

*Mom Add page 1*

January 6, 1980

Dear Children:

1980. My word. Another year--another year older, and I am afraid the old body is beginning to show the signs of wear.

We just came home from a wonderfully spiritual fast and testimony meeting--they are always good in our ward, but this one was extra special. I'll tell you some of the comments if I can remember them, but you will have to read with the spirit to get the spirit that prevailed. Testimony meetings are liked warmed over potatoes--not quite the same as when you cooked them the first time. Bear with me. (I am still filled with the spirit.)

Cathy Thomas (husband, Gordon) bore her testimony. She said that her daughter was called to be reminded that she had the 2½ minute talk in *testimony meeting*--so she and her daughter sat down and began to talk about Joseph Smith and the restoration of the gospel. She said as they were talking a warm, all-en-gulfing sensation filled her whole body, and her eyes filled with tears, and she noticed that her daughter's eyes were filled with tears, too. She said they had not been especially emotional prior to this time--but as they were discussing that first vision, when the Prophet was overcome by the power of Satan, and then delivered from that power when the Father and the Son appeared to him, this testimony came to both of them of the truthfulness of that event--she said "How wonderful to have been given that shared experience" She said it made up for all the trying times of mothering to have something like that happen. Her daughter is just eight, and still in Jr. S.S. and so to have that happen to her at that tender age was special, too.

Later, Jean Nielson bore her testimony. The Neilsons have had a hard year. Julie has been in the hospital with mental problems (a blessing, as they found out that just a little lithium added to her diet made all the difference in the world and restored her to mental stability) and Jean was going through a rebellious period so they had shipped her off to relatives in California where her testimony was strengthened and she did a lot of growing up. This year her teacher in MIA (she is home and going to high school here, now) was Cathy Thomas and she thanked her for showing her how to really get to know her Heavenly father and his son and serve her fellow men. (Keep in there, you MIA teachers--remember the worth of souls is great in the eyes of our Heavenly Father--and if you so much as save one soul in our Father's kingdom....") I'm sure that sometimes you wonder if ~~all~~ *all* your efforts are bearing any fruit at all.

Barbara Taylor bore her testimony and thanked her Father in Heaven for all her blessings. She is a widow--her husband was killed in the Scout accident years ago-- but she has always been thankful and full of graciousness. Some people bear adversity so well it is almost a blessing to them. (Wish I were like that.) "She said she was so thankful for food--not only just food--but the food she wanted--and any she wanted badly enough." I guess we really don't know how blessed we are. We have so much plenty that maybe we get a little jaded by it all. The hungry cambodians would be thankful for enough to fill their bellies--not to mention "the food they WANT".

Camille Purdy was married by Daddy last Thursday. You would have been proud of him--he talked BRIEFLY (That BRIEFLY was for Marty who said they had visited a marriage where the bishop blew it by talking for more than an hour) This whole thing was over in a half an hour. But it was sweet, and dignified, and holy. She bore her testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel and thanked her Father in Heaven for a good Husband, who she loves dearly. They were not married in the Temple as he just joined the Church in November. They met in the laundromat when we were with the young adults at Yellowstone and

mom had  
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I have already alerted the other Langfords that I will need about 10 days for someone else to have Dad in August.

He is eating very well, and seems to be happy with us. Hope it keeps up.

P.S. Dad flunked Patent Agent test. Damn! He will be taking a course now at night. remove & the test again in April. He may have Love, Mom  
to commute from White Plains.

P. S. Glad Sherlene still has her sense of humor. We just about died laughing at Marty's schedule, too.

P.S.S. Liz finished her family (4 gen) group sheet while she was here and typed it up. I am making a 2 copy copy to inclose so you can all see how it should be done.

Here's assignments  
Sherlene - Thomas Mc Elroy (research work to be done) if no time tell me I'll get you a "to type" sheet  
Tracy - Thomas Burdett + Edz. Herbert  
David - Magnus Shertin - (Karen said she would type for me - already researched)

Liz - Helon Henry Tracy & Emma Burdett & Doneil.

