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To: "margaret l metz" <mmetz8@juno.com>  
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Dear Sam,

One thing we will leave here are fleas and a building too porous to seal up to bomb them--about two weeks ago, we had a flea explosion. Because of the nature of the building they just move through the floor from the upper to the lower level and the wind blows through the lower level bad enough that we might as well be living in a tent. But my experience in Oregon is that fleas and log buildings sort of go together.

Now to the serious stuff. Norm Edwards has a ministry, which most of the others up there will be involved in one way or another; I won't be directly involved. As such, out of the compound, into what was formerly officers housing--and now listed as condominiums, because there is not enough land with each to subdivide according to Michigan's greenway laws--I will be acquiring a house that the trust now owns. It's a decent 3-bedroom house. The deal is \$33,000--\$500 down and \$300 a month. Therefore, living within the community, I will both be there and be separate, which is satisfactory to Norm and to myself. I will be there to teach, in a variety of courses, and will be free to continue the ministry we're presently doing without restrictions and without sharing office space. I will move shop equipment into one of the compound outbuildings and we'll still have to discuss retail space. The setup up there has the barracks and a few other buildings belonging to the trust. The Barracks and other buildings are set up for educational purposes. No thought or provision was made for profit-based business; however, outside of the compound, and part of the original SAC base are two buildings that have had businesses in them, Port Austin Town Hall, as well as the house I'll be buying. We may be able to use one of the other outbuildings outside of the compound of the trust for retail space, but I suspect a downtown location would be better. So, I understand your concerns about getting overwhelmed. But I think Norm Edwards is more concerned about me overwhelming them than he is in them overwhelming me.

After meeting the people involved, this may be where God is gathering those who will do the work during the tribulation, as the 120 were gathered together at Pentecost. There are bugs to work out--there always will be when personalities are involved. However, the biggest bug is one I ran into sitting alongside the road broke down in Southern Indiana. This bug is, God isn't going to bail us out as mature Christians everytime we skin our knees. There is a lot we can do for ourselves and will be required to do for ourselves. He will only do what we cannot after we are pushed to the limit and truly run out of resources. Thus, what I see is money will be an immediate short-term problem. Norm relies on contributions to his ministry for his income. I followed the model that Paul uses where I work to produce

a product to provide the funding. And I think it is along this line that our ministries will end up going separate ways. No necessarily contrary or in disagreement, but Edwards ministry is really directed back towards existing Sabbath keepers, very much like Dixon Cartright's THE JOURNAL is. Mine is the taking of the message of patient endurance to the world, that endurance occurring during the first half of the tribulation and into the second half. All who endure to the end shall be saved--this is the message of patient endurance that must be proclaimed to the world before the end of the age comes. So Norm's ministry is that of shepherding, mine is much more that of witnessing (warning is not the right word, but close). Therefore, since the two ministries do not contradict each other at this time, they can co-exist, especially so since they have a different financial basis.

If a full-time job is offered at Potomac State, I intend to take it for a year and live out of a suitcase. Norm is not going to have enough students to support a college this fall. If we go on awhile before the tribulation begins, then the timing will work out nicely for stepping into a fulltime teaching up there, having already purchased the house there. So, whether I'm in Keyser for the two semesters doesn't depend upon whether we go to Michigan or not, but upon whether I'm offered a full-time job. Our residence will be Port Austin.

I intend on getting together. Carolyn bought her ticket to fly out to Boise from Pittsburg on 23 July for her daughter's wedding--she will be back on the 26th. Karin is back in the hospital in Pittsburgh. A good time to get together might be this coming weekend, an evening or Sabbath afternoon.

I bought a pickup, a redneck special is garden hose and beer cans in the bed. Didn't give much for it--a 4-wheel drive, '83 Dodge (Mitsubishi) Ram, should be adequate for moving, though.

Take care,  
Homer