

September 25, 1989

Dear Family,

The Women's Broadcast from Salt Lake was so terrific, this time. I haven't always felt that responsive to the women speaking, but this time I thought we got some REAL women. That Elaine Jack is tremendous, isn't she? And Sister Graessle. I thought they were all outstanding. The young women singing sublime--it brought sunshine bouncing off the mountains all the way to New Jersey, and I have been so homesick ever since, I can hardly stand it. I love the East, but it is a little bit hard and harsh, sometimes. All that purity in the Tabernacle made me wonder if we cheated our children, bringing them here. 'Though a letter we got today from BYU made me think it didn't hurt, too much. I think I'll quote it. You'll have to let me be a pain-in-the-neck bragging about my kids. Because you don't know how many years I bit my tongue writing letters, not to tell you why I was sure I was raising two juvenile delinquents. And I've had grandparents tell me their children were turning them grayer when the kids were in their 40's! So I won't stop praying. But just listen to this:

Dear Brother and Sister Bartholomew: I had the opportunity of working with Daniel at the Brigham Young University Student Service Association Leadership Conference. I have participated in these leadership conferences for the past five years and each year have had a wonderful experience. This year's experience, however, transcended the "wonderful" category.

The discussions which we held in our group were extremely thought provoking. Meaningful ideas were generated and possible solutions to problems were suggested. More important, however, was the deep sense of understanding and caring that was so evident among all the members of the group. These students definitely emulated Christ-like leadership.

Daniel is a delight. His obvious genuine caring for others was infectious. Daniel's comments were insightful and unique. Daniel has a zest for living about him that is refreshing and invigorating.

You must be very proud of Daniel and rightly so. We are extremely grateful Daniel has chosen to attend Brigham Young University. We know that he is and will continue to be a outstanding member of the student body. Sincerely, Jean S. Taylor, Assistant to the Dean (Maren Mouritsen) of Student Life.

I read that and got all tearful, missing Daniel, too, but so grateful for leaders at BYU who provide these opportunities for the youth and then thank US that our children could attend! I hope Laura gets to attend it next year--Daniel thought it was excellent and enjoyed meeting so many new friends.

Laura is up to her ears in so many good activities, we're getting a little worried. She is not getting enough sleep and is way over-scheduled. But she loves it and is having so much fun, it's hard to tell her where to draw the line. I think one of her greatest gifts is friendship. She got six friends to our home Thursday night to meet the missionaries and has invited them all back for this Wednesday to begin the six discussions.

She also got an excommunicated friend out to Seminary every morning, and now he has gone to the bishop and hopes to become a member, again, by Christmas. Laura also got him out to a youth activity by telling him she would introduce him to the most

gorgeous LDS girl around (next to Laura, of course!). She got this girl, Eden, out with the same kind of reverse promise (Eden is inactive). I wasn't sure if this was going to be a good idea, but the two have been coming out to all the activities and both gave up smoking last week. I gave each of them my "quit-smoking" kits--which got the raves. I did this for a woman I visit taught in N.Y. who was trying to give up smoking--and she said it really helped. She used to re-roll the sayings and read them again and again and then, the third round, asked me for some new quotes!

I looked through all my books to choose good or humorous quotes, made up some messages of my own, and then typed them on strips of paper which I fold in half and then roll around a thin pencil to the size of a cigarette, secure them, burn the ends, and then put them in antique cigar boxes I pick up at garage sales. Except I only had one box left, so I put Eden's in a corsage box and told her when she was through with this bouquet and had given up smoking, she could save the box as "something old" for her temple wedding. She loved it. I told them I put the same sayings on my fridge to help me overcome my "sugar fits."

I'm enclosing a copy of my quotes in case you have a friend you want to help. I'm sure you can all come up with some better quotes and jokes. Maybe Uncle Wendell could do some Spanish translations and it might help his missionaries. We spend too much time preaching the Word of Wisdom and not enough helping people DO it!

I laughed and laughed at Uncle Wendell's jokes last round. And then he talks all that time about his letter to Dallin Oaks and then doesn't send us a copy. What is it all about, anyway?

Dan is excited about his work. His job is to help make AT&T computers accessible to the handicapped. Also to bridge the gap between the fed. govt. trying to enforce and AT&T management wanting to stall until it is absolutely necessary. It is frustrating for Dan because he is anxious to help the handicapped. Finally, his job seems to be fitting the promise in his Patriarchal Blessing that he would ease suffering in the world through his profession. I have been telling him all along that anything to improve communication eases suffering. It has been wonderful to phone Daniel when I missed him too much.

I interviewed with 7 agencies these last two weeks and got 7 offers. What I did learn in the interviews is that you can't do this job right part-time. So I chose Weichert because they have the deepest market penetration and am just hanging up my license with them for referrals (30% of the commission-office-split). That way I can be home for Laura and make a nice holiday for Daniel's return before his mission, have the summer off before Laura goes to school, do training, and then go into it full-fledged next year.

I found lots of new genealogy, including another ancestor in common with Joseph Smith and others with Brigham Young, George Albert Smith, and even Franklin D. Richards. And some really fun tales about some of your grandmothers and fathers, and some new ancestors, too! But Mom says she's tired of making all those copies and I should save it all and write a book. So you'll just have to wait until it hits the NY Times top 10 and comes out in paperback at the umptieth edition. Family scandals INCLUDED!

Mom and Dad, OF COURSE you are coming for the holidays! I promise even my cooking is better than what you saw in China. Enc.

*Note from mom: There was a 12 page enclosure of ideas to help overcome. I will enclose it when I get around to duplicating the last genealogy book she sent.*