother for starting to send the letters on uniform paper. It will be quite nice to have a volume or two and it only costs \$2.00 to have a nice leather backing put on.

You asked about the rugs. They have different sizes. The kind that is the prettiest is the pure white, costing between \$25.00 and \$50.00. There are smaller and cheaper ones, though. I don't plan to buy anything for another year or so.

Well, I guess that does it as far as answering your letter goes. Thanks for the bits of news. They are interesting and I enjoy them. Seeing as I want to start another series of seven letters to everyone, I'll close the family letter. You may all expect letters before the end of June. Have a nice summer vacation, and be good. Love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 716 Kirk Cook Lyman to Edward and Irene Lyman, May 26, 1963

Dear folks and all, Seems like a long time since I've sat down and written you. When I left I told grandpa I'd try and write at least once a month. So far I'm not sure I've kept my promise. As you can see, I've been transferred since my last letter to you. I'm working in Grand Rapids, Michigan now. Only one difference; I've been put up in a leadership position, or a training position. I'm working as a supervisor's companion. I was surprised to get the position but I sure know I'm going to try to do my best. It'll take a lot of work.

I had to ask for a transfer because of my health. My sinus was getting so bad I couldn't even sit down and present the gospel discussion to someone. The promotion wasn't my idea or request though.

I'm writing this Sunday evening as tomorrow, our day off, we have a special meeting with the zone and president of the mission. We have a lot of wonderful people to work with and I know I'll have more success here than in Indiana. Even though George Romney is governor here, the area is so strong in Christian Reformed that it's worse than a lot of the Catholic areas as far as getting in.

It's past bed time and because my blood pressure is 20-25 points below average, especially for a man, I have to get a decent amount of sleep. May God bless you all. Tell everyone hello. I've heard from Gayle Dean Lyman and Hansine once. Love Kirk.

Elder Kirk Lyman, 1006 Fulton East, Grand Rapids, Michigan; telephone 454-2371 if any emergency arises.

LETTER 717 Gordon Leavitt Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 300 {PFRC Book 11}], May 29, 1963

Dear Son Lyman, it is so long between one of my letters and the following one that you probably have to ask yourself "Now who is this that's writing? Oh, yes, it's my dad." I get really busy with as much as there is to do here, and don't follow through on duties that are every bit as important as making a living.

How's our missionary who we are so proud of? Keeping well, I hope. We pray constantly for your continued good health and mental acuity. We feel you are putting your very best into your work and know you are striving for the Holy Ghost to be your companion.

The longer I live, the more I come to believe that that is the choicest of all earthly gifts, to have the companionship of the Holy Ghost. If we were to stand in the presence of our Savior for just a few minutes we'd be changed for life, and this other is the nearest to that. Live today son as if tomorrow wouldn't get there and it would all be over for us. That's a pretty large order, and one I do not heed myself.

We want you to be assured of our constant and continued love, and want you to realize that the money situation is bettering here at home. We are well capable of taking care of your needs, and wish only to be allowed to do so. Here you've been out going on ten months and I've not had to rake up a dime as yet. You are to be commended for this.

Tom and Jenalyn Woffinden from Lehi spent two days with us, and they told us Shirley Christofferson was not married yet nor had a diamond but was going with a returned missionary. This is something that we have no control over nor would want to have, but I commend to you Uncle Art's approach to telling the Lord he wanted Rene. Remember, he said to his Lord, "I'll be the best missionary I know to be, only save that girl for me."

The pigs are doing fine – still ten little ones. Joe has four sheep and has made a farrowing pen for his pigs when he gets some. I guess I'll buy a young heifer from Wesley Dennett. She has a heifer calf at her side. And so, if we can't keep our missionary out any other way, we can at least sell our livestock.

I've not written to you since Grandma's passing, son, but it really was a blessing for her to be taken. She was so worn out and sick. She was riddled with cancer and couldn't have lived at all a useful life had she been spared. She never really recognized any of us until a few hours before going and she died alone. None of us was there. No one thought she'd last long, however, and some of us should have been with her. One of the greater sadnesses of this life is the seeming neglect which attends the aged, and I am so sorry I didn't spend more time with my mother. She's safe forever now in the arms of her husband and son.

Write a long letter and excuse this one for its imperfections; your father and companion. P.S. Gordie is so darn cute and aggravating. It would bowl you over the things he comes up with. I saw Lucy yesterday for just a minute. She's a cute gal, son.

LETTER 718 Edward Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 718 {PFRC Book 11}], May 29, 1963

Dear Lyman, well, here goes. I've been delaying writing you all this time because I've been trying to get something worthwhile to write up a bit. I still haven't got much to say but I want to write anyway.

I'm not what you'd call a little kid now. I'm fourteen and I take a size eighteen shirt. I'm 5'8" and uglier than ever.

I've only got one merit badge to go which is the Life Saving and since we got the pool filled I guess I can pass that. We just went on an overnight camping trip and I think when school lets out, which is in about three days we might go on a survival trip up by Navajo Lake where we would take nothing with us except maybe a sleeping bag, and live off rabbits and other animals we could trap or snare. It would really be a blast and I sure wish you could be here to go with us. But I guess the work you're doing is quite a lot more important.

As you probably know, Joe and I had plans on planting an acre of corn down below the motel here where there is already an acre of alfalfa, but due to the fact that we didn't agree on a point with Mr. Madsen, we will just have to use the land up above our own motel. But we will still be able to harvest that acre of alfalfa; we've already got one cutting off from it.

Joe has four sheep, two ewes and two lambs and is planning on getting three more. I'm going to buy two steers in about a month, so I'll be able to take them to the stock show. Dad's pig had her little ones. Joe and I are both planning to buy a couple from him.

I did okay I guess this year in school. I got all A's but three the first term and all A's but two the second term, the same the third and I don't know what I'll get this last term.

During the summer I have a job working at Grandma's Kitchen washing dishes for \$.50 an hour.

I've made the pony league team and we played one game so far, which we lost by one point (5 to 4). I'm playing first base on the first string.

Well, fishing season starts this Saturday, so I'll be using the fishing equipment you sold me. It will really come in handy, as before I only had a pole and reel.

Getting back to those calves I was going to buy. Wes Dennett has one that he wants to sell that I can probably get for \$15.00, which is pretty good.

I guess you already know that Dan Dennett is going on a mission. Well, I've run out of things to say; love and best of luck, Ed.

LETTER 719a Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Miss Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, May 31, 1963

Dear Lucy, from the letter I got from you yesterday, I gather you haven't gotten a letter from me for a while. I know I didn't write one last Friday, but that was because you hadn't sent me a letter. Yesterday was the first letter I had received for ½ month. I'm not saying you didn't write any but I missed one week because of that.

To answer your question, yes, I still love you and I always will as long as you're what you have been in the past. You don't need to worry, so don't.

Right now my companion and I are down here at the "Punta" (point) where we've been working but its Friday and we decided to come down, write a few letters, take a few pictures and enjoy ourselves. The Punta is a peninsula with very pretty breakwaters on one side, islands and cross-tides on the end and Peru's main shipyard on the other. It is only five blocks wide so we have quite a variation in a short space. I'd sure like to bring you down here and show you a few places and do a few things with you. It's so sharp. I hope we can take a few trips before we settle down and start raising a family. It's really not as expensive as some people think.

Say, I've started getting my pictures back now and would like to start sending them home, a few at a time. If I put one or two in the letters I send to you, you could see them and then give them to my folks when you go over to Springdale. I'll also be sending weekly ones to them so the firesides we have after the mission won't be completely old to you. You know the more I think about us married the more I like the idea. The time left is insignificant when you compare it with how long I've already been here. In fact it is going so fast that I feel at times as though I'm not fulfilling my calling as a missionary.

Hey, you're really going to town aren't you? Did you get your car you said you were going to buy? How are plans coming for going to school this fall? I hope you can do it.

It sounds from your letter that you are really becoming quite a well-liked young lady there in St. George. It works every time you set your standards and live them. I'm proud of you and know our Heavenly Father is also. Just keep it up! I'm glad Dick thinks well of you. You said you'd never make it but you're surely getting there fast.

Now as for the missionary aspect of this mission, as far as baptisms are going it's lousy but we are working harder and we will get someone eventually. We have been doing a lot of tracting (knocking) lately but the people down here aren't very receptive. I guess we just keep trying though. The Lord will lead us to the right ones when they are ready. We have been having pretty good luck with the new tracting lesson. It is a lot more interesting than the other one.

We are going to work again on the chapel this afternoon and of course I'm looking forward to it as I miss the physical work.

I've been having a little trouble with my kidneys hurting lately. I believe it is just from walking too much though. Other than that all I am is sleepy. I'm always sleepy here in Callao.

Say, if the mail doesn't come through for a while after this letter, don't blame me. The country elections take place June 9th and we are not expecting trouble but are prepared for it. We have been ordered to stay home that day and have two or three days supply of food. Well so much for now. Let me know about sending you pictures, okay? Chou, love always, Lyman

LETTER 719b Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, June 1, 1963

Dearest family, here it is June already and the kids are out of school. The time surely passes. I guess I ought to tell you something before I forget. The national elections are to take place June 9th and so we are ordered to stay in the branch during that time. You may or may not read of happenings down here (remember last year). Anyway, don't worry. We'll be in a safe spot just in case something does happen. I hope, in fact, that this letter gets to you. We haven't any of us got our mail this week. You may be without letters for a while, but don't worry. We'll be safe in the branch.

I have been feeling good so far. My kidneys seem to be acting up a little from too much walking, but other than that I feel fine.

Finally I've received my first colored slides back. I will start sending them two or three at a time from now on (after elections). I am very pleased with my little camera. It really does a nice job. It is so much handier to carry too. It fits in your pocket easily. As you will see, it takes very nice pictures and ought to have some good results when we show the slides at firesides.

Elder Cowley and I have been doing a lot of tracting lately but apparently to no avail. The people are unreceptive. I am enjoying my mission very much. It is helping me to learn patience, love for neighbors, how to budget money, etc., as well as giving others a chance to hear the gospel. I do believe it is wearing on me a little physically, though. I just don't have the "ump" I had before. I believe it's because I don't get enough physical work to balance the mental. I'll figure something out. Yesterday we went over to Magdalena to work on the chapel. Things are coming along really well. I enjoy it as it gives me a type of self satisfaction that regular missionary work doesn't.

Well, I suppose the motel business is getting pretty well under way now isn't it? If the bridge is finished you should be getting quite a lot more business. How is Canyon Motel doing? What are your plans regarding it? I'll be interested to hear. I imagine the boys are pretty happy and Roberta, no? How are the crops and animal projects coming along? I imagine you are all enjoying your vacation, aren't you? I hope you don't forget to get your Eagles this summer. Also, I'd like to hear from all of your two or three times this summer to keep me up to date on what you're doing and why, okay? You know even if you are working hard, you miss the family and when you sit around the branch because of branch duties, it's harder. So write me!

I can never tell you enough how I feel the importance of searching the scriptures. They are more and more interesting the more you get into them. I just finished the Pearl of Great Price. I'm half way through the Old Testament and in Luke in the New Testament. The more I read, the more I like to. I am fascinated at the amount there is to learn in this life. Well, I'll close for the week. I hope you get this letter all right. If you don't, you'll know why. Ha, Ha! Give my regards to members and friends. I'd like to write to them but there just isn't time. Please take care of yourselves and remember I think of you often and pray for you more. The time is too rapidly passing; love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 720 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to Allie Lyman Platt, June 6, 1963

Dear Mother, you know it seems to get harder and harder all the time to write letters to everyone. I feel obligated, though, and know that I feel better when I do, as you do in receiving them. I want you to know I am very thankful for all the letters you have written to me, being so faithful in keeping me up on the news. I appreciate it.

After twenty years of watchful care and good example and direction, I can look back and give thanks to both you and Dad for all you've given me. I never did think I knew more than you, but at times felt you were a little unjust. Of course, I was wrong and have learned since, that experience is one of the most important things a person can possess. At times these people here in the mission field make me feel like taking some of them and beating them, as they act like little children and need a well directed blow. But unlike little children, these people have become molded, set, lost the guiding conscience and "these are they who shall be compared to the glory of the moon." Anyway, I appreciate so much your lives and am so very thankful for being able to be a member of the Church. It is becoming so much a part of me that I am sure that when this mission is over, I will be so interwoven with religion that life will have so much significance and enjoyment that it will be hard to contain myself.

It would be so enjoyable to be able to share my mission with you folks. I don't know why it leaves you with such a good feeling to have the door slammed in your face 100 times a week or be called names in the street or sit and listen to these Catholics explain a paganistic doctrine that is utterly foolish and many other such things, but it's possible. I always feel sad for them (the majority) but not too, as they would apparently be happier in a kingdom where they don't have hard rules to live and don't even have to comply with the ones they have. Still, I can walk away happy knowing we're right and that they rejected Christ also.

Saturday and Sunday this week will be spent in the branch as the national mourning day for the Pope is Saturday and national elections Sunday. So we plan to have quite a siege, but we have plenty of food put away and will look forward to the rest.

I guess all of your letters have gotten through. I haven't gotten one this week yet, though; I usually get them Friday or Saturday. Last week your letter didn't have a \$1.00 in it, so if you sent one, maybe you better quit. It might be better anyway. I can get by on \$70 or \$80 in a squeeze with the upward price of so many things. You say not to worry so I'll not, but if I don't then an \$80 check will be necessary. However, I'll still try and only spend the necessary amount.

My back is feeling quite a bit better, as I lined my bed with boards. It makes it so much easier on the back. Thanks again for everything Mother; love, L.D.P.

LETTER 721 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to Joseph Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, June 7, 1963

Dear Joe, seeing as how it has been a longer time than it should have been since I last wrote to you, I will now attempt to do so. I'm sure you're all very happy to be out of school, aren't you? I imagine you probably are keeping pretty busy with your waiter job, your farming projects, etc., aren't you? Man that was a rather dull start....

This is your foreign correspondent in Callao, Peru, giving you the latest with the greatest. The moon is full and I have nobody but a picture to love. The girls are in a pestering mood and have to be avoided at all cost. Here on the missionary scene the missionaries break new records every week, as we shoot onward to the goal of 1,800 baptisms for the end of the year. We are now only twenty behind schedule with close to 800 baptisms: as many as the mission got last year.

The political scene is at its height of suspension. This week might easily pop into an internal revolution or a peaceful election....

The Pope has died; all the Catholics are mourning and praying to their idols. The missionaries are getting the doors slammed in their faces just as regularly as ever and the gospel is still true. And I'm tired.... Z z z z z. Woops, dozed off. Seriously, everything is really going great. My companion and I made the top of the tracting list last week and also got some really sharp investigators who are going to be baptized shortly.

We are starting into winter down here, but the trees stay green and the irises, roses and a myriad of other flowers are in bloom as you will see in next week's slides I send. Down at the Callao Harbor the big battleships, frigates, tugs, and freighters come in and out every day and of course they are very interesting to watch as we do our tracting.

The other day the elders were working and got assaulted by a couple of drunks, but the drunks, after a couple of rights to the jaw, were cooled on the sidewalk. That brought a few resentments from sidewalk viewers, but they steer clear of us now. These blasted people are so far out of it at times you feel like packin' up and letting them go to the devil, but we don't.

Elder Cowley and I got confronted by a drunk yesterday who started teasing us. We put up with it for a while, until we got a meeting with a guy who tried to help us (he's going to be baptized shortly). Anyway, we ditched the drunk after walking faster than he could run, and finished the morning tracting. As we were riding home in the taxi, it stopped to pick up a guy (the drunk); he bothered us some more; said he didn't have money to pay his ride home and gave me a nickel and a silver Peruvian 20 cent piece. I paid his way and came out ahead about fifty cents (the silver coin is worth quite a bit). Anyway, missionary life isn't all dull. And at times it can even be pleasant. I say that because at times it gets right down discouraging. You've got to have a testimony to keep on going.

From the letter I got from Eddie, you guys really seem to be going into the farming business. I figured when I heard you'd sold everything that you'd be out of business just about as long as you were. It really sounds like you are having a good time. I hope everything comes out successfully for you and that you make a little money on the side. Myself, I always figure if you can come out even, it's worth it, as it's so much fun to do things like that.

Well, Joe, I suppose I'll close this one off for now, seeing as how I haven't heard from you lately and don't have more to say. When you write, I'll write another one.

Tell Mother I got the \$2.00 she sent in the letter, so to keep sending the weekly dollars. I'll cut down from \$80.00 to \$75.00. I can always sacrifice a little to save. Every month seems to bring a few more problems, though.

Tell Dad I got his letter and will send another to him, as when I wrote him I wasn't in a very letter-writing mood. Also thank Mother for typing the letters. It ought to be interesting to have a book of bound letters. It will be good history.

Write soon and get your Eagle Badge. If Eddie beats you..... Love ya brother, Lyman.

LETTER 722 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru to Edward Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, June 7, 1963

Hi Ed, well, I guess you're the only one of the kids that actually deserves a letter, but they would feel badly if I just wrote to you.

Hey, it sounds like my brothers are growing right up. Why, here in a few days before you get this letters, you'll be 14½. Of course your older brother isn't getting any younger. Just remember what part of your life you're in and the importance each act you do will have on your future. You can't afford to screw up and not come on a mission; therefore, certain things have to be complied with, so comply!

You're really coming right along there on your Eagle. I'm glad you've got a pool there to practice your swimming and pass off your life saving. Learn them well. You can never tell when you'll need them. Looking at life down here, it makes me realize that our family could be spread out all over the world during the next twenty years. It's a pretty small place and the things you guys are learning in church and scouting are going to be more valuable than you realize right now. So be a scout; be honest! Be obedient! Be clean!

Here on a mission everything isn't all work, and especially for one whose companion is a branch president. I help him, of course, in all I can, but a lot I can't do, so I have plenty of time to study. I believe I'll be sending my World Brotherhood requirements home shortly. Also in the line of study, I've been trying to pick up a little French and German along with my Spanish. I have some little Bibles in all three languages, plus some lesson books and hope to be able to read four languages by the time I come home. Of course, I'm almost continuously reading the other standard works plus other Church books, so my testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel keeps growing very rapidly.

It appears as though the summer will be an interesting one with so many things to do; camping out, fishing, studying, working, playing, etc. Just make sure that everything you do you remember that I'll be waiting to join you two summers from now. It sounds like a long time, but we've been in Springdale two years now, so you can see it really isn't.

I was glad to hear that you are playing baseball, 1st string no less. Keep it up. You guys almost make me jealous having so much fun, but I'm enjoying myself in a way that far excels that type of enjoyment. I hope you will prepare yourself well in the learning of the scriptures, your testimony and faith, so that you can be a good missionary. There are a lot of missionaries but there are few that I'd call good missionaries. I disappoint myself a lot in not measuring up to what I feel a good missionary should be like, and so I'm telling you in the only white man way possible. If you don't start now, you won't be ready. It is a big responsibility to represent Jesus Christ and use His power to heal the sick and preach and baptize in his name. Most people can't do it and those that have been given the power oft times fail. So follow Dad's example and magnify your priesthood.

I hope you enjoy the Centennial there in Springdale. I wish I could be there, but I can't, so have a good time for me. Thank Mother for the clipping.

Keep up the good work Ed. I was proud of your grades and know you can be a strong influence for good on your friends. Be the leader. We are born with the capability of all being leaders, if we will practice leading instead of going along with the crowd. God bless you boy. Love Mom and Dad for me. I can't express my love for them well enough in letters. Write when you get a chance; but take the chance sooner; your brother, Lyman.

LETTER 723a Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 304-306 {PFRC Book 11}], June 10, 1963

Dearest Lyman, happy birthday son! I've been trying all week to find time for a letter, so it would get to you for your birthday, but here it is today, and I'm just getting at it. Guess you think your family isn't very thoughtful, but we have all been thinking and talking about your birthday and sang to you this morning, so hope you heard it over the thought waves. Gordie is going around singing happy birthday to you.

Well, son, you are no longer a teenager. As Roberta said "Lyman is a man now." Twenty years ago today; how well I remember. I had been waiting a week or more since the day we expected you to arrive. Your Dad came home on furlough (or delay en route) the night of the 9th, and you obligingly made your appearance to make the most of his time there with us. Grandma Chidester and Denzil also came down to see Dad while he was home, so we all had a good visit there in the hospital before they all went back. We were thrilled to have a little dark haired son, but we are even more thrilled to have a big tall man stalwart in the gospel and doing his best to further the Lord's work here on the earth. We love you son and want you to know how much we appreciate your good life.

As I stood and watched Eddie and Gene in the swimming pool this morning for a few minutes (it was too cold to stay longer), I thought how much you would enjoy being here and enjoying the pool with them. The years go by so fast and soon some of the rest of them will be out on their own also.

Hope your mail isn't delayed too much due to the unrest there. The last letter we received from you was written June 1. Do hope you are feeling okay again and that your kidneys or anything else doesn't act up and give you trouble.

Glad that you like your camera, and we will be happy to see the slides you send home. Sister Halterman said Don sent them seventy or so home recently with a fellow who is working there in Callao (how do you pronounce that?) for some airline and comes home occasionally. We just saw sister H. for a minute so didn't get to talk to her much about Don or how he was getting along. I did talk to Dannel Sunday and she said that Gloria was still waiting for him, but that it was rather hard on her, because her roommate went out every night. Dannel also said that Maurine had gone home again for a couple of weeks. She is still going with Mike and also another boy. Dannel is going to work in Salt Lake until next June, when she plans to go to Hawaii with two other girls to work for a year.

Sounds like your area there is about as unreceptive as this one here. Sorry you aren't having any more response than you are, but you know you are planting the seeds and that is all you can do. The elders were transferred from here this morning, and we didn't like to see them leave, but hope we will be in a position to take some more a little later on. These boys went to California, one to Susanville and the other to Dailey City. They were nice boys, and we enjoyed having them here these few short weeks. The other day they had about ten other elders here from the district and they went up to Lady Mountain. Elder Chambers is a partial cripple, having had

muscular dystrophy but he went to the top with them (or behind them). It was something he shouldn't have done, and none of them took any water with them and they went without any breakfast, so he just about didn't make it down. He didn't feel so good for a few days, and I was a little worried about him, but he seemed to be feeling pretty good when they left this morning.

The motel business is picking up now and in another week or so the full season will be on us. Canyon Motel still isn't doing too much, but a few cars now and then. Garn went to work for Utah Parks doing yard work at the Lodge, so that should help to supplement their income. We don't know just what we will be doing with the motel yet. We will see how the summer goes and how things develop, and then maybe we can make plans for another year.

Andy Mikesell [Blanding] and his mother and Cliff came in the other day on their way home from Cedar City. Andy will be going in the mission home the same time as Dan Dennett. Andy is going to France, as I probably told you. We also got a program from Robert Larson [Lehi] who is going on a mission (don't recall just where), but we were glad to see him, as this is their first missionary.

They had a missionary benefit dinner for Dan the other night, but didn't have a very big crowd – hardly any tourists and the town didn't support it like they should have. I didn't get to go to his testimonial on Sunday, but they said it was nice.

Guess I had better get this off in the mail today, or you will think we completely forgot your birthday. Take this \$10.00 and get you something you want. Take good care of yourself. Joe and I each got a letter from a girl there in Peru. We will try and answer them before too long; very nice letters; love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 723b Elder Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, June 9, 1963

Dear Lucy, [on outside of envelope: I got your birthday card on my birthday; thank you for it; the picture and letter.] Sitting here on my bed tonight trying to think of something to say, many thoughts come to my mind, some of you, some of the family, some of past girlfriends, many of my present situation as a missionary, a lot of the future as a student, a husband, father, etc., and it kind of sobers me up. I'm in a rather blue mood anyway and maybe I shouldn't write, but if I don't you won't get a letter this week, so I will anyway.

I just finished reading over your last three letters as I didn't get one this week (due to national elections undoubtedly) and I realized a little better, I believe, the sincerity of your love and it made me feel good. I just hope you won't lose that love in the remaining months; I'm sure you won't because I can't love a person and then not, just like that, and I don't believe anyone else can either.

As I look back over the short twenty years of my life I can see many things that shouldn't have been done but which I would probably do under the same circumstances again. I never had much trouble obeying, you might say, the outward commandments, the ones that make a person appear good or bad, but I always seem to be burdened with the little sins, the kind that sneak up on you when you're not expecting anything, the kind that always leave me in a state of confusion; wanting to do good, but turning right around and doing the same thing. I hope you understand as I'm not going to explain further. I'm telling you these things so that I can have someone to share my problems with or rely on. As my wife you will become one with me in almost every action and thought. So I say these things to you hoping you (in your feminine way) will grasp the outer and inward meanings. When we get married I will rely on you a lot to help me perfect myself. I can't do it alone; I don't think anyone can. That is why I've chosen you as my girl. In you I find a devoted companion who will do what is required to please her husband. I find a woman of attractiveness that goes clear through and not surface deep. I find a person who I can love and be loved by forever. You are to me virtue itself and I regret those things I did to you while we were together that took away in the slightest this virtue. If God sees fit to guard you from the evil designs of men and keeps you pure and holy for me while I'm away doing His work, I will feel blessed indeed.

To be able to take you fresh and clean through the temple of God and there be united by the power of God as my companion throughout the eternities united as one in bringing the Lord's children into a good home and in raising them spotless to give back to our Father, to me is life. If I can't do these things I will die tomorrow. It is for that (these) reasons I feel so confused, depressed, when I encounter my sinning. I feel the chains of hell's gaping jaw grasping and see what awaits if I don't overcome the flesh, the carnal desires. And so you get a glimpse of my physiological side, the side most people don't reveal; remember it.

Tonight is a crisp, cool, starry, full-mooned night here in Callao. Needless to say it makes me wish I was home. Being confined to the branch for two days doesn't help any. Lucy, I want you to know I sincerely appreciate your faithfulness; your sweetness that you express in your letters and in your daily life. Dad wrote me this week; said he saw you for a (few) minutes and added "she's a sweet young gal." My dad is my example, my idol you might say. I've always obeyed him and taken his words like gold. When he agrees on a girl, I go; if he doesn't, she goes. Don't ever try and fool him, though. Just be yourself. He is an expert judge of character and usually has picked out my friends (after asking). That's why I've never had many really close friends. My folks raised me to be different (in but not of). I am different I feel. I don't feel good in crowds. Maybe it's bad. But anyway, my folks did what they thought was best and I can't change nor do I want to. You will find me hard to get along with at times as perhaps I'm too different (radical). That's why I need you. There are four important people in life: mom, dad, God and a good wife; so you have a job.

Down here on the missionary scene everything is going fine; we have 800 of our 1800 baptisms for the year and are right on schedule. My companion and I are working hard and have some good investigators. The spirit is generally good all over the mission field and the Lord is preparing His people for the message we bring.

The other day I bought me French and German Bibles. I still study quite a bit and understand French some now. German is a lot harder. I am in II Chronicles in the Old Testament; and Acts in the New Testament and have finished The Pearl of Great Price. How are you coming?

This letter is extending out quite a bit but I don't care, and I'm sure you won't. I have a lot to say and will quit when I'm through.

Another side of my nature: my egotistical side; I'll try to say what I'm going to in a humble manner, but I don't think I can. All through my life I've had a strong attraction for the companionship of girls. I believe I know girls about as well as I do the scriptures (of course a lot more to learn). Along with this desire for their companionship has come parallel compliments. People tell me I'm handsome, a good guy; the girls seem attracted to me; some say so and it kind of makes a guy conceited. I've always tried to stay normal under all of these flowery compliments because I know there are many people who I consider handsome whereas I wouldn't consider myself as such. Oh sure, I'm tall, darker-skinned than average, have long eyelashes and brown eyes, but I see all of me when I look in the mirror so I know who I am; but still after twenty years of people telling me things it is easy to believe them. So when I act conceited at times quit complimenting me. Anyway, at times, I consider myself a "Don Juan" after being over-complimented and it sometimes leads into situations that are hard to get out of. Here in Callao for instance; don't get jealous; promise?

I came down from Piura with the desire of being a humble missionary, not even looking at the girls, barely being civil with them. What do I find: six to ten dollies waiting to tear apart all my resolutions. The first two weeks were just murder: new missionary; novelty. After that it died down some; the kind of thing that makes a person not conceited fast. Then it started up again. One girl says she wants me to write her when she goes to California; another that she can't stand to have me even speak to other girls because it makes her jealous; another trying to corner me alone to talk with me every Tuesday, Thursday, and Sunday, etc. Anyway you can see it isn't easy at times to be faithful and would be very easy to fall, as the desire to be with a girl is pretty great, especially after ten months of nothing but "cold shoulders" on everything that is feminine. So lately I just stay in my room until time for meeting to start and come back when it's over. It's hard but you can't be a good missionary with girls bugging you. Maybe when they get the idea I don't want anything to do with them they'll lay off. Try to understand: I hope you still love me; it's not my fault. I just about didn't tell you but that's everything.

Of course I haven't always been just the person I should have been. It's easy to do certain little things unnoticeable to anyone but the one they are aimed at and at times I have failed. That's one of the things bothering me that I was talking about in the first part of the letter. Anyway, I'm working hard on it because I love you and because it distracts from the missionary spirit.

Well, I've just about run out of words. Tomorrow I'll be twenty. I am proud of the way I survived the teenage years and hope I can profit by my mistakes and make for us a good place in life during the next twenty years. It will be hard but fun. Honey, I'm looking forward to life with you. I'm serious. Many guys would lead a girl on; I could and have but not with you. Everything I've said I've believed or felt.

That's all for this week. I don't want to forget you but I need regular letters so don't disappoint me. I don't know if the last weeks have been your fault or the mails, but I need your letters, love sincerely, Lyman D. P.

LETTER 724a Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, June 14, 1963

Dear Lucy, I don't know exactly how much I'll be able to write today but I'll at least get your last letter answered. Today, as usual, has been a very busy day. We went over to work on the chapel. We had a lot of fun, but I'm sure tired. We have to leave shortly to see one of our investigators. He is really a sharp man and seems to desire baptism. We also have one other good man and a few other investigators that look promising.

Thank you so much for the nice birthday card and letter. They came on my birthday and made me really feel good. It also put you up a few more notches on my list. One of the members here (a cake maker) made me a huge chocolate cake and really surprised me with it. Also two of the sisters of the ward (both fifteen) gave me nice presents; one a beautiful tie clasp and the other a bottle of smeller-upper or lotion or whatever it is. Also I got some handkerchiefs. The day was great but I still haven't heard a word from my parents so I feel a little badly.

Well the election got over with and I believe I got all of your letters. I surely appreciate your faithfulness in writing. So you got you a car! Good; I hope it may serve you well while you have it. It will probably be about ready to be worn by the time I get home (ten years old). Have a good time, but not too. Remember, I still exist.

I'm glad my letters are so reassuring. If they ever start not to be let me know so I can improve upon them. I don't want to do anything to lose you.

Yes it's pretty hard to love a person for ten months [at a distance] if it is a physical love. I have forgotten many of the sensations I felt while I was with you and thus much of the physical attraction has disappeared, but still I have a strong love for you and your ideals; so don't let me down.

So you've been proposed to already. Está bien. At that rate you ought to have two more before I get home. You said you've found what you whole heartedly want so I don't care if you get two million proposals if you stay faithful like you are now. From the sounds of your letter you didn't get a letter for a while. Well I made up for it when I finally got one from you after two weeks. I hope you got my last big letter. As I said before I'll only write when I'm written to. I love you anyway just as I do my folks. They didn't write this week so they don't get one from me. I figure if a missionary can take time to write letters so should those he writes to; enough of that.

Lucy, please always be able to trust me in your decisions and the things you do. I have held nothing back from you that I figured ever might have anything to do with our happiness and I hope you'll do the same. I'm thankful that you feel God gave you me to help you; the feeling is

mutual and I really feel that it is true. I try each day to improve myself a little more so that I will be worthy to be your boyfriend or husband and I hope you feel my sincerity.

Well, the time is limited. I have to go ward teaching tonight also, so I'll close until I hear from you again. I love you and pray for your strength and support, always, Lyman.

LETTER 724b Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to Gene Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, June 14, 1963

Dear Gene, well, I don't know exactly how much of a letter you'll get as today is very limited regarding time. All morning and part of the afternoon we were working on the chapel, and we have meetings and ward (branch) teaching to do this evening, but I will try and do you justice.

How are you doing now that school is out? I would like to hear what your grades were if you have them yet. How are you doing on your way to Eagle? Make every day dedicated to something that will increase your knowledge of scouting. I don't want to be disappointed with you or the others. I want you all to be Eagles by the time I get back. You only have this summer and the next with very much time to do those things necessary so get the ones you can on the required outdoor stuff and then work on indoor things during the winter. Okay? Okay!

What are you doing this summer to make money? Are you in on the projects the other boys have going on with animals and crops? How is your study of the scriptures coming along? I've suggested it quite a few times to the family, but I've never heard a word of what you're doing about it. I'd like to hear!

I had a really nice birthday: one member made me a nice big chocolate cake and I got a pretty tie clasp and some lotion from two girls and some hankies from a woman. Also I got a card from Lucy, but as yet I haven't heard a word from the family. Of course it probably is because of the mail. I hope my slides got through. Did they?

Will you tell Dad I'm sorry I didn't get him a letter for Father's Day? I thought it was a week later. Tell him I'll write a letter later to make up for it.

Well, the time has terminated, so I'd better. I hope you have an enjoyable summer. I guess you can't help but have a good time. Get a lot accomplished and be a good son and brother. Prepare yourself now for a mission. It isn't too soon. Thanks for being such a good brother and remember I love all of you; sincerely, your brother, L.D.

LETTER 725a Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to Roberta Platt, June 14, 1963

Dear Roberta, it has been quite a while since I wrote a letter to you, so maybe I'd better, seeing as how you will get it delayed for your birthday if I wait.

There have been a few experiences you might like to hear. Today we were tracting, knocking on doors, and we knocked on this one. A grouchy ole voice comes from within "Who it is?"

We said "Us."

She said "What do you want?"

"We want to talk to you."

"Who are you?"

"Open the doors so you can see, please."

"What do you want?"

"Is the Señor home?"

"What is his name?"

"We don't know."

"Then why do you want to talk to him?"

"We have a message for him."

"Tell me what you want, or I'll call the police."

"We're investigators and want to talk to him."

"I'm going to call the police."

"Go ahead."

So she did. The policeman came; really nice man and got us away from her and took us down to the police station. They knew we were working in the area, but didn't know who we were, so after a two hour explanation of what we were doing, giving them the Joseph Smith discussion and explaining the gospel, and giving out our tracts, they directed us in to the chief of police, where it started all over again. Finally they let us go, with a warning not to use the word "investigators" any more. They told us we should leave the area, but we told them we couldn't because it was our mission to be in the area.

Three of the five we talked to said they'd come to Church. We were told again to leave the area, as everyone was rich, Catholic and short tempered, but after a short argument they consented to let us stay. All in all, it was a ticklish situation, but a few more know about the gospel now. At least the policemen are our friends, but the lady (a negro) isn't, and I'm sure will make it hard to get in doors, but we will continue to do so. And so you see sis, missionary life does have its exciting moments. How is the summer going now that you're out of school? It is going fast (winter) for me down here. The time goes so fast and so little seems to get accomplished.

Mother sent me a letter today with a \$10.00 check in it and a nice letter. Tell her thanks will you? She asked me how you pronounce Callao, so here we go: Kai-ow not ka-llow. The two l's are said like a "y."

Well, Roberta, I hope you have a really nice birthday. You are growing up so fast that by the time I get home you'll be a young lady. I hope you always follow the leadership of your parents and remember to set your own high standards. The majority of the people in Utah don't live quite as well as they should, so you'll have to let the Holy Ghost direct you in everything you do. Just be as good as you can and set a good example for your friends. Remember that you come from a good family and ought to always try to make it a better one. I think of you and pray for you and the rest a lot, hoping that we can all help each other progress rapidly through this life, making as few mistakes as possible. Be a good girl and write me soon; your brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 725b Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, June 21, 1963

Dear Lucy, hi! I suppose you have received my last week's letter by now. I hope so. It was a long ole thing. Boy, things have really been exciting down here this week. We have been extremely busy getting people ready for baptism this week. You remember the girl I told you about; an investigator about twenty-four. She finally decided to get baptized and of course it made me feel really good as well as it did my companion. Also the Lord blessed us in leading us to two good men in "La Punta" where we've been working that are going to be baptized this Sunday. So you can see we are really feeling pretty good. The Lord has been good to us and we feel like working harder so he can bless us more.

Hey, you sound like you've been really doing all right lately, getting your car, china ware and putting away school money. I really am proud of you and hope you continue doing as well as you have been.

Say, you don't need to worry about not being sure of me. Like I said before, if you're sure of yourself you don't have to worry about me. I will love you from now until the end of forever.

It sounds like you and Rulon [her brother] really had a good time seeing each other again. I'll bet you really enjoyed seeing him and also taking the trip you did with him. Also, I imagine the airplane ride back was okay, wasn't it?

When you mentioned Bryce Canyon it brought back fond memories. I guess I always will remember Bryce with fondness from now on as I'll always think of you when I do.

Honey no I didn't go to the doctor, but I'm all right now. I think it was just the saggy bed I had. It is okay now; now it's a board. Don't worry; I realize the importance of keeping healthy and am doing all in my power to remain so. However, Lima is a very unhealthy climate and many missionaries are affected by it and the long hours. So it won't be all my fault if I get sick; but I don't plan to as I know when I'm doing my part the Lord will do His.

Today we went over to the monastery; the oldest of the 16th century, and visited the catacombs beneath. Once in Peru's early history the Catholic rulers killed off everyone that wasn't Catholic by putting them in crypts or sealed vaults and left them there to die. You may have read of the inquisition the Moors made of the Catholics in Spain if they didn't join the Muslim religion; well here in Peru it was reversed and much worse. I saw at least two to three thousand skeletons below the monastery today. The Catholic Church doesn't believe in cremation so they killed them in that and other torturous ways. I took some pictures that I'm sure will be interesting. Also I got to see just what a monastery looks like inside; all in all a very educational day. It cost \$.20; some things are extremely cheap here and others doubly expensive.

You might be interested in my reading progress. By now I'm in Isaiah. I am racing with another elder. I'm not reading anything else right now except the New Testament. I'm in Acts there. How is my sweetheart doing midst all the interruptions? I suppose you're pretty busy, aren't you?

As you can see I've included a few pictures. I shall continue to do so unless you tell me they are being damaged in the mail. Let me know will you?

Honey, they don't have birthday cards suitable for you so I would like to wish you a happy birthday by saying that I love you very much; sincerely; and as I think of us as husband and wife it makes me feel good. I hope you will continue to grow and progress as you have since I first met you so that the time will pass rapidly and so that you'll be ready for marriage. Have a happy birthday and remember what I've said. God bless you in all you do righteously and in the attempts for spreading the gospel. See you soon, love sincerely, Lyman

LETTER 726a Lyman De Platt to McKay Lyman Platt, Callao, Peru, June 28, 1963

Dear McKay, I promised you a letter, so I guess I'd better keep my promise. I want to write to you anyway, because I have a few things to tell you.

Many years ago in 1897 a young boy left for his mission to Scotland. He was a good boy and had been taught many things in his Sunday School and Primary classes. During his trip over on the boat he and the other missionaries got into a discussion on where Christ was between his death and resurrection. Our young missionary remembered from his Sunday School and Primary teachers that Jesus had been in the Spirit World preaching to the dead. Well, a Protestant minister who had been listening asked him where he could find that in the Bible and handed him a Bible. Our young missionary was stumped. Then one of the others whispered in his ear, "Look in Peter." So he started looking for Peter. After fumbling around for several minutes the Protestant minister grabbed the Bible back and said, "Here give me that. Why my eight year old boy knows more about the Bible than you do and you're supposed to be a missionary." Well, of course, the missionary was humiliated and from then on made an intense study of the scriptures. Today he is the greatest man on earth: President David O. McKay.

I just thought I'd tell you that story to stress the point I want to talk about. That minister's little eight-year-old boy knew a lot about the Bible – do you? I know you want to be a missionary and

to be a good one you have to be able to keep people sitting on the edge of their chairs anxiously listening and using scriptures once in a while to stress your points. Do you think it's too soon to start learning? You're a member of The Church of Jesus Christ and as such have made a vow with the Lord to constantly try to increase your knowledge. Just think what kind of missionary you would be if you could turn to any scripture you wanted to. Why people would look to you for guidance. McKay, the world is in bad shape for leadership of God-fearing men and I think you ought to plan to be one of them. You've got a lot on the ball if you'll study harder and be humble. Our parents have been given every one of us a good head on top of a sound body so we ought to all use them well and never for bad purposes.

How is the summer vacation coming along? Are you working hard? How do you like the swimming pool? Are you having a good vacation? I wish I were home at times with all of you but it's coming soon enough.

Write me soon. I want to hear from you and know how you're getting along. Be a good boy and help the folks a lot, okay? Your brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 726b Elder Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, June 28, 1963

Dear Lucy, It's Friday and I was sitting around hoping I'd get a letter from you as I didn't earlier in the week. I wrote to the family and was going to write you but I said "no I'll wait." "I haven't gotten one yet from her." Well, when the mailman came with your eight-page letter all perfumed, I sure felt good. I've already read it twice and plan to read it some more. I've been told big boys aren't supposed to cry but the sincerity and love that was in your letter affected me more than any of your previous ones. These Fridays are days of reminiscing and tend to make me a little homesick. It's good once in a while. It makes me realize how much I really do love the people back home, especially the girl of my dreams. I used to think that dreams didn't come true or alive but you changed that.

Thank you Lucy for your very intelligent ideas on the subject of sinning and little personal faults. I've never looked at it that way before, but the deeper I think on what you said I see the wisdom in it. Your ideas on human passions were also interesting. You've got a lot on the ball to be able to state what you did so clearly. Thanks again. I think maybe I ought to give you some more things to explain to me.

I'm glad you got to visit with my folks. I sort of expect you to worm your way into their love and affections while I'm gone. I don't mention you but rarely in my letters to them. I made the mistake of being to open in expressing how I felt towards Maurine to them when I was going with her and even though my love for you is more sure and stronger I just keep it between you and me and the Lord right now. Of course they know I like you but other than that they won't know more until I come home. Not that I don't trust them, but like I said I learned my lesson and so I keep my feelings off or out of my letters, except to you. It's hard not to express enough how I feel about you. You're just too good to be true.

Yes dear it is wonderful to be able to live now. I might help you a little on one of the reasons why you're on earth now instead of before or after. The Lord knows me and knows who I need to help me in life. Also, when we get married you will be a big factor in the fulfillment of part of my patriarchal blessing. Our children or our children's children (it isn't specific) are going to be called among the chosen to go back to Missouri to build Zion. Not everyone will go, only the better-prepared or more worthy. So one of the reasons you're here now is to help prepare 4, 6, 8, 10 (or however many it may be) spirits to be ready for their callings. Our children will therefore have to be chosen spirits and would therefore need a chosen person to teach them right. That is you. Anyway, that's how I look at it. You might think about it and then dig in a little bit more. It seems the more you learn the more you realize you've got to work harder to learn more to be ready for the Lord's blessings.

Say, that part in your letter that said you'd been doing genealogy sounded all right. Next to you and the family I miss my genealogy the most. I sure had a lot of fun doing it and wish or hope you'll have the same desire. It would be a ball doing genealogy together.

The girls have cooled here nicely since they've realized I don't want anything between me and my work. Still I don't trust them, but don't worry, I'm quite capable of fighting yours and my battles especially when I realize it doesn't take much to get sent home. I don't think I want that to happen. I have 2/3 of my mission left and I have such a desire to make it a good mission. It is finally getting rolling. With the three baptisms last week, a small part (tracting them up) of five baptisms this week and a good possibility of more next week, I'm really in good spirits. Callao is in top place mission-wide now for three weeks and we're trying to keep it there. The president is really happy with us as Callao used to be a sore spot in the progress. We've been working ten to twelve hours a day and all making the list (about twenty out of 160 missionaries make the list) so we of course are carrying that spirit to the people; they catch it and accept our challenges; it's wonderful.

Thank you sweetheart for the \$5.00. You can't imagine how much that will help. There were a few things I needed and didn't have the money. You did just fine in telling my dad what you did. You know and I know that we're getting pretty invested in each other but the rest of the world doesn't need to know for another year or so. My companion's girl is still waiting and he's working off his last year now. He's surely a good companion. We really work well together.

I'll be looking anxiously for your letters and will still try to keep the promise of answering them all. I'm pretty proud of myself so far. I've been more faithful to you, knew you less, and loved you more than any girl I've gone with. I think you've changed me some or my love for you has.

Well sweetheart, I hope you enjoy these slides. I'll keep sending them unless they start ending up missing or get damaged. Let me know. Write soon; I look forward to your letters and in twenty months, you; sincerely yours, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 727 Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 308-310 {PFRC Book 11}], June 16, 1963

Dear Son Lyman, Sunday night here in Springdale, and to me it hasn't seemed much like Sunday, as I have "tended" the motel all day. Eddie put in a 10-hour shift at washing dishes and Joe is on duty as waiter right now (9 p.m.). The boys got to their priesthood duties this morning after delivering the papers in the Park before they had to go to work. You know Springdale when the tourist season is on, Sundays are like any other day, and we must all do what needs to be done for the tourists' comfort and pleasure. Dad is always able to fulfill his Sunday duties, so that is good with him in the bishopric. Last night was really busy and most everything in town was filled up, so today has been a busy one too. It is a relief to me not to have all the cabins to clean after a busy night. Myrna Fraley, Ruby Crawford, and Nola Adams clean here and they take good care of it. Ann Van Cott helps when they need her. Tonight we are all filled up except two of the Grandma cabins. I don't think Canyon Motel has many tonight, but last night had all out but two. Next week ends the rest as all of the California school will be out, so it should be pretty busy from then on.

Lyman we appreciate the individual letters you send to the family. I know it is an effort to write so much. I thank you especially for the letters with advice to your brothers. Joe's and Eddie's letters were both very fine and I told them I would suggest that they read them a number of times from time to time, as they have some really good advice in them.

Sounds like you are having some interesting experiences down there, what with drunks, elections, etc. Puts a little variation in your work anyway, doesn't it? Seems rather funny to hear you say you are starting into winter there, as it is just getting good and warm here. Good luck to you on the German and French. It's nice that you have the desire and ambition to want to learn all you can son. You get that from your Dad and it is a good thing, as that is something you can always "take with you." We were discussing religion with our friends, the Unruhs (Jehovah Witnesses) the other night and after we left them we commented on the fact that it would be good to sit and discuss principles and such with you when you return, as your knowledge will be much increased.

Did I tell you that the Rhinehart's [California] stopped to see us a week ago today? They were moving Bruce and Jeanne up to Provo where he is going to go to the Y and finish his college training. I guess she will work part time and his folks and Joan will also help. Erma and Roy were in their car and Bruce and Jeanne and their three were in their little VW. It was good to visit with them for a while and hear the news from Whittier First Ward. I guess I told you that Lois and Duwayne, Roger, Dick and Judy and Steve [Giles] came in also a few days ago, didn't I? We don't go many days without seeing some of our friends from one direction or another, and of course, it is always good to see them.

Last week they had a terrible accident up by Escalante on the road to the Hole-in-the-Rock. A group of Explorer scouts and others from Salt Lake and Ogden areas (organized by the same Scout group that organized the group in the Narrows two years ago), were in a big truck that rolled backwards down a steep road and tipped over into a wash. It crushed many of them and thirteen were killed. The scouts were from Provo. There were two men professors from the Y (Taylor and Shaw) who were killed, one young woman reporter on the Deseret News staff and others, mostly scouts that were killed. Shaw was also a Bishop in the ward the boys were from.

The driver wasn't injured, but a number of the rest were. We knew several of the families. He (the driver) tried to shift into low gear part way up the grade and the truck stalled and started rolling backwards, and the brakes didn't hold. I feel very sorry for the driver (a 21-year old BYU student). We never know who is next. Guess what really matters is whether or not we are prepared to go when our time comes.

The bridge here by Grandma's is finished now and looks very modern and nice. It is a relief to be through with the piles of dirt and other construction mess. It has helped business too to have it finished.

King was a naughty boy again tonight and jumped on a big dog belonging to some of the tourists in the motel. It caused quite a commotion and one I don't like, but guess dogs will be dogs.

Father's Day today and we gave Dad a littler viewer to see your slides through and a big bank to save his money for Mexico. We won't show the slides to anyone but the family, but we would like to look at them as you send them, then we will of course be just as interested to see them with your explanation. We received the first two in the last letter. Dad's got all the kids saving for the Mexico trip, so at least plans are being made – we hope they can materialize.

Time to turn the lights out and close up for the night, so we'll see you next week. Keep up the good work, and hope you continue to have good health with no serious complaints. We will be anxious to know how the election period turned out. We love you son, Mother.

LETTER 728 Lyman De Platt to family, Callao, Peru, June 22, 1963

Dear family, I received today your weekly letter and of course I was very happy. It makes me feel so good to hear from the family and know that everyone is well and that the Lord is pouring out his blessings on you as well as on me.

I have so many things I would like to say. I hope I can get them all in this letter. First of all, McKay – if I don't get your letter written this week, I'll do all I can for next week. Don't worry; you'll get it, though. I would like one from you also.

I'm happy the motel business is picking up. I am sorry to hear about most of you not being able to go to church. I guess it's because I teach so much the idea of it being wrong to work on Sunday that I've forgotten it is necessary at times.

As you can see by the numbers of these pictures, I'm not sending them in succession. I sent these of me in Callao to give you an idea of how I've changed. I really can't tell except I'm pretty sure I have after ten months. The No. 84 taken at the San Isidro Branch was when we went to get filled with vaccinations. As you can see, it doesn't rain, but it mists pretty hard at times. I'm glad that you got a little viewer for these slides. I was going to get one but if you have, I won't. Other elders have them. You might also think in terms of a small projector between now and when I get home. I hope you enjoy the slides. The first 100 I just completed mounting. Many are not exactly good or even necessary shots but as the film didn't cost much I have been practicing different shootings. I think now I can work it with very few mistakes. Right now I'm out of film and will have to buy some sometime shortly. Anyway, I'll try to send some up-to-date shots and others to get as many as possible to you. I don't know if I mentioned it, but I will also send them to Lucy and she will relay them to you. I have to rid myself of as many things as I can because as we travel we are only allowed certain poundage and every bit counts.

My check for July will be \$80.00, as I found a guy who has material like my brown suit coat. As I mentioned before, the brown suit I bought wore out (the pants), so for \$10.00 he is tailor-making me another pair. It is high, but you can't get store-bought clothes very well. Anyway, now I have three complete suits all in good condition, so I'll make it without any trouble now. I know you tell me not to worry, but something always seems to come up.

We have been having really good success lately, but I've got to go, so I'll tell you tomorrow.

Sunday afternoon: Dinner is over with and we're all resting after a long hard week's work. We have all six made the list of fifty-five hours or over every week this month; which is good. Callao has always been noted as a bad branch, but we're changing that idea. Elder Cowley and I are going to work a few more hours today and that will give us 61-63 hours; probably close to top in the mission. There usually isn't more than ten pair that makes the list a week, so you can imagine how the President feels. If we can just keep it up, everything will be fine. Also to go along with that our district has two branches or ten elders in it. We have our monthly quotas to make and this month we are way out in front in baptisms. Elder Cowley and I baptized two good men and one 24-year-old young lady today, which of course have put us in really good spirits. We worked with the girl for two months and one man for a month and the other for one week. We also have what looks like some good prospects. So far on my mission, I've met the quota, with the help of the Lord of one baptism per month, which President Tuttle set for us last year. I hope we can surge ahead more than we are now and be a bigger part of the baptizing program. It surely gives you a good feeling and makes the mission better and goes faster. We now have 120 members in Callao.

Last Friday all of us went over to a cathedral in Lima, and visited the monastery and the catacombs there. The Franciscan Monastery is the oldest monastery, founded in the XVI century and was the main burying grounds for one of the worst Inquisitions in history. If you recall the one they had in Spain: the Moors against the Spaniards and visa-versa, you might realize the extent of the one here. We visited the various crypts underneath the monastery and saw literally thousands of skeletons of people who refused to join the church of the Devil back in the time of Pizarro. We also saw the remains of Francisco Pizarro himself. I took some pictures and I hope they turn out. It will be interesting to show you. It was also interesting to see the inside of a monastery and talk with a few of the monks. I never realized a mission would be so fascinating and rewarding at the same time.

As far as the overall scene is concerned, we now have approximately 800 baptisms; as many as last year. The Church is increasing rapidly in its progress toward stakehood and I'm very confident in seeing the stake materialize before I'm released. The two chapels under construction are on the wind up for the last of the year. Three more chapels are on the planning boards as soon or before these are finished. The people here are tremendous. We have a new tracting approach now, so that we just more or less ask the Golden Questions to the people instead of trying to persuade them to let us in. It is easier and more successful.

I'm enjoying my mission tremendously and only regret that it isn't a longer one. I'm in good health, happy and love to hear from all of you.

Please keep the letters coming. They are necessary! I can see myself growing, which must mean that progression is rapid. A mission is good for anyone; until next week, God bless you all. Love sincerely, L. De.

LETTER 729 Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, June 23, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 312-314 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Son Lyman, another Sunday night; Dad is over in Hurricane to a preparation meeting; Joe is riding with Phil, Bob and Kenneth; Eddie is working at Grandma's; Gene is downstairs watching television (he started reading the Book of Mormon and fell asleep); Roberta, McKay and Gordie are here in the lobby with me doing this and that. We've been pretty busy this past week, filling up most nights. Canyon Motel has been doing pretty good too and getting their share in comparison to the other motels. Most nights they have had more than Terrace Brook. Don't think they have any tonight though. It won't be long until they have the Platt Reunion in Springdale. Gordon has offered our motel to those that want rooms. Don't know how much time we will be able to spend with the group (it's on the 4th and 5th of July).

Your letters to Gene and Roberta were very nice son. The kids enjoy hearing from you, but I'm sorry they don't write any more often than they do. Maybe you can remember what a chore it was for you to write letters when you were younger and forgive them. The two additional slides you sent came all right. They are very nice and look really pretty through the little viewer we gave Dad. The camera does a nice job.

Guess that is one way of preaching the gospel – getting taken to the police station to preach the gospel to the police force. Guess your contacts there are pretty scattered with the Church being a strong as it is (Catholic).

Guess what? We have been here just about long enough now to forget the “fun” of moving and the moving bug has struck again. At first no one was interested in leaving Springdale, but Dad has about convinced all the boys now, and in fact they are quite anxious with him to see what we can find in a ranch up around the northern Idaho-Eastern Washington area. Of course you know this is no new desire with Dad, but the thing that triggered it this time is when Rulon Beatty (he is the man ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½ ½:: : LLLLLLLLLLX [Gordie got at it while I answered the phone] from Toquerville who bought our cows) came to see Dad the other day. He got to talking about some of the ranch set ups in Oregon and around that area and he is planning to sell out his farm in Toquerville and move up there. He really got Dad all stirred up – so who knows – we may not be in Springdale when you get back. He pointed out to the boys that this area he is interested in is close to the University of Idaho and Washington – one of which is a good forestry school and the other agriculture. How would you like to ranch with your dad and brothers? I think after another summer of tourists, we might all be anxious to move to some remote area. Don’t know what, if anything will come of this, but guess it doesn’t cost to dream.

The Dennett’s are up now to see Dan off for his mission. Doesn’t seem very many days since we were watching you fly away into the “wild blue yonder,” and here pretty soon it will be a year.

Well we have two pretty new homes here in town. Wilsons are moving into theirs and Schiefers are about ready to move into theirs.

Lucy and a girl friend came in to see us the other night. She looked really cute and seems quite happy with her job and the missionary she is waiting for. I met the wife of her boss the other night and she said they liked her very well and that she was doing fine at the café.

Well, I must get a bunch of pay checks out tonight, so guess I had better call this good for now. I write checks out for Dad, myself, Joe and Eddie, as well as about two dozen others. They have quite a crew this year.

Keep up the good work son. We all love you much more than our infrequent letters show (infrequent for some of them anyway). We appreciate your regularity in writing, as we know you are busy too. We pray for you always and know that our prayers are being answered. Love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 730 Joseph Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, June 23, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 316 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, I guess your foreign correspondent ought to be ashamed for not writing, but I have been working so hard I had no time to write or be ashamed.

Well since my last letter was sometime in March, I'll continue from there. Our chapter officers attended the State FFA convention in Salt Lake and boy did we clean up. We ended up with the State President Star, State Farmer, Public Speaker, Safety Award, and three Foundation Awards. We also had a really good time.

Just after we got back, we had our annual FFA banquet. I had the honor of giving mom a corsage and dad an honorary membership. We also had a good meal. The next month or so was just hard work and fun in school. Finally it was over. I ended up with a straight A average, so did Gene.

For about the first week after school was out, all I did was swim, hike, play ball, and go on camping trips; then I started working. I work as a waiter on every day except Thursday which is my day off, and Tuesday when I work at the Sinclair Station so Bob Kroff can have a day off. I have been averaging about ten or eleven hours a day. I get about \$.75 cents an hours, for work, and I average about \$1.00 an hour in tips, so when I wait I get about \$1.50 to \$1.75 an hour.

Today I was burning weeds down below the motel. I got a strong wind coming and set half the town on fire but it worked out all right, I think.

Also I got my Honda impounded by Fosdick, because I didn't have my registration. I got it back now.

The other day I bought four sheep (2 ewes, 2 lambs) and a while later two ewes and a lamb. One of the ewes without a lamb died from an aliment in the respiratory system. I built a great big sheep shed, pig pen, farrowing pen and feeders and waters while I was waiting to start work.

Kenneth Platt is here with us for a few days.

As dad will tell you about our plans to move to the cattle ranch in Oregon I'll say goodbye for now from a loving brother, Joe.

LETTER 731 Gordon Leavitt Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, June 23, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 318-320 {PFRC Book 11}]

My Dear Son Lyman, After a full day of re-unioning at Canyon Motel, and after reading your latest letters to McKay and Gordie while they sat on my knees, I feel a strong urge to talk with you.

In no way do I want this to read offensively, but it has always been easier for you to communicate with your mother than with me, and that is because I lack the communicative qualities your mother splendidly displays, but tonight, if you were here, I'd be able to look into your deep brown eyes and communicate with you. I know this, because I am sure you have shattered any barrier (imagined or real) which existed between us. This has come about by your entrance into the field of manhood and now you realize all the passions, drives, inhibitions, temptations, frailties, and imperfections of the human soul.

I've never been really a great person because temptation was too easily consorted with, and I've had lots of faults to overcome, some major ones, and have some still to overcome.

I find it easy to say to you that I recognize in you definite superiority – above and beyond me. You are going much farther spiritually than I have and will, because you are superior material. Don't attempt to dispel this notion, for I know of a truth it is true and sure.

Now, I have appreciated your frankness and openness to your mother and more recently to me. I also appreciate your letters of real wisdom and sage advice to Joe, Ed, Gene, Robbie and McKay. I would be remiss if I didn't assist you in helping them carry out this wise advice. I'm trying to do that. I look forward eagerly to your letters and slides and feel that by the time you come home, I'll be a little bit better for having sent you out to spread God's glad tidings. Gene is currently reading the Book of Mormon and I was reading Jesus the Christ, but haven't read much since we've gotten so busy. We all plan to further our spiritual training scripturally and otherwise.

Now, as to the rumor you've heard regarding Oregon or Idaho, just know that since we've moved to Springdale, we, and especially your mother realize we would make a sad mistake to remain here.

There will be little or no spiritual growth made by any of us if we were to think to permanency here. Mother knows and has volunteered this. So, as an alternative, I've asked her if she'd move to the primitive area near Moscow, Idaho with me. You won't believe it, but she has consented and I feel it would be better for us all. You may recall Pullman, Washington (a few miles from Moscow, Idaho) is an animal husbandry school. Moscow is a forestry school, and the area has excellent possibilities for a proper beef set up. It would be costly and hard work, but I've done it up to now. If you are interested write your feelings, or if not, do so.

Be the type of missionary always that we feel assured you are now, and we will continue our prayers for you and re-dedicate our faith in you. Your loving father, G. L. Platt

LETTER 732 Gene Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, June 23, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 322-323 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Brother, I am going to answer a few of your questions and ask a few more. How have you been? Incidentally, a delayed happy 20th birthday. It has been sort of hot around Springdale lately, but this pool out front makes it just right. This little slide viewer and your slides make us feel that you're in some very pretty country.

Thanks a lot for the letter you sent me. Every Sunday I read a little in the Book of Mormon. I am now on the first Book of Nephi and practically on the second. It is rather difficult to understand the book at first, but as I go along it becomes easier.

I have practically become a Star in scouting. My grades in school were as follows:

Subject	Grades				Final
	1	2	3	4	
Arithmetic	A	A	A	A	A
Art			A	A	A
Health	A	A	B	A	A-
Shop	B	A			A-
English	B	A-	A	A	A
Music			A-	A-	A-
Phy. Ed.	A	A-	B+	A-	A-
Reading	A	A	A-	A	A
History	A	A	A	A	A
Science	A	A			A

In priesthood activities I have earned my first individual award. Love always, Gene.

LETTER 733 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, June 29, 1963

Dear family, well today I finished 1/3 of my mission. It is going fast. But things are really shaping up. Last week we had those three baptisms. There will be five more this week and a good chance for some next week. The elders here are really in good spirits and are all working hard. We've been near the top of the list now for three weeks. The mission is really progressing rapidly towards stakehood and I'm surely thankful to be down here. I think these next twenty months ought to really be full of excitement. I love the work – am really feeling well and am learning a lot on various fields.

That Brother Shaw that you said got killed in the Boy Scout trip was my health teacher at the Y. No you never know! He was a good man.

Today has been a day of reminiscing. I've sat on my bed all day writing letters, reading, studying, resting or thinking. I've come to a few good basic life conclusions today. I'm surely thankful for this mission. You can put in a good ten to twelve hours a day for the Lord and still have time to do so many things. I just wish it lasted longer. But that's not facing reality, so I don't

I'd like to express again my love for every one of you. I hope you will all realize its sincerity. For you mother and dad you know how love grows when you are separated from those you love, so maybe you can realize how my love for you is. I'm thankful the Lord has given me such good parents and I'm looking forward to a full lifetime of enjoyment with you and the family. For you Joe, Ed, Gene, Roberta, McKay and Gordie – I'd like to say as your older brother I'm proud to be your brother. I haven't always set the best example, but I hope you'll remember my desire for your welfare is of the most importance now and anything I can do or say that will help you make right decisions, I'm more than ready to do it. We have one of the best families there is and we can make it the best. It depends on all of us, though. Each day we ought to be improving somehow. Life is like walking up a down-going escalator. If you are not constantly fighting to progress, you'll retrogress. I hope you are all doing your best to please the Lord. It is hard but it's easy. You think about it and the easiest way through life is a strict compliance with the commandments. Any other way brings sorrow or disgrace and personal dissatisfaction.

Saturday, June 29, 1963, this morning we had a good morning giving lessons. All are of baptizing age and are committed for the 6th along with seven others. That of course won't end up thirteen, but some ought to come through. Man – we're really going. It doesn't seem possible that so many are interested, but they are.

Well, today is a holiday and I was expecting your letter, but it won't come now until Monday, so I guess I'll get this one in the mail. The work is going fine. We are in good spirits and are hoping for some good success; all my love, Lyman De.

LETTER 734 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, July 1, 1963

Dear family, you may be surprised to get another letter so soon, but my companion is busy with monthly reports and I don't feel like studying and I just got a letter from you (the one of the 23rd) and so I thought I'd answer it.

It sounds like summer is pretty well underway and that everyone is busy. I believe it's going faster here than there, though. Hey, Dad, it's about time for another letter from you. I suppose mother's about fed up with all these ranchers she's raised but what's the idea you've got now about Oregon? I'm fascinated! I get bored if I'm in one place too long. Let me know, okay?

I hope you all enjoyed the Platt Reunion and that you gave my love to everyone. It looks like I'll miss out on several reunions before I get home.

I'll forgive the kids for not writing much if they treat each other all right, but still I'd enjoy hearing from them more often. Their turns are each coming up and so they ought to plan ahead a little. How about it? Thanks Joe for your letter. I'll try answering soon. You know it can get pretty lonesome at times when you are away from those you love and so a good, newsy letter is always welcomed and appreciated. I hope you'll all take the hint.

I hope all my slides are getting through. I send three in every letter now to you and to Lucy, so I ought to be getting them home a lot faster that way. When you see Lucy you ought to have a good time with the slides, as there will be more and most of me, as she said she wanted to see those also. Anyway, I hope you enjoy them. I'm happy at the way they all turned out.

It sounds like Springdale is changing some. It ought to really have changed by the time I get back – especially if my family is not there.

Well, I didn't mean for this to be a long letter, just mainly wanted to send some more slides.

I appreciate the support you are all giving me and pray always for your welfare.

Oh, by the way, we got those five baptisms. Four were the family of the tailor I asked to make my pants. They are really nice. We'll have another baptism in September when their little girl's eighth birthday rolls around.

Don't fight over the stamps. Time to eat and take the daily siesta ordered by the mission. What a life! Be good you-alls and remember me a little bit. Love to all, Lyman.

LETTER 735a Kirk Cook Lyman to Edward and Irene Lyman, July 3, 1963

Dear folks and all, once again as usual I'm late in getting around to writing. This won't be long as I'm droopy eyed and it's bedtime. Any more I feel tired all the time.

Missionary work is still plugging along. We baptized two young ladies last Wednesday; one week ago today. One was eighteen and really a tremendous girl. The other is married (27) and having a rough time of it with her husband. When we baptized the married one "Della" and were closing the baptismal service, one of the Elders asked Kathy if she didn't want to be baptized too, being as she has had all the discussions and was just waiting to make sure she really was ready. She said yes and we went back to the pool and baptized her. Really a tremendous feeling with the Lord's spirit in abundance.

As far as health goes, I'm still having back trouble but the treatments are free and my sinus is partly allergies. I notice this when I'm traveling from one place to another. I've been tempted to ask for a transfer to work in the mission home or to another mission where the climate isn't so moist. The Arizona Mission should be good but I'm holding off seeing how it turns out.

I'm having some work done on my teeth the three front ones and one front being replaced. They're capping the three. The dentist was married to an L.D.S. lady who is divorced now but will do the work for me at no cost. It will take \$135.00 but I can pay anyway I want to at the rate and amount I want to do. I wondered if perhaps I could ask for some help from you. I know you're on a fairly close income and I certainly don't want to put you out but if between the family I can get \$10.00 monthly I'm going to go ahead and do it. This type of cap covers the whole outer surface of the tooth plus the one bridge to hold the other tooth in. This is why the cost is so high.

I do enjoy working with my new companion. He's really a tremendous elder and a good supervisor.

There's an Elder Callister here who is related to us, through Uncle Albert's family I guess. Know them? Give my love to all, Love, Kirk.

LETTER 735b Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, July 5, 1963

Dear Family, Well, today has been a very interesting day and one of much excitement. Starting the day off this morning about 1:00 a.m. we had one of the worst earthquakes Peru has felt in years. Callao was the center of it. I was still up and as I had never experienced the feeling before, it was rather frightful at first. It was like the passing of a train – quiet at first, gradually increasing and then dying away again. It rattled our poor old house. I thought it was going to shake it to pieces but it didn't. There were no fatalities but some were hurt and several older houses fell from the shaking; all a part of the fulfilling of prophecies, I guess.

This morning we went down to the Callao boat docks. The man we baptized several weeks ago is chief over the dock protection, so we looked him up and he gave us free run of the place, putting a guard on us so we wouldn't be disturbed in doing what we wanted or going where we wanted. There was a wide variety of cargo boats in – from England, Germany, Holland, Italy, Greece, America and Colombia; so we had quite a good time going on board several of them, looking them over from the front to the back and from top to bottom. We watched them unload a lot of cargo and talked to the captains of two of them. We also saw one (the American) take off for the states. I also got a lot of information about exports and imports for my World Brotherhood merit badge. It was very interesting. I believe Callao is the main port on the Pacific side, so there is usually quite a lot of activity going on.

Also this evening President Belaunde was inaugurated as President of Peru. It will be interesting to see what he does for the country, as it could be such a great country if the graft and corruption were taken out and it would break relations with the Catholic Church in politics. These priests have their hands in more money deals than you can imagine. I have never heard of a people being as corrupt as are the Catholic leaders here. The country is decaying because Catholicism at its best is bad and when nobody goes to Church because they feel those they confess to are worse sinners than they, and then you have a people who lose their faith and become wicked. However, it gives us a good chance, as the people want to be part of a good religion, and this one sometimes surpasses their fondest imaginations.

Callao was given a goal of fifteen baptisms this month (twice as many as any other branch) so we are hoping to meet it. We passed last month's goal of ten by four. Right now there are three ready for this week and we have five at least for next week, so we aim to please. The Lord is really blessing us in finding good people. It is too bad the time is going so fast. I am very happy with the work and hope we can continue to have this spirit with us.

Well, seeing as how I got no letter from you, I will close until next week. I need a letter regularly to keep me in good spirits.

Included is my card that I had to have printed up for tracting. Also, I had to buy other materials, so I need to write a \$10.00 check; always your brother and son, Lyman De.

LETTER 736a Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, July 7, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 324-326 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, bless your heart. If we were all as good to write as you are – you'd get many more letters than you do. I really missed writing last week – just the little note with Dad's letter and that was late. We do enjoy your letters. McKay was really pleased to get one from you. I think he's downstairs now writing to you. Dad is in Hurricane to a meeting and it's a hot, hot Sunday afternoon. It's up past 100 degrees – so enjoy your cool weather while you have it. Thank goodness it was a little cooler the past two days for the reunion.

Wd had about fifty to sixty people all together, I guess, here to the reunion. Uncle Robert Platt and Aunt Mary were both her, but Aunt Mariah didn't come. One family from Canada (Jerome and Nancy) came down – one from Idaho Falls, Salt Lake, Bountiful, Cedar, St. George, etc. Not as many as they had hope for – but quite a nice group. They didn't have things too well organized and really didn't do too much, but visit and have a little meeting and program.

Dad and I both got the two days off so we were able to spend most of the time down at the other place. The kids all went swimming a couple of times up here at Zion Park Motel and enjoyed that a lot, then they went up to the Lodge once also. George and Thora were here but none of the kids from California, nor Denzil.

Last night George and Thora, Jerome and Nancy, Garn and Norene and Gordon and I went to the play "Hold On to June" put on by the "Old Barn Players:" Nathan and June Hales group from Glendale, California. Did I tell you they had made an amphitheater down by the river in back of the trailer court? It's a beautiful setting and very nice for such things. The group played for five nights and had a pretty good crowd each night.

No more plans concerning Oregon (Idaho, Montana, etc.) except talking. We're all ready to leave though, I believe. I told your Dad the only thing that I'm accomplishing here is bringing in a pay check. And in the overall picture that isn't important at all. We're doing some writing and looking around (or rather inquiring) – don't want to do anything in a hurry this time. What we think would be best is to lease for a year someplace to see if it's really what we want. We'll let you know if and when our plans progress further.

Last Sunday I got away a little while to go and see Schiefers new home. It's really nice and something they will enjoy so much. They are starting to move their things into it. Wilsons have a lovely big home too, but I haven't been in it.

Sylvia just came in to get the "reunion news." Dear Sylvia! She doesn't have much in life. Guess we should be really grateful for all we have.

We put \$100.00 in your account and will try to do this the first of each month, then that should leave a little reserve for emergencies. The Lord is blessing us with health and means and I hope we'll always be worthy of our many blessings. We're so happy you're having so much success in your labors there. It must be very rewarding to be able to bring souls into the gospel. Keep up the good work and may the Lord always bless and keep you son and give you what you need.

The slides are coming okay. Very nice. All our love, Mother.

LETTER 736b McKay Lyman Platt to Lyman De Platt, July 8, 1963

I've had a good time this summer. Did you know I know how to swim? I've been trying to write but just haven't got around to it. How is it down there? Either mommy or daddy has read your letters. We have been enjoying your slides you have sent us. I either get eighty cents or a dollar a week for tending Gordie. The family is coming along fine. I have \$9.19 in the bank. With love, McKay.

LETTER 737 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to Gordon Leavitt Platt, July 10, 1963

Dear father, it gave me feelings of pride and deep emotion as I read your letter and tried to read into it the other deep feelings that you might have regarding the things you said and the various topics that have always been close to us. I have realized all my adolescent life that some of the characteristic make up that we each have has always made a close communication between us difficult, and it has worried me quite a bit, being unable to solve the problem, but I believe at last the conclusion has been reached: "When I was a child, I spake as a child, but when I became a man, I put away childish things." When I was a child I saw "through a glass darkly," not fully understanding you and your reasons for things, but now "face to face" I realize the same circumstances and conditions under my new environment that you, through the years, have accumulated in your various walks of life from Army officer to bishop's counselor; from "one of the gang" to Sunday School teacher. "Now I know in part," but as the years progress and I am faced with the same situations and others that you've encountered or not encountered "then shall

I know even as also I am known;” then will I fully understand and comprehend why my father was what he was; why he did what he did.

Then will I begin to teach my children those same basic life stories that one has to learn: how to stand up to a horned rooster at four years old; how to pray; how to tie a shoestring; how to milk a cow; how to obey; how to love; how to follow.

Dad, you touching words “but tonight if you were here” ringing a touch of loneliness, a longing for someone you love, a desire to talk to someone, express your inner emotions with them, enjoying with them of being together, and it makes me realize some of the chances we’ve missed, but were not ready for, at least not I. Some of my fondest memories and hopes for future memories are talking alone with you or mother on the couch, on a hillside, washing dishes, or while milking the cows. Those times have been the times I remember most and have always cherished.

I don’t care for a great deal of college and society life. I’ve seen too much of what those things do to people, as I’ve met them day by day. I want to be a servant of God, learning what is necessary in worldly ways to get along, but then departing from the everyday world; living in a humble home with a good wife and sound children in an environment that stimulates the inner man to set an example to be apart from the crowd.

I realized as I went around with the kids in Springdale what would eventually happen to our family if we stayed there. I saw it taking hold of me and know that it is on my brothers now. There are some good people in town, but where there isn’t a fight to always maintain high standards even at your best, you aren’t as good as other Saints, in places of worldly eyes, when you are at your weakest moments. I personally feel that our move to Springdale had its reasons like our other moves, but I agree with you and mother; it’s not a safe place to stay. For my part, the more I think of my life’s career, the more I realize how unhappy I’d be if I didn’t do something with nature or animals. I believe, not knowing all conditions yet, of course, that we would all be much happier on a big farm or small ranch and that sooner or later we’ll end up there so that it would be more profitable financially and spiritually to decide where it will be now. I will probably end up in forestry service myself; if not ranching, and the possibilities of living at or near home with those types of schools nearby sounds to me all right.

Seeing as I’m down here, though, the major decisions will be up to the family. One thing I will say, though, I’m not staying in Springdale for very long after I get home if you’re still there, because the people don’t agree with me. I would be more than willing to help get a beef, or what ever type ranch, into good running operation. That’s one thing we have very much in common. Of course I would presume that everyone would be in agreement before we did it as we’d all have to work. Well, I’ve said my desires and so will be content with that.

I hope you have a very happy birthday dad and that you will be in some way pleased and feel gratified with your life because of the family you’ve helped create. I’ve always tried to be an obedient son and hope that you will be joyful in the fact that I always try to spread a good word by a good example for our name wherever I go. I believe a father’s or mother’s greatest joy

comes in seeing their children living a life worthy of praise and fear of God. Please accept my acts as the fruits of your good life and my sincerest wishes for a continued prosperous life. I received mother's, Gene's and McKay's letters and will try to answer next week. God bless you in the decisions you have to make and the guidance of your family. I love you father, sincerely and respectfully, your son, Lyman De.

LETTER 738a Elder Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Miss Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, July 12, 1963

Dear Lucy, I suppose by the time you get my letter you will have gone as long as I did without a letter; two weeks. I had time last Friday but I promised you I'd write when I got letters, so I felt justified in not writing, although I wanted to.

I'm glad that you had a good time for your birthday. It sounds like you really had a busy time as well as an exciting one. I'd of course liked to have been a part of it, but your account of it was so exciting that I feel like I was there anyway.

I don't know if you remember the exact date unless you have a diary, but today is our first year of going together. One year ago today we went to Veyo swimming. Remember all the fun we had teasing each other and getting smeared with lipstick, etc. That night was what decided it for me. You were just too devastating. I don't believe I'll ever forget that day; no never!

Sweetheart I may be in the mission field to preach the gospel but the Lord gives us one day a week to worry about our girlfriend's problems. He doesn't expect such devoted effort to the work that we forget those we love and their problems. I asked you confide in me because I want you to start to feel the confidence and love that we will develop sooner or later. Of course if you feel that there might be misunderstandings – forget it! I never was one to jump to conclusions on any one part of a phrase or sentence if it didn't coincide with what was being said generally. Of course the decision is yours. My devotion is love not force, so it's up to you, but you have my idea on it.

I don't know where you ever got the idea of having twin beds but you get that idea right out of your head. I'm not rich enough to afford two beds and besides I don't feel like slapping your hand but I'd sure like to kiss you. You write things like that to this missionary and you're just going to find he loves you more. You're taking my mission too seriously. I believe there is a limit to everything. I put in a good hard day of preaching the gospel every day and if you can't talk about the future with your girl; frankly, I don't believe its right. You've got to have something to fight for. That's why I want to be such a good elder, because you're what I'm fighting these terrible Catholics for.

Yes, I'd like you to give the slides to my folks. You can look at the ones of me if you'd like; that is why I sent them to you, but any others please just give to the folks. I don't want anyone seeing them and ruining my fireside; unless they don't live in Washington County.

I can't imagine where the two town gossips (dad and Mr. Madsen) could have gotten any news about my love for you. I've mentioned hardly anything in any of my letters. I guess you don't have to mention much in a small town though. I guess it really isn't important. I believe the whole world ought to know I love you. Of course they will sooner or later anyway, and how!!!!

What my dad said wouldn't surprise me in the least as he's capable of saying astounding things. What did he say? Huh? Huh? Huh? Oh! Gosh! Gee! Really!

I wish you'd quit saying I'd get bored if you write any more. I've still not gotten tired of anything you've said; in fact, I relish letters from you and wish they were a little faster in getting here; just an idea; hint, hint; word to the wise, etc.

Well, Lucy, I still think you're the sharpest girl I know and hope you will be faithful. You've past the critical part; that weeds out the sincere from the insincere. From now on it's all downhill.

I've got to go ward teaching now so I'll write more a little later; chou A little later: most of the people weren't home so I can write some more. Today we went to the *capilla* I mean chapel and worked there and I went and received my typhoid shot we need each year. Man, this year has gone exceedingly fast. I'll be home with you in no time.

The mission started a new weekly chart with each branch and how it compares with all the other branches. So far (three weeks) we've been the top of the twenty-five branches with an average of sixty work hours per missionary per week; fifty-five is the minimum but very few even reach that. Only two branches were even in the fifties, so Callao stands out like a shining star. Good, huh?

I hope you enjoy your younger years as much as you can because I'm going to make the later years for you so bad or so good you'll either forget everything or wish you were young again. What am I saying? Oh, fish, the wuds is alla comin' auta wong. I guess I'll sign off: "off." Be good and write you rascal.

I love you and don't want to do anything to destroy the good relationship we've had this first year. If all the next eight years can be as fast and rewarding with as few problems I believe life will be worthwhile. Until next week this is your roving correspondent signing off with all *mi amor*, Lyman Platt.

LETTER 738b Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, July 15, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 328-330 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Son Lyman, we received your most interesting letter and were glad to know that the earthquake did not do any damage to you or the church there. It must have been quite an experience – and the rest of your day was filled with interesting experiences too. The boat dock visit was something you will always remember and be glad for. It's nice you are still working on your scouting. Hope you can get the World Brotherhood merit badge. The kids aren't doing too much here. I think the main reason is that they don't get along too well with Mr. Wilson, so their scouting is taking a back seat. We can't blame them too much, as he does have some very funny ideas and ways.

Sounds like the Callao Branch is really coming along fine for baptisms and growth. Keep up the good work. Glad that you have a good companion and one that you get along well with. I can imagine some of the problems that arise doing missionary work – being with one person constantly could be hard for you both – but we are grateful that you don't seem to have too much trouble with things like that. We know some do and we pray that you will always be able to get along well with your companions and be able to do your best in furthering the Lord's work.

Sorry you went a few extra days without a letter from home. I get so busy that I just can't seem to stop long enough to write, but I do consider it one of my main obligations (as well as pleasures) to get my weekly letter off to you and will try and not miss any. We do enjoy and appreciate all your letters and slides.

Well, we had a narrow escape with our old dog the other day. Dad was on the Honda taking the two little boys for a ride and King was running joyfully along beside them. He got too far out in the road and a car came along and hit him. It really rolled him and went right over him. We didn't know for awhile if he was going to live or not. We thought his hip was broken and he had internal injuries, as he spat up quite a bit of blood. But this morning he seems quite a bit livelier, so we are hoping he is going to be all right now. He won't eat anything yet, but if he continues to improve, he will be all right. Needless to say, he enjoyed all the attention and sympathy he received through it all. Maybe it will make him a little more conscious of the cars and streets, as he has never been too careful.

Speaking of the Honda, Eddie is buying it from Joe. Joe decided to give it to him for the amount he still owed on it (which of course is quite a loss for Joe), but he says he has had his fun on it and now he wants a car. Joe is working on that old car (51 Chevy I think) of Dan's and Don's, and when he and Dan get it fixed up he plans to buy it for \$50.00. We don't especially want him to have a car, but it has been a good experience for him to do the work on it and I think he has learned quite a bit. Eddie won't be old enough for a driver's license for another year, so he can't take the Honda on the highway until then, but he rides it on the back roads and gets quite a kick out of it. He and Joe are both putting quite a lot of hours in working, so Gene is going to take over their papers for the summer. Roberta still puts in a lot of hours too (she get \$.35 an hour and has earned over \$50 already) so we think that is pretty good for someone her age. It is quite a handful to take care of the three little girls but she gets along pretty well.

Springdale is getting ready for their centennial celebration the end of this month. Hope that they have a good crowd. They had asked me to be in a three-act play but guess they have called it off and are substituting a variety show for that night. Don't know how much of the celebration we'll get to.

We're having pretty hot weather here now. We have trouble keeping everyone happy, as all of the air conditioners aren't in the best of running order. It will be a relief to be out of the tourist business (if we get out). It's nice to meet new people but I'd sure trade it to be just a housewife again. Canyon Motel did a little better in June than they did last year and Zion Park Motel is quite a ways ahead of last year, so hope the season continues to be good. They didn't have one visitor at Canyon but think that's the first night for some time they haven't had some.

Dad and I feel good – we just paid off a big debt we had at Security First in Whittier. We took all the motel income for June and put his overtime and part of our checks and sent over \$650.00 to the bank. So that will release our other Hamilton certificate they have been holding on this loan. You know we sold the one to pay Olsen the June payment. It will be a relief to have this one out of the way, as it was \$75.00 per month. Next month we hope to take the income from the motel plus a little more and pay off the loan at Hurricane Bank (which has been another \$75.00 per month) then we will be in a much better position to meet things. Debts are so binding – don't ever have any more than you can help. When I see all that Madsen's have though I think we are pretty well off after all. I'd go crazy if I had all the bills staring me in the face that they do. Course they have a mighty good income on their business these summer months too, so guess they will get them all paid off, but I'm glad I don't have all their worries and problems.

Had a letter from Grandma Lyman today. They really do enjoy your letters and seem to be so appreciative of my sending them a copy of them. They said Rene and Art and family had been down to their place for a couple of days to visit. Uncle Albert is quite well now again and is working long hours in the museum, etc. Did you know Karl and Edith had been released from the mission in Florida? Don't know yet what they plan to do or where they plan to live. Don't think it will be in San Juan though.

Jacque gave us the slides you sent in her letter. Lucy hasn't given us any yet, but likely will when we see her again. They have changed the time of Sacrament Meeting here to 6:00 p.m. starting yesterday. I still didn't get out to it, as that is about our busiest time to leave the motel.

Well, guess I had better get busy son. I'll take some pictures again right away and try and get some to you before long. I have taken most of a roll of the kids around the swimming pool, so when I finish it, I'll send them to you. They have really enjoyed the pool. McKay and Roberta especially have benefited by it and are pretty good little swimmers now. I'm glad for that. Gordie doesn't want anything to do with it though.

Take good care of yourself son. We are thankful that you are in good health. Kirk is having problems with his health and may have to be transferred to the office or elsewhere. We love you son and are so thankful for the work you are doing. Love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 739 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, July 22, 1963

Dear family, I guess I'm getting careless. This is the first week that I haven't gotten a letter off on Friday. I like to wait for your letters, so I can have something to answer, but yours usually come on Saturday. Could you send them a day earlier?

Well, I have another interesting experience to relate. We all decided a couple of weeks ago, we were going to go to the mountains, so last Friday we rented a Fairlaine Ford for \$4.00 apiece and had the man take us to the mountains.

Lima, during the winter, is completely surrounded by a fog bank or heavy overcast, but as we rose above Lima we broke out into a beautiful warm sunshine. We drove up some pretty canyons, with shady, turbulent creeks and birds chirping everywhere. Our destination was Ticlio, the highest railroad pass in the world, but the car's radiator gave out about thirty miles down the canyon. So we stopped in a little town, Maticaro and while the driver apologetically fixed his car, we had a good time. First off we ordered a steak for \$.40 (delicious). After eating we brought out the guitar and sang for about an hour. The town's people were quite impressed when we sang some of their old favorites in Spanish. After tiring our voices we decided to go hiking. The mountains compare favorably to those in the Park. They are more like the ones up by Provo though. We became professional Andes mountain climbers after three hours of it. It was so wonderful to get out in the open again. We hiked clear to the top of one range and met a family who had their house up there. We talked to them a while and learned a few interesting things about them and their life. The people of the back country here are far in the majority. Most of them are farmers (terrace farmers) and as you go driving along it isn't unusual to see (one thousand feet above you) terraced spots on the mountainside where the people earn their meager existence. You'll see later (probably in December) some of the views I took of the country. All in all it's wonderful.

We still want to go to Ticlio in a month or so. The trip, with buying film and all put us all low on funds. I have \$12.00 to last me as long as it will. I just paid my 12th month of rent with this last check.

Mission-wise Arequipa was just made into the 4th district in Peru, so five stakes are now in embryo as Lima District will become two. The two Lima chapels are nearing completion for December, and two more chapels will be under way before August; one in Arequipa and one in Trujillo to the north. To speak of the Church collectively, it is really growing fast. We now have over 3,000 members and many more (1,000) are expected for December. This month end is the National Holiday, and so the Church is having a week of activities: a day of sports contests; a paseo to Chosica, a Gold and Green Ball, and a testimony meeting on Sunday, oh, and a banquet Saturday in the Magdalena chapel. We have, one week later, a district conference. So you can see the Church is getting under way. It is wonderful to be a part of it all.

Callao has been on top now for one month, and we've really had a lot of fun trying to stay there. Elder Blake, our supervising elder has only month one left in his mission, so we'll have someone else coming. A few of the other elders will probably be changed also.

This Wednesday and Thursday the branch presidents of Lima will be in the Mission Home receiving instructions about various things, so we'll have a busy week trying to make the list. It will be interesting to stand in on the meetings and see what's behind the scenes.

Yesterday, I sent some books home with the stuff of Elder Blake's. It ought to get to you within about one month. Will you let me know when you get them? It contains *Habla de mi Tierra, Una Obra Maravillosa y Espantoso y un Prodigio*, and *Introducción al Evangelio*; German and French dictionaries and tracts. If you inform me when they come or if they don't it will be appreciated.

Six elders here in Lima just went through a 1½ day branch presidents' training course devised to prepare us to be better branch presidents later on and to give us the necessary information needed to teach Peruvians how to become branch presidents. It is very worthwhile and a tremendous learning experience. I feel that some time in my life I will probably have need for such information and have given it all my most careful attention. President Nicolaysen is such a great man to learn from, and I feel he's been extra kind to me in allowing me to be in a position to attend this seminar as well as the one last November.

Well, if you'll excuse me, I'll close this letter. I've got quite a lot to do to help us stay on the list, and so I'll sign off.

Thank you for your letters and that weekly \$1.00. It is slowly but surely building up my reserve. I wish I could comply with my part and not spend so much. I'm trying, though; love you all, Lyman De.

LETTER 740a Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, July 22, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 332-334 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, your last letter was such a nice one. Your Dad appreciated it very much. You have a very nice way of expressing yourself, and we do appreciate you a lot son. We are so happy that you are enjoying your mission so much and that all is well with you. Our prayers are certainly answered in your behalf. It will soon be a year since you left and that year has gone so fast that we can hardly believe it. Your mission will be over and we will have another one out before we know it; that is if Joe stops getting in accidents.

Yesterday afternoon Roland came into the office here and told me that Joe had been in an accident and we had better go up the canyon. We jumped in the car and went up just south of the lodge where their car had gone off the road and turned over a couple of times. Danny Donaldson (Mavis Madsen's nephew) was driving J.R.'s car and Joe and Mike Wilson were in with him. It had been raining and they were going up to see if there were any falls in the canyon. Danny was passing Harlan Winder and started to skid on the wet road. He got around Harlan all right but then went into a skid and off the road. Joe was thrown out of the car and skidded across quite a piece of ground on his shoulder. The other two boys remained in the car. It just about totaled out the car, and the boys were very fortunate to walk away from the accident. The rangers had Joe on a stretcher ready to take him to the hospital when we got there, so I got in with them and we took Danny and Joe to St. George. We couldn't get a hold of Dr. Last (he was in the park at the time, but no one knew it), so we spent the next several hours in St. George waiting for someone to come and take care of the boys. They thought that Joe's shoulder was broken. Danny was very upset and it was hours before he was calmed down. His father had been killed in a car accident a few years ago, and he felt so responsible for the car and the other boys that he was really upset.

We finally brought the boys back home last night after Joe had spent a few hours in bed over there and had had quite a lot of drugs. This morning I took him to Hurricane to Dr. Last and he x-rayed the shoulder and collar bone. The collar bone was cracked but not displaced, so we felt very fortunate. He won't have to have a cast on it just a little clavicle splint for about six weeks, and he will be able to work if it isn't too hard. We had a pretty good talk and decided that the Lord was pretty good to us and gave us these warnings from time to time in order that we wouldn't get too far out of line. They didn't take Mike to the doctor last night, as the nurse at the Lodge thought he was all right and so did Mike. But later on he started hurting, so he evidently has something wrong with his neck or back. I think they are down now having him x-rayed. I hope my feelings are wrong, but I'm afraid Mike's dad is going to try to capitalize on this accident, since it was Madsen's car and he has absolutely no use for the Madsen's. I hope there is no trouble over it.

We have had so many things happening around here that more and more each day we are feeling ready to leave this place. We had a lot of linen stolen from one of the linen rooms here at Madsen's, then the pool developed several leaks (which looks like it might have been jabbed), so it had to be drained and repaired. There is such a scarcity of water that we all feel badly that this had to be done. Rotten eggs were thrown in the pool and on the front of Madsen's café and yet nothing at all is done about it as far as law enforcement goes. There is so much hatred and jealousy in this little town that we feel we just can't stay here and raise our family. We wrote to a bishop up at Bonner's Ferry (very northern part of Idaho) and asked his advice about the area and the Church there, etc. When we hear something from him we will let you know. I just wish we didn't own property here, and it wouldn't be quite the concern it is to move. We are not saying anything about this to anyone around here or even to the family yet, but we do all feel pretty much the same about the place and can see what it will do to us all if we stay. So pray with us that we will be guided to do what is best for all of us.

Bishop Hardy is in Salt Lake for an operation. He won't be able to attend the centennial celebration, which makes it bad, as he was the general chairman. Hope that it turns out okay.

We have had some nice rains the last couple of days which relieves our dry spell a little. It has really been hot and dry. The motel business has been slower this month than last month, but hope it will pick up again. Time for the mail to leave so best I get this into the post office. Please keep up the good work and remember we love you, sincerely, Mother.

LETTER 740b Elder L. D. Platt, Los Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, July 23, 1963

Dear Lucy, how are you today? I'm fine and everything is going fine in the mission field, love always, Lyman.

P.S. With all the other things I was trying to remember to tell you, I forgot to mention one thing. I sure do have a sincerely deep respect and love for you sweetheart. I'm really proud of you for your faithfulness; you have met my fondest expectations and I want you to know that I love you all the more for it.

(Read joke out loud): there is a very rare and beautifully colored bird in the foothills of the Andes called the Peruvian Ooauh bird. This bird apart from its special attractiveness has a very exciting and distinct characteristic, different from other birds of its species. It lays square eggs. This in itself isn't really outstanding, but rather what it says when it lays it's eggs: oooo – ow!!!! Did you give that some feeling?

We have really been having a time down here lately. That is one reason why my letter is late to you. Another reason is I don't answer your letters until I get one from you: logical. It wasn't your fault this time though; it took six days to get here, so I can't blame anyone but the mail service.

Some of the things we've been doing: well, last Friday we went to the Andes to see what kind of fun we could stir up there. We took a guitar along and our cameras and a big lunch. We rented a car for \$4.00 apiece (six of us). We left old smog-bound Lima and got up into the sun. I learned that the Andes are on the same climate schedule that you are. They have summer and winter the same time as you do. Interesting, no? We had a breakdown of the car (the radiator gave out) and we had to stop in a small town for most of the day. We had a steak dinner, sang with the guitar for an hour or so; then we went hiking. It was a lot of fun and we got to see a lot of pretty and new country. The only thing I lacked was you. I'm glad to hear you are back on your reading schedule. Of course realizing all there is to do there I can see how easily it would be to get off the habit. I've not read as much as I should lately, either.

Honey I know we have something between us and the only thing that will cause it to “die out” is not complying with the standards we’ve set for ourselves. Because, a person discontented with him or herself usually starts finding faults with others. So, if we break up it won’t be because we didn’t love each other. It doesn’t have to happen; we just have to overcome ourselves. So don’t talk about “if,” okay?

I’m glad to see you are still going out. That will make you much surer you like me; at least it seems to be doing so. I asked you to go out because I was figuring perhaps my folks had taught me better than most families do and if you could see if you were my type of girl you’d love me. Well, anyway, I think its working. I still want you to look around. If you find someone better for you, I want that for you; but what I want most is to be that guy. So don’t look really hard. I’m not that good; there are a lot of good boys or men in the world.

I want just as much as you do for me to be home. It’s unnatural to be away from girls that long. That’s the only sacrifice I feel there is attached to a mission. These girls down here don’t help the situation any. It’s hard not to be nice. The other night after a show I was walking out of the show with my companion and the others and a girl in front of us was having trouble getting her coat on. I, without thinking, helped her find her sleeve and got corrected for it. I don’t think such strictness is necessary, but if they are going to rule, I will not be a gentleman even if it kills me. That’s just one incident. I get mad every time I think of it. Just nineteen more months and neither will have to worry about each other. I’m glad it is in the future a ways though. I’m not ready.

Well, this letter isn’t very long but time is short. My companion and I are still trying to make the fifty-five hour list even though we will be in the mission office a day and a half at the presidents’ meeting. We broke our daily record yesterday with thirteen and a half hours (9 to 1; and 3 to 12:30); quite a day; we’ll make it yet.

We’ve been doing a new type of proselyting right now; looking up names in the telephone directory, so we’ll know something about them when we knock on the door. Many times we get the woman at the door or a maid and they won’t allow us to talk so the telephone is a good way to get appointments with the men. The men are who we try to talk to. Boy, “La Punta” is really getting a going over. We knocked on every door once and are starting again. We’ve got a book full of information on everyone now. We tracted up Miss Callao the other day: wow! Well, chou until next week. I love you and pray for your welfare every day, love, L.D.

LETTER 741a Elder Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, July 25, 1963

Hi honey, you know I just finished writing my last letter today that was a little behind because of this meeting with President Nicolaysen when I come home and find another one waiting from you. Of course, I’m ready to keep my promise, so here’s my other letter. I’m sorry you went so long without a letter. I was also sorry I did, but everything is back to normal again.

Say, that’s great to know your mother is pluggin’ for me. I guess it’s about time I wrote her another letter. If you have a girl’s mother on your side, you don’t need many more people.

Hey, that's great you're going as well as you are on your reading. That builds you up a lot in my eyes when I know you're trying to increase your knowledge and wisdom. I've received from my father a desire, almost fanatical at times, to learn. It really doesn't matter if it's sewing, washing, playing the piano, reading, whatever; I like to learn and I like to see people that like to do so. Also, I'm very well pleased with you and you doing genealogical research. As I told you it's something pretty close to me. I also know the personal satisfaction one receives from doing it, so I couldn't say too much on the happiness it gives me to know you're doing it. Not very many people are very diligent in this commandment "the most important" according to Joseph Smith.

I'm sorry your vertebrae are out of place. You'll have to tell those cruddy St. Georginians to quit hugging you so hard. I remember an instance of a bishop in California - you wouldn't know him - who hugged his wife so hard he cracked her back. Just don't take my advice over seriously. After all if anybody's going to crack your back it ought to be me. I'll be paying for it.

Hey, I'll never be sorry to answer all your letters; in fact you don't have time to write enough to make me too sorry. That's a challenge!

Say sweetheart I don't want to say you're wrong, but I don't believe I kissed you on the 20th; I may have, though. Here's what my diary says: "Went up to Grandma's Kitchen and had supper and afterwards went riding up in the Park." According to what I write you never could get the idea that I did anything. That was only our second time together, though, so you should be ashamed of me. On the 21st we went to Veyo again. That was sure a lot of fun. Excuse my reminiscing. I can't remember if you were a dream or real if I don't. After the 21st it became pretty regular: the 22nd church; the 23rd Maurine stood me up on a picnic which ended our dating. I took you swimming and out to dinner. The 24th we went riding in the Park and most every other night after that; yes, those days were short but my love and respect grew by leaps and bounds and are still growing. I love you much, much more than I did then; it's all a spiritual love now. That's enough for *now* though. Oh, I'm tubbing myself out so I'd better stop. I've still got a while to go.

Hey I just had a pleasant surprise. One of the men I had as my Sunday School counselor in Piura stopped by to see me. He is now an elder and the branch president in Piura. That branch has increased eighty members in four months. It was sure good to see him. You can see his picture in the slides. He thanked me for the good foundation I'd given him, which is where the reward for the work comes from. Yes it is just all right this mission.

Golly, I didn't expect you to tell me all your problems at once. Be careful, I'm delicate! So you're having boy problems. I don't wonder; such a sharp girl as you.

Honey, I'm glad you're happy and enjoying life. Just keep praying and loving your neighbor and me and you will always be happy. I don't believe I'd better write more. It's time to go to work and I should have been studying. It was nice talking with you, though. Write soon and don't forget I'm yours, as ever, Lyman.

LETTER 741 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, July 26, 1963

Dear family, your letter of the 22nd reached me today, and so because of the concern it gives me I wish to write again to express my feelings and desires. Realizing that the decision that once more confronts the family as to where to move, I want you to know that my prayers are continually with you, and I know the decision that has to be made cannot be made in any other way than by means of our personal revelation, mainly to the head of our family. To father belongs this privilege and we must all support him, whether in prayer or fasting or following advice. As far as my part is concerned, my fasting and prayers will be all that is necessary. Any feelings I might express could tend to prejudice your mind before the Lord could make His will known. I will accept your decision as that of the Lord's, and feel assured that the Lord will not leave us to the evil designs of men. I might only suggest that, as I teach, neither the decision for or against any action should be made before our prayers, or after, until we're sure it's in harmony with the will of the Holy Ghost; otherwise, it does no good to pray.

Joe, I'm sorry you were so unfortunate to be involved in the accident. Of course, as mother explained, sometimes the Lord does such things to keep us on the path he wishes we would follow. "And in nothing doth man offend God, or against none is His wrath kindled, save those who confess not his hand in all things and obey not His commandments." (D. & C. 59:21) I feel every decision we make should be directed by what our Father in Heaven desires. Joe, you've a strong character, and I pray you will use it to help our family and friends as the Lord wants. I would like to hear from you and know of your feelings regarding life and what's happening. I just barely went through the time you're experiencing and so possibly my mind is fresher on some of the snags you may encounter. Use me! That's why I'm your brother. I desire so strongly for the salvation of you, our brothers and sister and our parents. At times, though, one can't decide just what help is needed at the precise moment so necessary to receive it. So write me, okay? I guess I shouldn't preach so much, but I feel it my duty.

Yesterday Hernán Márquez from Piura came down for a funeral and came over to the branch to see me. He was my 1st counselor in the Sunday School up there; now he's an elder, president of the branch and really doing a terrific job. Eleven months is all he has been in the Church. Piura now has 100 members (it had 20 when I left four months ago). It is completely run by Peruvians and only has been open for one year. They have bought land for a chapel and made it into a separate district. The mission is really growing.

Give my regards to Bishop Hardy. I hope he passed his operation successfully. Happy to know you've been having some rain. I hope Springdale doesn't get wiped off the map with a thunderstorm. Well, I'll let this suffice for now. I love you all and am doing my best to leave a good name for you to follow; love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 742 Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, July 29, 1963

Dearest family, today being one of three days of Peru's independence days, I again take pleasure in writing a few more lines. This morning we all went to the military parade in Lima celebrating their independence. Peru has the biggest and best equipped army in South America and needless to say, it was very impressive. We watched for three hours as they marched by in well prepared style. Their equipment is all very modern.

Taking advantage of the free time offered today, I read the May edition of the *Era* through. If you have not yet read it, I would highly suggest doing so. The scope on the progress of the work here in South America is tremendous and very informative. Also, the article "Summer of Decision" was strikingly impressive to me and would be of great value to the kids. It made me awake a little to the realization of some of my responsibilities and desires.

Family, I'm enjoying my mission in this part of the vineyard of our Lord tremendously. I am constantly aware of the necessity of improvement and have a strong desire to do so, but a weak body to assist me. Your faith and prayers are always desired and necessary. I feel many times as a sinner for wasting any amount of these short 2½ years that my folks and Heavenly Father have helped provide for me. Realizing the necessity of complying and the great personal satisfaction that comes in doing so, I am constantly striving to better myself. Life is sweet, but not all at once.

I just started reading *Priesthood and Church Government* by John A. Widtsoe, which is proving to be very interesting. The more I read the more clearly the gospel becomes and the more resolute I become. These mission years are so worthy of a good preparation beforehand. I hope you are all taking advantage of the family hour to become learned in the scriptures or on other doctrines. There are so many things we have to learn in this life, and as Mother once said "Since high school the years have gone with increasing rapidity." It is so necessary, therefore, to know which course this fast rocket we're on is taking. It is so easy to get off course without constant guidance. I'm so thankful for all of you and the guidance you've given me.

August 3, 1962

Several days have passed – a mountain of new experiences all worth relating. Elder Blake terminated his mission today, and as usual the days preceding were full of excitement – going away parties, dinner invitations, etc. Last night (Friday) we went to Sinbad and then to a circus in Lima. It was the first real circus I've seen (one ring was all). They had some very good entertainment, and tops of it all were the trapeze artists. It was really a good experience.

Today two new elders arrived – one from Lima, the other from Arequipa – nice men. They seem to have good spirits and are ready to plunge into keeping Callao on top. We've been there four out of six weeks now.

Today at 9:00 a.m. I had the privilege of baptizing Brother Rodríguez that we have been teaching. His family has been members for two years and is very active. It is so wonderful to see complete families brought into the Church. It made the family really happy. The daughter is one of the nicest girls in the branch and of course gives the elders a bad time, but the work goes on.

Elder Cowley and I also have a family of four (extremely nice people) preparing for baptism on the 10th of August. They are so against the Catholic Church it is humorous. Some of the stories you hear about the leaders of that church from its members are enough to curdle your blood.

I just received your letter today with more detailed information on Idaho coming through to hungry ears. The idea seems to be formulating okay and my prayers are always with you. I'll be anxiously awaiting further information.

Well, there is a lot to be done. We haven't worked our hardest this week and are feeling that we better get to work. However, in spite of the lack of hours, the spirits are high and four more people are members of the Church in Callao this week. So you see the Lord is being good to His people. I'll close for now, leaving with you my love and desire to soon be with you. As you said Mother, one year has gone; one and a half doesn't look like time enough to do all there is to do.

The weather is at its coldest but it usually is like a spring or fall morning except for the humidity; love as ever, Lyman De.

LETTER 743 Lyman De Platt to family, Springdale, Utah, July 30, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 336-338 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, look at that date – another month gone and you soon will have been out in the mission field one year. How short this life really is when one year can go in such a hurry.

We haven't received a letter from you since I wrote my last one, but suppose one will be coming soon. I know you will want to know what is going on up our way, so will keep you posted.

Dad picked out an area in northern Idaho that appeals to him, and we got a church directory and picked out a few wards up there with the names of the bishops, then we wrote to one at Naples (Bonners Ferry Ward) and asked his advice about the area, church, ranches, schools, etc. He answered right away with a very nice letter. He said he had been through our town here just a short while ago and would like to have had the opportunity to talk to us then. He is moving to Las Vegas the middle of August and has a 275-acre ranch for sale. It isn't that unusual that we would pick him out to write to. He painted a very nice picture of the area – said that their ward was one of the nicest ones in the church with a membership of about 300, mostly young families and with a new chapel (Coeur d'Alene Stake). He said about 75 acres of his place was cleared and he had a full line of machinery – and a stream of fish running past his door. His family is

reversed from ours as he has nine daughters, all of which are away from home except two of them. (Maybe they weren't all girls, but nine children, mostly girls.) He said a Brother Bradbury from Clearfield was going up to see his place and others last week. The area never needs irrigation.

Well, anyway, Dad and Joe left home yesterday morning at 3 a.m. to drive up there and look around and see what they could find out. Dad is going to look into the school situation too, as we have about decided that the safest thing might be for him to go up there to teach for a year before we do anything too final. We are anxious to know what they find out. I know how anxious you will be to hear more too, so as soon as they come back, I will write again and let you know. It was a long drive, and Dad took Joe to trade off driving, so they could make better time. They figured it would take them at least four days. We have thought and prayed about this and surely hope that we will be led to do what is best for all of us. We seem to all feel the same about moving from Springdale though. Conditions here just aren't conducive to raising a good family, and of course our family is the most important thing we have. We think, along with Bishop Madsen, that this area has great potential, but we don't want to help with it at the expense of our family, so hope that we will do the right thing. I know you are praying along with us for things to work out, and I'm sure the Lord will guide us and direct us. We haven't said anything to anyone around here about our moving, so watch what you say in any letters, won't you? We'll keep you posted.

