

He's doing very well and is happy. He had his 3rd baptism on May 5th, and they expect to baptize another person on the 12th. For anyone who may be interested in information on Haiti, the best I have found in short (relatively speaking) form is a series of articles in the New Yorker, issues of Nov. 27th and Dec. 4th & 12th, 1989.

** Two weeks ago we had the family of one of H.T.'s MTC teachers over for an evening. They are native Haitian, and the first Haitian couple to have been married in the Temple. They joined the Church independently while each was a university student, and met within a few months of having joined. They both served missions (simultaneously) and were married 7 months after their missions ended. They are beautiful people, in every sense of the word. They have two little children ages 2½ and 1 year, and he is studying electrical engineering at BYU. They plan to return to Haiti when he finishes. Their conversions were miraculous, and I particularly loved the story she told. She's the 2nd or 3rd of 8 children, and she and her older sister were very close. One morning her older sister said "Fenice, I have had a dream! Two boys in white shirts came to our door, and they taught us the gospel." Fenice said she paid the story little attention; it was just an odd and inexplicable dream, and besides, they were very staunch Catholic and didn't need to be taught the gospel! But two weeks later, two young men in white shirts did come to their door. Their mother treated them cordially, but was sending them away when the sister came running from the back of the house and said very excitedly that these were the boys she had seen in her dream. "And Fenice," she said, "they are very important to you. You must listen to them, because in my dream, you are the one who believed them." Fenice (her husband's name is Islens Dort -- pronounced eelens door) was impatient at her sister's insistence; besides the fact that the "elders" had nothing of worth to her, she was a university student working very hard in her studies -- she simply had no time for anything extra. But she did hear her sister's lessons and found nothing objectionable in them. It was just so annoying to have her sister persist in saying that she must listen! At the end of the 2nd discussion, one of the missionaries held out a Book of Mormon to her and said, "I want you to read this book," and wouldn't be satisfied until she accepted it, which she finally did to be polite. When she had read a few pages, a voice spoke plainly to her in the room where she was, near her ear. She said, "I looked around me because I'd never heard a voice before." She said this very matter-of-factly, which to me was a total crack-up. Anyway, after she heard the voice she thought, "Well, I must find out about this!" So she read the whole book, had a sense as she read it that it was true, ~~when~~ when she prayed she had a powerful manifestation as to its truthfulness, and then when she finished the last page the same voice spoke again and said, as I neglected to say it had the first time, ~~when she prayed~~ "This is the truth!" So the next time the elders came the first thing Fenice said to them was, "When can I be baptized?" I wonder how many times that expression has been used! Islens said exactly the same thing to the elders who taught him, and I'll tell you his story the next time I write. Fenice was baptized 9 years ago, and her sister has still never joined. We asked her how her mother felt about her having joined the Church and she said that her mother had nothing against it and, having many daughters, was pleased that the missionaries taught the law of chastity. Islens said that Haitians are in general tolerant of differing beliefs.

We were so very glad to see Liz & Marry & kids, when they were out and had great fun with them, especially when Marry beat us all at "Encore"! Love Use 'guise'.

** David and Tracy's trip to Europe was successful with Hycalog in England, not so with Shell (I think -- either that or Phillips) in the Netherlands. They had an interesting, exhausting, and at times terrifying (Tracy said the navigating as David drove nearly did him in -- not David's driving ^{per se}, but the traffic and the driving on the left side of the road adjustment). And they had not a single cent for souvenirs. But they were able to attend a stake conference in the Hyde Park chapel, whose congregation was a very satisfyingly mixed group, racially and ethnically. Chris Wilde when I last talked to Kathy about it was teaching ^{in the Netherlands} a Chinese man, a Catholic monk, a Muslim family, and someone else of yet another background (not European). Europe is becoming a melting pot! And that and the upheaval in eastern Europe are really busting things wide open for missionary work. Who would have thought it. My brother had 3 or 5 baptisms on his mission in the south of France, a high number for the time, and now the son of an acquaintance of mine recently had 20 baptisms ^{in that same mission} in the space of 2½ months. And my Dad told me last week that the city of Tacoma was just made a separate mission. So the prayers of the saints do make a difference, combined with the sacrifice of going out there, or sending our kids out. What a thrilling thing.

**I suppose all conversions are.*

** It's midnight now and I'm really really tired. If I'm able to, I'll type up a few excerpts from H.T.'s letters tomorrow. Thanks for bearing with my miserable typing, which would be even worse w/out my Correctronic. Scary thought, eh? Bye for now. Betsy