

#3 West Maple Ave.  
Moorestown, NJ

June 28, 1957

Dear girls,

What a wonderful provision of the Lord that the Howards have made their home open to us for this month. Betty, I'm glad you thought of it and wired your mother. Thanks so much. Our time with Sam and Jeanne was MOST PROFITABLE and I hope that it will put me in a position to do some of the detail work for Sam. He will still be the "brains", I the "flunkie".

My last letter to you was started on the 13th and finished the 19th--it is the one and only letter I have written since arriving.

On the 20th -- Sam & I slipped out of the house before anyone else got us--tho. I'm sure we must have awakened Jeanne. Sam had so well organized the day by phone that we lost no time on non-essentials. First we visited Mr. McK in his office, then Mr. Monroe (I won't comment on these for lack of time) then to the lawyers. Harpers, NBC for a taped interview and then CBS for another one. then back to Harpers to meet the ones that had been out to lunch the first time, then Magnum -- where we visited with Edie and looked at pictures while Cornell was across the street doctoring up a picture -- then to dinner with them (we had had lunch with Harpers) -- then home. I merely asked to see pictures -- Edie must have shown us about a hundred of misc ones in addition to about 15 that he had pulled out for me -- of our family mostly...one of the radio program, etc. He assured me that he would be mailing some to each of you. I just didn't have the heart under the circumstances to say "Is this all I can see of the 4000 you took". I had asked to see them...and if this was all he had then I couldn't push him when he was disturbed about the picture across the street.

PROMOTION: Cornell feels that the book isn't being sufficiently promoted in secular channels...so Sam called Mel the next day...and you have a copy of Mel's letter to all of us on their reasoning.

MOVIE: Cornell feels that if we aren't willing to let Hollywood do a dramatic film then we better not have one at all. I agree with what he had to say about the people that will see the movie that will never read the book, etc...but I am just as convinced as ever that "it isn't for us."

B. GRAHAM: CORNELL IS NOT impressed at all by him.

LAWYERS: There is no doubt that the Lord allowed this mistake in the signing of the contract for some reason -- but it is surely upsetting the fruit basket. Mr. Pilpel the lawyer and her assistant Mr. Goldberg are very kind and interested...and I'm convinced they will do all possible to help us. It is quite possible that we will have to pay income tax always on proceeds from the book. The contract which will be made in place of the one Betty signed -- will show that the money is going to a foundation and will make it tax free except for the fact that it will be dated after the foundation was established and the one (contract) showing all the proceeds to the author is dated before the Foundation -- hence it could look like we are changing our minds just to avoid the tax -- so if the lawyers can show that it was a mistake on the original contract -- and then by showing what we have done with our money so far, etc. she can prove that it was always our intention to use the money for missions then we are all set -- but if it still is doubtful -- then we will be subject to tax on any income from the book. She (the lawyer) says that if we do have to pay tax there is something wrong with our society...that you just never find cases so open and above board as ours. She is going to try to get it straightened thru Washington. At the same time she is going to investigate to be sure that Betty, Barb and I were exempt from income tax last year -- she is quite sure that Barb and I were, but it may be that because Betty came to the US she will not be. She asked me what I would do if I were suddenly advised that I owed the US govt. \$2000. There will of course be a fee for this investigation but Sam and I were sure you girls would want it. She



actually has so much business that she didn't sound too anxious to do all this investigation but did see our dependence on someone to check up for us...so she feels that she might as well double check for Olive and Marilou too -- it will be a great help to all of us someday if we ever get in a questionable position ..to have a statement from a lawyer saying that we had done the right thing in regard to personal income tax. WOULD EACH OF YOU PLEASE DROP A NOTE TO SAM SAYING YOU WOULD LIKE MRS. PEEPEL TO INVESTIGATE THE INCOME TAX SITUATION FOR YOU. THIS SHOULD BE VERY SOON ...WHILE SHE IS INVESTIGATING FOR US. I certainly want her to check for me...as Marilou once told me of Mr. McC telling her how it would be to read the headlines "Widow of Martyr Evades Income tax". ..on other matters. There surely are a lot of angles -- I'm convinced after hearing their long discussion -- She had a little motto on the wall "If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs, ...THEN YOU MUST NOT UNDERSTAND THE SITUATION!". Now I understand why Sam was trying so hard to get the necessary information for us. I gave them word for the four of us -- ~~xxxxxxx~~ that it is our intention that the proceeds from the book and subsidiary ~~rights~~ rights such as the movie or movies etc will go to ~~xxx~~ the Auka Foundation. All I can say at this point is...I USED to think we had problems...but now.

Incidentally, I think Cornell would have been happier if we had given him a more hearty thank you and vote of appreciation for the article in Life. I tried to explain that if we didn't...it was just because we didn't know how or what to say. He told how he had so much to say and so many pictures that they just boiled and boiled until just the essence was left...he himself was very happy with the results. I wanted so badly to know just what to say and do to relieve his feelings, but I felt helpless.

