

[Page 1]

Gull Lake, Michigan
Aug 26, 1957

Dearest four, and Sam,

Regarding --- DOCUMENTARY MOVIE... I'm concerned because I have been concerned and I see that you too are concerned.

May I preface what I have to say about my visit to Gospel Films, with a few other remarks. First...in connection with Betty's statement that "I am quite concerned that Marj and Sam seem to have approved the script so far, for nothing at all was mentioned to the contrary, Marj, when you wrote that you had seen it." Please know that I have no intention of approving anything with anyone until I know that it is what all 5 of us want. I didn't voice my opinion to you because I wanted to know how all of you felt without being influenced by my thinking.

The Saturday that Sam drove me over to Scroon Lake I talked to him about the film and my concern about it.... I received Marilou's letter about the film dated the same day mentioning her own and Betty's reactions. Sam called Dick then the Tues when he was in LA. Marilou mentioned that you even wondered from Dick's treatment if he was the one to do the film. I'm getting very disgusted and upset that I can't seem to remember in detail more of what has taken place in this past year – one of those is how we went about deciding in this first place that Dick is the one to do it...now I wonder just how obligated we are to him....this is something to consider.

Well, since I could be going thru Muskegon anyone on last Sat, Aug 24th, Sam and I thought it wise that I stop and talk to the people at Gospel Films...the one that did the film on Mr. McCully and Marilou. I saw the film "Martyred Men," while I was there and think it is very fine i.e. the testimony and in view of the fact that they had only one night and one day of Mr. McCully's time (that was all he had free) and only part of a day with Marilou – I think it is well done. I do think it is misnamed – by that I mean that the name should indicate that it is Mr. McCully's and Marilou's testimony rather than the picture of the martyred men....but over and over again I hear how the Lord has and is using the testimony...and after all that is what counts....isn't it?

The following is a "late-night" attempt to tell you something of what I learned at GF. I will report as objectively as possible – so please do not jump to the conclusion that I do or do not agree with any part of it... you may guess wrongly. I might say, that I personally feel this a very difficult assignment – knowing that they thought Dick Ross was doing the film, knowing how much they had wanted to do it, and I wanted to pump them for all the information I could get easily and nicely about all the Christian movie people, which of course was putting them on the spot – but I needed the info and couldn't get around to every producer. Of course we could go thru a Christian magazine and look up the adv. But there they all look good. Well, I tell you this just to

protect those poor people that were being asked very frank questions about their “competitors.” All the answers were prefaced by remarks to let me know that they only answered or told me these facts to help me – not to report on the other fellows... I won’t include those remarks in this report to you – and we must never pass this info on as having come from them.

Ken Anderson has had a very deep interest in this story from the beginning – when he heard that DR would be doing the film – he wrote in his diary “Lord give him wisdom for this great responsibility”...he said it truly made no difference to him who did the film just so long as that person realized the great potential and opportunity and would treat it as such...etc.

We started by comparing their set-up with Dick’s and the finances that could be involved. They told me that most everything on the West Coast is “union.” That if Dick went to Ecuador and the weather was bad for all 10 days his men would have to be paid just the same – GF could wait two months if necessary for 5 goof shooting days – and it won’t cost anymore except just to live because they are not union. I just had a bit of experience with the union in the Sherman Hotel – we had to have the union come just to pull down the screen for the slides – and another union man to bring the projector and set up – then he rested while we used the machine – but it is the law...

[Page 2]

...It seems that the union requirements would require 3 men on a camera that GF could use have [sic] one.

Then I asked about distribution – they hesitated to say – told me that I should call Mr. Huffman of Winona School of Theology – World Vision Wide which DR – just has not been doing anything about getting the film distributed. It seems that WW used a film dist. or library that handles all types of films – they don’t try to promote any thing especially but are there to send it when requested, etc. Anyone after more inquiry I find that Mr. Huffman’s film is just sitting. Then I asked about GF set-up for dist. They have 16 distribution libraries, etc. I gather from what they said that several of the well-known outfits have been coming to them to try to get them to dist. their films.

Then I inquired about Good-News, Baptista, Concordia, Westminster, and others – it seems that Westminster is the only “up and coming” one of the bunch right now.

May I insert right here that as I have talked with Sam, DR, and GF that I realize more and more that it won’t be easy for anyone to do our job – because he has 5 to please. But as with the book, that is the situation, and I don’t think any of us should back off from what we think is right because of it – but always be aware of the difficult position in which it will put any producer.

I asked about the rental, etc. set up of using the films. GF is a non-profit organization. They make the film and it shown I believe with some free will offering, etc. and often they receive other gifts toward it until it is paid for – then it is rented at a rate to pay for the handing, repairs, etc. Their films are free to schools. They will however consider other methods when making a film for someone – if the person so wishes – such as royalties, free will offerings for a missions, etc.

I find here in my notebook that the outfit that dist. the WW films is “Modern Talking Films.”

Then I asked about the possibility of using the footage that we have from the jungle in addition to the Auca footage. They feel that by all means as much of it should be used as possible. But let's remember that the footage was taken at random and it may be well nigh impossible to tie it together with plenty more fill-in footage. I remember when Nate made that little film CJB and he would get right up to a point he wanted to show and there would be no pictures – he might get the plane landed at Chupentsa but there would be no take off pictures, etc. The Auca film of course is much more important and hence what was a little detail in CJB will be big in this one.

...well time out to go to Barb's home church in Lansing for a meeting. Had supper with here brother Geo and his wife and the Ortens, Sr. Met your brother Jim, Barb but not his wife. They were all so wonderfully friendly and kind – because of you – and it did my heart so much good to be with them. It thrills my hear to see and feel the love that your parents have for the Spanish speaking folk, we must pray that the Lord will show them His will – they would certainly be happy to be usable and used in Ecuador. I just enjoyed every minute with them. Marian's and Geo's children are darling and the little girl remined me so much of Bethy both in look and actions. Will try to write more about the visit later.

It is time to go to the last meeting here at Gull Lae...and time to return the Whitakers typewrite. Markie (Hobolth) is here – my how I enjoy being with her. Barb, did I mention Delores Mills and her husband to you – they are here – accepted for HCJB you know...and pray for you...and love your Mom and Dad so much.