

Sherlene & Daniel Bartholomew
(908) 766-9771
180 North Maple Avenue
Basking Ridge, NJ 07920

Laura Bartholomew
(801)374-7967
448E 600N #11
Provo, UT 84606

Dan Bartholomew
(801) 375-7338
44 S 700 E
Provo, UT 84606

Dear Family,

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Mid-February I spent a great week and a half in NJ with Sherlene, welcoming Daniel home from Guatemala. It was SO good to share a hug with Daniel & feel his positive spirit & maturity. Laura joined us for the weekend as Daniel reported his mission to the High Council and in Church. Laura & I also picked up her friend since high school days, Cristina (sp?) Murray, from Scranton to visit & join with us for the day. We thoroughly enjoyed Daniel's experiences & inspiration & testimony.

Daniel is now working on his plans & goals, looking for a job (tough challenge right now), and registering for Spring Term at BYU. Among the few gifts and souvenirs he brought back was a 2-person hammock for me & Sherlene. Can't wait to try it! Daniel also shared an effective approach for our family scripture reading. By taking turns reading just 2 verses each, we keep our minds focused and moving and get through a chapter (or two) very quickly. This, plus a hymn & family prayer.

Actually, Daniel came into our bedroom at 6:30am the first morning back, rousing an unwilling but soon entranced audience with non-stop singing of a hymn (by heart), first in Spanish and then in English, followed by Spanish-then-English recitations, with hardly a breath, of several memorized sections of the Doctrine & Covenants (incl. major parts of section 121). He & Sherlene are continuing and keeping alive this new tradition. Before I left, Daniel also demonstrated at a Church game in Morristown that he has not lost his power basketball style.

We were joined at Daniel's homecoming by Barry & Virginia & their seven, who stayed over Sunday night. We had a house full of fun and drove together the next day to Hershey, PA, for a chocolate factory tour (all of 10 or 15 minutes, but still fun), and an actual outdoor picnic, during which the weather became very cold before we were quite finished, so we finished a bit faster as our bones became chilled.

Sherlene then went from totally busy to totally sick for the second half of my stay. She did get back enough strength to ride to the airport as Daniel dropped me off, and she is well now. But her week-and-a-half break from non-stop housecleaning and waiting for no-show house shoppers was not quite ideal. Actually there was still some no-show house activity going on even during the homecoming weekend, and it continues on. Sherlene now plans to come west with Daniel abt. mid April, perhaps by car. Please pray for a speedy sale of our house at a reasonably healthy price.

For my NJ trip I rented a notebook computer, so I could fit in some pressing work. Before leaving, I bought the PC software package "Stacker," in order to fit 40MB of programs and data I needed on the 20MB hard disk. It all worked fairly well, once I got it put together. By the way, I have been working on and off for some months on a computer for Reid-- an AT&T PC6300 XT like the ones we've been using. Not the latest, but still very functional.

Since returning to Utah, I've been working hard to accelerate progress on my work assignment. The programming tasks seem conceptually straightforward but still seem to take several times the time & effort I expect, much of it in testing and in exterminating those prolific Murphy organisms that keep appearing.

During February, besides the above, I got a good start on taxes, saw 'Guys & Dolls' with Laura; attended the BYU-Hawaii game, helping Jim Rosenvall with his piece of the scoreboard operation (commercials, cougar cheers, and BYU scoring stats); helped organize a Sunday School dinner (with much help from minute-person mom), played some church basketball with the old-men's team, and took in an excellent Church musical with mom in the Provo tabernacle. It was about pioneer women (& their families) from Wales.

Laura is into volunteer service at the State Mental Hospital and doing some English tutoring of a hispanic woman student in connection with her Social Work major. She is also learning calculus (apparently a requirement of some kind) and doing well, while working out her summer work and housing plans and maintaining her ever active social life.

We're grateful for the effectiveness of dad Hall's angiogram and "balloon-ectomy," despite the lack of success with the "roto-rooter." He'll probably be doing his daily walk in half the time now.

We feel extremely blessed in many ways. We are especially thankful for you as family. Love, Dan (& Sherlene, Daniel, & Laura)