

Copy Letter written by  
Father James Whittaker  
1784

D C

May 7<sup>th</sup> 1775.

This comes from thy loving Father and Mother, hoping to find thee in good health, both in body & soul; Thy Father is very poorly, & not likely to live very long; Thy Mother is in rather a better state of health, but poorly; thy brothers & sister are in good health. We all remember our kind love to thee, wishing prosperity to the children of Sion of what sort soever: If thou finds any liberty from the Lord, with a desire to come to England, if thou have no money, to pay thy passage, we'll pay when thou comes to England. John & Jane Jackson, & Betty Lees remember their love to thee; If thou wilt to settle in that place where thou now art, we would have you send us a letter where thy settlement is as soon as opportunity serves. We remember our kind love to thee and all inquiring friends. Fear not coming to England, for thy loving Father & Mother will cleave thy passage.

Jonathan &amp; Ann Whittaker.

To James Whittaker

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The following is a transcript of a letter, written  
by Father James Whittaker, to his parents, relatives,  
& former friends in England.

Copied from a Manuscript of his own hand  
writing; Sept 23. 1750

Parts near Albany 20<sup>th</sup> Feb: 1754.  
Jonathan & Ann Whittaker.

May the grace  
and love of God to you be multiplied; I rejoice  
and am thankful in remembrance of your coming  
out of the works of the flesh, and your faithfulness  
God-ward. I love you, not because you were my  
parents after the flesh, but because you obey God;  
and my soul doth wish that you may renew your  
obedience & be adorned with great & heavenly gifts.  
It is for your own interest, to obey God, there is no  
end, no place, to stand still, nor can any one  
get so much of God that he can get no more.  
I greatly desire you to take courage and go  
forward to attain unto a complete stature in  
the nature and image of Christ. There is an

inexhaustible fulness before us, and good it is to see God, comfort, peace, joy, triumph, and everlasting renown ~~are~~ the fruit of faithful obedience but the contrary service, is rewarded with miserable agonies in the conscience in this life, and with devolving fire in the other. All good things are for them that serve God, they may by faithfulness be filled from the soles of their feet, to the crowns of their heads, with the glory of the divine nature.

There being therefore such an infinite fulness of transcendant glory for the faithful, I want you to go forward with fortitude of soul, that the word of God may flow in your souls, like overflowing rivers of living water.

Go forward & abound in love, in repentance, in meekness, in humility, in brokenness of heart, in patience in kindness, in the fulness of all virtue & Godliness. Not as tho' I really believe that you have been so faithful as you might have been; for had that been the case I doubt not, but you would have been like bright Angels by this time, and your sorrow

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of utility very extensive. However, your measurable faithfulness, affords no small joy to me in remembrance thereof, and doth beget kind love in my soul to you-ward. May your pure minds be stowed up, and abound in all good deeds, and labor with great carefulness, vigilance & Zeal, after the divine nature. The waters of the Sanctuary are risen, & it is to lay aside every weight, that you may swim with freedom in those waters.

Those waters are no other than the waters of love and holiness, the waters of life & happiness, which is the spirit of the God of glory, poured forth in the Church for the salvation of lost men; When, therefore I wish you to swim therein, I wish you unspeakable sweet love, the most transcendant beauty of holiness, and the most invigorating power of life and happiness. And now on my own part, great have been the mercies of God towards me, since I left England; he hath preserved me from the dangers of the sea, when in company with our blessed Mother, I came over it in a Vessel greatly damaged by striking bottom, soon

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after we came out. Great peace & joy have  
I had, & have in God; I am now in tolerable  
good health, tho' I am under frequent sufferings  
in body & soul; God hath committed to my trust  
the Ministry of the gospel, in which I have endea-  
-voured to be faithful in all things. It is not now  
more than six months, I think not, since, in  
company with Mother, and my dear brethren  
(the other Elders), I returned from off an itineric  
Ministry, of somewhat more than three years  
continuance; during which time, I faithfully  
preached the gospel, & for it I have been impris-  
-oned, beaten, mocked, calumniated &c, and have  
been persued by cruel & desperate mobs, night &  
day: And once last summer, past, I was whip'd  
in the most cruel manner, being strip'd naked,  
& my two hands tied up, being stretched up  
above my head. However God hath preserved  
me in a wonderful manner, and I am  
at this time dwelling upon my own place  
with my dear Mother & Brethren, having  
enough, for food & raiment. It is a good

Country where we live, & indeed so is all  
 North America, and any prudent man, may  
 make a good living here. And you, John  
 Jackson & Betty Lees, widow to Charles Lees,  
 as I have a great love and respect for you, so  
 I greatly desire to see you in this Land.

