

[Letter from Niels to Viola, continued from last set, July 29, 1910.]

At first I shook so that I know my pants would have come off if it were not for my suspenders, but in about 10 minutes I was warmed up to a high pitch and was not in the least timid of the 200 men and women that were present. They gave me their best attention and I never felt more like talking in my life. I realized the people had gathered to hear something about Mormonism and I tried to tell them something about it. They seemed to like all that I told them except when I spoke of Joseph Smith being a prophet of God. After the meeting we gave away about 200 tracts and sold about 20 books. One old unreasonable woman came up to me and asked me why I didn't spend my time in doing something better and not try to mislead people. I was anxious to explain but she walked away. A few men were a little important and shot questions at us which were easily answered. One man was drunk and became quite noisy but the constable was present and told him the meeting was out and that he better go home. The majority of the people showed that they were interested in the meeting by the way they flocked after tracts and bought books. There were several newsmen present so there will no doubt be something in the papers about the great Mormon open air meeting. Who would not like to be a Mormon elder and enjoy such pleasant experiences.

Goodbye for this time dear Viola. I am your loving husband. Niels. xxxoox

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Aug. 7<sup>th</sup>, 1910

Dearest Brother –

Viola your beloved wife requested me to write you a line and of course I couldn't refuse as I always do as I am told. (?) At the same time it is with pleasure that I write you a line although my mind is a blank this afternoon and by the way Viola is writing all the news and things that are not news.

The boys are getting along quite nicely with the farm work, they put on a big force of men and got the grain hauled and threshed the next day. I do not remember of ever knowing them to get their threshing done so early. We have always been the tail end. The machine was not busy now and after a few days they will be very busy, everybody will want to thresh at the same time if they could. So you see they were wise for once. The wild hay is hauled, also the 2<sup>nd</sup> crop of lucerne. Rulan works on the threshing machine now and I think Lew will start on the thresher tomorrow. Alvin Carlson still works here.

Ren Benson received your letter and photo and he seemed quite pleased over it, his mother brought it over here for us to see and read last night. She said she was going to send you her brother's address and other relatives and have you look them up. Mother does not know the present address of her relatives but says she will talk to Uncle Isaac about it and let you know. She says she has lots of cousins in Sweden.

Say Niels your daughter is handsomer than ever now. She bosses her ma around to perfection. She can go like a streak now, and did you ask if she jabbered any? well I guess she does, she will tell you a thing or two when you get home. The only thing she is afraid of and that is the rooster, he comes to the front door and crows, or makes a noise

and she trots to her mother.

Today was Sunday School conference in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ward, it was OK. Tonight Dr. Woodruff of Salt Lake City is going to lecture in conjoint meeting. I hope there will be a large crowd there to hear him.

John and Carrie were over to see us last Sunday, they are feeling fine and are still living in Provo. Chris has two girls on the string now and doesn't know which one he wants.

Be good to yourself Niels and write soon to your Sis. Stena.

P.S. Mother will enclose a song for you in this letter. Hope you will like it. S.C. Mother encloses a dollar for you in this letter.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., Aug.15, 1910

My Dear Husband:

I rec'd another of your letters yesterday and was so glad to get it. You wrote me about your trip to Löderhamn. I was pleased to hear of your pleasant experience and the successful meeting you held. It must have been a grand experience and Oh how I should like to have been to that meeting and heard my darling husband speak. Wouldn't it be grand if the elders and everyone of God's people could have that spirit with them always, that they have while in the mission field. It seems like he is with them more then and I suppose it is because they live nearer to him.

I was glad to hear that you had rec'd the book and picture and that you liked the picture so well.

Annie has moved over to Provo today and so I brought my machine and a few of my things up here and I do hope that it won't be long until you and I move them again to our little home.

There are quite a few babies sick this time of the year with summer complaint. Esther's baby has been quite bad and he is so thin and weak now. Will Stagg nearly lost their baby and it isn't out of danger yet. I am very thankful that our baby is well yet and I feel like the Lord is blessing us. Esther and Ike are down here with their baby as the doctor told them a change would do him good.

We were weighing the other day and I weighed 103 lbs., Melba weighs 22 lbs., she isn't as fat as she was.

Esther wants me to go back to Salt Lake with them but I haven't decided yet whether to go or not.

I guess you have heard that Lee Harper and Luzine have a baby.

Everyone has gone to bed but me and it seems a little lonely with everything so quiet.

I went to Sunday School Sunday and enjoyed it very much.

Well dear I don't know of any more news, am glad and thankful that you are well and progressing in the work of God. May he continue to bless you is the prayer of your loving Wife. Be humble and prayerful and God will be with you and help you to overcome your difficulties. Viola.

