

Received Thursday, October 4, 1990 from Esqwuipulas-Chiquiucula-Guatemala-C.A. from Elder Daniel Hall Bartholomew

Dear Mom and Dad,

I haven't been reading any letters recently, but we should get ours soon (we get them once a month). My last companion, Elder Herrera left. I hate to say it, but I'm glad to see him go. I need a comp. who has initiative and wants to work. Last month, we had only one baptism. He taught me a lot of valuable things, but he had already decided that he had finished his mission, and he didn't care too much about how we worked. I'm now waiting for my new comp. to come.

I've copied the names of all the members down, and we're going to visit them all twice this month (at least). We're going to work until we're giving 3 discussions a day, 4 visits, and at least 2 new people encountered to teach each day. My next comp. had better want to work 'cause if he doesn't, I'm going to use our chain of command to kick him into action.

I'm reading my Book of Mormon every single day, and I LOVE IT! (Smiley face). I'm in Alma chapter 4 right now. Ezra Taft Benson's promise about the Book of Mormon is true. If we read every day, we receive great blessings.

It has been raining every day here. It's absolutely amazing how the rain falls here. The streets just get flooded. I bought a huge umbrella so we could work during the rain (to take away my comp's excuse) and now we work RAIN or SHINE. Despite the umbrella, we still get soaked. If it doesn't get you from above, it gets you from below.

I got so frustrated with my last comp. last week that I went off with Jose and left him in the house and contacted up a storm. We gave the first discussion to 6 mechanics and the Spirit was so strong, and I felt so good. It now appears that 2 of them are good to continue with. One of them has a wife and 2 children (although they're not married). His name is Jaime Guerra.

My district leader came down and chewed me out for not telling him my comp. was a problem and then I explained to him how the last time I went to my leaders, they sent me away from five golden families I was teaching and that my old comp. had lost them all. I apologized to him and explained that the reason I hadn't was because I had experienced the negative side of bothering leaders with companionship problems, and that was why I hadn't said anything. He promised me the next time I had a problem that if I told them, they'd kick my comp. into action. We both laughed, and I've learned a lesson. From now on if I have a comp. who doesn't do his part, all I have to do is tell my leaders, and they'll kick him into gear. I feel a lot better, and I can't tell you how siked (sic!) I am to work. I was in tears practically all last month trying to cajole my comp. into studying, contacting, being friendly

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to members, etc. Next time, I'll just use the telephone (smiley face). Talk about reaching out and touching someone!

I love you guys, and I think about you all the time. I'm learning and doing the best I can, and I need all the prayers I can get. Where I am is really a challenge for me right now.

I feel great, healthwise. We've got pure water to drink now, and I don't touch anything else. Next month I'm repenting and pulling out all the stops. As far as I'm concerned, this is the Lord's time, and if my comp's lazy and doesn't want to work, he can explain that to our Zone Leader or President Frischknecht. I let my last comp wreck my month, but that won't ever happen again.

I feel so terrible about the way that month went. I could just kill myself for permitting him to intimidate me and for losing my zeal. I was so stupid.

I'm sorry for letting you guys down. I feel like if Mom was here, she'd really give me a scolding and I would have deserved it, but I'm going to learn from my mistakes, and it will not happen again.

I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU! I LOVE YOU! I'll see you guys in 17 months (I'm extending one).

Love, Elder (underlined 3 times), Daniel H. Bartholomew



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from envelope cut.*