

LETTERS AND WRITINGS

The Book of Bethany

Compiled by Fred C. Collier

A chronological collection of Bethany's poems, diary entries, and letters, compiled by her husband, Fred C. Collier. Related correspondence by Fred accompanies her own words, preserving accounts of prayer, dreams, conversion, and covenant devotion. This collection brings together personal testimony and reflections on life in the Church of the Firstborn.

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The Book of Bethany

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Fred C. Collier

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DEDICATION

I Dedicate this Book to the Honorable Memory
of
My Beloved Wife Bethany
&
HER CHILDREN AND FAMILY

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INTRODUCTION

1 Oct 2012
Fred C. Collier
Hanna, Utah 84031

My Beloved Wife Bethany:

I REALIZE that as of this time you may resent me referring to you in such terms. But from my perspective it is still so.

You will no doubt remember that years ago when Debbie left, she took all the family photos — and insofar as she was able to lay her hands on them, she also took her letters which she had written to me. In view of this, when I realized that things had taken a turn for the worse between you and I — I decided not to allow such a thing to happen again. Consequently, I went through the house and made copies of everything that I could find of what you had written. I put them in a bag and brought them to Utah, without bothering to read them — until that is, about 2 1/2 months ago when you sent me your one page e-mail, wherein you informed me, that you had

moved — that I no longer had a residence in Guatemala, and that I would not be welcome when I returned.

As you know, I had never looked into your papers before, and I had no idea of what was in them. To be sure, I had seen your black note book, but I had never looked in it. I had thought that it was just an old daily planner, and was surprised to discover that it was a sporadic diary which spanned the first 10 years of our marriage. Among your papers I found many poems which you had written, and letters both to and from you.

You never were aggressive in expressing your own feelings, and there is a lot that I learned about you, by reading your diary and poems, much of which I had no idea. To say the least I was deeply touched, and my eyes became as it were, a fountain of tears as I read them. Had I read them 10 years before, I assure you, that the 10 years that followed would have been different. I would not have been gone so much, and I would have made a point to devote more quality time to you and the kids. And as I see things today, it was not good to have two families separated by 2000 or 6000 miles. Never mind going south, I should have bought another piece of property somewhere around Hanna, and built a separate home for you, as I now realize that the only reason that you accepted Mexico, was so that you could escape living in the uncontrolled environment of the Hanna House.

After having read your papers, a day or so later I awoke in the morning, and the Spirit of God touched me with the thought that I should do a book which should be called “The Book of Bethany”. It was to be composed of your diary, letters and poems, together with other relative documents. Its purpose would be as a memorial to you — for your many years of service and sacrifice for our family and for mine and Nancy’s family and others. This memorial was to be prepared on behalf of our children and the family, so that in the future they might remember you kindly for the better times, before you went off into the night. I have spent the last 6 weeks in typing out and composing this book, and what follows this letter is a rough draft thereof.

I was surprised to find written accounts in your diary, of the dreams which you had regarding 3rd Nephi and the Marred Servant. I remember your telling me that you had had a dream about the Marred Servant before you met me, but I did not remember that you had received more than one. In reading your diary, I also read of an angel appearing to you in a dream, and of this angel instructing you regarding the importance of my work. You received this dream in 93 while we were staying at Skip Ellsworth’s guest Cabin, in Washington — yet I do not recall of you ever having told me of this dream.

As I have told you in the past, about 9 years before we met, in 1983, and probably about 2 months after receiving the Revelations about Total Com-

mittment, I received a revelation while standing in the front room of my wife Lynn's home, in north east Bountiful. In this revelation I was informed that my work had to do with the Marred Servant, and that his Marring would be slander over the principle of Total Commitment. The following is an account of this revelation:

In 1983, shortly after receiving the dream and revelations regarding the Principle of Total Commitment, I was standing down stairs, in the front room, in the home of my wife Lynn, in north east Bountiful, when I was given a Revelation regarding the Marred Servant, as recorded in the 21st chapter of 3rd Nephi. It was revealed to me that this prophecy had to do with my work — that the message which this prophet would bear to the world would be the Principle of Total Commitment, and that the Marring of his face would be Slander, because of the doctrine of Total Commitment which he will teach.

The Prophecy in 3rd Nephi 21 reads as follows:

And when these things come to pass that thy seed shall begin to know these things (i.e. when the Book of Mormon is published) — it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the **WORK OF THE FATHER** hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the **COVENANT** which he hath made unto the people who are of the **HOUSE OF ISRAEL**. And when that day shall come, it shall come to pass that *kings shall shut their mouths*; FOR THAT WHICH HAD NOT BEEN TOLD THEM SHALL THEY SEE; AND THAT WHICH THEY HAD NOT HEARD SHALL THEY CONSIDER. For in that day, for my sake *shall the Father work a work*, which shall be A GREAT AND MARVELOUS WORK among them; and there shall be among them those who will not believe it, *although a man shall declare it unto them*. But behold, THE LIFE OF MY SERVANT SHALL BE IN MY HAND; therefore *they shall not hurt him*, although **HE SHALL BE MARRED BECAUSE OF THEM**. Yet I will heal him, for I will show unto them that my wisdom is greater than the cunning of the devil. Therefore it shall come to pass that whosoever will not believe in my words, who am Jesus Christ, **WHICH THE FATHER SHALL CAUSE HIM TO BRING FORTH UNTO THE GENTILES**, and shall give unto him power that he shall bring them forth unto the Gentiles, (it shall be done even as Moses said) they shall be cut off from among my people who are of the covenant. (3rd Nephi 21:7–11)

Once again, it says in the above passage that *they shall not hurt him*, **ALTHOUGH HE SHALL BE MARRED BECAUSE OF THEM**. Well how does that work. According to what was given to me in 1983, the marring would be slander over the principle of Total Commitment.

In any case, after receiving this revelaton in 1983, and after giving it due reflection, I did not see how I would be speaking to kings about the principle of Total Commitment any time soon. Consequently I concluded that it was God who had inspired his prophets to make the prophecy in the first place, and that it was for God to see to the fulfilling of His own prophecies, and so I put thoughts of it on the shelf.

On the other hand, as I saw things, I was called to serve the Lord, by diligently following the lead of His Spirit. Consequently rather than spending time thinking on the Prophecy, I endeavored to teach the Principle of Total Commitment to those over whom God had given me influence, and to put it in practice.

For this reason I had not thought much on the Prophecy for years, until that is my recent reading of your dreams, which has inspired in me a resurgence of interest.

I have always thought that the Prophecy on the Marred Servant comes from Isaiah, but I did not know where in Isaiah the prophecy was to be found until the other day, when I looked it up in the concordance. It is found in the 52nd chapter of Isaiah, and reads as follows:

¶ Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. (Isaiah 52:13–15)

You will notice the extra words which are not to be found in 3rd Nephi 21:

¶ Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. . . . **SO SHALL HE SPRINKLE MANY NATIONS;** the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. (Isaiah 52:13–15)

In Isaiah it states that the Marred Servant “shall . . . sprinkle many nations”. This is not the work of Oral Preaching only, but rather the words of a book, which will go forth to the Gentiles, and “Sprinkle Many Nations”. It is just as it stated in a dream I had 5 or 6 years ago, on the 28th of September, when it was given me to understand that when the Revelation went out, it would be as the leaven in the bread dough, in preparing the earth for the Millennial reign of Christ. So the Marred Servant may or may not speak directly to kings, nevertheless, “the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.” About a week after finding Isaiah 52, I was talking to Heber and telling him that there were other verses in Isaiah 52 that were not in 3rd Nephi 21. In responding to my remark, Heber told me that there was more on the Marred Servant earlier on in 3rd Nephi. I asked him where and he soon found it in the preceeding chapter, wherein nearly the whole of Isaiah 52 is directly quoted. As it turns out, 3rd Nephi 21 is merely a recapitulation with further explanations of what is stated in chapter 20, of what is directly cited from Isaiah in 3rd Nephi 20. Verses 1 through 15 of

Isaiah 52 commences in verse 36, of 3rd Nephi chapter 20 — and most of verses 2 through 15 follow suit, which ends in verse 45. Verses 43 through 46 read as follows:

Behold, my servant shall deal prudently; he shall be exalted and extolled and be very high. As many were astonished at thee — his visage was so marred, more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men — **SO SHALL HE SPRINKLE MANY NATIONS**; the kings shall shut their mouths at him, for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. Verily, verily, I say unto you, all these things shall surely come, even as the Father hath commanded me. Then shall this covenant which the Father hath covenanted with his people be fulfilled . . .” (3rd Nephi 20:43–46)

From the whole prophecy, it is self evident that the Marred Servant will produce a New Book of Scripture, which will “sprinkle many nations with the knowledge of God, the Gospel of the Father, and the Principle of Total Commitment” — and as I see things today, this is *The Book of Revelations*. And not only do the Prophecies show this, but a reading of your dreams would show the same. Consider the following entries from your diary:

8-21-94: . . . Today I am going to record in here [i.e. in my diary] a few events from the past. I have written them down before, but on sheet paper. I want them securely in a book.

April ? 1992 — Approximately a month before I ever met Fred I had two dreams. They were both of a bearded prophet in a white robe, preaching to a great colorful crowd. Many were uninterested, some were fascinated, some scornful. He taught what impressed me as the most beautiful things I ever heard. In the first dreaming he was rejected by the world, and he prophesied of the glory of the coming of the Lord, but concluded with prophecies of impending destruction and chaos, the dream ending as he told the crowd “but now it is time to starve”

The second dream, he preached as in the first. I was so joyful at his words, they opened my mind with such light — they were beautiful. I wanted to remember every word so badly that I woke myself up in order to mark them in my scriptures, but upon waking I realized they weren’t in my scriptures and was terribly disappointed that I could not remember one word.

Shortly after this we met Fred and his doctrine impressed me as the “most beautiful things I ever heard.”

1992, 1991: Approximately a year before we met Fred, maybe 2 years, I began to pray to the Lord asking that he bless me that the man I marry be so very righteous, full of the love of God and desirous to do his will above all else. I also began earnestly praying that I be not deceived, that I would always know truth when exposed to it, and that I would recognize God’s servant mentioned in 3rd Nephi, when he came forth.

It says in my Patriarchal blessing that I will speak strongly for the Prophet in behalf of those things that have taken place in the Restoration. I felt that it referred to a future prophet and that I might be his wife.

1993: Staying in Skip Ellsworth's cabin in Washington state during the summer of '93 while pregnant with Israel, I had the following dream, which though short touched me deeply.

An angel, beautiful and bright in a white robe came and spoke to me about Fred — he said Fred was very precious to the Lord, very prize and choice, and that his mission was very great and important, and very serious to the Lord. Then he said a poem in the Adamic tongue about Fred — it was the most beautiful poem ever I heard, and though remarkably short, was exceedingly long in its fulness of meaning.

Nothing ever told me it was the Adamic tongue, I imagined so, it was heavenly anyhow & perfect." (Diary of Bethany Collier, 21 Aug 1994)

Evidently, as of 6 years later, you had forgotten about the above recording which you made in 1994, and so you again undertook to write an account of your conversion, which reads as follows:

12-23-00: I wanted to write the story of my conversion to the Church of the Firstborn. When I was a Young teenager (12 & 13 [years old]) I went through a period of rebellion against my parents and their religious standards. I didn't want to follow any family rules that made me different from my peers. At about 14 or so I accepted our religion inside, but it wasn't until I was 16 or 17 that I earnestly sought a testimony of the Book of Mormon. When I did, I received a powerful testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and felt filled with an overwhelming gratitude toward, and love for him and the work he did.

When I was near the middle or end of my seventeenth year I began to read the book of 3 Nephi [20:36–46; 21:1–11] and other prophecies in the Book of Mormon and D&C very intently. I was struck by the passages referring to the **WORK OF THE FATHER** [3rd Nephi 21:7–11, 26–28; 1st Nephi 14:8, 17]. I felt they had some very special significance, but I didn't know what — as also 1 Nephi 14:7 and other scriptures.

I began to feel also that there were problems with the LDS Church. I didn't feel it was possible to be "politically neutral" and also be on the Lord's side. I felt they should be actively fighting against Secret Combinations, and taking a stand for right and against wrong. I also wondered how I Could be in good standing in the Church, supposedly on that straight and narrow way, while I was so much like everyone else in the world, who were supposedly on the broad road. What was the broad road? What was the big difference between the righteous and the wicked? — a little coffee and beer?

At this time also my father brought to my attention a statement in D&C 132 on the necessity of plural marriage. I thought on this and came to believe in the principle. I had no idea that people lived polygamy in this day and age, but I became converted that it was a necessary law of the gospel. I did struggle with what it seemed to me to imply about women, but still I believed and prayed for answers.

I read in D&C that the law of Consecration was necessary to prepare the people for the Coming of Christ, and felt it an imperative part of the gospel.

Around this time I was struck with the thought that I wanted to marry a man who loved God above all. I was struck with the thought that I wished I could marry a prophet, though I never mentioned it. My Sunday school teacher & friend of the family said to me one day after this, “You’d make a good prophet’s wife.” But I didn’t really feel I was ever likely to meet a man who cared as strongly as I did about the same things as I did.

One night I had a dream of a prophet preaching to the world — they wouldn’t accept his message and he cursed them saying — now is the time to starve, and like Moses with the plagues, he ushered in the curses of the Last Days.

It was an odd dream, but I felt inside that it meant something. A few weeks later I had a dream where this same prophet was teaching a crowd of people, and the things he said sank into my heart. It was the most beautiful thing I ever heard. I was so excited I told myself I better wake up and read these things for myself in the scriptures — so I woke up and grabbed my scriptures from my bed stand. I opened them and then suddenly I realized that what I had heard wasn’t in these scriptures and I was devastated. I tried to go back to sleep so I could finish hearing the beautiful message, but it was early morning and I couldn’t get back to sleep. I wished so dearly that I hadn’t woken up, but had finished listening to the beautiful message.

I’ve always understood for years this prophet was Fred, and the beautiful message was Total Commitment.

A Few months later Craig & Debbie Tholson, who had been in our ward years ago, and were friends of our parents (Craig had been my Sunday school teacher & Debbie my young women’s advisor) sent my parents a letter which included some of Fred’s pamphlets. I read them and was deeply touched, especially by the 2 “Nauvoo Doctrine” pamphlets [These are about the “Work of the Father and 3rd Nephi 21 etc.]. My parents had felt prompted to leave Southern California [because of the Black riots] and were trying to move to Utah. They arranged to move, staying temporarily in the Tholson’s large basement. We soon made two trips to Payson, Utah with a moving Van and put all our stuff in storage units.

On our first trip I met Fred at their home for the first time. He taught my parents and I listened intently. I had been praying for a long time that I would always know the truth — that when the Lord’s servant spoken of in 3rd Nephi [20:43–46; 21:7–11] came with the Lord’s message, that I would have a chance to hear that message, and that I would know the truth of it and never be deceived.

When we got back to California I fasted for 2 days & nights and thought a lot about what I learned. I felt it was true, but I didn’t trust myself. I was afraid I just wanted it to be true. I prayed for a powerful spiritual witness. On our second trip to Payson (no more to return [to California]) I saw and heard more of Fred and his message. I prayed for that undoubtable witness, but I truly felt the spirit tell me that as Joseph Smith said “the truth tastes good”, and that when the early saints read the book of Mormon, they believed it because it felt true, and if that was good enough for them, then that should be good enough for me, and the witness comes after the trial of your faith.

So I decided to be baptized right then, though I didn’t tell anyone — for everything told me that Fred spoke the truth — the scriptures, the Spirit, reason etc. . .

We visited Hanna as a Family on May 17th, 1992. I told My Dad that I wanted to be baptized. Later that day my parents decided to be baptized and so we were [all Baptised] as a family.

I had already begun to have feelings for Fred, but I thought he being a prophet ought to discern it. I didn't say anything about it. I felt to wonder if my feelings were appropriate, he being so much older and all. I was very torn up inside for three days — finally I prayed to God and told Him how I was feeling, and asked that if it were wrong would He please take it from me, and if it were right, that He would please give me peace. The Spirit told me that my feelings were from God, and that we were meant to be married. He was the man who loved God above all else, that I had often prayed for.

Later, I was talking to Craig Tholson and this came up, I told him how I felt and later he told Fred, who was quite surprised.

We were married by the river in Hanna, Utah, on the 31st of May, 1992.

Through all the trials that have passed, still my testimony has only grown of the truth of the Fulness of the Gospel, it fills my heart with Joy. I thank God for it always. (The Diary of Bethany Collier 12-23-2000).

But to get back to our subject, in your first diary account of your dreams, you state that the bearded Prophet was “preaching to a great colorful crowd. Many were uninterested, some were fascinated, some scornful. He taught what impressed me as the most beautiful things I ever heard. In the first dreaming he was rejected by the world, and he prophesied of the glory of the coming of the Lord, but concluded with prophecies of impending destruction and chaos, the dream ending as he told the crowd “but now it is time to starve.”

Your dream gives an accurate description of my life and teachings, and the coming forth of *The Book of Revelations*, which would be written years later. The first of my teachings was on the doctrine of Christ like Love and Celestial Union, as it is made possible through the Principle of Total Commitment. This was the first message to be written in the Revelation. Following this was the message of the preparational period for the Second Coming of Christ — the mission of the 144,000, the gathering of the Wheat and their separation from the Tares, then finally the binding of the Tares into bundles in the cities of Babaloyne, and their final burning.

Following this is the Rebirth of the righteous on Mount Zion as the Children of Christ, and the 1000 years of peace and rest for the righteous, who will then be tutored at the feet of Christ, and who shall then reign on Earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Following this, the last and final part of the Revelation was given — it was the plagues and curses of the Latter days, and ultimately the Mass Starvation of Hundreds of Millions.

It is all in the Revelation, just as you described it in your dreams, which you received before you ever met me, and before you even knew of my existence.

This is true and you know it is true by your own revelations, which God has given you personally. Look at the last Revelation which was written:

86 ¶ Wherefore O America, hear the Word of the Lord concerning you: Inasmuch as ye have Identified thyself with the Anti-Christ, that ye might be in Concert with him and Serve him and his End And . . . Inasmuch as ye have suffered thy Government to Create the Plagues of the Anti-Christ — even so shall ye also be Partakers thereof and Destroyed thereby. Wherefore ye shall Lie Down in Sorrow — and then shall ye Die, for a Famine and Pestilence and Disease shall Sweep through the Land. And for this Cause are ye Destroyed — Because ye did Murder My Prophets and Persecute My Servants whom I did send forth unto thee. Yea and ye did also Reject the Glad Message of the Restored Gospel, which I did Deliver unto thee. Wherefore inasmuch as ye have rejected My Servants whom I did send forth unto thee, even so have ye also Rejected Me. Yea and Inasmuch as ye have rejected Me, even so have I also Rejected thee. Wherefore are ye Delivered over unto Satan, that ye might be Destroyed — for the cup of thine Iniquity Runneth Over — wherefore shall ye also Drink thereof unto the Dregs. Wherefore O America, the Children of the Anti-Christ hath Prepared a Holocaust for thee, by Destroying thy InFraStructure — Death by StarVation of Hundreds of Millions, when the Trucks Stop Rolling — by Forced Injection, Prison Camps and Disease. (*The Book of Revelations*, Section 2, Part 6:86–96)

Again in the 1st telling of your 2nd dream, you stated the following:

The second dream, he preached as in the first. I was so joyful at his words, they opened my mind with such light — they were beautiful. I wanted to remember every word so badly that I woke myself up in order to mark them in my scriptures, but upon waking I realized they weren't in my scriptures, and was terribly disappointed that I could not remember one word.

Once again in the 2nd telling of your 2nd dream you stated:

a few weeks later I had a dream where this same prophet was teaching a crowd of people, and the things he said sank into my heart. It was the most beautiful thing I ever heard. I was so excited I told myself I better wake up and read these things for myself in the scriptures — so I woke up and grabbed my scriptures from my bed stand. I opened them and then suddenly I realized that what I had heard wasn't in these scriptures and I was devastated. I tried to go back to sleep so I could finish hearing the beautiful message, but it was early morning and I couldn't get back to sleep. I wished so dearly that I hadn't woken up, but had finished listening to the beautiful message.

In both accounts of your 2nd dream, you state that what this Prophet was teaching was beautiful, and the understanding that you were given in your dream was that he was speaking scripture — consequently you woke yourself up so that you could read them for yourself, but was utterly devastated when after waking, you realized that the scripture that this Prophet was speaking was not in your scriptures.

The reason for this was that your dream was Prophetic, in that it had to do with Futuristic events that had not yet occurred. As for the scripture you saw this Prophet orate, as of then, the words had not yet been written, much less published and sent out to the world.

Again, as you have written, it was only a month or 2 after you received these dreams that you met me, and as you then wrote: "I've always understood for years this prophet was Fred and the beautiful message was Total Commitment."

Again, about a year after our Marriage, you received a dream wherein an angel appeared to you and instructed you with regard to my work:

1993: Staying in Skip Ellsworth's cabin in Washington state during the summer of '93 while pregnant with Israel, I had the following dream, which though short touched me deeply.

An angel, beautiful and bright in a white robe came and spoke to me about Fred — he said Fred was very precious to the Lord, very prize and choice, and that his mission was very great and important, and very serious to the Lord. Then he said a poem in the Adamic tongue about Fred — it was the most beautiful poem ever I heard, and though remarkably short, was exceedingly long in its fulness of meaning.

Nothing ever told me it was the Adamic tongue, I imagined so, it was heavenly anyhow & perfect." (Diary of Bethany Collier, 21 Aug 1994)

Again in 2003, which was 10 years after receiving this dream, you wrote the following statement regarding it, in connection with a testimonial of my calling:

Nov. 25, 2002 Also, while in Utah this time [Oct 2002] I was able to see my Father for the first time in Four years. I was thankful although he told me that my marriage to Fred is the one thing in his life which he regretted above all others. Painful — yet I hope for the day he sees it differently.

Fred is my very own soul. We truly are one, and I am so happy in our union.

In ten years [1992–2002] I have seen Fred at his best and worst, and have come to know him deeply. I have seen nothing to be ashamed of, but on the contrary, I am left standing in admiration of his great spirit — valiant, true, steadfast and pure. I admire him as inwardly, the greatest of men, for I know of no equal. I fervently believe this and would defy all the world to prove otherwise. When I hear the wicked and ungodly rumors which slander his honorable name, I want to fight! I want to stand and tell all the world what kind of man they speak against! I have all confidence in him. I know he is called of God and acceptable, for an angel told me so, and I can see it for myself. (Diary of Bethany Collier 2003)

Once again, 5 years later, in 2008, you wrote the following statement regarding *"The Book of Revelations"* in your "Last Will And Testament":

May 13, 2008

My Dear Children,

I have had a premonition and a dream. I have felt for sometime to write you a letter in the event that we are separated either in life or by death. You are so young, and to lose you before I am able to put into your heart and understanding those precious things which God has put into mine, would be deepest of all sorrows to me. It is for this reason then that I write this letter, that if circumstances separate us, yet I may speak to you as it were, last words, carefully chosen and precious to leave you, as I have no other inheritance to give. If then, I were able to write you one letter and nevermore be able to speak to you in this life, this is what I would say:

I have tried honestly and earnestly before God to teach you both by word and example to love God and his redeeming Son. Never let go of this. God lives, write it in your heart. Christ saves and gives us life eternal, and if there be freedom anywhere in the great universe, it is in him and him alone. Hold these truths dearer than life, hold them worthy of the cruelest death. Never let go of them despite all shame and suffering and scorn. This life is all too short but the next goes on forever and I want to be there with you, where we never can be parted. Joseph Smith is a prophet of God and the Book of Mormon is true. I know this and so can you. That book will bring you to Christ if you read it with an open heart. God has quietly spoken to me in my life and answered many prayers. He said ask and it will be given. Believe that this is true. *He led me to your father who has taught me the most precious things. THE REVELATION HE HAS WRITTEN OVER THESE PAST YEARS IS TRUE. It has the power to bring us closer to God. IT HAS STRENGTHENED ME MORE THAN I CAN TELL YOU. It has given me new eyes. I read the scriptures now and where before I saw only poetry, I NOW SEE CLEARLY SPOKEN TRUTH. It has given me the key to understanding. Obscure prophecies are now plain. GOD IS CLOSER TO ME, I FEEL IT. And all the while I knew that he was giving me a stronger faith and a surer foundation because I would soon need it. I WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO FACE THE DAYS TO COME WITHOUT THIS STRENGTH, THIS VISION AND THIS FAITH.*

Dear children, never let anger overtake you. Believe that God is over all. He truly is. **WHAT LOOKS TO US LIKE CALAMITY AND FAILURE IS OFTEN IN GOD'S HANDS THE GREATEST OF BLESSINGS AND SUCCESS.** As Christ was nailed to the cross, God was able to save every soul from hell and make his Son, heir of all he possessed. Trust God. Be honest and obedient to Him. Accept what befalls you knowing he allows it for his own purposes. **BUT NEVER GIVE UP YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS, YOUR HONESTY OR YOUR INTEGRITY. . . . Always remember that suffering is the greatest act of worship.** To show our love for God by suffering for it as Jesus Christ suffered for us and for His Father's will. **TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS IS THE GREATEST ACT OF WORSHIP AND A CONSECRATION TO GOD WHICH MAKES OUR LIFE SACRED.** And our strength must come from Him. He will speak to you, give you wisdom and guidance and strength. He will give you all you need. He who created the Earth, parted the Red Sea, saved Daniel from the lions, can do all things. He can do anything for you. Never doubt it. He is mighty to save and is a God of miracles!

Read the scriptures, say your prayers, do good, hate evil. By small things like these God brings to pass great things. Just as a tree is born of a small seed. **GET A COPY OF**

YOUR FATHERS REVELATION. READ IT AND BELIEVE IT. IT IS TRUE. Keep the Sabbath in your heart.

Do not let this world shame you. Be proud of who you are. Of who you were born to be. I love you FOREVER. Good-bye just for now.

Love For Ever and Ever,

Mom

Speaking of the Marred Servant being slandered, there is another Prophecy which seems to speak of the same servant:

The Lord God hath given me **THE TONGUE OF THE LEARNED**, *that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary*: **HE WAKENETH MORNING BY MORNING, HE WAKENETH MINE EAR TO HEAR AS THE LEARNED.** *The Lord God hath opened mine ear,* and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back. I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have **I set my face like a flint**, and I know that I shall not be **ASHAMED**. (Isaiah 50:4–7)

It would seem that this prophet would be touched by God's Spirit, so that he would be great with words, and hence be able to inspire the downcast and weary. In describing the learning path of this Prophet, it states that God "wakeneth" him "morning by morning, He wakeneth mine ear to hear as the Learned." As you no doubt recall, this is the precise experience that I went through for 6 years during the writing of the Revelation — ever so many times the Revelation came in the Morning. But no matter how beautiful the words of this Prophet were, it is evident from the Prophecy that his words would not please everyone, for it states that he "hid not his face from shame and spitting. For the Lord God will help me therefore shall I not be confounded: therefore have I set my face like a flint, and I know that **I SHALL NOT BE ASHAMED.**"

Last December when I was in Mexico waiting for money, I went through my papers, and in the process I found the two large volumes of my teachings and writings which were compiled years ago by Mike. They were each about 8 inches thick. At the beginning of one of them Mike felt inspired to place the prophecy from Isaiah chapter 49 as a reference to me — no doubt because he saw parallels in my own life to this prophecy. I had forgotten of this until I saw it last year.

Isaiah 49 is a prophecy about a Prophet who spent his life trying to gather Israel. But after spending his life and after having spent his strength, Israel was not gathered, and yet he still testified that Yahweh was with him, and that his life was not in vain.

And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me; And said unto

me, Thou are my servant [whom I have called to gather] . . . Israel, in whom I will be glorified. Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain; yet surely my judgment is with Yahweh, and my work with my God.

And now, saith Yahweh that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of Yahweh, and my God shall be my strength. And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. Thus saith Yahweh, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of Yahweh that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee. (Isaiah 49:2–7)

Well Bethany, to be sure “I have spent my strength”, and to be sure Israel is not gathered, yet I do know that “my judgment is with Yahweh, and my work is with my God.” And I know that the Revelation which God has given me, together with my teachings, will yet be “a Light unto the Gentiles” and to all Israel.

When you look into the Scriptures, it becomes readily apparent, that it is common for the finishing of God’s work and the fulfilment of Prophecy, to require more than one lifetime. This was true even of one so great as Christ. To be sure the Prophet’s and the Saints are promised many things, but it is not often that they are fully realized in this lifetime. No doubt this is the essence of Isaiah 49, for of necessity the fulfillment of the works of this Prophet must follow after his death, just as it is stated in the Revelation of John:

Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus. And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them. (Revelations 14:12–13)

Well Bethany the works and fruits of my life include my writings and teachings and the revelations which God has given me, and they have been preserved. And just as it is prophesied in the above passage, after I am gone “I will rest from my labors and my works will follow me”, at which time it will demonstrated that the power of the pen is mightier than the sword.

As you well know, it is normal for a Prophet to be rejected by his generation, and even your own dreams predicted that I would be rejected — and not only me, but also the message which God gave me to bear. But as you have witnessed, it is one thing to see such a thing in a dream, and quite another to experience it in real life.

More than two decades before I met you I gave my life to God, and His Work and the revelation of His Word. As you well know, I have consistently done this through the love of God, and without seeking personal aggrandizement or the rewards of ulterior motives. The cost of this devotion has been great, and you have suffered much for it. Yet throughout the years, you always loved and respected me for it. This is after all what Jesus taught, that "he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it." (Matt 10:38–39) Again consider the same doctrine which was once conveyed by you in words which you wrote in a poem:

From the boy who Saw your very face
to the man who said "This is the place,"
from all those Silent heroes along the way:

The desperate Prayers that mothers prayed
As their little ones they laid
in Cold and Silent graves.

The fathers from their families torn
by angry mobs who mocked and scorned,

They carried the torch, They Sang the Song
because of them the dream goes on.

To all the Saints who Paid the price,
who earned the truth with sacrifice
Who took the Cross up joyfully
and tread the Solemn trail to thee:

From the wife who gave her husbands hand
to another woman and trusted Lord in Thee
To the lowly emigrant who faithful on to Zion went
but perished on the sea.

