

Appendix

The original, hand-written Volendam letters were donated to the Theological College in 1987 by Mrs. C. Walinga. Descendants of the letter writers who would like a copy of the originals, should contact the Theological College.

An English translation of the letters can be found on the following pages. Schools are encouraged to let their supporting communities know about the existence of the letters so that descendants of the letter writers have opportunity to arrange for a copy of them.

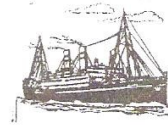
The letters were translated as a resource for the teacher in Grade 4 and as an example of how elderly members can pass on, in word and deed, valuable lessons for following generations. The church issues which are such an important part of these letters make them too difficult to serve as reading material for Grade 4 children and that is not the intention. Bits and pieces of the letters have been woven into Reading Selection 4. The teacher may wish to show the children that these letters exist by displaying a copy of the English translations. Furthermore, Grade 4 teachers are encouraged to make a copy available to teachers of the intermediate grades who may be studying the history of the Canadian Reformed churches.

The letters appear in the order in which they were written:

Letter 1: from Fort Frances, ON by G. Schutten	1
Letter 2: from Waldemar, ON by D. van Leeuwen	3
Letter 3: from Fenwick, ON by J.G. Feenstra	5
Letter 4: from Newmarket, ON by C. Walinga	7
Letter 5: from Orangeville, ON by P. Wildeboer	9
Letter 6: from Orangeville, ON by J. Poortinga	11
Letter 7: from Mooretown, ON by P. van der Gaag	13
Letter 8: from Lethbridge, AB by K. Flokstra	15
Letter 9: from Lethbridge, AB by H. Veldman	17
Letter 10: from Trail, BC by H. Schutten	19
Letter 11: from Goderich, ON by J. van Sydenborgh	21
Letter 12: from Tottenham, ON by K. Sieders	23

An Immigrant Chain Letter

Fort Frances 2-7-50
Esteemed Brothers:



While on board the "Volendam" we had agreed to keep in touch with each other by means of a chain letter. As of yet, I do not know all the addresses, however, I do not know if some have lost my address and therefore could not write. However, if we continue to wait till we all have the addresses then we may never begin this chain letter. If you know the address of someone that is not yet filled in or has changed, fill it in.

G. Schutten, c/o Mr. J.H. Vanderhorst, Box 422, Fort Frances, Ont.
D. VanLeeuwen, R.R. 2, Waldemar, Ont.
J.G. Feenstra, c/o J.J. Knecht, Fenwick, Ont.
C. Walinga, R.R. 2, Newmarket, Ont.
Piet VanderGaag, c/o Mr. Ralph White, R.R. 1, Mooretown, Ont.
P. Wildeboer, c/o W. Hunter, R.R. 2, Orangeville, Ont.
J. Poortinga, R.R. 4, Orangeville, Ont.
K. Flokstra, c/o H.G. Houlton, Box 229, Lethbridge, Alberta
H. Schutten, c/o Jelle Bouma, Trail, B.C.
K. Sieders, ?
J. M. van Sydenborgh, c/o H. Hill, R.R. 4, Goderich, Ont.
H. Veldkamp ? H. Veldkamp - send the letter to the first address

When we keep to the order of the list, then each one knows which address to send the letter to next. If no one keeps the letter, but sends it on as soon as possible then the persons with an unknown address can receive it as soon as possible. This is for a speedy delivery of the letter.

Concerning life here, there is not much to tell. As far as we can judge, we will be able to keep it up here for now. There is one big BUT here, THE CHURCH. We have no church life here and as far as we know there are no other Reformed people living here. My wife and I read two sermons every Sunday. We hope that we do not have to stay here longer than necessary, but, the Lord willing, are able to move on to a place with a church. If Brother Flokstra could write more about the possibilities concerning this matter, perhaps eventually a cooperation with brother de Haas (*note: this brother found placement for many of the immigrants) who could provide more of us with a service in this case. I do not have any more to add to this letter at this time. We wish you God's indispensable blessing in this new fatherland. With brotherly greetings in Christ,

G. Schutten and wife

Letter 1

Letter 2



Waldemar

Esteemed brothers and sisters,

With this letter, I can inform you that we are all doing well, except that we have been sitting here now for five weeks and our trunk has not yet arrived. It seems to be lost and that is a terrible situation although we have every hope that it will be found even though the rail company does not know where it could be.

