

[Continued, letter from Niels to Viola, dated August 22, 1909.]

Today is Sunday and I feel quite lonesome. It would be nice if I could be where they hold meetings and where more saints are, but I will have to hammer away as best I can and try my luck again in trying to hold meetings. I tell you it is pretty tough to be in this kind of a box, for I feel my weakness in standing before a congregation, without a partner to encourage one on, trying to present to them our gospel, in a new language. A person must exercise faith, humility, and talent in order to make any headway. We must expect to be led by the Holy Spirit but we are also obliged to store our heads with knowledge, for it is hard to draw water out of a dry well. Then again knowing a thing and being able to present it to others in an intelligent and interesting manner is a gift that we are not all blessed with. I suppose you can judge by this letter about how I feel but I will try to cheer up and think there are brighter days coming. It won't be so very long till we have conference and then I hope they will be kind enough to give me a partner. It is five months since I owned such a thing and I have almost forgotten how it goes to live two in a house.

Our nice light summer has elapsed now and winter seems to be nearing. It gets dark about 8 and daylight about 4 o'clock. The lamp has come in handy again and it won't be long till the chilly autumn winds will cause us to know the delightful summer has gone. I will now draw to a close, hoping you are all well and enjoying the comforts and blessings which are so prevalent in dear old Utah. Write soon to your loving Nels. xxxxxooox

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Aug. 22, 1909

My Dear Nels:

I just read your letter last night and was so glad to hear from you again. I was very sorry to hear that you had been sick and I do hope that you are alright again by now. You must take care of yourself my dearest Nels and not get sick any more.

Dear Nels, I feel so tired and discontented tonight, I don't know what to do. Pa has sold this place and I suppose he will buy a place in Hinckley. I hate to go down there because I won't have any way of making any money and Baby and I will have to have some clothes. Annie is thinking of buying a place in Provo and she wants me to come and stay with her and sew. I would like to do that alright if it wasn't for Louisa, and you know how Annie is about her. It's bad enough like we are now when I live in home most of the time. Then Louisa can't keep her hands off the Baby, she is always making her cry some way, but I can get away from her some time here. If I was living with them I don't know what I would do. Dear Nels I do wish you was here, I am so sick and tired of living with other people.

They say that there is going to be a war in Sweden and if there is that they will send the missionaries home. I wish they would send you home Nels. I think I need you as bad as they do out there. Do you think they will dear? Well Nels I thot sure I would have one of baby's pictures to send you. The photographer said he sent them over Wednesday morning and it is Sunday and I haven't got them yet so I suppose they are lost, so that's another dollar and a half gone to _____. Your mother is going to Mayfield in the morning.

I hope that you are feeling good again by now and Oh Nels I would give anything if you was home. Take care of yourself dearest, write soon. Baby weighs 13-1/2 pounds now and gets sweeter every day. xxxxxxoo from Viola.

Dear Nels, I just got the pictures so will send you one. The Baby was asleep and I couldn't hardly wake her up to have it taken. Her eyes are only half open so you see this picture isn't nearly as pretty as she is but it looks like her when she is nearly asleep. Everybody that sees her says what pretty eyes she has, they are so large and dark. She was just two months old when this was taken. When she is six months I will have it taken again. Don't you think she is sweet dear? I guess you will wonder where her long black hair is. It is on the back of her head. She did have some on top but it all came out, it is coming in again as thick as can be. Did you get that lock of her hair I sent you? Goodbye, Viola.

It is Sunday night and I am so lonesome and tired of everything. I don't know what makes me feel so discontented. I don't know what I will do dearest if I can't get letters from you, you will have to come home I guess. I do wish they would send you home. Write soon to your loving Wife and Baby.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Aug. 23rd 1909

Dear Brother,

Received your most welcome letter a few days ago and was very pleased to hear from you. Glad that you enjoyed your visit at Stockholm. You must have been in a very crowded place being as you had to stand up to write. I bet you enjoyed being to a good meeting and hearing the choir sing.

Viola was up a few minutes last night and said she had rec'd a letter from you and that you were sick. We do hope you are well now. We have been so pleased to hear you write in all your letters that you are well, that is certainly a good blessing to enjoy. You must take care of your health. Don't neglect your health to save a few cents, it doesn't pay in the long run. By the way it reads in the Deseret News Sweden is having a tuff time of it, we do hope that their trouble will not affect you so you cannot get the things you need. Of course in war time there isn't much chance for missionary work.