Joe's collar bone is getting along pretty well. I don't think it is going to give him too much trouble. The last couple of days he has straightened up quite a bit and says it feels a lot better, just as long as he leaves the splint on, so we are thankful that it is as well as it is. The other boys seem to be getting along fine too. They were very fortunate they weren't hurt worse.

We finally all got away at the same time and went to a show the other night. We drove to Hurricane and had something to eat and then saw Walt Disney's Castaways. It was good, as all his shows are, and we enjoyed getting away for a few hours. Of course after we got there Eddie got roped into a party, but he did come home with us. That is the first time all summer we have all been away together, and it is surely something we want to do to get into a position where we can do more things with our family.

It is still really hot here in Springdale – how is it there now? Is it getting pretty cold and how cold will it get this summer (winter)?

Maybe I won't write more for now son, as it is about time for the mail and I'll write again in a few days when Dad gets back. Bye for now, love from us all, Mother

LETTER 744 Joseph Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru August 4, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 340 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, Well long time no write, huh? I have really been working hard so much lately that I haven't had much time to write. You probably heard about my big accident didn't you? I guess I just must be accident prone.

Dad and I just got back from a trip to Northern Idaho. The trip was sharp. He had just heard from a man who had a 276-acre farm in Naples, Idaho. We decided to take a look so we did. All the way there was just positively beautiful. On the way to the house we had to pass through his beautiful meadows. Also, fate was against us, Brutus struck a deadly blow, wind blew in the rafter, bats bailed in the belfry; in other words he had just sold the place three hours before we got there.

So, despondent, disappointed, discouraged, demoralized, destructed, us picked up our battered frames and took off for Sandpoint on the beautiful shores of Pend Oreille Lake.

You have probably heard about this lake. It is the home of the Kamloop trout, the largest in existence, I think.

We went to a real estate agent and Dad can tell you the rest. All in all we had a good time and really found a place of promise. We saw three shows and had sixteen meals.

Besides the above mentioned, I have done very little but work and fix up my car. In case you didn't know, I sold the Honda to Eddie. Don and Dan have a '49 Chevrolet, with new paint job and tires. Don and I work on it whenever we are not working. I should be able to have it running in about a week. I can get it for \$50.00. Well, that's all for now. Write me; Joe; your bruised and broken brother.

LETTER 745 Gordon Leavitt Platt, Springdale, Utah to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, August 4, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 342-344 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Son Lyman, we've been back from Northern Idaho since Thursday night and its Sunday night and time to write to you and tell you what we've done. This all started with Rulon Beatty, the man who bought our cows. He came here delivering apricots one day, and we got to talking about farm and ranch land. He said he'd send us literature on Oregon territory, so we waited, and while we waited we decided to write a bishop in Northern Idaho that we had a lead on. We wrote him and he wrote right back that he had a place to sell and was in fact moving to Las Vegas to go into business. He had a 276-acre setup that he wanted \$30,000 for, so we decided Joe and I

should take a fast whirl up there to see it. We went, but he had sold it just hours before we got to Sandpoint. We decided to look around anyway for a couple of days.

We dropped into a Sandpoint real estate office and told a fellow what we wanted. He came right back with – my dad is selling his place. He told us where it was and we went right out.

It's a beautiful setup for \$28,000; 480 acres of ground, with sixty acres of pasture and the rest solid timber: red fir, red cedar, white pine, black pine, ponderosa, larch or tamarack and birch. A few years ago it ran 100 head of cattle. It has a large six year old barn, two feeding sheds, one granary, one potato cellar, stalls for milking of cows, a good line of small machinery and a three bedroom older home that is nice enough until we could build a new home. There are four head of milking stock which we could buy, and a nice garden spot with a lovely Hamilton-type garden. There are quail, grouse, coyote, deer, bear, beaver, and several other types of animals on the property and I'm sure we could make a real success of it.

He wants 29% down (\$9,300) and \$2,000 per year. I might be able to get a teaching job in the area but could more nearly be happy by harvesting timber off the property.

We are doing our best to sell the motel, but in the event that we can't we don't know just how we will work it. The property is well watered and only two miles from Lake Pend Oreille, the largest lake in Northern Idaho; excellent fishing all around, boating, and water skiing to be had on the lake.

Now, I'm sure this will shake you up, but we haven't gotten it yet, and may not, unless we can sell out here. Keep your fingers crossed.

I hope this finds you well and happy in the Lord's work. We appreciate you prolific letter writing and pictures. Keep them coming. Be the most ardent missionary that you know how to be, and pray for us as we pray for you.

Bishop A.C. Hardy has been in the L.D.S. hospital for three weeks and is bad off with a cancerous prostate gland. We held a special fast day for him today. If you can find the time, you ought to write to him. As always, Dad.

LETTER 746a Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, August 9, 1963

Dear family, well, I got your letter today, so I'll be able to answer it and send it off. The prospects of Sandpoint sound very interesting. There's one thing I'd like to know, though, before I say anything. How is the Church up there in Sandpoint? All of the other explanations sound like something from a dream. One of the reasons I've hesitated on going into forestry is because of the possibility of it keeping me away from my Church duties. If the Church is strong there, though, it sounds like an ideal situation. With the knowledge of farming that you and Joe have and what I learned about forestry at the Y, plus the other years I'll be taking it, we might work ourselves into quite a profitable business. However, I hope you realize – all of you – that forestry is not a thing you take on as a few years' job. A lucky man only sees a harvest of trees he's

planted about once in his lifetime. True, there's a lot of trees there now, and I'm all for it. As far as the career I want to pursue, it's perfect.

A man and a family are only as big as their dreams, and if we all want it and are willing to make something out of it, I don't see any reason why it can't succeed. If we could live in an area like that, I wouldn't care about having much – just living there would be enough. I know one thing, though; my life won't be a happy one if I can't be near something like that. I'm sure every person has a dream that they wish for. A lot of people, like us, want that type of living, but they're just too undetermined to carry it through.

It sounds also like there is really a good area up there for hunting and roughing it. That kind of area appeals much more to me than the desert area, although both are very beautiful. That just starts something in me that makes me feel, well like our ancestors did, anticipating their moves west. I just got through reading the book *How the West was Won* and it makes me realize that anything is possible if there's a desire to do it.

The book so impressed me that I wanted to see the movie. It was playing in Cinerama in Lima, so we all went with Elder Blake (his last night in Peru). Man, but it was fantabulistic. That scenery plus it being in Cinerama was enough to make me want to go home. After the show Brother Jacobsen, a member of the Church and boss of the theater, showed us all the machinery and things that go into showing a show like that. Boy, those rolls of film were huge. There were two for the show both two feet in diameter and about two inches wide. Also there was a roll of same size just for the music. It was quite an experience. After the show we went out to eat and then went to the airport to see him off. The plane was late and we didn't get home until 2:30 a.m.

Well, the time is short and I need to get a lot of things done, so will write again. God bless you all in your work and the decisions you are trying to make; love, Lyman De.

LETTER 746b Lyman De Platt, Heros 216, Bellavista, Callao, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, August 10, 1963

Dear Lucy, I'm sorry you've had to wait so long for a letter, but it's been over two weeks since I heard from you. I got your seven-page one today, though, so now I can write back. I guess we ought to withdraw the statement of not writing if we don't get a letter. Gradually it will break us up; so I'll try writing you every week, whether I get a letter or not.

As you'll probably notice by the slides, I've changed quite a bit in the last year. I've put on thirty-five pounds plus a few other extra-curricular insignificants, minor details. One thing you can't see, though, is my heart. It is still the same, but yet it seems to have grown. My love for my fellowmen has become something tangible now. It has to grow as you talk with people every day, noticing their weak points and helping them magnify their good one. Also my love for you has grown along with my faith in you. As each week and month go by it gets stronger and stronger. I'm thankful for your devotion and the faithfulness you've shown in letter writing, etc.

That surely is too bad that Frosty has let alcohol take such a hold on him. I hope the AA will be able to do him some good.

As far as I and a job as branch president are concerned, I have no idea. I could give you a few ideas though. Lima has eleven branches: eight are now under leadership of new Peruvian branch presidencies. Outside of Lima, most of the branches are now in Peruvian hands. However, rumors have been going around that some more branches are going to be started and possibly Bolivia might be opened up. Bolivia has no missionaries yet; it belongs to the Andes Mission. When it is opened, they will need eight missionaries. The president said when we started the training course that it was to make us ready if we were ever needed. Frankly, though, the job of just being a missionary is a challenge. How or when I use the things I learned is only known to the Lord. Even if I don't use them during my mission I'll have the chance sometime during my life. It was a good experience.

Well, I'm really proud of you that you've been able to save enough money to pay for a car already. It doesn't seem possible but I guess it is. Hey, what's happened to your plans to go on a mission? You realize you have ten months before you turn twenty-one? I know you think you'll lose me if you go on a mission, but you shouldn't think that way. Another suggestion: instead of going to the Hill Cumorah Pageant you could meet me in Mexico City and we could have a small pre-mature honeymoon; or you could meet me in New York and we could go to the World's Fair and then back across the U.S. on a honeymoon ending up at the St. George Temple. Just a few ideas! The Hill Cumorah sounds like a nice trip also.

As far as you and I doing anything together, it wouldn't be approved of by a lot of people, but that's half the fun. I am going to be able to save out of my checks about \$100.00, so I'd have some money to travel with. The Church pays the trip back or gives the equivalent in money if other means of travel are employed than they usually furnish.

Thank you sincerely for all of your flowering comments, but I believe Susie was right. I'm just as human as the next guy and have probably just as many faults. You couldn't have seen many in the short time we were together, but they're there and if you build me up too much you'll be disappointed. They say love is blind so take the advice. I'm trying to overcome all of my weaknesses though, just in case you don't change your mind.

I'm glad I've given you the idea of what you want in a husband. I wish I could give that to everyone. There are so many that need it, but their lives are their own, so I guess I'll just try and live mine, and yours.

You know life is funny; you say if I turn out like my dad you'll be happy and he thinks just the opposite. In his last letter he said: "I find it easy to say to you that I recognize in you definite superiority – above and beyond me. You are going much further spiritually than have or will I because you are superior material. Don't attempt to dispel this notion, for I know of a truth it is true and sure."

Well, of course, getting things like this from dad and the things you just wrote kind of make a guy feel like he better get on the ball. Anyway, I'm sure givin' her my darndest.

Thank you for your outlook on the problems that might arise from being a gentleman. I had honestly never looked at it like that before and thinking on it I can see why the elders corrected me. Thanks a lot for the help. It will be valuable for further use and may have been the cause of my troubles or problems whatever you want to call them. I guess "little things mean a lot" especially down here where courtesy is almost unheard of. So from now on I'm not going to be a gentleman, but I'll probably have to be reminded a few times to get me back into the habit come the end of my mission.

Well, sweetheart, I can't think of what else to say except you know I don't play the guitar. I'll write next Friday. Until then, I love you sincerely, Lyman.

[There is a piece of paper here, one of the few pieces of Lucy's correspondence that has been preserved; Missing You, Jim Reeves, died 1964 in a plane crash. This song pre-recorded, was overdubbed and was released in 1966 – could have been our song.]

Missing you – can't help but wish that you
Were in my arms tonight making love to me
Kissing you – that's all I want to do
It never seems just right – now that we're apart

I always spend my time just writing lines to you
And wait for you to write, saying you love me too
Missing you – can't help but wish that you
Were in my arms tonight making love to me

LETTER 747 Kirk Cook Lyman, to Edward and Irene Lyman, August 12, 1963

Dear Grandma and Grandpa, I received your letter along with the second money order and surely wish to thank you for it. I'm sorry I didn't thank you for the first one and there is really no excuse but I'm behind on all my letters so you aren't being left out.

Things are going a lot better here now. We only have seven investigators while other elders and sisters have twenty and thirty but we will be baptizing one young 19-year-old girl Sunday afternoon in Lake Michigan and then Sunday evening a middle aged couple. We're really thrilled about all three of them, especially the young lady, as she has borne a lot of social pressure and taken a lot of ridicule from her friends.

Health wise I'm doing fine. My sinus is almost completely gone and my back is coming along fine. I finally came to the conclusion that every time I play softball I throw it out. Therefore, no more ball until it is healed and growing in place like it should be doing.

My companion backed into a 1961 Tempest this afternoon, so it's costing him about \$20.00 to get it fixed. It was his fault and happened too soon to give him enough warning on my part, so he is paying for it. I dread the day when it should be my turn to pay for car damage because I walked for a while last winter when our car was in the garage about being hit and although I know the missionaries walked until just a few years ago, I don't know if I could do it all the time.

Grandpa, remember when I asked you what the sacrifice in D & C 13 was, which was delivered by the sons of Levi? I don't recall if you ever answered but in cross referencing it we find that D & C 128:24 tells us that it will be the work for the dead. I was really surprised to learn how many of the members didn't know this, even the old time ones. Sure surprising how little we know at times.

I heard from Aunt Cretia a while back and she seems to be getting along fine. She hasn't lost her sense of wit as she gave me a few wonderful and true little sayings. She, along with a wonderful old lady here, has the most will power that I've ever seen any person possess. I surely hope that I can do as well in my old age, if I ever see it. In talking with one of the older members this evening, we decided that we didn't think the coming of Christ would be too far off. Personally I don't think it will be more than 40-50 years hence, but this is my own speculation and I'm surely not teaching this to members or investigators.

Glad to hear Gordon and Mark and doing so well. I've been thinking seriously about going through dental school when I get home. I'm also thinking about being an eye surgeon, if it isn't too long a road to hoe.

Must go, its 11:45. Thanks again, I surely do appreciate it. God Bless you. Eph. 3:14-19. Love to all, Elder Kirk.

LETTER 748a Elder Lyman De Platt, Bolognesi 508, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, August 15, 1963 [note on outside of envelope: I've been moved; will write later; send letter to other address.]

Dear Lucy, well I received your letter of the 8th several days after your last one and of course I was pleasantly surprised. I am again sorry that you had to wait so long for a letter. I hope it doesn't have to happen again. I want to have you love me and I reckon if I showed you too much more than you did me, our love would become lopsided. I want us to have a love that: suffers long, and is kind; envies not, vaunts not itself, is not puffed up, does not behave itself unseemly, is not easily provoked, thinks no evil, bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things, and is eternal. If we can start to develop that kind of love, we will have it in time.

I wish you luck on writing your life history. It is really neat to have one and fun to write. I just brought mine up to date with a summary of my last year's activities as a missionary. By the time you receive my letter I will be starting my second year in the service of our Father in Heaven as a missionary. The time will go much faster this next year as we're more or less accustomed to being away from each other. Then the time will gradually seem to go slower and slower until the last week or two will seem like ages. We have a lot to do before that time, though, so I guess we ought not to worry about the time except to make sure we use it wisely.

Don't worry about the slides. If there were just a couple bent, I'll take care of them later. I would like you to price the holders for that size though. If they are cheaper I could save myself a lot of money.

I'm glad you have been able to keep up your reading schedule. I am in Jeremiah in the Old Testament and Corinthians in the New Testament. I haven't been reading as much as I should lately. I've gotten back on my schedule though.

Sweetheart I can't express to you my pride in you and my feelings for you in words, but I hope you can feel it somewhat in my sincerity and faithfulness. I am trying to build it to the point of excellence so beautifully described in the words of Paul before-mentioned. If I can develop it though just a little during my mission, I will feel really a lot more prepared.

I hope you're enjoying yourself this summer. It sounds like you are havin' 'nuf fun for the both us. I have quite a lot of fun also. I believe I told you we went to "How the West was Won" in Cinerama. Man that was terrific; it only cost \$1.00 down here. I'd like to have you down after the mission for a while. That'd be the kicks. "Dreaming, I'm always dreaming." I could write all day, but I'd only spoil you. Anything, almost, is good if you don't get too much of it, so I believe you have had enough this trip. I'll answer you next letter the day I get it. That's the way I usually do it. So I'll see you in my dreams until ... loads of love, me.

LETTER 748b Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, to family, August 19, 1963

Dear family, well, one year ago today I started out on an assignment to be a missionary in Peru. Today – one year later, I've received another assignment of much importance in President Nicolaysen's eyes. He came over this morning and told me I was being changed. It came as quite a shock, as I had planned to be here until about the middle of November, when we have scheduled to make the branch president Peruvian. The president told me I was being moved to Tacna, the extreme opposite of Piura. It is the branch the farthest south in Peru, one-half hour from the Chilean Border. I'm going down as a junior companion. He said I could do my job better as a junior. The president said he wanted me to organize a scout troop down there, making it clear that such a step would be of tremendous aid to proselyting there. He wants me to do it up good so that we would have better success in that branch. Anyway, that's my assignment, and I hope I can do it up proper. The president thanked me for my help so far and said he put confidence in me.

This move, of course, brings up the cost of the trip. I'm going to have to write out a \$100.00 check. That will take care of the trip and my next month's expenses up to October 1. I only have a balance of \$35.00 in my check book. I hope you've put some in. You'll get the letter before the bank does the check though.

We had another baptism yesterday. So, we are still pulling them in. Callao ought to be about ready to burst wide open. The people are awakening to the importance of having something more than the Catholic Church.

Tacna has just had a baptizing streak of thirteen weeks. So you can see they are already doing well. I hope to make my branch stay in Tacna my best. You know, ever since I entered the mission home one year ago I've had the feeling that the most important part of my mission would take place in the South: Tacna and Arequipa, so I'm going with a determination to make this next year and a half filled with solid and loyal dedication to the work of the Lord.

By the way, I've just had \$3.00 work done to resole my shoes. I don't know if Grandpa Roy still wants to help or not. You might mention it, anyway as he wanted to know and I've had it done. Also, I've had my first years' experiences, etc., bound into one volume for \$3.00, so that's where a little bit more of the money went.

Well, I want to get this in the mail, so I'll close for now. I'll write this Friday; love, Lyman

LETTER 749 Allie Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Callao, Peru, August 19, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 346-348 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman tonight is a nice rainy, cool evening – very pleasant. The lights keep going out though and of course the guests don't particularly like that. The rain isn't hard so far, just nice and gentle, so that is the way we like it. We have had a nice lot of rain the past couple of weeks and it has made the area nice and green and fresh looking. It still is a beautiful area and I don't suppose we will ever see anything any prettier than these rocks and mountains. Too bad those other things aren't equal to the beauties of nature here.

It sounds like you are quite in agreement with the plans for Idaho. I thought maybe we would have something definite to tell you this time, but I guess things are shaping up as fast as we can expect. We had a letter from the realtor (son of the people who own the ranch) and they accepted Dad's offer of about \$3,000 down and the rest of the down payment (\$6,000) within a year, or when the motel is sold. We haven't as yet signed the agreement and sent back to them, but I suppose we will. Woodrow hadn't given us a definite answer yet, but will right soon. He was supposed to have a brother-in-law who is a real estate man come up today to look it over, and they were to decide. We also had a man who has recently moved to Rockville come and talk to Dad about it, as he was interested in his brother in California getting it; so maybe someday.

In the meantime Dad went to St. George the other day with the three boys and drove home a 1955 GMC two ton truck. It's a nice looking truck and they all figured they got a pretty good buy on it and that it would be just the thing to haul wood in up there (you know that's how they hope

to make a living until they can get started in cattle). Anyway he took it back today to talk with them some more about it, so when he returns and before I mail this letter tomorrow, I shall let you know what he did about it. They offered him \$390 on the Ford as a down payment.

Don't suppose I have reported on Bishop Hardy for a while. He seems to be getting along pretty well and he hopes to be home before too much longer. Dad hasn't even told him that we were probably going, as we didn't want to upset him while he was ill, but he will have to real soon, so I hope he soon comes home. We haven't talked to too many people yet about our leaving. Brother Kay Gifford broke down and cried when we were talking to him. Do you think we will ever stop making friends and leaving them? We surely don't feel as close to people here though as we have in other places, though there are some good people here to be sure.

Tonight Joe has gone to Hurricane with the Bruecks to the show. Ed rode over with two girls from Colorado City who have been working here all summer. They are nice girls (about 16 and 17) and have spent a lot of time with our family – in fact they would both like to move with us. This was Mary's last night here so they wanted to celebrate by doing something and they rented a car from Dick and went over to the show. Eddie worked with them all summer in the kitchen and they think he's pretty nice. You would be surprised how grown up he is. He is about keeping pace with Joe. Gene said he felt rather left out with everyone being asked to the show but him, but I told him his time would come. Dad stayed over in Hurricane to go to a meeting tonight, so he won't be back until late.

I just got through reading your letter about the show you saw "How the West was Won" and opened up the day's paper to a big colored picture of it, as it was showing in Salt Lake. Glad you enjoyed it and the book. You kids are all alike – outdoor men. You should see Joe. He is sporting a big hat and cowboy boots and Eddie has boots too. How are your feet and shoes coming? I'm so glad that you have been as well as you have been. The Lord has been good to all of us.

August 23, 1963, well, I didn't mean to leave this letter so long before finishing it, and getting it in the mail, but guess you wouldn't have gotten it anyway, if you are moving. We were quite surprised to hear of your transfer. I'm sure the president knows what he is doing, and feels you will be good for the area you are going to. I do hope that all will go well with you there and that you will be as happy as you have been where you are and were; really extremes. We will be anxious to hear more of your move after you are settled there.

I guess we are all making a move about the same time. I wish ours were as simple as yours. We will be going one day next week, so the next letter you get from us may be from Idaho. It will take us about four days to get there. Dad got the truck and Joe should have his car by then, and with the Chrysler and a couple of trailers we should make quite a caravan again. There are still a lot of loose ends – the motel isn't sold (Woody Wilson didn't even look at it or say any more after giving his word that he would give us something definite on two different days). There are still other prospects, but I would feel better about it if it were sold before we left. I guess things will work out though, and you can be sure you will hear from us again soon.

We have been bottling peaches, trying to pack and working many hours – I would like to go to sleep and wake up and find us all moved, but guess that isn't life, and it is not supposed to be that easy. We just have to live one day at a time though, so maybe we will make it.

I better not take too much time today. Don't worry about the money; we will plan to put \$100.00 in the bank the first of each month for your needs. We love you son and appreciate your attitude about your mission and responsibilities. Lucy came in last night and saw us for a little while. She said she had her car paid for and was getting along pretty well. She didn't like the idea of us moving so far away.

I think our new address will be RFD1, Sandpoint, Idaho; maybe you better send your next one there. With all our love, Mother.

LETTER 750 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, Casilla #275, to family, August 23, 1963

Dear family, I have been in Tacna several days now and already know most of the town. It is a small town (20,000 including all people who live around in the *chacra* or farming areas. The main part of town isn't very big. There are some nice buildings here, but much poverty. Most of the streets that aren't dirt are cobblestone. However, there are some paved streets in the main part of town. It is really quite different from Callao. The people are also very different. Here live mostly the Lamanites, with some mixtures of other nationalities. They are a slow thinking and ignorant people usually, but there is also the other type. Tacna has no rich areas.

The Tacna branch is the oldest one in the mission. Still it has no Peruvian branch president, nor more than 100 members. It was founded by *gringos* as they settled here before going to Toquepala (a mining town in the mountains). There are two branches in Toquepala. Chile is just about twenty miles from here with a branch in Arica, forty miles away. I have now been the length of Peru except for twenty miles between here and the border, which will be taken care of shortly. From Piura as far as Tacna and they say much farther, is all desert between the ocean and the mountains, except for where the rivers come down. The northern desert is flat, but from Lima south is hilly desert with many deep gorges. I stopped in Arequipa for ½ hour on the way down. It lies at 7,000 feet at the foot of an inactive, snow-capped volcano. It is very pretty but dry except for in the city itself (like Las Vegas) or areas like that. Arequipa has three branches and with the other four branches mentioned forms the Southern Peruvian District. Tacna is almost at sea level and is set in a valley surrounded with dry hills with snow capped mountains rising sharply into the sky only miles away. These snow capped Andes lie in Chile and Bolivia. Peru is very narrow down here. The weather is rather nippy right now, but once again I'm in for a blazing summer. It seldom rains and like any desert goes to extremes in heat and cold during the day and night. It is going to be fun though.

There are only four elders here: Pugmire (the branch president), from Oregon; Banford from California and my companion Johnston from Arizona. Tacna has had baptisms eighteen out of the last twenty weeks and is as you can see progressing nicely. We have one for next week and one more the week after. The people are poor, humble Indians and usually, if smart enough to understand, accept the gospel. My companion and I are working the farm area now; very

beautiful: big eucalyptus trees, corn fields, flowers – really interesting and enjoyable. I never dreamed of working in an area so beautiful yet so sad.

This southern area is the center of the *llama* business, and I can get souvenirs cheaply. They have really sharp hats for \$1.50 made of llama fur. Rugs are very beautiful for about ten to eighteen dollars. I'd like to get a few before I leave, because they're half price from what Lima is. Tacna is small and not much to do but work. We can hit a flick Friday, ride horses, go to Chile to the show, or stay in the branch. Other than that it's pretty dull. Your letters will be of much spiritual support.

I had my first year's missionary experiences bound in a really nice leather volume for \$3.00. I'm going to continue having them bound, as they will make very nice pieces (history, genealogy, etc).

There are no cute girls in Tacna, so I can be a devoted missionary. I think the president sensed in part my problem in Callao. They were pests. One has already written to me. Anyway, I'm ready and thankful to be able to be here to organize a scout troop. It will be a challenge but so rewarding.

I hope to hear more from you on the Idaho idea. I haven't gotten a letter lately.

Well, I'll close for this week. If you want to know something I don't tell you, let me know. Being in the middle of all of this, it's hard at times to tell everything; love as always, Lyman De.

LETTER 751a Elder Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Miss Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, August 24-26, 1963

Querida Lucita, ¿Cómo te vas? Gee it surely does seem like a long time, yet a short time, that I've been away from you. There have been a lot of things happened in my life during this last year. I am now on my fifth assignment and I sometimes wonder why I get changed so much. Anyway, looking at it from one standpoint, I've had the opportunity to see a lot of country. I've seen from the Peruvian border at Tumbes clear to here. We are only twenty miles from the border with Chile and will be going quite often into Chile to visit the Branch of Arica. I've seen Ecuador, Peru, Bolivia and Chile from the air. I'd like to go down to Santiago, Buenos Aires and Montevideo before I come home. It will probably be the only chance I get.

I have now been in Tacna almost one week. We are baptizing a man today and have some more coming along. Tacneños are really quite a sincere people. They accept the gospel fast. My new companion is Elder Johnston from Arizona. We get along fine and I expect we ought to really haul in the baptisms.

Tacna is a town of 20,000 more or less. The majority are Indians (pure Lamanites) so we really are helping fulfill prophecy here. There are only four elders here in Tacna but we have enough work for six. I'm sure glad to be here. The president came out last week and told me I was going south. He said he had a special assignment for me. My job is to organize a scout troop here in Tacna and train a scoutmaster to lead them. It is quite a responsibility and I'm happy for it.

We are working out in the farming areas now. It is really unusual and quite beautiful. I enjoy being out in the country again.

Tacna is surrounded by desert as was Piura and the summers are really hot ones, so it looks like I'll spend another hot summer. There isn't much to do here except work. There is one show house; we can't go only on Fridays. So we just content ourselves with work and study and various other essentials.

I'm sorry I haven't been very regular in my letter writing lately. It isn't because I love you less, but because I've been so busy. I suppose you're pretty busy too, aren't you; getting ready for school, working, dating, partying, etc. I hope you'll not forget your long-departed boyfriend down here. I'm beginning to wonder if I'm going to be ready for you before my mission is over. It is going by at an extremely rapid rate. This next year is going to be even better than the next. I can just see the progress the mission is making. One year ago they were baptizing forty people a month. This month we wanted seventy baptisms and we've got 130 so far in August. You can see the growth.

Well I want to get this letter to you so you won't go too long. I'll write more Friday. Be good and God bless you. I think you're a really swell girl and are going to make a good wife. Just remember "yo te amo ahora como si fuera mi novia," sinceramente, Elder L. D. Platt.

LETTER 751b Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, August 27, 1963

Dearest family, today early this morning I was hit with a bad headache and my companion also came down with stomach trouble, so we both slept all morning trying to shake whatever it was. I still have my headache. I believe it is being caused by my two lower wisdom teeth that have been coming in this week. It has made my mouth quite sore and it is hard to eat, but they are about healed over. They came in a little crooked and I sometimes bite myself, but I'll get used to it. It makes me mad that I'm sick, as it's the first time this year and I was hoping to go the rest of my mission without sickness, but I guess I was hoping too much.

It was really good to get a letter from you today and hear of your moving. It was a surprise though. I didn't know you were going to move so fast. It kind of tubes me out and makes me want to go home and help you move, but I know I can't, so I'll be content. I'll bet that four-day excursion or caravan was quite exciting. Darn, the more I think about it, the more I know I better not hope to hear from you shortly about how the trip was. I'll bet the big old two-ton truck holds a lot of furniture. It sounds like you got a good deal on the blue ford. How did the other two cars hold up? Did anyone ride the motor scooter? It sounds like you're going to have to make a go of it to be able to pay for the ranch. It would be sharp to get it paid for and then stay there. I hope everything goes all right for you on your selling of the motel.

What's going to be the deal on the bank account? Will you send me new blank checks or are you still going to go through Hurricane? I won't be writing any more checks until you let me know.

Now that you've moved, you may want more than ever these fur hats and warmers. They are cheap but ought to do the trick. Let me know in cash, check or money order. I'll be glad to get them if you want them. If not, okay.

You know, I'd kind of like to have a map of what that area looks like, some pictures, etc. I don't have a map here so I don't have the foggiest idea of what any part of the ranch looks like. I'll be expecting some pictures and a map in the near future! Okay? This idea of a tree farm sounds all right. It would be all right to be able to go into farming of trees on your own farm. If you need my money that's in Hamilton, take it. You will probably have some rough trouble getting another foothold, but it will be a strong one this time I believe. I would like to be there to help you get started. Knowing the potential in our family, a lot could happen in another year and a half. You could even be moved again – heaven forbid! Myself, I've quite enjoyed moving, but I suppose it has been rough on those that had the responsibility. It gives us a stronger unity in family and has helped build our testimonies quite a bit more. I don't believe I would like to have lived in one place.

I've been here one week now and we've already baptized one 25-year-old man. It was really a good start. I'm enjoying Tacna very much. It reminds me so much of Piura that it's unbelievable.

My mission is going too rapidly. I just try and keep up with it as I go, trying to progress and help others to do the same.

I would like to hear from all of the kids again before they enroll in school and let me know their impressions of this move. All these letters are going to be bound and will be of great value in later years, so please all of you write! I know you have that much time. You too Dad. It's been over a month again and I miss your counsel and advice. Mother, your letters are always so welcome and encouraging. Thank you. Until next week good luck and God bless you Idahoans, love always, L.D.

LETTER 752 Allie Lyman Platt to her parents Edward and Irene Lyman, from Route #2, Sandpoint, Idaho, September 2, 1963

Dearest family, Lyman's new address is Casilla #275, Tacna, Peru. I'll send his letters later. Since I can't find my carbon paper yet, maybe I can get the folks to send this on to Rene and Art. I'll write A.P. a little letter.

Well, as you can see we are starting on another venture clear up here in Idaho. I didn't see any of you very often while we were there in Springdale, but for some reason I feel pretty lonesome for you all just thinking of being up here so far away from you all. Guess I will get used to it though.

If you want a really interesting experience sometime, just load up all your belongings and try pulling them behind you for eleven hundred miles over lots of mountain ranges. Guess it was nothing compared to handcart days, but I wondered at times if we would ever make it. We had our share of problems, but nothing we didn't overcome, and things seemed to happen at quite opportune places, so we figured we were blessed and protected and were really happy to be at the end of this journey.

We came through some beautiful country, and this area at Sandpoint is very beautiful. I hope someday you can all see it, but don't suppose you will ever get up this way, nor can I blame any of you for not even thinking of coming here.

Joe didn't get the car he was going to get to come up here and I was very glad he didn't, as this way he was able to drive most of the way, with me only spelling him off when he was tired. We missed Lyman on this move but were surprised how well Joe took his place. He and Eddie are growing up so fast. They and Gene will be of much worth to their Dad here on this place.

We didn't get our motel sold, though there were several people who wanted it. I hope that soon we will get things settled there, and then I will feel better about this move. We have it leased to Val Edgel and family. He knows A.P. and Dad and Mother.

We are about nine miles out of town here. The kids started school this morning, and the bus comes within a block of our house – just up the lane from our place. It reminds me somewhat of the Lehi farm the way it is situated out of town and off the highway. The house also reminds me some of Lehi, though I think it is a better home, and I think we can be quite comfortable here.

There are two bedrooms upstairs and one downstairs (ground floor – no basement), a nice big kitchen, dining room, living room, bath and big back porch. It is heated with wood and they left both cook and heating stoves with the house. Lots of wood around, so we should have no problem keeping warm this winter. We can see our nearest neighbors on either side of us several blocks away. We shall take some pictures of the place and surroundings and send to you so you can see where we are. Lyman is anxious to see what it looks like too. King was curious to know what was going on. Before we left he seemed quite anxious about getting left. This should be a good country for him, and he won't have the restrictions he had at the motel. I'll be glad to have him here with us.

We're glad Rene and Art got to go to their convention. Sounded like a good trip and can imagine how they enjoyed it. Do hope that everyone at home is well. I'll try to write often and will look forward to hearing from you all; lots of love to all, Allie.

LETTER 753 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, September 2, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 350-352 {PFRC Book 11}]

Sandpoint, Idaho, September 2, 1963, Dearest Lyman, Well, eleven hundred miles and four days later, here we are starting on another new venture. What a welcome surprise to have the mailman come driving up with your letter just a few hours after we arrived. I told you the wrong address, but I stopped in Sandpoint and told them we would like delivery and gave them our name, so they found us anyway. As you will see from the top of the letter, it is Rt. #2.

It was quite an experience getting here, so many miles pulling all our belongings over so many mountains. We had our share of problems along the way and I wondered at times if we would ever make it, but the Lord was good to us and heard our prayers and guided us here safely. We really missed having you along, and thought so many times of it being our first move without you. You would be surprised and happy to see how well Joe took over though. He had planned to buy that car of Don Dennett's, but they didn't get it quite ready, so he couldn't bring it. I was very happy that it turned out that way, as I would have had to drive all the way and so would he, and there would have been that one more vehicle to have trouble with. As it was Dad drove the truck all the way and Joe drove the other one the biggest part of the time with me only spelling him off when he was tired.

Dad drove the truck and pulled the red trailer behind him with the Honda tied behind the trailer. Before we got to Hurricane though the Honda fell off the trailer and dragged on the handle bar, breaking it partly and tearing the seat. We all felt sick about it, but were glad it was no worse, as it could easily have been ruined completely. Joe and I were in the Chrysler we got from Rudy Lueck and were pulling the little trailer Dad got from Roy, loaded quite heavily with all his tools, nuts, bolts, etc. It pulled pretty heavy and blew a tire before we got to Cedar. After we finally waited for Dad to go into Cedar and get a tire and change it we went on into Cedar, then the power failed on the big truck, and we felt we were destined to stay there, which we did for the night. Early the next morning Dad got a mechanic to work on the truck, he put a new generator, spark plugs, etc. in it, and we started on our way again, hoping to make better time and miles.

We went out into Nevada and up through that long, hot state. Both vehicles heated up quite a bit on the grades because of the loads they were pulling, and that was a constant concern. Then just before we got to Ely on a long hard pull, the Chrysler gave up and we had to tow it into Ely. We knew Bill Walker lived there (we knew them in Wymount) and was in the garage business, so we looked him up. He and a fellow church member looked over the situation and decided the transmission on the Chrysler had gone, so what could we do but trade it in on something that would get us the rest of the way. They gave us \$300 on the Chrysler and \$225 on the Honda and we got a 1960 ¾ ton GMC pickup. We hated to do it as we are burdened too heavily already, but couldn't do much else. We should never have tried to pull the trailer with the Chrysler and I think we would have been all right. Of course this all took time, and we just pulled out a ways from Ely and camped on the desert under the stars.

The rest of the trip was less eventful (thank goodness). We had to license both trailers and had to have them wired for lights, etc., so it all took extra time. One more flat and that was about all; no, we lost a fan belt on the truck. But everything happened in quite opportune places, so we felt we were really being blessed, and were more than happy to drive into Sandpoint Saturday morning. We came through some beautiful country and camped each night. One night three of the boys came down with stomach flu and were quite miserable for a while. Of course King was along with us and was wondering all the way what was going on and was glad with the rest of us to be at the end of our journey.

This is beautiful country, and we have said a dozen times, we wished you were here with us for just a little while so you could see it. We have been really busy unpacking, unloading, straightening and cleaning up, but today we took time off and all got on the tractor and Dad took us up all around the property. It is a beautiful piece and has good possibilities, though I'm sure it will take a few years to get started. We shall take a roll of pictures and send you, so you can see what it all looks like.

We left Springdale with things pretty unsettled and would like to have done otherwise, but are hoping and praying that things will work out okay for us there. The last day we were there Dad had three parties there all at once that wanted the place, but so far it isn't sold and we have leased it to Val Edgel and his wife with an option to buy it. Tomorrow we go into town here to talk with the Streckers and get things all settled here. Don't think I will try and describe the entire place this time. I'll leave that until next letter.

Tuesday morning: The kids all start to school this morning, so they should have something interesting to tell you, and I'll try and see that you get letters from each of them.

Sorry you were down for a day, but hope it was nothing serious and that you are okay again. You have been really fortunate to be as well as you have been. Also hope the wisdom teeth aren't giving you any more trouble. You may have to have them out. The bank account we shall leave as is for the time being. I think it would be just as well to continue with Hurricane. So if we change, we shall let you know. You asked about fur hats and warmers. Don't do anything for now, maybe later. The way I feel after packing, moving and unpacking all our things, I don't want another item around the house.

Glad you have made the move all right down there and have a good start in Tacna. Hope you will enjoy it a lot and will be able to carry on your good works there. Is it warmer than in Callao? It's going to get cold here pretty soon I imagine. The mornings are chilly now. We have a wood fire going and that is always cozy. The house is heated with a kitchen stove and a wood heater in the living room. Plenty of wood around, so we should be able to keep warm this winter.

I'd better quit for this time. I have to get a number of things off on the mail today in order to take care of some loose ends left dangling. We love you son and miss you very much, love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 754a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, September 6, 1963

Dear Lucy, I hope you won't have forgotten me completely since I last wrote you, but ever since I got to Tacna I've been in bed except for the first three days. Something hit me all of a sudden and just really laid me out. I've finally recovered sufficiently to be able to do a little work, but still I am not up to par. I've been hoping for a letter from you seeing as I've written two, this one the third, since I heard from you over three weeks ago. I may be jumping the gun again, but you've have my Tacna address for over two weeks.

You're the sweetest girl I know but if you don't have a good reason for not writing, I've got more to do in the mission field than to write. I realize you're a busy girl also, but I'd appreciate a letter every two weeks at least.

Mother wrote me just before they moved and said you'd been over. I suppose it was quite a shock to hear they were moving. I didn't know myself they were going so soon and still don't know if they made it or not as I've not heard from them for quite some time either. I kind of hope to receive letters from those I love, regularly, especially during this period of sickness and it's quite a disappointment not to. Well, enough of that. I'll probably get a letter tomorrow explaining everything and make me feel like a heal for saying anything.

I don't want you to think my family's moving will have anything to do with our plans for the future. I still love you as much as I ever did and even though the move will make it hard to see you every night, there are ways to arrange that (in any twelve spots in the world). I still look at your pictures and feel I've not made a better choice in my life. However, this all doesn't depend on me. I don't have any idea how you feel about the situation, but I'm sure – pretty sure – it's the same as mine. I wish you'd clue me in on how things are going up that way. I have every

intention of marrying you soon after my mission.... They say true love doesn't doubt, so I guess my love isn't true (yet) but 8,000 miles and three weeks has tried it hard.

I'm really enjoying my work here in Tacna very much. The time goes by so rapidly that almost it seems to never exist. I'm on a basketball team here who is going to be playing the Harlem Stars (New York) on the 28th of September so it really ought to be interesting.

I'd sure like to hear if you're going to school or not. You ought to be in now if you're going I suppose. I hope you do all right. What do you expect to be taking? Have you any more plans for a mission? What's on the schedule for the next year and a half? My future plans are awaiting yours. If you go on a mission I'll get my military obligation out of the way. If you'd rather get married I suppose I'll start my career in forestry somewhere in forestry school. The move dad made will really be a good one as far as I'm concerned. I'll have my back yard as my lab.

Well sweetheart I suppose I'll call it off for this letter. I'll be expecting an answer shortly. Until then, remember what I've said, as always, Lyman De.

LETTER 754b Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, September 6, 1963

Dear family, I'll just drop you a short one this time, as I haven't heard from you and don't have much to talk about. I've been sick for the last ten days and haven't gotten much done. The terrific change in climate gave me a bad chest cold. I'm feeling pretty good now, though, and hope to really be a go-get-'em from now on.

Tacna has been quite a different experience so far, and we hope to really have a lot of baptism prospects in the near future. The mission is changing a lot. My supervising elder said President Nicolaysen sent me down here to help him shape up the Tacna branch as they lacked the desire I had. That made me feel really good and has even given me added incentive to get in there and plug away. It's good to be thought highly of.

My scouting program is starting to get under way. Because of a bunch of South American policies on the organization of anything, it's going to be hard to get a charter within four months, but we'll get the boys organized anyway. I just finished the last of my World Brotherhood merit badge requirements and will be sending it home shortly. Dad, or Joe, Ed or Gene: I'd appreciate it if you'd get me enrolled as a scout again. My time expired in February. I'll need it to get my merit badge. Also, I'd like one of you to type me up the requirements on any badge that is mostly paper work and research or one that has some out-of-doors requirements. I'll be working with the scouts and would hate to waste time. So if you'd do that I'd appreciate it.

I hope this all finds you well and happy. As I don't know anything of the move, I'm anxiously awaiting news of it. I'll write another letter when I get yours. Until then, I'll wish you luck in your new endeavor and sign off; love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 755 McKay Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, September 5, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 344 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, It's time to write again. Dad got a lumber mill job. I got a new lunch pail its red, black, and white. I got a Smokey bear kit, and two different kinds of stamps in it, and two from my friends. I built a hut in a bush. We have had two parties in the barn already. We have been here a month now we got Thursday and Friday off from school. Roberta's school is moving to another school. I know you don't have very much time but could you write me a letter? With love, McKay Platt.

LETTER 756 McKay Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, September 7, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 354 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, I kept the letter that you gave me. We got a cord of wood today. We got here Saturday. We didn't go to Church. There are six rooms in the house. A man gave us two trucks full of wood. We just got one load in the wood shack. Then he gave us another. We went to the top of our property in the tractor. We got a great big barn. With love, McKay.

LETTER 757 Gordon Leavitt Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, September 5, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 356-360 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Son Lyman, It has been just a week since we arrived here and I suppose you could say we are settled and ready for farm/ranch life. Gordie is standing here after getting out of the tub, he hasn't a stitch on, and he's asking daddy for a pencil to write to Lyman in Poo.

I thought for awhile that I might be going to teach school this winter, but that hasn't panned out, so I'll cut birch logs (fireplace logs) for a while. Spokane, Washington is just sixty-five miles away. Mother and I went down the day before yesterday to look it over. It is an older town but seems to be modern in many ways. There are about 200,000 people there, so a lot is going on.

We are quite concerned that the motel sells, for if we are able to get our money from it, we can make the remaining \$6,000 down payment and not be in too excruciating a situation. We feel the Lord is and has been with us continuously in this move. We just had to leave Springdale as things were getting so involved and mother was working her head off. It was good for all of us to leave. I didn't get to speak to Lucy before I left, but mother had some good communication with her. She's a wonderful girl and you could certainly do a lot worse. However, 1½ years is a long time and we best let time dictate circumstances.

We appreciate your attitude regarding money matters, but feel that you shouldn't run your finances too closely. Let us know when you need more than the usual.

We appreciate your dedication also to your mission and hope to see you return a wiser, better and more fluent gospel advocate. Keep working hard, and we'll do so on this end. We'll try to cheer your days with an occasional letter, though I'm sure there isn't too much meat in my letters.

We are milking one cow of four that we have the option to buy that George Strecker left on the place. They can be had for \$150.00 apiece. Two will calve in November and two in January. There is excellent opportunity for a wonderful beef set up here, and if the Lord be willing, we'll put it to use that way.

There are sixty to seventy acres of good grass. There is a tremendous possibility for tree harvest in ten to fifteen years from now. All this I expect to interest you in, when we can sit down together and figure it out.

It will be some one to two years before we can make the place pay its way, as we are at the present time in the U.S. soil bank (just a few acres – 44) and will be for five more years. Even though it pays us \$678.00 per year for doing nothing, yet we would like to get started doing something. I feel that right now it could handle 100 head of stock and do real nicely.

We have \$11,500.00 equity in Canyon Motel that we'd love to get our hands on. If we were able to do so, we could pay our down payment and have the rest of our debts cleared up.

Live so the Lord will bless you richly. I'll attempt the same and will teach each of these here to work towards that same goal. God bless you son, your loving Dad.

LETTER 758 Gene Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 362 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, Lyman hurry up and finish your mission so you [can] come home and help us on the ranch. This ranch (Bonnet Meadows) is named after a little hill on the property called Bonnet Top and the other part of the name comes from Grandpa Platt's Mountain Meadows Ranch. We really, really need you here big brother and we really miss you. Today we went out in the woods and cut ten or fifteen birch poles. I'm sure this is just the type of place you would like to live. I sure wish you were here right now. Sandpoint is a lovely town. One out of every nine people is Mormon. With lots of love, Gene.

LETTER 759 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru to Edward Partridge Lyman and Irene Perkins Lyman, Blanding, Utah, September 7, 1963

Dear grandparents, I guess if it wasn't for the letters mother sends, you wouldn't know anything about me. I appreciate the letters you send anyway and also for everything else you've done for me during my life time.

The first year of my mission has passed very rapidly and I'm afraid I'm going to be home before I want to. I've been in five different locations and had the chance to meet a lot of good elders and many good people. The mission is really progressing rapidly and so far this year we've baptized over 1,100 people; mostly Lamanites. Our goal is 1,800 and it looks like we'll probably make it.

I love missionary work as it is so rewarding and helps so many people to find themselves and what they want in life. I'm grateful to all of you who have made it possible to put me on a mission. I'll always be indebted to you.

I suppose you've already been told by my mother that they have moved to Northern Idaho. It was quite a surprise to me as I'm sure it was to you. I guess they never will settle down. We learn a lot in moving, though. The family is a close family and a well-respected one wherever we go. For that I'm very thankful.

You're probably waiting for me to ask you how your life history is coming along, so I will. I hope you just about have it finished. I will be anxious to read it when I get home and if you will give it to me, I'll make sure it is re-copied and distributed among the family. When you write to the folks or me will you mention it so I'll know how it's coming? I'd appreciate it very much.

How is everything down Blanding way? Are you getting into winter or not? How are all the relatives? Is the Church growing rapidly in Blanding or getting any changes of interest to me?

I don't suppose I'll hear from too many relatives so how's Aunt Cretia and Uncle Albert and Aunt Gladys? Send them my love.

I've changed quite a bit during the last year physically, mentally, and spiritually. I've gained thirty-five pounds, started shaving and feel good. Mentally, I've learned a lot psychologically about people, learned the Spanish language, a new way of living and seen life as it really is. Spiritually, I've read a lot and gotten a better understanding of the gospel. Right now I'm on assignment from the president to try and give this branch a little life. Also, I'm trying to get a scout troop organized. The Lord has been really good to me and blessed me beyond my worthiness.

Well, it's been talking to you. I hope to hear from you in the near future and hope this letter finds you in good health physically and spiritually. I'm happy to be your grandson and proud of the heritage you've given me. It is really easier to be good when you have good examples to follow. God bless you both, lovingly your son, Elder Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 760a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Miss Lucy Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, September 10, 1963

Dearest Lucy, I hope you'll excuse the paper I'm using. I'm sort of low on funds right now and haven't had the opportunity to buy any. As you could probably tell by my last letter I was a little ticked off at you for not writing. I'm not now that I received your letter but I promise you I will be if I have to wait three weeks again. It's hard after that much time to sit down and say something nice; it really is. Too many things can go through your head of what might be happening and even to the point of thinking you don't love someone you really do. I can say that because I've had the same feelings when my folks don't write and I know I love them. So, just quit giving me the opportunities to think things like that.

My family's moving from Springdale was done only after much prayer on the subject. The whole family could feel, even I down here, that the town was taking a bad hold on the family. We are a close family and want to stay that way throughout the eternities so we all felt it best to leave. My dad told me once sometime before I left that he didn't feel the environment was fitting to raise the kind of family he was trying to raise. I felt then that once again the family would be on the move before too long. You know, I'm sure, when I talk of the town spirit in general, that we know what we are talking about.

Honey, you ask me for my opinion on what you should do. Seeing as how our lives will probably be spent together I guess I might as well let you know exactly how I feel. I've given a lot of thought and prayer to what I'm going to say, so it isn't just a passing idea. I want to also be frank, so please accept my suggestions in the spirit they'll be given.

I'll get off my mission in February of 1965 and will only be twenty-one and a half. I won't have a cent to my name; nor any college to speak of; nor my Army obligations out of the way. In other words I won't be ready to be married. I don't intend to get all that out of the way first, either, but part of it will be necessary. You will be twenty-one and a half and be ready probably in all ways for marriage. However, if you stay in St. George, as you expressed in your letter, you're not going to be spiritually equal to the progress I will probably make during my mission. So here is my suggestion as far as you're concerned. It will in my opinion be best for both of us. Go to school this year in St. George, Tucson, Provo; wherever you feel is best. Be really active in Church; don't take too heavy of a study course in school as you'll be working and saving money for a mission. By the time June rolls to an end you will have taken some good courses that will make you a better mother, will have become better schooled in the scriptures and Church procedures by following your reading schedule; and will have accumulated enough money to see you through most of your mission.

If you get everything regulated now you'll be able to leave on your mission almost exactly one year from now. I will be home six months later, leaving you either one year or one and a half years in the mission field. That will also leave me that much time to prepare for when you finish. I'll get home in February and go right to work, working until June at which time I will go to summer school, working all the time I will be saving a little on the side. Going from summer school into regular school I'll finish at least ½ of a year and probably a full year before you get home in February of 1966 or September of 1966. That would give me two years of schooling plus I would be in a better financial position to get married. You would have your feet set firmly and with your missionary training and wisdom acquired there would be able to raise our children

the proper way. Without a mission though I frankly don't feel you could give them all I would like my children to have.

By then we will both be over twenty-three and ready in every way for marriage. As far I or anyone else is concerned, that would be no problem. If I make up my mind that you are the girl for me, nothing will change it. Besides my ideas of girls has changed a lot in the last year. You'd be surprised the things I've learned about females during my year down here. Even not dating them I still have more actual contact with more types than is imaginable. So don't let that part of this plan change your ideas any on what you'll do. I'm not the type to be unfaithful behind someone's back.

Well, that's how I feel about the situation I find us in. I would sincerely appreciate your ideas, corrections and suggestions on the next few years' activities. What you do has a big influence on what I do, so be prayerful about it; ask your bishop, your dad; whoever you want to help you. I'm sure light might be added to the subject. As far as to whom you can go to, to rely on for strength: active Church participation will do it, and I might be able to help. You know my prayers are with you in helping you to decide what's best. Everything I've said has been done with both of us and our future family in mind. Now that I've finished may I just say I think you're wonderful.

Many times I lay awake in my bed to let sleep overcome me and my mind drifts back to the wonderful times we had together: at Bryce, at Veyo, riding in the Park, singing together, listening to the radio, laying on the lawn looking at the stars, or hiking up some mountain path. These things and the way you behaved yourself under all these situations, the love you shared in your eyes for me and for the good things of life, your natural beauty, give me feelings of pride, love, a desire to be with you again and a feeling of despair almost to know I can't. Still I feel wonderful in the knowledge that these same things have been augmented even more in just a short time apart. Meanwhile I try to make myself a useful tool in the hands of the Lord and a good example for anyone who may need one. With these and other secret feelings I usually drift off into the land of dreams where ever greater things await me, knowing that all my dreams can come true if I have the desire to fulfill them. So, Lucy, if you ever feel despair or out of it, just sit down and drop me a line. I love to cheer people up.

Now, as far as my personal self goes, I'm feeling great right now. I've still not recovered completely from my sickness, but I feel a lot better and we've been working a lot lately.

I finished reading the Old and New Testaments this week to complete my standard works this year. I'm still going to re-read the New Testament, Book of Mormon and Pearl of Great Price before the end of the year, though, along with *The Articles of Faith* and *Jesus the Christ*. It's a lot of reading but it's worth it. I'm enjoying my mission very much and am proud to be progressing as well as I am. The Lord has been good to me.

My family arrived okay at Sandpoint. They had to buy another truck in Ely in exchange for the Honda and the car but they made it without accident. All the kids are in school now and they seem to be happy.

Well, sweetheart, keep the chin up. I still love you and know you're a swell gal. I hope the letter helped a little. I'll write shortly. God bless you, love always, Lyman De

LETTER 760b Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family Sandpoint, Idaho, September 13, 1963

Dearest family, Once again I get a chance to write you and tell you of the happenings of the week. I received Dad's Gene's and McKay's letters this morning on the plane, so we'll get clicking with a fast reply.

Every elder in Tacna and Arica has been sick on and off during the last two weeks. It has been raining the last three days, so I've had a chance to use my raincoat finally. I've had quite a bad cough and cold, but it's not bad enough to keep me in bed anymore. The rains have been bad here this year.

In my reading schedule for the year, I just completed reading the standard works. I've also read five other Church books.

Dad, I enjoyed very much your letter explaining a little bit about the ranch and country round about. I didn't imagine we were so close to the Washington border in Sandpoint, but I guess the Idaho panhandle isn't very wide is it? How far are we from the Canadian border? I am very impressed with the idea of getting in on this forestry part of the setup there. My interests, I believe, would tend more to silviculture than the raising of beef; although studying of conservation would bring me in contact a lot with the number of cattle a certain area could handle. I got a touch of that at the Y and it impressed me as being something quite interesting and possibly worth following up. The more I think on my profession and especially since you've got this setup, I've been inclined to think more toward one of the fields in forestry as a career. There are many, all of which would probably be of some use in the farm/ranch life there. Is Bonnet Meadows the official name of the ranch now? Your long range planning seems to indicate a permanency there at the ranch. Do you all feel that maybe we've moved for the last time for awhile or how's the family opinion? It concerns me, of course, because knowing our past I wonder at times if I'll even get to see the ranch before you move again. Do you have any reassuring words on that for me? I realize that as I look into the future you (Dad and Mom) are going to be getting up there in years in another 10-15-20 years and aren't going to want much more moving. Do you feel the Church is strong enough in Sandpoint to give the family the challenge it needs? And is the situation financially such that a decade of good work would leave you in a good position? Just curious; would like to know.

Being so far away from all the goings on up there, I don't really know how to form any concrete ideas except on what I'm told, so I hope you'll keep me well informed. Of course I'm interested in all of your personal welfare.

Gene, I appreciated very much your letter. It really sounds like you're having a good time and even miss me a little. You just make up for my absence by being a good brother and treating everyone like you know I want you to. I miss all of you a whole bunch but the time is passing so

doggone fast that I won't be able to say that much longer. You realize it's been five years since we left for California and that I've been gone from home thirteen months already. Why with only seventeen left, I don't think you'll even be able to make Eagle Scout if you don't hurry. It appears to me you boys are going to be some old logger men like Paul Bunyon if you cut down too many trees. Just remember to plant a few when you cut the others down. I'd sure like to be there with all of you, but I'm having the time of my life down here preaching and learning the gospel. It really is a tremendous experience.

It isn't all hard work either. Last night my companion and I went to a really good cowboy show. Also, I'm playing basketball (with permission from the supervising elders) on the number one team of thirty teams here in Tacna. It is a lot of fun and gives good publicity to the Church. On the 24th of September we are playing the Harlem All Stars from New York, who are making a tour of South American towns. Fun, huh?

McKay, ya hear, it sure has been a long time since I last heard from you. To be exact you wrote me on July 8th and this letter on September 7th. Two months is quite a long time. Man, just keep on the ball, and write me more. I really did enjoy your letter and hope you do okay in school. Have fun on the ranch.

Mother, I missed hearing from you. Next week I'll be waiting. I appreciate the letters very much. I'm looking forward to the pictures of the ranch and the family. It's been since February already. Also, I'd sure appreciate a map of that area, if you could send me one. Just cut it out of a Conoco or Phillip 66 highway map, okay?

Well, I'll close for this week leaving you my love and prayers. I hope the financial situation gets resolved okay. I wrote out a \$90.00 check for October payments and a little living money for the rest of September. My move took a few extra bills I didn't expect. I believe I'll be able to cut down next month on the check for November. Study hard all of you and write me soon. I love you all and miss you. Siempre tu hermano e hijo, Elder L. D. Platt.

LETTER 761 Roberta Platt, Rt. 2, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, September 13, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 368-369 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, I'm very sorry that I haven't written you sooner. One night when mother went to empty the trash after dinner she heard a funny noise. She came back in the house and told us what she heard. The kids said that it was most likely a deer. The next night mother went to empty some more trash and heard a cry like a person saying cow. The next day mother heard it was a deer. Wednesday night King came and got in bed with me. And I guess he slept with me all night because in the morning he was still there. I'm enjoying school very much and think a lot of my teachers. We are being taught in a building that was to be closed down twenty-five years ago; the name of it is the Farmin School. They are building a new Farmin School and will be ready to move into it in two weeks. Well it is getting late so I guess I had better get up to bed. Your sister, Roberta Platt. P. S. I'm sorry I didn't write sooner. P.S.S. Good night.

LETTER 762 Joseph Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, September, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 370 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, not much to tell you except: school: this year I really got the shackles on my schedules:

School: English III, U.S. History, Geometry, Chemistry and Biology. I'm doing okay for having so many solids, but I'm still not sluffing through like I did at Hurricane.

I guess the hardest class is chemistry. The teacher must be a nephew of Stalin or something. We had a test yesterday in chemistry and I believe I just hit a new low on the high school intelligence rating bureau. All the teachers have a lot on the ball though and I'm thinking that if I can hold up, I'll do alright. All the kids here are very serious minded (while in class) and there is a little problem of having the urge to goof off. Also, if anyone is caught or even suspected of cheating, they are kicked out of school. The athletics department is really good here. The football team hasn't lost any games yet. I might try out for basketball, if my studies let up a little, but otherwise, I'll just have to buckle down and be a brain. I have homework in every subject, every night, which leaves little time for anything else.

Church: the ward here in Sandpoint is really active. They have a really good youth missionary program. All the people in the ward are very friendly.

Home: Every night when we get home from school we cut wood or clean the plow up. We get \$20.00 a cord (4x4x8) for firewood in Spokane. We cut the wood up with a chain saw and load it in four foot lengths. Dad takes mom and Gordie and goes to Spokane when we get a load cut (it usually takes 2-3 days). Yesterday we tore an old building down on the place and burned it. We are always improving the place and trying to get ready for beef. Everyday we see wild animals. On the way home from mutual we saw three deer in the meadow. One night I went to get the cows for Dad and I saw two beautiful, elegant, poised, graceful skunks. The garden which Streckers left us has really been a boon and a life saver. The Dodgers will play the Yanks in the World Series. Well keep preaching reverend. Love always, Joe.

LETTER 763 Allie Lyman Platt, Rt. #2, Sandpoint, Idaho to her siblings, parents and son, September 15, 1963

Dearest family, It's time I wrote and told you a little more of our setup here. It was so good to get your letters Mother. I've been pretty homesick since being up here – guess it's just the thoughts of being so far away from all of you. Can't help but think how Lyman must feel clear down in Peru. Course he knows it's only temporary there and I don't think he has been too homesick. I finally got his letters copied and am sending copies to you. His time is going fast. I was really happy to hear that Kirk is feeling better than he has been. I pray always that his health will permit him to enjoy his mission. Would like to have been to Gordon Dee's return program and heard his talk about his mission. Hope he gets along all right with his job and schooling – also Mark in school.

Mother, I know we kinda rushed things the last few weeks before we left Utah. I didn't want you to have to worry you about our moving until we were safely here, and we did want to get here for school, once we made up our minds to move. Would love to have had a visit with you before we left, but I'm afraid we wouldn't have had much of a chance to visit in Springdale. Our time was pretty hectic there before we left, as I was working right up to the last day almost and that meant I was busy and on call all day long, so just as well you weren't there. It is quite a relief to be away from such business. Of course I'm busy here but in a different way and I hope that things are such that I can stay at home and take care of my family as I should.

I did appreciate all the news of the folks there, but won't comment on each item now. You asked if we got peaches bottled before leaving Springdale. Our peaches were mostly frozen this year but there were some, and I did get sixty quarts bottled before leaving. We don't have any on this place, so was glad to get them up. I think they grow not too far away though, so we can get them when we need them. I had lots left from last year too. Sorry you had to pay so much for them there. Since getting here I have bottled applesauce (off this place) pickles and frozen quite a lot of corn. They left a really nice garden which we have enjoyed tremendously. We have had all the fresh corn we wanted and it has been a treat, as this is the first time in several years we have had much. There are lots of potatoes, carrots, beets, cucumbers, cabbage, so I'm sure we will eat this winter (deer in our back yard too) and we have plenty of bottled fruit, as well as a sack of beans and rice. I also made a lot of soap last week. The man here butchered a beef just after we came and offered to give me the fat (all ground up) so I decided I had better make some soap. It turned out really pretty and will help with the washing, etc. Joe thought it was really primitive, to have home made soap.

Our trip up here took us four days (the time we planned on taking when we left). We had a few things go wrong, but most everything happened at quite an opportune place, and we were able to get things taken care of without too much delay. We camped out each night, and the kids enjoyed that, as we haven't done any of it for quite some time. And of course it was a lot cheaper than motel rooms. I was glad that Joe's car wasn't ready to bring with us, as it would have been that much more expensive and would mean he would have driven all the way and I would have too – this way at least he and I could trade off. Gordon drove the truck all the way. He bought a two-ton truck to move us in then he pulled a little trailer and we pulled one behind us. It was a worry

coming so far and over so many mountain passes, and we were awfully relieved to reach here and thankful for our safe journey. The kids got a stomach flu one night and were pretty miserable for the last day (three of them at least), but no car sickness, which helped.

Our motel isn't sold yet but is just leased to some people, though we do have it listed and have two really good prospects, so we are hoping that it is sold before the month is over. It would relieve our situation a lot to have that off our minds. We won't be able to give too much on this place until we sell the motel, but have a year to make the rest of our down payment here. It is costing us \$28,000.

This place here consists of 480 acres, seventy acres cleared and in pasture and the rest in timber. Gordon took us all on the tractor up around the property and it is a beautiful piece – the timber consists of a number of kinds of trees, all very pretty. We are not allowed to cut any (except for our own use) except the birch for now until half the price of it is paid. The reason – it is not matured a lot of it and they don't want it harvested until it is. We can cut all the birch or dead wood we want though, and Gordon has taken one load of birch in four foot lengths into Spokane (sixty-five miles away) and sold it. It is very good fire wood and he gets \$20.00 a cord for it. He has commented a number of times how he would love to take a big load of these down to Blanding to you for corrals there (the tamarack or jack pine – big long, beautiful poles). He loves it here and is really thrilled with the place. The kids like it too and have shown quite a willingness to pitch in and work. They have good schools here and they go to four different ones, Gene and Ed being the only ones in the same school. The bus comes here by our place to pick them up. We are situated a little like our Lehi place was, but the area reminds us of the area in Washington where Almon and LaRee lived. Our next door neighbor (two or three blocks away) brought us two big truck loads of mill ends from where he works. They are nice uniform two-by-four pieces two feet long and just fit the heater here. It is mostly white pine and fir and looks too good to burn, but we thought it was really nice of him. They have it all stacked into a good wood shed here by the house and so we are all set for our winter's supply of fuel, as the man here left a lot also. The place has a good kitchen stove to cook and heat with and a good heater for the rest of the house, so we will keep plenty warm this winter.

The ward here is about 700 members – probably due for a division before too long. We are very pleased with the caliber of people here – very friendly, sincere, and progressive and seem to be very fine from what we have seen and heard these two Sundays we have been out. They have a wonderfully active youth group here, which is very good for ours. Last night Eddie went to Spokane to a special youth conference, and he said it was the best meeting he had every attended. We are about nine miles from town, so there will be a little traveling to and fro. We haven't put the boys in seminary yet, as we seem to be the only ones this side of town and it would mean so much traveling. They can both graduate by missing this year – Joe has already had two years, and Ed can get the next three years.

Maybe by next year they will have transportation of their own. Eddie started out in football but I was relieved when he gave it up after a week, as it would have meant lots of time and lots of walking. I can see they are all going to have to put forth a lot more effort than at Hurricane for what they get, which is good.

Our house is quite comfortable. It reminds me of the Lehi home too. It has a big comfortable kitchen with lots of nice cupboard space and a nice sink under a window. A good roomy bathroom off the kitchen, also a big back porch, a dining room, living room and one big bedroom with two bedrooms upstairs. We have a nice lawn around the place and they were great flower lovers, more flower beds than I'll ever be able to take care of. Our water is well water pumped into the house from right out in front. Very good water, cold and the garden is watered from a spring down in a wash behind the place with a pump to pump to a sprinkling system, so no irrigating except that. He never waters the lawns he says. There is also a nice corral with a huge well built barn and lots of sheds, etc. It is a very good setup for beef if they can work into it within a few years. If I weren't a worrier, it would be easier for me to enjoy it all, but someone told me the other day that the best way to live in this country is to live one day at a time (guess it is in any place). Last winter they said they had hardly any snow, didn't even have to get the tractor out on the roads, but usually I guess they have considerably more. Lots of people in the ward have moved here from different parts of Utah and not one of them we have talked to would go back to Utah. We don't have a phone, but our nearest neighbor is Myron Watts and they have one, so in case of any emergency, you could call there. We may get one later on though.

Gordon doesn't have a job yet, except the birch cutting, but will likely get something later on. We will manage with Lyman, thanks anyway. Glad the flu didn't keep you down too long and that all is well now. We love you all and pray for you always; Allie and all.

LETTER 764 Rene Lyman Morin, Provo, Utah to her siblings and parents, September 15, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 376-378 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest family, I have owed everyone letters for so long, perhaps I can make another single letter do, with carbon copies. August seems to be such a busy month for us – convention, bottling, getting ready for school, and all the usual things. It always sneaks right past and I find myself into September, wondering about all the things I was supposed to get done in August. Thanks, Mother, for sending the letter from Allie. We were so glad to hear that they had made the move without any calamities, but really surprised to know it had come so soon. (For those who may not know, they moved up to Northern Idaho to a place called Sandpoint.) How we would love to have seen you but I realize that one stop suggests another, and with your big load and the long drive I can understand why no stops. Glad it was made without any serious incident and I can imagine how glad you were to get there after 1,100 miles of it. You mention your lonesome feeling, Allie. I have one, too, knowing that you are so far away and we won't get to see each other very often. But knowing you kids, I am sure that in a very short time there will be a continuous line of friends coming to your door, as there always is, and I am sure that will help. There seems to be magnetic quality about you kids that people just can't resist!

Allie, we were through that country when we went into Canada three years ago and I have always remembered how beautiful it is. You look from the map to be almost to the Canadian border. How far is it? We are most anxious to know about your farm and are surely praying that it will turn out to be just the move you have been looking for through the years. We will surely be eager to get up there and see what kind of set up you have. As usual, our children are all jealous over the prospect of living on a farm. We had planned a trip to Oregon for this fall, but the children didn't get out of summer school until it was time for us to go to Convention and school started as soon as we got back, so there was not time. But now we think it will be fun to go next June and, of course, route the course by way of Sandpoint. Have you that much extra room, inside and out. We had always planned to go by way of Sacramento, up or back, so we would really see a lot of our families. Anyway, it will be fun to plan that way through the winter. And, since Zions Canyon will be out as far as the family reunion next summer, how about having it in Provo?

Bob and Lois, we had a couple of letters from Kirk recently. He was trying to help a young convert make arrangements to get out here to the Y, and wrote for some information. We invited her to come here and stay until she could find another place and get lined up. She is a junior in college. We may get up to Salt Lake one of these days and will stop to see you.

A.P., I guess your girls will be back in Provo soon, won't they? Did I tell you Kent stopped here to see us about six weeks ago? Yes, I did – I remember now. Guess you are beginning to feel the loss of two girls from your family circle, aren't you?

Mother, hope you and Dad are feeling better. Yes, we had some of Art's folks here from Oregon for about a week. Gordon Dee hasn't been down for a couple of weeks. Dad the rest of you know he was working in Salt Lake at Monte Young's. He brought his girl friend here while we were to the Convention, and I am anxious to have him bring her back when she returns from California. She is going to teach at the Y this year. She and Gordon went to our ward one night when Art spoke so we did meet her and she seems like a really nice girl. We are so happy Gordon weakened that much. He is surely a nice fellow and we do enjoy him. He will work for a year to save money for medical school. He got your address, Bob, so he could come and see you.

Karl and Edith Lyman have returned from their mission and have settled in Provo. Karl stopped for a visit. I have talked with Edith on the phone several times. She told me that Ky Bishop was driving back to Washington, D.C. with Marva and her little ones, while Marva's husband drove the truck load of belongings (they are going back there for him to go to dental school) and they had a car accident which demolished their car. Didn't seem to hurt anyone too seriously though Marva was having some internal bleeding last we heard. But it was really hard on Ky since she was driving, and she was having a hard time getting over it. Guess everyone knew Casse and Byron were back in the states. Casse hasn't been very well.

The kids are back in school full swing now. I am home with the three youngest boys. Bennie is in first grade and his teacher tells us he is a very sharp boy. He is such a little feller, but as alert as can be and eager to learn. Lynette is in 2nd grade and right at the top of her class. Eddie is in 3rd grade and has really surprised us with his scholastics since the very first. The teacher gave

him a report the other day for extra work and she told me she had never had such a good report from a third grader over the many years she has been teaching. He is a good example of what an extra year of maturity will do for a child, since his birthday came right after the deadline and it gave him another year to grow and mature. Art and Brad barely had their birthdays before the deadline so they are the youngest in their classes and it has made a real difference in their school work. Julynn is in 5th grade and she is always an outstanding student and a favorite in her class. She has a golden disposition. Marilee went on to junior high this year and seems to be adjusting to it fine. She, Art and Brad are all in the same school this year. Seems impossible Art could be a ninth grader so soon. The boys aren't quite the scholars the girls are but they are conscientious about their school work and really work at it. They took an algebra class in summer school this past summer and finished the course way ahead of anyone else. Art – well, I guess both of them are taking algebra this year as they didn't finish the course in seven weeks last summer.

Art is busy in insurance work. He gave one of the talks at the Convention and I was so proud of him. He injected a note of spirituality into his talk and we were pleased to see that almost everyone expressed sincere appreciation for it and really enjoyed his talk. It was a new experience for me to mix with that many people who almost without an exception smoked and had their liquors. But it was really surprising to see how they responded to Art's talk and the spirit he radiated. They were very complimentary to him and to us. One of the leaders had been in our home and he introduced Art and spoke of our family in a very complimentary manner. The president and his wife didn't indulge with the others in their habits; they are certainly fine people and they were very nice to us. I really believe others admire someone who dares to be different in a crowd.

I have been busy trying to get my bottles filled, but it is such a lot of work sometimes, I wonder at the wisdom of it. However, as I go into the fruit room and begin to use the rows of bottled foods I am grateful for it. It looks colorful with its rows of cherries, applesauce, peaches, cocktail, pickles, pears, corn, etc. I am not through yet, as I hope to do grape juice soon. Still have enough tomatoes left, I think. Well, Charles has found me down here so my time is up, I fear. He is a busy little feller and his arms are getting so long there is hardly anything he can't reach to pull off. How we enjoy him and his sweet disposition. He gets more than his share of love and attention, but we are pleased to see how the others enjoy him. I manage to get Art's secretarial work done for him and since he has just raised my wages I plan to do even more of it now. Guess I will have to quit. Hope everyone is just fine and not too busy to enjoy life around him.

How we would love to have seen and visited you a minute or two. Do let us know about everything. I guess we spent half a night wondering and hoping for you. Then we realized that as much as we want we aren't much help. But we do hope and pray it will all work out just fine. Your big boys will surely be lots of help and I can imagine how anxious L.D. will be to see all of it. How is he? Maybe you could send our letter to him, along with our love. I just never get a special letter written to him.

Our love and blessings to all of you. We will be anxious to hear from you again. I'm sure you are as busy as ever. What about the Church there? Love to you, Rene.

LETTER 765 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, September 15, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 364-365 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, if I can concentrate over "The Real McCoy's" I want to get your letter ready to mail tonight. We have spent an interesting Sunday here in Sandpoint. The attendance is too great for the room space for Sunday School, so starting today they divided the Sunday School into two groups and we went at 8:45, then the Priesthood met together, then the other group had Sunday School. We all met together for Sacrament meeting at 4:00. We are going to have to do something about transportation aside from what we have, as the pickup just isn't adequate in cold and wet weather. Maybe we will trade it in on something that we can all get into.

Lyman, we were so sorry to hear that you had been sick for so long. Guess you have been pretty fortunate, but I hate to think of you clear down there and sick. Guess you felt pretty much alone, didn't you? That is the time when the time drags and you have a chance of getting discouraged. Glad that you are better and that you can stay well now. Hope that by now you have had our letters from Sandpoint telling about our move and our setup here. I'm sending a few cards to show what the area looks like, also this little capsule of facts [without the capsule] that tells so much about Sandpoint. Last Thursday night we went to a centennial pageant and yearly fair here in Sandpoint and really enjoyed it. It is a nice progressive community and the L.D.S. church is a big part of it and seems to hold their own in the community and adds much to it.

I wrote the bishop in Springdale and asked that you be enrolled as a scout. I am assuming your membership will be left there until you return. I will try and see that the requirements for another merit badge are typed up and sent to you. We appreciate your ambition and the things you are accomplishing. Sounds like your experiences in Tacna will be different and interesting. We are all starting on a new phase of our lives now and hope that they all prove to be profitable as well as interesting.

I have taken some pictures of the place and will try and get them developed before too long. It's time I was sending some pictures of the kids anyway to show you how much they have grown. Before I forget I finally answered the letter from Mariluz in Callao. She wrote again and said to send greetings to you in Tacna. I also received a letter from María Elena Rodríguez. She is a cute little girl – both of them very nice letter writers. I won't get around to writing very often I'm afraid, as there are so many letters to be written, but it is nice to hear from them and hear what they think of our elder. Yes, son, it is nice to be highly thought of. Also, before I forget, did I

ever tell you Almon sent \$10.00 for our missionary fund? Also Aunt Cretia sent \$5.00 for you. She said that her kids gave her some money, which she neither needed nor wanted and she was giving it to the missionaries. Isn't that sweet of her? She is still in California with Wilbur and while she has recovered pretty well from her accident, she still doesn't walk alone. Aunt Dolly went down there and spent a month with her, and I'm sure it was a real treat for them both. Almon and LaRee visited with them while Aunt Dolly was there.

This place here reminds us somewhat of our Lehi place, in the location from the highway and the house, etc. The surrounding country reminds us more of the country around where Uncle Almon lived in Washington when we visited him up there. Do you remember what that looked like? The house has a nice big kitchen with lots of cupboard space, a back porch, a nice big bathroom, living room and dining room and a big bedroom down stairs and two bedrooms upstairs. We are quite comfortable, of course could stand more bedroom space, but find this is pretty comfortable. There are lots of nice flower beds around, in fact more than I will ever be able to keep up with. We have a good sized lawn around the place – a nice garden which they left for us and which we are enjoying very much. I have bottled apples, pickles, froze quit a lot of corn and made a lot of soap since we came. The people are very nice that sold us the place. They bought a home in Sandpoint, as they are older and he is crippled with arthritis. One of our neighbors brought us two big loads of mill ends from the place where he works, so we have our winter's wood and should have plenty to keep warm with all winter. Course there is plenty of wood around anyway, but this is all cut up in uniform lengths and is very nice. The house has a good wood stove to cook and heat the kitchen with and a good heater to heat the rest of the house. One thing, our utilities won't be high here, as the electricity is the only thing we will be paying for unless we get a phone. There has never been a phone here, so we would have to pay considerable to have it installed.

Last night Eddie went over to Spokane with some people to a special youth conference. He said it was the most inspirational meeting he had ever attended. A young missionary in Church today was telling about it and said it was more impressive to him than anything he had ever attended. Must have been very special. Wish Joe and Gene had been to it. Eddie went with the Andertons. He was raised in Richfield and is just a few (couple) of years younger than Dad. His folks are real good friends of Grandma and Grandpa, so we were glad to find someone here that we knew. They have seven also, and their oldest, a girl, just got married. They are a really nice family, live right in town and he works for the forest service. Tomorrow Dad and I are going into Spokane with them and they want to show us around and show us where the best places are to shop, etc. There are lots of people up here who have moved here from Utah and none of them that I have talked with would move back there. I hope for Dad's sake that we can make a go of this ranch, as he dearly loves it here already and says there is no prettier place in the world than right here. Our motel hasn't sold as yet, but we are hoping.

If we have failed to tell you things about the place that you are wondering about, please ask specific questions and I will see that they are answered. It is hard to remember or know just what each one has written about it. Dad sold one load of birch in Spokane and will likely take more right away. I'm sure he will have to have a job this winter, as the weather will prevent him from doing much in the timber when it is cold and snowy. It will work out though.

September is half gone already and the first month of your second year will soon be gone. Boy, the time goes so fast, it is almost impossible to keep up with it.

Mother said that Gordon Dee [Lyman] is going to work a year before going back to school. Mark [Lyman] is going to the Y for a year and then plans to go on a mission. Kirk's health is somewhat better, and I'm so glad for that, as he has had quite a time. Don't hear too much from Gary [Platt]. Aunt Cretia says he is laboring in that district and has been to see them a couple of times. I think his time will be up in February.

Well, son, better get to bed. Thank you for your letters and slides, etc. They are all so good. These slides will mean so much to you; I'm taking good care of them for you. The little batteries on our viewer are out and so until I get some more, we can't do justice to the pictures. Good night for now. May our Heavenly Father bless and protect you and keep you safe and fine as you are; all our love, Mother.

LETTER 766a David LeRoy Chidester [Grandpa Roy], Richfield, Utah, to Gordon and Allie Platt, Sandpoint, Utah, September 18, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 380 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Gordon and Allie and all, I received your letter and am sorry you have moved so far away. I want to get this to you so you can get it to Lyman D. in a hurry. I have money put away for shoes so don't hesitate to send for it. It is here. I want to write you a long letter and tell you a lot of things about what has kept me around home and I hadn't been down to see you. I have been extremely busy. I'll miss you as much or more than I can explain because you all have been people I long to go and be with. I'll surely miss you.

I'll write some as I have to go to St. George now 5:30 a.m. I would have seen you today. I am coming along fine and feel good only I am alone. Love Roy.

It is raining hard here today. We have had cloudy weather with sprinkles and wind for a few days.

Shoe repair \$3.00
Shoes \$10.00

I don't know how much they cost there. Why don't you ask him so I'll send enough? Friday and Saturday last I bottled sixty-two quarts of peaches and ninety-eight quarts and it was all alone total 160. I am busy.

LETTER 766b Elder Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Miss Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, September 19, 1963

Dear Lucy, well I suppose you'll remember what happened thirteen months ago today. One month more has gone by as if it was nothing; so twelve nothings don't seem like much. Seventeen to go with thirteen down make me realize that the time just isn't sufficient to do all I want to. I've wanted many times to be back with you but time is so short anyway, it's almost not worth wishing about. I'm really enjoying my mission a lot and hope to enjoy it even more this last part. I now have the Spanish language and the lesson plan to a point where they don't worry me. It is a good feeling to have them behind me and able to practice other things. There is really a lot of time to learn about anything I put my mind to. I've put my mind to several secret things I'll let you know about in a year and a half.

Lucy, I really appreciate those three successive letters last week. They made up for the long time without. It was good to hear you had plans in the process of completion; I'll be anxiously waiting to hear what they are. I'd enjoy it very much to be a part of them in part (letters) during the next short while. I've really appreciated the faithfulness with which you've hung in there with letters. It's good to be able to rely on them.

A lot is happening down here in Tacna. I luckily got on the first string of the best team in town. We are playing the Harlem Stars this week (from New York). It ought to be interesting as well as fun and should provide some publicity for the Church. Besides the basketball we are going to Toquepala tomorrow. It is a big copper mining town up in the Andes. The majority of the people are *gringos* from the West. Many of them are Mormons so we're going up there to have a party. They have the only chapel in Peru so far. Come Monday we are having a party and dance and crowning a queen for the spring festival. She will be entered in the town contest. It ought to be nice. Then Tuesday night I'll be playing basketball. So the next week or so ought to be quite exciting. In October we have a district conference so it will be interesting.

President Nicolaysen will be down and the Toquepala and Arica branches will be over. We expect to have about 500 members and investigators. The Church is really growing and the elders have to grow to keep up with it. It is surely a good experience.

We started the scout troop unofficially last Tuesday. We organized it into a patrol and chose the leaders. The papers are now in the process of being finalized for national recognition. The scouting program has hardly even been started in the Church here so far so I feel privileged in helping get it started.

We've been working pretty hard lately now that I'm well and the branch made 1st branch in hours last week. The president sent me down here to see that Tacna gets more hours, so I'm sure he'll be pleased to see that. Of course with the hours come a lot of good investigators. The time is coming I feel when Tacna will get weekly baptisms. I hope to see it and help it before I leave. There are a lot of good people awaiting the elders and the true gospel. I believe shortly there will be changes and I'll be made a senior companion again. I've been happy as a junior but a person is held back at times when his companion wants to do something you don't want to.

The days here are starting to get hot. It feels like it's going to be another Piura. I feel a lot better here though. It is a good climate if it would just get hot or cold. The change from spring to summer here has been sporadic. The air is refreshing though and the snow-capped Andes in the background make me feel less homesick.

Well, honey, I'll close for now. I hope to get your letter shortly and will try and answer it a little faster than the last one. The time just seems to go faster and faster, leaving no time for things you want to do. Be good! I love ya and hope to have the privilege of continuing that love for a long, long time. Te amo más que tú puedas imaginar y no puedo vivir sin tú amor, sinceramente tú novio, Elder Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 767 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, Sandpoint, Idaho, September 21, 1963

Dear family I received your letters yesterday: mother's, Joe's and Roberta's. Thank you all so very much. It is so interesting to hear about all the things you're doing and receive the pictures and map so soon. The little capsule facts are sure an informative paper. I know a lot more about the area now anyway. You're all living in a real paradise it sounds like. From the sounds of the countryside, the Church activity and the quality of teachers, you just can't expect much more. Where is the nearest stake center? Judging from statistics I've received, there must be about 480 members of the Church in Sandpoint. How does that sound? [They say 700 on pages 287 and 300.]

Roberta thanks a lot for your letter. It was good to hear from you again and know that you are progressing okay in school. I hope you really study hard this year and become a lot smarter. Have you made any really good friends yet? How do you like it up there in Idaho? I guess by now you're in your new school house, sounds neat to have deer right in the back yard. I hope you are nice to them so they'll be friendly.

Joe, your letter was welcome. I miss hearin' from you ya rascal. It sounds like you're really loaded down with solids this year. It doesn't seem possible you'd be taking some of those courses, but I guess you're getting kind of old, aren't you? Man, if mother doesn't hurry and send those pictures, I won't even recognize you guys. Seven months can really change a person. I'm glad your teachers are good and your roommates serious minded. How is the scouting program in the Church of there? I'll bet you don't lack on places to go, do you? How are you doing on your Eagle? Don't let me down! I've been gone almost half my time and I'll be home before you realize it, so let's get going. I'd like to work with all of you on the Palms when I get home. That old Ed is going to have one his Palms, if we don't watch it. That's why I want merit badge requirements, so I can keep up in part. How many cords of wood are usually in a load? \$20.00 a cord sounds all right and fun.

Now for your letter mother: thanks a million for the post cards and map. They're really interesting. Also thanks for the letter to the bishop about enrolling me in scouting. Do you mean I've got to leave my membership in Springdale and report back to there when my mission is finished? Boy, I don't know, that's quite a bit out of the way.

That girl, María Elena that wrote to you is really a cute girl, but she sure is a trouble maker for the elders. I was glad I could leave Callao mainly for that reason. She would be fun to go with though if I weren't a missionary. Do you have any idea how bad it is for me (a natural flirt, I believe); (I get it from my Dad), to have girls be over nice and well, etc., and not even be able to do anything at all?

Would you thank Uncle Almon and Aunt Cretia for their donations? Every bit helps.

About something I'd like to know. Is the Cardston Temple closer than the Idaho Falls Temple?

How are you and dad feeling? I hope you're both okay, as I worry about you a lot. I shouldn't, but I do. Is television good up there? Where is the nearest forestry school? Is there a college nearby? How are job prospects in general? I guess going to Canada isn't out of the question anymore, is it?

About Peru, yesterday we went to Toquepala on a branch party. Toquepala has the only chapel in the country so far and is also the highest town in the world. It has three levels ranging from 9,000 to 12,000 feet. It is a gringo mining community. The members are really nice, mostly from the colonies in Mexico. I met a Farnsworth family that we are related to. We had a good time and now I've been in the very tops of the Andes. My companion and I are also the two most widely traveled Elders in the mission. I've really seen a lot of country. On the way home our bus hit two burros and killed one and broke the other's back and broke the bus radiator. I had to kill the burro, as no one else would. We waited until 3:00 a.m. before a bus came again to take us in. It was quite a night.

Well, that's all the news for now. I'll have real news within the next few weeks. Oh, we got the scout troop started okay; love always, Elder Lyman De Platt

LETTER 768 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, September 22, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 372-375 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest son Lyman, hope we get a letter from you today, as we haven't received one since the one you wrote September 6 and that just after you had been sick for ten days. I purposely didn't mail this letter to you yesterday, as I thought maybe there would be a letter for me to answer, but I must not wait any longer, as I know how you look forward to our letters, just as we do to yours. I do hope that you are well though son, and that nothing is wrong with you there.

I'm sorry the kids haven't been any better to write than they have. They love reading your letters and always say they are going to write, but don't get around to it very often. That is really nice that you have had your experiences bound into a volume. That will be something you and yours will always treasure.

Before I forget, Grandpa Roy sent me \$13.00 for you to use on shoes. He said the \$3.00 was for repairs and the \$10.00 was for a new pair. He didn't have any idea what they cost down there, so asked me to find out, so he would be sure and send enough. He didn't write a very long letter and we haven't heard much from him for some time. Son, it would be nice if you would take the time and write him once and thank him for the shoe money and I know he would appreciate a letter from you, as I don't send your letters there any more since Grandma left. We will put this money in the bank with the rest and you can figure it extra. Also the \$10.00 from Uncle Almon and the \$5.00 from Aunt Cretia, do with it what you would like.

Well, we have been here almost a month now. The kids are in their fourth week of school already. Boy, if this keeps up, the next year will go so fast. I imagine the winter won't go quite so fast though, as I understand they are usually pretty long up here. You know how I dislike slick roads, so I for one will be glad when that is not a worry. Our weather right now is rather fallish – no frost as yet, but some wet cloudy days and some that are beautiful and sunny.

Last night dad and the boys went down to the neighbors and bought twelve chickens – young hens that are within a month or six weeks of laying. Joe and Gene had cleaned up the coop good and gotten it ready for them, and we decided we better produce all the food we could for our own use. We are milking a cow of the Streckers (the people we bought from). They left four milk cows here and just this one is milking now, but all will freshen within the next few months. Dad wants to buy them if the motel sells and he has the money, so they are leaving them here for now. It is good to have our own milk. Guess that is something you really miss down there, isn't it? I believe you said you don't drink milk there. They have harvested the corn stalks and put them around the edge of this big barn to feed the cows during the winter. It's really a big old barn. Saturday Dad and the boys ran the electric line up to it, so now they can turn on lights in the barn, shed and granary. It was all wired up there for it but they had never run a line from the house.

We have thought so much of you Lyman since coming up here. You would love it here, and we will be glad when you have a chance to be with us here. Don't know what your plans are (and you likely don't either) when you return, but it will be good to have you here while you are deciding and for as long as you will stay. It is a beautiful country. Dad is just thrilled with the whole setup, and all the kids like it very much. Joe has really shown an interest in working on the place since we came. This is good for him, as he is going through a rather difficult period right now. Of course he knows lots more than his parents and though he isn't too rebellious, he will have to find out some things the hard way. He and Gene work together really well, but he and Eddie don't get along very well. I'm sure it is just a stage they will outgrow, but is rather trying for us and hard for him.

Eddie is almost as big as Joe and his quiet, serious nature makes him appear older than Joe to quite a few people. Joe is quite a cut up when he is with his friends but is conscientious about his schooling and spends a lot of time studying. He has to with five solids this year. Eddie gave up football, and I was much relieved, as I couldn't see him traveling back and forth all winter, either hitch hiking or walking, and taking so much time. He traded his athletics class for a study period, so he is able to get most of his homework done in that. The kids all have to study harder here than they did in Hurricane, which is good, as they were too easy on them there, and you know what that would do to them by the time they reached college.

We have the missionaries stop in here quite often, as they are in the area going about their work. They have a couple of families close to us that they are teaching, and we are hoping for success for them. We are the only ones out this way that belong to the Church, so it would be good to have others. There are lots of people who live out of town and some who travel as much as twenty miles to Church, but they are all on the other sides of town. We live on what is called Wrenco Loop. This loop takes off from the main highway and makes about a four or five mile loop. The loop is a county road – not oiled – but graded and graveled. We are about in the middle of the loop I guess, and then our house sits about a block off from this road. The setup reminds us somewhat of our situation in Lehi, though the surrounding country is altogether different. They have a little Wrenco Community Club out here, and the ladies meet together once a month just to visit, etc. I was invited to attend, so went the other day to meet the neighbors. I don't feel that I want to join but might be able to do a little good. In the winter they have card parties with the men and women to raise a little money for their club, and of course this is out of our line, so maybe I will just have to try and be a good neighbor without belonging to the club.

On Sunday our three boys went with the youth of the ward and the missionaries on a survey here in Sandpoint. They made one a couple of weeks ago and got thirty-seven referrals for the missionaries. I believe they got about fifteen here. It seems to be a pretty big help to the elders and is good for the youth. Joe didn't feel too good about doing it and says he won't again, but we'll see. He may feel left out if he doesn't, as I think they about all participate. It's a really active ward and will be good for the kids. They are talking now of having a barn dance here in the barn after a hay ride one of these nights.

You would thrill at the wild life around here. There are deer in the yard almost every night. Course they aren't tame and don't want us to see them, but we have a number of times. The other morning just before daylight I saw a little skunk just outside the fence, and we have grouse, pheasants, etc., right here in back of our place. The elders said they saw a bear just off the road on the way out here the other day, but we haven't seen anything of one yet (just as soon not too close).

Well, son, I guess I better get a birthday letter off to Aunt Rene or she won't get it for her birthday on the 26th. Tonight Dad and I are going in to Andertons to help celebrate

Lynn's birthday. He is the one who was raised in Richfield with Dad. Real nice family and they have children the age of ours, so that makes it nice. They have seven too.

We love and pray for you always son. Gordie say Lyman is in Peru on a mission teaching people the gospel. We saw someone in town the other day walking down the street who Gordie thought was you. He asked "Is that Lyman?" He may not really remember you but he will know you when you return.

Do hope and pray that all is well with you and that you are having success in your labors there. I'm reading the story of Jacob Hamblin and have decided our trials are nothing; all our love, Mother.

LETTER 769 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, September 29, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 382-386 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, Well, your letter came on the day I mailed the last one of mine. It took quite a bit longer than usual to get here, and then your next one came just a few days later, so it was nice getting them both anyway. We were glad to know that you were feeling better, but hope that the cough and cold are all cleared up by now. Too bad [you have had] so much sickness down that way among the elders. Guess that's something new for you down there to have rain, isn't it?

That's good that you have been able to get so much reading in. That's a lot of books to go through in a year. I just finished reading the one you gave to us about Jacob Hamblin and think it is one of the most stirring books I've ever read. Makes me realize how insignificant our problems are. You asked how far to the Canadian border – it is about fifty miles. We haven't been up there yet, but one day we will. I guess Bonnet Meadows is the name of the ranch all right – named for a close hill called Bonnet Top and Dad's father's ranch. As far as this move being our last one, I think the only thing that could get Dad away from this is to be forced to move. He thinks more of the place each day and feels that it is just what he has always wanted. The kids are happy too. I'd rather not be so far out, as it is so much traveling back and forth, but I'm sure I will be happy here with the rest of them – it's just taking me a little longer to adjust. If we can get past the down payment (once the motel sells) and get that worry out of the way, then I think the yearly payments can be met without too much of a problem, so as usual, this first year after our move will be the hardest I imagine. Dad is going to work in the morning at a lumber mill about six miles away. It will pay \$2.00 to start with. We thought he should have a definite income, as he won't be able to cut birch all winter, and he wasn't making as much as he figured he would anyway. It will be fine as a supplement, but nothing to depend on. He can haul about 2½ or 3 ton in the truck and takes quite a while to cut, haul and split it. Once they get on their feet and get the place stocked with beef, it should be all right (we hope). You said to plant a few trees for the ones cut down, but if you could see all the timber, you wouldn't worry about it for quite a while. The birch is the only timber they can cut for now anyway, as the contract doesn't allow the cutting of the other until the place is half paid for. Sounds like the basketball playing is fun. How did you come out with the Harlem All Stars?

Today being the week of General Conference, they had fast Sunday here. So we had only one trip into town today. We usually go to Sunday School at 8:45, and then they hold Priesthood meeting directly after and Sacrament meeting at 4:00. Today they had Testimony meeting right after Priesthood meeting, then the No. 2 Sunday School after that. We are in the Coeur d'Alene Stake (the Spokane Stake was divided a year ago). Coeur d'Alene is about forty miles from Sandpoint, so forty-nine from here. I haven't been there yet, but Dad has, to a stake meeting. Our ward has about 700 members and if they can activate a few more, they will soon divide it. I don't know for sure about the policy of a missionary leaving membership in the ward he left from – we'll find out for sure. I think that is what Gary has done, and I suppose you will too, though I don't think it will be necessary to report in person to that ward after your mission. They have kind of done away with the reporting in the ward, just at stake conference. We are wondering how your feelings will be by then about stopping off to see Lucy. You haven't mentioned her for some time, so we don't know just what your feelings are toward her. I promised her I'd write her after we got up here but haven't yet. Also, haven't answered María Elena's letter or the second one I got from that other girl who wrote. I just can't keep up with all my correspondence – I write so many.

Cardston is closer than Idaho Falls, so that is likely the temple we will be going to unless we go when we make a trip to Utah for something else. It's likely around 250 miles from here to Cardston. Television is good here. They get channels from Spokane (2 or 3) and it is much better reception than in Springdale. The nearest forestry school is at Moscow, about 200 miles south of her (University of Idaho). The Forest Service has offices here in Sandpoint – Lynn Anderton works for them. He is a GS9. They would be a good outfit to get in with in some phase of their organization – as civil service jobs pay well and have really good retirement plans and benefits. The job prospects in general here are mostly in the lumber and pole companies, and I don't think it should be too hard for you to get something here.

Your trip to Toquepala sounded interesting. You have certainly traveled a lot throughout the country. It will be something that will always be so interesting for you to tell about and remember. Too bad about the burros. I'm sure you didn't enjoy the job of killing the one. We're wondering what the news is "in a few weeks" you intimated would be forthcoming. We will be patient and wait and see.

Today we had two families come out and visit with us. The Baugh's moved up here from Southern Idaho about sixteen years ago. He was bishop before this present one. They have five children, just took their oldest girl to the Y and the others are the ages of some of ours. They are about our age and I'm sure we will enjoy them as friends. Then a couple from over by Priest River (a town where a branch of the Church is, going towards Spokane). They had read about us moving here in the local paper and being from Utah they decided to come and welcome us into the area. They moved here about twenty years ago from around Salt Lake. All these people who have moved here from Utah say they wouldn't go back for anything. I'll be glad when it feels like home to me.

Eddie told you a little about their hay ride and barn dance. The kids had a really good time. The barn is a good place for it – it's really big and has just enough hay and corn in to make it look

interesting. They had a record player and lights and had the kids the ages of Joe and Ed all there. We went up to check on them for a little while, and then Joe took them all home in the pickup. People are so scattered up here, that it is quite an undertaking and we told him next time they better have some other transportation. Gas is going to be quite an item up here. We may trade the pickup in for a V.W. bus. Will let you know if we do. My pictures aren't developed yet, but I shall try and get them to you before much longer. Guess I haven't put my dollar in the last couple of letters I've sent. I'll have to make up for it.

We're still having beautiful fall weather – couldn't ask for anything nicer. Guess it won't last too much longer – everyone keeps thinking it will freeze, but no frost as yet. Mr. Strecker came out Saturday and helped harvest the potatoes (there were about a dozen sacks). They were so generous to leave all this garden stuff here. You haven't said anything for some time about your meals, whether you have a maid there or not. How are you getting along on that score?

Now it's Monday morning. We had to get up a littler earlier to get Dad to work by 7 a.m. I have put out a big washing (we can't use the automatic here yet, so we bought a second hand conventional, as we didn't bring ours from Springdale) and now it is about 11:30. The weather is still beautiful and sunny. The dew is really heavy and things are pretty wet each morning and this morning the fog was quite thick until a little before the bus came to pick up the kids. They have been in school four weeks already – doesn't seem possible. The times go so very fast, we will have our missionary son home before we know it.

Another of your cousins was married recently. Rene told us in her letter that Joy got married to a fellow she has been going with for several years. They both worked at Jackson Hole this past summer and before they went back to the Y they were married. Rene said it didn't surprise here much, but I'm sure it was quite a let down for Joy's folks. I don't know Kent [Olsen], but I don't think he is strong at all in the Church, and I know how LaRee and Almon would have felt about her marrying out of the temple. What aren't we doing son? Do you know this is the sixth marriage of mine and Dad's nieces or nephews and not one of them has been in the temple? Maureen, Burns, RaeLeen, Terry, Hazel and Joy, and in all the families but one you would think they had the proper training and example. It frightens me, and I hope and pray that we will do the proper things to give our children a desire and incentive to marry in the temple. Rene also said that Gordon Dee is working in Salt Lake doing furnace work for a year before he goes back to school. He is going with a girl who is teaching at the Y or some school in Provo, and Rene seems to think he is getting quite serious with her. I would surely like to see him get married to a really nice girl, as he hasn't cared too much about dating before. Rene and Art are expecting again, but I don't know when this is to be. She's a hard one to keep up with, isn't she?

I meant to tell you one thing about our meeting yesterday. It would do you good to see the response at testimony meeting. They gave the first half hour to the youth under eighteen and passed the mike around to those standing. There were usually half a dozen or so standing waiting their turn, and several adults also when it was their turn; quite a change from Springdale.

I got the scout book out and looked through some of the merit badge requirements. Eddie informed me that this is an old book and we shouldn't use it, but Joe says that the new one

doesn't have the merit badges it does, so I guess I will go ahead and copy out of this one and hope that I send some that you can use.

Guess this lengthy epistle is enough for now. Dad is Priest adviser and I'm teaching a class in Sunday School. Yesterday I took the seventeen and eighteen-year-olds, but guess they are going to have me take the thirteen-fourteen-year-olds instead.

Carry on son; we love you for the good work you are accomplishing. There aren't many missionaries out from this stake, but from all the active youth now, I imagine they will soon send some more; with all our love, Mother.

LETTER 770 Edward Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 388 {PFRC Book 11}], September 29, 1963

Dear Lyman, It's been quite some time since I wrote you. But I guess you know that. I guess you know just about all there is to know about the move up here.

I sure hope it works out because I love it here. This afternoon after church I went hiking and I was gone for about an hour and a half and I was still on our property. And I saw four squirrels, two grouse and one deer.

The church here is real active and last Sunday we went out on a religious survey where we asked them what Church they belonged to and the golden questions.

Gene and I were two of the ones that got contacts. We got one lady who wanted the first discussions. We went to one house where they were having a Catholic meeting but that's the only door we got slammed in our faces.

The other day we took the pickup to Sandpoint and then got a bunch of kids together and had a hay ride out to our place and had a barn dance in our barn. I can't think of much to say, but I'll try to write another letter soon. Love, Ed.

LETTER 771a Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, October 1, 1963

Dear family, Waiting for your letters to come I failed to get this off last Friday. I hope this letter finds you all well. Thank you mother for sending Aunt Rene's letter. These letters are all going into a separate bound copy of letters. It would surely be nice to have any letters the relatives sent, as they are so newsy and will be worth a lot to all of us in years to come. Could you continue sending them occasionally? I planned on writing to both Grandpa and Aunt Rene before these letters came, so now I'll be sure and do it. It sounds as though Grandpa could use a little encouragement. Even though he isn't my real Grandpa, he has been one of five men that have inspired my life a lot.

It sounds like my little brother is growing up really fast. Gordie, I want you to always remember you've got a brother down here that loves you very much. You maybe don't remember all the times we had together, but I do and it gives me quite a lonesome feeling to know you're still growing up and I'm not there to help you. I've been quite lonesome lately since you all moved up there. I would like so much to see the place and all of you for a few minutes. It would do me a lot of good I'm sure; but realizing that seventeen months ago I was up on the Zions Park construction job building fence, I feel that the next seventeen months will go just as fast and I'll be home before I actually want to.

Part of the reason I've been lonesome is because I've not had the chance to work as hard as I've wanted to. So, yesterday, I told the elders in a loving way to shape up and let's get some baptisms. I knew I had the spirit strong with me, so I talked to them about a lot of things; personal faults, little phrases we could cut out, etc., and after I finished they all thanked me and said they would do what I'd asked. The president said that the traveling elders had told them the same things, so they had had it before, but that the other elders' criticism had not been as it should have been. I have felt really good since then in knowing at last that the Lord has finally given me a manifestation of His usage of me. Knowing that I now have his favor, I don't intend to do anything to lose it. It's a good feeling; wonderful to have.

It sounds like the family is getting right back into the farming business. That is really good. I surely hope you all enjoy it well. Dad, I'm glad you're so happy there. You don't know how happy it makes me to know you are happy.

I'm glad the boys are having the opportunity to help in the missionary program. Take as much advantage of it as you can, as it will give you such a good foundation upon which to build for your own missions. So much precious time will be wasted if you don't.

Mother, I'd like to tell you about the gift I bought you for your birthday; one which you'll never see, but I hope the spirit of it reaches you. Sitting on my desk right in front of me is a nice bouquet of carnations nicely arranged in a little vase. They add luster and happiness to the room in their familiar red, pink, yellow and white array. Sticking up through the tops of them are four purple irises giving off their fragrant aroma and surrounded on every side with tiny daisies. I hope you enjoy them. Wish I could send them to you. Anyway, you know that I love you very much and am so thankful and grateful to you for all the many teachings, sleepless nights, worried hours, and heaven and you only know how many other myriads of things it took to raise me. You have given me my testimony (in part); my desire to be as virtuous as you and to have a high

respect for womanhood. Your example has made me and my brothers and sister people that stand out in a crowd; people that others look to for example. For this and many other private, personal reasons I hope you have a happy birthday and that your beauty and youth will always remain in your heart as in so doing you'll never grow old. You are twice my age, but that only makes me respect you more instead of feeling I know more than you. Anyone who thinks differently ought to be tied to the barn and whipped with a rattlesnake and I'll do it personally if I find it when I get home.

I'm well, spiritually and physically and love my work. I pray you are all the same. Please write soon; love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 771b Allie Lyman Platt, Route 2, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lucy Ruesch, c/o Dicks Café, St. George, Utah, October 2, 1963.

Dear Lucy, here we have already been gone a month and I haven't written as I promised I would. There have been so many letters and etc. to keep up with – I get snowed under.

We are pretty well settled now and the kids are in their fifth week of school. They go to four different one – but all ride the same bus into town from here. The schools are pretty good and I think they are all going to have to work harder up here for what they get. Joe has five solids, so he keeps plenty busy. They all like it here really well.

The Church is strong with a big group of young people – who all are really enthusiastic about the Gospel. They work with the missionaries here on surveys, and things. Tomorrow nite they are having a barn dance out here to give one of the missionaries a farewell. The kids Joe's and Eddie's age all came out last week and had a hay ride and barn dance- seemed to really have a good time.

The area is beautiful around here. Wish you could come up and see it and us. We passed by your Sun Valley and thought it was very pretty there.

How is your work Lucy? Hope you are enjoying it and your associations there. Did you get to Springdale for the opening of their Zion Park Bowl? They sent us a program – looked like it was really nice.

What do you think about Lyman traveling around so much? He has been from the extreme north to south now hasn't he? His time is going fast – it will soon be half over.

How are your folks? Please tell them hello for us and give them our love. I didn't even get to tell them goodbye – everything was so hectic the last few days there. Do hope your mother and father are both well and can remain so for this winter. I kind of envy you your time in St. George this winter but the kids are looking forward to the snow. So far it has been beautiful fall weather.

Well, Lucy, write to us and let us know how you are. Sorry we didn't get down to see you before we left. Gordie just picked some pansies and brought in; lots of pretty flowers here; love from us all – the Platts.

LETTER 772 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, Sandpoint Idaho, October, 1963.

Dear Family, Just another short note today. Yesterday presidents Tuttle and Nicolaysen stopped and talked to us for an hour. They counseled with us, gave us encouragement and told us a few of the things they've been doing. They are going to divide Arica, Chile – just across the border into two branches this month. They are starting chapels in Arequipa and Trujillo this month and will start two more as soon as the two in Lima are finished this December. There will be thirty new missionaries coming down between now and the end of the year. They've been at the Y six months and will know Spanish and the six lessons. It ought to be interesting. The president just got back from Bolivia and told us that all papers are ready with the government now to let the Church in except for missionary proselyting. Those papers are being worked on.