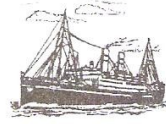
The church situation here does not hold much hope. We attend the Christian Reformed Church, where services are held but they have not yet instituted as a congregation. There I met three persons from the Liberated churches in Holland who had joined the Christian Reformed Church. I have spoken with these young men and two of them were not satisfied and thought they would not continue to come. My suggestion to institute a church and take up contact with the Liberated churches in Holland was not supported. Not everyone who comes over should be accepted unconditionally as member. The proposal to allow one of our ministers of the Liberated churches in the Netherlands to lead a service was not accepted, nor the reading of one of their sermons.

There is a lot of space here and a lot of mixed farming, as well as good homes. We live on a farm and have a very good boss; however, this is not our first priority. Our first priority is to look for the communion of saints, be it here or in Alberta. Not everyone is interested in Alberta because there the industry is different than in Ontario, which is similar to the Netherlands. I cannot make a judgment on this matter. We hope that God allows us to find one another soon so that together we can be busy, in His Name, with the building of the local church.

Brother Wildeboer and his family live nearby and we often meet each other on Sundays and experience the same difficulties. I urge you to reply to this letter immediately so that it can benefit us in building each other up in joy. We wish you the Lord's guidance.

Your brother and sister in Christ,
D. Van Leeuwen

Letter 3



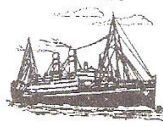
Fenwick

Esteemed Brothers and Sisters:

When we received your letter, we were both having great difficulties with our farmer. We had a serious dispute with him and the following day we left. We had very difficult times there. Thanks be to God, we are now in Fenwick at the home of our friend, J.J. Knecht. We have a job at the same farm and it is considerably better here. We now have two rooms and are managing very well. We attend church every Sunday in Hamilton with Rev. Veldman. We have already spoken with him and do notice that there are some difficulties. We will calmly wait and see how things develop. We now hear things about the Protestant Reformed Church, which had been explained differently to us in the Netherlands. I believe it would be better to wait before writing anything more on this matter. We first would like to study the matter more thoroughly. Writing can sometimes create misunderstandings. Further, everything is going well with us. We pray that God will lead us by His Spirit, open our eyes and allow us to see what our place here will be. I hope that you will not hold our delay in writing against us, as we were not able to write any sooner. Greetings to you all and we wish you God's rich and indispensable blessing.

Your brother and sister in Christ,
J. Feenstra

Letter 4



New Market 30 - 7 - 50

Dear "Volendam" Congregation,

Although I as well have waited too long to add a piece to the chain letter and I offer my apologies for this, I must tell you in all honesty that I was very happy when we received this letter and consequently the tie was strengthened. Just as the others, we arrived safe and sound at our destination and quickly began to feel at home. The first weeks we had to stay with my wife's brother because there was no home available for us. But my brother-in-law had a large shed that we have set up a home in, and seeing that I am a carpenter by nature, the 'house' can be deemed liveable and we are together in our family circle again with a tranquil home life. My job meets our wishes and I earn a good weekly wage, so that also in this respect we are richly blessed by the good hand of our God.

The area in which we find ourselves is by and large Dutch and therefore there is still much Dutch and Frisian spoken here, so that we often do not notice even that we are in Canada. However, even though there is the opportunity to go to church every Sunday and even once in the two weeks to listen to a Dutch sermon in the Christian Reformed Church, our conscience up until now has not allowed us to hand in our attestation. Regrettably, here too, the synodical stand is taken, namely "we do not want to discuss it", and consequently one does no justice to all those who have many and great concerns in respect to what recently transpired in the Church of Christ in the Netherlands during the years 1942-1950. As might be expected, this concerns immigrants who also after some time have joined the church. This indeed has been the case of several families here.

