3/25/1917

## Chicago

My dear beloved sister Christin.

I will now once again write you a couple lines and see if I will be luckier this time to get an answer. I have written numerous times to you, but never got an answer. I have wondered so why I haven't got any lines from you. I know that there are bad times<sup>1</sup> on the sea, but it hasn't always been like that . . . as it is right now you don't know if one letter arrives or not. I will try anyway. If these lines make it to you please answer immediately because I'm longing to hear from you and your closest.<sup>2</sup>

Well, I will now tell you some maybe news<sup>3</sup>... to begin with I will tell you God's great mercy has been with me every day so that I can praise the Lord that He has stood by me in all both in soul and body, and all my children and grand children are healthy and happy.

I have 6 grand children: 3 girls and three boys. Jony has 2 girls and 2 boys. Eddy has 1 girl. Waldemar the youngest he has 1 son, and they send their best regards to you. They are all doing well. Jony has his own workshop in Chicago - a machine shop, so he has a lot of people working for him now.

The others are in printing work. You understand they print newspapers and books, so they are in great shape. Wilhelm, he finally got married. He will now start to build himself a printshop. In these days he has got his own business.<sup>4</sup> He has rented a business<sup>5</sup> earlier but will now, if all goes well, build his own.

Well, I have now told what my sons are doing. Now I will describe what I do myself.

I'm a railroad worker as usual. I have been doing it for about 25 - 30 years in one place, so I'm one of the oldest at [various] occasions. I had my 60th birthday now the 18th of March. My old lady is 61. She has been very ill this winter, but is now better.

I have a lot to thank the Lord for that he has blessed me and my old lady and all my sons so that we may praise God for what he does for us. I have 4 good sons. They have never tasted spirits; they are absolutely sober. It is a good thing<sup>6</sup> for both me and them. Through God's power and our faith we will be saved to eternity.

How are you doing with God. Have you been born again? My beloved sister Christen, we must all be born again if we would like to go to heaven. Jesus says, "Without being born again you will not be able to see the kingdom of God," and, accordingly, you have to beg Jesus for forgiveness for all of what we have done wrong, so that He will forgive all your sins, and that you don't think of them anymore.

This is to be born again when he who died for all of us has forgiven us all sins. Then we perceive that we are God's children. We have then got the spirit of childhood that calls Abba<sup>7</sup>, dear Father. Then we get peace with God - a serenity that goes beyond all understanding. Then we don't want to sin, and we start to wake up, and stand up for Jesus.

Well, I pray that you will give your heart to Jesus. Your daughter Emma gave herself totally to her saviour just before she died - [just] as she was - at the same time. She was so happy that she said that she didn't know what to do for Jesus, who saved her. One girl who I sent to her to help her said to Emma that she couldn't do anything, but receive what he gives, and praise and thank him for giving her peace and eternity.<sup>8</sup>

Well, I have to stop for this time. I hope that these lines will reach you all in good health, and all that goes with it. Give my regards to all who would like to receive it.

My address as before John Holmquist 6613 Green St. Chicago, Ill

Good bye. Write soon.

God be with us.

[John]9

Footnotes

<sup>1</sup>Could also be translated "bad weather."

<sup>2</sup>Probably saying in effect, "your dear ones," i.e. other members of your family.

<sup>3</sup>"Maybe news" is not normal English or Swedish. He is, no doubt, purposely using poor grammar.

<sup>4</sup>The exact word that Johannes wrote here was "Besnes." Besnes is not a Swedish word. Johannes, perhaps, did not remember the Swedish word for business, and so used the English word spelt in a "Swedish" way.

<sup>5</sup>"Rentat Besnes" or "renting a business" is unclear in both Swedish and English.

<sup>6</sup>The Swedish word used here is "ting," and is correctly translated "thing" in English. In Swedish, however, "ting" would not be used in this context. Johannes is using the word in an American English way.

