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1804 Humboldt Ave.S.,  
Minneapolis, Minn. U.S.A.

Jan. 16, 1955.

Mr. Wesley Leonard,  
c/o Methodist Overseas Mission,  
139 Castlereagh St., Sydney, N.S.W.  
Australia.

Dear Wesley: I am sorry I have to send you bad news about Catherine. She is seriously ill. It is not a very new development but it has been kept from your parents until the last few days. The girls knew about it except for very recent developments and they agreed with Catherine that she should not tell your parents unless the condition became hopeless.

In early Dec. 1953 Catherine had one of her breasts removed because of cancer. That was followed up with a full course of x-ray treatments in the hope of curing it. At that operation a secondary growth was found in a lymph gland outside of the primary growth which meant to me at that time that she had only one chance in four of a cure.

During the last two months she has been losing ground. She has been under the doctors care since late in Sept. On the 26th of Nov. she had her first symptoms of liver trouble. The middle of Dec. she showed a little jaundice in her eyes. Right at Christmas time she began to get fluid in her abdomen. She has been in Northwestern Hospital here since Jan. 4th. She had numerous tests and they were unable to find any trouble which was not attributable to her liver. They thought it wise to open her abdomen and have a look at her liver and see if there was anything they could do.

She had her operation on Jan. 13th. They took out a piece of her liver for microscopic examination and removed over a gallon of fluid. They found her liver full of small nodules which they believe to be cancer secondary to her breast cancer of over a year ago. Since the operation she has been making satisfactory progress but she is pretty sick. She was able to walk to the bathroom with my help today. She is pretty depressed part of the time but most of the time she is brave. She knows what is wrong with her and that she hasn't long to live. She is getting some treatment which in some cases of this kind prolong life considerably. We are hoping that she will become well enough to be home with us for some months but no one knows at the present time how long we can expect. She might live more than a few weeks and she might not even leave the hospital this time.

We have some very good friends here and they have been most kind. The church ministers and her church circle have been much concerned.

We are managing to get along at our house because the lady who lives on our third floor helps with the housework.

I am recovering from my rheumatic fever. My first time away from the house was to see Catherine the day before her operation. We both have telephones beside our beds so we can talk readily to each other. My doctor seems to think that I will probably be well enough to go to work in three or four weeks. This illness of Catherine's of course is pretty hard on me. I have been ill since the 16th of July.

We were glad to get your letter before Christmas. We wish you every success and God's blessing on your missionary work.

I am sorry to be the bearer of such sad news. We need your prayers.

Yours

*Wilford*