



JIMMY CARTER

14 December 2000

To Jimmy the Southern Baptist

As did Paige, Randall, and Millard, I thoroughly enjoyed "The Ballard of Salvation Bill." "Odium Theologicum" was, however much more thought provoking, and I won't soon forget it. It explains to me many of the conflicts we face around the world - including around Tennessee, Texas, North Carolina, and Georgia.

I would be delighted for Paige Patterson and Randall Lolley have a copy of my book of poems. * (It's encouraging for me to learn that your friendships bridge this gap.) Most of the poems in this collection refer to experiences of my boyhood, and I'm just now publishing a new book, "An Hour Before Daylight," which is exclusively about this time of my life. It's the recollection of these ancient and relatively innocent and peaceful days that makes me yearn for the Southern Baptist Convention of old.

In fact, I've spent several hours with Paige, and found him to be an interesting and delightful companion. In addition to the poems, I hope you will give him my best personal regards. I feel that he and I would get along fine as fellow deacons in a small church.

Best wishes to you and your family for a fine holiday season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy".

* a gift from the poet.



JIMMY CARTER

January 31, 2001

To Jimmy Lutzweiler

Thank you for sending the nine copies of *The Creation of Sam McGee*. My grandchildren certainly will enjoy it, and I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sharing the nicely illustrated books with them.

Rosalynn joins me in sending you our warm best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature, there is a faint, mirrored stamp of the date "January 31, 2001".

Mr. Jimmy Lutzweiler
Southeastern Baptist
Theological Seminary Library
114 N. Wingate Street
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587

4/5/07

To Jimmy Lutzweiler

Thanks for your letter
of 3/19.

Next time you're
coming to Plains, let
me know so we can
talk awhile -

Best wishes,

Jimmy

P.S. Keep me informed re
the stomach patches to
change sexual preferences
of embryos - J



JIMMY CARTER

January 2, 2009

To Jimmy Lutzweiler

Thank you for sending the finished version of *The Ballad of Salvation Bill*. It is a welcome addition to my collection, and I appreciate your remembering me in such a thoughtful way. Rosalynn joins me in sending you our warm best wishes for a happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist
Southern Baptist Theological Seminary Library
114 N. Wingate Street
Wake Forrest, North Carolina 27587



JIMMY CARTER

30 August 2010

To Jimmy Lutzweiler

Thanks for your recent letter and the enclosed material. I look forward to the publication of your article about my sponsoring the Holocaust Museum. It turned out to be quite controversial with the American Jewish community because one of the 51 members I appointed to the commission was an Armenian. Elie Wiesel was the chairman.

We at The Carter Center maintain full time offices in Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza, and I'll be part of an Elders delegation making a trip to the region in October. In the meantime we'll be watching Obama spar with the Arabs while supporting Netanyahu. The key is Israel's taking over Palestine, including East Jerusalem, a process that has been steadily increasing since 1979.

Best wishes,



JIMMY CARTER

1/16/2016

To Jimmy Lutzweiler

I just now received your letter and the enclosed CDs. I presume that my staff in Atlanta were passing them around so everyone could enjoy them.

I have spent this Saturday morning listening to them, and I am really surprised and enthralled. The only thing that is competitive is the remarkable dedication. This is a treasure trove of hymns that deserve to be preserved and enjoyed. The vocalist and guitarist do them justice.

When you make your next visit to Plains (soon, I hope), would you consider singing two or three of them to our Maranatha congregation? The church has been full recently, if you may be reluctant to perform before a small audience.

Give my regards to Spud and Marlene.

With thanks, and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is fluid and cursive.

p.s. You may notice that I chose not to comment on the poetry.



JIMMY CARTER

January 10, 2014

To Jimmy Lutzweiler

Thank you for sending me the great illustrated copy of *War Prayer*. I have not seen this particular version and am happy to have it. I appreciate your always remembering me in such thoughtful ways. Rosalynn joins me in sending you our warm best wishes for the new year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jimmy Carter". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mr. Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
114 North Wingate Street
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587-1889



JIMMY CARTER

December 30, 2014

To Jimmy L.

Thank you for sending me a copy of *A Safe Haven*. I am glad to have it, and I appreciate your remembering me even if it was not meant to be a Christmas gift!

Rosalynn joins me in sending you our best wishes in writing your memoir and for happiness in the new year.

Sincerely,

Mt. Jimmy Lutzweiler
101 Thornwood Road
Jamestown, North Carolina 27282



JIMMY CARTER

January 11, 2018

JAMES H. HARRIS
101 THORNWOOD ROAD
JAMESTOWN, NORTH CAROLINA 27282

To Jimmy Lutzweiler

Thank you for sending me a copy of *Redeemer Nation*. It is a welcome addition to my collection, and I appreciate your remembering me in such a thoughtful way. Rosalynn joins me in sending you and Shelly our warm best wishes.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Carter

p.s. a) your letter never bore me
& b) I will not ask for the picture of the lamb
P.S. Your letters are J.C. very hard to read.

Mr. Jimmy Lutzweiler
101 Thornwood Road
Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

P.P.S. I have a broken wrist & can't write well -
ppps! It's too bad that I
Tavesan didn't write his book in
2018, after Trump & after
my "Faith" book, to be published
before Easter - I



JIMMY CARTER

May 7, 2019

To Jimmy L.

Thank you for your most recent gifts. It is always a pleasure to receive your unique presents and thoughtful letters! Rosalynn and I are preparing for another Habitat build so the *Ancient Carpenter's Tools* book may be of some use.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Lutzweiler
101 Thornwood Road
Jamestown, North Carolina 27282



ROSALYNN CARTER

13 July 2007

Dear Jimmy,

It was good to be with you and Shelly in Plains. Thank you for sending me *Brer Rabbit*. I am pleased to have it and appreciate your thoughtfulness.

Jimmy joins me in sending you our warm best wishes.

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Carter

Thanks!

Mr. Jimmy Lutzweiler
Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary
114 North Wingate Street
Wake Forest, North Carolina 27587

Rosalynn Carter

12 January 2017

Dear Jimmy,

Thank you for your delightful letter. It is good to hear from you, and I enjoyed the picture of little Magnolia viewing her first eclipse. You and Shelly must be over the moon to have a granddaughter!

It is thoughtful of you to send a copy of *Little Hank*, and I know I will enjoy reading it to the little ones. What a bittersweet association it must have for you as a cherished gift whose giver died tragically. With my efforts to promote mental health care I hope to prevent more cases like your friend Larry's. I hope that introducing Maggie to *Little Hank* will bring you much joy.

Jimmy joins me in sending our best wishes to you and Shelly.

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Carter

Thanks! It can't wait to read it to my great grand-children

Mr. Jimmy Lutzweiler
101 Thornwood Road
Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

Great photo of Maggie!

Rosalynn Carter

12 January 2017

Dear Jimmy,

Thank you for your delightful letter and for sharing the beautifully illustrated edition of *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*. It is a wonderful memento of your visit, which Jimmy and I enjoyed so much.

With best wishes to you and Shelly for a happy new year,

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Carter

We gave the book to a grandson, & he loved it! It was a big hit with everybody, and I'll probably read the

Mr. Jimmy Lutzweiler
101 Thornwood Road
Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

20,000 Leagues to
Jimmy's son who
is 7 years old.
Many thanks!

Rosalynn Carter

20 July 2018

Dear Jimmy,

Thank you for the books. I appreciate your thinking of me and hope you and your family are doing well.

With best wishes,

Sincerely,

Rosalynn Carter

Thanks!

Mr. Jimmy Lutzweiler
101 Thornwood Road
Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

**SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**



Library

24 October 2000

Brother Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia

Dear Brother Carter,

I mean the enclosed sincerely.

Warmly yours,

Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist

To Jimmy Lutzweiler

I enjoyed your "Fond Farewell and Call."
Women's roles in churches are not fundamentals
of the faith, but a local church's autonomy has
been one for Baptists. I don't know much about
Godsey and Tillich. I presume that you must let
your president interpret the scriptures. I
agree with Texas Baptists and others that it
should be Jesus.

Sincerely, and warmly yours,

In Christ, Jimmy C.

SOUTHEASTERN
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Library

4 January 2001

Dear Brother/Peacemaker/Poet/President Carter,

To Jimmy -
Thanks, & best
wishes - Give sent
the other books - Before
Try An Hour
Daylight
Jimmy C

Your gracious gift copies of *Always A Reckoning* for Paige and Randall and your kind reply to my letter did not take me altogether by delightful surprise. That is one reason I had written "A Fond Farewell." It is that charitable and expansive spirit that I begrudge losing to Texas Baptists, though if they follow your example, we shall all be better off and I shall have some consolation anyway. I thank you very much for sending them.

You did not, however, send me the bill, as I requested that you do. And since you would probably tear up the check if I sent you one, under separate cover, as soon as I can round them up, I will send you something a bit more difficult to tear up. I refer to nine hardbound, illustrated copies of *The Cremation of Sam McGee* by Robert Service, one for each of your grandchildren for next Christmas or whenever you wish. I do not know how a former president does his Christmas shopping, and I thought this Christmassy poem might compensate in a small way for the time you took during your busy holiday this year to think of Paige and Randall and the warm feelings that might flow from such an initiative. In spite of this being Mr. Reagan's favorite poem, I do not think Republicans have or deserve a monopoly on it.

I am delighted that you enjoyed Service's "Salvation Bill" and also "Odium Theologicum." The latter was by Sam Walter Foss, about whom I know nothing else. It comes from his book, *Dreams in Homespun*, for which I spent \$7.50 just to get that one magnificent poem. I enclose one more favorite of mine for you herewith. It is Countee Cullen's little known, "I Have a Rendezvous With Life." I suspect it was inspired contrapuntally by Alan Seeger's WWI Poem, "I Have a Rendezvous With Death," that we have all learned in school. Countee would rather rendezvous with life and so would I. It was racism and militarism that kept Seeger's poem in and this far better work by a black poet out of Lincoln Grade School textbooks way up north in Illinois when I was growing up.

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20 November 2000

My Dear Brother and President Carter,

Thank you for your very kind reply to my "Fond Farewell and Call." I never really expected it to reach you.

It would appear that I should voluntarily penalize myself 15 yards or more for my late hit on you about your admiration for Tillich. I know that I have read somewhere of your appreciation for him; however, I have no earthly idea right now if you were quoted correctly or even where I placed that quotation. That you "don't know much about . . . Tillich" leads me to suspect that perhaps I have presumed accuracy in a report, possibly without justification. Accordingly, I would happily repudiate my remark and apologize, if I so much as even slightly mischaracterized you. Obviously my take on Tillich is quite transparent and tenuous. And though I don't know much about him either, I do know the following firsthand. One of Tillich's scholarly intimates (an understatement) once told a student who was distressed over Tillich's theological dishonesty, "For you, Larry (not his real name), Christianity is a matter of life and death. For Tillich it is all just a word game." Thus, you will better understand my concern over your reputed admiration for him - not to mention his wife's estimate of him (see *From Time to Time* by Hannah Tillich, p. 240ff). Besides, thinking of you, Tillich and Hovie Lister all at the same time did sort of strike me like an image of Ariel Sharon, Yasser Arafat and Hank Williams all sipping schnapps under a starry sky of Vincent van Gogh. Either Tillich or Hovie has to go, it seems to me.

Kirby Godsey is quite a different matter. I picked on you for not picking on him because you have publicly picked on my friend, brother and president, Paige Patterson, and appear not to have given at least equal time to criticizing exponentially more deserving people like Godsey. You indicated that you do not know much about Godsey either. And that is one of the complaints I have with the folks who appropriate the name "moderate" to themselves. They spend all their time damning Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler instead of revealing to you and others the revolutionary rot in people like Godsey. They strain at a gnat and swallow a camel! They fall off a camel and can't hit the sand! Thus, you may well not know much about him - and never would at all, if there weren't some folks who think Godsey has not only crossed the line but gone plumb 'round the bend. I enclose herewith a summary of Godsey's theology as reported in *The Conservative Record* (October 1996, Vol IX, No. 3, p. 7). There is no doubt in my mind that your Baptist ancestors did not believe as Godsey believes, and that he is far more deserving of your loving indictment and recapture than that fundamentalist Pharaoh, PP, who faithfully flagellates our bleeding backs and backslides regularly up here at Southeastern Seminary. I have no doubt that Paige Patterson is the biggest sinner since me and St. Paul - well, since St. Paul, anyway - and that his wife is a better preacher than he is. But those faults pale in comparison to Godsey's gospel goobledogok (gooberdegok?). I heard a Texas Baptist rancher, Dan Currie(?), speak last week in Winston-Salem, NC, and to hear him speak you would never know there was such a thing as a heretic anywhere. In fact, the way he spoke, it was constitutionally impossible for a Baptist to be a heretic! Even Satan could have been a Baptist for him. I don't read the evidence that way. I'll bet he takes better care of his cattle than his Christians! Vets like Paige Patterson and Paul Pressler, on the other hand, have pointed out for people the likes of Southern Seminary professor, Eric C. Rust, who doubted, if he did not even scorn, the historicity of the

To Jimmy Lutzweiler I enjoyed your entertaining letter. You overestimate my involvement in Theology and SBC affairs. I was on the Brotherhood Commission in the late '60s, & that's all. I've been concerned as an individual who wanted to heal differences between SBC factions & have given up on this effort. I do feel more compatible with the Texas Baptist.

I don't recall picking on Paige Patterson, although let's disagree on some things - something not possible for you & others at Southeastern - Best wishes, Jimmy C.

bodily resurrection of Jesus. If I could not believe that you, Hovie, me, Jake Hess and J.D. Sumner might someday sing the Statesmen arrangement of "There Shall Be Showers of Blessing" in the presence of a real living Christ around a throne because he literally sprang from a tomb, I wouldn't give a horse chestnut for the Christian faith, let alone a life of service.

