

B. Weight Family  
November 4, 1986

Dear Family,

Charlotte and I have been very busy of late, especially Charlotte. As soon as she was called to be the compassionate service leader in the Relief Society, a sister in the ward had open heart surgery. Because the sister is a widow with no children, she needed help from the R.S. sisters. She required round the clock care after release from the hospital. Charlotte has been on the phone almost constantly looking for volunteers to stay with her. It has been difficult for her to fill up all the hours (especially nights) but it worked out and there are only a few more days that this sister will need this care. The county health services has agreed to pay for someone to come in during the day to clean, cook, run errands, and ect.

(Charlotte here now) It was a real hassle at times to make arrangements for this sister. Some days the phone never stopped ringing. People calling to cancel because of illness, others calling to say they would have to leave early, or this or that. Other sisters slept too soundly and wouldn't awake to give her her night meds. The whole situation seemed overwhelming to me. I thought how could we possibly do it. But it all worked out somehow. (because of this sister's faith--not mine). Sunday during testimony meeting many sisters stood up and told of different ways that staying with this sister had touched their lives. It made me feel really good to hear those comments. One sister said "some people get sick so others can be healed". It's been a good experience for me but I have to admit that I'm glad that she's getting well enough to need less help.

(Bryan back) I was called to be both the stake athletic director and the ward Elder's quorum instructor. I have the ominous responsibility of the entire basketball season from scheduling buildings and officials to encouraging the wards to have teams. Thank goodness the church has manuals. This is one time where I had to read the manual before doing anything. The other stake athletic in the region have been very helpful. One of them is going to conduct out officials clinic (training). Tomorrow I am scheduled to address the bishops in their monthly meeting with the stake presidency. On Thurs. I have a coaches meeting scheduled. I have already mailed letters to several people in the various wards requesting their attendance. I have just finalized my agendas.

As Elder's quorum instructor I am teaching the Book of Mormon at the request of the quorum president. I have to formulate my own lesson plans until I pick up a seminary teachers guide. My intent is to go to a personal level of applying the text to our lives. I don't feel the brethren need to learn or review the story.

We attended parent-teacher conferences for Sarah and Hannah. They are both doing very well. Sarah was tested for reading vocabulary in September and scored 90% on the third grade level. She has excellent sentence structure and good creative writing skills for a second grader. In math she is at the top of the class. We are impressed that Sarah's teacher is not only well organized and have a genuine interest in the children, but is also highly informed on teaching methods.

Hannah is looking forward to turning six in December. Her teacher is impressed with her artistic abilities. All the students in her class drew self portraits and Hannah's really looked like herself. Her teacher says that there have been some days when Hannah will miss recess because she wants to complete a drawing. Hannah likes to pretend to read and she enjoys playing with our speak & read game. She lost her first tooth last week.

Hyrum is at the age where he is absolutely bored when the girls go to school. He also gets left out of alot of things because he's "too young" for his sisters. He loves to attend the nursery at church. The nursery leader is really good. She sends the kids letters. One time he got a whole package of gum through the mail from her. Hyrum likes playing with his daddy. He especially likes underdogs on our swing.

During family prayer tonight Hannah said, "...and please bless Willis to walk." No sooner than Amen was said, he took some steps. Later we filmed him. He wouldn't cooperate so we bribed him with marshmallows. They helped him concentrate on letting go. Willis has chronic ear infections. He is now taking a preventative dose once a day. If this doesn't work the Dr. is talking about tubes. Our current insurance may not cover it because of a "prior existing condition". That is one disadvantage of leaving Bechtel. One other funny thing about Willis. He loves to dance. He carries the rhythm well with head movements and rocking on all fours. On birthdays we get out my old Beatles album and play the "Happy Birthday Song". Willis can really rock out on that song. His 1st B-day is on the 16th of this month.

This week we bought this neat typewriter. It is an IBM Wheelwriter 6. It has a spell check feature on it and it beeps when you make a spelling error.(too bad it can't check grammar also. I just spelled grammar grammer but it beeped on me.) It also has a business form program and the salesman showed Charlotte how she could program the machine to type out a pedigree sheet without any hassle. You just push a button and it moves you from place to place on the paper. Now she has one less excuse for not doing genealogy.

My employment prospects are still optimistic long term but I don't have anything pending immediately. Basically this means there are still lots of places to look for employment. I am also considering changing careers. I am keeping all options open.

Love,

*Bryan Charlotte & Kids*