

14 July 1982



Greetings Phyllis,

This is coming to you from Elkhart, Indiana, U.S.A. That is insignificant enough in itself except that Wayne + Hiddy Royce, Fern and Marnie Martin-Gilman and hair, Allison and myself are luxuriating in each others presence. hair and I live about 640 km from here but decided it was important enough to see these folks... We had planned to see Fern + Marnie in India on our way home from Lesotho but prices (air fare) were prohibitive - now we kick ourselves for doing so. At any rate this is new post and we are all together here.

We were surprised to hear that you were in harda and even more surprised to hear that you have been denied reentry into Lesotho. Had you anticipated that as forthcoming or was that an unexpected move? probably very little is unexpected anymore eh? I have always respected your fortitude and good spirit in the face of adversity. This must come as a hard blow. What can we say or do except to let you know that we are with you in spirit and have not forgotten you. We appreciated your friendship + hope to see you again sometime.

Holidays aside I am working on a Masters degree in Rural + Community Development. Studies began in Jan. of this year. It is a stimulating program. Although most of the courses are geared to a North American perspective I am adapting them and placing my emphasis on international rural + community development. I guess we all have our causes for which we struggle. The affluence + decadence over here is over-whelming. People as a rule don't see any connection between lifestyles and consumption patterns here and availability of goods, education, poverty + economic hardship elsewhere. I suppose this is true everywhere but it is still disgusting and unacceptable to me. We need to realize the interdependence of us all and before we end up destroying each other. This relates as well to the whole 'nuclear' issue. The spectre of being annihilated has not been hanging over my head and causing me to lose sleep but maybe it should be a bigger concern. I don't trust either of the superpowers, or any else here on earth, to champion the cause of humanness for us. We as people have to do it for ourselves. If we don't stand up for ourselves we have only ourselves to blame for what happens. So says Alexander Solzhenitsyn in the "Gulag Archipelago." I tend to agree with him. From another perspective we can also realize that 'things' are not in our hands ultimately but under the control of Him who 'created' us. I have found this faith in God not to be an 'opiate' but to be a very direct challenge to me to face the realities of life, to liberate me from my own selfishness and to tackle the

the problems of injustices and social evils which mankind has perpetrated on himself. I would have to agree that the institutionalized church has not lined up to its mandate but that does not detract from the real message of liberation found in Christ and the truth in it. That's the real relief - that the truth lies not in man and his <sup>selfish</sup> interpretation of it but in the reality of God.



Wow! Didn't realize it was sending so heavy. Anyway we are enjoying friends & life here in Canada. Allison is growing up and is getting sweeter & more beautiful every day. She is very mobile and talks a lot. Her most recent response to many a question is "sure do." I have been surprised by the depth of feeling I have for her. There is little more enjoyable than to have her squealing with delight & coming running to meet me when I come home. Lois is making for the summer in a home for the aged in a little town not far from Kitchen-Waterloo (K-W). We are expecting another offspring sometime in October. That should lighten the pot - if it needs it.

In August we are moving out of our townhouse (renting) into <sup>a house</sup> another with another family of 4. We will be 'house sharing' with them. It should be an interesting and rewarding experience. Only the bedrooms will be private. We want to do this for several reasons: a) better stewardship of resources, b) attempt to reduce the high degree of individualism & the resultant isolation of the ind. in this society, c) economic advantage. Am looking forward to the challenge and to see how things will work out.

We have also enjoyed interacting with family members again. My immediate family is planning for a reunion this July - the 1st time since more than 15 years.

Enough of us. How is it with you? Physically are you well? Heard via Fern & Harold that your brother Ron had died of a heart attack. My sympathy reaches out to you as you mourn his loss. We all must eventually go that way but it's hard when it strikes close to home. And how is Sukhithi? She's still in Mexico? You have a real gem in her. And the rest of your family??

We would love to hear from you. Your thoughts, feelings, plans, etc. Think of you often. - So cheerio and keep your head up. Lois sends greetings.

Love,

Bruce