

[Letter dated April 29, 1910 continued, from Niels to Viola.]

I surmise you attended conference regularly being as you had the opportunity and I wish I could have been present and listen to the good sermons that were delivered. It would be a great inspiration to enter that great Mormon tabernacle and give ear to the glorious discourses that are so plentiful in that part of the Lord's vineyard.

I was very pleased to note that you took a trip up in the canyon with Esther and Ike, but I am disappointed to learn that the trip was taken on the Sabbath, for I have learned that the Sabbath is a day of rest and not a day of recreation and excursions. Now my dear wife, don't think I am wicked or radical or trying to find fault with you and your actions for I am not. I realize that during the week people are busy working for a livelihood and therefore turn the Lord's Day into a day of pleasure instead of Divine worship which it has been set apart for. Remember the Sabbath dear wife and try to keep it holy by attending meeting which is a great rest for the mind and which develops us spiritually making us better men and women and placing us more in harmony with the Holy Spirit.

I can see where I have erred in the past and I wish to try to encourage others to profit by my experience. Life is full of desires and regrets. We desire to accomplish much and become more perfect, but as years roll on we regret that we didn't make use of the time which God has given us to prepare ourselves for perfection.

I suppose it was a great pleasure for you to see your father again for it was quite a while that you were parted, and I suppose he thought it was nice to call on you and see your dear little daughter and also Esther's son. Many thanks for sending me the photo of Esther's baby. He's quite a boy. Say dearest I can't give you much advice about when you should wean Melba, but I don't think it would hurt to let her keep the breasts until next fall if you are in good health. You are the boss in that matter.

We baptized five converts last Wednesday evening and also confirmed them members of the church. We feel good about our success and are willing to work all the more to convince others to take that necessary step. I received a letter from Pres. Beckstrom this morning (Friday April 29) and he wishes me to be in Sundsvall next Monday so I can be with them and practice some songs for conference which will be held May 7 and 8. Brother Benson and I will leave here Sunday eve at 7 o'clock by way of rail and Bro. Woodard will stay here until Friday noon. I expect to be sent back here to Gefle and fight out to a finish the disunion that is still existing. Bro. Woodard has been in Sweden thirty months but still he desires to stay until fall and make it three years. I would like to be his companion this summer for I think we are united in our efforts and ideas. With love and best regards. Your loving husband Niels. Kiss dear little Melba for me. Write soon.
xxxooox

Pleasant Grove, Utah, April 30, 1910

Written on "**FUGAL BROTHERS**" stationery
"DEALERS IN
Farm Implements, Buggies, Wagons, Ranges, Stoves, Hardware, Etc.
Harness, Pipe, Plumbing and Supplies, Electrical Supplies, Paints and Oils"

Dear Brother Neils.

I now have found time to write you a few lines to let you know that I will write to you some time. I got your welcome letter a quite while ago. I think it was a good letter. I am glad you are getting along fine for it don't matter what anyone does if they don't make a success of it don't amount to much. It is Sunday morning now and it is raining a little for the first time for a long time, it hasn't amounted to much yet. I tell you if we don't get rain some it will be a hard proposition for the grain and beets. So we can see how dependent upon the All Mighty for all the blessings we receive. It seems to be a peculiar year so far, still it might pan out all right yet. It is all right to have more than one string to pull. Of course the farm don't pay any more than what it takes to pay hired help. The plumbing and blacksmithing get pretty good as there is always something to do. Jens had been quite busy putting a water line from the settling tank to Swen Anderson, Sjoberg, Brickyard, then along the old canal to Thos. Larson and the ditch place and Ben Adams has built on the same line so there will be 6 or 7 takers on the line and that will cut off 2 culinary streams. So P.G. is improving a little all the time.

We are doing a pretty good business everything considered. We have sold quite few plows and spring tooth harrows, we have sold 12 buggies since we got our buggies in on the 8th and some good prospects. We have took 5 old buggies on them but we have done all right at that. We can sell the old buggies. We cleared them out pretty good last fall. We sold the first one to Mark Richins, one to Harry Hogan, 2 to Wadleys, 1 to Adolph Warnick, 1 to Fred Shoell, 1 to Helga Swenson, 1 to Jarvis Hilton's son-in-law, 1 to Neils Hansen, 1 to J. H. Wright, 1 to Henson Heiselt.

