



ADVENT
2022

Mary



TOUCHSTONE

EVERY HEART TESTED • EVERY HEART REVEALED



Herod



John the Baptist



Peter



Mary



Luke 2:16-19

So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart.

Luke
2:34-35



Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”







When his parents saw him, they were astonished. His mother said to him, “Son, why have you treated us like this? Your father and I have been anxiously searching for you.”



“Why were you searching for me?” he asked. “Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?” But they did not understand what he was saying to them. (Luke 2:48-50)

Mark
3:20-21



Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, “He is out of his mind.”

Matthew
12:46-50



While Jesus was still talking to the crowd, his mother and brothers stood outside, wanting to speak to him. Someone told him, “Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to speak to you.”

He replied to him, “Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?” Pointing to his disciples, he said, “Here are my mother and my brothers. For whoever does the will of my Father in heaven is my brother and sister and mother.”



John 19:25-27

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home.

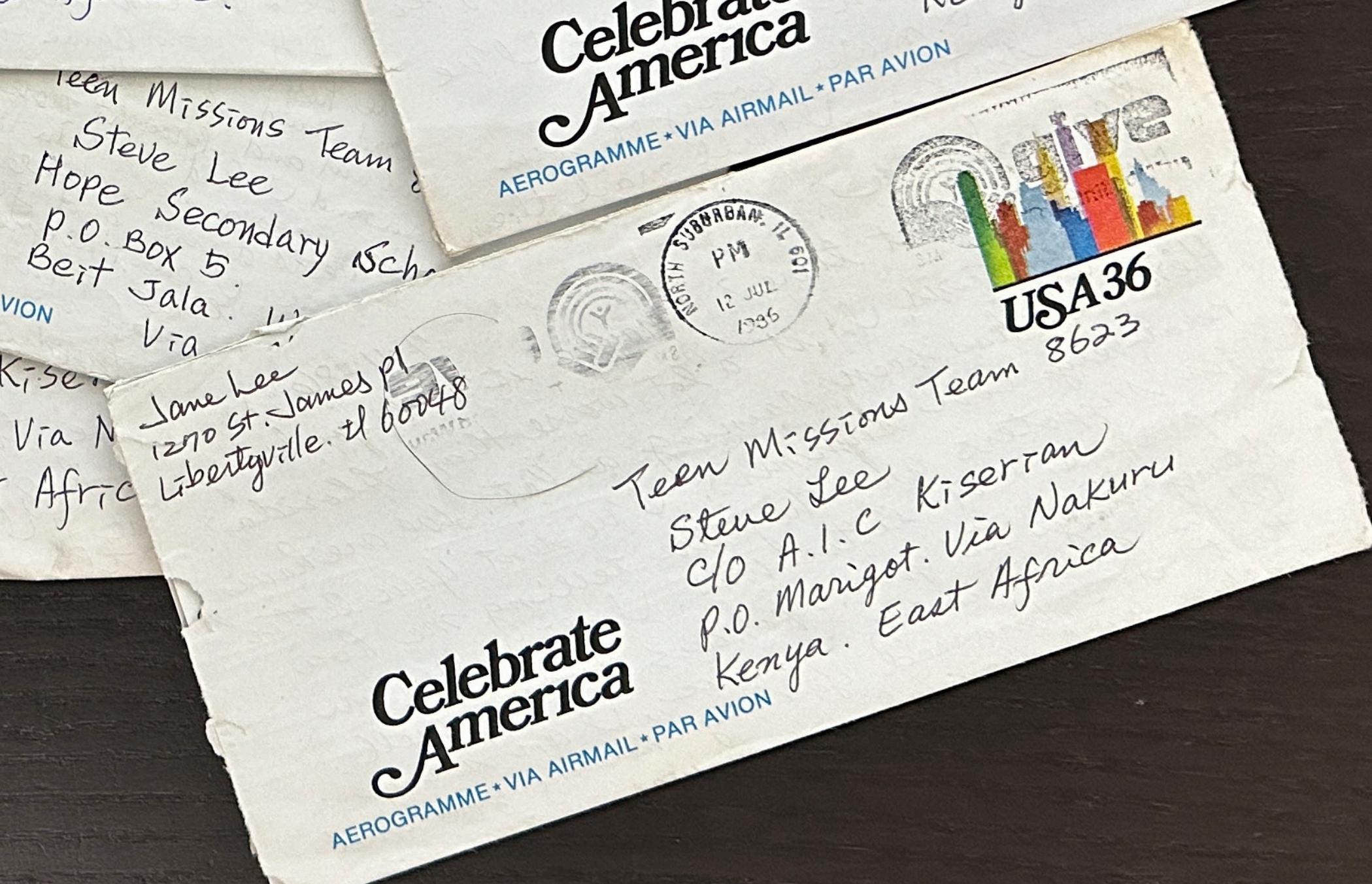
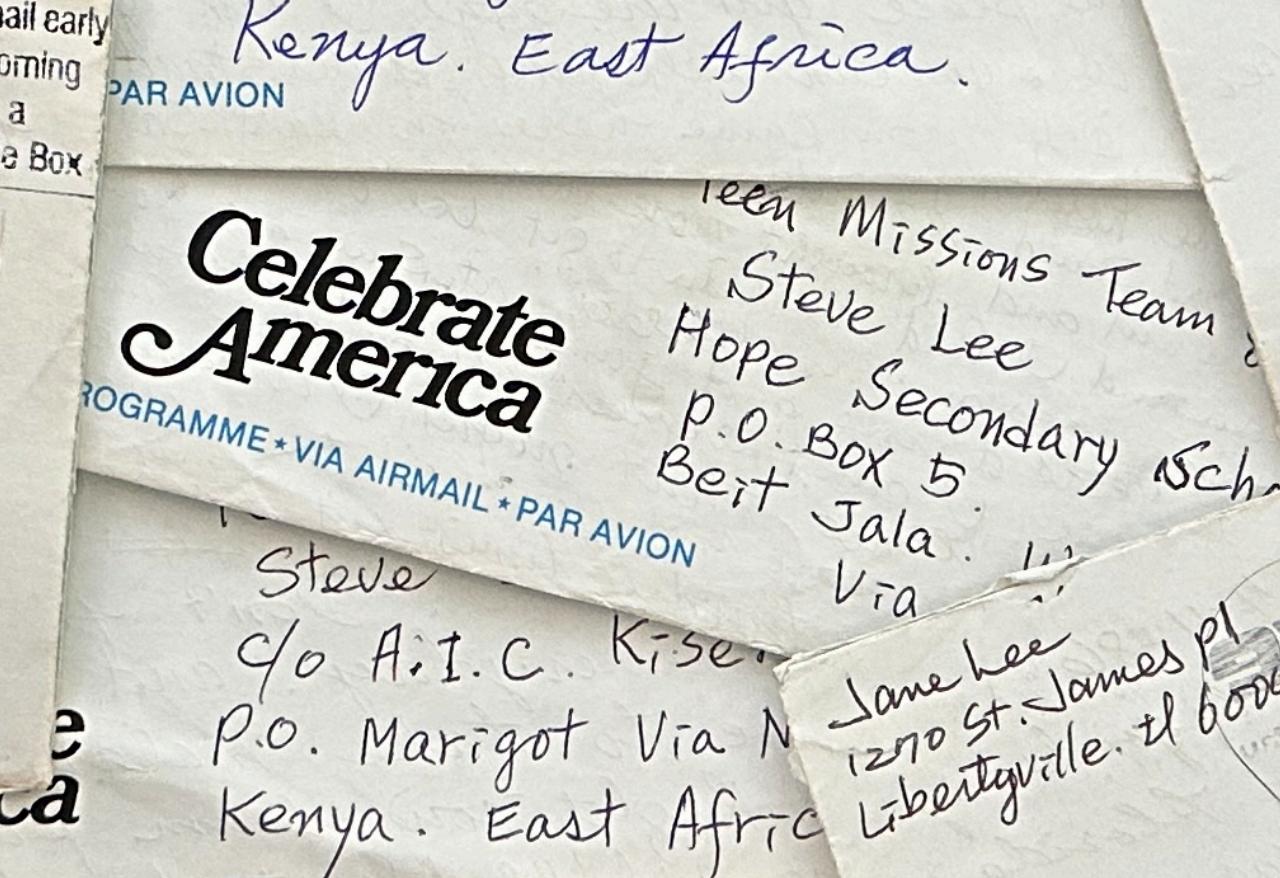
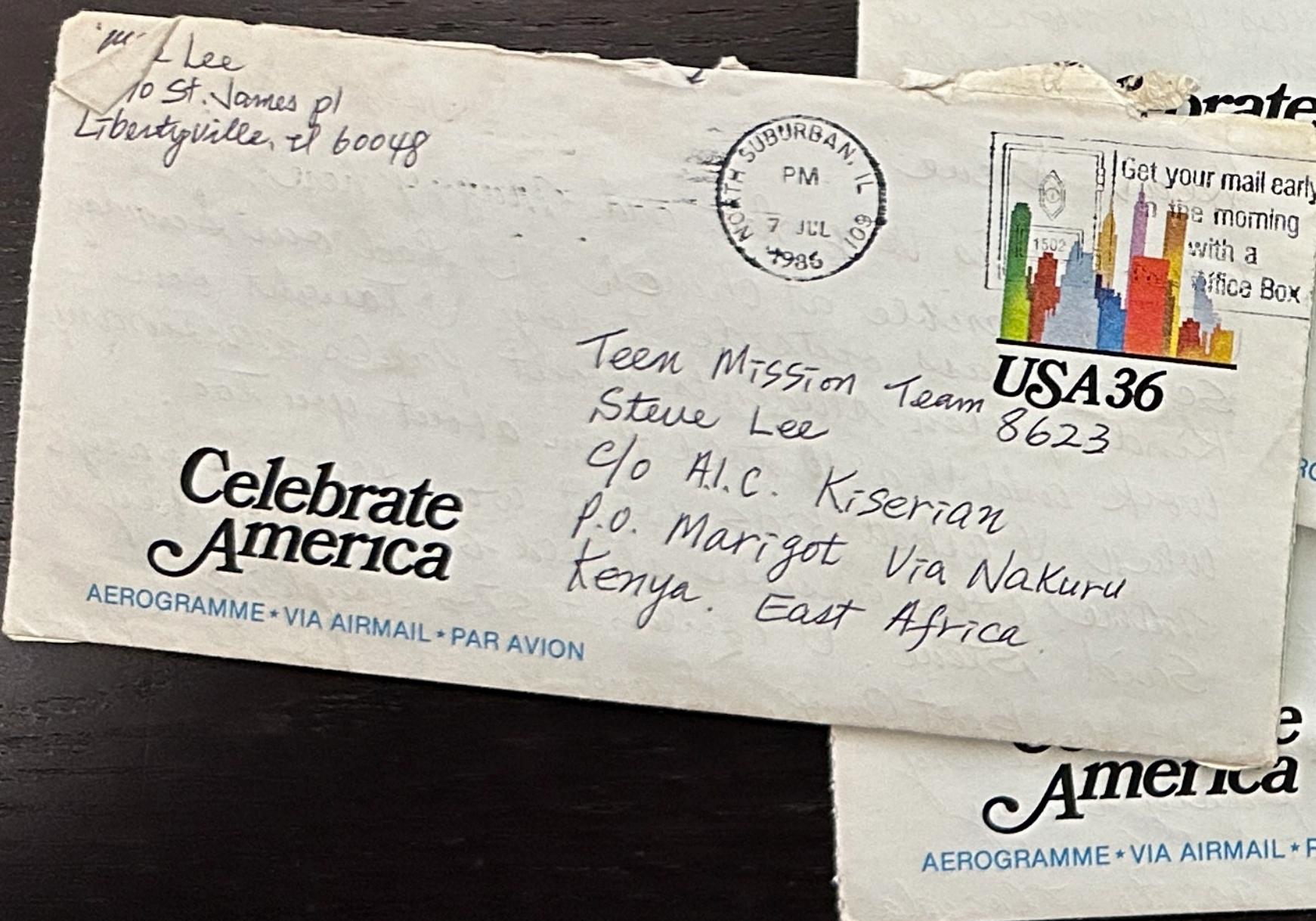