The boys have got all their grain cut but they haven't started to haul yet. Rulan was down the south field last week and mowed the hay. They intended to haul the hay this morning but Saturday night we had a big rain storm. It lightning and thundered all night. There was a cloud burst in Battle Creek Canyon and it done some little damage. Ben Adams is going to build a new house somewhere east of his father's residence. The foundation was done and the masons were going to commence the brick today. His cellar got filled with water, it washed all his sand away, and spoiled most of his adobe. It seems too bad to have such storms but it can't be helped.

Everything is looking quite nice after the rain, the dust got settled. Mother left this morning for Mayfield, it is Aunt Scow's birthday tomorrow and mother has gone to surprise her. [Aunt Scow was the fond name used for Kersten Marie Fugal, sister of

Andreas, married to Peter Christian Scow, children Stena, Hannah, Peter, Conrad, Zenobia, Ida, Nettie and Lettie. They were asked by the church to help settle Mayfield, Utah, below Manti.] I hope she will have a nice time. She has hardly been anywhere for a long time. She told me to helsen you and wish you many happy birthdays. I think you will receive this letter for your birthday. Mrs. Lim will enclose a letter written with mine and she also gave us a dollar to send you. She wished me to send it to you for her. Being as we send you a check with this letter, it is enclosed in that. We thought we would not send a check and green backs in the same letter. Lims have threshed today, he generally aims to get it threshed as soon as it is hauled. [Enclosed Lim letter written August 15^h, preceding.]

I spent two days out to Carrie's last week. Carrie and John are going to take a trip out to the Indian Reservation. Berthena lives there and then they like to see the country. Mr. Hurley that bought there place is going to take care of it until they come back and perhaps keep it so they will have to find some place to move to. They do not know yet where they will live. Nephi Magnus and his new girl are married now. They got married last Wednesday. I suppose Nephi is going to buy and keep the place but I am afraid he will never get it paid.

Yesterday we had mothers and daughters meeting. Laura Boley from Am. Fork was over and lectured, she is certainly grand, she spoke as fast as she could talk for about an hour and could have talked an hour longer, she is a regular preacher. My last letter was so long that I told you everything I knew and everything I didn't. It is as still as anything here, I cannot hear a sound except the clock ticking. Chris is to sleep in his chair and it is about bedtime. Wish you many happy birthdays and a long and prosperous life. Write soon to Your Loving Sister Stena. Chris told me to tell you Yes Well – of course I don't know.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Aug. 28, 1909

My Dear Nels:

I haven't rec'd a letter from you this week but that I would write again so you will get it for your birthday. The last letter I got you was sick. I do hope you are alright again and that you won't get sick any more. Thurs. Lavina, Ora, Stena, Annie and I went to Lehi. The MIA were having a big time. P.G. and Lehi played baseball and P.G. got beat. We went to Knutson's and had supper. We had a dandy time. Wed. Lavina took me and Baby out on Provo Bench for a buggy ride so you see we are just flying around lately. Esther came down and stayed a few days while Ike went down to Hinckley with Pa. Pa hasn't bought a place yet but I think he will go south. Well dearest, the Baby is crying so I will have to write more next time. I guess you got her picture alright. Your mother is in Mayfield. Goodbye dearest. Write soon From Viola and Baby with lots of kisses.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Sept. 8, 1909 [Forwarded to Sundsvall, then Gefle.]

My Dear Nels:

I just rec'd your letter today and was very glad to hear from you again. I am sorry I disappointed you so by not writing sooner and will try and do better in the future. I know

how I feel when I don't get a letter from you every week but I didn't think it would make much difference to you because you get so many other letters you wouldn't miss mine much as long as you hear from Stena and your folks. I got your picture and thank you very much for it but I could hardly tell which was you at first. I took it up and showed it to your folks tonight.

Well dearest I will soon be without any house and I don't know what we are going to do. Pa has bought land in Abraham and is going down there in about two weeks. Annie wants me to stay with her but she has to get out of here and she can't get a house. She went to Provo but couldn't find any place for less than \$10 a month. I don't know what to do. Mrs. Banks wants Annie to come and live with her and if she does I guess I will have to go to Abraham. I am going up to your mother's for dinner tomorrow and I do wish you could be there too. Well Nels I have been sewing today and then running all over the country hunting houses. It is now eleven o'clock and I am tired and sleepy. Mrs. Banks, Annie's mother-in-law is here. School started today.

