

February 18, 1989

Dear Grandchildren:

During the Christmas Holidays one of my sweet Granddaughters said something that I have thought quite a bit about since then. So this letter is really to our Grandchildren and especially to our older Grandchildren who are on the threshold of making decisions which will affect the quality of their lives and the lives of their own children in the not-too-distant future.

The remark was made during a discussion of "going to college" and the gist of the remark was that it seemed too bad to have to pay money for education.

What she meant, I am certain, is that education, generally speaking, is available from life experiences, and is sitting for the taking on the shelves of public and university libraries. Perhaps she meant also, that education is a life-long undertaking and should not end when school days end. Very true. However, while we should be "in" the world, and not "of" the world, we do have to raise and support our families "in" the world. And this will be true until the second coming of the Savior when we will live the united order. Perhaps, then, "qualification" and "degrees" will not matter so much. Unfortunately, when we enter the world of the "employed" our future employers judge us on how we have "qualified" ourselves to work for them by that "world's" standards. And if you don't think that the "degree" you will get from high school and/or from the "world's" colleges count, just try to get that employment you want without it.

Your grandfather has said that if we could develop our brains even to a tenth of its capacity we would be pretty smart fellers. Each of us chooses what we put into that brain, and to what depth the knowledge placed there is put to use. From living with your grandfather, I have noticed that one of the keys to his knowledge is that he is so inquisitive. When I want something in a hurry I never send him after it, because he is so easily sidetracked from the main purpose of the errand-- i.e. to get a gallon of milk. He will wander around and notice new items and examine new things. This makes him a reservoir of knowledge which passes right over my head because I am less observant of "little" things. I imagine that when he was a little boy, he seldom came "right home" from school. He probably examined every grass blade along the way. A good quality. And with this trait, he will never stop learning as long as there is an active cell of gray matter in his head.

But: Your grandfather has also said to me (when I invest money in stocks, bonds, etc.,--)"Invest it in me--you will make more money." And of course that is true. None of you would have any money from your grandfather to use to go to school or whatever, if we hadn't invested those first hard-earned savings in that first (and

by service grown out of the talents of all of you. To develop those talents cost money and effort--and as far as we are concerned it was money and time well spent. Now if you have the talents to develop those skills in your own children without spending money, great-- I didn't have them. Your father, fortunately, could play the piano, but never felt competent (or had the time) to teach the children. But his playing did help make happy memories in our home, and I suspect the talents of your parents and yourselves add to the quality of your own family life.

Yes, it is possible to earn a living for your family without a college education, and some people with high school educations even get rich, but on an average percentage basis, the college graduate will far out-earn the high school graduate, and for those pursuing graduate studies the ante goes even higher.

Your Grandfather just told me that just a four year education in a technical or professional field will earn over your life time about one million dollars more than a person with a high school education. President Wilconsen used to tell students that every day they spent in school was worth \$300. to them in their later years. Because of inflation since Wilconsen's time, a college student effectively earns 1,000 dollars for every day he spent in college that he will receive in increased income after graduation. Education doesn't cost --it Pays!

There is another aspect of this to consider, too. Choose, if possible, a course of study that you will enjoy doing for the rest of your life. Your Grandfather has often said that he ought to pay the school for what he was doing rather than that they should pay him.. A man--and a woman unless she marries, and even if she does, sometimes, should learn a profession or skill that they will enjoy working at. Because he or she will spend an awfully lot of time doing it. Ask yourself if you'd rather spend your time teaching, building a bridge, or a building, or writing a symphony than tightening the same bolt on an engine in the same place for the rest of your life or slapping mayonnaise on a hamburger.

AND YOU'VE GOT TO BE PRACTICAL. SUPPOSE YOU LIKE DRAMA--OR ART--OR SPORTS. Great! But can you earn a living at that? It is unfortunate that artistic people do not have adequate remuneration or outlet for their talents, but that's the way our society is.. There are things we like which should be relegated to "hobbies" or "spare time avocations" and not full time vocations. You young people no doubt would like to be the high school basket ball, football, or track heroes and you pine to be cheer leaders or have the lead in the play or the operetta. Those are worthy aspirations if kept in perspective. Leadership roles develop your skills at getting along with people and getting along in life. But they are not usually an end in and of themselves. The lime light goes out very rapidly once graduation is

over. All that is left of the lime light is the development which came, hopefully, to the individual who held that coveted lime light.

Grandfather had a secretary who had married just out of high school the football hero of the school. She had been a cheerleader. He has never been a good provider. She has had to work ever since they were married to help make ends meet. Be smart like your Grandmother Hall--I knew that it was the "good" boys in Sunday School and MIA and the good students with good characters who were going to make it in the school of hard knocks later on.

