

Levi Pennington

People

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8-30-1965

## Levi Pennington To Parvin and Cornelia Bond, August 30, 1965

Levi T. Pennington  
*George Fox University*

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August 30, 1965.

Dear Friends:--

When birthday greetings began to arrive some ten days ago, I started to acknowledge each of them with a personal letter, thinking that there might be dozens or even scores, but with no idea as to how many hundreds there would be, from many states and from across the water.

Answering each of them with a personal letter seems out of the question unless I had a secretary or two -- or more -- who would do nothing but take dictation and run a typewriter. But word from the Bonds, and especially a book of prayers by Michel Quoist. What a book it is! I have not yet read much of it, but enough to know that it is good and that it will be very good for me.

Wish I could tell you what a wonderful time have been the past seven days. A week ago today the Rotary Club, of which I have been an honorary member from year to year, had a "Levi Pennington Day"; nine folks made speeches in which they gave me more praise than a man could reasonably hope to earn in a hundred years. They made me an honorary member for life, and gave me a pin to prove it. And they gave me the biggest and the most highly decorated birthday cake that I ever saw, with more words of appreciation.

Sunday, which was my birthday, we had a family dinner at which those present were Mary, my older daughter, and her husband, from Greene, New York; Bertha May and her husband and two daughters, from Portland; my niece from Detroit, Michigan; and a cousin and his wife from Rolling Hills, California.

And in the afternoon the Alumni of Pacific-George Fox College had "open house" in Pennington Hall on the campus, named in honor of Rebecca and me, at which some 250 people came to offer their congratulations and good wishes.

And greetings, many of them in the form of letters of love and appreciation and commendation, are still coming in. I came back today after an absence of two days, and found more than 25 belated greetings, some of them among the most touching that I have received at all.

You may be sure that there were not many greetings from friends I have loved as long as I have loved you, and not many whose love and friendship are prized as highly as yours.

With love and best wishes always,

Sincerely your friend,

Parvin and Cornelia Bond,  
Friends House,  
Quaker Hill Drive,  
Richmond, Indiana.