

BUT....My companion, Elder Sanderson, heard this story directly from a Kekchi woman....

"My grandmother told me, her grandmother told her....that a long time ago there was a lot of darkness in the land because the villages were all destroyed and everybody was gathered around the place called "trece aguas" (thirteen waters), and there was a light that came out of the sky and the darkness disappeared and they saw a man coming out of the sky and he came down and talked to the people.

"His skin was white, his eyes were claro (blue, green, literally means "clear"), and he had a beard and he talked to the people and taught them not to fight with each other. Then he called a bunch of men together and he taught them and then he showed his hands and feet to the people and then went into the sky."

That's pretty close to the original account, except it's translated from Spanish to English.

Other elders have heard the same exact legend, except they said that when he showed himself to them, they saw he had holes in his hands and feet.

These people still remember Jesus Christ.

Some elders have been to this place, "13 Waters" (trese aguas) and it's a place of waterfalls and little streams, and it is supposed to be very beautiful.

Every time I hear that story, it gives me the chills.

Sister Romney said that when they get married, they do it on an altar and they hold hands just like we do in the temple. They don't know why they do it, they just do.

Now I don't know if all this is absolutely true, because I haven't witnessed it, but I am thoroughly convinced that Christ appeared to the people in the Americas [as described] in the Book of Mormon somewhere here in Guatemala.

They have a book of scripture here called Popol Vuh (It's the Kekehi scriptures). They've been corrupted, but the beginning of this book reads just like the creation story we read in Moses and other parts of the church [scriptures].

Needless to say, my testimony is just a wee bit stronger.

Anyway, just thought I'd share this stuff with ya. Gotta run. I love you, I miss you, and I pray for you.

Love,

Elder Bartholomew

Undated letter, arrived with letter written May 23, in our mailbox on June 21, 1990.

Dear Mom, Dad, and Laura,

I've been walking around with a good size case of the "guilts," and I've been getting "death threats" from the family of late, so I decided I might pick up a pen and write you guys a letter.

Right now I'm in Tardines. The past two weeks on P-day I've been eating pizza at an Italian restaurant called the "Spaghetteria" (fantastic...two thumbs up...as good as the one and only Italian Pavilion).

I've also been working very hard with my companions here, and we're finally seeing some progress. After Bora del Monte, it's hard not having baps for 2 weeks, but we've got a "golden" (24 Kt) baptism this Sunday with a man named Hermano Rojas, who is a school teacher here.

We'd been working extremely hard, but it seemed to be fruitless, and then this man came up to us from the street one night. He said that he respected us for what we were doing, and that he'd like to hear our message.

I've finally figured out what the "Light of Christ" means. I've thought it over several times, and I just can't find a logical reason for this man's interest. He's a schoolteacher who's happily married. He's a very stable person, and I just don't see what could have moved him to come to us.

It's the "Light of Christ." He's just a righteous guy being led by the Spirit. There's no other way to explain it. I'm sure his wife will follow him the next week.

Other families are also just falling into our hands, and I feel like the Lord is doing all our contacting. All we do is teach. He leads. He converts. He motivates them. It's absolutely amazing.

I felt guilty to hear about Amy Tanner. I had some feelings, too, that stuff was going on. Nothing like that, though. I just felt that her boyfriends weren't "active" members, so to speak. I was really surprised that she went that far. I felt guilty because I was very busy having a great time, and the few times she contacted me while I was there, she might have been looking for help. I didn't really enjoy spending time with her. I didn't care enough, and now it's too late. Perhaps I could have helped.

Please send me Laura's new address.

Yes, Mom. You're absolutely right. Rich Wolenski is a  
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The New Age Movement was predicted in the scriptures. It's a movement that attracts creative people. It has the same attraction for these people as "Dungeons and Dragons" had for me in Middle School. These people like to think that if they lie down on a floor and surround their bodies with quartz crystals or even if they just wear one, that it will heal them or give them power or peace or whatever.

Among them you find modern-day hippies, bored yuppies, and lots of other interesting people (they are often interested in things like Hare Krishna, Tarot cards, vegetarianism, eastern philosophy and religion, world peace, marijuana, LSD, more world peace, socialism, anarchy, stuff like that.

They also like to wear tie-died or tie, died t-shirts, although that's also a general fad of our times. The real creepy ones make money by claiming to be "channelers" or people who get possessed by spirits from Atlantis from 3,000 years ago and speak in voices and tongues that sound like records being played backwards at 78 RPM. Modern-day sorcery crap [don't use that word!]. Future card-carrying members of the Telestial Kingdom is what they really are. It's just another one of Satan's franchises in this world.

Don't worry. We've got 'em here. Evangelical preachers that boogie woogie and speak in tongues, roll their eyes and everything. They've also got witches in some areas. They're called "Prujos" (broo-hoes) here and I've had several people tell me there's one in Boca del Monte, although when I was there, I never heard about him once in the whole month. Either they're really quiet or people here in Tardines get bored driving BMWs and so turn to telling rumors about poor people.

By the way, another interesting thing. One of the greatest temptations for us gringos here is Mayan stuff. It ain't too hard to get and it's good for CASH in the U.S. Only thing is that it's totally illegal. Especially if it's green stuff (jade).

Traffickers will kill for green stuff if it's big enough, because the stuff is priceless. How do I know this stuff?

One of the Brothers here in our ward has a dazzling collection (no jade, too dangerous) of carvings and pots and my favorite--a white alabaster necklace that looks like this....