I am waxing longer here than I intend. Let me say something about local church autonomy. I believe in it and I believe in it heartily. I do not know anyone here who does not believe in it. In fact, the landmark case on local church autonomy was fought in 1953-54 in Rocky Mount, NC, just down the road a bit from here. The main agitator for autonomy was a fellow named James M. Bulman. Bulman was a conservative whose papers we just took into our archives within the last six months. Fighting him tooth and nail for a decade were a number of moderate and liberal Baptists. I say this only to stress that it was conservatives who were in the forefront of this movement for autonomy that you and I both praise. I enclose herewith for your review a copy of a speech Bulman once delivered on the subject. It is one of many among his papers which, incidentally, you are certainly welcome to come here and review. I also enclose for you an exchange of correspondence dated in 1954 between a much younger Paul Pressler and James Leo Garrett of Southwestern Baptist Seminary. As you will see, it is the future Texas Baptist Judge Pressler who is the one carrying the flag for local church autonomy. He cites the Rocky Mount case as the *cause celebre*. What conservatives object to is not the autonomy of the local church but the autonomy of the theological professor who signs doctrinal statements he doesn't believe in, expecting others to pay his salary. Conservatives believe that financial supporters have academic freedom also, specifically the freedom not to pay liberal light and enlightenment bills. That is the kind of academic freedom I learned from my dear late friend and yours, Terry Sanford. It was another kind of academically free liberal Congressman, Brooks Hays, who ordered James Bulman to be dragged from the platform of the SBC in 1959 while Bulman, the future SBC parliamentarian, was exercising his academic and parliamentary freedom to challenge the intellectual honesty of Eric C. Rust in the proper forum. I personally am a Sanford liberal, not a Hays liberal.

I have something more to tell you about the president's interpretation of the Scriptures and about women, per your note, but I have gone on too long already. If you wish to hear it, just say the word. And you are welcome here on this campus anytime. I probably won't be able to buy your lunch since those Texas Baptists cut our budget, but you could buy mine. If local church autonomy is a chord you wish to strike, you will find no better collection of materials than Bulman's papers. If you ever do, I'd like to know where they are.

Sincerely and warmly yours,

St. Jimmy

Saint Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist

Professors have to do their own job.

SOUTHEASTERN
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Library

15 October 2003

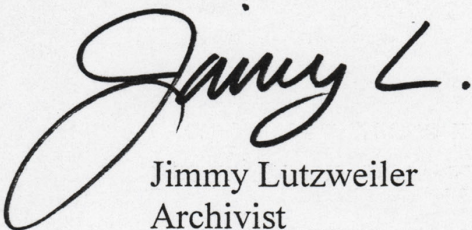
President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Poet/President/Peacemaker Carter,

Recently I stumbled across the minutes for the *Baptist World Alliance* meeting that took place in Berlin in 1934. I found the speeches on "Racialism" and "Nationalism" to be of great interest to me, especially in light of subsequent history in both the U.S. and Germany. In the event that you have not already stumbled across them yourself, I thought you also might appreciate seeing them, and I enclose them herewith.

I saw you on Larry King a few weeks ago, and I appreciate very much your even-handed stance in the Middle East. I am still hoping to make it to your Sunday School class this fall to hear you and to have you autograph my Hovie Lister records on which yours and Rosalyn's pictures appear.

Sincerely,


Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist

To Jimmy L.
Thanks for these
interesting speeches, from
the good times before
Creeds & Disunity.
Best wishes,
Jimmy C.

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Library

16 August 2001

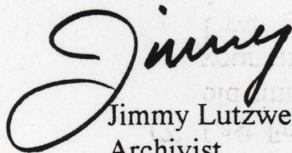
President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/Poet/President/Peacemaker Carter,

Three things prompt me to write you again:

- (1) Last fall I reviewed a book by one David Stricklin about Southern Baptist dissent for the *Southwestern Historical Quarterly*. It is a book partly about you and your religious roots. My review was just published this month. I enclose a copy. I thought perhaps if you had not seen the book that you might take an interest in it. I am sure Emory has a copy, though I am not certain your archive has its own copy. The author shows no evidence of having interviewed you. I would be curious to know if you ever knew or ever even heard of Walter Nathan Johnson whom Stricklin puts in your roots.
- (2) Last Friday night I visited with my hero, Hovie Lister, in Greenville, SC, at the old timers quartet reunion. I cornered all the record albums for sale there with your and his picture on them. I got his autograph on all four of them and told him I was going to ask you to autograph them also. He asked if he could buy one from me with your autograph. I said no, but that I would give him one, if I could get it. If I sent them along to you or brought them to you at your Sunday School class someday, could I prevail upon you to sign them? I don't mean to be a hog, but they do make great collector's items.
- (3) I suggested to Hovie that Bill Gaither ought to do a new video entitled *Command Performance* on which all the quartets would ~~sing~~ your favorite songs and which would feature you and Hovie and Bill on the cover like the existing album cover. Hovie loved the idea. All the profits could go to Habitat for Humanity or wherever you all might agree -maybe even to me! Would you consider this a possibility?

Warmly,


Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist

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To Jimmy heard of
1) I never heard of
Walter Nathan Johnson, Jordan
but was close to Clarence Moyer -
Will Cary bell, & Bill Moyers -
2) OK - you come and them
to Micranatha Baptist Church,
& I'll sign -
3) No, thanks -
Best wishes,
Jimmy C

**SOUTHEASTERN
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27 July 2004

Poet/President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

*Jimmy: It's always good
to hear from you.
Come back to see us -
Best wishes,*

Dear Poet/President Carter,

It was a pleasure to be in your Sunday School class once again on Sunday. I especially enjoyed your vignette about Dwight L. Moody. I have read much about Moody and have even written a volume about his 1893 revival in Charlotte, North Carolina. But I had never before come across the byte you shared.

Jimmy

I hope you enjoyed the autographed volume that Mary Pointer, my sister Esther's friend, brought you from Governor Nigh of Oklahoma. I read half of it myself while waiting in line to get our front row seats. It might interest you to know that Nigh's former Baptist pastor, Wendell Estep, is now one of our trustees at Southeastern.

I regret that I missed hearing your speech Monday night. As soon as I got in the door from Plains, my son wanted me to play tennis. But my wife gave me a review of it and conveyed to me your anti-war sentiments, sentiments that I share and deeply appreciate your accenting in this forum. I wonder if I might share a line with you that has provoked me deeply and that you are in a far better position to proliferate than I --if it provokes you as well. It comes from the pen of the poet John Greenleaf Whittier, to wit,

"Peace makes greater demands upon manhood than war."

I first heard this line from a friend, who in turn heard it quoted a decade ago by former NC Governor Jim Martin, a Republican. It would seem that Republicans have since forgotten it. There is today, as you well know, an unfortunate association in the minds of young men between being macho and being warlike, instead of an association between being macho and peacelike. This line of Whittier, no stranger to war, puts manliness in proper perspective; and I hope if you haven't come across it before that you might find it useful in your good fights for the faith, for friendliness and for freedom everywhere.

Sincerely,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist

SOUTHEASTERN
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27 January 2004

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

It was a real pleasure for Shelly and I to sit in on your Sunday School class 10 days ago. I am still contemplating and discussing with others your striking observation that "redeemer" appears nowhere in the NT. And several times, since hearing it, I have shamelessly stolen your quip about "A lie is an abomination to the Lord --and an ever present help in time of trouble." But God will forgive me for the plagiarism. That is the business he is in.

I wish I could join you in your high evaluation of Paul Tillich. I think I could demonstrate to any reasonable listener that your own emphasis on and exhibition of Job-like integrity makes you a far better theologian than he. In all events I can and do endorse your praise of women in ministry. Under separate cover I am sending you a lesser-known memoir (of the 50 million books offered on one internet site, ABE, it was the only copy available) of Paul Tillich, written by a woman --his wife Hannah-- who I would argue is also a better theologian than he. I thank God that your lovely Rosalynn shall never have occasion to write of you that because of you "every evening I felt shoved beneath a heap of stones" (p. 242). All this being said, I am not Tillich's judge but only a reader of the literature. I have no doubt that my sins are worse than his, that the speck in his eye is dwarfed further by the pines, peach and pecan orchards lodged in my own.

Changing directions exponentially, I want to thank you again ever so much for your kindness in taking the time to autograph my four Statesmen record jackets. And I want to thank you, too, for having my old friend, Bill Shaw, in to sing for the service. He was a hero of mine when I was growing up, and he still is. The first time I ever met him was about 20 years ago. He had fallen on hard times and was living, divorced, in a shack in Anderson, SC. To see him come back, remarried to his former wife, and to sing for a president of the United States was no small thrill for a fan such as I, not to mention his family. I plan to watch every minute and nuance of the Panthers in the Super Bowl this Sunday; but if I could only watch one of these two events, I would easily choose to watch Bill sing at Maranatha for you and the other folks. Incidentally, there is at least one other great reconciliation story that I know of with respect to Bill. Knowing of your interest and gifts in that respect, I hope you learn of it and can make use of it, if indeed you do not know it already.

Warmly your Baptist brother,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist

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*Jimmy: It was good to have y'all--
and Billy Shaw-- to worship with
us. I don't especially admire
Tillich, but do like his quote
about searching v. Complacency &
absolute conviction that his right.
Best wishes,
Jimmy*



13 Sept 2004

Dear St. Jimmy C.,

I'm sure you can take care of
yourself without my help, but you
might have missed sniper' Nordlinger.

Yours,
Jimmy L.

To Jimmy: Thank
you! I hadn't heard
of the Herd's article.
Also, I wonder if he
worships the Prince
of Peace?

Best wishes,

Jimmy C.

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7 January 2005

*Jimmy: A great
memoir. You should
have listened to David
re changes in SBC -
Jimmy*

Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Jimmy C,

I lost a Baptist Sunday School teacher friend of mine on December 27. He also loved poetry. I wrote a little memoir of him and included a moving couplet that I never heard anywhere else except from him. Thought you might enjoy it and find it useful. I have highlighted it in yellow. There's another great poem four pages later. It moves me every time I quote it.

Yours,

Jimmy L.

Jimmy L.
Archivist

rec'd 10-13-05

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Library

3 October 2005

Jimmy Carter
Plains, GA 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

I look forward to reading the new book to which you referred in your note. The harder and cleaner the hit on us, the better it will be for everyone.

Meantime, I enclose for you a little schtick I have cranked out for the Texas State Historical Association next March. I had to talk to liberals, moderates, conservatives, the senile, women, Methodists, pagans, Jews and ghosts in order to compose it. It may well be the most ecumenical paper in all of religious history.

If there is an outside chance you ever heard or heard of B.B. Crimm (he did preach in Georgia and even had an appendicitis attack there), I would be pleased to know it. And if you remember the name of the revivalist under whom you came to Christ, I would be interested to know that name. I have a vague recollection that you characterized your conversion as having occurred under such.

Warmly,

Jimmy L.
Archivist

To Jimmy: This is great! I really enjoyed your hilarious account.

*Jimmy!
p.s. I hope you'll like my book -- at least better than your bosses*
J

SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
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Library

1 June 2005

Saint Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Saint Jimmy,

Thought you might enjoy my diatribe to Jonathan La-la-Last. See enclosed. I appreciate your provocative sentiments on the American Revolution, and I teach them and similar sentiments in my American history class at our local community college.

I'll be coming to your SS class again on June 26. I'll be running the sound for Bill Shaw.

Best,

Jimmy L.

Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist

*Thanks - I
hadn't known about the book
or review - I had a
more profound influence
on the world than I
thought - I look forward to
seeing you on the
26th - Best wishes,
Jimmy L.*

**SOUTHEASTERN
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Library

22 August 2005

President/Brother Jimmy Carter
Plains, GA 31780

Dear P/B Jimmy C.,

I have two things I want to thank you for:

1. I want to thank you first for your kind words at the recent BWA meetings inviting Southern Baptists to return to that organization. While I would not expect that to occur in the near future, I found the sentiment behind the expression warm and irenic. And I wanted you to know that it did not go unnoticed or unwelcomed.

2. Changing directions dramatically, I want to thank you for something you did back in 1979 that I just learned about this past weekend. I refer to your authorizing the release of various records related to Pearl Harbor to the National Archives for public scrutiny. I came across this fact in Robert B. Stinnett's book *Day of Deceit: The Truth about FDR and Pearl Harbor*. Being the peacemaker that you are, I hope you will find the following to be a stimulating and useful return on your political investment of releasing these records. My late father-in-law having been on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, I have been keenly interested in this subject and specifically FDR's foreknowledge of it for over 30 years. In recent years I have come to the view that FDR not only knew about it in advance but that he pro-actively orchestrated events to bring it or something like it about. Stinnett's book has removed any residual doubts about FDR's astonishing conduct.

The following may well be old news to you, but what struck me forcibly in Stinnett's book and some documents he uncovered, thanks to you, was the role of a Southern Baptist missionary kid in the bringing on of America's entry into WWII. I refer to Arthur H. McCollum who was born in 1898 in Nagasaki and who learned to speak Japanese before he could speak English. According to Stinnett, it was McCollum who in 1940 drafted an eight-point plan (p. 272-275) for the express purpose of goading Japan into firing the first shot --or in his own exact words " . . . If by these means [i.e., the eight

To Jimmy, As usual, I'm
pleased & intrigued by
your letter. I pray for
Christian reconciliation --
although my forthcoming
book may not help.

Best wishes,
Jimmy C.

SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



Super Bowl Sunday

Dear President/Brother Jimmy C,

I am writing you about Adrian Rogers, *The Hornet's Nest* and *Our Endangered Values*, all of which I have combined with some other thoughts in a short essay I am enclosing herewith. I hope you will find it to be of interest and use. In brief, I praised your *Hornet's Nest* but was not able to extend that same sentiment without qualification to *Our Endangered Values*, even though you and I share many of the values whose passing you justifiably lament. However, as the best of the football season passes from us today, I want to stress that in my critique of your most recent book I intend no cheap shot but only a clean lick. If you can understand and appreciate my words as nothing other than the literary equivalent of a Carolina Panther laying a hard lick on the very well-deserving and dangerous Michael Vick, then I would be pleased. If you see it as otherwise, then I would beg to apologize to you and take the penalty I deserve. The laying on of hard licks does not bespeak a lack of affection for you any more than it means that between ferocious football players --not that you need my affection for your survival and self-esteem.

