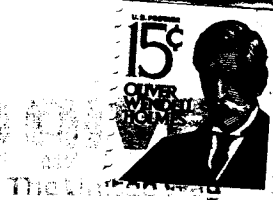


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Dear Babe,

9/23/78

Hello. Such a pretty day here! Wow, is it nice. Great running day for me. I feel great except for one thing - you're not here. I've been really missing you these last few days. The cure is -
① get Henry ② hold him in your arms ③ kiss him all over ④ spend the night together. I know - I got it bad right?

Listen to this beautiful poetry →

"Let the sea roar and all it contains, the world and those who dwell in it. Let the rivers clap their hands. Let the mountains ping together for joy before the Lord!"

That's Psalm 98:7-9. I love the way that's worded. I remember, my English teacher at KCC used to use the Bible a lot to show examples of good poetry - he wasn't a believer but - see the Lord ever knows good English!

Did you hear or read about the guy who ran from Harrisburg to Pittsburg (103.8 miles) - 4 days - sponsored by the American Heart Assn. To raise money for research of heart disease. I guess a whole group of people ran, too. This one guy is 51. That puts me to shame - 10 miles!

These past 2 days (Thurs + Fri) have really been something I don't even want to write it in a letter. I had felt far from the Lord (not that He was far from me). It wasn't even deliberate but I just didn't feel His presence because of the things I was doing. I'll explain when I talk with you - it's something I just can't write. But last night and today - I was real close with Him - I really talked with Him and asked forgiveness and then I felt very clean and I felt His presence. I hated being far from Him. I felt secure again when I felt His presence again. I just always want to be close to Him just like I always wanna be close with you. I feel close to you now because of prayer. It's so good to know that God is taking care of you guiding your every step. He cares for you so very much. I'm glad He knows everything about me and I can share all my secrets with Him. He wants me

to be close to Him and tell ~~me~~ everything that's on my mind. He knows when I'm hurting ^{him} and he calms me. I just really like it this way. I know you experience it the same way, but it's so new to me. For some reason, before I never thought the Lord was always close to me (I knew he was there somewhere but I thought He only came close to you when you prayed.) But now I find that all day I can just be with Him and feel His strength without even really praying. It doesn't have to be formal. Thanks for listening to me and letting me share that. I think I didn't really understand how to 'walk with the Lord and be in fellowship with Him' until just recently. Already, I can see a reason for your being away - it took that for me to understand that very important principle but now I know when we're together to stay - I'll still know that closeness and I don't think we'll have problems ~~like~~ like before. When I'm yielding to Him sometimes there's things that happen that don't even get me mad. He just calms me as if to say 'It's alright - rest in me and don't get upset.' It's not that I never get mad (you know that's impossible for me - huh?) but I'm submissive to Him and there's some things He just doesn't want me to get mad about. I mean - you know how such little things used to get me mad - well I feel I'm maturing a little that way. It's useless to get upset over some things and I feel ashamed of the things that used to get me mad and how I reacted - like a spoiled little brat. When I think of things like that I always think - wow He must have some kind of love for me. I would think that would've scared you away - seeing what a mess I was. But that's my old nature - I want the Lord to constantly change me and make me more like Him. Ok, I hope I'm not just rambling on. I hope I'm making sense to you. It's difficult to write

I must say, I'm so anxious for you to come home I almost have trouble falling asleep at night - I just get so happy inside and I think I fall asleep with a smile on my face - hugging my pillow

HEU ← pillow I just don't want to be too anxious about it because when you have to leave - I don't know what I'll do cause Christmas is a long way off. Well, I better just live for now and not be anxious for tomorrow. (But I still am excited)
 about being with you.

I'm pure glad Tom's getting married!

Speaking of Tim - I got them a set of Corelle ware. It's a 20 pc. setting for 4 people with 8 plates, bowls, saucers, cups. It's woodland brown - the design that is. ^{Knechtin + large plates} I thought that would go nice in their yellow kitchen. It was a real deal - 20.⁰⁰ regular 30.⁰⁰ plus Beth's discount from Hess's it was 15.⁹⁹ - CHEAPO! I thought even if she already has china or anything - they can always use an extra set of dishes. Hope it's O.K. with you, babe. It's not original - like Chris + Ed's clock but that's cause you're not here. See how you compliment me. I also got a shower gift for Judy Tyson - Patty's having a shower for her on Mon - Oct 2nd. I got her tea towels for the kitchen and some dish cloths.