June 20: Boot Camp is really tough. The cleanliness is what really gets me. Right after you wash yourself with the sulfur water, you sweat again. I go to bed slimy and wake up slimy. ... I have over 27 mosquito bites on my arms alone. I have tons more on my back, chest, legs, and neck. ... It's so depressing when my leaders do mail call and I don't get any letters. ... I have almost no free time here.



What little free time I have, I spend rerunning the obstacle course because someone [on our team] gets us disqualified in the morning. . . . Even though I could say millions of negative things the one positive thing—serving the Lord—overshadows the others. Record some good movies. Don't forget to tell everyone to write!!!





July 3: How glad I was to have decided to have made the trip to see you! At first I thought the trip must be too hard for me. However, I thought I must see you before you left. I can understand a lot better because I've seen the place with my own eyes. The commissioning service was beautiful.



... I am so proud of you enduring all the hard training and being so strong spiritually. God bless you Steve. We pray God to be with you at all times and protect you and give you all the strength you need. Take care of yourself, Son. We miss you. Love Mom.



July 6: We are so glad you are growing through this hardship. It hurts me when I think about you. The way you choose to walk is not an easy road at all. However, don't worry about me. I know through that tough road you will be blessed with more abundant life. . . . I will [also] grow a lot through my prayer for you. Daddy is really proud of you. He thinks you are a very sincere and deep thinker and you practice your faith.



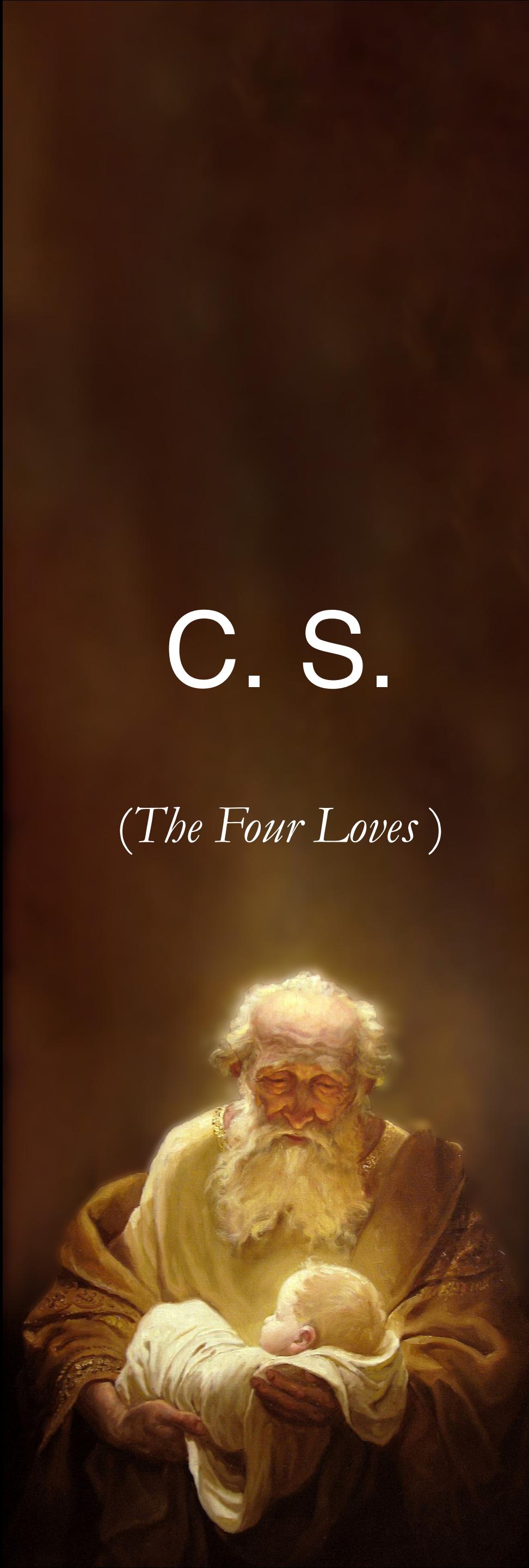
July 11: At the commissioning service, I am sorry that I embarrassed you by holding you and walking with you when there was no one doing the same thing. I couldn't think anything else but thinking you are really leaving to another country. That moment made me do that. I know sometimes I am lacking in thoughtful manners and make you embarrassed. I will try to think about your feelings before I get too old to change anything.



July 21: As the days are going by, I miss you more and more. I really want to hug you. I wish some day we could all go to Kenya for vacation and see the place you are now. I will make your favorite food and stuff the refrigerator for you. I miss you Steve.



July 28: I can't express how much I miss you. I dreamed about you. You came home and you had to leave soon and I was hugging you hundred times, but still it was not enough and I woke up. Steve, I miss you so much.



C. S.

(The Four Loves)

To love at all is to be vulnerable. Love anything, and your heart will certainly be wrung and possibly be broken. If you want to make sure of keeping it intact, you must give your heart to no one, not even to an animal. Wrap it carefully round with hobbies and little luxuries; avoid all entanglements; lock it up safe in the casket or coffin of your selfishness. But in that casket—safe, dark, motionless, airless—it will change. It will not be broken; it will become unbreakable, impenetrable, irredeemable.



Romans
8:31-32



What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things?