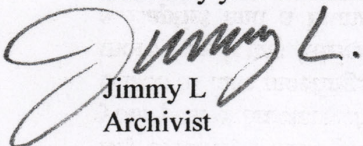
Library
Jimmy: I made a serious mistake about Adrian Rogers, which I tried to correct with a published acknowledgement, apology to his family, and a change in my book's text. At the age of 81, I was confused, & appreciated the correction -- and your criticism -
Jimmy

My brother, I write primarily to serve you, not to scorch you. I have been very disappointed in your past characterizations of Adrian Rogers, which is why I wrote you last December to request a face to face meeting. But it seems to me that this matter has hurt and will continue to hurt you more than it has Adrian. This concerns me for more than the simple reason that you are a brother, a Baptist and a human being. I heartily endorse your critique of Mr. Bush's War in *Our Endangered Values*, and I personally believe he lied to get us into that war. But it seems to me that you neutralized your welcome lick on W and a chance to sack him by falsely characterizing Adrian.

Back in 1993 Adrian sent me a copy of a letter he sent to you in which he stated beyond all question that he believed you were a Christian and that you were not a secular humanist. I do not understand how in all the years since then that you could continue the charge you have made against him. I understand that you have now apologized to Joyce Rogers, which certainly underscores your emphasis on women in ministry. But my own personal view is that you ought to amend that published apology just a bit, *a la* McGeehee's and Zaccheus's mentioned in this essay, and extend to her a comparable open-ended initiative to do whatever she might suggest to atone for the error, not just to admit and describe it. My guess is that she would suggest nothing, and you would both be highly honored for the exchange of courtesies. If George Bush is ever going to repent, he is going to need someone to show him how; and I know no better Sunday School teacher than you to instruct him in this very endangered value of first class apologies.

Now, it's your turn to lay a lick on me and pull the telephone poles --or entire Indonesian rain forests-- out of my own eye in exchange for the tiny speck I have just pulled out of yours.

Sincerely your brother,


Jimmy L.
Archivist

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<http://library.sebts.edu>

SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



Library

27 November 2006

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 37180

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

Congratulations on your new book and, as you promised, prose without provocation. I bought and read the book this weekend (missing parts of two or three football games in the process). I am very happy that you took the time to put these thoughts down, and I learned a lot by reading it. I write a column called "Current Trends" in a rather obscure Baptist periodical that nevertheless reaches about 15,000 readers every two months. I plan to review and recommend the book in the next issue.

I identified very much with your feelings about the Creek Indian/Palestinian parallelism (p. 27-28), though in my case it was the Sauk Indians of my Illinois childhood. You may recall that Abe Lincoln himself assisted in the ethnic cleansing of Black Hawk and his tribe. And I am very glad you recorded the perspectives of Hafez al-Assad which, as you state, "are rarely heard in the western world" (p. 74). I wonder why our press does not aggressively seek both sides to this story. I found especially insightful and precise Assad's statement about it being "strange to insist on secure borders on other people's territory" (p. 75). I see it the same way. And your citation of the phrase "Greater Israel" prompted me to Google that expression with rewarding perspectives and maps. If you do a second edition of this book, I would suggest that you include a map of what those advocating biblical expansionism see as the ultimate boundaries of Israel --though such a map by itself could prove to be very provocative. If you have not yet Googled this expression yourself, I highly recommend Alfred Lilienthal's site at www.alfredlilienthal.com/greaterisrael.htm. And I cannot recommend too highly Lilienthal's book *The Zionist Connection* my personal copy of which was once in the library of Ingeborg Lauder, apparently one of the Estee Lauder heirs and a sizable American financial backer of Ariel Sharon. I forget where I bought it.

I am enclosing herewith a couple of items for you: (1) an abstract from Dean Rusk's memoir, *As I Saw It*, which relates directly to the creation of Israel. Perhaps you have already read it or even talked to him about these things; but I thought if you had not, you might find it to be of interest. (2) An abstract from Ernest Sandeen's classic book *The*

Copy
Jimmy: Once again, I'm glad
to hear from you (& learn
from you). Best wishes,
Jimmy C.
P.S. Send me your review

**SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**



Library

8 August 2006

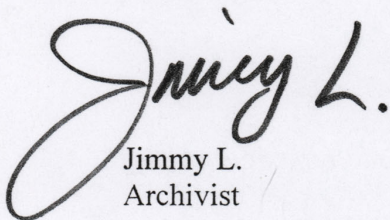
Brother/President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother Jimmy C.,

I just wanted to drop you a note to express my support for your recent column about Israel in *The Washington Post*. I could not agree more. You have done a wonderful job being balanced in re: the Middle East, which is probably why you take so much flak. I noticed that the internet responses to your observations were almost 100% negative, and I wanted to make sure you knew you were not alone in this matter. One reason the SBC needs to hear your voice is because the denomination has been virtually Zionized since Day one. Keep up the good work and some will listen and learn.

By the way, you may be interested to know that Paige Patterson has an adoptive brother who was once a member of Yasser Arafat's Council of Sixteen. He is a very interesting fellow who grew up in Paige's home and, correspondingly, the First Baptist Church of Beaumont, where he professed the Christian faith. He moved back to Palestine and then to Jordan after making some money in Houston. He later teamed up with Yasser to fight for the land from which he personally had been dispossessed.

Warmly,


Jimmy L.
Archivist

Jimmy: Thanks.
I'll have a book
on the same
subject in November.
JC

**SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**



Library

27 June 2007

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

If I heard correctly from the media that you laid a lick on the present administration as "criminal" for its failure to support a democratically elected Hamas, I wish to be among those who second your voice and who see in your challenge something rarely seen since Elijah took on the prophets of Baal. I regret that I do not have more influence in life to make my voice a more significant contribution to your store of courage, but such as I have give I unto thee.

Warmly,

Jimmy L.

Jimmy L.
Archivist

*To Jimmy: Thanks!
I need & appreciate
even the tardy
ones -
Best wishes,
Jimmy C.*

*P.S. I wrote this last June, forgot
to mail it, and lost it in a pile of
papers on my desk. I send it along
now, as I do not wish to waste
the encouragement. Jimmy L.
26 Nov 2007*

**SOUTHEASTERN
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Library

16 October 2006

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

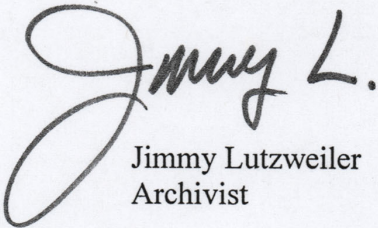
Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

A bit belatedly, let me add my encouragement to that which you must have received from many by now for those good hard clean licks you laid on Mr. Cheney on the Larry King show a few weeks ago. Keep up the good work. Meantime I am trying to do my tiny part, a sample of which you will find on p. 27 of the enclosed.

I look forward to your new book on the Mideast come November.

Changing directions slightly from the troubled Mideast to the tranquil Pacific Northwest, if you have never yet been to Nakusp, British Columbia, a magnificent little town to which I refer elsewhere in the enclosed essay (none of which is required reading, of course), you have a big treat in store, if or when you do.

Warmly,


Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist

*Jimmy: Thanks -
Unlike your brilliant
rhetoric, I try to
use non-provocative
language, as you will
note in my new book -
Best wishes, Jimmy?*



Library

cc Jimmy - I've always
Thought Bill Moyers was a good
friend... & Jim still his -

19 August 2008

Jimmy
ps I've never been a
Calvinist -

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C, J

Sue Myrick has replied at long last to
my letter to her about your passport.
After I digest this more fully, I intend
to hold her heels to the fire (here in
NC we have heels, not feet!).

Wandy,

Jimmy L.

P.S. Have you seen the unkind words about you
from Bill Moyers in the recent memoir of
Arthur Schlesinger, Jr? On top of that he
called you a Calvinist in a disparaging sense.
God bless you anyway, whether you are or are not!

**SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**



Library

6 February 2008

Brother/President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

I had a very profitable time in Atlanta at the NBC meetings. I heard the finest sermon I have ever heard (Joel Gregory's) and witnessed the most amazing musical event (the saxophonist who played Andre Crouch's "The Blood Will Never Lose Its Power") I have ever witnessed. Thank you so much for the effort you put into bringing this event about. I will elaborate at greater length sometime in the future and pass along some suggestions that you requested we all submit.

Meantime, I enclose for you copies of a number of letters I have already sent out to various participants in the meetings and to some wonderful people whom I met. Of course you need not read them all or even one of them, though they will give you the flavor of one person's reflections. However, I have also enclosed a copy of a letter I sent to Kenneth W. Stein in re: *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid*. I took exception to his attempt to embarrass you last year and wished to see how well he might handle the knuckle ball I have tossed him. Ilan Pappé would call your use of "apartheid" and understatement, as would I. Keep up the good work.

Always warmly,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy L.
Archivist

To Jimmy:
You're a superb
correspondent. I enjoyed
your various letters
but wonder how many
responses you receive.
Best wishes & Thanks
for references to "Palestine"

Jimmy C.

**SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY**



Library

20 March 2008

Poet Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/Poet Jimmy C.,

Joel Gregory's recitation in Atlanta of "When Jesus Came to Birmingham" moved me deeply. I had never heard it before and have now shared it widely, most recently with my own Sunday School class. They loved it.

They also loved a poem about the cross that I have recited for years. It has the unlikely title of "The Little Black Dog." Be that as it may, this little bit of doggerel moves me as much as any Shakespearean sonnet, and I enclose a copy of it for you.

Changing directions slightly, I have written some of my own lyrics recently. It is about your sister whom, of course, I never met. But even in death she brought me joy when on one of my trips to Plains I gazed upon her tombstone and read "She's riding in Harley Heaven." For reasons explained at the end of my new country gospel song, "Harleys, Hondas, and Heaven," I wrote this little song which I hope at this time of the year does a little to resurrect her for you until the great and final resurrection morning.

Warmly,

Jimmy L.
Archivist

*Jimmy: Thanks for
the poem & lyrics. My
~~sister~~ sister may have
preferred a Harley
in hell than to be
seen on a Honda ---
anywhere else ---
Jimmy C.*

SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
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Library

3 June 2008

Rep. Sue Myrick
The House of Representatives
230 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

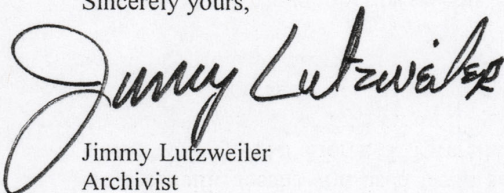
Dear Rep Myrick,

I read with interest your mid-April suggestion that Jimmy Carter's passport be revoked for his decision to talk with Hamas. In this ostensible land of free speech, I have been speechless for over a month, trying to conceptualize a way to communicate kindly to you my utter amazement at this suggestion. This letter is my second try. The first try, an utter failure, is on file here in our archives. I apologize to you for its tone, even though you haven't read it.

Rather than disquitate [sic] with you about just how free we sovereign American citizens are and ought to be, especially former presidents with years of experience, I wonder if I might coax from you a reply with respect to the subject of reconciliation and peacemaking. I would learn from you, if you might not be comfortable learning from me. I have already learned much about the subject from President Carter. He has brought together two intractable enemies with respect to the Sinai Peninsula and two not altogether friendly folks with respect to Panama, land masses collectively approximating the size of North Carolina. While 53,865 square miles may not be Alexandrian or Caesarean in scope, it is not a mean accomplishment. I would be interested to know of some specific enemies you may have reconciled and what specific means you used to do so in order to position yourself as such a hostile critic of Jimmy Carter's mediatorial efforts. If I were he, I think I'd be fly fishing with my grandchildren in Idaho and the great Northwest rather than embroiling myself in Mideast affairs. I think his effort and efforts like them should be encouraged, not discouraged, and I shudder to contemplate the chilling effect of your initiative on young people contemplating public service or even freely speaking their minds.

So that I do not have to write several letters addressing criticisms similar to yours, I am copying various relevant parties to this subject. I have omitted the name of one ostensible Frenchman who publishes in the *Wall Street Journal* but who appears to reside in a yet undiscovered and probably forever undiscoverable solar system. And I welcome from each of these critics concrete examples of intractable enemies to whom they have brought reconciliation over land masses the size of North Carolina --or even Rhode Island. I would even settle for Ocracoke or Tybee Islands.

Sincerely yours,


Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist

cc. Condoleeza Rice
John Bolton
Tom Teepen
Cal Thomas
Editors, *The Wall Street Journal*

Brother Jimmy,
This is the best I could
do after a month of meditation.
Keep up the good work!
Jimmy L.
To Jimmy:
Thanks, once again!
Jimmy C.

SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



Library

30 April 2012

Jimmy - Your aunt
was a fascinating person.
My mother was also
intrigued with India -
Best wishes,
Jimmy C.

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

I enjoyed your recent live interview with
Al Mohler, a very progressive step for all
of us. I haven't read your ^{new} book yet, but
I will.

I enclose for you a little piece I wrote
a while back about my late missionary aunt.
I have highlighted for you that brief paragraph
in which I confess my own bout with lust!

Fraternally,

Jimmy L.

SOUTHEASTERN
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3 September 2008

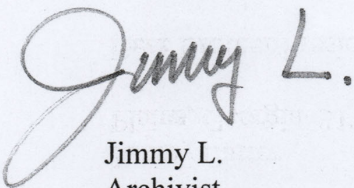
Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

I make no assumption that you will have the time to listen to the enclosed CD of "Harleys, Hondas and Heaven" that I wrote in honor of both of our sisters (yours who rode Harleys and mine who rides Hondas and suggested the idea for the song). However, I send it along anyway, having had great fun with it and indulging the belief that you might also. I just premiered it in Texas this past weekend, and it was warmly received. Of course it is intended as a backhanded compliment to Harleys; and I suppose everything in the song is a throwaway except for the line, "He is no mediocre Messiah," which I am hoping will work a bit like a time capsule and cement itself in the minds of those who do listen to it. In all events, here it is. And don't be surprised if more Harley riders show up in your Sunday School class.

Keep up the good fights!