May all of those who took the cross
and thus left a heritage to us
be blessed O God by Thee

And may our hearts be purified
that we may stand up by their side
Oh may the final Judgement see
us worthy of their Company
O God

(Bethany Collier papers, p. 142)

Again as you stated it once more in your “Last Will and Testament” to our children:

WHAT LOOKS TO US LIKE CALAMITY AND FAILURE IS OFTEN IN GOD’S HANDS THE GREATEST OF BLESSINGS AND SUCCESS. As Christ was nailed to the cross, God was able to save every soul from hell and make his Son, heir of all he possessed. . . . ***Always remember that suffering is the greatest act of worship.*** To show our love for God by suffering for it as Jesus Christ suffered for us and for His Father’s will. **TO FOLLOW IN HIS FOOTSTEPS IS THE GREATEST ACT OF WORSHIP AND A CONSECRATION TO GOD WHICH MAKES OUR LIFE SACRED.**

It is to me most shocking and as it were a death blow to see you change the course of your life and thinking with regard to these things. In doing so you have wounded me, and this too, not in only my heart but also in my mind — and not only me, but our children as well.

with Love Forever,
your bereaving Husband
Fred

PS: To be sure you will be remembered well by the future for the beautiful things which you have written.

As for my experience with you — You were always of a noble mind — full of Love, Goodness and Patience — you were my Best Friend and Companion, my Wife and Lover, the Mother of my Children, and a true Matriarch — and as such God did at times speak to me through the feminine influence of you, and when He did, I always knew it. There are things in the Revelation which could not have been there without you. Not only so, but I needed the Peace and Joy of your Comforting Presence in my life in order to accomplish what Good I have done — on this count I thank God for you and your presence in my life, even if it is or may not be forever — it is just heart rending that after so many years, you should be taken from me — I feel as if there is a huge gaping hole in me which cannot be filled, and it does not seem possible for me to be comforted.

with Love Forever
Fred

For more, visit: thechurchofthefirstborn.com

The Book of Bethany

— 1 —

What follows is a chronological shuffling together of Bethany's poems, letters and diary entries, together with a few relevant letters from her husband and sister wife. The reason for their input is because the world of Bethany was intimately bound together with that of her husband and sister wife. If therefore we are to come to understand the world of Bethany, we must also understand the world and life of her husband and sister wife.

The Diary had no page numbers, consequently, after copying, I numbered each sheet of paper with a red pen. However there were two pages photo copied on every sheet, so that the diary is actually 2 pages long for every numbered page. In the end Bethany began to write big, I presume in order to fill up the diary.

(p. 85)
 12-23-00
 * * * * *

I am so thankful for my husband. I truly feel he is the only man in the world for me. I am so grateful for the Gospel he has taught me, and that we can share the love of it.

I wanted to write the story of my conversion to the Church of the First-born. When I was a Young teenager (12 & 13) I went through a period of rebellion against my parents and their religious standards. I didn't want to follow any family rules that made me different from my peers. At about 14 o[r] so I accepted our religion inside but it wasn't until I was 16 or 17 that I earnestly sought a testimony of the book of Mormon. (p. 87) When I did, I received a powerful testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and felt filled with an overwhelming gratitude toward and love for him and the work he did.

When I was near the middle or end of my seventeenth year I began to read the book of 3 Nephi and other prophecies in the book of Mormon and D&C very intently. I was struck by the passages referring to the work of the Father [3rd Nephi 21; 1st Nephi 14:8, 17]. I felt they had some very special significance but I didn't know what — as also 1 Nephi 14:7 and other scriptures. I began to feel also that there were problems with the LDS Church. I didn't feel it was possible to be “politically neutral” and also be on the Lords side. I felt they should be actively fighting against secret combinations and taking a stand for right and against wrong. I also wondered how I Could be in good (p. 88) standing in the Church, supposedly on that straight and narrow way while I was so much like everyone else in the world who were supposedly on the broad road. What was the brood road. What was the big difference between the righteous and the wicked? — a little coffee and beer?

At this time also my father brought to my attention a statement in D&C 132 on the necessity of plural marriage. I thought on this and came to believe in the principle. I had no idea that people lived polygamy in this day and age, but I became converted that it was a necessary law of the gospel. I did struggle with what it seemed to me to imply about women but still I believed and prayed for answers. I read in D&C that the law of Consecration was necessary to prepare the people for the Coming of Christ and felt it an imperative part of the gospel. Around this time I was struck with the thought that I wanted to marry a man who (p. 89) loved God above all. I was struck with the thought that I wished I could marry a prophet[,] though I never mentioned it. My sunday school teacher & friend of the family said to me one day after this “You'd make a good prophets wife.” But I didn't really feel I was ever likely to meet a man who cared as strongly as I did about the same things as I did.

One night I had a dream of a prophet preaching to the world — they wouldn't accept his message and he cursed them saying — now is the time to starve and like Moses with the plagues, he ushered in the curses of the Last Days.

It was an odd dream but I felt inside that it meant something — a few weeks later I had a dream where this same prophet was teaching a crowd of people and the things he said sank into my heart it was the most beautiful thing I ever heard — I was so excited I told myself I better wake up and read these things for myself in the scriptures so I woke up and grabbed my scriptures from my bed stand; I opened them and then suddenly I realized that what I had heard wasn't in these scriptures and I was devastated — I tried to go back to sleep so I could finish hearing the beautiful message but it was early morning and I couldn't get back to sleep. I wished so dearly that I hadn't woken up but had finished listening to the beautiful message. (p. 90)

I've always understood for years this prophet was Fred and the beautiful message was Total Commitment.

A Few months later Craig & Debbie Tholson who had been in our ward years ago and were friends of our parents (Craig had been my Sunday school teacher & Debbie my young womens advisor) sent my parents a letter which included some of Fred's pamphlets — I read them and was deeply touched, especially by the 2 Nauvoo Doctrine" pamphlets [These are about the "Work of the Father and 3rd Nephi 21 etc.]. My parents had felt prompted to leave Southern California [because of the riots] and were trying to move to Utah, they arranged to move, staying temporarily in the Tholson's large basement. We soon made two trips to Payson Utah with a moving Van and put all our stuff in storage units. On our first trip I met Fred at their home for the first time. He taught my parents and I listened intently. — I had been praying for a long time that I would always know the truth — That when the Lord's servant spoken of in 3rd Nephi [21] came with the Lord's message, that I would have a chance to hear that message and that I would know the truth of it and never be deceived.

When we got back to California I fasted for 2 days & nights and thought a lot about what I learned. I felt it was true but I didn't trust myself, I was afraid I just wanted it to be true. I prayed (p. 91) for a powerful spiritual witness. On our second trip to Payson (~~there~~ no more to return) I saw and heard more of Fred and his message. I prayed for that undoubtable witness but I truly felt the spirit tell me that as Joseph Smith said "the truth tastes good" and that when the early saints read the book of Mormon, they believed it because it felt true and, if that was good enough for them then that should be good enough for me and the witness comes after the trial of your faith.

So I decided to be baptized right then though I didn't tell anyone. For everything told me that Fred spoke the truth — the scriptures, the Spirit, reason etc. . .

We visited Hanna as a Family on May 17th, 1992. I told My ~~parents~~ Dad that I wanted to be baptized. Later that day my parents decided to be baptized and So we were, as a family.

I had already begun to have feelings for Fred but I thought, he being a prophet ought to discern it. I didn't say anything about it. I felt to wonder if my feelings were appropriate, He being so much older and all. I was very torn up inside for three days [—] finally I prayed to God and told Him how I was feeling and asked that if (p. 92) it were wrong would he please take it from me and if it were right that He would please give me peace. The Spirit told me that my feelings were from God and that we were meant to be married. He was the man who loved God above all else, that I had often prayed for.

Later, I was talking to Craig Tholson and this came up, I told him how I felt and later he told Fred, who was quite surprised.

We were married by the river in Hanna, Ut on the 31st of May, 1992.

Through all the trials that have passed, still my testimony has only grown of the truth of the Fulness of the Gospel, it fills my heart with Joy. I thank God for it always. (Diary of Bethany Collier 23 Dec 2000)

[A Revelation Received by Debbie on the 25 March 1992, together with a short note which she wrote some time later. The Revelation is typed out, but the note which Debbie wrote me is written in her own hand below the typed Revelation.]

Wednesday March 25, 1992

Prepare ye the way of the Lord. Make of your tabernacle a place pure and holy, that the Lord your God may rest upon you the powers of heaven. Ask and ye shall receive. Submit without fear. Close your thoughts and words to unholy things. Be of good cheer for the Lord loves the righteous vessels in which He may rest His Spirit.

Truth will set you free from the yoke of bondage that carries you down to partake with the ungodly. Seek and you did find. The mysteries of God are for the righteous. This is the fruit of a truth-seeker. The mysteries will lead all to the place of total commitment and love. Say it as you may, the truth will cut the evil to the very center of their being.

Jesus Christ died for the cause, and he loved those that married him. See if you can love those that hurt you and yours.

The road is narrow and few there be that find it. Partake of the fruit of the tree to which you are looking. Test it. Be worthy of the taste it gives unto your soul. Good or bad, you will know.

Hearken unto my voice.

In the time you see my face in the clouds of the righteous, you will know my reign is at hand.

Seek and receive of my power and glory.

Jesus Christ is the Son of God, our Savior, our Redeemer. He dwells in the highest with our Father.

[Below this Debbie writes the following letter to me.]

Fred,

I thought you might find this interesting. Some personal revelation I received March 25. Now when I read this, it has deeper and more far reaching meaning. I miss you very much.

Love,
Debbie

(Taken from a file in my computer. The name of the file is "Debbie 1992"
It is a TIFF Document)

(p. 103)

1992

He has the world on his shoulders
I can see his burden in his clear blue eyes
He is solemn but hes gentle
he is brave and he is wise

every night I kneel in private
and send my plea to heaven
'God send every blessing to this kind and faithful man'

When I cannot understand or
When I'm filled with anger
his arms they hold me tenderly
a harbor and a shelter

his words are ever patient
when mine can be unkind
he always sees things clearly
while I can be so blind

and yet he calls me good and patient
and all I wish I were
while I can see so plainly
I'm far less than he deserves

Oh God bless him with smiles
with laughter and with love
with the fruits of all his labor
every good thing from above

(p. 104)

And bless me to be a woman
who can ease his every Care
who Can See where he is going
and walk with him there

1992

Dear Fred,

You are my very best friend. You are so nice and thoughtful. I never had such a nice friend who cares about my feelings. You make my heart so happy. Thank you for being so good and always forgiving me when I don't do or feel the way that's right. [Form, from the very beginning to the end, you were the most righteous person, male or female that I have every known in this life. You are your own worst Critic.] I hope you are always so happy. I always will be your friend. You never have to worry about my heart turning mean or bad, and me going away from you, because I could never do it. Even if I was so sad I would tell you — and I would try very hard to be happy and you would help me to be happy too. Thank You very much for teaching about the gospel. I'm trying to learn and understand all about it. I'm glad that you work so hard to do what's right, so that all the people I love can learn what is true and learn to live the right way. Thank you for being so good and treating me so kind and now I'm not feeling afraid of you any more.

To My
Husband
Whom I love
So Much.
I love you so much
forever & ever
Bethany

(Taken from the file: 1992TooMuchB)

(p. 20)

8-21-94

. . . Today I am going to record in here a few events from the past. I

have written them down before but on sheet paper. I want them securely in a book.

April ? 1992 — Approximately a month before I ever met Fred I had two dreams. They were both of a bearded prophet in a white robe, preaching to a great colorful crowd. Many were were uninterested, some were fascinated, some scornful. He taught what impressed me as the most beautiful things I ever heard. In the first dreaming he was rejected by the world and he prophesied of the glory of the coming of the Lord but concluded with prophecies of impending destruction and chaos, the dream ending as he told the crowd “but now it is time to starve”

The second dream, he preached as in the first. I was so joyful at his words, they opened my mind with such light — they were beautiful. I wanted to remember every word so badly that I woke myself up in order to mark them in my scriptures but upon waking I realized they weren't in my scriptures and was terribly disappointed that I could not remember one word.

Shortly after this we met Fred and his doctrine impressed me as the “most beautiful things I ever heard.”

1992, 1991

Approximately a year before we met Fred, maybe 2 years, I began to pray to the Lord asking that he bless me that the man I marry be so very righteous, full of the love of God and desirous to do his will above all else. I also

(p. 21)

began earnestly praying that I be not deceived, that I would always know truth when exposed to it and that I would recognize God's servant mentioned in 3rd Nephi [chapter 21], when he came fourth.

It says in my Patriarchal blessing that I will speak strongly for the Prophet in behalf of those things that have taken place in the restoration. I felt that it referred to a future prophet and that I might be his wife.

1993

Staying in Skip Ellsworth's cabin in Washington state during the summer of '93 while pregnant with Israel, I had the following dream which though short touched me deeply.

— An angel, beautiful and bright in a white robe came and spoke to me about Fred [—] he said Fred was very precious to the lord very prize and choice and that his mission was very great and important and very serious

to the lord. Then he said a poem in the Adamic tongue about Fred [—]it was the most beautiful poem ever I heard and though remarkably short was exceedingly long in its fulness of meaning.

Nothing ever told me it was the Adamic tongue, I imagined so, it was heavenly anyhow & perfect.

[Note: I first went to Skip Ellsworth's cabin with Debbie. It was a massive and beautiful place. Skip was the professor of Cabin Building at the University of Washington.

My purpose in going there was to find a place of peace and quiet, where I could finish the Manti Meeting for publication, as there were many living at the Hanna house, and there was no peace.

The Manti meeting was a speech which I gave on the 16th of April 1992, in the home of Ursula Lemesany. The Spirit of God was upon me from the time I stood up to speak until I finished speaking, which was several hours, and most everyone present felt it. However towards the end of the meeting, when Jim Harmston snuck in through the back door, in order to avoid being seen by the Bishop, he or someone else must have kicked out the plug of the tape Recorder, so that I had to rewrite the end of the speech, which had to do with the history of succession through Ross and me. As it turned out, the only recorder which we had to record this speech was a red colored child's toy, which belonged to one of Debbie's children. During my stay at Skip Ellsworth's cabin, this pamphlet changed from about a 65 page transcript of my Manti speech, into a 300 page history of the LeBaron family and its division between Ross and his brothers, with some on succession to me. However later it was cut back to 87 pages and published under the title: "The Church of the Firstborn and its Formal Organization on April 3rd, 1992 — Together with a Brief Summary of its Principles and Doctrinal Teachings and a Short History of Succession in the Priesthood" *Doctrine of the Priesthood* Vol 9, No. 4.

Skip Ellsworth had given me permission to come and stay in his cabin to write, but when I came with Debbie's children, he was afraid that they would have an accident, and that he might be sued, so he told me that either they or all of us would have to leave. Debbie left and went back to Hanna with the children, and Bethany drove up with Samuel and stayed with me. Bethany was not a very experienced Driver, but in spite of near accidents, she and Samuel managed the trip. It was at this time while Debbie was in Hanna that Randy Hill and his wife Ivy endeavored to court Debbie to enter their family. At that time they told her that I would never love her like I loved Bethany, because Bethany was younger and would have my children, while Debbie was older and could not have children. From this time on, Debbie became very insecure and Jealous of my marriage and relationship with Bethany. In essence she became a

very high maintenance wife, and every time she did not get pregnant and had a period she would break down and threaten to leave. So long as I was with her I could always calm her down, however once she was alone in Mexico without me — with her first upset in Mexico, she was gone.

I had told Debbie that I would never bring another person to live in her home without talking to her first. In saying this I had no idea that this would include Bethany, who was her best friend and sister wife. After having spent all my money in trying to rebuild parts of Debbie's new house in Mexico, it became necessary for me to go back to Utah in order to raise money to finish the house.

At that time Bethany was living in Silver City, while I had moved Debbie down to Mexico and bought a home for her. I had made arrangements to have money to buy a home for Bethany which was kitty corner and behind Debbie's home, on the same block. However, inasmuch as I spent my time and money trying to rebuild Debbie's kitchen and to raise the Ceiling — Debbie was 5 foot 10 inches tall, the the kitchen Ceiling was only two inches above her head, and she had to bend her head down in order to pass through the kitchen doorway. Inasmuch as I spent my time working on Debbie's kitchen, rather than a new book, for this reason I could not obtain the necessary money to buy a home for Bethany. Bethany's lease was up in December, at which time we had planned for her to move down to Mexico. When Bethany asked me where she would be living, I told her that she would probably have to move in with Debbie until I could get a home for her. After this Debbie talked with Bethany on the phone and Bethany told her what I had said. This enraged Debbie and she called me up in Hanna. She was very angry. I had sent all the money I had down to Debbie in order to pay for the new tile for the while house.

When Debbie's home was first build, the cement floor in the kitchen was only about 1 inch thick. When it cracked and broke, rather than digging it out and pouring another floor, they simply poured more cement on top of the Old floor. Since this was only an inch thick, it broke also, so they poured another floor on top of that, which made it necessary to step up when you came into the Kitchen. Besides all this, the ceiling was low. For this reason I dug out the old floors and took out the old ceiling in the Kitchen. However the Mexican which I hired was not honest and was not reliable, which drug out the job into several months, making it necessary to leave and go to Utah without finishing. So when I left, Debbie had no kitchen, only a dirt floor and a tin roof, with no kitchen ceiling. She had to wash dishes in a sink behind the house. When I got to Utah I sent Debbie all the money I had. Before leaving we had paid \$500. which was half down on new tile for the whole house. With this money the hardware store ordered the tile, with the understanding that if we did not pay the other half soon, they would sell the tile to someone else, and we would loose the whole.

When I got to Utah I sent Debbie the money for the tile and for her support. At that time we had no long distance service on our phone in Hanna, which made it necessary to buy phone cards to make long distance calls, which were cheaper, and as of that time were about 55 cents a minute, which made long angry calls very expensive. For this reason I hang up on her.

Within a day I had forgotten the whole thing. However Debbie stewed in her juices for the whole next week, at which time she called me up again, still angry. Debbie did not have a lot of money for phone calls and when she ran out of time, she asked me to call her back and I told her I would. However after hanging up I could not find a phone card with time on it and consequently I could not call her back. Debbie was at a store which had a pay phone. A week later Debbie called me up and told me that she was then in Canada with the children, two of whom were mine — Hanna and Shem. She told me that our marriage was over and hang up. I was never able to see my children again. She went to court and had a restraining order put on me for three years. She claimed that I was a part of the LeBaron Cult (i.e. Ervil LeBaron), who had killed people. Sarah Darling was there as a witness.]

Monday, May 21st, 1993

Duvall, Washington

Skip Ellsworth's guest house

Dear Bethany:

After being married for a year I guess its high time to repent and write you my first letter. I do remember your request, some five or six months ago to write you a letter. Writing for me can get so involved — I hate to start new projects before finishing old ones.

It is unexpected that our anniversary should fall on this darkest of all hours. Fifteen children to care for, and three wives, with you pregnant, and no home, no food, no money, no ~~cars~~ cars and nowhere to go We are truly in the hands of God. I do hope we have friends who will help us !!

I wish to tell you how much I love you — my love for you has steadily grown since our ~~m~~ marriage a year ago — you are truly incredible.. Eternal patience — great love and full of understanding. How does someone became like you at the young age of 19? And why did I have to wait so long to meet you. You are my true companion and friend! May the Lord bless us to spend a long life together and then continue throughout all time and Eternity!

Your Husband Fred

PS Boy, what a year at the Hanna House !!!

(p. 105)

Hanna Summer 1993
 How quickly spring
 turns into summer
 in these mountain lands
 How beautiful the many colors
 of these story sands
 Here —
 where happiness first touched me
 where I first held your hand
 O how I grieve to leave
 These
 Rocky Mountain lands

[A short note written by Bethany to me.]

12-27-93

Dear Fred,

I love you so very much. I am so sorry for the hard times we are passing through at this time. I know you must feel such a heavy burden and a difficult responsibility in taking care of this big family.

[A letter written by Debbie, perhaps in late 1993]

♥ ♥ ♥

Dear Fred,

I wanted to thank you for the nice evening we had last night. I Love spending time with you. I'm sorry for all of my difficulties lately. I Love you so much, its a shame I let depression get in the way of our union. You have been so patient with me, and I thank you for it. Last night when you left I was feeling upset to be alone, with out you. I'm sorry I was the way I acted toward you. I am so grateful to be your wife. FmIt's hard to be married to you — mostly because of how I am not because of how you are. Right now I feel like there is no hope for me, but I'm sure in a few days that will change (p. 2) and I'll feel better. I hope you have a good day to day God Bless you.

♥ ♥

Love Debbie

xoxoxo

— ♥ —

♥ ♥

12

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

P.S.



Perhaps perfection seems too bold
A word here to apply.
For once Love penetrates the heart,
It spreads to cloud the eye.
Still we in blindness take a chance
And gladly join in Cupids dance
For every joyful heart has shown,
Perfection dwells in Love alone



♥ I LOVE
You SO
MUCH My
DEAR
HUSBAND ♥

(Taken from the file "Love Debbie 1 & 2")

(p. 1)

Jan 1 1994

We arrived in Mexico today, After 3 days of driving straight through. No trouble at the border.

Fred, Debbie & Children and I left Salt Lake on the 31st at 2:00 A.M. We drove all night to Moab to pick up Mike, Sarah and Fred & Nancy's five older Children — Sam, Sarah, Ruth, Holly, Adam. We got there at 8: a.m., packed them up and left for Mexico. We had no car trouble. It was a crowded and miserable 3 day drive.

Driving from the border to here was quite an experience. We lost our way and Couldn't ask for directions because we don't for directions because because we don't speak the language. We tried anyway but it was scary to ask some stranger who happened to be on the street at 1 AM and in so doing let him know you are an American, lost, who can't speak the language and are totally at his mercy.

Fred asked at a Motel in Dublan and the[y] woke up their English speaking guest and he helped us. We arrived safely in Colonia LeBaron.

Jan 2 1994

Woke up past noon from the first sleep in 3 days. It was wonderful! Though it is winter here the weather is quite warm. It is beautiful. Hopefully I'll see more of it today.

1-3-94

We are staying in someones home [i.e. the home of Jerry Burgess] who is in Alaska right now[.] Another family is staying here too.

It is a nice sized adobe home with electricity, cement floors, indoor plumbing, and running water. Only cold though. It is quite comfortable here.

My New Years Resolutions Are

1. Be a more righteous wife
2. Learn Spanish
3. Stop eating sugar
4. Write Book

1-6-94

Fred ~~Me~~ Debbie, Freddy, Emmy [i.e. Debbie's daughter], Sam, Adam went to Dublan today to do things including installing the water unit at Mr Parsons.

As soon as that is installed we will be heading farther South. I love it here. Pecans grow everywhere by the tons.

We dry the clothes on cloths lines.

Ive never seen in America what I see here: a home with two walls made of cardboard boxes and two walls of nothing on the very same block as beautiful, multi-room stuccoed homes with nice furniture and greenhouses. Such poverty and wealth so close together.

Many of the homes here are tiny adobe shacks but I always see women sweeping or washing windows — the ones that have glass.

I want to complete and write a book of the Gospel for women. When I read the New Testament it made me depressed until I realized some things. I have prayed to God so much in my life that he would help me understand the eternal role of woman to have peace inside, understanding myself, my divine purpose, my destiny. Now after ~~so~~ years of praying to understand, I feel like God has opened my eyes Has given me the revelation I've desired and now I see and understand. I want to give that to others.

1-10-94

The baby is developing bronchitis He has been having trouble breathing but I got some medicine. He seems to be doing better today.

We will be leaving here soon. I hope, we move among indians. Fred is so wonderful. He has worked so hard to get us here.

He was worried all night about the baby. He got up to check on him twice. He had a meeting and taught Jay Ray& wives & some family. Fred felt good about the meeting. Said Jay was pleased also.

1-18-94

In car now heading South. The Baby just couldn't beat his sickness so the nurse gave him a shot which she seemed very confident would take care of the problem.

There was a big earthquake in L. A. where I used to live. My brother and many people I know are there. I hope they are okay. My mother wrote me two letters which made me cry. They were nice and I don't know (p. 2) when I'll see her again or she'll be able to see the baby. I feel excited to have a home again after all this time & curious to see how and where we will be living. I am excited to learn Spanish. We will be in the car for the next several days. Maybe five. Israel is so adorable. He has just discovered his hands.

I think Fred is so brave to make a move like this & I am so glad he is doing it because it is what I feel in my heart.

There were awful rumors about us and our beliefs going around Colonial LeBaron. Just sickening. Fred did his best to dispel them before we left. Gossip is such an awful thing I must make sure I don't participate in it myself.

Mexico is different from U.S. in a very nice way. It has more of a feeling of peace.

There is a revolution down South however.

1-19-94

Well, on our way south we were stopped by Mexican Police with guns strapped to their backs (machine guns) they seemed to stare at Bethany, and Debora and their faces were much stern to the men. They had Chan take out his suitcase to take a look-see and so Chan decided to take the opportunity and brush his teeth, since he had it out why not? He also showed them his deodorant and sprayed a little! It's (sic) a little frightening but the Lord is watching over us. The country side is beautiful, green and lush with rolling hills and many traditional homes made of sticks and thatch roofs. We are all very happy to be here. P.S. Chan Rogers is our guide from Colonial LeBaron — we will be staying in his home down in the Yucatan.

(p. 3)

1-20-93 [i.e. 94]

Stuck in a mud hole in the Yucatan. Just got out. We've been on the road about 3 days and expect to reach Chan's tonight. It is so green, so beautiful! Very humid & I can tell it will be miserable weather in summer.

We stopped on the way down to see some ancient Mayan ruins. While we were there a worker opened coconuts from the trees for us — the milk was so sweet.

What an unfamiliar feeling to think we are three thousand miles from home with no way back. Don't speak the language etc. I can see God has prepared the way for us — no car trouble at all and I have a real peaceful feeling about all this.

1-21-93 [i.e. 94]

Stayed last night in Chetamal. Had a shower for about the first time in a week. Leaving soon for Chan's which is one hour away. I am afraid it will be hard to adjust to the humidity and the flies & bugs but I am determined to have a good attitude & be happy. In a way it is so hard to believe this is actually my life.

1-26-94

Been at Chan's home three or so days. Need lots of work. Not mosquito proof at all. Kids got eaten alive. The clothes all got soaked in the rain on the way down and we had to spend three or four days washing & drying. Clothes have to hang on the line a day or more to dry because of the humidity. Even now we have lots of wet clothing which will likely mold on the trip. The people of this area don't know their resources & certainly don't know utilize them. I know when we settle we can make a beautiful place by our own labor. Also we can plant a paradise. I had a conversation in spanish with a neighbor woman although I don't really speak the language at all. It was really exciting. It made me feel like I could really do this & make friends etc.

We are on the road again this morning having decided that we don't want to stay in Yucatan. We are going to Costa Rica & considering the countries on the way. It is frightening inasmuch as none of us speak spanish. I am so excited to settle down somewhere. We're considering Guatemala and (p. 4) the baby though not entirely well seems to be feeling better while I seem to be feeling worse. It is little hard for me to feel like I have suddenly become a mother to five teenagers. I've had to deal with child rearing problems which I didn't expect to face for another 10 or more years.

The natives are very friendly people. The atmosphere is different here than the U.S. In a good way. I'm going to ask the kids what they think of our move —

Holly 12 yrs ——— I kinda like it here. But I wouldn't as much if the ocean wasn't here. But I'd like it better if Mom & Emmanuel and the rest of our family could come down now I think it's nice & green & pretty & I like it much better than the desert in La Mora. But is is a little too hot & humid. On our way down it was kind of shocking to see that it was green & beautiful & to see all the coconut trees & Banana trees because I'm used to the Mexico of La Mora that was a desert that I hated. I think as soon as

we get settled & buy our land I will like it here a lot. But I wish I was home cause I miss everyone.

Cordell Anderson's El Polo Calparaiso
2 – A Ave #
1 – 28 Zona 3
Coban

Guatemalan
Contact

1-26-94

Jean 15 yrs — It's really beautiful. I like the country. We drove all many days to get to Yucatan. It's been a pretty good trip except we couldn't get much sleep. I can't wait to explore all the different kinds of plants & things that there are. I'm missing mom terrible & I can't wait till she comes down.

(p. 5)

1-28-94

Went through Belize & entered Guatamala yesterday. Belize looks beautiful & carried. I liked it better than Mexico. But I love Guatamala. They have political problems, so we might not be able to live here. But if I could I would love to live here. From just driving by and looking I think this country has a beautiful people. I think I would love it here. I feel so tired of our travelling & being homeless. I want to settle down, I feel like we are here to bring the gospel to the Lamanites though that is not the reason we left America.

Saw the ruins in Tikal — I didn't see much because the baby was fussy. I saw a Toucan fly in the sky.

2-1-94

Still in Guatamala. We are at the home of Cordell Anderson. He has lived in this country and served the indians for many years. I am so glad to have come to this country. It is the most beautiful place I have ever been. I hope Costa Rica is as beautiful. The people here are beautiful as the land. Debbie & I bought tortillas the other morning & the women let us give it a try making them. It was neat experience. The people are mostly Maya indians. Up north of San Louis is the most beautiful place on earth so far. Corn, beans, and Bananas are planted all up and down the mountains & hills in neat green sections. You see sometimes a man & his horse both loaded with the harvest travelling down the road. An occasional boy bathing along side the dirt road, who tries to cover as the car goes by. Or a woman bathing in a lake who waves as you pass. Who seemingly doesn't know to be ashamed of being bare chested. (p. 6) Up in these mountains are pine trees and rainy days — just outside Coban.

2-2-94

We looked at some property this morning, to get an idea of things & we are leaving for Costa Rica in about an hour. We will stop at Guatamala City on the way. I bought some indian material a very beautiful mayan blanket for Fred.

I am so anxious to have a home I can't wait to settle down. I pray that God will continue to be with us on our journey.

We looked around in Coban at the Mayan Market. Women & men selling plants & grains. So different than super Markets.

2-4-94

At the Honduran border. The people here look affluent & friendly. Some of course look poor.

One thing about Guatamala of interest is that in some parts of the country you wouldn't know but that it was 200 yrs. Ago and in others but that you were in America. The only exception in both cases is the army Armed men in fatigues all over.

In Coban at the entrance to the bank there are two men in camouflage toting machine guns. In Guatamala City bank the guard is dressed like a bellhop & wears a semi concealed holster.

It is going to take 10 hrs to get through Honduras and we will be going through a corner of Nicaragua. After that we will finally be in Costa Rica — hopefully home.

2-5-94

It is my brother Joshua's birthday I am sure he is lonely and sad today without the family. He's 23.