And I knew that the most important thing I wanted in a husband was that he was active in the church and lived his religion. I had my values in the right place because look at the neat guy I married! I will be eternally grateful to our Heavenly Father for letting him fall in love with me!

You have to think about what values you are developing in yourself that might attract the kind of a person to you that you will want for a future husband or wife. I think women, in general, are smarter than men in this respect. It doesn't hurt to make yourself attractive, girls. Statistics still say that the male (dumb) pays more attention to an attractive face and figure than to a good character and a fine brain. And when they get those in a wife it is usually just luck. AND GIRLS. BE COLD BLOODED ABOUT IT. IF A COLEGE EDUCATION MAKES A MAN A BETTER PROVIDER AND HUSBAND, THEN THE PLACE TO MEET YOUR FUTURE HUSBAND WILL BE WHILE GOING TO COLLEGE YOURSELF.

THE THING TO REMEMBER, HOWEVER, IS TO GET YOURSELF A GOOD EDUCATION AT THE SAME TIME JUST IN CASE YOU DON'T CATCH THAT MAN WHILE YOU'RE THERE. IT DOES HAPPEN, YOU KNOW. MOST GIRLS MARRY AND HAVE FAMILIES--BUT NOT ALL OF THEM DO. SO. ARE YOU GOING TO SPEND YOUR LIFE WORKING AT MACDONALD'S WHILE WAITING FOR MR. RIGHT TO COME ALONG? I KNOW MANY LOVELY GIRLS WHO HAVEN'T MARRIED. THE ONES WHO ARE HAPPIEST WITH THAT SITUATION ARE THE ONES WHO ARE PURSUING AN INTERESTING AND A REWARDING CAREER.

I would also hope that each one of our Grandchildren would want to go on missions--girls, too. Missions are one place where casting your bread upon the water comes back to you four-fold.(or ten-fold) While serving the Lord with all your heart for eighteen months to two years the blessings just get poured back upon you in the development of your own character and personalities. How often have I seen shy lady missionaries blossom as they serve--and the lady missionaries who already have out-going personalities develop just as much in other ways. And often the more mature girl missionaries tell the younger male missionaries "down Boy!" Maybe that's why the church gives the girls two more

years to develop perspective before they can go on missions, but I suspect the real reason is to keep them at home for the return male missionaries to marry. (male chauvinism.)

One thing I know for certain. You can never, never get the Lord in debt to you. You are always, always in debt to him! Try to serve him and get a few points ahead and you realize that his blessings to you are so great you'll never catch up. (Read King Benjamin's discourse in the Book of Mormon.)

And Daniel. You asked your grandfather and I to write you our testimonies. That sounds like your mother put you up to that--but I can tell you this much for what it's worth. This road to perfection is a long and a hard one. I myself have a long way to go--the more I think I'm making progress, the farther I have to go it seems. I think I have one thing (like my temper) licked and soon find out the darn problem is worse, if anything. I guess the important thing is to keep trying. One thing I am certain of is the reality of our Heavenly Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ. They live! And they love us! With a perfect love that overlooks our imperfections and is unconditional.

However, we have the blessing of a fullness of Our Heavenly Father's plan for his children that he has restored through his earthly Prophet, Joseph Smith. That plan tells us how we should live and how we should conduct our lives and ourselves. He would give us everything he has, but his greatest gift, our free agency, limits the blessings he can bestow on us. We have to earn them. There's no other way. He says: (paraphrasing) "When you do as I say, I am bound; but if ye do not as I say, ye have no promise!"

And I know that our happiness here on this earth and ultimately in that future world where THEY are depends on our obedience to the laws and conditions They have laid down for our happiness and eternal salvation. It's a tough thing, but our salvation really does depend upon ourselves and our willingness to live as our Heavenly Father has told us to live. Only then can be exercised that greatest of all gifts offered in our behalf by our elder brother, Jesus Christ--the Atonement, which will get us back into Their presence after this fleeting life is over.

Listen to your parents. I know that sometimes young people have a tendency to think their parents are out of it. But NO ONE--NO ONE-- LOVES YOU AS THEY DO outside of your Heavenly Father. It will pay you to listen to them, and do as they say. Why is it that, generally speaking each generation has to make the same mistakes over and over again. It is possible to learn from History.

Your Grandfather and I love you all, and want all of you to have all the blessings the Lord has in store for you in and out of this world. And don't be afraid to invest

in developing your talents by spending money getting an education and developing professional skills. It's the very best place you can put your money and your time at this critical time of your young lives.

All my Love,

Grandmother Ida Rose Hall