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La Quita Dail to Mr. Meredith (1 October 1962)

La Quita Dail

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Answered 11/26/62 ✓
October 1, 1962

James Meredith
University of Miss.
Oxford, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Meredith,

Our congratulations on having the guts it takes to continue with your endeavor, and our prayers are with you that things will work out well for you. Please try not to harbor too many unpleasant thoughts against your white brothers and sisters. All of us are not filled with age old prejudices and hatred for anyone or anything we do not understand.

I am white and I was born and raised in the South. For years, I too, voiced what had been handed down for generations, in my family, the prejudices and the irrational attitudes toward the colored people, in general. Then in Kansas City, I lived next door to a lovely family of colored people, one of their sons, has since become a very popular Singer-entertainer, and visits us often. In short, it finally dawned on me---why should I carry on someone else's hating, and warped ideals? And when the day comes that the youth of the south, get around to asking themselves, Why? Why are we carrying on the unfairness and hatred for past generations, with no just reasons, then perhaps there will be hope for us all.

For a long time I have stressed the fact, that the individual is most important, One man does make a difference, it must make a difference, and one man has made a difference. I realize that these are only words, small comfort to you right now, but I just wanted you to know my continued prayers, are with you.

Sincerely,

La Quita Dail

La Quita Dail
Box 865
Marion, Indiana