It is a spacious country, & room enough for  
 thousands & millions, yea for Kingdoms and  
 Nations: and the soil is good especially remote  
 from the sea. But why do I talk of that, as  
 tho' I would lay a temptation before you, to leave  
 your native soil, and your substance in England?  
 If earthly self prevail with you to come hither,  
 our meeting will not be sweet; there are better  
 motives than that; God hath begun his great &  
 strange work in this Land, and is carrying it on  
 by swift degrees, and great are the gifts, which  
 come thro' Mother to the people. Forsake then  
 your native country, for Christ's sake & for the  
 Church's sake; Come & behold the goodly works  
 of God, and enjoy with us rich spiritual gifts  
 of God: If you come with that motive, you

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will be received into the arms of love, and  
on my part, I know it will give me great  
peace & thankfulness to see you here, hungering  
after God & his gifts. And you John Jackson  
& Betty Lees, may the grace & love of God, unto  
you also be multiplied: I thank God for your  
sakes, and rejoice greatly at the remembrance  
of your faithfulness. I wish also above all  
things, that your souls may be in health &  
prosper, and endure the same things I write  
unto you. I have written to Jonathan & Ann  
Whittaker my parents after the flesh, so that  
I need not write the same things over again;  
but leave you to the perusal of what is already  
written, and by all means, if it can any way  
be, forsake your native Country & come over  
into this Country for the gospel's sake; and  
I am persuaded, great will be my joy to  
see you here, as strangers & foreigners for  
Christ's sake; And you Ralph Whittaker  
Jonathan Whittaker, Ann & Thomas Whittaker  
to you jointly, & to each singly & for himself.



may God be merciful to you & not plead  
 against you, with his great power. I am sorry  
 at the remembrance of your folly! you have  
 had the glorious gospel preached to you, and  
 great labors have been taken with you! but  
 how have you improved the one or the other?  
 Did you ever obey the gospel? Be it that you  
 have, yet when a righteous man turneth from  
 his righteousness & doth wickedly; then his  
 righteousness shall no more be remembered,  
 in the day that he turneth from his righteous-  
 ness, and doth wickedly, but he shall surely  
 die for his wickedness. Your obedience hath  
 been like morning dew, & early cloud it soon  
 perished away, and how wretchedly have you  
 sunk yourselves? did you but know & properly  
 sense your loss hereby, you would mourn bitterly.  
 Had you trimmed off every member of your  
 bodies, & cast them away rather than have  
 disobeyed the gospel, your happiness would be  
 infinite by this time to what it now is.  
 Why not? for God in obedience of the gospel

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hath preserved me: For now am I cleansed  
from sin, & the very being of lust, and the  
divine nature clothes my soul: I daily feel  
the sweet breezes, from Canaan's banks, and  
the pearly drops of fragrant dews do frequently  
refresh my soul. From time to time I drink  
of the Diamond springs of Zion's golden moun-  
tain, and have access unto the temple of the  
New Jerusalem, at many seasons I drink  
wine, good & well refined, and eat of the  
goodly manna, plentifully rained down from  
the realms of glory: Upon pleasant mountains  
do I ascend, & into spacious vallies do I de-  
scend, which send forth constantly most  
salutary & odoriferous exhalations. I have  
access unto God my Father, & to Jesus Christ  
my redeemer, & tho' I am frequently under  
great sufferings, yet I rejoice with joy unspeak-  
-able & full of glory. But what do you enjoy  
or have you enjoyed by your disobedience?  
Nothing better than the pleasures of  
sensuality, which yield you bitterness

death & sorrow; and what is it your souls  
 feed upon? The wind & the dregs, & the seed  
 of damnation. And what is it in its original?  
 Nothing less than the nature of the Devil;  
 which is a stinking fore & rotten sulphur; it is  
 that damnable evil, which stript our first  
 fleshly parents of heavenly glory, & provoked  
 the holy One to condemn them to painful  
 labors, & bitter sorrows; It is that horrid  
 monster, that put a dagger into the hand of  
 wicked Cain, to slay righteous Abel his brother,  
 & then turned upon him, & made him a fugitive  
 & a vagabond in the Earth; it is that giant of  
 murderers that spread his renown in the old world,  
 by violence bloodshed & slaughter, & provoked the  
 Almighty to bring in the flood, and destroy all  
 men & every living creature under heaven.  
 It is that cursed enemy, that slew the thousands  
 of Israel, & made them fall in the wilderness;  
 It is that filthy corrupter, which filled the  
 cities of Sodom & Gomorrah with abominations,  
 & moved God to burn them with fire & brimstone.

