

John Howard Griffin

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Dearest Nell,

I am just in from some more ghetto life, investigating the riots etc. in San Francisco, Cedar Rapids and up in Northern Michigan; and they would curl your spine, so I will not talk about them. Just before my departure the doctors warned me to get as much done as I can now because I will have another long period of wheel chairing, but not until later anyway. They will have to graft.

I came back to find Gregory much better, in bed with your magnificent book and with the shingles almost dried up. How can we everyx thank you for ~~thaxh~~ the cure. It is ~~mm~~ true, such a fascination for him has been a great, great help. God love you for that.

And in the great rush of travel all the way across this continent, I did not get to thank you for the lovely brochure, either, though it came in time for me to carry it in my luggage and to savor it, and to be delighted to see Chris's photos in it. What a wonderful and characteristic gift you have given to these children. Finally, Sunday night I pulled to a screeching halt after that nightmare week and spent one night with the Discalced Carmelites (Sisters) up in the very top of Michigan, in the woods - a glorious sudden silence that restored me from all the heartbreak of the ghettos.

So your book is now "in the works." How much I understand your feelings - to have it out of your hands and on the way. I always feel that ~~same~~ sense of simultaneous relief and bewilderment.

And your letter - your beautiful lovely letter. How much it meant to Gregory, who now sleeps peaceably.

I talked with Penn Jones tonight, so pleased, so relieved really now that events are proving him right and not the "kook" so many have labeled him. How, behind that bravery he has suffered. And now a lot of people, including our vicious governor, will be smarting and eating some of the words that they hurled in their attempts to character-assassinate Penn. Penn had it correct all the way, much as it seemed fantastic in the early days...

And now ~~this~~ must be only a note. I will have more time to write to you a little later. I did want to get this note off to you, though, as quickly as possible to tell you how profoundly we are moved by your generous ~~x~~ gift to Gregory.

And how much all of us love you,

John

I will be up there a bit later -

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