We left Honduras this morning. It is a country of great poverty. The children selling stuff on the streets wear rags and beg for food. (p. 7) It doesn't seem right that there should be such poverty ~~where there~~ in a world where there is such wealth. At the border to leave there are starving children & men & women dressed in Modern apparel.

Now we are in Nicaragua. Each country is different from the last.

Honduras is beautiful [—] A land of mountains & green valleys.

We were driving yesterday down a good stretch of highway when without warning the road drops down 3 feet and looks as if it were bombed. Two feet past that the entire left side of the road is missing. It looked like a big bite out of the road.

We will be traveling from Nicaragua to Costa Rica with some people we met at the border. Canadians, 1 American and a Costa Rican who speaks Spanish.

2-6-94

Spent the night in Managua. Nicaragua appears to be a land of Volcanoes & Banana plantations. It is interesting for me to see that the modern world is everywhere even here. I never thought in my life that I would be in Nicaragua. Interestingly I have seen less military here maybe than anywhere yet.

We are at the Border out but and soon we will be in Costa Rica then we will only need a home.

I miss my parents & family. The baby has been somewhat dehydrated but I gave him a bottle of water (purified) yesterday & he slept better at night than he had in a long time.

(p. 8)

2-9-94

We had considerable trouble exiting Nicaragua. With We all got into Costa Rica but Debbie & Fred We didn't know when or exactly how we'd see them again. We were preparing to wait 2 day at C.R. Border and up to 2 wks somewhere else, but fortunately some people we'd met earlier and helped them & they were across 3 hours later. To my surprise & great Relief. We have been "homeless" (on the road) for 3 weeks. Sarah Darling flew back to the states yesterday which leaves us all very Sad.

Costa Rica is like California — a little more tropical — a little less populated. US prices mostly — A tourist trap. Worldly. Americanized. Were going back to Costa Guatemala.

The beaches here are fabulous. I see why tourism is so big!

3-13-94

Yesterday was the Sabbath. We had a meeting in the Morning and I feel God's spirit was present.

Fred spoke and said how we truly have been blessed of God and admonished us to be grateful and to pray often & always in our hearts. I spoke a few words then Mike who gave a beautiful speech. It is very unfortunate that the meeting was not recorded. He spoke of prophecies about the South & the kingdom of God — making a pamphlet about such. About purifying our hearts & minds casting out all ungodliness and bringing in all godliness. Spoke of this his greatest desire to learn Spanish and Quiche quickly, to understand the people and share the Gospel. He wondered if in past if he loved wife more than God but since she has been gone he knows that if he loved her more than God he can never have her and if he really loves her he will live [the] Gospel, love God above all & do God's will [—] he said many other things I wish I could remember.

My heart in the past week has been turned towards the Savior and the atonement. I have been filled with gratitude.

I made some goals last night which are — no coffee — no alcohol — no junk sugary food — no over eating.

Yesterday morning there was a knock on our door and it was Ken Blackmore & his brother in law Franklin from Colonial LeBaron. They thought we were in Costa Rica. They were lost in Guatamala — on dirt roads for 10 hours (we don't know how they got here without seeing pavement!) but they drove past our [two] car[s] parked out front of our home, and recognized it.

Fred had been thinking of them just that morning. We all felt it was the hand of God for wisdom in him cpt [sic.] to be seen.

Bill is flying from Hanna tomorrow staying for a week. Coming to get little Freddy & bring him back to Ann. I'm glad to be able to see him.

(p. 10)

March 15-94

Bill arrived from Hanna today. It is good to see him after nearly 4 mo. And to hear of the rest of the family.

Sarah Darling is pregnant & it looks like she will carry her baby till term. She has been trying for 3 years!

It seems God is pouring blessing down every time we turn around.

Bill brought letters from my mother — all kind. I wish to be able to communicate.

Also he brought the news that my parents are divorced.

3- -94

Bills last day here. Leave early in the morning.

They aren't even living consecration in Hanna. That made me very depressed.

I have felt God's hand so much. We bought the property.

3-24-[94]

Yesterday, officials came to the door and told us they had to guard our home with arms the whole of the night from the people.

We are strangers and they don't know why we are here. A rumor was about that we were selling children's body parts. It is unbelievable to me. Yet we don't speak spanish so it has been hard to make friends.

We dispersed the rumor by telling them we were there to clean the Lake.

(p. 178–181)

[A letter written by Debbie to Bethany.]

April 26, 1994

Dear Bethany,

It seems like sometimes I get in a depressed state and really don't feel like talking to you. I'm sorry for this. Regardless of how I act I want you to know that my feelings for you have never diminished. I believe that my feelings for you are growing and feel that they should. I guess until my love is perfect there is need for improvement. I think it's important that we are conscious of this and work to π have a more perfect Union. As Fred has said so many times to me "Celestial Marriages are not born ~~they~~ they are built." I know that it isn't easy to live with me at times. Many times I feel very ashamed at myself and my inability to handle life's pressures. It seems like there are two different sides to my world. There's the side that π can see a ν ta of vision about our family and the excitement of the future — All of us growing Closer to God and more in love with each other. Seeing the work grow and spread over the land. Touching (p.2) and changing the lives of all of us and others around us. New converts, New Marriages, sister wives, children, brothers and sister[s]. All of these things can make me so incredibly happy to think about. But then there's the times when I see the consequences of my decisions I've made. The reality of 5 children who miss there Daddy. The memories of life when we were all together and happy. Being scared to death for Jeremy and the choices he could make. Feeling that I could have prevented it from happening. I sometimes feel insecure about my relationship with Fred and his family. Thinking about wanting so badly to have more children. Wondering if I'm not worthy of bearing them. Reading the scriptures and feeling so so very inadequate. Sometimes believing that I can't make it (where I really want to be) Feeling that it's above and beyond my spiritual genetic make-up to ever become a Celestial being. It's not that I don't believe or have I feel as though my testimony is growing. It's that at times I don't believe in myself. I do hope and pray that these feelings will leave me. I read the scriptures hoping to find something, anything that will save me from these $\pi\pi$ useless thoughts. Hopelessness is a most horrible feeling. I just want yo to understand me and to know that the times when I'm shut up and introverted, it has nothing to do with you or my feelings for you. I love you so much! You make me very happy. No one has or ever will have a better friend or sister-wife then you are to me. Please pray for me Bethany. I do, with all my heart want to do the right thing. I know that even if I left, the things I've said about the Collier family would still come to pass but I do want to be a part of all of it. I want to find happiness, peace of mind, hope in the future, faith and a oneness

with the Saints of God that will extend into the world to come as well as this one. God Bless you Bethany. I love you (p. 4) So very much.

Love
Your sister-wife
and Best friend,
Debbie
xoxo ♥

4-27-94

We moved from San Cristobal to Chamelco. On approx 4-6-94 because on that day while in Coban a stranger came to Fred & Mike on (p. 11,) the street and said that we should not go into San Cristobal the main way because there was a riot and the people had nearly beat to death a "gringa" (white woman) Debbie was home with all the kids. Fred brought Mike, Ruth, & I to Cordell Anderson's and went w/ Cordell to get Debbie etc. We stayed the night & the following day moved in with Ken Blackmore outside of Carcha. While at the Anderson's I got sick and quickly became very sick. I came very close to death I believe. I had several blessings and several days later Cordell stopped by the Blackmores to visit and saw my condition and brought me to their doctor. We'd tried to get medical help the day before but everything was closed.

She diagnosed me with pneumonia and gave me some medicine.

We were at the Blackmores 5 days when we found a home in Chamelco. We moved in and are here now.

Debbie had a car accident in Coban several weeks ago and although there was no body damage the car was made unusable.

Darling is coming here from Utah in 11 days. When she arrives she will be 7 mo. Pregnant.

I have been thinking about the gospel & plural marriage & families & women & happiness.

I have come to believe that the family is designed in the wisdom of God to provide the most happiness. It is designed to be the Ideal place for a woman to give her life in service to God. I have (p. 12)

started to believe in something I call "Total commitment mothering"

I believe

4-30-94

Today is Debbie and Fred's anniversary

5-8-94

5:00 a.m. Fred & Mike just left for the Capital to pick up Darling from the airport. Craig will be arriving tomorrow.

Franklin Lawrence LeBaron was baptized by Fred at 5:30 pm yesterday and subsequently confirmed & ordained an priest in the Aaronic Priesthood — Also by Fred.

I asked Fed for a blessing last night I've wanted one for a long time.

He gave me one and it went basically like this —

Bethany Huntington Collier, by the authority of the Holy Melchizedic Priesthood I lay my hands upon your head and give you a blessing.

I bless you that you will have an abundance of love in your heart and an abundance of the gift of understanding and with an abundance of patience.

He blessed me that I would love others and have a desire to serve. That I would have an inquisitive mind and seek knowledge & to understand the gospel. He blessed me that I would have an inner peace and happiness through my close relationship xxxx with my Heavenly Father, his son Jesus Christ, and my husband[.]

He closed by bestowing upon me “all the gifts of the spirit” necessary for me to fulfill my life's mission.

Debbie & I are striving to get the home organized & running smoothly.

To my dear mother
Bethany,
Who's heart is full of
Love and is always Such
a Wonderful Example
to me

I only wish I could
Be like you some day
Love
Always
Ruth xoxo

For you Israel who
is always happy and gay
From
your
Sister
Ruth

(p. 13)

To Bethany

God

Bless you for ever and
ever. Let the Spirit of
The Lord-God burn in your
hart. I Love you Bethany your
a very good person your very
nice and Loving
your my sweet neat mother
Bethany

Love

Holly L. Collier

Let virtue garnish thy thoughts
unceasingly then shall thy
confidence wax strong
in the presence of God and
the doctrine of the priest-
hood Shall distill upon thy
Soul as the dew from
heaven (D&C 121:45)

(p. 14)

5-12-94

Sarah Darling arrived safely. It is such a wonderful thing to see her pregnant. She is doing well.

Craig is here now as well which is hard on Debbie.

The O₂ water has been tested to prove it kills bacteria etc.

It seems that Debbie & I have finally got the household running smoothly and to a point where it allows us spare time, I feel now that I need something productive and of service to do with my time.

For now I have chosen 3 things

1. Learn Spanish because It will open up new opportunities.

2. Learn Massage therapy so I can ease peoples stress

3. Do what I can (with available materials) on my book

I am realizing that the gospel puts people in an entirely different world from other. Totally incomprehensible to those not involved.

In St. John 16 it says "those who kill you will think they do God a service". I am starting to see how that is.

5-29-94

Two days ago Fred, Debbie & I spent several hours talking about Total Commitment and marriage.

It was the first time we've had such a conversation & it went very well.

How shall women be happy when the man they love has so many responsibilities and so very little time? Was the question.

For some time my mind has been turned towards women and their happiness and God has opened my understanding.

I feel that the worlds idea of marriage is false. It evolved out of monogamy. (p. 15) I have learned that we are all very much individuals. That can't be denied or taken away. We need to make the very most of ourselves — our talents etc in order to be happy and to have something to give.

Trying to live the gospel and fit it in with the worlds idea of marriage won't bring happiness because they aren't compatible.

In God's way I believe than [sic] Men & Women are both giving themselves totally in their independent spheres and unique way.

They may not have great deals of private time but they are brought close in union of purpose. Both working in separate ways for a common Goal.

Women in this life need a reawakening of self. They need to be whole, complete fulfilled individuals to be good wives & mothers.

To God all things are spiritual. Women need an independent income. The Relief Society should be an independent economic order for Women.

I believe there needs to be a restoration in the worship of our Mother in Heaven and in the knowledge of Women.

I believe there is more to be revealed concerning those things that lead to their Happiness and fulfillment.

I love my Husband.

(p. 114)

[About the Mother]

I am grateful to see
your blessed hands in my life
it gives me patience
when I feel your grace
patience with my yearning
and my longing to see your face

As my round belly swells with life
somehow I feel so far from you
and yet near
for this Child
my body is the door
a portal between worlds
and you are out of my sight
just on the other side [—]

**I wait to welcome her this little child —
you are kissing this child her good-bye**

(p. 115)

Good Mother
I seek your blessing
I long for the feeling
of your hands
on my head
for your words
wise and gentle
knowing and full of
grace
Mother I seek
your blessing
as I Seek to look up
at your
face

Ask and it Shall be given
“May I hear my mother’s voice?”
“Knock and it shall be opened unto you”
“I need her in my life”

I am only longing for my blind eyes to see
and for wholeness to be made in
the empty parts of me

(p. 116)

Oh woman
wake and rise
clear the slumber
from your eyes

be who you really are
love as the author of loving
yet be strong as a
goddess of war

be wise as one who knows
What love and Strength
are for

Daughters of the Mother
Who molded the very earth
honor her Holy Name
~~live up to y~~
Awaken to your worth

(p. 117)

One Day I will have my answers
I will know you and hold Your hand
but I wish for your sons & daughter[s]
for the knowledge of you to rain down
upon the land

There is a famine
in the hearts of your daughters
of hearing the voice one
— as yet I have no daughters
but I long
to give that voice to my sons

What is a woman
flesh of your flesh, bone of your bone
Strong as the mountains around us
with a heart as deep as the sea
nurturing as the fertile fields
essential as summer rain

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

27

warm and constant as the sun that
shines
certain as the coming of day

Mother sometimes I think you knew
how darkened this world would be
how long you would be hidden away
from me
so you painted your reflection in
nature
_____ [where] in darkness I still could see

(p. 118)

After all these years I still
Feel as though we've just begun
After all this joy and all these tears
I know you are the one

There was a storm and I
was frightened I felt
you ~~near~~ and warm it
lightened all my fears
and through the years
you've Caught my tears
in both your hands
~~and~~ like a magic trick
so wonderfully quick
you've opened your palms
with hand full of balm
and brought ~~me~~ joy
so much joy
You have nourished my heart

(p. 16)

5-5-94 [probably 6-5-94]

I feel that the worship of our heavenly mother belongs particularly to women.

In a family as children grow up it naturally happens that daughters spend more time with their mothers and sons with their fathers because they are learning ~~what~~ to become what their parents are.

Women are destined to become just as their heavenly Mother and men as our heavenly Father.

Women of course still worship their Father in heaven and Men their mother yet each sex has a particular relationship with their corresponding parent.

I believe in the Gospel [—] there is a natural segregation of the sexes. Two separate priesthood organizations. While the Priesthood & Priestesshood are separate yet they are one as women worship their husbands and sons their mothers. It is all intertwined[.]

I believe the true order of Marriage is far from the ways of the world. The ways of God are so different. I believe the essence of marriage is union in cause. Two people who have totally devoted their lives in individual way to building the kingdom and helping others.

You can't always be with every one but in view of plural marriage — if the object of marriage was to spend time and revel in personal affection — heaven would (p. 17) necessarily be a big love in devoting all time to showing affection to spouses and never having the time to please everyone. Never mind doing Gods work and building the kingdom. The modern ideas of marriage are impossible in view of plural marriage and total commitment and therefore contrary to the Celestial way[.]

I feel women don't realize their full potential. They deny their individuality and don't develop themselves —

The more you make of yourself the better servant you make because the more you have to give.

Monogamy is very Self Centered and therefore not a Celestial way of Life.

(p. 236 – 237)

6-23-94

Dear Fred,

Thank you so much for last night. I enjoyed myself a lot. It was wonderful to be all alone with you in such a romantic place, eating dinner by candle light.

I know I hurt you with the way I handled the situation with my father. If I didn't hurt you, you had every right to be so. I handled it all wrong. I should have stood up for you strong. I didn't realize it then, but as I think of it now, I am terribly ashamed and wish I could do it all again. I regret my actions with all my heart and yet, look how patient and loving you are. Offering forgiveness in a moment and only seeing the good in me. Willing to patiently bear my faults and silently overlook them.

I ask God, how could he be so merciful and kind as to bless me with you. I know it is a gift. I don't feel worthy. I know it is a blessing, something I have not learned.

You inspire me. You always lift me up to better things, to have more faith and a more pure heart.

I wish for your happiness always. You deserve so much. I feel to strive always to be the wife and friend that you deserve.

At times I have failed and it breaks my heart.

I will miss you so very much. I feel to thank you for the gospel. For the light you have brought into my life. I am grateful for this time I am going to have to Study it and Grow Closer to God.

I need you so much. I look to you and you lift me up.

I thank God for our Son.

May God watch over you and Bless you, will be my constant prayer until he brings us together again.

I wish for the time we can do endowments again — to refresh our minds and renew our vows.

God Bless You Forever,
With all my love
& adoration
Your Wife Eternally

Bethany

(p. 238)

Thursday, June 23rd, 1994

9:49 P.M.

My Dear wife Bethany — it † is hard to believe, but another year has passed and then some, and here I am writing you a note in a card I bought for you a year ago on our 1st anniversary. You are true love a beautiful Queen, a wonderful woman and friend, and I feel so blessed to have you as my companion. You are always there for me and my desire is to be eternally there for you — that our union will be forever. I love your steadfastness and appreciate your never ending patience with me and all the problems of life. You are so full of kindness and love. May the Lord bless our ~~your~~ union forever.

Your Eternal husband & friend
Love Fred

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THE BOOK OF BETHANY

(p. 106)

For Israel

We have Come far
you and I
from that winters night
that brought you to me
wet
and innocent and warm
We have Come a long way
from Aspens and Snow Capped Peaks
three thousand miles
here

To Cornfields and Banana trees
to these —
your small dirty hands
naked feet
Where the sun is warm
in her Strength
and days pass slow and quiet
as gentle as your eyes

Yes
my Son
it is very far that we've Come
Here

San Juan Chamelco, Guatemalan
Summer 1994

(p. 18)

6-26-94 6-8-94

The morning of the 24th, Fred, Debbie & Children and Fred's girls left for the U.S. We (Mike, Samuel, Adam, Me & Israel) went with them over the Mexican border to have our visas renewed upon entry back into Guatemala. We took the bus home from the border. We got home around noon yesterday.

Fred went back to see the rest of the family and also to raise money for development of the property. Debbie & kids went back because she has

been constantly ill since coming here. She went to regain her health. The girls went to see family and cut down living edxpenses here.

On the 22nd Fred took me in the evenning to La Colonia. A beautifully landscaped park with a natural swimming pool. We arrived near dark and had to use candles for light. We barbqued hamb urgers and spent the evening together. It was very romantic.

At the border FRred saw us safely to a Hotel on the Mexican Guatemalan side — Once there I realized I left my diapers & scrapbook in the car in Mexico. I said Oh well — Debbie & Ann can use the diagpes and Debbie can mail my scrapbook. We walked him [to] the border — then spent a cart after him to run him the rest of the way.

Back at the Hotel I was about to take a shower when he banged on the door — what a surprise! He had come all the way back to bring me those things! We said good byes again and he promised to write.

7-13-94

I talked to Fred briefly on the phone tonight. He was so kind and sweet. He said Craig sent pictures and there was one of me that was absolutely Beautiful and that he loves to look at it. He said he missed me so and asked if there was anything he could do for me. He cheered me so and was so very sweet and kind. I love him so. My (p. 19) Parents called Craig and asked where we lived so they could come visit. Craig didn't tell & I am glad because it wouldn't be a good visit.

(p. 107)

Widow (1994)

The brave woman wasn't me
 She had a different name
 a different face
 she knew more than I —
 to forge her sorrow
 into strength
 Her empty hands were busy
 blessing
 everything she touched
 Her broken heart was everlasting
 reaching
 out and giving love

her lonely lips were always
curved
gently in a smile
for she treasured the promise
in her heart:
— this life is but
a little while

7-18-94

7-22-94

Yesterday a Bull excaped it's guide and ran into the cornfield across from our house. Lots of people gathered abd watched men spend quite some time trying to lasoo it. They grougt two other bulls in, I don't know why. Finally the[y] caught him.

I enjoy living in Guatemala! I am in love with Israel! I am beginning to adore motherhood.

7-26-94

Talked to Fred on the phone this morning. It made me realize how I miss him. I cried and was embarrassed to do it in public.

He is going to Idaho to Baptize and teach. I love him so. He is so kind and car[e]ing. I want a [sic] another child badly. I want him to marry again. Somebody young. I am struggling with self discipline and health.

We have a mouse in the house which gives me the creeps. Still, I prefer mice to roaches.

I am trying to be organized and productive. Israel is such a doll. I am falling so in love with him.

(p. 110)

Mothers Blessing

In heaven's sight you're precious
Sent to grow and learn, your life's mission to perform
Reach out to understand the glorious gospel light
A way has been prepared, follow ye therein, O be faithful son — Obtain
Eternal
Life

(p. 11)

Mothers Blessing

O my Child receive a gift, if I could give you anything, it would be this
— may you

hunger and thirst after
righteousness
in the love of the Lord may you spend your days, may you
Strive to live in all His ways, true and faithfully
To the end may our God Count you His friend, and
In your heart may He Cement
may He Cement His
New and everlasting Covenant

(p. 112)

Mothers Blessing

From an eternal past, you have come, here at last
Ready for the Challenge, full of hope, full of dreams,
a faithful, chosen Spirit
whom themselves Earth sorely needs
Encircled by our love —
may you reach your life's true goal
Diligence and Valiance,
may they blossom in your soul
Onward may you press,
in the straight and narrow path,
and in the full armor of God
May You reach your home at last

8-7-94

I read the last entry and think I seem like such a scatter-brain.
I am trying to write a paper of women and marriage.

34

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

(p. 108)

For Ruth

August 1994

I'm starting right now
though just barely grown
I am beginning
the long journey home
It will brittle my bones
and wrinkle my eyes
but carry me joyfully
back to the skies
To the Father and Mother
waiting above
who gave me the gift
of the Gospel of love
I'm starting today
with all of my soul
with Total Commitment
my guide and my goal
with my heart ever turned
to the glory of God
and my grip ever firm
on the iron rod
It's a hard path to tread
full of sorrow and strife
but will see me refined
through the journey of life
and the fruit of the tree
will taste sweet in the endeavored
when the lips of my makers
pronounce me their friend

(p. 20)

8-21-94

My paper is coming along good but slow. I am determined to get my life organized and orderly. Today I am going to record in here a few events from the past. I have written them down before but on sheet paper. I want them securely in a book.

April ? 1992 — Approximately a month before I ever met Fred I had two dreams. They were both of a bearded prophet in a white robe, preaching to a great colorful crowd. Many were were uninterested, some were fascinated, some scornful. He taught what impressed me as the most beautiful things I ever heard. In the first dreaming he was rejected by the world and he prophesied of the glory of the coming of the Lord but concluded with prophecies of impending destruction and chaos, the dream ending as he told the crowd “but now it is time to starve”

The second dream, he preached as in the first. I was so joyful at his words, they opened my mind with such light — they were beautiful. I wanted to remember every word so badly that I woke myself up in order to mark them in my scriptures but upon waking I realized they weren't in my scriptures and was terribly disappointed that I could not remember one word.

Shortly after this we met Fred and his doctrine impressed me as the “most beautiful things I ever heard.”

1992, 1991

Approximately a year before we met Fred, maybe 2 years, I began to pray to the Lord asking that he bless me that the man I marry be so very righteous, full of the love of God and desirous to do his will above all else. I also (p. 21) began earnestly praying that I be not deceived, that I would always know truth when exposed to it and that I would recognize Gods servant mentioned in 3rd Nephi [chapter 20 & 21], when he came fourth.

It says in my Patriarchal blessing that I will speak strongly for the Prophet in behalf of those things that have taken place in the restoration. I felt that it referred to a future prophet and that I might be his wife.

1993

Staying in Skip Ellsworth's cabin in Washington state during the summer of '93 while pregnant with Israel, I had the following dream which though short touched me deeply.

— An angel, beautiful and bright in a white robe came and spoke to me about Fred [—] he said Fred was very precious to the lord very prize and choice and that his mission was very great and important and very serious to the lord. Then he said a poem in the Adamic tongue about Fred [—]it was the most beautiful poem ever I heard and though remarkably short was exceedingly long in its fulness of meaning.

Nothing ever told me it was the Adamic tongue, I imagined so, it was heavenly anyhow & perfect.

8-24-94

Dear Fred,

I have got to write to thank you so very very much for the money for the Relief Society. You are always so generous and kind. I feel like I can express my gratitude, I am so grateful.

Sarah & I will thoroughly research anything ~~we spend~~ before we spend a precious penny. We will send a report home to the women so that they can know whats going on, and feel a part.

I forgot to mention on the phone — Sam and I would like you to please bring one of the old computers and the old dot matrix printer ~~x~~ if you can. Sam wants some books on programming. He is doing algebra like mad (see Opals letter) Adam is reading *Night Fall At Nauvoo* & *Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith*. I am writing a pamphlet and have some other projects in mind as well. A word processor would be an immense help. I would like it if you could bring two computers for family use — one for you, one for me, Sam etc. When you were here, between you, Mike and Sam, the one was never free for long.

I am doing good and am very happy. I miss you & family terribly however. It is hard for me to come when we call and hard for me to talk to you, because I get a sudden flood of feelings and (p. 2) feel so far away and sad, like I'll die and just want to run to Hanna & be with you and everyone. That is why I sound sad on the phone if I do. But it doesn't last too long, and I am okay again although [I'm] still missing you all.

I was going to ask you to bring some new cloth diapers because I have lost ~~them~~ some here & there in our travels & they don't sell good ones here, but as soon as I wished it, Jerry [Muckraker i.e. nicknamed "Geronimo"] came to visit & brought six diapers from his kids (he was cleaning out his house)!

I can't believe how much a baby can grow in 2 months! Israel is so adorable, if challenging. He does the cutest things! I bet all you kids grew too much while you were gone. I am so glad you can be with them. I miss your four boys so much. I wish I could school them again. I'm making them each a backpack and Mary a purse.

The garden is planted, so are some pineapple[s]. I would like for us to buy land all over Guatemala. It is so varied. There is a place where [there] is snow. Apples, peaches etc. grow there. Warmer places where good Bananas, melons & everything grow.

If you are gone longer than you hope then just think, all the more chance I'll be done weaning Israel!

I really want to move to Santa Cruz so I can help on the property too. Today is Sarah's due date. I hope we'll be calling or faxing with the good news soon. Love,

Bethany

(Taken from the file: DearFred94A & B)

8-27-94

On the 23rd we called Hanna. Fred had sent money back with Cordell including money for the Relief Society to start a business. I had sent a letter asking for it and I am so very thankful for it. He is the best man!

[One blacked out line]

(p. 22)

[5 blacked out lines]

9-7-94

Because of your Firm Faith I kept the track
Whose Sharp Set Stones my strength had almost spent
I could not meet your eyes if I turned back
So on I went

Because of Your strong love I held my path
When battered worn and bleeding in the fight
How could I meet your true eyes blazing wrath
So I Kept right

Author unknown

9-7-94

I was looking through my papers and I found a poem that I wrote in the early fall of 1993. We were in Hanna, I was pregnant, we were preparing to leave the States. What a time it was and how quickly things can change. The past year has brought us over 3000 miles from there, through all of central America excepting El Salvador and Panama. Through hard times and good times, closer to each other, closer to ourselves, closer to God. [Three blacked out lines]. It has changed me a great deal inside, this past year. I've come to motherhood.

(p. 23)

[7 1/3 blacked out lines]

Hanna

How quickly Spring turns into Summer
in these Mountain lands
How beautiful the
many colors
of these stony sands
Here — where happiness first touched me
where I first held your hand
O how I grieve to leave
These Rocky Mountain Lands

9-10-94

On the evening of the 7th I was standing in the kitchen doorway looking out at the yard. An indigenous woman walked a few steps into the yard and stood there, face turned towards the front porch. I wondered what she was doing and began to wonder when she'd leave when one by one others joined her, all staring at the porch. I went to look and there was one of the neighborhood dogs dead on the porch in a puddle of blood.

The land lady's mother appeared and said it had rabies and that she (a small woman over 50) had shot it with her .22. They tied a rope on its leg and pulled it away and threw water on the brains that were all over the porch. And I thought of how it could have bit Israel.

9-12-94

This morning around 7:45 came into my room to tell me that my her water had just broken. She looked so radiant and beautiful and happy. She spent the morning Cleaning house and preparing for labor and kept saying how wonderful it was, how long she'd waited for this day and how happy she felt[.]

1:51 pm.

(p. 24)

After 41 hours of Labor and two nights without sleep gave birth to a beautiful 8lb 8oz, 20" long son whom they named Jared Daniel Collier. It was one of the most beautiful experiences of my life. She was so patient and strong and kept saying how happy she was and how beautiful it all was how she waited so long for this time — she'd say these things between contractions!

It was such a miracle to see human birth, so beautiful. We were all sorry Fred Couldn't make it but his letter arrived and we felt he was with us in spirit.

I dreamed a few days ago that I was going to see Fred — that he was getting married and I hadn't seen him in a very long time. When he saw me he was nervous as to what my feelings might be and I hugged him and told him I knew when I saw him again it would be at his wedding — at which statement he was surprised and very much relieved.

Yesterday I was walking home with Israel in my arms. A man was leading a Bull by, after it passed I resumed walking home when it turned and ran after me! I dived quickly through the neighbors barbed wire fence and the bull kept running up the street! It really shook me up.

(p. 25)

My mind is focused continually upon the gospel as I strive to fully understand it. [9 blacked out lines]

9-25-94

I am going to make a concerted effort to keep a better diary for the purpose of history. Fred is supposed to be here on the 27th.

I got chased a few feet by a bull the other day while I was walking home carrying Israel. I dived through a barbed wire fence. Quite an adventure. I have of late seriously engaged myself in the study of the gospel. It is occupying most of my mind & heat.

9-26-94

Dreamed last night that I was in a boom town like place with Joseph Smith (but he looked like Fred) and we were hated with a passion by many. Men came to kill us but we were unharmed by the Mercy of God and I was so shaken up that they had almost killed Joseph Smith Although I knew they would have killed me too. I was struck by the intensity of their hatred.

We were in a small wooden house that belonged to someone, once when they were shooting he dicked against the wall below a large living room window and so he was safe — they never thought to aim there. There were a few others present.

(p. 109)

9-28-94

It rains softly
in the warm sun
a moment freezes in time

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THE BOOK OF BETHANY

a hungry children
on the dirt road
Stares
at the chubby body of my
Son
here in tropic green
this fertile land of plenty
~~Who shall answer?~~ There is a deep disease
The few
prey upon the many

(p. 109)
9-28-94

It rains softly
in the warm sun
a moment freezes in time
a hungry children
on the dirt road
Stares
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Son
here in tropic green
this fertile land of plenty
~~Who shall answer?~~ There is a deep disease
The few
prey upon the many

10:30 AM Monday
August 29, 1994
Fred C. Collier
Old Green Church
Hanna, Utah, 84031

Bethany Collier
Barrio Santa Cataline
San Juan Chamelco
Alta Verapaz.
Guatemala C. A.

