

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY
SAINTS

MILWAUKIE OREGON STAKE

27 March 1994

Dear (Hallmanack) Family,

Well...Umm...Hmm...

I think the work here in Oregon, even the missionary work, is wonderful! The state is beautiful. Stupendous. Mahvelous. Couldn't beat this spot on Earth at this moment for me. But, of course, I'm not alone in feeling this way. I think there's somewhere around 60,000 other missionaries that feel the same way

Well, I've thought about this now for about 9 months or so here: I think the Hallmanack (is that what this letter is called?) is a wonderful blessing for us full-time fambly (combo of lamb and family) missionaries out thither. It really helps me know that there are still wonderful things happening in this world. Sort of a mission-legal newspaper, eh? Thank you, all relatives, one and all-n-all, etc.

Hey, Grandmama Hall, I hope that your leg recovery is doing alright. I love you, oh, and Grandpapa Hall, too. I miss you, and also helping out with the tree farm (firm?). You're all lovely.

We taught and baptized, or should I say supported (...because I didn't actually do any of the teaching...the missionaries found him in September and taught him before I got in the area in January) an amazing older gent, about 91 yrs. old, named Bill Baker...Born in 1903. His memory is amazing, somewhat unlike the Great Grandpa Langford I knew (Grandpa Langford couldn't even remember my name). Bill, however, remembers his ONLY other contact with the full-time Latter-Day Saint missionaries, clear back in 1906. Unbelievable. I guess they'd asked his mother, in Dennivirke, Nebraska about whether or not they could drink some water from her well. She said, "Yes". They sipped, spat it out, and then walked off. Wo-hoah! No wonder Bill remembered it so well, what, it being such a graceless, vivid display of character. Those missionaries!

I have a great companion now. Expecting a transfer for one of us soon. We get along too well to be together, or is that just a myth? I am so grateful for him as a senior! He's been a great example to me in missionary work. He's a joker, but a hard worker and down to Earth when needs be.

We have a baptism lined up for tonight. Ohh, this could be a doozy and spiritual! We found him from tracting. In fact, my companion had told me that day that we weren't going to finish tracting until we'd found someone to teach. Wow, he doesn't say such promises like that often! But we did, but we didn't know it right off. We had to go back, give him a Book of Mormon, then follow-up in three days, and notice that he'd read up to 2 Nephi 4. Wham! The spirit hit him like a rock! He's legally blind, but he can read with a magnifying glass. He said, "I gave up looking for a true church about 15 years ago". But now he's found it and I am so happy for him! He couldn't even sleep at night for a while because he was so overwhelmed with emotion. What a wonderful individual Richard Kern is. What a blessing!

Well, I love you all!

Graciously, Elder R. Z. Hall

I don't think she'll forget this birthday. Some possible highlights were following me through a yellow light and getting knocked off her bike by a car, ripping her glove and banging her leg (she's fine) — or maybe riding our bikes out to Kozoji for an hour to visit an inactive lady whom it turned out the elders had visited the day before for 20 minutes, w/ maybe the most annoying church member in Japan (don't worry, we love her, she just drives us crazy).

I am the reigning QUEEN of the run-on sentence. I have to go to District Devotional. I love you!

Mary

P.S. Hurray! Sr. Olsen's dad sent her tapes of conference! We'll get the Ensign in a couple months, but this is Heaven!