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Dear Family,

Now that I'm writing Daniel every week, I get all talked out, so hopefully your letters will be shorter. I've been sending his letters along to his grandparents as they come, and hopefully they'll share them with you, along with this letter.

Thanks so much to Mom and Dad and Tracy, Betsy and family for going to see Daniel off at the airport, and also for all the kindness each of you showed him while at the MTC. We love getting his letters--he's so happy in the work! 'Makes me want to pack up and go on a full-time mission again, myself.

His new address is included in the letter from him I'm sending along. I know he'd love to hear from all of you--it sure used to be great to come home from a hard day of tracting and get mail!

We went to Morristown for all the Sat. and Sunday Gen. Conference sessions and felt it was a real blessing. I thought the talks were especially good this time--we were pleased to see Rev. Pepper there for the Sunday sessions and also at Fast and Testimony Meeting yesterday. He invited us to dinner at his home for "Passover" tomorrow--I'm bringing part of the meal--should be fun! I especially enjoyed sustaining Sis. Jack as the new Relief Society President. I think she will be marvelous!

A couple of weeks ago, we woke up to a flood on our first floor which dripped down into our basement from a washing-machine hose which burst (not frozen--must have just been worn!). We had just gone through having our floors redone--quite an ordeal and they looked so beautiful! It was good that we had invited the Abashamaas over to watch "Brigham" with us that weekend. After seeing all the pioneers went through, it was more bearable than otherwise, I think. The water had gone through the kitchen, part of the dinette, and part of the dining room, partly soaking the Oriental rugs, and everything in the cupboards and laundry room!

Fortunately, I had just finished spring cleaning, so the water was clean and after pressing both sides of the rugs between towels for three days, they still looked new and did not have to go to the cleaners. But the hardwood floors have "cupping" ridges from the water, and you can imagine the mess in the basement with 3" of water all over the boxes of books and dripping down on top of all our food storage (lost all my paper goods!). It was awful. Spent the whole day mopping up the mess, then was bitten on the lip by an unhappy spider and suffered nausea and diarrhea until I was sure I'd rather just die. But Dan gave me a blessing, and I was able to get up the next day and keep going. Onalee Wood brought us over some stew and homemade cookies in the evening--was that ever a life-saver! Dan had arranged to take the day off work, anyway, so it was great to have him home to discover the flooding at 4 a.m. in the first place, and to help with all the cleanup.

When the flood came, I was in the middle of pursuing an extra-exciting genealogy lead. It was aggravating, to say the least, to have to stop just when I'd done all my work and thought I had some free space. But if I've learned anything in life, it's that

there's no way to avoid trials and inconveniences in this mortal existence--I suspect the Lord is less concerned with the genealogy I'm doing and more desirous to see me learn patience. Believe me, it takes patience when you are mopping up water with towels in your nightgown and your daughter is combing her hair in front of the mirror and your husband is standing there with a video camera taking photos of your active behind! I wish there were one more person around here to push a panic button in an emergency. Did I get upset and yell and scream? Don't ask!

We've done some fun things this month, too. We went to a square dance Clinton Branch held which had a good caller. The other night Dan brought home "Song of Norway," and we enjoyed watching that together. We've also put in a salad garden which, after five or six weeks of cold weather is actually starting to grow, and are now watching "Jesus of Nazareth" through the Passover season T.V.

Laura has had some interesting experiences. The youth group at Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church asked teens from several area churches to come and explain their religion. James Wood invited Laura to help him present the "Mormon" view. They felt their presentation was the best received of all. They took a case of B. of Mormons and left it by the door, saying in a low-key manner, that anyone interested could pick one up on the way out--fourteen books were taken!

Laura also skipped dinner after Fast Sunday to go help an old woman she met while cleaning at Ridge Oak. The woman is dying of Alzheimers and lip cancer and was afraid to be alone. Laura was there most of the evening and was pretty starved when she got home--but happy. She also went into the City with friends and was on the Phil Dugapoo show--we're watching her at 4 today--she didn't get to speak, but thinks the camera got her in the audience. She also went to a disco dance at "Obsessions" in Randolph with friends and got mad when her father called the place before she left to see what their obsession was!

Dan has started his new job which will involve a lot of metropolitan travel--especially to JFK in the City. Considering how much he hates travel, he has an amazingly positive attitude about this job--thinks it's a very good opportunity. He still keeps very busy with all his Elder's Quorum work and gave one of the best talks I've heard at Bro. Senior's rebaptism.

I've had a ball doing genealogy. 'Got to Bayonne twice last month to look through the census records and have some exciting leads. I have a terrific new friend in Pat Fast, a non-LDS staff member at the Church Family History Center, who lives just a couple of blocks from here. She and I both have the same obsession. Yesterday I taught the second session of our genealogy class--I have a super group this round. I'm typing day and night trying to get all my Hall family groups into the new 2.2 Church program.

Mom, you know that heart-shaped bramble wreath I put in your room at Christmas? Well, I took out the pine boughs and refurbished it with Eucalyptus and more baby's breath and dried flowers and put it on our front door. Last week a little bird built a darling nest in the flowers at the base of it and laid two eggs! Chirp, chirp!

*P.S. HAPPY EASTER!*