

**B** A LETTER FROM VERNER VERASS TO JULIA FENDERSON

Chicago  
17th Oct. 1978  
Tuesday

Dear Julia,

Peace and blessings, and greetings from a traveller. You are probably recently returned from your own adventure in Israel. I would enjoy to hear how it was.

My journey is developing nicely, now moving into its third month, and corresponding third U.S. State. Initially I spent one-and-one-half months in Wisconsin, and enjoyed the many rural aspects it had to offer, farming, and canoing or trekking through the wilderness. I managed to attend the regular meetings of the Wisconsin Study Group at Paul and ~~Zepel's~~ Zepel's house in Wasau. Now I am just a day away from travelling

on. I have been in Chicago nearly three weeks, and have done the rounds of the many study groups here, as well as frequently coming ~~to visit~~ to visit 533. Christy put me to good use, and had me shampoo the carpet in her office, and upstairs kitchen. I have seen many examples of the fine architecture this city has to offer, as well as the beautiful exhibitions within the many monumental museums. ~~I have seen~~

By this weekend I intend to be in Ft. Wayne Indiana, visiting Meredith Sprunger; then, on to Vermont. On the way I ~~intend to visit~~ intend to visit some friends of the family in New York State.

It's a useful education I am receiving, taking part in different Study Groups. I can observe a need for the Study Group structure to be flexible enough to accommodate the new reader; there are ~~xxx~~ so many sections in the Book that "first timers" can easily relate

to, whether their backgrounds be religious or not. I have noticed the confusion of ~~xxx~~ multiple questions arising, when an established group sticks to a methodical approach. For a person to take the initiative to come along to a study group is ~~xxxx~~ quite a step in itself. It is important to make this person feel relaxed, and not overwhelmed by intellectual sophistries of holders of "superior ~~xxxxxxx~~ knowledge."

I can safely say, in every group I have attended, there has been a warmth of social kinship. The reading itself has been colourfully complemented by conversations over tea and cookies, or other ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ refreshments.

The presence of prayer within groups also varies; some groups begin with a silence, others have a member express a verbal prayer, still others incorporate prayer with grace when the group gets together for an evening meal before the reading, and some say no prayer...just call the group together and begin.

~~By~~ My guitar has been a faithful companion <sup>and</sup> friend maker. Everywhere people respond favourably to music, and most places I go there is someone else of no small musical ability to provide an instant band, and get everybody singing along. By the time I get to California I should have quite an expanded repertoire. I know you have some of Francyl's songs, which I am keen to learn. All along, I have discovered Americans are very interested in Australia, and when I sing the Australian folk songs I know, they go across very well. At the top of this letter I drew an Australian ~~Bush~~ bush band in action, complete with tea chest bass, guitar, flute, lagerphone, and bones. The lagerphone is a unique instrument <sup>comprised of</sup> ~~comprising~~ a broom handle to which have been ~~ix~~ nailed beer bottle tops, usually from "Locees Lager," hence the name.

Do convey my hearty hello's to friends met at Lake Geneva  
now in California, and also a greeting to Brian.

Love, Vermer



*[The following text is extremely faint and illegible, appearing to be a series of lines of text, possibly a list or a long letter, but the characters are too light to transcribe accurately.]*