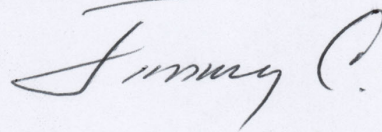
Warmly,



Jimmy L.
Archivist

To Jimmy L.
It's a great song. I
played it low so Gloria
wouldn't hear it out at
the cemetery. I don't want
her to envision Jesus on
a Japanese motorcycle -

Best wishes,



SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



Library

23 February 2009

Brother/President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

To Jimmy L: Thanks
for the letters, & I enjoyed
the sermon. Billy was the
smartest, best-read, &
most interesting member
of our family-- a vulnerable
target of AIPAC because he
hosted some Libyans in
Plains - Best wishes, Jimmy C.

Thanks for your recent note. I am looking forward to reading your new book. I admire very much your continued engagement in the Palestinian question when you could be off fly-fishing in Idaho or woodworking in your shop. May God bless your continued peacemaking efforts. I enclose herewith two token efforts of my own in this regard. I do not expect a reply from President Obama or Mr. Dershowitz; but I did want to encourage the former and to put the latter on notice that folks are aware that he does not tell both sides of the story --just as Ken Stein did not.

Changing directions slightly, I enclose one more item for what will become obvious reasons (page 8 ff.). I enter this sermon contest every year and never have won it yet. My self-esteem is just about shot. No matter. I enjoy the exercise, and I hope you enjoy this one.

I see that you are coming up this way for the New Baptist Covenant regional meetings at Wake Forest University on April 24-25. I would assume that all of your time and meals are already tightly scheduled; but if you have time before or after the conference, Shelly and I would love to treat you to dinner in our home, as you treated us in Plains two years ago. I would especially like to visit with you about the Palestinian question, as I know you have held out hope for a two-state solution, a solution I can no longer envision.

Fraternally yours,

Jimmy L.

Jimmy L.
Archivist

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30 April 2010

President/Brother/ Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

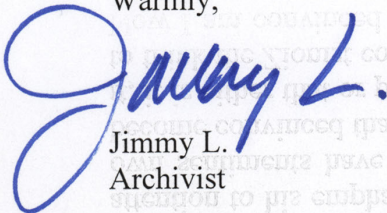
Dear President/Brother Jimmy C.,

In the midst of your busy schedule I would not know if you have had occasion to come across the book *Palestine Inside Out* by Saree Makdisi, a professor of English and Comparative Literature at UCLA --and a man with Palestinian roots. I enclose herewith three pages from his Introduction that will give you a flavor of the book.

I suspect you know most of its contents already first hand, but I would draw special attention to his emphasis on a one-state solution (p. xxvi of the enclosed). I know your own sentiments have been with a two-state solution, as mine once were. But I have become convinced that the time has come when the Zionist bluff must be called. As I see it, it is either that or perpetual war (and a perpetual tax on the American people). I used to think the Zionist codes imposed on Palestinians were the equivalent of the Nazi codes. Now I am convinced that the Zionist codes are demonstrably even worse, even though they have not resorted to gas chambers. Palestinian refugees receive instead a living death.

Changing directions ever so slightly (well, maybe radically), I will be premiering "Harleys, Hondas and Heaven" at the First Baptist Church of Greensboro (where your friend and mine, Randall Lolley used to be the pastor) on May 10. My friend Gene Owens, the Second Coming of Lewis Grizzard, just wrote up a nice piece about the song in one of his newspaper columns recently. Gloria still lives!

Warmly,


Jimmy L.
Archivist

cc Jimmy
Thanks - It's an
intriguing idea with some
attractive features - Maybe
the U.S. should threaten
adoption as a tactic -
Debarstainy to Israel -
Best wishes
Jimmy C.



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Jimmy: Thanks
for both, &
best wishes with
the new book -
Jimmy C.

12 Feb 2013

Dear Past/Pres/Brother Jimmy C.,
I trust you might enjoy the
enclosed poem.

Fraternally,
Jimmy L.

P.S. you might ^{also} enjoy my schtick
on C.I. Seafield for a NEW
book on Knuckleheads from
Church History by Broadman & Holman

SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL
SEMINARY



Library

7 August 2012

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

How utterly kind of you to send a personal note to Nick and Brittany for their wedding day. They will treasure this till death do us all part. Thank you so much.

I will try to reciprocate your kindness with a few enclosures that I hope will satisfactorily justify the time you took to send them that greeting. First of all, I enclose copies of a number of pages from the personal diary of your Washington, DC pastor, Charles Trentham. Charles kept this during the years of your presidency and, as you might imagine, there are many references to you in it. I am in the process of microfilming his papers and that is how I have come across this document. Because I am sending several pages from it, I wish to accent one of them in particular, to wit, the very first entry for June 10, 1977.

This entry describes an exchange between Charles and you in which you commented about Rosalyn, who had been in Brazil, that you missed her and that you "had a romantic glow on your face" as you told him that. I think that is a wonderful entry, the kind that any wife would like to stumble across in a diary about her husband. I hope you will share this with her. While I don't expect you to recall from our previous exchanges my disdain for Paul Tillich and the way he treated his wife, but I think it is noteworthy that one can learn far more about how to love his wife from a peanut farmer than from a professor of theology at Harvard. That's what this entry says to me anyway.

Secondly, I have enclosed some additional pages from the diary that talk about Israel. Perhaps this will all be old hat, but then again there might be something new for you. Charles's perspective on Eisenhower's treatment of the Jewish/Zionist lobby was new to me and I myself am anxious to learn more about that.

Thirdly, I know you can't stay on top of every piece from the news that names you, so I include a recent reference to you by Thomas Friedman of the *New York Times*. I have noticed that he has begun to use the expression "one State solution," though he does not do so in this particular piece.

To Jimmy: Once again, thanks
for all the information and
personal opinions! Give my
best regards to Nick and
Brittany- Jimmy C.



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

15 January 2013

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/Poet/President Jimmy C.,

I mentioned to you in a previous missive that I have been microfilming the papers of Charles Trentham (it might interest you to know that Dr. Trentham and Paige Patterson's father, Tom Patterson, were classmates back in the 1940s at Southwestern Seminary where Paige presently presides). I can see now that Charles was quite the pulpiteer. I have never seen anyone use three points and a poem more effectively than he, and I hear and read a lot of sermons because of what I do. I even preach some myself now and then.

Last Saturday I came across a Christmas sermon (copy enclosed) that Dr. Trentham preached way back in 1953. I don't know if he ever re-preached it in Washington when you were there. While I have read all of it, I have highlighted in yellow the part that really got my attention. I think the story that he tells about the minister in question is a mere parable rather than an historical incident. However, it is quite effective nevertheless. What drew me to it in particular was the poem he appends to this story. I spotted the poem first, read it, and then went back to get the context. That poem really moved and continues to move me. I don't know where it came from, if he wrote it or someone else. But it's a beauty even though the meter could use a little work. I intend to touch it up a bit, memorize it, and recite it the first chance I get. I thought you would enjoy it also. I have found a couple of other things among his papers that I think will interest you, but one thing at a time. This poem and story deserve to stand alone.

Greetings to your dear Rosalyn --from Shelly as well as myself. And by the way, it might interest you to know that Nick plans to work on a PhD in structural engineering at Georgia Tech so that he can help design safer buildings in third world countries. He caught this vision on short term mission projects in Ghana and Haiti. We will miss him and Brittany. I wish Atlanta was in North Carolina.

Warmly,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy L.
Archivist

Jimmy: It's a beautiful sermon & poem. Dr. Trentham was one of my favorite preachers, both in Washington & later when he preached at Maranatha - Best wishes, Jimmy C!



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

25 March 2013

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, GA 31780

Dear Brother/Poet/President Jimmy C.,

Thanks for your note re: the beautiful Charles Trentham sermon that I sent you. Changing directions slightly, I enclose herewith "One Helluva Sermon" and a copy of the book by my friend Richard Headrick that inspired it. Richard used to be on our Board of Visitors here at the seminary.

I still chuckle to myself now and then when I recall your hunting comment at lunch with Shelly and Rosalyn and I a while back how the doves, quail and grouse can "scare the hell out of you," when you flush them. Well, Richard scares the hell out of me, as I explain in this meditation. Because of your own admirable preoccupation with the poor, I thought perhaps you would enjoy a glimpse into Richard's concern for them. I know Gloria would enjoy Richard and his story, if she were alive, as he operates a marvelous Harley-Davidson dealership in Laurel, Mississippi, in addition to his billboards all over the South. Come to think of it, I suppose there are no other kinds of such Harley dealerships but marvelous ones.

Do stay well and keep writing books!.

Warmly,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy L.
Archivist

*Jimmy: Thanks -
I'll be reading Headrick's
book - because of
you & Harleys -
Jimmy C.*

*p.s. I've started
reading, & Thanks
again!*



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

*Jimmy:
Thanks - once
again -
Jimmy L.*

11 September 2013

President Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C. and Rosalyn,

You have been so kind over the years to take some of your valuable time to jot me a few notes now and then and to comment on the things I have sent you. As you no doubt know, these are wonderful keepsakes that any American would love to have, and I treasure them. I have often thought of how I might reciprocate the kindness you have shown in this way.

When Shelly and I were visiting the spellbinding boyhood home of Mark Twain in Hannibal, Missouri, a few weeks ago, I was reminded of your wonderfully preserved home down the road apiece from Plains. When I visited the gift shop, I saw the enclosed book and loved it. It occurred to me to procure a copy and send it along to the two of you to read to your grandchildren as an attempt to make up a little bit for this time you have graciously shared with me. So, thank you again, and enjoy it. I certainly have myself.

Warmly,

Jimmy L.

Jimmy Lutzweiler
Archivist



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

11 June 2013

To Jimmy, Good luck to
Broadman and Holman! Your
explanation of Tillich's theology
almost made me blow the dust off
of my small Tillich library to
read him with new insight.
Thanks,
Jimmy C.

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

As I don't have any
Rasputin books

Thank you for your note on Richard Headrick's book. I told him, of course, that you were taking a look at it; and, as you might imagine, he was pretty pleased.

Speaking of books, Broadman and Holman is going to publish a book of biographical sketches roughly to be entitled *Knuckleheads from Church History*. They have asked me to write two dozen of them, the first dozen of which I have just about finished. Paul Tillich and Rasputin are among my assignments. For whatever they might be worth, I am taking the liberty of enclosing copies of those two in the belief that they would not be a total waste of your valuable time. If you concur, I would like to send you my sketch of Bonhoeffer, as his life raises some very tricky political and theological questions.

As for the sketch of Tillich, I think the origination of one vignette I mention in it would interest you. I have a dear Christian friend who once worked for the CIA until a severe head injury put him out of service. I mentioned to him one day that I was writing a sketch on Tillich. At the mere mention of this, he forcefully blurted out, "Tillich seduced my childhood sweetheart!" I once made a pilgrimage to Tillich's tomb in New Harmony, Indiana, but not with the same sense of affection and admiration in my heart that I had when I visited the grave of your brother. Incidentally, I heard from a friend that a case of his beer recently sold on ebay for \$100.00. I would have paid more.

Always fraternally,

Jimmy L.
Archivist



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

Jimmy: I hate to admit it, but your writing is delightful. My youth was beneficially affected by FC Harris, as we read & re-read the incaptful & humorous stories - The Tar Baby didn't seem racist in those days -

Jimmy C.

29 July 2013

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

Thanks for your recent note re: my Knuckleheads sketches. Since you did not say you objected to my sending you my sketch on Bonhoeffer, I am taking that silence --with a few gigabytes of poetic license-- as the equivalent of begging me for it. So, I enclose it herewith, fully aware that somebody is going to label me a knucklehead or worse for calling into question the wisdom of assassination as a biblical option. But I can take the heat. God knows I have given enough of it myself (I still savor your response to Shelly at lunch that day that you had no interest whatsoever in reading the volcanic marginal notes in my books).

Changing directions slightly, I had the pleasure last Wednesday of videotaping for the second time an oral history with one of your former speechwriters, Dr. Bob Maddox. It was a wonderful occasion, and I understand from it that he recently attended your Sunday School Class and that you may get together again one of these days. If you do, and I hope you do, you must ask him to tell you the story about the paper he wrote for his Baylor University freshman English teacher concerning Joel Chandler Harris, Br'er Rabbit, and the Tar Baby. I have already re-told it a dozen times or so since he told it to me; and I would now tell it to you except that he ought to have that privilege and pleasure himself. Were I to have the pleasure of doing an oral history with you, I would put to you the same question I put to him (a question I would wager a bottle or complete brewery of Billy Beer that no presidential historian has ever asked you before), to wit, "Did Joel Chandler Harris and his stories have any influence of any kind in your life?"

Should you be inclined to reply to that question in writing, I would treasure it more than Tolstoy's *War and Peace* though, understandably, I would much prefer to have your reply --and other replies about your childhood that I would also bet no other historian has fished out of you-- on camera like Bob Maddox's. And by the way, speaking of childhood, in Hannibal, Missouri, two weeks ago, I bought a children's book about Mark Twain for you or Rosalyn to read to your grandchildren, as Twain's childhood in Hannibal suddenly reminded me very much of yours in and around Plains; and I wanted to thank you with it in a special way for all the kind and keepsake replies you have given to my inquiries. However, on our way home from Hannibal, we stopped in Alexandria, Indiana, to record some Christmas songs with the Webb Family Singers (whose CD I sent you a couple weeks ago). While there, Bill Gaither took some time from his own grandchildren for some photo-ops with our family, and so I gave it to him to make up for the time he took from them for us, thinking I would buy you another one, which I will. No doubt you will forgive this delay.

Always warmly,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy L.
Archivist

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

25 March 2014

Brother/President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

Thank you for your recent note and permission to use the Tillich quote for *Knuckleheads in Church History*. I have passed that permission on to the editor David Stabnow who, if it can be believed, is more critical than I am! His last name is better bifurcated into "Stab Now."

First of all I must explain the change of address you have noted by now. After fourteen delightful years as the Archivist for Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, the school ran out of money or patience - or both-- in December, and bought out my year-to-year contract. I regret to say that instead of vigorously applying for new jobs or for unemployment, I have been practicing my piano and strumming my guitar. I have until July 31 to settle down into something to my liking. Let me hasten to add that my most enjoyable part of that archiving experience has been the occasional exchanges with you, something I will write about in what will no doubt be my own obscure autobiography some day.

