

I'm trying to get
away from using that
word so much too.

Friday 12/8/78

Israel,

Hello. I sure do miss you a lot. Was so good to get your letter and hear you'd be home so soon! I'm having a hard time waiting & being patient. It's hard to wait for a good thing. Everytime I think about you - I feel so content & secure & happy. See what you do to me. I feel really privileged to know you & that you love me. I don't deserve to have it a good.

Well, here, end of the week already. It went fast - I've been pretty busy. I called tonight & helped out in the nursery. I had 3 kids - one baby who cried the whole night. Sarah Akers was with there. She is so sweet - I love her. She's just real happy - she's content with everything. She's really a cute little girl - big blue eyes, always smiling. I had a fun time playing with her. Up & down the sliding board all night. I was thinking that probably the reason she's so happy is cause of her parents. They seem so good to her and they love each other and Sarah must sense that feeling of love. I think that's neat.

It's hard to believe you've had so much snow and it's cold cause here, it's been 50-60° very unusual for Dec. We haven't had any more snow. Next week, it's supposed to get cold though. Glad your homemade scarf is coming in handy.

Being at a snowy lake sounds nice - like the place I'd like to be with you (alone)

Hen, I'd be interested to read your composition on Lord of the Flies. What characters did you compare - contrast? You continually amaze me at how you can write something up so quick - and have it be quality stuff. I respect & admire you for that. You've helped me out in that - I remember when I had term papers to do. You're so filled with knowledge, it just seems to come so easily for you. I look up to you for so many things I hope you don't feel threatened by my dependence on you. I look to you as my spiritual leader and I find that you are the greatest. I also realize my responsibility in that I must be teachable and open, but for me, that's easy. I like to have you teach me things and I truly respect what you say - sometimes almost too much, cause then I don't think for myself.

It's funny that you write about the article in Moody Monthly 'Crucifying self' cause I had just read that before I got your letter. I thought it was good. I like that magazine - most of the articles are good.

Babe, I don't know about the registration for the retreat. I'd like to pay for both of us - but I don't know when the money has to be in

try. I expect that John will give them to me
Saturday. If you want, you can send it in and I'll
pay you back or you can wait and I'll do it.
Do whatever.

Last night I went over to Cindy's to watch 'Coma'
on Home Box. It wasn't quite as exciting seeing it the
second time cause it wasn't as suspenseful.
She had a few people over. It was an OK time.
Work is going much better. The Lord has been
dealing with me in this and I'm finding that
as I ask Him to change me and show me where
I'm doing wrong, I feel much happier. I'm still
not at complete peace about where I am, but He's
giving me the strength to endure and I know He'll
show me more up at the retreat. A lot of the
things that were conflicting I found was me -
my attitude was wrong. I responded wrongly
to the way I was treated. I felt convicted
about the way I handled things when they grieved
me or when I was treated unjustly. Each day
now I must do things AS UNTO THE LORD, NOT
AS MEN-PLEASERS and I've found that Judy +
my relationship has improved. We're very different
in a lot of things, but we get along now. Before
I was trying as much as possible to avoid her,
but now I don't need to do that. The Lord
gives strength for each situation. It's pretty
great to see

We have our department decorated for Christmas real nice. We're in the door decorating contest. We decorate our door and then on Dec 19, they're judged. We covered our door with red foil and put red + gold garland around the edge. Andy + I went up to the mall yesterday after lunch (we've been not busy with patients) and went to the craft showcase. We bought this wicker wreath and then we wove red ribbon through it and put branches + pine cones in the middle - really different and pretty. Then we hung it on the door. It's nice. Hope we won a prize - it's not something you would usually see. So that was fun to do. We've been clearing up the department getting rid of stuff we don't need or use. We want to make room for another treatment table.

Well, babe, I'll tell you, the Lord is showing me that I must learn to be content in every circumstance. He doesn't want me to just be happy and at peace during 'good' times, but also when my plans are changed, when something fails or when I'm lonely, ~~and~~ And if I just ask Him to, He'll provide the strength and give me a peace. I know, cause He's proved it to me. I want to be pleasing to Him. I want Him to make me kind, and gentle to all people and I can - only by Him. I'm finding out just how sinful + selfish I naturally am

All along I was blind to it - how I treated others
and reacted to things - not that I sometimes
don't now, but He's changing me.

Oh babe I wish you were here I want to hold you
close to me and be a part of you - I want to
smell you and kiss you. You're so attractive
and I love to share in your love, and I want
to share everything I have with you.
Whatever I have, babe - it's yours.
Not because I'm trying to win your love, but
because there's nothing I want more than
to give you myself and all I have. It makes
me happy to give to you.

I love your letters, I read them so often - They're
so much of you in there - love it. I'm so thankful
for how good you are to me. You're my babe.

I like the verse Is 52:12 which is a security
to me that the Lord always has been through
whatever we go through and He's also behind us
and protecting us while we go through it.

But you will not go out in haste
Nor will you go as fugitives
For the Lord will go before you
And the God of Israel will be
your rear guard.

Loving you whatever
[redacted] Valerie