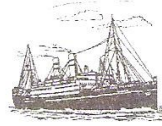
Together with brother Feenstra, I am of the opinion that we must consider this matter seriously and beseech the Lord our God for light and wisdom to find the right way to go. Would that it were possible that all of us could move closer to a certain place, e.g., Hamilton or Chatham where we could attain what has been reached in Lethbridge. The Christian Reformed Church, as well as the Protestant Reformed Church, differ too much from the Liberated Reformed Church in the Netherlands. This last sentence contains my personal thoughts for the moment as we are not yet informed enough concerning what is living in the churches here. Without undue arrogance, I believe we ought to think carefully on these matters concerning both of these denominations and the issues previously mentioned.

Now that we are beginning to know the map of Canada, we have come to the

realization that we are not very far from one another, with the exception of those who have landed in Alberta or British Columbia. This chain letter will probably be dominated by the church issues. Let us keep hold of this chain so that we do not become isolated. May God grant us all we need to serve Him according to His Word, also and especially with respect to His Church. With brotherly greetings and prayer for your well-being. Your devoted brother and sister in Christ, with their children,

Family Walinga
R.R. #2
New Market
Ontario

Letter 5



Orangeville
5 Nov. 1950

Dear Friends:

For some time now I have had this letter in my possession. I have been prevented from responding sooner due to circumstances. It is now Sunday evening and I am forcing myself to write. I will begin at the time of our farewell evening aboard the Volendam. The morning of our departure from the ship, I received my first disappointment on Canadian soil. I received papers for a different boss. In hindsight, we can say that God directs our paths, because I was not placed with a farmer but in construction and I stayed in my own trade. There was a nice house waiting for us which, for the most part, was furnished. I arrived to "a well-made bed". The work is satisfactory and I earn a good wage and we are without worries as far as our material needs are concerned. The spiritual is less than desirable because there is no church other than the Christian Reformed Church.

For two Sundays I read with my family. Then one afternoon, a letter was stuffed underneath the door, from br. VanLeeuwen, who announced that he lived in the area, and attended the above-mentioned church. Now as br. VanLeeuwen justly saw, based on the confessions, we needed to search for the true church. After some discussion with my wife, we also decided to attend the church the following Sunday. There we met br. Vanleeuwen and family, glowing with well-being, and we entered to hear a sermon being read.

This sermon was from Rev. Meinen from The Hague and we did not find ourselves in agreement with it. We did not say anything about it, remembering the situation in Holland concerning divisive persons (scheurmakers). We only asked if they could also read a sermon from our side, which they followed up on. The following week, a sermon was read from Rev. D. VanDijk, dated 1936. In that week there was trouble, and br. VanLeeuwen and I decided to hold a reading service in our own home.

In the period when this happened, we received a visit from the Rev. Veldman of Hamilton. One night he preached for us and, in my opinion, in a pure Reformed manner. Because the time was short, we could not talk together, but he would come back. He came quite soon after this night, but then we could not come to an agreement. Especially my wife spoke up. Rev. Veldman put us at ease by assuring us that it was indeed a little strange to see baptism in the light of election. He would come back again and then go together to Br. VanLeeuwen with whom I had to make an appointment. When the time came, we traveled cheerfully to Waldemar in order to speak with Br. VanLeeuwen about election.. There we sat

from seven o'clock to long past one o'clock. However, the longer we talked the darker it became. I cannot write down what all we talked about for that would take a whole week of work.

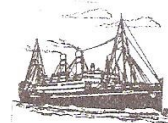
In any case, we are in Canada, I have a good job, but nevertheless a heart full of worries. We have five children growing up with no other instruction than that we ourselves give them and are two thousand miles away from our church. We are determined to seek out like-minded brothers and sisters in the faith to gather in our homes and hold worship services. Even so we were quite down and as men of little faith had nearly forgotten God's Fatherly care, for God hears all our prayers.