Meantime, I enclose for you two items: (1) a hard copy of my essay, "Was the American Civil War Necessary," as published by *Baptist Peacemaker* (January--March 2014) to which you referred in your memo to me. Actually, Richard Land did not make a guest appearance in this piece, per your hope. He was only a side story in the final paragraph of my letter to you. In all events, there can be no doubt that this magazine would welcome a meditation from you on some aspect of peace. And, (2) I enclose a clipping written by my friend Gene Owens. Gene is the Second Coming of your not-too-distant and not-too-late neighbor, Lewis Grizzard. Let me explain why I send it.

As I mentioned to you in a memo some time ago, I loved your brother Billy, even though I never met him. I loved him because of my own "inner redneck." As certifiably such, I have come to take a particular interest but a scholarly interest in cursing and profanity. I even used to subscribed to *Maledicta*, a journal dedicated to the study of cursing (some of which would be useful in your Sunday School lessons on Old Testament passages). *Maledicta* was edited by my distant friend, Reinhold Aman, who earned his PhD in cursing at the University of Texas. In all events, back in 1990 I encountered a unique piece of profanity the meaning of which I have been chasing down, unsuccessfully, ever since. In short, Raymond Robins (who was Woodrow Wilson's first official "unofficial" American spy on the fledgling Soviet Union) knew all of the then Soviet leaders somewhat intimately. Robins, under cover of the Red Cross, once referred to Leon Trotsky as "a four-kind son of a bitch but the greatest Jew since Christ." As you might imagine, this utterly unique expression intrigued me and I set off down the trail to find its origination or at least its meaning (unless it turned out to be Robins's own parochial piece of profanity). Having failed to do so over the past quarter of a century, I asked columnist Owens if he might probe his readers to see if any of them knew what it means. The enclosed column is the result of that request.

To Jimmy: I never
Thought you would be
at Southeastern this
long! Sorry I can't
help with the epithet, but
Thanks for the question - Jimmy C!



Southeastern
Baptist Theological Seminary

*Jimmy: Ok re
the quote -
I'll be thinking
about Brooks -
Jimmy C.*

22 November 2013

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

Back in June you were kind to send me a comment about my sketch on Paul Tillich for the book Broadman and Holman is bringing out one of these days. I saw my editor in Baltimore this week and told him about it. He asked if you might consent to allow B&H to use it on the dust jacket of the book. I told him I would ask you. I attach a copy of that comment for your review. I gather that the whole point of the book is to prompt deeper discussion about people like Tillich and the others among laymen, and your comment encapsulates exactly the response B&H is hoping to evoke from readers.

In all events I was personally delighted with your comment, and I intend to keep dusting off Tillich myself.

Changing directions slightly, I was reading among the Brooks Hays papers that are at the JFK Library in Boston last Friday. If ever any recollections of Brooks Hays come to your mind that you feel inclined to share, you know only too well how I would savor hearing them. Warren Cikins, one of Brooks's chief aides, has regaled me with many stories about him, and someday I would like to tell Warren something about Brooks that he hasn't heard before. I freely confess that is oneupsmanship.

Always fraternally,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy L.
Archivist

Schnappsburg University Press
101 Thornwood Road
Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

Jimmy: I notice you have improved your great writing style even more since leaving Southeastern. Thanks for this remarkable analysis of the young preacher - Jimmy C.

22 July 2014

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

Of course I am always assuming that you have nothing better to do in retirement than to read the pieces I write and push on you. But I still thought you might enjoy my schtick (enclosed) about the Sunday school teacher and Soviet specialist, Raymond Robins. It even has a tiny (very tiny) Georgia connection, as well as the North Carolina connection I feature in it. You would laugh your First Head off, if I related to you the circumstances under which I learned about this story.

Speaking of the Soviet Union, I was reminded of it in a sermon I heard three weeks ago by a young pup of a preacher. Quoting the much older TV preacher, David Jeremiah (who sat on our board at SEBTS), the youngster (who is presently a SEBTS student) in question assured all of us in the congregation that the reason God has blessed America is because America has supported Israel.

Now I take a special interest in the subject of God blessing America for many reasons, one of the lesser ones being that Shelly and I live on a piece of property here in Jamestown, NC, where some folks thought that the pre-Israelite, Irving Berlin, actually wrote his famous song "God Bless America." He didn't, though he did write this song, of course. But Berlin's father-in-law, Clarence Mackay, used to own a hunting lodge and 2,200 acres or so around here before it was all subdivided, and some folks thought perhaps Berlin wrote his famous song right here near our house, when he came down here from New York to hunt birds, eat buttermilk biscuits, and court Mackay's daughter (about whom he really did write his tender song *Always*). The "God Bless America" theory, which would make my property more valuable, is demonstrably false (he wrote it on Long Island before he ever met Mackay's daughter), though I have not given up hope of discovering a tree behind which the Tin-Pan Alley pianist peed, a discovery that might make my lot more valuable!

Well, I have digressed just a bit, but not altogether from the topic of my keen interest in questionable statements about God blessing America because of its devotion to Israel. I wonder if what the yet unlearned lad meant by his preachment was that all the bloated foreign aid that America gives Israel out of your pocket and mine, Israel's deliberate and unapologetic murder with impunity of American servicemen in the USS Liberty incident of 1967, and the hatred of many Muslims of us all as expressed in the events of 9/11 (to say nothing of what is going on right now in Gaza with American-made weapons and support) are simply blessings in disguise. I certainly don't see it that way, but I have no doubt that there are Zionist sympathizers who could make the case for it. I have read the works of some of them.

In all events, I doubt that the aspiring preacher who expressed this viewpoint was aware that Uncle Joe Stalin was the first to grant *de jure* recognition to the State of Israel shortly after your predecessor, Harry Truman, was the first to grant it *de facto* recognition. With this young minister's logic, God should have been blessing the Soviets at least a little bit, too, eh? And yet the Soviet Union has gone out of existence. Having so exited the nations of the world, I see no reason why Israel could not cease to exist as a nation without the loss of life. Soviet people did not go extinct just because the government did, so I see no real fear that Jews would cease to exist simply because of a one-state solution --which I have come to believe is the only kind of solution possible short of perpetual war. And, of course, I have no desire for Jews to cease to exist, as I have many Jewish friends and two nephews and a beautiful niece who are part Jewish. I have also become convinced that those who speak of a two-state solution either do not know what they are talking about or, worse, they do know what they are talking about but are using it as a delay tactic with no solution ever in mind. I, for one, do not care to keep paying Israel's bills with my tax dollars. I have more interest these days in the separation of synagogue and state than I do church and state.

All of which is to say, I will soon be sending that pastor a complimentary copy of your book *Palestine: Peace Not Apartheid* which, however, I fully expect him not to understand, as he has been more Judaized and Zionized than the Galatians. And I have a PhD in windmill-tilting from Schnappsburg University.

By the way, speaking of Harry Truman, I was in Nashville recently at the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives (for which repository you kindly granted an oral history with Bill Sumners many years ago). Another scholar there did an oral history with Brooks Hays. Hays quoted Truman as having said, "I like being a Baptist because you can believe anything you damn well please." I laughed my believing head off at that. It would appear that the young preacher in question believes anything he damn well pleases, too, the facts be damned.

Would Brother Billy say it all like this at his Plains gas station?

Fraternally yours,

Jimmy L.

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

16 March 2015

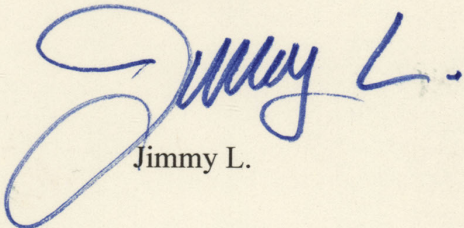
President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

Since writing you last, I have had a couple of exchanges with Jack Colwell about whom I wrote to you. You may recall that back in 1959 Jack was the recipient of a \$100 gift from Ty Cobb for Jack's theological education at Southeastern Seminary. John Pierce wrote up this story in *Baptists Today* back in December 2011(?). In addition to the \$100, Jack also received a four-page handwritten letter from Ty Cobb that explained the circumstances of how this gift came to be. Jack sent me a copy of this letter last week, and I am forwarding herewith a copy of it on to you along with a typescript of it for easier reading.

I am also enclosing a copy of a sermon by Rev./Dr. Colwell that he entitled "Seventeen Miles Away From Sin." I am doing so because in a conversation I had with him last week, he told me that once not too long ago he had a near-miss of preaching to you at Maranatha Baptist Church. Walter Shurden was scheduled to supply your pulpit that Sunday but had been called away to help conduct the funeral of Bill Hull. Walter called Jack to fill in for him, but Jack did not get the message in time, and so someone else filled in. Thus, I thought I would send you this copy of his sermon so that Jack could at least tell his grandchildren that he had an opportunity to preach to you on paper. I have no indication that this is the particular sermon he would have preached that Sunday, even though on the surface it sounds like Plains could be one of those places "seventeen miles away from sin" and even though we know better. By the way, Jack is still active at age 78, and perhaps Maranatha might give him a second chance for this high honor.

Fraternally,



Jimmy L.

Thanks again!
Jimmy: The Ty Cobb letter is really
intriguing -- from a baseball
hero of mine. We given
Jack Colwell's name to
our pastor for a possible
future invitation -
Best wishes,
JL

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

5 September 2014

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

* already
done

To Poet Laureate Jimmy:
Thanks for all these
documents which I am
sure to enjoy*
Jimmy C.

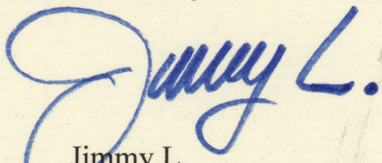
Thank you for your recent memo that very sensitively noted the nuanced differences between my writing while AT Southeastern and AFTER Southeastern. You deserve to add "Literary Critic" to your still-growing resume (poet, artist, carpenter, etc.).

I have written more since receiving your kind memo. Of course I enclose copies for you, and for good reason. Copy #1 is of a letter I sent to the young preacher, Brandon Ware, who made the unsubstantiated statement about God blessing America because of its support of Israel. Copy #2 is of your fraternal felicitation that I flagrantly forged for Brandon in the complimentary copy of your book *Palestine: Peace, Not Apartheid* that I sent him. My apologies for this Deviltry, hardly sincere. Copy #3 is a column by Gene Owens about the last paper I sent you re: Raymond Robins. Gene honed his skills at the University of Georgia and has written other columns about you but not nearly enough about me.

Copy #4 requires a paragraph of its own. On December 17, 2013, one day before SEBTS bought out my contract, Willis Whichard, a retired NC Supreme Court Justice and a Baptist, invited me to contribute a 30-page-or-so chapter entitled BAPTISTS IN NORTH CAROLINA for his forthcoming book entitled RELIGION IN NORTH CAROLINA. I have finished a draft of it one year ahead of schedule. You and Georgia make a couple of guest appearances in it, and I have highlighted them in yellow to spare you the time --but pointedly not to preclude you the great pleasure-- of reading this entire marvelous masterpiece which I would nevertheless welcome you to critique and possibly save me from public embarrassment. I need backup people to blame.

This is more than enough for now.

Fraternally,


Jimmy L.
a/k/a "The Schnappsburg Poet Laureate"

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

To Jimmy: Thanks,
& best wishes -
Jimmy

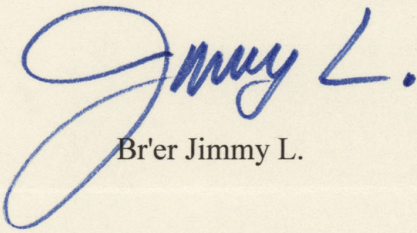
8 January 2015

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Br'er/President Jimmy C.,

A while back I told Bob Maddox that if he did not tell you the enclosed story that I have highlighted in yellow, I was going to do so. I have given him sufficient time, and I don't think he has. Accordingly, I am flagrantly stealing his thunder, and I think you will be glad that I did. It's a very fine story. Our local newspaper will be publishing an abbreviated version (900 words instead of the 2,600-or-so words of it here) on Sunday, January 18.

Warmly, Ebonically, Elliptically and Fr'trn'ly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jimmy L." with a large, stylized flourish on the left side.

Br'er Jimmy L.

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

To Jimmy: We did miss
you in February! Truman
have visited the White House. Also, thanks
for the Ty Cobb letter!

Jimmy C.

1 March 2015

Brother/President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

My apologies for missing your Sunday School class on Feb 15 and for not buying your lunch thereafter, as I proposed to do in my last letter. I plead as my excuse that (1) a forgotten Valentine's Day date with Shelly and the boys on Sunday night here in North Carolina delayed my departure until Monday, the day after your class; and (2) I was unsure you were available for lunch that day anyway, even if I did pick up the tab. Perhaps the future might hold such a pleasant prospect.

Having said that, I did bump into your ghost twice on my driving trip from Jamestown to Key West. I did so first at the Ty Cobb Museum in Royston, Georgia. On one of its walls was a copy of a letter from you to the Museum, indicating that you had once been there yourself. Then several days later in Key West, I saw on one of the walls of Hemingway's house a letter from you indicating that you had beat me there by several years. The only attraction where I did not spot one of your letters of appreciation was at Truman's Little White House in Key West and on Biscayne Bay in Miami at Vizcaya, the home of International Harvester VP, James Deering. If you have not seen Vizcaya, you have a treat in store, especially because of your farming background.

I am writing not only to explain my failure to buy your lunch two weeks ago but to let you in on what I think is a little known byte of Georgia history. Baptist Sunday school teacher that you are and Baptist historian that I am, I thought you might find it interesting to know that "The Georgia Peach," Ty Cobb, grew up Baptist. His father was a teacher, like you, in the Line Baptist Church in Homer, Georgia; and he was also the Sunday school superintendent at the Royston Baptist Church. It is inconceivable that young Ty, whose well-worn Bible is on display at the Museum,



To Jimmy: I
knew it was you,
but was jealous -
Jimmy C.

7/30/15

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

IN reply to your question (SEE enclosed),
it is I who am singing. Lucky ME
Lucky anyone who gets to sing with MAULENE.
AND thank you for your kind review of her. I
shared that with her, and, as you might imagine,
she was thrilled and has not killed me!

