

Dear Family,

April 9, 1995

After a warm March, it's been a crazy April, weather-wise--back and forth between winter & spring. President Hunter's passing & funeral, President Hinckley's succession, and General Conference have been big events for us. We learned of still many more examples of President Hunter' quiet and solid Christ-like service and discipleship, as well as his sweet sense of humor. We sustained President Hinckley and saw a one-hour review of his life, learning how he rolled up his sleeves when something needed fixing or doing, whether at home or in his church service. Pres. Hinckley echoed President Hunter's call for tolerance, love, & respect between peoples & faiths.

Sherlene studied for days and days for her American usage test & blew it. But then she aced the second test & re-took a different version of the first test, acing it too. She gave her own students a mid-term and determined that they are indeed learning. Last week she spent days preparing a passover mini-meal and experience for her class. It went very well. And then, last week Sherlene got a letter of acceptance into BYU's American Studies masters degree program!

This graduate program combines areas of American literature, political science, and history, to which Sherlene hopes to add a family history focus. Her acceptance letter stipulates that she is to finish up by August 1996, which gives her 1 calendar year from her official start in the program this Fall Semester. She has 9 hours of the required 45, but will have to finish 36 graduate hours, including thesis, within that time. This heavy a graduate load may eliminate the possibility of her teaching during this time.

Sherlene helped organize her mission reunion, hosted by Jack Welch & his wife.. There was a good group there and the chance to catch up with many we just don't see otherwise. President & Sister Fetzter are doing well. He's still skiing at 80. John & Sue Tate Laing had just been called to WDC area, where he is now the Temple Recorder (and business manager). Sue is a 3rd or 4th Bartholomew cousin. Jack Welch showed us his German Book of Mormon in which he had discovered chiasmus (repetition in reverse order) and other Hebrew literary forms--first in Mosiah 5 and then in other places. Here is my rough chiasmic layout of some of Mosiah 5:

- A 10 And now it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall not take upon him **the name of Christ** must be called by some other name;
- B therefore, he findeth himself **on the left hand of God.**
- C 11 And I would that ye should remember also, that this is the name that I said I should give unto you that **never should be blotted out,**
- D except it be through **transgression;**
- D therefore, take heed that ye do not **transgress,**
- C that the name **be not blotted out** of your hearts.
- B 12 I say unto you, I would that ye should remember to retain the name written always in your hearts, that ye are not found **on the left hand of God,**
- A but that ye hear and know the voice by which ye shall be called, and also, **the name by which he shall call you.**

I have a Book of Mormon from the F.A.R.M.S. organization that has actually been completely reformatted to show the Hebrew poetic parallels and other literary forms, and it's just full of these.

Laura has been busy with her two jobs (handicapped care & telephone surveys, where Natalie also works

as a supervisor), not to mention the social whirl she keeps up with her many close friends. One weekend, Laura drove to Las Vegas with Tyra, Shauna, and Sally and friends for a visit and break, staying with Shauna's mother. Sherlene and I got to hear Laura give an excellent talk abt using the scriptures (and the blessings that brings) in another ward with high councilman Ron Louw (Natalie had a UVSC institute class from him). Laura also had a couple of dates, one of them really fun. She is preparing to move into a Provo apartment with friends for Spring Term.

Daniel studies on. Besides Hebrew and Arabic, he did a class paper and presentation in Royal Skousen's class involving the Book of Mormon Critical Text Project. They work with and compare the original manuscript (the parts that exist) with the printers copy and later editions, documenting the differences.

The first Sunday in March, after Stake Conference, Daniel had dinner cooked and the table set, so we could sit down & eat together! Yesterday, Daniel helped Laura with some room cleaning--and selecting 5 or 6 large bags of clothes to give away.

My work was a bit heavier during March as we added to and fixed our programs for use by Danish clients in preparing CDs full of legal and tax texts and data which they sell and distribute there. I've been working further with Hebrew editor Terry Szink to prepare Dead Sea Scroll Transcriptions for the FARMS symposium in late April with many of the Dead Sea Scroll principles. I'm fitting in some Hebrew study too, here & there.

I had lunch w. my brother Cal on his birthday and heard of some of the interesting things he had just seen in Rome and Milan. Soon after, I saw part of a good PBS travel program on KBYU featuring Milan. Sherlene and I had lunch with my sister Carol on her birthday in the BYU Art Museum and really enjoyed it.

My Uncle Que Barton passed away Tue, Mar. 4. Sherlene & I attended a very comforting funeral on Saturday in Edgement and visited with Aunts, Uncles, and cousins and their families we don't often see. Later on Saturday, we attended the very nice wedding reception of one of Sherlene's favorite missionary companions, Linda Gaucher, now Ladle, and new hubby in the "Boat Harbor" chapel in west Provo.. It reflected Linda's Arizona and western music roots. People danced to some great music by the group "Fire on the Mountain" with fiddles, guitars, and voices. Both bride and groom are clearly original, independent and likeable characters, and they seem to belong together.

At church, I just organized a new Teacher Development Course, taught by Br. Merrill. Brother Merrill mentioned that when he interviews teachers at the high school, he looks for real desire and enthusiasm. He tells them even then to expect at some rough months getting started, and that with much help, before their teaching experience begins to settle down at all. The desire & enthusiasm help carry them through.

Repairs continue on Sherlene's Nissan. We replaced the alternator (after which both headlamps no longer worked, except on high beam), and soon afterward the starter went bad (second time). OUCH! We've also been arranging to get our house in NJ painted and have begun advertising it for rent as of June 1.

Love Dan (and family)

