



Happy Happenings!

54th Edition

June 2003

Elder and Sister White:

Hi Family. Greetings from Dallas. Texas, that is. We are enjoying our mission and today we had our first experience with non-members. We were at the post office mailing copies of videos and Bibles and copies of the Book of Mormon to the outlying missionaries to give to the media referrals. [The people who call in to get free literature and a visit from the missionaries.] A couple noticed our badges and asked what Church we represented. They said they'd be interested in hearing more. Now, Brittney, I should have had a pass along card with me so I could have given it to them. [I got a whole stack of them and put them in my purse when I got back to the office.] It was thrilling and would've been even better if I hadn't been trying to mail the packages AND do missionary work.

We also had a good experience at Souper Salad. The owner is very friendly and the other night he asked what church we were with. Seems the Jehovah's Witnesses also go there frequently. Sister Bender is a great missionary. She told them the name of our Church and said we are Mormons. He said that he used to go to a church where he got "saved" but had moved and wasn't going now. She asked if he would like to know more about our Church, he said YES. She gave him several pass along cards, took his name and address and now she will give that referral to Lynn [as the referral secretary] and we'll send out two of the missionaries! COOL!

We work a lot at the office. I pay the bills and see that the missionaries get their support money. It's a big job. Now I've been given the job of Apartment Coordinator too. That's even bigger. I find and rent apartments for the missionaries. I also go around and inspect the apartments that we lease to figure out if we want to continue to have missionaries live there. Some of them are real dumps. Some are just dirty and messy and mistreated by sloppy missionaries. That makes me sad. So--Grandkids, learn to be neat and clean and pick up your clothes and wash your dishes! It'll mean a lot on your mission! [And through your life.]

Lynn does all the referrals. That means that he lets the missionaries know about people who want them to come tell them more about the Church. He also records the baptisms and confirmations so reports can go to the stakes, wards and Mission President. He also helps me a lot.

So, we're not at our tiny little apartment very much. And boy, is it tiny. 620 Sq Ft. You can stand in the bathroom door and see the whole thing. But we've decided that it's so run down and shabby that we're going to try to move next month. Trouble is that apartments are so expensive here. And wow, are there a LOT of them. People in the city really live in apartments. Not much of a life if you ask me, but I guess they get used to it. We don't feel real safe here--there are lots of nationalities and scary-looking people. But we're Missionaries. We'll be protected--right?

We are good friends with the other office couple--the Benders. We go visiting the apartments and the outlying wards with them. We've also been going to the temple and Souper Salad with them every Friday night. They are very happy and cheerful and they like us. They say we are an answer to their prayers. I guess the couple whose place we took weren't very friendly to them or something.

Our health is good. Heavenly Father is certainly blessing us with health and strength and stamina as well as a happy outlook. We work late nearly every night and have worked every Saturday [and one Sunday night] as well. We're hoping that we'll soon get organized and learn our jobs so we can spend less time at the office and more time doing other friendship and genealogy activities. But it's good and we're glad to be here.

Trouble is: WE MISS YOU! WRITE TO US! CALL US! We're lonely for you and want to hear all about your lives. Don't hold anything back!

HAVE A FAMILY REUNION! Lawson wants to hear from you to know what you'd like to do. Don't fall apart just because we're gone! We love it that you love each other. Stay close as a family! That's what it's all about.



Larry, Jill, and Family:

Hello from the Burnett Family. Summer has finally arrived - it reached 109 earlier this week, and has been above 100 degrees every day. We still love it though.

Work is going well for both Jill and I. She has 3 more weeks left, then she will have some time off for the summer. We are getting ready for our big hospital survey that comes every three years, and have started construction on the addition to the hospital. We are doing very well - and gaining a very good reputation in the community. Only a couple more weeks before the Stake conference - plans are well underway for the meetings and interviews with President Nelson.

Tiffany is out of school now - another straight A semester. She is looking forward to taking the summer off and recuperating from her busy semester.

Heather is winding down in her school - track is over and she will be starting summer swimming. She is doing very well in school, finishing her young women's goals and still exercising faithfully.

