

A letter from George Romney to Mitt Romney dated March 6, 1967 in which the elder Romney was attempting to cheer up his son, who was having trouble gaining converts to Mormonism in France.

March 6, 1967

Dear Mitt:

Happy Birthday! We are thrilled at your recent letters and happy that you are enjoying your present assignment more than the early ones. Glad you can shape your own program now and that you have a compatible companion. We are most pleased at what you are doing.

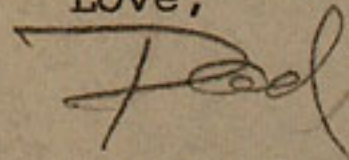
Bruce is very ill, in the hospital. He has lobar pneumonia and a blood clot in his lungs. This is the result of young doctors starting operations and not being able to finish them and calling Bruce out of the house before he should have been up and around to rush over to the hospital and complete the operations. His condition is very serious but we feel confident that he will come through. (Bruce doesn't know about the blood clot so if you write, don't mention it). In any event, your faith and prayers will be appreciated and perhaps needed.

Otherwise, everthing is doing well. Ann left church early yesterday before we had a chance to talk with her because she was not feeling well. She looked lovely but apparently was catching flu or something. Ronna then took Jim home.

I was thrilled to stand in for you in connection with Jim's baptism. This makes two converts here that are certainly yours so don't worry about your difficulty in converting those Frenchmen! I am sure you can appreciate that Ann and Jim each are worth a dozen of them, at least to us.

We are mighty proud of you and the work you are doing, so Happy Birthday again, your Mom and I want you to use this money to go and see either another opera or something else that you think will be most enjoyable.

Love,



Enclosure

February 16, 1967

Dear Mitt:

As a result of your last letter, I dropped by the Davies last night to talk with Jim about his baptism. I asked him if he wanted me to baptize him and he said he did, so we made arrangements to do it on Sunday, February 27, right after Sundayschool;

Your gal looked lovely, as always. I sat next to her in church and asked if that ring of yours on her engagement finger meant what it usually means, and she said it did, so now I guess it is a pre-engagement ring.

I can appreciate how discouraging your work is because when I was in Britain the work was also relatively unproductive. At the end of my mission, I couldn't honestly look back and say I had converted any one individual. On the other hand, in the last two years you have been already responsible for bringing Ann and Jim into the church.

Furthermore, you know with certainty that you were supposed to go to France -- it may not be apparent for many years but it will become clear. While I know you get discouraged, let me give you another of my favorite quotes: The author, Robert Louis Stevenson, who wrote Treasure Island, was greatly afflicted with illness and other handicaps, yet he gained immortality by what he did in the midst of affliction. He wrote: "Despair not, but if you despair, work on in your despair." So, persist, and keep your study work up, master the language, become thoroughly acquainted with the French people and to the extent you can, with French history and French thinking, which is an important aspect of the modern world, and could be more important as the years

Your mom and I ~~h~~ had a great trip to Louisville.
She probably will write you about it. Enclosed is copy
~~of the talk~~ in case you are interested.

Love,

DAD