We have a sharp boy ready for baptism this week.

The elders are going to Tarata this Friday. It is up in the mountains at 8,000 feet. I'll tell you about the trip later. I may write out a small check for shoe repair and the trip. Well, I've got to run and work. Hope you like the picture; mother, happy birthday; love always, Lyman

LETTER 773 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, October 4, 1963

Dearest family, I was surely happy to get so many pages in one letter today. Mother you come through with a sharp letter every time I need one. Maybe that's why I love you so much. It was surely a long one. Thanks a million for the three merit badge requirements. I've never heard of the Interpretation Merit Badge, but it is an easy one to pass off. I'll give it a try anyway.

I hope you will be able to take advantage of every chance to sell the motel as it sounds like we'll be in a really good setup if we can get it sold. I pray you succeed.

I found out we were in the Coeur d'Alene Stake the other day when I read in the Church News about the missionary program the youth are sponsoring up there. You boys with your good examples and the work you are doing are as much missionaries as I am. It makes me feel good to know that you are in the work also and that you might just get some good people in the Church. It is always worth every effort.

Thanks mother for answering all the questions I asked. I certainly know a lot about the family and the area now. I'm glad that the Church is as strong as it is. It is so reassuring when there is some opposition to keep the Church members from falling into laxity. The devil is using his latest and most modern weapons which are the low morals and lower dresses. These dad-blame girls that go around tempting boys to commit fornication and then blaming it on the boys are one of his greatest tools. Of course the guys aren't completely blameless, but it's hard to keep the mind on holy things when the girls walk around in holey dresses. The Church statistics are that

only 1/7 of the kids marry in the temple today. If you as parents can get all your kids married eternally that is a goal that deserves many blessings. You don't have to worry about me. I wouldn't marry except in the temple and know what to avoid so I won't have to get married any other way. I'm glad I'm on a mission now. It's so safe a place during these years of my life.

Hey, dad, how do you like the lumber business you lucky guy? I hope I get to work in it as it sounds exciting and very worth while spiritually. What does your work consist of?

As far as my feelings towards Lucy, she hasn't had the opportunity to write me since I last told her in a letter that my wife would have to be a returned missionary. She said she wanted to get married as soon as I got home. I told her to forget it. She hasn't written since, so I don't know where we stand.

Thanks for the information on the forestry school. It sounds more and more logical all the time to be a forester.

It sounds like the friends are already flocking to the door like Aunt Rene said they would. We just got personality I guess [this was slang during that time].

I guess the boys are really having quite a time with hay rides, barn dances, and school, etc. I thought those things were of the past, but I guess they're not.

You asked what you as parents aren't doing to cause so many to get married out of the temple. The troubles in Uncle Bob's family are self-explanatory [all good kids now – 2009]. Maureen didn't have the father's hand she needed. Hazel let love go to her head. It was her own fault; not judging, simply stating facts as I see them. Joy, in my opinion, brought it on herself. She never has been one to keep her body covered properly in my opinion. Maybe her folks didn't teach her that, but I'm sure they did. You might call it rebellion. You will see in the next five years many of us getting married in the temple. Gordon Dee, Kirk, Lyman, Diana, Gary, Jackie, Mark, and some of the younger ones. The facts are that some are meant to obey the Lord and others never take time to get a strong enough testimony of it. I realize I've done some things I shouldn't in dating, but my testimony and your teachings kept me in tune with the spirit enough to stay clean. Maybe the answer is found in Talmage's statement: "A willful (disobeyer of the law) grows deaf to the voice of both intuition and reason in holy things, and loses the privilege of communing with his Creator, thus forfeiting the strongest means of attaining a personal knowledge of God [and thus desiring to obey His desires and commandments.]

I'm happy you have jobs in the Church again. I love the gospel and love to teach it. No greater growth comes to me than seeing someone accept the gospel or some who have accepted it working harder to gain their salvation. I never get sadder, either, than when I hear of people marrying out of the Church, or in any way disobeying a commandment of the Lord. God help us all to stay clean and pure. Teach Roberta to guard her pearl and not cast it before even kings. Teach the boys more respect for the purity of womanhood. I believe I could have been taught a little more on that line. Teach them that you don't commit sin all at once. First the thought is repelled, then it's tolerated, then it's permitted, then it's embraced. I'm sure you know your duty

though and I must be out of place in saying anything but my desire is great to help in anyway I can. As Alma and Nephi I wish I could convince all men to be good but I know it can't be so.

Mother, Father, brothers, sister: they're the richest blessing a guy can have when he is far away and loneliness makes them so much dearer. I love you all; I pray you will follow faithfully the Lord's teachings; helping one another over the rocky places. Please write often.

Ed thanks a million for your letter. It was good to hear from you to know you still remember me. Next time, mention your scouting and schooling. I'm yearning for the time to pass rapidly so that I can be with you and the family again for a while.

We lost to the Harlem All Stars, but it was a lot of fun. They are more clowns than anything.

Thanks mother for the money. I still haven't cashed a check, but I may need a few dollars shortly. I'm paid up on everything; just need a little spending money.

Well, it's been good talking to you. I hope to write more about a trip we took later on next week. Thanks for being my family and remember I love you all; sinceramente, Elder Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 774a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, October 5, 1963.

Dear Lucy, I only know in part so I cannot judge. I see through a glass darkly because you're so far away and I count your love only by your letters. Love suffers long and is blind, doubts not but is patient. Love bears and endures many things. Love never fails, but where there be prophecies, they shall fail; where there be tongues, they shall cease; where there be knowledge, it shall faint and vanish away; in the thoughts of Paul, I've expressed what my love is and how it feels. Nevertheless, there is a righteous anger that is slowly building up to destroy that love. It will not be mocked. Three weeks is too long to go without hearing from you. I don't care what you're doing.

Life is about the same down here in Tacna. We keep plugging away ten to twelve hours every day, trying not to get discouraged. We had one good man baptized today and are hoping to get more soon. President Nicolaysen and President Tuttle were down last Wednesday and gave some wonderful instruction and encouragement. I am now feeling well and am happy in the work. The time is passing rapidly and I get letters from home once a week.

I'm still waiting to hear about your plans for the future. I hope you are in school now and enjoying it. Lucy, it is wonderful to be a member of this great Church and see how it changes lives. I can't help but weep for joy every time a man accepts the gospel and humbles himself to his knees. It is such a testimony to me to see them do so.

My mother says she promised she'd write to you and still wants to when she finds time. Say hi to your family for me and give them my regards and love. I'd like to see them again. Well, I'll write

as soon as I get your next letter. I still plan on having a wonderful life together even though we may have our differences, love ya loads, Lyman De.

LETTER 774b Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, October 6, 1963 [found in *Missionary Journal 2*, pages 390-392 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Son Lyman, I wonder if you have been listening to the conference sessions today. I hope you were able to get them on short wave again this time. If so, you likely heard much more of it than we did. It is broadcast on Channel 2 from Spokane here – or at least the one Sunday morning session is – and we watched that one. However, we couldn't get it on our set for some reason (the other two channels are good) so we went into town and watched it with the Andertons. We really enjoyed hearing and seeing President McKay, President Brown, and the others who spoke. We didn't know until last night about President Moyle dying and Elder Tanner being put in the Presidency. Boy that really made us feel out of touch to think that it had been so long, and we hadn't heard anything about it. I shall have to subscribe to the Church section of the *Deseret News* to be mailed to us here, as we get very little Utah news either on the radio, television or newspaper, and it makes us realize how far away we are. It was quite a shock about President Moyle, but what a wonderful way to go – in the work of the Lord and just peacefully go in your sleep like that. He will be greatly missed by all and especially by those closest to him, but we find there is always someone to step in and take over. I'm sure Elder Tanner will be fine. Don't know too much about the new Apostle (Monson).

After conference we ate dinner with the Andertons – having taken much of the dinner over there with us. We enjoy visiting with them and our families enjoy each other. Ed and Joe went to youth choir; then the men and boys went to priesthood meeting and then we all went to Church and finally after more practices and youth missionary meeting, we all got home, built some fires, got supper and here I am writing to our eldest son and brother. It is much colder tonight and feels like we will get our first frost of the season tonight.

Thank you so much Lyman for the nice bouquet of flowers for my birthday. I shall sit here and smell my bouquet of roses (I brought in from outside) and pretend they are the ones you bought for me. Thanks also son for your sweet words of love and appreciation. I love you too son and appreciate the fine life you are living – ample pay for anything I have done in raising you to this point in your life. If our others cause us as little concern as you have, we will feel blessed indeed.

It's surely nice that you were able to talk with the other elders about the things that were bothering you and holding them back from doing their best. Always stay as humble and sweet as you are son and I'm sure the Lord will continue to be with you in the things you do and say.

Our meeting this evening was on genealogy, and I couldn't help but think of you during most of it. You haven't had much time to think of this while on your mission, but I'm sure you will be glad to get back to your records when your mission there is over. You have such a wonderful start on it and I know it is something that you will want to carry on with.

Glad that I'm not the only one to get confused on addressing an envelope. The other day the mailman made a trip down to our home to show me what I had put on your letter (you probably noticed the change) where I put the date instead of Tacna, Peru. On this last letter of yours you addressed it to yourself here at Sandpoint and on your return address you had our Sandpoint address – South America. I didn't even notice it until tonight when I was copying your letter.

The three slides were good as always. Our little viewer was out of batteries for quite a while but we put some in the other day and so have looked over all the slides. Of course we like the ones with you in best, so we are glad you send one occasionally. Gordie really gets a kick out of seeing the ones with you and wants to know all about what you are doing. You look good to us son, and we will be so happy when you are able to come home and be with us again. But of course we wouldn't trade this experience you are having for anything else. I'm keeping the slides in good condition for you and they will mean a lot to you all through your life.

Dad has spent his first week on the job at the lumber mill. They have really given him a work out and say they work him to about his capacity. But at least he wasn't as soft to start the job as he would have been earlier. He has been working in the timber here and hardening up his muscles, so he has stood the lumber work okay. Starting tomorrow he will go on night shift and should be able to go to work with our next door neighbor who also works that shift. It is about six miles from here to the mill going towards Sandpoint. We are glad for the job but hope that one day he will get into a position where he can stay here and just run this place – that would really make him happy. He brought two truck loads of shavings home and put all over the barn, etc., so the animals have good bedding for the winter weather. Mr. Strecker came out Saturday and helped them use the hay chopper, so they got that taken care of as there were a couple of hundred bales of grass hay left in the barn (which of course we will pay for) and it had to be chopped then used with molasses for the cows. Guess we will keep all four cows (they will all calve within the next few months) and pay for them a little at a time.

Well, son, everyone is in bed, and guess I had better get there too, as we have to get up pretty early to make lunches, breakfast and get everyone off to school, etc. McKay has written another letter, and I shall send some more from the relatives from time to time. With all the love, Mother.

LETTER 775 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to the family, Sandpoint, Idaho, October 7, 1963

Dearest family, well, in my letter yesterday I wrote you a lot of things, but today, I want to tell you about a trip we elders took up into the Andes. About fifty miles from here in almost a steady climb is the little town of Tarata. It lays at 11,000 feet at the base of the highest mountains in the Western hemisphere: 15,000 feet in height. Well, here is the story of that fantastic trip.

Last Thursday, the third, we got up at 7:00 a.m. and left in the taxi of the boy we baptized this week. We took along one investigator who was from Tarata and who said he would show us around. He is a school teacher and when the Book of Mormon lesson was presented he just stared at us. He knows Indian traditions and tales really well and many compared marvelously with the Book of Mormon story. Anyway, we took our time traveling up there and took pictures along the way. It was really a nice ride but a little sickening with so much turning, climbing, dipping, etc. I felt a little nauseated a few times, but we made it okay. We got to Tarata about 10:30 or 11:00 and went walking around for a while. Being so high we had a problem at times making it up hills. We went all over the city and met every big guy in town: the patriarch, the judge, sheriff, priest, doctor, school teacher, territorial manager, etc. We told each of them a little about the Church and left calendars, tracts, copies of the Book of Mormon, and cards with all of them. They may not open up Tarata yet, but when they do, they'll be well received. We were the first elders ever to go there. We ate dinner at the school teacher's house and supper was all paid for by the judge. We all felt really good about the day and believe we were inspired to go.

October 8, 1963. The investigator that went with us will be baptized Thursday. He is branch president material all the way through and will be such an addition to the branch. Yesterday, the boss lady of the boy we baptized about a month ago decided she wanted to hear about Joseph Smith because of the change the boy had made. So we set up a meeting in the boy's house and invited her. There were four others there also. We gave a good first lesson and charged them to be baptized. They all accepted. The boss lady really took it sharp and had such a wonderful testimony that I believe we'll be able to baptize here with the school teacher this Thursday. One interesting side detail: she is the owner and operator of the biggest (what do you call it) prostitution house in town. Nevertheless, she has a desire.

Helen (Olsen) Gifford wrote me today saying Madsen's had bought the motel. Which motel I'm not sure, but I believe she meant ours. I hope that is the case, as it will surely be a load off your minds. I'll expect word in your forthcoming letter.

They opened up two more branches in the mission this week; one in Arica (they now have two), and one in Huánuco. Huánuco is on the other side of the Andes and one of the tributaries of the Amazon runs through it. I was amazed to see how close some of these tributaries are from here. This is surely a fascinating country. Huánuco and Cuzco are the only two cities inland that are opened as of now. It looks like expansion will be seen in the future. Presidents Nicolaysen and Tuttle went into Bolivia as I mentioned and also into Ecuador to see the prospects. We may see a lot of changes before the end of the year. You never know from one day to the next. In Tacna two of the elders have been here for over seven months (six is average). They sort of think I'll be branch president (they thought that in Piura also). But I'll just keep plugging along and try and be worthy of any office but covetous of none. This darn mission is going by too fast. I keep up with all my schedules, but I still feel that I could progress more. I guess I've progressed more than I realize though. I certainly have a stronger testimony.

I hope you enjoy the pictures. They are self explanatory. Do you think I've changed any? They were taken last week, so they are current. I'm waiting anxiously for those of the ranch and the family. I hope they are forthcoming rapidly.

I wrote out a \$20.00 check this week. It will be used to dye one two-toned suit I have; clean a suit; a little recreation and \$3.00 for pictures. If I'm spending too much, let me know. I could cut down on a few things.

Lucy hasn't written me for a month, so I suppose she has about decided it's quits. I still think a lot of her, but don't feel she's the one and only. I could be just as happy with Maurine, Geraldine, or any other of my previous girl friends. Time will take its toll and elimination won't be hard if even necessary (there won't be anyone to eliminate).

The scouts went on a nature hike last Saturday for a couple of hours. Since we had nothing special to do, we worked on the Botany merit badge. It surprised me some of the things that grow around here: sugar cane, pomegranates, figs, grapes, olives, dates, cotton, bananas, cedar, oregano (spice), and all the fruit trees. We had a good time and learned a lot. We're still waiting recognition from the council to organize but it doesn't look too hopeful.

I hope you'll let me in on who the new councilor to The First Presidency and 12 Apostles are. We get news late in Peru. (Never mind, we got it today.)

All the telephones and banks in Peru are on strike right now (how ridiculous) and have pretty well screwed up everything.

The mission got a high of sixty baptisms last week. A year ago we got that in a month. The spirit is being poured out in abundance and the people's hearts are being softened to acceptance. Well, I'll close for this time. I love you all and pray that the Lord will bless and keep you safe; love always, Lyman De Platt, your South American roving, reporting son and brother.

LETTER 776 Kirk Cook Lyman to Edward and Irene Lyman, Blanding, Utah, October 8, 1963.

Dear folks and all, just a few lines to say hello and let you know things are just fine here in the mission field. It's late (10:50) and I'm supposed to be in bed so if this is abrupt or changes style of writing it's because I'll have to finish it tomorrow.

We baptized a couple who were formerly Catholic and another family (mother and daughter) who were also Catholic. Seems like we have more success with them than anyone else.

I believe it's finally starting to turn winter here. The weather is getting colder and you can just feel the snow creeping in. I don't mind the snow if only the cold wind would stay away. Sure makes tracting on the miserable side sometimes.

Once again, thanks for the money you were able to send. It's sure helped out on my dentist bill, and I'm very grateful that you were able to help me out. Thanks again.

No sinus trouble to speak of but still I'm having trouble with my back. I guess it's going to take longer than I figured to have it fixed so it will stay in place. One thing for sure, I can appreciate a healthy body from now on.

Must go. I'm on my study time and behind a couple of reports because of some extra reading I did yesterday. God bless you, tell everyone hello for me; love to all, Kirk.

LETTER 777a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, October 12, 1963

Dear Lucy, today I happily received a letter from the mailman addressed from a girl I knew a long time ago back in my younger days. It was a really nice letter and it brought me up to date on her life, how she was behaving herself and what she thought of me. She let me in on a few pertinent facts about her and me, and you might say bawled me out in a loving way. Looking at it from her point of view I could feel her feelings and loved her for it. She is a girl I've looked a long time for and now that I've found her I sometimes treat her in a way I shouldn't. She's a very sweet girl; has a wonderful town and family life behind her. She's a good member of the Church and has a strong testimony of the gospel. She's got a very strong personality and set ideas on certain things; so set at times that sweetness cannot be disguised from this boy's eyes and her personal attractiveness and sincerity add that touch of perfection to a finished article. I've known her a long time it seems and yet I know her not at all. I believe as she wrote in her letter that she has come through the teenage years spotted with very few scares and her possibilities as a future wife have always been with me since the day I talked to her while driving between Cedar and Springdale after listening to general conference together. She could very easily raise the kind of children I want just the way she is (now) and could be such a good influence on my life in helping me face the problems of every day. Exaltation without her would be heaven to no one, but with her to everyone involved. Many times I get myself so involved in my missionary work that other aspects of life are left out of the picture because of my narrow-mindedness in thinking. Again this young lady steps to the rescue as she is and has put things in their proper place. You

can see, I'm sure, why I think so much of her and no one else. It would be hard doing without her now that I know her. Lucy, I think you're wonderful! I need your love.

We have been having really good success down here lately, baptizing good men and good women. It is really wonderful to be able to do that. It's so rewarding.

Two weeks ago the elders went up to Tarata; a Lamanite village up in the mountains. It was really fun and quite enjoyable. We took a few pictures. I hope you like them! Have I changed any from the guy you knew?

Yesterday my companion and I went to Arica, Chile with President Nicolaysen. We went to a show over there: "Home from the Hills." It was an inspiring show. It only lacked one thing: you!

President Nicolaysen has been to Ecuador and Bolivia looking over prospects for opening them to missionary work. They have no missionaries yet and he says the prospects are favorable. He opened up two branches more in Peru this week so we're progressing. The mission is aiming for a goal of 200 baptisms this month. We got sixty last week and prospects are looking really good. We are baptizing a lot of humble, sincere people. The other missions are looking at us with awe you might say. Peru is progressing more rapidly than any other missions in South America. We have six years as a mission and expect to form two stakes in another year. There's only one stake in all of South America, in Argentina, and they have had missionaries for thirty years. So you can see the Lord is pouring out His spirit upon us. I've got to work now. I'll write in a couple of days. Lucy, hang in there, love ya loads, L. D. Platt.

LETTER 777b Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, October 14, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 394-396 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, another Monday morning and time to get a letter off to you. We have appreciated your letters coming so often and want you to know that we do enjoy keeping up with the things you are doing. Hope that the trip is enjoyable. One by one those countries down there are opened up to the missionaries, and it is plain to see how the gospel is spreading over the whole earth.

We haven't sold the motel yet, and of course it is somewhat of a worry, so we hope and pray that before long it can be taken care of. It would surely put my mind at ease more than it is if we didn't have it to worry about it. We should have stayed there until it was sold – to be fair to everyone concerned, but we make our share of mistakes as we go through life. Just hope the Lord will help us out of this situation as he has so many others.

I agree with you son about the girls tempting the boys to do wrong by the way they dress and conduct themselves, etc., and we will do everything in our power to keep Roberta the sweet little modest girl that she is now. I agree also that a mission is a safe place for you to be during these years, and I'm thankful that you are where you are. We never know – even the strongest have been tempted and fallen. It will be a wonderful thing to see you and the rest married in the temple. We just had a family from here go down to conference and go through the temple for the first time. He is a counselor in the bishopric and it was really wonderful for them to go after about twenty-eight years of married life. She said she felt like they were just married, and when they came out of the temple their car was written all over with “just married,” etc. and people looked at them and laughed, as about eight of them – big kids and little piled into the car.

Thanks for telling us your feelings about Lucy. Do you mind a little advice? I think Lucy is a very sweet, modest little girl. She has been really faithful to wait and to write to you in this past year, and I surely wouldn't want to see you hurt her feelings. As for your statement that your wife must be a returned missionary – I think that is a little extreme. If you will remember your remarks about lady missionaries after you had been in the field a little while – you said that they just wasted their time and everyone else's. Evidently you have changed your mind, and that is good, as I'm sure they do much good along with the elders. But to say that your wife must be a returned missionary – I don't go along with that 100%. I want all of my boys to fill missions, and I would like very much to have Roberta marry a returned missionary, but that isn't the prime duty of our young girls, and our general authorities will tell you the same I think. If you can find a girl that is good and clean and is willing to work and try to better herself and wait for a missionary while he is out preaching the gospel – you better not be too set on seeing to it that she has filled a mission. You know a girl has to be considerably older than a boy, so you would have to wait a while to get married after your mission anyway. I don't know your feelings or Lucy's hurt and I am not too concerned one way or another on that score. I think she would make a good little wife and we think a lot of her – but of course the thing that matters is your feelings toward each other – and you won't really know what they are until after your mission and you see her again – if she is still waiting. But the thing that does concern me right now is that you not hurt her. If you have been too abrupt or harsh with her, I would suggest that you write and ask her forgiveness. Go through life hurting as few people as you possibly can son and you will think more of yourself and so will everyone else. I don't mean to hurt your feelings, and I hope I haven't son, for I love you dearly, but this is the advice that I felt it my duty to pass along to you. Let me know your reactions.

We are still enjoying beautiful fall weather here in Northern Idaho, and each day it seems too good to last. It is unusually good weather too, as they say they haven't had so mild a fall for years and years. So we are enjoying it. I just put out a big wash, and am glad each week for a day that will dry the clothes. Most everyone up here has dryers, and I'll probably wish I had one before the winter is over, as my washings are really big ones. I don't use our automatic, as it isn't set up for one here. We got a little second hand conventional washer. Just for fun I counted the pairs of socks as they were hanging on the line this morning, and there were over 40 pairs, so you can see along with everything that goes with the socks, we have a good sized washing to try and dry in the house.

Well, you should see the little car that is sitting out in front of our place now. The pickup took so much gas and just wasn't suitable for all of us to ride in and so we looked around for something to trade it for. We were about to get a Volkswagen bus, which is very roomy and would have been really good for us, but we finally settled on something cheaper and got a little Volkswagen. We fit into it pretty good, as there is a good sized back seat, then a little compartment in back of that for McKay and Gordie to fit into. Of course we load it up but it will save so much on gas, and most the time when we are going back and forth between here and town the whole family isn't in it anyway. It is a fun little thing to drive and I hope it will give us good service. It is only a 1956 but is nice looking and in good shape as near as we can tell. We were talking yesterday about where in the world we would put you if you were here – but guess we will cross that bridge when we get to it.

Dad has gone to Spokane today with a load of birch. They haven't sold much lately, seems there have been too many things to interfere. Hope he doesn't have any trouble and will get back here in time to go to work at 4:30. The job is really working him hard, and he is getting muscles all over. Most of what he does is stack lumber – not a very romantic job for a man with a college degree is it? I told him he really must want this ranch to be willing to have a job like this to help get him started. I do hope we can make a go of it here for his sake. He is really pleased with the place and does want a chance to prove himself on it.

Well, son, guess it's about time for the mailman to come and pick up the mail, so I'd better get this up to the box. Yesterday we went out to some Church members and picked up and picked Jonathan apples that were going to go to waste. We got about 200 lbs. and are very happy for them, as they will really go good in apple sauce and for eating.

Take good care of yourself son and remember we love you and are thankful for the work you are doing there. Lovingly, Mother.

LETTER 778a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, October 18, 1963

Dear Lou, boy the time is going fast. It's getting so that I can see the end coming around the next bend and it doesn't make me feel too good. The mission is such a growing experience and I've made so many friends that I'd almost like to just keep right on being a missionary. I know the Lord is wise in saying two years though. It is a hard work and also one that can be mighty discouraging. We sure depend a lot on you folks at home to keep us happy and desirous of working. You realize fourteen months has gone by and only sixteen are left. If the next fourteen go as fast it won't be any time at all until we're on our honeymoon. Man o' live we could go up to my folks place and just go get lost back in the tall timber for a week or two. Boy wouldn't that be a lot of fun. We could go fishing or hunting or just lie there on the blanket underneath the cloudy sky and the tall whispering pines planning our future or I guess I better change the subject; I'm tubbing myself out; trunky (a missionary expression meaning the trunk is packed and the missionary is sitting on it). I've got a feeling that time will be here soon enough without why we might even borrow the car and just buzz up into Canada for a while. Our home is

situated right close to a big lake and we could go canoeing, picnicking, swimming, lo que sea; it would be a lot of fun, no matter what it was as long as we were together.

Say you know what President Tuttle told us. He said President Kennedy has made a law that if you get married you can't be drafted. Well, I don't want to be drafted; and; so; maybe we could just be thinking about it. It would sure be easier in the long run. And if I didn't go in the service, it would be kind of hard for you to go on a mission. It will be interesting to see how all that turns out. You know there sure are a lot of girls that stay loyal to their missionaries now. I know a lot of elders waiting to get back to their sweethearts.

Each week that goes by we decide it is a pretty good deal. You just keep hanging in there as my companion puts it and I think we'll see some sharp times together. Of course it won't all be easy, but it ought to be fun anyway.

I hope you enjoyed the pictures. Here are a few more to add to your misery or joy depending on what you call it. I'd be more than happy to receive some shots from you of you. It has been eight or nine months I believe since you sent me one. How about it? Come on, be a good girl!

I haven't received your weekly letter so don't know if you've told me about school, etc. yet or not. I'm still waiting to hear what you plan to do during the next one and a half years.

I just got a new bed this morning. We bought three and shipped two to Arica. They are by far the best beds in the mission, double spring layers. They cost about \$40.00 apiece. I'm going to live in comfort now.

I bought you a bouquet of carnations today and put a vase by your picture. I hope you enjoy them. They are pretty red and sure smell nice. They go really well with your picture.

I am enjoying Tacna very much. I can't remember or not if I told you we went to Chile. I believe I did. It was a lot of fun anyway. The president interviewed me last week and said he was putting his confidence in me to get the elders here in a better working spirit. That's quite a job. But I appreciate his confidence. Well, honey, I'll close for this week. I hope this letter finds you in good spirits and studying hard and working hard. If it doesn't, get that way. It is the only happy way to live. I send you my love as always, Lyman De.

P.S. I've always followed and respected my mother's advice. Here is what she wrote me concerning you: "Thanks for telling us your feelings about Lucy.... [see the previous letter for the full paragraph, which I won't repeat here – LDP]"

Well you can see very clearly how my family feels about you. It appears I've been too strict in my requirements for a wife; therefore, I would like to ask your forgiveness and hope I haven't caused you any restless nights. In my desire to do good I get over-exuberant at times I guess. You can bet I put a lot of stock into what my parents write me and so it concerns me quite a bit if I might have possibly hurt you too deeply. I would appreciate an explanation of how you feel. I guess that's all for this time, bye.

LETTER 778b Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, October 19, 1963

Dearest family, I received your letter today and was, of course, very happy to receive it. I suppose it takes quite a bit of your time to sit down and write as much as you do Mother, so I appreciate it very much. I am grateful also for your advice about Lucy. I had already decided perhaps my judgment was still sort of juvenile when I received a scorching letter from here. She's got good character and a lot of good possibilities. I agree with you 100% in what you said.

President Nicolaysen was down here last week to interview us and he really did too. The elders have been toasting to Friday (six more days, five, four, three, etc.) and he interviewed me first and asked me if I'd been toasting. I told him "no" and he really looked relieved. Later in a meeting with the four of us he bawled the other three elders out real proper saying it was an evil and wicked practice and commanded them to stop it. I felt thankful I hadn't taken part in it. He and I had a real nice talk for an hour. He seemed to be pleased with the way the hours had risen and baptisms also. He stated that he was putting his confidence in me to keep the elders on the right track and thanked me for what I've done so far. I felt as though he was proud of me and for my part am glad I'm able to help some. Still a lot has to be done here before the spirit of the work will be established permanently. I'm really enjoying my mission here in Tacna and expect I'll spend the majority of the rest of my time here. We'll see.

The supervising elders came over from Arica today and we bought three really good beds (the best in the mission). They gave one to me and took two to Arica. I'm feeling like a king right now. I had a pretty bad bed before. Most of the other beds are single springs. This one has double springs like your bed. It is nice. To get these beds they needed a little money, so I cashed my November check for \$85.00. I hope the money you have will cover it. I'll make this check last until December 1st or give up. There have been a lot of expenses lately, some necessary, some not. It seems hard to get by on what you know you should. I'll try a little harder this month. I lent a couple of hundred soles to a member and that also took some of my money. I don't have that back yet.

Darn, I can't think of much to say this time. I know if my mission goes any faster, it won't last much longer. I've already passed fourteen months away from home. A lot of things are liable to happen in that time. It will be interesting. My companion just finished eighteen months and is now on his last year. One year is nothing and I can see that coming way too soon.

It sounds like the weather is really beautiful up there. I hope it keeps up. We have had an unusually rainy spring down here. It has been cold, also. I'm not looking forward at all to summer, as I'm sure you're not to the winter. They are liable to both be in extremes.

How is everyone doing in school this year? I'd be thrilled to hear from all of you again. I'll make sure you all get personal letters for Christmas (Gordie too) but before that I can't promise. I've been trying to write to both grandparents lately and each letter takes time, as I'm sure you all realize.

The mission is progressing rapidly here in Peru. We are still trying to get a stake within the next eighteen months. I may see it, I may not. I hope to though.

My companion is sick today, so I'm trying to catch up on some other letters and my studying. I'm a little behind on my reading schedule, but I think I'll still be able to make all my goals. I will let them be known at the end of the year if I can get them done. I'm sure you'll be happily surprised at some of them.

I love all of you very much and pray each night for your welfare; write soon, love always, Elder Platt

LETTER 779 Thora Stapley Platt, Richfield, Utah to Gordon and Allie Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, October, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 400-401 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear folks in Canada (almost), couldn't you guys get a little farther away? You better write often or we won't have any contact with you at all.

How is the new venture working out? Surely hope it's something you will all be happy with. You mentioned a little trouble on the way but didn't elaborate. Why don't you write us a big long letter and tell us all about everything.

Norine [Aunt Thora's sister] came up and stayed for nearly a week. She got her bedding all washed up and her ironing caught up and a couple of dresses made while here.

They were unable to find a place to rent so they moved into one of the motel units. I guess it's pretty crowded but was all they could do. The folks there let them store some belongings in one of the units with a broken shower.

Garn is hoping to get work there for all winter if not I don't know just what they plan to do. They were thinking of buying a used trailer house from out to Page.

These are busy days. I will be glad when the canning is all done for this fall. Seems like there is something everyday, but we are glad to have it to can. Roy bottled six bushel of peaches for just him. I don't see much of him. He is gone whenever I go by or call. He was very much surprised to hear about your move though. He said he would write.

Dian [Burd] wrote and said Charlie [Burd, her father] has to have an operation for a growth on his intestines but she didn't say when it would be. She was quite worried. We just wrote to her tonight.

How is Lyman De doing? There are surely lots of boys from here leaving for missions right now. Mr. Newell's son, Dwain Pearson's son, Leo Littlewoods's son, David Colby, from Vermillion, my cousin's boy from Joseph, and Kenneth Hendrickson's boy have all had testimonials in the past two weeks.

We plan to go to Salt Lake this weekend to attend Bob and Fern Cope's boy's testimonial. We promised to take Eunice Cope up for it.

I am still quite busy with Stake Primary. This primary-home partnership's program keeps us going. Hazel is working in Primary in Panguitch.

Teresa has started to school. It seems kind of lonesome to have my baby gone, but she likes it. We have seven in school now.

George keeps calling "bedtime" so guess I better close for this time; write to us; love, Thora and all.

LETTER 780 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, October 20, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 402-404 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest roving, reporting, son, and such nice long newsy letters – we really do enjoy them. The pictures are so good. I notice that your hair is long again after having it so short there for awhile. Yes, son, we can see a change in you. You have matured a lot. Of course what is more important than your physical change and development is the spiritual growth we can see you have made, and this makes us really happy. The pictures will make a good addition to your others and will mean much to you in later years. I think I will send this group to grandma and grandpa Lyman and ask them to return them.

The trip was really interesting and sounded like it was very rewarding too. The spirit of the Lord is really poured out upon those people, and I can imagine what a thrill it is to see the gospel spreading and being accepted by them. It's nice that you can be a part of it all and see the changes being made.

Finally I got some pictures developed for you. Some of them didn't turn out too well but at least there are enough to give you an idea of what the place looks like. I thought I had taken a picture of the house, but guess I didn't get one. The place looks quite different now than when we

moved. For one thing it is Fall and the trees are different colors. Our first freezing weather has been just the last few nights and the leaves are falling fast now since the frost. Our flowers are frozen now except for the pansies. I'll send some of the last ones we took in Springdale too.

Speaking of Springdale – I don't know where Helen got her information about the motel (if she was speaking of ours) but so far we have heard nothing about it. We haven't heard from Correy (real estate agent) for ten days or so, so something may have transpired that we don't know of yet, but I should think he would have written us something about it, if there were anything to write. I wish it were the case that Madsen's or someone else would have bought it. We heard from Leah Taylor, and she wasn't very happy over the situation as it is. She said she would buy it back for them to retire on but didn't want to pay more than \$20,000 for it. You know we paid her \$25,000 for it and while it may have deteriorated some, I don't think it has gone down hill that far, so right now we are just waiting to hear something from Correy in hopes that he may have a buyer. If not, we may offer it to Leah for less than \$25,000 but not as little as \$20,000. I remind myself that I lived through the Genola episode I guess I can last through this one, but at times it is hard wondering just how things are going to go. Hope to soon have some definite word to send you on it though. How come Helen wrote to you? Do you correspond regularly? Is Maurine living with her now? I believe she told me she might go to Vegas to work when she had finished her schooling. I feel like you that time will, to an extent, take care of the girl friends and there may not be any eliminating to do once you are home then you can start over with a clean slate. That shouldn't be too much of a concern now while you are doing missionary work. Let us know though about Lucy or anything else you care to.

The nature trip with the scouts sounded interesting. It is nice for you to see different countries and how nature is different in each place. Eddie just handed in his insect collection for biology. He had a pretty good one. We all cooperated with him in finding the insects and I was reminded of the collection you had to get in Whittier. We weren't able to help much with yours, but being home as I am all day now, I have been able to get some good ones for Ed, and I think he has the best one in the class. It has been fun for us all.

I guess Ed is going to go in for basketball the first of November. He thinks it won't interfere with his time as much as football did, so he is going to try it. The kids have been in school seven weeks already, and we can't see how the time can go as fast as it does. I imagine once your time gets to within a year of your release, the countdown on months will really go in a hurry. Guess it is up to each of us to make the most of each day we live.

The little Volkswagen is working out pretty good. It's a pretty good little car and accommodates us all pretty well. Surely a lot better on gas consumption than the pickup truck was. They are cutting birch off and on but don't get a load in except about every ten days or so.

Deer season opened yesterday and we have heard shots around. We can't get a license yet until we have been in the state longer so at least we haven't had to worry about the hunt yet. Have had a couple of people go up in our fields to hunt but don't think they have gotten anything as yet. Dad doesn't have any gun except the 22 now anyway, as he sold his 30.06 while we were in Springdale.

Gordie is always coming up to me with a scribbled on, folded up paper and telling me "Here's a letter to Lyman" so if you don't receive them, you'll know at least that he is thinking of you.

It's about time for Church again, so guess I had better call this good for today. Did you get over your cold and cough – hope so and that you can stay well (I was going to say this winter), but guess it is summer for you). Our stoves here do a good job of keeping things warm. This front room heater will hold a fire about all night and the house is good and tight, so at least we are prepared for cold weather and have plenty of wood on hand too. Take good care of yourself son and remember we love you, Mother.

LETTER 781a Lyman De Platt, Casilla, 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, October 26, 1963

Dear Lucy, I haven't got a whole lot to say this letter as I said it all last time, but I want to write a little bit anyway. My folks just sent me some photos of the kids, the ranch, and the area around Sandpoint. It is beautiful. I can hardly wait to see it. I only wish I could be a missionary, see it, and be with you at the same time, although I suppose that's asking too much. The time is going by fast enough, without wishing it would go faster. How's your schooling coming along? What classes are you taking? Has your mother moved down with you yet?

We are having a lot of success here in Tacna. My companion and I had two baptisms this week and expect two more next week. We are finding some good people. I wish you could see how sincere some of them are.

I'm reading *Articles of Faith* by Talmage and the New Testament again. I'm still behind a little on my reading I believe. How's yours coming?

Lucy, I want you to realize that I'm very happy to be acquainted with a young lady like you. I've been having a little trouble again with the girls down here. You could have anyone you wanted almost just for the asking and it shouldn't be like that. I like to be able to fight a little to get my girl. You've been a fight to keep once I got you. Many times I wonder what all this trouble is for, but I believe in the long run it's all worthwhile. It will be interesting to see how it all turns out. I'm sure whatever way it is will be for the best. I guess the Lord is pretty wise in his dealings with men and we should just be humble and accept what comes. Well, Lucy, don't be unhappy with the short letter but I'm just baffled for words that aren't mushy. If I start filling my letters with that I'm sure you wouldn't last very long. It's just better to be sane in writing letters. I do love you though and hope you get all your plans regulated the way you want them done, chou for now, Lyman De.

LETTER 781b Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, October 26, 1963

Dearest family, it was good to get your letter and pictures yesterday. It makes me feel bad to be so far away and have my family growing up so fast right before my eyes. Last time (February) the biggest change was in Eddie; this time in McKay and Gordie. I was comparing the picture I took of Gordie just before I left and this one. He has grown a lot. He looks a lot like McKay did. Roberta is still just as pretty as ever and the three older boys look like they're keeping pace with each other.

Mom, you asked if I wrote to Helen regularly. Yes, we've kept in pretty good contact. She is just the kind of woman I feel I've known before and we really get along well. The same way with Joan Rhinehart (Whittier). Anyway, she keeps me pretty well informed about Springdale and things in general. Maurine isn't living with them yet. They just took a trip together though. The last I heard Maurine was in St. George seeing her grandfather. He's pretty sick. You know, I sometimes wonder if I still don't like her.

Lucy wrote me last week and told me she had decided she wanted to go on a mission. That was after I had apologized. She says she's talked to her family about it and plans to leave next September. She wants to work and go to school until then, move back to Springdale just before she leaves so she can leave from there. What do you think? If she goes, chances are she'll be your daughter-in-law. She may be anyway.

Boy, those two trucks really look like good things. Now, did you trade the GMC in on the Volkswagen or what? That big one really looks nice.

The area up there just looks great. If this Church wasn't true, I'd be home tomorrow. But it is and I'm enjoying the work tremendously. We had two baptisms this week. (Joe would flip his wig over them (two of the cutest little 16-year-old Peruvians you've ever seen) and we expect to have two more next week. The Lord is really being good to us and blessing us with health and strength to work hard.

The interview I had with President Nicolaysen was very good last week. I asked him if he thought I had done less than was my best and as usual in him humble, loving, attracting way, he complimented me for my fine work and said with as much experience as I've had, still being so young, I could really be a big help to the Lord if I'd stay humble and sincere. I know our President is a man of God (Peru's prophet) and that gives me such great, unshakeable tendencies to work hard.

Folks, I'm thankful for your lives. Doggone it; it hurts me to see people hurt because of their folks. My companion is one of the most humble elders you can find and we love each other like brothers, and when he gets letters from his folks it always makes him sad (they've divorced since he came on his mission – temple divorce). And so I just want to tell you I'm blessed to have you as parents. I pray God will always help you to help us to do what's right. More and more I can see I'm going to be called to leading positions in the Church (as my patriarchal blessing says) – not because I'm terrifically humble or know a lot, but because I've been taught to fear God and

love His commandments. I owe that to you. There are a lot of good elders but a lot of them lack the home training I've had. For that reason I'm grateful. I just hope I'm never a bad example for your name or my brothers and sister. It makes me shudder in fear of condemnation if I should cause one of them to go astray (being the oldest) and I know that with Satan working as hard as he is, the percentage of seven for seven being good in the end is sparser and sparser. I just hope we don't slip up. I love Joe, Ed, Gene, Roberta, McKay and Gordie as I always have only more deeply now. God help you to keep them as good as they are now.

Dad, would you please write to me again. I've missed hearing from you. I know you're really busy, but a son needs his Dad's confidence and council often. I love mother very much and enjoy tremendously her letters, but still there's always a vacancy if I don't hear from you for a while. Tell me what's going on and give me some good sound advice to think about. I haven't had a letter like that for a long time. Mother that in no way depreciates your letters. I need them even more in another way.

Thanks Gordie for your really sharp letters. I sure would like to be with you little guy. Pretty soon, though I'll be starting on my slide downhill and once I make senior again, it's going to be spent working so hard they'll have to stop me from working all day and night. I've almost got the language to where it gives me no problems and the six lessons are memorized and I love to use them – especially when I see their fruits. A lady from Callao wrote me and told me she just got baptized. She was an old investigator and it was good to hear her testimony.

I hope school is going okay for everyone. I'm kind of anxious to get back and study again. There are so many things I'd like to take now that I didn't before. Language fascinates me and music is something I'd like to master also.

I can't think of anything else. I wrote to both grandparents and I'm very well physically now. Oh yes, Mother, thanks a lot for Aunt Rene's letters. They will make a good addition to my book. Send all you can.

You asked about meals once. We don't have milk here and usually drink boiled water. In the morning we have varied cereal, bacon, eggs, pancakes and bread mixtures; in the afternoon a salad and usually meat and potatoes. Once in a while she comes up with something good. At night I just get a snack. I put on thirty pounds in just the right places and feel pretty good about it. I don't want to get fatter though.

Well, I guess it's quits for this time. Write soon. I love you all, even King. Get a deer for me if you can. Have fun and hang on there! I'll be home before you want me; sincerely as ever, Lyman De Platt

LETTER 782 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, October 26, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 406-408 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, I should be on my way to Coeur d'Alene to a Stake Sunday School Preparation Meeting, but the family talked me into staying home. I really didn't have a way into town, as the boys had taken the car earlier to go and help decorate for the dance at the church tonight. Does it sound funny to hear us say that the boys have taken the car? You'd really be surprised if you could see them for a minute and see how big they are. They worked all day mostly helping to cut and haul birch, then we all went down to our neighbors for an hour and helped him stack his wood for the winter. He is the one that brought us three truck loads of mill ends. We had ours all put away in the wood shed for winter, but he had a yard full that needed stacking and his children are all small, so we helped, as we really appreciated what he brought us. The weather was quite pretty today but it is definitely Fall now and quite chilly – we've had several nights of frost. One thing we are really glad for is that this house is very tight and easy to heat, and the two stoves in it do a good job of keeping it warm. Of course I guess we haven't seen any cold weather yet compared to what it will be later one, but don't suppose it will get a whole lot colder than it does in Blanding, or Provo, etc.

We had had several people come out to deer hunt on the property this past week, but so far no one has taken a deer off. They seem to be pretty smart at hiding, and there is quite a lot of property and trees to hide in. Dad doesn't have a gun and can't get a license yet anyway, so guess our meat getting will have to wait awhile. Our neighbor said he would likely bring us a piece one of these days.

Son, I'm glad that your interview with President Nicolaysen turned out well. It is always good to have a clear conscience on everything, and then there is nothing to worry about. I don't quite understand about the "toasting" but took it to mean they were living from one Friday to the next for their days off. What do they "toast" with? (or isn't that the important thing?)

Glad too that you have a good bed for a change. Your back will appreciate it.

You asked about how the kids were doing in school. We are really pleased with the way they are all doing. We laughed at Joe today – he was telling his Dad that he failed a biology test. "Well," he said "I didn't really fail but I didn't get an A, just an A- (92). He has been getting really good grades on his hard subjects and even enjoys English more this year than he has ever. The rest are doing well also. Ed got an A on his bug collection. They have to work harder than in Hurricane but we are glad for that. They are out here where there aren't too many distractions once they start their homework (except for television) and each evening we have homework going on in three or four different rooms. Saturday and Sunday are the only evenings our Dad is here with us. We're glad for his work though and glad each week that he retains the job, as he wasn't hired permanently.

Nothing yet on the motel. We called Correy and he said he hadn't had an offer from anyone yet, so we wrote to Leah and offered it to her for \$23,000. She said she would take it but wouldn't pay more than \$20,000, so we'll see what she says when she gets our letter. Please pray with us son (I'm sure you are) that we can get things taken care of.

This past week we received a letter from Eleanor Johnson in Springdale. We may have mentioned her while we were there. She was one of the girls from Colorado City working for the Madsen's who spent considerable time in our home and who adopted our family. She is eighteen now and has left her group out there and is on her own. She said it was a hard decision to make, as it meant leaving all her loved ones and friends, but she said it was good to be on her own. She said she had had some good talks with Bishop Hardy and she was going to have the missionaries give her the lessons and hoped she could accept them. She said her family had completely disowned her and she felt there was no place to turn. We wrote right back to her and told her our home and hearts would be open to her if she would like to come up and live with us. She really wanted to come with us when we left there, but we didn't encourage her as she wasn't yet eighteen. She is a sweet girl (rather large, but has a nice personality). I feel so sorry for her and proud of her for the decision she has made. If we can make it any easier for her, we will all be happy too. I'll let you know what her answer is.

We had a letter from Lois Giles [Whittier] today. David is home from his mission now. He and Roger and Dick all plan on going to the Y next year. Dick will go back in February to get his teaching credentials. Lois said that Susan Quinney and Vince Breglio were going to get married. The Bakers are going to Ireland to get Joan right away. How the time flies. The time for a mission really seems short (especially when it is someone else's).

Dad just got through killing and cleaning two big roosters. Out of the dozen chickens we bought four of them were roosters, so we shall eat two of them now and one later, saving only one. They will taste good, as we haven't had much meat since coming up here. One of the cows is within a week or so of calving. Soon after she calves we will dry the one up that we are now milking. If we are able to keep and pay for all four of the cows it will be a good start, as they are all shortly to calve.

I think I asked you recently about your maid service down there. Do you have help there in Tacna like you did in Piura? What kind of an apartment do you have? The pictures in the last letter are so good. Looks like you need to carry the little donkey – your legs are lots longer. We miss you a lot son and will be glad when you are home with us again, though we realize that you may not be with us very long at a time any more. We were just looking out across the road from us here and saying that we would like to get you the farm there for you. It is owned by an elderly couple and we hope that some of you will want to live close to us (if we are still here). Dad is really happy here, and if we can just get it secured I think he will be happier than he has ever been anyplace.

Good night son. We love you so much. I think my love and appreciation for all my family has increased a lot lately. I think one reason is that I am able to be at home to work and care for them instead of working outside the home and always too tired when home to enjoy them. I've decided this is lots more important than the money I might bring in, so we'll just have to make it without my help (financially) some way. All our love, Mother

LETTER 783 Gene Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 410 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, I sure like this country and I know you would too. The scouting program here is sort of dead. A few of us boys are getting together and we are going to work on scouting. We don't have a leader but as soon as you get back we hope you'll become our leader. This scouting program really needs some sparking up. It doesn't seem like you have been on your mission too long but you have. This is really a beautiful place and the work is hard.

While we were in Springdale (after you left) a group of fundamentalist (Short Creekers) women came down to work in Springdale to work. We made friends with many of them. One of them was Eleanor Johnson. Eleanor made a choice whether or not her church was true. She finally left her church. Her family disowned her. When mom heard of this she invited her to live with us. She is a nice young (18) girl. Love, Gene Platt.

LETTER 784 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to her parents, Blanding, Utah, November 2, 1963

Dearest mother and dad, I received this morning a copy of Kay's telegram. Gordon wants me to call, but I have decided against it. My feelings are too near the surface – having been ever since we came up here – and especially since this news of Loyd. I'm afraid I wouldn't be able to say much if I called. We are anxious for more details, but know we will have a letter soon, so will wait for that. I'm so sorry we can't come down for the funeral. We just aren't able to for several reasons and hope everyone will understand. I'll write to Clessa after I know more about it. Knowing Clessa as I do, I know she will come through with her usual strength and courage. Bless her heart, I'm glad Gordon is home from his mission – it won't be quite so hard for them all as it would be with him gone. Please give them all our love until I write them.

Naturally we are wondering what kind of an accident – hunting, automobile, motor bike, or what. We never know do we and I just pray we can all be ready when our time comes.

I'm sure Monday will be a hard day for you all - DeAlton's 50th birthday. I've thought so much the last few days about him and about you both. You became parents fifty years ago and I can imagine what a hard day that was for you mother and then what a happy one to have a little son. Five more times you were to go through the ordeal of child bearing. I for one want you to know how much I love you for what you went through then and have gone through since for the sake of your family. This old life is full of problems and heartaches, and I'll be glad for us all when we have made the grade. I'm sure DeAlton is waiting with open arms for Loyd or any of his loved ones who leave this life.

This situation poses a problem we knew would arise with our moving clear up here. Needless to say it makes me feel even further away than I have been. I'm sure you have questioned the wisdom in our move. I'm sure you know too that it wasn't my idea and that it was with reluctance I agreed to it. When you live with a man for twenty years who is unhappy in most every job he has and who talks of little else in all those years besides this one great desire he has, you are willing to try most anything. Lots of times I have thought it would be so much easier to be alone, to make my own decisions and avoid what problems I could. But this isn't the way life is designed and for the sake of my family I will give this move a fair trial. I'm the only one that has been lonesome or had misgivings, Gordon and all the children are really happy here, so that is important. You know the quotation "That upon which one's mind is constantly dwelling, is invariably that which one will become." Gordon's desire for ranching has been constant all these years. Here finally – if we can make a go of it – he will have a chance to fulfill his desires. If it does not work out, I will not feel obligated to ever again make such a move. Naturally I pray it will work out for his sake. Time will tell. I shall try to support him fully and make a good home for my family. One thing our move has done for me is to get me home where I can properly care for my family. Because of this and being so far away, they have become more precious to me and I enjoy and love them very much. Joe's attitude has changed so much, for which I am grateful. He is cooperative and thoughtful now and I think he and all the rest are very choice spirits. The Church is strong here, so we haven't hurt them in that respect. Gordon lives the gospel and sets a good example for them, for which I am also grateful. He is cooperative and thoughtful now and I think he and all the rest are very choice spirits.

I have been tempted to go to work up here, I could probably get a job, but I've decided we will make it without my help (financially) or not at all. The children really seem to appreciate having me home and I've tried to make up to them some of the things they missed with me working. A mother's place is certainly in the home.

Maybe I've said more than I should have. I've kind of unburdened myself. I've missed you all so much. I surely wish I could come down for the funeral and spend some time with you. When we get better situated, I will come down and spend some time. We would love to have you come up (I know you'd like it here) but can't expect you to come so far.

I wonder if Almon will make it home. I haven't heard anything from him since we moved. I have written him twice I think.

Please thank Kay for the telegram. Our thoughts and love will be with you all on Monday, though we're far away. With all our love, Allie.

LETTER 785a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, November 4, 1963

Dear Lucy, It was good to get your letter today and know that everything is about the same as usual. I've been so busy the last couple of weeks that I haven't even kept up my diary and that's bad for me. I hope you'll forgive me also for the delay in my letter. I realize you must be pretty

busy with working and going to school, etc. It sounds like you are really hauling in the money on tips. It's good to know people are really pleased with your work. I guess with deer hunters and movie stars you're pretty well keeping busy. I'm glad; that way the time will pass rapidly.

I'll be waiting for you to get ambitious so I can get some snapshots of you. It will be good to see how my girl is doing.

That letter you received to me was just an experiment. It worked with mother and dad's letter too, only they thought I'd been day dreaming when I wrote it.

I'm glad I'm one of only two people that could stop you from going on a mission. If you'll tell me who the other person is I'll write to him/her and do a little talking. You didn't sound really very enthusiastic about going on a mission in your letter, though. Look, don't dedicate a mission to the Lord because I want you to. You ask me if I thought it was necessary for a woman to be a successful mother to have a mission as a prerequisite. I'd be foolish if I said it was; yet the mothers I know who have gone on missions have one or two virtues more than any of the women you mentioned that I know at all well. A daily contact with the people of the world gives a young man or a young girl some vital qualities that are never completely developed without that contact; at least for many years. Therefore, they are more advanced, you might say: 1) a better understanding of people makes a woman more capable of teaching her children; 2) a patience is developed for intolerance and little everyday annoyances that is hard to obtain otherwise. That is the main virtue I see lacking in most women (I may be wrong); 3) a stronger testimony is developed and a better knowledge of the gospel is gained. Once again, maybe these things don't need as much stress as I put on them, but it's my conviction, and I'd be wrong to give in to something I felt was right. What do you say?

I feel like you do Lucy; that a woman's main mission is in raising a good God-fearing family. It is something we can't stress too much; the importance of motherhood. But, let me give you a few statistics that might help you to see my point of view better. I've had ten cousins get married so far. They all came from good, active Mormon homes. You'd think on the surface they'd all be married in the temple, but 100% of them did not. Now I ask you if it's their faults, their mother's faults, or their father's faults, or whose? Good question! If the answer was known, more would be married in the temple. Honey, Satan is working harder today on the minds of men to do anything wrong that a lot of times we pass by things that would shock us if we realized their impact on our later lives. During the next thirty to forty years – literally the last days of the earth's existence – Satan will be working twenty-four hours a day. Our children will be put under more temptations than we've thought possible. With us trying our best we may even fail with some of them. You're right "I don't think a girl would fill a greater mission than that of bearing children," but to be a teacher, a good teacher, you need a master's degree in college. There are a lot of good teachers, but the best are the ones who've had more experience and study and schooling. I know what mother says and father says and you say, but I also know I feel right in what I believe.

Lucy, I love you very much. I want to be the happiest I can with you when I get married to you. Don't you feel that "eternal" happiness is worth the preparation? You are a wonderful girl now,

anyway. I don't want you to feel I feel you're not. I just say these things because I do love you and want you to really enjoy our marriage. Many people want to get baptized rapidly: but we have to put our foot down and make them realize just what they are accepting when they do get baptized. They always thank us for it later; if they get baptized.

I'll try and drop you another line Friday. Be good and remember: "the carpenter was not afraid to die for His convictions; though he was reviled, He would not stoop to safe conformity;" love ya loads, Lyman De.

LETTER 785b Kirk Cook Lyman, Grand Rapids, Michigan to Edward and Irene Lyman, November 4, 1963

Dear folks and all, as you can see from the address on the envelope, I have been transferred. Though I'm still in Grand Rapids, I leave this Thursday morning for my new city. Also, I have been called to a supervising position of one of the best districts in the mission. I only hope that I can do a good job at it.

I have several things to do so this won't be too long. I'm sure you understand. Things are going fine here. Last week we baptized four wonderful youth into the Church, ages 9, 10, 13, 18, all of whom have strong testimonies and a firm conviction of the Church teachings. The parents of the three younger children are to be baptized as soon as she gives birth the latter part of this month. They are a fine family and you could hardly ask for more enthusiasm.

My present companion will only have been in the city here for three weeks when I leave and being as it is pretty big, he's going to have fun learning it as he's been gone almost two out of the three weeks. Missionary work is great, and the most rewarding of any work you could ask to be engaged in.

I received a letter from Art and Rene the last week and apparently everything is fine there. I haven't heard too much from Dad so I can't say how things are there but in Idaho they are fine. Mom is bad again, but then I doubt very seriously if she'll ever be completely better. My back is coming along fine and I'm going now to take my last treatment here. Sure thankful for the way it's improving. Also, no sinus trouble.

Once again I want to thank you for the money you can send. It is taking my dentist bill down slowly but surely and with the bit that I can help its being paid off. Sure do appreciate it.

Well, things must be done so I'm going to have to close now with saying all is well here, except for being cold, and may God bless you, love to all, Kirk, 306 North Gratiot, Mt. Clemens, Michigan.

LETTER 786 Irene Perkins Lyman, Blanding, Utah, to Allie and Gordon Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 414 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Allie, Gordon and family: have been hoping to hear from you all week, but they say no news is good news.

We are sorry to say we have some very sad news for you. Kay sent a telegram yesterday or rather Velma did from our place and we hope you have received it and know you will be anxious for more details. Yesterday morning around 8:30 Loyd was killed in a car accident. He had taken an Indian boy (one of Forlorney's boys) up the road to try and catch Brush Keele, but evidently didn't get him and was coming back, as it was nearly time for school. He was driving a red pickup. Vernon Rowley was going north in a car and one of his trucks was in head of him. Vernon has a service station about three miles north of town and when he got to it he turned to go into the station. The truck being in front of him he didn't see Loyd or Loyd him. The pickup ran right into Vernon and must have exploded inside of seconds. Loyd and the Indian were in flames instantly. They died in sitting positions and were burned beyond recognition. Vernon was hurt but not too seriously. He tried to get them out but the fire was so intense so soon, it was impossible to do anything. The boys must have been knocked unconscious or stunned. The door on the side of the Indian was opened but guess no one will ever know why they didn't get out. The pickup was burned nearly completely.

We are so thankful they didn't suffer too long. The fumes from the fire would have killed them soon if they weren't already gone. Our hearts are full and sad, but feel it was his time. Maybe he is with his Daddy and has work there to do with him.

Gordon was at Kay's when it happened but was here thank goodness to take charge of things and to comfort his mother. She is as usual as brave as can be. She had asked Loyd to take the Indian to try and catch Brush. Anthon had asked Kay to take the Indian, as he was going to Monticello to work but Clessa saw Brush drive off and thought Loyd could overtake him and get back in time for school. Anthon had left about an hour before for the reservation. Nickey was with him. They got in touch with Anthon before he was too far and he got a ride back and Nickey went on with the truck.

Mark was to be here in the night some time. Maureen and John were here by 6:00 last night. We haven't seen them. Gordon was here about 8:30 last night. He felt pretty badly but controls himself very well. He said he was so glad he had been able to get acquainted with Loyd since coming home to work with Kay.

Loyd has changed so much and was so thoughtful and considerate. He was so immaculate in his dress and appearance. They won't be able to dress him and none of us except Gordon and maybe Kay and Clint were allowed to see them. They took the bodies to the clinic here and the doctor said no need to take them to the mortuary. They had to straighten them out and put in a plastic bag and seal and keep dry ice around them. Clessa and others will go to Cortez today to get a casket. They will put a sort of robe over him in the casket. Of course that's sad that they can't dress him. Especially hard for Clessa as she knew how particular he was and always looked so spick and span. The funeral will be Sunday at 3:00 p.m. We are expecting some of the folks from Provo and Salt Lake but don't know for sure who will come. Art's car was in the garage. Lawrence Palmer was sick and couldn't come but his wife will come. We will write again after the funeral and trust the Lord will comfort you all. We feel you won't be able to come and will understand.

Brother Harris died Tuesday in Salt Lake of a heart attack after an operation on his eyes. He will be buried here today.

All our love and God bless you all. Only wish we could see you and talk to you. Mom and Dad.

LETTER 787 Gordon Leavitt Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, November 4, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 416-418 {PFRC Book 11}]

My dear missionary son Lyman, It is with deep pleasure that I take up my pen to write to you at this hour and time. I have feelings of regret and remorse that I do not write to one as close as you are to me, for I do love and cherish your memory. And too, you have been sent to do a choice work among the children of men, and it isn't without sorry loneliness and feelings of despondency and sadness that you meet the inexorable succession of days that come. Please accept from me deep apology, but I know that in the saying of these apologies, I will yet do a repeat on this procrastination of duty to you. However, I will try to improve on my methods and frequency of writing.

We received some extremely distressing news from Blanding a couple of days ago. Loyd Lyman was killed in a pickup truck, along with an Indian when he hit into the side of Vernon Rowley's car one mile north of Blanding. Vern was following a big truck and Loyd was coming from the North towards Blanding when the pickup crashed into the side of Vern's auto when he made the turn into his service station on the west side of the road. Loyd and the Indian boy were perhaps knocked unconscious; the pickup burst into flames and charred their bodies beyond recognition before Vern could get to them to get them out. He attempted to, but was forced away by the intense heat. It has really shaken us all up around here. They had his funeral at 3:00 p.m. Sunday in Blanding.

Lyman, my son, life is very hard at times to understand, and death is even more difficult to see the reasons behind on some. Where a person like my mother dies at 74 years, after a life of service and good, after having raised her family, it isn't hard to let her go to her reward. But, Loyd was killed right in the prime of his life, a beautiful specimen of manhood, endowed with about all the attributes to make for an extremely successful and happy future. The longer I live,

the more I am ready with Job to exclaim, "The Lord giveth, and the Lord taketh away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

We receive very little encouragement or hope at selling our motel at this time of year, but are saying our prayers and paying our tithing, hoping for the blessing to come, and soon. The people we have in our place seem not to be taking the best of care of it, but, then, you can't expect a family of eight not to live in a place. They are bound to not deem it necessary to keep it as an owner might. Pray with us that it will sell soon, as we would like to be relieved of the worry of it from this tremendous distance from Springdale.

We have been meaning to get a set of color shots of this countryside and send to you while the fall colors are still on. It is really beautiful, and I am sure would set your heart afloat. Right now, outside it is raining, something it does quite frequently in these parts. We built a sort of car port out from the front of our woodshed to shelter our tractor and our little Volkswagen.

Of the four cows we got with the place from George Strecker, one of them is to calve momentarily, and the other of them within about ten days. The last two will drop their calves about January 5th, so we should be able to sell some milk and/or cream. It is a real pleasure to walk out and feed them and take care of them. We also bought a dozen chickens which we hope will lay for us before too much more time has elapsed. So you see we have quite the setup for making our livelihood, if we can just get out from under the burden of the debts that come when a move like this one is undertaken.

Lyman, we appreciate the frequency of your letters, and they do much to cheer and comfort us and to buoy us up in the faith. You are filling a fine and honorable mission, and we want to have it said of you that you did your best. Until you return to us you have just one responsibility, live each minute and each day as if it were your last on earth. If you stop to meditate for a few minutes on that it will give you a real charge to know just how important your minutes, hours, days, etc. are where the Lord's work is concerned. I realize that I cannot sit here at home and preach to you about the proper use of time and procrastinate the day of my repentance without you knowing deep within you that I do not practice what I preach. I am coming to the realization that I do in very deed waste my time and do not bring each waking moment to the greatest good that I should. I am repenting of that state of affairs, and hope to one day have accomplished some of the good I was sent here to do.

In speaking of your letters, I should also have mentioned that we enjoy immensely the pictures we receive from you. They give us an idea of how you are maturing and changing, as also an idea of some of the country you are in. Keep them coming. I remember when I was in Whittier; I took a couple of classes at the college with a fellow who taught school there in Peru at one of the American mining camps high in the Andes. He brought back associated articles of the country, and I was quite impressed with it even then, but more so now as you are there.

I'm happy that you are getting a chance to see some of the area, as it will be something you will always regret after looking back on it to not have seen as much as you had the time and finance to see. When I was in India, one of the highlights of my whole stay there was the rest camp I got

to go to in the Himalayas. I remember vividly some of the things I did while there. Those are treasured memories, and I wouldn't be without them.

It sounds to me like the progress of the Peruvian mission is coming along fine. I'm sure that under the tutelage of President Nicolaysen, it will improve and be one of the best missions in the Church. No small part of its growth will come as a direct result of your fine labors.

Do you ever get any reports on Elder Halterman? It would be nice after your mission is through to travel home with him as you went. He sustained quite a hard loss in the death of his baby brother, didn't he? Let us pray and hope that you can come home whole and in excellent health to a home which can hold out to you the merriest of welcomes, without anything of this nature to mar your coming. However, that isn't important, it is with what spirit and fortitude we accept these things, for one day we will all have to die. We love and cherish your fond memory. Be a good missionary and Godspeed to you in returning; your father and brother: Dad.

LETTER 788 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to the family, November 4, 1963

Dearest family, so many things have been happening lately that the time has just not found itself convenient to write to you. I hope you will forgive me for being a few days late. A lot has happened since I last wrote you. I hope I can remember everything. I've been so busy I haven't even written in my diary for four days and that's bad.

Two weeks ago our branch set a mission high average for any one branch in hours by getting sixty-four hours each. The minimum we are supposed to get in is fifty-five hours, but only one or two branches make it in any one week. I got sixty-six hours that week. This week my companion got sixty-six and I got sixty-five and one half, so we have really been pouring on the steam and it has really paid off. Those two girls we baptized have really added a lot to the branch and we are now teaching an eighteen-year-old boy friend of theirs who is one of the sharpest boys I've met in Peru. He has quit smoking, drinking (three things) and comes through on the lessons like a champ. He fasted with us this Sunday and also bore his testimony. He will make a good addition to the branch. We had seven investigators out to both Sunday School and Fast and Testimony meeting. I've been teaching the adult Sunday School class the last three weeks and have really enjoyed it.

Last Friday thirty-seven of the members all piled into a truck and went to the beach for the day. We left at 7:00 a.m. and arrived at 9:00 a.m. We stayed until 5:00 and came back in the light of a full moon, singing, playing harmonicas and having a ball. While we were at the beach we played baseball, soccer, keep-away and did acrobats. It was really a sharp day and was one I'll long remember. We had five investigators on the *paseo*.

Last Tuesday we had a music festival with seventy people to it. All the members sang, told jokes, etc. We had a choir sing "Permaneced es Noche Ya" (Behold Tis Eventide). It was really good. We also sang a few songs accompanied by the guitar. It was the sharpest mutual I believe I've ever been to.

Gene, I appreciated your letter. It made me a little homesick. I hope I will be able to be your scoutmaster when I do get back. You just plug along anyway and do the best you can to pass off your requirements. I bet we'll really have some good campouts and hikes after I get home. I can hardly wait. That's one reason why I'm working so hard; so I won't know where the time has gone when it rolls to an end. Keep up your studies and I'll write you a big long letter for Christmas. Please excuse me until then.

You asked about the "toasting" Mother. It was done with water. Like you said, that wasn't the important thing. They've changed their attitudes now and we are getting a better spirit in the branch.

It sounds like the kids are really doing fine on their grades. I'm proud of them as I bet you are too. I'm praying for you, hoping that the Lord will do what He feels is best. I'm sure He will as He has before. It would be too bad to lose money on the deal, but maybe it's necessary.

That sounds interesting about Miss Johnson. I'd like to hear what the results are. It sounds like my family is being missionary-minded also. That is really good.

Mother, thanks a lot for your sharp letters about the place, the animals, the kids and everything. They are good to get.

Our maid service is good down here. One of the sisters cooks, washes and irons for us. She is a really nice lady and we get good meals. They are somewhat Peruvian in style and I miss your cooking tremendously, but they're okay. We drink water for a liquid. Once in awhile we get lemonade.

We have a two-storied building here for the Church. The Church is in back with a big hall leading back to it. We have a front room looking out on a palm-lined divided highway with a big modern hotel across the street. We have our beds, desks and wardrobe plus an easy chair. It is really a nice setup. We have a living room where we have a couch and big radio and our dining room is right next to it. We have a big table in the middle of the room. Elder Pugmire and I usually have a game of chess during the meal. I've improved a lot on the game and would challenge Dad to a game now.

I would like very much to live by you and have a place to work. If I go into forestry I don't see why I couldn't. It is an ideal setup up there it seems like. We'll see what the Lord has in mind. I'm glad you're all happy up there. I pray the Lord will continue to bless you and give you the inspiration necessary to do what's right for the family.

I'm happy you're happy mother. I hope you can continue to stay home and hold down the fort like you should. I know it will mean a great deal to the kids; if they're still kids. It sounds like I may get the tar knocked out of me when I get home if they get much bigger.

We'll call it quits for this week. It's been a long hard week and I'm about ready to go to bed for two days. I love the work though and know I'll always look back on these days with fond memories.

God bless all of you. I love you all so much and hope you'll always heed the counsel of our parents, our leaders, etc. Sincerely with love, Lyman De, Foreign Correspondent, Tacna, Peru.

1. All work and no play make Jack a dull boy.
2. The amazing thing about this Church is that not even the elders can destroy it.
3. Baptizing is contagious – get the bug.

LETTER 789 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to the family, November 10, 1963

Dearest family, Once again, I'm a little bit late in writing. I wish I could keep up on everything there was to do.

I was sorry to hear of Loyd's passing away. He certainly was taken at an early age. The Lord knows who he wants and at what time: I know.

Dad I really enjoyed your letter and the good advice it contained. I appreciate very much the fact that you are sacrificing time, money and strength to give me the opportunity to serve as a servant of the Lord, and I'm mighty grateful. Each person judges his own faults (sincere persons) more strictly than they do others, and therefore, I feel the opposite you do in that it will take me many years to be the kind of man my father is. I hope to be as good an example to my children as you've been to us. Don't be burdened down by little faults. They will disappear as your good actions increase in number. Being in the mission field we see this in amplified form – when you're doing your work hard and good, you don't have time to think or do badly. Of course in all my praise of you, Mother is a light that has constantly been your aid, as my wife will be mine. My love for both of you and the family has grown tremendously in this last year. You won't be fully able to see it until I'm home, but it has grown.

Mother, thank you for typing up the letter from Grandma and for your wonderfully encouraging letters. I've enjoyed so much hearing from the kids in the last weeks also. Please let them know of my love and concern for each one of them. It won't be too long now until I'll see you all again. By the time this letter reaches you, I'll be on the last half of my mission. The time has

gone so fast and there is so much to learn that is still unlearned. I hope to see a lot of progress in the mission in the next fifteen months, and in myself.

Yesterday Elder (President) Pugmire received a letter stating that he was to be on the plane for Lima today. We were all surprised, of course, and a bit pained at his departure today. It's funny how fast you can get close to people.

Presidents Robinson, Brown and Benavidas (district presidency) were all here to see him off and so were many of the other Toquepala members. After he left, President (Robinson) asked if he could talk with me a minute. We went up in the office and sat down. He said he had talked to President Nicolaysen yesterday and he had asked that I be put in charge of the Tacna elders and made senior elder and also to put me in as counselor or president of the branch as the Lord directed. After interviewing me and finding out my desires and feelings, we decided it would be best for the members as well as the progress of the work in Tacna, if we could put Brother Encinas (now 2nd counselor) in as branch president, with me as one of his counselors. So with that in mind they interviewed him to be president, but Brother Encinas felt unworthy to accept at the present time because of marriage problems, so the presidency came back and asked me who I would like as my counselors and secretary. After naming Brother Encinas at 1st counselor, Brother Pereira (M.I.A. Superintendent) as 2nd counselor, and Brother Valer (Quorum Adviser) as Secretary, they looked at me and said they had felt the same. So the interviews are taking place and we'll see what happens this evening in Sacrament Meeting. Needless to say I feel honored and unworthy at the same time. I have been preparing for it for fifteen months though, and with the Lord's and the Toquepala brethren's assistance, I know I can do it.

Monday: Well, everything went fine last night. President Robinson gave a fine talk on the responsibilities of the members under this new organization. All four of us talked, also, as did President Benavidas, who gave a wonderful testimony to end the meeting. Then Sisters Brown and White from Toquepala sang a beautiful duet accompanied at the piano by one of the elders. There was a big crowd, about fifty people and everyone seemed happy and ready to do their part.

After the meeting of course there was a lot of congratulating and everyone seemed happy I'd been made branch president. They don't realize that a Peruvian branch president would do them more good even though they like the elders to lead them. This is the oldest branch and one of the few in the mission which has an elder branch president. Elder Cowley in Callao will have his changed over in two weeks, as also Barranco in Lima. That will leave only Cuzco, Mollendo, and Tacna without Peruvian leadership.

After everyone left we (district presidency and branch presidency) came up to my office and we set the brethren apart as counselors. I also confirmed Brother Pereira to the office of Priest. Then for about 1½ hours we talked on how to run the books. I will be giving a lot of the work previously done by the branch president to my secretary, which will be a big relief. I will still be in charge of the financial (all run through the bank by check), the tithing, fast offerings, etc. It is going to be a real learning experience; one I'm glad to have and believe I'm ready to fulfill. The fine training I've had and my attendance at Church will all come in handy as valuable aids. I pray you'll be more mindful of the need I'll have for your prayers. I've a big job of training these

men to be leaders, as well as doing my own work at the same time. President Robinson said I was to devote full time to the missionary work and my spare time to the branch. It will be a challenge for sure.

Sunday my companion and I had another baptism. He is an 18-year-old student and as fine as they come – very humble.

Well, may God bless you in your daily lives that all your cares and worries may be in proportion to your capability of reception and may you write often. I may not be quite as regular in my writing or as often now, but I'll do my best. I see long days and short nights ahead for awhile. I love you all and hope you're happy; your son and brother, President Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 790a Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, November 11, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 420-422 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, I'm a day late with my letter too. Sunday was completely filled up and no time to write, as was Saturday, so here it is Monday night. No mail today, as it is Veteran's Day. The kids all went to school, but stores, etc. were closed. We picked up your last letter Saturday on the way into town, and I read it to the three boys. They went in and waited there and played ball while I went to Coeur d'Alene to a Stake Relief Society meeting. It will be good when they have a stake up this way, as it takes quite a lot of time going to the stake center now.

Well, anyway, we did enjoy your letter so much. Sounds like you have really been busy, and that is good. It doesn't give you time to get homesick or anything. Your time is going so fast – in a few days you will start on the second half of your time.

We were interested to hear that Lucy wanted to go on a mission – maybe I mentioned it before, don't remember. But anyway I think it is a good idea for her – she is a sweet girl and will make a good missionary. She never did answer my letter – wonder if she received it. Did she ever mention hearing from me?

Your day at the beach sounds like you had a good time. That is good that you can relax and have a good time along with all the hard work you do. The elders here in Sandpoint were taken out a couple of weeks ago. They went to the high school and were doing a little proselyting during the noon hour and it caused a little commotion, so the mission president thought it best they move elsewhere for a while. Hope it isn't too long until they are back, as they were doing a lot of good. It is easy for missionaries to get a little over zealous at times and you can't blame them too much, though they should be careful in their dealings with people.

It's good you have some good young converts down there. I'm sure they are a good addition to the branch. I'm quite impressed with some young converts here too. Joe has a good friend who recently joined the Church. He moved here last March from Page, Arizona, where his father was in the bank. He is a banker here now, and he and his wife care nothing for the Church, even ridicule him somewhat, but Dennis is very strong and a fine boy. Joe spends a lot of time with him, and I think they will be good for each other. There are a couple of other boys that they go

around with and they are all quite interested in girls too. Joe has a girl friend (Sharon) who he quite likes. She is a little bit of a thing. Her folks are converts of about two years and seem real nice. There are some good people in the area, many of whom are converts. The Relief Society president and counselors are all converts. They have asked me to take the literature lesson permanently now, so I have quite a lot of reading to do on that, along with the Sunday School class I teach. Last night we went to a High Priest social at Andertons. We had a good group there and we listened to the Joseph Smith story (on record). We had heard it before but enjoyed it again.

Today was pretty and clear – first sunny day for quite awhile. I even hung my washing out and got it dried outside. We had one light snowstorm but then it rained, so didn't last long. The little mountains just above us are white, so guess it won't be too long before we have it here to stay. I'm in no hurry for it though.

I would like to have heard your music festival. Wouldn't it be a dull world without music? I'm glad you want to study more of it when you come home. Do you know you and Joe will be going to college together the fall after you get home? He wants to go to the Y and I guess you will want to go there too at least for part of your training. I can't help but wish we lived close to Provo for all the boys we will be having there in the next few years. But we're not, and Dad is real happy with this area, so hope he can make a go of it here. I know I worry about things more than I should but it's hard to talk myself out of some things. Guess we have everything that really matters though, even if we are to lose our shirts again. Still no sale of the motel – something has to break soon. We called Leah and talked to her and she was going to let us know within a week just what she was willing to do on it. We also called Val Edgel (in our motel) as he had been having troubles with sewer, etc. I'll be glad when we are free from the worries of it.

Dad has been working a full week now on the graveyard shift; starts his second week tonight. It's rather hard for him to get much done during the day, as he has to sleep most of the time. Hard job and hard hours, but we are thankful he has work. This morning he went out for several hours to see if he could see any deer, but didn't see anything. We haven't tasted any venison yet, but suppose we will before the winter is over.

We had one more letter from Eleanor Johnson and suppose we will hear soon what she has decided to do. It has been hard for her. Her folks have been there to Springdale several times to try and talk her into going back to Colorado City, but she was sticking to her guns, though I know she has gone through a lot.

Friday night we went to a smorgasbord put on by the ward for their stake building fund. You never saw such a variety and so much food. Don't know just how much they made, but I'm sure they did pretty well. They had it in the community center, as the town people are better to attend such things when not held at the Church.

Don't believe I told you about the apple cider we made. Dad and I went out to some members' place and picked up a bunch of apples that were going to waste and used their press and made apple juice. Then I heated and bottled it, so we have about ten gallons of apple juice. Wish you

were here to sample it – it's pretty good. We have been fortunate in getting all the apples we could use so far. I make up a big pot of apple sauce every few days, and you know how fast it goes (not as fast as if you were here though). It's Joe's main stay, as you remember he doesn't go for cereal or eggs much. It's a job keeping them all filled up.

This has been a rather disconnected letter. My thoughts have wandered and there has been quite a lot of noise and confusion, so hope it makes sense. I appreciate your concern over the kids – which of course I also feel very deeply. So far none of them has manifested anything that has worried us too much. Joe's attitude has changed so much, and we really appreciate it. The move was good for him, and of course he is maturing too and getting over some of his teenage ideas.

Good night my son. We love you so much. We do miss you and will be glad when your time is served there and you can be back home with us for a time. With all our love, Mother.

November 11, 1963, Dearest Lyman, since Dad has written such a nice long letter this time, I'll let a short one from me do. He has told you about Loyd. I'm so sorry I couldn't be there with the family. I'm grateful Gordon Dee was home from his mission and there in Blanding to strengthen and comfort his mother. I'm sure it was a hard thing for them all.

We had a very fine conference this past week end in Coeur d'Alene. Brother Henry D. Taylor was our visitor and he was accompanied by a Brother Boyer (Home Teaching Committee) and Brother Richards from the Mission Home. I especially enjoyed his talks and remember how you enjoyed your stay there in the mission home. We went over Saturday night and all day Sunday. Quite a ways to go (over fifty miles) so we'll be glad when there is a stake here in Sandpoint (someday).

Just received your bank statement from Hurricane. After your last two checks were deducted your balance is \$88.00, so maybe that will be enough to see you through another month (December). If you need more than that for your next check, let us know. We are pressed right now but have gone through such periods before. I'm sure the Lord will bless us to have what we need.

We love you so much son and are so happy for your mission. I'll write more next time. All my love, Mother.

LETTER 790b President Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Miss Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, November 11, 1963

My dear Lucy, as each day goes by without me writing I feel more and more guilty. Realizing how much your letters mean to me it was with that in mind that I started writing to you tonight. There have been many new and interesting incidents taking place this week also that will be of importance to you.

Friday morning Elder Pugmire received a telegram telling him that he was to be on the plane for Lima on Saturday. He of course packed his belongings and met the plane according to schedule;

leaving just the three of us here as companions. We have been waiting word of the arrival of the new elder. He will arrive tomorrow, so I'll let you know next week who he is.

Right after the plane left President Robinson of the district presidency called me over to the side and said he would like to talk to me when I wasn't busy. He interviewed me about the possibilities of putting Brother Encinas, first counselor of the branch, in as president and having me one of his counselors. We talked it over and decided that it would be a good idea if he was willing. So the district presidency interviewed him, but he told them that he would be unable to hold the position at this time because of marriage problems that he felt must be cleared up before he could accept the calling. So the president talked to me again and said that he had been given permission by President Nicolaysen to put me in as branch president if it wasn't possible to get a Peruvian. He asked me if I would accept the responsibility; of course I told him I would feel honored. He then asked me if I would name the men I would like as my counselors and secretary. After naming Elder Encinas, Brother Pereira, and Brother Valer, he said he felt I had made a wise decision as they felt they were the men they would have chosen also. So they went along with the interviews of those men and all of them accepted with humility and gratefulness for the opportunity to be able to serve the Lord and the branch a bit more.

Our names were presented in sacrament meeting last night and everyone sustained us as their presidency. We all said a few words of thanks and appreciation for the confidence and asked for an unequalled support as we would need it to make the branch grow properly.

We also listened to a few words from the president of the district and from his second counselor Brother Benavides. They are sure wise and dedicated men. I am going to miss a lot the association with these Peruvian people and for that reason am not wishing that my mission go by too fast. It is already half over and there is so much to be accomplished. I wish you could be here to help me and give me the mental and spiritual support that I need. It is going to be a long, hard pull to bring this branch up to where it should be. It is the oldest branch in the mission (five years) and it is one of the three that still don't have Peruvian branch presidencies. The people here are wonderful people but are used to being led by the elders from north of the border and don't accept responsibility like they should. However, I have some sharp men to work with right now and I believe I will be the last missionary elder in this job. I may also be the last one in the mission as the other two are trying to change over this month; we'll see.

After the sacrament meeting was over the district presidency and the branch presidency came up here and we set my counselors apart along with my secretary. I also had the privilege of advancing my second counselor to the office of priest. It is going to be a lot of fun doing this work, and I know the Lord is blessing me already. I felt a physical and a spiritual change come over me the instant the call was given. I have never felt that before and it was reassuring to me that the Lord is mindful of the help I will need and is there to give it the moment I call on Him for guidance.

Lucy, more than ever I'm going to need regular letters from you of encouragement and love, because this will be a mighty lonely job at times. For eight hours during the last thirty-six I have been slaving over the financial report that has to be taken thoughtful care of each week, but I

finally managed to figure it all out after many discouraging moments. I will have less time to write to you now but I'm still going to try and give you one letter a week. I'm sure you get very discouraged at times also and my letters will do you as much good as yours do me. After one day as branch president I can truthfully say that I believe it will be the greatest thing that could happen to me and will be up to me to see it is the same for the branch. Lucy I appreciate your loyalty and love and I want you to know I'm anxiously waiting our temple marriage. God bless you honey, President Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 791a Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to Edward P. Lyman and Irene Perkins Lyman, Blanding, Utah, November 12, 1963

Dear Grandma and Grandpa, I thought I'd better write you today as the time seems quite appropriate. You may be interested in the news this letter will contain. I hope it finds you all happy spiritually and physically. It was a sad shock to hear of Loyd's death. I hope you will give my regards to Aunt Clessa and the family. It is consoling to be a member of the Church when death enters the family isn't it?

My mother has been sending me your letters so I've enjoyed a close contact with the news that is happening in the south as well as in the north. My family seems to be enjoying very much their new home in Northern Idaho, and I believe it will be nice to get home to see it. The main reason I wrote is to let you know of a new assignment I received this week. I was just called to be the branch president of the branch here in Tacna. Of course it has been quite a surprise to me and others, but now that I find myself in the job keeping the books and interviewing people it seems that I've been doing it all my life. I had the opportunity of choosing two counselors and a secretary from among the local brethren and of course they are going to be a tremendous help in getting this branch ready to be run completely by Peruvian brethren. I'm glad that the opportunity has presented itself to help here in this way.

Of course, I wouldn't have been able to accept the position if it hadn't been for the training and upbringing I've had so once again I would like to thank both of you for raising such a fine woman as my mother is and also for the counsel you've given me personally during my lifetime. I truly feel that I owe it to you as my grandparents and to my own parents a life that is worthy of the Platt and Lyman names. For that reason, partially, I have always tried to lead an exemplary life for my brothers and friends. I'm thankful to have you as grandparents and for the lives you've lived. I hope you will find time in the near future to put your lives on paper for me and for the future generations to come. You have so much knowledge of your lives that we don't. I hope I live to see you again and talk with you. God bless you and keep you until then. Your grandson, President Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 791b McKay Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, November 12, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 434 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Elder Lyman De Platt, I was sick today. I had the flu; I had a stomach ache and a sore throat. The cow had a calf. It was a bull. I sure wish you were home. It would be nice to have you for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We made some snowplows. There is a squirrel on our

property. A few Saturdays ago we went and saw it. I got about two feet away from it. It just stood there and looked at me. It built its home in a log. It was eating some kind of seeds. King chased it up a tree. With love, McKay.

LETTER 792 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to her parents and siblings, November 14, 1963

Dearest family it was so good to receive both Mother's and Rene's letters the day before yesterday. I do appreciate hearing from you about the services for Loyd and about everything else. Yes, Mother, I had remembered the day to be Monday, but noticed later that it was Sunday. We couldn't possibly have gotten there by that time even if all the other obstacles could have been hurdled. I'm glad they had such a wonderful funeral, and the recording will be a comfort to his family. My but we are fortunate in having the truth of the gospel to buoy us up in such sorrows. How do people ever get through life and its many problems without the gospel to cling to is something I wonder about more each day I live. My testimony has been strengthened the past few days as I have read the history of Amasa M. Lyman. The things he endured for the gospel's sake (as well as his loved ones) makes me realize how weak I am and also how trivial my trials and problems are. I'm grateful to them for their strength and devotion. I'm grateful too for Uncle Albert's writings. Please tell him how much our love and appreciation for Grandfather Amasa has grown since reading the history (and his wives who were just as great in my estimation). I'm glad we have some of these histories for our children to read and appreciate.

I'm glad Rene that you got to go to Blanding. That was very nice of Carolyn to stay with the children. Do hope that they are all feeling all right now and also that your back is still improving. We both have been blessed with much better health than Mother had while raising her family, haven't we? I'm grateful for it too.

You have both mentioned Gordon's girl friend a number of times. She sounds really nice and I'm so glad for him and hope that things work out for them. Where is she from? Glad that Mark and the others are feeling better about things and hope that it won't be too hard on them.

You asked about conference Mother. We were only able to get the Sunday morning session up here on TV. We did enjoy it and wish we could have seen or heard the others, but hope to read all the talks. I agree with you Mother about the Relief Society lessons. I was just commenting the other day on the way to Coeur d'Alene to a stake Relief Society meeting that I thought it was wonderful that our leaders knew just what we needed in those lessons and they are so good for us. They have asked me to take the literature lesson. It requires a lot of reading and I'm sure I will enjoy it, though it isn't as spiritual as the others. They have a good group of women here and I enjoy Relief Society. The presidency is all converts of a couple of years, and I'm always impressed how these converts come in and if they are really converted how they add to the Church. We find the same situation here that we have noticed before that quite a few women join the Church without their husbands and how faithful they are in spite of opposition at home. We are in the Northwest Mission here, and I guess it's about the fastest growing mission in the Church. Just a year ago they divided the stake here (Spokane) and I don't suppose it will be too long before it is divided again. I think Sandpoint is the most active ward in the stake but we go to

Coeur d'Alene for stake meetings (fifty miles from our place). They have a good stake presidency, and we have a very fine bishopric (all recent Senior Aaronic members), so all in all we are very pleased with the Church here. I'm also teaching a class in Sunday School. Gordon has the Priests in Priesthood meeting and also the Explorers in Mutual. Bishop Snyder told me Sunday that Gordon was really what they needed in the ward for these boys.

I'm so glad for Aunt Bob to finally get to the temple. Do hope the rest of the sisters were able to get down there to go through with them. It would be such a thrill for you all.

Thanks for Kirk's new address. I'll have to try and write him. So glad that he is feeling better now. Sounds like he is doing really fine – bless his heart. Let me know if you hear from Bob or Almon. I hope and pray that we will each one have the strength to meet the things that come to use each day. Was Almon rather bitter about Joy's marriage? I guess it would be pretty hard on them, but hope they can reconcile themselves to it and not be estranged from each other. It's quite a schooling we get here in this old world.

Sounds like you are having more winter down your way than we are here – at least in some parts of the state. We have had one little snow storm but it turned to rain, and most of our storm so far has been rain. I wish it would do this all winter, but guess we will have our share of snow a little later. Monday was so pretty I was able to hang my wash out and get it dried – something quite unusual up here during the winter I imagine.

Mother, I'm sending several of Lyman's letters. I haven't been making copies except the ones I keep: the last few; so maybe you can send some of these on to Rene. He will have been out half of his time in a few days now.

It's time for the mailman, so better get this up to the box. We love you all so much. Thanks for the encouragement Mother – it helps a lot. Our affairs are still not settled but hope one of these days they will be – one way or another.

Rene, dear, take good care of yourself and we pray constantly for your well being, as we do for each of our loved ones. Our love to you all, Allie.

LETTER 793 Edward Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, November 14, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 430-432 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, So far I've really enjoyed the move up here. Everything is just wonderful except school. I'm doing okay in it but I don't enjoy it as much as in Hurricane. I think it's because of the lack of Mormons in the school.

This morning I went hunting ducks in the beaver ponds just below the house. I didn't see any ducks but I just about got a deer.

Well, I started reading the Book of Mormon about eight days ago and I got so interested in it that I'm already to the Book of Alma. I've also read the book *Added Upon* which was really interesting.

The reason I've held off so long in writing is because I've been trying to get some color film so I could send you some pictures but I can't rake up enough money so I decided I'd better write.

We get our report cards tomorrow but all the teachers already told me my grades. I'm getting an A in Biology, B+ in Physical Education, B- in Health, A in Algebra, B- in English, and an A in Shop.

The youth up here are really neat. I guess you heard our missionaries were transferred out but we still hold our Y.M.C. (youth missionary committee) meetings. Practically all the parties held so far have been out here to our place.

I got a letter today from the freshman class in Hurricane. But I have a feeling it was written by one person only (a girl).

I love the country up here and just hope we can get enough money to keep the place.

Now for some questions. Have you ever figured out how many people you've baptized? How many elders are there in your area? Are you going to B.Y.U. when you get back? Sólo uno [un] año más. Love Ed.

LETTER 794 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, November 17, 1964 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 426-428 {PFRS Book 11}]

Dearest son Lyman, Just finished copying your letter, which makes the 80th letter you have written to us since you went out. That's a lot of letters and will make a nice book.

We'll we weren't too surprised to see the *President* on the outside of your letter this week. We have been expecting something like this for some time. It is a very humbling experience for you and we feel very grateful that you are considered worthy to fill such a position. We know that you will be blessed in your new responsibilities son, and we of course will pray constantly that you have the strength to meet your needs there. It came just at the half-way mark in your mission, so you still have a lot of time to accomplish much, and we know you will. Don't overtax yourself, but try to get your necessary rest, etc., and you will be of more worth in the Lord's work. It will be really interesting to hear of your experiences and to see the growth you and the branch will make. I can imagine how you were reluctant to see Elder Pugmire leave, as you seemed very close to each other – but that is part of missionary work and something you have to accept as a matter of course. Your experience as branch president will be very valuable training for you and I can see clearly that you will use that experience in later life too. I would like to have been to the meeting you had there when you were installed. I can imagine it was very inspirational.

Well, this is another Sunday evening. Our days are full. By the time we make a couple of trips into town and attend our meetings, our day is spent. They have started having choir practice after Sacrament meeting, so that is an extra hour that we remain at the Church, but it does away with one trip into town during the week, so we like it better this way. Joe's friend Dennis Harding came out and spent the time between Sunday School and Sacrament meeting here with us. Have I told you about him? He is from Page, Arizona (since last March) and a recent convert here to the Church. His parents are not members, and though they have quite a bit of money, they do not have love or harmony in their home, and Dennis seems to enjoy spending time here. Dennis is a fine boy, and we enjoy having him here. He and Joe spend quite a bit of time together. Right now they are both having girl troubles and so have decided to swear off girls for the time being. We are going through with Joe some of the things we recently went through with you and likely will again and again before our family is raised.

The kids brought their marks home the other day (grades) and we were very pleased with the efforts they are putting forth up here and the things they are accomplishing. Ed got three A's, one B, and two C's. Gene got two A's and 5 B's. McKay got 3 A's 5 B's and one C (writing). I get Roberta's grades tomorrow when I go to interview her teacher. Joe has five solids this year and got straight A's. We think that is really something. He takes Chemistry, Geometry, Biology,

History and English and to get straight A's we were quite proud of him. If he keeps this up he shouldn't have any trouble getting a scholarship and getting a lot out of his college work. He and Ed are both giving serious consideration right now to what they want to do when they are on their own. Joe thinks he would be happy to be a civil engineer, and Ed thinks in terms of being a draftsman or architect. Gene is thinking of dentistry. They may change their minds several times, but as of now that is what they are thinking. Of course they figure some time in the future they would like to have a cattle ranch or something similar but know they will need to make money first.

I talked to a fellow here the other day that wanted to know if we wanted to sell part of this property. He said he was in timbering and reforestation and I thought that is about what you have seemed interested in. The next few years will see most of you settled at something, and I hope you can all find a vocation you will enjoy and prosper at. But above all, I hope you will all desire to serve the Lord and help with furthering his work here on earth all your lives. The older one gets, the more insignificant everything else seems.

Today McKay didn't feel too well, so Joe stayed this morning, and Ed & Gene stayed this afternoon with him. I thought maybe he was getting the flu, but he seems to feel pretty good tonight, so hope he is going to be all right now. We have been fortunate in having good health up here so far this winter. No one has missed school except Ed a couple of days. He seems to require a day at home once in awhile like you did, so we don't complain too much when he stays home "with a headache."

Each week we hope to have something to tell you on the motel, but nothing as yet. Something has to happen before long, or we will find ourselves in quite a bind. So we are still anxious but trusting that the Lord will help us out of our situation if it is for our best good.

We haven't heard anymore from Eleanor Johnson. Don't know what her plans are.

Guess it's time to go to bed. The days are short here (in daylight hours). It's dark almost by 4:30 when the kids get home from school, so by 9 or 10 o'clock at night it seems really late. I get up early so am ready for bed when the time comes.

We love you son and are so proud and happy for you. Stay humble and keep your sweet spirit and you will be able to do much good there. What about a companion now for you? All our love, Mother.

LETTER 795 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, Sandpoint, Idaho, November 17, 1963

Dearest family, its 10:30 p.m. in Tacna and all the other elders are sound asleep but me. I had a two-hour nap this afternoon so I could do a little work this evening.

The week that just passed has been one of much excitement and one of much learning. Monday, Elder Johnston, Elder Banford and I worked together and had a nice time together preaching the gospel. Tuesday, my new companion, Elder Dennis Harris from Pocatello, Idaho arrived. He is my same height, wears glasses, dark complexion, almost equals we are. We have a lot of the same likes and dislikes and get along really well together. Tuesday, instead of working with Elder Harris I had the opportunity of working with Elder Payne, the second counselor to the president of the mission. He is a real good elder and I learned a lot from him. He has one month to go.

Wednesday, we went hunting inactive members to see if we could reactivate them. It was an interesting day and we met some wonderful people. They all have a reason why they don't come to meetings of course, but most of them wouldn't hold water. We had a few of them come out to the meetings today though, so it was profitable and I believe that the branch spirit is increasing *poco a poco*.

Friday night we had a two and one-half hours branch presidency meeting wherein we discussed many of the ways in which we could improve the spirit of the branch and bring it up to par. It was a very good meeting; the entire branch presidency was there and we got a lot accomplished. This week we set apart a Sunday School teacher, Primary president, Mutual secretary, and have quite a few more to do next week.

The branch has had baptisms for two weeks in succession and we expect to have another baptism tomorrow so we are starting on a good pace right off the bat. The spirit in the town is really good and I'm impressed that if we work hard we can't help but have success. My companion and I worked fifty-seven hours this week despite the many branch duties this week, just to show the other missionaries over the mission that it can be done. There are very few branches that have even come near us in hours during the last month and the elders are all in good spirits and anxious to work. It makes me feel good to be a part of the group. The president is pleased with our work.

I promised President Payne that I would make my hours every week even if the branch duties were many. I know with the help of the Lord that it is possible. A lot of elders spend too much time worrying about duties that can be done in their spare time and never make the hour list. The president feels that if the hours are made that more baptisms will come, so we are giving it all we have here in Tacna.

President Nicolaysen just got back from a mission presidents' conference in Brazil and we are waiting anxiously for the news that he brought back with him. We are one of the leading missions in the Southern Hemisphere and I'm sure he will have a lot of new ideas that will help us even more to do a lot better next year. We have been invited for Thanksgiving to Toquepala so we will be in the midst of Americans eating turkey this year. It ought to be quite a fun

experience. We will probably be going up there for Christmas also. It is a rare opportunity to go up there and we elders down here are mighty lucky.

Well, I am sure you can feel the spirit with which I write you this letter. It is one of contentment for knowing that the Lord is pleased with the work I am doing. I know that I have been inspired in some of the changes I've suggested, and I feel impressed with the fact that we might be able to prepare these brethren to accept the responsibility as a Peruvian branch presidency by January 5, 1964. It will be a real challenge to get them ready but I enjoy challenges.

I hope this letter finds you all happy and well. I pray for your success constantly and will be glad to be home shortly. A mission is a wonderful, spirit-growing, testimony-growing experience but I will feel relieved when it's over. It is sure rough physically. This last week has been a bear, but if I can stand it for six more then I may be in a position to relax a bit.

Summer is here finally. We are in a pretty warm climate. For dinner nowadays we have corn on the cob, and the usual summer plates. Watermelons are on the market but are still too expensive.

Well, family, I still have a lot of reports to do and I believe I've pretty well filled you in on what's what south of the border. The time is going too fast and I shall be home before you know it. God bless all of you that you may be successful in your school, work, home activities, business transactions, etc. I love you very much, as always your brother and son, President Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 796 President Sterling Nicolaysen, Lima, Peru, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, November 18, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 424 {PFRC Book 11}]

Misión Andina de la Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Ultimos Días, Dear Elder Platt, A brief note to comment on your call as president of the Tacna Branch and to extend you my expressions of respect and confidence. I learned when we returned from our trip to Brazil of the action the mission and district presidencies had taken in calling you instead of the Peruvian brother. While I am disappointed that the branch is not yet prepared to organize under a local member, I am grateful for the understanding of branch organizational work which you have demonstrated in the past, and know that you will be able to continue the progress made under previous elder leadership.

I sincerely feel that it will be possible for us to replace you with Peruvian members. Above all, maintain your complete vision of the work and your testimony of the worth of these people. There are among the members many great leaders. If we communicate our testimonies to them in the proper spirit, they will respond and accomplish a work here which we have not envisioned. Please establish strong contact with the district presidency and district board workers. Your first communication should be with them. We expect you to seek help and counsel first from them and to regard your primary responsibility to the mission presidency as that of maintaining a strong proselyting program while you serve as branch president. The Lord will bless you with good judgment and health and energy to accomplish all you desire to do because the Tacna Branch is vital to the progress of the Sur-Andino District.

Sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President.

LETTER 797 Misión Andina de la Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Ultimos Días, from President Sterling Nicolaysen, November 20, 1963, to Elder Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 442-444 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Elder Platt, A note which you directed to Elder Swensen about the financial situation in your branch has been passed to my desk. Before I left for Trujillo for the weekend I asked Elder Swensen to prepare you a check representing an extra month's allowance for branch maintenance in order to ease the pressure somewhat. We take note of Brother White's suggestion that you should insist on payment for 80% of the benches bought a while back. We can understand how much help this amount of money would represent to you. If I understand this matter correctly, this is what has occurred.

Elder Pugmire sent us a solicitude requesting the Church's 80% of the cost of the benches. We responded to advise him of the new Church regulation that the branch must deposit its 20% share before we could process the solicitude through Montevideo. He answered to say that the benches had already been purchased, in other words, that he was not making a request in advance but asking for a reimbursement for something they had already done. He advised us that the purchase had been made with Relief Society funds and that he then understood – after having taken such action – that he was really not entitled to use the funds for that purpose. He said that he had a solicitude pending in the office on another item and that if we wanted to do so, we could take that amount of money and use it to pay the branch's 20%. This is an irregular procedure which does not fit in with the Church's system of book keeping, and we did not act on this suggestion. I assume, therefore, that he received that amount of money as a reimbursement for the other solicitude. To my knowledge he never returned it or any corresponding amount as payment for 20% of the cost of the benches so we have never submitted solicitude to Montevideo.

We have no prospects of receiving any funds from their office in the near future. If this is not an accurate summary of the problem and if you see any other way in which we can make funds available to you, please correspond with me directly. The purpose of such items is entirely outside the budget and we have absolutely no funds in our regular accounts which we would be able to divert for this purpose. Sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, President. AN: mj; CC: President M. C. Robinson and Brother Charles White.

LETTER 798 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to McKay Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, November 20, 1963

Dear little brother McKay. I was re-reading one of your letters and at the end of it you said that if I could find the time you would like to hear from me. We may be busy in this old work, but we can't ever be too busy to write to those we love. I'm sorry that my letter was postponed so long and I hope you like my letter.

You know what? My old mission is going to be gone so fast that before you realize it I will be home with you romping around those old northern Idaho hills. I miss you guys and will really be looking forward to the day when I will be able to be with you again. I wish you'd say hi to King for me. I miss that old guy just about as much as I miss the rest of you.

President Nicolaysen wrote me today and told me to be a good boy and take good, good care of the members down here. He told me he didn't want any more missionaries in as branch presidents if he could help it so I'm trying my best to get these men ready to replace me rapidly. It is fun being branch president. I hope you'll attend all your primary and Sunday School meetings so you can be a branch president some day if they need you. You are a smart enough boy to be able to be one.

How is your school work coming along now? Good grief, you have been in school almost three months now haven't you? Before you know it you will be out again.

Why don't you write me a big long letter and tell me how the Bonnet Meadows is coming along, how Roberta is behaving herself, if Gordie is being a little nuisance and if the big boys are behaving themselves like men. I guess you're a big boy now aren't you? I won't even recognize you when I get home. How is dad doing? I miss him a lot and hope you'll tell him to write to me. I guess it's nice to have mommy around all the time now isn't it? I do miss her too, so you be nice to her for me and make her days a lot easier so she can be really happy. So long for now. I'll write you a big long Christmas letter. I miss you a lot McKay and hope you're behaving yourself *muy bien*. Your long, lost brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 799 Roland E. Platt and Dorothy E. Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, November 21, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 440-441 {PFRC Book 11}]

President Lyman De Platt, Casilla, 275, Tacna, Peru, S.A. Dear Lyman De Pres. Platt, It's been many weeks since we heard anything about you and I knew your address had changed. I haven't written to your folks since they went to Idaho. Your mother dropped a card saying they got there all right and that's all we've heard from them. I was thrilled to hear your letter read in Church tonight, and to know you are doing so well.

Our last letter from Gary, his baptisms had reached seventy-one and he's got more lined up. He's doing a fine work.

Your Grandmother Chidester was so proud of all her grandchildren. I know she's happy over there with dad and Uncle Eugene.

Jacqueline is back in Cedar to school and is planning marriage if they can in the early spring. Gary will be coming home in March, Bob is anxious to go on his mission. Probably next fall. He's been working on converting Elenore, the polygamy girl that worked at Madsen's. I think she's ready for baptism.

I don't know whether you knew we had a dedication of the Zion Park bowl. So the other night we had a group of 136 Mowri people from New Zealand who put on one of the best musical shows I've ever seen. They were all members of the Church and had such a wonderful spirit. It surely did rejuvenate Springdale. The ward is beginning to flourish, but they've never got anyone to replace you dad yet. I guess they figure no one is good enough. Well, this letter is sort of a Christmas letter, a little early – as it said in the funny paper “It's almost Thanksgiving and the Christmas decorations are not even out yet.” Write us if you can. God bless and peace through the Christmas season, Oh yes, John Schiefer returned two weeks ago. Roland, Dorothy and family.

LETTER 800 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, November 25, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 436-438 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, I'm sure you have been shocked as we have at the terrible events of the past few days. We are wondering how soon you received the news of the President's death and how many details you were able to receive, but feel sure that you have had a complete coverage of it by now. Today was proclaimed a day of national mourning here in the United States. All the schools, businesses, etc., were closed. We spent almost the entire day watching the proceedings on television. We were able to see the funeral services, processions to and from the White House, church and capitol and also the proceedings at the White House after the services, where ninety-two countries' delegates met, who were here to pay their respects to our President. I guess that is the most dignitaries from so many countries that have even been together and is a wonderful tribute to our country, as well as to President Kennedy.

It seems impossible that such a thing could happen in our day in this country. We feel so sorry for Mrs. Kennedy and her children, as well as the rest of the family. She stood up under it so wonderfully though, and really was a credit to the nation the way she has conducted herself as well as everything she has had to take care of. We pray that President Johnson now will have the wisdom and foresight he needs to carry on the affairs of the nation. We are lucky that his training has been such that is as well qualified to take over as he is. He is having meetings with a number of the heads of governments tonight and tomorrow before they leave for home. We saw the delegation from Peru, as well as a number of other South American countries.

Well, how is the new branch president coming along with his new duties? I do hope that you will be able to fulfill all your duties and continue to find joy and satisfaction in your missionary efforts. If we go a little longer between letters, we will surely understand, as we know how busy you will be.

Last night the priests had a cottage meeting out here after church. The bishopric was here as were quite a few boys, and it sounded like they had a good meeting. I served them hot chocolate and peanut butter cookies. There is a pretty nice group of young people here in the ward, for which we are grateful. Dad is their Priest advisor. Joe went home with two of the boys and stayed overnight, and then he spent most of the day helping them on the new home they are building. Dad and the boys were supposed to go to Coeur d'Alene tonight to a special priesthood meeting, but Dad was afraid he wouldn't get back in time to go to work, so they didn't go. Don't know if it was on this new home teaching program, or if it was something special. Guess we will find out.

The kids will go back to school tomorrow for two days then will be off Thursday and Friday for Thanksgiving vacation. The time goes so fast – it will be Christmas and New Years before we know it.

I think I told you about Joe making the honor roll. Did I tell you he was one of only two boys in the high school (quite a big school) who made the A Honor Roll? We were pretty proud of him. Hope he can keep it up. He has grown up so much in the last few months and we are really happy for his attitude generally.

Today Ed and Gene went out with the 22 for a little while. They came back with one grouse, which tickled them. Too bad they couldn't have gotten half a dozen of them though, as when they are skinned out there isn't much to them.