You see we have a nice letterhead and we have billheads and statements. Something we have needed very much for a long time.

I have been to meeting and am now trying to finish this letter. Is is fast meeting today and I tell you the meeting was not very large. There could easily have been more. We are going to have conjoint tonight, the 3 wards and Lindon and Manila are joining together for a program. I think it will be a success. Lawrence Monson has given us a couple 5 minute speeches. He is a good speaker but he don't seem to be very longwinded.

Someone scattered some acid on the leatherwork of Studebaker's rigs, damaging them considerable and the same source visited us by cutting one tug of a single harness and by placing a short candle at back of our shed of buggies amongst some papers and crates. The candle had been lit but fortunately for us it had been blown out by a draft, we think. We don't know from what source it came nor for what purpose or for what object they had in view. We only had \$750 insurance so we got \$750 more. Perhaps it was only a scare, we hope so. We haven't any enemies that we know of. We have a hydrant by the shop making a good fire protection in case of fire and also giving people a chance to get a drink.

P.G. is about the same as usual only we are having another drugstore and 1 more [?] store.

I am without a girl again. I think I shall see Miss Mayer or some other miss. So I guess I won't get married this week.

While I am writing to you I am reminded I owe Cousin Lettie a letter. She wrote me a nice letter in Mar. I must write to her or she will go back on me. I will now bring this confab to a close with best wishes to you and hoping you are well and enjoying yourself. I am as ever your Bro. Chris.

Sundsvall, May 6th, 1910

Dear Viola:

As you see by the heading I am now at headquarters of the conference. After an all night's ride Sunday, Bro. Benson and myself arrived in this city Monday morning. Pres. Beckstrom was at the depot to meet us and we was escorted to the home of the elders here at Östermahn 33. Monday evening we had the pleasure of attending their MIA meeting which I don't think is a bit better than ours at Gefle and in fact not so good, however it was interested and all seemed to take an active part. Of course I was on the program and had to sing a song with Pres. Beckstrom. Both Monday and Tuesday I took a walk with Pres. Beckstrom and he was indeed eager to hear the report which I gave of conditions in Gefle. I certainly had a great deal of experience to relate to him and then I never revealed a thing of it. He seemed to be in favor of letting Bro. Woodard and I go back to Gefle but of course it isn't decided yet nor won't be until Sunday. Then we will all know where we will be called to labor and we will have to take our medicine whether we like it or not. I would sooner be sent back to Gefle for I would like to fight it through even if it isn't so pleasant always.

We have been practicing singing so I think we will be able to entertain the people with some nice songs. We had choir practice Wednesday evening and Thursday evening. It is Friday today and tomorrow evening will be our first meeting. Don't you wish you could be present and hear our great sermons. We have an hundred and fifty posters that will be pasted up today and tomorrow and it will be advertised in one of the papers this evening. Pres. Beckstrom, Bro. Hansen and myself have just come home from a visit to three different newspaper offices where we met with success in only one of them. It seems as though the people won't give us a fair share. They write all kinds of lies about us but they won't allow us to give them an answer, and what is worse they are so narrow contracted that they won't even take in a little announcement advertising our meetings. We are thankful that one firm had the kindness to favor us but we would like to have placed it in at least two of them so it could have a wide circulation.

Bro. Woodard and probably two of the saints from Gefle will be in on the train tonight at 11:55 so I will go down to the depot to meet them. Two or three saints and friends will be in from Härnösand tomorrow night and probably some will be in from the country so we anticipate having a very good conference. If I am sent back to Gefle I intend to stop off at Lörstrand where I was about six months ago and there hold a meeting at the home of Bro. Strandh. Bro. Strandh is here now and one of his daughters is coming tomorrow night. I hope Bro. Woodard is sent back to Gefle and that I have a chance to go with him.

The mailman just came in and the elders are all anxious to get some mail. I am numbered with those who received none. The Deseret News came so I will try to content myself by reading it after I finish this letter.

