

March 7, 1990

Dear Mom and Dad,
Howz it going! Thing's are going very well here. Right now I'm doing my laundry. It's quite simple here. You get up at 4:45, shower, take your laundry bag to the big room with lots of washers, and throw it in!

Missionaries have only two batches to do. I've got a white batch (shirts, garments, Hard Rock Cafe t-shirt [yeah?], a hankie [must not be crying much], athletic sox) and a dark batch (towel, pajamas, dress sox, dark t-shirts). It's really quite exciting [me, too, to see you doing laundry!!]

Anyway, after that we go to the temple and do an endowment session or some sealings for the dead. Usually (always) it's quite an experience.

Then we come home and play basketball, write letters, or go to sleep, or whatever until 4:00 p.m. when the normal schedule begins again!

Brian Wood came upstairs and visited me yesterday and he's doing very well. We laughed about the shoe shine Valentine's presents we got in the mail [We told them we "took a shine to them"]. Apparently one of his roommates got the 'ol "Dear John" letter only 3 weeks into his mission. Needless to say, I found that quite humorous.

I've been reading scriptures lately. Feasting on the word is an understatement. This has been a total pig-out [so what else is new?]. Once in a while I'll discuss what I'm reading with people in my district and I guess you could call that a food fight. I've been comparing 2 Nephi with Isaiah and, needless to say, it's been getting rough.

If you want to see something cool, look up Isaiah Chapter 2 verse 16 and read the footnote. Then turn to 2 Nephi 12:1 and read the footnote for that verse. I was just reading footnotes and I found this little gem. It proves that Joseph Smith was translating because he obviously wasn't reading the Old Testament in Greek and Hebrew as he was translating. Anyway, I've got to run.

Love, your son, Daniel H. Bartholomew

Sunday, March 11, 1990

Dear Mom and Dad!

!¿Como estan ustedes?! I am having a wonderful time here in the ol MTC! Starting tomorrow I have only three weeks left before I get on a plane to go to Guatemala. Inserted with this letter is a copy of my travel plans, which I received yesterday. Yippee!

[His travel plans are: Monday, Apr. 2 leaves Salt Lake City, 7:53 p.m., Delta, Flight 1557B, arr. Los Angeles 8:40 p.m. on nonstop Boeing 727. Leaves Los Angeles 11:15 p.m., Pan Am. Flight 415Y, arr. Guatemala City 6:00 a.m. Snack, Nonstop Airbus Industrie 600A Arrive Apr 03

Mission Pres. Gordon W. Romney PH 011 502 2/ 34-55-43 OFFICE 69-13-74 HOME

AGENCY TELEPHONE 801 521-7850

ARRIVE GUATEMALA 3 APR 6:00 AM]

All the stuff is paid for. Murdock Travel Agency returned to me \$109.00 from my plane ticket here of which I returned the \$100 they said I owed them for my plane ticket to Guatemala. I have also taken the money you sent me for insurance (30 dollars) and paid for it. Mom, I need money besides the \$50 emergency money for living expenses (shampoo, haircuts, soap, fabric softener, clothes soap, stamps, etc., the list goes on) [and on and on and on]. If you don't send me some money you force me to use emergency money for these expenses. The money you gave me before I came here (the 200+ dollars) to use when I get to Guatemala is being saved. All I did was cash it in for traveler's cheques. I just went to my drawer and checked. I have \$250 in travelers cheques that I'm not using until I arrive in Guatemala. Just so you know. Please send me about \$50 for the next three weeks. I've been living off the emergency money so some of that will become emergency money.

Let me tell you what we've been up to lately. As usual, we've been going to our classes. The problems my district has been having have for the most part abated. We are extremely happy with the way things are going.

My testimony of the gospel and the Atonement becomes stronger every day. There isn't one day that goes by where I don't tell the Lord three times (at least) how grateful I am for providing me with parents who gave me so much faith.

Ezra Taft Benson said there's no such thing as good pride so please restrict yourselves to simple good feelings, please. Dad, your buttons are popping. Either you need to go on a diet or you're being proud!

Seriously, though, I really meant what I said. Every day I'm coming to a better understanding of the blessings I've received and I'm going to receive because of the training I got from my parents. Maybe I'll even give you guys a hug when I get home!

Hi, Laura. I Love You! Are the guys chasing this compact, tan body you were telling me about! Let me know what's going on (and send me a Big Mac, please, I'm totally getting sick of the food

here). It gives you gas. Read Acts 2:2. That describes it pretty well.

Also read D&C Section 132. Especially verses 19 & 20. We can become "gods" if we're good boys and girls. I'm serious. Awesome scripture that is! Write me por favor. Me gusta su espanol mucho! Usted es lista por su mision ahora! [?]