Virginia - King's: would you like to take one with some research & have Barry help you? How about finding Peter Stuby's father (I want Peter take your time. Put it in July '95 but possibly not ok. he's end of line + could have work done for him  
Charlotte - Alfred Woodard, Naomi McElroy  
Nancy. still uninitiated. If she wants she can type one for me.

Someone suggested an easy way to keep track of the couple you should send a gift for for Christmas. Strictly Chronological. You move down the chronological ladder one each year. For instance:

receiver of gift	1980 Giver	1981 Giver	
Sherlene and Dan	Nancy and Doug	Charlotte and Bryan	All you need to remember who you had last year and take the next oldest in the family this year. When you have given to the whole list you will start over. There may be some duplicates this year, but then we would be on the right track.
Tracy and Betsy	Sherlene and Dan	Nancy and Doug	
David and Karen	Tracy and Betsy	Sherlene and Dan	
Liz and Marty	David and Karen	Tracy and Betsy	
Virginia and Barry	etc.	etc.	
Charlotte and Bryan			
Nancy and Doug			

Shall we eliminate the children? How shall we draw names? Suggestions are in order. Please comment. Do you like this idea in preference to a strictly random drawing? Random drawings will also present duplicates from year to year. Comment.

*from Hall  
she*

*Can her, too,  
of course*

They immediately got in a gospel discussion with him. He was interested. Looked up the camp and got sent home by the Bishop's wife at 2:30 in the morning. She told him to look up the missionaries if he wanted to learn more, but then sent him a book of Mormon and started writing. She went back to his baptism and came home engaged. He lives in St. Louis and I believe he is sincere and will take her to the temple in a year. They leave Tuesday and invited us to visit them next time we go through St. Louis. I asked him which temple they would be going to when they were sealed--- (big mouth) and he answered right away--oh, we'll come back here to the Provo Temple. He says I have a standing invitation to attend when they are sealed.

*Camille*

( Nancy and Doug: How about making a new year's resolution to make every effort to find out THIS YEAR if the gospel is true and if Joseph Smith was really a Prophet of God. We are all just ~~going~~ *going* to see you two sealed and August we will all be together ~~hint, hint~~ *hint, hint*. (big mouth, again).) Know this: It's because we love you--and we are very selfish--we want all those spiritual (and temporal) blessings that come from living the Gospel to be yours. When you've lived as long as we have you know that the really important things in life are free for just the taking--family, love, fellowship, and we have seen so many times in our own lives and the lives of others the difference the Gospel makes. )

Then (back to the meeting) Don Harvie bore his testimony. He is a young man finishing his elementary ed degree. They are struggling. They have three young children. He teaches piano by the Suzuki ? (Spelling) method and has found through working with young children that he prefers them to teen agers, so is going back to take his elementary (he has the secondary) training. They will be through before too long. His wife Judy is tending Carli Ann while Nancy works. He and his wife have been in San Diego visiting their families. Both are converts to the church. His grandfather just died last year, and he told his wife before he died that he was sure as soon as he died that the family would try to convert her to Mormonism. He said that was all right with him if she joined, but to make sure she joined because she really believed it was true, and not from family pressure. She was baptised while they were down there. They hope she will be able to go to the Temple next year and do his work. She is 84 and apparently not too well right now--but well enough, I guess, so that she could be baptised.

Virginia, when I went to Greg Larson's wedding reception, his wife said : "Oh, are you the parents of Sherlene and Virginia Hall?" Of course we took due credit: "My sister knows them both really well, and she is in Virginia' ward." She told me her name and I have heard you talk about it, but it slips my mind right now. Riggs or Ricks? It was very familiar sounding. Anyway, when Sister Larsen bore her testimony she said that the bride's father had been too ill to attend the temple sealing in LA and that just before the open house here she had called Sis Larson and told her that he had died that day but not to tell the bride until the open house was over. So they did that, leaving it up to Greg, who said they should honor the Mother's request. While they were in California (Red wood city) they were put up in a neighbor's home for almost three days and the family (a Jewish Dr.) asked them a lot of questions about the church.