<sup>7</sup>"Abba" is the word for Father in Aramaic, the language which Jesus spoke. It is mentioned in the Bible that Jesus called God, Abba.

<sup>8</sup>The word here is probably "eternity." The writing is not clear.

<sup>9</sup>Johannes did not actually sign his name at the end of the letter. Though his Swedish name was Johannes, in America he went by "John."

Chungo 12,57917 This Elshade Lyster Elister Jag vill nu återigen Skripe nagra rader till dig och se and Jag lykas bebre nu att få Svat jag har Skripet Sarskilda ganger till dig ma inle fåt något Svar jag har unbras så mychet and får jag inte han få några redar ifrån lig jag set att det är oroligheter på djör men det har inte altid varit så nu for liffelet så net man Ju inte am eft att bref gar

frame eller ig men fagnil försäka enda ifal alt dessa rader Skulle hima fram Sa var shel ach Sheif Stick Svar for jog lanter att få hora mågadt ifran dig och de dina . Ja nu Shall Jag talom like nyhoter hanhanda för dig får det forste Sa far jog talom guls stora mid has varit med mig alla dager så att Jag han Lega gud nare äre sch tack Som har Stat mig ti i alla omslendigheter bade Till Sjel och krap Samt allar mina lam och bankarn ão friska ach dachliga Jig -

har 6 barn barn og flickar ach The Pajkar Jany han har & flika och & Pajkar Eddy har I flika Abaldmar Dan yngste han har 1 Som och de helsor till digg så mycket de har det bra allera. Jany han har Eget varitad a lehr go en mastin alla Sa how has been manga som arbeta för sig nu de andra de aro i Tros arleet du forstor de trocker Titungar och boiker så de hafva alla en gad hundisjon Nolhelm han gjefta Sig sist han skok till mu att Byga sig en Trycheri varstad i dese dagar

"han har egen Bernes han har rentat Bethes plats forut men mu skall han an al you have byggo sjelt. Janu har Jog talst an vad Some gjoro un far gag tala alt gag for min egen del paried mit Rathasarbete dam sanligt Jag har ho asp pann inellan 252-30 en plato sa jagar de celota Sam ar pa Sjap jøg földe 60 år nu den 18 min varit myche Sjuk i wenter ma han är un betre ja fag liv mycht mig alle min gimena och alla mina

Soner da vi keso gud for all rad hav gjær for als gag har 4 Dockliga Sover de hafra aldrig Anskat Starka Drijehe de an abetlut muchtra det ar an god story for leade mig aclo dem aggenomiguds macht herare hur har die det reggjort med guid har du bliet for panys min Elshade Syster Christen vi måste alla sam rilja till handen blifne fila på nyt : jesus seger då ulan i varda fide

pa myt kunen i inte de gads ritre dalekes hafna, mi till all belja gesus am forlalelse for all und bi hor built anot haven Så är han brogast så att han forlålar oss alla Synder och aldrig mer tänker upå dem da blefna ni fåla på nyt nær han don dog for all have foilated ass alla Synder da for no formina att no are guds learn vi hafva da fat barnashapets and som nopar ablea kåre fåder då fans frid med good en frid Som afvergar all forstand da vilja ni inte Synda da baija wi att nakara up och sta up

Ja gag onskar och jag beder för jerta att gesus Din Doter Enna hon lemna sig hat at Sin frelsare lile enan hon dog så som hon var så sur på samma gang så glad da han sade han viste inte bad how Shalle gira for years som prelste heme en Flicka som gog sende till here att jelpa here hon bade like Enna att han inte kunde gjøra nagialing utan toemot used han gjepner och Frist ach lacka honon for all how fick lagaend fit all for inter

Ja gag for me lot alt to Shila for dena going befa en alla vid god hels ach all som dar lither helsa alla som vilja nin helming mallago him Adres Some for John Hohnquist 6613 Green St. Chicago ge adjo skrif Smar 02 Gud vare med on