

May 1st, 1988

Dear Family:

I will be having an operation on my left inner ear on Thursday May 26th. I would appreciate your faith and prayers on my behalf. I will be out of work for approximately a week and a half. I will be at home during this time so it will be more of a vacation than recuperation. The doctor said that the only real concern is possible dizzy spells and lack of balance. I can drive, but I can't climb ladders or do other work related matters that require critical balance. I will be on call at work for foundation inspections or other inspections that can be performed from the ground. My main plans are to sit at my computer and write. We have put all of our house hunting plans on hold until after the operation.

I just received my copy of the Computerized Scriptures of the church. I ordered them from the church distribution center. The software is amazingly fast, powerful and very easy to use. In the past, one of my main complaints in reading the priesthood study guide lessons is the time required to look up all of the scriptural references. Now I can zip through the initial lesson review in half the time. It is much easier to maintain continuity of thought while looking up all of the lesson scriptural references because each scripture can be looked up in seconds. The primary benefit of the program is the ability to study the scriptures in a more comprehensive manner. For \$65 the program is a bargain; that is if you already have an IBM or an IBM compatible computer. Of course, nothing is really a bargain unless it is used. I have been waiting for this program to come out ever since I heard about it approximately one year ago. It will be of great help to me as I continue to study the Messianic prophecies of the Old Testament.

Charlotte and Willis have been sick with colds. Charlotte's cold seems to hang on. We took Willis to the doctor. He has a sinus infection. He is taking an antibiotic and is improving rapidly. If only we could get him to stay under the covers at night. He hates covers and we have to wait for him to fall asleep each night just so that we can cover him. We have had a lot of rain lately, but what else should we expect for a spring in Seattle.

The children are all growing, Willis is improving his vocabulary rapidly. He acts like a normal 2 year old, which means sometimes he drives us crazy. Hyrum at 5 is very trustworthy. He is a very obedient child. Hannah 7 is progressing well in her piano. She wants to have her own friends who are not the same ones as her older sister. Sarah at 9 is starting to look at the boys. She doesn't really have any boy friends and we hope that she doesn't until she is at least 16 (Charlotte would prefer age 24). The teenage years are just around the corner.

We have finalized our plans for summer vacation and purchased our airline tickets. We will be arriving at the Newark, NJ airport at 7:15 p.m. on Thursday, June 30th. We will stay with Charlotte's sister Sherlene and family in Basking Ridge, NJ over the weekend. We are anxious to see their new house. We are planning to rent a car at the airport. I am tempted to visit some of my old missionary stomping grounds. I served in the NY, New York City mission. I expect that we will focus our time on family in view

of the shortness of the time we will spend together. On Monday, July 3rd we will drive to Arlington, Va and stay the rest of the week with Virginia and family. I will fly out of National airport and return to Seattle on Thursday, July 7th. Charlotte and the children will stay for an additional week leaving on the 14th. We are looking forward to seeing as many of the Hall family can possibly make it to the Hall family reunion. We ordered our tickets early and were able to save more than 50% by getting the super-saver rates. (Charlotte here now) Actually we ordered our tickets just before United and American dropped their rates to \$199! But we're locked in and happy to be set to go. Delta airlines is suppose to be the best for staying on schedule and customer satisfaction so we keep that in mind as consolation. Our kids are looking forward to seeing all of the cousins.

Congratulations to Willis and Stephanie on the birth of Jared! We're really excited for them. We had a nice visit with Bev and Jeff on the phone last night. It was nice to talk with them and hear of their plans. Bryan and Jeff have quite a lot in common in their lines of work and it was fun to hear them share different experiences.

Nancy made two beautiful ceramic rabbits for us and sent them to us for Easter. They make such a nice centerpiece for our dining room table. I tried my hand at ceramics when we lived in Delta and when we moved I gave away all the paints because I just don't have what it takes! I really appreciate the time, effort and talent that Nancy puts into her ceramic pieces and more than anything I'm grateful that she's so generous in sharing her talents with us.

Bryan and I went to a home show and passed a Bernina exhibit and I let a salesman talk me into buying a Serger. It's the best toy I've had in a long time! T-shirts are an absolute breeze to make on this machine! I made one in less than 10 minutes the other day and that time includes the layout and cutting.

Maybe I can't paint, but I can Serge--that is when I'm not busy with Primary business. We've had a really difficult time keeping staffed so the Presidency has turned into teachers, pianists, choristers, etc. We were without a Nursery leader for 2 months and without a Valiant B teacher for 4 months. Sunbeams had a substitute for 2 months and we finally filled that position and now the teacher is moving. But there is hope ahead. As of yesterday we finally have all but one position filled. After which the Young Woman's Pres. informed me that they would be taking one of our teachers!

Life goes on. Willis and Hyrum keep me happy here at home. I'm relishing my moments with these two sweet boys. Willis wakes up in the morning and yells "Mom!" "Mom!". . . until I go in his room. He really makes me laugh! I look in Hyrum's eyes and they are so clear and bright. Yesterday I went downstairs and he had tied a whole string of toys together and had hung them from the pencil sharpener. Very ingenious child! Tonight in Home Evening Hannah was answering a question and I can't even recall what she was saying but the intensity of her voice and the excitement on her face I would like to lock up forever. The screen tells me I'm on my last line so I'll sign off. Love, Charlotte, Bryan, Sarah, Hannah, Hyrum, & Willis