

Letter Correspondence between Mahatma Gandhi and George Washington Carver, February 24, 1929 to July 27, 1935

Letter 1

February 24, 1929

My Dear Mr. Andrews:

Our various, previous conversations, marvelous lectures, followed by our conference this morning, all convince me that a new day is dawning for India.

I believe Mr. Gandy's (sic) physical strength can be greatly improved, by following out the ideas we discussed in the matter of foods.

With the whole wheat flour, grits, hominy, graham flour, etc., etc., which can be made on the little mill shown you, and with the splendid native fruits and vegetables you have, properly compounded, will give you a splendid nourishing and palatable food stuff.

You can use it in your school, they will in turn carry the message into the various communities from whence they came, bringing to my mind greater health, strength and economic independence to India.

A peanut emulsion can be made in the same way as that recommended for the soy bean, and is a little richer in food nutrients.

I am,

Yours very truly

G.W. Carver
Department of Agriculture
Research and Experiment Station

/dfs

Letter 2

Richard B. Gregg
Eliot Street
South Natick, Massachusetts

May 24, 1935

Dr. George Washington Carver,
Tuskegee Institute,
Tuskegee, Alabama.

Dear Dr. Carver:-

A few days ago I received a letter from the chief secretary of Mahatma Gandhi in India saying that Gandhi wants to know about your work. As perhaps you know, during the past year Gandhi has started a village industries association to help the Indian peasants to revive some of their indigenous industries and improve their economic position by the use of their own indigenous assets. Having read a very little about your work for Negroes, Gandhi wants to learn more in the hope that perhaps some of your discoveries and inventions might be adaptable to Indian conditions and produce. For example, as doubtless you know, peanuts are cultivated extensively in India.

Gandhi would be greatly pleased if you could send him some articles or circulars about your discoveries and work, also if you would write to him yourself. I hope you can find time to do this. He needs all the help he can get for the terribly poverty-stricken people of India whose average annual per capita income, according to the latest official British estimates (sic), is only \$27.50.

Gandhi's address is
M.K. Gandhi,
Satyagraha Ashram,
Wardha,
Central Provinces,
India.

You and I have, I believe, a mutual friend in C.F. Andrews. I was four years in India studying Gandhi's ideas and his movement, and I know Charlie Andrews well there, and in his visits to this country he stayed with us when he was in Boston. You may also know my oldest brother, James E. Gregg, who used to be principal of Hampton Institute.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,
Richard B. Gregg

Letter 3

July 27, 1935

Mr. M.K. Gandhi
Satyagraha Ashram
Wardha, Central Provinces
India

My Beloved friend, Mr. Gandhi:

I am surprised to learn that you have not received the package of bulletins that I sent you. The package was mailed at the same time that I mailed your letter. I am, however, sending you another set of bulletins.

It is indeed a great pleasure and privilege to keep in touch with you. So many people have read your card, and have enjoyed it.

You may be interested to know that I had a visit from the renown Dr. Glenn Clark, an unusually spiritual power, who picked out three great characters and wrote them asking for their prayers. You were one to whom he wrote. We sent up a prayer and remembered you and your work in a very special way. May God ever bless, keep, and direct you in this marvelous work you are doing.

It is always a great treat to hear of Dr. Andrews.

With great love and best wishes, I am

Affectionately yours,
G.W. Carver, Director
Research and Experiment Station