Also, Folks, look up 2 Nephi 12:1 and look at its footnote. Then look up the corresponding verse in Isaiah and look at its footnote as well. I found this little treasure all by myself! Isaiah rules!

I gave a class talk on him today in district meeting and they had to cut me short. My district really loved it and they want copies of what I had to say. It was cool!

Do you know what! They issue the missionaries in Guatemala machetes! I'm gonna get myself a whip and a leather hat and grow some peach fuzz on my face 'til I look just like Indiana Jones! Then I'll swing around on vines looking for investigators! Yippee!

Mom, how dare you be buying watches in Germany on your mission?! Also, you mentioned something to your parents about the next care package they're gonna send you! I get shoe-shine! Send something to eat, please.

I'm hungry for something besides cookies and fruit! Send me some beef jerky or some chips or something else salty! I'm sick of chocolate too! Anyway, I gotta run.

Your corny [yeah!] missionary son, Elder Daniel Bartholomew LOVE YOU!!

P.S. Just one more expense I remembered [this is so moving]. I need to dry clean my suits and pants just before I leave this joint. Please send me the money I asked for. It's needed!

No date--letter received March 17, 1990

Dear Mom,

I just received the oatmeal and the first aid stuff and the scarves. Thank you very much. Oh, hey, what's this! Holy cow....oh, it's just candy [why didn't you tell me earlier you were sick of chocolate?--I sent him a bunch of Easter candy.]

(Rummage, Rummage, shouts of joyous delirium.) Bread! My mom sent me a loaf of her best-in-the-world home-made-scrumptiously delicious bread! Look guys! A loaf of...munch, munch, smack, chomp, scrunch, umph, geez guys, save some for me!

Thanks, Mom!!! I love you!!! By next week I should have a Psalm written concerning that loaf of sweet home-made wheat bread. Love, Daniel

No date--letter received March 27, 1990

Dear Mom and Dad, How are you?! Thank you for all the letters you've been sending me. Mom, that bread was the best thing I've tasted in a long time, and the stockings you sent were hilarious. Brian Wood got his as well and he seemed quite happy about it.

We have 12 days left before we go! We saw and heard a lot about Guatemala in a culture class we had here. The people there are very humble. The missionary told us about one lady he converted who had a corn grinder. She made [her living] by grinding the corn for her entire neighborhood. Unfortunately, Sunday was her best business day. The elders talked with her and they decided she could change it by telling all her customers that she would grind corn late Sat. night. The customers all came Sat. night, and of course they all wanted to know the reason for the change. The missionaries (being somewhat intelligent) were there that night to get customer referrals. Fourteen of her customers were baptized.

The members there love the missionaries. All you have to do is build relationships of trust and you have a constant referral source. The missionary who told us this was in the Quetaltenango Mission in Guatemala, so it might be a little different for me. He said that in his whole mission he only had to knock on five doors (he did it on his last day, so he could say he'd done it).

Anyway, folks, we're already planning City of Enoch Part II! After we're all translated, I think I'll start a fast food chain.

Another cute story the missionary told us was about the children. They loved the Elders. They'd take two steps into the neighborhood and the kids would all swarm out, calling the Elders' names, and they'd gather around the Elders and grab them around the legs and waist. They'd leave little hand prints around the bottom of their shirts, so the Elders would change their shirts at lunch-time [I hope we got you enough shirts--we weren't thinking in terms of "twice a day."]

About 90% of the members there are converts, so they really appreciate missionaries. He said that the Elders and members get very attached, and the members weep to see you go. Can you imagine this, you German missionaries?! Ha Ha Ha. [Whaddayamean?! Those Germans wept bushels when we left!]

I'm so excited to get there and start teaching, I can't stand it! Oh, here's the fun part. We have to boil all our water for a good two minutes or let chlorine stand in it for 30 min. Our food has to be all cooked really well, too. I ain't too excited 'bout 'dis.

Another cool thing. If people in Guatemala are related in any way, it means something. Elders talk to the people about their relatives (they'll start writing down names), and they'll get 37 referrals (including 4th cousins). They're a very tightly knit group of people. Oh, man! Just let me at 'em! Twelve more days. Aaaaaaaagh! Yer everlovin' son, Daniel.

(Note on outside of envelope: "News update: two days ago I broke my right index finger (minorly) playing football; but don't worry--it's healing well and everything's cool. Yes, I was playing it on D-Day.") [Can't believe it, his first broken bone!]

To how can I EDIT such perfection!?! You do it! (Have to remember, his my ONLY son!) Maybe I'll do better next time! :) all