In a recent letter from Grandma, she mentioned a transfer for Kirk and that he had just been made a supervisor. Glad that he is doing so well. She also said that his health was much improved, for which I'm very glad, as he was having quite a time there for awhile.

We had quite a pretty snow storm here last week, and it laid an inch or two on the ground which stayed for several days, but the past few days it has been raining, so the snow is all gone now. I'm not anxious for the snow to come to stay, so this suits me all right. It is quite a beautiful sight out here when everything is white with snow, and we had a couple of snow men sitting in the yard.

Did we tell you we had one little bull calf and another expected momentarily? So we have milk again, and that seems really good. We are separating the milk and cream and hope that we can make enough on cream to make the payments on the cows.

You have heard us mention Lynn Anderton here (from Richfield). He was driving to Spokane the other day and a big five-point buck connected with his front windshield putting the horn right through then swinging around and hitting the side of the car. Guess that's how we are going to have to get a deer if we get one, but I guess there wouldn't be much left of the little VW if we connected with a big buck.

This letter is rather choppy son – my feelings and thoughts are rather jumbled, and I haven't one of your letters here to answer, so I'll call this good for now. We pray always for your protection

and your happiness and thank our Heavenly Father each day for the opportunity you are having of serving him there in the mission field. I'm sure you pray for us too, son, and we need your prayers. We are weak in so many ways and seem to make so many mistakes that we need your faith and prayers; all our love to you, Mother.

LETTER 801 Misión Andina de la Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Ultimos Días, from President Sterling Nicolaysen, November 25, 1963, Elder Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 446 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Elder Platt, your first weekly letters since you have taken responsibility for the presidency of the branch have been very encouraging. We hope that you will avoid every temptation to become too important yourself. Follow the basic suggestions we reviewed when you elders were together with us here in the mission office for orientation in the standard training program. Review these ideas and if you have any questions, discuss your problems with the district presidency. Please be sure to emphasize the participation of your counselors and the delegation of responsibility to many people for a variety of visits to the homes of the members.

I take note of the information you sent about Sister María Covinos who has joined the Adventist Church and expresses the desire that her name be taken off Church records. Please read carefully the section on page 146 of your manual under the heading "Los que desean separarse de la Iglesia." It is important that we heed the brethren's counsel to the effect that we should avoid any hasty actions in these cases. We bear testimony to our members that the baptism we receive in The Church of Jesus Christ is done by authority and cannot be undone by any ordinance affected in another Church. I don't know anything about the background of this sister, except that I understand she was once Relief Society president. We hope that many members will continue to show a loving interest in her and that in due time she will feel again a testimony of the Restored Church. I am disinclined at the present time to authorize any kind of proceedings to try her for apostasy and her membership in the Church.

We hope that the coming weeks will be unusually successful for you. We are grateful for the opportunity of having Elder Harris with you in Tacna and pray that you four elders can realize your desires to increase the rate of baptisms in the branch. Sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President SN:mj [Myrna Jensen]

LETTER 802 Rene Lyman Morin, Provo, Utah, to parents and siblings, November 25, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 448 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear family, letter writing just isn't one of the things I get at very often. I don't mean to be so slow at it. And yet I surely enjoy hearing from you, Mother, and Allie, or anyone else who writes occasionally. Needless to say that the events of the past few days have rather occupied our attention and we have spent a good portion of the day today watching the proceedings in the Capitol on TV. It was quite interesting and I hope brought some comfort to all those who mourn at the tragic death of President Kennedy. It still seems too terrible to believe. After listening to the Low Mass for him we felt it was too bad that President Hugh B. Brown, who was in Washington representing The First Presidency, couldn't have preached a funeral sermon with

more meaning and significance. I suppose Catholics get a lot of comfort out of the pomp and ceremony accorded their dead but such a contrast to one of our funerals without the least bit of show and fanfare, but a lot of comfort and gospel truths. Nevertheless, my heart goes out to all the Kennedy's as they mourn the loss of their husband, son, and brother.

We had a nice day yesterday. It was stake conference and Brother Kimball was our visiting authority. I always enjoy him and always think of the night he was in Blanding to the missionary meeting the day your home burned down, Mother and Dad. He set Art apart as stake mission president. This is going to be a big job for Art and I guess he will give up his other Church jobs, which he has so enjoyed and has done so well. This makes us rather humble, knowing there is so much to be done and unless we can organize our lives and the use of our time so that we can expect the Lord to help us, it will be too big of a job for us. But he has chosen two very fine, young counselors and I am rather expecting them to do a very good job. Brother Kimball is so fine and humble, such a sweet spirit. He stopped and had Art introduce all of his family (we were all to conference) then he took a moment to shake my hand and make a few promises and statements to me that make me very humble and grateful. One of the other authorities was a Brother Bangerter [Grant] who might have been Gordon's first Mission President, although I didn't find out for sure.

Mark came down today and watched TV with us. He said he and his roommate and Carolyn and her roommate were going down with Kynra Dyal [Gordon Dee's future wife and current girlfriend] for Thanksgiving. I still don't know whether Joy and Kent have moved to their apartment. I may invite them for Thanksgiving dinner if I feel up to it. My back is getting better, better than I had dared to hope it would, but I do tire easily and have been trying to be careful. That is surely hard to do, however. I may have to hire a girl to come a few times a week to help me so that I can help Art with his office work. I just can't seem to get at it all. The children are good to help, too, but they are busy most of the time with school, practicing, paper routes, etc., so I can't expect them to carry the whole burden. When the girls get another year or so older it will really make a difference. They are wonderful helpers now and I do appreciate them.

Mother, Gordon, and Anthon stayed here one night. Gordon said he had such a bad cold he was afraid the children might pick it up, so they stayed at Lawrence's one night, or two. This isn't much of a letter, I don't feel that I do very well on the typewriter when it comes to letter writing, although Allie's letters are always interesting, whether she types them or not. I guess it is always because I try to type mine after I have been down here working for Art and I am tired. I know there are more things I wanted to say but I will quit for now. Hope everyone is well and happy. [in blue ink: just for Allie:] This is a busy week for me, with my Relief Society lesson, etc. Glad you are working and busy in the Church. I'm sure you'll do a good job on your literary lesson, Allie. We love you all, Rene.

LETTER 803 Kirk Cook Lyman, Michigan, to Edward P. and Irene P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah, November 25, 1963

Dear folks, I'm behind on writing as I didn't get any done last week so I hope you'll excuse this being on the late side. I planned on writing last week but I get entangled in something else and didn't even get a chance to write my girl back home, so you know I was just a little busy.

Today is a national holiday because of the death of President Kennedy so this may still be a little late getting out in the mail. Either way, you know my intentions and desires are true.

I'm sure sorry to hear about Loyd. No, no one had told me about the accident. One thing for sure, the Lord has a chosen spot for him in the Spirit World, whether teaching the gospel or preparing him for a greater work I know not, but he was a fine boy and I'm certain that with the Plan of Salvation that we as a Church have that there should be no worries as to his future.

We haven't had any snow yet and we're almost sure that it's because we don't have the chapel completed enough to work inside. Every time we work it seems to be a really nice day, and otherwise, it's been cold, but no snow! The Lord is blessing these fine folks because they are really putting forth an effort to get the chapel finished before it's too cold to do anything at all. Should be about two more months before we can move into it. I believe I told you we were meeting in a school for now.

Over the past four or five months attendance has really picked up at Sacrament meeting. Things are on the go here and they look like they'll keep on the go.

My sinus is bothering me some here but it's more from the humidity than anything else. Apparently Grand Rapids is the best place I've been so far.

I'm taking treatments for my back once again and from a non-member, free of charge. The Lord is surely on my side there; as if I'd have to have paid for all my treatments it would probably run close to \$150.00.

Well, must go, best of luck to you and all my love. A money order is easier to cash. God bless you all, tell everyone hello. D&C 64:33. Love Kirk.

LETTER 804 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, Sandpoint, Idaho, November 26, 1963

Dear family. As you can see by McKay's letter, it has pretty well been run through the mill. It fell on a recently mopped floor and every other thing imaginable during the last six days.

Well, your boy down here is keeping busy. The time is going by fast, with so much to do. We have got a lot accomplished, however, and I feel the Lord is being good to me and I know I am pleasing him in many instances. I hope we can get everything ready down here as soon as possible to put in another branch president.

We are going to Toquepala the 28th and we get to go to Toquepala for Christmas and spend two whole days there. The district president is the man who has given us this leeway to whom we are very grateful. It will make this Christmas so much more enjoyable than the last one.

The last two weeks as branch president have been rough ones. I've managed to make my hours, though. Last night I was up until 1 a.m. so we could leave on time and not lose any precious time. The Lord is being good to me and blessing me with understanding and also health.

The first chance you get when Hamilton stocks are fairly high, take my money out of there and put it in a checking account, please. I've been thinking seriously what I want to do for my trip home and figured I'd tell you now so you could take the money out when it would be at its height during the next year. I'll tell you later what I want to do after I've studied it more and find it possible without a terrific amount of cost.

Lucy hasn't written me for three weeks now, so maybe something is happening back on the home front that I don't know about.

I hope you've had some success in the business with the motel. I can imagine what a headache it must be. I want you to know that my faith and prayers and hope are with you in your endeavors.

I've appreciated the letters the family has sent. I will try and answer Eddie's letter next week. It has been hard to find time to write this week, so I hope you will be forgiving. It was interesting to hear you had saved my letters, mother. I never dreamed you would, but it will really be a genealogy piece, and I'm very thankful that you have. Well, I'll try to write more next week. I love you all very much and hope to see you in the near future. Love as always, Lyman

LETTER 805a President Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, November 27, 1963

Dear Lucy, I received yesterday your letter of the 21st that you started on the 14th. It was good to hear from you again. I was beginning to wonder what was going on up in St. George after three weeks. You're wholly correct when you say you shouldn't let that (your work) interfere with our relationship. I hope this time you try a little harder. It puts me in a bad frame of mind when I don't get letters from you (and when I am that way I get trunky). I guess if I'm the person that is stopping you from going on a mission that it will be my fault and not yours if you don't go, and it will be my fault and not yours if our kids go astray, so I'll work that much harder to make sure they don't and you'll have to also, of course. You asked for my honest opinion on how I would feel toward you if you decided not to go on a mission. Well, in the first place, I would say you were letting your heart have say over good judgment, that you don't feel that I could wait for you, and that my last letter on this subject didn't do anything. Next question: would you still love me and maybe want to marry me: of course I'd still love you and would marry you also. Love doesn't die over the first thing that comes up to block its path. However, I don't plan on getting married right after I get home. If you don't go on a mission, you'll have to wait anyway, because there are certain few things I've got to do before I get settled down. One of them is to get at least a year of schooling behind me; maybe two. I wouldn't like to start out in life (married life) with

that big of a handicap in front of us. Also, I want to do a little bit of traveling around the U.S. and get some of this restlessness out of me that's there, so I can settle down.

I would love to meet you in New York, but if you've ever been around a missionary that has just gotten back from a thirty-month absence from any contact with girls, you'll know they are pretty susceptible to anything from perfume to a pretty smile. It would be too easy for you to convince me that we should get married. My heart wouldn't be in right proportion to rational judgment. Let's just let that ride until a few months before my release when everything will be more or less settled as far as what we will want to do. Don't get me wrong though. There is nothing I can dream of that would be any more interesting and fun than to be buzzing across the U.S. or up to Canada or Alaska with you on twin Hondas, or in a car. We will be doing a lot of that I hope, before we have any children, and a lot when they start getting older. You're just the kind of girl that it would be fun to do those kinds of things with. That's one reason I love you so much. Whatever happens, I'm sure we will know its right when the time comes for it to happen. We will be prayerful about it together, won't we?

Spiritually, you will always be further advanced than I anyway, so I can't complain on that score. However, you don't believe apparently that you can have me and a mission also. I guess you never will know it either, unless you go on a mission. If you want me, fine, I won't even argue the point, but when – that's a different story. With or without a mission, when you get me, it will be after I've been home sufficient time to know exactly what my life plans are to be. If I ever said I didn't want you, it would be so you would go on a mission, but seeing as you have that figured out already, I won't say it. Nor will I mention it again, unless you ask advice. I feel it is something that will have to come from you and not with any persuasion on my part.

I'm still waiting for you to prove you can write so many letters that I'll be sorry. It can't be done (a challenge). Even my new assignment won't stop me from writing back (another challenge).

In a way I'm glad you didn't get mushy in your letter, but in another way, I wish you would have done. I've almost forgotten what it's like. It certainly doesn't help the missionary spirit out any but sometimes I wonder if it wouldn't make me work harder (another challenge). You can take it or leave it for what its worth. It was somewhat surprising to hear you had another boy friend, but not entirely a shock. I have had the feeling that you were having boy troubles by your previous letters. I suppose it's more of a dilemma for you than it is for me though. I'm sorry for you. I don't feel at all resentful, though, because I would do the same thing under your conditions. Neither do I feel at all challenged in trying to hold your love. My love will win because, as you stated it, Floyd doesn't have some of the characteristics that are almost habitual to me now after twenty years of constantly practicing them. Your sense of what is good for you will fight my battle for me. So, I will say again I'm sorry you went and got yourself in the fix you're in. I imagine it would be quite a struggle, from the way you stated it.

I'm appreciative of your being honest with me in these things. There is just one thing that strikes of dishonesty, the way you ended your letter. It couldn't possibly be with all of your love if you have feelings for Floyd, so please don't put it on there anymore until you have the feeling within yourself that it is all of your love. I will think more of you.

I appreciated your long newsy letter. It was so good to get it. I don't believe you realize just how much your letters mean to me. I hope that I haven't offended you in this letter by being frank, but I felt this letter needed quite a bit of frankness. I pray you will take it in the spirit I intended it to be written. There is always a double meaning to everything said, almost, and you could take it completely opposite if you wanted to, so please don't.

I'm enjoying my mission; more so now that I've so much to do than I did in the past. It is a challenge to still make the hours and keep up with all of the assignment and duties that a branch president's job requires. I love challenges, though. It is the way I feel I progress the most.

Well, honey, I've got to get this letter in the mail or you'll never get it. We've got to go out and find someone to baptize right now. We've baptized three weeks in a row now and this week will put us on the consecutive baptism list; a challenge more or less. I love you and will be praying always that we can stay faithful to each other so that we will be able to bring to pass our desires. I remain as always yours, "in sickness, in health, in poverty or wealth," Lyman De Platt, president.

LETTER 805b Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, December 1, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 450 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, another Sunday night – our Church duties done for the day and dinner over with – time to write to my missionary in Peru. We enjoyed your letter as usual – your first typewritten letter. Guess it seems good to have access to a typewriter, doesn't it? Saves time on writing letters – that's for sure. Though we always enjoy your nice writing and printing and the kids often comment on how neat your letters always are.

Here around the table sits Joe, Ed, Dennis and Steve. Their activity is not very Sundryish – they are playing cards – but we don't object too much, as they are at least here in our home and they have all been to all their meetings today. Dennis is the convert I have mentioned before and Steve is the son of dad's Richfield friend. We got all our meetings in one sitting today, as on fast Sunday we stay until everything is over. We like it this way as we only have to make one trip into town. They had a good testimony meeting. Here in the ward they give the youth the first half hour then turn the other time to the adults. I wish you could hear some of the youth bear their testimonies – they are a good bunch.

Your days down there sound busy and interesting. Glad that you have a nice new companion and that you get along so well. Seems you have enjoyed about all of your companions so far, and I'm glad for that. That was a nice experience for you to spend a day with the mission counselor. You are putting in long hours, and we pray for your success and that you will have strength to do all you wish to do. We wish you well in your efforts to get the Peruvian brethren to take over the duties of the branch.

Did you go to Toquepala for Thanksgiving dinner? Hope you were able to go and that you enjoyed the day. Did you have a nice dinner? Guess you will have told us all about it before you

get this letter though. We all stayed home and spent the day by ourselves. This is the second time in quite a few years that we haven't been or had company and we quite enjoyed the day. We were invited in the evening, to go into Andertons but chose to stay home and play scrabble, etc., with the kids. We had a nice dinner – old red rooster, grouse and all the trimmings.

Guess what son? By the time you get home you should have a new brother or sister about six months old. How does that strike you? We just told the kids last night, and they were all pretty tickled. It should be about July 10. I haven't been to the doctor yet – guess I should go before long. I have felt pretty good. Dad is so pleased – you would think it was his first. I worry a little about what our position will be by that time, but guess it will all work out, and if another baby adds as much to our home as Gordie has, we will all really enjoy the new baby.

Nothing new on the motel as yet. Sure wish it would sell. I'm going to have grey hair before we get out of this one. This old life is sure full of experiences, and we have had our share of them because of the courses we have chosen to follow.

Trying to type with the conversation from all these big teenagers around has been a bit hectic – hope I have made sense. We love you son. You are having some really good experiences and opportunities – so take advantage of them; love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 806 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, Sandpoint, Idaho, December 2, 1963

Dear family, already I've gone too long and not written you. Your letter of today reminded me that it has been a while. I've been so swamped with branch presidency meetings. December 3, 1963. Well, I didn't get much done yesterday. My companion and

I bought us a little parrot yesterday for \$.80. It is sitting by me right now wondering what in the heck I'm doing. It is just a young one; green mainly, but as it gets bigger it will have red bars across its wings: its head is blue underneath; its head is white and its belly is a little lighter color of green. Underneath its wings are orange, blue and yellow colors, so you can imagine how colorful it is. One of these little boys cost up to \$40.00 in the states. We are having a lot of fun with him. He is about as fun as a little kitten. I think I will bring one back to the states with me.

Right now, I'm trying to get everything in condition for a tithing settlement at the end of the month. It is sure a headache. It looks like I'll be branch president at least until March conference and maybe three months longer than that. It depends on the brethren and their readiness to accept this job. I believe I said before that President Nicolaysen doesn't want any more elder branch presidents. By the time I get out of this job they ought to be ready to open up Bolivia. It would be an interesting experience.

That was terrible about the death of President Kennedy. I knew he was dead or shot twenty minutes after it had happened. They had three days of mourning here – three in Chile, five in Argentina and Brazil. He was well loved all over the world it seems.

That's sharp of Joe making the honor roll. I'll bet he is really happy with himself and determined to stay on it. Keep it up Joe!

I'm glad Kirk is feeling better. He seems to be doing really well as far as progress goes also. Uncle Roland just wrote me and said that Gary would be home in March. Can you imagine that? Johnny Schiefer is already home a month and a half. I'm on my downhill ride now and the end doesn't seem too far away anymore. When I hit the year left mark I think it will go too fast. There went the parrot. I just called him back and he's on my finger and doesn't want to get off – there he goes again.

Grandpa Chidester just wrote me so I owe him a letter again. He seems to be doing alright.

I've been thinking for several months just what I would do on my way home, and I've come to the conclusion of this idea roughly. I'll fly to Mexico City and spend three or four days there and then fly to Los Angeles. There I'll stay for two or three days and visit the friends in Whittier, buy me a Honda 125 special for \$300 and then take off for Utah. After seeing Lucy, the draft board, stake president, the people in Springdale (about a week, maybe two), I'll go to Richfield for a few days, then down to Blanding, over into New Mexico, up through Colorado, across the Duchesne area, up to Yellowstone, Hamilton, Anaconda and Sandpoint. I figure it ought to take a little over a month, but it will probably be my last chance to do such a thing before I get married and settle down to studies. With the money I have saved up and the money I would get from the Church for an incomplete flight home, it wouldn't cost too much. It would be a sharp experience and one long to remember. What do you think of the idea? I plan to get it down exactly to the day for a report to the Church, but what is your idea on it? It would be a lot more fun to do it with the family, but I don't know if you could or would want to.

Lucy again is stating the idea that she doesn't want to go on a mission. She also has another boy friend right now, but I'm not worried. I think she'll wait. We'll see. Anyway, would you write me and let me know what you think of the idea. It will take awhile to get everything regulated just the way I want it. I will have to write letters to the relatives, asking if it will okay to stay with them, etc. I think it would be a lot of fun to do that on a motor bike. I figure it is roughly 4,000 miles. I would like to hit Mesa Verde, Denver and a few places over in that area that I've never seen yet. If I can, I will work a few weeks in Springdale on the irrigation ditch and get about a hundred bucks to help out. Well, I won't say anymore until I hear what you all think about it. The parrot just climbed the radio antennae and is now sitting on top of the window. He's an active little rascal.

Tacna is really going too good to be true as far as missionary work goes. For four weeks in a row now, we've had baptisms, and also been near if not on top of the list for working hours. We've made our hours every week in November and are trying hard for the same in December with ten baptisms. We had five in November. The Lord is being good to us.

It sounds like the weather has turned for the colder up there. It is still cold here in the mornings, but it gets rather hot in the morning and cooler in the afternoon and evening.

We had a wonderful time in Toquepala during Thanksgiving. We stayed (my companion and I) in Farnsworth's home (they're relatives of ours) and we had a good time, laying on the rug listening to records, eating hamburgers, playing pool, etc., eating American food again.

In the evening we went to the chapel (the only one in Peru still). A hundred and fifty people were there to the banquet (ninety were investigators). It was really a sharp meal and afterwards we played volley ball, sang with guitars accompanying us, singing with the piano with the girls there, and everything under the full moon. It was enough to make you want to go home. There were eight elders from Arica and the four from Tacna. It was quite a cherished experience. We also will get to spend two days there for the Christmas holidays. The president is really being good to us. Well, I guess that's all for now. I love you all very much; chau, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 807 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, Sandpoint, Idaho, December 6, 1963

Dearest family, received your letter of December 2nd today [see December 1] and, needless to say, it made me most happy. To think that we will have another member of the family to brighten our lives, it makes me glad. I'm sure the Lord in his goodness will allow it to be a girl if a girl will be best for the family in general. It would surely be a pleasant surprise to Roberta, and I'm sure we would all enjoy it just the same. I'm happy you've decided to make the family a little larger. I've felt before that there was one or two missing among us as a group. I know it was the Lord's will. He won't let us down in the physical things if we guard his spiritual desires, and therefore, I'm sure, as I feel you are, that the Lord will soon provide a way for us to sell the motel, if he deems it best for us.

The mission has come out on a new ruling regarding basketball and has even started an elder's competition in Lima, so my companions and I have started playing for the *Joyer*os or Jewelers'

Club. They are the top team in this league, and we are really having a lot of fun. I believe it will help out the reputation of the Church some also. My companion is very good, and I'm a lot better than I was when I left home. I have a lot more confidence in myself in a lot of things, more so than before. I realize that anything that I purpose to do is within my ability. It is a good realization and one that builds big desires.

It has been one month since I wrote out a check that was to last me until the end of December, but for various reasons the money hasn't lasted as I planned it. I want to send off Christmas cards, get my suit cleaned, and have a few dollars for Christmas, so I'm writing out a \$13.00 check. I have a balance in my book of \$3.00 – I don't know what you have added. If you were going to send me any Christmas money, please let this do. I suppose I will be getting some from some of my relatives that will make the check less that I have to write out for January. It is hard to make the money go as far as I want it to. I've helped one member and also the branch some this month, which will not happen again, but I felt it was necessary this time. I hope it won't strain you much. Of course every bit strains, so I try to do my best.

During my first month as branch president, we were able to cut the branch debt from 2000 soles to 1000 soles and hope to do the rest of it this month. The only budget paid this year was paid this month. With tithing settlement, and planning the yearly budget, trying to rid the books of debt, keep the ward teaching up, the proselyting going, keeping the organizations on their toes, preparing for district conference in January, helping my companion learn the lessons, filling out monthlies and yearlies – I'm in a big stew to put it mildly. I was up last Sunday night until 2:00 in the morning on reports and then got up at 6:00 to do proselyting. There is strength in the support of the Lord, however, and I have never felt better in my life spiritually or physically; and with this basketball and all, the spiritual is even getting a bigger boost. The mission is still going too fast and always will I suppose. The branch has had four weeks of straight baptisms and hours now and the other branches are looking at us with a little envy I hear.

It is a big help to me to know that the Lord is blessing the family at home with health and strength and I feel that he will continue to do so if we put an unflinching faith in His wisdom and judgment. I am learning more and more to depend on His guidance.

Well, I'll let this suffice for this week. I will try to get you all personal letters this week or the one before Christmas. I have a lot of things to tell each of you that will be of interest if not surprise. I hope that the Lord may continue to bless you to the end that your time may be spent in serving him more faithfully. I'm looking forward to seeing all of you again and hearing your testimonies of the gospel and also the testimonies of the other people in Sandpoint. It is of great worth always to me to be able to listen to people tell what they know to be true.

I'll also be waiting to hear a reply on the ideas of the family on my trip home, from Los Angeles and any added suggestions that might be forthcoming. I love and pray for you always; sincerely your son and brother, Lyman De Platt, President.

LETTER 808 Misión Andina de la Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Ultimos Días, President Sterling Nicolaysen, December 9, 1963, to Elder Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 452 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Elder Platt, after receiving your phone call this afternoon Elder Skinner and I stopped in the Hospital de Empleados to see Brother García. He was sleeping heavily and had not awakened for the lunch which had been placed by his bed. His roommate suggested that he was still under the influence of some anesthetic which had been used in connection with his first treatment. We did not learn anything new about his condition but will try and keep in touch with him and also will hope to make some other members in Lima responsible for visiting him.

We hope that his family can be well and as happy as possible during his absence from home.

I was concerned to know that Elder Banford was having health problems. Please let us know any recommendations which the doctor makes about treatment he might need which cannot be offered in Tacna. Please send in your request for reimbursement for medical expense and drugs regularly so that there is no financial handicap.

We hope that you will be blessed with baptisms this coming week. We receive excellent reports on your spirit and the unity which you have established with the Arica branches. Sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President. SN:mj

LETTER 809 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, December 9, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 454-456 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, I'll bet our weather right now is a real contrast to yours down there. Over the weekend we had a snowstorm of a few inches, and today it is blowing and drifting like mad; it really is cold out there. The kids were in hopes the bus wouldn't make it through the snow, but guess it will have to be quite a bit deeper than this to stop the bus. I guess quite often they do have snow and mud vacations up here. So many of the school kids ride the buses from out of town and a lot of the roads get pretty bad I guess when they have a severe winter. The people at Church told us yesterday that this was the coldest and stormiest it has been for several years. We really haven't had anything too severe yet and not as bad as we have seen in Utah at times, but I guess time will tell just what the rest of the winter will bring.

McKay was really happy to get your letter Lyman, and it was nice of you to take the time to write him specially. He is going through a rather awkward period. He is quite a bit younger than the other boys and they don't have too much patience with him, so a little extra attention from some of the rest of us helps out his morale.

I suppose your next letter to us will tell about your visit to Toquepala. Glad that you were able to go and hope that you enjoyed yourself there – also that you will be able to go for Christmas. I hate the thoughts of not sending anything to you again for Christmas. We likely will do very little this year for anyone. I have been making a few things (knitting mittens, etc. for the younger ones) but I'm afraid our buying will be more limited than ever before. Not that it will hurt anyone, as they have always had plenty. Joe and Ed are busy making something upstairs in an extra attic room, which they want no one to know anything about, so they are enjoying the surprise.

Son, you mentioned your Hamilton stock. I'm sorry to have to say what I'm going to about it. You see, when we moved up here we had absolutely nothing to go for a down payment without selling the motel, so we mortgaged all the stock certificates we had (ours, and yours and Joes, too) thinking to sell the motel and pay this off and redeem the certificates. However, since it has not sold yet, and we have too much payment to meet with Dad's income, we are taking steps to sell the stock and pay off the note at the bank. We hated to use yours and Joes, but since you said we could if we needed it and we also had Joe's consent, we did what we had to. Dad says to tell you he will do his best to have it to pay you back by the time you are home from your mission, but for the present we can do nothing more. This place really took every cent we could scrape up – and we even borrowed another \$300 from Ed and Joe. That's why I have been rather discouraged, as it seems rather futile at times, but I guess if the ranch works out it will be worth it to see Dad happy at something. We haven't any more news on the motel. The man who has it leased likes it and would like to buy it but has nothing to buy it with, so we'll just have to keep waiting.

Have you heard from Lucy yet? Wonder what's up. You have too many things on your mind to worry too much about girls anyway, don't you? Did I tell you she wrote me one letter? She said she was considering going to Sun Valley for the winter. She didn't mention any mission plans to us though.

We heard indirectly from Eleanor Johnson that she has joined the Church now. We were beginning to wonder if she had gone back to her people, as we hadn't heard anything from her for some time. We are happy for her and hope that we hear something directly before too long.

Last night we went to a Priest cottage meeting and then to a High Priest meeting and social. We figured we had put about eighty-five miles on the little car yesterday getting to and from all our meetings. We are really pleased with the little V.W. and glad that we got it. We just couldn't keep gas in a bigger one I'm afraid. This little car really takes the snowy roads well too. With the motor over the back wheels and with a little weight of the family, it just pulls up these hills without much effort, where a bigger car has quite a problem.

I guess we have told you about the two little calves (both bulls). One is a little white face and the other is a beautiful little black Angus. Dad would like to raise the black one for a herd bull. The other two cows should calve in about a month from now. Dad gets quite a kick out of taking care of the animals. He even brought some eggs in this morning. There were nine that had been layed in the corner of the coop and overlooked, so we didn't even know they had started laying. I was happy to see them, as eggs are real high right now and we haven't been using many. They are pretty good sized too for new hens (brown).

Sounds like you are keeping really busy trying to get everything down there attended to. We appreciate your desires and efforts son and love you for the work you are accomplishing. I'm sure our Heavenly Father is pleased with your efforts too. It won't be long until you are starting on your last year. How the time does fly; doesn't seem possible it's almost Christmas again.

Guess it's about time to get this in the box for the mailman, if it is to go off today. You haven't mentioned your December check, but suppose you will in the letter we get shortly, as your last letter was written before the end of the month. Don't go without what you need son, I'm sure a way will always be provided to supply us with the means to give you what you need – just let us know the amount of your checks.

We love you very much and our prayers are constantly for you and those who are working with you there. With love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 810 Gene Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, December 9, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 458 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, I hope that when this letter reaches you that you are well and happy with your mission and work. We are all well now but a few days ago I had a small case of mumps (Mom thinks) and Ed has a few boil-like bumps on his arm. They are a little infected. The days are really cold and winds from the north have brought much snow (five or six inches and drifts one foot deep). School up here is much harder than Utah. My grades were: P.E.: A; Science: A; Math: B; History: B; English: B; Reading: B. Joe, that smart brother of mine got straight A's which is terrible. How are you Lyman? When I show the girls here your pictures they wish that they knew you. I am so glad that you were given the job of branch president. It will be such a good experience for you. Lyman I know that you will really like this place. It is such a beautiful place all of the time. A few weeks ago Eddie and I went on a hike. We followed one of the old logging roads up to a pair of cabins and a stable. After this we walked toward Bonnet Top. We turned off a little road and climbed a little hill. As we came over the crest of the hill we saw all of our property in one lovely view. Before us were the tamaracks in their orange coat of autumn pines. Before us were the cabins and many valleys. We could also see the Dover mill where dad works. This is seven miles away on the river. When you come home I'll show you all of these places. Keep well and strong and remember that we think a lot of you. Lots of luck and happiness, Love, Gene.

LETTER 811 Kirk Cook Lyman, Michigan, to grandparents Edward and Irene Lyman, Blanding, Utah, December 9, 1963

Dear folks and all, I was happy to hear from both of you again. I began a letter last week and never got it finished on the day we write letters so I had to wait until today so I could get it off. I've been pretty much on the busy side lately. In fact so busy that I've lost four pounds in the last month. Of course I'm sure this comes from worry about the district as well as hard work and lack of sleep.

I'm really thrilled to know that Lyman De is branch president. We had one missionary out here as branch president and I know they took the best for the job, so I'm sure this points out that he is doing a tremendous job. I'm sure he'll succeed.

Thanks for the money order again. I wasn't expecting an extra five but I assure you that it will be put to good use, especially as Christmas is just around the corner. One thing for sure, it won't be squandered away.

The weather here is fine. A little snow so far but other than that, just a lot of real cold cold.

I'm happy to hear about Judy's baby. I didn't even know that she was expecting. Course that may be because I haven't heard from them for close to a year. It's always been Dad who writes, when they do decide to let people know how they are doing.

My back is coming along fine. I'm taking treatments from a chiropractor who is a non-Mormon and at present we are teaching his receptionist who is Greek Orthodox but is searching for the truth. He now has *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder* and I hope to be able to start teaching him in the near future. One thing for sure, he'll make a marvelous Mormon.

Sinus wise, I'm doing fine. No trouble.... I guess if we ask the Lord for certain things just so many times with enough faith that he will give them to us, providing that it is for our benefit.

Time's flying on so I'll close in saying that I hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. I plan to. God bless you all... Love Grandson Kirk.

LETTER 812 The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Springdale Ward Bishopric, Zion Park Stake, Springdale, Utah, [found in *Missionary Journal* 2, page 484 {PFRC Book 11}], December 11, 1963

Elder Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, Dear Elder Platt, quite some time has passed since we received your most welcome letter, and I apologize for taking so long in answering, however. I do want you to know we appreciate hearing from you and to find you doing so well in your missionary work. We still look upon you as one of our missionaries even though your membership was sent along to Idaho with your folks when they moved away. I want to congratulate you on your appointment as branch president. I'm sure you will do a good job of it.

We were very sorry to have your folks move away and miss them very much. I am still unable to find a new counselor to take his place, and with Brother Johnson working in Las Vegas, being home only Sundays, sure makes a big job for the Bishop, but we do have all the organizations fully staffed and people are responding much better than when we were installed. We have merged the M.I.A. with the Rockville Ward so we do have a very fine mutual going this year; they hold the meetings for a month at a time in Rockville and then a month in Springdale.

For your information my son Carl Devon has been called on a three year work mission. He leaves today for his field of labor which is in California. He will be working in the office in the accounting department.

We have sent a small amount of money as a Christmas present from the Springdale Ward. This [letter] is coming through your folks as I did not know just how was best to get it to you. Trust this will help in a small way.

May the Lord continue to be with and bless you in the fine work you are doing, and we want you to know we still look upon you as one of the Springdale Ward missionaries and will expect you to come and visit us when you get home and report your mission. This is an invitation placed well in advance so you can plan things that way.

Again we invoke the blessings of the Lord upon you and pray for your continued success, health and happiness. Springdale Ward, by Alvin C. Hardy, Bishop.

LETTER 813 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, December 13, 1963

Dearest family, received your letter of the 9th today with quite a bit of happiness. I received a letter from Sister Helen Gifford and President Nicolaysen today also. The President sure writes me a lot of letters now that I am in charge here. It is a lot of fun. I really enjoy the responsibility that it gives me and the satisfaction I receive when I do a good job. It makes me a little sad, though, that I am down here having so much fun and you are up there worrying over life and its problems. Don't worry about the money of mine you used. As far as I'm concerned it can go to you as a gift, or be part of the payment of my mission. It would have been nice to have made the trip, but who knows; the Lord may have some big surprise in store for us in the near future. I don't believe he will let us down in anything that is for our best.

It is getting right hot down here in the mornings, but the P.M. is still very refreshing; it tends to cause colds, though – the sudden changing in the climate each day. I won't complain though, as I suppose that you are quite cold up there.

If I get any Christmas money at all, I believe I will be able to make it through all the rest of the month without too much trouble. I have done without a lot of things this month that I usually don't, but if it will help you out any, I'm sure it will be for the best. It hasn't been too bad either. I have about \$3.50 left now, and if I receive any money next week, then I'll be able to make it through until January; if not I may have to write out January's check around Christmas. That will be a bad thing for you, though, so I'll do the best I can to hold it off until January.

Eddie, I'm sorry that I didn't get you a birthday card. I didn't forget; the time just didn't permit. I'll try to write you a big, long letter on the 20th for Christmas. Forgive me?

McKay thanks again for your letter. I'll write you again next week if I can find the time. Boy this job really keeps me jumping. I have made my proselyting hours every week so far, though, so I feel that the Lord is really being good to me and my companion.

I guess we won't be going to Toquepala. We decided it would be too much of a bother on the members to give us meals and beds during the holidays, so we are just going to sit around here and wish we were home. Boy, I remember last Christmas that I was sure wishing to be home for a little while. Oh well, just this one and the next one and it will all over.

It's been two weeks since I've heard from Lucy again. That in itself isn't rare anymore, but I feel that she is gradually losing her feelings towards me. It may be just my bad sentiments, but I'm sure it will turn out for the best, whatever happens. It is a comfort and strength to me to know that this life is in more competent hands than mine. Our Father will do what is best for us. Like you said Mother, I don't have too much time to worry about it anyway. Only when I sit down to write about it do I usually even give it a thought.

When I received a letter from Uncle Roland, he said Bob was helping teach Eleanor Johnson and that she would be baptized shortly. That is all the information I've received on it.

It appears that the farm animals are increasing quite a bit for which I'm sure every one is thankful. My little parrot is really a big help in keeping me happy. I've taught him to whistle (like at the girls) and it comes to me whenever I stick out a finger. It loves to sit on my shoulder right under my chin. It's really getting pretty as its feathers are growing out and it's getting a bit bigger. It can fly some now. I believe it's spoiled though, as every time I do something it doesn't like it starts screaming at me at the top of its lungs. Every time I walk in the door it starts to yell to let it out of the cage too, so I'm enjoying it very much.

It's gratifying to know that the family always remembers me in their prayers and I want you to know that I'm mighty thankful. It makes the work so much easier not to have to worry about a father that's going out and doing what he shouldn't; a mother who isn't taking care of the children properly and brothers and sisters who aren't studying and being the kind of kids they should. I'm might grateful that you are my family. I pray for you also that the Lord will keep you strong in the faith, free from discouragement and sickness. I feel we are mighty lucky, especially when I have to listen to the troubles of these people down here. Boy, you don't know how well off you are, even with debts up to your ears. I'm glad we live there instead of down here with all this corruption and poverty. We are a blessed people indeed.

My companion and I are having a lot of fun playing basketball. We got beat the other night 43-40, but it was sure a lot of fun. We played an army team from Arica, Chile. We have been doing a lot of practicing and we are getting a lot better, though, and ought to be able to beat anyone in a few weeks. It is a big help physically. A lot of the time I feel tired when I wake up because all I ever do is walk and think and never have any physical work. This is helping a great deal.

We had baptisms for four weeks in a row, and then missed last week, and it looks like we'll miss this one also, but we are working hard and that is all that really matters. The Lord will give us as many as he feels we can take care of. I'm more and more aware of the hand of the Lord in this missionary work all the time, and the more one will dedicate his life and time to the Lord the more he becomes entitled to receive the promptings of the Holy Ghost. The other day, we talked to a pastor of a church in Lima. He had formed his own church and had about forty members. His church is called the Church of Jesus Christ. He believes in every doctrine that we do and teaches them. He claims to have seen Jesus Christ, but when we presented him the doctrines of the Church and told him we knew he was doing a good work but that he lacked the authority and the Holy Ghost, he said, "You mean you have the Gift of the Holy Ghost in your Church? No other church even claims to have it and if you have it I'll become a member of your Church and all my members, too. He read every tract we had in one night and a morning, and I gave him my Book of Mormon to read. He said he would be back in Tacna in a few weeks and would tell me what he and the Lord had decided after that. I'm fully convinced that this man has the capacity to be a stake president and that if he will just pray like he did while he was with us that he will be. I don't doubt that he saw Christ either, as he stated his experience and claims just like Joseph Smith did. It was really a faith building experience for me and my companion. He bore his testimony of what we had taught him in testimony meeting and gave one of the most wonderful prayers I've ever listened to afterwards during a lesson. Those kinds of experiences make all the work and discouragement worth it.

Well family, I've got a lot to get done today and I can't do it all behind a typewriter. I appreciate your regular letters and hope they will continue. Please give my love to the members there and I'll try to get you all Christmas letters, as least by next Saturday. Love as always, Lyman De Platt, branch president.

LETTER 814 Gladys Perkins Lyman, Blanding, Utah, Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, December 16, 1963

Dear Elder Lyman D. Platt, and Last week I sent out a *Perkins Newsette* to the adult members of the Benjamin Perkins descendants, that is to most of the descendants. I mailed one to Larry Lyman and one to Ellen and Floyd, the postage on those, that is each one, was \$.50, so I decided I couldn't afford that, but would write Aerogramme letters and put in them a few of the things the *Newsette* contained. They were to contain our love and good wishes to you, but guess this will do just as well for that.

We are so proud of all the missionaries, and feel that they are surely a choice group of young folks, and doing a wonderful work. It seems to me the young folks today are much more mature than they were when I was young. I guess it should be that way, for they have much greater advantages. But it is astonishing to me and pleasing to note the depth of their thinking and power to express what they think.

Now for the contents of the *Newsette*:

“This is the third issue of the *Perkins Newsette*, and it is dedicated to ‘the family.’ There is no organization in all the world of more importance, and that has more far reaching effects than the family organization. One writer put it this way, ‘as the family, so the community, the state, and the Nation.’

“Perhaps at no other time of the year does a family mean so much and seem as dear as at Christmas time. The first issue of the *Newsette* spoke of the great love Benjamin Perkins had for his family, and of the letter he dictated while on his death bed, in which he said ‘It is one of my greatest desires that my family be united and loving and kind to each other.’ How he did enjoy getting them all together to join in festivities. And no one loved to sing and dance more than he, and no one could offer more fervent, humble prayers. So it is to the unity and preservation of our family, the Benjamin Perkins Family, that this effort is dedicated.

“There is no such thing as a family without its progenitors, and its posterity, and as a family we are commanded to keep accurate records of that family. The Prophet Joseph Smith said ‘The greatest responsibility God has given us in this world is to seek after our dead.’

“Then I suggested that we organize and get down to business. I gave a few news items: The double wedding in July of two of Aunt Sade's grandsons, sons of Wesley and Thora Norton, Joel (Jody) and Jerry. I told of Aunt Sade spending her golden wedding anniversary in the Logan Temple with all of her children and some of her grandchildren. I told of my youngest sister, Aunt Bob (Minerva) going to the St. George Temple and being sealed to her husband Edward Rowe. I gave the names and addresses of the twenty-three grand and great-grandson and daughters in college, names and addresses of the missionaries in the field, and the names of the new babies: Duan and Ann Bishop, a girl Heather; Lynn and Sandra Bishop, a boy Vint Evans; Val and Mickey McCleary, a boy David Byron; Sheree and Ed Garrett, a boy Michael Shane. There were others, but I think you do not know the parents so won't list them. That is the main part of what was in the *Newsette*.

I am always a poor typist, but I think never as poor as tonight. I don't know whether I am especially tired or if the typewriter is especially dirty. But I think I'll say good night and add a line in the morning.

This morning I've decided not to trust the typewriter. Maybe my handwriting will do.

We are so proud of the fine work you are doing and feel our missionaries that are in the field are among the best ever to serve a mission. I know we are commanded not to envy, and I'm sure that is right. But there are things I can't help but feel to envy some parents. That is their grand missionaries, and their grandchildren. I have no missionaries and only four grandchildren. So I am claiming an interest in all of grandmother's that is your great-grandmother's missionaries and children.

We are so happy for your splendid record, your fine attitude, and pray the Lord will continue to bless you and prosper you in your labors. Uncle Albert is quite well, very busy writing another book. He sends love and blessings and we both wish you the best holiday season ever. Aunt Gladys and Uncle Albert.

LETTER 815 Allie L. Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, December 16, 1963 [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 460-462 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, Wish you could see our beautiful, white world today. It has been snowing off and on for several days, and I guess we have nine or ten inches. It stands thick on the roofs and on all the trees and bushes and is really pretty. Our drive from here to the highway is about as pretty as anything you will ever see. These big sixty-foot trees on both sides of the road all white make a beautiful scene. We were wishing we had some film – will have to try and get some.

Grandma Lyman sent \$5.00 for you. I'll put it in your account and when you write be sure to thank them. Son, you never did tell me the amount of your last check – about November 1st. The last one I recorded was October 17 for \$85.00. Please tell me the amount of the other one, so I can bring this balance current.

Lyman, you asked for our opinion on the Honda idea. Well, we hate to throw cold water on your plans, but that's about what we have to do. You should be coming home in February, right in the middle of winter. You've never ridden a Honda much, and especially in winter or you wouldn't have thought of this. It just can't be done, you'd freeze to death. I well remember one morning Joe decided he could go to Hurricane. He got as far as Rockville and before he got back home, he thought he would freeze for sure. Maybe in a car, though I hate to think of all that driving in winter weather. You had better give it some real serious thought. You have been away from winter roads quite a while but they pose a real problem, as we're finding out up here. Will comment more later.

The basketball sounds good, also all the work you have been able to do in the branch. The Lord is blessing you greatly for which we are thankful. The little parrot sounds real cute and interesting. Hope you enjoy him.

Ed is still having quite a bit of trouble with some infection. He is home again today. Doesn't feel too badly but we just can't get it all cleared up. We're using pine gum and vitamin C and some herbs and hope to get it but may have to see the doctor. We didn't think the bus would make it today, but it did.

Well, son, this is short but since Dad wrote, we'll let this do for now. We love you and pray constantly for your protection and happiness. Much love, Mother.

LETTER 816 Gordon Leavitt Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 464-466 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear Lyman, my son, I realize my letter writing to you, especially frequency-wise is really shabby. The only excuse I will use is that these days are short, extremely short. We are 1100 miles north of Southern Utah, and that would account for 1/6 the distance from the equator to the north pole, so it should make a difference in the length of the days we enjoy sunshine.

Needless to say I am extremely proud and happy for your appointment as branch president. I'm sure it will bring deep satisfaction to you. I needn't tell you to work hard at it, for therein you'll find your greatest joy. I'm sure the branch will show much growth and broadening under your jurisdiction.

Mother has told you of our borrowing your hard-earned Hamilton money. We would not have even given it consideration had we not seen where it would benefit each of us. We were paying too high interest on money from Hurricane Bank, and saw where liquidation would be much to our benefit. We feel we will be in a position to give it to you, if and when you want it; however, we were making virtually no growth in Hamilton Fund, so this course of action [seemed prudent].

As we approach the holiday season, we want to wish for our oldest son – far away in the Lord's work – a very happy Yuletide season. I can promise you without need for equivocation or compromise that this Christmas will be your richest ever if you will spend the approaching days to it in contemplation of the Lord Jesus Christ and his life and mission. What a tremendous sacrifice, to give his life for me, and I don't even think enough of that – my debt of gratitude – to keep all his commandments.

We are milking two cows now and two more in January – shipping about \$10.00 worth of cream per week. Needless to say, this all helps with expenses. Speaking of expenses, I wish you'd not feel to apologize for every penny you spend. Your mission is over ½ gone and you've had more money available than you've used, so please don't feel you are obligated so extremely.

We love and cherish you and want you to know our prayers are constantly with you. We are not so sure the Honda deal would be the best thing for your return trip. However, let's wait and see how the future goes. Your loving father – Dad.

LETTER 817 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to Gordon L. Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, December 17, 1963, Dear father, well, I finally got around to getting the Christmas letters started. I imagine this won't be as long as I would like it to be, but I hope it will satisfy my wishes.

Many things have happened to me in the first sixteen months of my mission, and I can vision in part what awaits me during the next fourteen. Thinking reasonably along the line of putting a branch president in here in Tacna, I come to the realization that only within six months could anyone that we have or will have be ready for that position. We have several men that if the Lord works on and we work on might be able to take over in April, but these men are inactive right now and the chances for activity aren't that good. Therefore, that means I will more than likely be here as branch president at least until July or so, three district conferences away. After that I imagine, according to my diligence, I may be put in as a supervising Elder or might possibly go into the office. Also, Bolivia, and Ecuador might be opened up next year and there is that possibility for a good-working elder. At any rate, I feel very grateful for the chance the Lord has given me to serve here in Tacna, and I hope I may be able to do so until the time is ready for a Peruvian brother to take my place.

I've thought a lot about what you said in my farewell meeting about your feeling that my mission was a special one and that you couldn't help but feel that it was extra special. Thinking back over a year and a half of preaching the gospel, I realize that some people of importance in the Church now have come from direct results of the Spirit of the Lord working through me. I see branch secretaries, M.I.A. superintendents, etc. that are doing a fine job and it makes me feel good to know that maybe I had the only personality that could, by using the spirit, bring them into the Church. This week, for example, we baptized a lady forty-five years old, that the elders have worked on for years, but that has never had something that it took. She was in a mutual class that I was teaching and afterwards she came up to me and said she would like to be baptized. It sure made us all very happy. There are many similar experiences that I won't take time to relate that I wish to share with you in person, that are equally impressive, and some in direct fulfillment of your prophecy. I thank you sincerely for the faith and trust that you put in me and I hope that I will always be able to live up to that trust and be a good man.

Thinking back also, before my mission, I remember one time when I was trying to learn to play the guitar, that you said it would probably never become one of my accomplishments. I would like to leave you this year with that accomplishment. When I first got to Callao I bought me a guitar and started practicing when Elder Cowley was in meetings, and on days off. Elder Barlow also helped me a lot on the strums and chords and taught me words to some songs. I can now play quite effectively on the guitar at least twenty songs and hope to be able after a few weeks of solid practice after I get home to have many more perfected. It is a wonderful feeling to be able to sit down and sooth the mind for a few minutes by practicing or going over known pieces. It isn't a gift that will do much good other than being able to take pride in it as yours also, being your son. I would like those kinds of gifts from my children and hope you do enjoy it.

Dad, I appreciate the example that you have always set for me and wish you a very successful year to come in preparing to put into effect the things you want to do on the ranch. One more year from now will find the family in a good condition financially, I firmly believe. The Lord has

been so good to us and I believe He will be even better if I serve with more strength and forcefulness. I'm sure those of you at home are doing your part to receive his richest blessings.

It would be good to come home after two and a half years leave and see the family happy, not worrying about financial problems, and busily engaged in the service of the Lord. It would be good to see this before I start out with my own family life.

I would like to hear from you again and of what you are doing and what your plans are for the coming year. I would feel it a pleasure to be let in on the happenings of the ward, ranch life, family life, etc. I hope to spend some time with the family before I go away to college life and maybe married life. It doesn't seem fair that one must grow up all of a sudden, but suddenly I find myself more interested in finding a wife and making my own dream. I've realized for years that each man has one special dream in life and that he must find it to be happy. I've not wanted to leave you until you found yours and could be happy with it, but now you've found it and I too must follow the example of every day and make my dream come true. It's hard to realize that you're grown up and soon must be on your own.

God bless you father, in your endeavors and work. Have a nice and enjoyable Christmas and make the year to come a prosperous one. Love as ever, Lyman De.

LETTER 818 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, December 17, 1963, Dear mother, it is with gratitude in my heart that I sit down to write you a Christmas message this year. I'm grateful that I can sit down and write to you and Dad and the family; to know that the Lord is watching over you and keeping you safe from the sins of the world.

I've been so thankful for words of encouragement that I've received each week from you during the past year and hope that you will continue in your motherly way to counsel and advise me on any problems that are presented and I appreciate my parents' advice so much. It is a great strength to me to have you strong and well-founded in gospel principles. Many missionaries don't have their parents that way and it's very hard on them; so if my mission is and becomes a success, it's because of the foundation upon which it is built; a strong family unity and love and harmony.

Many times in the night I've thought of the words of my father on my selecting of a mate and trying to pick her as closely to perfect, like you, as I could. I don't believe I've succeeded in that selection yet, and fell short maybe in my desires for Lucy. She is a wonderful girl, but I keep hearing the words I heard once repeated over and over in my mind "if you doubt you love a person (a girl), then you usually don't." I can't help feeling that I've yet to meet my mate. No one in my life has impressed me to be your equal except your sister and various other women, already married. I guess I'll keep looking. I'm sure the Lord will have us meet when it's proper.

Now, for my present to you, that probably won't come as too much of a surprise, but which I hope will make you sincerely happy. When I first entered the branch at San Isidro I decided I was going to learn to play the piano. While there, I learned two songs more or less. When I went to Piura I practiced, but with little success. Still later, in Callao, after much practice I still had

little progress it seemed. I couldn't and hadn't played a song to be sung by a group of people. It petrified me so that I would screw up and one mistake brought so many others that I about decided to give up. So when I left Callao I knew two songs and only played them to myself. When I arrived in Tacna, I found the chance I had been waiting for, as no one here played the piano. I started praying for the Lord to give me the courage and the talent necessary to learn to help these people during the meetings. Well, the Lord didn't let me down and I put in my part also. I started playing in the elders' meetings the two songs I knew until I had lost the dread of making mistakes to some degree; then I started trying new songs on the elders. Finally, I made the big step and tried one in a Sunday School meeting. The Lord was behind every downward stroke and I lost my fright to a great extent. Well, the four months that I've been here have been very successful ones as far as the piano goes. I can now play upwards of twenty-five of the most-used Church hymns and each day the Lord is helping me that much more. One day I sat down and went through "We thank thee of God for a Prophet" (the first time I'd tried it) and I made no mistakes and it's been added to my playing list since then. I've played for three choirs that have sung in festivals here in the church, and have also tried out the accordion which appears very easy to be able to learn. I believe at the end of another year I will be able to start on some classical learning and the Lord will bless me there also. I realize that it is not me that had the talent and that is why the Lord has given it to me.

I appreciate very much the help and support you and the family have given me during my mission and I hope that during this coming year that you will realize some of your dreams also; that along with father, you will be able to have success in your Church labors. I know that the Lord will bless us even more abundantly if we strive to improve our own conditions. I hope that your pregnancy will not be a strain on you and that you can have this extra addition to our already big family without any problems. You may lose a son shortly to another woman, but you will either gain a boy or girl before then.

I hope my Christmas present will be enjoyable to you in a spiritual sense and that also may be of a physical job when I'm home. It is fun to sit down and listen to the music come rolling out. It gives me such great joy in the blessing and beauties of this gospel as I play the inspired hymns of the restoration. I hope the Lord may bless you this Christmas with his spirit and also His blessings during the coming year. Love you leads, Lyman De.

LETTER 819 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to Joseph Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, December 18, 1963

Dear brother Joe, well, I finally got around to writing you, although it may not be as much as I'd like to. I hope this letter will find you happy and busily engaged in your school work. I was very proud to hear that you had been doing so well and taking so many solids at the same time. That really makes me proud to have such a smart brother. I suppose that your grades only come as a result of the amount of study that you give each subject, don't they?

I'm having a good time down here in Tacna. Last night we played against a ball team from Arica, Chile (my companion and I are on the number one team here in town) and we beat them 51-43. It was a very close game but it was fun. We practice twice a week and play once, so it keeps us in pretty good shape. I'm doing thirty-five push-ups now and am working for fifty before the end of the year.

You may be interested to know how I've done in my studying this year. I read the Old Testament once; the New Testament twice; the Book of Mormon twice; the Doctrine and Covenants once; the Pearl of Great Price twice; A Marvelous Work and a Wonder once; Articles of Faith once; Prophecy (900 pages), once; Personal Power Through Creative Selling (300 pages) once; Discourses of Brigham Young (500 pages) once; Apostasy from the Divine Church (900 pages) once; The Track of the Cat (a good book); also I can read some French and German now. That has been along with learning to play the guitar and the piano. You can see how good a mission can be if you just apply yourself. I hope you are looking forward to yours as you will never regret the time and money and energy spent here. It's not easy, but it is worth it.

Would you like to have a reading contest with me this year and see how much we can accomplish in our study of the gospel? When the year terminates, I will have only two months to go and you will have only a short time before you will be ready to go on a mission also. What do you say? Shall we start on the Book of Mormon?

I'd like to give you some Christmas present, but of course that is not very possible. I do hope you enjoy your school, Church activities, and have a very prosperous year in everything. I hope you can go on to get your Eagle this summer, as it will be the last really good opportunity you'll have before I get home, and I'd like to work with you on our palms.

Well, Merry Christmas and chau for now, Lyman.

LETTER 820 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to Edward Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, December 18, 1963

Dear brother Ed, I guess you had probably given up hope on hearing from me this year, hadn't you? I'm sure sorry that I didn't get you a Christmas card written, or a birthday card. Maybe this letter will do for both. At any rate, I think of you a lot and wonder how you are and what you're doing on such a big ranch. I imagine that you are almost ready to get your Eagle Badge, aren't you? We have a lot of blessings that we don't realize that are so wonderful. These boys down here hardly even have the desire to be boy scouts and are just lazy and backward in many things that we have so high of opportunities to over-excel them that it is amazing. I hope you are very grateful this year for your chapel, your parents, good family relations, the gospel, your good health, as almost everything I mentioned these people have to do without (the majority of them). We're blessed.

It has been a fun time here in the mission field during the past year helping people see the gospel and watch them progress and hope you will someday, also be able to go to some part of the world and see the fruits of your labors in bringing people to a knowledge of the Son of God. It is a wonderful feeling.

Well, Ed, I hope you are studying hard in your schooling and are getting as smart as Joe seems to be. Man, you guys are going to be so much smarter than I that I won't have a chance to catch up with you. Oh well, that's life, I guess. While you are on your missions, though, I'll be finishing up my college and when you get back, I will just about be ready to go into the ranching-forestry business. That will really be a lot of fun if I can swing the grades in school.

I hope you enjoy your Christmas this year and that you will be able to get some resolutions for the coming year that will be of building character to you and an example to your brothers and sister, and parents. We all need the help of each other in this life if we expect to obtain the Celestial Kingdom, so be the best brother that you can and try at all times in Sandpoint to preach the gospel by the righteous life and the good example along with the explanations of the gospel you will be able to tell to some of your friends if you make the situations. It's a lot of fun and a challenge. Well, I better close for now, wishing you success and good health. Lyman

LETTER 821 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to Gene Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, December 18, 1963

Dear brother Gene: Well, you old rascal, how is the teenager hanging in there with the school work, scouting, Church activities, etc.? I hope that you are having success in all that you are attempting and that you are continuing with working forward and upward toward Eagle, and also that you are keeping your diary like you started in Springdale. I imagine that it is hard to do but it will be worth it in ten years when you start looking back in it and seeing the things you did and how you have improved and become wiser in the things you do. I already appreciate the things I wrote in mine just three years ago and

I know that you will also. I'm still keeping mine up to date and am enjoying it very much. How is the Church activity up there in Sandpoint? Are there any good looking young ladies about my age that might be interested in writing to me as a pen pal? I ask you because you seem to have the same technique with girls that I do in the way you look and talk to them, so inquire around for your big brother, will you? Thanks. Hey, would you tell the folks that Bishop Hardy sent my membership up to Sandpoint and that I would like to become registered in the ward there as a boy scout. I would appreciate that a lot, as certain things I want to do can only be done if I'm registered as a scout.

I hear that you and Ed went grouse hunting and got one – that's just all right. I hope that you enjoy your days together as a family there on the ranch and that you don't quarrel as much as we used to as there is no reason really why we should have to be that way.

I'm really proud to have so many wonderful brothers and a sweet sister, and I want you to know that I do appreciate all of you and the support you give me in your prayers and the support that you give to the parents in their struggle to get us in a place where we won't have to worry so much and can enjoy the ranch life.

Be the best young man you can during the next year as always and write me often. I would love to hear from you whenever you can get around to it and tell me how things are going. Have a nice Christmas and be reminded of the true purpose for the Christmas season. We aren't doing much this year, but will read about it. With love, Lyman.

LETTER 822 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, Roberta Platt, Route #2, Sandpoint, Idaho, December 18, 1963

Dear little sister, although I imagine that you are not quite as little today as you were a year and a half ago, I will always think of you as my little sister and love you as such also. I have been thinking what would be the Lord's desires for our family for the coming baby and I believe that our Father in Heaven knows what it would be like if you had to go through life with only big mean brothers to tease and be a nuisance to you, and I think that he will see to it that you a little sister; however, maybe he has other ideas in mind, but we can always wish and pray to him can't we?

I've wanted to write to you for a long time and tell you how much you mean to me and the love that I have developed for you while I've been on my mission. I love Joe, Ed, Gene, McKay and Gordie all with a sincere love, but it seems like the love for a sister has to be a little different as she represents some things that a boy just doesn't represent. You will shortly be a beautiful young woman and looked upon by all of your brothers to keep the family name as good and wholesome as it is now. Some things seem to expect more of an outward show of goodness on the part of a young lady even though the boy should be equally as good. I hope that you will try to understand the importance of your beauty, womanhood, virtue, and that you will listen with attentive ears to what mom and day say. They know a lot more than any of us do and we should never go against what they say, even though we may think that we are right.

I hope that you have an enjoyable Christmas this year especially and that you may take great pride in the family that you have been blessed to be born into during this great age of the history of the world. We have so many things to be thankful for that I am amazed at the ungratefulness that I express to our Heavenly Father after He blesses me and you all too with so many blessings. Always be prayerful and the Lord will be with you at all times.

I hope that you have a good time in your studies and that you will be a good influence on those that you associate with. Our family is to be looked up to with respect and we must watch whatever we do so that it doesn't destroy that respect that we deserve. Love, Lyman.

LETTER 823 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, McKay Lyman Platt, Route #2, Sandpoint, Idaho, December 19, 1963

Dear little brother, I have appreciated all the letters that the mailman has been giving me from you. It is good to have you write so often and I try to answer each letter I receive, so if you want a lot of letters from me, just keep writing a lot, like you have.

I'm really enjoying a lot of success in my mission. We baptized a woman last week and are baptizing a man this week. He is a really good man, too. His wife is very much Catholic and she said if he got baptized in our Church that she would leave him. He said to her if that was all that she loved him to leave. He didn't want her around anyway. It is too bad to have to break up families, but they never have been happy anyway. You asked me how many baptisms I have had; will you forgive me if I didn't tell you before. I don't feel that that is something we should talk about. The Lord knows how many have come into the Church directly or indirectly by my companions and my efforts and I feel that is sufficient. If anyone asks you how many people I've baptized, you just tell them that I have baptized all that the Lord wanted me to. I feel that would be better than giving a definite number.

How is your schoolwork coming along now? I'll bet that you are right up there at the head of your class, aren't you. You just keep studying hard and being a good brother and you will be a good missionary when the time comes for you to serve. The time will come, too, so you ought to start preparing for it right now by having your brothers or mom and dad teaching you to memorize scriptures and learn where to find them. There are a lot of smart people in world that can turn the scriptures around to mean what they don't say, and we have to know just where to look to help them understand that they are misled. So study good and hard, okay?

I miss you a lot and hope that you miss me too, and that we will be able to spend some time together after I get home; in canoes or walking around our ranch or just talking together. It ought to be a lot of fun up there where you can go where you want without finding too many people to disturb you and make life miserable.

Well, have a nice Christmas and write me soon, McKay. I love you. Your big brother, Lyman.

LETTER 824a Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 468-472 {PFRC Book 11}], December 23, 1963

Dearest Lyman, This will never get to you for Christmas – I should have sent it a few days sooner. I was sorry to hear you weren't going to be in Toquepala for Christmas, but glad you are aware of others' feelings and situations. Guess the day will be a rather lonesome one for you. Sorry we haven't got a box there for you. Do hope you can enjoy the day and that you won't be too lonesome.

We are sitting here in front of the Power Company. Dad is in checking on something. When we got home last night our power was all off and he couldn't find any reason for it. Finally this morning he found an electrocuted cat at the bottom of the pole with the transformer on. So we assume King chased the cat up the pole and he connected the two wires and shorted it out, killing himself in the process (the cat). Hope they get out and fix it before long, as it's rather unhandy without power. We're not nearly as helpless as some without it though, as we can cook and heat and haul water from a nearby stream.

We are also taking Ed into the doctor for a checkup. He spent a couple of days at the hospital last week for the infection we couldn't clear up. It was a serious (staph) infection. His white corpuscle count was up to 19,600 (5,000 to 6,000 is normal). He seems to feel fine now and we're glad to have it checked. We hope Dad's insurance at work will pay for most of it.

Yesterday we were invited out to dinner to some people here in the ward. There are nice people here as in every place we have lived.

Bishop Hardy sent this \$2.00 from them and \$25.00 from the ward (which we will bank). I think Grandpa Roy planned to send you a little and I think I told you Grandma sent \$5.00 (which we banked). We'll have enough in by the end of the month so don't worry about it.

Your experience with the man who formed his own church sounded really interesting. Would be nice to get him and his group into the Church. Sounds like he's really sincere. It's wonderful how the gospel is spreading. I was impressed recently with the thought that our responsibility is to see that everyone hears the gospel, not especially to see that they join, but at least hear and have a chance. Have you followed in the Church News about our plans for the World Fair? Think how many that will contact! It's wonderful to be a part of it.

Carl Hardy and wife are called on a work mission (some clerical work) for the Church up near San Francisco for three years. I think that will be really good for them. He had just quit his job at the Park and moved to Cedar City.

We had a letter from Roland and he said Jackie was going to be married in March. Guess that will be the first temple wedding on either side of the family of grandchildren. Rene said Joy and her husband seemed really happy and were going to Church, so she felt better about them.

The kids are all glad to be out of school for the holiday. They have to go back on the 2nd. While Ed was in the hospital the principal went to see him both nights. He took him magazines, comic books, candy bars, etc. We thought it was really nice of him.

That was a good little picture of you. Looks like your face is thinner. Have you lost weight since you've been so busy? Glad that the basketball gives you exercise and relaxation – also that your confidence has grown. This mission is a wonderful experience for you. Hope that all of our boys can have one.

Well son, I'm sorry we're not doing anything to make your Christmas a happy one. We do send all our love and know that you are mature enough to feel the true spirit of Christmas and be thankful for your blessings. We love you lots, Mother.

LETTER 824b Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, St. George, Utah, December 23, 1963

Dear Lucy, just a note to wish you a Merry Christmas. I know it would be happier if we were together, but that can't be, so enjoy it anyway. I'll shortly be working on just one year left. Does it seem possible?

After January 5th I'll write you a big long letter. Until then I can only answer in return for yours. You still don't keep me busy. I hope the coming year will be successful for you and that it will also be rapid. My gift to you this year is to tell you I now play the piano and the guitar, love ya loads, President Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 824c Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah [not date on this letter]

Dear Lucy, I don't know how long it has been since I last wrote to you, but one long, lonely month has gone by on my end of things without hearing a word. I said to you in my last letter your support would be constantly needed to carry on my job. You remember in the Book of Mormon where Captain Moroni wrote a pretty nasty letter to Pahoran complaining of Pahoran's negligence and demanding immediate help. Let me paraphrase it: Behold, I direct my epistle unto Lucy, in the city of St. George, who is the most beautiful and best respected lady in all the land. For behold, I have somewhat to say to you by way of condemnation; for behold ye yourself know that ye have been chosen to give strength and support to your soldier fighting in God's army.

And now behold, I say unto you that me and those in my charge have suffered great losses of spiritual strength because of your negligence in the line of duty.

And now behold, we desire to know the cause of this exceedingly great negligence; yea, we desire to know the cause of your thoughtless state. And now my beloved – for ye ought to be beloved; yea, and ye ought to have stirred yourself more diligently for the welfare of this people; but behold ye have neglected them insomuch that they say ye are as all American girls; lightly forgetting your duty.

But why should I say much more concerning this matter? For we know not but what ye yourself are seeking greener fields.

Or is it that ye have neglected us because ye are in the heart of our country and ye are surrounded by returned missionaries, that ye do not cause letters to be sent unto us and also love to strengthen our hearts.

Yea, will ye have dates every night while we are away doing the will of God; fighting for you?

Therefore, I would that ye heed these words of counsel and reproof, for behold, if ye will not do this I come unto you speedily (a year and a half); for behold God will not suffer love to be trampled as it has; therefore, he will give unto us other loves, even if it must be by stealing from other missionaries. Now see that ye fulfill these words.

Behold, I am Lyman, your chief lover. I seek not for more than should be expected. I seek not for other loves, but yours. And thus I close my epistle, sincerely yours, Lyman De Platt; witnesses: Elder Dennis Harris; Elder Glenn D. Johnston; Elder James Banford.

LETTER 825 Gordon L. Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 474-476 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Son Lyman, for the past few minutes I've been upstairs trying to teach some of Joe's friends how to play pool. Some sport! Hurry home before the table is ruined, and we'll play a game together. In fact, we will play many of them.

I've been reading your Christmas letters to the family, and looking at your pictures that you have sent, and believe me, I've had qualms about you being so far away at this Christmas time. I know that you are doing the Lord's work, and that you are in a work that is much more soul satisfying than what you might do if you were here, but nevertheless, I sorta would like to have you here for a few hours.

I'm so proud of you for your accomplishments at the piano and on the guitar. You are living proof that a person can accomplish just about what he wants to accomplish. It just about depends on him, doesn't it? I'm going to try to use that device on the making things go on this ranch. There really is no need for us to fail here, as we have all the potential for success, and we have planted within us the seeds of success. I sound like the prophet Alma.

We now have two cows milking and one about to calve, and one due about the fifth of January, so you see we are about in the business of producing milk. We hope to pick up some week-old calves from one of the brethren who owns a dairy here north of Sandpoint, and perhaps a few as we can afford them as we go along. We won't have milk enough to feed too many at a time, though, but we will do what we can to make this place pay. Yesterday, Ed, Gene and I took a load of birch to Spokane and got \$70.00 for it, so that helped. We are in a good position here to make money on birch alone, but we can't cut with so much snow on the ground. We'll likely have to wait until nearer spring before we can get back up to do more cutting. We have passed the shortest day of the year, though, so it won't be too long until the days are lengthening into spring.

We have had a nice Christmas, but it was somewhat meager compared to Christmases you are used to, but the kids seemed to understand and take it well. We have really hurt for finances lately, but our picture looks much brighter. For instance, we just got through sending \$790.00 to Hurricane Bank on the semi-annual motel payment, dug up \$200.00 for taxes for that property, dug up \$100.00 for this property's taxes for ½ year, and have continued to meet our monthly bills as well as the monthly payment to George Strecker, so you see we haven't been wasting our finances. We have promised ourselves that in spite of everything, our tithing would be paid, and you would be financed, and by keeping these two things uppermost in our minds, we have done much better with the others than we could have hoped to do, because the Lord has seen to the blessings as He promises.

We have come to the firm resolve that for 1964, we are going to live a little more like our missionary son, and by doing so, we will come under the further blessings of heaven. We can do it, as you very well proved that anyone can do what they set their minds to do. We thank you for the inspiration that you have given to us, and the increase of determination to live more fully as we know is our potential. We will let you know how we are coming as the year progresses. With faith and solemn resolve, though, there is nothing we cannot accomplish. Pray for us and we'll succeed that much quicker.

You mentioned the priest and his congregation of some forty souls that you thought you might get interested in the gospel. It sounds like a real winner to me. I would hope that you could convert him and his entire congregation and give them the knowledge of the true way, and then they would be eternally grateful to you. Success with this possibility, and all the rest of your potentials.

It will do no good for me to tell you that you are really accomplishing nothing in the long run to lose so much sleep by staying up so late working out your problems as branch president, but I've found in my years that a goodly portion of the time that I thought was so profitable to me, was just wasted effort, because of the bad focus of events yet future, that I couldn't see, but, if I could have seen clearly, as I now can see them, I would certainly not have spent the endless hours trying to get ahead, or apparently so. Let me give you a for instance. If you stay up until 2:00 a.m. working on your books, it is bound to affect you the next day. You can get over it, and might not even notice it the next day, but continued loss of sleep will one day leave you bushed and with a sour outlook on life, and that which you might have accomplished will be left for a

time when you feel more like it, and you will wander off into activities which you have calculated will restore your normal sense of well being. You recall the endless hours we spent in our labors at the Whittier College, well; I feel truthfully that it was wasted effort on my part, as I've lost a goodly portion of the money I thought I had saved there. Those hours were precious hours to me, because it meant that I was away from you and mother and the rest, and I could just as well have spent that in profitably instructing and being with my family.

I realize this life is the time when we are to learn by our mistakes, but I seem to have to make the same mistakes too many times before I learn well from them. Don't you be like that will you? Make every minute count, and the only way you can really do that, is to spend your time in prayer and supplication before the Lord in hopes that He will direct your activities to a profitable end. Oft times it is hard to see just what His will is, but you can know His will and do it if you will pray always for His guidance. I cannot tell just when I haven't been prayerful and made enough supplication, but I have gone my own jug-headed way far and away too many times, and left the Lord in the background.

Hope I haven't bored you with this seeming advice, but it surely would be well for us to relive some portions of our lives over. We could avoid a few costly errors.

I'm proud that President Nicolaysen has so much confidence in you and that you are making such great headway in your branch, so keep up the good work, and we shall continually pray for you and for success to come to you anytime you endeavor to accomplish something in righteousness.

Goodbye for this letter, and maybe by another one, I'll have a better picture to paint to you about the operation of the place.

The eight New Hampshire red chickens we have, laid seven beautiful brown eggs today. We have plenty of cow milk to give them, and they get lots of clabber for their needs, so they just sprout eggs. I'm making so many mistakes that I had very well better quit. May the New Year find you well and happy and enjoying much success in your labors in the far off country in the High Andes. We love and cherish your memory and await your honorable return. Dad.

LETTER 826 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 478-480 {PFRC Book 11}], December 29, 1963

Dearest Son Lyman, well, Christmas is over and almost a new year is with us. We were so pleased with your letters son and the things contained therein. Your gifts were greatly appreciated. If we all had made as much progress as you in the past year, I would feel much better about our family. I think it is wonderful the things you have been able to accomplish. I'm thrilled with your musical progress and know how pleased it must make you also to be able to play the piano and the guitar. The Lord has blessed you but not without much effort on your part. It's something you will always be grateful for. You're really making the most of your time there, son, and we are proud of you. It is probably easier there for you than it will be once you are home, so it's well to use every minute wisely, as you have been.

Once you are home and faced with the everyday problems of making a living and getting along with all kinds of people in business transactions, etc., it will be much harder for you than there where you can devote your full time to the Lord's work. That is why it is so good to have those two years to build habits, will power and a strong testimony. Its worth all you or anyone else can put into it. Your reading program also has been fabulous. You must have not wasted a moment of your time, and I know how much you will benefit by all that reading and knowledge gained and how pleased our Heavenly Father must be with you. So for me and for all the rest I say "Thank you son for a fine example for us all to follow."

Our Christmas was nice, though not very heavy on presents. Joe and Ed have been working upstairs in an attic room on a surprise for the family, so after we got through at the tree we all went upstairs to look at their gift. It was a full-sized pool table, and it would really surprise you to see what a good job they did on it. Its looks really professional. They covered it with green felt and made all the pockets, etc. I was very amazed that they could do so well. So they and some of their friends have enjoyed playing. Gordie got quite disturbed after all the presents were opened. He looked around, started crying and said "Who took all the presents?"

There are a couple of other checks sent to us for you, which we forwarded to the bank. Clessa sent \$10.00, as did Rhoda Lewis. Along with the ward's (Springdale) \$25.00 and Grandma Lyman's \$5.00, that eased our load this month considerably. Hope you haven't gone without anything you need. Don't son, because it will be provided.

We got a nice picture from Aunt Clessa of her seven children after Gordon Dee came home and before Loyd was killed. It's really nice and one she will always treasure I know. She said Gordon went to California to spend Christmas with his girl friend, so it sounds like they are getting serious. Everyone seems to like her very well and I'm so happy for Gordon, as he hasn't had too much to do with the girls in past years. Maureen and John and Mark were all to be home for Christmas. Joy and Kent were to spend the holidays in Oregon with his folks and Aunt LaRee's parents. Carolyn was home for Christmas, and LaRee said how good it was to have her. We surely have a bunch of cousins and relatives going to the Y this year.

Have we ever mentioned our thoughts about what we might do when you and Joe were ready to go to the Y (probably the fall after you are home)? We have thought of renting a large home there and spending the school year there (maybe board and rooming some of your friends also). Dad would stay here on the ranch until he could sell the cattle, then in the spring come back early enough to buy calves again and raise them during the summer on all this acreage, then selling late in the fall again, thus eliminating buying winter feed.

At the end of the school year the rest of us coming back up here for the summer months to raise garden, meat and etc. to help cut on our winter's ration in Provo. How does that sound to you? We will have almost a constant stream of college students from now on, so this is at least something we have been giving some thought to. How does it strike you? We figure what it would save in board and room for a couple of you boys, plus maybe boarding a few others (and with what meat, etc. we could raise here) it might be rather profitable.

Well, we are free of all Hamilton stock certificates now. The bank just sent the returns on them. Course it was just our luck that just after we told them to sell, the President was assassinated and the stock market took a plunge downward, so we lost on the deal – but that's the story of our lives. As long as it's just financial, we won't complain too much. Though it would seem good to have a few prosperous years. Maybe soon. If we all had the faith (and works) you seem to have, maybe we would get further.

Lyman, we have decided that for your birthdays, Christmas, etc., that are left before you return home, we will try and get you something that you might need when you get back, such as heavy shirts, socks, etc. So the gifts we buy we shall just keep here for you.

Dad took a load of birch (the last he has cut) to Spokane the day before Christmas. He had a little accident (ran into the back of a lady's car). Fortunately, no one was hurt, for which we are grateful, as the lady had three small children with her. Gene and Eddie were with Dad, and it didn't do anything to the truck but did quite a bit of damage to the car. The liability insurance should take care of it.

Have I written since Ed got out of the hospital? They really arrested his infection. His white corpuscle count was up to almost 20,000 and I'm glad we took him in when we did. The drugs they used were very effective, and I'm thankful for them when we need them, as some things just can't seem to be handled without them. We are glad to have him well and home again. He and Joe spent a couple of days and nights in town with friends and at parties during the holidays. Yesterday they had a ward sleigh riding party. They had a really good time – got soaking wet, but hope it didn't hurt them any. They want to go to Coeur d'Alene for the New Year's dance. Joe has a date – don't know just how it will work out, as we don't want him taking the car down there and especially on such a busy night. Guess we should go to the stake dance with him, but we'll let you know what we do.

Gordie will be three in a couple of days. Those three years have gone so fast, haven't they? Doesn't seem any time at all since we brought him home from the hospital in Whittier, and now here we are soon to have another one. Such is life. He is growing up so fast – is a really cute little boy – reminds me so much of you when a baby.

Well, we have been to Sunday School, Priesthood meeting, etc., home and had our dinner, now it's almost time to go back to another meeting before Sacrament meeting.

Sunday keeps us busy getting to all our meetings, and it seems we do quite a bit of traveling.

Enough for this time. Thanks again son for all you have given us. We hope we can live up to the things we would do in the pace you are setting. With all our love, Mother.

LETTER 827-1 Roberta Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 490-493 {PFRC Book 11}], December 30, 1963

Dear Lyman De, I know I haven't written you for a long time, but will you please forgive me? I wish I could get a letter off to you once a week like mother does. But I don't think I could do that because I am usually too busy helping mother or doing homework. I guess I could if I tried really hard though. I am extra busy now that mother is how she is. That is sure terrible about President Kennedy isn't it?

About a month before Christmas Joe and Ed wouldn't let anybody in the little attic next to their room. The whole family was full of questions about what they were doing. But they wouldn't even let us come near the room. They worked on it continuously until it was finished. You could never guess what it was. It was a pool table. It is really fun. It is as good as a store bought one. They have been playing ever since then.

We've been studying about Peru in social studies. Before we got started on the chapter about Peru, our teacher asked some questions about Peru. Her name is Mrs. Phillips. One question she asked was what the capital of Peru is. Some of the kids had some good ideas but I was the only one who was really sure. She was wondering how I knew so much about it. I told her that I had a brother there on a mission. She seemed quite interested in it. I wish she was L.D.S. but she is a Presbyterian. Most of the kids in our school are Presbyterian. There is only one L.D.S. person in our room.

There are thirty children in our room. There are 260 in the whole school. Only the 6th grade kids are in our school. The school we used to go to is called Farmin. We had a school built just for us. Its name is The New Farmin and is really modern and pretty. We are called 6-3. Our classes are 6-1, 6-2, 6-3, and 6-4. 6-1 is Mr. Phillip's room and is our Arithmetic class. We go there from 11:00 to 2:00 then we eat lunch. We have an hour for lunch. At 1:00 to 2:00, 6-2, we go in for social studies. Our teacher's name is Mrs. Phillips. Mr. and Mrs. Phillips aren't married. After social studies we go to English. Our teacher's name is Mr. Randolph. At 2:30 we go to recess. At 3:00 we go back to our home room. Mrs. Overholser is our home room teacher. She teaches us Spelling, Reading and Science. Thanks you very much for your letter Lyman. We all love you and miss you but it won't be too long until you are home. I love you and always will. P.S. I hope you had a Merry Christmas and have a Happy New Year. P.S.S. I hope it's a girl. Your sister, Roberta Platt.

LETTER 827-2 McKay Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 494-496 {PFRC Book 11}], December 30-31, 1963

Dear Lyman De Platt, Grandmother Lyman sent us some candy popcorn, lollipops, cookies, honey candy, fudge, pinochle and pine nuts. Joe and Ed made a pool table. They bought sixteen balls. Each ball cost a dollar. It is Gordie's birthday today, but I don't have a present for him.

Got a book for Christmas about Thomas A. Edison. We made a schedule on T.V. shows. We get to watch only so many shows a night, and the rest of the night we study scriptures. We get to watch any show on Saturday.

Did you have a good time for Christmas? I got your letter. Thanks. We got a deer. It was dying on the road so Dad took it home with him. We got off from school not quite two weeks. I am coming real well in school.

Tell me about the place you live. I went up to the chicken coop and the rooster crowed. I pretended to crow. The rooster looked all over for another rooster. But he could not find one. I went to where Davy and Midnight were. And Midnight, the youngest calf, came running to me. Davy licked and licked Midnight. We are getting about six or seven eggs a day. We have five or six inches of snow. Joe and Ed saw footprints of a cub bear. They also saw a den but they didn't see a bear. We kids cut hay. Gene got hay fever. Dad got the charley horse. Well good bye. P.S. We got two more bull calves. P.S.S. I started a diary. With love, McKay Platt.

LETTER 828 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to family, January 6, 1964

Dearest family, I'm sure you have gone for probably three or four weeks now without hearing from me for which I'm sorry, but there has been a mail strike in Peru and that has delayed the mails and made it impossible to send out; therefore, I just waited until it was over. You'll remember that this happened last year and it will probably happen next year.

I have received both of your letters of the 23rd and the 29th. I appreciate very much the counsel received from you dad and the words of praise and encouragement from mother. I received the \$2.00, which will be a big help. Before I forget, I'd better give you a review on what I have spent the last two months. On November 11, I cashed an \$85.00 check leaving me a balance of \$3.00, I believe. On December 7, I changed a \$15.00 check, and the 19th I cashed a \$25.00 check. I still haven't been able to figure just how it was possible to get so much money spent. There were a lot of expenses for members, etc. that I might not have done, but that I felt were rewarding to us to help them. Also, there were expenses in preparing for conference that we just had. On the 30th of December I cashed my January check for \$85.00. That was supposed to last me through until February, but there were a few difficulties with the transportation of members and the conference expenses that weren't planned on. I may have to write out a \$15.00 check before the month is over, but then I'm going to try and stay out of member problems and let the Lord take care of them. We have been advised not to help them like that anyway. Realizing the tremendous strain that you must be going through to support the family and make all the debts come out, I try to do my best, but the cost of the mission has increased generally in rent, food, necessities, so in one sense there is not much I can do. I'm keeping an accurate account of what I spend so that I can find where it is all going and resolve some manner of cutting the costs.

I was sorry to hear that Ed had been so sick, but I hope that everything is cleared up now. Hope he is feeling up to par again.

Say, Dad, it really sounds like you have been paying a lot down on debts. I know that it has only been through the help of the Lord that you have been able to do it. I expect that 1964 will be one of the most prosperous years that the family has had and I'm going to give my all so that the Lord can bless us richly. I'm sure the members of the family will do the same.

One of the things I enjoy most is counsel from older people on life's problems, father, so don't feel to apologize for any helps you may give me. They are very well within in your line of responsibility, even, and I appreciate it every time I receive it.

It appears that the farming business is picking up and that the forestry business just might pay off quite a bit come spring and summer. I'm sure that if all of the family united in one effort to make the ranch pay off we would see rich dividends and prosperous times in the coming years.

Mother, you mentioned plans of moving to Provo during each winter to school, etc., and I see in the plan much wise thinking as well as closer family relations in the coming years. I would like very much to go to the Y and graduate from there, but if they don't have a more advanced forestry program than they had when I was there, I may be forced to go to Idaho State, or Logan or some other good forestry school. We'll let time decide that.

Now, I'd like to tell you of the district conference that was just realized. On the 3rd we left Tacna and went over to Arica where we unloaded our stuff at the elders' apartment and went over to a stadium where they were playing games. President Brown and I were in charge of the games so we were busy getting the volleyball nets up and arranging the boys to play *fulbito* (soccer). They kick the ball instead of passing it. Well, the games came off very fine and after they were through we went to Branch I. and had a drama hour where members from all five branches participated. It was a lot of fun; the theme being the necessity of the youth being honest and pure and upright. After this, we went and showered and went back to the branch to practice (the elders) songs which we were to sing Sunday. There were twenty-four in the group, including mission officers. We practiced our songs and then went over to a dinner put on by the district in Paso Hotel; the first banquet of the district which has also been part of the first youth convention in this district that was only formed a year ago. We had a lovely dinner and then afterwards all the young folks and old folks got together and held the second Gold and Green Ball in the district; the only two that have been held in Peru. We couldn't stand to see everyone dancing, especially with those Chileans (wow) so we went home and went to bed. At 4:30 in the morning we got up and climbed up a specified hill (El Morro) overlooking the city where everyone gathered and realized a sunrise testimony meeting.

It was a very inspirational meeting and all the youth of the district were able to participate in this memorable experience. We had all the Tacna youth there as well as three young investigators.

After the testimony meeting we had the district priesthood meeting where the elders sang their songs and received instructions from the district and mission leaders. Oh, I was in a choir also during the testimony meeting.

After the priesthood meeting we went down to the Colón Theater that we had rented for the conference and had a very wonderful two hour meeting. I sang in a quartet this time comprising the district president, his wife, a counselor's wife and I. President Nicolaysen played the organ. Oh, during priesthood, I played the organ for the hymns. In the evening we attended an hour officers and teachers meeting, a two and a half branch presidencies meeting, and at the end of the day we were just about ready to call it quits. I learned a lot of things that I must work hard on in the coming months, though, to prepare the branch more and get it ready to help in the construction of a chapel in Arica starting in April.

This morning we had an elders' conference with the president and enjoyed very much his humor, and wonderful spirit. Afterwards I talked to him in an interview and learned that Elder Banford would be leaving for Lima (he hasn't been getting along with Elder Johnson very well) and that Elder Johnston would be coming down from Lima to replace him, except that Elder Johnston would be my companion and Elder Harris would be Elder Johnston's companion. Elder Johnston is 6'6" and very smart; he thinks he's too smart at times and has been given to me to try and help him overcome this to some extent. The president sure has been giving me problem missionaries since I was made senior again. He told me that he put a lot of trust in me to be humble and that if I did so I would receive more direction and inspiration from the Lord than either he or President Robinson would with regard to the direction of the progress of Tacna in this coming year. He told me I was responsible for the whole city, even the non-members and would be accountable for their sins before the Lord if I didn't do my job. He kind of scared me, although I had realized this before. Well, I have no more for this time. I'll write soon and I love you all, sincerely your son and brother, Elder Lyman De Platt, President.

LETTER 829 Almon Perkins Lyman, 719 Erma, Stockton, California, to Edward P. and Irene P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah, January 7, 1964

Dearest folks, if I were to tell you all I desired at this time, I am afraid you neither would wish to read it nor have the time to do so. I am yet alive and am still very much a part of the Lyman clan. We have had much activity in the past and it seems to never let up, but take time from each day seems to be necessary for those items that *must* be done. We sent Carolyn back to Provo last Saturday, she returned with a feeling of greater appreciation for her family and did really not wish to return, but felt in her own mind it would be best for her in the end, she made the choice herself. It was so good to have her home, and to see the outlook she has on life. She was not the same girl that left here to go to Jackson Hole to work. This makes us very happy.

During the New Year's Day, Wilbur and his family came over and spent the biggest part of the day, with his mother of course. We enjoyed them, and I feel they also enjoyed themselves. The two older boys were a little late in coming over, but come they did and seemed to enjoy the day and the food. We played the tape recording of Loyd's service to Aunt Kiss who seemed to enjoy it, though some of it she heard better than other parts. Remember she is also hard of hearing. We

started it for her and let her control the volume. We played it for us the first time in a special meeting Christmas day, with all of us together (except Joy, who was in Portland) though some of it was not as clear as it might have been, we did enjoy hearing the talks and the music. Mother we are returning it herewith and feel most grateful to you for furnishing us the same. Thanks very much for this.

We love you and would so much love to see you. Your son, Almon.

LETTER 830 The Flakes, Snowflake, Arizona, January 7, 1964, Brother and Sister Edward P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah

Dear folks, I have been going to write to you for a long time and now that I received another letter I'm ashamed of my neglect and will write on the same day I received it.

Your instructions as to the dog have been very helpful. But he is still head strong and unruly. But no one can say he is lazy, or a sissy. I've seen him hurt badly and he won't use any excuse. I've seen him in a cactus bed, in the midst of just fogging up some cow and he won't miss a stroke, and oh, how he loves me! He is at my side whenever I step out of the house. He has to keep his nose right in one of my hands while we are walking along. He is well trained in one respect. I can say "No you can't go." And he will just drop his feathers and is so badly hurt he shows it in his expression. And the reverse when I say "If you want to go jump in." and he jumps right into the back of the pickup.

I was glad you enclosed Brother Seeley's letter. I have neglected writing to him but will do it now. I had already done as he suggested about tying the dog while I cut cattle and he didn't seem to fight the rope any. He was used to being tied, as you had taught him to be tied. But he was alert to what I was doing. He watched me all the while.

You asked about our brown colt. Well he has been on some of the fastest tracks in Arizona, California and New Mexico and has run with some of the fastest horses and has always given a good account of himself. The American Quarter Horse Association voluntarily sent a registration of merit certificate for his accomplishments. We have a neighbor boy who ropes in all the rodeos from Canada to Mexico and is among the top money winners. He kept the colt through the roping season last year and likes him. He just used him in training. He wants to take him this coming season and will use him in the contest. Our cattle are doing well as our winter so far is very mild. We haven't had to cut ice any day yet. We can stand some moisture which we hope to get to make spring feed. We are well. May the kind father bless and keep you as ever. S.E.F.

P.S. I didn't tell you about Queenie's pup that our son Glen owns. Glen's boys are little fellows one of them twelve and the other six. They have had the only thing to do with that dog that has been done for his education. They can send him to the bottom of a five acre field for the milk cow and he goes alone, and not to fast either, trots slowly down to her and drives her slowly up to the corral. We all think that is rather smart. He is a timid dog. He doesn't go out for show. That is he doesn't run up to show his affections just an easy going dog, but the kids surely like

him. He hasn't learned any heeling tactics but drives slowly like he would have been a good sheep dog.

LETTER 831 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, January 14, 1964, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 498-502 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dearest Lyman, well last week when I wrote I thought sure we would hear from you the day I mailed my letter but nothing yet. Your last letters were the family individual ones written the 18th and 19th, so that's just about a month ago. I'm beginning to get concerned though I tell myself if anything were wrong we would hear from some source. Could be that they are having some more internal troubles down there though we haven't heard of it. The only newspaper we get is a Deseret News once a week, so we could be behind on news. I'll try not to worry and hope that we soon hear something. I just hope you're not sick or something like that.

Dad just got through with the chores and has gone to bed for the day. He really brings in the milk and it takes quite awhile to do the chores, separating, dishes, etc. He got two more calves yesterday from a Church member, as he had so much extra separated milk, he decided he should try and raise some more calves. It will be fairly cheap to raise them on the milk and summer pasture. We couldn't afford them, but looking to the future, he said we couldn't afford not to get them, so hope he did the right thing.

I think I told you about my trouble with the V.W. We were without a car for a few days, as they have to get parts from Spokane. Had to have a new generator (\$42.00). Dad missed two nights work and decided we had to have a second car. He couldn't get the big truck started. He decided it would be best to trade the truck in as he wouldn't have use for it for several months anyway. They gave him a pretty good deal on the truck if he would take a Rambler (1959) and a little 1956 pickup. Talk about a turnover in cars the past few years, we've really had it. You know when you're thinking about getting transportation for you when you need it, you would do well to look closely at the Volkswagens. They are really good little cars and very economical. It would be much more practical than a Honda and would do you for a number of years after you need a car.

Had a recent letter from Grandma. She had been to Salt Lake and Provo for a few days. Did I tell you Gordon Dee had given his girl friend a diamond? Don't know when they plan to be married but everyone seems happy about it and I'm glad for him. She teaches English at the Y. He is still working in Blanding with Kay. I was happy also to hear that Joy and Kent plan to go through the temple sometime this spring. Almon and LaRee plan to come up and go through with them.

Aunt Rene is supposed to have her baby today but the Dr. thought she might go to the 1st of February. Uncle Art flew to Texas for an insurance convention. Hope he gets back in time for the baby. Their little Charles was in the hospital almost a week with complications from the croup. He was better when they wrote.

It still snows but hasn't been too cold. We are surprised there can be so much snow on the ground and not be any colder than it is. In Utah it would be quite different.

Sunday night Dad and I went to our monthly High Priest meeting and social. We had a returned missionary from Coeur d'Alene talk to us. He had been in the Eastern States Mission and had participated in the Hill Cumorah Pageant for the past two years. He gave a very interesting account of the Pageant and all that went on before and after. Quite a Church we belong to.

King is lying here asleep on his rug under the table. He's about as lazy as they come nowadays and does very little else but rest and sleep. Once in awhile he gets out and acts like a pup again but usually he acts like he is content to be an old dog.

Gordie just went outside long enough to get him an icicle and dig in the snow awhile, but he too is content to stay in the warm house most of the time. I should be at Relief Society today, but don't like to drive on these roads and didn't want Dad to miss his sleep, as he has to go to mutual tonight.

Well, son, guess this will do for today. I surely hope there is a letter from you soon and that all is well there. Hope you're not going without mail from home. We love and miss you and will be happy for the next year to be past. All our love, Mother.

LETTER 832 Kirk Cook Lyman to Edward P. Lyman and Irene P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah [no date]

Dear folks and all, once again I'm late in getting this letter to you. It seems like I just can't get these things written on time anymore. I'm bound and determined though that one of these days I'll get one to you when I should.

I don't believe I've written to you since before the holidays, so I want to thank you first off for the goodies as well as the \$5.00 extra and the \$10.00 for the dentist. The dentist bill is almost paid now so it won't be long and you won't have to be sending the \$10.00 monthly. As for an overcoat, my bishop sent me \$50.00 just before Christmas so I could buy one. My old one, the one I brought out here is getting pretty thin as well as frayed around the pockets and the other edged, plus it faded to a cruddy color.

I haven't heard from Dad for a while now. I guess he is doing as well as could be expected, considering the circumstances. If only he would quit smoking, provided he hasn't, I'm sure it would do his ulcer a lot of good. The program the government put out about the effects of smoking is really doing the missionaries a lot of good. One family we are working with, for example, now she has quit and he's down to three cigarettes a day after more than two packs a day for twenty years. 1964 today, Word of Wisdom given 1833...

If you know anyone that wants to buy a Romney box (Rambler) at a junk piece price just holler, this thing of ours has given us more trouble than any car I've ever had. I'm plumb disgusted.

If all goes as planned, we should have about fifteen baptisms in the district this month. Though it's half over, we're pulling with all we have. I don't have a companion right now, as mine was sent to the mission home because of an operation. I get one this evening.

Being a supervisor and now that I've learned the ropes so to speak, surely makes you realize the difference between one who has a position of responsibility and one who doesn't. I'm learning every day that it takes continual learning to be able to handle certain situations which confront me as a supervisor, especially with some elders who present problems.

Grandpa, I have a problem, and in asking your advice, I'd like to ask that it goes no further than yourself. Just before I came here to act as supervisor, the elders baptized a young lady (20) who had led a pretty wild life before joining the Church. During her interview with the old supervisor, she told him of some things which had happened that were quite wrong morally, such as petting and etc., though it never went past that stage. She's been a member of the Church for about four months now and still at times she gets depressed because she can't blot these things out of her mind entirely, thus bringing upon herself a feeling that she isn't living the gospel as well as she should. I've had two really frank talks with her and I know exactly what happened during this period she was in college. As far as I can determine she is very sincere in wanting to overcome this feeling of guilt but she somehow doesn't have the will power or the ability to completely cast this past feeling of guilt out of her mind. She read in D&C 58:42 where the Lord promises us that if we repent, he will no longer remember our sins, but she feels that she isn't repenting enough and it's bringing on spells of remorse. I've known this young lady for two and one-half months and have become quite close to her, more so than the bishop. She won't confide in him, because she doesn't want him to know, but feels that I, as a supervising elder, can help her more than he can. Now, in talking with her, I've had to ask some pretty point blank questions, which she answers without faltering, recognizing the importance of bringing them out into the open. In doing so, she has told me a few things that she didn't tell the supervisor who [originally] interviewed her. She swears that she told me everything, even things that she hasn't confided to her parents (non-Mormons) for years and years. When she brought this problem to me she asked me not to let it go any further than myself, by that I mean not turn it over to the Bishop or anyone else. What I am confronted with now is that I as a missionary don't feel it wise to become too familiar with young ladies, even though because of my position it is required. I have a great desire to help her but in doing so it would require my working quite close with her and this could look bad in the eyes of the other missionaries as well as in the eyes of her parents and the other members. Would it be wrong if I were to sit down with the Bishop and discuss this with him, and

if between the two of us we decided to let him handle it, to turn it over to him, or would it be right to tell him at all, breaking my promise to this young lady? I feel confident that I can help her were I given the time to do so but this could turn out to be a thing which would take much time to accomplish, and me being a missionary don't always know just how long I'll be in one spot. Therefore, I'd hate to go just part way with it and then have to quit and turn it over to someone else who isn't familiar with the whole problem. If you can give me some advice I'd be most appreciative of it. Time is flying, so I'll have to close for now. Love, grandson Kirk.

LETTER 833a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Miss Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, January 17, 1964

Dear Lucy, it has been quite a while since I wrote to you and I feel that the chances of receiving a letter from you anymore are becoming fewer and fewer, so I might just as well write. I was checking back in my diary to see how long it had been and the last one recorded was on November 26th, almost two months ago. Needless to say, it does concern me quite a bit. I did receive your Christmas card that said you were planning to write a letter after Christmas, but I haven't seen that letter yet. I did appreciate your card very much though. At least it made me see that you think of me once in a while.

During the weeks before Christmas I was pretty busy with the tithing settlement with the members, but that is finally out of the way as are the yearly reports and most of the major headaches for now. The branch is increasing rapidly and I feel that the Lord is being very generous to us in pouring out his blessings upon us. Just recently we have had nine children blessed in testimony meeting (the only ones blessed since 1962) so the Lord is touching the hearts of the members also. And we have been able to ordain various men to the priesthood, and give them jobs of importance in the branch, which is a relief to members in general, but a big one to me. As I see it now the Lord through our hands will probably have someone ready to take my place here as branch president sometime after July. I suppose that the mission presidency will see fit to leave me here as high as a year's time and maybe more. I have already been in Tacna five months, so the year's time will pass rapidly I believe. This month has gone by extremely fast and next month will find me with only a year to go; so you can see that I'm not really very anxious for it to go much faster; it has gone by so fast already. I suppose that you are realizing that also, aren't you?

Are you going to school yet? Or do you still have your job at the cafe? I imagine that you have done pretty well so far for yourself and I'll bet your family is as proud of you as I am.

You know these young señoritas down here are very beautiful and many times I stop to wonder if for some reason I might want to latch on to one of them some day and marry her, but these people still don't have the curse out of their blood of idleness, laziness, etc. It is enough to "turn anyone off" if they are thinking right. Believe me the thought has entered my mind more than twice, and especially lately since I haven't been receiving any correspondence from you. There are a few members down here that have pretty well shaken their old ways and would make really fine wives, but of course that all remains to be seen. However, the possibility keeps entering my mind.

I've been practicing a lot on the guitar, special songs to sing to you while we are sitting around the campfire up in the mountains with a full moon shining down upon us, during our honeymoon, and I practice hard and diligently at it. I just hope I don't have to spend my dream alone or with someone else. You are the one I chose to love, be it a love founded on solid principles or not; I am beginning to wonder at times. Still, I have faith that you won't let us down. All the other missionaries say that I don't have a chance now that I've gone so long without hearing from you, but I tell them to forget the razzing or they will have to eat your next letter. From what you wrote in your Christmas card, I had the feeling that something was wrong, if it was with another boy, in the family affairs, or what I don't know, but I hope you won't be too unfair and keep me waiting in suspense much longer. It's bad enough just thinking something must be wrong; without hearing definitely about it. Please don't treat me like you have in the last two months any more in the future. I love you but I will not put up with what I have much longer. What I said in my last epistle I meant sincerely.

I hope that nothing is seriously wrong and that you already do have a letter in the mail to me. Don't get the idea, please, that I don't keep up to date on many things by correspondence with other people. I have ideas of what is going on, but I'd rather hear what you have to say about the whole deal. May God bless you in your work, schooling, or whatever you are doing that merits the blessings of our Father, sincerely yours, Lyman De Platt, president.

LETTER 833b Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, January 21, 1964.

Dearest family, we are waiting anxiously to hear of the new little Morin. Got your card yesterday Rene saying "No news is no news." Can imagine you are getting rather tired. I pray every day for you and that all will go well with you and the baby. I've told the family here that whatever your baby is this time – that is what we will get too. Time alone will tell. Roberta would of course very much like to have a little sister – but I'm sure either one will make us all happy. I finally went to the doctor and everything seems to be in order. We're not as young as we used to be though, are we Rene? Glad that Art made it home from Texas okay and that he felt he had such a successful trip.

Mother, I have appreciated your letters, keeping us informed on things. Don't know what I would do if it weren't for the mails. That's nice you could spend a few days in Provo and Salt Lake. I'm sure they all enjoyed having you there and sure too that Dad was glad to have you back. Wish you could have some of our storm down your way. Hope you have had some by now. We're about getting to the point now where we will be happy to see spring come. It's been a nice winter, and we had had a nice amount of moisture. Right now there are about three feet of snow on the level, so you can imagine what the banks look like. It reminds me of some of the winters at home that I remember when I was young: the paths we have to shovel through and the shoveling off of the roof, etc. It's been a long time since we saw this much snow. Most of our buildings (including the home) have aluminum roofing, and that is really good, as the snow slides off nicely, but a few have to be shoveled.

Do you all remember when the chicken coop caved in from the weight of the snow the same winter the big barn of Jens Nielsen caved in? Rene and I were out playing "Fox and Geese"

when we heard the crash. One thing we have been so pleased with up here is that there hasn't been any really cold weather. For about two days we had a cold north wind when the snow drifted and it was quite cold, but other than that and just one or two little short spells, our weather has been very mild – usually in the 20s or 30s. Lots of nights we can hear the eaves dripping all night long, and it seems funny to us to see so much snow and see it stay so warm. So far the buses have made it each day to pick up the school kids (much of their disgust), but one day they did bring them home early so they could make it over the roads. They have more snow this year than they have had for a few years but have at other times had lots more than this. It's a new experience for the kids and they have quite enjoyed it. We can imagine what a nice amount of water there will be for next summer with all this moisture (also the nice amount of mud in the spring).

We were so thrilled to finally get a letter from you Almon. We appreciated LaRee's note at Christmas time too. I have really been lonesome to hear from you and was so happy to see your letter. That's nice that Wilbur and family and Aunt Cretia could spend the day with you and that you all enjoyed the recording of Loyd's funeral services. I'll bet Aunt Cretia enjoyed getting out and visiting. Can imagine how lonesome she must get for all her other loved ones, as she saw so much of them in Utah. Is she improving right along, and does she get around alone now or not? Almon, I surely agree with several points you made in your letter. It's hard to keep up with the demands of life, and it becomes quite a burden at times. It was nice that Carolyn could spend some time at home and that you all enjoyed each other so much. Usually all it takes to change a young person's outlook is to get away from home for awhile. We hear that Joy and Kent are going to be going through the temple this spring, and I can imagine how happy that makes you all. Mother mentioned the possibility of the family reunion in Provo at that time. It would really be nice and might be the best time for the majority. I don't know about us – if we will be able to make it this year or not. It might be that Gordon or both of us may have to make a trip to Utah to see about selling the motel, if something doesn't break soon. We have one possibility of some Church members up here who want to go and see it at conference time unless something happens before that. It would be a big relief if we could get it out of our hair, and we're paying the price for a quick move. Before I forget Mother, you asked what our neighbor's phone number is. I don't know the number, but the name is Myron Watts. They promised to get us a phone the first of the year, but now they say it will be yet a while longer. It's really a disadvantage not to have one out here so far, so hope they can make it before long. Their neighbor was just in a car wreck with his family. It demolished his car and broke one little girl's leg and cut a gash in the wife's head, but guess they were fortunate it wasn't worse. They are very accommodating. He is always doing something to help out and has had his share of troubles this winter. There seems to be plenty to go around.

We went for several weeks without a word from Lyman as there was a mail strike down there. We have only had one letter since Christmas, so don't know if there is more trouble or not. Bless his heart – I think we need his letters more than he needs ours – he is very good for our morale, and only wish we were all making as much progress as he is. He has lots of responsibilities but seems equal to them, and I know all of your prayers for him help.

Rene, we were glad to hear that little Charles is feeling better. Too bad he had such a time but glad you were where you could give him the care that he needed. Hope that they can all be well while you are getting the new one. I have had the three younger ones in with sore throats the past few days. This is the first school Roberta and McKay have missed this year and they weren't too sick but thought it best to keep them at home. I think it has been tonsils more than anything else. They are back in school today and Gordie feels better too, so we are thankful for good health. The big boys are having term examinations again and will be glad to have them over with. Joe is worried about maintaining his A grades this term but his abilities amaze us, and we are glad that he has desires to go along with them. The boys all say they "hate" school. I think they miss the small school and associates in Hurricane, though I'm sure they are learning much more up here. Joe says most of the kids in high school smoke and they just aren't the same. But they do have good Church friends who are strong in their principles, and we hope they can stay the same. I'm sure they will all be glad to have the school year behind them though and hope that they will enjoy the summer here.

