

Hallmanack

I don't know when this letter arrived. On 30 Oct, 1990, Dan fished it out of his desk, and I am inserting it here, among letters he sent in September, based on his mention of a new (trunked) companion. Am also typing it for family for first time (I think):

The Land of the Stiff Necks (priests collar) and High Heads (the Pope's hat). (See 2 Nephi 28:13 & 14).

NEWS FROM ESQUIPULAS:

Dear Mom and Dad,

Hello from Guatemala! Things are going well. We're teaching a really good family, but we've encountered a "couple" of obstacles.

The couple isn't married, although they have two children and are faithful to each other. Luis (the father) smokes (although he has now cut down from 20 to 10 cigarettes). They own a small, street-side restaurant, or, better said, dining room that sells liquor and is open on Sundays.

Just the same, I feel that with the Lord on our side, and with a lot of help from the Spirit, that we can get them baptized. What it is going to take is a lot of work.

I have a new companion named Elder Herrera, who has been in the mission 23 months...25 more days to go. Just the same, he's a very good Elder. I'm sure he's going to teach me a lot. He's quite an interestitng mix---Spanish father, Japanese, mother.

I'm sick today. I've got Boo (diarrhea). I've been on the throne at least 5 times this morning. I don't feel weak or nothing--I've got my strength--no pain--I just got to go every 20-30 minutes. It's quite an exciting development. My friend Jose says he thinks it's the bananas I ate yesterday. He might be right. Then, again, it might be those turtle eyeballs I had to eat yesterday (smiley-face)--JUST KIDDING (about the turtle eyeballs, that is).

I'm planning on buying my Sony tape recorder this month. It costs the equivalent of about 50 dollars. That means you guys should be getting a cassette-letter next month. Vamos a ver (We'll see).

Don't worry about me. I've pretty much mellowed out. When I first came here, I really let the Great and Abominable and all this false doctrine get to me. 'Had my last comp. worried I was going to "cambiar partids" (change parties). Why? I don't know, considering I call it the Great and Abominable and refer to the Basilica as the big white wedding cake. (Smiley face). I'm really quite tranquilo (tranquil) now, although I'm working hard.

I'm now back on the throne as I write this. It appears we