The Baby gets sweeter every day. I took her to meeting Sun. and had her blessed. Pa named the Baby. Perlinda was carrying the Baby home from Conjoint and she said "My she is nearly as big as her mother, if she keeps on Nels won't know which is which when he gets home." I call her Melba but Jens calls it Elbow. She was as good as she could be in meeting, never cried once and everybody was saying what a good baby she is. I went to Conjoint at night and took her and she slept all the time. I wish I could fly over there where you are for awhile and then I wouldn't have to worry about houses for awhile. Well dearest, write soon and don't stop writing because I do not write so often for you know you get lots of letters and I don't get any, only what you write to me. Goodbye dearest, with lots of love from Viola and Melba.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Sep. 20th, 1909 [Forwarded to Gefle.]

Dear Brother –

Your letter of Sept. 3rd came to hand a couple of days ago and we were certainly glad to hear from you and to note that you are well. At the same time we are disappointed to learn that you are still alone. Get the president to send you to a different branch, it isn't fair to keep you in the north but one winter, and you have already had that. If he tells you that he needs you to stay in the far north being as you have had experience, tell him that you had not had any experience when he sent you there. And the gall that man can have to let you be alone all these months! You cannot enjoy your mission so much in a place like that as you can where there are saints so you can hold S.S. and meetings. I understand that Mart is president of the YMMIA in Stockholm, he wrote to Perlinda and said that he was going to stay in Stockholm for the rest of his mission. I think he is having a snap – he gets most of his meals given to him and I suppose he goes lording around like some professor. It is good that all does not have it so hard as my little brother. I guess I must be a little dull because I cannot see that you are treated half right. If you are not changed at conference I am going to write to your president. Is his address Sundsvall, Sweden or is it something else?

Glad you got the money that Lavina sent you and I suppose you have received your check

before now, and no doubt you are greatly in need of it too. Do not wait too long before you ask for more money because sometimes it takes six or seven weeks from the time you write until you receive it. And we do not want you to suffer for anything. I suppose you felt somewhat lonesome during the stormy weather. Being as your palace leaks you will get your floor washed once in a while. There is nothing nicer than to have your house cleaned. I should think that some of those Swedish girls would clean your palace for you. Or haven't you converted them yet? I don't think there is any danger of you having a dirty house.

Your ma has started to weave rugs, she is sitting here tearing some rags now. She is somewhat fussy with business. Nothing like having something to do you know. Yesterday was stake MIA conference, it was held here in Pl. Grove, there is certainly some good active workers in Alpine Stake. Lavina and I fixed to take some home to dinner but we did not get any as those who lived close by had fixed for more than they got. So we all spent the day together to Lavina's.

John and Carrie came over too, we had not seen them since they came home from the Reservation. It was very interesting to hear them relate their experiences, they had some narrow escapes. They think the reservation is the worst place on earth. There were many people leaving there. They almost starve to death. There was one man leaving there that had lived there three years. He says he came to the res. with a fine team and implements and two thousand dollars in cash. His father-in-law came to the reservation to get him out of there as he was dead broke. He said he would not live there for anything in the world.

Many of the bridges are washed out on account of the floods. We have not got our threshing done yet, only one stack. The boys started to haul and before they got the stack finished it started to rain and, I tell you, she rained some for a little while. They thought they had better finish the stack and it was too wet to keep so John Nelson took pity on the wet stack and threshed it, but did not have time to do any more. We have two stacks out here now ready to thresh when our turn comes. They are thoroughly dry so it does not matter. The boys are getting lots of grain from the two machines. I heard them say the other day that the thresh machines were very paying property. It is good to have something that pays.

Well Niels I told myself the question that I ought to pick prunes today, then I thot no I would much sooner write you an epistle, as you stated in your letter that it was almost three weeks since you had received a letter from me. That is not a very nice record for me and I will try hard that it shall not occur again if I can help it. If you forgive me this time I will do it again.

Oh yes! Joe Halliday wants to know if you have received his last letter. Vern Thorne died last week of diphtheria, Stella has come home to Sundbergs to live, it is very sad. I feel so sorry for Stella. Mrs. Geo Thorne was buried today, she has been sick for a couple of weeks. She was seventy nine years old.