Well dear Viola I hope you are well and are enjoying yourself no matter where you may be. I don't know where you are now but I suppose you are either with Esther or Joe. I hope the time seems to pass as fast for you as it does for me, for then I know all is OK. I don't know how many more conferences I will have the pleasure of attending before I get my [release] but I suppose it will be about two. I hope I will be able to take a nice May walk with you next year. Pres. Beckstrom has been here two years now and I don't think there will be any show for him to go to his dear wife until next fall. He seems to be enjoying his labors and is in no particular hurry to go home. It is nice to meet the elders again and it is a pleasure to hear them relate some of their experiences. There are three here that I had never seen before.

Well dear wife I will give you a synopsis of our conference in my next letter and reveal to you where my destination will be. Good bless you dear wife and take good care of yourself and my sweet little daughter. I am as ever your loving husband Niels. Write soon. Best regards from Pres. Beckstrom.

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 6th 1910

Dear Bro:

Received your very welcome letter yesterday and we were truly pleased to hear from you. Glad you are enjoying good health. Chris wrote you a letter a couple of days ago and sent it without a line from me so I received a letter yesterday and thought I must take the time to answer it tonight. I would have written a page in Chris' letter but I have been very busy this week. We have been cleaning house. Frank Humphries and son came up Monday and repapered both rooms so you can have an idea what a mess we have been in. Peter Larson (Ker) white washed the back rooms.

Viola and baby are back from Salt Lake City, they stayed a month, we missed them very much, it seemed an age since we had seen them. Melba looks fine, she is quite a young lady now. She will be able to say "hello dad" when she sees you alright.

When I stop to think about it, it is a long time since I last wrote. We sent you a draft of \$20 in it. I hope you have received it by now. I did not think you would have enough money to take you to conference. I will see that the boys send you some more money before long. They are quite fussy with business. "Business is business," you know. They have sold quite a few buggies but they have a full shed yet. They expect to sell many more. Lew is still working here and Jens has been quite busy plumbing so he has had Alvin Carlson helping him. Potatoes are way out of sight this spring in price. Roylance pays 25 cents for a hundred pounds. So you see we can well afford to eat potatoes. Breakfast bacon is 35 cents per pound, beef 15¢ and 17-1/2 per pound when we buy it. So you see times are progressive.

Lawrence Monson has made a little speech since he came home, he only had about five

minutes so he could not go into details, perhaps he will have the privilege of speaking next Sunday. We had a surprise on him last Friday night, we had a pretty good time. School has closed now. Ernest got promoted, he is so glad, he will be in the 1st grade next year. The other children got promoted too. They had a time today for the school children at the Lake but we did not go. I haven't learned how they came out. I received a letter from Mayfield, they are all feeling fine. Hannah is better but she isn't strong yet. Aunt is raising chickens, she says she has sixty and many more hens setting.

We are glad you have a good partner and hope you will get another good companion when he is released. You stated that he had been in Sweden for over two years when he became your companion so I expect he is anxious to return to his home.

Hyrum Carlson is a papa again, they have a little son. Ally has gone to herd sheep again. Perlinda is feeling fine. Clara Albean was buried today, she has been living with Ruby all spring, she came back to P.G. last Sunday night and died Wednesday morning. Since her mother died last fall she has merely existed. There was a large turnout at the funeral. John Albean was not there, he has not provided for Clara for a long time. He has been in the state prison for three months for failing to provide, he has been out of jail a month. He wanted to get a divorce but now he doesn't need one. It is a blessing she has found relief because there was no pleasure in this life for her.

Last time I wrote you the trees were full of blossoms but now they are all gone and are full of leaves. She is quite shady now in the shade. Most of our fruit is frozen but we will have a little. Bishop Walker and Fred Smith will have a large crop of peaches so if we do not have enough we will know where to go. The children have mowed the lawn today, it looks quite nice.

Chris doesn't take that girl now, he has not been to see her for four weeks, it is all off with her now. Of course they are friends but that is all. She is only seventeen years old so it is all right. We are not very anxious for Chris to get married, we like to have someone to boss.

The last piece of carpet that we are going to weave this spring is in the loom. We have not done much but I have earned fourteen dollars and you can't earn that much very quick doing anything else. Mother is lots better than she was, she has the rheumatism some yet but she gets around quite a bit. She is baking buns today. I did not finish my letter last night, I got too sleepy.

