

Dear Elder Bartholomew (Daniel),

Friday June 15, 1990

WE NEED A LETTER! We do worry! Just jot us a note--however fast, however rough, however you are feeling. If you're down, we need to know. If you're up, we like to know. No matter what, we need to know, at least semi-regularly. Don't leave us hanging. Please write!

We've had more growing experiences with the house the last week and a half. After the water heater & relief valve were replaced, the relief valve just kept leaking. The plumber replaced that early this week, then measured our water pressure: 160 psi instead of the normal 50 psi he had observed after putting in the water heater! So, 8 days after the water heater, we have a new pressure reduction valve. He says these usually last indefinitely, compared with the 2 years ours has lasted. Hmmm! At least, we finally seem to have a normal water system again.

My personal growing experiences continue too. Dr. Olkowski will take out my cataract (clouded left lens) on June 26 and give me a new model. After 6 weeks on the restricted list, I should be able to resume normal physical exertions. After two to three months I can get a new eye prescription for bifocals. Call me Bionic Man.

Speaking of physical labors, I finally caught up with mowing and trimming for the first time this summer. Think I finally have the weed whacker figured out. Which is good, since it's the only way I can handle the worse slopes, rocky edges, and the swampy strip.

Uncle Calvin was left very tender and hurting by his prostate removal, but is gradually getting about again, re-teaching his body basic functions, and copying with back trouble after lying in bed for 10 days. Tests indicate the cancer is gone. So we're grateful and still praying for his recovery.

We're enjoying the yard very much, still discovering new plants & blossoms for the first time, incl. several rhodos of different colors (prob. many more will bloom next year), our bright pink-red mountain laurel, blue tall-thin japanese iris, a wisteria tree with its first leaves, and the sweet williams I planted last year at this time--these have exquisite colors, and are very lacy, and dressy! Sherlene is out almost every day, weeding around the house, transplanting flowers, and digging in the dirt. I put in morning and evening snatches and available portions of Saturdays.

After finishing the vegetable garden, I've just put in the flower garden with left over last year's glad bulbs and seeds of many annuals. We'll see what it does. Now to fix up the berry section and then the herb space (I think my ambitions overreach the reality of available time and the progress of the season. Still the goal is motivating and can stretch into next year, and the next. Right?)

The Lord's garden (of his children) also needs more attention. As I was praying and thinking about committee chairmen for Elders' Quorum last week, driving back from JFK Airport, names came and feelings gelled. One was Paul Nielsen for the temporal and spiritual welfare committee. Late that night, who do you think called. Paul asked the status of our ramp-building project for the McMullens and then gave his status.

He had called the town building inspector, surveyed the McMullen's front porch area, designed and checked out a plan, and estimated the cost of materials. In the week since, he has, with some help, dug and poured footings, obtained the materials, and nearly completed the construction. The McMullen's are older, home-bound, and health-stricken, she with lung

P.S. My Dan's Dr. says OK, we plan to give Uncle Robert's family reunion July 4 in Richmond, VA.