Dear Bethany:

It is with pressure on my mind that I sit down to write you this letter. I had supposed that I would already be home with you, so why write. I will now ask for your forgiveness for not having written, as I do not deserve it. It is as though I do not know how to make a small production, and is as though I have a mental block against starting out to write any new project, as I already have a hundred others which remain unfinished. I must learn to do differently. When your 8th letter came you asked me again to write, and when Debbie read it, she became quite angry with me for not having written.

I want you to know that I think about you all the time — I wish I was there with you and Israel and the others. When Cordell walked out to get on the plane to go back to Guatemala, I wanted to go back with him so bad that I almost cried. It was just so much the worse when I found out that Sarah really wanted me to be there when the baby was born.

Let me tell you a little bit of what has been going on since I came here. I will try to keep it short so that I can finish the letter. For one, we have published two new pamphlets, the Swick letter and an 87 page version of the Manti Meeting. I am sending a copy of these with this letter. Swick found out that it was published within two days after we began to distribute it at the Sunstone symposium. He was quite delighted with it and I found out from Brian Erwin at the Symposium that Swick had showed him the letter about 3 months ago, so Swick has been passing it around. Swick came here yesterday in the afternoon,mm and stayed here until 12 midnight talking to me and I think that it is likely that he will be baptized. He is a good man, but I think that initially he was offended by my letter. When he was leaving I told him that I thought he was special or I would not have taken the time to write him the letter and that at the time I felt bad that he did not respond. When he left, he assured me that he would be back. I told him that if he would get in the spirit and read and reread the Celestial Glory paper, that the heavens would open to him and that he would have an experience with the Spirit.

Sunstone has now become completely dominated by feminists and fagots and there is little else there. Very few of the others come around — it is just one long bitch session. Craig rented a table to sell his books and ended up sitting right next to our table. We shared a table with James Salisbury. He has been a wonderful host to us when we need a place to stay in Salt Lake, but we do not talk about his strange Ideas on sex. We only made enough to pay our table and gas expenses. Linda and Roy attended the table during the whole symposium when it was done Linda told me how grateful she and Roy were to be in the work, rather than mixed up with all the crazy ideas of the different weirdos who attended the Symposium.

In our concern for Craig and the problems which we were worried about him creating through the kids, the adults in Hanna had a prayer circle. Linda withdrew from the circle because of the strong impressions which she had on her mind regarding Craig's disrespectful feelings towards her — she kind of felt betrayed. She learned of this through Craig's book letter to Debbie. Any way, after the prayer circle, the next news we heard from Craig was that he had taken another wife and was in process of taking a third. "Hallelujah, God answers prayers"! We hope that he will now be too preoccupied with his own problems to bother about making trouble for us.

Since I came here I have sold about \$4,500 worth of books. These have all come from my Bible Library, and surprisingly the sale of these books has only made a small dent in my Bible Library, though I shall surely miss the books. Some of the books are now worth two and three times more than they were when I bought them. In this regard the Lord has blessed us.

I am working on an arrangement to sell my copy of the Journal History. There are 200 rolls of film in it. If things go the way I hope, I will be selling my copy to Roger Billings for \$10,000. Paul Kingston said that he would buy a copy of my copy for \$40,000. and Ogden Kraut has also said that he wants a copy and would pay \$40,000. for it. I have talked to Jess Groesbeck about buying a copy of the Manuscript History of Brigham Young for \$10,000, but we need to talk more about it. With this money we should have enough to build our homes, and hopefully I won't have to sell any more of my books. It is likely that I will have the money from Rodger within 1 or 2 weeks and probably the money from Paul this week. I am afraid that if I left now, some of these deals might fall through — it not I would come immediately to you. It is better to wait a little while longer, and then come down with the means to do what we need.

The tank we ordered for the under the counter Water Machine has come, so we will be building and developing it this week. It is my intention to have it connected to the tap so that every time the water goes on it will reverse the polarity. This way we won't have to buy expensive timers to do it.

Tom Oliphant came up yesterday with his wife and family, and he seems more interested in the Priesthood and Gospel that he has been for years. I Baptized Gary Watson and wife in Salmon Idaho. He has some daughters who are about Sam and Adam's age, and he wants them to come up and work with him in construction. Tell Sam I have ordered the whole Saxon Math series for him.

When I saw Cordell at the Airport, I had a bag of letters, pamphlets and other things to give him for you guys, but I was late and forgot it and left it in the car, and there was not time to go back for it. SORRY!

When I come to see you I will be bringing a flour grinder, a vita-mix juicer, a high quality centrifugal force juicer and some other things.

During the last few days I have had a feeling of euphoria about the work — I feel like the work is going to bust open wide — too bad we are so bound down temporally.

Things between Debby and I and the kids are better than they have ever been — though for a while, in our feelings it was really touch and go with Craig, but both of us feel more relaxed about it now. It is best for Craig and us to communicate.

Two days ago, on Friday afternoon, I took Jeremy, David, Joshua, Johnny and Hyrum on a hike up to Granddaddy Lake. It took about two hours to hike in and two hours to hike out. It is a 4 mile hike in. Debbie was there to meet us at 2:00 O'clock in the afternoon when we came out. The weather was good — it started to sprinkle a little bit when we started to hike out but this only lasted for about 30 minutes. The kids had a good time. They slept together in a four man tent and I slept by myself in a small pup tent. My pack weighed about 34 pounds and I myself weight about 176, so I have gained some weight since I saw you last. The pack that Joshua carried up was bigger than he was — it had his bedding, blankest and etc. in it and he did real good. He carried it all the way in without complaint. David did good too — his pack was heavier, but Johnny helped him carry it for about 20 minutes altogether when we were on the way in. Jeremy's pack fell apart at the seams on the way in, so he ended up carrying his and Joshua's things on the way out — except I carried the four man tent out that he carried in.; The day before we went up, Roy took Hilliary, Ruth, Sarah, Holly and Shawn up to Granddaddy, and when we were on the way, driving up to the trail head, we met Roy on the way out just a ways before Hades Camp Ground. They had a good time.

Two days ago, I met with the adults in an order meeting and major policy changes were made in the meeting. They are as follows. \$600. cash is to be generated by the order and sent to Guatemala every month. \$600. is to be divided up among the women in the order every month in the following manner. \$50. a month for every Adult woman and \$10. for every child, all of which is to be given to the mothers to spend on themselves and their children for school books, clothes and etc. as they see fit. Roy is now made Bills 1st councilor in the Bishopric and they are not to ask the women for the money to pay the bills. All state monies and stamps are to be turned into the Bishop who is responsible to allocate the money to the above mentioned women as stated and to send \$600. to Guatemala. The women are not to ask the Bishopric for clothing for the kids or personal things, as the mothers are to buy these things with the above mentioned money. However they are not to spend this money on medical bills. The men do not get an allowance. They get 1 dollar per hour for working on Water Machines or for printing or proofreading or selling. This

is a wage to spend on their families and selves as they please. The quota is \$25. dollars to build the base unit and wand for a table top model. If it takes them more than 25 hours to build one, then too bad — they still only get \$25. to build a unit. A quota is also to be met on proofreading. A record is to be kept of all cash and checks which come into Collier's Publishing and for the sale of Water Machines — with this money the Bishopric is to pay the bills which includes the rent, lights, propane, phone and trash. They also take their wages from this money. If they are short and cannot pay the bills, Bill and Roy are to go down, get a paying job somewhere or get state money and clean toilets, at the high school, and both Roy and Bill are to do this together — they are not to ask the women for their money. All gifts and other money or income are to be reported — this is necessary in order to close the loopholes and to make all things equitable. The women in Relief Society are to decide where and how stamps are to be spent, and Linda, Opal and Debbie are to be given an extra \$50. dollars per month for a special diet, which must either be spend as such or returned — in other words, it is not to be spent as extra allowance. There is also a stamp allowance to be given to mothers to buy special food, treats or whatever for their families, but the amounts on this are to be decided by the Relief Society. The kids can be paid 25 cents per hour or whatever to build component parts for the Water Machine, but this comes out of the \$25. per unit to be allotted to Bill and Roy for building them and all their work must be inspected. Last of all, if the men don't or won't work, they get kicked out of the house or sent on Missions.

Bill and Roy made a Still to save money ! But We ought to use it for gasoline!

Before we left for Guatemala, you left some pictures to be developed at Walmart or Shopko, and you forgot to pick them up. There were all kinds of pictures in them, but they were forgotten until someone from Boise wrote a letter and stated that they would be thrown out if we did not send 6.50 to Boise. I gave the money to Opal and she sent it off and the pictures came back. I am sending you some of the more interesting ones.

I want you to know Bethany, that I love you — I miss you and am anxious to come home to you — I love you more than you know — but if I don't end this letter soon, I will never finish it, in which case it won't get sent. I love you — I love you — my dear beloved wife.

Your Husband, Forever, Fred

PS. I ought to be writing Sarah as much as you, and Mike, Samuel and Adam also — but if I had to write all these letters, I just wouldn't write any at all, and this letter is already 4 pages longer than I intended. Now Sarah, all

of the above is ditto for you — I wish I was there and could hold that beautiful little baby boy in my arms — I'm sorry that I didn't get this little card in the mail for the baby before he was born, and I wanted to be there for the birth — but when you finally hold this little baby in your arms, will you also kindly remember me — remember me fondly in your prayers and remember that it was because I love you and care about you and because God answered my prayers, as well as yours — because of these things God inspired me and gave me some answers about the problems you have had in pregnancy, and in large measure, it was through acting upon these feelings that the problem was resolved. [I sold two Water Machines to a Dentist for \$4,000. which I exchanged for service, almost all of which, Sarah ended up having for braces and only a little for my daughter Ruth, who was supposed to receive half of it for her dental work. This Dentist had an Office near Walmart, on about 62 South on the west side of Red Wood Road, in Salt Lake City. In exchange for this, the Dentist put braces on Sarah's teeth. Later the Spirit led me to believe that the Mercury in her mouth, and the metal in her braces, was causing her problems with staying pregnant. Sarah's mouth was full of Mercury fillings, and then there was the metal in her braces. She had a fungal infection in the palm of her hand, which would go away when she soaked her hand in Oxygenated Water, but as soon as she quite soaking her hand in Oxygenated Water, the infection would return. She would conceive and then miscarry, and every time she miscarried, she would drink and wale and wale throughout the house upstairs. At the time my son Michael met Sarah, she was about 16 years old. As of that time, she had no boy friend, yet all this notwithstanding, she had had more that one dream wherein she was raped. And fully believing her dreams, she went to a gynecologist and went on Birth control pills, in an effort to make sure that when she was raped, she would not become pregnant.

After her marriage to Mike, she had many miscarriages. Finally Sarah's Gynecologist told her that she might as well face it, she was never going to be able to have a baby. After this I blessed Sarah that she would have 16 children. A month or so later, I felt impressed to have the Dentist drill all the Mercury fillings out of her mouth, and replace them with plastic fillings, and to remove her braces early, so that we could leave and go to Central America. A month later Sarah became pregnant. This was while she was living in the home of Jerry Burgess, in Colonel LeBaron, Mexico. At this time there were 16 of us who were living in Jerry's home, among which were Bethany and me and Israel, and Debbie and her 5 children, Sarah Darling and Mike, Ruth, Holly and Sarah Jean, and Samuel, Adam and Freddy.

In this pregnancy Sarah did not miscarry as she had always done before. On the contrary, she carried the baby to term, when her beautiful son Jared was born in Guatemala.

As I would later learn, when Sarah was conceived in the womb of her mother, her mother ate a lot of Tuna Fish, which she continued to do throughout her pregnancy with Sarah. Since the Ocean has become a dumping pond for a lot of Mercury, Tuna Fish have a lot of Mercury in them, which evidently made Sarah have powerful reactions to Mercury.

After I blessed her, Sarah had two children, and then after this, she turned into a bitter, lying and slanderous apostate. She then divorced Mike, and so I have been told, some time after this, she sterilized herself, by having her tubs cut.] Now I don't want or need the credit — truly it belongs to God and all of us — it is only enough for me for you to know that I really care — and that I did my part in doing what I could to make it happen — so if I cannot be there just yet to hold this beautiful baby in my arms, once in a while will you hold him for me, and when you do, think of me, and remember that I wanted for this little child to be born also, and that I did what I could to help it happen — I don't say this to brag at all, but only because I want you to know that I care.

A few weeks ago, Diane Snow went down to Delta, and instead of renting a motel for the night she went out to the Rock. Your father was friendly to her, but before long he started running down Mike and I. He told her he never would have allowed you to marry Mike if he had known that Mike believed as I do and accused Mike of deceiving him on this count. Diane came back with the opinion that Mike had denied me to your father in order to get his consent to marry you. In defense of Mike, I told Diane that the worst Mike ever did was to take the sacrament in one of two of your family meetings and that he had done this because he was sensitive and did not wish to make an offense. I told her that Mike has said to your father that he did not agree with everything that I did and thought, but that this did not by any means constitute a denial of me personally, or of the Priesthood which I hold. Your father said that you were good with housework and helping in the home and that your loss was keenly felt when you married Mike. To this I responded by telling her that you had left home 4 years before you married Mike — that you did not agree with your father's religion — did not think it necessary to obtain his permission for marriage and that I had expressly advised Mike to ask your father for permission to marry you out of respect to him, and not because he had no alternative.

One other thing that your father said was that when the apostasy happened Mike lost his faith and that you had more or less held him together. To this I responded by saying that Mike had loved the people who had left the work as we all did, and that through this love and sympathy he allowed himself to some extent to come under their influence — that at that time he did have some doubts in his mind — that it was true that you had buoyed him up at that time

of depression, but that now his testimony was stronger than ever. I also pointed out to her that at the time when Mike met you, you were down, that you had lost your faith in religion and God and that for the most part at that time you were an agnostic — and at this time, Mike found you — loved you — buoyed you up, and through the help of God and His spirit, he did assist in lifting you out of the pit of despair — so then I guess that of both of you had reason to be grateful to the other — each for uplifting each other in your own time of need and despair. I also told Diane that your father ought to be grateful to Mike for the part which he played in helping you to regain your testimony in the restored gospel. But as is the case with all ingrates, he wasn't, and this too, for the simple reason and [that] Mike and I are together. Any way, dear, I hope that you don't mind me speaking some little about your life and private affairs, as under the circumstances, it was necessary to set the record straight. I love You Sarah and that too, more than you know — I will be more than glad when I can hold both you and the baby — take care until I come — Tell Mike I love him — I wish for the happiness of both of you with your new baby.

With Love Forever

Fred

PS. Dear Sam and Adam — I am mindful of you also and am trying to figure something out for your future — I hope you will have patience with me, and if you get any ideas, let me know.

With Love Forever

Your father

(p. 26)

12-7-94

I can't believe I haven't [sic.] written in here for such a long time. Fred Came back 9-27-94 so the men Could earn money to build homes. They all left for Georgia 11-27-94 and have been gone two weeks planting trees but will be returning in a few days because they can't compete with the mexicans.

I am somehow at ease in my mind. Being with Fred again helped me to get my mind back together

I know what women are — they are mothers and their eternal destiny is motherhood and what Could be more wonderful than that — So I am focusing on magnifying my calling in what I do know.

I have been very rebellious in my mind and heart but have tried to humble myself, and thank God for my blessings.

Ann wrote something she Calls her mission statement [—] It is her goals as a person and mother in life. I'm going to do some thinking and write one of my own.

On Thanksgiving Fred and I went on a walk and he talked a long time, how he was happy in our beginning, how our family was growing in the gospel

He said he knew we weren't strong but $\mathfrak{w}$ — his heart is always turned to God — He is such a wonderful man, and friend and husband. Such an example of the heights of the Gospel.

[The following is a Christmas Card, sent by Debbie to Bethany and I. It was postmarked 20 Dec 1994. On the front is a painting of 5 old brick homes with snow on the ground and on the roof. There are children, and Santa Claus is raising his hand to the Christmas Tree, which is in the road in front of the homes. On the inside of the card Debbie wrote the following note:]

To: Fred & Bethany
With the best of good wishes
for a happy Holiday Season
and for the year ahead!
Love,
Debbie, Jeremy, Haleigh,
Shannon, Marisa, & Emily xoxo

[Inside of the card was a sheet of paper wherein she wrote the following note to me:]

Dear Honey,

I wanted to wish you a very Merry Christmas. I also wanted you to ~~to~~ know that I Love and Cherish you with all my heart and soul. I miss you very much. God Bless you My dear husband in everything you do.

Love,
Your wife
Debbie
xoxo

[A letter to Bethany written on lined paper was also included in the card, wherein Debbie wrote the following:]

Bethany

Dear Bethany,

How's everything going? Did you have a nice birthday? I hope so. Today we drove about 60 miles to my parents dentist to get Jeremy's tooth pulled out. He started having tooth aches a few days ago but we still need dental appointments for them in January. It will take some getting use to being alone like this. It's nice not to have the distractions, but I do feel quite lonely. This place here sure is beautiful, its been around 70-75° the last few days but now the forecast says rain for Wed. The kids are looking forward to Christmas, I bought Jeremy a watch, Marissa a doll, Emily got this cute pink soft backpack with 1 big stuffed bunny in it and 3 little ones it also came with some extra clothes in it. Shannon got a watch and a latch hook rug and besides the sewing stuff that Haleigh got I found a pattern for a dress. I'm hoping she cane make it while she's here. I wish we could spend Christmas together. I miss you very much and so do the kids. I Love you Bethany!

Love,

Debbie

xoxoxo

(p. 27)

[31st Dec. 1994]

It is 6:3 pm. On the last day of this year. One of my goals is to write in here every Sabbath.

Fred is in California with Debbie & kids, visiting her parents. I spent 3 days at my parents in Orem. I am so grateful to be in this work and to have a purpose in life.

I want to be so much better than I am. I am going to start schooling Nancy's boys David, Joshua, Hyrum & Emmanuel again (I was before Guatemala), I am very happy to do it. I am so thankful to God for all the blessings in my life.

[My Mission Statement 1995]

As a Saint I am totally Committed to God and His gospel and to His Priesthood here on earth. With God as the Center of my life, and all the principles of truth which He has embodied in His gospel, I honor the

Covenants which I have made with him and do truly devote my whole being, time, talents, possessions and energy of my heart to the up building of His kingdom and the spreading of His Gospel. I strive earnestly through study and self discipline to obtain the godly Characteristics set forth by the gospel and to make them part of myself. I strive for patience with others and myself with the problems of life and with God in those things I do not understand, having faith in His wisdom and His judgement. I strive to be filled with meekness and humility and with Charity that I may please God and be blessed with knowledge and the understanding of His ways. I strive to be pure in heart and to be innocent and without guile.]

I maintain always in my remembrance the deep sense of (p. 2) gratitude I feel towards God for His never ending patience and for the mercy and love he has shown me in blessing my life with a knowledge and testimony of his truth and for leading me into his kingdom. I maintain a sense of humility and gratitude always for the atonement of the Savior, for his sacrifice and mercy and the doors he has opened unto me through his goodness. I am willing to sacrifice all for ~~them~~ God's kingdom; and for the truth which I believe in, I will endure all things even unto the end. I will live worthy of the spirit of God and will maintain a Close relationship with my Father in Heaven. I will let my light so shine, I will live worthy of that which I have been given. I will live to that the fruits of the gospel will be manifest in my life. Most of all I will be worthy by the time my life is through to receive my Second Anointing and to be Sealed by the Holy Spirit of Promise to my husband and into the Celestial Family of the Church of the Firstborn, for time and all Eternity.

(p. 3) I will learn from my mistakes and will use them to improve myself and to move forward that when my time comes to leave this life, though I will have in remembrance my faults and imperfections yet will I not be ashamed to stand before my Maker and be viewed with His All Seeing Eye, for I will know I have ~~done my best~~ fought a good fight and ~~may do have~~ Confidence in his access to his tender mercy.

As a wife, I ~~will~~ seek divine guidance as I strive to Create a Celestial Marriage. I ~~diligently Strive to~~ honor the Covenant I have entered into, to honor my husband and follow him in righteousness. I fulfil to role [i.e. the role] of a godly wife by reverencing my husband, by being a comfort to him and an helpmeet. I am patient and meek and find true joy in his service as we work together to honor God by raising a righteous family. I am worthy of his Confidence and bring happiness to his life ~~by~~ being Stable and reliable, by being a Cheerful and positive person, by being understanding and interested in him, by (p. 4) staying by his side in all that life brings us. I seek his guidance and follow his counsel. I am grateful to him always for all he [blackened

out word] gives me, the gospel, my family, godly and righteous leadership, patience, love, a home and every other thing that I enjoy in life.

I strive earnestly to be as Peter admonishes all wives — “of a meek and quiet spirit” and to follow the Prophet Joseph Smiths Counsel ‘never to speak a cross word to my husband, but to be a solace from the cares of the world’ a Comfort, a peaceful quiet harbor.

As a mother, I am kind and attentive. I see my Children as the whole and eternal persons that they are. I raise them with discipline ~~and~~ balanced with patience and understanding. I treat them with dignity, respect and love and thereby lay the foundation for a positive self image and a deep sense of worth within each of my children. Through my worthy example ~~and~~ diligent teaching I instill within my Children a deep love and understanding of the fulness of the Gospel.

(p. 5) I seek the inspiration of the Spirit of God as I endeavor to raise my children up to Him. I raise them up in the love of God in an environment filled with his spirit. I educate their mind and hearts and teach them to rejoice in God’s bounty and in the wonder of life. I endeavor to raise, responsible, self motivated, godly, totally Committed happy Children, who Conduct themselves so as to be a great asset to the kingdom of God. I teach them patience, charity, gratitude, self discipline etiquette, joy, and the principles ~~that~~ whereby they may build personal relationships with God, and merit inspiration in their lives. I will ~~raise~~ treat Nancy’s Children as my own, as much as I possibly can.

As a sister wife I am sensitive, compassionate, hard working and willing to compromise and work earnestly to Create a joyful, organized and unified home. I am there, to listen without judgement, and always willing to lend a helping hand. I realize that the sister wife relationship is sacred and eternal. I go out of my way (p. 6) to serve my sisters and their children. I am positive and support my husband and defend him. I find righteous and Constructive ways of dealing with my frustrations and problems and encourage this in others.

As a friend I focus on the positive qualities of the people I know and meet. I refrain from Gossip and I hold my tongue when tempted to speak unkindly or lose my patience. I am positive, cheerful and uplifting. I am there to listen emphatically and always ready to help in time of need. I am generous in sharing my blessings with others and am filled with Charity for God’s Children. I consider it an important responsibility to be a good example to my friends, In word, deed, and attitude & perspective. I am gentle and gracious, mannerly and kind. I am a loyal and good friend.

As a Creative individual I use the gifts God has given me to bless the lives of others. I always make time to further my education (p. 7) and to explore

my interests. I find ways to be creative in my daily life and I find ways to use my imagination and personal interests to serve God and others.

I take great Care of my physical body and teach my Children to do the same. I view my body as a temple and try to make a pure home for my spirit. I enjoy exercise and the feeling of being trim and in shape. I consume pure and healthy foods. I avoid processed foods, sugar, dips, chemicals, fat, meat too much dairy and alcohol. I use healing methods that are in harmony with nature and my body. I follow these principles to give my children a healthful foundation, a heritage of health and to honor God by a good stewardship of this precious gift.

Living in the way described in this Mission Statement brings me close to God, it gives me a peaceful confidence in the future. It makes me a happy person and gives me a sense of purpose and control over my destiny. It ensures I will live a successful, happy and Godly life. ~~A~~ I am grateful to God for the Challenges of this life and for my opportunity to progress and become like Him.]

1-1-95

Some of my personal New Years Resolutions are

— To be a more positive, gentle and quiet person[.]

— To ~~be~~ honor my husband and be a more thoughtful and loving wife.

— To grow closer to God and learn to understand His ways and be patient with those things I do not understand.

(p. 28)

1-8-95

Fred has been in California the past two weeks and should be home tomorrow or soon after. The car got impounded in Wendover Nevada today for being unregistered and without insurance.

Lately I have felt panicky about getting out of this Country when I look at its course. They are now talking about reinstating the orphanage! Taking peoples children if they don't please the State!

1/15/95

Fred got back with Debbie on Tuesday. The kids are still visiting their grand parents.

I know the Gospel is true I believe it with all my heart. It is what I live for. I believe that it is designed to bring happiness. So I know the problem is my own impatient spirit but I want to understand so badly.

I feel like I've come to a sort of crisis because I have had to throw away so many ideas basic to life and as of yet I have nothing to replace them with.

1-21-95

I have been thinking in the past week about what marriage is in Gods kingdom. The Customs surrounding marriage as I have been raised observing (p. 29) are customs that have developed out of the false tradition of monogamy and cannot be applied to plural marriage.

Now God has not left us with any specific knowledge on the subject so I can only draw a logical conclusion from what is known. Plural marriage & Total Commitment. I do not believe that on a certain day a man will marry for the last time in all of eternity ~~False~~ Therefore he will, I believe, have countless wives. He cannot spend much individual time with infinite people. Also he has his work to to, serving his God.

It takes a man but a moment to do his share in creating a child, it takes a woman however Years before that child is born an[d] capable of caring for itself.

Monogamy is a self serving way of life. A person cannot obtain a true sense of worth just from being doted over and loved & adored[.] A true sense of worth & happiness comes from being useful and doing good.

The law of God requires that both sexes devote all their time energy and talents to serving him and building his kingdom. This does not leave time for doting.

People are busy & productive and therefore happy.

(p. 30).

Men and women don't devote themselves in the same way. Therefore women primarily associate with women and men with men for they (each Gender) are with each other participate in the same experiences and serve God in the same way.

What then is the relationship between a husband & wife? Beyond a teamwork in building the kingdom and one too which consists of a division of responsibility, I do not know. But I knew the Gospel plan is designed to bring happiness and if I don't understand all things now, in time I will.

2-4-95

Concerning what was on my mind last week, Fred comforted me with the idea that any man who would take more wives than he could make happy was a jerk and as far as in eternity, our families will match our capabilities. As our need to increase family size grows so also will our physical & mental abilities to have association with as large a family.

The weather is beautiful today and I feel very happy.

(p. 31)

At the rate I'm going it will take ten years to fill this journal. Debbie is having an operation today in Wisconsin to have her tubes reconnected. Fred & her left on Friday and will be back on Friday. I pray to God it will work.

I am 2 months pregnant. I'm due the same date I was due with Israel Oct 8th

To:
Bethany ♥ ♥

2-11-95

Dearest Bethany,

Although I always feel this way, I don't always, feel to say these things to you. So when the Spirit of God touches My heart with an overwhelming feeling of Love for you, then its a good time to express myself . . . Thanks to you I am better than I could ever have been. Your goodness and dedication to what is true and right is an inspiration. Your gentle ways are warm and tender. You are a beautiful person. I hope that we won't just stay close but that our union will grow to become a celestial one. I Love you so much my dear sister wife. You are truly the best. I hope and pray that we will be together as we learn and grow in this life always and forever — serving our God and our Father in Heaven.

I Love you.

Love
Debbie

3-5-95

Debbie & Fred got back yesterday and I am so hopeful for the operations success and her future pregnancies.

I have really been feeling concerned about our family. I feel like we need to reevaluate ourselves and our responsibilities. We need to be an example and light to the world but we are so low and unrighteous in certain ways so that we are not meeting our responsibility. I covenanted to myself not to ever drink alcohol again.

Fred is such a good man and so wise and full of light and love. I feel so blessed to be married again to him.

(p. 32)

3-13-95

Cordell wrote and we have grass planted in Guatemala on our property.

We are doing pathetic financially
 I am focusing on doing my best — as mother, wife, sister and really living the gospel.

I gave a lesson in Relief Society on mothering and having our home be an example of the gospels fruits. We are so far from it — we are far from being a light to the world.

(p. 113)

To my Husband 3/18/95

you brought me to the mountains
 where the world is green and gold
 we were married by the river
 where the wild peppermint grows
 the birds they were our choir
 and the waters that ran by
 we were joined in God's Cathedral
 by a tree beneath the sky
 and I loved you Oh I loved you
 with all the love my heart could hold
 it was the pure love of a Children
 for I was young though you were old
 you were tired you were weary
 your wounds still burned and stung
 but I knew nothing of such sorrows
 my life had just begun
 you took me in your arms
 you took me to your home
 you were all the world to me
 you were all I'd ever known
 Then the years passed — full of happening
 I learned sorrow by her name
 and Joy became a friend to me
 I learned her the same
 God sent down a child
 to walk with you and I
 and all the world was different
 once I looked into his eyes
 Then I loved you like a woman
 with a love understanding and strong
 I held tightly to your hand

as you led us along
The path of life is a rugged one
full of pain and toil and strife
but we found our joy in it
as we walked — man and wife
yet there were times when I was foolish
when I was filled with anger
when I was rebellious
and I began to wander
Oh, but you never let me go
with a patience kind yet strong
you always brought me back
to the path that you were on
in the weary wilderness
you forged the narrow trail
while through darkness and temptation
I never saw you fail
but you always led me by the hand
at times you carried me
onward in the way of truth
toward our destiny
Now I look back on the way we've come
at the straight and narrow sight
and I bless your precious name
for you always led me right

3-21-95

I had a miscarriage at 4 am this morning. I was 11 weeks. It was a blighted ovum. Fred & Debbie were so good to me. I'm very depressed.

4-8-95

I feel so aware of my faults lately. I'm so far from what I want to be but I'm so glad to have a patient and loving husband. Living with so many people it is imperative to garnish my thoughts.

I want so much to be pure in heart and innocent and to be a righteous mother and a good wife. Much better than I have been. And I want to think right and be healthy. I want to be pregnant soon.

4-16-95

Thinking a lot about Guatemala lately. Wish to be back there.

Fred crashed on the scooter because it has a transmission problem and

downshifted to 1st at 50 mph. He got really (p. 33) scraped up — needed 25 stitches in his arm. That was wednesday the 12th. Israel tells me he loves me sometimes. All on his own. Today I'm starting a serious resolution to health. I'll report next week.

4-22-95

Not doing as well as I wish with my resolution but definitely better. I love Fred's children like my own I think of them always. I wish I were their mother. I could do more for them. Winter is forever here — it snowed today. I can't wait to get to Guatemala.