Chris and Ed Olpin were around to get donations for the meetinghouse, they are anxious to finish it this summer. I hope they can. We will need to build some more as soon as that one gets finished. Write soon and excuse this rambling letter. Ernest says to thank you for the card you sent him, it is very pretty. Lovingly Yours, Stena.

Pleasant Grove, Ut., May 15, 1910

My Dear Husband

It has been a long time since I wrote to you but you mustn't think that I am forgetting you.

I don't know why I haven't written before but I guess I was just too lazy. I had a good time while I was in Salt Lake. I stayed five weeks and they wanted me to stay longer but Annie had quite a bit of sewing so I had to come back and get to work for I needed some more money. It seems like there is always something I have to buy. If it isn't shoes for Melba it's shoes for me or stockings or something else. It takes \$1.25 to get Melba a pair of shoes now so you see we won't have any spare money to buy candy with when you come home like you used to. It will take it all to buy shoes. Melba has had five pairs of shoes already but I think what she has now will last her all summer. Esther and Ike brought me home in the wagon so that trip didn't cost me anything.

I guess you heard that Clara Albean is dead. Alvin Carlson's wife has another baby boy. They have two boys now. You remember their first one was born just before you left home so it isn't two years old yet. That is having them quite close together isn't it dearest. I guess you have heard that May and Hyrum Carlson has a baby boy. Mrs. Gustaveson was here yesterday. Stena brought her. She brought two dresses and a waist for us to make her. I was going up to your mother's today but it is so windy I don't know whether to go or not.

Well Nels in five more months it will be two years since you left, and then I will start looking for you to come home. Do you think you will be released so you can get home before Xmas? I do hope so and I think you ought to be. I don't think they ought to keep you any longer than two years. If you only knew how I long for the time to come when you will be home and we will live together and I can do things as I please and won't have someone bossing me around all the time. We won't live up to your mother's when you come home, will we dearest? Please say that we won't because it's different now to what it was when we lived there before. We have got our baby now and we won't want to live with anybody. Besides I think I have lived with someone else long enough, don't you Nels? It seems to me that you have changed an awful lot since you left home. When I read your letters and think of how you used to talk and act it don't seem like you are the same as you used to be. I wish I could talk to you a little while then I could tell.

I was up to your mother's last Sunday afternoon and Jens took his family out for a buggy ride. I felt so blue that I thot I would give anything if you was here to take me someplace but if I ever do get anyplace I have to walk and carry a kid or be the horse myself and push the buggy. I have just been sick for a buggy ride all spring but of course I couldn't have one. Don't think that I am blaming you or anyone else but I think you had better come home before I apostatize. I am getting pretty discouraged and I will have to do something before long.

You said in one of your letters that you haven't been in a buggy since you left home so when you come back we will make up for lost time, won't we dear? I haven't got a letter from you for over a week and it seems about a month. They always say that the last year goes so much faster than the first but I can't see it that way, it seems to me lots longer. To look ahead the next five months seems an eternity. Won't you be glad when you get your release and start home. Sometimes I think you don't want to come home. You never act a bit homesick in any of your letters and never say you would like to [water damage] and you always say the time goes too fast and to me it seems like every month is an age. Well dearest I guess you are tired of this so I will close for this time. Forgive me

for writing this kind of a letter but I just have to say it to someone and why not you. As ever, your loving wife.

[Had I known she got to feeling this badly, this long, I might have thought twice about typing these letters. Yet perhaps it can be a positive thought, to think that she was this discouraged yet obviously eventually weathered it, and was the maternal influence for so much good that followed in her posterity. So perhaps we too can have hope that our own trials or those of loved ones can be weathered as well.]

Dear Brother

It has been a long time since I heard from you, we are all well and hope you are enjoying good health. "Papa, why didn't you answer my letter that Aunt Annie helped me write last winter, if you don't answer this I will not write again to you, from your daughter, Melba." [Written by Annie; Melba wouldn't have been old enough to have even dictated it. The purported first letter must have been in one of the missing (to us) Viola ones.]

I couldn't finish until I let Melba write, she has been so mad that she wouldn't write before but I believe if you will answer this letter she will forgive you. Well, hoping to hear from you soon and that this great misunderstanding between yourself and daughter be quietly settled and peace in the family reign for ever after, from your sister Annie.