During the same week, a knock on the door announced the arrival of Rev. Hettinga. First I thought "another minister, what will happen now?" Yet, he was not inside our door more than five minutes and we already knew that on the following Sunday worship services would be held in Georgetown (about 32 miles from Orangeville). At this time the possibilities would be considered to come to institution. It would happen if there would be enough members.

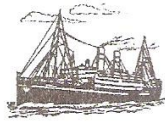
On the same evening at eleven o'clock at night, we drove to Waldemar and enjoyed waking the VanLeeuwen family from their sleep to talk together for an hour. On that Sunday, we went to Georgetown full of expectation and gratitude to hear the Word of God and to exercise the communion of saints. What a rich day it was! We heard two good sermons, and the church was instituted according to the command of God's Word. Office bearers were ordained and now we have our own church. Thanks be to God! We did not 'play' church as some alleged but followed God's command. We now have six communicant members and everything is going well.

On the third Sunday after our institution the use of the meeting room in that place was cancelled. The congregation then gathered in the home of our hospitable brother and sister VanLeeuwen in Waldemar. God, however, never forsakes the work of His hands and soon we could get a small church building that was empty. It is a decent little building that seats about one hundred persons and is at our disposal at no cost. Here we read two sermons every Sunday and between services one week we hold Catechism classes and the next week young people's society, which has 10 members in total. I have now told you different things, and next time I will tell more. The foundation of this letter is "REHOBOTH" – the Lord has made room for us. I will end this letter and I wish you all the best. With brotherly greetings,

The P. Wildeboer family
22 Second Street
Orangeville



Letter 6



Orangeville 26 Dec.

Esteemed Brother and Sister!

Finally received the long awaited chain letter. Between its receipt and the last evening on board lay approximately 6 months, and so the last one will receive their letter maybe about a year later. A new world of experiences lays behind us, and that would have been the same for everyone.

When we arrived at the place of our destination, Jarvis, we were of the understanding that we had been provided with work on a farm. This was not the case. However, one of the council members of the Christian Reformed Church picked us up from the train station and took us home, and promised to look for a place to stay. But when he found out we came from the Liberated Reformed Churches, he asked if we would rather go to Hamilton, to our brothers. Now that was a given.

On Pentecost Monday evening, we were picked up at 7:00 p.m. by Br. & Sr. Wildeboer, chairman of Immigration of the Protestant Reformed Church (PRC). That evening we went together to a farmer in that area, close to br. Van Huizen and Br. Hart, both elders in the PRC. On Wednesday morning, May 31, I could start. The farmer was not very liberal: \$75.00 and not much extra, and too little milk. It was not very ample for our family of seven.

We thought we had settled close to the church, but we were wrong in this. Although this was a congregation with liberated brothers and sisters, they refused to admit us as members because of our liberated view of the covenant. We talked a lot with the Rev. Veldman. Br. Hart and Br. Van Huizen basically agreed with us, but the decision had been taken. We had to promise to submit ourselves to the instruction in the doctrine of the PRC and to teach nothing against it. We could not promise this, for it would have meant a denial of the Liberation. In the meantime, we had made contact with some other brothers who were of the same opinion.

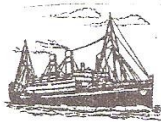
What now? We wrote Rev. Hettinga of Harlingen (Friesland), who was (visiting) in North America for 3 months with his children and also with the Liberated brothers and sisters in this country. Rev. Hettinga heeded the call and came to pay us a visit; much to our joy. Rev. Hettinga visited other brothers and sisters, and it was decided to hold a church service on the following Sunday in Georgetown. On that day, the church was instituted there.

For the first time we met again the brothers Walinga, van Leeuwen and Wildeboer.

