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Dear Family,

All this virtue in writing the very first of the month is truly mind-boggling. It is terrifying to think what could happen if I stick to two pages again. Of course Mom hasn't mailed that 2nd volume edition on the Hall line yet - when you get that, my charity badge will be on probation another year.

Actually, I must confess the true source of my ^{current} brevity is frustration at the "c" key whih must be pushed down 3 or 4 times eah try to hit. We will soon learn how many words have "c" in them, as suh patiene is not exatly my style. Last month, it was the "n" whih now sometimes works.

Last week we had arbitration at our home with our builder, our last legal recourse to get him to finish up all the undones in our ontrat. I had soft musi playig, put on a brew of cinnamon and clove punch, washed all the walls, cleaned all cupboards, shined floors, shampooed carpets--the whole place was shining. Exept for the basement, of course. Dan did not think we would have to go down there, so of course they had to all go down there, our high-heeled arbitrator, included, to inspect the sloping floor situation which Brian uncovered when Charlotte and he were here. It was awful. After they saw our basement, there were jokes of "Wouldn't you love to bring a dumpster down here?" "What would happen if someone lit a match?" I suppose I shall finally be shamed into going down there and doing something. It's suh a great plae to shove things I don't know where to put and to close the door. If I get rih selling real estate I might even get a storage room down there with shelves whih might help with all the bags of food storage and bottled water, et. whih are all over the plae.

As you an see, my prayers about not going down in the basement were not answered. What was answered, is there were no angry words nor yelling nor swearing nor sreaming. Very calm reality: He will ustik all our doors, and drawers whih don't work. We don't get help on suh major things as drainage and fixing the floors. The arbitrator quikly sized up the situation and went the way of least resistane--at least this thing is finally coming to an end.

Dan was in charge of getting a bunch of Elders to the church last Saturday to do yardwork, now that our custodian is in the hospital. Came back with a crooked back again. He is in Chiago now for meetings - and I am holding my breath, sine his last serious bak attak whih required surgery came in the middle of one of those AT&T conferenes after a plane ride.

We have been enjoying a lot of love at home sine Bro. George Pace and his wife came here for some firesides and conferencing and also since Elder Busche came with some very inspiring thoughts. An obvious solution to marital aggravation which bears repeating is to pray for your mate--sincerely, with true wrestling and caring, and all-heart effort. After that, if you have truly reached Heaven, the Spirit will begin to put ideas in your head for answering those prayers which you will want to resist because these thoughts involve saying and doing things which are a little different and which are usually inconvenient. So, there will follow a period of some resistance and discomfort which will be replaced with feelings of peace and love, if the promptings are heeded.

*Barry and Virginia are coming for Thanksgiving
(to help clean the basement!)*

Each time you heed a prompting, your love for the other grows, and pretty soon there is love at home--especially if the other mate is doing the same thing. But even if your mate is still a rat, you have the joy the Lord puts in your own heart because you are filled with His love. I have been very fortunate in that Dan is doing it, too, and it truly is lovely to feel love not only from the Savior, but also for and from your mate. If all the world would try this simple formula, war would cease. We probably would not need arbitration on our houses, either.

I was telling Laura what had made the difference on the way to seminary this morning, and she promptly advised that I start praying for her with all my heart. I told her I was sure the Spirit would advise that I have spoiled her rotten and that I need to show more tough love.

Actually, the world has not experienced more earnest supplication on behalf of a daughter and her driving instructor than I proffered just the night before when Laura told me on her way out that she was driving for the first time on the highway, after dark. It was a long two hours--I thought I did a good job of getting up off my knees and looking confident and casual as she walked into the house in one piece. I even had the composure to wait 20 minutes before happening to look in the garage to see if the other side of the car was still intact.

She just finished driving lessons which cost \$200 for 6, two-hour hands-on-driving safaris. Cheaper than a psychiatrist--which we both would need if Mom were doing it. We just paid \$1,000 to have our car painted to look new, so last week she dented the whole side backing criss-cross out of the garage. The guy who did the last job shook his head, took pity, and said anybody else would charge \$300-500 for the job, but he would do it for us for \$150 (less than our deductible--saves us a claim and higher insurance rates). Since I had to claim my first accident in 10 years when I got daydreaming in stop-go traffic last month and didn't stop (no damage to my car--just knocked out his light), I was not anxious to report another. I'm lifting the next few paragraphs out of Dan's letter to the Bartholomews:

"Sherlene graduated Oct 20 from the 120 hr. Weichert real estate course which included full-day lectures and lots of evening homework. She skipped the graduation ceremony to come on our stake temple trip and visit with Virginia and Barry, which proved to be very rejuvenating. All six kids liked Sherlene's Halloween treats. (*They are suh beautiful, bright, charming kids--take after their aunt, of ourse.) We were treated, to the famous "Wood" hospitality and enjoyed meeting their client/guest from Phoenix. I was also treated to Barry's priesthood lesson on personal welfare and quorum involvement.