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It is that Anakin of mischief, which did all the mischief among the Israelites & Jews in the land of Canaan, and scatter'd them among all nations to the ends of the earth. It is that Goliath which hath spill the blood of all men from the foundation of the world, and laid waste all the little & great cities, that have been laid waste upon earth. He it is that crucified the Seed of glory, and infuses all diseases into all flesh: this is he who spreads all persecutions among the Saints, and prepares a burning hell for them who serve him. When he is embraced he meditates death, and hell to the embracer, and enters every part of his body, and draws therefrom the seed of life, the essence of health & motion. It attacks also the soul, separates it from God, & throws it into a state of spiritual death. All this is by the strength of his motions (& evacuations). What then must his whole substance be? And under the power of this horrid monster, you are, & hold fast by his stinking cords, thro' your disobedience.

And he is not far from the disobedient, but is nigh unto them, even within them, and united to them in all their actions. You may then by reason see that your loss is dreadful. Will you then serve this murderer, this butcher any longer? If you will mountains of lead will sink you into hell. Turn about then speedily & be cleansed by repentance; and then there will be mercy for you, & much love. Be persuaded to turn from sin, from lust, the monster I have been speaking of. I adjure you in much love to turn from your evil way, and live. I have not written these things to discourage you, but to warn you. I have great pity & love for you, and am not willing you should go to hell. If you will but turn from sin, lust, & the way of the world, repenting for what you have done, there is great mercy for you; but if you will not forsake wickedness, and lust, you will make your bed with Devils soon . . . .

And now to you jointly, & to each singly by himself, both my parents after the flesh,

other, natural relations, I believers in the Land;  
 Christ is my all. All earthly glory is as dung  
 and as the blackness of darkness before him,  
 & the splendour of the heavens as smoke without  
 him. All my sensations were swallowed up,  
 in beholding his beauty, and the powers of  
 my soul captivated, in seeing one ray of  
 his transcendent glory. How can Christ be  
 set forth by pen & ink? O his lovely countenance,  
 one glance whereof will turn the firmament  
 into blackness, and make the sun disappear  
 in its orb. Were I able to set forth a thousandth  
 part of the beauty of Christ, I could astonish  
 all men, and wrap them up in superlative  
 love to him. O I love him! I love him!  
 I love him! He is the chief among ten  
 thousands unto me, and is altogether lovely.  
 His brightness, his beauty is so great, that the  
 most elegant description that can be given  
 of him by language is more deformity before  
 him; O his love how excellent it is! Surely  
 they were base indeed who will not love such

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a lovely one, who hath all beauty. O how transcendant bright it is! filling all things with comeliness, wherever it goes; and one gleam of it can happy ten thousand worlds, I turn hell into paradise... How happy then will be the overcomer, in the fruition & open vision of such an unsearchable beauty? when his beauty will be once poured forth like great & mighty rivers! when all their sensations & powers, will be ten thousand times enlarged, and they enabled to swim forever in the Ocean of glory, beauty & brightness. O! such a happiness will they enjoy that it is worth going thro' ten thousand hells to gain it... What vast numbers are in the way to enjoy this unutterable happiness in this land! for the sound of the gospel hath reach'd far & wide, and thousands of people have obey'd the gospel call. Considering we hold up a whole cross to men, even to deny themselves of the very thought of sensual gratifications of every kind, and a total destruction of the man of sin; it is wonderful that such multitudes

have gather'd in to us. However the truth we  
 are determin'd to maintain, if none come in.  
 For we will not lose our souls by flattering  
 the people. And whereas there are great  
 multitudes gather'd into obedience, we hope  
 to see them in the enjoyment of that unutter-  
 -able and transcendent happiness, in beholding  
 the unequalled beauty of Christ. O did they but  
 a thousandth part sense this happiness, how  
 engaged & violent they would be; and what  
 indignation they would have against the  
 ingratitude of carelessness! And what  
 gratitude is due to God, in visiting such  
 poor defiled creatures, sunk deeply in sin  
 & wickedness! O that people did but <sup>only</sup> sense God's  
 goodness in this! How would their hearts glow  
 with thankfulness! for it is beyond all account  
 to set forth, how deep people are sunk in  
 all manner of wickedness & abominations,  
 and it is wonderful beyond description that  
 so great & glorious a God, should condescend  
 to visit such a sunken people. O! that people



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would give glory to God, for all his marvellous  
goodness & mercies, which endure forever,  
and which are admirably manifested in  
administering comfort, joy & triumph, in  
all our assemblies. For he doth not forget  
us, but makes his glory manifest among  
us, where-ever we go.