P.S. Stena, your ma, and I went out to see Brita and she said to helsen you. Stena said to tell you hello. Did you remember that it as our wedding day last Friday, or had you forgotten the date.

[Letter written in Swedish, dated August 21, 1910, postmarked Gefle, from Martha (Maria is mentioned in Niels' letter dated July 22) Johansson to "Äldeste (family?) Nils Fugal," Pleasant Grove.]

Pleasant Grove, Utah, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 1910

My Dear Brother –

Chris and mother received your very welcome letter of August 4<sup>th</sup> last night and was very glad to hear from you, as we always are when we receive a letter from you. Mother will have to practice up a bit if she is going to talk Swedish to you when you come home. It is plain to see that you are a thorough Swede. No doubt you will find it a little hard to express your thoughts in the English language but you can do it alright.

I am sure you certainly have some opposition by the clipping you sent but you know opposition is a blessing in disguise as it will cause the people to study and do some thinking for themselves. Of course it is not very pleasant to have such awful tales told about one in the newspapers but honest thinking people will know that they are untrue.

Viola and baby have gone to Salt Lake City to visit with Esther, they went Wednesday night and it is very lonesome without them. It seems so quiet not to have little Melba trotting around and jabbering. Annie Banks has moved to Provo as I suppose you already know. She thot she could do better there than she could here. I do hope she can.

There was no Sunday school in our ward today and there will not be any next Sunday either as the trustees are getting the schoolhouse cleaned, the floors are being oiled and the seats are being replaced so we will have a vacation you see. It seems quite odd not to have Sunday School.

Jens and his family have gone to Provo to visit with John and Carrie, they have not been to Provo all summer. John's house is not finished yet. Jens is doing the wiring, they expect to have electric lights on the Bench before many more years. I have not seen their new house yet but they say it is lovely and will be very convenient when finished.

Mother is getting to be quite a reader, she reads a good sized book in a short time. At present she is reading a book about "Utah and the Mormons" written by John F. Meakin,

a resident of Salt Lake City and a very learned man. She is very interested in it.

We were sorry to hear you will be out of money so long. We sent you a draft on July 29, hope you have received it before now. We will try and be more prompt in sending drafts in the future. Send for money in good time as it takes a couple of days to get ready to send it.

I have written to Aunt Scow, it is her birthday next Wednesday. Ida has a son born on the 10<sup>th</sup> inst. She is getting along fine and so is baby. Lettie writes that the baby has red hair.

John Newman and family have moved to their new home. Leon Jarvis and wife are living in part of Newman's old home and Perlinda and Ally are going to rent part of it. Ally is coming home the last of the month. Willie Stagg and family have come back from the city, their baby is very sick but is a little bit better now, it looks just awful. They have been staying at Stagg's, they cannot move in their own home until Perlinda moves.

I suppose by the time you receive this letter it will be your birthday, just think you will be a fourth of a century. I wish you many happy birthdays. You will find a dollar enclosed in this letter as a little token of remembrance. May you be blest with health and strength so you can enjoy your mission and do much good. I am as ever your Sister Stena.

Dear Niels – Just one more line. Mrs. Lim came over today and handed me a dollar to send you with this letter for your birthday, she wishes you many happy returns of the day and says she enjoys hearing from you very much. We always tell her how you are getting along. Today is Monday, Mr. And Mrs. Clayton and Verena came to see us yesterday and went back to the city today. They seem to be feeling pretty good. They were coming to Ernest's birthday but could not get away then. Lillie is well now and doing her own work. It is almost a miracle the way she is getting along, she underwent a very painful operation in June. I thought Chris would write a few lines in this letter but I am afraid he will not get at it. He is quite busy in the shop. He just came in now and said he would scratch off a few lines so you will be happily disappointed. Write soon to your Sis. Stena.

Pleasant Grove, Aug. 26/10

Dear Bro. Neils in the far off land of the north.

I thought I had better write you a few lines and send with Stena's letter. I received your letter all OK. I am pleased so to note you can write a letter with something in. I am too rusty to write much now. I have been down watering tonight with our small stream, enough for a 1/2 acre of beets. We bought 8 shares of water and can't hardly water 6 acres of beets but I think the beets will pull through as we have a heavy dew at night and the root is deep in the ground.

We just sold a buggy to Curtis Young. We only have 11 jobs of buggies left out of 45 counting 5 we held over from last year. So we have done as well as we could expect. We sold 9 mowers, 4 binders, 4 rakes and about 12 large plows. I think we are doing as well as we could expect.