4-30-95

I am feeling good. Want to be pregnant, want Debbie to be. I miss Ann. I feel like the women in this home could so so much more, rise to the occasion, make our home so much better. If only we were one and everyone really cared about the Relief Society and building a women's organization to lead forward in righteousness. I always love Fred so much. I have made some resolutions to honor and reverence him. Never say an unkind thing to or about him. But be a godly wife full of peace and love and faith and trust. I pray God to be with me in this.

5-7-95

Snowed all day yesterday, Sunny and warm today. I made charts for Mary, Shannon, David, Joshua to put in their rooms to remind them of their prayers, cleaning their rooms etc.

I've been enjoying the boys a lot. I'm glad to teach them. I'm trying to be a more sweet and pure and gentle person. I want to get to Guatemala so badly.

Fred gave a speech yesterday on the government and what it has become.

Israel is growing so fast.

5-28-95

Fred and Debbie went with Bill & kids to Texas to see Ann. She's been gone three months and will be gone for three more. Fred & Debbie went to bring the van back because Bill will visit for three months weeks. Fred & Debbie were also going to go to Colonial LeBaron in Mexico for a day and should be back tomorrow night. Darling is pregnant again and Oh I hope so much to be also, this month. I read the Celestial Glory Pamphlet this morning and really felt touched. Especially by the part that say only after we've become part of a structured Priesthood Union and proven time and

again that nothing will break that union and the devil has no power over us — then we are ready for our Second Anointing.

I am so in love with the gospel and with this work — But I have taken it for granted this past year. It, and all my blessings.

I must improve and rise to the occasion and make more of myself — be more grateful, more committed, more focused on God. I love Him, I love my Husband. I love this gospel and I feel so blessed to be a part of this family.

6-4-95

Our Anniversary was on the 31st. Three years now — the best three years of my life. Fred, David, Joshua, Hyrum, Debbie, Emily, Marissa, Myself and Israel went on that Day to visit Jack & Jolene Collier — Fred's parents. It was the first time they saw Israel, Jolene has breast Cancer — and though she had essentially disowned Fred for his religion, since he bought lots of books on alternative therapies and a video by a woman doctor who had breast cancer and had mike, Carl and Sam bring them to her, and since he sent her a mother's day card she's (p. 36) been nicer than she's ever been in a long time and it was a very pleasant visit.

On the first Fred and I spent the afternoon hiking at Rock Creek Dam — it was nice to be able to do that together.

Debbie and kids will be going to California to visit her parents on Wednesday and they will stay a month.

Opal will be going to Canada with Jesse to stay a month also.

Darling is pregnant and out of the order.

I miss her. I love her so much. I pray for the day when she and Mike will have the spirit of God.

6-11-95

Sarah Darling offered to get a job and pay for Ann's tuition so she can stay at the Clinic in El Paso for another 4 months. Fred and have been estranged because she has tended not to put the family as her first priority, but this offer touched him very deeply and may I hope be the beginning of better days.

Fred gave a speech stating that while he was working on the El paper God revealed to him some things – 1 – The law of Moses regarding the postponement of marital relations until 7 days after the menstrual cycle was to promote conception in that most couples will be sure to be together (p. 37) on that day — which is the most fertile — if they haven't been able to be with each other for the previous two weeks. He said God's people are blessed to be prolific in their generations and the law was given to discourage birth Control and promote fertility. But is is not a big moral moral [sic.] issue

— the letter of the law but it is important that the spirit of it be understood and incorporated in our lives which — try always to have Children.

The other thing was that in Christ's time in Israel, homosexuality was not a problem or an issue because due to the laws of the Old Testament it had been eradicated among them —

Part of those laws were the Clear distinguishment of men's and women's roles and that was to include the difference in men's and women's dress — women should dress like women (modestly) and men like men.

9-30-95

Debbie had a test months ago that showed her operation was successful and both tubes are open! She is not pregnant yet but we are all waiting.

I am 9 weeks pregnant and am having another miscarriage today.

I want a baby so very much — Israel is the absolute joy of my life.

(p. 38) I love this family so much and I love the Gospel God has given us. I am so grateful for my dear sister wife and my wonderful, godly husband and all the 15 children. I want to raise Israel to love and serve God. I want to be thee for him always [—] I want to get to Guatemala — it's like a new promised land, where we can raise our children up in peace. I love my God and am glad that he is patient with me. I don't want to loose this baby. I want to keep it so badly. I would to God I could have another baby.

I am feeling so very very sad.

September 3, 1995

My Dear Husband,

I know that you are burdened down by so many cares and that you work and sacrifice for this family so very very much. Oh how I love, admire and appreciate you. I feel so blessed and so privileged to have such a close association with you. You are so constant and dependable. So wise and godly. You are such a source of inspiration to me. I love you.

Oh Fred, I feel that this past year I have been so very far from the kind of person I want so much to be. I have promised myself again and again that I would improve and yet I don't know that I have made any progress. I feel like I have let myself down so many times, and you and God. I also feel dear, that I have lost something in our relationship and it makes me very sad. I want so much to get it back.

I feel at times that there are parts of me you just can't relate (p. 2) to — are at quite a loss to understand, when I really need you to.

In turn, I am sure there are times when you need me, and my understanding and I let you down as well. You know that I am sorry.

I know that every act has its natural Consequence and I feel that perhaps my actions over the past year have taken their toll on our relationship. For example, I find myself wondering if you trust me — or have I been harsh and judgmental to the point where you feel you must use discretion when you speak to me? About others and about your own feelings.?

Do you feel comfortable around me [—] I wonder? Do you still enjoy my Company?

Oh Fred, please be honest with me. I feel a loss and I cannot bear it forever. I have made up my mind to bear chastisement with meekness. But I need your counsel Please tell me how I can get (p. 3) back what we had. I feel like I am completely naked before you. After this year you have seen me at my lowest level. You have seen the worst that is in me and I feel so ashamed.

I am asking you dear, to tell me honestly how you feel, because I need to hear it. There are things I need to understand. I need your honest counsel to direct me, as much as I need the desires of my own heart.

I love you with all my heart and I thank God for you always. For you and your gospel and your child(ren) that are mine. (I hope mine months goes quickly — I can't wait to meet our baby!)

I Love You Forever

Your Wife,

Bethany

(Taken from file: Dear Husband95A & C)

[Your Husband: Bethany you are your own worst critic — but then, this is how it should be! It was not long after I married you, that I realized you were the most righteous person that I had ever known in this life time — and every one else that knows you knew it too.

There is a certain amount of righteous indignation to which you are entitled. Why should you be damned from achieving the high and noble heights to which you aspire, just because of the failings of others who were not capable of such lofty thoughts, much less such works.

Nevertheless we cannot altogether cast off sinners, for it would damn them. On the contrary we must work with them, and strive to inspire them, that they might be lifted up. Indeed, we must remember what Jesus taught — the whole need no physician, but only the sick, and this is the labor and calling of the Priesthood. Nevertheless, this does not mean that you should be tied down and hamstrung because of the failings of others. On this count I am sorry that I did not do better for you. I was an eternal optimist, and my mind was forever in another world. Your Loving Husband.]

(p. 38)

10-15-95

My heart is rejoicing in the great mercy God has extended unto me in bringing me into this family and blessing me with my great and righteous husband. I have been such a fool this past year. A self centered self righteous foolish fool **(p. 39)** but I understand the way I may begin to improve and as I have asked God to help me be humble and pure I have felt a new spirit begin to grow in my heart and I believe I can honor god and my husband and live a righteous life as a woman to honor and glory him. I am so thankful for his mercy.

12-15-95

Holly is fourteen today. I love her so much She has such a sweet spirit. I sometimes see myself in her so much, the way I was when I was young.

I love all Nancy's children so so much. As though they were my own. I feel responsible to them as if they were.

Debbie is eight weeks pregnant with her first child by Fred. She has been sick in bed for six weeks but not as sick as in past pregnancies.

Wednesday, November 29th

We had a fire in our home. Thanks to God we all got out safely. We lived at the Tabiona Town Hall for a week. We've been back in the house for two weeks working hard and still have a great deal to do.

I had my third miscarriage in a row today. I was five weeks along. I conceived on Thanksgiving Day. It breaks my heart. I'm just so thankful that I have Israel and all Nancy's children. I'm so thankful that I have my husband.

(p. 40) During the fire, Fred, Debbie, Myself, Joshua and Marissa had to get down from my balcony that has no ladder.

Debbie, Joshua & Marissa got out Debbie's bedroom window and walked over the roof to my balcony on the third story. Someone found a too short rusty ladder and a trampoline pole and Fred Climbed down the pole and onto the ladder. We handed him the kids and he helped them onto the ladder below ~~them~~ him. Then Debbie went down to him. Next I handed him his computer (which was all packed in its case as they had arrived home from California just the night before from visiting Debbie's parents) Then I went down, it was so dangerous and so scary.

Mike & Carl are on a mission right now. They are in Illinois, but will be heading soon to Colonial LeBaron in Mexico.

[The following is a birthday card with a painting of a Bald Eagle soaring above the clouds. Below the painting is the following short letter from Bethany:]

12-27-95

Dear Fred,

Today is your birthday & it brings to mind how much you mean to me. I am so grateful for the life that you have lived, for the sacrifices you have made for so many years to bring the true & everlasting gospel to me, and the rest of God's Children. You are so noble, and brave & godly. You are a beacon of light in my life. I love you my dear husband Love

Bethany

[On the back side of this card it states the following:]

Live strong as the mountains and true as the eagle
and the Great Spirit will always be with you.

Happy Birthday

Forever Yours, Faithfully With Eternal Love,

with all My Love Bethany

Your Wife Debbie

xoxoxo

2- -96

Fred and I are fasting today. He is going to give me a blessing concerning my problem carrying children.

I am so thankful for the blessings that I have, and I know all things are in God's hands, and according to his will, but Oh how I desire more children. I pray God will have mercy on me. My heart longs to be in Guatemala.

I pray to be there soon.

[Valentine Card from Debbie.]

2-14-96

Dear Fred,

Since you are my one and only Valentine, I wanted to write you a Love letter on Valentine's Day. Thank you my dear husband for your love and kindness. Although we have our differences I feel so incredibly close to you.

You are my friend, my companion, my happiness, my lover. But most of all you are my leader and head — the man I want to love and honor forever. Love is incredible, especially the kind of Love I'm speaking of — the unique love that a woman in the work of God has for her husband — the Love of her life and for all eternity. I never knew until we married what it was like to really give myself to anyone and to love some one as I do you. You are so worthy of all my love and respect and more. Thank you my dear husband.

Your's forever
Love,
Debbie
xoxoxo

(p. 41)

April 4th 1996

I went to my parents home on Feb. 14th (valentines day.

My dad really surprised me. He bought a bouquet of long stemmed red roses for my mother, Havilah and I. A big one with 6 roses and other foliage for my mother and two smaller (3 roses + ones for Havilah and I. He designed the bouquets himself down to the ribbons on the vases. They were all a little different. That is the first time I have ever been given flowers. I had to hold back the tears. I miss my father. I wish I could be in his life and be a real friend. Ever since he left Hanna we've not been close.

I am eleven weeks pregnant and all seems to be going well. Ann, Debbie & Opal gave me a blessing in which Ann said I would carry this child and raise it. Fred also gave me a blessing admonishing me not to focus on all the problems in this home but on the life within me. And to give my Heart & mind to God.

(p. 42)

5-2-96

Fred left for Guatemala this afternoon around 4:00 pm. He went with Nancy, Samuel, David, Joshua, Mary, Hyrum and Emmanuel. They will be stopping in Tuscon tomorrow to see Nora Smith and then going on to Mexico. They will stay there several days in Colonial LeBaron with Mike & Carl & then go on to Guatemala. He hopes to finish the well while he is there. Woodrow and Sandra Dunlap are going to meet up with him on May 28th. They want to be baptized while they are there.

I didn't realize today's date until after they left, but it is May 2nd which is a very special day for me. It was the date we first met in 1992 at Debbie & Craig's home in Payson.

I already feel like a terrible baby because I miss him so much and am already lonely just knowing I won't see him for 6 weeks. It is so hard to get along without him.

The boys are gone too and when I'm not morning sick I fill my life up with them. (p. 43) I pray God to keep them all safe and to bless Fred's efforts. And to bring them back to me soon.

Debbie is in California with her kids. They are visiting her parents and won't be back for 2 weeks. That is hard too.

My pregnancy is going very well. Except I still don't feel very well. I'm just grateful to My Heavenly Father & Mother for sending me this child. I can't wait.

5/9/96

Fred called yesterday and said things were going well. They were back in the states from Mexico and were going to see Carlsbad Caverns with Mike, Carl, Caroline. Then they were going to drop the Guys in El Paso again to get a ride back to Colonial LeBaron and they were going to head straight for Guatemala.

I was very glad to hear from him. I talked to the kids too. I sure love that man. I want to be such a better person. A better wife.

(p. 44) My sister Havilah, and my little brother Andrew came over last weekend. It was wonderful to have Andrew visit and Israel Adores him.

Fred says he doesn't like the name 'Relief Society' and feels it would be more appropriate to call it 'Priestesshood'.

I made a requirement list of books, projects, reports, etc, that the girls have to do to graduate. It shouldn't take 2 years. They start 4 hrs a day on Monday.

5/10/96

Fred just Called this evening and he is in El Paso. They will have the Sabbath at Bruce Kirshman's home there. Tomorrow they will leave sometime ~~tomorrow~~ for Guatemala. I miss him. I miss not having him to ask questions and talk to.

5-11-96

We had Sabbath meeting today — Ann read portions of 'My Life's Review' by Benjamin Johnson. It was a good meeting (p. 45) and left me with a desire to endure all things and cheerfully do all required of me. Knowing this, that this life is but a little while and I shall feel foolish indeed if I lose sight of the eternal perspective that success requires.

5-12-96

Beautiful hot day. Mother's Day today. Fred Called this morning. He wished me Happy Mothers Day. Said he loved me so much. They were just heading to Guatemala from the Kirshman's. In El Paso. Went up the (p. 46) Canyon this Afternoon with , Ruth, Holly, Adam & Israel. We had a hot dog roast with chips, soda, marsh-mellows. Had a good time.

5-17-96

Bill, Ann, Opal, went to St. George on Wednesday to visit Bill's sister and to pick up Debbie whose parents will be dropping her off their this morning. She should be home here tonight. It will be good to see her.

I read "My Life's Review" by Benjamin Johnson. It is an inspiring book in the sense that he gave his whole life to building God's kingdom. He sacrificed so much. I hope I Can take the lesson to heart and be like that.

I watched the movie "Coming out of the Ice". It is a true movie about a man born American whose father brings them back to Russia for 3 years. He is a great Athlete in that time and sets a world record for free falling in a sky dive, (p. 47) but he's American and plans to return home. They drag him out of his home one day with no explanation or trial. He is quite abused and ends up sentenced to Siberian work camps for 10 years. It is a tremendous struggle to survive and keep a desire to live. Every force there is to degrade the human spirit and stomp out anything noble and good. He suffers for helping others — because if the authority notices anyone with humanity left in them or a spark of life they try to extinguish it. Yet he is not destroyed but lives to come out of the camps — with his integrity of spirit. He marries, writes the U.S. Embassy (or tries to and for this is exiled to chop wood in a remote village. Dragged from his home once more.

His wife locates him and walks all the way there with their baby. All in all he is in Russia 45 years before he is able to come home to America.

It left me pondering if I can raise my children with the strength of character, moral integrity and faith in (p. 48) God to overcome such a situation. Could they be as strong? Could they be true to God and their own conscience or would they be overcome and extinguished and give up their morals, their dignity, their hope and faith?

I wrote Fred a letter telling him I had decided it is best for us to stay together as a family — I've wanted to go South no matter what or with whom — But I do feel God wants me with Nancy's children to teach and influence them. However I don't want to be trapped here. And I don't feel its required of me to live in the same house with her forever.

(p. 49)

My biggest frustration is that not being their mother, my influence is very limited, but I feel I must realize that because it's limited does not mean it is not important.

Right now, with Fred and the younger boys gone, I have been focusing on the older girls and sometimes feel truly at my wits end. Can't they just be responsible, dependable, reliable, and cheerful about it all? I suppose that's a lot to ask. Sometimes I just want to throw up my hands and quit. But they are such good girls too. Often very helpful and I just want to hug them.

Most of all I want to see them grow into responsible capable, cheerful, Godly Women.

I listen to the cows moo and the sprinklers rain upon the Alfalfa fields outside my darkened window and I know I am blessed to live here. So blessed.

While also, my heart yearns for other sounds — The loud pouring of tropical rains. I long for a home of my own. Where I can bring the Spirit through my own choices and where I can control my children's environment. I so much desire this. Of course with open doors to family & friends but yet where my rules and influence preside — of course in subjection and harmony with my husband.

5-29-96

Fred called yesterday morning. Last night Woodrow and Sandra Dunlap were scheduled to arrive in Guatemala City.

I was very happy to hear from him and know they are doing well. He is working on building some showers and a pila by the tool shed, two cisterns for them to get the water to run them and also an outhouse.

I am anxious for him to come home, which will likely be another month. I want to talk to him about consecration. I've been studying in the *Journal of Discourses*.

I am very anxious also, to move to Guatemala as soon as Fred will allow.

Sarah Darling came up on the 18th to get some of her things. She brought her children. It was the first time we ever got to see Michaela the new baby. (p. 51) It was a friendly visit yet it was awkward in the sense that it's weird to not have much to say of depth or substance to someone you were once very close to.

Caroline came to stay the night this past weekend and that was nice. She shared with us some of the things she is getting into to earn money and encouraged us to find ways to improve our situation also.

I spent the week of the 19th at my parents. Had a few conversations with my dad. Mostly just rested.

6-1-96

Yesterday was my fourth anniversary of marriage to Fred. I am very grateful to God for giving me such a wonderful husband, also for blessing me to be pregnant at this time. I am so excited to have this child — October seems very far away.

A am hoping and praying to get to Guatemala very soon.

Debbie and I have been reading about consecration in the Journal of Discourses. I am getting a picture of some changes that would (p. 52) really help us.

My heart just aches at times. I have this void where I lacking understanding and it is like a hidden wound in my spirit.

~~I have~~ oh so many questions and they seem so fair and legitimate I can't pretend to have peace or that I don't need the answers when in fact I need them so badly. Like as if I were thirsting to death. I have to understand. I must.

And yet I must be patient with the Lord and have faith that there are answers and that he will teach us in his own due time.

Yet I feel to plead with him to hurry. My life is only so long and I want to spend it in understanding

All these things are in regards to the 5001 questions I have relating to women in the kingdom of God, Heavenly Mother, the Priestesshood, Celestial Marriage etc.

At first I did not want to have a daughter — not that I didn't want one but I did not feel able to bear to raise a daughter when I have so many questions about womanhood.

Then I had 3 miscarriages in a row, and I feel God was bringing me on a Journey. (p. 53) At the first I strongly did not want a daughter (although I wanted to feel able to want one). And by the fourth pregnancy (the one after my 3rd miscarriage) I wanted a daughter as strongly as ever I did not. More strongly in fact.

I can't understand the Change myself. Only perhaps that God saw fit to humble me, as I still have unanswered all my questions.

I feel that inside me now is my precious daughter who has been waiting on her mother all this time.

I don't feel I can say "I know it's a girl." Perhaps it is not. But getting pregnant was only by God's intervention as I had carefully planned not to get pregnant for the purpose of undergoing some tests to see the reason for my recurrent miscarriages.

It was virtually impossible that I could have conceived that month but I did and another miracle — I did not miscarry.

I was surprised to realize within myself that I wanted a daughter. And when I realized that, my first thought was that God had in mind to send me one and this had been the purpose of the whole ordeal.

When I was 5½ months (p. 54) pregnant with Israel I had a very strong impression about a daughter. I told Fred and he said that was Odd because he'd had strong feelings that we were to have a son. Right when he said it I felt God has inspired his feeling and never thought of a daughter again. Yet I wondered where my feeling came from and I speculated that "perhaps she is next."

With Israel I didn't know but I just couldn't think of girls names I could only think of the name "Israel." When I heard that name I knew it was right and couldn't think of any other.

This time, even when I try, I can't think of the baby as a boy and I can't think of a single boy's name. For weeks now I can only think of the baby as "Faith."

Won't I feel silly ~~it~~ for writing this if I have a son! I wish I could have one of each.

I miss my husband very much I try not to think of it. I need him to talk to, I need his guiding influence on my thoughts. I need him guiding my life and to look out for me. And miss doing things for him.

(p. 115)

Good Mother
 I seek your blessing
 I long for the feeling
 of your hands
 on my head
 for your words
 wise and gentle
 knowing and full of
 grace
 Mother I seek
 your blessing
 as I Seek to look up
 at your
 face

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

69

Ask and it Shall be given
“May I hear my mother’s voice?
“Knock and it shall be opened unto you”
“I need her in my life”

I am only longing for my blind eyes to see
and for wholeness to be made in
the empty parts of me

(p. 116)

Oh woman
wake and rise
clear the slumber
from your eyes
be who you really are
love as the author of loving
yet be strong as a
goddess of war
be wise as one who knows
What love and Strength
are for

Daughters of the Mother
Who molded the very earth
honor her Holy Name
~~live up to y~~
Awaken to your worth

(p. 117)

One Day I will have my answers
I will know you and hold Your hand
but I wish for your sons & daughter[s]
for the knowledge of you to rain down

There is a famine
in the hearts of your daughters
of hearing the voice one
— as yet I have no daughters

but I long
to give that voice to my sons

What is a woman
flesh of your flesh, bone of your bone
Strong as the mountains around us
with a heart as deep as the sea
nurturing as the fertile fields
essential as summer rain
warm and constant as the sun that
shines
certain as the coming of day

Mother sometimes I think you knew
how darkened this world would be
how long you would be hidden away
from me
so you painted your reflection in
nature
_____ [where] in darkness I still could see

(p. 55)

6-2-96

Fred called this morning. He said he called mostly to talk to Debbie and I. He was loving and he misses us. If I had to guess, I'd expect him home around July 1st.

I am starting to feel the baby move a little now and then.

Last night Mike and Sarah came. We didn't expect them. We thought that Mike and Carl were in Mexico. Sarah refuses to have a marriage with Mike unless he essentially gives up his religion. He won't do that so it is over.

I can't really put into words how I feel. I am very happy to see him and I hurt for his pain.

I am glad to see him strong in the faith and ready to try to make things better. They are moving their mission to Manti.

I love Fred so much. I miss him and can't wait for his return. (p. 56) There are so many things I need to write. So much on my mind that I would like to remember to tell Fred.

I need to go forward — this work does. I need to see the fruits of what I believe so my testimony will become a knowledge more than belief.

On Sabbath Mike spoke at meeting and it seems it's been so long. It's wonderful to see him teaching and strong in the faith. A good example to his brothers and sisters.

Tonight Carl, Caroline, Mike, Debbie and I, all went up the canyon for a little while and talked about union and changes we need in our family. There was a good pure spirit attending. One of peace and patience and perseverance.

The way things are set up now union is somewhat an illusion. People need space and freedom to show what they are.

Also we can have room for people on a lesser level and love them for what they are, not hate them for what we expect them to be, that they aren't.

(p. 57)

6-23-96

Fred got home last Sunday night at 12:17 a.m. I woke up at 12:00 and knew he'd be driving up and sure enough he did.

It has been wonderful to have him back. He is such a good man and a wise and patient leader.

Today we had a meeting about policy in our United Order.

It is a start in the right direction and I guess as our means increase we can go ever further.

Sometimes I wish life was ideal and everything would work just the way it should. I wish people could always start at the bottom from now on and take it a step at a time all in order.

I really feel a desire to keep life in perspective of Eternal Reality. Not to put eternal things ~~to~~ behind the concerns of this short life. I hope God will be with me to this end. I want so much to think right and do right.

I want to be a comfort and support to my husband not a burden.

I love him so much.

(p. 125)

Goddess

You opened my womb
and caused it to bear

I now understand
a great secret lies there —

There is a love which Surpasses
any other
and it is the love
of a Mother

(p. 58)

10-30-96

I read back ~~of~~ over the past several entries and I see how I need my husbands guidance and also the Spirit of God.

It is easy to get things out of perspective and get all caught up in small things. I should strive for a deeper perspective and for more perceiving vision.

On July 20th, Debbie delivered a beautiful 8lb 12 oz baby girl. Ann was the Midwife. They named her Hannah Eleanor Collier.

Ever since then, I haven't known if I would have a girl or boy. I just lost my sure feeling that my baby was a girl — I guess it was just something I wanted. Anyway, four days ago on October 26th I gave birth to a beautiful son. 8 lbs 10 oz. He is healthy & peaceful and so very beautiful. My heart just feels to shout praises to God for His goodness.

(p. 59)

My water broke at 11:20 PM on the 25th. I took a shower and went to bed. I couldn't sleep a wink. I don't know when my contractions started but at 3:40 a.m. They seemed to be regular about every 5 min[.] So I got up and 2 hrs later at 5:20 am I was holding my beautiful healthy son. It was a very powerful labor and it went so fast Breathing helped so much when I was in labor with Israel but with Christian it didn't help at all.

I love him so much and am so excited to have another son. To have a growing little family.

I wish I would have included Fred more but he was there and just having him there was such comfort. The intensity of it took me by surprise. Debbie & Opal and of course Ann were all there too. It was wonderful to have so much help.

2 days later on the 28th Ann's little boy was born 2 weeks early. He is a beautiful tiny little guy 5 lbs 13 oz They **(p. 60)** named him Gabriel Jerome Harwell.

My mom's been here this week & helping so much[.]

[The following is a letter written by Bethany to Nancy and I's daughter Ruth on her 16th Birthday, which occurred on Aug 6th, 1996:]

[6 Aug 1996]

Dear Ruth.

Happy Birthday! Today you are sweet sixteen. How fast life flies by. Not so long ago you were a little girl and now, so suddenly, you have blossomed

into a young woman, anxious and ready for all that lies ahead. You have grown to be beautiful indeed, both outwardly and in your heart.. God has truly blessed you in many ways and it is so important that you always return gratitude to him for your blessings and seek his help and support to live worthy of all you have been so freely given.

God has promised that this life will be a struggle. It will try us to our very limits and we must prove that we can trust in him and persevere. But the greatest struggle is in our own minds and hearts. Most of us suffer much that is not needful simply because of our state of mind. If we can think and act according to the principles of the gospel, and govern ourselves in a christ-like way, we will assuredly find much to rejoice in, much happiness and joy which God wants us to partake of if only we will. It is part of the gospel, I believe, to be optimistic and hopeful, to look to the brighter side, to have an undying faith in God's wisdom and love. He knows what is best for his children. There will be times when it seems He isn't aware of what you feel you need so badly; times when you cannot understand why things must be the way they are. But always have faith in his loving goodness. His ways are not our ways, they are greater and more wise. We can ask for wisdom, that we may see and understand, but we must never lose faith.

These are precious years which you have before you, and the choices you make now will effect your eternal destiny. These are the days, the months, perhaps the years, which are given you to prepare for your mission in this life. They are a time to practice those principles upon which you will live. To serve the Lord and learn to know his voice. To serve those around you and brighten the world with the light of Christ, which shines in your own life. You are so precious and so priceless, both to the Lord and to your own family. Your Heavenly Parents carefully laid out a plan for your life that would bring much joy to you and to others. They planned with you a wonderful mission, one which only you could fulfill. This is the time to prepare, to seek the Lord, and to begin.

God loves you more than you can begin to imagine. You matter! You are one of a kind, a unique individual with endless potential. There is something ONLY YOU can add to this world as well as the next. God has promised to be there for you, to hear you, to take care of you, in the way he knows is best. Study the gospel and learn to know the way he wants you to live and to think and to feel. As you please him in your life you will see His blessings begin to be poured out upon your head.

He will send you a righteous husband, children to lead and teach. He will send you trials by which you will grow to be like Him and he will send you joys. If you magnify your callings as daughter, sister, wife and mother He will send you more joy than you ever hoped to know.

I hope you know that you are loved in this home. You are loved and appreciated. You are like a flower just starting to bloom. You have a peaceful gentle spirit. I hope this year brings you happiness and growth. May God be with you and bless you and teach you of his unfailing love. I love you. Happy Birthday!

With Much Love,
Bethany

[The following is a card signed by Debbie and her children, and Ruth and Marry and given to Bethany on the occasion of the Birth of Christian, on October 26th, 1996. The card has an Oil Painting on the front of a young girl holding a watering can. And on the back of the card is a short letter written by Debbie and signed by her and the above named kids. The credits for the picture state the following:] Auguste Renoir (1841–1919) *A Girl with a Watering Can*, 1876 oil on linen. . . . National Gallery of Art, Washington Chester Dale Collection 1963 to 206 © 1992 National Gallery of Art, Washington . . .

[on the back of the card the following short letter is written by Debbie:]

Dearest Bethany.

Congratulations on the birth of your second beautiful son. You are such a good Mother — your children are wonderful! God bless you Bethany — in all that you do. We all Love you so much.

Love
Debbie
Hanna, Emily
Mary, Love Ruth
Shannon

Marisa (Marissa had a broken right arm!), Haleigh, Jeremy

[Another short note written by Debbie's daughter Haleigh, shortly after Christian's birth on Oct 26, 1996:]

Dear Christian,

You are so CUTE!! I love you so much !! You are a little Angel from heaven. And every one loves you.

I hope you and Israel will be good friends.

Love your sister
xoxoxoxo Haleigh

[A card sent to me by Debbie on the 5th of December 1996. What follows is taken from 5 scanned images. They were scanned by Knute Knuteson, while he was working for me in 2004. The first scan is the front of the Envelop which is post marked and dated 6 Dec 1996. The envelop is sent by “Debbie Collier, Old Green Church, Hanna, Ut, 84031. It is addressed to “Cordell Anderson, Apartado Postal No. 67, Coban A.V. No. 16001, Guatemala C.A. The 3ed scan is a blue and green water painting smear, upon which are printed the following words:]

Although the miles
come between us now,
I still feel so close to you,
and I just keep hoping
the days will fly by
because I want you beside me
to talk to,
to hold,
to love.