There is a big dance in Joe Clark's hall every week. Always a big crowd they say. I am not a regular attender you know. Don't you wish you were home so you could have a

whirl sometime? It is getting to be kind of fally here, it is cool at nights. Chris sold a spring express wagon buggy with yellow wheels the other day to Jim Peterson, it was not the handsomest rig in the world but one person likes one thing and one another. They have only four or five buggies left. I hope they can sell some more so they won't have to keep them over winter. Chris lives on corn flake mush now. He eats it for breakfast and supper, and food for dinner. It seems to agree with him pretty well. [Suffers from digestive ailments.] Ernest goes to school, he goes just in the forenoon. The beginners have half day sessions only. He seems to like school quite well.

The YLMIA meetings have commenced, we are going to have a social tomorrow night, the three wards conjointly. We will have melons and grapes to eat. Thursday the Sunday schools are going to have a surprise on Sam Smith in the meetinghouse. We are going to give him a watch as a token of respect. Will write you all about it in my next letter.

We are all glad that Viola is going to stay in town. She and Annie are going to live together. They are going to live in Old Man Armitstead's front house. We would like to have had them live close by but there was not any house they could get. We can see them once in awhile, they will not live far from the stores. Your baby is so cute, she is as plump as a butterball. Mother says for you to buy yourself some boots for the winter, take good care of your feet, she says to put a little linen rag dipped in water between your toes when they get galled. It is a sure cure. Hope you can enjoy yourself while you are away. By the way the North Pole is discovered, no doubt you have read about it in the paper. Mother says to keep the rag between your toes night and day. She encloses a dollar bill in this letter for her baby son. Take good care of yourself Niels and write soon to your long winded Sister and servant Stena, and the folks says to helsen you.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Sept. 21, 1909 [Forwarded to Sundsvall, then Gefle.]

My Dear Nels:

I don't remember how long it has been since I wrote you but I suppose it has been over a week. We have been quite busy trying to find a place to live. I guess I will stay with Annie for awhile anyway. She has rented that house of Armitstead just south of Singletons. Pa has bought a 40 acre farm in Abraham and is going down there sometime this month. Pa gave me the sewing machine and rocking chair. He didn't want to take the table down there so he said if I wanted it I could have it and we could pay him for it after you get home when we get the money. It is \$7.50 and I am going to take it. So now we have got a table, machine, rocking chair and bedstead, that's pretty good isn't it Nels? I took my dishes and things up to your mother's because I didn't want to move them around. [This house they are moving out of, still stands, at 420 N. 300 E.]

I sent you the Baby's picture and I guess you have got it before this, don't you think she is sweet? She gets sweeter every day and I do wish you could see her. I am going to shorten her [hair] as soon as we get moved. Lavina gave her \$5.00 when she was three months old. Lavina has got an organ, just a dandy. I believe she said it used to belong to Harry Wadley. They got it for \$25. I hope you have a companion long before you get this letter. It will soon be a year now since you left and I hope that in another year you will be home. We have got everything upside down now for we are moving. We took

one carpet up and took it down to the other place yesterday and are going to take another down today. I do wish you were here to help us move.

I guess you have heard that Vern Thorne is dead, he had diphtheria. Poor Stella is left alone, her baby is about a year old. It is a little girl, they call it Viola for her sister. I haven't heard whether either of them took the disease or not. Esther and Ike were coming to the funeral but when they heard it was diphtheria they didn't come. They didn't know he had it till after he was dead. Carrie and John are back from the Reservation and they never want to see it again. From their description I don't know whether I want to take that trip you spoke of or not but I think it would be nice to take a trip to Hinckley, don't you dear? Pa would like to have you buy some land down there but I told him I didn't think you would like to leave P.G.

I have got quite a bad cold and so has little Melba, so we don't feel twice as good as we could. I guess I will have to quit now and get to work. Annie is ready to take the carpet up. Oh Nels, I do wish you didn't have to stay so long, it is so lonesome here. Write soon dear. From your loving Wife and Baby. xxxxxxxxxxxxooo

Gefle, Gulf of Bothnia, Sweden

Sept. 24th, 1909 Please sent my mail to the above address and tell the folks also too.