Everything seems to go all right but my guts they shake me up once in awhile, enough to keep me from pulling on the bits. O yes, the threshers are about through. John Nelson threshed about 1500 bu. and Iron Clad about the same. Maybe a little more. We bought J. H. Wright out so we have 1/4 of the stock in that machine and 1/2 of the P.G. machine. We get more grain from them than we do from our farm. I think that is good property so long as it is ran right. We are thinking of buying 40 ac. of dry land in Alpine next to that Jens Nelson bought. It is a dandy piece, I think we can get it for \$1000. We are so busy we haven't had time to go and see about it. [Niels did end up with a dry farm in Alpine for a number of years; assume this is the same.]

This is all now with best wishes from your Bro. C.A.F. Hope you got the \$50 we sent you before now.

Salt Lake City, Ut., Aug. 25, 1910

My Darling Husband:

Once again I take great pleasure in writing a few lines to my dear Nels. It has been over a week since I wrote so no doubt you are anxiously waiting for this one. I came up here with Esther and Ike a week ago today and I haven't heard from you since nearly a week before I left. It seems at least a month long. I think I shall go back to Pleasant Grove for I just can't feel contented anywhere unless I hear from you once in awhile.

We went out to Garfield Saturday and Joe and Valeria came back with us Sunday. Joe stayed till Tuesday and then went to Idaho, he is going to teach school up there this winter. Valeria is here yet but Joe is going to send for her as soon as he gets a house. Joe wrote you a letter while he was here and I suppose you will get it before this. He didn't know what his address would be but I will send it to you as soon as I get it so you can write to him.

Oh dearest in just a little over a month it will be two years since you left home and I do hope that it won't be much longer until you are released. I do hope that you can be home Xmas.

Aug. 26 – I started this letter last night but I got so sleepy I couldn't finish it. We have been washing today and I am quite tired tonight so I don't think I will write much more. I wanted to see Bro. Woodard and Sister Johnansson but maybe I won't get to if they call in Pleasant Grove while I am up here. I don't think I will stay here much longer and I hope they haven't been there yet when I go back so I can see them.

It is two weeks now since I got a letter from you and Oh it does seem such a long time but I guess there are two for me in Pleasant Grove. Write often dearest for I do love to read your dear letters. Take care of yourself and think of me sometimes. Your loving Wife, Viola Fugal. Mellba sends kisses to Papa. xxxxxooo

Salt Lake City, Ut., Sept. 7, 1910

Dear Husband:

It has been a little over a week since I wrote to you and so I will try and write a few lines today. I rec'd a letter from you the other day and also one from Stena. She said they were all so well as usual. She said it had been a long time since she had a letter from you.

We went to Wandamere the other night and I couldn't help thinking of the last time I was there and wishing that you were with me now. We didn't stay very long it was so cold. We make a quilt yesterday and I suppose we will iron today. I hope you are well and enjoying your labors. We are well. Write often to us. Yours with love, Viola and Melba.  
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Lörstrand, Sept. 3, 1910

Dear Wife;

Once more I will endeavor to write you a few lines. As the heading of this letter shows, I am now in Lörstrand. I left Gefle last Tuesday and now it is Saturday. I have been staying with the Strandh Family of Saints and have had a very nice time. Last time Bro. Woodard was here he got mixed in with the priest and some of the leading men of this town, and they told him if any of we Mormon elders came to Lörstrand again they would have us arrested, but I am here now and it doesn't appear as though they care to bother me any. There are quite a number of people here who are interested in what we have to offer them and of course that causes jealousy to arise among the other class of people and they would like to get rid of we elders. Bro. Strandh has no home of his own and the man who he rents of has forbidden him to hold public meetings here. He said nothing about private meetings so we have held two of them while I have been here this week.

Wednesday evening we held a meeting with just the saints and one visitor present, but Thursday eve we had about 25 people present. Bro. Strandh invited them to come so there can be no kick for that, for a person has a right to invite people to come and visit them and while they are at his home he has a right to entertain them in any manner he chooses. So this time they were entertained by listening to a Mormon elder talk on the plan of salvation. They seemed very interested and it was a very easy matter for me to talk to them for one hour and ten minutes without a pause. I felt the spirit in rich abundance and was led to speak without any great effort.

While I have been here I have visited some of our friends and talked gospel to them and yesterday I went to a place called Karsjö and gave away 150 tracts and sold 36 books, so I have had fine success this week. When I left Gefle I hardly thought that I would have a chance to hold a meeting being as the people are so worked up against us here but now I have held two of them and I feel well paid.