Too bad about Iris and her arthritis. I thought that country was pretty good for that kind of trouble. I will try and write her but seems I'm always so many letters behind. Please keep me informed as to her condition and give her my love through Aunt Gladys for now. Do you know Mother if Aunt Bob or any of them got to Uncle Ralph's funeral? We certainly haven't had much to do with Dorothy, have we? Where is she living now?

Gordie is asking for some lunch, so I better stop and get him something to eat. He's a happy little boy and we all enjoy him a lot. He's quite grown up and talks so old. Reminds me quite a lot of Lyman at this age.

We do love you all so much and pray each day for our Heavenly Father to bless you with the things you need and the strength to meet what comes your way. All our love, Allie, etc. Copies to A.P. and Rene.

LETTER 834a Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, January 27, 1964.

Dear family, well I didn't get a letter off to you Friday, but I didn't get one either, so I didn't feel quite as bad. It is sure hard to find time anymore to do everything that I want to, but with the time well organized it isn't hard to get almost everything done.

During the past two weeks, we have been working pretty hard getting ready for the conference with President Tuttle, and also for a big "Mad Hatter's Ball" that we are going to have here on the 8th of February. Also this Thursday, we are having a big fireside on the Book of Mormon like we did in Callao. All in all the time is *escaso* or very scarce I guess you'd say it. Boy, the English way of thinking is surely leaving me. I believe in one more year, I will have a hard time saying anything, let alone something.

I have been really well health-wise and I know it is because the Lord is blessing me and giving me strength to carry on. This last week, Elder Harris and Elder Houghton (supervising elder) have both been sick here in the branch. Of course, that hasn't added any to the spirit, as they weren't sick enough not to shoot a lot of bull. I don't know what gets into some people. The progress of the Church is sure held back a lot by us missionaries and I feel that we will have to give a full account.

Last night we went to a show that was about the life of Buddha, and it was very informative and interesting. It made me appreciate the faith of the Buddhist people, although I could never embrace their faith.

How is the family getting along? I suppose you are anxiously waiting to get out of school and get started on another summer of farm and ranch life. It would be good to see you all for a few minutes once again. This last week has been a rather despondent one, and I guess I have felt a little trunky (from sitting on trunks waiting to go home). I know that I will work out of it, but at times it's a question of whether you want to or not. We have surely been busy here reorganizing the M.I.A. and trying to get a few men ready to become my counselor and secretary. The time is going by so fast that I won't have anybody ready by the time they call on me to leave. Even if I were here the rest of my mission, that isn't very long in comparison to the time I've already been here in Tacna (five months). The time just won't stand still. Well, I will write again when I receive your letter that is on its way. I miss you and think about you lots. Love always, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 834b Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah [postman: forward to c/o Rulon Ruesch, Lone Pine, California; telephone numbers on back of envelope: Grandma's Kitchen: 772-3303; 673-3535; Julius V. Madsen: 772-3303; 673-3841].

Dear Lucy, well, I said I wasn't going to write again until I heard from you but I can't stand the suspense, and I feel I must talk to someone. This last month has been the hardest one for me physically, mentally and spiritually that I've experienced during my mission. I have been worried quite a bit about you, and not knowing how to get the answer back of what is the matter

hasn't helped any. I hope you don't continue to be like this much longer. I don't care what has happened; I believe that I will always love you come thick or thin. If you have found another boyfriend I want you to know that I still love you and that I would like to see you anyway after I get home. You see, you leave my mind wide open for all sorts of wild ideas, the majority of which are probably false, and I'm just worrying for nothing.

I've been thinking a lot lately about going home; as it isn't too far away anymore, and I guess it has made me sort of trunky (the way a missionary feels who is about ready to go home). The full moon last night, the remembrance of you and me and what we did when there was a full moon didn't help either. You know, it is going to be fun going through life, studying at college, supporting a family, working at a job that I like, living with the one I love. It will be so much more enjoyable knowing that I have served the Lord on a mission and that He is happy with what I did. I look forward to many years of service in the Church as a leader; and I need a wife that is a leader also. I also miss doing my genealogy. It will be good to get back to that and be able to start work on it again. It just sets a tingling all through my body when I think of genealogy and the fun it is and the good it does at the same time.

Well, I'm starting on my 18th month in the mission field and only twelve are left after that. The end is in sight and I hope you will start writing more faithfully so we can plan our next few years together, or write and tell me to forget it; whichever you feel you want. I'm not inclined to think that you don't still love me, though, so am still waiting for the answer to all my restless nights and terrible dreams of what has been happening. Remember that I still do love and think of you a lot, sincerely yours, Lyman De Platt, branch president.

LETTER 835a Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, February 1, 1964

Dearest family: I don't remember if it has been a week of not writing or if it has been two. The last month has sort of faded or blended itself into one big mass of confusion, now. At any rate, here it is time to begin to let go and bring you up to date on the news.

This last week has been spent in contacting radio, newspaper and business men to get them to support the campaign of the coming of President Tuttle to Tacna. A brief summary will probably suffice for now. We started out by having it announced on radio, and they have kept it up on radio every day now for two weeks. Also a few articles on President Tuttle were put in the paper and the people began to take note that he was coming. We wrote up an article stating the growth that the Church had made and the amount of members it had. That apparently did the trick, for the next day a communication from the Bishop of the Catholic Church came out in both of the town's papers stating that any Catholic that even so much as attended any of the future parties, or gatherings of our Church would bring upon themselves "mortal sin" and those that joined our Church would be excommunicated by the Pope himself. This, of course, raised a tremendous stir here in town which will never, ever be forgotten. Many people came out that very night to a fireside on the Book of Mormon that we had prepared well with demonstrations and in which we presented a film on "What is a Mormon?" They said they had come out in direct opposition to what the Bishop had written and wanted to know more about the Church. Of course we told them

more. It has been as though the town has opened wide up and has left us all the people we want to teach. So from the aspect of progress we are doing fine.

Now from the point of view of my love life, it isn't going at all well; in fact it just came to a sudden halt. Lucy wrote today for the first time in two and a half months, told me that she had decided that we weren't meant for each other and that she could best be happy with Floyd. Apparently I made her feel that she was not good enough for me, although that at no time was my purpose. So we'll see what happens. I still think a lot of her but don't know if I should write to her or not. She said that nothing I could do or say would change her mind from the decision she had made. The bad thing of it is that Floyd isn't a Mormon – drinks, smokes, etc. It sometimes makes you wonder what kind of a girl you have been going with. It may be better that I am unattached when I get home anyway. I want to get some schooling in and do a little traveling to get some of this wild blood out of me. Any consolation or suggestions are wanted. You don't just forget about a girl that you have been writing to for a year and a half. It seems almost incredible that it has been so long, but the fact remains that there is very little time left in this mission. Another may come, but this one is going fast.

February 4, 1963. Well, we finally got over with the conference of President Tuttle. We really had a wonderful meeting, except for all the worrying on my part if everything would go alright. President Tuttle was here from the South American Mission; President Nicolaysen from the Andes Mission; and President Robinson from the District; all had their respective wives, so we really had a spiritual feast. President Tuttle talked with us Monday morning for an hour and a half about various subjects and we received much good news and desire to work even harder.

I am very happy with the way the branch is progressing. The M.I.A. is now very well organized and the programs they are having would indicate a high degree of preparation on the part of the leaders. The Relief Society will be completely re-organized this week; we have finally found the woman to give it the spark it needs, I'm sure. The Priesthood is increasing and the inactive men are becoming aware more and more of their various responsibilities and are starting to take an interest in the organization. The Primary is going great guns; the Junior Sunday School is in good hands and progressing fine. We lack only to find a reliable Superintendent for the Sunday School and various teachers for the organizations. The foundation is being set to put the branch on a good start when it is re-organized. The two men helping me as counselors are wonderful men. One is an elder, one is a priest. Either could be branch president, and I am hoping to help them see the necessity of serving in this place within the coming months. I know I have received revelation on many occasions respecting the way things should run. The Lord has brought so forcibly and clearly to my mind at times the things I should do that I didn't even have to question. Before, my testimony along this line has never been quite as strong as it has now become and I am grateful, so grateful.

Say, I still want to make that trip I was talking about, and if buying a Honda doesn't agree with you, I would surely like to try in on a racer bike. Please don't laugh at it. I realize how tiring it would become and how badly I would be wanting to get home, but that type of experience must happen to me before I will be really ready to settle down and study or get married or whatever awaits me. I feel in my makeup a lack of trying for fear of failing, and at times it is so necessary

in Church work, or in life itself. To be able to do something like that would give me a courage I don't really have and a conquering of that certain fear of failing that holds me back so much. I would like to take a plane to Mexico City and stay there for three or four days, fly to Los Angeles, ship my stuff home from there, buy me a bike, a sleeping bag, some repair tools; the necessary things for a trip like that and then start out. I would arrive in Mexico City around the first week in March. By the time I got ready to leave California, after seeing the folks, it would be about the 20th. I would arrive in Utah around the 1st of April, spending anywhere from one to two months after that arriving home. I don't think I would need to worry any about the weather, because I would be following spring up the country all the way. I want to see Grandpa Chidester, and also see Grandma and Grandpa Lyman. Sure it is a long way to go on a bike, and it would be lonely as well as a little dangerous, but you must realize that I want to come face to face with those things so I can grow up in those ways. After getting to Blanding, I want to go over into Colorado and come up through Colorado, over into Provo to see everyone there, up to Anaconda over to Sandpoint. It isn't anywhere near impossible, because just last week I was talking to a full-blooded Sioux that has spent three and a half years riding from South Dakota to the southern part of Argentina and back up here. He is tired but has enjoyed it. Please consider the answer before writing back. There isn't a lot of hurry, but I have thought a lot about it; be it by bike, or Honda, or car, I want to make the trip. If I don't see you for awhile after I get off my mission, it won't be that much longer. I left a lot of me in southern Utah and I wouldn't be happy going right to northern Idaho, knowing that it could be many years before I returned to see my family, some of whom I may not see if I don't take this chance on my way to you. The elders here say I'm stupid for even thinking of such a long trip but I think the way I think, and I guess only I will know at times why I think that way.

I sent two packages of books, and papers, etc. home last week, and they ought to arrive around the last of February. I would appreciate it if you'd tell me if they make it and if they do, I will start sending some of my bigger, bulkier books, that I don't need, so that I can stash a few remembrances of Peru in that space weight. It seems impossible to even think of coming home, yet one month passes so rapidly and the year only consists of just twelve little quick passes. I won't get trunky but I will start planning just what I want to do when I do get home and on the way. I feel that life will soon hold for me the same thing that it does for you, as within a few years, I will be in the same position and will be facing the same problems. I'm certainly grateful that you are sacrificing the time and energies that you are to keep me here on my mission. I guess at times that I don't express enough just how appreciative I am, but I am aware that you are sacrificing and that if the Lord wasn't blessing you, it would be impossible for you to keep me here.

I love all of you and miss you very much, even though at times I feel my interests wandering now away from the family ties and thinking of my future life with my own family. That's part of life, I guess. Love as always Lyman De. Lyman De Pnagnequets.s, [Sioux] President.

LETTER 835b Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, General Delivery, Lone Pine, California, February 1, 1964

Dearest Lucy, Upon receiving your letter today after two and a half months of worrying and wondering, I was relieved, even though I knew what it would contain before opening it. I had felt that such a letter if you even sent me one would express the reasons why our love was a dwindling fire that was apparently being quickly blown to the winds never to be remembered. Please allow me new chances during this letter to express my side of the story and then judge the whole.

Accepting the fact you stated that it “is rather difficult to always be able to interpret the meaning of some of the missionary’s letters,” we’ll concede that issue and only add that being many, many thousands of miles away from the one you love is hard at times to know just what is the right thing to say and say it in such a way that it won’t be taken to mean what it really doesn’t. It makes it even harder to say the things you want to knowing that your girl is going out with other boys (even though it be with your consent), leaving quite a margin for errors to creep in; caused by doubt, worry, jealousy, etc. My excuse then, on giving you things to cause you to doubt my love, was precisely the preceding.

Upon making the decision for my part that I thought it would be a good idea if you went on a mission, it seemed to me a good idea. I have seen the caliber of children that come from families that have mothers that have been missionaries, and being human, of course, that was the ideal I had in mind. I don’t believe I ever said you wouldn’t be able to raise our children to be good children if you didn’t serve a mission, but at any rate I meant that you wouldn’t be able to the way those that have been on missions could do. That’s a fact.

Probably a little confession on my part would serve here. You stated in your letter that I have shown the attitude of superiority and righteousness over and above what is normal; you are right there. The reason wasn’t clear to me until you told me I had been that way, so I started doing a little self-examining and have come up with this conclusion: in my striving for perfection, I have excelled in some points of the gospel; thanks to God. In other parts – points that only very few people know about – I have failed literally. These failures on my part have given me an attitude of complete failure and so to cover up this attitude I have magnified my good points and made sure no one – hardly anyone – ever saw these other failures. That is speaking as frankly as I know how. I, in my heart, do not feel better than you, but thinking to impress you magnified my good points. In this I ask that you please forgive me. It is a human mistake and anyone is apt to make it. Please accept my ignorance of this life’s matter. To be able to forgive me, if you will use personal examples you may be able to encounter a similar instance in your life and thus be able to see how easily it would be for me to do the same thing.

Honey, you are right; I don’t feel you are my caliber of person, but are so much better than I in the ways that count, that I had to save face and look at least somewhat equal. Egotistical I guess; you don’t have to try hard to make me feel you are worthy of me, because that side of the story doesn’t exist.

You were unfair when you said that I felt that no one could possibly be my equal. That may sound a little blunt; but it is right. I know I have some traits that I have nurtured that will be

valuable to me as a husband and a father; but does that in any sense of the word mean I felt that no one else could possibly have the same traits? I expect an apology on that one.

I will accept the fact that I am conceited and try in the next year to humble myself out of the “pseudo conceitedness.” One thing I never wanted to be was conceited. I appreciate you mentioning the fact.

You said that I had given you “an invitation several times to climb off and forget you” but if you will re-read those parts and look at them from another angle you may find something different there. At times it has been necessary, not knowing exactly your own feelings, to incentivate your spark of love to see if it was still burning.

When I stated in my letters that I needed you, it wasn't anything hypocritical; merely a statement of fact. You can read into it what you want. You have made me feel utterly worthless as a missionary because of your mistrust in my love for you. I have learned during my time as a missionary that to get along with a companion you must tell him things that he does that you don't like in such a way that he will explain why he does them or stop doing them. I feel that you have guarded the things that I've said so long that added together they make a mountain out of a molehill. It may be a mountain now but it doesn't take long to make it a molehill as long as there still exists comprehension and forgiveness.

Ideally, if I could get two years of studying in and do a little bit of traveling during that time to get the restlessness out of my blood, I would be ready to settle down, but if the ideal situation doesn't work out of course you take second best. I didn't in any instance mean my wishes to sound like ultimatums. Come on stick up for what you think should be the way we do things. I can be just as wrong in my thinking as anyone else. If you show me I'm wrong, I can accept whatever is right. What do you think I am; a monster.

If you read one of my letters over again, I stated very clearly that I loved you enough to marry you in a temple and this bit about you “not knowing from one day to the next just what my feelings would be, whether I'd love you or whether I'd be too good for you” are only caused by own uncertainty that you find in your own love. Aren't I right? If I'm not, tell me so; but I think I hit the nail pretty squarely.

Also this bit about sacrificing your life so that I can have what I want out of life doesn't strike me very favorably. You are the most important person you have and you better not let anyone or anything stop you from having out of life just what you want.

Now, sweetheart, think a minute and answer honestly and I believe you will come up with the conclusion that if I didn't love you I wouldn't expect so much from you. Here in the mission field one supervising elder called me into his office and really raked me over the coals and then afterwards said: “If I didn't like you so much I'd just let you go on doing what you are doing, but I'm kind of fond of you and don't want to see you go down that path.”

If I have ever said anything that was for your betterment, it was said because I knew it would make our marriage a happier one. I realize now that I heaped upon you too many things to accomplish at once and that for that reason you have become discouraged. I would too if the president told me to have this branch ready for Peruvian leadership in two months. It would be unfair. I believe I have been unfair to you in this respect and ask that you forgive me on this point also.

I have said a few hard things in this letter, but where you were wrong, you were so wrong it made me mad. Where you were right, though, I sincerely appreciated your counsel and advice. If you would do that more often, we wouldn't have so much doubt in our minds.

Things are going great down here in the Church. We have had a few articles written against us by the Catholic bishop here in Tacna, and it has really aroused a good chance to explain the gospel to a lot of people. The branch also is progressing nicely; if continued it will find itself run more than likely by Peruvians in or around July. The Lord has been very good to us and five or six good men have come into the Church lately bringing with them good ideas. He has blessed us with revelation on what needs to be done and given us an overall view of the work and the necessity of hurrying. I know that He has guided many things we have done and said. I am grateful for this testimony that is growing every day with more force.

The time is going by so rapidly that before I know it the mission will have completely gone and the things that were to be accomplished will not be utterly fulfilled. But with the Lord's blessings, the majority will come to pass.

I hope this letter finds you have a good time in Lone Pines. It is a beautiful place and one that I've wanted to go back to for a long time. I feel like that lone pine that stands there on the hill and suppose that I always will unless your love is still as strong as mine, love you loads, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 836 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 504-508 {PFRC Book 11}], February 3, 1964

Dearest Son Lyman, we were happy to finally get a letter from you after several weeks again. We received your letter of the 27th, the first one since the one written on the 6th of January. Since you didn't mention another strike or not having written, we are assuming that there were several letters lost between January 6th and January 27th. I hope you have been receiving our letters regularly though. One thing I had better ask before I forget – on one of your last letters you address was Casilla #303 and I notice on your last one again it is #275. I sent some letters to 303 and am wondering if that is maybe your branch address and the other your apartment. Will both numbers get to you or which is right? I gave the 303 one to the seminary kids that wanted to write you, so please let me know. Another thing please let me know if the \$5.00 bill got to you in a letter. You likely told us a lot of things in the letters that we didn't get. I hope they catch up with us, but am wondering if they were disposed of or something during the strike. Please be assured that unless you hear from us each week something is happening to the mail, as I will write every week (though sometimes I might be a day or so late).

Your letter of the 27th was quite a short one and you sounded rather discouraged in it, so do hope that you are feeling better by now. Guess it doesn't help to have companions that are sick and not able to work. I'm sure there is always plenty for you to do with your branch duties and that is the best remedy for homesickness and discouragement – to keep busy – so I am glad you have work to do. Hope you don't go without our letters, as I know how hard it is.

Good luck to you on the conference with Elder Tuttle and also the dance in the branch. I imagine how well you enjoy and how much good you receive from visits and conferences with your leaders down there. Yesterday we spent the day at our quarterly conference in Coeur d'Alene. Elder Thomas Monson was our visiting authority, and we were happy to have him here and have a chance to get acquainted with him. He is really a fine man and a very interesting speaker. He told some wonderful experiences. He is quite a young man and has already been a Bishop and Mission President in Canada and now a member of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles. He had to leave the last meeting early to catch a plane back to Salt Lake to speak in a funeral service. We also had two sisters from the General Boards of the Relief Society and Primary as visitors and enjoyed them very much. On Saturday I was supposed to be to a Relief Society Convention in Coeur d'Alene but because of the roads out here I didn't make it. Sunday the singing mothers sang in one session and the primary children the other. We enjoyed the day. It is a beautiful drive between here and Coeur d'Alene and we will be happy when we can take you with us. The highway was good but these secondary roads are terrible now. We have had so much snow and some rain and they got slushy and rutty and the grader isn't too fast to get onto them.

Today is a beautiful sunshiny day, and it seems so good to see the sun. We have seen very little of it this winter, and I think Dad has missed it more than anyone. It will take a lot of it to melt all this snow. We were surprised to see how much less snow there was in Coeur d'Alene and they say that Spokane is bare, so guess we have a little more than our share here. I took a few pictures this morning but will finish out the roll with the kids on it and then get it developed and send to you.

We had a treat the other day in a letter from Grandpa Lyman – the first for a long, long time. Since part of it concerns you and since I know you would enjoy it, I'm going to copy it and send with this:

Dear Platts: We received your letters yesterday. Gordon told us something about the place you have up there. I have been wondering what your payments are. Also if you are having any trouble financing your (or our) boy in Peru. Please let me know. And I have been thinking about Lyman De's affairs when he returns. Of course that is some time in the future, but what I wanted to call your attention to needs a little time for you to investigate and consider. When Wib (Wilbur) Ranney came home with knowledge (or understanding, which ever is the best word there) of the Spanish language he never had any trouble getting a job with the government and he had less schooling than Lyman De. Now he is about to retire on a pension and he is still a young man. He likes his work. He has had charge of a number of men for some time, so has it easier than before. If you are interested, get in touch with Wib and write and ask him anything you

want to know. Or maybe there are different lines besides his. His address is 3820 Madera Way, Livermore, California.

You know jobs are peculiar – some jobs draw small caliber men, as a rule, and other jobs draw bigger caliber men. Possibly it is the responsibilities they carry. To illustrate, take a motor man or a conductor on a bus. They live in a small world; this is the same with a ranger, which Lyman has spoken of a time or two. He has a “little book” on instructions and he carries it and checks every time he has to do anything. This leaves him dependant on the book instead of using his own judgment, and he lives in a very small world. It is disgusting to see men unable to use their own judgment at least part of the time. So I thought I would like to call your attention to Lyman’s using his Spanish. You know to have a foreign language one uses in his job is good for at least \$1,000 a year with his wages. And Lyman’s appearance and polish should get him a good job better than a ranger.

So much for that. Now about the other youngsters. I don’t want to slight them. I grab every bit of information in all the letters that is connected in any way with them, and I appreciated the little pictures we received of them. I know all about the school report cards and boy scout attainments, and Roberta’s standing among her brothers. And I admired Lyman’s attitude toward the whole family and each member separately. The children are the biggest thing in our lives and any one is a thousand times more important than ranches or anything else. I admire how they are looking ahead to a mission and schooling.

If you weren't so far away I would try and shunt a heifer in your direction occasionally, but you are so far north, the North Star is higher there than it is here. Well, mom asked me to drop you a few lines and I have made it a regular epistle. So I better draw my remarks to a close before I run out of space. We love and pray for all every day and trust our kind Heavenly Father will keep us all in the paths of righteousness. Grandpa.

Isn't that a nice letter? I think it is good of him to offer counsel and advice. And I know he and Grandma both are very much interested in your welfare as well as that of the rest. Wilbur is Aunt Cretia's boy and has been in the Border Patrol ever since his mission. If you would like to know about it or would like me to write him, just let me know.

Tuesday, A.M. I took this into town with me yesterday to finish it in the doctor's office while I was waiting, but for once I didn't have to wait for him, so didn't get it finished. On our way out we picked up the mail and found an envelope from you with a lot of slides in it. Don't know just when it was mailed, as there was no letter with it, but you will be glad to know that the slides got here all right. You are getting quite a bunch and will have a nice collection when you get home.

Things are evidently going along all right with me and the baby. It shouldn't be long now until I feel life. Joe is about the age now that you were when I was carrying Gordie, and Gordie is about the age now that you were when I was carrying Joe. Times passes on. I just sat down and went through my history and showed Gordie the pictures in it – every few pages showing a new member of the family. As Grandpa Lyman said in his letter, they are the most important thing in the world – much more so than ranches or anything else, and we are so grateful for each one of you. We appreciate the example you are setting for the others. They don't write too often. I just reminded Joe this morning that it has been some time since he wrote to you. He said he was going to wait until the semester tests were over, and they are over now, so maybe you will get a letter from him one of these days.

The kids got their grades again last Friday and we were very pleased again. They had all improved except Joe, and how can you improve on straight A's. He made it again and was quite happy about it, as were we. His teacher got him to drop his study class and take a journalism class, so now he has six solids. If he can keep this up, we think he won't have much trouble getting a scholarship to the Y, and it would surely be a help if he could do that. Won't it be fun for you and him to go to the Y together when you get home? The other kids all did really well too and got all A's and B's except one C McKay got in writing. They don't enjoy school like they did in Hurricane, but are working hard at it. Joe says he would like to go back to Utah to finish school next year but I tell him he needs to be at home, so don't think we will pursue that any further.

Another beautiful sunny day today. Maybe if we have enough of these, some of this snow will melt. I think we'll all be happy to see spring come, though I guess the winter hasn't been as long as some, as we had a nice, late Fall.

We haven't heard anything from Val Edgel (in our motel) for a long time. They haven't sent any rent for several months, so we finally wrote to the Bishop and asked him to check on them for us and see just what the situation is. We try so hard to meet all our obligations, and then when people we are depending on don't come through with what they should, it sorta hurts. I hope that something will soon break and we can get rid of that motel and some of our headaches. We are really thankful for Dad's job up here and for his health to carry on with it. We have a few worries but certainly not the kind that are of too much importance.

Guess Gary will be coming home shortly and then Jackie will be getting married. Bob graduates this year and Roland and Dorothy will be left with just Marley. Mother said that Mark was hoping to be interviewed for a mission while home between quarters and hopes to go when he is through with this year of school. She also said Gordon was hoping to get in at the U and would know right away about that.

Enough for today I guess son. We love and pray for your health, welfare, and happiness every day. Always be prayerful and humble and the Lord will bless you greatly. Your loving mother.

LETTER 837 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, February 5, 1964, to Edward P. Lyman and Irene P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah

Dear Grandpa and Grandma Lyman, once again I get to write and thank you for the way in which you have supported me on my mission with your prayers and faith. I am glad that you will and do have that consideration and also that you have led the lives you have, giving me a good example and teaching me that the life we have been given only has one purpose. It is a privilege to be known as your grandson and I hope I may always be worthy of the recognition.

In thinking into the future, I see that the possibility of coming to Blanding on my way home will be of great necessity to me. I would like at that time to be able to see two of the best personal histories that have been written about you. If you would be that good, realizing as I do that it is hard to write and use the time to write a history, I would always be grateful and so would all your posterity. I believe that the Lord will give me the chance to see you before I go to the new home of my parents in the north and I will take that opportunity if He will present it. I have made out already a tentative schedule so that I can patiently and with much preparation make it a worthwhile trip when the time comes. I plan to be in Blanding somewhere around the first of April in 1965 and would like to stay there for from ten days to two weeks, depending on the necessity and the time I have. I have not had the chance since I've grown up to appreciate it, to be able to talk to you both about life and it's relation to the next one, and other subjects that enter into the mind of one curious as I am. I will look forward with anticipation to that visit praying that the Lord will, in his wisdom, do what he sees best to make it come to pass if it be his will.

I am enjoying very much my mission and know that the Lord has blessed me a lot in the search for the best organization here in the Tacna Branch. We are progressing, but at times it is difficult to see the end. Pray for us as we do for you, and I hope to be able to write you sooner the next time. Love as always, Lyman De, B.P.

LETTER 838 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, February 7, 1964

Dear family, I told or asked you in my last letter about a trip to Idaho from Southern California and I would like to give the details so you may decide if there would be any reason for me not doing it. My release date is February 28, 1965. That day I would leave for Mexico City and stay there from March 1, to March 5, at which time I would take a jet to Los Angeles, staying in Whittier with friends from March 7th to 10th, buying my things and getting ready for the trip, going by Greyhound to St. George after sending all my luggage home from Whittier. I would have with me a 10 speed Italian Schwinn racer, my necessary clothing, a sleeping bag, canteen, eating kit, first aid kit, spare tires, film, tools, and good leg muscles, and some money for food and an occasional motel. I would stay in Springdale from March 11 to April 1st, as that will be the time they are cleaning the ditch and getting stuff ready to put in gardens. There will be enough work to keep me busy and give me a little extra money to travel on. The rest will come from what the Church will give me for not taking a plane trip clear home, what I can save, and other sources of work along the way. Leaving Springdale on the 1st, I would make it to Page, Arizona the first night, halfway between Tuba City and Kayenta the 2nd night, Bluff the third night, and Blanding on the 5th of April. I can easily make 200 miles a day on the Schwinn if it is necessary, but I want to take my time, passing off several merit badges on the way, seeing side roads I haven't seen before, talking to people, and getting to know the country better. From Blanding, after a two weeks stay, getting the rest of the genealogy and earning a little bit more money, I will leave on the 18th for Richfield, taking the route Dad and Joe took ten years ago, making it to Fruita the first night and being in Richfield on the 20th. I will plan to stay in Richfield until the 26th, working, seeing friends, taking trips around the Sevier Valley, at which time I will take off for Provo, staying there for two days visiting friends, or making arrangements for college or the things I decide need doing between now and then. Leaving from Provo on the 30th of April, I will stop in Logan Canyon the first, Bear Lake the 2nd, Pocatello the 3rd, Idaho Falls the 4th, Ashton the 5th, Yellowstone Park the 6th; staying there for three days seeing it, Bozeman on the 10th, Helena on the 11th, Missoula on the 12th, Coeur d'Alene on the 13th, talking with the stake president and seeing the town, and arriving home on the 14th of May, just in time to see the kids getting out of school. This of course is a tentative schedule and will remain almost the same unless I decide to make about a week's jaunt into Colorado, going to Cortez, Durango, South Fork, Salida, Wolcott, Glenwood Springs, Grand Junction, then over to Green River and on to Richfield from there, by way of Price.

I would be camping out in the open or in the wilderness for between five or six nights in all, and the majority of those wouldn't have to be unless I decided I wanted to really badly, and I want to really badly so that number could add up to thirty if I didn't take advantage of the hospitality offered me.

It's a long ride, but I will be making it in jots, and at such a time of the year to insure protection against the major worry: weather. I have my raincoat and will have necessary protection if it should happen to rain. The money problem will not exist if I can rely on the work I plan to get, and even if I don't get much work, I will not really need to spend very much except for the bike and food, which will be mainly paid for by Church transportation money. I can't think of any more details that could be covered. It's as safe as can be, with little or no worry about getting lost or sick somewhere, as I will be close to friends anywhere I go, even in Idaho now I have several families that are friends because of being their son's companion.

A Schwinn ten speed travels nicely without hardly any effort between thirty and forty miles an hour and has the capacity of going as high as eighty. Of course, I'm going to be in no rush, and would hope just to take my time, enjoy my liberty, thank God for the blessings he has given me. During this time I will want to spend much time fasting and praying for inspiration and guidance on what my career and place in life are going to be. This will give me an excellent time to get this matter straight in my mind, so that as soon as I do get home, I will be ready to start putting into force what I've learned, and start learning what I will need to know to get me into my career. Well, what do you think? Does it sound all right to you all? I would like to make a trip like that with the family, but there are certain things that I want to do that will require that time by me. Please let me know what you feel on the matter, although I hope it is in favor. I know from a parent's standpoint it might possibly be hard to give consent. Approaching the age of adulthood though and trying to think like an adult, I know that this isn't something like a pool table notion or some of the other notions I've had in my life, but it is something that I have been thinking a lot about and feel necessary for my personal benefit and that of my future wife and also for the family itself. I have one year left and that, as I look back at what I did a year ago, is not very much time. The time it will take to make communications, not being able to sit down and do this every day, and get things arranged to as near perfection as possible will take me all the time that I have left. The time is going by so fast here in Tacna that I can't believe it. For that reason I try to work each day as if it were my last, because I feel at times that it almost is. Let me know soon your answers, okay?

I'm sending you my latest picture and will write another letter soon, talking about other things. It has been three weeks since I've heard from you. I hope nothing is seriously wrong, Love as always, Lyman De.

P.S. And it may be a long one. I received your letter of the 3rd today with relief, as I had been wondering what had happened to the letters. I suppose the brethren in Toquepala have them, as that is their address. In writing as many addresses as I do, I guess at times I don't put the right ones on. My address is still 275. That is the box number (*casilla* means box). The home address is 508 Bolognesi and it would also reach us with that one. All the people in the post office know us, so it wouldn't matter what you put if they're on the ball.

I'm sorry if I let discouragement get into my letters at times. The truth of the matter is this work is almost 100% discouragement if you want it to be, and I guess at times I get in states of mind where I would just like to be home and hence comes discouragement. But it is very rewarding work generally.

It sounds like the stake is very nice up there, although it is so far away. I will be glad to be able to talk to the stake president. Has my name been presented in the ward for recognition, and if it has, has anyone enrolled me in a boy scout troop? I will be able to renew it myself in a year if someone will enroll me now. I'd surely like to be able to work on some merit badges, and I can pass them off down here now to the district scout leaders.

It sounds like you've had a lot of snow and rain. That is good in a way. The winter will soon be gone and we'll be thinking of the next one to hurry and come so Lyman will be home. I guess man is never really content even if he has all he wants.

That was surely a nice letter from Grandpa. I just relish advice and am glad he offered some. He wrote me about a month ago; the first one I've ever received from him. It will be a long remembered treasure for me. All the time one can't take all the advice that is given, but it is nice to have that from which to select what one thinks is best. I'll write to Wilbur and see what the possibilities are along that line, although in his particular line of work I'd have to live in the south and I'm kind of set on living in the north for awhile. We'll see.

Mom, I'm happy that you are coming along all right with the young 'un. It will be nice to have another child in the family. Also it makes me really happy to hear that everything is going alright with the kids in their schoolwork. You know if Joe wants he could be on a mission in exactly two years, and that is not very far away. He ought to be planning already. If I were he, I think I would work the summer and fall before he left and get his schooling later. I would have been able to retain my scholarship if I'd have waited. As far as I'm concerned, the major part of that semester was wasted, as I wasn't even ready to study.

It might be a good thing to talk over and start planning for. When I get home he will be graduated from high school, and we ought to be able to all have a lot of fun that summer, before I start to school. As far as going to the Y is concerned, I'm still not very set on the idea. I may become set within this next year by persuasion and explanation of why I should, but the career I have in mind (that may change) just isn't offered there. We'll see. I'll be writing letters for information from the different schools within two or three months and will start formulating my ideas from them. I'm surely sorry that the business with the motel isn't working out like it should. It's too bad that all people don't have the incentive to do what is right, like the majority of us do.

The organizing is coming along fine here in the branch, as I believe I told you in my last letter. If it continues as it is now, we might be able to organize by April. Only the Lord knows how fast we can push these people, and He only gives that knowledge out a little at a time. However, it appears to me that He is touching the hearts of these people rapidly and it could be very possible. We'll see shortly. April isn't too far away. Man, I can't believe it.

I just finished writing to my grandparents and several friends, and am now caught up on all my back letters. Organizing your time can sure work wonders. I've had to in order to be able to get anything done while branch president. I believe my output is now about twice as much as it was before, and is simply an arranging of time. I am going to use these things valuably during my life.

I was looking in my diary today (Friday) and I found that it has been four years since Dad and I went to Los Angeles to work on our genealogy in the library. We have just got to do some things together the summer we are all home together, or it may be years before we get to do them again. Missionaries will be coming and going, I will have my family to worry about, etc.

Well, this letter has gotten to be an extremely long one, and I don't believe they'll let me send it if I don't hurry and close it. I will be sending some books (my big journal), a Book of Mormon and several others within the next month. I wish you'd tell me of all the things arriving as they arrive. I will also start sending a few little *recuerdos* home to the kids, as I will not want to have too much weight coming home.

I would surely appreciate some letters from somebody else in the family if you can. You don't realize how much I miss you. I suppose if you didn't get some of my letters, you may not have gotten my birthday cards to Joe and McKay. A belated happy birthday (better, a very merry unbirthday). We are having a party "The Mad Hatter's Crush Party" tomorrow. My companion is a brain. Love, success and happiness LDP – LDS.

LETTER 839 McKay Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, Wrenco Loop [found in Missionary Journal 2, page 520 {PFRC Book 11}], February 8, 1964

Dear Lyman, I haven't written for a long time I know. I got four A's four B's and one C on my report card.

We have had sunshine for the last few days. We have moved the calves to a pen in back of our house. I like one calf better than the rest. I named it White Star. It likes me too. It's got a white spot on its forehead and one on its back. Ed got a bird. He's going to stuff him. It is a female. Goodbye for now, with love McKay.

LETTER 840 Joseph Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 516-518 {PFRC Book 11}]

Dear brother Bishop, how you are? Me are fine. We got your letter today about the conference and all. That's too bad about Lucy. She was always really nice but I never did like it especially when you went with her. It just didn't seem right. I'm getting to be a big sucker. I'm 5'11", 145 pounds, 38-28-33. How are you growing?

I was very interested in what you had to say about when you come home. I think bikes would be a heck of a lot of fun. I could peddle down to Springdale or wherever you decided to meet and then we could take off together. My senior year will be over sometime in early to middle May. If you would stall around some in California and around elsewhere if you wanted to I'd be more than glad to do it. I've always wanted to do something crazy like that.

Mom and dad think to (if it works out) drive the V.W. down. We could have a lot of fun that way and we could get back in time for Spring planting and all. It ought to be great fun. Hondas I think are out (they are too expensive and you get tired of them quite fast).

I managed to get A's again. It's rough.

I got a really neat hay house planned to start building as soon as school is out. Dennis Harding and Steve Anderton and I are going to Utah the day school is out for a couple or three weeks. Steve's girl friend will be down there and I want to see Phil and Ken and especially Louise. Dennis is from Page, so we will spend some time there too. God bless you in the work. Bye for now, Joe.

P.S. Gordie wants to say something. Hi Lyman down in Peru teaching the people the gospel. Gordie.

LETTER 841 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [found in Missionary Journal 2, pages 510-514 {PFRC Book 11}], February 10, 1964

Dearest Lyman, I'll see how this works out. I'm sitting here on a stool with one hand in a jar of hot water on the stove while writing on my knees with the other hand. I've had a felon on one finger for over a week now and it's been such a sore little rascal it's been quite a nuisance. I was about to decide I would have to go to the doctor today with it but am going to soak it most of the day in hot Epsom salts and see if it will draw out the infection. So if my writing is slightly shaky, you'll know why.

We were really pleased to get your long newsy letter written February 1 – 4. Sounds like you had a real treat with President Tuttle, Nicolaysen and Robinson all there to give you encouragement, counsel and advice. I can imagine it was a big relief to you to have it over after all your responsibilities and worries. That was really interesting about the Catholics there. Sounds like your branch is coming along just fine. Glad that your counselors are such good help and hope you can help them to get ready to take over when the time comes. We pray always son for strength and guidance for you in all your responsibilities there. It is wonderful training and experience for you as I'm sure you already know and we're so thankful for you to have these opportunities.

Before I forget one of your packages of books and papers reached here already a few days ago. It must have come airmail though there weren't any stamps on it and I couldn't tell. It was a little beat up and one end rather torn. Some string had been tied around it to hold it together. Maybe more tape on the ends would secure them better. This one had a lot of your negatives in, a bundle of Article of Faith cards, a little drawing book, a music notebook, etc. I'll let you know when the other arrives. Did you send them regular mail?

So Lucy has decided not to wait? I hope you're not too disappointed. Lucy is a sweet girl and I feel sorry if she is settling for something less than she deserves, but we all have our own choices to make. Maybe its better this way and that you come home unattached as you said. So many missionaries have this happen to them and you know what we've always said about girls waiting. We know you are well founded enough and busy enough in the Lord's work to not dwell too long on this. Trust in our Heavenly Father and do all you can to fulfill your duties and you will be blessed beyond your dreams.

Well now I took time off to do up the breakfast, milk and separator dishes. Dad just finished his chores and found a dead calf. We hated to lose one but guess you have to expect a certain amount of this with animals. We have talked and thought about your trip home. This is some of our conclusions and thoughts. Next June you will be twenty-one years old. You know that makes you pretty much on your own son, and we think you are entitled to make your own decisions pretty much from now on. Of course we'll always be your parents and as such will be happy to give you advice when you want it – just as we still ask advice from our parents. You seem to feel quite strongly about this trip and if it's something you're really set on, you'd best get it out of your system. You know you're entitled to guidance and inspiration in all matters, so pray about it and you will be guided.

Joe thinks it would be so much fun to do it with you and we just passed out the thought that perhaps he could drive down and meet you someplace. But of course he wouldn't be out of school until the last of May so that likely wouldn't work out. Keep us posted on your thoughts and we will do likewise.

We've had a week of sunshine and it has seemed very good. Had a good hard rain this morning, so maybe one of these days this snow will melt. Gordie is looking forward to spring and grass and dirt outside (so are the rest of us).

Enough for now. Keep up the good work son. We love you very much. Mother.

LETTER 842 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to Joseph Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, February 17, 1964

Dear (little) Brother Joe, I will direct this epistle to you, but will you inform the folks that I sent a big long four page letter to them with about sixty slides, being in five different envelopes. It should arrive within about three weeks. That had my weekly letter in also, so that will be the cause of the delay of one of my letters. There has also been another mail strike and I'm sure

some of my other letters didn't get through. I didn't receive letters on three different weeks, so it must have been due to the mails.

I read with interest your letter, Joe, stating your desires, and it sounds pretty good to me. However, I'll talk about that further along in the letter.

I am 6'2" and weigh 180 pounds. I have been exercising every day so far this year and the muscles are starting to take on a bigger shape. I think that at the end of another year I ought to just about be able to hold my own with one or two or maybe three of you. It will be rough business though. You sound as though you've grown quite a bit and I may have a bigger job on my hands that I realize – that will remain to be seen.

Now about my trip home: I sent the full details in my letter that will arrive later, so I won't go into them now. Here's what I would like to do, though. These details are all temporary and will be changed from time to time during the next year with the contact that we make with each other and the plans that we make.

I was hoping to make it home in time for your graduation and then taking some bike rides up into Canada, over into Montana, Wyoming, Washington, Oregon and make that last summer together really a good one. However, I'd also thought of asking you to come down and meet me and taking the trip back together. That wouldn't be any problem, as I could get a job in Springdale, or up in the Park during that time I was waiting for you. Now, I don't want to impose on the family by borrowing the car and having the possibility that something would go wrong with it, but if we were allowed to take the car, then things would be a whole lot different. I'm starting in March to cut out on all things that I've been buying that have been sort of extra and not really necessary. Now if you could do the same, then we would have a fairly good sum for gas, etc. from what I'd earn while I was waiting for you. Of course, I will have to earn some money towards my college also, but you get out of life what you put into it and a trip like this would always be remembered as a highlight in our lives and in the lives of our families. I would like to take a trip with all of the family, but this trip has another purpose in it that wouldn't allow more than you. I want to be very close to the Lord until I find out exactly what it is that I must do during my life to best serve him. That will require a lot of time alone or in good solid prayer and meditation. I know it will be necessary for me as I don't know what I want to do. It is for that reason that I hesitate, but I believe that during the time I was waiting for you in Springdale, I would have the time sufficient to be by myself and receive the correct answer, then from there on out we could go where we wanted to go, do what we wanted to do, and see what we wanted to see.

Now a year isn't too much time to make all the plans and get enough money saved to do very much, so we ought to be very diligent about it. Are you with me? It would still be very much cheaper if we could do it on bikes; you bringing one down from there on the bus and we could go home together. I would want to be further along in the traveling and could meet you in Provo or Richfield, depending on what happens in Springdale. I will be in Richfield on the 24th of April and in Provo on the 1st of May according to my schedule now. I will arrive from Los Angeles to Springdale on the 11th of March.

You'll have to do a little more writing if we are going to plan anything. I don't want to be waiting two or three months to start planning. Okay big boy? Now write to me soon and let me know if you'd rather I'd be there for your graduation or if you'd rather I wait in Springdale and also if you'd rather we do it on bikes or in a V.W. After you send me that information, then we can start planning other details.

Elder Johnston, my first companion here in Tacna is leaving tomorrow for Lima. That makes me the oldest in the branch and the 2nd oldest in the district. I'm getting to feel like an older elder. Elder Clarke, my first companion, goes home in two months and Elder Cowley goes home in five, so that time is fast approaching when I will be going also. I've been in Tacna now six months and two little periods like that one aren't anything.

I'm really proud of you Joe on the grades you've been getting. If you just get them next year, you ought to be all set to have about anything you want in college.

Your trip to Springdale and the south sounds like fun. It will be nice to see the friends again and have a little fun once more. The only thing wrong with missionary work is that it is so daily, but I guess that is what life consists of when we grow up, so I might as well submit to it. I love the work, though; don't get me wrong. It is helping me to grow so much in ways that one needs to grow and is giving me an appreciation for the family, life, people and principles.

I hope you will continue seriously with your preparations for your mission in the next couple of years. That you might just come down here isn't at all impossible and the progress you would see while here would be equally astounding to you as it has been to me while I've been here.

Well, I will write you more when I hear from you so write soon and keep up the good work. I'm glad to be your brother. Love as ever your brother, Lyman De Platt

LETTER 843 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [Found in Volume 2, pages 524-526 {PFRC Book 11}], February 19, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Just a year and a half ago now you started your mission, so about a year from now you will be finishing it up. The time has gone by rapidly, but looking back on it, lots has happened in that year and a half, and we have all had our share of experiences that life has to offer. The next year will hold many more I am sure.

Your letters aren't as regular or often now as they were – partly I'm sure due to the fact that you are so very busy there with your work, and probably partly due to the mails. Your last letter was dated February 1-4; perhaps we will have one from you today. Mine aren't always quite on time lately it seems either, but hope they are all reaching you, as I know how hard it is to go without mail. I still don't know if you ever received the \$5.00 in cash that I sent some time ago. And there are several other things that you haven't made comment on, which makes me think that some of your letters have been lost.

My sore finger finally got better, and it is a big relief to be able to use it again. I'm losing part of my nail, but glad I found something to help it before it gets any worse. Guess we don't really appreciate any of our faculties until we are reminded of them in some way. Do hope that you are keeping well and that all is well with you there. Hope that the "lost love" has not been too hard on you and of not too much concern.

Our weather here is moderating some now – we only have snowstorms about every other day now instead of every day. I think we have all had our fill of this winter weather and so much snow. Dad has been surprised how tired of it he has gotten, but it has been quite a struggle with all the traveling back and forth to town that we have had to do. Today is beautifully clear and warm and looks like spring for sure, but like as not, as was the case yesterday, tomorrow we will have another snowstorm, though it should not pile up much more now.

Maybe before you hear any rumors from other sources, we had better inform you of what is going on in our minds here. Things have not gone too well in Springdale with our property there, and it looks like maybe in order to save our property there, we may be forced to go back there. This is only a possibility as of now. The people in the motel have neither written nor paid us anything for months now. We finally wrote Bishop Hardy and he called the man in (Elder's Quorum President) and talked with him and he promised to write us, but that has been a couple of weeks and still no word from him. So once more today we have written to Bishop Hardy and asked his advice about our situation. If we have to lose one of the places, this is the logical one to give up, as we have much more tied up in that property down there and can't afford to lose it. We don't like to lose this here either and may not have to, but that is a possibility. Dad is likely going to have to go down there right away and settle things one way or another. This unsettled condition is something I never get used to, though goodness knows we have had our share of it in our lives, but we only hope and pray we will do what's right for everyone concerned.

So many things have gone against us that we are wondering if the Lord isn't pointing our way back down there. I thought for a long time that I was the only one that left my heart in Utah, but find now that Dad and the others did too, and I don't think any of them would be unhappy at going back. Springdale isn't the place Dad and I think we would like to live the rest of our lives. As we told Bishop Hardy though, if the Lord has a mission for us there and we have been blind to it, then I hope things work out so that we can fill that mission. Guess which one is the most anxious to go back? Joe is and he is the one that was so set on coming up here. He hates the school here (much as you disliked Whittier High) and though they all like the place out here (though it is too far from town and requires way too much traveling to suit us), they are all quite ready and willing to go back. Dad and I would really like to move back to the Provo area where we would be close to college for all of you, but we will see how things work out. Please pray for us and don't let things worry you, that isn't why I told you. But you are part of the family and deserve to know what's going on with the rest of us. This would have a definite influence on your later life as well as ours, so we shall keep you posted on developments. We pray constantly about our affairs, and sometimes the Lord answers prayers in a way you aren't looking for at all. I'm sure he can see and understand the long-range program much, much better than we, so we try not to question.

Bishop Hardy told us that he had finally had an interview with The First Presidency of the Church, and maybe things will be looking up for that area. Also, other developments there might make a difference, and it just might one day be an ideal place to be. At any rate, we have decided it isn't the worst place in the world, and though I don't look forward at all to running that motel again, we will do what we have to. So in case you hear anything from any other source, you now have things just as they are, and when and if there is more to tell, we will of course tell you first. We have said nothing as yet to anyone except Bishop Hardy. Another move is something none of us looks forward to *at all*, but I'm afraid if we do move, many, many of our things will have to be sold or left here, as we don't have a big truck to move back with.

We all miss you son and wish you were around to help us with these important decisions, but soon enough you will be making such decisions for yourself. I do hope that all you kids can benefit from some of the moves and mistakes we have made in our lives, so you won't need to make it quite so hard on yourselves, as we seem to have made a few more than our share of mistakes. The Lord has been good to us though in giving us such a wonderful family – every one very precious in our estimation and all with a desire to serve Him, which makes us very happy and is worth more than any other one thing we could possess. We love and pray for you, Mother.

LETTER 844 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, February 22, 1964

Dear family, once again I will try to write to you and hope that it gets through. The country has been so torn with mail strikes, telephone strikes, and business strikes until it seems that it is impossible for anyone else to strike. I believe, or hope, that they are about over with. I'll be glad when my time comes to leave Peru for that reason. There are just too many things that could happen so easily here.

Yesterday my companion and I went to Toquepala to visit the members and the mine. President Jarvis of Branch I is foreman over one of the parts of the mine and so can do just about anything that he wants to. He decided he had to go to another part of the mine that they are just opening up, that is about fifteen miles away from the other one and up towards the mountains, so we took off with him. We climbed up in back of the mine (in the truck) to a lake that was quite large and very beautiful and we goofed around there for awhile and then headed on. We got up to 14,000 feet and the altitude sort of made me a little light headed. We got some pictures of the mountains not too far distant that rose up to 22,000 feet and over which you must pass to get to Puno and Lake Titicaca. I explained once before of the makeup of the land: the coast, hilly country, mountains, plateaus, and then the jungle. Well, I finally made it to the plateaus of Peru; and I doubt if I will ever get inward any further. From where we were, we could see Bolivia and Chile and of course a lot of Peru. We were very literally on top of the world. There are a lot of wild llamas, alpaca and vicuña up in those parts where we were yesterday and of course in their natural setting they are very picturesque. The vegetation finally starts to appear up on the plateaus; trees (mesquite), a type of sagebrush, grass and flowers. It is so beautiful and was especially beautiful because of the snow-capped mountains in the background with the clouds hovering around their tops. We went up through some places that have just, within the last two months, been made accessible to travel, and so we got to see parts of the country that very, very few people have seen. I guess to explain it successfully we'll just have to be patient until I can

show you on slides. By the way, I sent the remainder of my slides home last week. They should be there shortly (three weeks or so). We had a wonderful time while we were there and enjoyed very much the company again of the brethren from Toquepala. They are a chosen group of people that you don't find very often. They are completely dedicated to the Lord.

Well, I'd like to write more, but will postpone it until I have more time. I love you all and think of you a lot. Love as always, Lyman De Platt.

I just had a complete physical along with x-rays and so far I'm still in good shape. A little congestion in my throat is all, and that won't be hard to take care of.

LETTER 845 Kirk Cook Lyman, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, Cleveland Ward Bishopric, Cleveland Stake, Cleveland, Ohio, February 24, 1964, to Edward P. and Irene P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah

Dear Folks, No, I haven't transferred again, I just borrowed some stationary from my companion who labored in Ohio.

This is going to be short because it's 11:30 P.M. and I'll have to get some sleep. Just wanted to drop a line letting you know I'm still alive and kicking, even if I don't write as often as I should. Seems like everyone is chewing me out for that.

First, yes I have been getting the money orders you are sending. I don't mean to worry you by not mentioning them, but I just thought I did and didn't. Absent minded I guess.

Things are going fine here. We baptized two wonderful ladies Saturday evening. One who was a member of the Catholic Church, then turned to Lutheran, and then Mormon; and then one from Scotland who belonged to the Church of Scotland, They are both very wonderful and will be a great asset to the church.

Health wise I am okay. My nerves are a little bad and as a result my stomach is bothering me some, but then I'll just have to be on the careful side not to get an ulcer. For a while I thought I had one but then I didn't so all is fine, just a nervous stomach.

Remember just about a year ago when I told you of the older couple who went home because she had cancer. Well, she died and if I'm not mistaken it's been about a couple of months now. Brother Felton is still on the lonely side and I thought if you wanted to it would be nice to drop him a line. He helped tremendously by the pace and example he set while in the mission field and I hold him as very dear and precious to me. If you want to drop a line, I'm sure he'll be most happy to hear from you. George Felton, Hyrum, Utah.

Must go, time is flying and sleep is lacking, so take care and I promise to write a good one next time. Love, Kirk

LETTER 846 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [From Missionary Journal, Volume 2, pages 528-532 {PFRC Book 11}], March 3, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Another week – another letter off to you. The weeks go by so fast. We have been here for six months, and you've been in Tacna the same length of time, so we can all see how fast the next year will go. We received your letter of the 22nd and 27th, so this one made good time. The mails down there have certainly been unsettled, and I can imagine how it makes you feel to have so many strikes and contention. As long as you know you are in the service of the Lord, however, there is comfort in that for you, as well as for us. Your letter to Joe also came and he was glad to get it and will answer it soon I suppose. However, as far as your plans for the trip home, as I mentioned before – they better be set aside for the time being until we know more about what we are going to do.

We finally heard from Bishop Hardy, which I will quote from:

“In regard to your question about the post office job, I have filled the position I offered you and cannot say how long it will be before I retire, which would make an opening for a new Postmaster, which you would have an equal opportunity with any one else who might be interested in it. I do plan on checking on my retirement this fall to see if I might be able to live on what I get. My oldest son has been called in the church office to see if he will accept a call for a work mission also, and he wants me to move to Salt Lake and manage his affairs if he goes, so that might make some difference on when I give this up. We have put our home up for sale, so if we find a buyer it will help us decide. I'd like to stay long enough as Bishop to see what comes of our contact with The First Presidency. They have asked for a proposal of things we want done here, and the stake presidency and bishoprics of Rockville and Springdale wards have been together and have a letter of those proposals ready and on my desk for signatures, which will be in the mail tomorrow. There seems to be a lot of activity in connection with the building of the art building Mr. Frieberg suggested for the housing of the paintings of the Ten Commandments, also a man by the name of Wendell Phillips has become very interested in this and has been here to check on the building of many more things in the way of restoring or building Bible lands and a large motel, some 300 units, their plans call for an expenditure of \$2,500,000, the property to begin this one has already been purchased. I think the time has come for Springdale to get on the move. I hope things will work out for you and you will be able to resolve your problems and do the things you want to. Give my regards to your boy and tell him we love him and wish him the best of luck in his work.”

So upon receiving this letter, we had to decide on what course to follow, and yesterday morning Dad left on the bus for Springdale to see what he can work out there. He expects to be gone for ten days or two weeks, depending on conditions there and how long it takes him to do what he has to. Don't know what he will find or what he will be able to work out or decide on, but we had to do something, we just couldn't let it go on any longer with Val, and we have still had no word from him.

We are anxious to do what is right and best for everyone concerned – especially our own family. Do you remember your feelings about Whittier – how you didn't even want to see any of the country around there – just wanted to get back to Utah? Well, that is the way Joe is getting to feel up here. He says he doesn't even want to see Canada or anyplace around here – just wants to go back to Utah. I'm afraid our roots are all pretty deep there, and if we go back, I don't think Dad will ever leave that state again (to live). This is still just the kind of a setup he would like to live on and try to run, and if it could be down there, how he would love it. But there are a number of things against our staying, so we will just have to see how things work out. He and I both feel that the Provo area would be the best place for our family, with so many potential students of BYU in the near future. As you know, we have had inclinations towards this area for a long time and of course if I could have had the choice, that is where we would have moved several moves ago, but we are here now and will have to go from here. If we have to move back to Springdale, it will make Joe, at least, very happy, and I'm sure the rest of us will make the best of it too.

We had to sell some cows and calves to give Dad something to go on. He got a two week leave of absence from his job. We are all praying and trusting in the Lord to guide us to do what is best for all. We will of course keep you posted on any developments. It would surely be nice to feel “settled.”

Your trip to Toquepala and to the mine and mountain there sounds very interesting, and it is nice that you can do something like that occasionally to break the routine a little. It will be really nice to see your slides of the area there.

So glad that your physical examination reports were so favorable. Hope you get the congestion in your throat cleared right away. You have quite a bit of that at times. We are all well too, and the Lord has blessed us abundantly in that respect, for which we are always appreciative.

Gordie is playing around here with his little animals in the back of his truck. He is quite a happy little boy and much company for me here alone during the day. He sings a lot and knows lots of songs that I have sung over and over to him, as we lay in bed at night or work around the house during the day. Every time he sees a number 3 or 4 any place in print, along the highway or any place, he says of the 3 “That's my number,” and of the 4 “That's how old I'll be when Lyman gets home.” He's always getting “big like Lyman.”

McKay has made mention several times lately of how much he missed you and how he felt like going clear down there to see you. We will all be glad to have you home with us again.

I guess Gary is home now, as he was supposed to be home on March 2. Jacque will be married on the 12th, so guess there is plenty of activity around their place.

Joe and Ed are going to a camp this weekend with a group of Explorers. They hope to pass off some merit badges while there. That will leave Gene with the chores, but he's good for it, as he is still a really good little worker. I've thought several times since Dad left how different it is being left with the family and how it was when he was gone to Dugway during the week while we were in Lehi. You were only nine years old then, the age of McKay, and now we have all these big boys to take over completely outside, even to the driving of the car, etc. You took your share of responsibility too at an early age, and I think it has been good for you. Having so many older brothers, McKay is much less independent than you were at this age, but I'm sure as the time comes when he has to have more responsibility, he will be able to meet it.

We're still having snow storms up here every day or so, but don't suppose it will pile up any more. Every time it shines now or blows, the snow melts a little more, so maybe Spring will come sometime – we're all ready for it.

I guess we told you about Rene's and Art's little girl, didn't we? We haven't heard what they plan to name her, but they seem to be getting along fine the last we heard. Eleven children – that's a lot isn't it? Bless their hearts, their children are fortunate to come to that family. We haven't heard anything from Richfield or any of Dad's folks for a long time now so don't know much about them. I think Thora owes me a letter. She is good to write but hasn't for a while. We don't hear from any of the rest of them much. Haven't heard from Grandpa Roy since before Christmas. Hope he is getting along all right. We feel so far away from all of them.

Well, guess I had better get another letter or two written to get into the mail today. We'll let you know when we find out what Dad decides. Dad said to me the other day, "You know, I've been thinking of Lyman so much lately and wish he were here to help us with our decisions." We all miss you son and love you very much. But of course we are really thankful you are having this wonderful experience and are so thankful for your attitude and desires to serve the Lord in His work. We know He will guide and direct you in your future if you just keep the sweet spirit with you that you have now. Love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 847 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, March 3, 1964

Dearest Mother and Dad: we received the San Juan Records again and thanks so much. Also enjoyed the letters you sent Mother from Edith, Iris and Bert. There are a number I haven't written to since coming up here and I usually correspond with. Guess I'm just tired of telling everyone about our moves.

Do hope that all is well with you down there and that you have had some storms by now. Just wish you could have some of this up here. It's still snowing, though I don't suppose it will pile

up any more now. When the sun shines or the wind blows now it takes the snow down a little. Maybe Spring will come one of these days, and I think we are all ready for it.

Guess I had better bring you up to date on our goings on here. Right now Gordon is in Springdale (or at least on his way if he hasn't arrived yet). He left yesterday morning at 8:30 on the bus. It will take him to St. George and he got a round-trip ticket. He decided it would be much better to go on the bus than to try and drive all that distance alone and perhaps have trouble with the car. It became a matter of necessity that he go down and try to settle our affairs there. The man (Val Edgel) in our motel has not written for months now nor has he sent any payments since last September. We finally wrote to the Bishop there and had him talk to Val. Val promised he would write us and explain his situation and try to pay us what he owed, but he still didn't write a word, so there was nothing left to do but go down and see about things. Gordon got a two week leave of absence from his job and may or may not be gone that long. Don't know just what he will find or decide while there. We know one thing – we can't go on like we are paying on both places. If things cannot be settled any other way, we may have to go back there to save our equity in the motel. We have considerably more in our property there than here, so can't afford to lose that. We have given this matter much thought and prayer and do hope that things will work out some way so that we can feel "settled" once again. I thought for a long time after moving up here that I was the only one that left my heart in Utah. But the past month or so I have found that we all had our roots pretty deep there. We don't especially miss Springdale but just Utah and our loved ones there. Even Gordon has missed it more than he thought he would. I think if we do move back that he will never leave the state again (to live). There are so many things to consider. Joe is the one who was so anxious to come up here. They all like the ranch here (or will at least in the summer). But the boys don't like the schools. Joe especially is very unhappy with the school and the kids here (all except the Church kids) and is most anxious to get back to Hurricane High to finish his school. He reminds me of Lyman in California – he can think of nothing except getting back to Utah.

I know what you are thinking – and what everyone else will too "Aren't they ever going to settle down?" Believe me; no one thinks about this more than we do. But I don't know the answer. We'll do what we have to this time. If we have to go back to save our property, we will, hoping at the same time not to lose too much on this place. This unsettled feeling is one of the things I have had to put up with so much of my life, but we all have our different problems, so I must accept mine as being easier to bear than many, many I could have had.

Don't know if Gordon will get to see or talk with Rene and Art or not. Being on the bus will curtail his movements somewhat. At any rate, I will let you know as soon as there is anything more to tell. We will get along fine here, so don't worry about us. We had to sell some of the cows and calves, so the boys don't have as many chores to worry about. They have taken over really well, and I don't have to worry about anything outside. Joe even handles what driving has to be done, so that's a big relief. Please add your prayers to ours that we will do what is best for our family and for all concerned.

Our letters from Lyman have been so irregular since the first of the year and some we have never received. It has been the same for him too with our mail. They have had so many strikes there, but he said he hoped they were about all settled down. His last letter came through in good time. I haven't been as good to send them to you either but will from time to time, so you can keep track of him. He said he had recently written to you. Said he really appreciated Dad's letter that I sent him a copy of and the advice in it. Also said how much he appreciated hearing from you both not too long ago. Bless his heart – we're so glad for him. He certainly has a desire to do all he can in his work there and to do his best to do what's right. I hope he can always keep this sweet spirit with him.

Think I won't write more today, but will try and write more before too long and let you know how things are going. Glad that Rene and the baby are doing well. We still don't know what they have decided to name her. Glad that you got to go up and see them Mother.

Thanks again for the letters, papers, etc., and for your love and prayers. Do hope that Bob is well now. Love from us all, Allie

LETTER 848a Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, March 4, 1964

Dear family, realizing that my letters have been coming less frequently lately I hope that the quality makes up for the loss. Boy, if you knew what we were going through down here, you'd bawl me out for taking out the time to write, I imagine. Before telling you of all the wonderful things that are happening, I'll let you in on all the bad things. We were all right in the middle of a Road Show Production, and everything will be held here. The Mutual is about to go out of its mind, as well as everyone else that has anything to do with it. So that leaves me very unnerved. On top of that, the gossip in the Relief Society is making that organization completely worthless as far as relief goes. The Sunday School has just gone to pot because the president has decided not to do any more. The priesthood is all inactive except for three or four. The Primary is lacking children and the president of the mission comes up with the idea that we have to move out of the branch this week. Man, what do they expect?

Well, now that's off my mind, we'll drop that subject. There have been rumors that they are going to move me out of here as branch president and make me a supervising elder in Lima. Knowing the surety of rumors that usually go through the ranks of the missionaries, it is nothing but disconcerting. I don't want to go, as I've got an unfinished job here to do, and yet that is always on the back of my mind. I would love to be a supervising elder and not have so many

worries and so that leaves me sometimes on the hopeful side and therefore a little negligent of my duties. That also makes me mad at myself for my negligence. Boy, what a mess.

Finding myself in a melee, I found it necessary to go to Toquepala and talk to President Robinson. No other way possible than staying overnight, I had to do that. Misunderstanding the situation and wanting an excuse to keep the elders out of Toquepala, President Nicolaysen told all missionaries that they would be further restricted from going to Toquepala and bawled out the members there for always egging us to come up. Be it as it may, I'm not sorry we went, because I got a lot done and learned some important principles on marriage and life in general from talking with some of the members there. Being Friday, we stayed there all day and after business had an enjoyable time seeing the mine, etc.

About our move. The members becoming numerous, the president found it desirable to move us out of the branch into an apartment. He didn't know we had already found one and were purposing to ask him if it would be permissible. Well, yesterday we moved, and today we are four sore elders. We live on the fourth floor and had to pack the refrigerator and a stove and a buffet and a million other heavy things, each one getting heavier, as we went on. I now have my own private bedroom with a big closet and a nice pretty outlook over the main plaza. It is a very luscious apartment and drops our rent from S/500 to S/475 so far as that goes we are better off and also we got rid of our maid, and if we can make the things we buy less expensive, we will be sitting on the moon. The only problem is that we will have a temptation to spend more on food than we should. I believe that after this month we will be a lot better off. The move, however, cost us some extra money and it will probably be impossible to get through this month on what I wrote out. I will do my level best though, knowing that you have many ways to use the little money that comes in and hoping that you will trust my judgment on what I need. I was reading a book today on a brother that supported his brother who was back East studying law, and at times the brother back East asked for a little bit more money to join a club, buy a suit, etc. It left me with the ideas of the way you must feel at times as I felt the way I imagined the brother had felt.

Well, I made the one year mark. It doesn't seem too far from the time I will be home now, knowing that only one day at a time is necessary and that I will only see that day once during my mission. Maybe that is no way to think, but with so many problems it is at times the only way to retain my sanity, so I suppose that it will be forgiven this my *hope*.

I am sending some books home, but I will send them to Uncle Roland or somebody in Springdale and pick them up on my way home if you still live in Sandpoint or you can pick them up when you move back. My prayers are with you in whatever the Lord has in mind for you. I hope that it is something that will keep you in one place for awhile. My future life is slowly developing in my mind and I believe after a short time alone to devote myself fully to these problems, I will be able to know my future plans. I'm so thankful for the good life and the sound foundation that I've received in my younger life. If I go wrong, I can start over on certain levels, because the foundation is sound.

I've seen so much light-headedness and sandy foundations that I hope that my younger's accept as gold what their parents say, that you don't argue, that you obey because they command that

respect. People down here lack that; they lack intestinal fortitude to be a different and a blessed people. The curse has not been lifted even from some of the members of the Church.

Well, I love you and I could go on telling you all of the things I've learned; the joy I've experienced, the things I've had, but I want to save the more cherished ones for when we once again can have our family hours, and can enjoy the companionship *nuevamente*.

I wrote to Lucy asking her for forgiveness, etc., but it has been a month and I believe she will not write again. Love as always, Lyman De Platt, President of the Tacna Branch.

LETTER 848b Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ruesch, 143 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, March 5, 1964

Dear Lucy, my first impression upon receiving your letter was a mixed one. I had a desire of hearing from you when I wrote my last letter to Lone Pine; but never really expected to get an answer to it. So upon arrival I was disappointed in you for not sticking to what you had decided and also elated to think that possibly you still cared some. Well, finding myself on a precarious perch now, I'm undecided as to exactly what to do. It would seem unreasonable to forgive you right now as you have probably realized. I imagine you've gone through enough personal suffering, though, and maybe ought to be given a chance to show your sincerity. Realizing that you are, after all, only human, and that it is possible to make mistakes – I've made many – what you have done can be overlooked by me. However, as you didn't take me into confidence concerning what you had done, it would probably be just to let you understand that I would, consequently, have to hold back on certain feelings or understandings I have until some later date. I take it you will understand my viewpoint. So unless you would like to close the issue as far as the past goes, we'll start over with only a few reservations.

I'm glad you've seen that Floyd wasn't your type of guy and that you really want more out of life than he could give you. Maybe I'm not the one to give it to you, but that possibility still exists. We'll see what He has in mind.

Many interesting and noteworthy things have happened in the past few months to help me realize a little better what life is really about. I would like to share some of these things with you now and some later in personal conversations.

Several weeks ago my companion and I went to Toquepala and visited with some of the members. We learned one lesson that many people never quite learn. In any companionship (marriage, college, school, Church, missions, etc.) when any group of people are closely associated, there arises a tendency for one to talk too much, or one to wait on the other all the time, etc., leaving the other person with very little opportunity to show forth the love he or she may have by sharing, serving the other, making a show of genuineness that is probably there and has never been given the chance to bud out. And sometimes when the chance is given it isn't given proper perspective and is as though it weren't done. I hope from now on I can work for this type of understanding between us. It would lead us to a happy, prosperous way of life together.

The last several months without your support and letters have been hard Lucy. I need to feel you backing me, giving me strength and confidence. I hope you can start again in this last twelve month period to give me that support. You say it's my privilege to tell you to get lost, but I'll only tell you to get ready for your temple marriage within two years. If you have most of the stuff we are going to need bought then it might be sooner. We can make it through my college training pretty easily if all we have to worry about is rent and food. If we have to go into debt to get furniture, etc., then I promise you now, we'll have to wait. I refuse to go into unnecessary debt. It is the ruin of too many marriages. We start off immediately with two strikes under those conditions. I don't like the idea of you supporting me but an early marriage would culminate in that to some extent. What do you think? We've got some pretty serious planning to do as the year will go by mighty fast. I'll be on my way home before you know it.

I won't give you any suggestions unless you ask for them on what to do this next year. I imagine you are aware of the things that will need to be done. You've got a lot of responsibility hanging on your shoulders. Good luck!

My family is finding difficulty in making a go of it in northern Idaho. They have expressed the possibility of maybe having to go back to Springdale. It seems like fate is working things around somewhat. They may be back before the year is over. We'll see.

Say, I'd like to send you a bunch of my books. One of the brethren from Toquepala is coming to Utah, so if you'll just keep them, I'd appreciate it very much. I won't be needing them now.

We've moved out of the branch and live in an apartment now. It is really nice and I have a room all to myself, which makes it nicer. We don't have to pay quite as much as we did in the branch. The Casilla 275 is still the same though.

Lucy, I'd like to say more, but I've spent too long on this now. I'll be waiting to hear from you. Keep up your spirit and do the best you know how to do. I could expect you to do no more and you'll have done plenty if you do that. Let me know what your plans are going to be, so that I can do a little planning myself. My brother and I want to do a little sight-seeing for a couple of weeks after I get home; write soon, sincerely your, Lyman De Platt. [On the back of the envelope, for whatever reason, she wrote: "contemptuous; courteous.]

LETTER 849 Richard Val Cowley, Barranco, Lima, Peru, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [Found in Volume 3, page 82 {PFRC Book 12}], February 20, 1964

Dear Elder Platt, I imagine by now that you are calling me an *ingrato* since I never seem to get you written. Now that I am back to a regular tracting elder I might have a chance to get caught up on some of my back mail. I almost made branch president for a year. I missed it by three days. They reorganized Sunday the 16th. Brother Luyo is the new branch president and Brother Anssuini is 1st counselor and Brother León is 2nd counselor. They should do a good job.

I left Callao on the 18th without a desire to do so. They gave me a good send off giving me a picture signed by all the members and Brother León gave me a big cake. They really spoiled me out there.

The elders now live in an apartment in Chucuito right on the beach. I got to live there a week but it is really sharp.

Brother Luyo, Hooker, and Benavente were made elders at the last district conference. The branch now has 190 members. I saw ninety-five of them baptized or in other words I saw the branch double in membership.

They put a Peruvian presidency in Barranco last Sunday also. Oh, yes, I'm now working in Barranco which will probably be my last stop. Seems like I have only four months left. Time is getting short.

Since I got here on the 18th we haven't done a thing. My companion is sick so we haven't been anywhere. This is the seventh letter I've written today.

How do you like being branch president? It is quite a job, *no*? I am lost now without the branch to look out for.

Tell Johnson hello and keep up the good work. I talked to Elder Houghton today and he says you're doing pretty well. May the Lord bless you in His work. Sincerely, Elder Richard Cowley.

LETTER 850 Kirk Cook Lyman, to Edward P. and Irene P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah, March 9, 1964

Dear folks and all, again a few lines to say hello and let you know how things are out here in the mission field. I'm finally getting around to some of my over due letters and its taking time to stake the stack down. I promised some time ago that I would write more than just a note so here we go around the mulberry bush.

First, I hope you are having better weather than we are. One day it rains and blows, the next it snows, the next it blows, the next the sun shines, the next it rains, and then its cold again and the whole cycle starts over. I've never seen such screwy weather. I thought it was bad in Indiana, but it's nothing compared to here.

The work is getting along just fine here with our district having more baptisms than any other district in the zone. This made me happy as we had been on the bottom for the last four months if you go baptism wise. I still feel that I'm blessed according to the number of people I teach and in what manner I teach them, not by how many baptisms I have.

Companion wise all is fine except for the fact that he came out with me and with me being a supervisor to him, it hurts his pride a bit and shows on the other elders in their attitudes towards us. We've had some serious elder problems within the district but everything is straightened out now and I hope it stays that way for a while.

If things go as they usually do, I should be transferred in the next couple of months. Then by that time I should have just right at six months which would leave me leaving my mission in that city. We surely have a wonderful bunch of saints here and I have grown to love a great lot of them. They are true Mormons as it goes.

I think I wrote you a card stating that I got Clessa's money order. I've been getting yours also and the bill is almost paid off now. Just \$18.00 more and that's it. What with being a supervisor, I had to get \$10.00 more monthly from Idaho to be sure I had enough funds as I do quite a bit of traveling in the district.

Health wise, I'm doing fine with a little trouble with my back and not enough weight, but then I guess that's one trait of the Lyman family in itself. I'm trying something new in trying to gain weight, but it's going to be a while before I will know the results.

I wrote to mom and the Cook grand folks today. I called them last night to see how mom was now that she's out of the hospital for a few weeks, how long I don't exactly know. I have yet to get one out to Dad this week but I'll make it okay. It seems like I never have the time to answer all the letters I get. I once wrote a lady missionary from our ward and couldn't figure out why she didn't give me an answer but I can see why now.

Well, time is flying and unless I went into detail there isn't too much to say, so I'll close in saying God bless you and here's hoping this finds you all in good health and high spirits. Love, Kirk.

LETTER 851 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, March 14, 1964

Dearest Family, its wonderful the rapidity with which the mail can get from one of us to the other. It is possible now to almost answer from one of my letters within the same week, if connections are right.

As far at the branch goes, well you never can tell. One week it seems to go good and the next week nothing seems to move right. This week as usual has gone extremely fast, yet not too fast. Lately the work has seemed to go by unusually slow. We haven't had any baptisms in Tacna now for over two months and it gets very discouraging after so long without success. I suppose that

Noah must have been a very patient man. We keep getting good men through the lessons and then in some way the Bishop of the Great and Abominable gets hold of them and scares, threatens, etc., until they don't join. Anyway that is what has happened to us at various times. We have some good investigators, have given more lessons this week than usual and seem to have success lurking for us around the corner. We hope and pray *que así será*. The branch in general is gradually preparing to be taken over with Peruvians. We had a little skirmish with a few of the members this week about their worthiness as members, which is always a problem and probably always will be. It would be nice to excommunicate about 100 of them if that would do any good, but I doubt as to its effectiveness. They could still talk and carry on as they are now, and the impression would be the same.

As of yet, I haven't heard from Dad, but suppose that he will be dropping a line shortly. My, it doesn't seem possible that Gary is home from his mission. I guess it's possible, though, as my time is now less than a year.

I'm surely sorry to hear of the trouble that you are having, but will try not to let it worry me too much. I realize that my position is of really very little use to you except where blessings could come in for doing the Lord's work. That is all the support I can give you except in my prayers which I do always. I would like very much to help you if I could.

It sounds like you have really had a tough winter up there. I imagine when it is over that you will all be very much relieved.

My last check didn't return yet; it might. Here is what I try to do usually. If I can wait until the first of the month I usually do that, but it usually works out that I can't make it and have to write it out one or sometimes two weeks early. I believe now that I can write it out at the first of every month. I am caught up on everything and have done pretty well this month. I didn't get your letter about the stake and it had never occurred to me that you were that bad off. I will try and get by on \$80.00 a month, so if I don't tell you further on it, you can depend on that amount. It has been hard lately but maybe now that we are doing our own cooking and aren't spending so much, we may be able to cut down some. I sure hope that your situation becomes settled shortly.

I haven't been sent to Lima so far. There was a big shakedown in the mission two weeks ago and we received a new elder; however, at the end of the month the second counselor of the mission goes home, two or three supervising elders also go, and vacancies in various other positions in the mission home will cause another mix up. I would in a way like to leave this to someone else more capable if I thought there were very many elders more capable, but knowing the elders as I do, there just aren't very many that can even, with the help of the Lord, do much. The main reason is that they don't want to. I am very disappointed in the majority of the elders I see here in the mission field. The elders are a big detriment to the work. It is a sad thing to say, but is the truth. I feel very unworthy to lead these people also, and many times open rebellion to certain necessary rules makes it a very discouraging job. Nevertheless, my courage is maintained in the knowledge that the main problems I will have are already passed. I don't care what comes; I'm more ready than I've been before to meet the challenges of the mission. I have the feeling that they just might leave me here until December, and they could also take me out this month. The

uncertainty is the worst part of the mission. Even when you're doing your best, it is discouraging to think they may move you out before you get accomplished what you want to get done.

Lucy wrote a humble letter to me several weeks ago, stating that she had met with failure in her love affair with Floyd and would like to know if she could continue to be my girl friend. I may be foolish and crazy, but I accepted her back. There will be time to straighten it around when I get home. We aren't on the same terms as we were when she left me though. It is more platonic than before.

I have started to write a book on the West. I don't know if I will ever finish it or if it will amount to much when I do, but I am encouraged with the first ten pages. The other elders took at least an interest in it; not cutting it (very rare for an elder) so that leaves me on the verge of becoming a great author; a secret dream of mine.

Family, I hope that the time between now and our reunion will be spent in remembrance of the Lord and his goodness to us. He is giving us many trials, but I feel that they are mainly the result of our own mistakes and not listening properly to the spirit. I hope that we can all learn to cultivate the spirit of the Lord and know what it is when it is speaking. I have enjoyed that knowledge to some extent in various instances here in Tacna and it is worth the constant struggle to get it and keep it.

Roberta, I thank you very much for your letter. It was heart warming and much needed. I will try and answer it next week. I hope the Lord is watching over you all and giving you the things you need. He is being very good to me and my friends here.

Well, we will close for this week. Fifty more letters from me will see me at home, probably, so be good and keep up a good spirit. Love as always, Lyman De Platt

LETTER 852 Irene Perkins Lyman, Blanding, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 84 {PFRC Book 12}], March 15, 1964

Dear Lyman De, seems I never get caught up on my letter writing. We had a letter from your mother not too long ago and she included either a letter or copy of one of yours, which we are always glad to receive. We are wondering if you have been transferred as you said you might be. If so we hope you are all located and happy in the change.

We are anxious to hear from the folks again and learn what your Dad found out and what the situation is with them now. Surely too bad the people that took over the motel in Springdale treated them like they did. Before I forget I must thank you for the last picture you sent of yourself. It's such a good picture and you have developed so much. The next year will soon be gone the way time flies; and you're putting on a lot of weight or not?

We had a letter from Kirk recently. He is getting along fine but it has been and is still really cold and lots of storms. We had four or five inches of snow here recently and it looks like quite a lot in the mountains. We are hoping for more on my birthday on March 11th. Grandpa and I took our

lunch and spent several days in Bluff. It was such a lovely day and we thought maybe we could find some cliff flowers, but didn't get any, but we had a nice time.

Maureen and John took a vacation and left the boy with Aunt Clessa. John wanted each day to come back to the baby. He is two years old now. The baby teased all the time to go home. Was so glad to see his folks. They went through Stockton and didn't know Almon's folks were there. We didn't see them before they left or would have told them.

Had a letter from Aunt Cretia lately. She was well but lonesome to see al her relatives.

Mark is getting anxious for school to be out so he can leave for his mission. Doesn't know yet where he will go. He has contact glasses but is having quite a time with them. He may have to change back to the others.

I am still working on my life's story but haven't got grandpa to start his yet.

Aunt Dolly's granddaughter Hansene will be home from her mission next month. She would have been home next week but they asked her to stay another month. We were down to see Aunt Dolly yesterday. They are all pretty good now. They have been having the flu. Such a lot of sickness here all winter. We have been blessed so much; have kept pretty well all winter. We are fasting today for Aunt Sade's boy Evan H. who is having quite a time but we are hoping he will still get well.

Sorry to have been so long since starting this but will try and get it in the mail today. Had a letter from your folks yesterday telling us your Dad made it back home okay. Looks like they may be moving again before you or any of us get up to see the place. So bad they have had such bad luck with their motel in Springdale.

Wondering if you have been transferred and if so how long this will be getting to you.

We had a beautiful day yesterday 1st day of spring but it is cold and windy today. Just too bad we can't have some of the snow your folks are having.

Surely hope you are keeping well and happy in your work. I will try and write more often to you with all our love and best wishes, as ever, Grandpa and Grandma Lyman

LETTER 853a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy A. Ruesch, Springdale, Utah [redirected to 133 North 300 East, St. George, Utah], March 18, 1964

Dear Lucy, just a line to let you know how I'm getting along. I sent off a letter to you the day I received yours, but it's been two weeks since I've heard from you again. [This must be one of the letters that Lucy took out of the collection when she gave them to me to copy.]

The work here in Tacna is coming along pretty well. The leaders want to organize the branch around the last of April, so I may not be here too much longer; we'll see. We have the men more or less ready, I believe. This month should tell the trick. I hope it can be done. This job is getting me down. It's one constant struggle; it's a lot of fun though. So try and write your letter by April 9th or 10th, so I get it around the 15th; then if I'm changed we won't have any hold-up on mail.

My companion and I will have a baptism this week. We don't get too many, but those we get are good men, so I'm satisfied. Your encouragement will always be needed, though, to keep up the good spirit. I hope you'll be more diligent in that. I sure need it. Once I see your letters coming with more regularity, I'll start sending mine once a week.

My folks have had trouble in their move and may be moving back to Utah. I hope they do, although I would like to live near the out of doors. I'll keep you informed. You may have seen my dad. He's been in Springdale for two weeks.

I have a picture for you like the one you gave me, of me of course, that I'll send if I see you are really decided you want to stay with me. Well, I guess I'll close. You'll get another letter the day I receive one, love ya loads, Lyman.

LETTER 853b Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, March 20, 1964

Dearest family, today is Friday and I just got through cleaning my room and the dining room as part of my weekly cleaning. It is quite a lot of fun to "batch" as they call it. We are learning how to make various meals and also how not to make them. I have a woman come in and wash my clothes once a week and pay here S/75 (\$3.00) a month. That doesn't seem like much, but it is all they pay here. Also, it is costing us less to eat, because we buy only what we want and our tastes are all pretty much the same. I believe after we figure out the monthly cost, we will find that it has gone down quite a bit. I believe that if I stay here in Tacna, I will be able to get by on \$70 or \$75 a month. I wrote out a \$90 check for April because I ran out of money. I asked the boy in the bank to hold it until next week, so that the money will be there, and he said he would try, but that as it goes by air, it might be worth mentioning, so you will have the money there. I didn't receive a check that bounced, so I guess they took care of it. I don't even like to write out checks that cause trouble, but that is all I can do. I hope your situation is going to get better. I will be expecting to hear from you today.

The basketball team here for the M.I.A. has been in competition and has so far held its own. If we win tonight, we go into the finals with three other teams to compete for the summer trophy. We have to play a team that hasn't lost though and I doubt if we will win, as we just aren't that good. We don't have time to practice. It has been a lot of fun, good for the Church, and made us a lot of friends.

My companion and I have our first baptism today. He is a man and a good one. He also has five children that in time will be members. It really thrills me to hear them bless the food and also say their other prayers. That is more of a testimony for me than seeing the grown-ups doing it. He will be part of what is starting to be a strong priesthood. We now have a lot of inactive men restarting their activity and it is possible that we will organize the branch on the 26th of April.

Elder Pitt says ‘Hi.’ He just got through cleaning the “head” as he puts it. He’s a good elder. We get along fine.

I don’t remember if I told you that I’m writing a book. It is coming along pretty well. I expect to have it done in about a year. So far I’ve written twenty-five rough pages. It’s a lot of fun.

Another reason I wrote out that \$90.00 check was to have money for a plane trip that I expect to be coming. I hope I’m disappointed though. I like Tacna very much. I’ve made a lot of really good friends here. The majority are girls, but they are nice and understand exactly how to behave themselves. I wouldn’t mind living here in Tacna.

We are having a big branch clean up tonight and it ought to be a whole lot of fun. We’re going to take it from top to bottom and clean it thoroughly. Saturday we are having a Bar-B-Q trying to raise funds for that chapel that will be started in April in Arica.

Lucy hasn’t written me since about two weeks ago, so maybe she wasn’t sincere in what she said. We can always hope, though.

I got a roll of film back with slides from Callao, the trip to Tacna, Arequipa, Tarata, and slides of Tacna. They really came out good, so I have about sixty-five more I’ll be sending you when I get them made up.

Family, I am really enjoying my mission. It is surely discouraging at times, but it is really worthwhile. To see people baptized that you’ve worked with is a big reward and satisfying, and especially to see the little children that are progressing. When they get as old as I am we will have two or three branches in Tacna, with a chapel and a good strong organization. I am confident that the Lord is preparing these youngest ones to be the leaders. The older people are usually too set in their ways. It’s kind of like we teach against in our Church. These Catholic young people are beginning to accept us and some of them are going to start feeling we have something and will join. This cross-association is good down here. There is nobody ready to get married, and yet they can bring the kids into the Church when they marry. I am pleased with the way the members are responding to responsibility and I believe that within a month we can have them ready if they will just continue progressing as they are now. They are a very easy people to mold, these Lamanites. Once they get a true concept, they are good.

Well, I’ve got to get ready to go to the baptism. If I get a letter today, I may add some more to this one. If not, remember I love you all and will see you shortly (eleven months). It’s going by too fast. Sincerely as always, Lyman De Platt, Branch President.

LETTER 853 The Flakes, Snowflake, Arizona, March 23, 1964, Brother and Sister Edward P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah

Dear folks, I'm answering your letter of many weeks ago. Thank you for all your helpful hints about how to train my dog. With your suggestions and those offered by Brother Seeley I have a good dog. He is the best I've ever had and second only to one I have ever seen, and he may yet outdo that one.

We will go to conference with my brother Vincent and his wife.

Brother Seeley has invited us to stay in Mt. Pleasant the night of April 6th, Monday night, as we return that far from Salt Lake.

I don't remember my geography very well if it wasn't too far back from Mount Pleasant to get onto the Price, Green River, Moab road we might return that way and just say hello as we pass through.

I'm sure Vincent and wife would like to see Monument Valley and what I've told them of Blanding, Bluff etc. as I don't have a map of Utah. I don't know if such a way home would be practical, so I guess this is just idle talk.

The clipping is from *Our Brown Colt Farmers*. The boy holding the end of the blanket nearest the horse is our son Glen Sanford behind the horse and their families so thick you don't see much of the horse. The jockey is a Mexican boy son of the trainer; who you can see looking over Glen's shoulder.

March has been a very windy cold rough month and we have received very little moisture although the forecast calls for some snow today and tonight. Hope they are right. Show this clipping to Albert and Gladys and tell them we love them. Love to you both, as ever, Eugene and Lillian.

LETTER 854 Misión Andina de La Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Ultimos Díaz, March 23, 1964, from Sterling Nicolaysen to Lyman D. Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 318-320 {PFRC Book 12}], March 23, 1964

Dear Hermano Platt: I have read with interest the long summary of conditions in the Tacna Branch, which you wrote March 18th. We appreciate your care in giving us this report and are grateful for the gains which have been made in the branch during the time you have labored there.

It is good to note your optimism about the growth in priesthood, but we will feel more comfortable when we begin to know some the leading men by name. You and President Robinson will have to counsel closely about the reasonableness of recommending the organization of a complete branch presidency at conference time. It is likely that the district presidency will be able to form the most objective opinion in this kind of decision.

It is correct that we have asked President Robinson to help in the solution to some missionary problems in Tacna. We think he has good judgment in detecting some problems of conduct and attitude that should be given immediate attention. However, we need to know everything possible about the conditions in the field. The procedure is this: identify the problem; take some action to solve it (in this case it may be that you involve the participation of President Robinson, for example); report the problem and the attempted solution to the mission office. In this way I am spared some concern and some responsibility for taking action, but I am also informed well enough so that if the problem continues I have some background information and know where to begin in the next effort to work out solution.

It is futile for Mr. Montemurro to continue to talk about our buying his house. It is out of the question and the reasons why it is impossible have been explained to him many times. Do not waste your time discussing the topic with him.

We have little choice in the matter of baptism font repair. Any alternative to installing the tile which they demand will cost as much as the S/1,000 [should be looked at]. You will have to go ahead with the tile work. When you say the cost will be about S/1,000, I hope you mean that is the maximum. We have no budget funds for this repair nor is there any chance of recovering the money through Montevideo. We will have to make some study of your monthly maintenance allowance and see if there is an opportunity to adjust it enough to compensate for this unexpected and heavy repair bill. When you have an exact estimate on the tile work, please send a *solicitud*. It will be necessary for us to receive a receipt for everything we pay on this job. Have the work done as soon as possible so that you will not be delayed in your baptismal services. Be certain that you advise the landlord that you are going ahead with the work and that he agrees that the repairs being carried out are adequate. We dare not leave ourselves in a position where he can object to our further use of the baptismal font even after the tile is installed.

Sister Ortíz wrote me about the matter of her release from her work as your cook. As you understand, and as I will have to advise here, I cannot intervene in these matters. *Empleadas* who work for missionaries are not employees of the mission, and all their arrangements are private agreements between them and the missionaries. It is our concern that these employees be treated courteously and fairly. If you have now been to an officer in Tacna who tells that you owe her S/521.30 as compensation for the period since November 1961, you must pay it immediately. It is futile to dispute the judgment of the Ministerio de Trabajo. In these cases they are the governing body. I am sorry you did not have a smoother settlement with her which would have made this outside intervention unnecessary. I don't know what contract provisions you had relied upon to free you from these obligations, but it is correct that when employees are discharged without a fixed term of advanced notice, the employer is subject to certain obligations resulting from what the law calls dismissal *intempestiva*. I really know nothing of the shortcomings of Sister Ortíz which made it necessary for you to dismiss her and do not presume to judge in this case. Just be sure that none of your interviews with her catch you off guard and put you in the position of behaving emotionally, and be extremely careful to comply with every regulation of the law. Continue to feel responsible for her as a Church member even though her faith may not seem to have gone deeper than the security she felt as the elders' employee.

The approval for reimbursement of the cost of the benches finally arrived from Salt Lake City. As soon as we received the authorization from Salt Lake, we submitted our request for reimbursement to Montevideo, the paying office. We should receive this money very shortly and will forward it to you promptly.

I pray that you will be able to maintain a good missionary spirit in the branch. The responsibilities are big and nobody can depend on somebody else to give them “constant” prodding and reminders along lines of compliance to all mission rules. We think that the Lord has blessed us richly and that we can now mature to the point where we can take these prerequisites for granted and devote ourselves entirely to the solution of other problems. We appreciate all of you and hope that you will be blessed with good health and strong desires to do the work according to our Heavenly Father’s highest expectations. Sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President. SN:mj

LETTER 855 Elder Kirk Lyman, 214½ Center #3, St. Louis, Michigan, to Edward P. and Irene P. Lyman, dear folks, just a line to let you know that I’ve been in a transfer again. I’m still in Michigan and I’ll probably finish out my mission here because of the sinus condition in others parts of the mission. I’m fine and healthy and enjoying the work and we are having success. I’m pressed for time as the transfer took up a lot of time which I used for letter writing, so I’ll write more later on. Love, Kirk.

LETTER 856 Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, March 26, 1964, to family, Sandpoint, Idaho, dear family, a lot to say, so won’t waste time saying unimportant things. I didn’t get a letter yesterday, but will add on to this one if I do today.

I received a nice letter from Grandma Lyman yesterday. They are well and happy. I hope to see them soon. Tomorrow is my nineteenth month mark. Will only eleven to go, I don’t know if I’ll get to accomplish that I want to or not. I’m trying though.

Yesterday the M.I.A. went to the beach with the elders. We had a tremendous time. It’s not much fun when you can’t go swimming, but we made up for it playing volleyball, chess, hunting clams, crabs, etc. I got sunburned on my lower legs and can hardly walk, but the rest of me was covered up. We may have to take the day off, it depends. My companion is still asleep (8:00) and I think he got it worse than I. We can work on our “Important People Book” if we stay in, which will give us a closer start on concentrated visits to them.

Things were looking really fine towards forming the branch presidency, except our main boy left. He didn’t have work and when he found it, he left. That’s two now we’ve worked on and lost. It looks like I’ll be here another while now. I like it in Tacna, but I was hoping for their sakes we could put a branch presidency in place. Well, that’s the way it goes: the oldest branch and the most backward. I sometimes wonder why the president put me here.

I guess you might as well know, so you can see the problems I face. Of the four elders here, I’m the youngest in age, education and almost time in the mission. I have a hard time getting the

elders to do what they should or even work at times. The other senior companion only has six months left and is “trunky;” also about the biggest hypocrite I’ve ever seen. He was sent here so I could put him in line and so the president wouldn’t have to worry about him in Lima. I doubt if he’ll ever shape up. He had two years of the other kind of missionary work. My companion has two months on me, thinks he knows it all and is very self-centered; doesn’t give a darn what I think. The younger elder is willing to do almost anything his companion does, although I can see the example I try to set keeps him from doing a lot of things. The only problem of being a hard-working, sincere, elder, is you get these problems given to you.

Just talked to my companion; can’t even get on his feet. So we stay here this morning anyway. We have three meetings this afternoon.

I just got my second book of missionary experiences bound. I sent a lot of my books home with President Brown here. He gave them to Lucy. So if you see her before I do, you might get them for me. It’s been a month since I heard from her again. I guess she’s changed quite a bit.

This week I finished the first part of my book (fifty pages). I’m going to lay off for awhile now. I’ll start correcting it, etc., and then write the next part. I figure it should have about 150 pages. So far, it’s not too bad. The end result might just come out all right.

I’m sure proud of Ed getting all his badges for Eagle. Also, I imagine Joe will be right behind, as summer is coming. How are you doing Gene? Joe your senior year will be a busy one, so you’d better get busy. I’ve got several badges half-done. I hope to send some Friday and finish them all up. Well, fall has finally arrived. We had some tremendously hot days several weeks ago, and then it cooled off almost immediately. It gets pretty cold at night now. I imagine you’re anxious for spring to come, aren’t you?

Mother, how is the baby coming along? It isn’t very long now, is it? I’m proud to be part of such a big family. I pray everything will go okay.

The time is soon approaching when I’ll be twenty-one. I sometimes wonder what I’ll be. Lately, I’ve thought of being a doctor, or a ranger, or a businessman, or a seminary teacher, or a rancher. I’m still much undecided. I’ll know what I want before I start though.

I’ve been thinking a lot about your moving to Provo. The Lord knew where he was sending his people when he sent them to Utah. It’s central and beautiful. I imagine you can find what you want in Utah, but me, I don’t like Northern Utah very much. Whatever I do will probably be centralized around the Southern part. I may go to school there, but my heart isn’t there. It’s close, true, to many facilities, but these new highways are going to make almost anywhere close to anywhere else. I’m sure you’ll do what’s right for the whole family in general though. Provo does have some terrific young people.

Dad, I hope there’s some way you can hang on to the ranch as I know it means a lot to you. If the Lord wills it that way, He will help you find some means. Yes, I still have a testimony. After watching the Catholics crowd into masses on the streets last night during a procession of their

Holy Week (in which they carried an open tomb of the dead Christ, burning incense and candles and yelling paganistic chants, and bringing their co-redeemer, Mary, along behind worshipping these idols), I'm convinced even more than ever. The Catholics are pagan, idol worshippers. The Protestants are Pharisees – letter and not the spirit of the law people - and the Mormons are “many called but few chosen.” A rather dim outlook on humanity in my eyes. I wonder what the Lord must think.

I'm working for a successful release to a prosperous mission as the time shortens. President Nicolaysen last week sent me a congratulations letter on the work we are doing and wished me luck in the future.

In President McKay's *Every Member a Missionary* program, which was initiated in 1960, he asked that every member baptize one person a year. Our family has met that goal, including our next addition and will have more in store until another missionary can leave. The Lord has blessed my companions and me with few, but choice, baptisms. I'm grateful for them. Love as ever, Lyman De.

LETTER 857 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [Found in *Missionary Journal*, Volume 3, pages 86-88 {PFRC Book 12}], March 24, 1964

Dearest Lyman, One month of your last year has gone and the next eleven will go too fast for you. That part of the ribbon seems to be pretty dim, or maybe it's just something someone has done to the typewriter – ya that's better. These weeks the kids will be glad to have past, as its semester tests again. Joe especially has some pretty rough tests. He says he is not going to get all A's this term, as it's been just too hard. I think he has been a little upset to thinking of moving, or not moving, something. He surely doesn't like the school here and is anxious to get back to Utah. (So much like another son we took away from Utah once.)

We kind of have to let things take their own course now. We haven't heard anything from Springdale since we left, or rather since Dad was there, and we haven't heard from the B.Y.U. since he wrote. Rene and Art did write and say that the cousin of Art's I told you about would be more than pleased to work out something with us for the rent of one of their homes with Dad helping on upkeep, and they were even interested in having me do some bookwork for them on the students they rent to. Evidently they have quite a few homes that they rent out. We listed this place for sale here but it is too early in the season to expect anything to move, as there is still too much snow on the ground. Every once in a while we have a good warm day and it does some melting, but the last couple of days we have had a really cold wind and last night was the coldest it has been all winter.

March 25, 1964, Well, I didn't get too far yesterday. I'll try and get this finished and in the mail today for sure. The wind has died down and it's a little warmer, but we are having more snow today. We were wondering if spring was ever going to come around here but I'm sure it has every other year, so no reason to doubt that it won't eventually come this year.

Still no mail yesterday. Seems that is all that we have done since we've been up here – watch the mailbox for those letters that just don't come. We're not going to think Val is showing very good faith if we don't soon hear something.

Joe got two of his tests over with yesterday and has two more today. Says he didn't do too good on two of them but thinks he got his chemistry test okay. I'll say one thing for these kids – they take their schooling seriously anyway and work at it. Eddie just finished a project for extra credit in Biology on Bird Study. Wish you could see it. There's a lot to it and it's very neat. He printed it all and made a lot of drawings. It reminds me of some of the nice projects you did. He is also going to use it for his Bird Study merit badge. He's getting to be quite an artist. He sat here the other night for a couple of hours drawing on something and came up with a portrait of his oldest brother taken from the picture of you all together taken in California. Pretty good too. Don't know if he is going to send it to you or not. He has lots of interests, as he has always had. I'm glad for all your inquiring minds. Dad and I sit at the dinner table as we talk and the kids are quizzing each other and us on different subject. We just have to admit that you have all just left us in the dust when it comes to knowledge on a lot of things. Course I said this a long time ago, but even Dad admits it now. If you will all live up to your capabilities, there is no reason why each one of you can't go a long ways.

Gordie is sitting here this morning building castles with his little mill end blocks. He is growing up fast and shows good potential. He talks about you a lot, and though it's hard to know just how much is memory and how much is what we keep alive by talking about you and with the pictures, he will know you for sure when you get home.

So Lucy wrote you again did she? Well, I'm happy to hear that she didn't marry Floyd. Sounded like he wasn't the type such a nice girl should marry, and I was afraid she was letting herself in for some of the things some of her sisters have had to put up with since they were married. She is a sweet little girl and whether or not you marry her, I wouldn't like to see her hurt in who she does marry. As you say, there will be plenty of time after your return to settle things one way or another. But I think you did right to forgive and forget. Life is too short to hurt anyone if it can be avoided.

Wish you could have been here last night to have pizza with us, as I know how you like it. We quite enjoyed what I made for supper. Being home all the time as I have been up here, I've done more cooking and baking than for the last number of years. I've had to make bread every few days with so many lunches to fix every day (six of them) and try to keep cupcakes, cookies, etc. made to go in the lunches along with the sandwiches. We have used a lot of flour this winter, but it's been ever so much cheaper than if we had bought lunches or even bread to make the sandwiches.

Guess it's a good thing that your work in the branch there has its ups and downs – at least it's good it isn't all discouraging. I know just the feeling you must have about wanting to excommunicate about 100 of your members. That is just the way a lot of us felt in Springdale about the inactive ones there. They are quite a burden for the ward or branch to carry, and I think the day will come when we will either have to be a good member or else be willing to give up our membership. I would like to see that day come, as there is lots of weeding that needs to be done. We all have things to overcome and progress to make, but I think it wouldn't hurt if everyone had to take a definitive stand.

Glad that the check wasn't returned. Dad went into the bank down there while he was there and talked to them. They hadn't returned it though the money was later getting to them than the check was. They have been really good about handling your account for us and I appreciate it very much. We appreciate also son the effort you make to get by on as little as you can. We are doing the same thing and hope that our position will soon change for the better. The kids have been really good and have gone the past six months without spending hardly a cent on anything.

Well, son, good luck on the Western book. You find plenty to keep occupied don't you and are making growth in so many areas while you are away. That is good, and I'm glad that you make good use of your time. There's so much to learn and to accomplish in this life, if we will just use our time wisely. These habits you are getting into will be so good for you all your life.

We love you Lyman. Keep on being humble and spiritual. We pray daily for the Lord to bless and protect you and give you strength to meet your responsibilities. All our love, Mother.

LETTER 858 Glen Johnston, Huiracocha 1505, Mariátegui, Lima, Peru, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 90 {PFRC Book 12}], March 26, 1964, hello hermanos, just a short note in answer to the letters I received from Elder Pitt. When I left Tacna, the cat-man, Elder Harris, figured out how much money I had used in the cat until the time I left. Using those figures he gave me a refund of what was left. I think that he gave me

what I was owed. So before I will pay anything I think that it is only just in knowing how it is figured that I owe more.

How is everyone in the branch? I stopped by to see Pa García but he had left for Arequipa just the day before. Send him my *saludos*. Brother Alanocha is doing fine at the construction site. He gets a little down-hearted once in a while because the other missionaries keep making fun of him because he is so much *cholo*. But he is still doing a good job and says hello to his *hermanos* in Tacna. I saw on the *Chasqui* where the branch had a baptism. Was it anyone I know?

The Mariátegui branch is a good place. Elder Schuck and I have a lot of branch duties to do but still find time to do proselyting work. We are planning to have a member president for the district conference on May 17th.

Not too much to say. Anona is still hangin' in strong. At times too strong. Tell all the "dollies" in Tacna hello for me. Elder Platt, could you send that package home for me? To me it is quite important because it contains some old letters. Who is your new cook? Elder Schultz got a letter from Ma Ortiz saying that she was not working for the elders any longer. Schultz, Reser, and Houghton go home tonight. Chao, Elder Glen

LETTER 859 Glen Johnston, Huiracocha 1505, Mariátegui, Lima, Peru, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, [Letter found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 92 {PFRC Book 12}], March 26, 1964

Dear Elder Platt, I just finished the one page and then felt I would like to say some things privately to you. I never did tell you how much I enjoyed the few months that I was your companion and the other months while you were branch president. I guess that at times I am too ashamed to express my feelings to a fellow elder. I know that you are not and the times that you complimented me or gave me encouragement were really helpful. You have a wonderful testimony and I know that you are doing a fine job in Tacna. My prayers are with you.

I received a letter from Hermana Ortíz today. She seemed very discouraged. I don't want to "butt into" anything that isn't really any of my business, but I would like to know how it is that she doesn't work for you any more. She told me some things that I cannot read her writing so I just got a few words and a general idea of what she is now doing. She also mentioned something about her rent but I couldn't figure out if she wanted me to send her some money for rent or not. Let me know what you think is best.

Anona is still her wonderful self. The first week I was here she sent me four letters "to make me feel at home." It did the trick. She has spring fever and is really romantic again. But she made it plain to me that she has no ideas of doing anything quickly once I get home.

I would appreciate it if you would check on the package and I will reimburse you for any expenses incurred. About the cat, Elder Harris and I figured it out when I left and everything was straight. The last thing I want to do is offend anyone but I still want to stick up for my rights.

I must go now, so write when you can and tell everyone in Tacna hello for me. Write when you can. I would like to hear from you. Tu ex-compañero y amigo, Elder Glenn

LETTER 860 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 94-96 {PFRC Book 12}], March 31, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Look at that date! The last day of March already. I'm sure the time is going as fast there for you as it is here for us.

Your last letter of the 20th was interesting and sounds like you were a little more encouraged about your branch and the members there. Also sounds like the batching is working out all right. That is your first experience at it I guess, isn't it? It is good experience for you but I guess in time will get rather tiresome. Most missionaries have it the whole two years or their full time through, so you have been lucky to have maid service the time you have.

We will be wondering if the transfer to Lima comes through or not. I wouldn't imagine they would move you until they were ready to reorganize the branch there though. Glad that you enjoy it in Tacna and have so many friends. It's a good idea in life to always make the best of each situation and try to make it the best there is.

Did you win your last basket ball game? I guess it has been fun and a good experience and exercise for you to play as you have. Joe and Ed have been playing on the Church team here each Wednesday (when they could get into town). They have their last game tomorrow night and then a party for the team.

Hope the clean-up, and the Bar-B-Q at the branch turned out successfully. They are good projects to bring a group close together.

A few days ago we had a letter from a man in Park City, Utah inquiring about our motel. He had been in Springdale recently and seen it and said that he was very much interested in it. Dad called him Sunday and talked with him quite awhile. He says he is going down this week end and look at it again, and then he will let us know what his decision is about buying it. He sounded quite interested in our price, terms, etc., but we're trying not to get our hopes up too high. We just hope and pray though that if it is right for him and for us that he will decide to take it. It wouldn't solve all our problems but would certainly relieve our situation a lot. We would still plan to move to Provo though I guess, as we wouldn't get enough down to make much difference on this end of things and have decided that the best thing to do is go down there where you and the kids will be close to the college. We hope he won't take too long in answering about the motel and that his answer will be in the affirmative. We will of course let you know as soon as we know anything definite. We haven't as yet heard from Val since Dad was down there or anyone else in Springdale. He surely seems to have an aversion against writing, and it would be a big relief to have our situation there relieved without the worry of wondering about it all the time. Time will tell.