It was so wonderful to see Marilou's sister Markie in Detroit at Ed Darling's Cruise. She is certainly a sweet, attractive and friendly girl. I felt as if I had always known her and begrudged all the time we were together and couldn't talk because of the meeting. Some "friends" thought they were doing me a favor to take care of us -- when all the time I wanted ~~km~~ only to be with the Hobolths...but my hands were tied. I surely look forward to our little visit in August.

On Tues. the 1x 25th we came here to Howard's -- what a wonderful place to be. Dr. & Mrs H just took us right in and the next day my parents arrived and were received just the same. It has really been a job to try to keep the 3 children doing what they should -- keep their clothes clean and their noses dry. Kathy and Stevie have each had a boil and the heat has been hard on them in every way....and me too. But we are Lookin Up.

Thursday we went to Phila for a private showing of "A Man Called Peter" Sam & I had met Mr. Duncan Boss of 20th Century on the 20th in NY and had made this arrangement. Those present were Dr. & Mrs. Howard, Mr. & Mrs. Castor (Sam's in-laws) Mr. Saint, Mr. Jaegers and Dr. Howard's brother, both from S.S. Times. There are many things to be said on the positive side -- but you already know those from having seen other Hollywood films -- ie. as to production, color, music, etc. It is two hours long and all of us wept. The young man who played the part of Peter Marshall reminded me so much of Jim. There were many scenes & words that reminded me of the fellows. I felt that their love affair was handled very nicely -- as well as family scenes with their little boy -- the scene of her surrender to God even if it meant being an invalid was precious...and I could go on and on but I felt that so many times he climbed right up to the climax -- right up to a fine opportunity to present the gospel and then backed off. One time he preached to the military -- he told a very touching story of a little boy who died...then he went on all about life after death for one who IS trusting Christ...and then he stopped. His first date with Kathryn was for dinner and a movie. He said to a friend "wishing you all good luck and happiness. ~~xxxxxx~~ Their entertainment in the canteen for soldiers (in the church) was just the same as what I used to see down town LA. even that could have been improved if they had gone from that to a period of spiritual refreshment as well. As Mrs. Marshall said -- there were little things she would have liked changed....me too. One place it showed the little boy and he said "Please don't let my daddy die" and it broke my heart. Well girls -- more power to Mrs. Marshall -- I think it is a wonderful Bilm -- but again I say -- it isn't for us as far as I am concerned. It might be that we wouldn't even have as much to say as she did -- and even if we did, it wouldn't be enough...and that is just one of many reasons why, I AM NOT FOR A DRAMATIC MOVIE...I HOPE I SHALL ALWAYS BE WILLING TO LISTEN TO REASONING ON THE OTHER SIDE ...& I'LL BE THE FIRST TO TELL YOU IF I EVER CHANGE MY MIND. Must close...it is very late and I'm very tired. we must tell the Hollywood

much love Mom  
people yes or no soon - Please cast your vote. I vote No



It is now the 19th and still the letter isn't in the mail to you. Hope it will reach you before next Mon -- so Barb and Betty's copies will go down on TAO.

I can see from rereading the first two pages that the material isn't too well organized but it came in the same order as the conversation. It is hard to discuss one type of movie and then switch to the other without some back-and-forth discussion. I will use the code Doc for documentary and Dra for dramatic and write in the margins of which one I am speaking...when it might be confusing.

I don't see how Sam has ever managed to keep us informed on that goes on. I find it difficult to find a time when I can sit down and think and type. There is so much going on -- and I want to be sure to tell you as much as I have written down and noted in my head

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...but the Lord has so blessed the film ministry recently that they are going into in an even greater way. I guess it goes without saying that they feel we have a responsibility to reach that group. Dick doesn't hesitate to voice his opinion very strongly that it is high time that the cause of missions is put before the public in a proper way...to both the church and unchurched...he feels this could be done with the story of the "5" both by the Doc. and Dra.

Dick feels it would take nothing short of miracles from God to make possible all that we would want in a Hollywood produced film...that if we did see those miracles there would be no doubt in our minds but ~~what~~ what it is His will that we go thru with it. Miracles such as their consent to give us the control we would ask for, the money, the right actors, etc.

It seems that everyone is concerned about the "controllers" of any film we have made. ~~From~~ They want to know if they are responsible to just the five of us -- or we 5 and Sam, or we 5 and Sam and other family and close friends. They of course don't want it to go past us and Sam.

Did I mention that if we do decide to have Dick Ross make a dramatic film after the Doc. film and release it thru the theaters -- that after 3 or 5 or 8 years at the very most, at whatever time it is "shelved" then of course it can be used in churches, schools, or anywhere.

This morning Duncan Ross of 20th Century called...he gave me a little pep talk on letting them make the picture...I have no trouble understanding the point of view of any of these people -- but neither do I have any trouble knowing that in my own mind, I'm not for a Dramatic movie produced either by Hollywood or a Christian outfit for release to theaters. I have no doubt but what 20th Century or Columbia or any other Hollywood producer would sincerely want to tell the right story, and leave the right subtle impressions...but I think ~~that~~ they are as far from us as the East from the West and they couldn't do it if they wanted to...no matter how hard they tried. Also, after hearing D. and Mrs. Marshall talk...as well as hearing of Sam's conversation with these producers...I believe just what they say -- that the minute the relations were the least bit strained they would of course just take over.... Yes, I am against it and in trying to at least have an open mind, I'm gaining impressions that make me even more so...the I do understand their point of view.

