Dear Mrs. Wilmington:

I was so happy to get your letter, it reminded me of the months I spent in Grenada. Even though that was a time of struggle and hardship, it was also a time of beauty and warmth. I will always remember the warm and courageous people of Grenada. It may seem odd, but the months I spent in Grenada were some of the best of my life, because of the spirit and courage of the people that met and sung in the church, marched to the town square, registered to vote and so much more. Particularly I remember the children who faced such dangers the first day of school and the women of the Mississippi Poor Peoples Committee.

I intended to write a book about Grenada, and I did write an outline in diary form of the events that occurred during part of the time I was in Grenada. I showed the outline to a couple of publishers but they were not interested. The fact is that I am probably not a good enough writer for that sort of thing. Also, after I left Grenada I was still active in the movement, as I am today. I never really had the time to try to write a good enough story that someone would publish, even if I had the talent to do so. Anyway I thought that you might like a copy of the outline that I wrote so I am enclosing it in this package.

After I left Grenada I went to work in the anti-war movement. Against the Viet-nam war. The same system that causes black people in Mississippi to be persecuted and oppressed caused the war in Indo-China. The same people who get rich because of the oppression of Black people in America grew rich from the war to kill the Indo-Chinese people. Rich powerful men like Senator Eastland, Over the years that I have been in the movement I have come to believe that the racism that makes Black people suffer in Mississippi stems from the same cause as the Vietnam war, as the recent gasoline swindle that is robbing us of what little money we have, and most of the other problems that we face. I believe that the rich control our government, our schools, our radio and t.v., our jobs, our homes, and as much of our lives as they can. Their desire is to become richer at our expense. To do this they trick poor white Mississippians into fighting poor black Mississippians. They trick young black and white men to travel 10,000 miles to drop bombs on poor Vietnamese women and children. They tell us lies in the newspapers and on the T.V.

I remember singing in Bellflower Baptist Church about Freedom. As the years have gone by I realize ever stronger that a system that oppresses one person ends up oppressing all. This is why I have continued to work in the movement. For the past several years I have been working in factories to earn a living. I spend most of my "movement" time organizing and educating other workers (mostly white) about the need to struggle for freedom. To struggle against racism.

Please write me and let me know what has happened in Grenada in the years since I have left. How you are doing, and also the two Mrs. Washingtons (Beulah and Martha), Sonora Springfield and all the other people who were active in the movement.

Well, I guess that's about all for now. I have a pamphlet on prices that you might like. It was written before the big gas crises so it is a little out of date, but it's still pretty good. I'll include it in this letter. If you would like me to send you other literature just let me know. I know how hard it is to get information on what is really happening in America if you live in Mississippi.

Yours Truly
Dear Bruce:

We received your letter last week and were glad to hear from our teacher and to know that he was well.

Well, Bruce, we are still working on our program and yet having our meetings. I didn't get to go with them to the meeting at Jackson. I was planning to go but they had trouble getting someone to carry them and when they did get someone they didn't have room for all. But from what I learned from them it was very interesting. Do I think we have the canning program now.

So we are trying to decide on what we'll have to have to get started and how much it will cost. We have the price of a gas stove, Jim is helping us out, some we really miss you. Strolling around this and we are still working on some of those.

Name
You gave us I can't find a thing on A Philippines website if you can find it for me please and any other kind of help that would do us good. Smile.) So hurry fast.

By Debie Lee Stevenson
819 Pearl Street  
Grenada, Miss.  
February 8, 1967

Dearest Bruce,

I was so proud to hear from you. This leaves us doing fine so far. How are you and we hope you are doing better.

Leon, Lester, Willie Leon, Cotton Reader and another white boy is in. They are here to help to get Mr. W.S. Hillen in as a councilman (smile)

Mr. McKelroy hired A.C. Chamberlain and Roosevelt Bennett as policemen.

The Allen's suit is going on again this week.

Bellflower was burned, but not down. The white folk say it was caught from a wire but we know it was burned. Say thank to your mother and tell her...
--- we really miss you from Grenada.
Alline is doing much better now.
My family say hello, and they are looking for you back.

your friend

Senora
Dear Bruce,

I hope you will forgive us for such a long time not writing you, but we have been very busy doing our home work and other chores. Our church burned Sunday Jan 22. It was damage very badly. It was set from the side. Next to the fence line that opening left. That didn't stop the Mass Meeting on one night.

We are due to Vincent Chapel Church.

Bruce, I hope you are having a nice stay at home with your family. You must have wonderful parents. We miss you in Class every day. We are getting along alright. Jim helps us when we ask him. I don't mean doing our home work, but we go to him for information.
we are working very hard trying to help Poor Family write for hearing for Mr. Bistra Moore and Mr. Clarence Martin also.

Since you are suppose to be here for Court, Leon Neiman, Dodge Coffrederer is here as Cookie.

Old Judge Perry is crazy as ever. He put Robert Goldston in jail for walking in front of the Judge. He wasn't in when they just told not to. They put his Lawyer in jail for trying to stop them from Jailing Robert. Robert Boyd pleas Bow he did not Charge Laclefier Lackley.

we went to Jackson fear of we Jim went with us we in on the meeting and listen to what the different Counties had to say which was Not Very Interesting. For the Poor People Committee from what we gather we decide if we go into business, we would go...
into the per-serve and simp
to set up a Corit we would
have to bor-row from them
we would not be making
anything no way we hope to
go into some type of business we
have been very lucky the white
folk put A.C. Chadhlin or Police
its arrest color only
we haven't had time to have
our picture made yet we hope to have
them made Sonday. since we
really hope you will come back
to Grenada if you can and
work to

Hello to your parents

Sincerely yours

Mrs. Mable Y. Wilmington
The Poor People Committee
513 Plum Street
Grenada Miss.

Dear Friend,

We the committee hope you are fine and have gotten enough rest to come back to Grenada.

We are getting along pretty good with our home work and welfare cases. We got Mrs. Doketha Bullin on her case to close. She is the woman with 9 children. She received a check on the 29th of January and one on the 16th, also, Effie Hays Shelby $25 each for the two kids and $20 for the mother also Mrs. Ella Mae Wright.

We have been very busy, we hope to get more money on welfare.

Mrs. Bulah Washington and I went to Jackson to the 3 day meeting. I am very glad we finally got away to go fine.
Bulard carried us to Mabelth Moore went on the Bus with Mrs. Wood, but you ask her come back with us she did it was a very large deligitation of old and young people on welfare it was something to witness there were people there from Delta counties who were living on commodities food only when I listen to those people I thought we eat and listen & will work harder when I go back home.

We wanted to go to Washington to the Poor People Meeting, but we learn about it to late to raise our Money. Since we hope you will return some day please write Miss Washington.
And ask her to stay with Bulah and me. All the other has fled. She has met with no time device. You left us sometime. Sincerely yours,

The PoP People Committee

Gwendolyn Miller

Hope we can send the postcard soon.
624 Plum St.
3-26-74
Grenada, Miss.

Mr. Bruce Hartford
325 Manley Ave. Rd.
Orange, Conn.

Dear Mr. Hartford,

I was told that you were waiting a book at the one you were working in Grenada; if it is true I would like very much to buy one from you if they are off the press and ready for sale.

If this is not true please forgive me. I do hope you are getting along fine. I hope to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Mable H. Wilmington