We have had a few days of spring here and the snow is melting. We are getting some bare spots but still two or three feet of snow in most places. You should see the stream of water running down our place through from the springs on our property. If we could just have this much in Utah some place, it would relieve the situation there a lot. Guess it has been pretty dry there this year, as so many years.

Wasn't that earthquake and tidal wave awful in Alaska and down the coast? The Lord has certainly turned the elements loose in the past years, hasn't he? Makes me realize that we are never safe from physical danger, but if we are living as we know we should, we should have no worries concerning such things.

The kids have started their last quarter of school this week. Eight more weeks after this one and they will be through for another year. They are getting pretty tired of it. Don't know if we will be here through the school year or not. It would be best for them to stay the year through, but our move will depend on a number of things. It would be best for me to leave soon, as it would be pretty hard to make such a long move too close to the time for the baby to come, but we will do what we have to do.

Conference time again in Salt Lake. These six month periods really roll around in a hurry, don't they? A few people from here are going down for the conference. I would like to be there to attend or at least where we could watch all the sessions on television. We are only able to get one session here, and maybe not even that channel on our T.V.

A recent letter to Joe from Phil Brueck told of Maurine's marriage to a boy from Reno. Have you heard about it and do you know anything about him? I do hope that he is a good boy and that they were able to be married in the temple. If we hear more, we will let you know. Did you know that her Grandpa Olsen died some time ago? We didn't know it until Dad was down there. He went to see him and found out that he had been gone for some time. Guess it was a relief to them all to have him out of his suffering.

Today is work meeting in Relief Society, and I must wake Dad up to take me in for it, so won't write more this morning. The roads are still a problem getting over them, and I don't feel like driving, so Dad is good to take me when I need to go. Tell Elder Pitt and the others hello for us too. We are glad you get along well with them. The association is good for you all and will teach you much about getting along with people and learning to give and take, as you will have to do the rest of your life. We love you son and pray for you always, your loving Mother.

LETTER 861 Gene Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 98 {PFRC Book 12}]

Dear Lyman, how are you big brother? Things here are fine and wet. We had about three feet of snow on the ground on Easter (kind of crazy, huh?). If we move to Provo that will make three moves we have made without you. They were from Canyon Motel, to Zion Park Motel, to Sandpoint and to Provo. I think my grades this term won't be as good as they were last term. I got the highest grade in the school in our history feast. I tied for 1st in the science test.

How are things going as branch president? Are you making very many baptisms? We just had the home teachers here. If we move to Provo you won't have to worry about a lot of things while going to school. I think it would be very fun to move where all the tournaments are held.

Hurricane came in 7th in the tournament. South Sevier came in first, with Lehi second. I attained the rank of Star about three weeks ago and am now working on Life. I will be glad when your mission is done (excuse the English). Good-bye for now. Lots of Love, Gene Platt.

LETTER 862 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to the family, Sandpoint, Idaho [no date]

Dearest Family, I'm carboning this letter, so Grandma and Grandpa can have a copy also. In that way it will save the problem and also I'll feel like I'm doing something.

All this week has been spent here in the apartment except for several trips out to get one meeting, something to eat, etc. Needless to say, I'm pretty bored and so is my companion. I guess we will go to the doctor and see what the matter is. His sunburned feet are better, but he still can't walk. My thinking is that the sun damaged his muscles. I hope it isn't anything too serious as we've taken a lot of time already. It has been put to good use, however, and of the twenty-two things I set out to do this week, there remain only eight. Today is Friday, so I may get them all done. If so, then I will have nothing of back work on anything. The branch records are all up to date, my personal books are all caught up, and the prospects for an active future without much preoccupation are bright. I hope to plan my time even better so that nothing will get behind in the future.

Elder Johnston sent me a letter lately and I would like to quote: "I never did tell you how much I enjoyed the few months that I was your companion and the other months while you were branch president. I guess that at times I am too ashamed to express my feelings to a fellow elder. I know that you are not and the times that you complimented me or gave me encouragement were really helpful. You have a wonderful testimony and I know that you are doing a fine job in Tacna. My prayers are with you." I quote not to show egotism but to show the bond of brotherhood that Elder Johnston and I have. I feel equally for him and miss him as a companion. We got along better and had more baptisms than any of my other companions. He will always be a dear friend to me.

It sounds as though the kids have a lot of the same characteristics that I am finding in myself. Lately with the writing of my book, I have really enjoyed life more. I've had to watch people's reactions to given problems, learn how people express themselves, see how other authors explain certain situations and circumstances. It has given me a better outlook on life and I'm sure that it will help me throughout my life. I am happy that my brothers and sister also have inquisitive minds and a desire to learn. That for me is a sign of a chosen spirit, a spirit that has to progress, and that will overcome life's problems. I'm thankful to you parents and grandparents for the heredity that you have given my family. Whatever I do in my life only comes because I am what you made me. The desire, of course, is mine, but you gave it to me, and will therefore receive the

crown of glory for all the acts of your children. I pray that we may only do those things that will be worthy of your names and meritorious for you.

Lucy has gone five weeks now without writing. I guess here is more or less the quitting point. Although I think highly of her, if she's going to be unfaithful now, I doubt if we will get along in life.

Well, it looks like the first time in a long time I will be able to go through the entire month of April, plus those two weeks in March, on the same check. However, I guess I shouldn't boast before the time is passed.

Mother, you did "trunk" me out just fine when you started talking about pizza, cookies, cakes, pies, etc. You realize it's been seven months since I've had a glass of milk and twenty since I've even smelled those other things. I hope you have a lot of recipes ready when I get home. Boy the change in food will be heaven in itself.

I'd like to write to each one of the family again, and will try and do that during the process of the next week.

Things are coming along pretty well. It is out of the question to have a Peruvian branch presidency ready for this conference now, so I will probably be here until July, unless they decide they need me elsewhere. There are a lot of elders terminating their missions in the next three months, the majority of which are leaders in the mission. But I imagine that they won't try to change me as a new elder would set the branch back, and then they might not get a branch president until the end of the year. At any rate, I enjoy Tacna except for all the problems that are presented, and I guess it would be bad if there weren't any problem, so I'm still happy.

I've been having trouble with my back the last three days. I don't know what happened; I just woke up one morning feeling like Dad looked so many times when he was being bothered with his back. It's going away though. Love as always, Lyman De Platt

LETTER 863a Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, Springdale, Utah, April 3, 1964

Dear Lucy, you say "I feel sincerely about this when I say this. It would be better for you if you did forget all about me and started looking for another girl to take my place." Also: "I love you and I guess perhaps I always will, but I'm not worthy of you and I wouldn't marry you because of my unworthiness of you." Also: "Lyman, if I could talk to you in person and could settle my problems with you, I'd be the happiest girl in the world. I sometimes feel it quite unfair to have to be separated from you when I need someone like you so very much. I wish with all my heart that I could go on planning my future with you, but since I'm such a weak person, I feel that I'm no good for you." Also: "I would like to know however, how you feel, so would appreciate it if you would write and let me know what your decision is. I'll be anxiously waiting your reply."

These quotations will let you remember how you felt at one time. Also you will be aware of some things you've asked me to do that you are making it impossible for me to comply with.

We elders talk quite a bit about our individual girls and discuss the problems we have, the happiness, etc. The elders have suggested various times that I write you a letter and tell you it's through, washed up, terminated, etc. but I haven't. The reason: I still think of you too much. Lucy, you are a very confusing girl to try and understand. You asked me to find another girl because you were unworthy; then you asked me to take you back; then when I tell you I don't hold anything against you, you don't write me for five weeks. I think I've been pretty fair; you've also interpreted things wrongly. That is only natural. But I want to get this thing cleared up once and for all. I've got too many other things worrying me down here without having to worry about you all the time.

Will you please make up your mind if you love me or not, and if you do will you please write to me more often and if you don't will you please write and tell me so. My mother and father both think of you as a good, sweet girl and like you very much. I think of you as the girl I knew at my side walking up the canyon trails, riding in the car, sitting in the show, eating in a café, laying on the lawn. I remember you for your pleasing smiles, your charming, tantalizing personality; the way you looked at me. If the feeling I get when I think about you and these things is love, then I love you; if it's infatuation, then I'm infatuated; if it's hate, then I hate you; if it's just the enjoyment of being with someone that is like you and thinks and acts about like you then it's enjoyment of your company. At any rate, I remember those days and evenings together with fondness. I would like to have them again within the year. If it is love then of course the natural thing to do is to get married and have children; if it's not then we will know that it isn't and will both part thinking of those times together with fondness just the same. What do you say? I don't want to have to give you up without talking it over with you personally, nor do I want to promise to marry you without being absolutely sure I do love you, but I miss your letters; I miss you. One way or another I want to receive your answer. It would be easier to forget you than to think of you as I do now, not knowing really what to think. Of course I don't want to stop thinking about you; I enjoyed it once. I want you to write to me. Enough of that.... You have received my last expression of my feelings one way or another until I hear from you. I will continue to write, but only about the missionary work, until you start coming through.

I hope that you have received my last two letters and that you are happy in whatever you are doing. I imagine you are going to be busy shortly in the café if you are still working there. How are the studies? Are you studying? How's the weather, or has Utah been blown up? Are you still alive? Do you have an address? Are you the same girl that sent me a picture of herself about a year and a half ago? Sincerely yours, Lyman De Platt. Amor y besos.

LETTER 863b Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, April 15, 1964

Dear Lucy, your letter came today. I am impressed that what I say will come only after much wondering and worrying on your part and that it may have a great influence on the eternities as far as our personal lives go. I will more than likely spend several hours of careful study and prayer upon the things that go into this letter and ask that you receive them in the spirit with which they'll be given. Many things will be given as advice from a young man who feels dearly

for someone who he feels has knifed him in the back; others will be given as a branch president sees these things; the rest as a friend.

You know my past history; my unworthiness in trying to help you, and so the idea I want to put over isn't of a judge to a murderer, but of two thieves talking together: you and me.

From a branch president's standpoint: if you haven't confessed what you've done to your bishop, then the Lord cannot forgive you. Quoting from the branch president's manual: "If a person infringes the moral law more than once, or does it intentionally, and doesn't manifest a sincere repentance, they should be judged by a church court. See D. & C. 42:24-26:

"The Lord has commanded that holders of the priesthood guard that 'there is no iniquity in the church' D. & C. 20:54. Those that sin will be judged according to the graveness of the case. D. & C. 20:80; 134:10-11.

"Some sins require the meeting of a tribunal of the ward; others can be resolved without necessity of a judgment, with the condition that there is a sincere repentance. The sins referred to are sexual sins....

"Cases where young people fall into the net of sexual sin; they should be given all consideration concerning the matter and try and help them adjust to the situation, so that, if possible, they might again live normal lives.

"A punishment too strictly given makes for the confusing of the principles of justice. If the sin is known only to the people in question and they voluntarily come to the bishop with a repentant spirit and the intention of confessing their sin and readjusting their lives, it is better to consider the act privately. The bishop should advise the procedure to follow immediately and in the future and put to proof the repentance of the sinner and avoid any stigma of the act that could occur."

Lucy, I'll be home in ten months. It's possible we will be married before another year and a half goes by. Will you please do everything necessary and possible for a temple marriage. That's the only way I'll marry you.

My family has moved to Provo, so it looks as though I may go to the Y after all. I'm looking forward to getting back to school, you, parties, dances, life. This job as branch president [April 16th] is a hard one on the patience, nerves, health, etc. Your support and prayers are still very much needed.

You know Lucy it's paradoxical, but maybe what has happened will serve to make you the kind of wife that will teach the importance of strict moral principles to my children. What has passed is now "water under the bridge." You may always feel guilty; I believe that is part of our punishment. [Wrong: the atonement can erase it all.] If you will sincerely repent by confessing the act, things might go on for us as before. This involves part of the lesson I learned in Toquepala: a balance between when you should give and when you should take. This must be established in any one of life's relationships. I am trying to cultivate that balance in my

association with my companions. If I can cultivate it properly, it won't be so hard to get along with me.

I reiterate, honey, I don't know anymore if I love you or your memory; because you're a girl. Speaking in parables the work horses look to me like race horses now. Every pretty girl I see sends a little tingle through me. The missionaries call it "horniness." Every missionary gets that way towards the end of their missions. I think I've reached that point and therefore don't know what love is because of the overwhelming sexual forces pulling from within and without. Understand? Hope so. I know one thing, however; I want to love you. It will be harder now, but I want to nevertheless. I hope you'll do your part. You can start by writing every week if you would.

"It is a challenging thought that everyday in some degree we open our own Pandora's Box and turn loose enough troubles upon ourselves to vex us the rest of our lives. Like Pandora, we get curious about the sins, and we open the box for a peek inside. But once the lid is removed, we are in trouble.

"One man recently did something wrong and the troubles that overwhelmed him as a consequence prompted him to say that he thought all hell had broken loose. And that is a fairly accurate description of about what always happens when we release an evil in our lives. Only when we learn the great lesson of obedience can we keep the lid securely locked and prevent evil from ruining our lives." – Sterling W. Sill

I've said enough. I hope I didn't sound like a preacher, but after a year and a half of it, that's about all I know. I hope you'll write me shortly what you plan to do about the situation and also what your plans are for the next ten months.

You said there were things you wanted to say but didn't because you didn't feel you had the right. Say them in your next letter will you?

It sounds like you're doing all right getting stuff bought. Are you working still? Where? Are you happy?

You know, I've been starting to plan out what I'm going to be doing in a year and here is my temporary plan. I will fly to Los Angeles. You could meet me there and we would drive the roundabout way to Provo; if it took several days we would be really careful. I need to go get my interview with the stake president and see the folks for several days and then go back to St. George the roundabout way. I'd stay there for a week or so, then go back to Provo and get a job. After working for April, May and June and maybe July, Joe and I would come down and we'd take a two or three-week vacation, going where we wanted, seeing what we wanted. After that we'd all go back to Provo; you could get a job there and live with us, helping mom out some, outside your keeping me interested in my studies. If we decided things were right for us, one night I'd propose and we could be married during Christmas vacation. We'd get our own place, for young marrieds, you could work until junior said stop and we'd be on our way. Or we could wait all that one school year and take a nice long honeymoon trip to Alaska or Mexico or somewhere far away. What do you think we ought to do? Maybe you have some more interesting ideas. All ears! Make 'em good though. We should have a lot of fun.

Maybe all this talk is foolish sounding; I can't express things the way I want to in a letter. I would rather wait and tell you how I feel in person. It's so much more enjoyable. The facts are easier to sort out.

The last while has been rough. We've been trying to organize the men around into a strong priesthood group, so that we could have a Peruvian branch presidency here shortly. Things haven't been progressing very rapidly. I've been in Tacna eight months now; the progress can be seen, but it's not what I thought we'd be able to do. I will probably be here another eight or nine months. Really, I doubt I will be, but you never can tell. We are definitely a lot closer than we were though.

The world champion basketball tournament for girls is being held in Peru this year. Russia, Japan, Chile, and Brazil will be playing here in Tacna, in a new modern coliseum that was just terminated yesterday. It has wooden floors and glass backboards; the most modern in all of Peru. It is going to be interesting watching them play. Chile and Japan arrived today.

Last Sunday we had district conference here and last Thursday we had a Book of Mormon night. Elder Pitt and I stayed up all day and all night making two big banners that we put across Main Street. It is a first in Peru and a second in South America. We had about 300 people out to conference, thirty of them investigators.

We are going into winter now. I'll never see another winter in Peru. That makes me feel sad because I enjoy so much the contact with these people. I have more friends here in Tacna than probably anywhere else I've lived during my life.

Well, I better close this epistle before it becomes a book. It has been good talking to you again. Remember, the plans for the future that include us are based primarily upon the way you shape up in the next year. I forgive you for what you've done as I am equally as weak and understand your dilemma; however, I cannot forget it completely until you have proved to me if you really love me. Be good and study a lot; go to Church; pray always; work hard; I say that as a friend, sincerely yours, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 863c Elder Kirk Cook Lyman, April 20, 1964, to Edward P. and Irene P. Lyman

Dear Grand folks, finally I have time to sit and write as I should have done long ago. I've just finished a letter to mom and one to dad so if it is hard to read them, it's because I tend to get sloppy after writing so long. Fair enough?

Received your most welcomed letter as well as the money order. Thanks again for all you've done for me.

Today is kind of special for me. It's "teary eyes" day. I've taken some of my past letters out that I've received from you and dad and finally like a bolt of lightning I realized just how thankful I really am for my heritage and lineage which the Lyman name bears.

It's been quite some time since I sat down and wrote Dad a letter like I wanted to. Six pages long. As I examine the gospel I see the part "repentance" and love play in it and in looking back over the years of which I troubled Dad and Lois, I saw many instances where I needed to ask their forgiveness.

Though I've not yet mailed the letter, I feel as though a tremendous burden has been lifted off my shoulders. Your letters of love and encouragement have actually worked a miracle with me, of which I'll be eternally grateful.

I've been out eighteen months now and as each day flies by I'm so grateful for my mission. I just don't have words enough to express it. We baptized a family of four plus their older daughter a week or so ago and when she said they were especially thankful for me because I asked their older daughter if we could teach her, it made tears well up in my eyes and helped me appreciate the love that the people do hold for missionaries. The elders had been teaching the family but not the older daughter "29" as she seemed distant. I asked her and then two and a half weeks later baptized and confirmed her. Oh, what a joy to see people accept the gospel.

If my memory serves me as I think, while in the Army I wrote and told you of my life as I lived it overseas and you wrote back encouraging me on toward the path of righteousness. I better bring this letter to a close. I just wanted to once again offer thanks for the help you've given and express my most heart felt love for two of the finest grandparents in all of Zion. May God Bless You, Love, Kirk.

We moved to save 400 miles a month plus gas. We're only five minutes from St. Louis, Michigan.

LETTER 864 Allie Lyman Platt, Sandpoint, Idaho, to Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 100-102 {PFRC Book 12}], April 7, 1964

Dearest Lyman, before I go to Relief Society this morning, I must try and get this letter off to you, so that you won't be too far behind on the happenings here. I know that you are interested and concerned. Several things have transpired that have helped us to decide a little better on our course of action. I think I told you last week of the man from Park City who was to go down and look at the motel again and then decide if he wanted to buy it. We are still waiting to hear something from him, so don't know one way or another on that. We recently had a letter from Leah Taylor saying that they had decided that if we would like them to they will go to Springdale for the summer and take care of the motel until it sells. They could do much to help sell it, as they would get it in shape and take much better care of it than the Edgel's are doing, so unless it sells right shortly, that is probably what we will decide to do.

Yesterday Dad had a letter from the man at the Y that Dad contacted about a job at the Y Center. The letter was very encouraging and sounds as though he can have a job starting about the 1st of May if he wants it. He is supposed to have a personal interview as soon as possible. The wages wouldn't be anything very startling, but with the extra work on the side to pay for the rent and me doing a little bookkeeping for the people, to help with the groceries, we could probably get along pretty well.

We went in yesterday and talked with the Streckers (from whom we bought this place) and also the people at the agency where we have it advertised for sale. They have recently had an inquiry from a party in California who is interested in the ranch to handle fifty cattle, and they wrote them about this one. They won't hear for a while on it, but the Streckers seem willing to make some kind of a settlement with us and take the place back and be responsible for selling it. We are to go in again in a few days and talk with them about that idea.

So all in all we feel more encouraged than we have for a long time. So many things have not gone our way that it seems really good to have something go our way for a change. Of course everything is far from settled yet, but as of now we are planning to move sometime next week. After you get this letter, you had better send any further letters from you to Aunt Rene's address, then as soon as we know where we are going to be we will send you the new address. I do wish it were all over with and we were all moved and settled, but that doesn't happen without a lot of effort and it all takes time to work out so I will have to be patient.

Joe checked out of school yesterday and the others are checking out today. They have their spring vacation on the three remaining days of this week, so we thought this was a good time to get ready to move. We are going to have to sell the majority of our furniture, as we just don't have anything adequate to move it all in, so they are going to take a bunch of stuff to the auction on Thursday and see what they can do. They have sold all the cows and calves except one each, and we have the chickens spoken for, so in time we will be ready I guess.

We are surely hoping that we hear something encouraging from Mr. Peterson (Park City), but if not, I think Leah is our best bet, as she has the motel's interest at heart and would do all in her power to sell it for us and would likely draw much more business for the summer than anyone else that might do it (including us with our big family).

Do hope that the sunburn didn't make you sick and that you got over it okay. Do you remember how sick Lynn Howell in Whittier got at Lake Havasu? I know it can really be miserable. Glad that you had a good time at the beach.

Sounds like you have your share of problems with the elders and the branch, etc. It will all be for your growth and development if you take it in the right way, and I'm sure you are doing just that, so keep up your courage and spirits. Your president will think more of you and you will think more of yourself, and that is more important, as you have to live with yourself a long time.

You are having Fall there and we are finally having Spring. We are having some beautiful sunny days and it makes us realize just what the weather and country here will be like in the summer. The snow is going fast. In town it is all gone except a little on the north sides of the building. We still have quite a bit but there are more and more bare spots all the time and at this rate it won't be long until the ground is bare. Our lane is still pretty bad and we can't travel on it except in the morning when it is frozen, so we leave a car out by the highway and walk to and from.

Well, son, another week will see more developments, maybe even see us on our way to Utah, so we will let you know again in a few days if there are any new twists and turns. Do you think we will ever quit moving?

We love you and are concerned for your welfare and pray for your happiness there in the mission field.

The kids get their grades for another quarter. Joe finally fell from off the pedestal he was on. In the two classes they put him in that were new and accelerated (English and Journalism) he got a B, but got A's in all the rest. Ed was really happy to out do him this time, as he got only one B and that in Physical Education and all the rest of his grades were A's. Gene got all A's but two B's and Roberta and McKay got mostly A's also, so we are really proud of them all, as they have all put a lot of effort into their studies here. Joe is so happy to be checked out of school though, he was really getting to hate it, and we didn't like to see that. Hope they will be happy in Provo.

LETTER 865a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Miss Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, April 25, 1964

Hi honey, how is everything going? I suppose you have received my last big epistle by now. I haven't gotten one from you yet, but there hasn't passed that much time, so I won't worry too much.

You know what? I saw some young Chilean señoritas the other day in the cutest ponchos you have ever seen. They would really make a good souvenir for us. I want to get one for me and one for you but there is something else I want to get for you that I think you would like even more, so there is that problem. I have been asking too much from my folks already. If you would like me to get you one, and I know you would really like it I would need \$15.00 to get it. I'll leave it up to you; if you have the money and would like one, fine, if not, I'll try and get it anyway. The only factor involved is the time. I don't know if I can save the money for the two things in time, as I now have over eight months here in Tacna and you can't get these things up north. Let me know soon, okay. If you do want it, send the money in a check if you can, if not I imagine it will get through if you staple it to your letter.

Another favor if I might. I need a road map of Utah. I would like to start planning a few places that we might go and see during the summer of 1965 – with you of course. I have a map of Idaho and I believe that a map of Utah with what little of the other states it will have on it will be sufficient. How does a tour of Utah and a trip to Yellowstone and up into Glacier, Canada and the Cardston Temple and maybe Alaska sound? It ought to be fun planning together. If we took it that would mean that we would be wiser to get married in June or somewhere in there. So within the next year we may see surprising things; but you know that scares me. A year used to sound like so long, but looking back in my diary at what happened a year ago, it's frightening. I was in Callao. I've been in Tacna almost a year. Wow! It will be a lot of fun though. Could you send that map soon? I'd sure appreciate it and I imagine you will enjoy my letters a lot too as we plan out the next year or so. I see these little kids down here and I long to be a father.

I have a giant 6 x 8 picture of me made up to send to you that you might be expecting any one of these days. I have had it ready for several months now, but have been waiting just to see how things were.

We just got through watching a part of the world championship girls basketball teams play last week. We saw Russia, Japan, Chile and Brazil play each other. It was a lot of fun.

It sounds like from your last letter that as far as the financial side of things goes, you have been doing all right for us. If you get anymore stuff I might just feel like letting you do it all; no I am just kidding; I think you should be complimented and will do it personally in my own way in about ten months. That isn't very long compared to the past, but it seems like ten years in the future.

I know my folks have moved but I don't have their address yet; so I imagine they will be sending it shortly. They told me to write there at Aunt Rene's but I don't even have her address, so I suppose they will wonder what has happened to me for several weeks.

You know, Lou, I would like another picture of you and some of the places we used to go in Springdale. Do you think you could take the time in the near future to do that for me? All of the pictures I have of you are the big one, the one we took when I left, the one of you in Grandma's with Brother Madsen and one of you in St. George. I know you have changed a lot and would like to see what you look like. Okay? Thanks. You can't imagine how lonely it gets down here at times; or maybe you can. If you can I hope you will send them quickly.

Enough for this week; I'll write next Friday or when I get your letter. Be good and remember I think an awfully lot of you, as always, Lyman De.

LETTER 865b Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, April 25, 1964, to the family in Sandpoint, Idaho

Dear family, boy, I'm sure sorry that my last week's letter didn't arrive, but I didn't send one as you told me to send it to Aunt Rene's address as I don't have her address and couldn't remember it for the life of me. Well, I got your letter today and will do my best to get it off for you, so you won't go too long.

By the time you get this letter, I will have *nueve y pico* (nine and a little bit) in missionary jargon and I believe that the time will go by all too fast. I look back at what happened ten months ago and it's the best way to tell how fast the next ten will go by. I am starting into my ninth month here in Tacna and so pretty soon I'll pass that middle mark of time here and when I leave. It hardly seems possible that the time goes so unfairly fast. I want to come home and all of that, but I want to feel that I've accomplished what I was sent here to do also. Things go up and down but are tending towards the upward.

From the standpoint of my health, I don't believe there is anything to worry about now. The doctors say I am in perfect physical condition (if they only knew) and that there is nothing to worry about. Last Tuesday morning I slept four hours and three into the afternoon. That made me feel a lot better. That night we went to the show and several other nights this week as well as seeing the World Championship Girls championship basketball games between Russia, Japan, Chile, and Brazil, that were held here in Tacna. I felt for awhile that I would go out of my mind with all the problems, but last week has relaxed my mind and the tension some. Another two or three months ought to see it through, and then I will be able to settle down to being just a missionary (I hope).

This last week I have had some problems walking as the place where I had my operation has been sort of weak and hurt some. It has hurt off and on all my life, but it has been worse lately. That has had some effect on the amount of work I've been able to do. Other than those details, I feel fine. I'll be glad when it's over though.

I'm happy to hear that you have arrived in Provo in good condition and that mother is coming fine with the baby. It will be good to see the little stranger in a few months. It sounds like the house is a good one, and that you will like it there. Are there any grounds to accompany it? Is it very near Morins? I guess it must be pretty close. Are you in Park Ward? That is a very nice ward, and I hope we are.

Dad, I hope that when you go to Springdale, you can stop of at Lucy's at 147 North 300 East, St. George, and get the books that I sent home. She said she got them. Also, could you talk with her, using your own judgment as to what to say? She thinks a lot of you and I'm sure you could give her life a little boost. She has apparently had a rough go of it lately and is a little discouraged. She is still waiting for me and seems to be pretty sure that she loves me. I don't know just how sure she is or how sure I am, but we will know shortly after I get back. Lately anything that smiles at me is pretty and lovely, etc. Did you ever feel that way? It will be good to get back to a normal life, though I doubt that I'll ever be normal again.

Now that you're back in Utah, I think my plans for a trip home will be a lot different. I guess I'll have to think it over some now. It will be a lot easier, that's for sure.

Those trips to the High Uintahs, Fish Lake and Boulder Mountain all sounded so far away and so unreal. I hope that we can bring some of them into effect though. It will be a lot easier with us all being together there in Provo. I guess now that you're there I will find something I like that they offer at the Y and take it. Everything seems to point to the fact that I'd make a good seminary teacher with farming or ranching at the side. I've thought a lot lately about being a doctor too. I guess that is another mystery that will be selected when I get home.

My book is coming along pretty well. It is a lot of fun to take out a few minutes now and then and put daydreams into reality.

It hardly seems possible that in less than a month the kids will be out of school. That makes it easier to realize how close the time is for me to be coming home. The summer here has passed so quickly and after the summer there, there will only remain the winter and we will be together again. I sometimes wonder who it is the hardest on and I believe most missionaries will agree it's harder on the mother and father and kids than the missionaries themselves. We think of it as little as possible except when we are reminded by you or have to write about it.

Between now and the time I go home there are about seventy missionaries that terminate their missions. Two of them are here in Tacna; one with four months and my companion with eight. They are starting to feel the effects of a long dry spell. I think it will about the same as it was in Piura and Callao when elders went home. It is too bad that elders can't work hard right up to the last day, but even those who want to at times can't because they have to prepare flights, etc.

Monday, April 27, 1964. We'll be through with April this week. Sunday went by really well, for a change. President Robinson was down. The president had asked him to talk to me and find out what was wrong with me. I guess I can't very well hide what I think or if I'm worried. We had about an hour and a half talk; talking about the elders; my girl; you; the branch; etc. President Robinson is a very understanding person and very perceptive. I don't think anything got past him. He asked me if I want a change (President Nicolaysen has given him charge as he usually does). He said he would surely hate to see me go right now, but that for my own good it might be better. Maybe I just don't see it, but everyone, including you who don't see me, tell me to be more careful with my health. I guess I had better. President Robinson is very displeased with the other three elders here and would like to just move them all out. Me too, but not for the same reason. He and the Toquepala members think quite a lot of me and say that we've done a tremendous work with all the obstacles there have been to overcome. I think as equally of them; many of them will never be forgotten. It has been a good association. Well, anyway, things may find me gone before the end of May. In a way, it would be a relief, in a way I would kind of like to stay. I'll feel partial failure if I can't see the presidency organized. One happy note, though, is that we now have men ready to fill the presidency. I'm going to have three counselors and prepare them all at once so they can take over just like a presidency when I do go. I'm working against time now, and have been for the last two or three months, realizing that this situation would come to where it has. The other organizations are now operating effectively and I don't think we will have any problems with them, except for minor problems anymore. That has really been a battle.

Say, mother, would you be able to send a few recipes on whole wheat bread, gravy and a few other nice little dishes that would be easy to make up. Oh, pizza, too. Boy I miss that.

I've about decided now that you are in Provo to just come right home after a few days in Mexico City. I can work for four or so months and save up money for school, and then during the summer do the traveling and thinking I want to. I was going to work in Springdale, but seeing as you will be so close, it wouldn't be worth it now, and I couldn't ride a bike that far during that time of the year. I had planned to wait out the cold down south and then come up peacefully, but I guess we'll just have to save that until next summer.

Well, family, I would like to write all day, but there are monthly reports to get in and I don't want to get behind on them. They are a big enough headache as they are.

Keep up the good spirits and have family hour, and love each other, as you have to be a good example to many other families. I love you all very much and appreciate what you are sacrificing for me. I had to cash a \$100 check this month. That should be the last big one. How many times have you heard that? Sincerely, though, it should be. Joe, write to me you boulder. Love as always, Lyman De Platt

LETTER 866 George L. Felton, Hyrum, Utah, April 28, 1964, Mr. & Mrs. Edward P. Lyman, Blanding, Utah

Dear Brother and Sister Edward P. Lyman, I am ashamed to think how I have neglected to answer your most welcome letter. I didn't realize it was so long since I received it. Please forgive

me and I promise to do better. There have been many of my friends writing since my wife passed on and I do forget to look over the letters I received so as to not miss answering them. I heard from Elder Kirk just a few days ago and he had been transferred to a new area but seemed to be in the best of spirits and always stated how he loves the work. He was when he first came out one of the most dedicated elders I saw while I was in the field. He seemed to take to us very well and we did to him, so a splendid friendship followed. I love the boy like I do my own grandsons. And my wife did also. I thank you for your kind words of sympathy and hope we may some day meet and get better acquainted. You must be wonderful people to have a [grand]son like Kirk. I will look forward to meeting you.

I spend quite a few days at the temple each week which helps to pass away the time & I feel like I am helping some one a little. I live just about seven miles from the temple so it is easy to get there.

We have a really good ward and stake here which I enjoy very much. My companion and I have been given five inactive families to work with as home teachers so we have a real challenge as much as some of those in the mission field. I have a son-in-law twenty miles west of here who has an eighty acre farm and has a good job besides so I help him with his planting and machinery repairs. I still love to work with the soil. Spring has been awfully slow coming this year so we are just getting a good start in the field work. Thanks again for your kind words and encouragement. If you are ever up this way, call in and see me and I promise to look you up if and when I happen to come your way.

Best, kind regards and may the Lord be mindful of you. Respectfully, George L. Felton.

LETTER 867a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Miss Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, April 29, 1964

Dear Miss Ruesch, how's it goin' honey? I am sure getting anxious to see you. I believe that the next ten months will go by about the time it took the last twenty to go by. Ten months seems like an eternity right now. What ya say? ¿Está de acuerdo? (You agree?)

You know I've been thinking a lot lately about what we were going to do for our honeymoon and knowing you I think you might just be in agreement with these plans. There are some mighty beautiful and romantic places to spend time together all through the west and I imagine even back east, but I never have had too much of a desire to go back east except maybe just once during my life. I would like to go back to Wisconsin, Michigan and in there, however, to see a little of the forest areas. I don't know how hep you'd be about a bike ride all over the Western U.S. next summer touching some parts of the Central States and up into Canada. It would be relatively unprofitable if we both didn't want to do it really badly. If we both had Schwinn racers, we could take it slowly or fast as we willed and spend maybe one, maybe two or up to three months traveling. That would of course mean we would have to get married in June or around there. That wouldn't leave us much time to decide if we both really loved each other or not, as we probably should have, but, I think within the next ten months we can pretty well decide that question.

The problem of money wouldn't be too bad to solve as you are working getting a lot of the things we are going to need for when we are married and I will have time to work after I get home for several months. We shouldn't need much over four or five hundred dollars to completely outfit ourselves with sleeping bags, utensils, bikes, etc. If we didn't want to do it on bikes, we might even be able to do it by car. I yearn to see parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, a jot over into Nebraska, the Dakotas, Montana, Wyoming, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, Northern California and parts of Utah.

I don't want to suggest anything that would influence what you would want until I know more or less how you feel on it and then we could start making definite plans. I want to see these places before we have a family and one way or another I will see them; with you or with my brother or by myself. I would rather do it with you though. Let me know in your next letter what you think about it.

You know you sure make me mad sometimes. It has been twelve days now since I heard from you again. I can forgive you this time because you probably waited to see what I would say, but boy you better not make a habit of it.

I don't know if I told you about my folks, but just in case, they live at 410 North 900 West in Provo. Dad is probably working at the Y by now as a head janitor over some of the buildings there. Mother ought to be having her baby within a few months now. It will be good to have another little one in the family.

Well, I'm going to leave this until I hear from you as I can't be of much value just babbling. I have a lot of plans that I would like to talk over but that takes time and will come later in the program I guess. I think I'll take a nap now.

May 9, 1964, well, as usual, when I put a letter aside I usually forget it, as you can see by the date, but it still talks about some of the things I think about even if it is completely opposite the first letter. So for your consideration I send it to you.

We went to the show in Arica yesterday and afterwards went looking for ponchos for our girls. They really have some beautiful ones over there. Do you have a particular color you like? If you do I'll get that. If not I'll get one I like for you. Honey, the time is going by nicely. Before you realize it the Canyon will be our courting grounds again. Hang in there, love ya loads, Lyman De Platt.

P.S. If you like I wouldn't mind seeing "all my love" again; if you really mean it; if not sure, be appropriate.

LETTER 867b Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, the family, 409 West 900 North, Provo, May 1, 1964

Dearest far away family, momentarily last week I lost dad's letters with your new address on it. So being a smarty. I tried to remember it and put 410 W. 900 North. Thinking about it latter, I remembered, finally, Aunt Rene's address 409 W. 900 N., so I knew I had made a mistake. I imagine the postman won't know we are related to the Morins, but you might get it. If not I'm

sorry it has been so long since you've heard from me. I didn't write Rene's address because I didn't have it and couldn't for the life of me remember it. I'll write this one as though you didn't receive my letter.

It's good to know that you are finally moved again. It had me a little preoccupied with wondering how you were doing. It relieves my mind a lot to know you are happy also. In all, I suppose we will be happier closer to the center of the Church.

A few questions: Have you kept my box of stuff in one piece due to all the moving? Do you still have my electric guitar?

I think you were pretty fortunate, dad, to get a job in such a nice building. Is your schedule 1-5, 6-10, a five or six day schedule? Are there responsibilities of advancing as supervisor over bigger areas?

Gene, I'm sorry I didn't get you a personal letter, but the time got by me too fast. You're going to be a young man when I get home. I hope you had a happy birthday. I'll be home for the next one, maybe.

I hope everyone gets on their feet okay so that the finals will be all taken in the stride of before. Hey, Joe, I've heard your high-school is pretty rough and delinquent for Utah. How do you find it?

Hey, Ed, how's it going? Are the "Beetles" a hit in the states like they are in South America? How's the homework coming? Or is it going? Write me you scoundrel!

If the motel doesn't sell before I get home, I might like to try my hand at making it work. To be truthful with you my heart isn't with the family in Provo. It stayed in the south. I know I'm young and still don't know a lot about life, even though I've had contact with it in the last five years. I'm still undecided on a lot of things, but my plans are slowly developing. I don't want to go to the Y even though it does offer what I want to go out in. I would like you to give me the financial position the motel is in, how much you owe on it, any debts that pertain to it, how much I would give you a month for running it, etc. And can you hold on to it for nine months and a little? I know the headaches it gave you. I know the problem of maintenance, but I've also got a dream and a very strong desire to succeed while I'm young. I've grown up a lot since I've been on my mission. I know how to manage my time, take successful shortcuts, and direct affairs of people; better than I did, but still a lot to learn of course.

I've talked over with my companion the possibility of correspondent courses and he discouraged me against doing it full-time so does this idea appeal to you? I run the motel from February (getting it ready, etc.) until September, at which time I come to Provo to take business management courses, etc.? I keep doing that from September to February until I graduate. May be that I can find the courses I want at CSU or Dixie. Or I could take a minimum of twelve units and drive it every day. There are any number of ways that would work. By the time a family started coming along when I got married, I would be started towards success. When the family was up to three or four, I would be graduated and could teach seminary during the winter and run

the motel during the summer. Of course, it wouldn't be easy for the first few years, but it could work.

Now supposing I did marry Lucy (I think she's back for good this time) she has the car, bedroom set, utensils, pots, pans, etc., and the furniture will be bought before I get home. She also has a T.V.: all paid for. She wants to work for several years and I'm sure that would be okay or until a baby comes along. I've got more or less all I want there. I'd be helping others learn the Gospel, I'd have a small farm (about as big as I want) I'd have a business where I was my boss, it could expand. By the time any children came along, the teaching and example of me and others would have transformed the motel, town, etc., into a better place to live. I love that area, it is close to anywhere I want to go and I believe I would be happy. I could do my good for the Church there probably better than in a lot of places. Will you think it over and write me back. The time is going too fast for me to not make any definite plans. I will be confronted with it much sooner than it seems and must start getting ready. I think I've finally realized what you've said to be coming true. My mind and heart are not with the family as they were. I want to have my own family, do something on my own, and prove my own worth.

Mother, I hope your baby comes along fine. It doesn't seem possible that we can grow up so fast and have our own children. It scares me but makes my happy to know that within several years I could a father, somebody with a purpose. For what is life? To have children that can serve the Lord. To leave a good name. If I do that I'll be happy. I don't want to be a great engineer making lots of money like my companion. I'll be content being a father that can support his children, a husband that is loved by his wife, a man of integrity in the community, a person who can be close to nature and write about it, a genealogist, a Church worker, a farmer, a teacher, a student of God. It will be hard to make those dreams come true, but I'm ready for the challenges. I've learned how to organize and I want to try it on my life.

I suppose this kind of stuff doesn't mean much to you kids, does it? It didn't mean anything to me before. I just did the things the folks said, trusting that there was a reason for all of it. Now it is confronting me. I hope you'll all be obedient to the folks. They love you and need your love. At times we may think parents aren't human, but they are. They are sad, happy; they love and want to be loved just like we do. They have dreams, many of which they've sacrificed so they could have us. It isn't easy for Mormon parents. People in the world go to shows or parties three and four times a week. They leave their kids, if they have any, with the maid, and act as they did when they weren't married. I hope you can all realize these sacrifices our folks make, and make life easier for them. They are worthy of every kindness we can do for them. Make this mother's day and father's day something that happens everyday. Okay?

The branch is progressing. We finally have it out of debt. That was a major accomplishment. All means of doing it weren't exactly, how would you say it, ethical? I've had several people call me a Jew. The branch presidency will have three Peruvians in it on the 10th. I will teach them rapidly and effectively and try to get them ready in one or two months, probably for July, if I'm still here. It has been a long and hard and discouraging experience, but the apex has been reached.

We have the Ward Teaching Program well organized finally. That has been a big headache. My companion and I did six of eight of our families today. So we're off to a very good start. Now to

dedicate more time to missionary work and more effective planning with the leaders. We have got it to where constant love and pray and vigilance will make it work.

Well, I'll close for this week. I love each of you very much and am longing to see you all again. Be prayerful and be a family. Your missionary, Lyman De Platt

LETTER 868 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 104-106 {PFRC Book 12}], May 3, 1964

Dearest Lyman, it was really good to get your letter, as we were beginning to wonder just why we didn't hear something. I'm sorry I didn't think about you not having Rene's address. As it was, guess we were lucky to get your letter, as you had the wrong address on it. You had 410 West 900 North, and it is just the opposite, as you will see by the top of this letter. I may have given it to you wrong, but anyway it was near enough to Rene's address (409 West 940 North) that the mailman knew where it belonged, as he had been delivering our mail there for a week or more. So, we were glad it got to us and didn't go clear back down there to you. I have received a couple of my letters back since I got here that went to that 303 to you.

We were glad to know that you were as well as you are, though it sounds like you are having your share of worries and problems, along with the rest of us. Bless your heart son. I'm sure the responsibilities of the branch are just about more than you can take at times, and there are much more mature and experienced men than you that have been in your position too. It's a real load for someone so young and when they are as conscientious as you are about everything, it is doubly hard. The Lord will surely bless you though son for all of your efforts, and I'm sure that whatever you decide is best that you do, everyone will feel all right about it. Glad that you could get some needed sleep and a little recreation to relax you. Do hope that the foot doesn't give you any more trouble and that it's feeling better now. I'm glad that President Robinson had a good talk with you and that he is so understanding. We will be interested and concerned to know how things go. Glad that you have some good men as counselors whom you think will be able to take over.

We are pretty well settled in our new home now. We don't have all the furniture we need yet, as we had to get rid of so much of it at Sandpoint, but we have enough to get by with for now. It's about nine or ten blocks to Rene's. We got a phone in so that helps a lot. We are on a corner lot and there is a lot of lawn, but no other ground for a garden, which we would like to have had (unless we decide to take up some of the lawn). We are not in Park Ward, but Rivergrove 1st or 2nd, I can't remember right now). Got all our meetings over with early today, as on Fast Day they have meeting at 9:30 A.M. and Sunday School right after – Priesthood at 8:00 as on other Sundays.

Dad didn't get a chance to see Lucy, son, but if we get back down that way again, we will make it a point to go and see her and get your books. Too bad she has had problems. Guess there will be time after you come home to see how you both feel, though one thing I should caution you on is not to make up your mind in too much of a hurry even then, as like you say you have been out

of circulation so long that anything that smiles is good for you. Did you ever hear from Maureen after she was married, or do you know anything about her?

Glad that you are enjoying writing your book. It will be a good experience for you and is probably relaxing to you. I have been reading some of Uncle Albert's writings lately, and he certainly has contributed his share. I guess he and Aunt Gladys are both pretty well, as are Grandma and Grandpa Lyman. We saw Grandma for just a little while after coming here, as she had been to John's funeral and stayed over to see us. The kids say she gets shorter every time they see her, as always one or two more have passed her up in height.

Sunday: Well, I didn't get this finished yesterday, so will finish it this morning and get it off on today's mail.

We have really had winter weather since arriving here – about as bad as Sandpoint, except we haven't minded it much. Here at least you can get around and don't have to worry about the roads and traveling so far. They have had rain or snow most of the days since we came and two big snow storms – the last one on May 2nd. Across the street from us there is a big beautiful apricot tree all in bloom and we commented on it so many times. The few days of warm spring weather we had really brought out the blossoms and we thought surely there were about a million. Well the morning after the storm two of the biggest branches were broken, the snow was so heavy, and it looked quite sad to see. They have really had the moisture lately, but I guess still not much in Southern Utah.

Leah Taylor came by here yesterday on her way back to Salt Lake from Springdale. She is going to take about ten days now and get her teeth fixed, and then she will go back to Springdale to spend the summer there. I guess things are really in a mess there, and I'm afraid we have practically sacrificed the motel by leaving it in the hands we did. We may decide to just take what Leah will give us for it and let her take over completely – haven't decided for sure yet. We are in a bind though and will have to do something to get us out. We've made our share of mistakes and evidently moving to Sandpoint without selling the motel was one of the biggest. But like Dad said, maybe it was the only thing that would get us back to Provo where we have felt like it would be a good place to be for a long time. I think once we get on our feet here, we will all be quite happy. Dad likes his job and you should see the building he works in – it is just fabulous. Some of the kids and I went up with him the other night and went through it with him. I was worn out just from walking through it. It's hard to imagine anything so big and believe me there is nothing but the best in it – quite a different place for him to work than Pack River Lumber. We just wish it paid a little more, but hope their little sideline ventures (the concessions stands) will bring in a little extra for the summer.

Joe still thinks he would be happier at Hurricane High and is trying to get us to tell him he can go to school there next year, but hope that he will make friends here before another school year and decide this is the best place to be. His geometry and chemistry are giving him a little trouble – much more than they did in Sandpoint, and we're sorry we had to move him in the middle of the year. McKay has also had a little trouble, but is coming along okay now I think, and the rest seem to be adjusting all right.

I'll have to pick out a few recipes and copy what I think you might be able to use. Are you getting rather tired fixing your own meals? Maybe if you are moved, you will have some help again.

A few more interruptions and maybe I'll be through. Had to stop and feed the family some lunch. All of them come home except Joe.

Guess I had better quit and get this in the mail – it's time the mailman was coming. Try not to get too discouraged with things son. Life is made up of problems and we are here to see how we meet them (someone has to remind me of this every once in awhile too). We love you for what you are and what you are doing and will be glad when you can be with us again. All my love, Mother.

LETTER 869 Edward Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 108-112 {PFRC Book 12}]

What a day! The sun is shining, birds are singing, etc. Sounds like its spring finally. I sure hope so because I've had my fill of winter. First we had three or four feet of snow in Sandpoint then we hit a snowstorm on the way down here and it snowed for three or four days after we got here.

I guess you've heard of our boat harbor deal; we rented a building down there from the city, spent about \$900 on machines and pop dispensers, etc., but will probably be able to pay it back the first year. We call it Pla-Mor for Platts and Morins.

It's quite pretty down here. We have the harbor right out in front of us and the river in back of us. On the other side of the river is a big swamp area with all kinds of ducks, pelicans, and other waterfowl. In it we counted forty-three pelicans one day. I quite like our house except for the fact that we don't have very much furniture yet. We've got a real lot of lawn but we don't have a spot for a garden unless we dig up some of the lawn.

We've been talking to a guy from Murray about the Motel and it looks like it's sold but he doesn't have enough money to give us much of a down payment if any.

The other night Joe and I went up to work with dad where a couple of guys paid us \$1.50 to \$1.75 an hours for four hours, to help them. And they will probably want us to come back for a couple of more nights. Afterwards we went through the Y center with dad. It's huge and has just about everything you could ask for: ping pong tables, pool tables, three or four huge ballrooms, bowling alleys, barber shop, three or four kitchens and a whole lot more.

I stayed home from school today because I've got quite a cold. In fact it's so bad mom wouldn't even let me have any milk the last couple of days (and that's miserable). I'm doing okay in school, in fact, I'm ahead of most of the kids down here (my classes are slower here than they were in Sandpoint). We only have eleven days of school left, thank goodness.

Last night they lit the Y up to the college. It was really pretty.

I've taken up painting as a hobby but I'm afraid I'm not going to make much of a painter.

How's everything going down south? Are you out of the presidency yet?

Do the girls still chase you or have you convinced them you're not for lease.

Well, only nine more months to go. I can't wait! Love, Ed.

LETTER 870 Elder Kirk Cook Lyman, 311 Lincoln Avenue, Alma, Michigan, to Edward and Irene Lyman, Blanding, Utah

Dear grand folks, the dentist bill is paid so you don't need to send any more money. I finished it off with your ten you sent last month, plus some of mine. Time is short today so I won't have time to write a letter, but this will suffice and I'll say all is fine here and the work is progressing fine and we are enjoying much success from our labors. Hope this finds you in good health and in high spirits. God bless you all, tell all hello. Love, Kirk.

LETTER 871 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 114-116 {PFRC Book 12}]

Dearest Lyman, as I told you, last week's letter – the one you sent us with the wrong address, did get to us, so we were glad for that. Fortunately, our address backwards is similar to Rene's and they knew our name there. Before I forget to ask you – you didn't send any registered letter home, did you? If so, please let me know right back. The mailman is checking on a letter he delivered from Peru to someone in this neighborhood that was registered, and he failed to have it signed for. When he saw my letter to you in the mailbox, he thought surely he must have the place he delivered the letter to, but I couldn't enlighten him any on it. So he asked me to check with you to see if there was anything you sent by registered mail that might not have reached here.

To answer your question about your things, your box of things has moved right along with us, and I have tried to put the things you have sent home with the rest, so it should all be intact. I thought maybe Joe would answer your question about the guitar, as he took it upon himself to sell it in Sandpoint to one of his friends. He sold it for \$30.00 and said he would make it right with you when you returned home. He actually hasn't received the money for it yet but is supposed to get some each month. This wasn't our idea at all, and in fact I didn't think he should, but he said he would take the responsibility of it and make it right with you, so he will have to do just that.

Dad works five days a week at the Y. He will have to attend quite a few nice functions there, such as the opening banquet for faculty and employees the other night and the Junior Prom they just had, so it is a nice job for him and not hard on him either, as he doesn't have much actual work to do. He is hoping that there will be a chance for him to work up over larger areas and into something more remunerative. Right now he is putting all his extra time in down at the boat harbor, helping Art with the concessions stand there. I don't know just how that is going to work out either, and he may just try to get another part time job to supplement what he has. They opened the shop down there yesterday, and of course everything was new and confused, as no

one knew much about what to do, but we hope that it will pay off. I tended Rene's family about all day while she was down there helping out. Dad and Joe were down there today and Rene will go a little later, so I will go up and take care of her family again. It's a bunch more than I'm used to but I'm sure we will get along all right.

You are talking about the motel, but think it best that you don't make any plans involving yourself with it, as we will almost surely have to get rid of it one way or another before you get back. I think if it doesn't sell before many months, that Leah will buy it back from us. If we could afford to hang onto it, we would for you, but it's almost out of the question. Lucy seems to be off and on enough lately, and I don't think it's wise to formulate any definite plans until after you have been home awhile. Quite a lot more could happen in nine months and until you have had a chance to be home awhile, I don't think either one would know your true feelings. This marriage business is the most important step you will ever take in your life and is something that can't be rushed (without regret) and I know you will both want to take the time to make perfectly sure of yourselves. Lucy is a nice little girl and it might work out – all I'm saying is wait until you have given yourself plenty of time after you are home. I would like to see you spend a little time home before deciding anything.

We're having a little nicer weather the past couple of days. Maybe spring will get here to stay before time for another winter. Timp is very pretty and has lots of snow on it. I imagine quite a lot of the fruit is frozen in the area, and Grandma Lyman said she was afraid there it had also frozen their fruit.

Glad that the branch is progressing nicely. It's wonderful to have it out of debt and is a big step forward I am sure. You will always be glad for the things you have been able to accomplish there as branch president.

Joe was feeling rather low when he wrote the enclosed letter. He isn't too happy here yet, though I think he will be in time. The school is big and he hasn't made too much of an effort to make friends yet (who does that remind you of)? His heart is in Springdale and Hurricane with his friends there, and he can't think of anything except going down there to work and to school next year. Don't know just what the outcome will be but don't like to see him get away from the family too soon. The others are adjusting fine and seem to enjoy their school work more than in Sandpoint. The schools here have a lot of school spirit and lots doing and I'm sure that if they will just put themselves out a little they can all have nice friends here too.

We have seen Uncle George and family and Denzil and Diane lately. George and Thora went to Salt Lake Friday night to spend a day with Hazel. They had all the family except Kenneth. Denzil and Diane came up to talk with us awhile last night. They live in Spanish Fork and he works at Geneva. It's nice to be close enough to see the family once in awhile. I hear Gordon Dee is up this weekend but haven't seen him. He is to be married next month, and they will live in Monticello, where he will work and she will teach school for one year, then he plans to go on to medical school.

Guess today you are putting the Peruvians into the branch presidency. Hope that all goes well in the preparation for them to take over the branch. It will be a relief to have it in their hands I guess when they are ready, and I'm sure it has been lots of work and worry.

Well, guess I had better get ready to go up to Rene's. The time is passing rapidly and soon you will be home to formulate and carry out your plans for your future. Until then, remember we love and pray for you always and hope you can keep up your spirits there and continue in the good work you are doing. With love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 872 Joseph Lyman Platt, 410 North, 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru

Dear Lyman, your last letter set me to thinking, the part about the motel, that is. I too have had ideas concerning just that. When school is out, I'm going to Springdale for a couple of weeks. While there I'm going to try to arrange it so that I can go to school there next year. I'd pay for my room and board and stay ½ at Phil's and ½ at Kenneth's.

When the motel couldn't sell, I wanted to quit school here, go down there and kind of help Leah Taylor fix it up, but mother and pa said no. If I can't work it out for next year then I'll probably stay there the whole summer. When you got home and if you did what you had in mind with the motel, I could be of great assistance to you. That, I feel, would solve various problems for both of us. I don't know that I like it here in Provo, any better than you did. Well, my times got to be used in so many different way that I'll say so long for now. Your humble and obedient servant, Joe.

LETTER 873a Lyman De Platt, Casilla 275, Tacna, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, May 8, 1964

Dear Lucy, I don't believe you realize just what you are getting into if you think I'm a real "good guy." For example my companion says I'm an extremist, too sensitive, a loner, have no sticktoitiveness, don't take suggestions, think too much about going home, etc. I'd dislike him if I thought it would do any good, but the sad part of the thing is that he is right. I'm doing my best, inasmuch as it is possible to change those characteristics; that undoubtedly will have a bad effect of our married life. We will have enough to overcome as it is without thinking of personal debilities. I think I am making some headway, however.

I was happy to get another letter from you this month. That makes three for the year. You're improving. Maybe by the time I get off my mission, I will be getting the regular one a week.

Lucy, before I go any further, I would like to get one thing clear. Confession to *your* bishop is mandatory by the Lord before you can receive forgiveness from His hand. Though I think deeply for you and want to be with you again, my hands are virtually tied until you talk to your bishop. In fact, I would have to go to the extent of saying that unless you don't feel that remorseful for the mistake you have made, to go immediately and fess up to it, you are going to lose my love and respect. For what it's worth, take it.

As far as you wanting to get married within the year after I do get home, I believe that will mainly depend upon how we feel towards each other when I do get home. As far as the financial side of it goes, it doesn't look like you are going to leave room for that typical missionary excuse, so I will have to revert to the simple statement of "let's wait and see." Maybe I'm bull-headed but I feel that major problems of personal category have to be "licked" by ourselves before we can think of entering into an eternal marriage covenant. There are other problems that we of force take on when we get married and unless we are personally prepared in every way possible our marriage could be a very unsuccessful one. You know that all the help you want can be had from me at any time by just asking. We don't have to be married to have me help you in that respect.

Please excuse me honey if I sound harsh and stone-hearted. I would like to talk to you personally for half an hour about all the problems that have arisen and help straighten them out. That time is too near in the future to pine about it so I guess it is best just to work on perfecting ourselves for the time being.

I'll appreciate that map of Utah and those pictures of Zion. I'm sure you will like the poncho also. I don't believe it will be too late to send the money when you said. It looks as though I may be here for a while longer.

I'm glad you finally broke up with Floyd. I thought you had a long time ago, but I suppose I was presumptuous in my imagination. You know that I'm with you in anything I can possibly help you with so far away. Although my mind has been affected somewhat by past events and although it would seem wiser to most to just let you be forgotten in myriad of memories, I still feel an inner desire to see what kind of girl you really are; one that builds me up, plays on my feelings, and demands all in one letter. You must be pretty sure of yourself to do that. Let me warn you don't be too sure. As I was sure and almost lost you so also is the possibility of a reverse. Frankly speaking as far as I'm concerned you are still walking on unsure ground. Be careful! Thank you for your likeness. You have changed a lot. I like the hairdo and you to, of course. Sincerely yours, Lyman De Platt, B.P.

LETTER 873b [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, {PFRS Book 12}] Misión Andina, de la Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Ultimos Días. Missionary Transfer Notice; Name: Elder Lyman D. Platt; Effective Date: May 11, 1964; your branch will be Arequipa I; Address: Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa. Your companion will be Elder Antonio Feliz; Your Supervising Elder will be Carl P. Hunt. Instructions: Pick up ticket to Arequipa in the Lansa Office in Tacna. Leave Tacna for Arequipa in the Lansa flight of Monday afternoon.

LETTER 873c Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to Lucy Ann Ruesch, 147 North 300 East, St. George, Utah, May 11, 1964. [This is the last letter that Lucy gave me. She withheld the last one that I wrote to her, saying it was cruel and harsh. I have no recollection of what I said, so I will leave it at that. The last few letters are indicative of what was happening at the time; her refusal to repent; her attempts to manipulate my feelings without changing hers. I walked away from this relationship with great sadness.]

Dear Lucy, just a short note to let you know that I have been changed from Tacna to Arequipa, up in the Andes. I will leave today as will my companion and one other elder from this branch. We are all going to Arequipa. My new companion is Elder Antonio Feliz; my address in Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru.

In a way I am relieved to be going as now I can relax and not have so many nerve-racking experiences and can just be a working missionary. I hope that these next nine months will be filled by hard work and a lot of baptisms also. With your support and love I kind of think that it will be a good end to a good mission.

How are you doing anyway? I hope that you got my picture and that you like it. I will be expecting to hear from you shortly. I will send you another letter from Arequipa so will close now; love ya loads, Lyman.

LETTER 874 Lyman De Platt, Tacna, Peru, May, 11, 1964, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah

Dearest Amistosa Familia, well the Longest Day has just arrived. I am packed and waiting for a transfer to Arequipa I, address Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru. My new companion is Antonio Feliz, a Mexican, a friend from the first days of my mission. I am replacing Elder Clarke, my first companion, who terminates his mission today. Together with me go Elder Johnson to Arequipa III and Elder Pitt to Arequipa II. Only Elder Shaffer is staying. I feel as though a million tons has been lifted off my back. All books are done, explanations left and reports turned over to the district officers.

We got notice of our changes on Saturday. After speaking for a few minutes, we all felt pretty choked up, but I guess it will be better for all concerned. I don't know if you remember the dream I had just before I came on my mission that I would go to Arequipa and have my most enjoyable experiences there, but at least the chance for that dream to be accomplished is now in effect.

It is hard to leave a bunch of friends like I've made here, and I know that I will really miss them for a long time to come. They are closer to me than any group of people in the states has ever been. I love them for their sincerity and desire to place the Lord and do what he wills them to.

In the same branch that I am going to are four old missionary friends: Elder Carter, who was in the seminar with me and who dated that youngest Lebaron girl in Genola. He is a good elder and has been a branch president. My companion is also a good elder and has also been a branch president. Elder Millward is a musical genius; I knew him in the seminar also. Hunt is our eupervising elder and also lives with us. I knew him in Callao and know that I can get along with him really well. They only one I don't know is Elder Willes.

I am going to Arequipa right during the rainy season. It is just starting there and it really rains during the winter. I will get a chance to use my raincoat now, if for no other reason.

Now for the bad news. I had about \$20.00 stolen last week and that left me with exactly nothing. Now with the plane ticket and everything that goes along with moving, I find myself in a bad

condition, so I will write out or better said, I have written out a \$90.00 check I hope it won't be too hard on you. I will make it last just as long as I can but not worry too much about trying to over save and thus injure my nerves. I believe this job will be a good one for me. It will be the first real chance I've had to show just what kind of success I can have in a working condition. All other assignments have not been completely conducive to a good working spirit, but I don't see any reason why we can't have a lot of success, now that no jobs in the branch will be required. Arequipa is completely controlled by local brethren.

Excuse all the mistakes, but I want to get this off so that you won't have to send any letters here before you send one to Arequipa. I guess I'll close for now. There are still a lot of people I want to say goodbye to. I'll write you in Arequipa. Love ya yearly more, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 875 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, May 12, 1964

Dear family, I am sitting in MIA right now listening to an old and much changed companion, Rolando González. Since his mission has terminated, he has been in the district presidency of Arequipa and has continually been active in branch work. This fall he will be going to the Y. I will get to introduce you to him. He and I just got through singing a duo "The Lord is My Shepard" (Jehovah me Pastor es). With his well-educated singing voice and my low one we did okay. He just interrupted me to ask me when Joseph Smith received the plates. I said "1824" obviously I wasn't listening. I got a second chance, though. He's a good teacher. It's so much more enjoyable to listen to a well-prepared Peruvian than to a well-prepared gringo.

Well, anyway, about the change that has been made. It has brought a lot of reunions. Elder Rencher from Callao, Elder Hart from Callao, Elder Hunt from Callao, Elder Feliz from San Isidro, Elder Clarke from San Isidro, Elder Carter from the seminar, Elder Millward from Lima, Elder Collings from San Isidro, etc. There are twenty-four elders in Arequipa. I know most of them one way or another. It is good to be in their presence in such a sharp place.

I saw Elder Clarke off last night. He is going to Puno, to Cuzco, Lima, and home. It was good to see him again.

The flight up here took half an hour on a "Constellation." It was much more interesting passing over the land this time. I could see from the air Toquepala, Moquegua, Tacna, etc., all the places I've seen, probably for the last time.

We got here about 5:00 p.m. and got unpacked, etc., and went to bed. It was a long, hard day.

This morning and all day long, we have been working and getting several good contacts. Arequipa is a lot different than Tacna. It is 200,000 in population roughly and is really scattered out. The people here are a pure Indian-Spanish mixture. No Negroes are found here. The section of town that Elder Feliz and I have is right in down town Arequipa. The main plaza has Roman-style arches on four sides and beautifully kept gardens with a fountain in the middle. The people are also a cleaner, more beautiful-looking race than anywhere I've been in Peru.

We live on the 3rd floor of an apartment about five blocks from the Plaza. The district president Elder Ferr, and his wife Marie, live on the 2nd floor and have class with us each morning. The branch is about twelve blocks from the apartment. Elder Feliz is 2nd counselor. The only job I'll have is teaching investigator class. I can use the rest.

Misti, a semi-active volcano sits just north of the city. It rises 10,000 feet above the city itself and is continually covered with snow. It smokes quite often. Several years ago Arequipa had a pretty bad earthquake. It destroyed every Catholic Church in the city except one. Even today you can see the majority of them dilapidated with their Saints broken in many pieces. It makes me feel good all over to see it. They give us a bad time here.

Arequipa sits at about 8,000 feet and is very dry air. I am having a little problem adjusting to it after being on the coast for a year and a half. It is nice to be here.

The streets are all cobblestone; the main streets laid with flat brick-like stone, the rest just plain stones.

The cost of living here is several soles under Tacna (about \$8.00) I think if you will let me cash a check the first of June I can get by on \$75.00 from now on. How does that sound? I've had to spend almost \$20.00 extra in moving, etc., and will probably be able to make it until June 1st. I hope to show you now that I do want to save for you, so it won't be so hard.

You know, if I stay here for the rest of my mission, I will get to take a train-trip to Puno, see Lake Titicaca, go to Cuzco, and then to Lima. We here in Arequipa are the only ones who can do that. It would cost less than taking the plane and would allow me to see the only part of Peru that I want to see that I haven't.

Also, I've got another good deal. I sold my guitar for \$6.00 (it was getting pretty beat up). They make Peru's best guitars here in Arequipa. I will be able to get one that is worth \$60 or \$80 in the states for \$15.00 or so here. They are amazingly cheap.

May 14th, 1964. My companion is sick today so I'm resting, studying, writing, etc. I feel so lost without a lot of people and problems to worry about. I feel vacant as it were I guess. I'll get used to it, though.

You asked me about Maurine. I thought in one letter I answered it; maybe not. She married a boy from Reno; a non-member. I wasn't shocked but feel sorry for her.

Hey brothers and sisters, good luck on your finals. I expect you'll write me when they're over. Okay? Fine!

Well, seeing as I've been here so short of a time, there is not much more to say. I hope everyone is feeling okay. I imagine you're glad spring is just about there. See you soon. Sincerely, son and brother Lyman De Platt

LETTER 876 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to Edward Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah

Dear Eddie: I got a letter from you today and I believe it was the most interesting I've had from any of you. It was sure good for you to write right during finals. I've been kind of lonesome as yours and Mom's and Joe's letters were delayed in the move almost a whole week. Of course I don't receive letters from anyone but the family anymore. People back home must not think too much about their missionaries. I appreciate the family's constant interest and love they've shown. I expect to show back that love double-fold in several months. We ought to have a lot of fun together.

I've had sinus trouble since I got to Arequipa. I've had headaches also because of the altitude. It's gradually passing though.

Friday: well all morning I've been making pizza for the six elders here, the supervisors from the other zone, the district president and his wife, and the lady missionaries. It has been a lot of fun and was good (looks like the tables have turned; now I'm making pizza). It's surely a change from Peruvian food. It will be nice to get home to mom's cooking again. Enjoy it.

That confection stand sounds interesting. I hope you make good on it. It took a lot to start it didn't it? How's it going? I'll bet it is in a pretty place.

They just finished translating *Jesus the Christ* in Spanish. It is interesting and beautiful Spanish.

Well, I guess you're out of school now. Have a fun vacation. I'll be home and gone maybe before you have another. Be good and write again soon. Thank you for the \$1.00. It came in an opportune time; your brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 877 McKay Lyman Platt, *et al*, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 120-124 {PFRC Book 12}], May 24, 1904

Dear Lyman De, I know it's been a long time since I wrote.

Gordon De Lyman came to see us today. He looks a lot different since I last saw him.

Do you think that you could send me a quite a lot of stamps from Peru? Ed gave me a stamp book with a lot of stamps in it and I want to get it filled. Ed has a lot of money in his collection and on one it says 1,000,000 on it.

In school we are going to have a play. I'm [in] the play. I am a scientist. It takes one hour or so to put on the play.

Dad and the boys planted a garden. It has [all the] vegetables you could think of except pumpkin.

I got new glasses Friday the 21st. I had my examination about ten days ago.

Would you tell me about what you are doing?

We stopped running the Pla-Mor drive inn. That is what we called the café down by the lake.

I wish you were home right now. School is almost out and I wish it were out now. Good luck.
Love, McKay.

Wasn't that sports disaster awful in Lima? Glad you weren't up there or involved in any way.

George and Thora were up last night. They came to get the stone they just had made up for Grandma and Grandpa Platt. It's really pretty – you'll have to see it when you get home.

Hope you are enjoying your new location and companions. Guess we will have a letter from you about the time this goes off to you. Dad went up to Salt Lake today and will try and see the Hardy's. Think one of the kids told you about their accident. Sister Hardy was on the way up there for an operation – surely too bad this had to happen. Guess she was really cut up. She had to have plastic surgery on her face to replace her nose.

I have a doctor's appointment in a few minutes, so guess I'd better not write more at this time not a very long letter, but will do better next time. We all love you son and will be glad for the time to come when you can be home again. Love from us all, Mother.

Dear Lyman, I'll bet it is a great relief to leave the office of branch president in Tacna. Just today we heard of the riot in Lima and of all the people that were killed. It is too bad that this had to happen.

The scout troop up here is very active. Boys that are a year younger than me are Life and Eagle. This makes me feel a little behind, so I am working on my First Aid Merit Badge. I cannot pass any merit badges until my scoutmaster gets word from Sandpoint on me. During the months of September, October and November I can get three badges a month, and I am going to try and do this.

I am working on my Duty to God Award. Last week there were five boys in our ward that received their Duty to God awards.

Bishop and Sister Hardy were in a wreck on their way to Salt Lake. Their new car was mangled and Sister Hardy had her nose shaved off. They rushed her to Salt Lake and she was put under plastic surgery for two hours. Finally they got her nose back on. We heard all of this from Sandra Barney who is going to the Y.

The M.I.A. boys over fourteen have formed a baseball team. I am their pitcher. It won't be too long until you come home will it? Sincerely yours, Gene

P.S. [in hand-printed words I would have written this letter, but I am not a very neat writer.

Dearest Lyman, Guess I'll use up the paper that the kids haven't used on these letters to conserve weight and space. I just don't get around to spending the time on your letters lately that I should. I'm spending so much time at Rene's with her little ones that it keeps me busy. They are handling the concession stand by themselves, as there just wasn't enough in it for all of us. So I'm just helping out with their children.

Don't know but think I told you that the motel deal fell through again. We also got word that the ranch hadn't sold as yet and was going back to the Streckers, so guess we lose out completely on that end. Hope that something comes up with the motel soon. Remember the Brewers in Springdale – they may want the motel, but not for a very big price. If not, guess Leah will take it back. We seem to be pretty good at losing out on all sides, but as long as it's just money, guess we shouldn't complain too much. Dad is looking for extra work to supplement his income at B.Y.U., as you know they don't pay too much. Guess Joe will be leaving for Springdale about this weekend to work for the summer if he can get a job. He has prospects of two or three so maybe something will work out for him. Dennett's have told him he could live with them. Hate to see him leave but maybe it will be good for him to get away for awhile. They just have the rest of this week in school. The school year has gone so fast.

Finally got to see Gordon Dee after all these years. He and Kenra will be married in the L.A. Temple next month and then live in Monticello, where he is working for County Welfare and she will teach school there next year. He doesn't know yet if he will go on to medical school or not. Also saw Joy and her husband recently. They are going to Jackson Hole again to work this summer then back here to school next year.

LETTER 878 Edward Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 126-128 {PFRC Book 12}], May 31, 1964

Dear Lyman, well school is finally out. Thank goodness, we got out Friday noon, today is Sunday. I got all A's except for one B+. Gene got the same and we don't know what Joe got because he left before school ended. He left Thursday on the 2:30 bus to go down to Springdale to work. He's been wanting to do this ever since we left Springdale. In fact in a couple of weeks ago, he and I hitched clear down there with our "little ole thumbs."

So far I've really enjoyed Provo (except for its size) and we really moved into a good ward. Our explorer post is really (really, really – it's getting out of hand) big and every one of the boys in it are eagle scouts (I'll be as soon as I get registered in this post). We're going up to Maple Dale for a week in the latter part of June. And then later this summer (in August) we're going up to the High Uintah's for a couple of weeks. I sure wish you were here to go.

This morning right after priesthood meeting the bishop asked me if I would give a talk on home teaching today in ward conference and so I've just finished that.

The river has been constantly rising and it's higher now than it has been for a long time. Gene, Dennis and I are going to go down it to the lake on inner tubes probably Tuesday.

I've been trying to get a job. But so far I haven't had much luck.

I want to ask you if you would save three or four coins of each denomination such as soles, etc. and a few of the bells then you can tell me how much they're worth and I'll send it to you if you could. I'd like them [to be] the oldest you could get them.

How are things going in your new location? Do you get any more of the food that you said you missed in Tacna?

I've been quite enjoying printing lately and the man up to the art shop said I have good possibilities but of course that doesn't mean much. And I can't see how my paintings are much good.

Dad traded the G.M.C. truck off for \$450.00 and [bought a] '55 Chevy, which will probably be Joe's when he gets back from Springdale.

Mom's tending Rene's baby Caroline right now because she's down to the boat harbor. They decided to run it themselves because we haven't much money to invest in it and all the earning will be put back into it.

Well, we'll see you in about nine months. Don't work too hard and don't let any of them little Spanish girls latch on. Love, Ed Platt

LETTER 879 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, May 26, 1964

Dearest family, I am back on schedule with letters from you. Hope you received all mine okay. I did send several things registered, but don't remember that I especially sent a letter. If it was from Peru and registered, it was probably from me. I'm sorry I can't remember.

I'm surely sorry about the motel. I hope it sells soon. I hate to see you lose on it too. I could run it without getting married. Of course if you sell it, it's sold and that's that.

May 27th: I received a wedding invitation today. Lucy and Floyd are getting married on June 9th, out of the temple of course. The reason, the usual. Man, what's the matter with people? Well, that will leave me free and wild when I get home. How does that sound? I get home the middle of March, work until June, take that bike trip, finish school at the Y and afterwards get married. I don't believe the Army will want me because of my foot. I believe that would be best.

I had some cavities filled today. I have four. The dentist is a member. Without anesthetics, he hurt me less than I have ever been hurt. He hasn't charged me yet. I believe the cavities were the cause of my headaches during the last several weeks.

Lucy will give my books to Leah Taylor. Will you get them? Thanks. I guess Joe can get them when he goes down.

We have started the first chapel in Arequipa. I will be here to see the majority of it finished if I'm here until February. The two chapels in Lima are done. They are starting some in Trujillo, Arica, and Chiclayo.

I'm enjoying tremendously my time in Arequipa. I'm in the district choir now. It will be fun to help build another chapel. We have some tremendously sharp people now who should be baptized shortly.

May 28th, 1964, We worked on the chapel today. We met a lot of really good people, many of whom when the time goes by will be members. This city is the best in Peru, as far as I'm concerned. It is going to have a lot of memories for me before I leave it. The people here are just tremendous. I love 'em already.

May 29th, 1964, Last night Sister Arnold from Salt Lake, and me, talked about ideals and desires. It was a good talk and I learned a little better some of the things I really want. I knew her in my typing class at the Y so we are already good friends. She waited for a boy on a mission and left before he got back and he is now waiting for her. It will be forty months in total. How about that?

Well, today's the big 29 again. Nine to go. Boy I don't know why it has to go so fast. Of course there isn't much to do but just work hard and be good.

Just nine more checks to cash and you'll do done with supporting me. The other boy's missions will cost more but I'll be able to help some. I hope each family has the opportunity to send a missionary, and I hope all my brothers and sister will want to be missionaries of their own free will. There are a lot of missionaries who are here because mom and dad said to come or because of social pressures. It makes it hard for the rest of us. I hope you kids remember that and don't go unless it's your personal desire. It would be to your sorrow if you did it any other way.

Tell me, does the house have a good place for studying? A place that is private, etc.? I'd like to stay home while I finish my studies. Of course I'd expect to pay for it. It will be fun to watch my brothers and sister go through the same stage, I've just been through.

Mother, I hope everything is coming along okay. I'll bet everyone is hoping it's a girl for Roberta's sake. I surely do. It will be nice to have one around the house again.

Being Friday, I guess I'll go to Ben Hur again. It has been a long time since I've seen it. You know it has been four years since we left California?

Can't think of anything else to say, except I love you all very much. I will be glad to see you again. I guess the ways things are now, I'll take a jet to Panama, Mexico City, and Salt Lake City. I'd like to spend about a week in total on my way home. Is that okay? Will it be possible to cash a \$75.00 check at the end of February to buy a few *recuerdos* and see a few places? If so, I'll pay you back when I start working. Love as always, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 880 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 378 {PFRC Book 12}], Misión Andina de la Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Ultimos Díaz, May 29, 1964, Elder Lyman D. Platt, Casilla 861, Arequipa, Peru.

Dear Hermano Platt: You left your assignment in Tacna just at the time Sister Nicolaysen and I went to the conference in Buenos Aires, and I have been tardy in writing you about the work there and your new assignment. I have been anxious to tell you that we appreciate the leadership you gave there and everything you did to help advance the work in the branch. I was pleased to note your report on branch teaching and think you deserve special credit with your companion and others who took part. From all reports I have received, the transition was affected very

smoothly, and this indicates that you must have had your records and other materials in very good order. I know that President Robinson and others in the district enjoyed their contact with you and appreciate the work as much as I do.

We think it is important after you elders have had these special assignments to lead in these smaller branches that you return to a situation where you can put the great burden of your emphasis on direct proselyting work, and I hope that you will now seek your greatest satisfaction in Arequipa through trying to become more skillful in the use of group teaching which will lead to a number of good converts. It is good to receive your reaction to your assignment with Elder Feliz and know that you are congenial and equally interested in accomplishing an outstanding work. May the Lord's spirit be with you constantly in all your righteous efforts. Sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President.

LETTER 881 Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Volume 3, pages 130-132 {PFRC Book 12}]

June, 7, 1964, Dear Son, to show you [that] you are never far from our minds, there are three of us who have dreamed you've come home and of your reuniting with us the past few days. I think we are all intensely missing you and will be tickled for your return.

We have had an exceptionally cold and miserable spring here in Provo this year, but today, Sunday, is warm and beautiful. Our garden is mostly all up and looks wonderful. We borrowed a plot of ground from our bishop which was given without cost. Should we be able to harvest what is planted, we'll be really fortunate.

Joe left Thursday for Springdale where he hopes to find work for the summer. Then, if things work out for him, he'll probably try and talk us into letting him go to school there. I hope his summer works out for him like he would want but I'm somewhat afraid it won't.

You're long since established in your new location, and are settled to the rigmarole, but I'm grateful you could leave Tacna and be relieved of your heavy responsibilities. It's all right to be saddled with responsibilities, but if they are required at your hands for too extended a period they become drudgery. I commend you for sticking to it till you were released.

How's the mission performing? Write and give us a résumé. How also are your guitar and piano lessons coming? Would really like to hear you.

Do you know of the whereabouts of Don Halterman? Where is he and what's he doing? Let's have a little mission news from you.

I've been trying, although not too hard, to locate a 2nd job so as to increase our income to more nearly balance our out-go, but as yet haven't succeeded. Perhaps I may, however, as the city needs one additional person on Parks and Recreation. The Y doesn't pay enough to make ends come together, so a little additional on the side wouldn't hurt.

You are not to take from this past paragraph that we find it difficult to keep you. The money going out to you each month is the best spent of our income, except tithing.

The Brigham Young University is in the process of excruciating growing pains (15,000 this year; 18,000 next) and I thought that if you've made your mind up to go here, you might do well to write and let them know when you intend returning and what your plans. If you propose to go somewhere else, which we'd feel badly if you did, you can disregard anything I've said.

We love you son and feel well in the knowledge that you are in the Lord's work. We have a happy home and wonderful reminiscences because of your work and dedication.

Write often and long – best of the Lord's choice blessings, your dad.

LETTER 882 Joseph Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Volume 3, page 134 {PFRC Book 12}]

Dear Lyman, well I guess you heard that Lucy got married (she had to). She married a kid seventeen years old and I'm glad she is finally out of the way.

As far as things go here in Springdale, they are pretty much the same. I'm working for Woodrow Wilson (\$1.00 an hour). I live in one of Allred's old cabins which I fixed up myself and which still isn't too neat. I do my own cooking on a hot plate and wash dishes in the bathroom sink. My toilet doesn't work, and I just got a shower fixed. I do my washing down at Madsen's Laundromat. I spend a lot of money on food and so probably won't make to much this summer.

I got a car, a '55 Chevrolet. It is pretty nice.

About our trip. It is a great idea and excellently planned, but it does show some problems. I wouldn't have any money saved up after going to school all year, and I hardly think I could afford not to work that summer, as I would need money for college and my mission. However, I would like to try it, if we can work something out.

I want to go to school in Hurricane next year if I can, but I don't think it will work out. Well, write some more. Joe.

LETTER 883 Roberta Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Volume 3, pages 136-138 {PFRC Book 12}]

June 7, 1964, Dear Lyman, I'm sorry that I haven't written to you for awhile. I've been going to write you a nice long birthday letter for quite a while. Today is Sunday. In Sunday School I was asked to give a talk. The subject I chose was "Home."

How is my big brother getting along? You're almost twenty-one years old. Now you are a young man in the mission field.

Our family has been just fine lately; except when mom, Gene, Ed and I were sick with stomach flu. Now we all feel better.

Mother is getting along just fine. It won't be long now; the 9th of July. Mom has been tending Aunt Rene's baby while she works down at the lake. Mom's making a rug, and a blanket. The blanket is for the new baby. She already has one blanket finished. It is really cute. She made Aunt Rene a blanket for her baby too.

Daddy is supervisor over some boys at the B.Y.U. He is still trying to find more work. He doesn't get quite enough money at the Y.

I guess you know Joe has left for Springdale. He left the 28th of May. He rode the bus to Cedar City. From Cedar he hitch-hiked to Springdale.

Ed and Gene have a paper route. Ed has got his Eagle. The only thing he has to go to court of honor first. Ed will be in 10th grade this fall. Gene will be in 9th grade.

I really enjoy Provo. I like it better than any place we've lived. I'll be going to Junior High next fall. I've been making a doily in Primary. I've got a lot of really nice friends here in Provo. They only live about a block away.

McKay is going into 4th grade. I guess you know McKay wears glasses. Gordie is getting big. We've got a sand box for Gordie. It's made out of a big tire. It's really nice for him.

Well I can't think of much more to say, so I'll say goodbye. Your Sister, Roberta Platt.

LETTER 884 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, June 8, 1964

My dear family, I imagine that the time is going by as fast for you as it is for me, but still the work must progress and advance properly.

My companion and I have had a tremendous week. We have gotten sixty hours of actual proselyting and given twenty meetings. It is a mission record of which we're proud. Also to top it we had a baptism. We are trying for eleven in June.

We gave a 1st lesson to Sr. Guzmán. He took it very well and promised to be baptized. We set up a meeting to teach his family Wednesday; he said he wouldn't be able to make it, and gave excuses. Well, we went back and the family was waiting. Whenever one of the families had a little problem accepting a point, I'd turn the lesson over to him and he'd bear such a strong testimony that the family would be converted. They had a fifteen-year-old nephew there who couldn't accept the fact that the Pope wasn't "it" so we gave it to his uncle and he had the boy so convinced in ten minutes that he'll never be the same. We asked the boy to give the prayer, and now he's the one most convinced. I felt the Holy Ghost come into the room during that prayer. It was strange too because he had already been there during the meeting. It was as if the personage Himself was present. The family consists of a father, mother, daughter (11) and boy (9). It will be the first family I have baptized with any of my companions during my mission, if we get them.

The kids came through with some answers that made us look like fools. Undoubtedly it was the most spiritual experience of my mission. Already my dream of Arequipa as the most rewarding part of the mission is coming true. You can imagine what a week of twenty baptisms will do when you're used to having five or six. President Nicolaysen said he expected this family to be the example of Southern Peru and I don't believe they will forget this week and its influences on the other missionaries for a long time. We hope to be equal to it next week, although twenty meetings only come if everything just falls in place. We still expect to remain examples for the other missionaries. It's fun.

Now for a few quotes from some letters. "Dear Hermano Platt: you left your assignment in Tacna just at the time Sister Nicolaysen and I went to the conference in Buenos Aires, and I have been tardy in writing you about the work there and your new assignment. I have been anxious to tell you that we appreciated the leadership you gave there and everything you did to help advance the work in the branch. I was pleased to note your report on branch teaching and think you deserve special credit with your companion and others who took part. (We left the 2nd week of the month with 100%). From all reports I have received, the transition was affected very smoothly, and this indicates that you must have had your records and other materials in very good order. I know that President Robinson and others in the district enjoyed their contact with you and appreciate the work as much as I do...."

Brother Zeballos, now secretary in Tacna, sent his love and said he did really realize how much I meant to him and the help and support I gave him until I left. He is very happy in his calling.

Another member says many people in town have felt concerned about what had happened to us.

I've met several people here I knew in Tacna who want me to go back. The Farnsworth family came up and took my companion and me out to dinner. It was so good to see them again.

The mission is now in the process of rapid expansion. Apostle Kimball is here now and what he says will determine if we open up Bolivia and Ecuador now or later, whether we have welfare farms, schools, pasteurization plants now or later. Most of it will probably result in the positive.

The barracks for the work missionaries are nearly done and the chapel ought to begin next week.

Peru has had about 600 baptisms now, making over 4,000 members in Peru. It is prophesied by Elder Kimball that Peru will be the center of the Church for this side of the continent. Two temples are now prophesied on the Pacific and two on the Atlantic of South America within a few years. Thousands of people are ready to join the Church in Peru right now. Before I leave we should have 6,000 members, nine chapels done or started; when I got here there were 1,200 members and no chapels except the *gringo's* chapel in Toquepala. I hope the other kids get to come here because it is prophesied that Peru will be the place where the greatest blessings towards the Lamanites are fulfilled. Apostles are prophesied to come out of those we are now baptizing. A lot of blessings are in store for the missionaries who work here.

I've been impressed this week with the reason why they will become such a great people. They are teachable, humble and once convinced are a great people. Now for some poems:

Dear Dad:

The value of a soul as yours compared to the entire world
To me is priceless; as it were a banner e're unfurled
A light to guide in days of woe; a hand to lead the way
To make the path on which I go a joyous one each day
Your loving words, with firmness though that come in force and might
Direct the way and make it so to see through day or night
And so to you I pledge my love until the end is done
To you, my father, a vow above, from your loving son.

Dear Mother:

Written in the Book of Life in letters bold and clear:

A mansion for her majesty to the end of every year

For thanks of deeds: each one with love, her life prepares this home above
She lives a life; devotion *fiel* from the years of her young bridal veil
A princess, wife, and now a queen; her only wish a family clean
Six worthy sons, two damsels fair; her gift of life; each one her heir
The wealth she leaves is in her life, a worthy mother, a loving wife.

I'm enjoying my mission very much and am happy to be serving the Lord during this time. I'll close for now. Thanks for love, your son and brother Lyman De Platt

LETTER 885 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 386], Misión Andina de La Iglesia de Jesucristo de los Santos de los Ultimos Díaz, June 11, 1964

Your branch will be Arequipa II, address San Francisco 301-A #C. Your companion will be Elder Rail, your Supervising Elder will be Elder Dahle. Move over to the other apartment early Thursday morning. I understand that you could have a lot of investigators. If you feel that you have any that will not be baptized at your leaving or even that will delay their baptism beyond good judgment, it would be wise for you and Elder Rail to continue with these people even though they are not in your branch. Carl Hunt, Mission Presidency.

LETTER 886 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, June 12, 1964

Dearest family, when will things slow down to a normal pace. I'm getting to see the end there way too close and don't want it that way; however, I'm ready to meet it now. I know what I want and when I want it. The other night I had a dream and it impressed me so much that I stayed awake from 3:00 on thinking about it. Anyway, the conclusion I've come to is that I shall be a psychologist probably, centering my studies in counseling of marriage problems. Now here's the think. We have here in Arequipa two lady missionaries that are the two finest girls I've met. Really, they have the qualifications (all of them) I've looked for. One goes home with me and the other a year later. The later one I found out has graduated from college (major in Psychology) we'll see what happens. It's so good, though to know what I want to be finally. This profession will keep me in close contact with the Church and could work very nicely right along side with it. What does my family think? They have a good course of it at the Y. It would be very rewarding spiritually and financially and would keep me close to the Church.

I am now working in Branch II here in Arequipa. My companion is Elder Rail from Long Beach. Elder Feliz went south to Arica. My box number is still the same. It is fun working in different areas for short times. I'm the Sunday School Superintendent here and the pianist, so am busy.

I had a very happy birthday. The lady missionaries bought me the best cake, sang me happy birthday, etc. They are really sharp. I've talked to all of them, the district president's wife and various other people and they all agree that nowadays to be a good wife you either have to have been a missionary or served in the missions (lived in the missions) or be a convert. My mind is made up on that score. I hope to come home and study for five years; I will be twenty-five, the lady missionary's age twenty-three will be coming home then; I will be ready.

President Tuttle and President Nicolaysen feel it best to wait four or five years, depending of course on how old you are, school, etc., after a mission before getting married. "Play the field, get what you want." So I think I'll do just that. Anyway, I also had several other parties with cake, so, I'm about partied out. I actually feel different than when I was twenty it strikes me now that really I'm on my own. I have to make all my final decisions and in the next few years these decisions are those that affect most of the eternities. I will want to counsel a lot with you and my bishop, stake president, grandparents, etc. Everyone here says I look the part of a doctor with my dark glasses, bowtie, and white top coat. I've had some experience lately with counseling young kids on problems with each other. They say it's easy to talk to me, so maybe the starting requirements are met.

We had one baptism last week and should have some in the near future. It is rewarding working here in Arequipa.

Yesterday we went down to the International Club and played tennis. We played some twenty games. It was a lot of fun.

Checking up on the next check; someone took my Bible (\$8.00) also the maid absconded with \$2.00. I will need about \$4.00 for teeth repair and this move put me behind again. I may have to

go to Tacna to help Elder Taylor straighten out a few problems. I will need \$10.00 for that. Will it be possible to write out \$100 this month? I don't like to do it but I'm checking with you first.

Things are looking up all over down here except I'm constantly thinking of Sister Arnold. She is one of the lady missionaries. I knew her at the Y. Ever since I got here I've felt sort of funny. I wrote and told the President although I think moving me to Branch II won't help any. I still see her too often. The only problem is she has a boyfriend waiting. According to her companions, she is very insecure in her thinking, however; doesn't know what she wants. Sister Basil said that Sister Arnold really thinks the world of me which doesn't help my feelings any. I've tried to force them out of my mind, telling myself it's just because I'm a missionary, she's older than me, has a boyfriend, everything I can think of, but nothing works. She's the one who goes home with me. She lives in Salt Lake. Maybe the Lord knows what he's doing, but I don't.

I'll see if I can find McKay a pen pal. The set up for studies there sounds okay. It is going to be fun staying at home a little longer.

Well, so much for now. I love you all and hope and pray the Lord will keep and bless you. I'm waiting to hear what (it) is: boy; girl. Keep your faith in the Lord on my behalf. I need it. I'll pray for you always. Love, your son and brother, L.D.

LETTER 881 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, June 12, 1964

Dear Father, you know I was checking on flight schedules and prices, etc. From Mexico to Salt Lake or vice-versa, it costs \$250.00 for two or \$500.00 from Salt Lake to Mexico and back by Western Jet Airlines. You mentioned a year ago you would like to meet me in Mexico City. I was wondering what your plans are now considering things that have happened recently. I would be willing to forego that trip on a bike if we could spend a little time in Mexico City. Now that I know what I want to do, the main reason for the trip is out. Also, for returned missionaries there is a mid-semester course that is accelerated to allow for a full semester's work. It starts about the last or middle of March. That would give me a week or so. I don't know, though, I'm going to need to work until September to put myself through. I won't have any money to my name when I get home. There are various possibilities. I could be married before the year is over; I certainly hope not though. I still have a lot of grazing to do along that line. I need to be certain. I don't want to have to blame any failure of mine on my wife, more to give her credit.

You know, I believe I've found the gal you told me to find. She even looks like mother. Elizabeth May Arnold is her name. Of course I will have to find out after the mission, but it would be interesting. Her folks are going to meet her in Mexico City. Just a thought. What do you think?

Two more of my companions went home this week. I am the oldest now as far as seniors go. My other companions have been younger.

How is everything coming? I hope you are enjoying the work there. I guess spring is about ready for summer isn't it?

What do you think of me as a Doctor of Psychology and a seminary teacher? Also, for \$45.00 when I get home, I can get sixteen credits of Spanish (a minor) by taking a few tests. Write me soon. Your son, Lyman.

LETTER 882 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, June 12, 1964

Dear family, here it is Friday night. We've been to the Club this morning playing tennis. Thursday night after work we went to the Club and bowled two games. We also made some good contacts with some Argentines. After tennis today we came home, got ready and went to a show and this evening we went to district choir practice. My companion and I are the only two elders in the choir. We've also prepared an Elders Choir that will sing in District Priesthood Meeting tomorrow night. We are having the ground breaking for the chapel tomorrow and the district choir is going to sing there and in district conference. It has been a lot of fun practicing.

Hey, if I sent a tape home, would you have anywhere where you could take it to listen to it? All the elders have sent home tapes since I got in Peru and if you'd like one I could get it made up.

I bought a small map of the USA last week so now I can see exactly where I want to go on my trip if things culminate that way. It will really be a lot of fun I'm sure.

The more I think of it the more I like the idea of going out in Psychology. Also, the more I think of it, the more I'm inclined to believe that marriage of necessity must be postponed. I'm not ready psychologically, and after I get out of college so much more progress and right family conditions could be had for the children. I think I'll just shop around for several more years. It's going to be fun inviting girls over to the house to make pizza, popcorn, etc., have you give your ideas on them and *en fin* have a good time, study hard, play hard, have some good times with the family, etc. You'll have to forgive me if I sound somewhat trunky. All my old friends only have two or three months to go and airplane plans, vacations, school enrollment, marriage, are all in the air. It is so short a time before I do come home, too. I hope the Lord will bless me, so I can endure to the end and be a good missionary. I'll write more Monday, with love, Lyman.

LETTER 883 Kirk Cook Lyman, Michigan, to Edward and Irene Lyman, Blanding, Utah, June 15, 1964

Dear folks, seems like some time since I've written to you and if I put it off any longer, I won't be able to stand myself, so I best get this off my mind. I keep deciding to write each time Monday rolls around but things keep popping up and I always seem to get to bed that night without it written.

I have in front of me a letter dated May 13, so I don't know if it is your latest one or not. It's been so long since I wrote; I don't know which one I answered.

This will be rather short too, as I have a lot to do before we prepare to go out for the evening and meet our people.

Missionary work is going along fine here. This coming Sunday our home Sunday will be formally organized and this will mean that the members can enjoy the sacrament and this will give the new members a chance for participation in the conducting of the services. If things continue as they have for the past two months, we'll have our own little branch before anyone will be aware of it. Since coming here I've been privileged to baptize ten wonderful people, all of whom are active, and one man is going to be Assistant Sunday School Superintendent. He's been sustained as a teacher in the priesthood and only been a member about two months.

Health wise, I'm still having a few problems. The sinus bit is bothering me again, and I suppose I'll have it from now until the end of my mission. My back is okay except for once in a while it pains me. Otherwise, I'm okay. I think I even gained a couple of pounds.

Not much news from home. I haven't heard from mom for I don't know how many months and just heard from Dad a week or two ago. I guess he's about the same health wise. I don't think he'll ever get over having the ulcer problem.

Well, I've got to go put spark plugs in the car so I should close for now. May God bless you always. Love, Kirk.

LETTER 884 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, June 19, 1964

Dearest family: it is with much happiness that I write to all nine of you and am so happy that Irenecita came to us without too much trouble. I'll bet everybody is really happy to receive her and mother back home. I'm glad the poem was appropriate.

I really feel sad that King was lost. I really loved the guy and wanted so badly to see him again. I thought of how Alma disappeared and it immediately came to my mind that the Lord was being generous to us and was letting King come back to him in peace without having us feel the sorrow of his death. I know we will have him again, though; I'll be content at his departure.

It's Saturday night and we've successfully had the ground breaking service and Priesthood meeting. Also both of our choir showings came off fine. The priesthood one was especially good. The president enjoyed very much the rich deep base sound we gave off. It was fun.

You know, I'm kind of feeling lonely and sad tonight. I think it has many origins: an unsuccessful week, the elders have been playing trunk music, I feel bad about King, I'm getting close to a lot of big decisions, etc. It will pass tomorrow, but I suppose these feelings will come a little more regularly as the time approaches to go home. I really don't want to come home for many reasons, yet I want to see you all really bad like.

We took some flowers over to Sister Arnold today. She's in bed with bronchitis. They (the lady missionaries) are all so nice and appreciative of what we do for them. It has been a good relationship and one that has helped us all spiritually very much. As soon as Sister Arnold gets better she will be going to Chiclayo (up north) with a greenie. They will be the first lady missionaries in Chiclayo. Sister Bosil and Sister Kelly will be the only lady missionaries now in Arequipa.

Well, I guess I'll go to bed. It's been a long day and I'm pretty well bushed. I'm feeling fine, though, no sickness. Having exercises every day sure helps a lot. Good night. I love you all very much and am glad to have a complete Mormon family to live in.

Right now I'm in a Sunday School executive meeting. The mission coordinator for the Sunday School is talking, but I've heard his line before.

The conference this morning was the best district conference I've been to in Peru. There were six elders ordained or accepted, the district presidency was completed, as well as the Primary, M.I.A., Sunday School and Relief Society organizations. As of yet there are no high councilmen in the district. The only place there are is in Lima where they have eight. The districts all over the mission are really progressing.

I believe the choir did okay today. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. It was the first time the district has had a choir. We surely enjoyed singing.

Well, it looks as if Sister Arnold will be leaving this week for Chiclayo. She is feeling a lot better.

Anyway, the work here in Arequipa is going forward. It's hard to see it in daily work, but during a conference as this one, you can't help but be inspired to the fact of progress.

My companion and I expect to be having some good results this next while. I surely feel confident that many people are ready.

Well, I guess it's time to close this one off. Thanks for giving me another sister. I'll need twelve more baptisms now. Sincerely your son, Lyman D. Platt.

LETTER 885 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 140-142], June 21, 1964

Dearest Lyman. It's 8:30 this Father's Day Sunday evening. The kids are downstairs watching television. Dad just fell asleep on the front room couch and our baby girl is asleep in her little crib. I came home with her Friday afternoon. The family had the house all cleaned from top to bottom and they were all glad to have us home. The baby has spent these two days sleeping peacefully between feedings. I've been up quite a bit at night with her both nights, but I'm sure she'll adjust to that too soon. She's such a tiny little thing – you wouldn't believe how little. I know we're going to enjoy watching her grow. I'm feeling fine, and though it's hard not to do too much these first few days at home; I'm going to try not to overdo.

This check I'm sending in from Grandma Lyman (\$10.00) and Aunt Cretia (\$5.00) I'm sure you can make good use of it and I thought it was really nice of them to give it for you. Go ahead and write out your check for the amount you need. I'm glad someone was there to make your birthday a happy one. We certainly didn't do anything for it.

It's nice you feel you know more about what you want to do now. Sounds like it could be an interesting and rewarding field and would probably suit you better than a lot of others. I'm sure you are entitled to inspiration on these things and if you still feel the same way when you come home, it will probably be right. As for the lady missionaries, sounds like one elder has really changed his mind about them since he went out. My advice for now is to keep your mind on your work as much as possible, pray for guidance in your affairs and remember, if you do your part well and keep the commandments, then the Lord is bound as He says to give you what you want. Remember too that these are the kind of plans you don't want to make concrete at all at this time. But I'm sure you realize all this and are using your best judgment in these matters. Both my brothers and my sisters married fellow missionaries and if you do the same, it won't be surprising. I'm sure it's a wonderful place to meet your mate. So we'll all pray for you son and I know the Lord will help you work things out.

Joe wrote a short note saying he made it to Springdale okay. Didn't find anything of King and neither have we. Makes us feel really badly at losing him that way.

We're having lots of rain up here and not too much summer weather yet. The garden is all up and growing good though so we're looking forward to fresh vegetables some of these days. Dad brought a few radishes home.

It's bed time, so guess I'll say good night for now son. We love and pray for you always, Mother.

LETTER 886 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, June 26, 1964

Dearest family, Friday again, letter day. Today we plan to go out to the chapel site and start building the chapel. The majority of the elders are going to go today, then our branch is coming back to the apartment and we're going to make some pizza. After that we're going out to the airport and see some elders off and meet some that are coming up from Tacna, then we're going downtown to a member's house and listen to records for a few hours and then we'll work in the evening.

The other night we had a big fund raising party in branch I. It was a dance to celebrate "Indian Day." It was very successful. A lot of members and investigators went, really enjoyed themselves. We also made about S/1000 or \$40.00: really good.

Presidents Robinson and Brown were up a few days ago to Arequipa. I ran into them briefly. They said two of the brethren we had worked with in Tacna were being made elders next Sunday and another inactive member we had re-activated was Sunday School Superintendent and would be an elder in three months. That will double the elders there. President Robinson said he wished I was back there as not much progress has been made since I left. It has been over two months since they've had a baptism.

Roberta, I'm sorry I didn't get a letter off sooner. I kept thinking about it and each day was going to write but it got by me. I hope you had an enjoyable birthday. I don't remember if I told you

but Sister Arnold made me a cake for my birthday with twenty-one candles on it. I've had cakes both years for my birthdays down here.

Anyway, about President Robinson. He is taking his girl up to the Y next month. I may send some books with him. I want you to meet him. He's really a spiritual giant. Folks, I'm getting to feel like I don't even want to come home. All my friends are here. All the letters I get (except yours) come from my brethren and sisters here in Peru. President Tuttle encourages elders to come back after college. It certainly would be nice.

I was checking up on a stop in Mexico City just out of curiosity so I'd know what to tell you. I would like to spend five days there, see all of Mexico City, Acapulco (three hours away) and some of the ruins up in Yucatán that would take several days. All this would be relatively inexpensive and if I could write out a check the last of February I would repay it after I got home. It will be the chance to see the Mexican gala, the romantic floating gardens of Xochimilco, the Bull arenas, the University, and all those places I've read about since I studied Spanish. If I could see that, someday Argentina, Canada and Alaska, I will through seeing places I want to see. The Old World doesn't draw my attention like these places do. It would be such a lot of fun and a good way to terminate my mission.

We have been working hard this week and have some good investigators coming along. It's sure a lot of fun teaching the gospel.

The night of the fiesta there was a lunar eclipse on a full moon. We watched it go in and out. Elder Pitt and Elder Gould were going to hit an off-night flick and just as they were entering they saw it going into the eclipse (not knowing of it beforehand) so they came to the party instead. I guess they thought it a bad omen. I don't know how often they have a full moon eclipse, but it's rare isn't it?

I believe I will have to have new lenses made for my glasses next month. I don't wear them much because they aren't strong enough and give me a headache. I think it costs about \$12.00 here to have lenses made. I didn't receive okay or no on cashing that check, so I cashed it. I hope I can repay you back for what I'm spending by helping others on missions.

During our missionary conference last Monday, President Nicolaysen said that Elder Kimball had asked a lot of questions about many phases of work here and Bolivia and Ecuador, but hadn't committed himself. They all went to La Paz however, and Elder Kimball was impressed. Who knows! Welfare farms, dairies, schools, etc., are rumored for Peru shortly.

I have about one hundred more slides made up. I believe I've taken fewer pictures and seen more places than anyone in the mission, but those I've taken have turned out pretty good.

We saw Sister Arnold off last Tuesday. She surely didn't want to leave.

Your son is well, and healthy and happy, although yearnings for home come more frequently now in my dreams.

I was wondering when Joe got a car. What type is it? I hope he uses his brains about it. I've written the rascal three letters in the last two months and have received no reply. It kind of discourages my desire of having him along with me on my bike trip if I make it.

You'll probably be having some of my friends step in now and then starting between school and when I get home. Everyone seems to be going to the Y in the fall of 1965. We ought to have some pretty good get-togethers.

Hey folks, how would you like to plan on a lot of double dates with girls I go with when I get home? I can think of nothing much more fun. We could make pizza sometimes; go to the show, bowling, miniature golfing, etc. I really would like to do that, and with my brothers too. I also plan to date my sister before she gets hooked up with anybody. I've always waited for that time when I could take her bowling, playing tennis, etc. Memories will be made and links united even more abundantly in these next ten years. I hope we can all take advantage of them. Dad, I've longed to do things with you, too; hunting, fishing, just being alone together, like Uncle Albert and Grandpa Platte Lyman were. I want these memories so I too, can write about them. My books are going slow but well.

Well, I'll sign off this week. Please write often. I could even use that extra build-up two letters a week would bring. I'd answer back.

I love you all and pray constantly for your firmness in the faith and for your good health. Love as always, Lyman De.

LETTER 887 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, July 3, 1964

Querida Familia, It is Friday again and I have a lot of things saved up to talk about. We don't have much time as we are going out to work on the chapel with President Nicolaysen. He is here for today and tomorrow, and will be interviewing us tomorrow.

First of all I hope you'll send my love and thanks for the \$15.00 the grandparents and Aunt Cretia sent. They came just in time. I've been having pretty bad headaches, so I decided it must be my glasses. I went to the optometrist and after a thorough examination he said my pupils were swollen and I had better have my head x-rayed for concussion or something similar. He recommended me to a doctor who said I had better have a shot of white liquid in the vein that goes to the head and they would have an x-ray taken as the liquid entered all the cellular parts. Well, that night I prayed to Heavenly Father telling him I figured all of this was unnecessary and told Him I had the faith he could help me if He figured it was okay. It was the first prayer I've ever had answered immediately. I felt a tranquility come over me and an assurance that the Lord would answer my supplication. The next morning I woke up and for six days I've felt fine. I've always wanted to know if my faith was such that if I felt a thing was necessary I could ask the Lord and have it done. I'm very thankful to the Lord now as I have a stronger conviction in what I can do which is necessary to be a good missionary.

Mother, thanks for your advice telling me to keep my mind on the work. It is hard at times to keep the mind completely on the work, but is so necessary. I love the work and want so badly to

do my best and also to improve personally so that both phases of my mission are complete. I really appreciate the advice.

As I was thinking in bed last night I realized what that certified letter from Peru was. It wasn't a letter. I sent home a *Life* magazine in Spanish and another book on my mission reports. It must have been that. Did Joe ever get my books from Lucy? Would you check on that? Dad, going to the Y now is an old elder, John L. Blake, who took some of my books home. He is now married and has been home a year. I think it would be good if you could check on where he lives there and find out what he did with them. They were pretty good books.

Joe stated doubt as to whether he could go on the trip or not. So I guess I'll just forget about things for now. We'll see how the situation is when I get home. I haven't received any word from you about Mexico City, but if the answer is in the negative, I'll probably just spend a day there and forget it. It won't be much fun alone.

About voting, I'm too late for the Primary Elections, but I can get in for the finals. Checking with the American Embassy they say that if you could check with the Registrar of Voters for Provo, Utah County, and ask for an absentee ballot that would probably be okay. I may have to write personally so if I do could you send me the address.