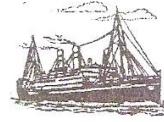
Later on we went seven times to Georgetown, but the distance was too great. It was 50 miles from Hamilton, and we didn't own a car. Financially the costs were too high, and so we agreed with the congregation to hold house congregational services. On Sundays we had six families in our house. The other part of the congregation met in Orangeville, about 80 miles north of Hamilton. There they had a small church building, which they were allowed to use free of charge, but in the meantime this offer was cancelled.

Br. VanLeeuwen found another farmer for me and on November 7, we moved to Orangeville. This was a great improvement. The house was much better; the farmer more reasonable; enough milk and \$90 in wages. We are very thankful that we are here. The congregation here in Orangeville and surroundings accounts for approximately 60 members, young and old. We offered our house for the church services because at this moment we have no church building. In Hamilton there are 10 families who liberated themselves again. That brings for us much joy. To God alone is the honour. May God make us all true to His Church gathering work. We close with heartfelt greetings and wish you God's care.

Your brother and sister in Christ,
Jac Poortinga



Letter 7



Respected Brothers:

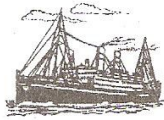
Of course, I have waited too long with writing, which seems to be a fault of many but I hope that you will not hold it against me. Now as far as I am concerned, I have made out quite well as far as it concerns my work with a good farmer and no long days apart from harvest time when we worked until dark, but that is now over. In the mean time a brother of mine has come over and he is working at a farm three miles from here. You can understand that we visit each other regularly.

Perhaps you can also recall that while we were on board that I told you that there was another Reformed young man on board. He never met with us, however. This young man is now working at a farm about five miles away from me, so we see him often as well and he also goes to church with us once every two weeks. We are off every Sunday and free to go to church.

We live approximately forty miles from the church which is quite a distance but up until now we have been able to go every Sunday. As far as church is concerned, we go to the Protestant Reformed Church, which is quite different from the Liberated Church in the Netherlands, but there is no other church to which we can go. If we hold onto God's Word and pray for the guidance of His Spirit then it will become clear to us what our place shall be here in Canada. We also believe that whatever happens to us here comes from His Fatherly hand and that He will turn it to our benefit. Further, we wish you all God's indispensable blessing.

With brotherly greetings,
Piet VanderGaag

Letter 8



Lethbridge, Alberta
January 3, 1951

Respected brothers and sisters and children in Christ,

When I came to the farm this afternoon, my farmer had a very large letter for me with a 15 cent stamp on it! I thought to myself, "What could be in this big letter?" and it turns out to be the long-awaited chain letter that had been answered in the meantime by seven brothers making me the eighth.

We are all doing well under the blessing of the Lord. We received a wonderful welcome here from the brothers and sisters of the church at Lethbridge and since we live here we have been able to attend church every Sunday and enjoy the communion of saints. Also brother and sister Veldkamp and brother and sister Sieders with their children arrived in the same area and live close by, so that we meet one another every Sunday. We live about four miles from where our church services are held and live with three other Reformed (Liberated) families on the same road.

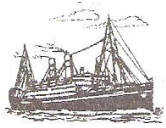
We had a large congregation here during the summer and at this time we still have twelve families. The rest have moved on to other places, such as Edmonton, New Westminster or Georgetown, where in the meantime also congregations have been instituted. Lethbridge has been a place of origin for the Liberated church here in Canada since it is easy to place Dutch persons here. Brother de Haas has been able to place fifteen families here this spring. In this way we can see that the Lord builds His Church here in Canada and in His time has also brought the 'Volendammers' to their appointed place.

As I write this letter, the Sieders family is on their way to Ontario, having left last night. He could not work here because they required him to work on Sunday, but in Ontario there is work for him which does not require Sunday labour.

I have now reached the end of the page and will send it on to brother Veldkamp who will send it to H. Schutten in Trail since they live within a short distance of each other. We wish you all God's blessing.

