

11 So. Agosto, 1965

Dear Folks.

I hope you haven't been worry over me and I am sorry that I haven't written you sooner. Things are real fine here in Olavarría but I am not organized yet.

It really is an experience to be Pte of a branch. The branch here is small (61) members and the town is very, very hard. The church has been here around 4 or 5 years and hasn't progress very much at all during my mission. The people are wonderful. - like I mentioned before. I love the south more than any other part of Argentina. When I was down south before, the whole south was in one district. Sooner that each group of branches could grow faster, the mission split the south into three districts. Our district here is probably the smallest and the one that has the furthest to go. It has three branches. Azul, Olavarría y Tandil. The district pte and two of the branch pres. are missionaries. Also there is very little priesthood especially melfathic and only around 210 members in the whole district.

My companion is David Sharp from ???

what I mean is that he isn't sure either. He left for his mission from Salt Lake from his grandfather's house. His Father is an Army career man and right now is in Texas and hoping not to go to Viet Nam. His Mother is in Seattle and before they have live about every where Baltimore, Germany, Okinawa, Japan, etc. He has been down about eight months and really is a fine elder.

I really like it here in Okanogan as I mentioned. It is a town of around 60 thousand, mostly farming with a little industry but really out in the country. Yesterday we went out again and visited one of the few complete member families. He works on a big estate taking care of the animals. It is about 5 miles out in the country (yes, we are riding bicycles and I hope my slacks hold out). The last 2 miles is on a dirt road and I didn't know but they still don't have electricity. They raise for about 60-70 head of cattle, 100 sheep, chickens, dogs - 10-15, cats, geese, ducks, and every other type animal you can think of. But they are really happy together out there and they

two of the cutest kids you will ever see.

Elder Tasman Johnson is the ~~other~~ br. pres in the br. of a Lyal - about 55 minutes by bus from here. He was my companion in Peru and it is good to work with him again. I do most of my traveling with him as br. pte. like Sunday afternoon we went together to Tondit for br. pres conference and on ~~evening~~ ^{evening} when had stay to take care of sacrament meeting travel on Monday for the missionary meeting.

Next Monday we all travel to Tiro Amoyas for a Conference with Pres Strong. And on the 5 of September we have to travel to Mar del Plata for a Conference to start home teaching here.

I am finding it hard still to divide my time evenly between br. pres and mass. especially since the books of the branch are such a mess but I know I am also here to find someone who can replace me in the future and to build the branch membership up.

The time sure flys by and even though I don't want to think of it I know I

have just over five months left and that I should look to the future. I would like to go back to school at the if but since I don't have any money I don't know. What do you think?

By the way I did finally write the selective service board and they sent a duplicate right out, but I don't know what to do about the Durwin business.

Will I better close this and send it to you so you can read.

Remember please that I love you all and I hope the Lord will bless you

Love Gary

VIA AEREA

Expreso

EXPRESO

REPUBLICA ARGENTINA
Ministerio de Comunicaciones

EXPRESO
R N° 226553

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