

Dear Family:

October 8, 1989

General conference was very inspiring. Collectively, Charlotte and I attended all of the general sessions. None of the sessions were on TV, but we were able to watch the sessions at the church. The messages seem to be for this day and age. I am always amazed at the breadth of subjects covered. I especially enjoyed the message shared by the Elder Amada, the Mexican brother, who struggled with English. He spoke on providing comfort to those who are having trials. President Monson and Hinkley always give wonderful messages too. I am looking forward to reading next month's Ensign.

We were privileged to have Mom and Dad Weight visit us last month and Mom and Dad Hall visited toward the end of August. We were fortunate enough to have very favorable weather while they were here. We took both Halls and Weights to see the Portland rose garden. They have hundreds and hundreds of different varieties planted and almost all of them were in bloom. Mom Hall especially enjoyed walking around and deciding which colors she would want to plant in Utah. I believe she liked Sheer Bliss, Orange Aid and black velvet the best. We were sorry that Mom Weight's phlebitis started flaring up during her visit. She was not able to walk around the way she would have liked. The children really enjoyed seeing their grandparents. Their visits came to a close to quickly. We look forward to seeing everyone in Utah in August of 1990.

We are so proud of Tracy (H.T.) Hall on his mission call to Haiti. We got out the encyclopedia and read about Haiti to the children. We all got a short history lesson. It is difficult to imagine a country so close to the United States with the poverty they have. The mortality rate at birth is 10% and the average per capita income is only \$200.00 U.S. dollars per year. We presume that the standard of living will present some interesting experiences. It will be interesting to see how much time H.T. spends working with the blacks. We are interested in learning when and where Daniel will be going on his mission. We understand that he is preparing his papers. A wonderful example is being set for the younger cousins. We have a great interest in your welfare. We have already begun to ask the Lord to bless "cousin Tracy" on his mission in our family prayers.

The kids are really enjoying the educational computer games we bought. Dad Weight got a chance to play **Work Attack Plus**. Word Attack Plus is a vocabulary building tool. He found the upper levels challenging. He also learned some new words. I might add, so have I. Charlotte has enjoyed the Spanish vocabulary builder. Hyrum and Willis like the monkeys in **Math and Me**. We have found the **Davidson** educational series to be very good material. We have most of that series now. Having a computer at home is sure nice. I get to see my kids more this way. I don't have to run back to the office in the evenings to complete my reports. Having a second computer is also necessary insurance in

case one computer crashes. We would be out of business without one.

By coincidence, I happened to do some inspection work for a fellow I knew as a teenager in the old Whittier 3rd ward. Ellen will remember Mark Magneson since they are approximately the same age. Mark moved his family to West Linn which is next door to Lake Oswego. They have seven children. We have struck up quite a friendship. We had their family over to our house one Sunday evening for ice cream. Last night we went out to dinner together and then attended a fireside.

The speaker at the fireside was the new Portland temple president and his wife. We learned some interesting things about the logistical problems in getting a new temple in gear. He also shared some of his thoughts about temple attendance. One of his disappointments is seeing people buzz through a session and then leave quickly. He said that it seemed as though they didn't have time to enjoy the peaceful spirit that is found only in the temple. He also encouraged us to do temple sealings. He suggested that married couples can benefit from hearing the covenant and promises made when a marriage is solemnized. We can remember those blessings by participating in temple proxy marriages. Following the fireside, we went out for ice cream. We decided to go to the temple on a double date in a couple of weeks.

Charlotte has been busy making quilts. She made two baby quilts this past week. Charlotte had the Merry Miss girls help tie one of the baby quilts as a service project. She is now working on a queen size quilt. The queen sized quilt is for a family of a little boy in Hyrum's first grade class. They had a fire in the home they were renting. No one was injured, but the family lost everything because they did not have rental insurance. Members of the community have donated different items to help them get back on their feet.

The queen sized quilt is pieced with Roman stripes. The darkest stripe is navy blue with petite flowers. There is also a white stripe with various shades in between. She had it all set up for tying when the boys crawled underneath it. They started hitting a ball that was on top of the quilt up and down. This caused the backing fabric to rip where each tack was anchored. Each of the rips are about one inch long. When she discovered what had happened, Charlotte sat down and cried. They were just being kids having fun. Tomorrow she'll cut off the torn parts and sew on new fabric pieces. Fortunately, she has extra fabric.

Congratulations to Stephanie and Willis on the birth of Ryan!

Love, Bryan, Charlotte, Sarah, Hannah, Hyrum and Willis