

Dear Family,

March 24, 1990

Letter jackpot! After going 2 weeks or so with no letter from Daniel (& beginning to worry), we finally got three letters at once--one from each of the previous 3 weeks. Good letters full of great spirit, wit, and news. Daniel will be flying off for Guatemala the evening of Apr. 2.

Laura is finishing up her last few months of high school before flying off for summer school at BYU (right after graduation)! Life seems to be changing fast just now! As the songs says, "Sunrise, Sunset." (We have been trying to work out some sort of Spring vacation, so she gets some sort of break before college--but so far haven't settled on anything.)

As for other goings-on here, the big thing is Spring! First crocii and now daffodils. And Sherlene got the old garden itch and dragged me out to help with the digging and planning (some of this may be old news, but bear with it). She did most of the planting while I caught up on paperwork inside. Laura even came out and helped a bit. I also took the mower to Sears for a tune-up under the pre-purchased maintenance agreement.

We've been celebrating in several other ways as well, attending community theater up in Randolph one Saturday night (Shakespeare's The Tempest) and eating out (Chinese) the next Friday evening. Sherlene & I attended the Relief Society birthday party last Sat. evening (coinciding with St. Patrick's day). Women, in some cases with children and/or husband, did brief poses taken from the Nauvoo statue garden, with commentaries and music. In one pose, The Elkins did a stunning likeness of Joseph and Emma. It was quite different, but also beautiful and meaningful in the way it was done. Sherlene sang beautifully with the R.S. choir as part of the program.

Laura has been talking with a couple of students at Ridge High (young men who have never really been active), inviting them to seminary. Mike Irwin planned to make it to seminary this past week. We took goodies 3 days (at least), including 1 doz. donuts one morning, to mark the occasion, but he didn't make it. He's working 6-10pm at UPS, staying out too late (and I think, enjoying a new car). Eric Kolbe has not responded (positively) yet. He is a smoker and a loner. They both need it! Zac, a similar case at the beginning of the year, has been coming out the whole year so far, has benefitted much, and has helped reactivate a young woman in the ward with whom he goes out.

Laura is working on her BYU registration. She also decided to go to the Senior Mystery Bus Ride (food and dancing at a club) last Sun. night despite some discussion. Eric Kolbe (the smoking loner) was there by himself, so she befriended him.

At church, we just finished several weeks Sunday School discussion of the Abrahamic covenant--a broad and deep subject, central to the

priesthood, family life, and plan of salvation. Sister Edwards is an excellent teacher. Besides Abraham, I've been reading last October's conference talks, each one twice, as part of my daily scripture reading and have found great inspiration in each talk.

Sherlene is about to teach a North Branch Ward, four-week family history course, starting tomorrow and has had a good group sign up for it. She continues working, also, in the Morristown Family History Center several times a month and has been excited about the new 2.2. Church genealogy program, putting in temple work for some of the Mulligans she found on our trip to Washington, D.C.

I spent 3 nights this week home teaching and making Elders' Quorum Presidency visits and calls. One woman said she's not in the Church. Two others, both men, were very happy to be contacted and expect to bring out their families (though not members). A man I've home-taught for over a year by phone, finally agreed to meet for pizza near his office. In another case, a man answered the door without identifying himself (father or husband?) but confirmed that Susan lives there while her brother has moved to Ca.

Finally, I met a young couple. She's the member, but he grew up Catholic, knows nothing about the LDS church, and is ready to listen to the missionaries! To help in contacting these families and new move-ins, I made up a welcome letter and map to go with it.

Tomorrow I'm speaking at Bro. Senior's baptism, which should be a very happy occasion. He's been attending with his daughters & waiting for rebaptism for longer than we've been here.

Meanwhile, at work, I've been down to Wash. D.C. several times in my new sales technical support job. I'll be supporting sales to the FAA in the NY-NJ-PA area under a federal contract recently awarded to AT&T. It's taking a while for both AT&T and the FAA to set up procedures and get wheels turning, but sales have begun. The contract provides a very good, highly integrated set of hardware and software products. Intel 386 PC's with MicroSoft Windows based software applications.

AT&T keeps bringing out good new computer and networking products, many in partnership w. other leading computer companies (Intel for the PC type computers, Pyramid for larger scale multi-RISC-processor computers, Tandem for fault-tolerant computers, and lots of ability to connect computers of different sizes and types as well as various computer networks (Macintosh, Novell, IBM, etc.) New desktop and office software will use HP New Wave and MicroSoft Windows graphical user environments with mice).

Much Love, Dan, Sherlene, Laura (& Daniel)