Postscript by Viola: Annie held Melba's hand while she wrote to you. Annie was quite mad because you didn't ans. the other letter she helped Melba write to you. [Melba is less than one year old at the time of this second letter.]

Gefle, May 19, 1910

My Dear Wife.

It is a long time since I wrote to you but it isn't as long as it is since I received your last letter. It is three weeks since I received your last one.

We had a pleasant and satisfactory conference. Saturday evening we held our first meeting which was quite well attended. Sunday at 11 o'clock we held our second session with a good attendance. It s here that the officers of the church were sustained and we elders were assigned to our various fields of labor. Pres. Beckstrom was called to preside over the Sundsvall conference and Sundsvall Branch, with elders Hyrum Hansen and Amos Nielson as helpers. Bro. Woodard was appointed to preside over the Gefle Branch with Elders Niels Fugal and John I. Benson as helpers. Bro. Gustave Oleson with Gustave Larson as helper was appointed to work in Östersund Branch. Bro. Ernest Johnsson with Willford Mortenson was chosen to preside over the Härnösand Branch. The Luleå Branch received no elders but perhaps will in the near future. We were all appointed to our former fields of labor excepting Bro. Conrad Wall who was called to labor in the Norrköping conference (the conference where Bro. Christiansen is laboring).

Sunday evening we held our largest meeting and it was here that Bro. Fugal was given a chance to preach. Monday the following day, we held priesthood meeting which lasted

for four hours. Here we all had a chance to express ourselves and the good testimonies that were given and the spirit which was present caused us all to rejoice and all hearts were touched, causing the cheeks to become moistened by the tears that could not be prevented from leaving the eyes. Everything seemed to be in harmony and the good instructions which were given us by our worthy presidents seemed to have their weight causing us all to feel encouraged and thankful that we were in the mission field as servants of the Lord. In the evening of the same day a nice feast was given us by the kind saints of Sundsvall and a program was rendered which gave life to everyone present. Tuesday was pleasantly spent by conversing with the elders and saints. Two of the Gefle sisters were with us at conference and they seemed well paid for their trip.

On Wednesday morning the Gefle elders in company with the two Gefle saints took the train to Lörstrand (the same place where Bro. Beckstrom and I were about two months ago). We came here with the intention of holding meetings, which we did. The owner of the house where Bro. Strandh lives had forbidden Bro. Strandh to allow us to hold public meeting in his home, so the first evening we held a private meeting which was visited by three besides the Strandh family. The people in Lörstrand wanted to hear the Mormon elders preach so another man offered to let us use his house to hold a meeting in, which we gladly accepted and on the following evening which was Thursday we had the pleasure of preaching to about forty-five people. Elder Lewis Jensen who is released to go home joined us at Lörstrand the same day so he was also present at this meeting. Duty called one of our saints to Gefle so she left us Thursday morning on the same train that Elder Jensen arrived on. Friday Elder Benson left for Gefle but in conformity with the good wishes of the saints and friends at Lörstrand we remained, i.e., Bro. Woodard, Bro. Jensen, Sister Johansson and myself remained at Lörstrand for the purpose of holding more meetings and conversing with the people who seemed very anxious to have us stay. We held no meeting Friday night but instead attended one of their temperance meetings which was in session that evening. Bro. Jensen left for Gefle Saturday, being as he was anxious to visit that place before going south. Our friend let us use his house again Saturday evening and we held another good meeting which was attended by about fifteen eager listeners. At the close of meeting, we announced that we would hold an open air meeting at a stated place and wished all to be present. Our desires were granted and at 3 p.m. the following day which was the day of Pentecost, we opened our meeting with a song which filled the woods with echoes of charming music that caused over a hundred people to gather on the green grass and listen to the Mormon elders. It is certainly remarkable how attentive they were and interested they seemed in the principles which we tried to make clear to them. We tried to follow the example of Peter, when he preached to the 3000 people on that great day of Pentecost. It reminded me somewhat of the sermon on the mount, for we were gathered on a hill and the people sat on the ground with no small degree of interest. The good sisters helped us a great deal for they are good singers and they play the guitars and zither in accompaniment. At the close of meeting we told the people to come forward and accept our tracts free, and buy our small books for 10 öre a piece. They responded to the invitation and we sold quite a number of books.