This stationery I am using is what I would
be using, if I were writing to your brother Billy.
I have the feeling he would laugh his head off at
it. I know I have. I am enclosing one blank
piece of it in the event you might wish to share
it with someone who knew Billy and would love
to have a piece of it.

Warmly and patiently,
Jimmy L.

Make Things Happen

To Jimmy
From Jimmy

First Takes

By
Marlene and Me
--And Ulla the German Shepherd

Bankrolled by Spud

To Jimmy: Thanks. I am amazed!
Marlene is superb. Who is singing?

Jimmy

18 Old Hymns, Three of Them Twice*

A Limited Unedited Edition of Fifty* Copies. Do NOT use as skeet!

cc. Jimmy C

Dean Brothman/President - I wrote a song about Gloria and her Harley. Why not one about you? I loved what you told Jimmy Falwell!

2 September 2015

Dear Potential Songwriter,

p.s. Good to see you on Sunday. Jimmy L.

Today in honor of Jimmy Carter and in hopes for his recovery or at least a maximum extension of his quality of life, I have begun composing a ballad to the tune of "The Ballad of Davy Crockett" from Walt Disney's somewhat skewed version of Congressman Crockett and his debut with death at the Alamo. I am not done with it yet; and what you will see below is only a tentative first draft awaiting an etching in stone or in peanut butter. I expect it to have many more stanzas, stanzas designed to capture a good part of his life and presidency in song. In fact, if I can do it, I will make it the longest ballad ever written in American or world history --longer than "Frankie and Johnny Were Lovers" and longer than "The Ballad of Abdul Abulbul Amir" (for a great version, of which there are many, including one from the 1896 *New Harvard Songbook*, see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Abdul_Abulbul_Amir) or else see the version on the back of this pamphlet.

By this Plains paper that you hold in your hand or have pulled up as an attachment, I invite you to contribute a verse or verses to my ballad --or, if you wish, to write one of your own and to ignore mine completely. Whatever suits you. If it does suit you to contribute to mine and if I select what you write, I will append your name after your verse(s) and send the final product to the President/Poet/Peacemaker. You can send me your submission(s) at stjimbow@gmail.com.

Long live Jimmy Carter, a Cancer Conqueror!

Sincerely,

Jimmy Lutzweiler

To Jimmy: It's better than I thought you could do!
Thanks,
Jimmy C

The Ballad of Jimmy Carter

(To the tune of "The Ballad of Davy Crockett")

Born in Plains, Georgia, back in '24
The first of four kids that Miss Lillian bore.
Two girls came and then one boy more,
The first one prayed and the second one swore.

CHORUS:

Jimmy, Jimmy Carter.
A King in Heaven's frontier.

His father was a farmer and his mother a nurse.
He drank raw milk and rarely much worse.
His siblings all died from a damned cancer curse
But first Billy put the quart before the hearse.

Jimmy went to college in Americus.
Then to Academy in Annapolus [sic].
Then he nuked the Navy under the bus,
And went back to Plains to grow some peanuts.

He went to Atlanta as a legislator.
Then he went back as the Governor.
Then to the White House for four years more
Till Ron Reagan to Iran played the Whore.

While in Washington, Jimmy did well.
He gave back Panama which they did not sell.
Some preacher complained, his name was Falwell,
Then Jimmy said, "Jerry, you can go to hell!
--In a Christian sort of way." He said it so swell.

Here insert hundreds more verses and conclude with:

Well, King Hezekiah in Old Testament lore
Asked the Lord for a bunch years more.
He got fifteen, and in hell Reagan swore,
Cause God voted Jimmy at least another four.

Jimmy, Jimmy Carter!
A King in Heaven's frontier.

p.s. - Next time,
talk to me -

J

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

31 August 2015

Brother/President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

I can't explain the colored ink!

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

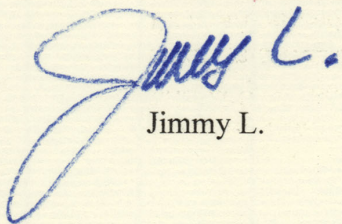
Like multiplied millions of others, Shelly and I received the recent news of your diagnosis more like Rosalyn than like you have received it. Perhaps a bit unlike the multiplied millions and a bit more like you, I have taken comfort in a report I read that said 15-20% of those who encounter this difficulty manage to survive it for five years. I have sent Upstairs a request for you like Hezekiah's that I hope if it does not get you fifteen years will at least get you the five or more that some have had. I hope and pray that you do better than you or even the doctors know how.

I gather from your continued teaching of Sunday School that you plan for life to go on as normally as possible these days. Accordingly, Shelly and I will make the pilgrimage to Plains again this weekend to attend --if we are fortunate enough to get one of the passes. I assume that there are already at least a thousand volunteers ready to buy your lunch afterward. Please add us as volunteers #1,001 so that if the first thousand should default, we can move to the head of the line. Or, if miraculously there are no volunteers for Saturday night, we could make sure you did not go to bed hungry.

And, since you seem to plan for life to go on as normally as possible these days, what would a letter from me be like, if it did not include an enclosure or two? In this case, there are two. First, I enclose a copy of a letter to an editor by a friend of mine, Jimmy Clark. Though often irascible and profoundly profane, sometimes Jimmy Clark is like Central Park. He was in the case of the enclosed. He, knowing of my occasional exchanges with you, sent me this after he came across some criticism of you by a columnist, the defamation of whom the editor deleted from the published version of the letter. The piece speaks for itself, and I thought you would enjoy it.

Second, and finally, is a copy of a letter I have sent to Dr. James Billington, the retiring Librarian of Congress, a Christian, and a Russian expert. I have copied you on it because of what it contains about Russia and Israel, two topics that I know interest you. Copying you is easier than writing it out all over again, especially if you don't have time to glance over it.

Faithfully and Fraternaly yours,


Jimmy L.

*Jimmy: Thanks. Don't
Come back to Plains without
Contacting me -
JC*

Brother Jimmy C.,
I hope to hear you at
the New Baptist Covenant
on the 15th

30 June 2016

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

I see in the paper and on TV that you and your dear Rosalynn have a remarkable anniversary coming up. Shelly and I wish to add our congratulations to this wonderful achievement, and we hope we can tie or even break your record --and by holding forth your example motivate others to emulate it.

Our local Wal-Mart and Target do not carry any kind of anniversary cards that fit this milestone. Accordingly, in lieu of a card, I am enclosing a brochure that is at least semi-relevant. It describes an historic site in Wytheville, Virginia, that Shelly and I recently visited on our way to Chicago for my great niece's wedding that I hope lasts as long as yours. The brochure references the birthplace and childhood home of Edith Bolling Wilson whose name and identity you know, of course, and who was probably America's first woman president (too late for Hillary) and, thus, one of your predecessors. Edith's home is still in the process of restoration, that monumental effort having been undertaken by a remarkable local lady named Farron Smith. Effort for effort in development, I think Farron trumps Donald Trump for what she has done with this precarious property. And across the street from Farron's wonderful project is the beautiful Bolling Wilson Hotel, all of which is to suggest the two to you as a place to take Rosalynn on a second or seventieth honeymoon.

I did not really say this !!

There is another reason I suggest that you do so. In the course of our visit, I told some whoppers --some of the likes of which you are familiar-- to Farron. I told her you and I were bosom buddies, that we dined often together, and that you often sought my advice. Further, I told her you would no doubt show up to see this place someday and give her a little boost. The problem is that now if you don't, I am

To Jimmy: Thanks!
If you find "El Mansero," I'd
like to have a copy - Best
Wishes to Shelly - Jimmy
Carter

Schnappsburg University Press

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Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

cc To Jimmy L: Thanks - I'd give up
Darwin's contribution to 90
with 4004 BC in exchange for
JF Taylor's "no more war."
Thanks for re-connecting
"A Moment of Crisis."
The letter to Obama may
need a little editing -

Best wishes,
Jimmy C.

19 February 2016

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

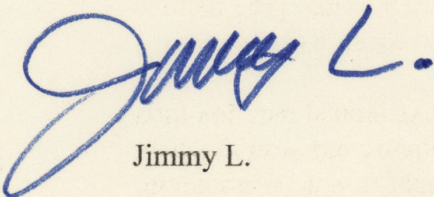
Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

I forgot to enclose what is the most important of the documents I sent off to you earlier this week. I refer to the now enclosed essay about Rev. J.J. Taylor of FBC-Savannah by Bill Summers. You will recall Bill as the head Archivist of the former Historical Commission of the SBC but now the Southern Baptist Historical Library and Archives. He once did an oral history with you that is now available in this Nashville repository.

I refer to Bill's essay on p. 19 and then again in footnote #13 on p. 38 of the "Semi-Sermon" entitled "Sergeant Alvin York and Statesman Jimmy Carter" that I just sent you. In brief, the way too overlooked and unappreciated J.J. Taylor opposed all the excitement about America's entry into WWI and ended up getting fired from FBC-Savannah for that opposition. I think Bill did a great job by calling attention to Taylor with this essay and I wanted to pass it along to you for several reasons not the least of which is because of Taylor's Georgia connection.

There is also a Tennessee-Washington, D.C. connection. I tried to copy for you the few pages about Taylor from the official history of FBC-Savannah that one of its volunteers, Faye Anderson, very kindly emailed me; however, for some reason it won't print out. The significance of those pages to me is the fact that prior to pastoring FBC-Savannah, Rev. Taylor had been the pastor at FBC-Knoxville to which one Rev. Charles Trentham came many years later before becoming your pastor in Washington, D.C. I thought that bit of ostensible trivia but really fascinating fact would interest you. It certainly did me.

Fraternally,



Jimmy L.

Jimmy: If we're ever
in Wytheville, we'll
be sure to tell Farron
that your statements
were true -
Best wishes,

Jimmy Carter
P.S. Liberty U. has
a treasure!

30 June 2016

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

I see in the paper and on TV that you and your dear Rosalynn have a remarkable anniversary coming up. Shelly and I wish to add our congratulations to this wonderful achievement, and we hope we can tie or even break your record --and by holding forth your example motivate others to emulate it.

Our local Wal-Mart and Target do not carry any kind of anniversary cards that fit this milestone. Accordingly, in lieu of a card, I am enclosing a brochure that is at least semi-relevant. It describes an historic site in Wytheville, Virginia, that Shelly and I recently visited on our way to Chicago for my great niece's wedding that I hope lasts as long as yours. The brochure references the birthplace and childhood home of Edith Bolling Wilson whose name and identity you know, of course, and who was probably America's first woman president (too late for Hillary) and, thus, one of your predecessors. Edith's home is still in the process of restoration, that monumental effort having been undertaken by a remarkable local lady named Farron Smith. Effort for effort in development, I think Farron trumps Donald Trump for what she has done with this precarious property. And across the street from Farron's wonderful project is the beautiful Bolling Wilson Hotel, all of which is to suggest the two to you as a place to take Rosalynn on a second or seventieth honeymoon.

There is another reason I suggest that you do so. In the course of our visit, I told some whoppers --some of the likes of which you are familiar-- to Farron. I told her you and I were bosom buddies, that we dined often together, and that you often sought my advice. Further, I told her you would no doubt show up to see this place someday and give her a little boost. The problem is that now if you don't, I am

Jimmy: I got your delectating letter on 10/22/16. Call me at 404-331-0281 to set a future date. Jimmy C.

14 September 2016

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P.S. I don't suppose you would sing a duet with me? How many times has that happened in history? or a trio with Rosalyn?

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

You may recall --though you may also wish to forget-- that back in January of this year (see copy of enclosed letter), you invited me to come sing 2-3 songs for you and your congregation. I would not be reminding you of that now were it not for the fact that that very thoughtful and kind invitation caused a veritable tsunami of neuro-peptides to surge through my frontal lobes, the sad long-term result of which is that now, after no follow-up arrangement, I am on suicide watch 24/7 because of the letdown. Even cocaine and that new recipe for it have failed to revive my spirits; and unless we make some kind of arrangement, it is possible I will die and you will be the fault of that tragedy. I am only telling you this because I know you would not want to deal with such a guilt trip, while on those wonderful jobs you do for Habitat for Humanity. Yes, yes, I know Shelly will be the world's most well-adjusted widow; however, she is not quite ready for that until I finish painting the house and for a couple more years taking the dog out a 3 a.m. for what the \$%&* should have done at 10 p.m.

Accordingly, even if you no longer wish for that truly divine concert, could you at least arrange with the janitor at Maranatha to leave the door open some weekday night so that I could creep in unaware, sing for a bit to an empty house, and then leave so that I can tell my yet unborn grandchildren that I sang at Jimmy Carter's church, leaving them to discover the sad truth on their own long after my demise that you weren't even there at the time? Or, on the other hand, I could still come and sing for you but only lip-synch the words while doing my Willie Nelson imitation, as your IT operator played one of Willie's CDs over the PA system? Or, I would be happy to sing for some old lady confined to her home and unable to attend. Whatever.

If any of these suggested arrangements or some other options exist, the Sundays October 2 or 9 would work for me. Other than that, any weekday night would work. In all events, not my will but thine be done.

Fraternally,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy L.

BR/PR/JEC,
I ERRED! OCT 2
DOES NOT WORK. Shelly has a
CONFERENCE SHE CANT GET OUT
OF THAT WEEKEND.
Jimmy L.

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

26 April 2017

President/Poet Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President and Poet Jimmy C.,

To Jimmy: I hope you
will stick with "DT" -
still my favorite. Some
of your letters are
similar to some of his
poems - Best wishes,
Jimmy C.

Oh No! You did not like your PuLUTZer Prize? It looks like I flunk the course in Perception 101! One more failure in the growing list. However, as my sister says, "I don't fear failure. What I fear is being successful at something eternally insignificant." She, of course, got that quote from me.

Changing directions slightly, I have looked at bit into Dylan Thomas (DT) since you provided me the short tutorial on him in your library on December 11.. Prior to that, I could not have completed a single coherent sentence about him, while I have enough difficulty even composing coherent sentences on topics that I already do know something about. But you know that already.

First, I looked up some of DT's poems, especially your favorite one that Amy wrote out for you and that hangs in your library. I must say that while I think I got the gist of that one, for the most part I have found his lyrics a bit somewhere between inscrutable, recondite, and abstruse, to say nothing of not altogether clear. I might need a course in remedial nuclear physics to comprehend him.

