

Charlotte - hope your birthday was happy too - We did fairly
about you. Would you remind us of the date of Bryan's birthday?

Incidentally, you can find the Hebrew alphabet in
Psalms 119 - each section of which begins (in
Hebrew) with its respective letter.
are really excited about it. A My big project last month was to
write a little "guide" for Bob and Carol Madan to the temple to
help them appreciate it more when they visited the Seattle Temple
prior to its dedication, and while I was reading in the DHC about
the Kirtland Temple construction and dedication I was really impressed
with the determination of the Prophet Joseph Smith, despite all the
difficulties and hardships and demands on his time during this period,
to keep to his study of Hebrew and read the Old Testament in the
original. They even hired a non-member and brought him and his
family to Kirtland to teach them. They felt like the school of
the Prophets was to prepare them for a great spiritual outpouring
when the temple was completed, and I am certain that their study
contributed to that outpouring. The significance of the appearance
of Moses, Elias, and Elijah to convey their keys (not ignoring the
appearance of the Lord to accept the Saints' offering and introduce
those three)--and the recently discovered coincidence of that event
with Passover, takes on added significance when seen in the context
of the Prophet's preoccupation with the Hebrew language and scriptures,
and I feel like his interest in the Jews, especially if many of us
follow his example, will yet prove a great blessing in softening the
hearts of many of our Jewish brethren towards the gospel.

This "guide" I proposed to organize along the lines of the temple's
construction, using the building and its parts as an excuse to teach
them the gospel in context of Jewish religion and tradition, starting
with the building itself as a symbol of Zion and the gathering of
Israel, the Statue of Moroni as a symbol of the stick of Joseph,
the entrance as a symbol of priesthood keys, the baptistry and baptism
for the dead, and so on, but after spending fourteen pages on the
building alone, I decided I better deliver it in installments--promised
over the "next few decades". The next chapter will be on the book
of Mormon, and I'm going to send them a copy--you just can't imagine
how much fun it's been!

Betsy recently returned from parent-teacher conferences all aglow.
All that the teachers wanted to know was "how do you do it!" Tracy,
Zina, and Mary have followed 1,2,3 with the same teachers, and
poor Robert has really got a tradition to live up to--but he's one
of the top readers in first grade, and we see signs of his mellowing
and improving his listening and obedience skills.

Mary's baptism and confirmation were a great joy to us. She was just
so eager and earnest about it! I had half a premonition that I
might have a problem dunking Mary--she always does everything with
such enthusiasm--but although her legs were headed up, we got her
all immersed at once. And she bore a really sweet testimony afterwards.
T,Z,M and I are reading the book of Mormon, fourteen pages a week,
with an ice cream on Saturday for all who keep up (and for the rest,
who can't read, too), and they've all kept up. Last week we were
reading the mission of the sons of Mosiah and they loved it so much
that Zina read it to us all Sunday night--it thrilled me, because that
was the story that also got me so involved when I first read the Book
of Mormon--and they also liked best the parts I liked--about the arms,
and everybody conking out one after the other like dominoes when
Lamoni became converted.

Betsy's been blessed with an unusually easy pregnancy and water
eggged a relatively illness-free transition to winter--probably because
the fall has been so mild and prolonged. It's still fall!

Last Saturday was a perfect, mild, day, and we had such a good time
on the hayride and picnic with Dad, Mom, David, Karen, Nancy, & kids.
Love to you all

Tracy Jr

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