I now live with my kind Mother in Israel  
Ann Lees, (formally so called) and the rest;  
and have all things in common with others  
that have come in to us, & we live in great  
love & union, blessing & praising God, and  
beautiful Zion, decked with them that  
believe.

James Whittaker.

Copy of a Letter, written by  
 Father James Whittaker  
 while on a visit to Enfield Ct; and sent to a  
 Brother in Hancock, Mass.

Enfield Feb<sup>y</sup> 25<sup>th</sup> 1782.

Thou lovest the truth, industry, honesty  
 & faithfulness, as well in the manner of  
 this world, as in the true riches, I write  
 unto thee, to warn & stir thee up to thy duty  
 in the things that are needful for the support  
 & comfort of the body:

Thou art idle & slothful, whereby thy  
 land lies unimproved, & pretty much  
 waste; from whence arises want, & is  
 a great burden to the poor man that  
 dwells in the house not far from thee.

This is abominable in the sight of God,  
 & will surely bring upon thee want &  
 poverty, as well as the wrath of God  
 in hell.

Thy women with thee are also idle,

hatchers of Cockatrice eggs, & breeders of lust & abominable filthiness, as well as Covenant breakers.

What mean ye by these cursed ways & works? you will bring not only yourselves to want & poverty, but distress those connected with thee in this life, by rendering yourselves incapable of doing deeds of charity, which are blessed before God, but also put yourselves beyond the reach of God's mercy, to dwell in devouring fire in the life to come.

I charge thee before God to mend thy ways: First, rouse up thy senses; shake off thy sloth & idleness; and as the time of plowing & seeding, is approaching, get thy farm in readiness; neglect no means - See that thou art not wanting in any thing; get thee out upon the land, & view what is wanting, & what must be done first, - what next, & so on in order. Go with the man that has

the care of the farm with thee; get thy fencing stuff. Put up thy fences in proper order, & sufficient to defend the fruits from devouring beasts. Haul out your dung, plow your land, when the season comes, & as much as you can seed, & tend with all your strength. Get up early, & in an active manner put things in order, that no obstruction comes to the business of the day.

Make your women turn out and mow their huts, & they will find health to their bodies, as well as their souls. — And do all things to the glory of God, in all readiness, cheerfulness & faithfulness, & when you have done all you can towards seeding your land for the present season, set yourselves faithfully to put your whole place in order, for you have land enough to maintain three families or more well improved.