On the other hand, I have found a great deal of DT's prose utterly marvelous. While passing through Baton Rouge recently, I found in an antique store a biography of DT for \$5.00. I shot my dwindling wad on it and have gotten far more for my money than I paid. I enclose herewith copies of a couple pages from it in the event you have not seen them already. I think you will agree.

I see that I am not alone in my estimate of DT's puzzling poetry. You will see in one passage on page 122 that I have underlined in yellow that he wrote to a friend, "I have written a poem . . . that is so obscure . . . I am getting more obscure day by

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Jimmy: Thanks! You'll
have to sing it for me.
We're looking forward
to it!!
Jimmy Carter

4 November 2016

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

Enclosed find a copy of "El Manisero" that you requested.

I know presidents are powerful, but can you read minds as well as mail? Let me explain.

The last time Shelly and I went to Plains, I brought with me the very piece of sheet music I have enclosed herewith. I intended to give it to you then. However, when five-star General Jan instructed those of us in attendance not to try to give you anything, I was unable to do so even after I showed her what it was. I could not imagine that you would not want such a treasure. So, I returned home with it.

A couple weeks ago it occurred to me that I should send it to Rosalyn for her to sell in her delightful store in the potentially disturbing event that my normally infallible imagination about your wanting it was in error. I knew some Plains tourist from somewhere would want it and that Rosalyn could pass along the proceeds from its sale to Habitat for Humanity. After returning from a trip last week, I was about to put it in an envelope and send it off to her.

Before I did, however, your memo arrived in which you said you would like a copy of "El Manisero." I had no idea what "El Manisero" was, as the title to this piece for me has always been "The Peanut Vendor." So, I Googled "El Manisero" whereupon I learned that these titles are one and the same. Struck at this coincidence, I looked through my recent memos to you to see if I had ever mentioned this piece to you. I could find nothing. Thus, my question, "Do you read minds as well as mail?" Whatever the case, here it is.

When I come to Plains next time, I will bring with me and smuggle past the Stalinist General Jan for you a copy of Martin Gilbert's book *Churchill and the Jews: A Lifelong Friendship*. I just finished reading it and found it fascinating. Incidental to this, I also enclose herewith a copy of a letter from an angry subscriber to *The Biblical Evangelist* for which I used to write a column. In one such column I had written a piece quite favorable to you. Upset with it, this subscriber, Richard Winsky (who should have spelled his last name correctly as "Wrongsky"), wrote my friend and the ancient editor of it, Robert Sumner (who does not look a day older than 250

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Rec'd 12.27

The Ides of December 2016

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

*To Jimmy: We really
enjoyed having Shelly and her
auto driver! Your treatise re
Luther with an eye-opener (to
use one of the
finer sensory organs)
Come back to see us!
Jimmy Carter*

I guess I don't need to labor what you already have to know, i.e., what an absolute delight it was for Shelly and I to be invited into your home this past Sunday. The only thing that possibly could have added to the delight is if Vladimir Putin had joined us and I got to listen to the two of you converse. Rosalynn's kind attentions to Saint Shelly probably added a couple years to her life, years that I probably have previously subtracted from her on her way to Mother Teresa status that I don't think you had to go and remind her about! I can't believe you labored that to her. I will never hear the end of it.

I have eight-zillion reflections on the time you graciously gave us, but I am only going to share two for now. One involves Martin Luther and the other my mother.

In re: Luther and in light of your Sunday school lesson about John the Baptist, I am enclosing herewith what I think is a hilarious essay about him. It also provides documentation (p. 28-29, highlighted in yellow) for the story I told you about where Luther was, when he discovered justification by faith. It is a story that I am prompted to share with you because of your telling me about where you were when you had your epiphany in re: Dylan Thomas (whom I mistakenly momentarily malaproped into Bob Dylan! Color me Red as a Commie). This essay on Luther and his scatology is probably more along the lines of one that Billy would enjoy; and I have actually fantasized about reading it to him and laughing our heads off. And yet I think if you read the rest of it, you will enjoy it also. It is pure history insofar as scatology can be pure. It can be academically.

I love Luther. And, actually, sometime I cuss so much that I think I might really be a closet Lutheran or perhaps even an open Presbyterian. However, I try to cuss as decorously as possible; and I recall you even cussed once when you told me that ruffed grouse, like quail, "can scare the hell out of you, when you flush them." I excuse my own occasional plunges into profanity on the grounds that my mother, who was a cross between Dolly Parton, Mother Teresa, and Edith Bunker, taught me how to talk like a sailor. You will see what I mean, if you opt to scan the second item enclosed herein entitled "Cholly." While your P.O.W. cousin (or



To Jimmy -
This is the
epitome of
something. Maybe
DT can help me
figure out what -
Jimmy Carter

10 July 2017

President/Poet Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President/Poet Jimmy C,

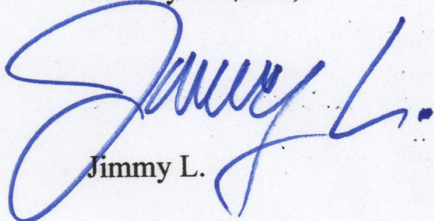
I have just returned from a fantasy lunch that included you, me, Billy and Dylan Thomas. We had a great chat, though you were the only one able to walk away from the table under your own power. Billy, Dylan and I all needed stabilization.

I can only recall two things from our table talk, the rest being immersed in intoxicants. First, I recall the ever beer-drinking DT toasting alcohol itself, adding to his toast this rationale: "Because no great story every began with someone eating a salad," --and then added to that, "Beauty is in the eye of the beer holder." From there it was all downhill.

The second thing I recall is telling these distinguished guests how you likened my perfectly clear letters to DT's obscure poetry, whereupon I told everyone the story (a true story) about the drunk pedestrian up in Pennsylvania who was arrested a few years ago for giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to a dead possum right next to a busy highway, thinking that the road-kill in question was none other than poor Punxsutawney Phil. I shared with everyone at the table and in the whole tavern the song I wrote about this fellow and the dangers of drinking too much, thus giving rise to the expression "Punxsutawney Plastered." Billy and Dylan and I laughed our heads off, while you grinned only slightly because of the need to maintain some kind of decorum in this British bar. I enclose herewith for you my magnificent lyrics about this intoxicated fellow, lyrics that can be --and should be-- sung to the tune of *Mexicali Rose*. I hope you find my Punxsutawney poem as marvelous as DT's letters and not as recondite as DT's poems. And I hope you can see your way clear because of this incomparable composition to nominate me, as you did DT, for mention in Westminster Abbey.

If any of us discussed the merits of the marvelous stationery now bearing along these visions of a delightful dinner, I do not recall it; but my best guess is that Billy and DT howled with rapture divine. I know I did and still do.

Soberly --I think,


Jimmy L.

Make Things Happen

Schnappsburg University Press

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6 February 2018

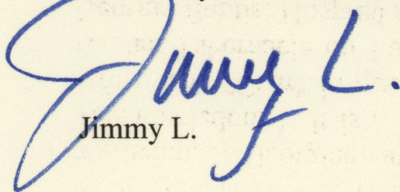
President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C,

On a much lighter note than my last memo about DT and his moving the U.S. Embassy to Jerusalem, it occurred to me to send you a fun poem. Perhaps it is already old hat to you; however, if not, it will make a nice new one. I thought that both as a Navy man and a poet yourself that you would enjoy the enclosed classic entitled *The Yarn of the "Nancy Bell"* by W.S. Gilbert of Gilbert and Sullivan fame. It is one of my all time favorites. I learned it many years ago from Spud who recited it at our annual Christmas parties, drawing all the attention of our guests to himself instead of to me who invited him and needed it more. Occasionally I still simmer over this glory hound.

Now, quickly back to a heavier note. I enclose something else you might enjoy because you are a politician, a Georgian, and a Baptist. I refer to the enclosed essay entitled "The Czar of Tabernacledom." It is a bit hard to read because of the dark pages but I think it is worth the effort. The "Czar" in question is Rev. Leonard Broughton. Broughton built the once famous Baptist Tabernacle on Luckie Street in Atlanta. He was also the creator of what became the Georgia Baptist Hospital and other Baptist hospitals throughout the South (e.g., the Wake Forest Baptist Hospital in Winston-Salem, NC, the one in Knoxville, etc.). You yourself have a remote connection to Leonard Broughton inasmuch as his nephew, North Carolina Senator J. Melville Broughton, taught the Sunday school class to which you succeeded at First Baptist in D.C. --at least so I have been told of this connection. In all events I found this scarce and virtually unknown and fascinating piece of fundamentalist-Baptist-Atlanta history among the papers of Georgia's populist politician Tom Watson. Watson's papers are here in North Carolina in the fabled Southern Historical Collection at the equally fabled University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill (a school that as an NC State Wolfpacker I am otherwise obligated to hate). I had not been looking for it and came across it quite by accident than by my customary acumen. In short, it is a stemwinder of an indictment of Broughton who, according to the unknown writer of this bombshell, brought into the world a baby from a womb not belonging to his wife. To mix my metaphors a bit, if such saltiness is not your cup of tea, I would guess it might be for your Pastor Brandon who at his young age has a lot of church history ahead of him to digest. This should help.

Fraternally and fundimensionally yours,


Jimmy L.

Rosalynn has been quite ill, but is recovering now -

Jimmy

To Jimmy: I enjoyed the poem, but have only skimmed through the dark pages from Tom Watson's files -- because of Jimmy's eyesight. I think his sexual indiscretion is at least partially absolved by the hospitals he sponsored. JC

P.S.

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26 September 2017

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

To Jimmy L: I read your remarkable poem, The Baptist jokes (I've heard better); the unforgetable letter I wrote, & the account of Lincoln's Sunday visit. I liked your comments re Dershowitz. How does Shelly survive? Give her my love - Jimmy C.

I want to thank you for your review of my last letter as "the epitome of something," even though you were not sure of what epitome. I don't recall the last time I was the epitome of anything, so this must surely be progress. No doubt you wept openly when you read my "Punxsutawney Possum" song and that left you speechless. That is what I would like to believe anyway.

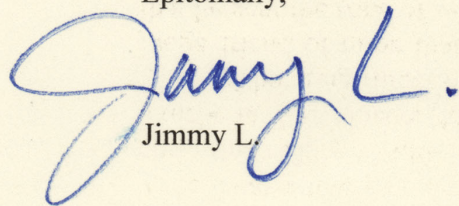
I have written another far better poem than my PP song. It is entitled "A Toast to God" (enclosed, of course). I would consider it the height of discourtesy for me not to force it upon you, as I have forced so many other things on you and on others. I wrote it about Spud and me before I shortened his nickname from "Couch Potato" to a simple breath-saving monosyllable. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that Dylan Thomas would love this intoxicating ballad, and I think Billy would, too. I hope you find it to be the epitome of something specific (perhaps a niche in Westminster Abbey --or, better yet, a niche in Billy's gas station).

Changing directions slightly, I learned something a couple weeks ago from a Canadian judge friend of mine that should please you. In addition to two great Baptist jokes (enclosed) that he sent me (one of which I dare say DT and Billy would love, and both of which I think you will love), Judge Dallas Miller sent me a copy of a letter (enclosed) that you sent to the World Justice Forum V meeting at the Hague. Judge Miller was present for this Forum at which you were honored but could not attend. Dallas told me in the course of its proceedings that attendee Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg sang your praises by attributing her elevation to the U.S. Supreme Court to your having previously appointed her to a lower court. I had difficulty harmonizing her praise of you with the demonizing of you by Alan Dershowitz who has characterized you as an anti-Semite. Then I suddenly remembered that wisdom shall not die when Dershowitz does, and all became clear. Some anti-Semite you are. If you are, Jews need a lot more like you.

One more thing and I am done for this time. Because you have served so faithfully and so long as a Sunday school teacher, I thought the enclosed historical piece about Abraham Lincoln and his attendance at a Sunday school class one day in New York might interest you. It certainly did me. I knew Lincoln had once attended a Sunday school class taught by Dwight L. Moody, but I had never before heard of this incident. And heretofore I thought I knew all there was to know about Lincoln. Sometimes I blush in disbelief at the epitome of my own illiteracy.

"Saint" Shelly sends along her very warm regards for your characterization of her.

Epitomally,


Jimmy L.

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14 December 2017

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

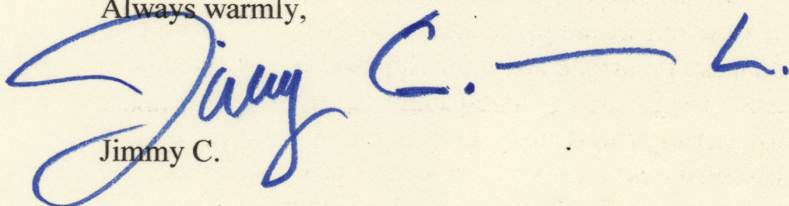
As you might imagine, after receiving your memo characterizing my poem "A Toast to God" as "remarkable" (see enclosed for living proof), I have had your kind and gracious review enlarged to mural size and placed on the ceiling in our bedroom and also all over our living room wall and our double garage door (facing the street).

As a grateful return --pitifully small though it be-- on your welcome bouquet, I am enclosing herewith a copy of the SECOND rough draft of a collection of my own poems that also includes some of my favorite poems by others (I think you will recall *Odium Theologicum* by Sam Walter Foss, as you once sent me a note about it). I have long had it in view to publish some of my poems; and now with the Death Angel breathing hard down my neck, I figured I had better get busy.

You will notice, if you look at it before disposing of this draft, that I have included with some other kudos your kind comment as a dust jacket review on the back page of this little treasure. While it only exists in a few draft copies, I would seek your permission to use it in the published product --if I can sucker --uh, convince-- some patron into bankrolling it in spite of its numerous defects. While I would not nurse on your notoriety for the world, I possibly might do so for 500-1,000 copies. On the other hand, if you refused permission and I went ahead anyway and you sued me, I might possibly get some decent advertising for it and be able to pay both of our legal fees plus the cost of publication. Whatever the case, two things come to mind: (1) If you need to dispose of this nuclear collection of the best I have to offer, I wonder if I could coax you do so in a bonfire on Main Street in Plains or even in Americus. Burning it on Peachtree Street in Atlanta is beyond my wildest dreams, but I would certainly welcome that as an alternative. And, (2) In order not to bruise beyond repair my already fragile psyche by declining my request, might I suggest that you simply ignore this invitation in order to spare you the gut-wrenching decision of placing me on suicide watch for weeks. Silence itself is a review of sorts, and I can weather that better than a written "NO! You must be insane!"

