

Dear Family,

Congratulations to Nancy and Doug on the birth of Doug Jr. ("DJ")! It has been hard to be so far away. We feel certain DJ's blindness will prove to be minute when we have discovered the compensating gifts the Lord will give him to share. He is blessed to have you for a family, and you're blessed to have him. Last night I went to Daniel's school Open House (was thrilled with his teachers and program, by the way), and his science teacher is blind and otherwise handicapped--yet is probably the best Science teacher Daniel has ever had. Daniel says his hearing is so accurate and sensitive that he can identify any student sneaking in late, just by the sound of his footfall and can identify the thrower of a spitwad by the direction of the "ping" (now how would Daniel know that?).

This week we also learned of a new niece from the Roy Tanners, born in Missouri. Zion is growing. I only have 60 nieces and nephews. WOW!!

This has been a time of adjustment with school starting, not to mention Seminary. I now get up at 4:45 and deliver D. to the Church in Scarsdale at 6:30. Laura and I go across the street to the high school track and run off our fat and folly the 45 min. until he comes out to make fun of us. The first week I thought it would kill me, but now I love it. I do feel so much better with this exercise program. Dan brought me a Jane Fonda video the other day (we finally got a VCR) and I found out a non-political reason not to like her. HOW DOES SHE DO THAT?

Dan is taking another complicated math-business course and is getting close to finishing off his MBA. His Dept. Head was "sustained" in his position with the Company, so it looks like those promises Dan got will stick. White Plains and AT&T look still like a very stable part of our future.

I signed up for a creative writing course in Scarsdale Thursday mornings while the kids are at school and plan to learn how to program a computer so I can get rid of my file cabinets and boxes of notes. I also found out from an English teacher at the high school last night that five English teachers will be leaving next year--it may be a good time for me to do a little substitute teaching and see if the consolidation overload of six years ago has eased a bit. He says a lot of those in-line teachers found jobs in industry and will never be back. I think I would prefer teaching--and from the looks of things last night, the scene here -has changed a lot. I think the heightened cost of housing around here has improved the quality of student and parent (sounds elitist, but reflects reality, I think).

This month I finished my goal to read the D&C and the accompanying manual. It was a learning experience and as I read about all the signs of the times (AIDS, Mexican earthquake, volcanoes, Gloria, etc.), I feel a need to draw nearer to my Savior and be more ready for His Coming--which I think is soon. So now I want to study 3rd Nephi and the New Testament, using JESUS THE CHRIST as my enrichment material.

A few weekeneds ago we went to Arlington to see Nathan's baptism. It was special, with Barry, Virginia, and Nathan singing a song. We are proud of Nathan and Carli and all you nieces and nephews who are growing in the gospel and preparing for baptism. We didn't get off soon enough to do any temple sessions. But we did them on the ward trip. D&L went up with the youth and did the baptisms (Pickles). And my friends Elma Stoddard, Phyllis Kimball, and Pat Hoffman went last week and did all the female endowments for me (my file deadline was nearing). Barry, the men still need doing, if you get a chance. I'm hoping they'll see the progress on those names and hold the sealings until we come up on our Stake temple weekend, October 25. We're looking forward to having the Woods with us this Columbus Day weekend. We want to show off our new renovations (just don't look at all we still need to do! ).

By the way, Mom sent me some history and records from the Mormon Pioneer Gen. Soc. on Edward Griswold (b. 1607 in England). He is Caleb Tracy's ancestor and our 9th g. grandfather. I looked at his lineage charts (he had 12 children and is now credited with 18 million descendants and one of the half-dozen largest families in America)--and guess what I found! Dan is also descended from him on the Benson and Snow lines. So we have the same 9th grandf. It's a good thing he was such an honorable, good man (you should ask Mom to read his info)--or we'd be in trouble.

Edward is one of the new CT. lines I recently found. Mom and Dad B. have had their mission extended a year and have been transferred to CT. to found a new branch genealogy library there. And guess where? Right in the heartland of where our ancestors came from (probably Dan's, too). I am getting my bags packed. We are visiting them in VT. this weekend.



