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Dear Elder Daniel,

June 5, 1990

After getting your last letter several weeks ago, I forgot to mention about Gileadi's *Isaiah*. Grandparents' Hall had that book with them here during their Christmas - New Year's sickout and left it behind. I read some in it before returning it and ordered more, which I have shared in several directions (my parents, Don Pepper, & myself). At your request, I will now save a copy for you.

Bruce Law says "HELLO!" He wishes he had seen you more in Provo. I talked with Bruce Law at Novell in Provo, where he runs some of their marketing programs (new product announcements & press releases, I believe). My government/FAA customers use a lot of good Novell and WordPerfect products from my good old hometown, and I needed some Novell info. So it was a good excuse to call him. He's doing well with Novell, also family. They have a seven month old daughter. (He thought they had sent us a Christmas card, but we don't think we got one.)

We're enjoying some great events right now, & Laura too, before she graduates and leaves for BYU. Laura had a full day in Pa., participating in a inter-school play competition and seeing a play. Laura also graduated from Seminary Sun. eve. before last. Very nice program! There were student speakers and then John Fahsbender, relating the seminary years (and life) to a marathon (training, commitment, hitting the wall, & enduring to the end).

Meg Edward's homecoming is this Sunday. Kay Moen's wedding and Rob Moen's farewell (to Ogden Utah North or something like that) the next week. Laura & I canoed the Delaware last Sat. in light rain with other nuts in our stake, incl. Blodgetts, Wismers, Heinzes, & Vinnie. Sis. Heinz was the only mother there from our ward. There were 2 or 3 very slight rapids, and we were mostly in rafts, so it was pretty slow, except for some minor water fights. The regional youth conference this last weekend featured some BYU special program people, and was pretty fantastic, even according to James & Laura's report. We had half a dozen girls here Fri. night. Mom had chips, dips, & root beer floats ready for them as they came in late Fri. night. It was fun. Then in Sun. Sac. Mtg, MANY of our youth got up and shared testimonies. Laura, too, got up and shared her faith and testimony and gratitude!

We had Don Pepper over for dinner nearly two weeks ago and enjoyed a lot of talking and sharing. He says "HELLO!" too. He has greatly enjoyed reading one or two of your letters. In leadership meetings Sun. morning, Bro. Lefgren, just back from Helsinki, told us of the new "Baltic Mission," involving a second mission pres. in Helsinki to supervise missionaries commuting daily into Leningrad & Estonia.

We heard that the Soviet minister of religion assured our Church leaders that there was freedom of religion, even to proselyte. The only catch: you have to have 50 members in a city sign a petition before you can proselyte. And how do you get 50 members without

proselyting? The minister's answer: "That's your problem." Well, somehow, there are already 65 members in Leningrad, with a Dr. as Branch President.

The last two weeks have gone quickly, including several more Dr. visits. After losing some hearing and eustachian clearing on the right, & after the full physical, I saw my old sinus surgeon & e-n-t (ear-nose-throat) Dr., James Thompson. He said a bit of scar tissue in the sinus was covering the eustachian opening, so we scheduled surgery, to zap it & clean it up with a laser at Roseland surgical center, up by the Livingston Mall (not quite as bureaucratic there as a hospital). Well the LASER wouldn't work that day, so he proceeded with "cautery" (cutting & burning). Mom picked me up, & I conked out the rest of the day. We picked up the car, & the Dr. took out the packings the next day. I'm going back to him this Thu. morning to see how it looks. The day after the surgery, I went to the eye Dr. to check my worsening left cataract. He was amazed at how quickly (since Jan. 22) and how badly it had advanced, and called in his colleague to see it and join in the amazement. Too young! "Trauma to the eye?" they asked. "No smoking, steroids, microwaves?" Well, nothing I can recall. The only answer: surgery.

I had thought a cataract was a growth over the surface of the eye and could be shaved off with a LASER. Not so! It's a clouding within the lens of the eye. The surgery involves removing the lens from the lens capsule & inserting a tiny artificial lens. The new lens cannot be focused like the eye's own lens. A "best" fixed focal distance is selected, but after surgery healing can affect the focus of the new lens, including some astigmatism. Because the surgery and sutures are quite delicate, I'll have to vegetate for the first week after surgery, stay fairly quiet the next two weeks (no lifting or jogging), and still keep activity light the next 3 weeks (no heavy lifting). After the eye settles in for two or three months, I can get new prescription glasses.