You will notice, of course, that I have described you as a Sunday school teacher and a poet rather than as President. This is to advertise your SS class and book of poems which some might have forgotten or never even knew about. It is also because I peddle a Sunday school story or two in these pages (e.g., page 16 to be exact in my marvelous concoction, "Baby, Won't You Please First Sign This Here Form." It is about Mike Tyson, William Kennedy Smith, and Joseph and Potiphar's wild wife. This beauty could use the implied approbation of a Sunday school teacher. The Lord alone knows it needs more approbation than that, but that would be a good start.

Always warmly,


Jimmy C.

Jimmy: With
some guilt &
trepidation
ok on the quote -
Jimmy Carter

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

*Jimmy: Thanks for
the letter you almost
sent. I was surprised
to be invited, & to have
accepted -*

26 February 2018

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Jimmy Carter

Dear Brother President Jimmy C.,

Color me delighted! Randy Miller, my friend and a librarian at Liberty University, dropped me a note last week, telling me that you will be the Commencement speaker at Liberty this year. What a great milestone. Saint Shelly and I will be there for the occasion. For your interest or amusement or some third option I have not yet conceptualized, I enclose herewith the draft of a letter I began last year to send to Jerry Falwell, Jr., after I saw the picture of the two of you together at President Trump's Inauguration. However, I never did send it --if you can imagine that. Now, of course, I wish I had so I could claim all the credit for this wonderful occasion coming up. Nevertheless, I am just as happy. And by the way, speaking of a letter never sent, I recall your interest in Harry Truman. Have you ever read the book of letters that he wrote and saved but never sent? It's a good one. *No.*

You, having been the Governor of Georgia, I had intended my next letter to you to be a little political history about Louisiana Governor Jimmy Davis and North Carolina Governor Terry Sanford and not about Jerry Falwell, Jr., and Liberty University. So I also enclose a little biographical byte about Davis and Sanford that you might enjoy. If you have any good stories about Jimmy Davis, I would roll over and play dead on I-75 at high noon, if you would tell me one.

I don't blame any -

Faternally,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy L.

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

5 July 2018

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

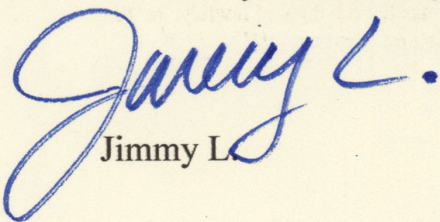
To Jimmy: Thanks for the letters, photos, & "Atlanta." Uncle Tom's papers are in my presidential library (no boyhood letters). I agree with you re Bolton & the importance of 1/1/79 event.
Jimmy Carter

After I have sent you all the songs and essays I have written, you are likely to find it hard to believe that I have written a book that I have actually not pushed upon you. I am not going to do that now either, but I am going to enclose maybe .005% of it. I refer to an illustration page for my chapter in it on China as the central theme in American history. You will recognize the pictures immediately, of course.

Let me contextualize them for you a bit. In short, my book is about the primary cause of the Civil War though I refer to it as what I really think it was: "The War for Southern Independence." In the book I argue that the heated 1845-1861 sectional conflict between the North, the South, AND the West over where the first footprint of the transcontinental railroad was going to go was a greater factor than slavery itself in the origination of that conflict. That is a long and fascinating story that would make perfect sense to you, if you read it all. In any event, one of my key foundational chapters is entitled "China: The Central Theme in American History." I have yet to read a southern historian who connects John C. Calhoun, Jefferson Davis, and the City of Charleston with China; however, I have found the long lost connection. In this connection the Chinese junk in your boyhood bedroom came to my mind, and it became a perfect illustration of my theme. The enclosed two pages, primarily page 2 with the caption describing the pics, is a perfect foil for my argument. I thought you might enjoy that much of my book.

Changing directions slightly, in an antique store on my way home from your Sunday school class back on June 10, I came across the sheet music for a song entitled "Atlanta." I am enclosing it also to add to your "Peanut Vendor" sheet music in the event you do not already have it.

Fraternally, Historically and Musically,


Jimmy L.

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

3 May 2018

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

A few furrows of tobacco fields down the road from Hillsborough, North Carolina, that you have written about in *The Hornet's Nest*, is the fabled *Southern Historical Collection* at Chapel Hill's University of North Carolina in which repository I found "The Czar of Tabernacledom," the darkened copy of which you found difficult to read. *Voila!* Enclosed find a copy of it that is as clear as DT's tryst with Stormy Daniels, compliments of Bryan Gienza,* the curator of that archival treasure trove. Ordinarily as a red North Carolina State Wolfpacker, I am predisposed to loathe that teal blue sister school, but in this case my mouth is as shut as the lions in Daniel's den. They produced this clear copy just for you, and I am constrained to throw UNC a bigger bone than ordinarily I would.

I also enclose a sketch of Leonard Broughton, the Czar in question. I wrote it many years ago. A pitiful piece of prosopography it is. But it was the best I could do at the time --and very probably the best I could do today. It makes no mention of this essay I found in the papers of Tom Watson, as I had not come across it by then. If I live long enough to do a revised version, it will.

Finally, I enclose a copy of my new CD captioned, "Remember Me, I'm the One Who loves You." The original song, the lyrics of which are tweaked just a bit on this CD, was written by Stuart Hamblen. Stuart, you may recall, was one of Billy Graham's early converts in Los Angeles in 1949, though as Roy Rogers once said to friend of mine, "When the Lord saved Stu, he never got all the stew out of him." Stuart also wrote "It Is No Secret," after John Wayne could not believe the transformation in Hamblen's life and told him so. Not only did Stuart record his own song but one of your favorite singers and mine, Willie Nelson (who taught a Sunday school class at Broadway Baptist Church in Ft Worth long before he allegedly smoked pot on the White House roof), also recorded it. Willie's version can --and should be-- heard at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P4mpTG1-dBc>, and is far better than my own rendition except for a couple of words (Hamblen's own version, also worth a listen, is at <https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=stuart+hamblen+Remember+me+Im+the+one+who+loves+you#id=2&vid=127fd3e7a6694bafdf73528ddc840511&action=click>).

Best wishes
to Shelly, Rosalynn & I
enjoyed the CD on our
72nd anniversary - Thanks
for the "Czar"
Jimmy Carter
p.s. I had the
same
encounter
with an
electronic
fence
J

2 October 2018

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

Thank you for your recent note. I was happy to see your concurrence with my feelings re: John Bolton. I know you could not say publicly what I did, but I could and did. For better or worse, I had to get my review of him off my chest.

I have a couple things for you in my customary care package. Forgive the stationery. It is my favorite, and I always think of Billy whenever I look at it. I sure wish I could have met him and laughed our heads off over it.

First, I enclose a book entitled *War of Words*. I don't intend for you to read it, though you certainly can, if you wish. I found it utterly fascinating. It is a true Baptist sex and murder story involving Tremont Temple in Boston. You may or may not recall that Denton Lotz, whom I assume you know (Denton was once the president of the Baptist World Alliance and is the brother of the late Danny Lotz, the husband of Billy Graham's widowed daughter, Ann), was once the pastor of this historic church where Frederick Douglas, Abe Lincoln, Sam Houston and Charles Dickens had all spoken. I am sending it to you to give to your pastor, Brandon. Why to you first? I figure Brandon would rather get a book from you than from me. I heard him say once how he loved to read, and I sent him the great biography of Baptist Huey Long for which he sent me a nice thank you. I still think he would rather get a book from you than me. Who wouldn't?

Second, I enclose a copy of the first page of the book I sent to Brandon with the story about Huey Long and the horses. It is quite possible I have already sent you this a dozen times or so, but it bears repeating. I have told the story a hundred times to whomever I could corner to listen to it. The way Huey joined FBC-Shreveport is just as funny, but I don't want to overload you.

Make Things Happen



To Jimmy L.
Jim L.

Third, I enclose a color copy of the cover page of the song "A Trip to Washington." If you want the original to join "Atlanta" and "The Peanut Vendor," just say the word.

Fourth, I enclose two pics of white frame clapboard churches, hopefully Baptist. I collect such, and FBC-Plains is one of my all time favorites. The reason I am enclosing them is because I found the originals of them last June in a Georgia antique store on my way to or from your Sunday school class --a wonderful side effect of that trip. Why don't you paint FBC-Plains --on canvas not the clapboards?

Fifth, speaking of Sunday school, I enclose a pic of two old lady widow friends of mine that I took to lunch last week. The one to my right is 91; and, like you, she still teaches a Sunday school class. I don't suppose you could autograph this or something else for her and send it my way to give to her. Her name is Delores.

Sixth, sad news: Bill Shaw died a couple weeks ago. Your invitation to him to sing at Maranatha breathed new life into him for many years.

Seventh, I enclose a copy of a letter to me from Bill Moyers. It mentions your visit to Liberty University. I sent him the *Liberty Journal* review of that occasion.

Eighth (I'm almost done), I assume you have heard of Paige's fall from grace at Southwestern Seminary. Years ago I roasted him before his own trustees did. I enclose a copy of that asbestos-insulated blast. No obligation to read. No quiz. No reply necessary.

Ninth, and last, back to Billy. I love this little enclosed poem entitled "Longevity." I think he would, too. I wish I could have quoted it to him, but at least I can share it with the esteemed Poet Laureate of Plains, Georgia.

Tenth, whew!

Lengthily,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy L.

To Jimmy: Jen eyed all mine (or appreciated them). #8 was del. 5/14/18, #5 is enclosed, #7 Billy Brandon have loved, #9. Brandon left Maranatha in Sept & is still looking for the right "call." Plains Baptist have painted (as was several times Jimmy Carter

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road

Jamestown, North Carolina 27282

Jimmy: Thank
for the \$1. I
need it. I have
enjoyed the "J.L."
parts - J Carter

14 November 2018

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President Jimmy C.,

Only two things this time:

One, a short story about a political meeting involving you and Dean Rusk that you probably have not thought about in years. It was sent to me by my friend, Willis Whichard. Willis is a Baptist, too. He helped to manage Terry Sanford's run for the presidency and he once sat on the North Carolina Supreme Court. Thanks be to God, I did not meet him in court. We are both members of the Historical Society of North Carolina, where I met him, and I have since enjoyed his fellowship many times over BBQ. Willis had been reading Stuart Eizenstat's biography of you, and he sent this snippet to me because he knew of our friendship because I tell everybody I know and don't know about it. It is a snippet that would have gone over well at Billy's gas station.

Two, a copy of *Churchfails* that contains 18 essays of mine out of the 100 essays in it. One of mine is about Paul Tillich. You read it in draft form and commented. As you might imagine, several of the essays I submitted were censored out, including ones about Bonhoeffer (that posed the question, "Whom would Jesus assassinate?"), the scoundrel and scalawag C. I. Scofield, and even the one on Rasputin whose life closely parallels Georgia's recent resident, Rev. Ravi Zacharias. It is not inconceivable that I have already sent you multiple copies of this book. If so, please pass this one along to Pastor Brandon or just leave it on a lunch counter somewhere. I regret to tell you that it is one of the worst-selling books in American history. The publisher can't even give copies away. Accordingly, I am also enclosing \$1.00 to make it worth your while.

Warmly, with greetings also from Saint Shelly,

Jimmy L.
Jimmy L.

Brother President,
It suddenly occurs to
me that I forgot to enclose
the \$1.00. If I don't forget
again, you will find it enclosed
nevertheless. Jimmy L.

Schnappsburg University Press

101 Thornwood Road
Jamestown, NC 27282

30 July 2019

President Jimmy Carter
Plains, Georgia 31780

Dear Brother/President/Poet Jimmy C.,

I did not mean to put you to sleep with my last letter that included a story about Bill Clinton and his pastor. I thought it was a great story; but in the absence of your customary expressions of appreciation, I find myself recalibrating it. Maybe it isn't so good after all.

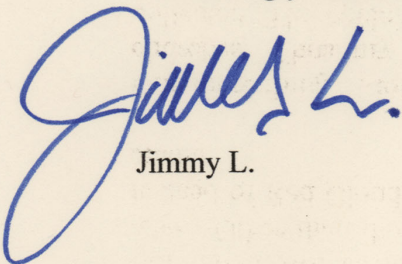
At the risk of further boring you to tears, I enclose another story, this one about Martin Marty. I recall you telling me how you had met Marty. This is a tale about my meeting him and his telling me about Willa Cather's *My Antonia* of which, inexcusably, I had never heard before. The story about wolves and a Russian wedding party in that novel beats most everything I have ever read. Other than those wolves, Cather's homecoming theme could have been Plains, Georgia, instead of Red Cloud, Nebraska. I now number her moving masterpiece among my top twenty reads.

One more thing. I told you how one of my hobbies is collecting pictures of white frame Baptist churches. Thus, my admiration for FBC-Plains which is among the most beautiful pics I have collected. The enclosed pic is of the Baptist church in Dixon, Illinois, where I grew up. My father was the pastor. As you can see, I have included this pic on the enclosed CD of my father's conversion story, as it was broadcast on WGN back in 1953. A writer from Georgia, Eugenia Price, created the script for this program. She included two lines in it that never cease to bring me exhilaration. I refer to lines from a poem by the British poet, Henry Vaughan, who wrote:

I found beneath this robe of fleshly dress
Bright shoots of everlastingness.

And so might you, too, find exhilaration in these lines. I know the reason I have not heard from you is because of your passing, as I would think CNN or FOX would have covered such.

Everlastingly fraternally,



Jimmy L.

Jimmy: I haven't
passed, but have been
partially incapacitated
by a broken hip. I
do appreciate all of your
"stories," including about
Clinton, & especially your
father. Jimmy Carter

p.s. I
could not
play the CD
I listened
to the CD.
many
hymns,
etc. Not
about a
conversion.

I enjoyed
re Martin
Marty.
JC