E. B. Michaels

[At the bottom of this writing Debbie writes:]

All my Love,
Your wife
Debbie
xoxoxoxo

[Following this, on the front and back pages of the card there is a water painting of two empty chairs and a small table. Above the chairs it states:]

I WANT YOU BESIDE ME

[Below the chairs it reads:]

*Being apart from you isn't easy . . .
I find myself missing you so often,
in so many ways . . .
but even though we can't be together right now,
gentle thoughts of you fill my days
and dreams of you fill my nights . . .
No matter what I'm doing,
I know it would be so much nicer
if I could be sharing it with you . . .*

*I keep imagining things you'd say
if you were with me now,
or the way you would laugh
if something funny happened,
and the next thing I know,
I'm daydreaming about all the things we'll do
when we're together again . . .*

[On the back page of the same card, which is scanned in the same scan as the front page which contains the two chairs, Debbie writes:]

“Between you and Me”

[Below this is printed a picture of a Crown, below which is the word “Hallmark bar code 0 708050 4 04506. Following this “D” scan, there is an “E” scan, which contains the following letter from Debbie:]

12-5-96

My Dear Husband Fred,

I just finished talking to you from Corpus Cristi TX. I'm sure this letter won't reach you for at least three weeks. I'm hoping you might get it some time around your Birthday! Maybe if everything there is going as well as you hope you'll be having a nice birthday. I should be the one celebrating your birthday. I should be the one celebrating your birthday. After all it's the day God sent you here to earth. How blessed we all are to have you with us! How blessed I am to have you here, now, to be my husband. I Love so much Honey.

I miss you so much my Dear!

Hannah is doing well. I play the tape, with your voice on it every day. She usually pays attention to the sound of your voice. She'll stop fussing or just look in the direction of the tape player. She knows it's a special sound she's hearing. It means so much to me to see her love you. I've waited for so long to watch you hold our little baby — part of you and part of me. Please don't be away from us too much in the years to come. We Love and miss you so much. Thank you for everything you've given me. God Bless you and all the family that's with you. Tell them all I send my Love. All my Love Your wife [—] Yours forever Debbie

XOXO

OXOX

Guess what it means when the hugs & kisses are on top of each other!

[To the left of this letter there was a trace drawing of Hannah's left hand. However inasmuch as the page was wide, the "E" scanning, which was done by Knute Knuteson in 2004, did not include all the words to the far left of the page. However, in the "F" scan, the missing words are recovered, which brings out the whole text, with the following words:]

Dear Daddy

This hand is mine. I sent it to you to show you that I Love you and that I'm growing bigger every day. I'm also waving to you, my Daddy — the best Daddy in the whole world. I Love you Daddy. Take good care of yourself

Your Daughter Hannah

PS I hope I see you soon Daddy

xoxo

Happy Birthday
Dad!

All the children Love and Miss you very much:

Jeremy, Haleigh, Shannon, Marissa

Emily, and Hannah xoxo

[Following this "E" scan, and "F" scan, there are 3 different photos which were taken in Guatemala. The first of which contains a picture of Bethany, Adam, Sarah Darling, Michael, Samuel and Fred or myself, standing in front of our luggage. The 2nd photo contains a picture of Bethany, Israel in my arms, Myself, Samuel, Adam, Sarah Darling and Michael or Mike. The 3rd photo contains a picture of Bethany with Israel in her arms, Michael or Mike, Samuel, Sarah and Jarad, Adam and Myself or Fred standing in front of our Luggage.]

[The following is a letter from Bethany to me. At present I only have available to me the 1st page.]

11-27-96

Dear Fred,

Now you are in Guatemala. I am so happy you are there and I hope that things go well. I am praying always for God to bless your efforts!

Of course you know I miss you like crazy. When you are gone I always find myself reflecting on your many wonderful qualities and realizing anew how grateful I am that God saw fit to bring us together.

I also find myself evaluating my life and myself. I try to decide how well I am living up to my Covenants before God. I am very grateful for God's mercy and patience because although I try, I am constantly in need of aligning my perspective on life more with truth and godliness. It seems I get caught up in the little things of life so easily.

I hope truly that I can make some big improvements in my character before too many years go by. (This document was scanned as a TIFF file. The file name is: "ToFred96")

12-12-96

Fred is in Guatemala again with Nancy, , David[,] Joshua, Mary, Hyrum, Emmanuel. We haven't heard from him since he was travelling through Mexico last week.

Christian is so beautiful. I am falling in love.

Israel is such a strong spirited child, I struggle always to help him do right.

I feel I could be such a better mother than I am. Such a better person.

I am going to send Fred a letter telling him I would like to be sealed to Debbie as her daughter. It makes me so happy just to think of it. How happy I will be to have a mother in the Priesthood.

4-24-97

Dear Sarah,

Hi There. I know it has been forever since I have written you. I'm sorry about that. I will try to do better. I think of you often and really miss you. I wanted to write and let you know that you have been on my mind. I wonder how you are hanging in there. How are the kids? How are you surviving school?

I'm doing OK. It's nice to have my own place and yet be so close to Debbie. I am going to be planting some herbs and greens (lettuce etc.). I don't have a yard really but there is soil on both sides of the door and Jeremy helped me build some grow boxes. I'm hoping to get enough money to buy some dirt to fill them up.

Israel is a real handful. He sometimes scares me to death. He is so willful and stubborn (remind you of anyone?) ! He seems not to realize that he is any different than any adult. I really don't understand why. I really haven't

raised him to be like this. Maybe it's a stage? Ha Ha! Christian is sitting up and scooting. He's a fairly mellow kid so far.

Anyhow, what's new with you? Do you like your new school? Your new home? Is it really hard living away from your mom? How is her school going?

I went to the University here today and talked to someone in the nursing dept. I am thinking of getting an RN and then a BSN and then becoming a Nurse Practitioner. In New Mexico a Nurse Practitioner can have an independent practice, prescribe medication etc. I still really want to go south and I know I will sometime, maybe before I do all this but at least it is something to work towards while I'm here.

Have you thought of what you are going to do since they changed that nursing program on you?

Christian has exzema really bad and I decided to eliminate all meat and dairy from our diet. It's not that hard with products like Rice Dream available. I think it is good for Israel but Christian is not really responding. He mainly nurses. He eats solids about 1 or 2 times a day, so I guess his condition must simply be hereditary. I don't know.

How is your family doing? Does Mike see a lot of the kids? I'm going to write him next, I miss him a lot. I love you Sarah, I'm sorry I haven't been a very good friend in the last two years. I wish I could see you sometime. Love You and God Bless.

Yours Always,

Bethany

P.S. You are fondly mentioned by the girls on a regular basis. We all think of you and wish you the best.

[A love letter from Debbie.]

5-22-97

Dear Fred,

Just a short Love letter. Oh my dear husband, I Love and miss you so so much. I hope you're well. I found this little card and thought you might want to put it in your pocket. Maybe it could remind you of me and the children. I Love you so much Honey. Please take care of yourself — Everyday! I will be waiting to see you every day or really every minute. God Bless You.

Love

Debbie

xoxoxo

[An undated Husband Card from Debbie. The front of the card is a beautiful Mountain Scene, with a lake in front of it. Written on the front in blue letters is:]

For My
Husband
"I'm
SO GLAD
I MARRIED YOU"

[The 2nd page is the same Mountain Scene in a different photo, with the following words printed across the front of it:]

Since we've been together,
you've stood by me
through some pretty trying times.
You've calmed me
and supported me . . .
and touched something deep inside me
with your love and understanding.
I never dreamed
I could feel this close to anyone . . .
or love anyone so completely-

[On the 3rd page is another photo of the same lake and mountain, probably Glacier National Park, and printed across this photo is printed:]

But you've inspired that love
by always being there for me,
offering your gentle strength.
What a wonderful feeling
of security and confidence
you've given me . . .
You're all I ever needed in my life.

Happy
Father's Day
With All
My Love

[Then written with a blue Ink pen it is signed by Debbie as:]

Yours Forever, with all
My Love, Debbie xoxo

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

81

June 1997

Dear Hyrum & Emmanuel, I miss you guys tons!!! Israel does too. He's a little made at me for taking him away. Are you guys made at me? I think about you all the time. I can't wait to see you again some time. I hope you are being good.

Love,
Bethany

(Taken from file: BethanyJun97A)

June 1997

Dear David & Joshua,
Hi guys. Remember me? Do you still like me? Do you think you'd like to visit me some time?

Please do your school. I love you both. I can't believe how fast you are growing up!

Guess what. I got my drivers license!

I'm so happy about it.

Don't forget me. Have a great summer.

Love,
Bethany

(Taken from the file: BethanyJun97B)

[Dear Husband:]

I Love You so very much! You're the most wonderful man in the world and I am so glad I get to spend my life with you!

You make me very happy.

Have a good day!

Love
Bethany

[On the opposite side of this paper were some purple, pink and green and yellow flowers, together with a red heart which Bethany had colored with a crayon, at the bottom of which she had written my name "Fred"] (Taken from a TIFF file named: LoveBethany1 & 2)

9 June 1997
From Debbie Collier

May God Bless You
ON
FATHER'S DAY
AND
ALWAYS

(p. 61)

July 18, 1997

Before Fred returned from Guatemala, Debbie and I moved out of the Hanna house to Deming New Mexico. We asked him over the phone and he gave us his consent [actually, though I did not want to, I actually gave Debbie and yourself permission to move to Orem in order to make money selling phone cards — however when I got back from Guatemala, you had moved to Deming, New Mexico. FCC], though he was not happy about it. Everything transpired as though God was opening the way before us, and I really felt his hand in the whole thing. Since that time Fred has been struggling in learning to provide for his family — we're working on getting some new books ready for print. Trying to make Collier's publishing into a business that will care for us all. We now live 50 miles from Deming in Silver city NM Debbie and I miss some things about living together, but there are also many advantages to each having our own home. I am thankful to God and to Fred for this opportunity.

Cordell wrote to say that he can no longer manage to care for our property in Guatemala while we are away. (p. 62) Part of me wants badly to go there, but I want to know it's the right time and not an unnecessary sacrifice.

9-21-97

How is it that time flies so fast? Christian is taking his first steps, Israel is learning to read. He can already ride a 2 wheel bike!

Fred just left to go back to Hanna. Debbie drove him up there and she and her Children are visiting for a while.

I'm going to start writing in here more often.

I love Fred & Debbie so much. I miss them both!

(p. 164)

Christian

Sweet little child
you play on the floor
discovering your world

But in the eyes of my heart
Oh! I've seen who you are
a Valiant Spirit!
And pure

(p.s 63–65 all pictures)

(p. 66)

[19]98

My little brother Andrew spent the summer with us which was very special to me. I had been Very close to him until I married.

(p. 66)

10/21/98

Its been another year and as I read through this journal some things seem so foolish[.] I'd like to tear them out! I've certainly grown up in the last couple of years.

A lot has happened too. I got a job in November '97 as a car hop at the local fast food drive in[n] and slowly had to increase my hours and support myself more and more.

Ruth & Holly, who've been living with me all this time, are all working and going to school. That left me with no babysitter so I quit my job and began doing daycare which has been one nightmare after another mostly financial.

(p. 67)

I have basically been supporting myself for the past 3 months and am pregnant again now too.

Debbie moved to Mexico at the end of July and Fred's been down there working on her house.

I plan to go down there in January and Rent I also plan to become a freelance writer and am praying that God will bless my efforts[.]

The book we've been working on since March '97 is still not out (because of Fred) and I am quite frustrated with him.

(p. 68)

Israel gives me feather's he finds in the yard. 9/98

[pictures 1997]

Sunday, December 13th, 1998
My Beloved Wife Debbie

I am truly sorry that our marriage should come to this unhappy end. In all my life I never tried so hard to make it work as I did with us. I never felt more loved in my life than I was loved by you, and I am sure that the same might be said regarding my feelings for you. When I received your last call 9 days ago, I could not have been affected more profoundly had you hit me in the head with a hammer. I was down for the count and could not get up for three days. When I finally did my strength and hope for the future was gone. You had taken my heart, my peace and my joy. I have not eaten since the day before I spoke to you last — I could not be comforted — I wanted to feel the pain and have what has happened constantly before my face. I fast to mourn your loss and to know from God every cause wherein I have contributed to this miserable end of our marriage, and what I must do to be a better husband and father. At the very least, I want to learn from this experience and I want to ache in my guts till I have taken it all in.

I want you to know that I could never steal Hannah or Shem away from their mother — I love both them and you too much to ever consider such a thing. Had I been around, my love and closeness would have grown for Shem, just as it did for Hannah. You have said that your father loves Hannah and that he is quite taken with her — I hope that you will bring the children around your father often so that they might feel the love of a man in their life.

I have a request to make — I want the large picture of Hannah, the one where she was wearing a red dress that was put in the big wood frame and the best picture of you and me with Hannah and a good picture of Shem as well. I also want all the love letters which you wrote to me and copies of those which I sent you — your letters were given to me by yourself and I have a right to them. There were also other letters and correspondence which you kept filed for me including things about Craig when he apostatized. Please give me the tapes of our meetings and the boxes with my speeches in them and all other things which I should rightfully have. If there are things which you want that is fine, but I at least want copies. I ask you to hang a picture of me on the wall in Hannah's bed room where she can see it every day, so that she will not forget me, and so that she will always remember that she has a father who loves her.

I supposed that you had probably already moved everything out of the house, but I actually came down to Mexico in hopes that I could get the things which I have asked for in this letter. I see some of your things are still in the house and leave this letter nailed to the door in a sealed envelope in hopes that you will receive it.

After your call I lost all desire to move to Mexico. Quite by coincidence, as I was leaving Hanna for Silver City I ran onto a house for rent in Duchesne for \$300. per month. Bethany was willing so I called from Silver City to secure the house, but when I came down here to Mexico, I see that the house is totally vulnerable to vandalism and theft, so I have asked Bethany to move down here. If I don't we will loose the tile and what we have paid for the cabinets. When we are finished with the house, I still plan on getting another home for Bethany. I am working out a sale of films for \$17,000. I am also going to start installing fountains in stores. There is too much prejudice to depend upon the sale of our publications to raise all that we need to live, and I always manage to get drawn off into religious things that do not pay our bills. This would not happen in selling fountains, and once they were placed they would be a permanent income without taking up my mind, leaving me free to do religious work and to be a husband and father.

Bethany sobs over your loss and so also do I, and that too often. With you being gone she does not really know if there is a future for us. She does not wish to fit into the family with anyone else but you. You must know that if ever you had one, Bethany was your true friend. Ann cried — as she said it, you were the best friend she ever had in her life — she wanted you for her mother and so also did Bethany. You were the Queen of the family Debbie. How many years did it take for us to find each other. I was 43 years old. We made music — it did not matter whether we were in bed or simply looking at each other from across the room. Our hearts chimed and we made music together. We loved and respected one another — we had what counts Debbie. I know that we had problems, but what marriage doesn't. Things were getting better with us and so also were our circumstances. I had barely bought you a home and spent thousands of dollars and months of time making your kitchen and living room into all that you could want. Had you endured a little longer we would have made it. You cannot know how my love for you was growing — for me latent feelings which I had not felt for well over a decade were beginning to revive and come to life. In your absence I thought on you every day with fond affectionate feelings of love. It was for me a new experience. Our last sweet phone call, which was only three days before our last was but a small sample of what was happening in my mind and heart. But alas, no sooner do I begin to feel such feelings, and the very source is torn from my bosom by a damning phone call and so my

happiness was wrenched from me. What have I done to deserve this. You have denied me of my beloved wife, my children and my happiness, and yourself and your children of a husband and father. You decided to give up and quit. You and I both know, had I been there this never would have happened. I have always been able to melt your frustration and anger with my love. So you had to sneak away and do the deed when I was gone.

Go get a picture of Emma when she was old and look into her face and see if she was happy. For years we have both felt that we were foreordained to find and marry each other. As we have thought, too bad it took me till I was 43 and you all your life till then before it happened. Are we now to believe that this was all just so much meaningless fantasy? And if this is so, what does it mean for the existence and birth of our beautiful children.

At times in the past you have shown great spiritual insight even the gift of prophecy — however there were other times when you listened to the wrong spirit. For years a spirit whispered in your ear and told you that I did not love you. But now for obvious reasons, this lie has become unbelievable, so it became necessary for the spirit to invent another lie. As I have told you before, you would be far better served to listen to your heart when you were happy and in love — and listen to God when you were in the joy of His Spirit, and make your decisions then, and not when you were in a state of depression and despair. Examine the scriptures for yourself and you will know that this is true. And don't let the Devil tell you that you are not good enough, or that you can't do it. You can do it — you have proved it — I have seen you shine many times in adversity, especially when you were in the joy of the Spirit and the Love of your husband. Together the three of us were strong Debbie — stronger than we can ever possible be alone.

Look Hannah and Shem in the face and tell me if you can that our marriage was a mistake. There have been moments of anger and frustration in the past, when you would have left, but I always overcame your frustration with my love and look now at the blessing. You didn't leave then, and look what God has given us. If it wasn't a mistake then, why leave now. Why don't you stick it out and wait for the realization of God's promised blessings for the faithful. Hannah and Shem are the beautiful fruit of our Union and Love, which for years you cried unto God in the depths of your soul to receive. I sold my library to pay for reconstructive surgery, and bore the pain with you for years at the end of every month when you found that you were not pregnant, and then finally God blessed us and we were filled with joy and rejoicing in our posterity. Can you possibly believe that somehow all this was a mistake.

Look what you have done — you have denied your children the association of their father and yourself of a loving Eternal mate. Yes Bill is a problem and I am not perfect, but I have already proven that I am capable

of improvement — and is Bill such a problem that it is worth denying your children the association of their father! Surely we can work something better out than this — Where is the forgiving Spirit of Christ which has so often actuated your mind and heart? It is filled with anger and frustration and a hurting spirit — at least that's what I felt when I spoke to you last. We can do better than this Debbie. Where is the patience which you have manifest before, and the loving spirit which you have shown, by making such comments as you did about Opal being the Relief Society President, and how can sinners grow if we cast them off.

I bear to you my solemn testimony that there is a God in Heaven and that He has at times communed with me — I bear you my witness that He has revealed to me that there is nothing more Worthy or Noble in Life than living and sacrificing for an Eternal Family in the world to come. It may be hard but nothing else will endure beyond the grave. Please consider well these things before you continue further down the path which you have taken.

Remember what you said to me a week or two before I left Mexico, about how grateful you were that I had provided you with a home to live in, so that you could fulfill the measure of your calling as a mother and wife. And I believe it was only a few days before this when you told me that in the future you were going to have to be very careful what it was that you asked of me, because you now realized that I would do anything for you. These were your words to me Debbie. Surely our marriage was not an unworkable situation. I beg of you to remember the good as well as the bad, and do not be so impatient. If you continue to endure it will all come together for us. Repent of that which you have done and soften your heart towards your husband. The die is not cast. Please have hope and faith and give me another chance — Do not smother the love which you have for me in your heart! Do not murder our love which we have so tenderly engendered for each other. I hope to have the money to finish the kitchen within a month, probably on the 12th of next month and shortly afterwards it will be finished. Move back into your home Debbie — move back into your house and stay at home to be a mother and a wife. You must do this because I cannot afford to keep you in California. Being gone too long is not good for the children. I know that the house was not ready for winter living, and hence the necessity of your leaving, but it will be done within 6 weeks and perhaps sooner as there is not much left to do. Nothing would give me more joy than to do it for you. Please ask me. We can consider your leaving as a necessary wake up call for your husband. Seventeen hundred dollars should finish the whole of it, including the tile, the cost of the cabinets and labor. We can rent another house for Bethany and we can do it before you return.

I want to know all your grievances against me — please write them in a letter so that I can repent. I know that I am not perfect — I never thought I

was — but I have a good heart and I have proven that I am capable of improvement. Our marriage was on the increase Debbie — it was getting better and you know it. Ask what you will of me Debbie — there is nothing you could ask of me that I would not do to save our Marriage — if in the past you have at times failed to get my attention — well you have got it now — I'm all ears — soften your heart and forgive me — love me and let me love you — my heart aches to embrace you — I would get down on my knees and kiss your feet if you would only let me do it — I would even kiss the bottoms.

We still want the same things — we want a Celestial Family — Oh Dear God how can she do this — it is not too late — we can still make it work! Do not give up but continue to strive with the Lord and your husband for the Exaltation of your family. Do this and at last, as a queen you will be surrounded by your posterity, and they will rise up and bless you as their mother and queen. But turn against your husband and where are all your blessings — like a fading flower, your honor and glory before God and man will pass away, “and this shall ye have at my hand — ye shall lie down in sorrow!” Our marriage is too sacred to destroy — it not only belongs to us, but it is the foreordained blessing which according to the Promise of the Covenant, belongs to our posterity after us. I'm sorry that I am so slow that it requires such drastic measures to wake me up, but you have got my attention now, so lets get together and work out our problems. If you must, get out the horse whip and give me 40 lashes, but after this I must have your forgiveness.

Remember what the Lord said of Joseph and Emma: “And again, verily I say, let mine handmaid forgive my servant Joseph his trespasses; and then shall she be forgiven her trespasses, wherein she has trespassed against me; and I, the Lord thy God, will bless her, and multiply her, and make her heart to rejoice.” (D&C 132:56)

My beloved wife, it is the same as before — if you cannot find it in your heart to forgive, so also you shall not be forgiven, and the glory of your family shall pass from you. And with that same judgment with which you judge, so also shall ye be judged. As you deny me of the love and association of my wife and children, so also shall you be denied.

Oh my beloved wife — how I have grown to love thee — Oh that you would not abandon me nor forsake our marriage! Through your great love and effort on my behalf, I have grown so — I am a better husband and a better father! You know that this is true.

I love you Debbie and I always will. Your heart is as good as gold and whatever you do, in my mind you will always be my beloved wife. With love forever, your aching husband — Fred.

PS: I want to see my children, and I want to know when I can. I want to get to know Shem and I do not want Hannah to forget me. Tell Haleigh,

Shannon, Marisa and Emily hello, and tell them that I love them. And please communicate with me soon.

I need to find out what you paid on the tile. The last time I spoke with you, you said that we owed \$100., but now they say that we owe \$521. Could you please communicate to me the facts.

(p. 162)

July — August 1999

Summer Rain (after losing Debbie)

From my window I can see the cornfields
wet and green and tall
It is hot and
the birds sing now
after a torrent of rain
Yes, the Sun is warm again
but I

I will never be the same

(p. 163)

Once I was so full of hope
I ran to meet tomorrow
but now I hide my empty hands
and Slowly walk in sorrow

Yet I have important things to do
I live each day as a soldier
faithfully I fight the battle [through]
but how I'll rejoice when its over

(p. 126)

Mexico 1999 (missing Debbie)

Oh, it is beautiful here
where the tall corn grows
where the dark afternoon clouds
keep things green
with hot rain

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

— but it will never be the same
now that I'm alone

I sit in the shade
— alone
and watch my children grow
brown
in these hot days
in the distance a marimba plays
— the barking of a dog —
a car rolls by
blowing up dust

I had so many hopes for us

1999

When I think
of the rising generation
— Fatherless —
it makes me very sad
for I know
I would only be
half a person
if I hadn't known
my Dad

(p. 124)

What is a Father?

A teacher
a friend
Someone to show you
that love never ends
Some one who says
you have wings — you can fly
who believes You'll succeed
if only you'll try
Who lends you their strength
till you find your own
The smartest person
you've ever known

He can make paper air planes
and teach you to fly
He can make you laugh
until you cry

He can watch you fail a hundred times
— and still believe in you
and he's so sure he almost can
make you believe it too.

(p. 69)

1-14-99

It's been almost another year and if I continue writing at this rate this journal may last the rest of my life[.] Lets hope I start writing more often.

I am living in Mexico now In Debbie's old home[.] She left Fred in early Dec. 98. I don't want to write about it right now. I don't have the emotional energy. She was my very dearest friend.

On may 2nd, eight days after arriving in Mexico I gave birth to a beautiful 7½ lb baby boy.

Freedom Zachariah Collier.

I also hemorrhaged, but am OK[.]

I'm learning a little spanish.

(p. 165)

This House

This house is like out hearts now
full of memories
now that she is gone
Her voice still echoes from the walls
her children's footsteps in the halls
but they are gone
along with all our dreams
(Written by Bethany)

22 Nov 99

Dearest Debbie:

Book sales have been good lately — I have sold \$4,500.00 dollars in books since I have been here in the last two weeks. I am sending this money

to make up for the birthdays which I have missed for the Children. As you know, I already sent Hannah's birthday gift — I hope that she got the Music box — it cost more than three hundred dollars. Inasmuch as I have already sent her a present, I will not be including another for her in this letter.

I would appreciate it if you would go to a wood shop and have a toy box made for Shem. Have it made out of Hard rock Maple, Solid Oak. Have it made good and solid, so that he can keep it through his childhood and give it to his children when he gets married. Do not use plywood of any kind, but only solid hardwood which is glued together with dalls. Dalls are wooden pegs. Have a brass plate engraved and polished, which is dated for his birthday, and says the following:

To My Dearest Son Shem on Your First Birthday

— 9 September 1999 —

With Love, Forever and Forever

Your Father

Fred C. Collier

In order to be happy and have a good sense of well-being, children need to know that both their parents love and care about them — and I also need to know that my children know that I love and care about them — I hope that you will be good enough to do this for Shem and I. Put this plate in the center of the Lid, on the underneath side and make sure that it is well fastened with 4 brass wood screws. Since it is his first birthday, and since I have not had the opportunity to know him, spend about \$300.00 for the whole — if you need more money for the project, let me know and I will send it.

I want you to spend \$50.00 each on a birthday gift for Jeremy, Haleigh, Shannon, Marissa and Emily. Tell them that I still care about them and that I often think of them with fond memories. I have meant to send birthday presents when they were due, but I have not always had money, and for the most part I have not been in the States when birthdays came. Last of all Debbie, take \$500.00 and buy something nice for yourself. So in total I am sending \$1,050.00 dollars. It will be sent to you in cash so that there will be no possibility of a problem for you. Let this be a peace offering from me to you Debbie.

There are a few things which if you are not aware of you should know. From the very first when you called me on the phone to inform me that you had

chosen to abandon our marriage I had nothing but fond feelings of love and tenderness for you, which as you know from experience, was as it always had been before. These fond feelings continued for several months unabated until one day when I called in hopes of talking to Hannah. I had given up hope for us because you had terminated all communication — yet still I needed to communicate with my children. Your father answered the phone, but refused to let me talk to you or Hannah or give any information as to when I might be able to. I had always been good and helpful to him so that he could see his grandchildren — I had even driven hundreds of miles to meet him half way, but now he returned good for evil, and so he hung up on me. This sent me into a tail spin from which I did not recover for several months. Two weeks later I ventured again to talk to Hannah, but this time it was your mother who answered the phone, and more or less I met with the same response from her. I did not call after that, as I did not wish for more cause for bereavement. It was then that I realized that at least to some extent your father's and Mother's actions had to be predicated upon your wishes — this I had to accept, notwithstanding your assurances to me which you made in February, after you left, that you would never treat me as you did Craig with his kids, because I was not a jerk. When I called and spoke to your father, you had as of then already cut off all communication between us for several weeks, so your actions began to speak louder than words and assurances which you had made earlier.

You can never know how you made me to feel Debbie. In order for you to understand, someone would have to kidnap your children and steal them out of your life — and then perhaps you would understand. But even then it would not be the same, because we are different. As you know, it is not my disposition when someone stabs me, to lay down and bleed and cry in my gore, but rather is my nature to stand up and fight. This is the difference between you and I Debbie — you would just lay down and bleed and cry yourself to death. But do not let this fool you — the fact that I do not spend all day crying does not prove that I am bullet proof, or that I do not bleed inside over the loss of my children and what has happened.

As you know, before I ever laid eyes on you, I had already experienced more than my share of sorrow. But with your loss and the loss of my children, grief, bereavement and mourning soared to a new height which I had never before known. You know how I loved you — and you also know how close I was to Hannah and how I loved her — it would have been the same with Shem too in only a little time — he was barely two months old when I last saw him. Ruth took pictures of you and him when you came to Silver City to get your things, and she has given me copies — he is absolutely beautiful!

I admit it Debbie, I got off course, and for this I hope you will forgive me — and you should forgive me too, especially in view of the circumstances.

But I want you to know that even in the worst of it, I never calculated to do you harm — and as for taking the children — I could never look into your big crybaby eyes and take away your children — even though you have done it to me, still I could not do it to you — nor could I take Hannah or Shem away from their mother. As for me saying that I would take the children — I think that you know already that I never said this to Jeremy, or anyone else for that matter. I did tell Jeremy that I was planning to come to see the Children, and that I had thought to do so even if your father should shoot me — I even asked Jeremy what he thought about coming along, but I never so much as hinted or said a word about taking the children. I only wanted to see them. I know that I did not tell Jeremy or anyone else that I was going to take the children, and frankly I do not believe that Jeremy said such a thing to you. If for some reason he did, then he lied. But what I think is that as with other out right lies which you knowingly filed with the Court — you felt that it was expedient to tell this lie, in order to have your way with the Court. I was amazed when I saw Southampton's example of dishonest lawyer craft shoved into my face by you in court. I thank Sarah for that influence over you, and I thank Satan for it. Once you chose to terminate communication, Satan had a field day with us both in our minds. These things never would have happened had there been communication between us.

In any case Debbie, for all of this I forgive you, and I hope that some day you will find it in your heart to forgive me. I hope also that some day you will find the compassion in your heart to allow me to see my children.

Best Wishes

Fred

[The following comes from a Valentine Card which I gave Bethany on February 14, 2000. On the front is a boy and a girl. The boy has his left arm around her back on her left shoulder, and the girl has her right arm around the back of the boy. Apparently they are standing upon the sand, and looking out at a lake, with a bright ray of the sun shining down in front of them. The boy is about 8 inches taller than the girl, and he has a bamboo fishing poll in his right hand. He is wearing blue coveralls and has a sling shot in his back pocket. The girl has long hair, and is wearing a long pink dress which goes just below her knees, and she has a doll in her left hand. They are surrounded by the leaves and branches of trees, and appear to be looking out through an opening in the trees at the water and sunshine. When I gave this to Bethany she stuck it to a white card stalk of paper, and glued dried blue and yellow flowers, wheat stalks and other things around it. She then framed it and hung

it on our bedroom wall down in Mexico. Two years ago, I tried to bring it up to Utah on the buss and the glass and frame was broken. I picked some beautiful blue and orange flowers and dried them with the intent of repairing it, but somehow it got put away. This card is cut in the shape of a heart, with the back and front being joined at the left side. The inside is a light blue background with snow flakes, with the following printed words]

*May our hearts always be young
and our romance last forever.*

Happy Valentine's Day

[Below this I wrote the following with a blue pen:]

2/14/2000

To Bethany
My Beloved
Wife
Love Forever
Fred

(p. 70)

May 30th 2000

Freedom is a year old. In August 2000 Fred brought most of the people from the Hanna House to live here for his own reasons. Some of them to look for a house to buy. They lived here 3 months. It was very loud, chaotic, just like the Hanna House! But I survived, I wish now I had done better. At the Every end of November they moved out. Fred & Nancy went to Hanna for nearly a month then I and my Children went, arrived a day or two before Christmas, got back on New Year's day. Went to the states again end of January and returned end of April ~~2~~. Difficult 3 mo in Hanna ~~came~~ Came back to Mex, Fred stayed 1 week. He is still gone. Our anniversary is tomorrow. It has been difficult for me emotionally. Tonight I feel inspired to count my blessings. I know I have so many. The spirit tells me to fully appreciate each thing while I have it. If I must be alone I am grateful to have an attractive, Cheerful home to be in! I need to take more time to enjoy my Children, not just to accomplish each item on my days agenda.