"Laura has been doing very well with school; as we met her teachers recently, I was impressed with the ambitious agenda of her schedule and of her sociology and political science classes (same teacher) and intro. to law; she also has math, reading, spanish and health/PE. She is really too busy with her cleaning work at the seniors' complex (still waiting for carry-over to her own room), her socially over-active weekends, mutual, week-night bible study group from the high school, start-up of play rehearsals (in place of work for a time), practicing her driving and taking driving lessons, taking ACT and SAT tests, applying to BYU, and all of this besides school, studies, and early morning seminary. Laura dropped out of the roadshow and practices last week; I (Dan) am still practicing when I can as part of the chorus.

"Daniel is still kicking up his heels at BYU--dating, seeing friends,

helping little ones at a center for handicapped children, visiting with grandparents, cousins, uncles, and aunts, friends, serving in a student ward Sunday School Presidency, applying to go on a mission, and even studying! He was told he can expect his call to come within two weeks--we are anticipating with him the excitement in opening that letter and grateful he will have this opportunity to serve, love, grow, and learn. (*We are also praying with Hunt Tracy for joy and success in his mission training.)

"Sherlene has been busy catching up on yardwork, cleaning, paperwork, and even got in a little genealogy--this is certainly one of her favorite things. She has begun calling and working to submit real estate referrals. Her church call is to work in the branch genealogy library and she also visit teaches four sisters and makes dozens of calls getting in the district visit teaching reports.

"In our Elders' Quorum presidency we have been working to organize into committees, in order to share the work and spread the load...At work, I have been commenting with others on a preliminary set of computer and data network requirements for a government agency procurement. We've had the usual busy time and short turnaround. I'm also working on requirements for computer use by the disabled, and a description of peripheral requirements (printers, display terminals, etc.) for government customers.

"At home, I'm in the throes (*woes) of finishing up some old tax returns, squeezing in some fall tree and shrub planting and general cleanup. I even hope to get to the basement (*one gentle urge Sherlene has been resisting).

"We love and pray for each of you. Don't mind if you do the same for us." Love, Dan, Sherlene, Daniel, and Laura

P.S. I did find some new ancestors, recently. Henry Rolfe's father was John Rolfe, b. about 1550 of White Parish, Wilts, Engl. His wife's name was Honor (also the name listed for Henry's wife--which makes me a little nervous). I got four of their children, incl. Henry.

Mom, I tried to follow that hunch I mentioned in noting that Wm. Hall Jr.'s and Clarinda Fisher's 9th child was named William Newton. Thought it might be a clue that Clarinda's mother was a Newton. Pursued some Newton genealogies, but did not find a connection yet, though a record of the descendants of a Richard Newton of Sudbury and Marlborough, MA showed genealogies marrying in with such original settlers as Henry Curtis, Walter and John Hayne, William Parker, John Stone, Nathaniel Treadway, William Ward, Anthony White--sound familiar? It could also have come from the place Newton, MA. Found an old history of New Town, as it was first spelled, and which included Cambridge and a number of other area towns from which a lot of intermarrying Hall lines came. ' Had a number of genealogies of family names I hope to connect and more info. on Deacon Samuel Hyde, b. 1610, who came to New England from London with his wife, Temperance, in 1639 at age 42. His parents, Robert Hyde and Alice Crompton were also ancestors of Pres. George Albert Smith and also such notables as Uncle Wendell Hall who comes from a long line of rebel writers of letters (difference: HE can spell!!) Thanks, Mom, for sending the Peter Staley material. I'll search more.

Liz and Marty, we still pray you won't have another quake. So scary. That was another, long night, until we learned you got through to Mom and were all right. 'Hope you'll send us a first-hand report of the whole experience--I got it by phone, but you ought to get it in our family history.

P.S. Mom: Dad was still figuring out what to do about Daniel's engagements. The Wash. Temple closes Dec. 16 through Jan 3 and is only open Dec. 29 A.M. for living end. by appointment. His farewell is now here in N.J. on Dec. 31.