Well, I'm back to taking worn pills again. Dr. Carpenter wasn't satisfied with my lab results. I'm disappointed - I thought they were good - did you? I don't know what bothers me - it just seems like I'm unhealthy cause I have to take pills. You - well another 2 mos. supply.

Today was a real busy Sat. at work. Lots of new orders and it just wasn't quiet like other Sat's. The phone kept ringing and people kept coming in. A girl (one of the nurses daughters) came in to go around with us today cause she's thinking of going into P.T. She's in 10th grade now and she was so interested - asking a lot of questions and I wanted to answer them all and show her things - but it slowed me down on my work. It was a good day though - and then when I run - it ~~let~~ lets me release some ^{of the} tension of the day. I can unscramble some things from my mind, then. It's so relaxing to run and look at the beautiful day. Trexler Park was just like a picture today. The grass was so green and looked so soft and the sun shining through the trees reflecting on the water. The sky real blue with puffy white clouds - really great. I know I was smiling as I ran - couldn't help it!

Well, babe I'm gonna go and write somewhere tomorrow. Sleep tight.

Sunday night,

Hi. I just watched the movie 'The Other Side of the Mountain' and like before I really cried, only more because you're not here. Remember - we saw it at the Plaza on your birthday. I miss you tonight and I just feel like holding you and making love to you. I guess you know that feeling too, huh? 11 days till your homecoming. Seems like an eternity when I look ahead now. It'll be great! You are so special to me. It's weird what it would take your leaving to find out just how special you are and how big a part of my life you are. I know when you come home, ~~then~~ then I'll feel completed and totally happy.

Today was a good day. I rode your ~~old~~ bike and ran today. I was sluggish today while I ran. I felt weak and achy for some reason. I only ran 2 3/4 miles. Guess it was just a bad day - I got them every once in awhile. I figured instead of pushing it, I'd rest and go tomorrow. So I just rode around on your bike awhile taking in the beauty of the day - it smelled so fresh out there today. It reminded me of when you played basketball outside at church and then you'd come over to my house afterward. You always smelled real fresh like outside. I always get emotional over stuff like that. Imagine - crying over a smell. But stuff like that's important to me.

It's strange that running has become so important to me. I think about it so much. When I'm at work sometimes I look out the window and think 'I wish I was out there running'. It's like all I wanna do is run. I feel so good lately (cept' for today) and I think it's cause of running. It's great that I don't have problems with my legs. They never get sore - the muscles that is. Sometimes my knees really hurt, but I never wake up and have my muscles feel sore. And I feel loose all the time. I don't get tight at all. I'm glad for that.

In church today - Marvin Rosenthal spoke. He was really great. He's with 'Friends of Israel' missionary work. He spent lunch with us and he was really nice to be with. He encouraged me in my running. He said I looked like a runner. I took it as a great compliment. I don't know if it was meant to be one, but I wish he

Was good to talk with.

Tonight Vicki + I played our duet at church (guitar + flute)
We played 'Alleluia' from John Fisher's 'The New Covenant':
'Do this and love, the law commands
but gives me neither feet nor hands
A better way His grace doth bring
He bids me fly and gives me wings':

It's a pretty song. It went alright. Everyone came up to us afterwards and were real encouraging to us. Patty said 'Henry should have heard that'.

Hen, I'm enclosing \$22.00. 15.00 is from me and 7.00 is from that book you sold. I really wish I could have sold more of your books. I have them under my bed - wrapped in plastic - so they'll stay in good shape. Will try next fall semester. Praying you have enough money.

'Thou dost open Thy hand, and dost satisfy the desire of every living thing'. Psalm 145:16

Henry, I'm doing OK here, so you have nothing to worry about. My only problem is missing you and I won't stop missing you till I'm with you. I can't wait for Oct 6th. Let me know what time you're coming in and where I'll see you. Should I just come by myself or what?

I love you, babe. You're great! Thanks.

Val
Val & HE

'For He gives us His beloved even in his sleep'

Ps 127:2d.