

Received late April or early May, 1991

Dear Mom and Dad,

What a wonderful day we had yesterday. We participated in the baptism of a beautiful family of 4. The father, Ricardo Marales, is a dental technician. After the baptism, he drove us home to where he lives and gave us a chicken dinner (smiley face).

The Lord has worked some extraordinary miracles. It has been such a blessing.

I love this church. I feel so blessed and so happy. We're working with some other very special people.

Scripture study is really more interesting every day. The Lord is showing me my weaknesses and helping me overcome them.

I love you guys. Please write me some letters. (Smiley face.)

Your son, Elder Bartholomew

No date - received early May

Dear Mom and Dad,

This past month has been a success in some ways. We baptized a complete family of four and three others. They are all very special people as well.

At the same time, it has been a rather bitter month, for a variety of reasons. We are tested and are given so many rules and responsibilities. I work hard, pray hard, fight to progress, etc., and it seems that progress is so SLOW, but I know that I have to just keep plugging along and doing my best.

I heard a talk by Paul Dunn on cassette that said that it doesn't matter if we "Try and fail and try again," but that it's wrong to "Try and Fail." So, I keep trying. Progress is coming, but it seems to be so little.

I haven't received any mail for a month or three weeks or something like that. Maybe you guys are disappointed in me. Maybe I'm paranoid. I don't know.

By the way, Dad, the president told me to destroy the letter about the Catholic Church. Please destroy the copy I sent you. Thanks.

I don't mean to sound so negative. I wouldn't be anywhere else right now. It just isn't so easy.

Love you guys,

Elder Dan (Smiley face)

(Note: We had written him regularly, but the letters did not get there. I called Salt Lake, and now I send his letters to Salt Lake, and they will be delivered to his mission home in a pouch to make sure they get there.)

P.S. Daniel called on Mother's Day, and we talked over an hour. He sounded terrific--like a mature, dedicated, enthusiastic, but still funny and fun Daniel.

From Elder Daniel H. Bartholomew, in Guatemala, May 1991

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Mom; Dad — for your eyes only

Received May 30, 1991



Dear Mom,

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! I love you so much. The reasons are many:

- because when I was born, I was born to a mother who believes in God, knows the plan of salvation, who was worthy to enter the temple and was married there, thus allowing me to be born within the covenant, who loved me and taught me what was right from the beginning; who made me wheat bread and good food--who always took care of me in all material things, who always was active in church; who showed a good example by doing genealogy; who always strived to give me the best educational opportunities, even when I was so foolish and lazy; who always supported me in Scouts and church activities and who got up early to take me to seminary; who was always so thrilled when I did something right and so patient and forgiving with my weaknesses; an EX MISSIONARY who was still anxious to share the gospel and never stopped being a witness of God; a person I was always so proud of because you were such a diligent worker and always earned an honest salary. I have the best Mom, and I'll be ETERNALLY grateful for my MOTHER. I LOVE you VERY MUCH.

Other reasons I'm grateful that Sherlene Hall is my Mom:

- because she comes from a fantastic and intelligent family that I enjoy being with
- because you were always outspoken about what you felt was right
- because you were always modest and squeaky clean and never spoke bad language
- because you're educated and went out of your way to buy good literature for me to read, which filled up much of my time productively and taught me so much
- because of your smile and cheerful personality and sincere love
- for your good taste in home decorating and moderate cars--never too flashy, gaudy or worldly, but with good, classic, traditional taste.

I LOVE YOU MOM.

Your son, Elder Bartholomew

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! (Big Smiley Face--tears running down mine!)

Mom's Dad - your eyes only!
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Also enclosed, was a letter for his Deserving Dad:

Dear Dad,

I love you a ton. I'm so grateful that you're my Dad. I love you because:

- you always supported me and helped me take part in sports
- because you're a worthy priesthood holder
- because you are an ex-missionary who is still very dedicated
- because you're active in church attendance
- because you've always been faithful to Mom
- because you do your home teaching faithfully
- because you're intelligent and educated in so many areas
- because you've always been so wise and reasonable with your money and kept us eating and living comfortably

- because you're so loyal to your family
- because you're morally clean and decent and chaste
- because you're a fantastic example with so many great characteristics

- because you've always let me know that you cared and loved me, even when I was such a brutal, rebellious teenager

- because you always encouraged me--because you were always the hopeful Lehi when I was the rebellious Laman

- because you were always dependable and trustworthy
- because you are a Christlike person
- because you always supported me in school and tried to help me when I was so BLIND

- because you endured me and loved me and cared for me
- because you study scriptures and support the prophet and church leaders in all things

- Because you are a WONDERFULLY AMAZING DAD AND THERE IS NO BETTER.

Your son,

Elder Bartholomew