Especially, if I must be separated from my husband I can still be grateful to have such a husband! (p. 71) I need to appreciate and enjoy him while he is here, rather than focus on the negative. But what I miss most is a the close companionship of a sister wife. I wish for a mother in the Priesthood and I long for the communion with my mother in Heaven. I am so grateful

that she hears and answers my prayers. I hope I don't forget to be grateful for all my blessings.

(p. 127)

Treasure Summer 2000

There is a piece of gold
hidden in every day
live so as to find all the treasure
which life can bring your way

nuggets of joy are buried
and pearls of wisdom too
these, life's greatest riches
are waiting there for you

Yes, in every day lay hidden
treasures for you to find
— if — you're not too busy looking
forward or behind.

Aug 28th, 2000

I am approximately 3 months pregnant! We've got 3 goats (2 giving milk), 10 hens, 1 rooster, and garden right now. I take care of all of these! I haven't been feeling very good. I wanted to write that on Sabbath morning the 26th, I had a neat dream. I was in the Tabernacle on Temple Square. It was full of people and I was in a pew near the back. Brigham Young was (p. 72) walking down the Aisle shaking hands with one person from every pew. When he came to the pew I was in, he noticed me and shook my hand. It was really neat.

To My Dear Husband,

I love you! I Love You! I love you!

I am so thankful for the time we have shared. I will miss you so much. The boys will also miss you dearly — You are the Center of our family and our home.

I pray that God will bless you and uphold you. That he will give You wisdom and strength and open all your ways before You. May He bless you on your fast.

You can gain spiritual blessings and draw closer to him with every day. Turn your mind and heart to him. Make this happen! For you and for all of us. I

pray He will reward you with the desires of your heart. This is so important, Satan will try to bury you in the cares of this life — cast the burden on the Lord — you can do this!

I love you so much. God be with You and bless you.

With eternal love
Your Wife,
Bethany
(Taken from a TIFF file named: "love ")

Sep. 17, 2000

Fred has gone to the Utah. He's been gone almost two weeks. He took Nancy, David, Emanuel. They left Joshua with me. Fred was ten days into a fast when he left. He called several days ago when he was on his 16th day. Now he's probably on his 22nd. I dreamed last night that he had broken his fast. He plans to go for 42 days. A few days ago I had a wonderful tim dream. I dreamed that my dad and I were in the Hanna House, upstairs in some room and we were just talking and talking about gospel themes just like old times when I was growing up. It was so wonderful.

I am feeling better now. Not so sick every day. I dreamed I had a beautiful daughter!!

Two weekends ago, the Ashcrofts and Ozments came up to get their boys and have a sort of conference. We learned that Ken Blake has been Claiming false revelation and has invented a false religion and somehow claims to believe in Fred's keys. The sad part is that Leland Ashcroft is following after all this.

Fred had to go to Mesa on his way to Utah and expose the absurdity and unscriptural, non-historical nature of Ken's teachings which was quite simple to do. Leland however, will not be corrected. I'm sorry for his boys who were going to go on missions but no longer are. The Ozment family seem truly to be led by the Holy Spirit and able to discern truth from error. Their son Darin was very sober minded and made a great impression on all of us while he was here for the mission school. I must say I am equally impressed with both his parents. I would love to have friends like them. Ann Ozment & I are both expecting around the same time.

(p. 83)

11-8-00

Every Journal I've ever kept I've also thrown away and sometimes I am sored tempted to toss this one too. I read back in it an I sound so childish.

Before I finish it up I want to include the story of my conversion and baptism and also my testimony. Maybe also a brief sketch of my early life.

It snowed today. I woke up and saw the world was white! I milked the goats etc. in the snow. Normal for some places, I know, but I hope, a rare experience for this part of Mexico. Fred is in Illinois With Tim and . He is working on a Web site for the church of the Firstborn.

On Sep 26th I drove myself and the kids and Joshua, who had been staying with me, up to Mesa, Az. Then we rode with the Ozments up to Fish Lake, Ut where Fred et. we had rented cabins for the Feast of the Tabernacles. It was great to visit everyone. Israel and Christian had been pretty lonely in Mex. And really enjoyed the other kids. Its a holiday I hope we keep every year. I hired a neighbor boy to care for (p. 84) the animals while I was gone. I was really afraid to make the trip alone in an unreliable car, but God blessed us. I went up to Salt Lake after the Feast (which lasted 5 days) and had my front tooth fixed. I had a root canal because it had died after I knocked [it] with the shovel in May. Fred decided to drive me home to Mex. While here he started repairs on Nancy's house and made a trip to Mesa for supplies, then shortly after, he left to Illinois. We enjoyed him so much while he was here. I[t] makes such a difference for the Children.

I feel like our Marriage has come so far in the last 2 years. It's amazing and it makes me so happy. I love him so much and truly thank God for him every day. I just pray that Nancy's house will be finished soon and that we can all be together in one place. That Fred some-how can manage to spend most of his time here and just a little in the states. It's wonderful to think we will have four children soon. I pray I can raise them to truly understand the gospel and truly seek after God and love the truth.

(p. 119)

12/00

For me the sun no longer needs
to shine
it may be the light of the world
But you are the light
of mine

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

99

(p. 120)

12/00

Only for now, it feels like forever
and this is something which
I must remember —
in this world all things
will come to an end —
the beat of the heart, as well as
the first pain at the loss of a friend
and yet
the greatest pain in death is that
we must part company
and so for this short while, your loss
is dark as death
to me
for when I cannot feel your heart-beat
it seems it is not there
and when I cannot hear your lips speak
it's far too much to bear
for your flesh is as mine — to me
your voice feels like my own

it is only in your presence
that I am whole
that I am home

(p. 121)

12/00

I looked and I looked
in the mirror
but I just couldn't see
your feet . . .
and all the rest of me

100

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

(p. 122)

12/00

Miracles

God meant for us to be
we must have been part
of His plan
or He wouldn't have parted
the sea — and let me walk through
to your hand

(p. 123)

???

(p. 130)

I need you
I need you like a woman
needs a man
to be
the air I breathe
the ground
on which I stand
take me in your
hands
and shelter me

(p. 132)

— 2000 —

These children love me perfectly
I weep to understand
That I cannot mold them perfectly
with my imperfect hands

And yet 'twas God in His Perfectness
who sent them here to me
I pray then "God, please guide these hands

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

101

to do this work for Thee
“As I work their gentle clay
let me not creator be
but let me perceive the grand design
planted within by Thee

“Yes, let me guide and aid this clay
and Lord, I also pray
may the imperfections which I leave, be such
as time may quickly wear away

“May my hands be ever humbled
as I work with Thy design
may my heart be more perfected
with a love much nearer Thine.”

(p. 128)

Mexico 12/2000

To my son Freedom or watching you play
in the sun on the Haystack, in the field.

How beautiful you are
in my life — How you shine
and yet I know
that Cruel thief — Time
will take this all away
and it will feel but as a day
that you were mine

(p. 129)

Heaven is in
the heart of a child
where there is no
darkness
there is no guile
but light as bright
as Heaven's own

and love as pure as any
this world has ever known

(p. 85)

12-23-00

Today is the Sabbath. It is also Joseph Smiths birthday which we are trying to have as a holiday. I ordered a special B-day cake and we are going to have a special lesson about his life, sing some songs about him and read D&C 135. Fred is in the states. Ann came down here the 1st of the month to get some things from her house here and She & Fred went up to Hanna together on the 7th. He has sent plenty of money, even some for Christmas. We haven't been in need although the car broke down 2x. It is working now. The washing machine broke down Yesterday. It is Very hard for Israel to be down here alone w/o Father or Friends his age. Nancy and all her kids are up in Utah. I have tried hard to make things as nice as possible for him but a mother can't make up for either father or Friends.

Fred just called as I was writing this and said he would be here in twelve hours or so!!! I didn't expect him (p. 86) for several more weeks!!

x—————x—————x—————x

We have had a billy goat here for 3 weeks. Sam LeBaron finally came and got him last night. I am so glad to see him gone. He scared me out of my wits sometimes. Even bucked me once.

I am so thankful for my husband. I truly feel he is the only man in the world for me. I am so grateful for the Gospel he has taught me, and that we can share the love of it.

I wanted to write the story of my conversion to the Church of the First-born. When I was a Young teenager (12 & 13) I went through a period of rebellion against my parents and their religious standards. I didn't want to follow any family rules that made me different from my peers. At about 14 o[r] so I accepted our religion inside but it wasn't until I was 16 or 17 that I earnestly sought a testimony of the book of Mormon. (p. 87) When I did, I received a powerful testimony of the Prophet Joseph Smith and felt filled with an overwhelming gratitude toward and love for him and the work he did.

When I was near the middle or end of my seventeenth year I began to read the book of 3 Nephi and other prophecies in the book of Mormon and D&C very intently. I was struck by the passages referring to the work of the Father [3rd Nephi 21; 1st Nephi 14:8, 17]. I felt they had some very special significance but I didn't know what — as also 1 Nephi 14:7 and other scriptures.

I began to feel also that there were problems with the LDS Church. I didn't feel it was possible to be "politically neutral" and also be on the Lords side. I felt they should be actively fighting against secret combinations and taking a stand for right and against wrong. I also wondered how I Could be in good (p. 88) standing in the Church, supposedly on that straight and narrow way while I was so much like everyone else in the world who were supposedly on the broad road. What was the brood road. What was the big difference between the righteous and the wicked? — a little coffee and beer?

At this time also my father brought to my attention a statement in D&C 132 on the necessity of plural marriage. I thought on this and came to believe in the principle. I had no idea that people lived polygamy in this day and age, but I became converted that it was a necessary law of the gospel. I did struggle with what it seemed to me to imply about women but still I believed and prayed for answers. I read in D&C that the law of Consecration was necessary to prepare the people for the Coming of christ and felt it an imperative part of the gospel. Around this time I was struck w/ the thought that I wanted to marry a man who (p. 89) loved God above all. I was struck with the thought that I wished I could marry a prophet[,] though I never mentioned it. My sunday school teacher & friend of the family said to me one day after this "You'd make a good prophets wife." But I didn't really feel I was ever likely to meet a man who cared as strongly as I did about the same things as I did.

One night I had a dream of a prophet preaching to the world — they wouldn't accept his message and he cursed them saying — now is the time to starve and like Moses w/ the plagues, he ushered in the curses of the Last Days.

It was an odd dream but I felt inside that it meant something — a few weeks later I had a dream where this same prophet was teaching a crowd of people and the things he said sank into my heart it was the most beautiful thing I ever heard — I was so excited I told myself I better wake up and read these things for myself in the scriptures so I woke up and grabbed my scriptures from my bed stand; I opened them and then suddenly I realized that what I had heard wasn't in these scriptures and I was devastated — I tried to go back to sleep so I could finish hearing the beautiful message but it was early morning and I couldn't get back to sleep. I wished so dearly that I hadn't woken up, but had finished listening to the beautiful message. (p. 90) I've always understood for years this prophet was Fred and the beautiful message was Total Commitment.

A Few months later Craig & Debbie Tholson who had been in our ward years ago and were friends of our parents (Craig had been my Sunday school teacher & Debbie my young womens advisor) sent my parents a letter which included some of Fred's pamphlets — I read them and was deeply touched, especially by

the 2 Nauvoo Doctrine” pamphlets [These are about the “Work of the Father and 3rd Nephi 21 etc.]. My parents had felt prompted to leave Southern California [because of the riots] and were trying to move to Utah, they arranged to move, staying temporarily in the Tholson’s large basement. We soon made two trips to Payson Utah with a moving Van and put all our stuff in storage units. On our first trip I met Fred at their home for the first time. He taught my parents and I listened intently. — I had been praying for a long time that I would always know the truth — That when the Lord’s servant spoken of in 3rd Nephi [21] came with the Lord’s message, that I would have a chance to hear that message and that I would know the truth of it and never be deceived.

When we got back to California I fasted for 2 days & nights and thought a lot about what I learned. I felt it was true but I didn’t trust myself, I was afraid I just wanted it to be true. I prayed (p. 91) for a powerful spiritual witness. On our second trip to Payson (there no more to return) I saw and heard more of Fred and his message. I prayed for that undoubtable witness but I truly felt the spirit tell me that as Joseph Smith said “the truth tastes good” and that when the early saints read the book of Mormon, they believed it because it felt true and, if that was good enough for them then that should be good enough for me and the witness comes after the trial of your faith.

So I decided to be baptized right then though I didn’t tell anyone. For everything told me that Fred spoke the truth — the scriptures, the Spirit, reason etc. . .

We visited Hanna as a Family on May 17th, 1992. I told My parents Dad that I wanted to be baptized. Later that day my parents decided to be baptized and So we were, as a family.

I had already begun to have feelings for Fred but I thought, he being a prophet ought to discern it. I didn’t say anything about it. I felt to wonder if my feelings were appropriate, He being so much older and all. I was very torn up inside for three days [—] finally I prayed to God and told Him how I was feeling and asked that if (p. 92) it were wrong would he please take it from me and if it were right that He would please give me peace. The Spirit told me that my feelings were from God and that we were meant to be married. He was the man who loved God above all else, that I had often prayed for.

Later, I was talking to Craig Tholson and this came up, I told him how I felt and later he told Fred, who was quite surprised.

We were married by the river in Hanna, Ut on the 31st of May, 1992.

Through all the trials that have passed, still my testimony has only grown of the truth of the Fulness of the Gospel, it fills my heart with Joy. I thank God for it always.

Jan 18, 2001

Fred was with us about 17 days. He left on the 11th. He had to get Sarah from Illinois, she and Tim are getting divorced after 15 mo and 1 baby. It's really discouraging.

It was so wonderful to have Fred here. He really fills our home. He brought a lot of Christmas gifts for the kids and me and while he was here we went and got Frames for some beautiful pictures we bought 2 yrs ago. He bought some (p. 93) beautiful, expensive frames and now I feel so blessed to live in such a lovely home, & with the beauty of real art! He installed a much better heater and the house has actually been warm! (although it stopped working yesterday ☹)

We got snow today! It never used to be so hard for me to have him gone but it ~~does~~ is so hard for me now. I'm afraid if he ever marries again it will be a hard adjustment.

I feel the baby move all the time!

I don't know why I feel like I am waiting for something to happen and I don't know what. Like things now are just temporary.

(p. 131)

January, 2001

Thank you God for my Children —
They fill me up
how over flowing is my cup
in their love

Oh the joy! To watch them grow
to glimpse the wonder of the innocence
which only children know
to bask in the light of their smiles
to wipe away their tears
to live in the light of their hopes
and ease their tender fears

This must be the best part of living
Oh thank you God for giving me
this time

106

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

(p. 143)

1-20-01

The Reason

Why?
Oh to see the light
in such innocent eyes
or to see the joy
that overflows from the heart
of a boy
as he plays
for smiles that could light
the whole wide world
laughter
to warm the coldest day —
to heal the bruised
and broken days of earth
Why give birth?
To give hope to our world.

2-23-01

Tonight I had family night with the boys. I said I was going to play a certain gospel board game with them but Christian said "Please can we play science" and he kept asking over and again. Finally I said I didn't know the game "science" and he said "you know that game where you tell me what to do and I do it and you are called science" and I realized he was talking about Simon Says!

I was praying today (p. 94) to Heavenly Mother, asking for help in weaning Freedom from my bed — he is so fiercely attached, he must have close contact all night! — when I finished praying I felt impressed to give him a blessing and I did. Right now he is sleeping peacefully in his own bed! A small miracle!! I feel so thankful to Heavenly Mother for the Faith she has helped me develop through so many answers to prayer. I know she is there and that she loves and hears me.

3-3-01

Yesterday was Sabbath and I gave Israel a blessing. He was so upset and crying and angry that his grandma Collier died and he barely knew her and hadn't seen her since he was 3. I think he was partly releasing feelings about

many things including his Father being gone. We talked about death and what it is and what it means and I felt impressed to offer him a blessing if he wanted one and he did. I think it soothed his spirits.

On Tuesday Beth Cook came over to spend a few days. (p. 95) She is an old friend of Fred's and it was interesting to hear about her life and to get to know her better.

It was really nice to have company and I also met her half brother & his wife who live in LeBaron — Guy & Hazel Johnson — I am looking forward to having them for friends. They are looking at buying a house here in La Quevado. Israel made friends with their son and spent two nights over there. It was like answer to prayer. He has been so lonely. Fred has been gone almost 2 months. Yesterday on the phone he said he hoped to be here this weekend, with Nancy & kids. Shortly after that I expect we will go get my mom.

The car has worked well and it's been really nice having a car while Fred's away. I haven't wanted for money in a long time. I feel so blessed. I love my husband and Children so much. I feel so thankful to God.

(p. 96)

Israel dried this flower himself. He gave it to me today, 3-17-01

[picture of flower]

3/18/01

Dear Bethany,

I got your letter. Did you get the last one I wrote to you about a month ago. I'm glad to hear you're doing well. When is your baby due. Do you know if it's a boy or girl? What are you going to name it. Are you going to deliver down there with the midwife, Linda?

I miss you so much Bethany. That was so cute of Israel and Christian to write me.

I'm still going to school for cosmology. I get sick of it, but I'm just going to finish it up. The good thing about it is that there isn't any home work.

I hope every thing goes well with your new baby's birth. Call me or write me after it's born. Bethany that was the cutest poem you wrote for me — it really made me feel special!!

If ever I feel sad, I can always remember how much you Love me to cheer me up. Thank you for loving me and believing in me so much [—] it really means a lot to me!! Bethany you are one of the best friends I've ever had. You have always been a wonderful person and example of our Saviour Jesus Christ. I have really learned a lot from you. Growing up you were one of

my strongest influences and I am glad of that. No matter how long it's been since I've seen you, you will always ~~xxx xxxx xx xxxxx xxxxxx~~ be very special to me — ~~xxxxxx~~. If you had a fan club I would be the president!! I love you sooooo much Bethany and I hope you are doing great x and that every thing goes well for you. God bless you every day.

LOVE ALWAYS
HOLLY

P.S Tell your cutest boys that I love them lots. xoxo

5-17-01

My mother & little brother Andrew arrived here at the end of March. It was so nice to see them and have company. My mom is such a Cheerful positive person, I really enjoy being around her. 1 wk later Fred arrived. He was in Utah for 3 mo. Q week after that, I went into labor, and delivered a lovely little girl 6 ½ lbs w/ red hair, blue eyes. We named her April Virginia. She was born April 9th at 1:30 p.m. I lost a lot of blood, went into shock, began to loose feeling of my extremities, was transported to Buenaventura where I was given IV and the bleeding was stopped. There is a lot to write about this experience & I will write when I have more energy. I love April so much.

(p. 134)

~~it felt so full of life~~
my warm round belly
so full
of life
for the first time it felt
deep
enough to hold
all my love
I could not wait for my
arms to hold
all my love

the days lingered
kissing my cheek
as they past passed

the moment
almost here
. . . at last

Then came the pain
calling me by name
clutching at my throat

making me let go
I could only see the darkness
feel the heat
someone is smothering me!
The dark face of pain
making me let go

(p. 135)

This pain has made me who I am
it has become my dearest friend
I find I now fear happiness
it would leave me such great so great would be the emptiness
where all this pain has been
Sorrow with his golden smile
has held me closely all this while
and suddenly I see he has been teaching me
by embracing all this agony
I am being true
this is my faithfulness to you
how can I let go?

(p. 97)

11 Sept 2001

This morning my neighbor Phillipa came and told us to turn on the news.

I hooked up the Satellite and saw footage of the twin towers of the World Trade Center (tallest buildings in the world) collapse to the ground. The pentagon was also hit by a hijacked passenger plane and was burning out of control.

4 passenger airliners were hijacked and crashed in what was called the greatest act of terrorism in the history of the world. The casualties are above

10,000. The borders are closed and Fed is in the U.S.

(p. 168)

[The following is a card with a letter written on the inside. On the front of the envelope it states the Following: "Given October 2001". The card is folded into 3rds, with the front of the card containing two writings. On the side of the left 3rd it states:]

These things, and so many more,
have made me understand
that this is a once-in-a-lifetime,
forever connection
that could only exist between you and me
And deep in my soul,
I know that our relationship is a rare gift.
One that will bring us
an extraordinary happiness
all through
our lives.
By Suzanne Heins

[On the Right 3rd side it states:]

You and I are connected in a way
that goes beyond romance, beyond friendship,
beyond what we've ever had before.
It has defied time, distance,
and changes in ourselves and in our lives.
And it has defied every explanation
except one
purely and simply, we're Soul mateS.
I can't explain it.
I just feel it.
It's there in the way my spirit subtly lifts
whenever we talk.
How the sound of your voice
brings me home in a way I can't explain
It's in the delight I feel
when we laugh
at exactly the same things.
When I'm with you,

it's like a tiny part of the universe
shifts into the place
it's supposed to be,
and all is right
with the world.

[After these two statements, Bethany wrote the following letter:]

My Dear Dear Husband,

As I leave now for Mexico, and we are once again separated by many miles[,] I want to write you this letter & leave it with you as a small reminder of my love.

Know that you are in my thoughts every hour of every day. I love you so much I feel I could never miss anything in the world as I miss your voice and your touch when we are apart.

Our love and the beautiful fruit of our love (our dear children) make life so joyful and wonderful to me. I live for your love and friendship. How thankful I am for your support and caring kindness in my life.

Thank you for the perfect light of the gospel. Thank you for sharing the dream and the hope and the love.

May God be with you while we are apart. May he fill you up with the light of his spirit. May he guide you and protect you and abundantly bless you.

Please be careful with your health. Take care of your body — (remember it is mine!) Remember you will be in all our prayers every day.

I look forward to seeing you again.

I love you with all my heart.

Forever,

Bethany

Nov. 25, 2002

Shame on me for not writing for so long and so much has happened. My mother lived with us from June (?) to Sept. and Andrew too. She's expected again any time. It was wonderful to have her, but a bit of a struggle with Andrew (14 yrs)

Fred came in Dec. 2001. We all had a lovely Christmas together and in January he insulated the Ceilings at my house and Ann's. When he was nearly done with our house he went on the roof and stepped in a dangerous place to check Joshua's work. He came (p. 98) crashing through the kitchen ceiling just as I was cooking dinner and came down nearly on top of April who was sitting in her high chair. He broke part of his pelvis in two places

and could not get out of bed for ~~20 weeks~~ 4 weeks and then only for the bathroom for quite a bit longer.

Since ~~at~~ his recovery he has done much building and some home improvement which I really appreciate. He ended up staying down here for 10 months, the longest we have been together, I believe in 10 years of married life excepting the first two which didn't count as we lived with so many people and I saw so little of him.

It was a special year in that respect and very healthy for the children. He really bonded with Freedom who needed it desperately.

We Celebrated Passover week, birth of Christ etc. in a beautiful way. In Dec., 01 we celebrated Joseph Smith's birthday. We celebrated the feast of Tabernacles down here in Sept 26 Oct 02. Then Fred & I, kids & Emanuel, Mary, Hyrum went to U. S. first spent 1 week in Mesa [Oct 7–14??] Visiting Scott & Janeen Ashcroft, (p. 99) which proved very special. Next two weeks in Utah [Oct 14–28??] at which point I returned with out Fred.

Last night he called and said he's sending Scott to bring us up for Endowments in Mesa. [Dec 2002] That Bill, Ann, Opal, Sam, David, Scott, to bring us up for Endowments in Mesa. That Bill, Ann, Opal, Sam, Becky, David, Scott, Janeen and perhaps a few others. He said he had been impressed by the spirit that He and I should have our Second Anointings. I could scarcely sleep last night — what a blessing and what a heavy responsibility. It frightens me.

I forgot to mention my experiences in June this year [June 2002??].

Fred had made several statements alluding to me being Matriarch of the Church which I did not feel comfortable with. I dislike the idea of ~~being~~ both the prestige and the overwhelming responsibility. Furthermore I dislike the idea of holding such an office by default because others (i.e. Debbie) have gone. I would never be comfortable feeling just called by Fred. I could never assume such responsibility unless I knew I were called of God. I expressed these feelings in prayer ~~wt~~ asking that God manifest such a calling to me if I ever must (p. 100) assume it and a few days later I received a flood of revelation lasting several days answering in powerful ways questions which have torn at my heart for a decade. I felt my wrestling mightily with God had come to an awesome Close. I was elated by the light given me. To my mind there can be no greater witness of Priesthood than the light of truth which flows from it and have regarded the event as a calling from God.

Also, while in Utah this time [Oct 2002] I was able to see my Father for the first time in Four years. I was thankful although he told me that my marriage to Fred is the one thing in his life which he regretted above all others. Painful — yet I hope for the day he sees it differently.

Fred is my very own soul. We truly are one and I am so happy in our union.

In ten years [1992–2002] I have seen Fred at his best and worst and have come to know him deeply. I have seen nothing to be ashamed of, but on the contrary, I am left standing in admiration of his great spirit — valiant, true, steadfast and pure. I admire him as inwardly, the greatest of men for I know of no equal. I fervently believe this and would defy all the world to prove otherwise. When I hear the wicked and ungodly rumors which slander his honorable name, I want to fight! I want to stand and tell all the world what kind of man they speak against! I have all confidence in him. I know he is called of God and acceptable, for an angel told me so, and I can see it for myself.

11-13-02

Dear Holly,

I truly wish I were able to speak to you face to face right now instead of being compelled to address this subject in a letter.

I love you and I hope you know it. I am sorry that circumstances have prevented us from more frequent conversation and communication. I think of you often and hope always for your happiness.

You are so lovely! It was wonderful to see you that night. Radiant as always.

But now, there is a reason I am writing you, and not a very pleasant one at that. I have heard that you have been persuaded to believe some very awful gossip about your Father. But before going into that I'd like to address another related Subject. — Faith.

Faith is as an important principle as reason and both are as equally as relevant in the sphere of human relations as they are in that of religion. When it comes to inter-personal relationships, where would we be without faith? Faith in another persons honesty, faith in the good intentions of their heart. ~~Would~~ Can you imagine having a friend who did not have such faith in you? And Yet not blind faith, but faith with good reason. We put faith in such people as we see good reason to respect and to believe in. Faith that flies in the face of reason, that goes against what we can observe is unfounded and undeserved. When we hear gossip about anyone we must decide how much faith we have in that person. Does the gossip contradict our faith? Does it go against what we have reason to believe of the individual. Is it in harmony or out of harmony with what you generally observe.

Gossip can be true, it can be lies or it can be and usually is, one small truth twisted and deformed with several lies. Then again there is the most awful of all gossip — and that is False Witness — to which I believe you have been exposed.

Just ask yourself which is more reasonable to believe — that an angry and bitter person like Sarah D. might ~~either~~ tell outright lies against someone she hates, or that your father is really guilty of such hypocrisy as to give his life to his religion and the service of God, to teach the strictest morality while committing the basest crimes against ~~moral~~ all moral virtue?

To answer this you must look to reason and then to Faith. Sarah D hates your dad. That is a good motive to lie. But what good motive is there to believe your Father guilty. He is the most morally virtuous man in thought, word or deed that I have ever known or even heard of. For me, such accusations go against all reason and are opposite to all I have ever witnessed in your Father's character. I believe you know your father is a good and descent man. Don't believe anything else Holly.

Sarah D. never said any thing like this when she got back from Guatemala and was almost foaming at the mouth with anger over the whole crowded miserable trip. She down loaded on Ann about everything she was mad about. If your dad did such an awful thing, why didn't she mention it then? Or after she moved to ~~Denver~~ Colorado and had left Hanna altogether when you and Ann flew up there to help deliver her baby, again she bent Ann's ear with all her anger — why not tell then. Or all the late nights when she would call Debbie in Silver City, drunk why not tell then? Why come visit the home of such a man like she did in Silver City, if such accusations are true? Holly, I believe you know inside that she lies.

Mike knows better than to believe such tales. He knows better. Perhaps he wants to believe them so he won't have guilt feelings over leaving your dad and joining the [LDS] Church. I don't think Clint believes all this and I doubt Adam does [—] I surely hope not. Sam and Becky don't. And I don't. I know your father best, so either I'm hopelessly deluded about the kind of man he really is, or I want to cover him in his crimes or else he really is innocent.

How bad would it hurt you if your best friend heard some crazy and horrible story about you, never asked your side, but just believed it? Wouldn't you hope they would say, "Hey I know her, she's not that kind of person. I don't believe it!" How bad it hurts your dad to have his own children believe such things.

You must know it hurts me too. He is my best friend. How close could you be to someone who thought your best friend was a filthy Criminal when you knew they were not? Certainly you couldn't be friends with anyone who really believed such. Now what if they thought and said such false things about your husband? About your Children's father?

I beg you to reconsider your opinions, I pray this letter will help you see the truth. But if you do indeed believe these ~~things~~ lies then I have no choice but to say goodbye until the day comes when you can see the truth.

I also wanted to say, that I know the Mormon Church, [—] I expect I know it better than you or your brothers. I was born and raised in it and unlike most Young adults you find there, I was quite conversant with it's doctrines.

Now don't misunderstand. I'm not about to tell you how dumb they are.

You have made your choices and I respect your right to make them. I won't find fault or try to convince you otherwise. I only bring this up for one reason. I know you often associate with people who disrespect your dad because he is outside of the Mormon Church. They consider him an enemy and an apostate.

But I would point out that reasonable people have every reason to respect and esteem your father for the great service he has done for the restoration. Nephi says that it is the wicked who tremble and are angry because of the truth of God . . . they that are built on a sandy foundation tremble lest they Shall fall. (2 Ne 28:28)

Many Mormon people, the honest, informed and sincere ones, respect your dad's work, appreciate it and take it in like food for the hungry soul. Who do you think buys his pamphlets and books? Mostly people in the church. Why should anyone be angry with him, his work has been the salvation of the restoration, but only those who really know mormonism can understand and appreciate it. Why should he not be at least respected and admired for the great work he has done? Many do respect and appreciate him and then there are the others who tremble and are angry. They don't want to know true history because it shakes their sandy foundation. If you and your brothers understood your father's works and how fundamental and important they are, I believe you would be proud of them. You'd share them with others and at least be able to say, "I don't agree with him on priesthood but his ~~historical~~ ~~wor~~ writings are awesome!"

