

Mohulla Islamabad
Leiah, Diest. Maffargarh
February 7, 1958

Dear Mother:

At long last I'm sitting down with all of your letters, to try to answer your questions. But first of all, we just received on Sunday the fourth package you sent, so now we've had all four. This was such a nice one. I especially enjoyed the gum-drops--they are among my favorite candies and no one but you ever thinks of sending them. It was good to get the pressure ring, too, for ours is beginning to look stretched out. It still works, but it is better to have a spare on hand when they get that look. The second pair of pants for Clyde was in them. They fit well--will have to be shortened a little, but that is all. We both like the color, and the material. Incidentally, I got the first pair "cuffed" properly, and last time we went to Multan he wore them (the expensive part orlon ones) with that nice tan shirt. Everyone there commented on how nice he looked. Neither the shirt or trousers seems to muss at all from wear. I was very pleased with them. The jam came through well, too. Customs had opened the parcel, but the plastic bags were still around things, and the cloth still around the jam, so nothing was damaged, and nothing missing. All your packages have been in good shape when they reach us.

Now for your letters--I don't wonder you get mixed up. I've laughed at Clyde about writing you one thing in one letter, and then something else until you couldn't possibly know what he wants, and then by time you have it in the mail he's changed his mind twice anyhow. I think you do very well at keeping up with us, and only hope we aren't causing you too much trouble or expense.

Of course you have our Montgomery order now, as you've written, so some things are already answered, but I'll just go through each letter anyhow. I agree with you on the bathrobe. I have a cotton housecoat (short) which is all I need, but my warm robe is about ten years old now, and beyond mending. I prefer the short ones for two reasons--easier to launder, and don't drag on these poor floors. But I did want a warm one--need it for both Murree and winters here. I like quilted cotton as well or better than chenille, but don't like anything I can't belt in when I want too, in fact I originally had picked out a fitted one. But that wouldn't be so good for Murree when I was pregnant, so I settled for one which could be worn either way. Clyde doesn't need any white shirts--he has plenty, and there you sent wash and iron nicely. Actually, laundry isn't as much of a problem as he thinks it is. We have the hand washing machine, and I have the cook do all the carrying of water, and shaking the machine. I don't mind ironing--all I ask is something not too difficult. Clyde can iron shirts I guess, but I'll bet I've ironed his ever since he first arrived more than he ever did--he sure hates ironing. The big thing is to have something which washes without much fussing. The things you sent are fine for that. And of course it's much nicer not to have to do much ironing.

I'm very glad you mailed the good maternity dress. I've made one skirt already (haven't put the hem in yet, or buttons on, but it's finished other than that), and will be making more soon, also some smocks. I borrowed a pattern from one of the other girls out here that is my size. Here on the plains, especially as it gets hotter, just these cotton skirts and blouses will be all I want, but I do want something nicer for Murree--there are so many Americans there, and we all go to church together, of course. They dress much better than we do here. The dress sounds real pretty. Dry cleaning can be done in Murree, they do a good job. There is none here in Leiah, and there are shops in Multan, but I've rather thought when I sent things that they wash them--and I could wash them more carefully than they do. So I don't send any except in Murree, but I won't need to the maternity things, so that doesn't matter. I'm sure I can use the pink and grey flannel blouse you mention, too, and the skirts of Letha's. The flannel will be fine for Murree--houses there are often cold, and sweaters over maternity clothes look so sloppy. The cottons (skirts) will be good for here. In hot weather I sweat so much I change often, so a good supply of house clothes is necessary. One of our other missionaries, also about my size is having a baby in April, and has said that as soon as she is out of her maternity clothes I can use them. She has some very nice ones which were sent out from the States (this is their first baby, too), and one of the other girls has offered me old smocks. So with what you have sent now, and the one I ordered, I should have lots, not only for hot weather here, but too keep nice for Murree.

You can see from the order that I do want nursing bras. I certainly

John Phillips gave me a recipe for yeast which works very well. I'm slowly learning to bake better bread.

BY AIR MAIL

AEROGRAMME

IF ANYTHING IS WRITTEN ON IT
THIS SIDE IT WILL BE SENT
BY ORDINARY MAIL

Mrs. Richard Johnson

R. F. D. #2

White City, Kansas

U. S. A.

Sender's name and address

Friday-Mohalla Talambud

Lahor, Distt. Muzaffargarh

West Pakistan

Third fold here

expect to nurse my baby. It's so much better and easier, and anyhow, I want to. I thought there would be plenty, as I can always wash them out separately, and it would give me one to be laundering, one to be wearing, and an extra. Nurse is often so damp in August that things take 24 hours to dry, or I would have just got two.

We can get either cow's milk, or buffalo milk, although the latter is more common. Babies seem to do well on either, usually have to add a little water to the ~~xxxx~~ buffalo's milk, as it's very rich. Of course either has to be boiled carefully. Then if there is some special difficulty, we can buy tins of English powdered milk, and special baby formulas. They are awfully expensive, but it wouldn't be any worse than having it mailed out from home. Most folks never need it, but it's nice to know that if you should have a baby that needs special treatment or food it is available. Baby foods aren't available, but you can buy the same baby vitamin drops used so widely at home. I have a good "food-saver" which mixes up foods, and lots of strainers and sieves, etc. It's easy enough to put vegetables through that. The baby is cooking at a good time, for by the time he is big enough to need vegetables, so I can cook and strain a couple of days' supply at once it should be easy, and I'm not going to order cans from home. I think it's a silly waste of money, even there, although of course it is convenient.

You asked if nurse was cool or hot--the trouble is sometimes it is one, sometimes the other. If the rains come early, and are heavy it's usually cold, and the houses haven't heated once, so they get real damp, and are awfully drafty and chilly. That was why I ordered both kinds of shirts. Some seasons a baby wouldn't need long sleeves, and I suppose with little sleeves it might not anyhow, but it can be very, very cold, and I guess I'm actually old fashioned about a baby, but I don't like not having sleeves on them if it is cold. The same with hands. I know lots of people don't use them, but I'd hate to give the baby a cold, cough, and

