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Letter from Ruth Ross to James B. Finley

Ruth Ross

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Reverend James B. Finley

Cincinnati
Ohio

Wm. Hoops

Near Monroe January 30th 1831

Reverend and Dear Sir

All the appology that I can offer for troubling you at this time, is the Solitude I feel for the salvation of my Child, When the time drew near that was to separate me from him by his going to learn a trade my mind was much exercised concerning him knowing that he would be exposed to ten thousand snares, and temptations, which might prove his everlasting Destruction. at this time he was unconverted. I then thought if the Lord would hear and answer my prayers in the conversion of his soul, that I could be resigned to part with him, and could then offer him up to the Lord, as Hannah offered Samuel, to do with him as seemed good in his sight. under these impressions I took him to our campmeeting last August, hoping and believing that the Lord would convert his soul. on Saturday and Sabbath, he appeared to be struck with uncommon solemnity, on Monday the Lord powerfully convicted him, and glory and honour to his sacred name, on Monday night he pardoned his sins, and granted him that blessed peace which this world can never give, and oh that he may prove faithful, that this world may never take it from him. I am sensible that he is exposed to many temptations, but all that I can do is to pray for him, and to commend and commend him into the hands of that God, who preserved Daniel unharmed in the Lions Den. I presume you are thronged with business, yet I must request

you to pay some attention unto him, in striving to encourage him, and instruct him in the ways of Righteousness and truth, and for this, and all the past favours which you have bestowed upon me and my family, I expect to see you receive your Reward, at the Right hand of God.

Tell Sister Feinley I was much disappointed last fall at not receiving a visit from her, and if I come to Cincinnati I intend to Retiate, by calling to see her. My Dear sister I am still striving to walk in the narrow path, and bless the Lord I find that the further I travel the brighter my path seems to shine, Oh my sister, when I Reflect upon the goodness of the Lord to me and mine, I am ready to exclaim, Lord what art thou, or what are mine, that thou art thus mindful of us. I must believe that much has been done for us, in answer to yours and Mrs Feinleys prayers. will you both continue to pray for us, and especially for my son, that he may escape the pollutions of this world, and be preserved unto everlasting life.

I have trespass'd upon your patience for which I hope you will pardon me, I have a great desire to see you both, but I will strive to be resigned to the will of God, who seems to withhold this pleasure from me. please to write and inform us how you are, we are all in health at present excepting that I have been afflicted for some days with a cold. Adieu my friends and may the choicest blessings of Heaven Rest upon you, in the sincere prayer of your unworthy friend.

Mr James B Lord Hannah Feinley
P. P. Hoff

P my son is now up on a visit and will be the bearer of this