Dear Viola:

At present I am smoothly skimming over the peaceful waters on my way to conference. The boat was to leave Luleå at 4 a.m. Sept. 23 so I arose from my slumbers at 2 a.m. and fried a few potatoes and warmed some water, and after partaking of the same I pursued my walk through the dark, foggy atmosphere and arrived at the boat at a quarter to 4. A dense fog prevented us from leaving Luleå until 8 a.m. when the fog seemed to clear away. But we didn't go over three miles till the fog covered the waters again and we were obliged to anchor. In about 15 minutes we were again able to find our way and we went another three miles when the omnipresent heavy fog swallowed us, and we were again compelled to lower anchor. Here we lay lost at sea for about 24 hours. All day and all night the mean fog prevented the captain from moving the boat, until 8 this morning, the sun kissed the waters with his smiling rays, and in a few minutes the fog arose, giving us the pleasure of beholding the clear blue sky, and the distant islands, which marked our route. It is now 10:30 a.m. and the boat is skimming the deep blue water causing waves to roll from both sides of the boat, rolling on and on over the quiet peaceful sea until they kiss the shores, when they have reached their destination and their life is ended. I was commencing to feel quite discouraged for it looked as though I would not reach Sundsvall by Saturday evening, when we are to hold our first meeting, but now prospects look brighter and if we are not lost any more in the fog we will no doubt arrive in Sundsvall early in the evening tomorrow. We have about 300 miles to go so I will consider myself lucky if I get in time for the first meeting. I could have went by way of rail but I could save 2 crowns by taking the boat so I preferred the latter. I am riding second class so I have a bed and am feeling quite comfortable. The price is 13 crowns.

I have bid all the saints and my friends goodbye for I don't know if I will ever again have the pleasure of seeing Luleå. I have packed my trunk so if I am sent [page missing?]....

...motion and as it gently rocked us it cut its way through the water. The more light-hearted passengers soon were fast asleep, imagining they had landed on the isle of dream-land. When I awoke it was daylight and in looking out through the little round glass in the end of my hut I perceived that the sea was being peppered with trickling raindrops. Thinks I, rain is welcomed any day while on the water, in preference to fog so with a feeling of relief I turned over on a fresh side and slept with content. About 8 o'clock all my sides seemed rested so I managed to dress myself and go up on deck. I asked the steerman what prospects there were of getting to Sundsvall early this evening. His answer was that we would arrive at Sundsvall about 12 or 1 o'clock tonight providing we met no more fog. So you see I will miss the first meeting of our conference and will consider myself lucky if I arrive in time for the saints meeting which will be held tomorrow at 10 a.m. Although I have spent 2-1/2 days on the water now, still the time seems to have gone very quick for I had a companion with me in my hut up till yesterday afternoon and we had engaged in some good gospel conversations. I showed him my wife's and baby's photo and he said you were beautiful, and couldn't see how I could leave you for two years. I hope this doesn't offend you or make you feel conceited. If it does just let me know and I will tell you that perhaps he didn't mean it. I have two Deseret News papers with me and also some other books so my time is not going to waste even if I am late.

Sept. 26th, Dear Wife, I arrived in Sundsvall last night at 12 o'clock and soon found myself with the elders. They held one meeting last night and we will have two today. Two of the Sundsvall elders have the small pox and are in the pest house. That makes it bad but I hope we will have a successful conference anyway. It seems nice to once more be with the elders after being alone so long, for it seems almost like being to home. Well I will now draw to a close and tell you about our conference in my next letter. I hope you and babe are OK and that all is well at home. Your loving husband Nels.

P.S. We have now had one meeting in which I had to preach and where we all got our appointments. I am sent to the best branch in the conference, which is Gefle.

[I have a notebook, purchased in Sweden, that Niels kept. It has accounting sections for his time in Luleå and in Gefle. It also has notes which he no doubt referred to when he preached, some in English and some in Swedish, such as Fönta Uppståndelsen and Terrestrial Härlighet, the interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's Dream in English and Swedish, and many hymns in Swedish. There is Utah O Utah in Swedish, and only one song in English, My Lovely Girl!, about falling in love and wedding a girl with pretty dark blue eyes. The accounting portion tracks by the month such things as door knockings, books loaned and sold, tracts, invitations, gospel conversations, meetings attended, visits to nonmembers, visits to members, hours spent in study. In November 1908 he studied 29 hours (arrived midmonth), 109 in December, 224 in January. He also lists daily what town he is in and, once he lost his companion, what he did each evening.]

