

Letter from and American IW from 1975

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Following are excerpts from a letter which an American blessed wife wrote to her husband in 1975. The wife, a member of the 777 couples, was doing itinerary work [IW]. At that time, prior to the Yankee Stadium and Washington Monument rallies, the graduates of the first Barrytown training program had just gone out to be pioneers; the usual state structure was exchanged for a total pioneering system. The wife, who had at that time two children, was an IW, along with many other blessed wives, both American and Japanese, for several years. We are publishing these excerpts in the hope that they may represent something of the intimacy and strength of marriage as well as documentation of a time in the history of our Church and the course of the early couples.

My Dear...,

I'm so sorry about my lack of responsiveness to you while I was home. As I look back on our experience I know that I must have hurt you a lot. Truly I am sorry. I want you to know that I love you very much and miss you so much when I'm away from you. The situation I'm in right now is one that I can't change, but I know that it has a great effect on my functioning. I guess I couldn't take demands from so many different sources and you are the one I could reject even though you are the one I want least to reject. Don't worry about it, though, because I feel that this is indemnity which we must pay for the nation.

I will pray for you regularly. Don't get too discouraged because I love you as you are. Father has used you for great missions "just as you are." You know, most people, if you found out their deep feelings, think that they are pretty rotten and have many problems. A great breakthrough came for me when I had a sudden realization that everyone felt inferior, so therefore I wasn't so bad. And if I wasn't so bad, I could take the first step in helping other people feel they weren't so bad. So anyway, do you think that other people see you as being such a terrible person No. Then look around you and wonder how many of your colleagues are sitting on deep guilts, fears and misgivings about themselves which they've never shared with anyone. You can help them feel better and in so doing, you will find that they will be grateful to you and you will feel better, too.

Well, that was a sermon. I guess I feel like I certainly didn't help matters for you!

I want to write an article and I thought you might help me with a little research. I want a few examples of people who were persecuted or martyred for their beliefs and why. I want to use them to show how silly the reasons look now. For example, early Anabaptists were killed for not baptizing their children.

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This month is going to be gone in no time. There is so much to do. I had been kind of depressed lately. Actually, I've felt a heavy burden since becoming an IW in this region. The spirit world is so heavy here. But now I feel better. Father's attitude towards this year gives me more hope. I guess all along I had really been struggling internally with the pioneer system and feeling hopeless about it. Also, in a very personal way, it affected the only security I ever had in the movement for our family- after the break-up of the regional system. So although I had to give hope and inspiration to the pioneers, I couldn't internalize this hope myself.

Gradually I am finding many insights and am regaining my faith. I guess when I was home the last few times the insecurity I felt was expressed in some resentment toward you and the security you have which just doesn't include me. I know you can't help it, so don't worry about it. I just want you to become a strong leader whom God can use in the most needed capacity and I know you can do it.



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Resentment is becoming a real key word these days and I want to share with you some of the things which are happening. We are in the middle of a workshop. Thirty of us gathered at the farm in... We had meetings all day on Wednesday, ending with an all-night prayer vigil in very, very cold weather, around zero degrees with a wind. We prayed outside only two hours because it was just too cold. One definitely does not fall asleep!

People had a good experience of liberating themselves as individuals and feeling some relationship with God. The following day we had testimonies and things began to evolve a deep bond of love and trust were experienced in the group and we prayed some more. The next day we were going to witness for the workshop. Before going out, we prayed for one hour outside. During this time, many things started coming together for me. Afterwards we had a testimony meeting and more prayer and many insights and revelations came. I want to share some with you.

I never thought so much about repentance before and the connection between repentance and resentment. Remember how I always used to say I thought there was something about Father's use of the term "heavenly resentment" that I didn't understand. Finally it is all coming together. We have been praying for Pentecost, which is essentially for spirit world to work through us or to come down and help us. But in order for them to help us, they must be liberated from their resentments. They must be able to forgive and only we can free them of this resentment.

In the South _____ was praying in an all-night prayer vigil and was given a vision of an open scroll before him. He lost it and someone else picked it up. The message was that the South had been in the Judah [Judas] position but because of slavery the Civil War came as indemnity. Abraham Lincoln's assassination brought God great resentment. With our family repenting for them, many spirits were now freed to work in the South. They came and thanked our members. So I believe that great things really are

going to happen.

I go to Texas Sunday night, first to Dallas-Fort Worth, then Austin, Houston, and finally San Antonio. On Thursday, I will go to New Mexico, spending three days there, then on to Boulder, where _____ is giving another revival meeting and workshop with Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico. From Colorado I go to Kansas for three days, and then back to New York. In each state I'll visit at least the new pioneers.

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Rehearsal for the July 1, 2100 Couples Blessing 1982

Here I am in the third floor attic apartment of an associate member in. It's cluttered and messy. There is no phone and I have four hours to kill until the next bus goes to Emporia. I just want to cry on someone's shoulder. Can it be yours Sometimes I wonder how long I can go on like this, enduring day after day with no place in the world to go. Just bus station to taxi to airport to taxi to bus station and pay phone booths. The longing within me to have a place and you and the children becomes almost intolerable at times. These days I travel almost daily. Sometimes I just long to do something more productive, more practical.

Last evening I came to _____... to see our pioneer here. He doesn't have a place but is sleeping outside. He used an associate member's car and picked me up. So I stayed at two girls' apartments overnight. Today I was going to go with him to Lawrence to guess what Help him build a house (his version of a tent), basically a shelter for his sleeping bag. I don't know what to think of all this. Personally, I don't approve of all this crazy stuff. But then Father said to do it and I don't want to stop their zeal. I just hope that it is not counterproductive.

All along I have been afraid that it is too much to hope for to go see your parents. It is just so 'frustrating not to be able to plan ahead. It is so abnormal right now. I'm just so, so tired of living like this. I keep trying to find something positive to live for, and it gets harder and harder.

On the positive side, I've been thinking that in light of the persecution, it's interesting that Father has sent everyone pioneering. So many of the accusations become very different in this context. Especially brainwashing. How can one lonely, helpless pioneer be accused of brainwashing someone else An organization that has very visible centers with lots of people can be attacked much more readily than individuals can.

Well, thanks for listening to me. If I don't see you soon, I'll be in Manhattan[Kansas] over Christmas, then Denver [Colorado], then Norman [Oklahoma]. I'm sorry for dumping all this. I love you so much and miss you so much. I hope that someday our little family can be together.