Your brother and sister and their children in Christ,
K. Flokstra
Lethbridge, Alberta

Letter 9



January 8, 1951

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Finally the long-awaited letter arrived. Flokstra gave me the letter yesterday since we live near each other and then I will send it on to B.C.

Before we arrived in Lethbridge, we were held up in Winnipeg for a week, but then we could travel on to Lethbridge. Our reception was very welcoming. We are on a new farm which Paterson had bought just before we came. A foreman was running the farm since Paterson is not a farmer. This summer we all had work on the farm, three boys and myself. First we worked in the beets and then the corn and after that we did whatever job which had to be done. We earned a good wage this summer, and the house we live in has a kitchen and four bedrooms, which is pretty good since, in general, the homes here are quite disappointing.

Once the beet crop was over, the boss left. We were able to work yet for about six days in December until there was no work left. One of our sons is working on a dairy farm at the moment for a good wage; another has returned to school, leaving one son at home as well as myself. Paterson wants to rent the farm out, so we will soon have to find another farm to work on.

Concerning the church, things are better than we had expected. We are able to meet with the congregation every Sunday to hear the preaching of God's Word and feel quite privileged since there are many who have to miss this. The boys attend catechism classes with our neighbour, deVries, who also has older children. In the meantime, six families have left us, but if all goes well, quite a few more will be added in the spring, since, as I've heard, brother DeHaas has been able to place many more families. The Lord has richly blessed us; we cannot thank Him enough for them, the material but also the spiritual. We wish you all God's indispensable blessing.

With heartfelt greetings,
The H. Veldkamp family
c/o Mr. R. Paterson
Box 940
Lethbridge, Alta.
Canada

Letter 10



Columbia Gardens, 22 - 1 - 1951

Respected Brothers and Sisters:

Finally, on January 16, 1951 the long-awaited chain letter arrived. We had already asked here and there about its whereabouts but each time without results until beyond our expectations, it appeared. We were happy to hear that all was going well with the 'Volendam congregation' and it was a great joy to hear that the ties among us are still intact, in spite of the fact that many of us live in different church situations.

After a tiring trip, we arrived in Trail B.C., in the middle of the mountains, at the home of Mr. Bouma. We live on a dairy farm here and were heartily welcomed with a place to sleep ready for us. As far as material goods are concerned, we have everything we could desire; however spiritually we have very little. We miss the church fellowship here, a situation we cannot stay in. We are busy changing this and we hope that in the spring we can meet with brothers and sisters.

There are in this area no Christian Reformed or Protestant Reformed Churches. There are other mainstream Canadian churches. Some Dutch residents who have lived here for twenty years have joined these Canadian churches and do not wish to involve themselves with the new Reformed Dutch immigrants. There are also some recent Reformed (Synodical) immigrants in the Presbyterian Church and they feel more at home there than they did in the Synodical church in the Netherlands. In this, we see that unless the Lord prevents it, we would go along with the flow and fall away. It is of great importance that we do our best to meet with one another.

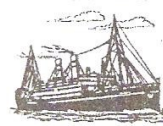
In the nature around us, we see mountains and rocks, cows wandering in the forests during the summer. Up until now it has not been too cold here, although right now we do have snow. Since we do not get out much and have no fellowship with church members right now, we are usually at home and are not troubled by the snow at all. Our farmer is also of Dutch Reformed origin but we are unable to discuss church matters together.

What we have lost in church life we must replace in our family life, but we will leave it at that for now. Since we write at the beginning of the new year, we wish you God's rich blessings for 1951 knowing that all things are directed by His Fatherly Hand.

H. Schutten and family

Letter 11

Ben Miller Jan. 26, 1951



Esteemed Brothers and Sisters,

Yesterday, the 25th of January, the long-expected chain letter arrived, and we were happy to receive it. Through this letter we note how everyone is doing in their new surroundings, in good times and bad, and can come to no other conclusion than that the Lord, our God, guides and protects His children, and is working to build His church in this part of the world. We are doing well in the material sense, and have landed with a good farmer, on a mixed farm with a good house. There are however, in neither this area nor the surrounding area, any other liberated brothers and sisters. There is a family in Exeter that on several occasions has visited us, and together we have held a worship service at home.