I am going to leave here today at 11:39 a.m. and will arrive in Gefle at 3:40 p.m. Bro. Benson is in Gefle, he is out of money so he could not go with me.

The saints here are very glad that I came and they want me to come again in the near future. It will soon be conference again and then I don't know whether or not I will be permitted to come back to this branch, but I think I will. There is no branch in all

Sweden that I would sooner labor in than this one, but perhaps that is because I have not labored in the others except Luleå.

The time that I have left in the mission field will no doubt go in a hurry for I am used to the work now and am nearing the last end of my mission. We are going to have a new Mission President now and I understand that he believes in a three year mission, but I suppose he will let me off before that time. I don't expect to be here another summer but I am liable to see another winter here. Well that time will soon go and I hope you will have patience and not tire waiting for your husband to come home. "Absence makes the heart grow fonder" so you will probably love me all the more when I do come. Of course that isn't saying that you don't love me enough now. I hope you grasp my meaning.

Well it is a long time since I had a letter from you but perhaps there is one at Gefle waiting for me. I suppose they are very busy now in P.G. working with the fruit and no doubt you have a hand in it occasionally also. It would be nice to have a few good peaches to eat now for I haven't had any since I left home. It is very little fruit that I see here. There are some berries that grow wild in the forests here and the people seem to think that they are very delicious. I suppose I will be where I can get my fill of fruit next summer. At least I hope so.

I received a letter from Aunt Hanner a couple weeks ago. I don't remember if I told you about it or not. She sent me a dollar with it also. She said in the letter that when I come home I should take my family with me and move down to Abraham. She claims that I could get a piece of land there without much trouble and make my home there. What do you think about that, dear Viola? Would you sooner live in that part of the world, than in P.G.? We will at least take a trip down there when I return home and see what the country looks like and visit our relatives.

It will be nice to get back home dear and be with you. It only seems like a dream that we have lived together two months but that dream will soon come true and we will once more have the pleasure of being in each other's company. I have yours and Melba's photos with me and the saints think that you are both as cute as can be. Kiss Melba a few for me and accept my very best wishes and love. As ever your husband. Niels.

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Geffle, Sept. 12, 1910

Dear Wife:

I don't know where you are at present but I suppose I better write to you anyhow. Last time I wrote you I was in Lörstrand and the same day I came home to Gefle and found a very nice letter from you. Since then I have received another one from you but it is dated one week before the other one, so I suppose it has been delayed on the way or else you failed to get it mailed in time. Nevertheless both letters were written by you when you were in a very pleasant frame of mind for you wrote such nice things and seemed to be satisfied with your lot even if you are not settled down in a home that you can call your own.

I hope you may always feel contented and satisfied and give God all honor and glory for the many blessings which he has permitted to come down upon you. You boast of the health that has been granted unto both you and Melba and seem to realize that the Lord is merciful and kind to you. There may be many times that we think we have a hard row to hoe and that we are not numbered among those who have much worldly gain, but if we will stop to analyze the subject we will be compelled to admit that we have countless blessing raining down upon us daily. It is true that we were both born from parents who cannot be classed as rich (thank the Lord) and what little we have we have earned by the wear and tear of our own bodies.

It isn't so very many years since God our Father permitted us to take a mission here upon this planet to see how we would act while we were out of his presence, and how many more years he will permit us to remain here, we have no knowledge of, which is also a blessing. Now dear wife we have just grown to manhood and womanhood and made an agreement between us that we would go through this life and also the following one together, if Father will permit it. We are not the heirs of worldly riches, but we are created with the same attributes which are found in our forefathers, and may if we practice cautiousness and wisdom even acquire more than our progenitors have done.

We are now at the base of the great mountain of worldly experience, and God only knows how near the summit we will attain. In previous years we have been under the guardianship of our parents, but now we have broken those precious bands and are independently staring the world in the face. The world with all its riches is before us and not only that, but according to the scriptures, somewhere and sometime in yonder space, will be created a celestial home for all who are worthy of the celestial family circle. Our gospel teaches us glorious principles of both a temporal and spiritual salvation and they go hand in hand with each other. On what grounds or terms can we become rich with these blessings? Is it not on the terms of obedience to the laws which are given us? How can we be obedient to these laws? Is it not by first being united so the influence and inspiration of the Holy Ghost can work upon us?

