

November 7, 1949 – 6:15PM

Goondia, India,

My dear Tand:

Am sitting at the waiting room of a small village railroad station with Paul and Hubert Mitchell and as our train does not come until 11:45 PM., we've decided to spend the time writing a few letters. We left Benares Sunday morning, Nov.6, for Champa and should have reached our destination this morning but owing to a train derailment we failed to make connections and so had to continue to Champa in a round about way causing us to lose a day. Will reach there tomorrow morning. Have you ever seen the comic in the American papers "Toonerville Trolley"? Well, we've been on it all day and the soot, grime and smoke from the engine would have made the trip unbearable if the scenery hadn't been so interesting. We were passing all day through tiger country and while we didn't see any of the man-eaters, we saw monkeys, baboons, herons, etc. in great numbers. Just before we came into the town we passed a tree not more than 40 ft. high and there must have been 20 or more baboons in it, getting ready to spend the night. The white cranes fly over the countryside in great numbers as well as flocks of gorgeously colored parrots. In contrast to these interesting things, there is the poverty to be seen at every station the [sic] train reached. Beggars, lepers and others all terribly afflicted are on every hand asking for "Bakashish". Even a millionaire would be broke in a few days if he responded to all. We had a very interesting conversation in the train yesterday with a Hindu family – father, mother and three daughters and a son, all partrapahs?? [supposed word] We had our Bibles in hand and endeavored to show them that Christ was the greatest of all the prophets, because He was with the Father before the world was. They asked how that could be, seeing that Christianity began not more than 2,000 years ago, whereas Hinduism ahn [sic] Buddhism [sic] reaches back many centuries before Christ. We had them

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read Micah 5:2, John 1:1-3 and many other portions of scripture that prove His eternal existence, and that the incarnation was only His coming into the world in human flesh. The family, even the 15 year old boy were steeped in philosophy and each had a very keen mind. They argued for transmigration and many re-births into the world before perfection could be attained, while we, by contrast showed that the Gospel is good news because one does not need to have re-births since the one re-birth makes him a child of God and a member of God's family. We dealt with the sin question, atonement, etc., but the one thing that silenced them was the resurrection of Christ, that in the resurrection all believers are already quickened and assurance is given too that the body will be raised and glorified in one instant. We read I Cor. 15 which seemed to interest them deeply. The conversation continued for at least two hours, and what they said revealed the dense darkness that fills their hearts and minds. Our students in Biola who plan to come to India should be well schooled in the teaching of Buddhism and Hinduism, as well as in the Bible. But India is in such a mess, not only spiritually but in every way. Benares the scared city was a revelation of the darkness, the fanaticism of the millions there. It will take more than the legislation of men to break down the caste system and other religious beliefs that have held sway here for thousands of years. The pictures we are getting will be the most interesting of all to the people at home, and I think many will be challenged to life-long service here in India. Tomorrow in Champa, we shall meet many of our graduates including Dr. & Mrs. Jansen, Tom Major, and many others you know. Champa is the field where many

Mennonites are laboring, and doing a fine piece of work, especially among the lepers. We shall spend five days there and it will take all that time if not longer to meet all who have invited us to

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visit their respective field. Champa is a small town, but some six or seven of our graduates are in the area within two hundred square miles of it. On Saturday we are scheduled to be with Don Hillis for a great Youth Rally in Bhusabal, East Khandesh. This is located about 200 miles from Bombay. After the meeting we take train to reach the Poona District where Carol Terry and two other graduates are laboring with the Ramabai-Mukti Mission. Hubert Mitchell tells us that this Mission takes care of several thousand children – child widows, blind, leprosy, etc., and that we will have a fruitful ministry with them for the scheduled two days. We shall be there Sunday and Monday and the schedule given us will keep us busy from early morning to late at night. Sunday afternoon is to be a great baptismal which should be especially good for pictures. From there, we will head for Madras, and then return north again to see our missionaries in Assam. Mr. Mitchell says that we should not leave India without going to the border of Tibet which can be reached by plane within four hours flight from Calcutta. A splendid work is being carried on there by some women who accepted Christ when we were in Australia about 15 years ago. Two came down to Calcutta to a youth meeting that I was addressing and asked us to visit their station. Hubert says that if we should go, we would not only see work among the Tibetans, but also have opportunity of filming the greatest and most glorious mountain scenery in the world – the Himalayas, including Mt. Everest. His description of them, especially of the sunrise behind Everest makes us feel that it would be profitable to make the journey and to take some 600 or 600 ft. [sic] of that mountain scenery. Hubert says that the only statement that describes it is that of the Psalmist, “The heavens declare the glory of God and the Firmament showeth His handiwork”. Paul has a very powerful telescopic lens which would bring Mt. Everest

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within 75 miles of the camera. We are planning to be in Cairo, Egypt, about Dec. 12, and Bethlehem Dec. 23. The scenes in Palestine, especially in Bethlehem are very interesting at that time because pilgrims from all parts of the world gather to celebrate the birth of Christ. However, I will be with you all in spirit and will be wishing that it were possible for a person to be in two places bodily at the one time. Of course if we find it impossible to enter Palestine, then we will be home before the New Year. I wish you could see the three of us right now. We are so black with soot from the train that we would pass anywhere as three Hindus or Mohammedans on our way to Benares or Mecca. We are looking forward to tomorrow because we shall see a bathtub as well as the missionaries. We are Christians but believe me we don't “look the part”. Heaps of love to all,

Louie

Give a copy of this letter to Dr. Orr.

[Please note, there are two copies of this letter. This letter is the original.]

[At top left corner of the letter]

Copy to Dr. Bauman

*[Handwritten note on the back of page 4 of the letter]*

Good M

Another week

Happy\_

“Heart Illegi[---]” Trio

~~Falbot Letter~~

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Jan 1-8

Jones-Baxter-Brown