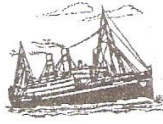
This past summer, the farmer brought us once every two weeks to Clinton, where a Christian Reformed congregation meets, but we did not feel at home in this congregation. When we heard about the institution of a Canadian Reformed Church in the Orangeville area, we became members there. However until now because of the distance, we have not been able to meet with the congregation of the Lord there. Up until now we do not have a vehicle for our use. We hope that in due time, this will all change.

Now that the chain has been joined with all but one link, I will send the letter on its way. Since I do not know the correct address, I will send it in that direction, trusting that it will "sail into the right port." "Let this be our only goal and striving, hold fast to what you have, so that no-one take your crown (Rev. 3: 11)", and so be a support and strength to one another through this life for the life hereafter ..."

With brotherly greetings and God's blessing in all things for our brothers and sisters in Christ with their children,

J.M. VanSydenborgh
c/o H. Hill
Ben Miller
RR 4 Goderich, ON

Letter 12



Tottenham 11 - 2 - '51

Esteemed Brothers and Sisters,

Because of our move from Alberta to Ontario, the order of the chain links has changed a little and therefore we now have to add the last piece to the chain.

Slowly, over time, we have met almost all the 'Volendam' brothers and sisters; first, several in the church in Lethbridge, where we met one another at least once a week and after that in the church in Georgetown, that is now meeting in Orangeville. To my great disappointment Jelte and Adri Feenstra were not in church in Hamilton, on the 4th of February, where I happened to be that Sunday with the Walinga family. Further, we have not yet met the Van Sydenborgh family (we did meet a brother of his), nor the H. Schutten family living in British Columbia.

Time and again, we feel the ties of the "Volendam" bond pulling and, of course, that did not come about because of the boat itself, but because of the communion of saints that we experienced there and because of the special circumstances in which we found ourselves. This bond has given us strength and support, and shown us all the more clearly the task and duty we have received in this great, immense country.

Since brother Schutten began the chain letter more than seven months have passed; in that time we have all had quite a "Canadian experience". For the one it has been better than for the other (in a material sense), but especially the experiences in church life have shown us that there is much work to be done and also that we are of ourselves not able to accomplish anything. It is the Lord who must enable us and give us strength and wisdom for our task.

I will now give a broad outline of our experiences. After we spent ten days in the Immigration Hall in Winnipeg, we travelled on to Coaldale, about eleven kilometres from Lethbridge.

In Winnipeg, I was able to find work as a baker, but with view to the church, we definitely wanted to go on to Lethbridge. That would only be possible if we would be satisfied with a position on a "beet" farm.

On August 27, the farmer allowed me to leave in order to begin a job in the bakery, first for two weeks in MacLeod, and later in Lethbridge. Eventually that did not work out because I was expected to work on Sundays. We did not have any peace of mind with this and at last I had to quit.

Working from time to time in the bakery and by baking cookies and 'speculaas' at home, we were able to have some income during the following weeks. Yet we discovered that when we walk in God's way and obediently follow His commands we will not suffer shame, but that He will give His children what they need.

In the meantime, the brothers Walinga and van Leeuwen kept an eye out for work for me in their area and their efforts were blessed with the result that we are now living in Tottenham with the Walinga family since there has not yet been a place found for us to live in.

We can now attend church regularly in Orangeville on Sundays, where we also meet the van Leeuwen, Wildeboer and Poortinga families. Further, we are all enjoying good health, we are beginning to slowly learn the language and we no longer feel as strange as we did last May. Because of many activities and much busyness this letter has been written much later than was intended.

We wish you all God's rich blessings and Godspeed,
Your brother and sister in Christ with their children,
K. Sieders
R. Sieders-Broekema
Box 53
Tottenham
Ontario

