

John Howard Griffin

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Beloved Nell,

While waiting for word from the hospital as to the outcome of Father Mottet's "check-up" surgery to see if the cancer has completely gone, I wanted to write and wish you and yours a happy Thanksgiving. I am home again after much travel in conjunction with the Merton research, and preparing to mail off the materials for THE VISUAL THOMAS MERTON, which is due at the publishers on December 1st.

I will be in Hartford May 8 & 9th, could take a rent-car on the 9th (Saturday) and drive up to spend Saturday evening and Sunday with you, if you are to be there and are free at that time, perhaps return here on Monday. I was in your area last week, bringing the photographs to edit the Asian Diaries with James Laughlin (who is publishing them) ~~and~~ at his home in Norfolk, Conn. We kept hoping I could run down and see you, but we worked from 3 a.m. each morning until 7 in the evening and then just barely got the work completed.

Susan, who wants to go to school now in Europe, and ^{we} will leave here the last week in January, fly to Amsterdam for a concert (to hear it) and visit with some of Susie's friends for a couple of days, then go on to Brussels where I will give an international news conference (TV and Press) and attend a planning meeting at HUY to continue the work of Father Pire. Then we will go to Strasbourg for a couple of days (to Kolbsheim, really), on to Tours to look into the school situation there, then down to Toulouse for a week with Jacques Maritain. Then we will rent a car and drive on down to Perpignan and Prades to do the photography and research on Thomas Merton's young life, then to Barcelona and Madrid (flying back to NYC from one of those cities around mid-February.) Susan is thrilled and I am thrilled to have her with me. I cannot really manage things physically very well, and she is a flawless "assistant." We will then return, she will finish out this school year here, resuming her music, too. And we will all go to France for the summer so I can work, Susan can go to the conservatory, and we can be away from distractions here.

All for the moment, dear Nell. I am extremely happy with the Merton work. Best love to you from all of us here,

John