Gloria was glorious, all right. We had planned to go to Vermont last weekend when the colors were so gorgeous--but hurricanes can change plans in a hurry. According to media hype we traced for 48 hours, she was headed first for N.C. and Barry and Virginia, but changed her mind and instead decided to hit Long Island first. \*They evacuated people from Stamford, CT. just 30 min. from us and closed down all the businesses and schools and had county buses ready to evacuate us and set up the public library for emergency shelter. It took us a day to tape our windows, bring in plants and tie everything down and will take a week to clean up the mess of broken branches, but judging by the size of the tree Gloria uprooted and dumped just down the block, we know we are alive only by the Lord's mercy and in answer to the prayers of you and a lot of righteous people in this area. It got pitch black as she approached, and with trees swaying and lights flickering, I felt rather humble and repentant, you can be sure. Apparently we weren't the only ones, as old friends kept calling whom we tried to teach about the Church, asking us to pray for them and if we still had food and water in our basement!

Laura turned 13 on Friday the 13th and had a wonderful pizza party and sleepover for an expanding invitation list. I think we finally had 18 girls for a sleepover (who slept?). It's a good thing we have wonderful neighbors, as it was one SCREECH of a night as they played "Kick the Can" and "Bloody Murder" and who knows what other awful games. Her big thrill was Mom's finally consenting to take her to get her ears pierced (such barbarianism). She got so much ear jewelry at her party--she has a complete wardrobe. A new girl, Heather Davis, moved into the ward. The two of them are fast friends--it's nice to have an LDS friend Laura can relate to. The only problem is, she also likes Daniel and vice-versa. It's too early for this!

Daniel's big thrill for the month was attending a Stake Super-Saturday workshop with Danny Ainge. Daniel was one of three in the stake to win a pair of Reebok basketball high-tops (just because I had just spent a fortune the week before replacing his basketball shoes). He came home with an autographed photo of Danny and many cheers. Daniel has a great group of friends this year--one of the nicest crowds at school. Tim Schere (his Mom is PTA Pres.), one of them, just joined our Scout troop and Mr. Schere took the bunch to a Yankee game last week. Another father hired Daniel to work at his home-office last week. They seem to have involved parents and are just nice kids. D. still has to put up with titles like "No-Caffeine Dan," but he seems to take it in stride. He seems determined to get good grades, too. I think this is going to be a good year, all around.

Dan just called to ask me to include an offer to whichever one of you asks first: We just bought an AT&T 6300 IBM-Compatible computer. Dan thinks it's the best deal right now because we can get a 40% discount, plus apply \$500 in phone credits on a rebate. We also ordered a color monitor which has a 70-day wait (the rest comes sooner). This PC, plus color monitor, 128K memory and a single, floppy disk together cost \$1500 with the rebate, including tax and delivery to White Plains. Dan says by ordering a single, floppy disk at 148K memory, he can get the best price available elsewhere for additional memory and disk storage (it's about \$400 for a 10 megabyte disk and \$500 for 20 megabyte and \$50 for 512K of main storage through PC NETWORK). I hope I got that straight. Greek to me. AT&T just told Dan he can order one more at the same rate, if it goes in before the end of the year (and we will give you an additional \$500 phone credits we have built up for rebate. So you can have the package for \$1500, plus delivery from White Plains. Dan is tempted by reports of the upcoming Commodore Amega--but says the advantage of this deal is that the AT&T is proven, tested, tried, and the best deal on the market.

Marty, I've decided to take you up on a 50% discount on an HP Portable Plus to use on my genealogy library trips. Dan tells me I also want to order the "Link," Memo-Maker, too. Tell me how much to pay, where to send, and maybe it will be here by Christmas? Our first AT&T computer will be delivered Oct. 17.

I got the Christmas tree crocheted stars from Sarah Marutha, Mom. I can't reach you by phone, but today's exchange rate for Zimbabwe is: \$69 of our dollars = 100 of theirs. I'll let you figure out the rest. We love you each. So grateful Dad is feeling better. Our prayers are with you always.

Love, Sherlene

*offer no longer available mom*