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Date: Sun, 10 Sep 2000 21:29:57 -0500
Subject: Thanks!

Dear Martha & Phil

I abandoned writing the messages about my trip. I ***almost never*** received any reply. As you know, I had about 35 people on the list -- and some never sent a single comment (after their initial indication that they wanted to be included). I worked on making the trip details interesting. I also worked at making the message grammatically correct, etc., etc. because I didn't know whom they would forward to, etc., etc.

Sometimes it would be a week between times that I was able to access my e-mail. I'd have one hundred "junk" mail and ***maybe*** one personal message. I figured I wasn't really someone that folks gave any thought to. Truthfully, I've felt very lonely!!! Rarely any e-mail messages of a personal nature. Almost ***never*** a personal phone call. (My sons don't even send e-mail or phone!!!)

My trip has been "spectacular"!!!!!!! It is amazing how many things have happened to and for me. God is so personal -- and intimately involved with my life!!! Before I left Lancaster County, PA, the first time (for Roanoke, VA), I heard a still small voice saying "Come away with me to a quiet place." Then, He (God) arranged for me to spend 12 days at an absolutely remarkable property near Roanoke. Woods with paths carved through the trees; benches along the paths; a gazebo; a salt lick where deer stood around and gave me a nod. A beautiful butterfly came and sat on my right hand for over ten minutes (I lost track of time). I heard a still small voice saying "You know I've been intimately involved with your life. I'm touching you. I'm right here; you can see me; I'm touching you." The following Sunday, the Church bulletin had a butterfly on the cover and the words "That you might believe."

Back in Lancaster County, PA, I had several valuable genealogy days with a remarkable family history contact person. Back in Lancaster County, PA, I joined (prearranged) an Old German Baptist Brethren (OGBB) History Tour. We were on a big sightseeing bus that took us to locations around Pennsylvania where the early Brethren have meaningful locations. We staying in luxury hotels and ate delicious meals!!! My companions (over 40) were all OGBB and, as I've often said, they treat me like "family."

I don't know whether I had a word from the Lord but I felt compelled to write a letter to a man who spoke to the OGBB History Tour twice. He is a "cousin" of mine that has a very high position at the Church of the Brethren College in Elizabethtown, PA. The first night of our tour, he (David) showed slides and told of the early beginning of the Brethren in Europe. During a question and answer session, David was asked the question: "Where does that leave the Church of the Brethren." His immediate response: "Lost." The men on the bus -- and Lorraine -- discussed that comment at length, the next day. "If he believes the Church of the Brethren is lost, why does he stay?"

David spoke to us again the last day of our tour -- in his workplace. In a separate building at Elizabethtown College, some distance from the main buildings, there is a replica of a Brethren Meetinghouse, a Museum and offices. At that location they have the "Young Center for the Study of Anabaptist and Pietist Groups" -- and David is the director.

It's a very long story (and I'll get back to you with the details if you

are interested). After I left the Young Center, I felt compelled to write a letter to David. I gave him my e-mail address but he has not responded.

I have had more experiences than I can tell about in one writing. I have lots of pictures!!! I thought I would stop by Prescott on my way back to California and tell the details of my trip and show pictures. OK???? It will probably be mid-October....

Right now I am in Goshen, Indiana. I'm using the computer of my "cousin" OGBB host and hostess. I think Satan wants to keep me from getting messages -- or just attempt to defeat me -- because my laptop has gone "kaput."

This was the first day of the Escapees RV organization "Escapade" and I was walking around with a big sign that was warning RVers to double check their insurance coverage because they might get "ripped off" by their insurance company. I was warned that I was opening myself for a law suit by Good Sam (RV organization) and/or GMAC ins. I said: "They can't get blood out of a turnip. I have thousands of dollars debt; I have no savings; I have no RV that they could attach." ***I'll continue my crusade all week!***

I've been asked to give a ten minute testimony one day this week at the Christian "Birds of a Feather" (BoF) group of Escapees. I've started a brief outline and it will be about God's blessings to me on this trip -- despite the accident. I'll weave the details with scripture verses from Psalm 118. It will be about God's blessing and not a blow-by-blow narrative about the accident and the hassle with the insurance company. Pray for me that I have a powerful testimony. Yes, the group is Christian but maybe I need to reach one person with the fact that God wants to be intimately involved in their life.

I have several more stops before I head back to Arizona and California. I've added several stops that came unexpectedly my way. There's a FRANTZ reunion that I knew nothing about and I've been told to "Bring my books." It is a mid-day dinner cruise on the largest lake in Indiana!! After that I have to backtrack to Ohio to see the progress on relocation of the five tombstones. I want pictures of the newly relocated stones but I doubt that the monument will be delivered until sometime after I've gone.

Pray that the little 1984 Ford Escort makes the trip to California. Satan will probably mess with the little car too!!!!

Well, more than enough info for one night!!!! I had intended to go to bed early because I have to leave here at 6:30 a.m. for Christian BoF at 7 o'clock. I came in the door and checked the e-mail -- and have been on the computer ever since. It's almost 9:45.

Love from Lorraine