RE: MRS MARSHALL. I should begin by mentioning how very cordial she was to mix us on the phone. She kept insisting that we should feel free to phone her anytime and ask questions or if ever she could "run interference" for us she would be so glad to do so. Sam told her that we realized how busy she is and her Sec. finds it hard to keep up with all the demands on Mrs. M.'s time -- but she brushed it aside by saying that the Sec. probably exaggerated. Mrs. M. is writing another book. She said she had thoroughly enjoyed "Gates" and was more than happy to write her comments.

The following notes are from the phone conversation:

She realized the decision is great -- but God has promised to guide us. "For me it was a tremendous venture (Making Man called Peter) and truly I found out Christ went with me thru it." She was so surprised to find "Holly

wood so open to the spiritual things.



She suggested that Sam talk to some of the people "in the know" such as Dr. Ludquist of the Hollywood Pres Church or Dr. Louis Evans. She feels they could put us in contact with people who could help us. She again insisted that we feel perfectly free to call on her for help or use her name in contacting any of these people.

I see now that I used my last notes first -- so will go back to the beginning of the conv. Sam: "We are having our arm twisted by 20th Century Fox". They want Mrs. M. story to show what can be done.

Mrs. M: She began with the positive angle as she called it saying that after her experience she feels that we Christians are wrong to turn over a story to them and then criticize them for what they do. That she herself had always been very critical of them. But she found that they met her half way and took her in. They let her in on all screen play and script conferences and let her do other checking that they were not obligated to do. She feels that about 65% she was able to influence them. She said that we have a great God who can control even Hollywood. After they once started shooting she was not given any "say" -- and tho there are a few little things in the movie she doesn't like -- still she is satisfied with the finished product. She said it all comes back that if we have a green light from God, then He will see us thru. She found spiritual hunger in Hollywood. She felt "as she put it" "It was a miracle that they did put Christ in the script." She said "Don't turn it down hastily...it needs much prayer, thought, and investigation."

Before she went out the first time to talk to them...she wrote to all those who had sent her fan mail and asked them to pray. She said she tried to always "walk that difficult Christian line" -- she was critical of them, yet she tried to show them Christian love. She feels she got to really know the 20th Century people and again she would be so happy to help us.

On the negative side as she put it....xx producing a film requires some one to devote much time....it would be very difficult to get much guarantee from them (control)...what we get would be only by persuasion.

There you have it..... I certainly know how Sam ~~xxxx~~ has felt all these months ...just wishing he could talk to you in person.. and being greatly handicapped by the distance to Ecuador and slow mail. I think I know how you feel on certain little matters, yet I always explain to Sam and Dick that I feel we must always have definite word from you. Sam is not for the Hollywood produced movie -- but he has tried to keep an open mind -- and certainly isn't hesitating because of what it would involve for him. I have never dealt with anyone ~~xxxxxxx~~ who is more willing to "knock himself out" for the other fellow while holding down as many other responsible positions as he is. He keeps apologizing for not keeping us better informed...how could he? He certainly has a heart interest in all of us and all our problems -- and nothing seems too much to ask of him.

Dick Ross just called and wanted to know if I had any word from the girls -- he said he didn't want to needle me but an answer within two weeks would surely be what we need to give an answer to these people one way or the other -- at least he and Sam need to know our latest thoughts on the matter. The following statement is one that he dictated for me to send to you.. Signing this does not commit us one way or the other -- it only indicates to Dick that ~~xx~~ he isn't just one of several who are doing this same job. For "general release" means via the theaters. It means that he will talk to the big wheels on our behalf...report to us all the facts and possibilities and then we will make our decision.. but I am sure you can understand that he doesn't want to do this without being able to say to these same people that we have authorized him to do so. If you agree for him to do this and I think we should -- then would you sign this ~~xxxx~~ statement -- tear it off and mail it back to Sam as soon as possible -- in the meantime, will Barb and Betty please let Marilou know whether or not they are signing it so she can let us know for the three of you real soon. Also at your very earliest convenience please let us know how you lean on the Dramatic film -- considering both the Hollywood and Christian producers. Mary

BILLY GRAHAM EVANGELISTIC FELLOWSHIP, INC. DBA

ATTENTION: DICK ROSS

"BENTLEMENT PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT I GRANT TO WORLD WIDE PICTURES THE SOLE RIGHT TO REPRESENT ME IN EXPLORING A POTENTIAL DRAMATIC MOTION PICTURE MADE FOR GENERAL RELEASE. IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT ANY RESPONSES TO SUCH EXPLORATION WILL BE PRAYERFULLY EVALUATED AND DISPOSITION MADE OF IT AT THAT TIME"