My companion fainted three days ago and got a big cut across his eyebrow; about an inch and a half long. He has some hereditary problems and therefore is delicate. Also he is psychologically unbalanced in many aspects. He can't have a driver's license; he still relies heavily on his family, etc. I found out this week that is why I was put with him. He had to have four stitches and has been in bed now for two days. He may need a medical discharge as they can't treat his case in Peru. We're waiting to see what President Nicolaysen says. We're hoping everything will be okay.

That was the first kind of operation I've ever seen. It was interesting. It didn't upset me a bit. That's the only part of being a doctor I haven't wanted to mess with. Things may be shaping up.

I believe I told you President Robinson will be coming up. If you want to send me anything you could do it through him. I want you to meet him too. He and Brother Brown, my grandpa and dad have been my best examples of the priesthood I've observed. If I can I'll be sending some more books home with President Robinson. I won't have too much to bring home with me. You know something you could send would be gum, peanuts, candy, two or three good shirts, a couple of pair of garments, a pair of shoes, etc. There are any number of things I could use that I can't get here. I wouldn't want you to send it all, of course; that would be imposing and expensive. Most of my suits are showing my antiquity also.

Last Tuesday the supervising elder and I went down to Mollendo to work with the elders there. It was very interesting and we helped them a lot. They have a worse problem than in Tacna. The only branches of the mission I haven't seen now are Cuzco and Huallaga, both farther inland. Maybe later.

I should be getting my new glasses on the 13th of July. It will surely be good.

I got a second hand guitar for \$3.00 (if you can imagine). I will have it fixed up and trade it in on a good one when I get the money from Joe and from my other guitar in Tacna. That should buy a good one. Well, so much for now. Time to eat. Just checked the mail; no letter today. Suppose it will come tomorrow. Love ya all; see ya soon, your brother and son, Lyman De.

LETTER 888 Joseph Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 144-145 {PFRC Book 12}], July 5, 1964

Dear Family, thanks for both your letters. Sounds like things are pretty fine in Provo.

They had a nice Fourth of July. They served five hundred for dinner, had a parade, dance, swimming races, etc. I worked ten hours on Friday the 3rd, fifteen hours on Saturday the 4th, twelve hours on Sunday the 5th, etc.

I had only enough time the whole fourth day to enter the swimming race which I beat. We had three wrecks here Sunday. In one two tourists hit head on turning into Alberts. No one was hurt. I directed traffic for three hours, besides working my twelve hours. I also got to go to Sunday School.

In another week about 12:00 p.m. some drunken kids from Las Vegas ran into the ditch and bent their tire rod so we helped them out.

Pete Dratter ran out of gas by the lodge because his fuel pump broke, so we pushed him down to town. I got to bed about 2:00 a.m.

I've been getting up about 6:00 a.m. every morning to wait tables, but we decided not to open until night, so I got up about 10:00 a.m. to sweep and mop.

Kenwood's are in New Mexico recuperating. Larry Turner (a real crop-head) and Edna Myers (real nice) are running it.

I get \$.75 an hour plus my room and one meal. I'd like to go to Hurricane to school still, but I would like to be home too. How much money could I make picking cherries or something up there?

If I could make enough I would probably work there during August and go to school here. I'm quite sure I could get a part time job to pay for my room and board.

Dad it sounds like you got a good deal on the car. Mine won't be ready for a long time yet.

The manager of S.S. came up the other day and if I had been eighteen I would be working for Standard, making money.

Well, kiss the baby and Gordie for me, Joe.

LETTER 889 Gene Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 146 {PFRC Book 12}]

Dear Lyman, how are you and how are things in Peru? Everybody here is fine. Yesterday dad, McKay and I went picking cherries out in Orem. Dad earned \$3.78, I earned \$2.80 and McKay earned \$2.00.

While Eddie was in scout camp last week, he was nominated for the Order of the Arrow (that's pretty good, huh?). I would have gone to scout camp but I am working real hard this summer trying to earn some money. I have a paper route which gives me about \$25.00 a month. I have started a bank account.

In the past two weeks I have earned the First Aid merit badge and the Public Speaking merit badge but now I'm stumped and don't know what to work on. Come home soon, Lots of love, Gene.

LETTER 890 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 148-152 {PFRC Book 12}], July 9, 1964

Dearest Lyman, I wonder what you are doing tonight. It's about our bedtime here – well, didn't get very far. Now it's morning. Gene is out on his paper route and the rest of the family is still in bed. Gene gets up at 5:00 and delivers papers.

We were very happy to read your letter about your prayers being answered in regard to your eyes. We are thankful to our Heavenly Father for His answer to your prayer. Isn't it wonderful to have a line between you and Heaven and to know that line is open and that you can receive an immediate answer to prayer if you just remain humble and worthy.

I'm glad you got some new glasses and hope you enjoy them. Your eyes aren't quite like mine I guess. After my first pair, my eyes didn't change for years and years.

I'll go through your letter and answer your questions before I forget. Did I tell you we received the Life Magazine and the book of reports and letters? Joe hasn't mentioned seeing Lucy. I'll ask him about it when I write him. Also, I'll remind Dad to check of this John L. Blake and on the absentee voting.

I don't think Dad answered your questions about going to Mexico. I know he would like to go and it's something we had dreamed and planned for earlier. But we have lost too much money and tied ourselves up too closely to obligations that have to be met. I'm just afraid there won't be any money to make such a trip. If we had stayed in Springdale, this may have been possible but the Idaho venture was too costly. It's too bad we haven't managed our affairs son so that we could be in a position to do this with you plus things with the others that we would like to but one thing we've learned by now – you have to suffer the results of your own actions and I'm afraid our way back to what prosperity we did have will be rather long and slow.

Too bad your companion is having health problems, etc. Guess you'll let us know President Nicolaysen's decision about him.

When will President Robinson be coming up and how can we contact him? We would like to send a box to you with him if we are able to. Son, I see you mentioned shoes. Why don't you write Grandpa Roy and tell him you need shoes. He wants to keep you in shoes – he tells us every time he sees us – so let him. Can you get good shoes there or not and how much do they cost? If you'd rather we get some here – what size? Be sure and let us know about President Robinson, also what size shirts and garments. Would like to get you a new suit but hope you can make your present ones last the next few months.

We had a short letter from Joe. Think I'll send it to you. Seems to be keeping busy.

Ed is a Maple Dell again this week, so our family is much depleted. Gene, McKay and Dad picked cherries one day. McKay was thrilled that he earned \$2.00. Isn't much money for Dad's time but better than nothing, so guessed they will be picking for a couple of weeks. I bottled sixty quarts and am really happy to have them, as my bottles have never been so empty before. It's a good feeling to start filling bottles for winter's use.

Our little Irene is doing fine. She is starting to fill out now and we think she's pretty nice. She should be a beauty by the time you get to see her. I'll try to take some pictures soon so you can see what she looks like. Joe hasn't seen her yet either. I have her little crib in Roberta's room – right across the hall from ours.

The other day (Sunday) we went to Orem to see Mark, Aunt Clessa and family. They came down to Lawrence Palmer's for a couple of hours. Mark left for Germany Monday morning. He will have a six hour layover in New York and hoped to see the Fair. He'll make a good missionary. He's worked at the Radio Station in Blanding the last few years and saved enough for his mission – also last year of college. Gordon is married now and living in Monticello working for County Welfare. Kynra will teach there this school year.

Better get this in the mail. We love you son. Take good care of yourself and enjoy your work. Love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 891 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, July 10, 1964

Dear Family, its quarter to six Friday morning. I've a lot of personal things to do today, so I'm getting started early.

We will be having a baptism this Sunday. He is a thirty-year-old policeman, very intelligent, very good looking. I feel we are making headway. We've really been working hard and also have other good investigators.

After thinking it over, I believe Joe's right. It would be too expensive to take too much time to take that long of a trip. What I think I'll do is take a short one and still try and get in the mid-semester block plan for returned missionaries. I would have to take double work, but it would be

okay. That would give me a year and a half of college next June and if I can get those Spanish credits, I think it will be possible to finish the other two and a half years in two years or in one and a half. That would make me only twenty-four or twenty-five; a good age to get married. What I would like you to do for me would be to buy me a catalog of courses (1964-5-6) for \$1.00 and send it to me. That way I can start correspondence now with the Y as I may only have two weeks after I get home before the mid-term starts. Just write on it Book without Value (Libro sin Valor). I'm glad my book got there with the letters in it. I was beginning to get worried.

Today I'm going to write letters, play the guitar, write in my book, work on the gospel, read to Alma 8 from Mosiah 8, go branch teaching, and finish getting our boy ready for baptism. Also I'm going to study some Quechua (a native dialect used by all the Indians). I want to translate the Book of Mormon into it (a dreamer, I know, but it would be fun).

I'm enjoying my mission immensely and have thought lately of asking for extensions, but have found out I can't ask; they do the asking. Oh well, I suppose I'll be ready to come home when the time comes.

I have my new glasses and they feel really good. I'm glad I got them. It hasn't made my eyes change any though. They still feel a little tired. Boy, I never dreamed a mission was so trying on the strength. Every noon, and every night all I want to do anymore is sleep. My bed is becoming a second companion.

I was talking to an elder the other day and he said a good elder who had been something during his mission and who knew Spanish could get a teaching job at the Missionary Headquarters for \$2.25 an hour or something similar. I would like to check on that when I get home. It would be for four hours a day, and a very good deal.

Last Saturday we had a ball for the 4th of July. There are 250 North American people here. We played volleyball, baseball, etc., and really made a lot of friends. The other day we went out in the country to Mr. Rollman's place and I had the first glass of milk in over a year. It was good.

I'm surprised how easy it is to pick up new songs on the piano or the guitar. If I had any time to practice I might be able to perfect them a lot better. I suppose you sold our piano didn't you? Hope not. I've got some Peruvian music I want to learn when I get home.

I'm keeping up on my goals and hope to be the kind of person I want to be when I get home. I've thought lately that one thing I still lack greatly is the capacity to take orders. If I get drafted I think I'll join first. They give you the opportunity. I need the formation of that part of my character.

I hope everything is coming along okay now with everyone. It sounds as if Joe is somewhat lonesome. Has the motel sold yet? What are your plans on it? Dad, have you found work to go along with your other yet? I pray so hard each night that the Lord will bless you all. I also try my best to be an extra good missionary for that and other personal reasons. As a whole he is being very good to us and I'm thankful for it.

Mother, please try and send your letters so I won't have to re-type them. I have that kind piling up and I don't know if I'll be able to get them all done. Thanks. Do you want me to do the same?

Well, that's all for now. In about three months I'm starting to send home books, as December and January usually have mail strikes. Love as always, Lyman De.

LETTER 892 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah [about July, 1964], to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 154-156 {PFR Book 12}]

Dearest Lyman, it's a hot Sunday afternoon here in Provo. The family has all gone to church except for the baby, Gordie and me. Little Irene has been a little upset the last little while. Nothing serious, but didn't think it wise to try and take her to church yet. She is a good baby but gets a tummy ache once in a while when we take her out in too much air or when I eat something that doesn't agree with her. She is growing good though, so mommy's milk must agree with her. I'm glad I'm able to nurse her as I did the rest of you, for I feel it gave you all a good start.

Today we had Dad's cousin's boy and his wife come and visit us. Del Rey filled a mission to New Zealand and is married now and going here to the Y. His folks (Clair Platt) lived in New Plymouth, Idaho. They are nice kids. He is going to teach and will likely go to Oregon or Washington when he is through. His wife is working to help him get through.

Ed got home from scout camp last night. He enjoyed his stay up there a lot and will likely go back next year as a junior officer. He plans to go for a week in August for Order of the Arrow. We have thought lately he might enjoy going into professional accounting. Gordie was so excited when he saw him home – we are wondering how he will act when Joe gets home, then in a few months when you get home.

Course he'll likely run and hide when you come, as he is a little shy and may take a little time before he feels he knows you. The time is going fast – just a little over seven months now. It will be good to have all our family home again. How are the new glasses? Do hope they are satisfactory and that the headaches are all cleared up.

Monday morning: Didn't get through last night. Now the family has all gone out to pick cherries today. Marilee and Julynn went with them. Gordie, Irene and I are the only ones home. They put in quite a few hours for what they get in the cherries, but every bit helps. The kids should be able to help with their school clothes and expenses.

Wish you could see our garden – I think it is one of the prettiest we have ever had. Dad and Gene have done about all the work in it. It just grows by leaps and bounds. The soil was in really good condition, and Dad has spent a lot of time in it (enjoying every minute of it I think). I'm glad he has a spot to work in, as it is good for him. I know how you would enjoy working it too. We have radishes, lettuce, and beet greens now and will soon have peas and carrots. The fresh things really taste good and help out on grocery bills. You didn't ever let me know if you do your own cooking there or if you wanted the recipes you asked about when you were in Tacna. I'm assuming something: you that you have maid service there in Arequipa.

Did we tell you and Roland and Dorothy sold their motel too? I'm sure they did much better price-wise than we did. Don't know just what they are going to do. For now they are living in Othell Gifford's home there in Springdale. Guess there are lots of tourists down there this year. Looks like we would have been wise to keep it one more year at least; we would surely have saved ourselves a lot of trouble and money. But who knows, maybe our move was necessary for reasons we know nothing of.

Guess I had better write Joe this morning too and get these in the mailbox before the mailman comes along. May our Heavenly Father bless you son in all that you need. We love and pray for you always. Mother.

LETTER 893 Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah [about July, 1964], to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 158-162 {PFRC Book 12}]

My Dear Missionary Son, It has come forcibly to my attention that I love you, that I miss you greatly, and that I am waiting anxiously for your return.

Since our newest little girl came (whom we all make so much fuss over) I've reflected much on my family and feel so good in the Lord for each of you. You will always and forever be our oldest and the one whom your dad used as a guinea pig to do his own growing up on, but the past few months, I've told myself that I was wrong and foolish in not showing you a better side of me than I presented a good deal of the time.

I, of course, love each of you in turn, but son, I look to you in a special way. Around you is a special aura of personality. You are our oldest child – now a man. We no longer can or will hold you outside the walls of our innermost thoughts, but rather will joyously share life fully with you. When you come home, you'll sense right away what I'm so bluntly trying to say.

There should be no need to tell you our sun rises and sets in each of you. We have no further ambitions in life than to raise an honorable family, fortified with the gospel, able to make their way in the world and at every step eager to testify to the truths of the gospel. Truths we've cherished fondly enough to imbue you with them.

If one were to ask me what I consider the greatest earthly blessing, I would unequivocally say, "A son willing to follow parent's well-intended teachings. You've ever done this and I'm profoundly grateful to you.

We are deeply concerned about your activities and want you to give a more detailed report of your daily scheduling if you will.

As to your inquiry into our making one additional payment so as to allow you the added privilege of seeing some of Central America, we'd be more than pleased to do that. If you found this not sufficient we'd fully expect you to say so and let us supply what you needed.

Joe writes us occasionally from Springdale, but we'd like to hear more often. I look with bated anticipation to your coming back to Provo and becoming involved as I am becoming in campus

life. You could work for some department or other here on campus and then mother and you, your intended and I might just do some of those fun double dates you spoke of. Provo is a fine, clean, wholesome town and we could do lots worse than settle here. I will have enough prestige and acquaintance at the Y by the time you return to probably get you in somewhere if you'd like.

I don't want this to seem to be outlining your future for you, but this is one way it could go. You'll be the deciding factor there.

Give a resounding *saludos* to your Peruvian acquaintances for us as a family and *buenos días, Señor Platt*. [Mother's note: I'll write in a couple of days son; so you'll get two a week. Your family and Dad.

LETTER 894 Mark Lyman, Dusseldorf, Germany, to family, Blanding, Utah [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 164 {PFRC Book 12}]

Dear Folks, arrived in Dusseldorf at 11:30 a.m., which would be 3 a.m. Tuesday morning at home. The plane ride was uneventful – no fires or bail outs, but it was very interesting. We had all our meals served on the plane. We were in New York five hours and spent about three at the fair. The Mormon Pavilion was great – especially a movie they had there, but the rest of the fair was just like Seattle. Nothing but a lot of advertising. New York itself was interesting, but I wouldn't go to the fair again if I lived in New York.

The trip over the Atlantic was in an old airliner (French) and the stewardesses spoke only French. In Paris we spent three hours walking around the airport and trying to get something to eat.

We're in a very interesting situation here. We're currently in a missionary school. What it is, the mission has rented several rooms in a youth hostel (which is a youth hotel) and we'll stay here and learn the lessons, the language and whatever else there is to learn until there's a vacant companion for us, which could be anywhere from two days to three months. There are twelve guys and two sisters and two couples here. The longest any of them have been here is two months and that guy seems to be rather dull.

The city is very much like you see in the movies, just an old town with hundreds of shattered windows. We are right on the banks of the Rhine River. Boats are constantly going by. Our evening meal was really bad. The main dish was macaroni, potatoes, onions and green onions with several other things all mixed together and fried in a lot of fat. Also chunks of baloney and cheese and raw fish. The drink was grass tea and it was green and tasted just like grass. The water here is from the river and smells very bad and tastes worse. We're having dinner with President Benson tomorrow evening and we are supposed to go to work on a church tomorrow afternoon. The city is 700,000 people and there are about 200 members and the average number of baptisms per missionary per year is not much over one. The Catholics are very strong here – also the Protestants – so it looks rough. Good night, Love, Mark Lyman

LETTER 895 Joseph Lyman Platt, Springdale, Utah, July, 1964, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, p. 166 {PFRC Book 12}].

Dear Parents: Thanks for your last letter. Allred's Café sold to some people from Baton Rouge, Louisiana, so I'm sort of in a mess because of the change over. They seem to be very nice, though. I now work outside doing odd jobs. I don't know how they will work me in on room and board.

The last few weeks, I have been eating all of my meals in the café for free plus my room and \$.75 an hour. My last check was about \$60.00. Albert says he almost has my car finished.

Tuesday was Don's day off, and they were taking inventory here, so I took a day off (finally). We played tennis all morning, went swimming, and then went hunting at night up on East Zion. We got fourteen rabbits. Also while we were sitting on his lawn, some crows flew over. We trailed them to the foot of the Watchman and ducked down and waited. All at once another crow lit in a tree about 100 years away. I turned and blasted the h... out of it (feathers flew everywhere). It started to rise and Don blasted the h... out of it. First either of us had shot. I'm sending proof.

There is a good chance that they could use me here all winter if you (and I) saw fit. Well, tah for now. Joe.

LETTER 896 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, July 15, 1964, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah.

Dearest Family, It was certainly good to get all your letters this week. It is amazing how much better it makes me feel. I haven't depended too much on your letters lately, but as the time approaches to start thinking of home it is becoming a desire, increasingly stronger, to hear from you.

Sounds like the family is growing up on you, parents. If you'll have me for the next three years I think I'll want to be home. Of course plans are always being changed or modified, but more or less follow a general direction. I'll tell you mine a bit later. They have changed some.

Thanks folks for taking care of things for me on that end. The things Lucy has are pretty important to me so be sure and get them. It's been such a long time since I sent that stuff home with Elder Blake that I don't know what all was there.

About Mexico: I was talking to some members of the Church who had lived in Mexico for several years, so took the chance to ask on things. Staying in a fairly nice hotel and eating average, I would spent about 165 pesos, taxis 20 pesos and other attractions 50-60 pesos or in \$ about \$20.00 a day. I can see most of what I want to in two days.

President Nicolaysen doesn't plan on doing anything with my companion. I guess he wants to leave him with me.

I wrote to President Robinson. I don't know when he's going, but if he stops here, I'll give him something. He said he'd stop by and see you. If grandpa wants to and can do it, I'll have a pair of boots made. They are dress boots and plain. Pairs of shoes here are bad. They don't make shoes my size either, only boots. Funny, huh? It will cost \$10.00 for a pair so I'll write him this week.

My shirt size is 15 ½ neck; garments size 4. About a suit, all the ones I have are going fast. My companion has some material he'll sell me for \$10.00. I believe my suits will stay presentable until December. Would it be alright if I bought the material in a couple of months and had a new suit made just before I come home? It would cost about \$20 to \$25 in total.

I'm glad Ed and Gene are doing a lot of advancing in scouting. I'm very proud of them.

It will be really nice to receive some more pictures. I want to see the family so badly.

I'm glad the family is earning their money. I hope to get a good job and be able to help with Joe's mission or in other ways. I've thought of building some additions to the house and having apartments for returned missionaries; room only. How does it sound? Could it be done? Just an idea.

Elder Pitt is going home in five weeks. His folks asked the president to let him off two months early to help with the harvest. He's excited.

I've about decided that the long bike trip I'd like to take won't be feasible. If I can get a job and right into school, I plan on doing it during the summer of 1966; if not I may still take one in the following summer, but only to Denver, Laramie, Yellowstone and home. I'd like to get finished with college rapidly, though.

Least you think I am being slothful, my companion and I are the top baptizers and top hours in Arequipa (twenty-four missionaries). We are doing our best to stay there and keep humble. One man we baptized (a civil guard) is really sharp. I'm thankful for the people I've baptized during my mission. Ninety percent have been men or boys. They hold (the majority) positions of leadership in the districts and branches. I'm not regretful so far of the way I've handled any part of my mission. Of course there are always little things one would change, but I'm happy for the way the Lord has blessed and magnified me in His work.

An average day these days consists of eleven to twelve hours of strenuous work. We usually tract in the morning, meeting people and deciding if they should be members yet. Sometimes we work with members on setting up group meetings with their friends.

In the afternoon we have a lot of call backs to make from morning tracting. Some of these turn into meetings but the majority are checked off as bad investments.

About 6:00 each night we go downtown to the Monaco or Le Paris (the two main eating establishments) and meet people who are doing the same. We usually give a Joseph Smith lesson or talk about the gospel to somebody during the hour we're there.

From seven to ten we are almost constantly occupied with meetings, preparing private families or teaching groups, and individuals, getting them ready for the gospel steps of faith, repentance, baptism and confirmation. Sometimes meetings fall through, so we get night call backs or tract and at times we go visit friends. The other night we walked into a show and watched it for fifteen

minutes and left and did some street tracting (meeting individuals in the street and stopping them and asking them about what they know. We had one baptism that way in the last month.

This Friday we are going riding horses, playing tennis, and going to the show. The afternoon we're going out to Rollman's farm, listen to records, have supper, and talk some about the gospel. They're the type you convert through years of patience and example.

Well, I'll write you again Friday. Thanks for the support and help you give me and God bless you all in your endeavors. I'm doing my best to make it easy for you, but I know you are still being tried. I'm proud of you all, your son and brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 897 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 168-170 {PFRC Book 12}], July 20, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Sounds like you are having success with your proselyting efforts and know it must be very gratifying to have some of your contacts accept the Gospel. You didn't mention what President Nicolaysen decided to do about your companion. Do hope that things work out for him, as I imagine it would be hard to go home before your mission was completed.

Gordon Woffinden [Lehi] arrived home a couple of days ago from his mission. I haven't seen him but talked with his mother, who is here in the hospital with some trouble. They released Tom as Bishop last Sunday. Soon all your friends will be home from their missions and the next group will be out. Dad saw Terry Thatcher [Whittier] here at the Y. We'll see about getting the catalog to you.

Glad that you got your new glasses and hope you will be fine now. I broke the stem off mine the other day – it's been partly broken for a year, so I'm going around with one stem, but they work pretty well. One of these times I'll get some new ones, as I need them changed anyway. McKay is enjoying his.

Sounds like you had a nice day of the 4th. I'll bet the milk tasted good. We have resorted to powdered milk here in Provo. Some of us enjoy it, but everyone isn't converted to it yet. Yes, son, we sold the piano. We just couldn't move it or pay to have it moved, it was so heavy. Don't know when we will get another one, but am hoping we can before too many years.

Didn't we tell you about the motel? Leo Holt from St. George, who has several other motels, bought it and is remodeling it and fixing it all up. Guess he doesn't plan to rent this summer but just get it in shape for another year. We took a loss on it naturally – sold it for \$20,000, so we don't have too much equity in it. We got a few hundred down, which went on debts and the rest is on contract with Leah Taylor. We will get a little each six months until it is paid for. We're good at losing money, aren't we? But I'm glad it is off our minds and that we are here in Provo.

Dad and the kids are picking cherries still this week. Dad hasn't yet found another job but is still looking. The kids have done pretty well in the cherries and will be able to help out with their school clothes, etc., so that will help. Ed and Gene each have a paper route, so that will give

them spending money. Marilee just called me to tell me her mother won a new bike on a drawing at Curley's Market. He just had a grand opening – has done a lot of remodeling and fixing up and has a very nice store. We do most of our shopping down here at Reams just below us on Center, as they are cheaper than any place we have found. Rene also won a free bag of groceries, so we are glad for them.

I'll try and not send any more letters that need retyping son. I know it takes time. I thought I had been sending most of them on paper like this. Isn't this the kind you can put in your book? Yours are fine on the paper you have been using (this size). I haven't been copying them for awhile, except occasionally to send to Grandma and Grandpa.

Well, son, I had better call this enough for today. I'm going to Rene's and do some cherries for her. I bottled eighty quarts for us and we're glad for them. I'm going to try drying some, as Rene says they are very good that way. Take good care of yourself son and remember we love you, Mother.

LETTER 898-1 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 172-178 {PFRC Book 12}], July 22, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Boy, it's hot. We've been sweltering in 100 degree weather the past week. It would be nice if we had air conditioning in weather like this, but don't suppose it will last too long.

It was nice to get your letter again. You don't need to feel like you have to answer each one son. We know you're busy, and if we get a letter each week, that will keep us happy. We'll try to write a little more often.

Before I forget, I checked with the B.Y.U. and evidently this John L. Blake isn't going to school this summer. The only address they have is in Santa Rosa 513, 4th Street, maybe he'll be back this fall. I told Joe if he didn't have a chance to see Lucy to have her folks get your books and bring them to Springdale to him. I'll send a copy of his letter again. Sounds like he's really keeping busy, doesn't it? I checked also with the County Clerk about an absentee ballot for you. But he said there are no provisions made for anyone to do other than register in person, except for people in the Armed Forces. So I guess you'll have to wait until 1968 to vote for president. Dad likes Goldwater and would like to see a conservative president for a change.

Hope you can get some shoes (boots) made to fit you. If you don't hear from Grandpa, let us know. It would likely be a good idea to get the material and have a suit made before coming home. We'll do our best to meet it.

I'll remind the boys to register you as a scout. I guess you've only asked us half a dozen times and I've left it up to Dad or the boys. I'll try to see that it's done though.

Sounds like you're enjoying a good variety of reading. Eddie read *To Kill a Mockingbird*. He thought it was pretty good.

Guess our family is through in the cherries now. Hope they can pick raspberries and other fruit. They each one pitched in \$1.00 and we got Dad a couple of pairs of garments for his birthday (which he was badly in need of).

Tonight Gordie came up all of a sudden with the idea he didn't think Lyman could get in our house through our door when he gets home. I told him I didn't think you were quite that big.

Gordon Woffinden is home now, or did I tell you? I went to the hospital and visited his mother. She has some trouble with her leg and veins. Melvin Bushman [Lehi] will soon be home and Norman [Lehi] is already home. Soon you and your friends will all be through with your missions and the next age will be taking over.

Well, here it is Sunday 26th, and I didn't even finish this letter. My wee one demands quite a bit of time some days and I drop everything else.

On Dad's birthday we all went out to Orem and picked raspberries. We picked enough to pay for over two cases (\$4 a case) and brought them home to bottle. We got forty quarts and they really look good to us, as this is the first year for quite a long time we have bottled any. The next day we went out and picked and will pick until they are through I guess. I leave the baby in the car and stop and take care of here when I need to. Gordie and McKay were playing on a little ladder and it fell with them. Gordie skinned up his back and mashed his little face. We felt so badly – but he's getting along okay.

We spent the afternoon and evening of the 24th at Genola and enjoyed a little visit with the people there. We went up the canyon with Carroll and Maureen Davis and family (seven children) and Rod and Wilma Nelson and Gary and his wife. He filled a mission in Australia and married a girl from there. Jerry just got married to a Lehi girl and Don took his family to the temple at the same time. Richard Murdock is recently returned from his mission and Robert and Lisa are still out. They had three all at once. Genola is still the same good little town with the same sweet people and spirit there. Most of our farm there has been planted to orchards.

Wayne and Lyn and family came in to see us on their way to New Mexico (vacation). He still works at Thiokol and makes about \$10,000 a year. He has four children and hasn't changed much since we knew him.

Better save something for next letter, which I'll try to write in a few days. We love and miss you. Mother.

LETTER 898-2 Kirk Cook Lyman, Alma, Michigan, to Edward and Irene Lyman, Blanding, Utah, July 27, 1964

Dear Grand folks, I'm terribly late in getting this out but hope it will suffice to make up for letters previously un-written. Time flies by so rapidly now and I want to accomplish all I can; therefore, I tend to put letter writing off and I know it shouldn't be done.

I've less than three months to go now and as I look back I feel despair because of some of my time that I've lost, but then again I feel happiness at the success and joy I've seen, which far overshadows the despair.

We're seeing success in working with the people and feel quite blessed for the investigators we do have. One thing sure, the Lord is preparing the way. If only we can stay on the path leading to the right individuals.

Thanks very much for the money orders. The money is well used and not squandered. Because one of my suits was about done in, plus the hot weather, I bought a summer suit for \$41.00. There's a world of difference. I wasn't expecting the money but the Bishop sent it and told me to buy a suit and I'm now very grateful that he did.

How is the weather there? Not too dry I hope. The heat here is setting a record. I haven't heard from Dad for quite some time now. We are two of a kind in writing. We like to receive mail but sending it out is a different story. One must give to receive!

Health wise, I'm okay. No sinus problems and only a bit of back problems. I'm quite blessed compared to some of the missionaries.

Well, time is flying and I've yet to do my washing and ironing, so I'll close for now and wish you and the others all my love. Grandson, Kirk.

LETTER 899 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, July 31, 1964

Dear Family, It's Friday again and I'm wondering where the time is going. This week, the 28th, 29th and 30th have been Peru's Independence Days; so needless to say, we haven't gotten too much accomplished in the line of proselyting. This week, we've gone to a military parade, a dance, a dinner, a fireworks display, worked at the chapel three times, and had a track meet. The trenches in the chapel are 8' deep because of earthquakes. It has really been fun digging trenches. In the track meet the elders and members competed against the International Club. We had shot put, disk, javelin, 100 yards, 200 yards, 440 yards, and relay, American football, and Peruvian football. It was a lot of fun. We finally won the most points.

This week Elder Dahle took me aside and had a good talk with me. He thinks quite a bit of me and therefore wants to help me to be my best. He mentioned a lot of my faults and left it to me to change them. I don't need to mention any here; you probably already know them. But I hope that in the next seven months to be able to overcome the majority of them that affect other people so as not to be a burden to others.

Next week the president will be here tomorrow – Elder Dahle and I will probably go down to Mollendo; partially to help the elders, and partially to plan a basketball game against the Mollendinos. There will be four elders from Arequipa go down there to help the elders there in the game. The object is that of impressing the town and raising S/2000 for an excursion of the Mollendinos to the chapel next month to work on it for a day. It ought to be a lot of fun. The members in the south are surely a lot more anxious to have their chapel built than they were in

the north. If I stay here I may yet see it finished. I've really enjoyed just flexing the muscles again and showing myself I could still work.

The goal of reading the Book of Mormon was completed yesterday. I hope to finish a novel, Jesus the Christ, and one other book in August.

President Robinson got away without me seeing him, so he may drop in on you any day now. I believe he's in Mexico at the present.

As far as money goes I'm still within my budget and hope to go clear through August without cashing a check and then cashing one on September 1st. That would put me on a better schedule and make it easier for you also. Then just six to go and we'll have it.

I haven't heard from Elder Halterman lately. I don't even know where he is. The mission has baptized 900 people this year, but we are behind schedule. Our goal is a baptism per month per missionary. Satan just keeps working on everybody's main weaknesses and jabs the work to a standstill. We are suppose to get all the baptisms we need if we'll have group meetings, but we can't get them underway here, be it our fault, I think not, yet we must get some soon. One Elder just had nine in Lima from one group meeting, so you can see, it works.

Well, I'm going to close off for this week as I don't have more to say. I love you and think about you once in a while – when it's legal. Love to all, Lyman De.

LETTER 900 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 180-182 {PFRC Book 12}], August 4, 1964

Dearest Lyman, I not only didn't write an extra letter. I'm late with my regular one this week. You'll have to forgive me. We've been on the go early and late. I've been picking berries each morning with Dad and the kids, and then tending Rene's family each afternoon.

Before I forget, I'd better answer a couple of questions. You are welcome to have the little Peruvian sister stay with us, as any of your friends are welcome. Also if we can arrange a car for you to borrow, we'll do that too. If she's engaged now, her plans may change considerably by then too.

Gene went to the scout office. But they told him it would be just as well to wait until you get home, as you would have a six-month waiting period anyway once you got home and this registration would be somewhat wasted. What do you think? He said he would go ahead anyway, if that's what you want.

Do you know, Dad and I can't vote this time either I guess. We haven't been residents of the State long enough.

This moving sure fouls things up!

Glad you got your tooth taken care of. What does "cat man" mean for the elders?

The garden is beautiful. We're enjoying the early vegetables, although the peas didn't do too well.

The cars are on the one picture I'm sending. We had some work done on the Rambler and it drives nicely.

We went to Maple Grove for the day yesterday – the occasion being that Dad, George, Denzil and Darwin all got together for a little while. D. K. has been with us a few days. He's about the same – is having skin troubles (eczema, etc.). It was nice there. You remember it don't you?

I'm about asleep son. I'll write more later. Take good care of yourself. We love you, Mother.

LETTER 901 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 901 {PFRC Book 12}], Selective Service System, Local Board No. 36, Post Office Building, St. George, Utah 84770, August 4, 1964, Lyman De Platt, SS No. 42-36-43-59, Casilla 861, Arequipa, Peru

Dear Elder Platt: Thank you for your letter. I am happy to hear from you again and help you with your questions. Thanks for the change of address.

The way conditions are at present, there is not a heavy call for men for the service and we have plenty of men without taking students. So it is easy to get a student deferment. Of course, world conditions can change overnight. You would have a month to six weeks to get into school after you come home without worry of being drafted. We try to encourage young men now to finish their education if at all possible.

I will send your name and address and request to the Army recruiter in Provo. He is a fine fellow and I am sure he will give you the information you desire about Army opportunities.

We appreciate the fine way you have kept the Board informed as to change of address, etc. It makes the work here so much more pleasant and easy.

You may report to me by letter when you return. I know every dollar is important when you are going to school and a special trip here is unnecessary. It would suggest that if you wish to travel for several weeks and your permit does not cover the time, that you write just before your mission is completed to this office with a request for extension of time. Your request will be considered in view of world conditions at that time.

May you enjoy success in your present labors. For the Local Board, Helen Todd, Clerk.

LETTER 902 Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 186-187 {PFRC Book 12}]

Dear Missionary Son, I realize it is an unusual thing to receive a letter from your pa, but unusual things be happinin alluh time.

Your mother and I were discussing just last evening how good it will be to see our eldest issue once again. We are all looking forward to and counting the days 'til that time. I realize this is not really proper material to be writing to you as it might also tend to make you trunky.

It is a pleasure for us all to have your youngest sister in the family. We saw to it that she got your message to her. She didn't understand it though. Last Sunday she received her name, and she acted pleased to get it. She now weighs eight pounds eight ounces and is doing fine.

The last time Joe wrote us, he was planning on working until about the 15th of this month. School begins here on the 28th or so of this month. The kids have been working in the berries and cherries and are going to be outfitted a little better than if they hadn't worked. It seems to me as if this summer has come and gone like a flash.

You are certainly conscientious about watching the spending of your money and I appreciate it, but I plead with you to know that we are desirous of you having what you need. Do not deprive yourself. What better use could I ever put money to than to make your burden lighter and free you to have a greater concentration of time and effort on your work? We wish you to tell us how much you hope to spend and don't rob yourself.

We are expecting to see President Robinson any day, but as yet he hasn't shown himself. You ought to have had some requests from you as to what you want and need. [Mother writes: You did write. He just doesn't remember.] I did get a B.Y.U. catalog for 1964-1966 for you. Mayhaps this is one thing he can take back to you. We have been out of contact with you so long that we don't know your needs.

I've been trying to devise a way to hold a position open for you when you get here – in the bookstore, this is. They naturally discourage family setups as far as working together is concerned. I'm still going to go as far on this score as I can. Maybe by the time you get here, I'll have something worked out.

We got it from the horses' mouth that we'll have about 17,000 students at the campus this fall, so we fully plan to be busy. I have but one regret about my work there, and that is that they pay you retirement income long before you can afford to live on retirement wages.

Enough chit chat for this time. We love and appreciate you for your exemplary life and wish you to continue the holding of the high position you have in our esteem. Your loving and solicitous father. [Mother writes: I'll write later, son.]

LETTER 903 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, August 7, 1964

Dearest Family, Friday once again and I've done everything I wanted to today except write you. I copied about twenty songs for guitar and practiced them. I did some more research on my book. I've read out of *Jesus the Christ* and I've spread lazily out on the bed for a little while. Also I spent one and a half hours bathing and making myself pretty for the investigators. I just got through eating cholo bread, hot peppers with meat in it, chicha and rice.

I got my boots the other day. They fit really well. I believe I said in my last letter that my boots would cost only \$5.00 but I forgot it was S/280 instead of S/180, so they cost \$10.00. I'm still on schedule with my budget except for a slight pinch of \$2.00, but I believe I can still cash a \$60 or \$65 check at the last of the month.

We're stressing group teaching in the mission now. We only can teach groups or else families if we take a member along. Some of the elders have recently had eight-nine baptisms at a time. We have a group of investigators we are teaching right now.

Elder Hunt, 1st counselor in the mission, came down to Arequipa with President Nicolaysen last Monday to an elder's conference about group meetings. He stayed here and has been working with or interviewing all the elders. He interviewed me and told me to be patient with my companion as they would be moving him shortly, probably. They are pleased with the progress he is making. As Elder Hunt put it "he's just not quite converted to the work." That's why he was put with me but I haven't been a complete success in helping him, although he is surer of himself now than he was. A mission is 50% just growing yourself. That's why I hope the kids have taken the suggestions I've offered once in a while, so they won't have to grow too much while they are on their missions.

I appreciate the compliance with the requests I've made. I'll write to Elder Blake, but will you check once again after the enrollment in September. I believe he is finished now, though.

I'm going to start sending things home at the end of September so no mail strike interferes with them. The time is just going by too fast. August isn't waiting around for anybody. That's okay, however, I'm keeping up with all my goals and that's why it's going so fast I reckon.

All the trenches are dug at the chapel now and we'll start filling them this week. The president was really happy. Have you seen President Robinson yet? I don't know if he's up there yet or not.

Before the kids know it they are going to be in school again and before they realize it they will be out again and Joe will be gone on a mission. I hope the family is all okay and that you are all having a good time participating in the Church. I have been waiting for those pictures you said you'd send.

Can't think of much else. I'll write when I get your letter. Love as always, Elder Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 904 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Volume 3, pages 188-192 {PFRC Book 12}], August 12, 1964

Dearest Lyman, about time I wrote like I promised I would. For the first time in quite a while I've been home all day, and it has seemed really good. The berries are about gone now – so another day or so and we'll be through. Haven't been tending Rene's children for a few days either, so I've had a chance to catch up on one or two things.

Last Sunday night Dad and I went to Lehi to Gordon Woffinden's welcome home. We were invited over to their place afterwards but the baby was quite fussy, so we didn't stay. He gave a very nice talk and is a fine humble person. He got a job at Geneva for a while and plans to go to the Y a little later. Norman Moore was there with his girl friend. Did I tell you we saw Terry Thatcher with his bride of four months on the Y Campus the other night? All these friends asked about you and wanted to be remembered to you.

We haven't seen anything of President Robinson as yet. Hope we don't miss him if he comes to see us. We have a box of candy, etc. ready to send with him if he stops. Haven't any shirts or garments yet but will try to get some. If he doesn't stop, should we try to send this stuff by regular mail? The B.Y.U. catalog we'll send airmail, but I'm wondering if the other things would arrive safely. What do you think?

What did you think of Joe's last letter I sent with Dad's? Guess you will have commented on it by the time you get this one. He's been gone quite awhile now, and we'll be glad to have him home. We're going to have to put an extra side board or something in the kitchen when you're both here, but it will be nice to all be together again.

The kids will soon be in school again, as it starts here on the 26th. The summer has gone so fast. We are so pleased that they have all been willing and able to earn a little money to help them. Even McKay bought shoes, socks and two pairs of pants with his own money, so we think that's pretty good and helps us out a lot.

We're getting our bottles filled up and you will be helping us enjoy it this winter. This is a good fruit area. In fact it's a good area for lots of things and I'm glad we're here.

Glad you got your boots and that they feel good. Grandpa didn't send any money yet but guess he will. Write your check out for what you need son – don't run yourself too short.

Sounds like your progress there is good – chapel, group teaching, etc. The whole Church program is just fabulous and makes us glad to be part of it.

Norma Heath stopped in to visit with me for several hours the other day. Shirley Ann is married and has two children but it's very sad the condition they are in. I'll tell you about them when you're home.

Irene is crying so I better see to her needs. Until next letter, take care of yourself and remember we love you. Mother.

LETTER 904 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, August, 1964

Dearest Family, Hello there! Say that was great getting those pictures of the family. The one who has grown the most since the last time – almost a year ago – is Roberta. She's becoming a nice young lady. In several months I'm going to have a picture taken of me to send home and also for my friends, etc.

I mention my budget again because I'm keeping on it and am very proud of myself. Things still look good for a low check.

Elder Pitt heard of my plight – from me – about my suits and offered me a two pants suit for S/200 (\$8.00). He had been asking S/900 for it so I guess it helps to have friends. So I'm selling some books and hope to get enough from them to buy it. I'm also patching up my other suits for the last time. I cut the seat right out of the back of the black suit I brought with me and am having the maid put in the extra piece of black cloth I've saved for two years for this occasion. Also, she's shortening the sleeves a bit to take off the frayed ends. This should hold me through for another six months.

Brother and Sister Farnsworth were up today from Toquepala and stopped by and invited us out to dinner. I love them – next to you parents – as the best people I've known. They have such a terrific family. Terry, their girl, gets out of the mission the same day I do. She's 20 or will be then. A possibility. She'll be going to the Y. Woody, their boy, is now in Arizona working until school. He hasn't found a place to live in Provo yet. His folks will be willing to pay the \$60 room and board or whatever it is. He is a returned missionary from Chile and really the only close friend I have. I don't know the setup at home or if you plan to rent out but I thought I'd check before he gets there. His folks want him with a good family. He'll have a car. After all \$60.00 a month. Could you let me know so I could tell them to tell him (if it is possible)? If it isn't I still need to tell them.

I'm not sure but I don't know if President Robinson will be going as far as Provo. His girl and Woody are going up together but I don't know if he will take them or not.

Haven't heard from Sister Vega yet, but will let you know shortly.

I sure feel old and tired. The mission seems to be taking all my youth out of me. Right now I'm in between health and the flu. We have so many meetings; I can't afford to get sick. The Lord is blessing me and preserving my health, I know.

My companion and I understand each other better now. I provoked a discussion last Tuesday which got off our chests what we were thinking. It's like the talk I gave yesterday, you have to communicate certain feelings or you never will get along. We get along a lot better now, and have more meetings than two or three pairs of elders put together. We had ten last week. Many never get any here in Arequipa. It is definitely a hard town. The Catholic Church really has power here.

Tacna finally had a baptism. Another man. It is functioning pretty well. I realize your anniversary is next week but there's not much I can do about it. I hope it is a happy one, though. The day will come when you'll have made fifty. Are you planning on one more child?

Well, I guess we'll call it quits for this time. Thanks again for the picture. You all look fine. Mother looks like she had one more baby, a small one to be sure. I love you all and will be glad to see you again. Love, Lyman De.

LETTER 905 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, August, 1964

Dear Dad, I'm sorry the letter was late; I watch the days go by very aware of when your birthday is and procrastinated as usual.

I suppose this letter will make you wonder if I've grown up or not, but I've a mind to say what I'm going to.

Several days ago Bertha Vega from my 1st branch (San Isidro) came down as a representative of the mission to work on branch and district books. She has kept track of me since I left San Isidro and has also done many things to prepare herself for future service to the Church. Right now she's working in the office as Registrar and Historian and has two or three baptisms every month (a tremendously spiritual girl). Well, she said she has saved the money and arranged the papers to go to the states for a month. She has a burning desire to see all the temples she can, get her endowments and a patriarchal blessing. We talked about these things a year and a half ago and she has done everything to prepare herself for them. My part would be guide. I would like to take Roberta and Sister Vega and borrow the car to see some of the nearby temples. I would also like to ask you to let her stay with us for one month. It's a lot to ask, but I want you to answer me as you feel so I can tell her. She would be there from April to May. I'll also tell you she's the only Peruvian I've met that I would think of marrying. Interesting and scary, huh? Well, I'll wait your better judgment.

Tomorrow morning the supervisor and I are going to Mollendo for four days on a special assignment from the president to help the Elders become a bit more animate.

I hope you had a happy birthday; that everyone is treating you as they should. The time is going by fast. I'll write later this week. Your son, Lyman.

LETTER 906 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, August, 1964

Dearly beloved family, grandpa wrote me yesterday and said to go ahead with the shoes; he would send you the money. So I cashed a \$90 and \$10 or an \$89-11, however it goes. Here's a promise to be kept unless sickness is encountered. My next check will be \$70 or less to help you with the kid's school. I had several little items to get out of the way this month. I bought an \$8.00 sweater because of the cold. It is made of Alpaca. I got it for S/200 instead of S/350 because of a bad neck (too big). Saved six dollars and I like the big neck. Also, the other day part of a big filling came out and upon going to the dentist it was discovered that it was all black underneath. After debating for fifteen or twenty minutes we decided against pulling it. It took $\frac{3}{4}$ of the tooth away and we capped it with silver. That cost \$6.00, so with good managing and some luck, I should have success in cashing a small check next month.

I finished *The Virginian*, a tremendous cowboy, psychology, love, human nature book, etc. I really enjoyed it. I'm staying on schedule with the *Book of Mormon* too. I should finish it easy next week. Haven't got too much new out of it this round. The doctrine is clearer, but the story is the same. I'm starting another novel *The Long Rifle*, a story of Andy Burnett and his western

journeys. My novel reading is now with the purpose in mind of broadening my knowledge so as to contribute something of worth (morally and entertainingly) when I publish my first book. I've decided to just experiment right now. Neither my vocabulary nor my knowledge is ready for such an understanding but in two or three years it will be.

Sister Vega, to keep you breathing freely, is engaged and may be married when she makes her trip. I have my eyes open and my mind set. I will not marry until I graduate or find someone who can "bear the whips and scorns of" college life with me. I prefer to not find her until afterwards, though, not overlooking the possibility of being "stung by a sweet honey bee." Maybe that will help in your decision and/or advice. I will find more details or drop it upon receiving your reply.

My piano has taken a note for the worse, having hardly any time near one now. The guitar is improving but very slowly. My main object is to live each day as a dedicated missionary should and finish a prosperous mission honorably. There are moments for relaxation, reading, etc., that let me keep my character progressing jointly. "I'm not any better than my weakest point," said the Virginian. So I'm trying to bring my weakest points up some.

We are working hard, but my companion is the worst psychological case I've ever seen. He doesn't respond to anything but what he shouldn't and I'm getting mighty disgusted with him. I don't mind helping someone who cares or white-like wants help, but a shezz, I'm glad I was raised where I was as I was. I don't have any problems except other people's.

I managed to save \$24.00 for the elders this month as cat man. We each got back \$4.00, which helped a bit.

How's everything? Is the garden producing well? How's the little one coming along? I suppose she's growing up right. What kind of a car do we have now? I'm sure getting anxious to drive, swim, work, play, sleep, eat, talk, study, etc. After missionary life, routine days can't be bad. Work, eat, study, work, eat, study, sleep every day. Man it's enough to drive you out of your gourd as the elders put it.

Last time I remembered how long I'd had was when you mentioned it in a letter. As a personal favor, please don't mention my coming home in months or days until it's about time. Letters are very encouraging and inspirational, but at times make me trunky. I'll try my best to work hard to the last day if you'll do me the favor. Thanks. Well, I'll write the middle of next week or about as you're reading this letter. Love ya all loads and hope you're behaving yourselves. Chau, Lyman D. Platt.

LETTER 907 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, August, 1964

Dear Family, I was most surprised to get a third letter this week, but very happy as I'm sure you'll be with this one.

That Ed is a rascal. Here I try to keep up with him and he goes and decides to be a Junior Official. I'll show you boy, next summer. I'll go as a Senior Official. Say could somebody please get me registered as a scout. I'll lose out on my chance for any honorary awards in the future if

you don't. I thank you, Leslie thanks you. I have World Brotherhood completely done now. I'm working on Interpreting and Astronomy. I think I can have my Bronze Palm a month after I get home. I'm looking forward to getting into scouting again. Gene, you'll be Eagle before I get home if you hurry. You're doing really well. Boy I sure have a neat family. McKay making \$2.00 picking cherries, Roberta turning into a little lady, and the rest of you. I'm thankful for all of you.

Before I forget, it cost me \$11.00 to have a pair of shoes made with little rises in the right place for my crumby toes. Boy it will feel good to have perfect fitting shoes. I wrote to Grandpa Roy.

My glasses feel good, but I've been having a few blurry moments lately. I believe I'm reading too much.

We had barbequed pork chops, two glasses of milk, puré de papas (mashed potatoes) at Rollman's the other night. We listened to records, the Republican Convention and talked. A question; do you think you'll vote for Goldwater? I don't believe I would. I'd like your opinions on how you think I should vote. I haven't been following things very closely, but I believe Johnson is doing okay. I wouldn't mind voting for him, unless you could show me why you think I shouldn't. [What a fool I was!]

I've about run out of things to say this week. I'll answer every letter you send though. I wrote a couple tonight to Toquepala so should know about them soon.

Boy, I'm bushed. We put in a pretty hard day today. I didn't take a rest because of some posters I had to make for a Book of Mormon Program Branch I is having tonight.

The chapel is now officially underway. They started digging trenches today. It has taken a long time to finish the barracks.

Hey Dad, I'm reading the *Virginian* in my spare time. It is pretty good. Rollman gave us some other books too: *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *Advice and Consent*, *A Red Badge of Courage*, *Elmer Gantry*, *Great American Short Stories*. I have certainly broadened in my desire to read and write during my mission. It's very enjoyable. I'm also studying a book *Men to Match Mountains* (a history of the West). It's a very interesting book. I'm in the middle of *Alma* also.

How's the work coming along for everyone? I hope to be able to write a really small check for September to help out with the kids getting into school. I'll do the best I can.

I guess I'd better hit the hay. It's near ten o'clock. I can't stay up past ten anymore. It will be a blessing if it continues when I get home.

Know I love you all and pray for your welfare and happiness. Love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 908 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, August 18, 1964

Dear family, It sounds like the family is getting along pretty well and that everyone is well and happy. I'm sorry I didn't write last Friday, and as I said probably would get around to writing for mom and dad's 22nd anniversary. Nevertheless, I'm wishing you a happy one.

I have good news along the financial lines. I sold three of my books for S/320 soles or about (\$11.50), an old suit plus a coat for S/130 or about \$5.00, and my white overcoat, which I liked but didn't use for S/500 or about \$20.00. I bought a suit with two pairs of pants for S/200, a pair of shoes for S/100, paid off a plane trip from Tacna S/207, paid off several other bills and will be able to go until the 7th of September without cashing a check. Pretty good, huh? That will alleviate a little tension along your financial lines and will put me near the first of every month when I write checks. Now all that is left is to buy some new socks (cheaper here than there) and see if you can get me several shirts and garments. Oh yeah, I also bought one new shirt. If you got in touch with a missionary at the Y who is coming to Peru you could give him a few dollars for overweight and send them with him. There should be a group leaving a few days after you receive this letter. On arrival they could send it through our weekly package without any cost. Otherwise it would cost me double the price it cost you just to get it out of Customs. Anything by air would cost you too much and probably wouldn't get here anyway. That would be the best way if President Robinson doesn't make it. I will try and make everything else last although I may still try and get a suit by similar methods employed this month to stretch my budget.

It's good to hear about my old friends and that they are settling down. I hope to see them and talk over their missions. With the world situation as it is now, though, I've checked into draft and gone so far as to check into the Army possibilities. Now I'll have six weeks or less after I get home to get into school before they'll draft me, but if I do that it wouldn't be what I want to do. If I joined the Army I could, in three years, get approximately a year and a half of credits from B.Y.U. by correspondence – we now interrupt this message to bring you an important announcement. We just received changes in the package. My companion is going over to Branch III and my companion as of Friday is Elder Sanderson from Orem. He has been down three months and is a pretty good Elder. He's different, though.

Back to the war. I'm not decided about this yet, as I'll want to talk and do a lot of thinking and praying.

Now about Sister Vega. She tells me she's not engaged and still has the same plans. Also Sister Alverson from the Peace Corps wants to go. She leaves when I do. Anyway things ought to be interesting; so many decisions and so many important ones.

It will be nice to help eat all that bottled fruit. I don't know for sure how long I'll be home, but whatever is decided will be best for my future, at least. I would like to stay home though.

Thursday: If you send the B.Y.U. catalog by air leave one corner cut off so they can see it is a book. Don't put the price value on it like they'll say to do, but just Book without Value, and Libro sin Valor. Otherwise I have to pay on this end double the price. You could send the book safely, but if you can send it with a missionary that would be better.

Elder Shuck, you've heard me talk of him before, is leaving the last of the month and he asked me if there was anything I could send home to you. Well, I'm sending with him two boxes of slides, *Jesus the Christ, Articles of Faith*, the Bible and The Book of Mormon. Now I won't be sending as many books home. Elder Shuck has been a good example to me during my mission and I hope you'll receive him accordingly.

I was sure I mentioned about Sister Vega, but I don't see it in the letter, so I'll say it again. She will definitely be going to the states and also won't be getting married. Sister Alverson, a Salt Laker, registered nurse, 24, single, nice, is also postponing a trip from here to the states by land so she can see some of the temples and get her endowments too. You know if it would be possible, I'd just as soon use the truck to make this little tour. What we'd like to do, with your approval, is making the following trip; if Sister Vega can get her endowments in Los Angeles the better she has to get them in Spanish. That would save us the trouble of having to go to Arizona or Los Angeles. We'd like to see all those in Utah, Idaho, San Francisco and possibly Cardston. I might be able to appease them just seeing Utah's and Idaho's along with the Grand Canyon, Bryce, Zion and Yellowstone. Please let me know what you think so I can let Sister Alverson know. One way or another is okay with Sister Vega. They will be paying the majority of the expenses. I know Roberta will be right in the middle of school, but would like her along. If not now, given that there will be two girls going along makes it all right. In thinking all this over the only part that bothers me is having to borrow from you. You've been so good to me on my mission and now that I am of age I feel I should be dependent and not have to rely on you, but rather help you. Of course I will when I get home and through the vacation, if you'll bear with me until then. If these trips go through, a few hours in Mexico is all I'll be staying as I'll need the time to do everything else. Time. I wish there was more of it.

Now from the missionary standpoint we are doing great. My companion and I will have up to five baptisms this week, putting us back in 1st place. It will be a complete family also. If I don't explain you much about baptisms please don't be upset. We've been taught all during our mission to say as little of them as possible. I have been blessed by our Heavenly Father, though, with my share of them and as far as I can tell by reports and gossip, they are all still active; the majority holding leading offices, for which I'm also blessed. More than that I'll not say.

We have been averaging about eleven meetings a week, so are slowly working our way up to a steady sixteen. I would feel very happy indeed to be able to hold as I now am for the next six months. Slumps will come, though, but we'll make them as short as possible.

Family, I love very much the missionary program and it helps me more every day to see the beauty of strong family ties. To prepare for a mission nowadays consists in being honest with yourself, easy to get along with, and prayerful. If you boys can have as part of yourself those three traits, your missions will be a success. Missions are like college; where before people stood in the distance to congratulate you if you do and to pray for you if you don't. You'll have companions you won't be able to stand, but developing these traits you'll still have success. I haven't liked Elder Rail, but we've grown and overcome many things together and are better for our relationship; and we've been blessed because we tried sincerely.

Well, I love you all and pray you'll study diligently and help the folks. Be prayerful and friendly with each other. We'll be together soon if we do have to put an extra clap in the table. Love, Lyman De.

LETTER 909 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, August, 1964

Dear Family, well, starting tomorrow many things change for me. I will have six months exactly to go. Some of my goals are: (1) to not say another word of English unless it interferes with the work; (2) exercising every day following a set number of progressive exercises; (3) getting above fifty-five hours each week and being an ideal missionary respecting elders, members, or girls. I am now the oldest in the branch and if I do anything wrong, the elders will blame it on trunkiness. I hope from your end, you'll all support me as much as possible. I will be sending very little, if anything, home except a few books.

Elder Shuck gets off his mission Monday, so he should be in Arizona before you get this letter. You will probably see him within several weeks. He has three or four of my book and two boxes of slides.

I'm enjoying working with my companion a lot; we are working hard (11-12 hours daily) and averaging two or three meeting daily. I believe if we are left together we'll get a lot of baptisms and feel good.

There are several girls after me here. That's been the story of my mission. The more you ignore them, the more they chase you. I believe the president sympathizes with the dilemma. He told me awhile ago just to do what I figured was right. I've never seen a man who inspires so much confidence as he does.

My companion and I and a member (20 years old, inactive but nice) have formed a trio for the district. We're trying to activate her and her family of five. The district choir is also coming along nicely. It sure is a lot of fun.

Respecting the shirts and garments and a few other necessities: a pair of shoes, etc. I got five almost new shirts, some garments, and a good pair of shoes, a pillow, a jacket, a towel, and some etc. for the money I got from my coat. It would have been better to consult with you but it was one of those take it or leave it deals. A missionary was sent home. So I took it. I hope you haven't bought any of those shirts or garments yet. I could still use some garments, however. This situation required that I cash a check for \$90.00. After so much planning to help you in one way, I failed, but in another, no? But you won't have to send much.

We finally had our meeting with the Peace Corps. It was very good; the Lord helped us say things right: in English. We have a 2nd lesson coming up later. There are so many things I could write, but it takes too long and I have less and less desires to write letters lately. You're the only ones I write to regularly. I'll be glad to tell you all the things of a mission in person. I don't know if I'm ready to settle down and study yet, though I've grown up in many ways, but in others I'm still a kid. I hope to find myself in the next six months. At times I feel like marrying a Peruvian and living here or at others of going in the Army or else studying, or else traveling, or else

getting married to Sister Arnold (she wrote her boy a Dear John and she told me a long while ago if she ever gave him up she wanted to see me after the mission). Forward, but forward.

Sister Vega will stay in Los Angeles and get her endowments and then come to our home for awhile. We'll probably just travel around Utah. Well, we have a meeting right now. I love you all family. I don't comment much about you individually, but I love you and think of you that way. May the Lord bless you all. Your brother and son, Lyman D. Platt.

LETTER 910 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 198-202 {PFRC Book 12}], August 24, 1964

Dearest Lyman, I find myself in different places writing to my missionary son. This morning I'm in the hospital lobby waiting to see Ed. He just got out of the operating room and is in the recovery room now. He had his tonsils out and I hope it will help clear up some of the infections he has been having this past year. We brought him to the hospital yesterday afternoon and I don't know how long they will keep him here.

Lots happening around here. Lately, with the Morin moving, there is lots of excitement and commotion. I surely hate to see them leave just as we get to where we can be close to each other. But hope it will work out well for them. Art and Rene went down and located a house in Lancaster (about seven miles from Palmdale). Rene will teach in Palmdale and Art in Lancaster. Their kids gave the program in their ward last night and it was pretty teary I guess. Everyone hates to see them leave – they are really well thought of. Art will drive a U-Haul van down with their things and tow their car I guess. Then Rene and the little ones will take the train down. Art will likely make two trips. Such a choice to move this many after so many years in one place. I'm glad it's not us this time.

Joe came home finally, and it's real good to have him back. He's taken right over with the concession stand out at the lake with Gene and Ed helping as needed. They had a busy day yesterday and Joe and Gene handled it by themselves. Joe has learned a lot this summer and is quite confident of his abilities to do things which are good for him. He got his car all paid for – fixed up and painted and learned quite a lot about that. Came home with enough money to put himself into school and get some clothes. I hope they can make a little on this concession stand but don't suppose it will do much this winter. Though they say there are lots of skaters out there.

Dad has a few weeks work at Sears along with his other job, so that will help in catching up on a few things.

We haven't seen President Robinson yet. Hope we haven't missed him if he came. You mentioned needing shirts and garments son. If President Robinson doesn't stop and you are really in need, let us know and we'll send some by mail if you want us to. Can you wear a real fine pin-stripe in light colors, or do your shirts have to be all white?

You've passed through your two year mark now and the next few months will go so fast. It will be good to have you home again.

Joe and Ed are talking of fixing up the family room downstairs with paneling-tile and paint. It will be fun for you big boys to work together on such projects.

Joe forgot to get your books. They are at Bishop Reusch's and they reminded him a few times but he came off in rather a hurry and forgot. We'll get them some way though. Maybe Uncle Roland can bring them up sometime. The kids will all be back in school Wednesday. The summer has been so short. Ed decided to wait until next summer to go for Order of the Arrow, as he couldn't afford it this summer.

Our little Irene is getting cuter each day. Joe took his first look at her as she lay asleep and said "Umm, I like Gordie better." But he is real cute with her now.

Just went up to see Ed and talked to the doctor. He came out of the operation just fine and will stay there until tomorrow. They really needed to come out and the doctor said Ed would be a lot better off without them so I'm glad it's taken care of.

Just ran home to check one thing and a big long letter there from you, so will answer it later. Love you lots son, Mother.

LETTER 911 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 194-196 {PFRC Book 12}], September 1, 1964

Dearest Lyman, I'm a couple of days late with this letter instead of having an extra one this week. It's been a busy two or three past weeks. I've had Rene's family a lot while they were getting moved and have been up there helping her the last few days. They left here Friday night about 7:00, and we haven't heard anything from them since. I hope tomorrow's mail will bring word that they made it down there all right and that they are getting settled and adjusted. This was quite an undertaking for them after living in one place for so many years and with so many children. Their neighbors and friends have all been really helpful and nice, and they will be missed by lots of people. They were well thought of in their ward and neighborhood, as I'm sure you know from living with them awhile. I surely hated to see them leave – our phone has been pretty quiet. Their children, especially the older ones, didn't like the idea of moving and they will have a new experience adjusting to a new place, friends, and situations. I just hope that all will be well with them.

Grandma Lyman came up and spent a day with us before Rene left. She came up with Uncle Albert and Aunt Gladys and Guen. She went on up to see Bob and Lois and then went home from there. It was good to see her. They feel quite badly that Rene and Art are moving and that Rene has to go to work. I told you that she and Art were both going to teach, didn't I? They got a home in Lancaster and she will teach in Palmdale – about six miles away. Their address there is 319 West Avenue, J-10, Lancaster, California.

Since they left Joe has been running the concession stand at the Lake, with a little help from others in the family as needed. Of course the busiest part of the season is past, and he likely won't do much the rest of this year. I haven't ever been very optimistic about it and haven't

wanted it, but hope it will work out okay. He quite enjoys that type of thing and gives him something to do.

Saturday morning Carolyn came up from Stockton to stay with us until school starts at the Y. Then she will be staying in one of the new girls' dorms with a girl friend from Stockton. She has grown up a lot since we saw her and is a cute girl. We are quite enjoying her stay with us. She goes out with Joe to the Lake, mutual, a dance, etc., and they seem to have a lot of fun. It's rather different having a teenage girl around. She is good to help and knows how to work, so that makes it nice. She share's Roberta's room – sleeps in her bed and Roberta has a bed on the floor, and we put Irene in with us. I said Carolyn, but I meant JoAnn. She will be starting her first year here. Carolyn started here last year then decided to go home and go to school down there, so now she is working and will go to school and work part time there. Joy and her husband are in Jackson Hole again this summer and will soon be coming back to school.

Dad found a boy here from Norwalk that he used to teach who will be leaving for Peru in a few weeks and he said he would take a package for you, so we'll try and get some garments and shirts to send. I guess President Robinson didn't get up this way – at least not here to see us. That was really fine that you were able to sell some of your things there and get some of the things you needed. We appreciate how thoughtful you are of our pocketbook and appreciate you cutting the corners you have.

A few nights ago the Woffindens and Bushman's from Lehi came to see us. Melvin is on a mission in Australia and will soon be coming home.

Guess your changes are always interesting. Hope you and your new companion can work well together. What is his father's name and I could talk to them on the phone?

In reference to your trip with the sisters, don't know just what our car situation will be by then, but if we still have two and they are in good running order, you would of course be welcome to use one of them. I don't know where we would put two of them here at home for a very long time but could probably manage. I think a trip to just the closer ones plus the parks would be better, as the temple in Cardston, etc. would entail lots of travel and time, and I just don't know what our car situation will be by then.

Sounds like the missionary work is coming along fine, and we are so glad that you are enjoying it and doing your best to further the Lord's work there. We also appreciate the advice you send home to the brothers and just hope that most of it is sinking in. Joe's main interest right now seems to be his car. He spends quite a bit of time and money on it. Hope his interest will broaden along spiritual lines more in the next couple of years. He and Ed and Gene are all taking seminary this year – first time we have had more than one of you at a time.

Irene is doing fine – getting quite plump and cute. We'll likely have her good and spoiled by the time you come home, as no one likes to hear her cry around here. The rest of you have survived though in pretty good shape, so I guess she will. I have been letting her fuss while I've been writing this letter, so guess I had better take care of her now. The kids are all at mutual, including Roberta. This is her first time there, and she feels quite grown up. She is getting to be quite a

pretty young lady and she has some nice little girl friends here in the ward, for which I'm grateful.

Good night son. We love you lots and pray for your happiness and health. Love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 912 Kirk Cook Lyman, Ohio, to Edward and Irene Lyman, Blanding, Utah, September 1, 1964

Dear Folks, Seems like quite some time now since I've taken time to sit and write out a few lines. As you had my post card informing you of the transfer, I thought you might like a few lines in a letter.

I'm now in Ohio, the first time during my mission, and I'll likely stay here for the rest of my mission. The city is about 20,000 and so far it looks real good. When I came here, because of existing problems, they didn't have much and as of now we're blessed in that we have a few teaching opportunities coming up. We hope they will turn out productive.

The people here are quite different, inasmuch as they are more of the okey or hillbilly type coming from Tennessee, Oklahoma, and places like that, though we are close to an Air Force base and this brings in a lot of intellectual people, many of whom we hope to be able to teach.

Time is flying by so fast that I can hardly keep track of it. I've been here for almost a whole week now, and it seems like only yesterday that I arrived here. My companion is from Salt Lake City and is a real fine man and I think a lot of him, as I've known him before from past missionary work.

Don't recall exactly when the last time was that I heard from Dad, and I would have to hunt for the letter but from talking or keeping in touch with a stake missionary in Salt Lake City who is keeping in touch with Dad, he is about to decide to have something done for his stomach and his back. When or what, I don't know.

I believe in your last letter you asked if I knew what I was going to do when I get home. No, I don't. Because of a job and finances I won't be going to school for a while, and being as I don't need to worry about the draft, I'll be free to take some time to decide what I want. There is one of three choices, any or all of which could be combined. School, job and marriage, the latter being an important part but right now no intended.

There really isn't much news as I've only been here a short time, so I'll close in wishing you all the best of luck and hope you all have a happy holiday. Love, Kirk.

LETTER 913 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, September 5, 1964

Dear Family, I don't know how long it's been since I last wrote you, but it seems like a long time. We've been extremely busy giving lessons and meeting people and trying to keep from getting sick; time has been evasive.

Baptisms are, of course, the result. Elder Sanderson and I are putting in over sixty hours a week and having a lot of real fine success with families. I enjoy him very much and can work as long and hard as I want without having to argue about it.

Yesterday we hiked forty miles, going up to 15,000 feet. It sure is thin air up that high. We climbed part way up one of the 20,000 foot mountains to the north: Chachani. We were sure tired when we got back; eight hours of constant walking. Then we turned around and worked for seven hours on our day off.

This week I've had to get a typhoid and a gamma globulin shot each cost S/50 apiece, so I'm behind schedule again.

I don't remember if I told you, I hurt a rib playing basketball two weeks ago, but it is better now. I'm feeling fine except for a few stiff walking muscles.

Elder Shuck should be by this week or next with my books and two boxes of slides. I now have no friends left from when I came into the mission that are still here. I'm almost the oldest in Arequipa. I'm trying to be the best example, too; getting up at six (nobody in our apartment does), working hard and living as you've taught me. The more I live the more thankful I become for your training folks. Well, I'll probably get your letter today, but to not be too behind, I'll send this now. I love you all very much. Elder Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 914 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, September 6, 1964

Dearest family, your letter was received as supposed yesterday, so I'll attempt a quick reply. It sounds like interesting things are happening all over the place. It would be fun to be there for a week; just a short little visit.

September 11- well, my quick reply is one of those delayed action jobs. It has been one long hard week, though, as follows:

Last Friday my companion and I took a forty miles hike as I believe I told you. We were bushed. The rest of Saturday and Sunday was spent working to get our people ready for baptism. Having district choir practice, etc. Sunday we had the baptism service.

Since Monday we have been preparing some other people. One man will be baptized tomorrow. He is a cousin of my ex 1st counselor Encinas, in Tacna.

Tuesday night we had a really nice music festival. Our trio was very successful. Other singing involved in this week is an elders' choir, another trio, and the district choir. I'm hoping to have cultivated my voice to be able to participate in the B.Y.U. men's chorus again, as well as ward and stake choirs.

Wednesday, we took two women investigators to Relief Society and did a little embroidery work ourselves. It was profitable.

Today, so far, I've finished *To Kill a Mockingbird*, a very good book, and started for the 5th time a novel. This time after a lot of research. I think I'll try it on *Diné – the People*. I doubt I'll finish it either, but I'm gaining valuable experience for when I finally do write one.

The mission is going by tremendously fast right now. We are working eleven-twelve hours a day and that gives little time for anything else. I don't know if it will be too late to tell you what I want, but I'd like some garments, socks, and candy.

How's everybody doing about now in school? I'm interested in each of you and hope to get some personal letters written soon. Dad, it's about time for one from you. Grandpa and Grandma Lyman each sent me a nice letter today; I must answer soon. Mother, the next time you write to Aunt Cretia will you send her my love? Grandma says she's still trying hard on her personal history and hinted that she wanted some help, so I hope I can oblige her shortly. Also, I'll have to get after Grandpa. Boy, I want to get back to that genealogy badly. I don't know what I'm going to do; having so many far-flung interest and none that really is money-making.

Conference is Sunday. This time high councilmen will be put in as will a Peruvian district presidency. Also for the first time there will be a choir of singing mothers.

The chapel is done foundation-wise. Today we are going to start putting up frames for the walls. By the 1st of October we'll start putting in the brick. If I'm privileged to stay here I'll be looking out before I go home. It should just about be done. Plans are for next year to have a school where the 3rd branch is, that is in March. They'll start schools in Lima also. So, one of our major problems is being solved. Chapels are built in Trujillo, Arica, Callao and Arequipa now. Three are done. They may serve as school also. The Book of Mormon prophecies are being fulfilled and it's a pleasure to help bring them to pass.

May the Lord be with you family. Your support and teachings are precious to me; until next week, chau. Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 915 McKay Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 915 {PFRC Book 12}], September 8, 1964

Dear Lyman De, I haven't written for a long time. I can't wait for four more months. You have been away so long and you're so different, that you seem you belong to another family.

In science when we were in our stars unit, we had to learn all these things about stars: all planets' names, how many miles away from the sun each planet is, how many moons and rings, and how many days it would take to go around the sun. We had to know fourteen questions about astronomy. And I don't know how many things we had to look up in the dictionary. And I got highest in the class: 74 out of 83.

Gordie got a bicycle yesterday. He hasn't learned to ride it yet, but he's doing okay.

Dad, Joe and Ed went to a football game. B.Y.U. against Air Force. We beat. At the first of the football game this man parachuted into the very, very, very, very, very, very, very, very center of the field. But I didn't get to go.

On Halloween I got ½ of a bag full of candy. I was Zorro Z.

Well, I guess I've run out of words. But wait a minute. So goodbye, yours truly, McKay.

Quiz and other Things

What did the ocean say to the beach? Nothing, it just waved.

What state is an unmarried woman? Miss.

What falls but doesn't break? What breaks but doesn't fall? Night falls, Day breaks.

Who was the fastest runner in history? Adam, he was the first of the human race.

LETTER 916 Rene Lyman Morin, 319 West Avenue, J-10, Lancaster, California, to Gordon L. Platt family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 206 {PFRC Book 12}], September, 1964, Sunday

Dearest Platts: a week has past since we arrived and still we are not all unpacked but it is beginning to look a litter better. There is about half the storage space we had in Provo so I have to sort and throw away again and it is taking a long time. How are all of you – hope Eddy is recovered now and able to eat. Guess the boys are enjoying having a big girl around to tease, aren't they. Sorry we missed you JoAnn.

There were so many things cluttering my mind that I didn't take care of all the details there. Allie, I never did ask you what I owed you for staying with the children while we were in California. Please let me know. Joe, we got away with more stuff at the Lake than we planned. The box we thought was empty and used to put some dishes in turned out to have a couple of bags of wafers in when we got here. And I took some sugar daddies for the kids to chew on while riding. We didn't ever find them until we got here and we had inadvertently picked up a box of Hershey almonds, too. We were in such a hurry that we were just grabbing things and we didn't ever look at them again until we unpacked here. In fact, I never have found some of the things so I am wondering if I left a box there. That's what comes from being so unorganized. But that's me.

I still haven't found a baby tender (wouldn't it be nice if I didn't) and I am beginning to get a little desperate. I have already made up my mind to teach only one year, so that we can get on our feet financially. I wish I had never agreed to teach – guess I was out of my mind. I need to be home with my little ones for a few more years then I wouldn't mind teaching.

We still haven't been to Church. It was stake conference yesterday and we couldn't go because Art was leaving. Anyway, haven't found everyone's clothes. Dale Stevens lives here, just found out. Guess I will call him. We are learning our way around a little. Finished the children

shopping yesterday, I hope. We bought a new electric stove, didn't have time to shop around for a used one. It is nice. I am still swamped with so many things to do. Have until Thursday to get things done here, and then school starts. Will have to register the children on Tuesday.

I try not to think about all of you and how nice it was to be so close. Poor Marilee is grieving so about her dog. I hope that when she gets acquainted it will take her mind off Trixie. The neighbors are very aloof – with eleven children I can see why they would be. I guess it is good we are so busy for a while. Hope everything is just working out good for you kids and that Joe is making a heap o' money at the Lake. The National Biscuit Salesman's name is Larry Bybee. I am sure there are other things I should say but I must quit now, and take care of some other things. Did you get all the things moved to your house? Again let me say that I appreciated all the help you were, Allie – I wouldn't have made it without you. Give little Irene a kiss for me. You don't need to share all the details of this letter of the family if you don't want to – some of them may not be appropriate. We love you lots, Rene.

LETTER 917 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, September 9, 1964

Dear Family, I'm sitting in the Filinich's home having my coat sewed up and practicing for our trio presentation this evening in the district music festival. Also Sunday evening in a presentation we'll be singing in another trio for a fireside. President Nicolaysen will be at that one. It is a lot of fun, and we have been asked various times to sing on T.V. but we haven't received permission from President Nicolaysen yet. Depending on how we impress him and with what type of music, [will decide] if we'll be able to or not. It has been fun anyway. I would like to form a trio with several of the family when I get home. It would be fun to sing in Mutual or special programs.

The baptisms are coming along fine, now. The rumors are looking towards the opening up of Bolivia shortly. There is an elder living in Cochabamba who works with the Bolivian Embassy. He took the names of all the elders here in Arequipa. It would be nice, but my mission is to terminate in Arequipa as far as I'm concerned. I love it here and enjoy working with the people. Some of these people are going to be mighty hard to leave. I love them with a love I've not known before. [Rest of letter lost]

LETTER 918 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, September 12, 1964

Dear families, after receiving six letters in one I figure it deserves a hasty reply. Sounds like life is quite enjoyable in the Provo area. I guess with everybody and their dog there, though, it would be.

We had a good time working on the chapel yesterday. Each day it gets funner. Watching it progress builds your testimony, really!

You know Ed, I'm sure proud of you; I hope you have your Bronze Palm before I get home. It will be good for you and it will give me more desire. You've been the leader in scouting in our family even if I did get my Eagle first. It was because of you.

Joe, it sounds like your car ought to really be one gold pad on wheels. It will be fun dragging main, etc. It'll be fun to get together. About the bike ride. I've decided to wait and see just what happens when I get home: marriage, school, army, or just work.

Gene, you're coming right up to my expectations. I'm really proud of you and hope we'll have a lot of good times together.

Roberta, I'm happy your cat had kits. Tell them to stay little until I get home. I'm glad you enjoy school.

JoAnn, I'm glad you're enjoying the stay with the family. I hope we can get to know you and our other relatives better.

Well, mother to you, I guess I'm just happy you're so understanding and are my mother. Love, Always, L.D.

LETTER 919 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 308 {PFRC Book 12}], September 13, 1964

Dearest Lyman, sounds like the time is getting away from you down there too until you can't remember when you last wrote. That's about the way the time goes by up here too. Seems like it keeps me hopping just keeping enough bread baked to feed this family, along with fixing three meals and taking time out a few times during the day to feed our baby.

Today we have all been to Church. Joe was at the concession stand this afternoon. Didn't do much, as the weather was cold and blustery. Darrell Bowman [Whittier] was out there with him for awhile. He is here to go to the Y – also Steve Giles [Whittier] and several others. Stan Wilford has a big home he is renting and in which he room and boards half a dozen boys from Whittier and around. Yesterday we took JoAnn up to the Y to get settled in her dormitory room. Such pretty rooms and it all looked like it would be really fun for her – I'm sure she will enjoy it. We enjoyed having her here with us for a couple of weeks.

Art recently spent a day up here tending to unfinished business. I'll send Rene's letter, so you will get an idea of what and how they are doing. Needless to say we miss them all and are very disappointed that we aren't going to get to live by them except for such a short time. Rene and I had hoped to raise these two little girls together, but that's life.

Well, the kids have been in school a couple of weeks and getting down to the grind of things now. All three of the boys are taking algebra. Joe and Ed are taking the same course but not together. Joe really likes his seminary teacher, for which I'm glad. Ed doesn't like his too well. Joe drives to school each day and takes Ed and a couple of other boys here in the ward. Ed and Gene both get up at 5:00 a.m. still to deliver the Tribune, and I imagine it will present some problems this winter. But I'm glad they have their routes, as it gives them what spending money they need.

Lyman we are so pleased that you and your new companion get along so well and happy that you can enjoy these last few months of missionary work without too many problems.

Fall is coming. The trees on the tops of the mountains here are turning, and there is quite a lot of red that we can see from here. I'm just glad we aren't in for another Sandpoint winter. I don't think I'll mind it here.

Ed has recovered from his tonsils okay now and hopes that he will spend a better winter than the last one.

Well, son, I think you and I are both getting a little tired of these weekly letters. It will be good to have some talks instead of writing won't it? Keep up the good work, and I'm sure all your problems will work out as you meet each one, with all our love, Mother.

LETTER 920 Kirk Cook Lyman, Ohio, to Edward and Irene Lyman, Blanding, Utah, September 15, 1964

Dear Folks, I'm taking a few minutes out of my study time to get this out to you, being as I'm way behind in my writing. Therefore, if there are a lot of mistakes and it's rather brief, you'll know why.

Missionary work is fine here, except that we don't have enough people to teach. Truly the Lord does put obstacles into your path to help you grow. As I compare my past baptismal converts as to the missionaries of old, and how they would labor for years without seeing any visible success, I marvel at the success we enjoy and yet don't truly realize it. Blessings aren't blessing unless you lose them.

I would assume that I'll be released on October 22nd, as this is the closest date to two years in the field. Also, our mission president is going to a Mid-American Mission Conference the following week, and he likes to be here (has to be) at the releases. I'll know within a couple of weeks when (the day) I'll be released.

As yet, I don't have any definite plans when I get home, except for finding a job to get things going financially. As to whether it will be in Idaho or Utah, I don't know. You mentioned something in your last letter about coming to Blanding and you'd help me get a car. Thanks very much. I really appreciate your help, but won't this be throwing a big bind on you? I happen to know that none of the Lyman family is rich, and I'm not about to put you in a bind, as you have already helped out much more than is expected. I'm not sure but what you had something definite in mind, and if so, would you let me know. Time's flying by, so every week counts.

Heard from Burns recently, and he said in my next letter to you, to tell you hello and give you his best regards. From his sparse and small letters every once in a coons age, I hope to think that he is possibly on the road to a better life. I've encouraged all I can without making it sound like preaching, so I'm hoping for the best.

Haven't heard much from Dad lately so can't give much news there. I sure hope he decides to have something done for his stomach and his back. After years of suffering, I'd think it would

get monotonous let alone painful. I challenged him to prepare for going through the temple when I got home so I hope he takes it seriously and works on his life sufficiently to make it through. Nothing I'd like more than to have him go through with me when I marry. I have no definite plans as yet, nor a gal, but I'm sure when the Lord is ready for me to marry in His House, that he'll provide a help-meet.

Surely hope you are enjoying the same kind of weather we are. It was boiling hot for quite some time, but now has cooled off considerably and is quite comfortable through the day.

Yesterday, I helped the other set of missionaries take their car's transmission out and put in a bearing. In order to do so, we had to drop the rear end, pull it back, drop the drive line, and then take out the transmission. It took us a total of seven and a half hours to do it, most of the time being taking up putting the bearing in, learning by experience. Well, must go, take care, and write and let me know. Love Kirk.

LETTER 921 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, September 17, 1964

Dearest family, I have just finished writing to Grandpa Chidester, Grandma and Grandpa Lyman and some friends in Toquepala. I have the district typewriter for a few days and hope to make the best use of it.

We are being blessed exceedingly here in Arequipa with the Spirit of the Lord. This week in Arequipa will be realized the dreams and prayers of many missionaries and members culminating in the baptisms of over twenty people. Before we've been used to having one or two, sometimes five in a week's time, but due to the Group Meeting Program we are now using they are coming in greater numbers. The president has put his "choicest elders in Arequipa" and therefore expects us to be the "most baptisingest" also.

We just terminated a wonderful conference and have high hopes in organizing quorums of Deacons, Teachers, Priests, Elders, and of completely stocking the district within the next three months. With those goals in mind we are looking for leaders to fill the various positions. I hope that my brothers get the opportunity to come here because when they come there will be chapels and stakes and schools and well, it will be tremendous. As President Nicolaysen said "we have more of the blood of our Father Lehi in this mission than in any other" and as President Brown said "I tell you Elders you are baptizing right now grandfathers and fathers of future Apostles of the Church." It is really as choice a place on earth as there is and I would consider coming back to live if the Lord will so ordain. I hope you boys are taking Spanish or are thinking of it and that you will be conscientious about it. I would like to help you learn it when I get back.

My companion and I will be having another baptism this week, and feel very fortunate in the blessings we are receiving. In my interview with the president this week he expressed his joy for the way I was working and thanked me for being such that the members enjoyed it too. He said he probably wouldn't be able to leave me in Arequipa too much longer. There are thirty-three new missionaries coming down in the next two months, so I will probably get a change within that time, but he told me just to take the same attitude with me as I have now, wherever I went.

I don't have too much more to say except that I will answer these letter from my family as quickly as possible. Christmas being the latest date. I am thankful for all the letters I did receive last week though and hope you all have success in your works and studies. I will write more Saturday when I receive your letter from home for this week. Love you all, Lyman De.

LETTER 922 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to Edward Partridge Lyman and Irene Perkins Lyman, Blanding, Utah, September 17, 1964

Dear Grandparents, I guess it's time for me to give you another letter firsthand instead of via parents. It is good to have this few minutes to take and write to you. We have been really busy lately working on a new program for this mission "Group Meetings" where we work with the members of the Church in preparing meetings in their homes with their friends. It is having a lot of success as we had two baptisms last week and one this week; the city in total is going to have twenty where it has been having one or two. It is really a blessing to be working in Peru; a mission with more Lamanite blood than any other mission. We are fulfilling scriptures and it is a humbling experience.

The Church is progressing rapidly all over South America. We just had district conference and the high council was initiated this time in Arequipa. Hundreds of baptisms a month are coming out of the efforts of missionaries in Peru. We are one of the newest missions in South America, but we are catching up rapidly to missions that have been open upwards of thirty years.

I appreciated your letters of exhortation and love recently and am grateful to be your grandson with a name to live up to as well as I have. I'm not ashamed of anything I've done yet in my mission and don't intend to be either.

It is good to know that your history is being done Grandma and I would like to congratulate you on it and want to help you with it when I get home. Grandpa, I hope not to let you down in the least and expect the same regarding your personal history. It means an awfully lot to me so please don't let me down.

I am in good health as yet having only one day in bed during my two years here. I love this work with all my heart as do I love the people. I would like to return as a missionary again if possible or if not come back to work here and help them become a great people. They have an amazing future in store.

Well, I'll sign off with my love and pray the Lord may bless you as he has in the past. Your grandson, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 923 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 210-211 {PFRC Book 12}], September 23, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Just realized I hadn't sent a letter this week, so better take time before going to bed to write a little. We had a letter from you yesterday and sounds like you're keeping really busy. Wonder where you will move to this time, if you move.

We're in the middle of canning now. Your dad and I went to Mapleton and picked about six bushels of peaches, so I've had my hands full trying to get them and pears (we picked in Orem) and tomatoes (from our garden) into bottles. It's quite a job with so many interruptions that come from a family this size, but we're surely glad to be getting our bottles filled and glad we have some to fill. Did I tell you Rene gave me a lot when they left? It's been so cold, we've been afraid it would freeze before we got our bottles filled, but it has been warmer today, so maybe we'll have a little more summer.

How is your weather there now? Guess you're just going into summer. I kind of hate to see winter come but know I won't mind it like I did last winter.

Roberta says to tell you these kittens won't stay little until you get here, but there will very likely be plenty more. They are fun to watch. They grow and change so fast. So does Irene – we can almost see her grow and she does such cute little things now.

Thursday morning: couldn't stay awake to finish last night so will finish this morning.

Uncle Bob is in the hospital again. He just had an operation for a ruptured disk. He really has his share of problems. Guess Kirk's mission will be over about next month. These past two years have gone so fast. I can hardly believe it. Each year goes a little faster it seems. No wonder this life is so short.

George and Thora won't be coming up here I guess. She has decided to go to school in Cedar for a year then teach in Richfield. George's work has opened up more there and he will stay there with most of the family. Thora will take the two youngest with her.

Haven't heard too much from Rene and Art so don't know how they are getting along down there since school started. Hope things will work out well for them though.

The boys will be back from their paper routes in a few minutes and will want their breakfast so I'd better get busy. We're glad for the success you are having there son and that you like the people so well. It is a choice experience you have having. Wish we were all growing as much as you are. Love from us all, Mother.

LETTER 924 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, October 2, 1964

Dearest family, Wishing doesn't make it so and for that reason you didn't receive a letter last week. I wanted to wait until your letter came and when it came two days late then I just kept postponing. A lot has happened since I last wrote.

I now have another companion: Elder Gold, from Sandy. Elder Sanderson went to Arica, Chile. It is interesting working with a new missionary and it is quit a job because they are just like little kids in that they pick up habits quickly. It is a lot of fun, though. We have good investigators and are working hard.

In about three weeks they are going to open up Bolivia to missionary work. They will send four missionaries to La Paz and four to Cochabamba. It is an interesting time to be in the mission.

Four traveling elders were called last week to help the order and expansion of the mission. There will need to be more before December because thirty more missionaries will be in the field than there are now and every branch is full.

With all these changes taking place, I'd be content to stay and work in Arequipa; I love it very much, but I feel the same way I've felt with each move. I hope it's just because of the excitement and not because I'm moving.

Last week I bought Bibles in the two Peruvian Indian dialects: Quechua and Amará and am in the process of learning the former. The latter is later.

It has been a lot of fun working on the chapel here. We poured the sub-foundation last week and will be getting things ready now for the floor pouring. Things are looking good.

Today we are going to work on the chapel in the morning and then go out to the club and play tennis in the afternoon. This evening we've been invited out to Rollman's to eat and talk then we have some meetings afterwards.

It sounds as though you've really had a lot of work as a family putting up fruit this year. That's good! I hope you save some for me.

Dad, the idea of meeting you in Los Angeles sounds fine. How many of the family would come? Would there be room for one more: Sister Vega? That way we could go through the temple with her while she got her endowments at the Los Angeles Temple and then go north as you suggested. We'd be able to see all that pretty country and the Oakland Temple. Then when we did get home, she could just see those in Utah and Idaho while with us. I'd love to take the California trip with just part of the family and then take the others with us on the temple tour. Maybe they wouldn't like that; however. Let me know. I'm game for whatever you decide.

Well, I've run out of paper and time. I love you all and hope the Lord is blessing you in your Church work, school work, home work, and work. I am being blessed abundantly and hope that I may ever prove worthy of these blessings.

Mother, I hope you have a happy birthday, and that you may know of my love for you on your special day. Your loving son and brother, Elder Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 925 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 212-213 {PFRC Book 12}], October 3, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Dad and the three boys are up to the field house to hear the priesthood session of general conference. Hope they enjoy it, as the boys didn't especially want to go. Dad and I have been watching the sessions on television or listening on the radio. Hope you are able to get part of it down there. We've had a number of conference visitors. Thursday night or I should say

Friday morning at 2:00 a.m. Bishop Simmons and Glen Campbell [Whittier] called and woke us up, then came up and visited for an hour or so. It was good to see them and visit with them even at such an ungainly hour. Bishop Snyder and some boys from Sandpoint came in also and today LaRee has been there watching television with us. She came up to conference and has been here visiting with Joy and JoAnn. It's good to see her.

Last night Dad and I went to Salt Lake and saw Bob, then on to Bountiful to Laurel's for dinner, and a visit with some of the Canadian relatives and others. Bob is home from the hospital and feeling pretty good. It will be several months before he can work again. Guess Kirk will be home sometime this month. The Platts have set July 3rd for their reunion in Canada, so we're hoping we can make it up there for it. Roland and Dorothy came up for conference also. They are still in Springdale. Gary and Bob are both going to school in Cedar. Also Jackie and her husband, so all they have home is Marley. I guess things will boom down that way now as the Dixie Project has been approved and the first appropriation made for it. Typical of our business dealings, to sell our property just before it rises in value.

I guess Joe and Ed are going up the canyon for a couple of days during U.E.A. Some of their friends and they want to camp out for a while, so this is about the only chance they'll have. It's apt to be rather cold.

We went to the court of honor a few nights ago where Gene received his Life Badge. Now Joe's going to have to get on the ball to get Eagle before Gene does. I'm getting quite a collection of miniatures. The new Eagle miniatures are about four times bigger than the one you got for me.

Irene is getting so cute and big. I'll have to try to get some more pictures.

Good night son. We love you and are counting the months. Be sure and let us know if the box reaches you that we sent with a missionary from Norwalk. Mother.

LETTER 926 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, October 8, 1964

Dearest family today is Friday once again and I'm getting a little trunky. I wrapped up all the books last night that I don't need and will start sending them home now, so you should be getting them off and on until I come home. The time is continuing to fly by rapidly; we're working hard and having success. Two more of my friends have gone home and very few are left. Elder Pitt is getting married in December.

I suppose Elder Shuck has stopped by already. He's busy in school work already. I guess everybody is busy, aren't they?

I really appreciated getting the B.Y.U. stuff. I believe within a month I'll be able to tell you what I'll be taking, etc. There are so many things I want to take. I'm threatening to take a bunch of tests on various subjects and just forget about the class bit. I'm not that smart in most fields, though. I believe I told you March 26th would be the day I would start things going. I'll surely

appreciate any help I can get from you dad in finding a job. I'll be at a loss with such a short time to do everything I'll need to do.

Thanks a million for all that candy, those sharp books on President Lincoln and the clothes. It will be a bit easier to terminate now. Elder Lee came down to Arequipa and is companion to Elder Chase and lives in our apartment. He is a good elder. I hope he'll be able to learn his lessons fast. My companion does fine.

I've been having a bad time lately with my throat. I'm wondering what's wrong. I don't ever feel really perky anymore. I'll be glad to be able to more or less just rest between my release date and school time. I'm just physically, mentally and spiritually worn out. There is hardly time in a day to have a few minutes of quiet alone. Oh well, I know the Lord will continue to bless me so I don't lose any proselyting time.

You know, life is funny! I wish I could spend more time studying and learning about it. We baptized a man who has more or less the same ideas, who says he would love to show me how it will be possible to get four or five hours of sleep a night and still feel good. He has practiced Yoga for seven years now and likes it. I'll see what he has to say anyway. I know I'd love to be able to have three or four extra hours a day to study, etc.

Things at home seem to be going okay. I've been away so long I don't think too much about home anymore. It seems like I've always been on a mission. Would it be possible for someone to keep me up to date on the B.Y.U. games? I imagine that the new stadium is fabulous isn't it? It will be fun to go to games there.

I'm enjoying learning Quechua. It really isn't too hard given that I know Spanish. Still it's a lot different.

The days are turning into spring and summer. The fruit is coming on and the kids are getting anxious to get out of school. I suppose everyone at home is enjoying their studies. How's the little kids, mom? How are you? Dad, how about a letter. I really enjoy hearing about your work and our plans for vacation 1965 in March. Does it look good (the family) financially or do you have very many big debts still?

We'll its afternoon. We have some meetings and this evening we need to practice for another music festival (if I can sing), so I'd better sign off. I love you all and know that five months will go quicker than we expect. Love always, Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 927 Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 214-220 {PFRC Book 12}], October 12, 1964

Dear Son Lyman, First of all, you never in your life saw such a hungry, long drink of water as Ed has become. He can devour a whole pan of mom's biscuits without batting an eye. He's home from school today with a staff infection.

Mom suggested I do the honor of writing this week, which once I get at it, isn't such a task as you might think. I really do enjoy speaking with you, even though I do all the speaking.

Mother is away at Relief Society and Gordie, Ed and I are here by ourselves. Mom took our cute girl with her. She is getting so sweet, so chubby and wonderful to hold and coo at. We don't know what we'd have done without her coming to join us (Irene that is).

Saturday the 17th opens the deer hunt and wish you here, maybe you could influence me to go, but Joe, Ed, and Gene haven't been able to as yet; really, though, I don't have a gun, having sold mine a year ago. Surely wish I had one right now. I believe I'll go this year.

How's our missionary? We are praying for your continued good health and well being while you are away. Do all you can to remain in good health. I know you exercise daily and eat as you should. We wish you the best for the coming few months that remain.

Each letter we expect to hear of you being transferred to some new locale, but happy when we see you are still there where you want to be and where you feel you are doing the Lord's work most effectively.

We have seen neither hide nor hair of the missionary you indicated might visit us. Nor have we heard from your mission president, President Nicolaysen. We are also wondering whether you got the package or not. Elder Bennie Lee was a student of mine from Norwalk, California and should possibly run into you in your mission.

I probably haven't told you what you wanted to know. Mom Lyman visited with us for four days. Bob has had a back operation and must have a stomach ulcer looked after. Rene and Art aren't as yet fully settled and happy and we are getting ready to go to California after you.

We love and cherish you and pray our Father's choicest blessings over you.

It's been quite a spell since last I wrote you, but I feel that doesn't diminish my care or concern for you. I am confident you are playing your role as an L.D.S. missionary very adequately. I'm also sure you're still living to the high ideals and goals you've set for yourself.

The mission in Peru, I am sure, has become a healthier mission and a more progressive mission because of you being there as a missionary. It seems you have been away so long, but we are getting our expectations in gear to receive you home now. In just what way, you will see.

First of all we would like you to, at your earliest knowledge of your separation schedule, let us know when you plan to leave for home, what route you'll take, and about when you'll be at each major stop. As of now we are considering coming only as far as Los Angeles to get you, but might consider several alternate proposals you might have. We could take a week off, tour southern California, see the Whittier people, and go north to Palmdale and Lancaster to see Rene, Art and family and on to Stockton to visit Almon, LaRee and family and Aunt Cretia at

Livermore. Then across Nevada and home to our mountain home so dear. Or, if you wished us to meet you in El Paso, Houston, or somewhere down there, we could work something out that way.

Should you want us to go as far east as Miami or Florida area generally; we'd probably have to call that off. Think it over though and let us know your proposals pro and con. Mother will likely tell you why Rene and Art are in California so I'll just confine my letter to us.

Make your few remaining months really lasting and memorable experiences for you and don't worry overly of money, as we are better able to help you now than we've been for some months past.

We love and appreciate you and are really anxious to have you home under our roof. The children are all in school and doing fine. Gordie and Irene keep mommy happy here at home and I work to keep them eating. Mother will likely let you know about the things you requested and how we propose getting them to you. May the Lord bless you, Dad.

LETTER 928 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, October 16, 1964

Dear family. Friday morning again. These Friday mornings can only come around eighteen more times. Wow, that's too few; I'd better be thinking about it. I have a bunch to say today, so I'd better start.

It sounds like once again we are located centrally enough to have plenty of friends visit us. That's good. We may not have much else, but we have friends.

Geraldine Larsen [she and the following kids are from Annabella] wrote to me in answer to one of my probing letters. She is now Mrs. Williams and lives at 454 South 300 East in Provo. She was married in the Manti Temple. She says Ann Marie has two kids. Terry DeBerry is married. Jim Daniels is engaged. Lloyd is waiting for me to get home so he won't be the only bachelor. How about that? Everybody is getting married. I hope the bug doesn't get me for a while. I'm not ready to quit having fun. All the girls I knew are married. I'll just try and stay out of circulation. Here is my reason. The block plan starts March 26th. I figure if I study straight through from then until I've enough credits to be a graduated senior, I'd be done in August of 1966. Short, no? I'd plan to do some post graduate work but then I'd have my degree, could get married, etc. I'd barely be twenty-three. I have my schedule more or less decided; I'll know for sure next week.

I was thinking how the Platt Reunion would be worked into my plans. It might not be possible, but I'll surely try to, as it would be a good time to see all the family, get a look at Canada, etc.

Too bad about our losing so good a chance on the Dixie Project. I want to go back to Zion so badly. I've never become so attached to a place in so short a time. I'm glad we don't live there, but I am still fond of it.

It sounds like everyone is in good health and happy. Mother, if you ever wore all those badges of yours, you'd fall over. I hope to give you some more also. It sounds as though I'd have to be good to my brothers (if I didn't want to anyway) as they are getting to big to handle. It will be good to go around with them and do things together again. How about some pictures around Christmas time? I'll appreciate them.

Dad, we'll figure a way to get out in the mountains together. I don't particularly want to go hunting, but I want to be out there in it. Sorry you sold your gun.

My health is pretty good except for throat irritation. Also the glasses I got are no longer any good. My eyes went bad again. I don't know if I should get another pair or not. I've waited two months now and they're still the same. I think I should but don't like to spend so much of your money.

I assumed that since you didn't say no on Sister Vega going with us, that it would be okay. I can't arrange anything now without writing to her, but I wrote to her family, so she knows how things are going and can plan accordingly. I imagine she will be either a flight behind or ahead of me.

Well, as far as things go here, everything is looking up. Last week the 1st Quorum of Elders was formed in Peru. It takes in a wide area: Arequipa, Tacna, Toquepala, Arica, Cuzco and Bolivia. President Brown from Toquepala is the President. I'll get to see him Sunday as he's coming up here to do some organizing. Right now we are in the process of baptizing or activating twenty men to become elders in December. It's quite a job. President Nicolaysen is pushing us hard.

There were plans for ten new missionaries the end of November, but the language mission just can't hold them all, so we are receiving ten in less than two weeks with no where to put them.

Poor President Nicolaysen doesn't know what to do. He doesn't have final word to open up Bolivia from the Prophet, nor can he open up other branches without permission. It looks as though about thirty changes will take place, so if I can escape notice until after the 1st of November, I may last it out here. I like Arequipa. I've had more good baptisms and made more lasting friends here. It will be hard to leave. I have things ready in case I'm called out, though.

I stayed up until 1:00 last night reading a Perry Mason novel. It was good to change reading material. Old Gardner knows how to write. I'm enjoying very much the life of Lincoln also.

Well, as thing are looking, I can finish my mission in great style, working my tail off. We are getting many more hours and twice as many meetings as most elders and consequently always have someone to baptize. It's wonderful.

The harder I work, the faster the time goes and the tireder I get. It won't last much longer, though, and I can look back at it happily. Last Sunday we were invited out to dinner. We had a whole lobster and a main dish of cow udder. It was a pretty interesting dish.

Well, I'll sign off. Thanks for being my family. I love you all very much. May the Lord bless you in your work, school, and Church work. Love as always, Lyman De.

LETTER 929 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, October 23, 1964

Dear Family. Friday again. Wow! Twenty or so to go. I just finished *10,000 Eyes*, a document story of D-Day. It was a very interesting story. I'm in the process of reading *Priesthood and Church Government* as well as a story of the Spanish-American War by Orwell.

Well, now it's Monday. Honestly, I wish time would slow down. Ten new missionaries are coming in day after tomorrow, so if I'm still here Friday, I have a good chance to stay here the rest of my mission.

It looks like they are holding back on opening up Bolivia as they've been having revolutions there in the last weeks.

Sounds like you really had a good time pine nut hunting. I've wanted to do something like that so badly for so long. I've only gone once in my life.

McKay, be more careful or you'll break your neck. Sorry to hear Ed is having so much trouble. Hope it clears up soon.

I'm sorry you aren't able to make ends meet. It may be necessary for me to lay off before I start school so I can save some money. I cashed an \$85.00 check this time and hope to cash less next time. I decided I just had to have some new glasses. I find that it was partially the doctor's fault and partially the optical place's fault. They were nice and charged \$4.00 less this time (\$5.00 in total for this pair). The doctor won't do anything. He's a *sin vergüenza* (scoundrel). Oh, well, only three or four more checks and I'll be able to help you instead of hinder you in getting out of debt.

Friday (Halloween) 30th. This letter has been a whole week in waiting. I guess I'd better finish it.

This picture is of Arequipa with Misti in the background, looking northeast. If you can see the cathedral left of center, we live two blocks from there.

They finally opened up Bolivia with four missionaries. Elder Halterman is in charge of the group. He is a good elder. I haven't seen him in two years, though. Bolivia is right in the middle of a civil war, but they sent them anyway.

Well, chances are I may just stay here now. My fifth companion in Arequipa will be Elder Scott. He's from Southern California. Elder Gold is going to Mollendo. I was beginning to think I was hard to get along with, but they tell me that's not the reason. I've averaged a companion every two months during my mission. We've played baseball the last two Fridays and it has really been a lot of fun. I am feeling fine now and am getting in better shape. We had another man baptized.

I sent some packages home by ship so they should be there in a month. Tell me what comes when they get there. They are all books.

The chapel is now ready to put the floor on. We are getting a brick maker from Lima this week and are going to town.

The missionaries have put me in charge of missionary activities here in Arequipa, so we are having a fireside this Sunday in an American's home. Our high councilman is speaking. It ought to be enjoyable.

Today we went to a members' funeral. It was a little eighteen-month-old boy. They asked me to dedicate the grave. It was quite an experience. They took it well and did it Mormon style. It impressed their Catholic friends.

I'm wondering about going to school and holding a full time job. I would rather do that and take fewer credits. We'll see what happens.

I plan to last a lot longer in my single role than most of my friends are doing, but if the right girl comes along I'll marry her. I'd rather stay single for three more years, though, and intend to try and do so. You never can tell where love is concerned, though.

I just finished a book by Hemingway. It was good: *In our Time*.

Time is going faster and faster. I have less than four months now, and am the second oldest in the city. Elder Johnson beats me. He goes home in two months.

We have the traveling elders here for the next three weeks. They are good elders and it's fun to have eight in an apartment.

Well, I hope everyone is happy. I'll be looking forward to seeing you all soon; eating venison, cherries, applesauce, pine nuts, mush, etc. It will be good to get back.

May the Lord protect you and bless you all with health and strength to do your jobs and live in union with one another. *Hasta la próxima semana. Cariñosamente*, Lyman De.

LETTER 930 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 222-224 {PFRC Book 12}], November 8, 1964

Dearest Lyman, I have to wait my turn to use the typewriter any more. With so many of the family knowing how to type now, we keep it pretty busy. Ed and Gene are both taking type this year and doing pretty good in it. They do quite a lot of their school work in typing. I'm sorry you missed a week getting a letter from home son. I guess there is really no excuse, as I've always maintained that no matter how busy one is, one could find the time for a letter if he wanted to.

Dad took your last letter up to work with him and was going to answer it, but didn't get around to it, and I let each day slip by without writing too. Seems if I don't get it done on Sunday, I have a hard time getting at it during the week. I've said a number of times lately that I don't know when my family has ever been any harder to keep up with. Of course a baby always takes a lot of time, and then it seems that the older ones have such different schedules that I'm always fixing someone something to eat or cleaning up after they have eaten. Not complaining, mind you, just trying to console myself with the reasons why I don't ever get done with the things I want to.

The other night a knock came on the front door about 11:30 just after I had gotten to sleep and before Dad got home from work. I answered it and there stood Kirk. He had been to Blanding to visit the folks and was on his way back to Salt Lake and Idaho. It was so good to see him. He hasn't changed much, as he was pretty well matured when he left. He spent the rest of the night with us and had breakfast with the boys the next morning and went on to Salt Lake, then was to go on to Idaho (Blackfoot) for his homecoming and a job waiting there for him. His mother is in the State Hospital there, and he feels he has to be there to help take care of her. I guess he will live with his grandparents up there until he can work something else out. Bless his heart – he has a pretty big burden to carry with so many problems in his family and him the only one interested in the gospel. I just hope and pray that he will have the courage and strength to carry his burdens and stay as sweet as he is now.

