

Subj: Update from Uncle Wendell
Date: Tuesday, November 9, 1999 2:54:55 PM
From: dsb@burgoyne.com
bcc: IRHall

Dear Halls,

I just got an update from Uncle Wendell, to whom was copied my note yesterday to members of our family, with reminders of Sarah's upcoming birthday (and John's) and location information. He said that Sarah suddenly called off separation proceedings, which prompted John to call off his response divorce proceedings. It cost John an apartment deposit and month's rent, but he just moved back into their home. I believe from my own experience that the power of a family's caring and prayer is an unfathomable blessing in circumstances like this--someday we might know how much this has meant. In the meantime, Uncle Wendell made it clear that this is still a circumstance that merits continued concern and prayers, but of course is grateful that this course has been taken and hopeful about the eventual outcome. Sarah has a sister who faces a very difficult late-pregnancy/delivery situation, so Wendell doesn't know where Sarah can be reached with any cards--she has apparently left for Orem and will be in this area until this crisis with her sister is over. I'm sure she'll at least eventually get any remembrances at their home in Fargo--perhaps we'll get to see her while she's here in Orem, though it sounds like she'll be plenty busy while here.

We have been enjoying getting more info. about Lili's mission destination--what an adventure! 'Also got a kick out of Libby's latest memorable observation. What a doll. I hope you write all these down--keep sending us e-mails and print them off--that way we all get to enjoy that fresh, sweet perspective from those so recent-sent from heaven. I'll now tell you one about Daniel, since he's all I have at home to tell

on. Anyway, he has decided to attend the singles ward here in Orem that encompasses our home address. He enjoyed his church work so much in Israel, he was kind of chomping at the bit to get a home teaching assignment here. Well, in priesthood meeting last week, the lesson was on home teaching, so he sat there listening and let his mind wander with more

than a little homesickness, thinking about the family he home taught in Gaza, who are now the only members of the Church there. He was suddenly shocked out of his reverie when a member of our Stake presidency called on him to stand and bear his testimony. Since what he was thinking about seemed to fit with the lesson, he told his experience with this family. He then said how much he missed home teaching and ended his testimony with a request for an assignment. Well, this Sunday he returned home with an assignment, all right. His new companion is the young man who showed up in Church last week with his hair dyed fluorescent pink. Of the four he is to home-teach, only one is at all active, and yesterday he could not meet any of them because none of the four was in church. Ho. I think he is going to find plenty of adventure right here in Orem, when it comes to home teaching. Anyway, I have no doubt that the assignments are inspired and that all will be greatly blessed, especially Danithew.

As for Laura's "spiritual experience" that lured us out to dinner last night, it really was worth the sudden change of plans. Turns out Brandon's grandfather Woodruff called Brandon's father and asked him for a Book of Mormon. To fully appreciate this, you need to understand that this is the man who raised his son to be a Pentastal minister and was so upset about his LDS conversion, he all but disowned him. He refused to come to their first child's wedding reception (he softened a bit and turned out for Laura's and Brandon's)--anyway, that grandfather has come to Utah a few times to see two great-grandchildren, born to Brandon's brother Todd and wife Jennifer, and to see Laura and Brandon, and since he was dealing with four RM's, he and wife Bernice (she has absolutely no interest, but is friendly) did not get out of here without a tour of Temple Square and a few other perks. Laura and Brandon were playing it careful and slow, but

Todd's wife, also an RM, didn't let them get away without a challenge to read the Book of Mormon and pray about it. So Brandon's Dad got a long-awaited call last week from his father: "Son, do you think you could arrange to send me a Book of Mormon? I've decided I want to read that book

and pray about it. Oh, and I don't want to cause any hardship or undue expense, but your brother wants to read it, too--if it's too big a problem

to send two books, I suppose we can share the one." :) Laura and Brandon truly love this grandfather--Laura credits this Grandpa Woodruff for the genes that gave Brandon such a genial, good-humored, giving approach to people. They are praying hard, and we will be, too (we met these grandparents at the reception Brandon's parents held in Texas--really delightful people--absolute characters, which made them suspect as potential converts right away, in my mind). So there are lots of hopeful directions, since we don't have enough to pray about anyway around here.

I just heard Orrin Hatch talk to Utahns on KSL radio, now that he has formally declared his presidential candidacy. Do you know he has gone from

11th to 4th in the Republican presidential polls? (--had nothing to do with certain persons dropping out, mind you--but we'll take what breaks we can

get). When I heard him today, I felt good and proud. I reaffirm that I absolutely think he is the most experienced, intelligent, wise, qualified presidential candidate in the ring. The most important thing the next president will do is seat the Supreme Court, and hands down, Senator Orrin

Hatch has more experience with that than anyone else in sight. I can't believe how people around here take Hatch and his work for granted. When I

was back East, rubbing shoulders with people of every possible persuasion,

even Hatch's enemies talked about him with definite respect. As was pointed out on the radio, Hatch is definitely one of the top ten, possibly one of the top five most influential persons in Washington. We have a man like that, who has accomplished so much, who is serving on such powerful committees, and we're ready to run him down for being civil to Ted Kennedy!

You conservatives who are upset because he's been supposedly hob-

nobbing

with Ted, need to be glad he can do that. He's the only one who pulls Ted Kennedy toward the center, and that doesn't mean that Hatch has crossed-over. It bugs me no end that some of my neighbors let their hate for the Kennedys override common-sense about Orrin Hatch--if they'd just look at his record and the legislation he's passed, they'd know that he's true-blue enough, without getting so stuck on single issues that he'd have

no chance of getting elected. Let's get a man in there who has had enough governmental experience to know how to make a change once he gets there-

- I

think we can all agree that this country definitely needs some help, turning course (I'm convinced, though, that people around here would rather beef about government than do anything about it--in our ward, people cared more

about the Friday night ward activity than about going to vote--I kid you not--people around here did not vote! The polls showed that in our election of last week Republicans and Latter-day Ain'ts were the two important groups who were noticeably absent. Well, we get the government

we deserve. Now all you who have been waiting to make sure you weren't throwing away your \$36. can (lamey and belatedly, but we'll still accept you) get in the ring and support the BEST candidate. Promote Orrin Hatch! Rah, rah, rah. Chelsea, where are you when I need you?

Even if you think Hatch doesn't have a chance to win, you should be glad to see him and his values at least get on the stage.

Love, Sherlene

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