

June 28

Dear Madre and Cif,

How are you doing?

I seem to be about over the flu, but am very upset at the treatment the Christians are receiving. Enclosed is Mrs. Christian's statement to the Justice Department about Joe Ann. Mrs. Christian also says that Joe has been placed in the death cell in Camilla. Joe's younger sister, LaVette, spent five days in Camilla. She is 12 years old. She, too, was dragged into the jail. In Camilla, she was propositioned by the cook (Negro), who would open the door to her cell any time of the day or night. LaVette woke up once to find him running his hands up and down her arm. The cook could only have gotten the key from the white authorities. Her 15 year old cousin, Merita, received pretty good treatment until they found out she was a Christian, too. Then the cook went into her cell, propositioned her in much the same way he had done to LaVette, and before leaving, pulled down his fly. Joe Ann's statement to CB when they took her lightbulbs was "the only light I need is Jesus." She's quite a girl!

We are finding it impossible to get news of the beatings out, but they are occurring. Chief Pritchett denies all of it to the papers. ~~Ma~~ We are now hoping to get Mrs. Christian to Washington where she can testify in person. By the way, Deloris, her seven year old, led a line on Friday, and was the first to go limp and hit the ground when they were placed ~~xx~~ under arrest. It seems to me that at least a magazine could use the story of the Christians, and maybe one or two others of the Albany Freedom Families where total family arrests equal as much as twenty, and every member from two year old to father has been involved in some way or other.

This whole week has been WILD, what with taking refuge in the church at 2:00AM after sneaking through back yards and alleys, and the ridiculous arrests last week. Nobody even wants to print that, although papers and wire services consult us all the time. It probably has to do with the President's trip and the congressional battle over civil rights.

I've been staying at the Harris' (Rutha's family) since Tuesday, trying to kick the flu. They're a great family. Another Freedom Family, and beautiful people, at that.

July 14

Well, at last I'm mailing this letter. I guess Madre's ~~inx~~ at ALA now, so I'll add a letter to you, Cif.