Boy, son, when you say you have only about twenty more letters to write home, that makes me realize how short the time is. It's going really fast, and needless to say, we are getting rather anxious to have you home again with us. We have our ups and downs as usual in the family, but it will be so nice to be complete again for the time you decide to stay at home. I imagine you will be able to get a job someplace, as they seem to give preference to returned missionaries at least here at the Y. Joe has been working a couple of nights a week at J.B.'s (an eating place). He washes dishes on the nights their regular boys don't want to or can't work. We are glad he has something, as it gives him enough to meet his expenses on his car and for school, clothes, etc. He just bought a coat yesterday, the first he has bought for several years. He has been wearing that white one (reversible) that you wore for a couple of years and I guess it was stolen or he lost it. Same with that big plaid one we got in Whittier, so looks like you won't be coming home to a coat and several other things the boys have used of yours. But we will help you get some more things when you return. Do you still want to get a guitar while you are there? If so, I'll try and see that Joe pays for the one he sold of yours – then he can worry about getting the money from Steve for it.

Sounds like you are getting some good reading done. Dad and the three boys here do a lot of reading too; Joe and Ed read lots of good books but not too much scripture. Maybe you can inspire them to it when you come home. Right now Gene is reading the Book of Mormon and quite enjoying it.

Glad that you got your glasses fixed. Too bad they gave you the wrong prescription. That will be quite an experience for Elder Halterman. Hope they get along all right down there amongst the strife. Yes, you've had your share of companions, but guess it is good in some respects. Sounds

like you are rather expecting to stay in Arequipa until your release. Hope you can if that is what you would like.

We will be watching for the packages of books. Your companion or elder you sent some things with hasn't showed up to see us yet. Glad that you are feeling better and enjoying life there. It will be quite an adjustment for you when you come home but hope not too hard for you. Did I tell you we went to Gordon Woffinden's reception in Pleasant Grove last week? My but they had lots of people there and so many lovely gifts. We saw several people from Lehi we hadn't seen for several years. He is going to school and working, and she is working too. They seemed very happy. I don't know about you lasting three years after you get home, we will see what happens, but I don't expect you will stay single that long.

Dad has had a little extra work the past week helping a fellow put roofing on the Sears store here in Provo. It's hard, dirty work, but he is glad for it. One thing about your dad – he's not afraid of work and will do most anything to help meet our obligations.

We are having such beautiful fall weather here still; I keep thinking every day that it is too good to last much longer. Timp and the other mountains have snow on them but none here in the valley. It will be a relief to be here in Provo where you kids will be going to school, as I would worry about you on the roads at Christmas time, etc. Remember the ride you took down to Springdale with Dad and me waiting at the junction there below Cedar. Your roads were pretty slick that night weren't they?

Guess I haven't written since Utahna Drumm and her cousin stayed with us a week ago. They were with JeanAnn Bowman and Diane Deputy and were all going to Salt Lake to spend a week doing genealogy work and research. We enjoyed their visit and caught up on some of the news of our friends in Whittier. Darrell Bowman is here at the Y this year, as well as quite a few others.

Well, son, sounds like little Irene needs my attention. She's a sweetheart and growing up so fast – you'll think she is pretty nice. Gordie is quite grown up now. He's getting anxious for your return. He thinks since Kirk is home now and came to see us that you should be coming any day. The boys thought Kirk looks so much like you. Last night Norma and Bennie Heath and Shirley Ann and Crystal came to see us and we had a really nice visit with them. We looked at pictures of you and Shirley Ann back in Madison and talked about old times. Now here she is a mother of two children.

Good night for now son. We love and pray constantly for your well being. All our love, Mother.

LETTER 931 Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 223 {PFRC Book 12}], November 8, 1964

Son just a little note tonight, to tell you of my love and concern for you also. I'm cognizant that I don't take time often enough to correspond. There is quite a comfort taken in knowing mother will write and keep you posted, but I realize that doesn't absolve me from responsibility.

Lyman, do you know that Gordie is sitting right here under my nose eating cookies and crunching all over the place. This is Sunday night at 10:00 p.m. and he just woke up from a nap and is stuffing his squirrely cheeks.

We're trying to winterize around here as the peaks are covering with snow. We've harvested our garden except the parsnips and a few heads of cabbage. Mother has the basement fruit shelves filled with good fruits and vegetables. We got a deer from Denzil and are in reasonably good shape to go into the winter. Uncle Kay sent beans (dry) and grandma and grandpa a little beef and venison, so all in all we're being blessed.

Our prayers are with you and for you and we pray your mission time will be filled with activity enough to keep you from getting trunky. As ever, Dad.

LETTER 932 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, November 6, 1964

Dear family, November is rapidly passing; we are working hard though, so I guess that's all that matters. Elder Scott and I get along better than any other companion I've had. He is a convert of two years and is a very sincere person. His smile and sense of humor are very winning also. We are getting some good families together right now.

I sent the rest of the books home that I had packaged, so that's ten in total. Be sure and let me know when and how they arrive. I just bought another fabulous book on sale *The Conquest of Mexico*, and *The Conquest of Peru*, by Prescott. I made a buy there that I was really proud of, as the one alone usually costs as much as the two cost me (\$4.00). Anyway, I have the books I want now.

Today being Friday, we're going out to the chapel shortly to start pouring the floor. It's coming along nicely. Afterwards, we're going on a little paseo and then to the show (for the first time in two months).

Brother and Sister Farnsworth came up and took us out to dinner again this week. That's three times now. They want to send their youngest girl (Lucy) up to Provo to finish high school and want to find a good Mormon family to put her with. They would pay good room and board and were wondering if it would be at all possible with us. She is sixteen, very nice, never been on a date and in a period where she needs to get away from home. Please write me and let me know. If it's possible that will make it necessary for me to go to Toquepala (good excuse) for a few days after my mission and arrange the plans. She would come up in September, 1965.

Time is surely passing fast. There are so little and so few pay checks and no money saved that I guess the *recuerdos* I was going to wait and get will be very few. There are so many nice leather goods and Indian items here that would be neat to get, but I can't get them all.

Well, I hope to hear from you today. I love you all very much and will be seeing you soon. Bolivia wasn't opened up. At the last minute the war got too intense in those areas. Bolivia now has no government. The President is here in Peru. Love always, Lyman De.

[The following description of Arequipa was made in one of my letters to President Nicolaysen, in an attempt to convince him to let me stay in Arequipa throughout the remaining months of my mission.]

Let me attempt to describe it: The sun is trying to break its way through the heavy rain clouds that have left the air crisp and invigorating. The birds are singing their hearts out, happy to be alive. Misti, Chachani and Pichu Pichu are arrayed in heavenly gowns of snow, while in their foothills, lingering clouds scurry to escape the sun. In their crags the mild looking snow clouds finish dropping their white moisture before returning to the ocean. Off in the distance the rain clouds, black, but enchanting, continue on towards the western horizon and finally the sun breaks through, lighting with awe the canyon areas through which bubble the turbulent Chile River. Now fluffy white billows appear to tumble out of Misti's crater, reflecting from the sun their pure, celestial color. This is Arequipa in the morning.

I believe these last months have fulfilled my fondest expectations of Arequipa. Together with the knowledge that the Lord is pleased in most things I've done and to see our baptisms form other baptisms, and become leaders in the Church, to me is gratifying. And the climate is the best I've ever seen except maybe for Springdale. They're comparable.

LETTER 933 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, November 13, 1964

Dear family, I've been meaning to write all this week, but haven't gotten around to it. Since Sunday night I've been in bed with a bad intestinal sickness. None of my food would go to energy and on top of headaches and fever, I lost about ten pounds. I believe I'm all right now. I've rested *todo el día* playing guitar, etc. and believe I'm over it completely, so maybe I can stay well the rest of my mission. The climate has changed back to one of everlasting sunshine. It appears as though the rains will be delayed. I'm glad you're enjoying good weather up there. Maybe we will have an easy winter. About the guitar, I would still like to bring one home. If Joe could get me the money, I would appreciate it, although it might be a sacrifice on his part.

I'm glad to hear the family is all well and majorily happy. I hope that everyone is enjoying progress in the Church. We who have so many advantages are going to be left behind if we fail to exercise our priesthood, etc. I feel confident in people like Kirk and that type of caliber. They will be blessed.

The missionary program is now becoming much more advanced as we go into new phases of missionary work. We now work every evening with Peruvian brethren as a required part of our work. The home teaching program will be put into effect in the mission in January. Our district will probably be organized with Peruvian brethren completely this conference (December). More elders are ready to be ordained and the mission is everywhere dividing. Trujillo now has two

branches. Mission-wide elders' supervisor conferences are being held. The mission presidency now consists of President Nicolaysen and Peruvian counselors. The mission is rapidly getting itself into a position to have various stakes. As yet there are no stakes in South America. The chapels all over the mission are progressing rapidly. We are not baptizing fast enough to meet the needs of the branches, but in all phases of the work we are gaining experience and consequently more baptisms per month.

I am at a lose as exactly what to do when I get home. I'm thinking of maybe working, maybe in Provo, maybe not, depending on the opportunities.

I guess there's really not too much to tell. I've not done anything very interesting; maybe next Friday there will be something to tell. Say hi to everybody; friends, family, etc. Love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 934 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, [Found in Missionary Journal 3, pages 226-229 {PFRC Book 12}], Sunday, November 15, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Look at that date. Another month half gone. Soon just three months until your release. I can imagine how fast the time is passing for you there, and how mixed your emotions are at leaving to come home.

We have a beautiful, clear, sunny day here in Provo after a week of snowy cold weather. We have had an inch or so of snow several times – less than other areas in the state. Richfield had over fourteen inches. It was really cold when the boys went out on the paper routes this morning (18 degrees). Right now we are between Sunday School and Sacrament Meeting. I have dinner in the oven cooking. The boys are downstairs watching a football game. Dad is reading the paper and the baby is asleep. We're looking forward more all the time to your being home with us. You'll enjoy the boys; they're so much more grown up than when you left. Yesterday Joe said "I don't know if I want to go on a mission – it's too much fun just staying home." I imagine he'll change in the next year. I'd better answer your letter before I forget. We're so glad you and your companion get along so well.

Son, I hate to say no on the little Farnsworth girl, but I'm afraid we just don't have room for anyone else. I just don't think it would be fair to anyone coming in either. Roberta's room has a single bed and a crib in it and no room for another one. We have only one bathroom and are most crowded when we all get around the kitchen table. I wish we did have a bigger house and could do some of these things you have asked us to. I'll bet we could find a family here in the ward though that would have room and be glad to have her. I have several in mind where they have big homes and just one or two at home. If you would like me to, I'll see what I can do. Let me know.

We'll have to try and send you a little extra money to buy some souvenirs to bring home. I suggested to the kids that they might send a letter if they could for you to get them something, so some of them might do that. They don't have too much, as they all pay their own school and

clothes expenses. Yesterday they all pitched in on an early Christmas gift for Dad. He didn't have a good coat at all that he could wear in this cold weather so we insisted he get one. It's the first coat he's bought himself for years. Joe got him one too, a few days ago.

So they waited on Bolivia after all did they? Guess it was a relief to the Haltermans with conditions as they are now.

Dad and Gene went to the game with B.Y.U. and Michigan here in the new stadium. It was so cold they only stayed half way through it. B.Y.U. beat 43-8. Don't think they have been doing much this year though. Their last game will be here next week with Wyoming. The University of Utah beat the University of California at Berkeley yesterday 12-0. I don't follow the games and I've asked the boys to write, so hope they will.

Joy and Kent borrowed our pickup and went hunting a week ago. They got their deer, so they were real glad to get some meat. Guess they're having quite a struggle, but I think she got a job the other day. Kent works a little, as he can, along with going to school. I guess JoAnn will go to Blanding for Thanksgiving. Well, now it's evening. Company kept Dad and I from going to Church. Joe has gone to work. Ed, Gene, and Roberta went to Church. Dad is sitting here with Irene on his lap and both of them are asleep.

Shirley Ann and her husband brought their two little children down and visited with us. Maybe I've told you before that both of them were born with only part of their brain developed. The little boy is 3½ and the girl twenty months. We just don't realize how blessed we are to have normal healthy children until we see the differences. Shirley Ann and Roy are both really good with them and give them the love and constant care they require. They ate dinner with us and just as they were leaving Mavis and Harold Larsen and some of their family came to see us. This is the first we have seen them for a long time so it was nice to visit with them. To catch you up on their family, Ellis and Eric are both married and have one child. Robert is on a mission in Switzerland and Marilyn is to be married in a few days. How the years go by!

Guess I'd better write a couple more letters before we have too many more interruptions. I'm glad we're back in Utah where our friends can come to see us though.

'Bye for today son. Keep on keepin' on. Take good care of yourself. We love you, Mother.

LETTER 935 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah

November 20, 1964, Dear family, Friday again and the rainy season refuses to come. Fourteen weeks to go and I'm forced to find a plan to keep me from getting trunky. This is more or less how it will work – depending, of course, if our working into it gives us the resistance we need. 1st week, 55 hours and a lot of study, 2nd week same; 3rd and 4th weeks 60 hours and study; 5th and 6th weeks 65 hours and some study; 7th, 8th, 9th weeks 60 hours and study; 10th and 11th weeks 80 hours; 12th week, 85 hours; 13th week 100 hours; last week I'll trunk out complete and work sixty hours. Coming down from that high pace will make me feel like I've done it too, but

it will be on a higher level than anybody else has. That will make us plan our time almost to the minute. It will be hard to keep up the pace, but we're getting' over seventy hours this week and thirty more hours more would just need planning. We've had twelve meetings so far this week and expect to have eighteen or so meetings and some baptisms.

Mother, thanks for the information about the housing situation. If you could check, I would appreciate it. I'll tell the Farnsworths that you are looking.

It sounds like the winter may be a good one. Fourteen inches in Richfield sounds like more than they've had for a long time.

You mentioned souvenirs and I was thinking of the same thing. I believe I can get what would be good for everyone for \$20.00, or if I cash a \$100 check. I wanted to do it this week, seeing as everything is going up next month for Christmas, and I may not be here afterwards. So, I'll run the chance that it will be okay with you and get a \$100 this month. Have the kids give you the money. I'd like to get a \$15.00 check from Joe soon, if possible.

It sounds like a lot of friends are visiting us. It will be interesting to see everyone again.

I slept up on the roof last night and having seen twenty-seven full moons here makes three seem like nothing; yet it still seems an eternity.

Dad, Elder Lee says to say hi. He is still here with Elder Chase. Well, family, I guess I'll close for now. I don't have much else to say. I will be the oldest missionary in the field in several weeks – along with my group. All of President Sharp's missionaries will be gone. May the Lord bless you all and keep you well. Grandpa Lyman and Grandma wrote this week. Grandpa warned me not to get trunky. You son and brother, Elder Platt.

LETTER 936 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, November 26, 1964

Thanksgiving. Dearest family, we had a nice meeting this morning to start Thanksgiving. Our quartet sang, there were various talks and solos and testimonies. I'm thankful to be here.

The letter you sent on the 22nd got here today. It was good to receive it. We are always in need of news and encouragement from home.

The mission is going along nicely. Bolivia was opened up this week with six elders; four in Cochabamba and two in La Paz. Elder Halterman is in La Paz. It looks as though the work of the Lord will be stopped for nothing. We are progressing very nicely here in Arequipa. More people are ready for baptism.

The chapel is now with its floor on. We are ready to start going upward. It will be very beautiful and nice. The members are proud of it.

The weeks are starting gradually to tell on me. Being nearly the oldest makes one the butt of the jokes. Before, the old ones teased the greenies about how long they had; now the greenies tease the old ones about how long they can stay.

I'm glad the family likes Provo. It seems as though it will be the place to live. You have the mountains, lakes, school, city, and country – *basta con eso*.

Gene, I want to commend you on your study of the Book of Mormon. You'll never regret it. It's sad to see so many missionaries come down not knowing the gospel. They can't be effective until a good part of their mission is through. They waste their time and their companion's and the Lord's. It's too bad. I've learned a few things about studying that are going to help me a lot to prepare better college courses and succeed.

Boy, I don't know if I want to come back home. It seems as if there is too much else to do besides study. I'm afraid of what might happen after being away from home so long. It certainly will be hard to get back into the swing of things.

I bought a few gifts this week and will hope to buy more shortly. Joe, don't forget to send the \$15.00 before too long. Time is short and the best guitars in Peru are made in Arequipa.

The weather is trying to decide if it will snow or rain. It doesn't snow right here, but comes mighty close. It reminds me of Zion.

We'll I guess I'll wind it up 'til next week. We have a busy week in head of us. We are having a party and working on the chapel. Our quartet needs more practice for all our engagements. We're singing some American folk songs out there tomorrow. I was put in charge of forming a men's quartet of Peruvians. We are starting them rehearsing Sunday. The president is very pleased with the way these things are developing in Arequipa. So are we.

Elder Chase brings us word from the supervisor's conference that Ecuador will shortly get missionaries and that branches to the Lamanites are now going to be started in earnest. The time the prophets saw is here.

More changes are in store and more blessings are ready for these wonderful people. As many as eight branches will be opened up shortly. Love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 937 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 230-233 {PFRC Book 12}], November 29, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Well, another month has gone the way of all time. The schedule you have set up for yourself is pretty strenuous. Don't overdo and get down now. I can understand you wanting to finish up with a good record, but don't overdo, son.

You have just spent your third Thanksgiving away from home. I'm wondering how and with whom you spent the day. Guess there are enough American members down there that they observed the day, so hope you had a nice dinner. We had a nice day at home with just the family. Guess this is the third one we have spent by ourselves. I prepared about half the dinner Wednesday – such things as the pies (squash), carrot pudding, Jell-O salad, dressing, so on Thursday I just had to cook the meat, potatoes and gravy, rolls, sweet potatoes. We had some ham and roast chickens instead of turkey. We have a turkey for Christmas that the Y will give Dad. If you were home, we would get two turkeys (eight children), but we are glad to be getting one. Next year we should all be together. Thursday night we all went up to the Y to a movie. Have I told you our family gets in to the show each week free? This is the first one I've been to for awhile and decided it would be the last one with all the little ones. Gordie gets so tired and the baby is getting old enough that she won't sleep through them anymore, so guess I'll stay home with them, or we will take turns going to the good ones. Not too many of the shows I care about seeing anyway. We are getting rather anxious to show you some of these beautiful new buildings on the campus. It's a good place to be and I think we are all glad to be here in Provo, though Ed keeps saying he wishes we were back in Idaho.

Lyman, Joe will send you the \$15.00 as soon as he can. He has to rake up \$44.00 for car insurance right away, so it may even be after Christmas, but just as soon as possible he will send it. He was wondering if you could get him a guitar too if he were to send \$30.00. How about it – are you limited on your stuff coming home too? Let us know, then he will know whether to plan on it or not. Hope you can get some nice souvenirs, and if we find we are able before you come home, we will try and send you some more. It might be that you will have a little given to you for Christmas. If so, I hope you can get yourself something to bring home that you would like to have.

Yesterday Norma Hill [Whittier] called and talked for quite a while. She and Jim and their family had been to Idaho for thanksgiving and were going through Provo on their way back to California. Kay and David are both here at the Y this year, as you may know. Norma asked for your address, as she said she wanted to write you and answer some questions you had written about. It was good to hear from them. Kay and Marilyn are about the only girls that age that aren't married. They are both juniors here this year. It will be interesting for you to see all of your friends here when you get home. So much better than being clear up in northern Idaho.

Rene and Art and family went to Stockton for thanksgiving. JoAnn went to Blanding but we haven't talked to her yet. Guess they will be getting home tonight. Grandma has been down a few days with some trouble with her leg. The doctor was rather concerned about a blood clot but she wrote and said it was getting better. I'm so grateful for Mother's and Dad's health and that they are still together. I know one of these years it won't be that way, so I'm glad for these years they have.

Last night I dreamed about Grandma Perkins. I was carrying her all over, because she was so little and frail. It seems you should have known her, but you didn't – as you were just a tiny baby when she died. We stopped in Monticello on the way home from the Moab hospital for Grandma to see you, and then within the next few weeks we were back over to Monticello for her funeral.

On Saturday Dad took Ed and Gene and went to Bountiful and spent a half a day working on a clogged sewer pipe that has been plaguing Laurel. Do you remember Laurel? Remember her husband died about three years ago and left here with a big family of ten. She has her twin boys on missions now and the older one just returned a year ago. They have a lovely family. I know she appreciated Dad's efforts.

Oh, before I forget, I have been inquiring about a place for the little Farnsworth girl to stay. I called the Relief Society president to ask her advice. She said they had an extra room and would likely want her to stay with them. They are a very nice family. He is in the bishopric and they have two children at home, a boy about 16 and a girl about 7. She didn't commit herself really definitely, but I'm sure it is safe to tell the girl that we will find her a place here, as Sister Jones was quite sure they would want her and if they didn't, she said there would be other places here in the ward. Sister Jones lives only about a block and a half from us, so we could see lots of her. I wish you could tell her to live with us, but hope you understand our situation.

We noticed a little article in the Church Section about Elder Halterman and the others going into Bolivia, also a piece advising people not to send packages to South America. I have felt badly that you haven't received more from home than you have, but guess it is just as well we haven't tried. The paper said lots of times the customs fees have cost the missionaries much more than the value of the packages. You'll soon spend your third Christmas away from home without presents too. Another year, maybe we will all get together and we won't be quite so burdened with debts, etc. Oh, for the day!

In the latest Era there is a small picture of a male quartet of missionaries in South America that were singing for television. One of them looks like Elder Platt, but we can't tell for sure, as it is small and no names are given. Do you think it is your group? Did you ever sing for television?

We visited with Karl and Edith Lyman and their son Chris and wife the other day. Chris filled a Spanish American mission and has graduated from college, gone to a Foreign Trade school in Phoenix, has his degree in foreign commerce and is in Denver going to a school with Carnation Company. He says they have a big plant in Arequipa. He got your address and said he wanted to write you. He will be assigned overseas some place at a very good salary. I asked him to tell you when he wrote you, about his schooling. It might be something you would be interested in, if you would like to go back to South America after your schooling. Anyway, I thought you would be interested.

Take good care of yourself and may God bless and keep you. All our love, Mother.

LETTER 938 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, December 4, 1964

Dear family, it's true that the time is going very rapidly, but every time it's mentioned I get trunkier so please don't mention it for another couple of months. I want to keep up a good spirit with the other elders so that they may long remember me as a hard-working elder.

It sounds like your Thanksgiving was most enjoyable. I hope you enjoy the turkey for Christmas also. We will be doing plenty down here to keep us busy. Our quartet is getting ready for a lot more programs. We will be singing on television, in the main section of town in an American program, in some Christmas programs for the poor kids, and also in district conference next Sunday. I hope all this will open up Arequipa somewhat to the missionary work. We surely have a lot more confidence as a Church with the Americans and the high society Peruvians from just the few things we've done so far. Besides being a good proselyting tool, it is a lot of fun. If President Nicolaysen likes us well enough, we may become the official mission quartet which he has been looking for since he got here. He has turned a lot of them down. It would be quite an honor and also a lot of fun to tour the mission before I go home. I don't remember just what I said about progress last week so some of this may be repeated. There is so much going on in the mission. Bolivia is now opened up as you know. They hope to be able to open up Ecuador in the next month. It depends on the government. Also, there is scheduled in the near future as a step towards Lamanite conversions the opening up of as many as eight towns in the mountains to the missionary work. Those towns will be almost completely Lamanite. The work is going forward at a rapid rate. One month ago we had no elders' quorum in the mission and now there are three. The chapel is coming along very nicely and the Lord is turning the hearts of these people towards the truth. We should have some baptisms this week as well as next week. We have a lot of good investigators and are expanding every day it seems like. Our plan of more hours and more meetings with more effectiveness in everything is taking hold on more missionaries. We are wistfully – possibly – hoping that it will take hold in the entire mission and thus raise the rate of work to 60 or 65 hours a week. In that way there has to be more baptisms and consequently others missions will look at us to see why and follow our example. We are keeping charts and having a steady increase in all aspects. It is also very rewarding.

About the guitar; I rather doubt that I should be lucky enough to get two of them into the states. It seems as I may have some trouble getting mine in. To begin learning on though, I'm sure I would be glad to teach you anything you want to know that I know. Still, I'll look into it and see if it's at all possible.

Thanks, mother, for your inquiring about a place for Sister Farnsworth to stay. I passed the word on to them, so we'll see what they say.

The mail down here is barbarous. If there is a value put on any package, it is weighed down with a 100% tax. If the Church doesn't save these people they will all go to I'm somewhat bitter after seeing their barbarities and paganism for two years.

I received a letter from Brother Jones in Springdale yesterday and I am thinking of all the blessings we have in comparison with the hardships that their family is going through and it makes me mighty humble to think of the goodness the Lord has always showed to us.

It sounds like it will be fun to see everybody married and me still single. It kinds of scares me with the thoughts of all those 8,000 wild Mormon beauties running around looking for husbands. I believe I will stay here.

Well, I have a lot of other letters to write as this is the last week I shall attempt to answer any but yours. There won't be time. I hope you are all well and happy. I'm grateful to be a part of the family. It will be good to be reunited again. Your son and brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 939 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to Joseph Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, December 4, 1964. Hermano Joe, How does it go up there in the snow? Are you thinking of me as you ride down the street in your hepped up rod and that little sweet thing next to you there in the seat?

I imagine your last year in high school must be a rip roaring one. How about writing me and telling me about it. I didn't enjoy my last year down there in the smog and the fog, where the girls are ugly and so is the dog.

Down here south of the border, I'm nearly going out of my mind. When you receive this letter I will be the oldest missionary and it's S.O.P. to razz the missionary with jazz about the girls and being trunky, and the 8,000 wild apaches running around loose at the Y. Nobody thinks I'll make it single for more than two or three months. I think they are crazy.

We are having a lot of good success as you can see in the letter to the family. I hope we can have a lot more before I go home.

It will be a lot of fun to be back home and go with you on dates – double dates that is – I'm not completely crazy yet. How is your car hanging in there? It sounds like you have to spend quite a bit on it. Oh well, I imagine you enjoy it don't you? Mother seems to have confidence in you, so either you're fooling her good or else you are careful. We'll see! I tend to think you are a pretty careful driver myself.

Well, hang in there and don't study too hard, and when I get back I'll present you to a nice young South American beauty. There are several at the Y right now that I know, but this one is coming back with me. It would be neat if we could show her around a few places in Utah while she's there. She is the mission historian here in Peru. How does that grab you?

Have an enjoyable Christmas and forget that jazz about not wanting to go on a mission, as it's so much fun and so much more rewarding than back home. Your brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 940 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to Edward Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, December 4, 1964

Dear Ed, I guess you are pretty well growing up as your birthday is now just a few days away. I wish you a happy birthday and hope to be remembered by you. I have a present for you that I won't attempt sending as it wouldn't arrive, but you may rest assured that I'm thinking of you and am proud to be your brother. It will be good to be able to do things together again.

Keep plugging away in your studies. I believe all of you have gotten better grades than I did.

How do you like Provo? Do you have a girl friend yet? I would like to hear from you maybe once more before I come home. You could drop me a line during Christmas vacation.

You know, I've been thinking of some of the possibilities after I do get home and one of them is a trio or quartet or quintet composed of various members of the family. Now that I can play the guitar with some degree of proficiency, and hoping to improve with any amount of time to practice, it would be a ball to form something like that. I suggest it so that you can be thinking of it and may be forming your voice or any other preparation you think necessary.

I believe you will like a mission if you decide to go on one. You know, it is hard work – there's no doubt there – but it is rewarding to lay in bed at night after a hard day's work and think of the various experiences that the day has brought and the times that the Spirit of the Lord directed your footsteps. It is good.

I don't know if I would want to be here much longer, but looking back on it I have enjoyed it, love to see new people baptized and accept sometimes a completely different way of life. I am looking forward to another mission with my wife also. Being Mormons we might as well face the fact and be the best Mormons we can.

Well, Ed, I guess it will be *hasta febrero*. I will not try and write again. Have a nice Christmas and good luck in your studies. Your brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 941 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to Gene Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, December 4, 1964

Dear brother Gene, How's the old scouter? I'll bet you'll be Eagle not long after I get home won't you? It will be neat when dad gets his Eagle to have all of us in the Church News, or even neater, to go camping together. All that will come in its due time.

How is your schooling coming along? Are you getting as good of grades as Roberta? She seems like she's doing pretty well.

We are having a lot of fun down here working hard and getting a lot of baptisms. You will enjoy going on a mission. I hope you can come to this one, as it is the only one I believe where you can see progress at such a tremendous rate every week and every district conference. It is fun being here.

Why don't you write me something about our ward and what it's like? It would be interesting to hear something about it.

Do you enjoy living there in Provo and going to school so close to all those big activities at the Y? Maybe we can go together to some of the B.Y.U. basketball games before they are over this year.

I believe today my companion and I are going to go over to the club and play some tennis and then go to the show this evening. We haven't done anything like that for awhile.

What are you doing in school as far as sports are concerned? Are you learning a lot? Have you thought about taking a foreign language? Boy, I'd like to take about three or four different ones after I get back home.

Well, Gene, be good and keep reading the Book of Mormon. I'm very proud of you for sticking to it and showing up your older brothers. I guess each person gets the desire at different times during their life. So with that, I'll close and wish you a merry Christmas and hope that the coming year will see you an Eagle, plus other good earned things. I'm happy to be your brother, as always, Lyman De.

LETTER 942 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to Roberta Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, December 4, 1964

Dearest Roberta, I guess you'll have to be my mediator between Gordie and Irene, as I don't rightly know what to say to them, as I haven't seen one and the other one has doubled his lifetime since I saw him. Will you please do that for me?

You seem to be doing okay in your schooling and I hope that you just keep right on working and getting good grades. It's good to have them and it will serve you well when you get a little older.

Do you like Provo as much as I like Arequipa? I suppose that's a silly question, but let's she how you answer it. I really enjoy it here and don't know if I'm going to particularly want to leave as I now have more friends here than any other place in the world.

It's good to have you for a sister Roberta, and I'm happy for you that we now have another little sister so that you can love her just as much as mother loves Aunt Rene. I suppose we have been pretty burdensome to you at times as we just don't think like girls do and never will as you have minds of your own and never do let us figure you out. That's life, though, and I hope I can be a better brother when I come home.

I hope you have a good Christmas and that you will remember to be kind and unselfish with your things with the little kids. They will be headaches to you at times like you were to me at times but we must go on loving each other and trying every day to love each other more. It would hurt me very much if because of what we did during our family life together, one of us went astray from the Church, and so you being a girl will have to help us boys a lot to remember our places at times.

Be good, and study hard and I'll see you soon. I love you a lot and will be glad to talk to you again. Your loving brother, Lyman De.

LETTER 943 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to McKay Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, December 4, 1964

Querido McKaycito, thanks a whole bunch for your letter last week. It is good to receive your letters and know that you are doing so well in school.

My little *perico* (parrot) called Lucy, flew away from my room about the time that Lucy got married. It was funny that she would, but it told me not to worry, that the Lord, had done what he knew was best for me. I believe it would be hard to bring a parrot back to the states, but I will see what I can do. Don't get all excited, but if I bring one back it will be yours. They are really cute with a green body and blue and yellow and red and orange feathers, etc., under their wings. They are very loving also as they climb up your pant legs and rest on your shoulder or cuddle under your chin for warmth. I really loved my little parrot.

About your pen pal, I have been looking, but there just isn't anybody there that knows English well enough to write to you. I will see if maybe we can find a little boy or girl who wants to write though, and I will translate the letters for you and help you write in Spanish. How does that sound?

It sounds like the snow is starting to come. Maybe we can have a snowball fight when I get home in March, if there is still some snow left. The way it is snowing in California, it seems like this year should be a lot of snow, so maybe we can build a snowman also. How would you like that?

Hey, about your stamp collection; do you want me to bring you home a lot of stamps, or what would you rather have from South America if you had your choice?

Well, I'll be seeing you soon now, so hang in there and study hard. Have a nice Christmas and remember that Christmas is not a time to receive but to give. All over the world people are hungry and naked and dying during Christmas and I don't believe Heavenly Father will be very pleased if we aren't thankful for our brothers and sisters and parents; tu hermano, Lyman De.

LETTER 944 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to Edward Partridge Lyman and Irene Perkins Lyman, Blanding, Utah, December 4, 1964

Dear Grandma and Grandpa, this will probably be the last time I write to you before I come home as my companion and I have a schedule that will allow us no time at all for doing anything but missionary work around the latter part of my mission. We are working hard now but it will be harder later. We have several baptisms ready to be members of the Church this week. It is good to be in a mission where you can see progress. This week two more new quorums of elders were formed of Peruvians. We now have three quorums in the mission, all formed in the last month.

Bolivia has been opened up and Ecuador is in the last stages of preparatory work for opening up. There are projected right now about seven cities in the mountains – pure Lamanites – to be opened up in the next short while. The prophecies are being fulfilled right before our eyes and even being in the middle of it, it is hard not to see it.

I'm in a quartet of missionaries that has been formed at the request of the mission, American and Peruvian leaders, to put on a Christmas program to the poor kids, to the American Society, to the district conference of the Church and various other functions. We are certainly having a lot of fun memorizing songs and singing together. It is going to do a lot to open up the city of Arequipa, that has been so long against the Mormons. The Lord is being very good to us in giving us a good harmony, etc.

Folks, I hope your Christmas this year is a pleasant one and that the Lord will continue to bless you with health and strength. Grandma, mother said you were sick. I hope you are feeling some better now and that everything will go good for you.

I'm going to do my best to work my hardest up until the end. I believe in having the kind of heritage for my children that you have given me. May the Lord bless you and keep you 'til we meet again. Your grandson, Lyman De.

LETTER 945 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 234-236 {PFRC Book 12}], December 8, 1964

Dearest Lyman, We did enjoy and appreciate all the letters we received today. The kids are pleased to have special letters and you have been so good to write. I'm sure they will all answer one of these days. We appreciate the time you have taken to write, as we know how your time is occupied.

I was just writing in my diary tonight and looking back at what happened a year ago in Sandpoint. It was snowy and cold and Ed was sick and we were worried about so many things. I'm thankful every day to be here in Provo, and while our problems aren't all resolved (as I'm sure they never will be in this life), I feel so much better about being in this area that I can't help being thankful. I don't mind the snow and cold here, and of course there won't be nearly the snow we had up there. It really wasn't the snow I minded – just the worry of getting over the roads and Dad going to work, etc. Anyway, I'm glad we're here.

Ed has been having some more infection and we had to get some drugs for him. He is allergic to all kinds of tape and he put a band aid on his face over a spot of infection for just a few hours. It broke all out and was really a mess, but the doctor prescribed something that would help the infection and allergy too, so think we are getting it cleared up now. I was in hopes the tonsillectomy would clear up all this infection, but guess he still has something that needs clearing up.

Yesterday Dad wanted to go to Bountiful to check on the work he did there for Laurel to see if her drain was still working okay. So we took the four younger ones and went up to Lehi where we went up past our old place to the Carlsons and visited with them a little while. We had to compare our little girls again. Their little one is about ten months now and is really cute. They love her so much – she is a lucky little girl to get to live with their family, and they are fortunate to have her, as she fits right in. You can imagine the fuss all those big boys make over her, as do

Damie and Wes. Sherm is living home and going to the Y. He comes in and works from 6:00 to 9:00 then goes to school. He says to be sure and let him know when you are home, as he wants to see you. He's a really fine boy – nice looking and such a sweet personality – we just love him. He's one friend that isn't married yet nor does he have plans for the near future, so you won't be quite alone.

We went from Lehi to Bountiful. Laurel wasn't at home, so after visiting with some of her family a little while, we looked up Edith and visited with her and Dawn and the boys. They are getting along pretty well, though I know it must be really hard for Edith, as she was so dependent on John. Edith is working at KSL and they certainly have been nice to her. They gave her a job where she could take the boys to school on the way to work and then be home when they got home. Dawn is going to Weber College but wants to come back to the Y next semester.

Next we visited with Ellen and Floyd. You should see their home. They sold their business in Cedar and leased their home and trailer court. As you may know, Floyd still works for the Church. He was in Europe about all summer and I suppose as soon as they get their boys through school they will be on the go all the time for the Church. Marilyn lives in Cedar and her husband teaches there. Curtis is going to school at Berkeley and is working on his doctorate. He hasn't wanted to go on a mission and that makes them feel badly. He has just become engaged to a Jewish girl. With all his knowledge and ability, he has lots to learn. Ellen isn't very happy in Bountiful and said she would gladly give up their home and everything if they could go back to Samoa or New Zealand.

Denzil and Diane came over to see us yesterday. Their two girls were in school, and they brought their two boys. They have a cute little family and we were so thrilled at the news they had to tell us. They have been taking these classes in the *Project Temple* and are hoping to go to the temple with their family in about January. He has quit his smoking since Thanksgiving, and we're really happy for them. I can imagine how happy this will make Grandma.

The quartet sounds fun. It would be nice if you could be the mission quartet and tour the mission. You really must have trained your voice, as well as your other musical abilities. Hope you are able to bring a guitar like you want to. Your idea about a quartet, etc. within the family sounds fun too. We could probably work up a pretty good one.

I read the story of Lassie to Gordie tonight and couldn't keep the tears back for thinking of our King-boy and wondering what ever happened to him. Guess we will never know.

Now it's Wednesday morning and there is a nice fresh snowfall outside of two or three inches. The boys have done their paper routes and gone to school. Joes drives each morning and picks up several kids in the ward. They pay him a little for gas. Did I tell you Ed was taking drivers Ed.? It is separate from school now, and they have to pay for it, but I think it is well worth their money. It makes them better drivers and insurance rates are lower. He will be sixteen tomorrow. You just won't know your brothers when you get home; they have grown up so much.

Well, son I must get the rest of the family fed and then wash. At least we have some lines in the basement where I can hang my clothes. Last winter our washings were a headache, as there was just no place to dry things. Glad I didn't have the baby with all the attendant diapers up there.

The missionary work is really progressing in your area, and I know what a thrill it must be for you to be a part of it. Keep up the good work son. We are glad that you have lots of friends there, but remember we here at home still love you very much too. You will be good for us when you return, as we need a spiritual boost. With all our love, Mother

LETTER 946 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 238 {PFRC Book 12}], December 10, 1964, Springdale Ward Bishopric

Dear Brother and Sister Platt: it is almost that time of year again, and work is just as plentiful as ever. We hardly find time to sleep and eat any more. Ha, ha, what a joke, if you could see me you would know that's a lie. Well, anyway we are busy.

This leaves us as well as can be expected and very grateful for the blessings of the Lord to us. In spite of the complications and extra surgery my wife has been through, she is gradually improving and is able to do a lot of work around the house. She attends church regularly and at present is participating in our Project Temple that is in progress in the stake, we have the seven following couples taking the seminar: Calvin and Elsa Ruesch; Rosa and Reta Rozell; Doyle and Helen Winder; Paul and Victoria Crawford; Raymond and Ruby Gifford; Walter & Beulah Hosey; and a new couple Patrick Terrell and wife. We have had the third lesson and all seem quite interested. I sure hope they will see it through and become totally active.

We are doing considerable improvement in and around the church. We now have enlarged and rebuilt the coal storage room, providing an outside entrance to the west with a patio and roof over the back entrance, and have taken the trees out in front of the building and are in the process of building a parking lot to the east with cement walks leading in with planting strips for new flowers and shrubbery. I think I told you we had already put new carpeting in the front entrance and the back stairs and hall, also new front doors. It is beginning to look quite nice again and has helped a lot with the spirit of our meetings.

Now will you do us a favor? We would like to send our missionary a little remembrance for Christmas and to wish him success in his labors, but do not know how to get funds through to him, so if you will do this for us we will be most grateful. Also please forward the card with it. If you think he will be interested in the work we are doing here, you might like to send this letter on with our blessings. We enjoy hearing from him and still look upon him as our missionary. We want to extend to him and yourselves an invitation to come to Springdale as soon as possible after his return, to report his mission and pay us a visit.

I trust your family is all well and enjoying living in Provo and that you have found something you can tie too and stay put for a while. We would like to see your new family member and all the other kids again. They must be growing up pretty fast.

May the Lord bless all of you and keep you well and active in the Church. From the Springdale Ward, by Bishop Hardy.

LETTER 947 Kirk Cook Lyman, Blackfoot, Idaho, to Edward and Irene Lyman, Blanding, Utah, December 10, 1964

Dear grand folks, as usual I'm quite slow in getting a letter out to you. I've planned on doing this for quite some time now but I'm just getting slower and slower in writing to anyone.

Received your card yesterday. I'm sending \$20.00 to you. I planned on making the complete payment myself but the grand folks here had some problems come up and needed some money so I'm short. I'll get the complete payments from now on. In fact, I'll try and make up the money you put on this first payment.

I'm home from work today with the flu. I missed yesterday also. There are quite a few people sick from it, so if I can squeeze by with only two days, I'll feel lucky.

I'm quite busy in Church now. I teach the Investigator Class, as well as the Senior Aaronic Class. I'm surely grateful for the chance to continue teaching, as I really enjoy it. I grow from it and hope and pray that I help others.

The car is okay so far. I've had to replace a U-joint and have the front end lined up, but other than that I'm okay. Oh, I should have taken your advice about a second key. I locked myself out of it the other night and had to take forty minutes getting in. I ended up with a small chip on the top of one window where we had to force a wire in and then draw the lock up with a piece of string. I'm having a 2nd key made and taped in the tail light.

I'm not quite sure what you folks could use for your Christmas, so I'll be sending what I think is appropriate. It may be late, but it will get there. More than likely it will be in the line of towels or something that is not breakable.

Apparently I misplaced your card, but I think you asked for Burns address. I have it, as I just received it yesterday from the Law Department in California. I wrote for it some time ago and just now have it to give it to you. I hope he will enjoy hearing from you. Remember that he didn't want anyone to know where he was. I'm writing him today, and by the time your letter gets to him, he will know that you folks know and will be writing.

Well, there really isn't much news, except that we're all doing pretty well. Elva Cook is down sick from female troubles with the possibility of an operation but other than that we're all fine. I'm sending my tape in a couple of days. There is something on both sides. Love Kirk.

[The following letter was written from Vincennes, Indiana apparently before Kirk left his mission. There is no date attached, so I have attached it to this latest letter. It appears to have been written in December of 1963.]

Dear folks and family, just a few lines to say hello and let you know how things are going in the Great Lakes Mission. Also to wish you all happy holidays. I intended on sending a card, but when it came time I couldn't remember the city. Guess I've just got a short memory. This will just have to do in its place.

Everything is fine here with Christmas spirit bubbling over each way you turn. I know each missionary would like to be home with loved ones, but the people they're with will treat them just as good as they possibly can, I've learned already.

I'm fine physically except for a little continuous back trouble which affects my neck and gives me some severe head aches. Also one bone in my foot is bothering me and I don't know but what before it's all over, that I won't have to have it operated on. One thing sure, if I do my part, the Lord will do his.

Please excuse the short part of the letter but I'm in the laundry and they are ready to dry and I still have several letters to get off. Plus I have several families to see tonight. Would you pass this around this time. Love, Kirk.

LETTER 948 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, Friday, December 11, 1964

Dearest family, it has been a most interesting week. Today, so far we happily have practiced several hours and will need a couple of more hours today getting things started.

Everything is final for many hours of good proselyting work. We have the Gamessa Galary for Christmas Eve from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. It is down on Main Street where everyone will be passing. This Sunday our quintet has one number in conference ready. Tuesday the 15th between 7:00 and 9:00 on channel 2 we will be singing another program, consisting of Hebrew, English, Negro, Indian and Spanish songs. This will be a program for the poor children. We may also sing Wednesday during the same time. We are having a lot of fun and enjoying this manner of opening up the city. A baptism we had this week (civil guard) is in jail for going A.W.O.L. He will be out in four months. We had to get permission from the captain to let him go with us long enough to be baptized. He speaks both Indian languages spoken here in Peru and says that during these four months he is going to study the Book of Mormon many times and learn those two languages better so that he can some day be a missionary to them. He will be a good missionary and I know he received the Gift of the Holy Ghost when he was confirmed.

Two nights ago I had a really weird dream. I was back at the Y and we were in a meeting. A girl came up and took my tie off and started acting fresh, so I moved into the back room to put it on again. While I was back there, a janitor came out and started speaking Spanish to me. I answered back of course. He said he lived at 210 Melgar and would like to see me if I was ever in Arequipa, so yesterday we went to that address and knocked on the door. They were waiting for us. We gave them a 1st lesson and they should be baptized shortly. There are five in the family – two younger kids. Needless to say, that was quite an experience.

I'm laying on my bed right now trying to rest. I have several sets of glands that are swollen and giving me quite a problem. I hope they go away soon.

This Sunday is district conference again – my last. We should see some big changes.

Well, I'll let it go at this. I love you all a lot and will be seeing you soon. I hope Christmas will be nice. We are having a party Christmas day – turkey, pies, cookies, potatoes and salad, etc., which should be good. After that we are going to have some games and songs. Elder Gardner and I are fixing up some guitar arrangements, so it should be a regular Christmas. Love always,
L. D. Platt.

LETTER 949 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [This composite letter (seven in one) is found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 240-242 {PFRC Book 12}], December 13, 1964

Dearest Lyman, Last night we had family night and one of our activities was to write to our missionary. I had each one dictate what they wanted to say, and I took it down in shorthand, so I'll write a little then will see if I can transcribe my notes from the family. Joe wasn't home, as he was working – also tonight. He isn't getting much Sunday activity lately. Starting in January our meetings will be a little later, so maybe he can get up in time for priesthood meeting and Sunday School. We are glad that he has some work but don't like to see it take him away from his Sunday duties.

We did enjoy your letters to the whole family. We took a roll of pictures of the family today, so hope that we can get them developed and to you for Christmas. I especially hope that the ones of the baby turn out good, so you can tell what she looks like. She will be six months old in about three days. I guess she must be cutting teeth, as she has been quite fussy the last couple of days. She is usually such a happy little thing and is such a doll – we all really love her.

I'm sending along Bishop Hardy's letter, as I know you will be interested in it. I thought it was so nice of him to take the time in his busy schedule to write us a nice long letter. Also to send the check for you. It is for \$25.00 and we will send it into your account, so you will know it is there for your use when you need it.

There are so many things to do, and I don't get half of them done it seems. I haven't done much of anything for Christmas yet, and here it is a few short days away. Our Christmas will have to be Irene this year I guess, and of course we couldn't ask for a nicer one.

Well, son, I'll get these others typed up and call this good for today. We all just got home from church and they called the speakers out of the audience (of which I was one). Denzil and Diane and children ate dinner with us today. They have a cute little family, and we are so pleased that they are getting active in the Church. Lots of love to you, Mother.

Dear Lyman: the family tonight is having a home evening. We have all agreed that the most precious present that we can think of this Christmas, other than to have you home, and all of us

be well and happy, would be to have our King back. We miss him so much. We are all enjoying little Irene and she is filling the void created by your being gone. As this is approaching the Christmas season, we think it would be appropriate for each of us to show our love and appreciation for the Savior and His mission by keeping a proper holiday spirit. One gets the feeling at Christmas time in this busy commercialized world that we are far removed from the proper yuletide spirit. We hope this letter will find you well and enjoying your mission all the more. We are all well and happy here and though working hard and long hours are glad that we are here in the valleys of the mountains. We are pleased of your informing us of your singing opportunities and hope and pray that you will do much good with it. We aren't forgetting that you asked for a little additional month upon your release. We will be happy to send what we can. Let us know what the best time would be for you to receive it. Christmas cheer and God bless you. Dad.

Dear Lyman, do you know that I am three years old now. Soon I will have a birthday and then I will be four. Christmas is only thirteen days away. We have a Santa Claus shoe on the buffet that mother made. We keep our Christmas cards in it for now and maybe later we will have cookies or candy in it. Irene is getting bigger and she can sit up and she has a little rocking horse she sits in. It used to be Carolyn's (Morins). I will sure be glad when you get home. Joe is working tonight. He is about as big as you. We have some snow outside and it is cold. With love from Gordie. I'm sorry that King got lost.

Dear Lyman, now it's my turn to write. I would like very much a little collection of stamps and some coins if you can get them. Eddie is getting to be a right good artist. He sprained his foot in school, and about a week ago he sprained the other one. He took a quarter out of my hand and kept throwing it into the light, but he finally got it back. I really am enjoying Irene very much. I like your letter very much. Thank you for writing to us all. I have been getting along okay in school. Dad and I helped Ed deliver his papers this morning. That's where I got my quarter from. I hope you have a nice Christmas and next year we will all be together. Adios amigo, McKaycito.

Dear Lyman, you asked how I like Provo. I really enjoy Provo a lot, but I do think it was mean of Aunt Rene to move away after so many years. I really like all the people here and for the first time I have some good LDS girl friends. Dixon has a lot of kids in it, but is a lot of fun. Yesterday the kids that wanted to from Dixon walked to the Field House to see an International Folk Dance group. It was really interesting and exciting. Gene and McKay went too. We don't have our Christmas tree yet and haven't done much for Christmas so far, but still are getting the spirit and glad we are here instead of in Idaho. Idaho was a pretty place but too much snow to suit me and too far from town. I wish you could see that ranch some time. They haven't sold it again yet. Hope they soon find a buyer. I hope we can meet you in California when you come home. Irene is getting bigger and cuter all the time and is getting to be so alert. Before you get home she may be walking. Dad is rocking her right now and the rocking chair is squeaking a tune and that will have to be Irene's letter to you. I guess my turn is up, so I'd better say goodbye for this time, Love, Roberta.

Dear Lyman, This is the first time I have had a private secretary and all I can do is sit here and giggle. I'm afraid my scouting activities have stopped for the winter and I won't be starting again until next summer. I have been having fun in school, being the editor and writing the paper. Wichita and Kansas State (No. 1 in the nation) beat B.Y.U. in basketball last night and tonight on Wichita's floor. B.Y.U. is doing better than most of the teams though. Utah State hasn't lost any of her games yet, nor has Utah, so all in all the Western Conference has been doing well. My paper route is getting worse and worse because I can't keep warm in the morning. I'm going to quit the first of the year. Thanks for your letter and hope you have a nice Christmas and a happy holiday even though you don't get much time off and have no presents. Love, Gene.

Dear Lyman, due to the fact that I'm tired, I will wait and write my letter tomorrow. Love, Ed.

LETTER 950 Edward Lyman Platt, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 244-246 {PFRC Book 12}], December 14, 1964

Dear Lyman, Well, today is Sunday and I'm as miserable as ever. Everything I do seems to go wrong lately. I sprained my right ankle about a week ago and I haven't even been able to deliver my paper route. Well, so I finally got over it and I sprained my left one and dad has ended up taking me on my route again. Besides that I just got over a staff infection which was on my face for close to a week and a half. The same thing bothered me last year at this time in Idaho and we think it may be seasonal. Although it's nice here in Provo, I would much rather be up in Idaho. Maybe it sounds kind of kooky, but I think my fondest memories will be of the times when all I had to do was step out the back door and wander for hours in the woods. It was more relaxing to be by myself and think and hunt than anything else I know.

Well, I'm sixteen now and no matter how hard I try it seems like you always stay six years older than me. I will probably be ordained a Priest next Sunday, and will also clinch my fourth individual award soon.

I have been invited to an Eagle banquet on January the 21st and from what I can understand, it will really be a great event.

I'm doing okay in school although I believe this has been my hardest year so far.

The Y really has a great basketball team this year and the last I heard they were ranked 9th in the nation.

It's been getting really cold here lately (12 degrees this morning) and I've about decided because of the cold and injuries that I will stop my route.

Although I'm not very good I have become quite interested in art and am wondering whether I should go into art as a profession.

My subjects this year are gym, seminary (New Testament), history, type, English journalism, and Algebra II. The one I like most (Algebra II) I also got my worst grade in (B-).

How are you getting along with the girls (I bet you're getting pretty fast on your feet trying to keep away from them all)? Hope you have a merry Christmas.

Although a dollar isn't much, I haven't got a very big income and can't afford much. Enclosure (this is a proper term I've used to show something besides a letter is enclosed. I learned it in type). Adios, Love Ed.

LETTER 951 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, December 21, 1964

Dearest Lyman, This letter may or may not get to you by Christmas. I hope that it does, so you can at least have the pictures we are sending. There are a couple of others that I will send later. They are pretty good as a whole and gives you an idea what we all look like now – especially the baby. She is so sweet and we enjoy her so much. As you can see, she is quite grown up now that she is six months old. She sits alone and scoots a little on her knees and nose.

Sounds like you will have a nice time during the holiday with your singing, etc. This is the third Christmas you have spent away from home – guess you are getting used to it.

We are missing you so much though, and will be glad when you can come home to give us an account of your mission and give us the spiritual boost our family needs.

That was a wonderful experience you had with the dream and the family you visited and taught the gospel to. Truly the Lord works in a mysterious way his wonders to perform. We know you will have many things to tell us and will be so interested to hear all about your mission.

We do hope that your troubles with swollen glands have cleared up son and that you can stay well for the holidays and for the remainder of your mission. You have been fortunate to have as good health as you have and know that you have been blessed mainly because you were worthy of it and you have tried hard to stay well.

The kids are enjoying some time home from school. Joe will likely work quite a lot during the holidays as most of the boys have gone home to the holidays. At least he should be able to send you what he owes you before long. He had to pay all of his last check for car insurance, now he has license and tax to meet on it. Surely is a lot cheaper not to have a car, but he has enjoyed it this winter and it has been nice for them to have something to go to school and work in.

We aren't doing too much for Christmas this year but do feel that we are greatly blessed and have much to be thankful for. If there is something you especially need or want that you can get down there, why don't you buy it, as we can't send anything.

The Sanderson's brought a letter from their son the other day and let us read it. He told about the time he was your companion and how much he thought of you. We didn't realize it was their son you mentioned as your companion. You have changed companions so often; it has been hard for us to keep track of them. The Sanderson's are lovely people. He is in charge of the whole bookstore so is over Dad and Dan thinks a lot of him. They have two boys on missions. I think one about ready to come home.

We have attended some ball games lately. One night we took the whole family to watch the Y beat Santa Clara. Irene didn't like the yelling, so the next night Dad and the boys went to the game and I took Roberta and the baby to the show at the Y Center. We had family tickets that the Y gave to Dad for both games and shows, so you see our entertainment is taken care of nicely. They also gave a party to the little kids and one for the teens and a nice dinner for their employees and wives. It is good to be here and I'm so thankful each day we are here, especially when I know it will mean you can stay home with us as long as you want to while going to college.

We love you son and pray each day for your happiness and success in your labors there. Have a good Christmas and know that our love will be under your tree (if you have one). Mother.

LETTER 952 Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, December 21, 1964

Dear son Lyman, 'tis a pleasure on this occasion to write you and at this yuletide season wish for you a merry Christmas. Though you are getting old enough that a personal gift is incidental to the proper observance of the Christmas time, yet we wish it were possible to send you a nice gift. I don't know what it might be, but we would revel in the bestowal of a gift.

I'm just sentimental enough at this time to say that I doubt a finer gift to parents could be given than that of an upright life from a loving son. In a small way I can understand the feeling of the Father for His righteous children.

To you secretly I'm scheming to try and work a way to come all the way to Mexico City to get you. I don't want you to get your hopes up, but it would certainly be nice to do that. I guess Los Angeles or San Diego will be about all I'll have time or means for.

Keep your intended schedule up and don't let down a fraction. Then you'll be proud to have set your goals so high. We've heard several good reports lately from those who know someone who's known you, like Elder Sanderson's parents.

A very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Your Dad.

LETTER 953 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, December 24, 1964

Dearest family, all of the things that have transpired, I can't begin to relate, but the main ones *si*. The caption on the picture reads: "Successful Performance, The Quartet from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints received hearty applause from those in attendance at Channel 2. They sang a series of spirituals and songs which they will once again interpret in a program Christmas Eve in the Gamessa Galerías."

We were asked various questions about the Church which we answered readily. We sang for an hour. The Lord has readily blessed our efforts, giving my companion and me one family of seven and two single men so far this month. The possibilities still are good for one more family. The mission broke its baptism record with fifty-nine this week. When I came it was fourteen a month. In January the goal is 350 baptisms. We should make it.

We are having a lot of success in our programs. Many elders are starting to try it and consequently the hours and meetings and baptisms are going up. We are in our sixty-five hour weeks now and will start on the seventies on January 4. The time is going fast. In a way I'm glad. Dedicating heart, might, mind and soul 100% is very tedious but of course very rewarding. I had to cash the \$25.00 the Springdale people gave me because the patches on my patches were wearing through on my four pairs of pants. I bought some pants and socks and boots – all shoes now beyond repair except the ones I just bought. It was a relief to be able to buy them and to be able to put my hands in my pockets without feeling my bare skin and also having patches on the hind end not show.

After tomorrow, singing is out. We've just spent all of our spare time on it and going from 6:30 a.m. until 10:30 p.m. with one hour off during the day to eat is too much. Well, we have to be off to the baptism. Chau.

[Continuation of the same letter]

December 26, 1964. Well, everything is over and I'm sitting here listening to Ray Coniff and trying to keep my companion from getting trunky. He's a bit sick so I'm just catching up of a few odds and ends.

Christmas Eve we started our concert about 7:30. It was very successful from any and every point. After it was over we all went over to Radio Tacna and re-sang some of the songs for fifteen minutes. It was really an enjoyable evening. But to top it off, the Filinich family was good enough to invite us over to a party at their place. It had all been pre-arranged in the minds of several young girls – 21-years old young. They asked me to bring a guitar. Well, I figured if my companion and I couldn't resist one girl for an evening of enjoyment, we were had. As it had been arranged, there were the three most pretty – looks and personality wise – girls in Southern Peru. We figured we were had even with their parents there. Then Elder Chase came and we looked at each other and gave a sigh of relief. Together, we held them off.

First came the music – guitars and voices – we sang Christmas songs, *boleros*, *winos* (both Peruvian songs), Mexican favorites, Chilean *quegas*, etc. Then came the mean – delicious – then the opening of presents – I got a bottle of Agua Velva (after shave). Around midnight is the customary *abrazo* (hugging). They all approached me as it was my turn. I stuck out my hand – it was hard. They persisted for ten minutes, but I won out.

From 12:00 midnight until 3:00 a.m. we sang and played games. They asked me to sing *Malagueña*, a Spanish favorite. I must have sung it six times. I believe they just wanted to hear the part *que bonitos ojos tienes* (what beautiful eyes you have). Being a natural flirt, it was hard to say it without expression. It finally broke up. We slept until 9:00 and then went over to Brother and Sister Fehr's apartment, each missionary bringing his assigned part. Mollendo came up, so there were thirty-two of us. We had a lovely turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Afterwards we went to a show: A Shot in the Dark. It was very hilarious. My companion started feeling badly so we came home. Elder Chase and I stood up of the roof for an hour, in the rain, talking about missions and personal feelings, about girls, etc. He is a good supervisor and though he looks to me for a lot of help, I appreciate his leadership.

My companion being sick all day, I've thrown junk away and started getting ready to be moved out. The president only promised us that we could stay until after Christmas. I still may stay here, but I'm ready just in case. When you get this letter, my group will be the oldest missionaries.

You might be interested in my yearly statistics: I worked 3,190 hours – a sixty-hour-a-week average – knocked on 759 doors; gave 323 lessons; studied 1,110 hours; spent \$1,000 – about \$2 to \$5 less than last year.

We got one more baptism Tuesday and are expecting another next Tuesday. Arequipa is finally receptive for missionary labors. It has made a complete about face in the last eight months.

I hope your Christmas was an enjoyable one. I've had the most edifying one I can remember. This people are a good people. I dislike their actions and can turn right around and love them.

Well, I guess this is about long enough. I love you all and will be home in nine short weeks.

Dad, I'm willing to sacrifice seeing these places. I want to if you'll lend me \$100.00 to start school with instead. I'll pay it back when I get a job and can. I'd rather do that than get grabbed by the Army. What do you think? Is it feasible? I'll do as you suggest.

Gordie, I hope you have a happy birthday. I guess if you're four, you're big enough to write to. You weren't when I left. Sorry, if I've been negligent. Well, chau for now. I'll see you soon. Your not trunky yet son, Lyman De.

LETTER 954 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, near the end on old pagination 304 {PFRC Book 12}], Misión Andina, December 26, 1964

Elder Lyman D. Platt, Arequipa II. Dear hermano Platt. After the opportunity we had to visit in Arequipa, I wrote you a follow-up letter before receiving the letter you wrote me on December 14th. In spite of the crossing in the mail, I want to thank you first for your letter before responding to any answer you might be writing to the questions I posed. The spirit in your letter is very good, and I know that you are sincere in all the promises you make therein. As we work together, I hope you will never doubt my personal respect for you. It is a privilege to be your companion in the mission field.

Note: had your second letter when I got back to Lima. *Conforme*. Think the matter can be closed. Thanks, sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President.

LETTER 955 Lyman De Platt, San Francisco 301-A #C, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, December 31, 1964

Dearest family, being content to work in branch II and with Elder Scott as my companion, the mission president was of different ideas. His letter to me of December 26th states: "The spirit of your letter is very good, and I know that you are sincere in all the promises you make therein. As we work together, I hope you will never doubt my personal respect for you. It is a privilege to be your companion in the mission field."

I've been called to supervise over branch I and branch III in Arequipa. I'm now back in branch I. My companion is Elder Berg. More on him Friday.

I was talking with President Fehr Monday night wondering what could be done with the elder situation and the branch problem. He had decided to call Lima and suggest I be moved to branch I and he be put in charge of the presidency of the same. Without calling, the changes came

Tuesday. I had mentioned wanting a challenge, and boy it has been dumped in my lap. The branch has ninety-eight members; between ten-twenty active (optimistically speaking). The elders are complying as they should. I will be working along with President Fehr in branch presidency meetings, etc., to see what can be done.

Our program of working more hours has taken hold. Elder Monson will be the senior Elder in branch III and is presenting the plan Monday. Elder Scott stays here, I'm in branch I. The mission average was raised from fifty-five to sixty-five. The president asked me for a detailed report of our plan, its' advantages and disadvantages, when it could work, etc. The mission will now have 2,000 more hours work each week. It was all our idea, of course, but the Lord inspired us.

One more branch was opened to the Lamanites – Ayacucho. Elder Robinson – who came with us – is branch president. Elder Halterman is doing fine, as is Elder Burningham. He has twelve baptisms last week up in Piura. They now have 250 members.

The possibility of me leaving Arequipa now is mighty slim. With less than two months left, it will be a good finish and my trip to Lima will be able to include Lake Titicaca, Machu Pichu and Cuzco.

I'm thankful yet fearful of my responsibilities. It requires so much in so little time.

May the Lord bless you family. I love you so much. Thanks for the lovely pictures. See you soon. As always, Elder Platt.

LETTER 956 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, January 1, 1965

Dearest family, well, I've been a supervisor one day and it seems so long already. I'm thankful for one thing, though. I already know where the members live and the area is all familiar.

Yesterday I moved over to Branch I and then we went to the airport to see Elder Johnson off. He was happy to go. Now we're the oldest missionaries. It seems funny.

Elder Berg and I had a good day also. We met three young couples. It was, in fact, the best day I've had for a while. The prospects are far from discouraging.

Elder Berg is from Kearns, Utah. He is the 3rd of eight; he is a young missionary. We will get along well together.

Yesterday I met with President Fehr and our elders quorum leader and discussed home teaching. It will be introduced Sunday. We are somewhat behind you in the states but coming along.

Another branch to the Lamanites – Huancayo – was opened up yesterday. Elder Joostin, Salt Lake City, and Elder Harris, my ex-companion were sent there. This mission certainly doesn't stand still does it?

The President has told the quartet to go to Mollendo Tuesday and Wednesday to put on a concert and to participate in the inauguration of a new library just finished by the Church. The concert is for all the town officials. Rumor – from the president to Sister Yank – is that Tacna and Arica are possibilities also. It is an interesting wind up to an exciting mission.

Today we have branch presidency meeting with President Fehr to change a few things quickly. What organization there is is run by very few people.

This morning I spent an hour with Elder Monson, orienting him on the responsibilities of a Senior Elder and gave him an outline of how a branch presidency meeting should go. They are in the process of changing branch presidencies up there so he has his hands full.

The time will soon be here. Pray I may stay healthy and use wisdom in directing the affairs of these next months. Love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 957 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 252 {PFRC Book 12}], January 3, 1965

Dearest Lyman, we all enjoyed your last letter so much, telling of your activities on Christmas Eve and Day. Sounds like you had a truly enjoyable and rewarding time. I would really like to hear your group sing. I can imagine you have enjoyed it.

Glad that you got you some extra clothes with the money from the Springdale Ward. I thought it was very nice of them to send it to you and glad that it was such a help. It will be quite a change for you to be home earning your own money and feeling free to spend it on clothes, etc., won't it? Speaking of money – you asked if you could borrow \$100 to start school. We will certainly get it for you some way and think it is a good idea. Joe said to tell you that between now and then he would earn \$100 to lend you, so that will help. We have been talking about the possibilities of jobs for you when you return. Joe said he thought he could get you on down there where he works, but it is only \$1.00 an hour (same as the school pays, but harder work). Dad feels he could get you on up at the bakery or elsewhere at the Y. And then we have been

wondering if you couldn't get on teaching these missionaries Spanish at the Y. I think they pay \$1.25, so that would be better and likely more to your liking. We will see what we are able to find out about it and let you know. Of course we won't do anything final until we know your desires.

Are you still planning on bringing Sister Vega (is that right?) home to spend a couple of weeks with us, or have your plans changed? I guess we won't be bringing the whole family to California. The older boys seem to think they can't miss that much school in some of their classes. Anyway, we will need to know as soon as you do just what your plans are, so we can make our arrangements.

We too spent an enjoyable New Year's Eve. Dad and I went up to a buffet dinner at the home of Curt Winder (his supervisor). Had a nice crowd there and lots of good food. Part of the group went dancing after, but we came home to spend the remainder of the evening with the family. We played rook, etc. until about 3:00 a.m. then went to bed. Joe worked until about 5:00 a.m. so we all did a little sleeping in the next morning then spent New Year's Day at home. It is nice that a new year rolls around, as there are many things to repent of and try harder on. Maybe you can help us with some of them when you get here. Gordie was quite impressed with having a birthday but couldn't quite believe he is four now instead of three. I think he expected some magical change in himself at being four and when he couldn't tell any difference, he just didn't think he was four. He has grown up so much as they all have, and you will have a whole new family to get acquainted with. But then I know you will have changed a lot yourself, so we will have some getting acquainted to do. I hope it won't be too big a let down for you to come back in the family and see that we haven't made as much progress these 2½ years as you have. It will be good to have you home though.

The kids have enjoyed their vacation from school but will be going back tomorrow. The year is going fast. Joe will be out of high school before we know it. He had another date with this Kathy the other night. I think there were six of them went to a show, then bowling and then to one of the girl's houses to have turkey sandwiches. He is talking of getting ski equipment (the fact that Kathy got some for Christmas may have something to do with it) but hope that he doesn't go in too steep on it, as I would like to see him save his money.

Looks like Ed is ready to use the typewriter – in fact I think he wants me to do some typing for him, so maybe I'll say adios for tonight. We think you are doing a really fine job son and love you for your efforts and desires. All our love, Mother.

LETTER 958 Rene Lyman Morin, 816 East Oldfield, Lancaster, California, to the Gordon L. Platt family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 254-257 {PFRC Book 12}], December 26, 1965

Dear friends and loved ones, “It’s beginning to look a lot like Christmas.” I guess the reason we keep singing this at our house is that we want to believe it! Christmas here on the California desert was an entirely new experience for us. Of course, we like the sun shining on the Joshua trees, the dry ground and the blue sky, no smog, but we miss the snow shining on beautiful Mount Timpanogos, and the warm, wonder feelings that come from being with friends and loved ones in Utah. Our moving to California was so sudden and so unexpected that we occasionally find ourselves saying: Is this really us, living in California? Honestly, we didn’t think we could pull up our roots after living in Provo (wonderful Provo) for nine years, leave friends and loved ones, and plant ourselves in the sunny desert of California. But we did the impossible and all survived (so far). New friends here say that the desert will grow on us, that we will learn to love the Joshua Trees (if they only smelled like pine trees), and the windy (underlined), hot (two lines) air of the desert. So we are trying. Of course, we really know that the important thing is not where we live, but how. Since we have each other, and there are so many of us, we are all hale and hearty; there is no reason why we can’t be as happy as the natives here. Of course, the natives here are all from Utah, Idaho, etc. We are grateful for the Church here, for the fellowship and the friendship it brings. It does give our lives more purpose and more direction.

Art and I are enjoying our teaching. Art teaches at A. V. High School in Lancaster (3,000 students). I teach at Palmdale High (2,000 students) Teaching is always a challenge and the prospect of influencing the lives of so many young students, many of whom need so much direction, it is a rather sobering experience and makes us appreciate our own family more.

Quick run-down on the rest of the family: Artie is in the 10th grade. He and Brad go to high school where their Dad teaches. They have both fit right into the activities of the ward here. Artie is one of the officers in the Explorer Troop, is doing well in his studies. We are trying to enjoy each day with him, realizing that two more years could take him away from home in one pursuit or another. Time passes too quickly. Brad will march with the band from A.V. High School (they march six months and then go to the Rose Bowl) and then go to the Rose Bowl Parade on January 1st. Look for him on T.V. – Rank 8 (row eight) about 2nd from the left, making music on his trumpet. A.V. Band is one of only six high school bands invited to march in the parade. I believe Brad is the only freshman in the band, but his quality trumpet playing put him there. As the band leader told the band, what Brad lacks in size he makes up for in his tone quality. Marilee goes to Jr. High where she is an outstanding student. Her piano playing is really improving and we look for her to do good things with it. She and Julynn have established themselves as most dependable baby-tenders here and have found it very lucrative. Of course, they have had plenty of practice at home. Julynn goes to 6th grade, where she is also an outstanding student. We attended a program at her school last night and her choral group was really outstanding. Julynn always excels at whatever she is doing. Eddie is a 4th grader, right at the top of his class and in several accelerated groups. He has been president of his class. He and Julynn and Marilee study Spanish at school. This makes life interesting at home, along with Artie’s German. Lynette is in 3rd grade, a conscientious, good student – always sweet and helpful to those around her. Bennie, 2nd grader, is another top student and an enthusiastic learner. He occasionally gets to grieving over his size and, with tears in his voice, says: I’m going to be the littlest one in the family. But what he lacks in size he makes up for in sweet, pleasant disposition, and no one gets the best of him. Finding themselves in a new school, new teachers and students

was a bit hard for the little ones at first. I heard Ben say to Lynette on one of the first days of school: I wish we were back in Provo where the teachers really care about us. But time is a great healer and they feel more at home now. We have no problems at all with all our little students; they conduct themselves as good citizens, bring home A's in citizenship, for which we are grateful. Almost forgot Burke – he spends half a day in kindergarten and is enjoying it more as he gets acquainted. He will be ready for 1st grade next year and is really learning to work. Chris (pleasant and loveable), Charles (the clown), and tiny Carolyn (three teeth and a big smile) stays at home with a very sweet lady who loves them, and they love here. I didn't ever think I could really leave our little ones to go back to work, but our baby-tender, Ginger, helps make this possible. Hope the price of shoes and music lessons comes down soon, so I won't have to work too long

No problems – if only we could find a house big enough for us. Plenty of room on the desert for all of you, too. We miss and love all of you and at this special season our hearts are full of gratitude for each of you and the part you have played in our lives, for the sunshine your friendship has spread over the years and continues to spread. May the coming season and New Year bring peace and contentment into your lives. Please come to the desert and see us when you get to sunny California. I guess the understatement of the year is that we are looking forward most eagerly to our trip to Utah next summer. With love and sincere good wishes. Rene and Art.

Dearest Platts: you should never expect to get our Christmas greetings until after Christmas, if then. I was simply so tired by the time school let out (we had to go until the 22nd) and I did some shopping, because I hadn't done any before, that I just didn't do anything but what I had to do because I didn't want to get sick. I feel fine as long as I don't try to burn the candle at both ends, so what I can't get done just waits. Did you have a nice Christmas? I guess you felt like I did, that we got our main Christmas present early in the year (February for us and June for you) and enjoyed her all year long. It was just wonderful being all together and enjoying each other for one whole day – we didn't do much fancy gift wrapping, etc. But I did enjoy the children and am enjoying each minute with them. Probably in another two or three years our family will be separated by one thing or another and this seems too quick to suit me. I can imagine how you are looking forward to having L.D. home. That was a most interesting experience he had about the dream. Like you, I am so glad you are in Utah for Christmas, Allie. That is a good place to be.

We are going to celebrate the holidays by moving again, the first of the week. We haven't ever found a five-bedroom house within our reach so we are buying a four bedroom, with an attached garage that opens into the house, which we may eventually make into a bedroom. Without a basement, as you know, an attached garage is almost a necessity. My utilities are in the garage right by the door, so that will be handy and I can have a line there. I have so much washing that I have to have my washer in my kitchen. I just wash, wash, wash, wash, wash, and get up in the morning and start all over again. I like the floor plan of the house so I will draw it for you. Dale is buying our carpet for us, as we can get a much better grade for the same money from him. He is in the contracting business and seems to be doing really well (they just bought a new car and paid cash for it). They have really been good to us; in fact, I don't know how we could have made it without them. We spent a couple of hours with them on Christmas. Our new home is only about $\frac{3}{4}$ mile from theirs, so we are glad for that too.

Yes, that was surely sad about Burdett. I can imagine that it really put a cloud over the whole town. I guess it is lucky that there weren't others in, besides Cleon, and Mother said he apparently isn't too seriously hurt.

Spent most of Sunday talking to prospects for my baby-tending job. Ginger's husband got transferred so we lost her. Think we have found another good one. I really had a lot of response to my ad in the paper. Had a wonderful meeting last night, a farewell for a missionary. He was really an outstanding fellow. Do hope that this business at the Lake isn't worrying you kids – do you have to bother checking it Gordon? Allie, why don't you call Ron Boulter, the fellow we bought the machinery from, or talk to his wife, and tell them we would like to sell it, then perhaps they can help us find a buyer.

Well, I've got a lot of other letters to mail so won't write more. Thanks for your love and your letters, they mean so much. I am ashamed now of the way I didn't write to you when you were so far away from Utah. We love and miss you so much. Rene and Art.

[A diagram of their house is drawn in red ink It contains a family room, four bedrooms, a kitchen, two baths, a garage, family room and patio. Aunt Rene says: lots of nice naturally stained cabinets in the kitchen, dish washer, and built-ins.]

LETTER 957 Gene Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 258 {PFRC Book 12}], January 2, 1965

Dear Lyman, how's it going old boy? Sounds like you're having a tough time of it down there. If you can just hold off and resist those señoritas a little longer, you'll be free.

I have diverted my attention from scouting to Church activities for the time being. The last October General Conference, we were urged to read one of the standard works before the end of the year and I resolved to do it. I finished the Book of Mormon at 9:30 p.m. New Year's Eve, so I had 2½ hours extra.

I really get a lot out of reading it. In seminary we are studying the Book of Mormon, so that helps.

In my Teacher's Quorum we were told that we had to have the following verses memorized for our individual awards: 1 Nephi 3:7; Alma 34:21; 3 Nephi 11:1-10 and Alma 10:3-5. We were only told this about two weeks ago and I have them all memorized. Chau, Gene.

LETTER 958 Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Founded in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 250-251 {PFRC Book 12}], January 2, 1964

Dear Son Lyman, whether I get any more letters written to you before your departure from the field or not, is, I guess, immaterial. I'm sure you will have somewhat to say to me upon arrival for not being a little more of a nature to desire to write.

I have one real reason for writing at this time: that of answering your question regarding what my thoughts were respecting you enlisting for foreign lingual service, or for that matter local service. I am of the opinion still as I expressed to you many letters ago that at the time you came from your mission you will be in a position to raise your own thinking and will receive no opposition no matter what you decide to do, as you can put mature thinking into your ultimate choice.

I feel there is a promising field in the services and though the discipline is rigid, the retirement comes soon.

There is the alternate that your mother has probably mentioned to you by now, that of teaching Spanish here at B.Y.U. in the missionary school for a couple of dollars per hour. This would be for four hours per day and you go to school besides. This might be a better *in* for future solidarity.

In any event, come home and with a prayer for divine guidance, let the future develop.

We are getting anxious for you to tell us at your earliest possibility your release date and when we can expect to see you in Los Angeles.

May the Lord bless and inspire you to desire even greater things and rise to greater heights.

We are all aware of an increase in desire for your return. Hurry and satisfy this for us. We know your influence will be tremendous.

Ed just acquired a 30 Winchester for \$35.00 from Uncle Almon's Joy's husband, Kent. It is the incubator for one for each of us. As I sold my Enfield, this means I have one of my own to buy.

Keep well and busy and know our love and prayers are with you.

We leave at 6:30 A.M. tomorrow for mother's cousin's funeral. (Evan Hugh Barton – Monticello). It will take five to six hours one way, but he was quite an ideal to me, as ever, Dad.

LETTER 959 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 306-308 near the back of the book {PFRC Book 12}. Excerpts only: this letter was written to district leaders.] Lima, Peru, January 4, 1965, the following note that was printed in the *Chasqui* notes the response to the new goal of hours. [This is my weekly letter to President Nicolaysen.]

“We have had a really good week. We were able to give seventeen lessons again and have found some people (families) that are ready. This afternoon we will baptize five of a family of seven (two are less than seven years of age). Next week we should be able to baptize another five and then we have still another that we met last night that looks good.

“The Lord has literally given these people to us. We are happy and the program is fine. We start sixty-five hours Monday for two weeks. We are being blessed for our work.”

During the past week there have been changes among the district and zone leaders. Elder Lynn Durham, Elder Carl Hatch and Elder Lyman Platt have been called as Supervisors. Elder Samuel Allman, Elder Craig Carpenter, Elder Mike Robinson, Elder David Putnam and Elder Keith Tempest have been called as Zone Leavers. We appreciate the work that Elders Carl Hatch, Elder David Houghton, and Elder Leonard Rasmussen have done as Zone Leaders. We appreciate the work that Elder Terry Gunn and Elder Craig Carpenter have done as district leaders.

LETTER 960 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to Joseph Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, January 7, 1965

Dear brother Joe, Sorry I didn't get this letter to you before your birthday. Being a supervisor is an arduous job, especially right now. The Lord has been good to us, though. My companion and I are having various baptisms this week. So many people thought it couldn't be done, but as Mark Twain said “Always do right. This will gratify some people, and astonish the rest.” I have really felt these last two months that I've known the Lord's will concerning myself, our investigators and the people-members we are working with. You will really enjoy your mission. The caliber of young elders who come down now and the sweet, receptive spirits of the people make life so very enjoyable. I hope you get to come to Peru.

It has taken many South American countries forty years to get 20,000 members. We could have that many in less than fifteen years from the time the mission opened. It is just amazing the blessings the Lord is pouring out on this people. They are planning on opening three or four more branches in the Sierra this month. We now have over 200 missionaries and no more come down until after I go home – seven weeks – so I may stay here. Still the President gave me room for doubt with all the changes taking place, so who knows. Even if they ship me out, I proved my point – the Lord has the credit – and the elders are aware of it. They're working harder and are having success.

I hope your birthday was enjoyable. I will be looking forward to being with you again and hash over various things. I may not be home when you leave on your mission as the Armed Forces seem more and more my future for the next few years, but we'll spend some good times together. I hope you keep up your studies as you have 'til now.

May you be blessed in making your future decisions as I hope to be also. These next few years will determine much in our Eternal Progression. Your *cholo* brother, Lyman

LETTER 961 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, January 7, 1965

Dearest family, it just isn't possible to have time slow down, yet I wish it would. It doesn't seem possible that my mission has gone, yet I will shortly be home. My plans haven't changed too much as far as my route home in concerned. However, as far as plans for when I get home; they may be different. I don't say definitely one way or the other, but if I can haul down a good job as interpreter for the Army or Air Force and they will send me to Europe to study to learn several other languages, I may do that for a few years. They have a program like that. I'm not sure though. I do know one thing, however. I don't particularly want to go right back into school. Dad, why don't you write me and state your opinions. I know I have to finally make the decision, but yet I need your advice. Being in the Air Force I could plane-hop on my leaves and see some of the world, and be bringing in money (translators and interpreters are good-paying jobs). I could be learning more languages and maybe major in that field – it interests me as much as anything.

What do the possibilities look like for meeting me in Los Angeles? I won't know probably for a month more when my release date will be, but as soon as I do, I'll pass it on.

We have a lot to do today, being Friday; we still have no rest. I'm working as hard as possible and we're having success. The Lord is really pouring his spirit out upon the city. Every set of missionaries has some good possibilities.

Well, I guess it's 'til next week. I love you all very much and am looking forward to spending some time with you all. May the Lord keep you safe and healthy. Love as ever, Lyman De.

LETTER 962 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, January 11, 1965. Dearest family, Here I sit; 6:15 a.m. I've been studying for half an hour and already I'm bored. I don't have the patience to study that I used to. I guess it's because thinking about going home is more fun.

I wrote a letter to the president asking him when my release date was, and proposing a route home – Puno, Lake Titicaca, Cuzco, Machu Pichu, Lima, Mexico City, Los Angeles. I'm sending it off today so maybe by the 22nd of January I'll be able to send a detailed answer and you can start planning. It will certainly be fun to tour Southern California, go through both temples and see the parks, the Morins, be with you all. I don't believe I will cash more than \$90.00 for February and about \$40.00 for my trip. Is that all right?

Joe, I have a chance to buy a nice little guitar for you. It will cost \$30.00. Will you let me know before the end of January so that I can tell Elder Scott yes or no? An affirmative answer should be accompanied with a \$30.00 check or you can give it to the folks and I write out one. Thanks for being so considerate and wanting to help me get back into school.

Mother, that *libro segundo* you said got there, what is it? I can't remember. Have any songs and sheet music arrived? I sent about eight more packages along with those you said got there. Is my map of Peru in good shape? Could you give me a run-down on what you have? Will you stop by Ruesch's on your way south and get the stuff they have? Has Elder Shuck brought my books over yet? What a mess. I'm glad a mission doesn't end very often.

Dad, could you write to me, fill me in on where we're going in California, how long it will take, etc. I would like to stop in Santa Rosa and Gridley, if possible – to get some books and to see Elder Pitt. I need to know the exact plans as the president is responsible for me until I'm released and we aren't released until after talking to the stake president. By the way, what is his name and where does he live?

My present plans are to take the following classes under the block plan: P.E., English 111, Religion 121, Psychology 111; devotional assembly; a total of nine credits, costing \$115.00. There are only two books, so \$10 to \$15 for them. I will need to get some clothes and a few other things. So if the \$200 loan comes through, I'm set. I hope to be able to get recommended by President Nicolaysen for this Spanish teaching job. It sounds like fun. Only ex-branch presidents and supervisors and mission leaders are eligible, so maybe I have a chance.

January 16, 1965, I received a letter from Brother Farnsworth and he had asked if I could come down to Toquepala for a while after my mission. So I guess my itinerary will be Toquepala, Tacna, Arica, La Paz, Puno, Cuzco, Machu Pichu, Lima, Mexico City, and Los Angeles.

This Friday, the quintet is singing in the main theater here in town. We will be singing six numbers in a Peace Corps program. It ought to be a lot of fun.

Branch I has really picked up a lot this week. We had as a branch eight baptisms, seven were ours. One we baptized Thursday was put in as Mutual president today. She is worth 2½ years of anything. I've never seen a woman so prepared. She cried during the baptismal service and hugged me afterward – she's the first I've not been able to resist hug-wise. She is about thirty-eight. My companion and I are top baptizers this month, so far. We are trying for five this week. We are trying for twenty this month. We now have eight. The Lord was certainly willing to let

me help Him prove there were people ready in Branch I. There were only nineteen baptisms there all last year. We are trying to beat it in one month.

Parents, brothers, sisters, I love you all very much and am working my best to leave a good name for a long time to come. We don't know who of you may be missionaries here. It is certainly a wonderful mission, and is really going to be hard to leave. Much of my heart will stay here and I don't believe I will ever really be completely happy in the USA again. Of course I want to come home and see you all, though. Well, this terminates this week's letter and I sign off with Love.
Lyman De Platt.

LETTER 963 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 310 in the old numbering near the end of the volume {PFRC Book 12}], Misión Andina, January 11, 1965, Elders Platt, Scott, Chase, Don Gardner, Sisters Yank and Jeppson

Dear missionaries: I have been anxious to write you and express my appreciation for the excellent program you presented in Mollendo on the night of January 5. We were all proud of you and your performance and appreciate the efforts you had made to give this special service. I know that the Library opening in Mollendo was a much more significant occasion because of your presence. May the Lord continue to bless you in all of your missionary efforts. Sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President. SN:cb

LETTER 964 The Farnsworths, Tacna, Peru, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 312 in the older numbering near the end of the volume {PFRC Book 12}], January 13, 1965

Dear Elder Platt, we spoke to the president while he was here to conference and he said it would be alright if you came to visit us on your way home. So we will be looking forward to your visit. He told us to write to you and tell you it was okay.

Monday I just returned from Lima from the M.I.A. convention. It is wonderful to see how the people here have progressed in the Church. There were six of us from Sur Andina District, four from Arica, and Juana Perez from Tacna. I was pretty proud of our bunch. But they didn't get rid of them until today. It was quite upsetting. Makes one wonder if they go for the trip or for Mutual. Elder Gledhill thought he was getting rid of the Arequipeños Monday, but they were not on the plane with me.

Well, we sent Lucy off to Wilcox to be with my niece. We just couldn't keep her here any longer under the circumstances. She was ready for social life but none here suitable. It was hard to let her go. She went to Lima with me. I left at twelve and she was to leave at 1:40. The sisters were going to see her off.

Also, Terry has an extension on her mission, so won't be home until August. That is one reason we let Lucy go; she just wasn't happy here and was looking forward to Terry being home.

Woody enjoyed his trip to Puerto Rico. They traveled to New York in a Cadillac. They enjoyed their meetings and trip. It gave Woody a real incentive to finish his education.

I appreciate your folks taking an interest in Lucy and I want you to thank them for me. It just seemed I couldn't let her go to perfect strangers her first year. But after you go home I would like to keep in touch with you in case things do not work out for her in Wilcox. I thought I might send her to Dick next year if she can tell one color from another. My children have been raised in Latin America, so they have to be where they can associate with other groups.

Hope you are all well. We will probably see you again before your mission is over. May the Lord bless you. Love, the Farnsworths.

LETTER 965 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 252 {PFRC Book 12}], Sunday, January 17, 1965

Dearest Lyman, Not many more weekly letters left in this mission is there son? You know we surely appreciate and want you to know we do how you have been so faithful to write and keep us informed of things and how you are getting along. Your letters have meant so much to us and helped us enjoy your mission so much along with you.

You asked your Dad's opinion on the Armed Services situation, so hope he will write and send you his answer with this letter. It is well I think to consider all of these possibilities and come up with the one that will be most beneficial to you and in which you can do the most good.

We appreciate your letter to Joe also, in case he doesn't get around to writing you again. He is growing up fast and will benefit I know from having you around a while. Dad still plans to go to Los Angeles to meet you. Don't know how many of us there will be – likely not the bigger boys. Sister Giles has invited us to stay with them while we are down there. She will have her whole house empty (except for her and Duwayne) and says she has plenty of beds and even a crib for Irene. We have had other invitations too – you know the goodness of the Whittier people.

Yesterday Dad and I drove up to Sunset (right by Layton and Ogden) for the funeral of my cousin (second or third) Naomi Lyman Wise. She is the daughter of Fred and Ellen Lyman who live down below town by the airport between Blanding and Bluff. I went all through school with her and was quite close to her, though I haven't seen much of her since we were out of school. It was a beautiful funeral and so many lovely tributes to her. She died with cancer and leaves a husband and one little adopted girl. We took Bruce and Josephine Lyman (from Provo) with us, so had a chance to get acquainted better and visit with them. Bruce is a cousin of Dad's. When we got home I had another phone call telling me of another cousin's death in Monticello – Evan Hugh Barton (Aunt Sade's only son). He left a wife and eight young children, so we may be going down for that funeral too – don't know yet. A few of these reminders make us realize that life is short and we never know when our turn will be, so it behooves us to be as ready as possible at all times. I feel sorry for the families of these who have gone but rather envy the ones who have been called home.

I just went with Dad to visit one home on his home teaching group. Ed is his companion but is working tonight, so he wanted me to go with him. We visited Brother and Sister Facer – a wonderful couple here in the ward. She wrote you at Christmas time and I'm wondering if you ever received her letter. She is a sister to Sister Richardson in the mission home. We will be happy to have you meet them and some of the other fine people here in the ward. They have a lovely home and a sweet spirit in it.

Joe and Ed are both working tonight. They have to work too many Sundays to suit me. They get in on their morning activities but with our Church at six now, they miss out on Sacrament Meeting, and that isn't good. Ed just bought a gun from Kent (Joy's husband) and Joe has bought skis. He gave me the \$15.00 for your guitar, and I guess the best thing to do is just put it in your checking account and let you write a check on it whenever you want. I hope they will both start saving now for their school and missions. Joy and Kent and JoAnn were all here for a while this afternoon. I'm glad they feel like coming. We also had our first home evening in the new program or outline and hope that we can carry through with the program.

We are glad you are working hard and having success and happiness in your work. With all our love, Mother.

LETTER 966 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 314 in the old numbering near the back of the book {PFRC Book 12}], Misión Andina, January 17, 1965. Elder Lyman D. Platt, Casilla 861, Arequipa, Peru

Dear Elder Platt, Sister Yank writes in her letter to Sister Wood that there is some confusion on her part as to the mission policy regarding going to movies in the evening. It, however, would be good for you to check and make sure that her understanding on this point is in line with mission policy.

I was thinking that just as she had received some doubt regarding this principle that there may be others there who are also in doubt. Especially where we have so many younger missionaries in the field. It may be well if you review this generally with all of the missionaries in your zone.

We are very pleased with the work that you are doing. May the Lord continue to bless you as he has in the past so that you will be able to magnify the missionaries in your zone. We are very anxious for all of the missionaries in Arequipa to baptize. I hope that I am able to get down there to see you before very long. Sincerely your brother, Elder Carl P. Hunt.

LETTER 967 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 316 in the old numbering near the back of the book {PFRC Book 12}], Misión Andina, January 17, 1965, Elder Lyman D. Platt, Casilla 861, Arequipa, Peru

Dear Elder Platt, I am writing you regarding the new missionaries and their registering there. None of this last group was able to register before they left for down there.

Did Sisters Powell and Droge and Elder Wadley ever get all of their paper work done? Will they finally pick up their papers there in Arequipa or will they be sent back to Lima. If they are sent back here, how will we be able to know how and when we should get them back? Elder Smith and Elder Randall should be able to register very shortly.

When these papers are ready for this last group you should see to it that Elder Lewis makes it up some day to register.

I would appreciate your bringing me back up to date on where we stand with all these missionaries. I forget every once in a while!

I appreciate the work that you are doing and pray that the Lord will bless you. I hope that this does not detract too much from your regular proselyting program. If you will inform Elder Chase of all of this, it will save me writing an extra letter. Sincerely your brother, Elder Carl P. Hunt, Assistant to the President.

LETTER 968 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 318 in the old numbering near the back of the book {PFRC Book 12}], Misión Andina, January 21, 1965, Elder Lyman D. Platt, Casilla 861, Arequipa, Peru

Dear Hermano Platt: I wish I could have been more prompt in sending you some word of congratulations for the excellent baptisms realized last week in your zone. We feel very grateful for the progress, and we want to thank all of you involved. I am very happy about the reports coming from Branch I, in particular, and pray that the gains made in spirit and organization might be permanent. It is a joy to see you in such a wonderful situation during this part of your mission. Sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President. SN/cb.

LETTER 969 [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, page 320 in the old numbering near the back of the book {PFRC Book 12}], Misión Andina, January 21, 1965, Elder Lyman D. Platt, Casilla 861, Arequipa, Peru. Dear Elder Lyman De Platt: This is to advise you that your release date is February 25. Your travel plans should be indicated as soon as possible to the 2nd counselor. Please indicate the airline with which you wish to make travel reservations and at the same time please send your carnet, passport and yellow vaccination card to the mission office.

Your ticket will be for the most direct route home, economy class, if available; otherwise air tourist. Arrangements for a side trip to Cuzco can also be made through the mission office at your personal expense.

Immediately upon arriving home you will be expected to contact your bishop and stake president to report your mission. Your mission is not complete until this is done, and you are under obligation to observe all standards of missionary conduct during your trip home. Remember that you are still a servant of our Heavenly Father and should conduct yourself as such.

P.S. Sign and return the following form letter. Please make sure that you have your interview appointment set with the president a week in advance.

Sincerely your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President.

LETTER 969 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, January 21, 1965

Dear family, well, it finally came. My release date is February 25. Here's the proposed plan to President Nicolaysen. If he approves it I'll pass it on, but it will give you an idea on how to plan yourselves.

On the 25th I go to Toquepala and stay for several days. I'll spend the 28th in Arequipa. I travel to Puno, arriving at 6:00 p.m. I leave the next morning at 8:30 a.m. I arrive in Cuzco at 6:00 p.m. on the 2nd. I will spend the 3rd and 4th in Cuzco and Machu Pichu seeing old Inca ruins. The 5th at noon I'll arrive in Lima by plane (paid by the Church). I have my interview and will be free in Lima until midnight. I will arrive in Mexico City about 6:00 a.m. on the 5th and leave either Sunday at 6:00 a.m. or Monday at 6:00 a.m. if they would rather I not travel on Sunday; anyway I'll arrive in Los Angeles the 7th or 8th at about 12:00 a.m. I'll let you know for sure when they confirm my flight.

I'm not released until after I talk to my bishop and stake president, so I'll have to be a good little boy and not swim or smile at anybody, etc.

January 22, 1965: well, another big shock came yesterday. Elder Monson and I were working up in Branch III each Thursday. I work with them. Well, 6:00 p.m. rolled around and we met our companions. They had a change sheet. Elder Monson is now Supervisor over Branch III and Mollendo. I am now over Branch I and II. Elder Chase will go to Lima and remain supervisor over branches there. Elder Scott is Senior Elder in Branch II. Quite a shock.

Last night we had a farewell party for Sister Alverson – Mormon Peace Corps worker. We sang a lot of our songs in the program. There were about thirty-five investigators there – we had six.

We baptized yesterday, completing our 2nd family this month. We had two families last month also. We should have two baptisms Sunday and complete their family next Sunday, baptizing four more, or five. Branch I leads the mission still, as do my companion and I and we're going into our fourth consecutive week. Arequipa has really opened up. I don't believe it will ever stop now.

Each branch has baptized for two weeks now. Before, one branch once in a while was good. Mollendo has four weeks straight. Arequipa will easily pass 1,000 members this year and after the chapel is completed in June, nothing will stop them from going and going.

Two more branches were opened up in the Sierra this week. So now we are really going at it head on.

Plans are being pursued for buying land for a temple in Cuzco – old Inca capital – and center of Indian country. It is sure wonderful being here now.

Today being Friday, we are practicing for the big show in the municipal theater. Sister Yank is very sick. We were going to sing some of our older songs and "If I Fell" by the Beatles, but it looks as if three Beatles songs are the numbers for tonight. We will be good – we've practiced a lot. You should see our wig! Wow! Green, Orange, Red, etc. It should be a big success – it was last night.

Saturday, well, it was a success. The program brought a capacity crowd. I believe everybody enjoyed it.

Sister Yank went to Lima yesterday. I guess she's pretty bad off. The quintet was dissolved last night; it has been a lot of fun.

When you get this letter, I'll have less than a month left. I don't suppose it will go by very slowly either. It surely hasn't been lately. I'll write next Friday. I've sent in my application for that teaching job and also for re-admission at B.Y.U. Love always, Lyman De.

LETTER 970 Gordon Leavitt Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 254-257 {PFRC Book 12}], January 27, 1965

Dear Son Lyman, this letter, though a general letter is specific in that it is designed to answer your inquiry. It cannot, however, be 100% specific in all areas. We, the family, had a council of war the other fortnight and came to this conclusion: whereas: Joe and Ed are working; and, whereas both also are in school up to their scholarly necks, and, whereas both are desirous of getting in with us and coming to California, but are going to seriously hamper their grades in school; and whereas, a reunion in Canada in July is enticing to them, and whereas an extended

trip to Canada via California in probable and practical and whereas, the season of the year is in our favor then and not so much now, and whereas we as a family all want to go to the reunion as well as come to California; now, therefore, we the Gordon L. Platt family do unitedly and unequivocally do make proclamation to the effect that inasmuch as these whereas and wherefores exist, prudence dictates that we ask you to forego our predetermined acknowledgement and pronouncement to you of uniting with us on the salt water washed shoals of the Golden Bear state and over fly the same; landing as it were at our very doorstep on the shores of the sea of Salt, U.S.A. (not the nether land of the Dead Sea).

This, no doubt, leaves your generally effervescent spirits flagged (to a point of discontentment, but as we owe you so much, we therefore feel to enfilade ourselves a large mile deeper and ask you for your own sage and august opinion.

We are not unaware that you might have plans unable to recant or disavow; and should this be the case, we can and will still go ahead as previously planned. Should your plans possibly include the once-mentioned young lady you planned temple excursions with especially?

Write us soon should you be of the temper that you would have us come to California; otherwise, we will ensconce ourselves inextricably within the pale of predetermined goals.

Our full love in Christ is with you, realizing you are the profitable servant of this order. Our lives await full enrichment through encirclement within the arms (physical) of your love and vice versa. Your father, Gordon L. Platt.

LETTER 971 Allie Lyman Platt, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, to Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru [Found in Missionary Journal, Volume 3, pages 255-257 {PFRC Book 12}], January 27, 1965

Dearest Lyman, I'll just write a letter on the back of Dad's letter. I've waited this week to write so you could have his answer to your question. Now, remember, if your plans are such that you don't care to change them, as Dad said, please let us know right away, and we shall plan to come down to Los Angeles. Dad and I and the younger ones will be the only ones to come likely. If you fly to Salt Lake, we will all be there to see your plane land. Be sure and let us know what your desires are.

Now in answer to your question about the guitar for Joe. He said he would like you to get it for him if you can. He said he wouldn't have the money for two weeks, but I think you could go ahead and write the check, then I'll have him put the money in the bank just as soon as possible. Will you be able to bring it home?

We're busy here with all these little ones. Four more makes quite a difference. Don't know how long I'll keep them.

Have I written since we went to Monticello for Evan H.'s funeral? We went with Ila Johnson and went down and back in one day. They had a nice funeral. His wife Norma spoke and Uncle Albert. He left eight young children. The Lord must have an important mission for him to take him. I guess he was a pretty special person.

We had a nice little visit with Grandma and Grandpa and Uncle Kay. This is the first Grandpa has seen Irene and thought she was pretty nice.

I have so much to do this morning. Guess I'd better get busy. Take good care of yourself son. We're anxious to have you home. All our love, Mother.

LETTER 972 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, January 29, 1965

Dearest Family, I believe I should have the final travel plans next week, but it looks as though I will probably arrive in Los Angeles March 8th about noon. I'm not sure what my plans will be here in the country because they don't want me to spend a day after I leave here, back here in Arequipa. Well, I will let you know as soon as possible.

Today being Friday, I bought me a tape and recorded two hours of Spanish music. I wanted to buy records, and decided against it so I saved about \$30.00 that way. It is pretty music.

I don't have really too much to say. We stayed top baptizers this month and feel good about that. We are hoping to baptize two more families in February.

To get the guitar and things I will want to get I have cashed \$115.00 (\$15 is mine). I don't want to cash any more than \$20 or \$30 for the trip home. I hope to sell a few things I don't want anymore. I guess it will be all right won't it?

I believe we will go to the show today. It will probably be the last one I see here (the 7th Aurora).

Is there anything special that any of you want? McKay, I'm saving as many stamps as I can.

I'm starting to feel the pangs of trunkiness but believe I will stay hard working up to the end.

How's the weather? Joe, do you have a blind date for me for when I get home? Like Roberta! Really, I don't believe girls will interest me too much! Chau for now, Lyman D. Platt.

LETTER 973 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, February 1, 1965: the 127th Epistle of Platt the Proseleyter to Gordon Co-op.

1. Lyman, the laborer unto the faithful and beloved in Provo.
2. I have been informed by our illustriously incarnate brother Gordon that certain councils of the Saints held in Provo have judiciously rendered judgment opposing our reunion 'neath the devastating wastes of the land of desolation on the shores of the Devil's Domain, and with sanctimoniously alleged expostulatory alliance, I graciously abide your sage, though surprisingly dampish decision to foreclose on aforementioned encounter.
3. Without ceasing, I make mention of you always in my prayers;
4. Making request, if by any means now at length I might have a prosperous journey to come unto you.
5. For I long to see you, that I may impart unto you some spiritual gifts and receive of thee the same, to the end that we may be established.
6. Now, I would not have you ignorant, beloved, that oftentimes I purposed to come unto you (but was let hitherto), that I might have some fruits among you also, even as among the Lamanites.
7. But now ye may be of good comfort and cheer. Plans have been purported to meet you at the center stake March 8th probably by a marvelous Western Airlines Jet. I should arrive around 3:00 p.m.
8. Our reunion with the Saints in Canada should be a wonderful experience and I will delight in planning with you.
9. Finally, brethren, farewell, be of good gain and comfort, be of one mind, live in peace, be assured of my love for you.
10. Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.
11. Having many things to write unto you, I would not write with paper & ink: but I trust to come unto you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full.
12. Peace be unto thee. Our friends salute thee. Amen.

LETTER 974 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, February 6, 1965

Dearest family, there's not too much to say, I guess. Things seem to be wrapping up smoothly. I'm not trunky (yet).

Joe, I got your guitar. It is very nice and cost \$28.00. I will write that out along with my trip expenses home. Between skiing, dates, guitars, studies, church, sports, etc., we should have a roaring time.

I'm sending you all a weekly report sheet to let you see how things are going around the mission. We are proud of the elders in La Paz. There are fifteen members there now and they are really going great.

When I came into the mission there were eighteen branches. Now there are thirty-five and one more for this week in Carhuaz, making thirty-six, so they have doubled. There were 1,800 members now there are 5,200, almost tripled. It is a good mission. Rumors are this year of dividing it into two or five missions. It is possible and would lead to more effective progress.

I don't have flight plans, yet, but will send them shortly, I hope.

Grandma wrote to me. They are hoping I can come down after I get home. I would like to, maybe in May after school is out. I will try and write to Aunt Cretia, bless her heart, for next week. I would like to see her again.

Well, folks, and brothers and sisters, it surely won't be much longer now. Just pray that I can stay healthy and faithful until the last, so that I may do so in life also. They say as your mission goes, so your life. I hope so. I've enjoyed it very much and have received unnumbered blessings. Hasta luego. Always, Lyman De.

LETTER 975 Lyman De Platt, Consuelo 101 #9, Arequipa, Peru, to the family, 410 North 900 West, Provo, Utah, February 16, 1965

Dearest family, this is the last time I will write to you as a missionary. I will send post cards, etc., from various spots along the way, but I guess – 0 – hour has arrived. They have my farewell party this Friday, so I guess by the time you receive this, I will have less than a week left. It is certainly hard to keep going at this stage in the game, with parties, buying tickets, having dinners, invites, etc. Still, we are trying to wrap up this week with seven baptisms. We met another family that should be baptized while I'm in Toquepala.

I have weighed expenses for the trip and misc. and here's how it stands.

Ride to Toquepala	\$3.00	bus
Ride back to Arequipa	\$8.00	car
Train to Cuzco	\$16.00	includes six meals; takes twenty-four hours.
Hotels in Puno & Cuzco	\$20.00	(possibly can do without)
Remembrances	\$2.00	
Cuzco – Salt Lake		paid by the Church
Mexico City		
Food	\$6.00	
Hotel	\$15.00	
Film	\$15.00 (two rolls)	
Joe's guitar	\$24.00 (I gave 4.00 of my own)	
Total	\$108.00	
I have saved	-\$12.00	
Total	\$96.00	
Joe's is \$28.00	-\$28.00	

Total \$68.00

I will cash, then, a check for \$70.00 for the trip, plus \$24.00 for his guitar. He will owe me \$4.00 or if he put it in the bank – it's yours. Generous aren't I? I appreciate you letting me take this trip.

My flight schedule home is as I last told you. The only difference is that I will arrive in Salt Lake City on Western Airlines Jet, Number of Flight 64. This is on March 8th. I guess that is all you need to know. I don't have my tickets, so don't know my exact plans between Lima and Los Angeles, Oh, I arrive at 8:28 p.m.

One good thing, I'll be in Lima, Friday, the 5th, and that same day is the open house on the Limatambo Chapel, which will be dedicated on the 8th. So, legally, I will be able to see all my friends and say goodbye to the. That'll be great! I'll pass President Brown in the air between Lima and Mexico City, so I won't see him.

I guess I'll be buying my tickets today for trains, buses, etc. Boy, things are wrapping up sharply. Everything is just about ready.

I don't believe Sister Vega will be coming with me. I can't write to her, but I will see her in Lima. I hope she will be coming later.

Well, I guess that's it except by post cards until I get home. I love you all very much.

Please set up two interviews with the bishop and stake president, Tuesday, the 9th.

If possible I would like to go to Zion Park before school starts, to get my things, and see the friends. Chau for now, as always, Lyman De.

LETTER 976 Misión Andina, February 22, 1965, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon L. Platt, 410 N. 900 W., Provo, Utah. Dear Brother and Sister Platt: When I was in Arequipa over the past week-end, I had an opportunity to visit again with your son, Elder Lyman De Platt, who will be released from his missionary assignment this Thursday, February 25th. It has been a pleasure to associate with Elder Platt in the mission field. All of us recognize his capacity, and we appreciate the contribution he has made here. During the closing period of his mission, he has been our district leader in one of the Arequipa missionary districts. He has given confident and able leadership there. Elder Platt has a particular advantage as a leader: Not only is he able, but he impresses other people of being able, so he is able to immediately take control of a situation and make an impression upon the direction of the work. You have reason to rejoice in his many talents.

We pray that a good missionary spirit will continue to prevail in your home and that you will feel unity as a family in your devotion to the Gospel and service in the Church. Everything you have done to prepare your son for his service here and to sustain him is deeply appreciated. He assures me that you are well informed of his plans for extra travel here in Peru before his return home,

and we pray for his safety during the days that intervene before your family reunion. Sincerely
your brother, Sterling Nicolaysen, Mission President. SN:cb

End of
Volume 2.2