Gefle, Oct. 4th, 1909

My Dear Wife –

It is with great pleasure that I once more write my loving wife a few lines. I know you are

very anxious to hear from me as often as I can find time to write. I have received one letter from you since I came to Gefle. You say you will soon be without a home, but I hope that will not happen. I hope you will get some place to stay and I would like very much (for your sake) to see you stay in P.G. for I believe you will enjoy yourself there more than any other place. It certainly would be nice if I was home so we could get a place and live together to keep you from leaving the town which you no doubt hate to do, but if you have to go with your father to Abraham I hope you will make the best of it and try to content yourself. We have this consolation dearest, that some day in the near future we will again be together living in a state of happiness and with the satisfaction of knowing I have performed a mission and won't be expecting another call for some time. How nice it would be if you were with me!

In the six months that I have been living alone I believe I have learned to appreciate a companion. I have not once regretted that I am married, thinking back that would be much nicer. I have learned that a wife is the best thing a man can have for without her he cannot make much progress. I am thankful that the time has come that I again have a partner in the mission field and I believe from now on my mission will be more of a pleasure to me. I have experienced many dark, discouraging hours but I have tried to master them and not allow the evil spirit to get the best of me and drag me into a state of despondency. I am glad I have had that experience but I don't want it again. I wouldn't have cared if they sent me back to Luleå with a partner but I had no desire to go alone. I feel that I have left much work undone in Luleå and wouldn't mind spending a little more work there but I suppose I will find sufficient to take my time and attention in this part of the Lord's vineyard.

I told you in my last letter that I was called to labor in the best branch of the Sundsvall conference and I think I told you the truth for this is certainly a lively branch with quite a number of saints. There are about sixty members in the whole branch, about half of them living in this city of Gefle. I suppose I will have to trim up a bit and put on my preaching shoes now for I suppose it will fall to my lot to preach about every Sunday from now on. I have got out of that ordeal to a great extent so far and now I feel my weakness in starting to be at the pulpit every Sunday and sometimes during the week between Sundays, but I hope I can get interested in the work and can lay our principles before the people in a plain and intelligent manner.

On Sundays we have a Bible Class at 10 a.m., S. School at 11 a.m. and public meeting at 5 p.m., and on fast days we have saints meeting at 9 p.m. Elder Wm. O. Beckstrom from Lake Shore, Utah Co., is my companion. He is 50 years old and has been on a mission for 18 months now so he is well prepared to carry his share of the load and give me many valuable instructions. He was born in Sweden but emigrated to Utah when he was three years so he had not learned the language, and it is quite hard for him to master it now but he has a good knowledge of the gospel and is what I call a first class missionary companion. There is no doubt but what we will get along OK for you know I am not much of a kid myself but quite old in my ways.

Elder George Lavin who has been laboring here the last year was released from the Sundsvall conference and appointed to labor in the Stockholm conference. He came back to Gefle from conference with us Sept. 29, and just left this morning. The saints hated to

part with him for he certainly is a fine young man. He is only twenty two years but he has a fine knowledge of the gospel and has the gift of speech so he can interest a congregation in presenting the gospel to them. He has been on a mission 29 months now and is liable to be held until spring. It seems like they are slow in releasing a good elder for their time is worth so much more than those who are not so capable of explaining the gospel. According to that I will be released as soon as I have been here two years for I feel like I am one of the weakest in the field.

We certainly had a joyous time yesterday in saints meeting where all the saints bore their testimonies. A good spirit was manifest touching the hearts of everyone present, causing the tears to roll down their cheeks. In the public meeting Elder Lavin gave us a very interesting discourse of his labors and travels in the mission field and bore a strong testimony concerning the work he had been engaged in. If I could preach like he can I believe I would sooner do that than eat.

Saturday evening two more friends were born of the water and the following day in saints meeting were confirmed members of the only true church of Christ. They have had pretty good success in this branch the last few years and my wishes are that the work will not be checked any by me coming into the branch but that it will still continue to go forward and that the rolling stone may enlarge by collecting particles which harmonize with our work. We have several investigators so perhaps there is a crop growing that will soon be ripe for the harvest. I will now close, dear wife, with the warmest love and best wishes, hoping you are OK and not suffering in any way. May the Lord bless you and little Melba is my prayer for you from your Loving Nels. Write soon. xxxxxoooox