Katelyn is starting her cheer training. We had a good laugh when she came home with a black eye the other day. She got an elbow in the eye during practice. She will also have her goals passed off very soon - both only have two left.

We are planning a busy summer. We have our family San Diego trip the end of July - and I am going to San Diego with the scouts June 9-10. Both Heather and Katelyn are planning on attending EFY, and Katelyn will have girls camp. We are looking forward to seeing you all soon.



Lawson, Kelly and Family:

We had a fun Memorial Day weekend. We took some friends and went to the Summit. It ended up being a really fun group of people and it was nice to get out and have some campfires and dutch oven cooking.

Cason scored a goal in one of his soccer games recently. It's always funny when he scores. He's so excited about it, but he's so shy and acts all embarrassed at the attention.

Tanner started baseball and Thayne will start pretty soon. They're both excited for that. Cason decided to play soccer instead of baseball through the summer. His team will participate in several soccer tournaments this summer. Tanner will start playing competitive soccer this fall.

Landon's getting molars and has been very grumpy lately. Hopefully that's the only reason and he'll get better soon! Church has been nearly impossible lately. Last Sunday Kelly said she can see why some people go inactive! Meguire is very good, but still needs attention and Landon doesn't like that! And Cason, Tanner and Thayne are all punching and pestering each other! I'm sure it will all get better soon, but it's a challenge.

The kids finish school this week. They and Kelly are looking forward to that.

For those who are interested and don't know, Dad says he is recovering well from his surgery. Hopefully that will all be successful.

We hope you all are doing well.



Todd, Loreen and Family:

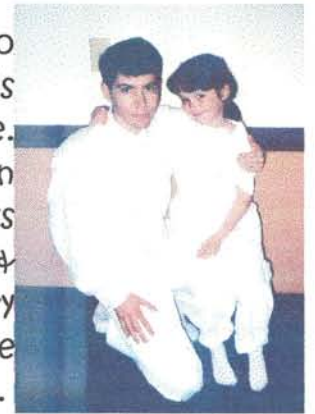
May was an exciting month for the Coons family. We started it off with our first campout of the year in our new tent. We went here in Connecticut by a stream and had a wonderful time. We were COLD at night, but had fun being together and being outdoors. We really enjoy camping!



Brittney's eighth birthday was very eventful. On Saturday (the day before her birthday), we had a Luau birthday party. Our friends from Cambridge stayed for the weekend, and she invited five friends from school. Everyone had leis and sunglasses and we had Hawaiian music in the background. We had a fishing game, made leis, had a relay race and ate lunch (fruit kabobs, fish crackers, and mini pigs-in-a-blankets), For the cake I made a volcano complete with palm trees and

sparklers. This picture shows Hannah holding a coconut, Brittney holding a pineapple, and the volcano cake.

Brittney's baptism day was very special. It was right after church so many people from the ward stayed and we had six nonmember friends who came (some with family members). The program was very nice. While Brittney was getting dressed the missionaries did a presentation about the first vision, Book of Mormon, and Moroni's promise. Thanks to those of you who wrote your testimonies in the book from Mom & Lynn. I read them to her yesterday (Sun., June 1) and she was very touched. She was leaning on me as we sat on the couch and her little tears were falling onto my arm. Now she has started Achievement Days.



Aubrey loves to say, "I have a LOOTH TOOTH." Brittney's two front teeth are loose and Aubrey doesn't want to be left out.

Caleb is crawling all over the place. He is very pleasant, happy, and loving. When you pick him up he'll clap or pat you and it's so cute. He got a tooth a day three days in a row a few weeks ago and just got his seventh a couple of days ago.

We went to the Boston temple on Saturday, a 10 hour trip (2 hours there, a session each, 2 hours back). Though it is a long day, we are glad that our children get to spend time on the temple grounds and know how important the temple is to us.

I am still teaching the kids Spanish and have started teaching my friend, Cindy, and her two kids one lesson a week. (Cindy has been teaching Brittney piano lessons for 1 1/2 years.) Todd is on his fourth week of a six-week Berlitz Spanish class so it's fun to all do it together.

We love you all and hope you are doing well.