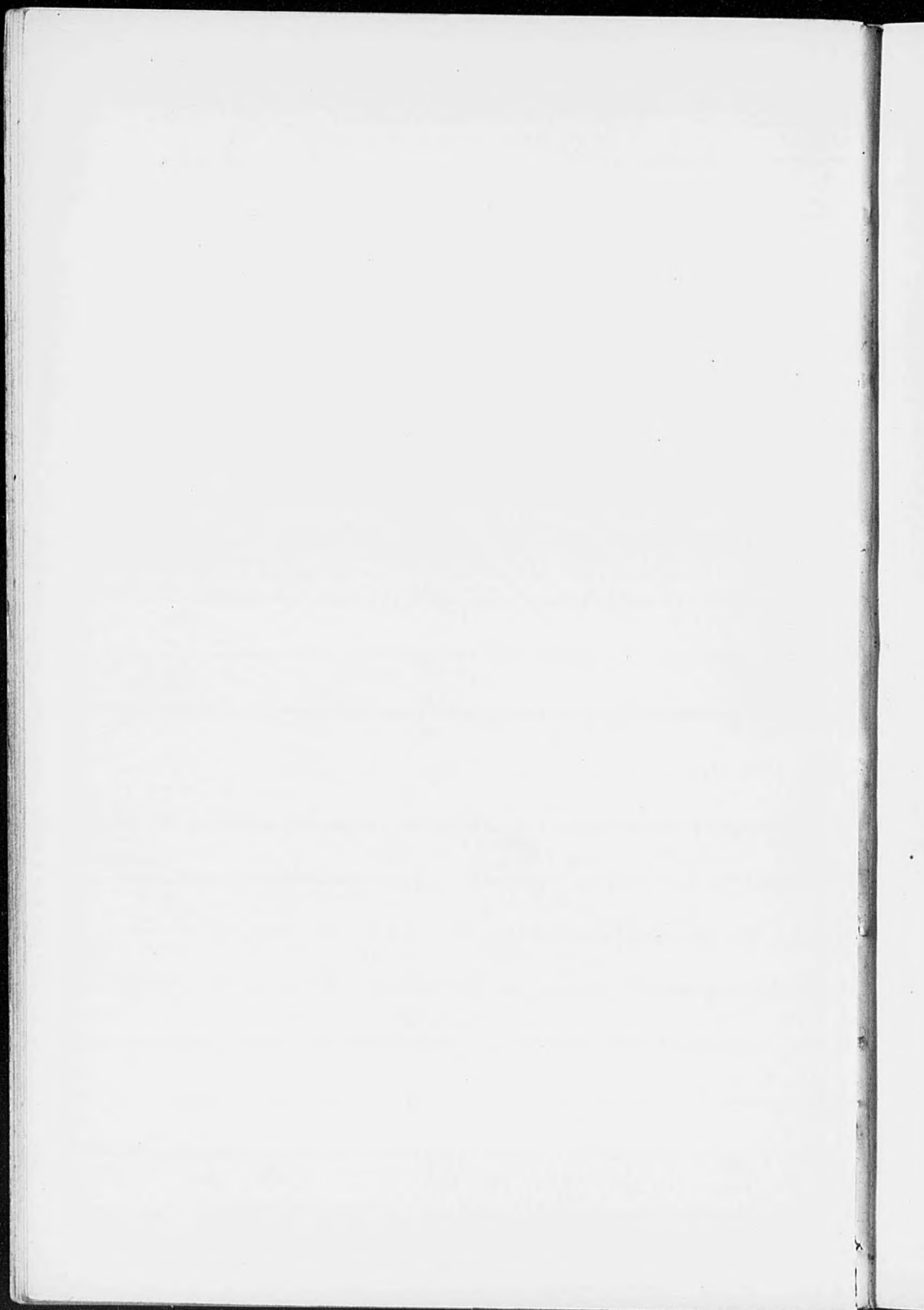
Now we charge thee before God, that thou suddenly go about these things, as the neglect thereof will assuredly bring upon thee the wrath of God, & cut thee off from his Church.

"He that is slothful in business is brother to him that is a great waster", & such God hates, I know this, that if thou dost not obey, not only wilt thou be obnoxious to the wrath of God; but thou wilt have no land to improve long, for God is able in the workings of his providence to take it from thee.

James Whittaker.

Note

The Br to whom this letter was sent, went in obedience to Father's counsel; left his trade, went on to his farm, (with his hired man,) in full faith & obedience, was greatly prospered & blessed in his labors, & died a good Believer, at the advanced age of 81 years



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remarks  
on the  
Supernatural  
lights seen  
at the South  
Family



Account of the mysterious appearances  
of lights seen by some of the brethren &  
sisters of the South House Decr 10th 1837.

As we were sitting in union, some of the  
Sisters who sat facing the second Family's  
house, saw a light which was thought to be  
in their meeting room tho' this seem'd stranj  
it being sabbath evening. Our curiosity being  
excited we followed up the matter which led  
to the discovery of what follows

For a while the light appear'd to those who  
first saw it as if the people in the room were  
passing by it which caused a momentary &  
partial eclipse. Other appearances succeeded  
which were still more strange. A light  
which seem'd to be in the doo-yard &  
for a time stationary was seen to shoot up  
to a considerable height in the air when it  
vanish'd & appear'd no more in that place

Other lights were again seen some rods  
from the house & two or three at a time and  
we thought it might be that the brethren  
were about with their lanterns which  
seemed quite singular as we could not  
conjecture why they should be stationed  
about in this manner. We witnessed some  
of these lights suddenly to disappear tho  
not all at the same time

While viewing these appearances we were  
constrained to believe that what we saw  
was some thing supernatural

But distinct from these bright bodies  
of light which appeared & disappeared  
we discovered clusters of fainter lights  
which emitted a glimmer similar to  
that produced by some conflagration  
at a great distance. How long these  
appearances continued we know not

tho they lasted till union meeting  
ended.

David Steven  
Edward Powers  
Abraham Figsby  
Ann Potter  
Abigail Gustin  
Alice Remer  
Elizabeth Hawley