

1711 N. Lambert Ln.
Provo, Utah 84604
December 2, 1990

Dear Brothers,

It isn't often that we see our younger brother, Delbert, particularly on his home territory. Ida-Rose, Sherlene and I, recently visited with him in his Richmond, Virginia home where we also greeted Elaine and her children. Elaine is the youngest of the girls. All of the girls have lovely voices as we well know from several years back when they lived in our basement while attending BYU. Delbert and Carlyn have a fine and growing posterity.

I believe that this is the fourth time that I have visited with them at their home as the years have gone by.

We can be proud of Lieutenant Colonel Hall, Retired Virginia Air National Guard! He also happens to be the Bishop of his ward. At the present time, he and Carlyn are building a new home in the Richmond suburbs.

While in the area, we spent three days doing genealogy at the Richmond, Virginia State Library. This is the second time that we have done research at this place. This library is very rich in resources. We got a better picture of the lay of the land and discovered Langfords as well as Halls. Interestingly, the end of the wagon road to the famous Harper Ferry crossed our progenitors land. Some of our progenitors and relatives owned a great deal of land in this area.

I am enclosing a few pictures of Delbert and Carlyn and their new house which they hope to complete in about one more year. They are doing most of the work themselves and are not incurring any debt to build it. Now that Delbert is retired from the guard, he is doing computer programing for a Virginia bank.

Delbert's address and his telephone number are listed below. Maybe we ought to send him a Christmas card and/or surprise him with a telephone call.

LOVE TO ALL OF MY BROTHERS. I ADMIRE THEM ALL. I am sure that Howard and Florence are proud of their boys.

Delbert/Carlyn Hall
3906 Orion Ct.
Richmond, VA 23231
Telephone (804) 226-0408

Our 100th Anniversary Ward conference theme, based on First Corinthians 3:9-10, reminded me of another related theme at our ward conference of October (?), 1976. The bishopric at that time comprised myself, Bill Woolf, and Reese Hansen. At Bill's suggestion, we adopted the theme: "Except the Lord build the house, they labor in vain that build it (Psalms 127:1).

Sometime after our conference, I was sitting at dinner with three non-LDS businessmen in Joplin Missouri. Two of them were old friends. The third person had just been introduced to me (let's call him Smoke 'cause that's what he mostly did) . As dinner began, one of my friends told Smoke that I was a new Mormon Bishop. Smoke did not know about Mormons so my friends explained that a Mormon Bishop was something like a Pastor but worked without pay.

Smoke was a talkative person and launched into a monologue that lasted fifteen minutes. I'll give you a condensed version of it. Smoke was a high lay official of a prominent church in the East. Once each year he organized a group to sell lobsters flown in from Maine to the people of his community. He explained all the details of the organization and execution of this annual project which required considerable effort and time on the part of many people. At the end of this, he proudly announced that the project always made \$1200.00 in profit. Then he paused for my reply.

I'm sure that I was supposed to say, "Smoke, that's really great! I've been worried sick about how we could make some money to meet the next mortgage payment on our new church building. May I use your idea?

But I didn't say this. I just let the silence linger for an appropriate moment.

Then, softening my tone, I said, "Smoke, there's a better way. Last month my congregation turned \$15,000.00 in contributions over to me without my even lifting a little finger. Furthermore this happens every month of the year and we don't pass a collection plate". Following this, of course, I explained the principle of tithing (Malachi 3:10) and the faithfulness of our Latter Day Saints in applying the principle.

How blessed we are to provide the finances for building the Lord's house according to his own procedures.

HTH-02.02.91 adapted from a letter that I sent to our ward missionaries on October 27, 1976

Ward Conference

October 19, 1985

SOME OF MY FEELINGS ABOUT THE BYU

H. Tracy Hall

BYU is not perfect but, with few exceptions, a spirit of caring, trusting, and cooperation are present there. Also, administrators, faculty, auxiliary workers, and students are "commandment keepers". They love God and their fellow beings, pay tithing, are honest, and refrain from insulting their bodies with alcohol, tobacco and drugs. And they are Chaste! Students are not sexual prey for a lecherous faculty.

Teacher's qualifications are high and concerns for their students are great. Research in a number of areas is World Class.

One-upmanship, games-manship, and dirty tricks to achieve higher authority and position, so prevalent in other institutions, are essentially nonexistent at the "Y".

The buildings, grounds and mountain setting of BYU are like Eden itself--truly reflecting the aspirations of most of the people who are there.

I have had a reverent feeling for BYU since my first day on campus in August of 1955. Irreverent acts such as littering, smoking, short-cutting across lawns, or carving on desks bother me.

Occasionally there have been lofty moments crossing campus, when I have thought, "This is holy ground, I really ought to take off my shoes".

It would be difficult to count the many blessings that have come to me, my wife, Ida-Rose, and our seven children from our association with that great heart of "Happy Valley". BYU, we love you!