On Monday ten of us comfortably seated ourselves in two row boats and rowed about two miles to an island where after Bro. Woodard offered up a prayer of thanksgiving and asking our Heavenly Father to bless and purify the water, I led four candidates down into the water and baptized them for the remission of their sins. A jolly little company we

were as we again placed ourselves in the boats and made our way over the glossy waves singing and playing the instruments, causing the sweet strains of music to play on the surface of the waters and being carried to shore, the sounds no doubt pleased the ear of some person who perchance may have been making his way along the lonely road which lies between Lörstrand and Karsjö.

After being landed safely on the shore we soon made our way to Strandh's house where we engaged in a saints meeting that I shall never forget. The Holy Spirit was with us in a rich abundance and seemed to work on everyone present. The four who had been immersed in water were now confirmed members of the Church of Christ, and the four children of the man and woman who now had made a covenant with their Heavenly Father received blessings upon their heads by the humble servants of the Lord. One of Bro. Strandh's daughters received baptism and after she was confirmed she could not bear her testimony for her heart was touched and she could not speak. I have never felt a better spirit than was present in this meeting. We certainly feel fine and encouraged after our success in Lörstrand. We expect to go back soon for the people are anxious for us to come. We left Lörstrand Thursday and in the evening the Gefle saints welcomed us back with a nice social here at the office. Who would not like to be an elder in the mission field?

God bless you dear wife, that you may have health and strength and courage to face your lot. Be good my dear little Melba. As ever your Loving Niels. xxxoo

Pleasant Grove, Utah, May 23rd 1910

Dear Brother –

I have been trying every day to write for the last week and haven't got at it. I received your welcome letter about a week ago and it was read with pleasure, we are always glad to hear from you. We were glad that you are enjoying good health and that you are going to conference. I expect you are back to Gefle before this. Aren't you glad that you had your first year in Luleå so the last part of your mission can be the best.

Your companion Bro. Woodard certainly has lots of faith to express a desire to remain longer after spending thirty months. He can do lots of good now and it makes it more pleasant for you when you have a good congenial partner. I would like very much to step in your hall some Sunday and hear the sermon you preach and also see you pound the pulpit. You certainly ought to be encouraged to have the privilege of baptizing so many converts. You know there are some elders that spend two years and more in the mission field without having the honor of converting one soul.

Viola brought your picture up to show us the other day, it is just fine, you look quite sporty with your white vest and gold ring. I am glad you are married or I am afraid some pretty little Swedish maid would try to get away with you. Viola and your daughter went to meeting Sunday and came up to see us after meeting. The little miss is quite handsome, she gets cuter all the time. It won't be long until she can talk and walk and she dances now. Chris played the phonograph and she just more than stepped to the music.

The county graduates held their commencement exercises in Pl. Grove on the 17th inst. There were about nine hundred graduates and visitors present. J. D. Thorne prepared dinner for part of them and the Relief Society officers of the 2nd and 3rd wards prepared for 350 in the basement of the meetinghouse. The dinner was delicious, I had the pleasure of helping to wait on the table. Saturday evening the eight grade and high school gave an entertainment, it was splendid. There was something a doing about all week.

All the crops are planted now, the potatoes were planted on the 15th and the beans have commenced to come up. Everything is looking fine but a rain would not be so bad. We have not had a good rain for a long time. The dry farms will not produce much this year. We wrote you sometime ago that the fruit crop was almost destroyed by frost. I think we will have more fruit than we thought we would. I noticed some apricots on the tree by the woodpile. We will have a good crop of pie cherries. The boys have sold quite a number of buggies although they have a large supply on hand yet and they have bought more from Provo. I believe that I stated in my last letter that potatoes were 12-1/2 cents a bushel and you can hardly get rid of them for that. Lew Nielson has taken a load in to Salt Lake, he hasn't come back yet, he hauls them on percentage. We have not many but eighty or ninety bushels are too many to leave in the cellar to rot. He said he thought he could get 35 or 40 cents in Salt Lake if peddled.

[Letter from Stena to Niels, continued next set.]