

Attenton, Pa
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Dear Henry,

7/6/78

Hey, I'm really, really missing you a lot. I got a bad case of it. You sound like you're really busy there and it all sounds good. I'm trying to keep myself busy too - to keep from missing you, but it's not working - sorry I sound like this. I'll have to continue later when I'm in a cheerier mood.

LATER:

Thank you for the leaves you're sending me. It makes me feel much closer to you. I'm glad to hear that you're able to go fishing & play basketball - all things you like to do. No, I hadn't heard about your pie eating contest & your days off. Thanks for writing about it. I didn't realize that you got homework from your course. You're working really hard.

I just got home from Thurs. night volleyball - we missed you on our team. We lost almost all our games. It's a hot sticky night - I love it. Before volleyball, Carolyn & I played 2 sets of tennis (I won both) at Texler Jr High - we went right from work. It felt really good to play tennis. Last night, Vicki, Deanne & I went to the fireworks. They had been postponed from last night cause of the rain. They had 4 guys sky-dive down into the stadium - when they first jumped out of the plane they joined hands & made a star. It was real neat. When they jumped, it seemed like they'd never land where they were supposed to - but they did. I was lonely for you, here cause I saw all these people who were in love - with their arms around each other. It just made me sad - ya know? Do you know what I mean? (Jelly Bear) Are you using your towel?

So, how do you like it? Do you think your goals will be met? I bet it's good to know that you're in the Lord's will being up there working. I will pray for you - that you will open up. It's hard to pray when you don't really know the situation - maybe you could work more explaining what you mean.

Does being up there bring back memories of our arctic retreat? Playing ping-pong. Being at the ~~lake~~ lake, at the

pavilion? I think that new commitments were made this New Years up there - what do you think? I think we got much closer while we were up there. That weekend will stick in my mind for a long time.

Today at work I was really sad + I wanted to talk to you real bad. One of my patients died just shortly after I had taken her for a walk. The sad thing too was that all morning, I had gone in to do her and she kept making excuses, so I kept coming back (she was the type who never wanted to do anything). Real late in the morning I finally ~~was~~ able to get her to go with me but she was mad at me and said that I should just leave her alone. She walked real well, but then at lunch I heard 'EKT 320' (which was her room). When I went up later, I went by the room & her curtain was open a little + I could just see her face - she was dead, but her eyes were staring straight at me. It really upset me and I feel like maybe I was responsible for her death. I'm really confused about when I can push a patient + when I can't. Some are so unmotivated and if they refuse and I don't do them, the Dr's get mad at us and tell us to push them. It's such a strange situation sometimes. I guess I shouldn't blame it on myself but I can still picture her laying there looking at me + just before that I had seen her alive. Please pray for me if you think of it that I will be able to discern when someone is just making excuses and when they're really just too tired or sick to get up. Don't get me wrong - in most cases I can tell, but it is those very few that count + really bother me. A person can get really paranoid at that place.

Otherwise, work is going well. I really want to have good relationships with all my patients. They need someone to listen to ~~and~~ them. I especially like working on the 3rd floor with the older patients - they've lived through quite a lot and I think I should listen to them at least. I enjoy hearing about their lives. Some of them are really funny - the way they think.

I haven't heard anything from Chris + Ed lately. I guess they're pretty busy + don't have time to write. Did you write to them?

Everyone here is fine except Beth has been sick the past few days -
some kind of virus. We're all praying for you. By the way, is Steve
blessed up there? You haven't mentioned him. Did they get all the
counselors they needed? Did they get a nurse? Did you get
to ride the horses at all? That would be lots of fun. I never
did ride a horse.

I've been running everyday after work. I hadn't run on a while (about a week before you left). You know our day at Belzville is still fresh in my mind - I had a real good day that day. I feel real close to you.

I must admit that I'm really sick without you. I can't get over just how much I miss you, though. I'm not very brave, Henry so don't be disillusioned. I know I won't be truly happy until I can see you again & you hold me. I long for that. I can't wait Do you feel at all the way I feel? (I'm just curious to know how you feel - if you don't it's O.K.) I feel so far away only being able to write to you and not talk freely to you. When I write letters, I can't explain myself and it is so easy for you to misunderstand. I don't mean anything really when I ask if you know what I mean or if you feel the way I do. I'm just used to talking to you and having you respond to me right away. Just want you to know that you are constantly in my thoughts & prayers. Don't worry about me, I'll be alright.

Are they taking good care of you up there? I hope you
can get more sleep, babe. You'll get used to it (the noise).
Everyone here really liked your letter. I read it to them &
they all are excited for you. I must go cause it's getting
late. I hope I see you soon cause I love you and
love you, Valerie I miss you (Everything about you)