I received a wonderful blessing for this on Sun. evening from our home teacher, Br. Gil Moen, assisted by Bro. Stobaeus. He blessed me with respect to the medical care, family and work concerns, and church service. Bro. Stobaeus had had this same procedure last Nov. In hindsight, the ways to best avoid such is to protect the eyes from trauma (e.g., when doing sports, painting, mowing, trimming, or grinding), get regular health checkups for eyes too, and wear 100% UV (ultra violet) protection (a transparent lens coating for corrective glasses or sunglasses), especially in bright sunlight. I think I'll also check our microwave oven.

One reason I went for the full physical exam was to check the prostate. Uncle Calvin had the radical surgery June 25. He has been very SORE! The test's came back negative for surrounding tissues (meaning they got it all). He's been recovering well, but this one takes time. He has felt the blessing of all our faith and prayers.

Besides health problems we've had some more "growing" experiences with the house: at first, a leaky water heater relief valve, but then on Sunday evening, the water heater itself was leaking in a big way at the bottom (2 years into a 5 year warranty). The warranty is an "it's your problem" type of warranty. We pick up the water heater and pay the plumber. We're also still trying to get the air conditioning fixed (the serviceman who came was from Venezuela, & born again, so he was pretty negative abt. the "Mormons." But mom listened diplomatically, agreed with the true part of his assertions, and bore her testimony. He went away with interest and a Book of Mormon.) As for the problems, we can't complain much, as we think of Guatemala and most of the world. These are the problems of freedom & prosperity. Freedom & blessings are not trouble free, nor meant to be.

Mom is still sallying forth frequently by day to gen. libraries, with other members, eager to prospect and mine for their ancestors, armed with spiritual picks and shovels. At night, the house is one big refinery. Mom sits at the computer late into the night, proessing and refining all the ore (copies) she has brought home from the libraries (or typing great epistles to her son). Wow, I'm really getting long-winded with this one!

Oops! I'd better be careful what I say. Mom was going to write a tactful letter to my dad abt. his letters and having proper reverence for his wife. I need to get an update on that, by the way. Mom & I observed our 21st anniversary Sun (how could you forget!--June 3--esp. w. that magical "3.") We will celebrate further at opportunity. My parents are going ahead with mission exams & med. care Grandma B. is recovering from toe shortening surgery (OUCH!).

In Elder's Quorum, we're slated to organize into three committees this week (proclaiming the gospel, perfecting the saints, & redeeming the dead). Should be an adventure. We'll prob. be using one Quorum Mtg each month for committee training or work of some kind. Bro. Kamal, our employment specialist has found a job after 9 mos. (w. General Foods, in Tarrytown, so he'll be moving to our old Stake), so we need a replacement there too. He has a Ph.D. in food science, and high level experience in dairies, so there are just a few places he can look for a job in his specialty.

Some other quorum projects include building a ramp for the McMullens, who are home bound with health problems and finishing the Pankuch painting and yard cleanup. Br. Elkins had some extra sod from his ChemLawn job last week, so he put in some surprise lawn at Kay Larsen's Sat., then at our place (two bad bare spots, taking a good two hours--look beautiful now, like bits of golf course), and finally at Layton's. Mom made cookies with his 3-yr-old Brittany while were working. The McGraths (Sr.) are having it tough right now, trying to get ready to move to Fl., and dealing with son Brian (the drinking ex-motorcycler that you & I felt for), who needs to face life on his own (and teach his grown & teenage kids the same). Mom & I are also home-teaching Donna Triolo, who

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lives two blocks away. She came into the Church through young Gil Moen, who will be back from his mission in Sept.

At home, I've been transplanting evergreens, catching up with the garden (weeding, rototilling, planting), & trying to keep up with the mowing.

At work, we've had several orders go in, so computer systems will be arriving soon and need servicing. Plus we're visiting each FAA and some DOT groups and locations and getting more orders. More trips to JFK and Long Island and other parts. We also have several wiring jobs, we're arranging with other parts of AT&T to bid on, including some fiber. I'm going to be booked for a lot of related work as more things start happening.

A fellow at work is in the Millington Bapt. Church--the one that had the Mormon-bashing night. He's been friendly, sharing his activity as their building chairman (& miss. sponsoring), after I mentioned your being on a mission. It occurred to me that the one way to teach or reach them might be to go help them with their building effort (if we could find time from our own service projects).

We keep praying for you (and hoping to get an occasional letter. Dig. Dig.) We love you and are thrilled that you are there with fellow missionaries and the Guatemalans with your faith and spirit and gifts to do the Lord's work. MUCH LOVE!!!! Dad