I almost forgot — I hear Mike is telling people that Fred is a wife beater and that Robert Black said so — Robert Black also said that Joseph Smith got his doctrine from the Illuminati — a secret Satanic Conspiracy group. Robert Black is loopy. He is not a credible source. You are, however. You know much more about your mom and dad than Robert Black. Is that what you remember? Your dad beating your Mom? Is that how Mike remembers it? In ten years I've seen nothing like that. I did hear your mom say she was the one mighty and strong, and accuse one of her sons of being homosexual. Your dad said he slapped her once or twice but remember every story has two sides. Your mother was in an asylum and your dad wanted to get her out but her parents wanted her to stay in because she really needed help and they hoped she would get it. She believed that if she lay in bed all day she would get better. The doctors believed she should do some work. She refused, they

forced her by pulling her and forcing her hands to do their joy while everyone laughed and insulted her. It was an awful experience and her parents wouldn't let Fred get her out. She learned some wild behaviors in this environment. She learned to yell and shriek and scream like a crazy person and when she first got out she kept acting that way — it didn't matter when or where. Your dad wasn't a mean man, mad at his wife, he was a helpless husband at his wits end, not knowing how to handle behavior right out of an asylum.

Your dad didn't ruin your mom's life. He gave her a life. No other man would have. She would have been alone, refusing to get a job, wandering the streets in the middle of the night, living an irresponsible, miserable, lonely life. That is just how she was living when she came to your dad and asked him to take her back. And her parents were relieved to have him do it instead of them.

I mean no disrespect to your mom. She is a kind lady as well as my friend. I remind you of this simply as the other side of the story. I mean no disrespect to your mom. But Mike Certainly means disrespect to your dad when he repeats Robert Black's twisted half truths. If it weren't for your dad she would have had dozens of electric shock treatments [i.e. 13] to the brain. Her parents would have followed doctors orders. Your dad put his foot down. [He did allow 1, but after witnessing it, he would allow no more. He asked the doctor if he had ever lost any patients to this treatment. The Doctor responded by saying that he thought that was a very unfair question. After hearing this response from the psychiatrist, your dad put his foot down and would allow no more.]

This letter sounds so negative but it is responding to some very negative slander. I'm sorry for that. I love you so much, I love your whole family. They are my Family. No family is perfect. All parents make mistakes and when you are grown your memories are like a two sided coin with the good on one side and the bad on the other. You know the coin has two sides and you have to pick one side to look at. You can't see through it, you may only see one side by turning the other from view.

I get the feeling Mike likes the bad side but don't let that influence you. There are a lot of beautiful and unique experiences in your past, why not focus on what's beautiful. Especially when there is so much.

If you wish to write back you could send a letter to Sam and Becky and they could get it to me somehow or other. Or you can get a 5 \$ phone card that is good for 108 minutes to Mexico. You could ask Ann or Sam or Becky Collier or the gas station attendant where to buy one.

I pray for your happiness always. May God bless you in all you do. May He watch over you every moment and bless you with the choicest blessings.

Your memory lives in my heart every day. You are one of the most precious people in my life.

Love Bethany

P.S. Please read Matthew 5:11 & 12

[Bethany's first message as Matriarch to Parents in the Church of the Firstborn.]

ENCOURAGEMENT
TO
PARENTS
IN
THE CHURCH OF THE FIRSTBORN

AS THE NEW YEAR USHERS IN AND WE FIND OURSELVES ONE YEAR CLOSER TO THE TIMES AHEAD, A FEW WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT COME TO MY MIND:

WE UNDERSTAND that as Parents in the *Church of the Firstborn* we bear the Responsibility of PRIESTHOOD LEADERSHIP within our homes. We know that we are shepherds for the Lord and are called to 'feed his sheep' (John 21:15–17).

When Israel became organized as a nation under Moses, God had respect to this calling of gospel leadership in the home, which especially belongs to parents is Israel. He commanded them to take the religious training of their children to heart as a matter of primary importance. He commanded parents to make a daily practice of expounding the Word of God to their children: "Hear, O Israel", they were Commanded:

... love God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I commanded thee this day, shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and thou shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates. (Deut 6:4–9)

God literally commanded parents to speak of Him and His Laws and His Words at all times of the day — and to have the Written Word of God always upon their very *bodies*, before their *eyes*, and *inscribed on their homes*, so that it would be in their remembrance at all times. This diligence in teaching their children is in fact at the heart of the NEW AND EVERLASTING COVENANT which God established with Abraham and Sarah. God said:

For I Know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Yahweh, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him. (Gen. 18:19)

This is to say that God knew that Abraham would magnify that order of the Priesthood which was conferred upon him, which order holds the KEYS OF ALL FAMILIAL BLESSINGS. It would be this this *Diligence* and *Obedience* on the part of Abraham that would allow God to fulfill the PROMISES and would make Abraham "the father of the faithful."

Each of us, as parents in this church, is on a Sacred Mission to convert souls to God. Souls whom God has chosen to receive Truth for their INHERITANCE, as *children born under the Covenant* which God made with Abraham. We are to model before them a life of *honor* and *commitment to God* and we are to see that they are fed the BREAD OF LIFE.

Mothers labor daily to see that their families are fed tasteful and nourishing meals, hoping they will acquire a taste for what is good and healthful, so that when they are grown they will chose what is good themselves. But

our Lord has said that “*Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God*” (Matt. 4:4) Let us see with equal concern and diligence then, that our children are dependably fed the word of God on a daily basis. And this with the hope that it will make them grow strong, that by so doing they will develop a taste for it, and that when they are grown they will choose it for themselves.

We know that our children are bombarded with the voice and messages of the world. Satan is diligent to the point of *fanaticism* to see to it that his word is forever and at all times in our children’s ears and before their eyes, with hope that it will *take root in their hearts*. O let us not forget our duty then! For there is truly a daily battle for the souls of men!

The scriptures teach us that “faith cometh by hearing the word o God”. (Rom 10:17) It is my hope that all families in tis Church can take these admonitions to heart and that if parents are not already doing so, that they establish a daily habit of feeding their children the word of god. If we are faithful in small thing we can later be depended upon to be faithful in greater things. We have no more precious talents entrusted to us, that the souls of our dear children. (Matt. 25:14–30)

The enemy is dedicated to defeating and deceiving our children. Let us then be diligent to fortify their souls against the Adversary. Let us provide within our homes a sanctuary from the temptations and lies of the enemy. Let us endeavor with the help of God, to create a heaven where the spirit of our children may be strengthen and fed— where the noise of the world does not drown out the quiet whisperings of the Spirit of God. Let us begin with daily scripture reading and daily family prayer. These small habits are within our ability to obtain I. And like a Small Mustard Seed grows to greatness, it is “by Small means [that] the Lord can bring about great things”. Aaaa91 Nephi. 16:29)

May God bless you in this new year — may He strengthen you and be with you as your strive to bring up your children in the “nurture and admonition of the Lord”. (Eph. 6:4)

(p. 136)

What does Yahweh your God
require of you,
but to fear Yahweh your God,
to walk in all his ways,
and to love him,
and to serve Yahweh your God

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THE BOOK OF BETHANY

with all your heart
and with all your soul,
to keep the commandments
of Yahweh

(p. 137)

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend,
expecting nothing back;

and your reward will be great, and you will be
children of the Most High;

for he is kind toward the unthankful and evil.

Therefore be merciful, even as your Father is
also merciful.

Don't judge, and you won't be judged.

Don't condemn, and you won't be condemned.

Set free, and you will be set free.

"Give, and it will be given to you: good
measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running
over, will be given to you.

For with the same measure you measure, it
will be measured back to you."

(p. 240)

March, 2003

Dear Fred,

I want to take a moment and tell you how much you mean ~~for~~ to me. You have been gone for several months and here you are heading off again. I hope you will not be long. Even so, it has been wonderful having you here. I remember when we were first married and you left me for four days. I didn't think I could survive! It felt so long!

When I saw this card it got me thinking how tremendous an influence you have had upon me and my life. I know every husband and wife have a great

influence upon each other, but this surpasses the norm. You have influenced me not only as a kind and loving husband, as a true and loyal friend, but more profoundly as the wisest of all teachers. You have brought me into a new dimension, and made of me and my life something so entirely different than I ever could have been otherwise. You have given me the key of and understanding and set me on the path of Eternal Life. Without that I would be a different creature in a different universe than I am today.

I love so many things about you. I love sharing my life with you. I love the example you set me in meekness and patience before God

[This letter is written on a Birthday Card. On the front there is a waterfall, with the following words written above and below it: "Isn't it Amazing . . . how one person can change the course of your life?" On the back it reads: "You are that person in my life." Appended to this is a note written by Bethany, which states: "I bought this for your birthday but you were gone so long!" In continuing with her letter she writes:

I love the kindness and the uprightness of your heart. I love knowing that you are an honorable man motivated by Godly and unyielding principles. And I love knowing that you love me, though I sometimes wonder why!

I look forward to this new child we are being given — I love our family. God bless you while you are gone from us. You will be in all our prayers. You have always been a lamp to my feet and a light shining in darkness. God bless you and keep you. Bethany

May 31, 2003

Yesterday Fred and Nancy's daughter, Mary was Married here in our home as the plural wife of Scott Ashcroft. On the 29th Fred and I and Mary were up until 1:30 am giving her her endowments.

She is 16½ years old and I earnestly hope that all goes well.

Before the sealing Ceremony Fred ordained me to all the keys of the priesthood including the sealing keys and set me apart as the presiding Matriarch of the Church. His son Joshua was (p. 102) present. Fred also ordained Joshua to all the keys as well as Scott Ashcroft and his wife Janeen.

In Dec 2002 we did endowments at the Ashcrofts home in Queen Creek, Az.

It was a time of powerful revelation to me — the windows of heaven were opened.

2 4

J u n e

2 0 0 4

On this day the writing of the *Book of Revelations* commenced. This would become the predominant preoccupation of my mind and though for the next 6 years — and not only of myself, but also of Bethany, for it was an experience which we both lived and shared together. That this is so is relected in some of the letters and poetry which Bethany wrote at this time.

(p. 147)

September 2004

Your Dreams

Your dreams
Have created a beautiful
World for me
The place that I love most
My favorite place to be
Here in your arms
And here in your eyes
And here in your words
Sailing the Skies
Of your dreams

yet I am weak
And I am small
Some times your perfect dreams
Don't seem to fit at all
And I fall
From such lofty skies
And I can't reach the stars
In your eyes

Forgive

Pick me up
And teach me how to live.

(Finished version taken from MS file: Eleven Years.doc)

[Before 22 October 2004]

(p. 144)

I Love You
How frail are words
Such little things
Like birds that hobble
With broken wings
Who hop and flutter
Yet though they try
Despite all efforts
They cannot fly
Nor soar the vast and open sky
And now my LOVE I would try
To soar that Vast and Open Sky
And tell you in a way Sublime
How deep my love and how divine

But I fall
And these frail words
Won't do at all

So I shall try
Another way . . .
Just watch my life
From day to day . . .

(p. 145)

I am always here
And I am yours,
My love expressed
Through humble chores

but our life and love
are more than these
not like the birds
but more like the breeze

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THE BOOK OF BETHANY

that lifts them up
and rustles the trees
and seems to permeate
everything
and to me it would seem

(p. 146)

Yet though our lives be humble
And though our world be small
It seems to me we share
The greatest dream of all

And what brings the greatest joy
As the year pass by it seems
Our love, our life begins
To look more like our dreams

Little birds
– I love you –
Broken wings that just won't fly
– I Love You –
hop and flutter
– I Love You and
I Love You and
I Love You
to the Sky . . .
(For the finished version see file: "Eleven Years.doc")

[Before 22 October 2004]

The Mind of Man

IS THE BIRD IN THE CAGE A BIRD?
OR THE IGNORANT MAN A MAN?
FOR BOTH HAVING FORMS
WHICH TO THE EYE SEEM WHOLE
DO NOT WHAT THEY NATURALLY CAN

NO THE BIRD IS NOT WHOLE
WHOSE WINGS DO NOT FLY
NOR THE MAN WHOSE THOUGHTS FAIL

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

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TO REACH TO THE SKY

FOR GOD MADE THE BIRD
TO SOAR THROUGH THE HEAVENS
NOT TO SIT IN A CAGE ON A SHELF
AS HE LIKEWISE MADE MAN
ON THE WINGS OF HIS MIND
TO COMPREHEND THE CREATOR HIMSELF
(For the finished version see file: "Eleven Years.doc")

10 Oct 2004

[Israel's Birthday]

Eleven Years

You were the first — Fruit of my womb
And when you were born
I WAS REBORN — MADE NEW
WITH A LOVE THAT CHANGED ME
THEN I LEARNED THAT LOVE IS LABOR
LOVE IS PAIN — DEEPLY ACHING SLEEPLESS NIGHTS,
MANY CARES
SHOWED ME LOVE MEANS
FORSAKING. . .
FREEDOM, REST
ALL KINDS OF PLEASURE
GLADLY
FOR A GREATER TREASURE

AND THE YEARS FLEW BY . . .

I CRIED WHEN I FELT
THE FIRST HINT OF A TOOTH
BULGING UNDER YOUR GUMS

WAS THRILLED TO THE CORE

THE BOOK OF BETHANY

AT YOUR FIRST BITE OF FOOD
YOUR FIRST PLAYFUL MOOD

I REMEMBER
YOUR FIRST SMILE
FIRST LAUGH
FIRST CLAPPING OF HANDS
THE DAY YOU ROLLED OVER. . .
AND OUT OF THE VAN
HOW I RAN

I REMEMBER YOUR FIRST
INTEREST IN RAIN
IN PUPPIES, IN CHICKENS
YOUR FIRST BLOOD, FIRST PAIN

I REMEMBER SO MUCH
OF YOU
BECAUSE ALL YOUR FIRST STEPS
WERE MY FIRST STEPS TOO

HOW I CRIED, OH I CRIED
WHEN YOU WERE FOUR
WHEN I REALIZED ALL AT ONCE
YOU WEREN'T A BABY ANYMORE

AND THE YEARS FLEW BY. . .

AND THEY HAVE BOUND US
TO EACH OTHER
THE GROWING OF A BOY
THE GROWING OF A MOTHER

I WILL WALK THIS PATH
WITH OTHERS TOO
BUT SON, I BLAZED THE TRAIL
WITH YOU
YOU WERE WITH ME
WHEN EACH STEP WAS NEW
(TAKEN FROM MS FILE: "ELEVEN YEARS.DOC")

16 Oct 2004

Bethany:

“We believe in our Mother
Great Goddess of Power
Goddess of Wisdom
Now is the Hour,
to fulfill that Glorious Gospel Plan,
let the knowledge of Her
rain down upon the land.”

(Taken from File: FCC REV 24July04–16Nov04)

[BEFORE 22 OCT 2004]

HAPPINESS

HAPPINESS IS NOT SIMPLY
THAT BRIGHT AND BURSTING
FEELING OF UTTER JOY
BUT A STRONG AND QUIET FULLNESS
THAT ALSO COMES FROM PAIN
AS A BEAUTIFUL FLOWER WHO SHOWS US
ONLY HER LOVELY FACE
AFTER HER ROOTS HAVE CONQUERED
HAVE GONE FIRST AND DEEP
AND GROWN STRONG
IN DARKNESS
(For the finished version see file: “Eleven Years.doc”)

[Before 22 Oct 2004]

CHILD’S PRAYER TO ELOHEIM

MICHAEL — ADAM — FATHER GOD
HOLD ME TO THE IRON ROD

MARY — EVE — MOTHER DEAR
PROTECT ME AS I SOJOURN HERE

JESUS SAVIOR OF MY SOUL
HEAL MY WEAKNESS, MAKE ME WHOLE

JOSEPH — BROTHER — HOLY GHOST
EVER WITNESS OF THE TRUTH

HOLY ANGELS WHO GUARD MY WAY
KEEP ME SAFE TILL BREAK OF DAY
AMEN

(For the finished version see file: "Eleven Years.doc")

[Before 22 Oct 2004]

I HAVE BEEN BAPTIZED
IN THE LIGHT OF YOUR SPIRIT
SATURATED

MY THIRST
QUENCHED IN THE LIGHT OF
YOUR EYES

IN OUR UNION I AM COMPLETED
AND MADE WHOLE
WE ARE ONE SOUL

AND IF YOU WHO I LOVE
SHOULD GO FIRST
INTO THE FARAWAY

IT WILL NOT MEAN THAT HALF OF ME
SHOULD DIE
PALE AND COLD

BUT ONLY THAT I SHALL LIVE
HALFWAY
IN THAT IMMORTAL WORLD
(TAKEN FROM MS FILE: "ELEVEN YEARS.DOC")

(p. 148)

I have loved you all my life
 before ever I heard your name
 loving you is part of who I am
 a part that time can never change
 they say that Father time
 he can be so kind
 Healing many devastating wounds
 but I've looked into his eyes
 and I have found
 Father time is also very cruel
 For he strips every man of his treasure
 taking whatever is dear
 till we are left in the end standing naked
 on top of the pile of years
 till it seems all that left
 is the bare bones and flesh
be it and the heart filled up with love or
 with fear
 But I have loved you all my life.
 I have been baptized
 in the light of your spirit
 Saturated
 my thirst
 quenched in the light of
 your eyes
 In our union I am completed
 and made whole
 we are one soul
 and if you who I love
 Should go first
 into the far away
 it will not mean that half of me
 Should die
 pale and cold
 but only that I shall live
 half way
 in that immortal world

(p. 150)

happiness

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THE BOOK OF BETHANY

is not that bright and bursting
feeling of utter joy
but a strong and quiet fulness
that also comes from pain
like as a beautiful flower
that blooms in the heart
Who shows as only its lovely face
and yet we know
it has roots which penetrate
the darkest place
after its roots have **conquered**
that dark gone first **in** and long
and grown strong
in darkness

(p. 160)

I need you like I never thought I'd need
to be myself
to be complete
and here without you now
life loses meaning Some how
I need you here
by me
you are me Somehow now
You gave my life
its meaning
Now Somehow
Oh how I see
my need
and here without you
how
I see my need

I can't breathe
I cannot be
I look around
but I don't see
everything is hazy
bleak
come back to me

(p. 161)

I need you
I need you like a woman
needs a man
to be
the air I breath
the ground
on which I stand
take me in your
hands
and shelter me.

I need you
I need you like the
dry earth needs the rain
to water me with kisses
and take away the pain
of emptiness
and make me live

I need you
I need you like a new day
needs the morning sun
to bring hew hope
and happiness
you are the one
promise that you love me
and it is done

I need you
I need you like a woman
needs a man
to hold me in your arms
to hold my whole world
in your hands
I need you
like a woman needs a man

(p. 141)

From the boy who Saw your very face
to the man who said "This is the place,"
from all those Silent heroes along the way:

The desperate Prayers that mothers prayed
As their little ones they laid
in Cold and Silent graves.

The fathers from their families torn
by angry mobs who mocked and scorned,

They carried the torch, They Sang the Song
because of them the dream goes on.

To all the Saints who Paid the price,
who earned the truth with sacrifice
Who took the Cross up joyfully
and tread the Solemn trail to thee:

From the wife who gave her husbands hand
to another woman and trusted Lord in Thee
To the lowly emigrant who faithful on to Zion went
but perished on the sea.

May all of those who took the cross
and thus left a heritage to us
be blessed O God by Thee

(p. 142)

And may our hearts be purified
that we may stand up by their side
Oh may the final Judgement see
us worthy of their Company
O God

(p. 133)

[Mexico in August]

The field was green and golding
and the late summer rain
softly warmly touched the earth
nourished the growing grain

beside a lonesome tree
those raindrops kissed my face
and I thought of that internal field
where struggled the seeds of faith

They were planted at a time like this
when rain was soft and fertile soil
The tender sprouts grew rapidly
before these days of toil

But now Oh the weeds that I must pull
that grow on lip, in heart, in mind
how I struggle to tend my sprouts
that the harvest may be mine

As the sun sat lowly in the sky
and watched my somber face
she whispered "God is watching
over every fertile place"

OUR DREAMS ARE BEAUTIFULLY ETCHED IN GLASS
SUCH GRAND DESIGN
AND OH THE TIME
THAT WE HAVE SPENT
CREATING PERFECT PICTURES FROM THE PAST

BUT SEE HOW CAREFULLY WE MUST HOLD ON
THIS PRECIOUS SAND
WITH BOTH OUR HANDS
OR IT WILL SLIP
AND THE VERY MEANING OF OUR LIVES BE GONE

ALAS, MY LOVE, THIS SO HARD TO DO
FOR I WOULD FLY
AT LEAST I'D TRY
OR CLIMB, OR DANCE
BUT FOR THIS DREAM WHICH TAKES UP BOTH MY HANDS

WHEN I WAS YOUNG I DIDN'T KNOW MYSELF
"I" WAS IN THE FUTURE
A MYSTIC OR AN ELF
EXPERIENCE BROUGHT "ME" NEARER, STATIC IMAGE
A PHOTOGRAPH,
YET LACKING DEPTH TO REALLY LAUGH

PATH OF LIFE—
PLEASURE, PAIN,
JOY, SORROW, SIN
PENANCE, FAITH,
HERE I BEGIN
TO SEE AND KNOW
THE SOUL WITHIN
NOW AS THE YEARS HANG HEAVILY UPON ME
BENEATH OLD BONES THERE DANCES STILL
AN ELF
AND YET IT'S EYES ARE DEEP AND CLEAR
DEEP ENOUGH TO HEAR
THE LITTLE MYSTIC
LAUGHING AT "MYSELF"

[The following is printed on a Mother's day Card which I gave to Bethany. The card has a water painting of a Tulip and two other types of flowers in the front. Above the flowers the following message is printed on the front:] "For the Woman I Love with All My Heart". [On the Inside, on the left and right fold the following is printed. Left side:]

"Love is what I feel
each time
you smile or touch my hand,
Love is how we know
each others thoughts
and Understand . . .

[Right Side:]

Love is all the joys
“we share,
the happiness you bring,
Love is what you mean to me —
and you mean everything!

Happy
Mothers Day”

[Signed:]
Your Husband
Fred

(p. 169 & 170)

May 13, 2008

My Dear Children,

I have had a premonition and a dream. I have felt for sometime to write you a letter in the event that we are separated either in life or by death. You are so young, and to lose you before I am able to put into your heart and understanding those precious things which God has put into mine, would be deepest of all sorrows to me. It is for this reason then that I write this letter, that if circumstances separate us, yet I may speak to you as it were, last words, carefully chosen and precious to leave you, as I have no other inheritance to give. If then, I were able to write you one letter and nevermore be able to speak to you in this life, this is what I would say:

I have tried honestly and earnestly before God to teach you both by word and example to love God and his redeeming Son. Never let go of this. God lives, write it in your heart. Christ saves and gives us life eternal, and if there be freedom anywhere in the great universe, it is in him and him alone. Hold these truths dearer than life, hold them worthy of the cruelest death. Never let go of them despite all shame and suffering and scorn. This life is all too short but the next goes on forever and I want to be there with you, where we never can be parted. Joseph Smith is a prophet of God and the Book of Mormon is true. I know this and so can you. That book will bring you to Christ if you read it with an open heart. God has quietly spoken to me in my life and answered many prayers. He said ask and it will be given.

Believe that this is true. He led me to your father who has taught me the most precious things. The revelation he has written over these past years is true. It has the power to bring us closer to God. It has strengthened me more than I can tell you. It has given me new eyes. I read the scriptures now and where before I saw only poetry, I now see clearly spoken truth. It has given me the key to understanding. Obscure prophecies are now plain. God is closer to me. I feel it. And all the while I knew that he was giving me a stronger faith and a surer foundation because I would soon need it. I would not be able to face the days to come without this strength, this vision and this faith.

Dear children, never let anger overtake you. Believe that God is over all. He truly is. What looks to us like calamity and failure is often in God's hands the greatest of blessings and success. As Christ was nailed to the cross, God was able to save every soul from hell and make his Son, heir of all he possessed. Trust God. Be honest and obedient to Him. Accept what befalls you knowing he allows it for his own purposes. But never give up your righteousness, your honesty or your integrity. Never become like your enemy in order to fight him. Trust God. Some of God's greatest prophets and chosen souls were kidnapped as children. Joseph of Egypt, Daniel (in the lion's den), Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-neggo. Yet it was all turned to God's glory because they trusted in him and were true to him. They did not let anger overtake them, though surely they struggled with it. Always remember that suffering is the greatest act of worship. To show our love for God by suffering for it as Jesus Christ suffered for us and for His Father's will. To follow in His footsteps is the greatest act of worship and a consecration to God which makes our life sacred. And our strength must come from Him. He will speak to you, give you wisdom and guidance and strength. He will give you all you need. He who created the Earth, parted the Red Sea, saved Daniel from the lions, can do all things. He can do anything for you. Never doubt it. He is mighty to save and is a God of miracles!

Read the scriptures, say your prayers, do good, hate evil. By small things like these God brings to pass great things. Just as a tree is born of a small seed. Get a copy of your fathers Revelation. Read it and believe it. It is true. Keep the Sabbath in your heart.

And now, remember I love you more than life itself. Love each other, do not lose each other. Stay together if at all you can. Israel, your hardships in life have prepared you, you are able to be a man. To watch over your siblings and to teach them what is right. Do this as a sacred trust for me. I have not had as much time with them. Indeed, they may scarcely remember me. You are strong and you are good. God has made you strong to meet the times and will continue to give you strength if you ask. Do not fear shame in man's

eyes, only in God's. Keep your eyes on your maker. I have lived for you my son. You have been my joy and my hope. You will be an exceptional man. You are so able and so brave. Your life has a purpose. Find it and live for it. Take care of your brothers and sisters. Christian, you are so dear to me. You want so much to understand so many things. Keep this desire. Hunger and thirst for righteousness. Teach your younger siblings. Help your older brother. Listen to him. God has a special plan for your life. Trust Him and do good. You have such a generous heart. I love you so much. Freedom, you were born with a sense of wonder. Keep this forever. Find joy in the simple things God made for you. The stars, the birds. Take care of April. You be her best friend. You have always been protective of her. Take care of Eva too. Help your brothers. Listen to them. I have so enjoyed watching you grow. Find things to love and enjoy. Be happy about everything good. There is so much to love in this world. But remember you are living for an even better world. April, my little daughter, help your brothers. Take care of them and pray for them. Never forget who you are and who you come from. Live, love, laugh but never forget what you are living for: to honor your God in heaven. Noah, my treasure, you have always been a comfort to my heart. A joy to all your family. Listen to your brothers they will always care for you. Stay close to them and never forget your Jesus. We will all be together with Jesus someday. Eva, little baby doll, you have been so much fun. Your willful little heart is so amusing. You are sweet and loving and happy and strong. You are willful and I am so glad. Be willful in life always, just make sure you bend your will to God's. This world needs strong and willful people. God will be sure to use you for good.

I am so thankful for each of you. So glad you are mine. I always felt I had special children, especially smart, especially strong. I always felt each of you were in this world for a reason and destined to make a difference here. You will. God will make sure of it. This planet needs you and God needs you. He will make use of your life in His own time and way. I love you so much and look forward to being with you all in a much better world than this. Remember in your darkest moments, you are never alone. God is with you always. And when I pass from this world I will be your invisible angel. I will always be taking care of you. And if we are separated but not by death, every hour of every day I will be praying for each one of you. You are my own flesh and you are in my heart forever. Do not let this world shame you. Be proud of who you are. Of who you were born to be. I love you FOREVER. Good-bye just for now.

Love For Ever and Ever,

For more, visit: thechurchofthefirstborn.com

Mom

[The following is a Father's Day Card given on 20 June 2008. It was a homemade card which was made by Bethany and Signed by the kids. It was made out of an 8 1/2 piece of paper which was folded in half. The front cover contains the following:]

It's not a pretty
card — but it
comes from
the



Happy
Fathers
Day!

[ON THE INSIDE LEFT SIDE THE FOLLOWING IS WRITTEN]

Happy fathers
day Dad I love you
and hope our family lasts
forever
Emanuel

For more, visit: thechurchofthefirstborn.com

Dad, I like you and I missed
you when you were gone.
I Love You!
Freedom

Dad, You are my
BEST FRIEND — Love, Noah

[ON THE INSIDE RIGHT PAGE THE FOLLOWING IS WRITTEN:]

To the Father of my Children
and the Father of my Faith,
I love You with all my
heart, Worlds with out end
and I look forward to
an eternity with You!
Love, Your wife
Bethany

Happy Father's Day
Dad. I Love you
a lot!
Love, Israel

Thanks for taking
us on a picnic
I Love You! Happy
Father's Day!
Love,
Christian

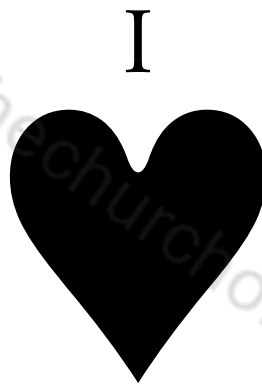
Happy fathers Day
Dad
Hyrum

[The statements by Bethany's children were written by Bethany, but with the exception of Noah, who could not write, they were signed by the children. April did not write or sign a statement because she made her own card.]

For more, visit: thechurchofthefirstborn.com

[What follows is a Father's Day Card written by April and Elizebeth for 20 June 2008. This and the preceeding card were found in by Christian on the book shelf in the room that was used by Bethany and I for a bedroom. As was Bethany's, this card was made by folding an 8 1/2 piece of paper together. and what follows is the front page of the folded card. It was written by Bethany:]

I Love Father's Day and
I love God and I will
try to be a really good
girl.
— April



you!!

I love
God.

Me and Lizzy are in
the Fathers day card.

[The heart is drawn with a red marker pen, as was the first. It has an all dark heart in the center and then straight lines going out from the central heart to make another larger heart which has a line drawn around it and what would appear to be a red ribon lace which is drawn by the same marker pen.]

On the inside left page the following is written at the bottom:]

For more, visit: thechurchofthefirstborn.com

You are super!

I am Sorry when I
am bad.

[ON THE INSIDE RIGHT PAGE THE FOLLOWING IS WRITTEN:]

I Love
My
Daddy!
Happy
Fathers
Day! Love,
April A