Dear wife, faith, obedience and work will be necessary for our success and there is no doubt in my mind but what we can be united in these principles. I am certainly glad that you ponder of these things for through thought comes faith and after faith, obedience which requires work. It is gratifying when I think that I have a loving little wife who is interested and anxious for our welfare. God bless you Viola and God bless me, that I may prove worthy of such a noble and dear companion. Dear wife we are now bound together with eternal bands that will never be loosed providing we are faithful. Are you happy? I hope you can say yes and that we can eternally partake of heavenly bliss.

In regard to my mission expenses I will say that I am keeping account of all the money sent by the various parties, nevertheless many thanks for your good advise. It is always wise to be on the safe side. Do you ever feel very anxious to talk to me? If there were ever a time that I craved your presence it is at present. I feel like it would be the same as heavenly or angelic communication.

I learned through the letter which I received from Bro. Joseph Young that you were then in S.L. City. Hope you enjoy yourself wherever you are and not build up too many hopes

on seeing me for another six months for I don't know when I have served my time. We will leave that for the Lord to decide. Joseph wishes me to write him but he gave me no address so please send me it at once so I can give him a few lines. I was glad to hear from him. He wrote a very nice letter.

Tomorrow I am going to take another trip. I will meet the Uppsala elders at a place called Tierp. There we intend to hold meeting two evenings. Then I will return to Gefle. Bro. Benson will remain in Gefle on account of shortage in money. Our conference Pres. will be here for next Sunday. I suppose he wants to see how things are here before conference and probably see who he better send here next. We will leave for conference about Sept. 22. I would like to come back here but I am ready and willing to go wherever they send me, even if it is to Luleå. Pleased to hear that you received a card from Mrs. Lavin and hope you call on her. I received a letter from Bro. Woodard, but he says he couldn't find time to call on you. Be good to yourself and baby and always pour out your love to your husband. Write soon. Niels Fugal.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, Sep. 14<sup>th</sup> 1910

Dear Brother,

Your very welcome letter came to hand a couple of days ago and we were all glad to hear from you. Glad that you are well and enjoying your mission and hope you can always feel the same. I am glad too that you have received the Liahona and like it. I have not been very prompt in answering your letter this time but I thot I must write today as it is your birthday. We have been thinking of you all day wondering what you are doing. It is raining here today it rained last night too. It is the first rain we have had for a long time, it will be nice to have the dust settled for once. Does it feel like you are getting old? You will not be old until you reach three fourths of a century. Say kid, mother is cooking a pudding for dinner don't you wish you could have some. That is to celebrate your birthday, you know.

Viola and Melba are still in Salt Lake, it seems an age since I saw them. The baby is too cute for anything, and Mr. Sundberg was here the other day (he had just come home from the city) and he said she gets cuter every day.

Perlinda and Ally have moved to John Newman's former home. Mr. and Mrs. Jarvis live in part of the house. They have a little son three weeks old. Mr. Jarvis is quite proud of it. Willie and Rhoda Stagg were called on to part with their baby, it was seventeen months old. I feel so sorry for them. It was sick for two months or more.

Last night the YLMIA held their first meeting for this season. Each ward met separately. We had twenty six present in our ward. I think that is pretty good for a starter and it was raining too last night. I guess you know that Lavina is president with Hazel Newman and myself as assistants. Hedve Johnson and Miss Finlayson (a school teacher boarding to Coopers) are the class leaders. Amy Cooper is going away to school, so Stella Sundberg Thorne is our organist. Matilda Christiansen is unable to come to Mutual this winter so Anna Rassmuson is Treasurer, and Pearl Radmall is librarian, and Mable Monson Secretary. So you can see what or whom our association consists of. It is all uphill

business and means work to make a success.

The Alpine stake authorities have arranged to have all the union meetings and priesthood meetings the same day at Lehi Tabernacle. We met last Sunday for the first time. Talk about dust, there was quite a long parade too. I believe it reached from Am. Fork to Lehi. We called on Knudsons, they are all feeling fine. Tonight the Sunday school teachers and officers are going to have a surprise on Amy Cooper. She is going to leave for Salt Lake City tomorrow. I do not know who the Sunday School will get for their organist.

Ernest goes to school, he goes just in the forenoon again this year. There are so many in the 1<sup>st</sup> grade that they have half day sessions. Hazel Newman is his teacher. Florence Bullock Madson is Alda's. Hedve is Vida's and Emma Weeks is Delbert's.

You will find enclosed a draft of twelve dollars from your mother.

Alma Monson has come home but I have not seen him yet. Chris has not been feeling the best for a few days but is better today, he is working in the shop, the anvil has been ringing quite a bit today. Lew is still working here and told me to give you his best regards. Jens is busy with his plumbing. He went to Salt Lake yesterday, is coming back today. Be good to yourself and write soon to Your Sister, Stena.