

MENNONITE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

AGENCY FOR RELIEF AND OTHER CHRISTIAN SERVICES

TELEPHONE: AKRON 859-1151 (Area Code 717) • CABLE ADDRESS MENCENCOM



ORGANIZED 1920
INCORPORATED 1937

21 South 12th Street
AKRON, PENNSYLVANIA

August 31, 1966

Mr. and Mrs. Jake Friesen, Route 1, Box 203A, Canton, Mississippi 39046 ✓
Mr. and Mrs. George Duerksen, Prentiss Normal and Industrial Institute, P.O. Box 116,
Prentiss, Mississippi
Mr. and Mrs. Gerhard Buhler, Saints Junior College, Lexington, Mississippi
Mr. Cecil Graber, Apartado Postal #15, Atlacomulco, Estado de Mexico, Mexico
Mr. John Hirschler, Ixtlaccihuatl 6-104, Mexico 11, D.F., Mexico

MISSISSIPPI - MEXICO ITINERARY SEPTEMBER 6-16, 1966

MISSISSIPPI: Plans are to leave Philadelphia on Tuesday, September 6, and arrive in Jackson at 11:48 a.m. I would like to request that Jake Friesen plan to meet me at the airport and that we proceed directly to Prentiss where we would meet with the George Duerksens in care of Heifer Project and the Prentiss Institute. I would most particularly like to meet Mr. Norman and a representative of the Institute and to get an overview of the total project.

I trust it will be possible for the Duerksens to arrange for night accommodations and that we might have breakfast together the next morning. Then we should drive to Canton where I would plan to spend the balance of the week with the exception of a one day trip to visit the Gerhard Buhlers in Lexington and a visit to the Delta Ministry headquarters. If Jake feels it would be advisable, I would like to suggest that some representative group of community leaders be called together to evaluate the results of our efforts in the Canton area to date. If it were felt that such a formal meeting would be inadvisable, I would expect to accomplish the same objective in a more informal manner. In addition to evaluating what has been accomplished and projecting plans for the future, we should also take a broader look at the State in general. For example, I would like to evaluate with you the advisability of an experimental truck gardening project as now in the discussion stage.

In order not to desecrate the Sabbath too badly, and at the same time to "redeem the time" I would like to suggest that we plan to spend Sunday in Jackson attending church and perhaps meeting with leaders such as Dr. Davis, etc. I would like to suggest that Jake Friesen be responsible to make these arrangements remembering that I will need to leave for Mexico (via New Orleans) on Delta Flight #685 at 3:36 p.m.

(Somewhere along the line I would also hope it would be possible for us to connect with Titus Bender).

MEXICO: I am confirmed to arrive in Mexico City on Eastern Flight #905 on Sunday evening at 8:56. On that same flight is Don Smucker who is scheduled to succeed Cecil Graber. I would like to request that we be met by John Hirschler and/or Stephen Aschliman and that they also make arrangements for our night lodging. Unless our plane is seriously late I would be ready to spend several hours with John and/or Stephen that evening to get a report of their activities. Monday morning might be left open for rest, reading and to provide some flexibility in the schedule unless bus schedules would suggest otherwise. About noon, in the company of one of the MOC Mexico workers we would be ready to leave for Atlaacomulco (these arrangements to be made by Cecil Graber). Plans would be to spend the rest of Monday, all day Tuesday and until Wednesday noon in Atlaacomulco. Again we would like to use this time in a combination of field contacts and observations and a systematic overview of the total project and a projection of plans for the future. About Wednesday noon I would be ready to return to Mexico City - hopefully in the company of Cecil Graber and Don Smucker. If it can be arranged I would like to spend Wednesday evening with the Stones. I assume Cecil will make arrangements for the night and then on Thursday I would like to have an appointment at the Wycliffe headquarters and also meet with Kenneth Seitz. I am scheduled to leave that afternoon (September 15) on American Flight #52 at 2:10 p.m.

CHICAGO: I am planning to be at the Atlantic Hotel in Chicago on Thursday evening and Friday for a meeting of the MOC Executive Committee. Plans are to return to Philadelphia on United Flight #126 at 8:39 p.m.

Again the time looks full and the assignment challenging. I trust each of you will do what you can to give some advanced thought to the major items to be covered during the time scheduled for your location. One reason I have used this method of advising you of my plans is so that you can be aware of the total plan and you can direct any urgent messages to me en route. I look forward to seeing you in person shortly.

Sincerely,



Edgar Stoesz
Voluntary Service Director

ES:cn

cc: Titus Bender, 3407 Fortieth Avenue, Meridian, Mississippi
Pablo Stone, Intlaacihuatl 6-104, Mexico 11, D.F., Mexico