

*Not for Hallmanach, just for loving grandparents
(I guess!)*

Received about November 14, 1990 from Esquipulas, Guatemala

Dear Mom and Dad,

I'm writing this on the bus, so please excuse my handwriting. Today Elder Sandoval and I went to President Frischknecht's home (the mission home) to an activity held by the President for all those who had 8 or more baptisms last month.

We had 8, so we went. It's a five hour bus trip each way, but we haven't been in the Capitol for so long. It was a nice activity. We ate pancakes and pineapple and had a "devocional" in which we were privileged to see a part of General Conference--the part where Pres. Monson spoke of the dedication of the Toronto Temple, etc.

The President praised us, and in another way, scolded us at the same time. He basically told us that we need to be more obedient....that all blessings are results of laws complied with. He told us we needed to have a longer viewpoint--the Celestial Kingdom and really made it clear that he wants us to baptize complete families.

I love Pres. Frischknecht a lot. He's inspired. He's loving. He's very demanding. He praised Elder Sandoval and me, noting that it was the first time a companionship has had 8 baptisms in one month in Esquipulas.

Today was the second day I saw the President. Yesterday he held a zone conference here in Zacapa to give us our interviews. It was a nice interview we had, but I know he wants more from me.

Anyway, he spoke to our zone as a group and explained that we need to:

1. Repent
2. Pray (if I remember it right)
3. Obey

He also stressed that we need to fulfill the following to enter the Celestial Kingdom some day:

1. Baptism
2. Priesthood (magnifying our calling) for men
3. Sealing in Temple
4. Redeem the Dead

He wants us to look more towards the future with our baptisms and prepare them to do all these things, and he said that the best way to assure they do these things is to get them to

1. Pray
2. Read the Book of Mormon Daily
3. Go to Church every Sunday

The people who do these three things very often gain the above four.

I got your letter about what is going on with _____. I am often amazed at how much power Satan has in this world. He

has very much convinced practically all of us to break 9 of the 10 Commandments. The one commandment the majority of people don't break is, "Thou shalt not kill," but I feel Satan is going to "open up a new mission" in that area not too far in the future. I pray _____ will somehow overcome all that.

Mom, I didn't ever get involved in anything like that. I did stay out late and all, but I am drug free and haven't seen anything as overwhelming as all that in my life. (This local young man had completely fooled his LDS parents for a long time, and I was wondering if I had trusted Daniel too much in not checking up enough--so I asked him about it.)

I have my past mistakes and stupidities to overcome, and they are not a few...but you have not been fooled. If I had ever been involved in stuff like that, I would have gone crazy if I hadn't confessed and paid up. The things I am guilty of are:

- not honoring my parents
- throwing away and wasting fantastic educational opportunities and time
- seeing R-rated movies with pornographic scenes
[he only did this a couple of times at a friend's home]
- wasting my money

I can list more, but my sins are basically the kinds of sins which I am currently repenting of, and there isn't one which gives me fear of a prison term. What really scares me right now is that I won't make it to the Celestial Kingdom. I have yet to pray like Enoch and receive the peace that the Lord has forgiven and forgotten my sins. It's something I really need, and I'm going to get it. [As a mother, I only include the above, as I think Daniel would want to warn Daniel Andy that people regret these things later--Daniel was a really good kid, as I'm sure Daniel Andy is--keep working toward that mission!]

I love President Frishknecht a lot. He's honest. He's straightforward. He's loving. He points out what the problems are and then honestly solves them. President Romney was a great president. He brought the mission up one level. Pres. Frischknecht will bring it up another.

Elections are here Nov. 11. Guatemala will choose their new government president, mayors, and deputies.

By the way, Dad, don't let AT&T get you down. You're a wonderful man, an incredible father and husband, and you're responsible and honest. AT&T is a lousy company. I never liked the way they treated you. I love you and admire you, and if I can become like you in character and learning, I'll be satisfied with my life. I love you. Tell the boss you're QUITTING. I'm sorry this letter is so glum. Working hard and learning to be obedient.

Love, Elder Bartholomew