I could go on and on, but enough is enough. I guess by now you all know that I decided to keep Grandfather Langford when I brought him up from Ogden for Christmas. He was ready. He has finally realized that he needs someone to take care of him and has only once asked when I was going to take him home. He still has control of his bladder, but has lost control of his bowels. I am trying to keep him regulated with cracked wheat and prune juice, but he still has an accident two or three times a week. Bless his heart --I am glad he will let me help him and that his mind has gone to the extent that it has, because it would kill him to have me have to clean him up if it weren't.

*mom Ad*  
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I put him in the shower and turn on the water. Safer and more sanitary than the tub.

*Dad's home*

Ernie has put Mike Langford in ~~there~~ with his wife and children. Mike is waiting for a settlement with the Hospital over his wife. The last two children have had abnormalities and so she decided to have her tubes tied *when the last baby was born*. The Dr. used an anesthesia which is banned--which got the Hospital in trouble too-- and then didn't watch her closely enough. He kept working instead of bringing her out of it when her vital signs showed trouble. She went in so deep she has brain damage. She didn't remember any of the years with Mike (Hers and Mike's second mg.) and called him by the name of the first husband-- but has now regressed to the point that she does not remember anything after *her* the year of ten. Elvira has been taking care of the Baby, but now Mike has quit his job and gone on welfare and will take care of her and the baby and the children. The deal is that he will paint and clean up and pay the bills (light, gas etc) and the taxes (about \$400.) and no rent but he has to paint and fix up the place. This will be good for Dad and good for them.

If and when they settle he may buy the house (when Dad die<sup>d</sup>) or he may buy a ranch (he thinks he will get a large settlement) ( I can tell him it won't be as good as he thinks) so *that* might not be there very long!

The Dr. skipped the country when it happened, but he came back and admitted his mistake. Michael Lawyer's are trying to get an equitable settlement out of court. Of course, nothing can repay the loss of that girl to her husband and her children. She can't be retrained--there is permanent brain damage. The whole thing is a tragedy.

Dad had flu this week, and had pleuresy along with it. This was so painful that he called the Dr. the first day and by Sunday was better and back to Bishopricing. (King?)

Anyway, I will have my hands full. Before I knew I was having Dad I signed up for a Physics *class* (photography) (with Lab) and a religion course. I decided that since Dr. Eastmond would be teaching this for the last time this semester that I would try to go through with the course. Mondays and Wedns 8-9, Tues and Thurs, 9-10, 1-2PM. I will have to keep hopping.

Dad has made a New Year's resolution to act as if he were a working man. He is going to get to work at 8 (leaving at 7:30) I talked him into coming home at noon for lunch and a nap and then coming home *an* again at 5:30. He is 60 now and shouldn't work so hard. He needs ~~that~~ at least an hour's break in the middle of the day. I keep quoting Pres. Wilkinson who said that every man over 40 should rest for at least an hour in the middle of the day.

Thank you for all the Christmasing. It was neat. And *it* was great having Charlotte and Bryan *9 Sarah* for Thanksgiving, and Liz and Marty for Christmas. Wish all of you could have been here.

I have made reservations for all except Tracy for the summer camp. If Tracy's ship comes in before July he can make his own reservations, or if he thinks it is going to come in he can send his \$50 to the alumnae office and call me to see which cabins we reserved. I have reserved those around the kiddie corral, but not up the hill this time. Sherlene, Nancy, and Virginia and Charlotte owe us \$50. all promised by Feb 1. And we will need it as our fluid funds are limited.

I have taken Dad Langford to the ear Dr. and ordered a hearing aid for him. The Dr. thinks he can be helped if he will only perservere until he gets used to it. It would be nice to return him to the land of the living.

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