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Letter from Julia to family May 19, 1942

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La Paz, May 19th

Dear Family mine in the U.S.,

It has been more than 2 weeks since we have heard from you and about that long since I have written so I suppose I'd better jot down a few lines again. I guess the last time I wrote we were having visitors from the U.S. Since then we have entertained visiting missionaries from Cochabamba and also from the South of the Republic and are looking for the representative of the British & Foreign Bible Soc. sometime next week. We all keep well and working hard. Helen is still here with us and feeling well too. This week & next she is doing the teaching all day in the Indian School here on the property. She gave the Allison children a two weeks vacation as they were getting pretty tired. They teach all day & go to night school for their education. They don't get home at night until after 11 o'clock every night, so it is kind of hard on them. Dorcas is a lovely looking & acting too young woman. So graceful & courteous and dresses so nicely! She has had several proposals of marriage this she's only 18, but all from young men who are not Christians. It is a real problem for the parents, but she has to finish her education first. There are no young men of her class here in this Indian congregation either. She's very sensible & obedient tho' so does it make it hard for her folks. Tho' I feel sorry for her as she has no young companionship at all among Christian young people of her class. Donnie's school course arrived at last (the last half) so he is busy again with his studies. I will have to keep him at it pretty steadily from now on as he has 3½ months yet of school to finish this year. He lost so much time waiting on the mails. We get very little mail now. I guess everybody is discouraged about writing on account of the irregularity of mails, but it does get there if they only understood. We had a big robbery here in the Customs House. Thousands of Bolivians of goods & packages were stolen by the employees themselves. They finally uncovered the ring of accomplices and think they have recovered most of the goods, but the Customs House has been closed a long time & things in a great mix-up. We are afraid we have lost our order from Mont. Ward & some movie film that is long overdue and some birthday shops for Howard & Donny from his mother! I never got any roll with stuff from Mrs. Hinkle, as you said you sent either. Donny looks every mail day for more funny papers & books. He reads so much we can't keep him in reading matter. Our salary doesn't stretch as it did last term

we hardly have enough for food and nothing left over for anything else. I don't know what we will do when vacation time comes around and we have to take a vacation. We can't seem to get anything put aside. But the Lord knows and He has never let us suffer or want anything that we need yet, so we are not worrying. I am not telling you this for sympathy. I was just rambling along without thinking & you needn't tell any one else. We luckily brought clothes enough along so don't need much extra but food. Ha! Ha! only Donny.

We have gone out each Sunday since I last wrote to different parts of the field to try to help out a little, always taking some Native ^{seriously} to Ha! Ha! It makes one's heart ache to see the need of the field and be able to do so little about it. Every place we go they just beg us to return often and help them but we can only touch some points once in 3 or 4 months the field is so large. There are so many places we have never been yet that we want to evangelize too for the first time, but it takes most of our spare time visiting the points where we already have some work. Two weeks ago we went to a place where a mission ^{any} had never been. One man was converted at another point, so went back to this community (his) and preached to his neighbors as a result 3 whole families were converted and he has been trying to gather them together as best he could for meetings. Now they are building themselves a little chapel and a place for visiting missionaries and brethren to stay - the hopes somebody can be sent to them to help them. It is a broad thickly populated valley full of opportunity for the Gospel. Twenty of us gathered for meeting under the hot tropical sun and ~~at~~ cold lake breezes - an open patio. One old woman sang the Lord & knelt - the open on the ground & was saved. We played the piano accordion & sang & preached and all got a good coat of sunburn & windburn, but it was worth it. Now we wish we had someone to send them! So it goes. We expect to go to the Cordillera to the ^{tin} mine where we have a group of believers next week. I think we will leave Donny here with Helen as it is a hard trip by mule up into the Mts. ice & snow. It is getting colder now. Last night the frost got my nasturtiums - manjolls beans etc. We need a fire in the evenings every night. We have contracted for some eucalyptus wood for the fireplace. If it comes, it will help in the heating problem. I figured the other day I was spending \$30 a day just for cooking alone. That is worse than there is the U.S. & we never hear from Joe, so know nothing of what goes on in missionary board. He doesn't write as cheerful as he used to. Glad Daddy feels better give him my love -