

Levi Pennington

People

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1-31-1966

## Levi Pennington To Mrs Louise Owen, January 31, 1966

Levi T. Pennington  
*George Fox University*

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January 31, 1966.

Dear Louise:--

Your letter of the 26th arrived Saturday, but with it came a man who stayed longer than I expected him to. I had laid the letters down when he came in, and when he left I do not remember just what called me away, and I forgot the letters entirely. A letter from your father was in the same mail with yours, and I have just got his letter read and answered.

Glad you had such a good trip to Kansas, and hope that your other trips may be just as satisfactory.

I'm glad that Robert has decided to stay another year where he is teaching this year. It may be a foolish prejudice, but when a man stays only one year in the place where he teaches his first year, there is a suspicion in the minds of some that he did not make good there, even if his new job in another place is a definite promotion; and as you say, he can do more good the second year than he did the first.

The minds of a great many people are engaged in "Focus on Viet Nam", whether they attend lectures and discussions on the subject or not. Many people who are not Friends agree with Friends that war is bad, but when it comes to a particular, such as World War I, a war to end war, well this war is different, and it gets their complete support. Now there are many who consider war the indispensable recourse in some cases, but, but this war is different, and they denounce it, oppose it, and some face court martial or worse rather than go into it. We shall hope that soon matters may be settled at the council table before another world conflict wipes many millions from the face of the earth. For the first time in human history the human race has the power to annihilate itself.

I'd like to read Slaughter's "Upon This Rock." Simon Peter has been something of a favorite hero from "Quo Vadis" on. I preached a sermon with him as the theme once on a time when I filled the pulpit during an absence of our pastor, and so many were interested in it that I wrote a book-length manuscript, "Simon Peter -- an Autobiography", as if Peter was in prison and facing his death, and wrote this to Theophilus, as Luke wrote his gospel and the Acts. If you know a publisher who would like to publish this book, with a \$5,000.00 bonus and a 15% royalty on all sales, just make the sale and I'll give you an adequate commission. (If you make that sale, I'll give you a chance to sell two or three other books for me, "The Lost Road to Paradise", "The Passing of the Ashland Foursome" and "Fishers of Men" for a starter.)

"How to Be the Lord's Prayer" should be a stimulating work. One could agree with the author's thesis that it is our duty to help answer our own prayer, to be the Lord's prayer, as he expresses it, without going the whole way with him and saying that this is not a prayer. "Give us", "Forgive us", "Lead us", "Deliver us" -- these seem very much in the nature of prayer to

me when addressed to the Almighty. But you are right and Norman K. Elliott is right, living that prayer transforms the life of the individual, and it would transform the world if the world lived it -- it would work a mighty change if much less than the whole world lived it.

But there are still quite a flock of letters yet to answer, and if things go as usual the postman will bring some more today -- Tuesday is usually a pretty fruitful day along that line. It seems to me that the mail carriers must start out Monday morning before all the mail of Saturday and Sunday has been distributed.

With love to all three of the folks at 688 Collingwood,

Your uncle,

Mrs. Ellsworth C. Owen,  
688 Collingwood Avenue,  
Detroit, Michigan. 48202.

*[Faint, illegible text, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]*