

John Howard Griffin

3816 West Biddison
Fort Worth, Texas 76109

May 9, 1967

Dearest Nell,

A little note this sick day to tell you that I mailed you a little packet on the way to the doctor's today. It is one of my portraits of Jacques Maritain on which he has written a dedication to you. He pored over your work when he was here and asked me if I thought it would be "proper" for him to do this, and I told him it would, indeed; and that I knew you would be most touched to have it.

The doctors found a severe generalized infection of the bone, most severe in the right ankle and left hip. They anticipate it will take about two months to heal. No danger to life or limb, but simply a painful mess that must be got through.

My dad got me a marvelous custom rolling high chair for my darkroom, so I can now do some work there. I made a beautiful portrait of you - a copy for you and one for me, but as soon as Penn saw the copy I had made for you, he begged it for himself and I gave it to him. Since mine is already on the wall, I will have to make you another one, perhaps next week.

Father Pire did not come. I suppose he missed a plane or perhaps plans to come next week end, after his stint in Canada. I am flying to Los Angeles for two days for conferences on the galleys of my new book. I am too ill and sedated to correct these proofs myself, so Brad is doing it, and some questions demand our getting together.

Bishop Perry (of New Orleans) is coming tomorrow night, so I will leave on Thursday for L.A.

Best love to you and Chris. I do hope the photo arrives safely and undamaged.

Did the imperfect copies of THE BARE FEET arrive? I would so love to buy a couple of them - one for Jacques and another for Robert Bonaazi and his wife. I have a specialist "searching" for copies, but without any luck so far. Bob is the editor of Latitudes. He and his wife both spend all their time when they visit here looking at your books. If you did get enough copies, please ~~send~~ autograph one to Jacques and one to Bob and Leslie Bonazzi and send them along with the bill. I want to pay for them. If you do not have enough, don't let it bother you a moment. My "searcher" may come up with some.

John

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Look straight
down into your own
heart -

The greatest
wonder that you
will find is
simply that we
exist

rain