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Tuesday, February 01, 2011

Shafter, California

I woke trying to figure out a footing for a tower that Lee has to provide for the plants secure internet stations. Lee told Elder Shaw what the requirements for the footing and he wants our help to figure out how to meet the requirements. I don’t know how long I had been working on the details in my sleep but I woke very excused. There has to be something different in the plans or I under stood the information that Lee gave elder Shaw and I for the way I understood it, it would be impossible to form and pour a concrete footing to those specifications. Elder Shaw and I worked on the Sherwood homes getting the Kills Primer sprayed on the doors. We are now ready to spray on the finish coat. We also started prepping the house so that we can texture the areas that I repair the drywall. The east home is in pretty bad shape but we will get it. I was sure tired when I got home. I shaved and showered and then we ate dinner. Mae had a wonderful dinner ready. We also watched two J.A.G. series this evening plus I got a short nap in. I opened five pomegranates for Mae so that we could freeze the fruit. There were two pomegranates that had spoiled but we feel that we still got them at a good price. I filled out a financial report for the plant and will turn it in tomorrow. Jeff called this evening to tell us that the division of Honeywell that he works for has been bought by a man from New Zealand for the price of 1 billion dollars cash. Jeff is not sure what changes that will mean for him. It is going on 10PM so we had better get to bed.

Wednesday, February 02, 2011

Shafter, California

It was a normal morning with my sweet wife preparing breakfast for me. She finished packing my lunch and saw me off to work. Elder Shaw and I worked on the Sherwood East home getting the doors painted and then texturing the walls and ceiling where I had repaired damages. It was after noon when we got things put away and went into the office to help Lee move the cabinets into the East Duplex. We then went over to the Kimberlina homes and moved furniture from one unit to another unit. I also replaced the insides to the toilet tank. It was almost 5PM when I got home this evening and I was very tired. Mae soon had dinner ready. We ate as we watched a couple of J.A.G. series while eating. Mae then gave me a hair cut before I shaved and showered. Mae was talking to Georgia while I showered. I then worked on my life history while waiting for Mae to Shower. We soon went to bed after that.

Thursday, February 03, 2011

Shafter, California

I woke shortly before the alarm went off at 6AM. I would like to have shut it off and gone back to sleep. Mae got me going and then prepared breakfast. I met Lee at the Kimberlina homes and we moved more things from the center house to the east house. We also cleaned up the garage and hauled away some cardboard boxes. I then went out to the Sherwood homes and brought back the front door to the duplex so that we could install it. Mae met me at the plant and we went into Merrill’s office and visited with him. He expressed his apparition for what we had done while we were here at the south Valley Farm. It has been good being here. Elder Shaw and I worked on the duplex most of the day getting the island cabinet set and started hanging the bi-fold doors. We stopped at 2PM for the plant calibration for Februarys Birthday remembrances. This evening we attended the Ward Valentine dinner and dance. There was a fair turn out and we had a good time. It was about 9PM when we got home. I entered this entry and we then went to bed.

Friday, February 04, 2011

Shafter, California

Mae didn’t sleep the best last night so I let her sleep in a little longer. I would have let her sleep until she woke up but I know that she had school to help with and she would go to that even if she didn’t feel good. Elder Shaw and I worked on the east duplex getting the cabinets set and the doors hung on the laundry room. On the way home I stopped at the Kimberlina homes and picked grapefruit from the tree in front of Pains home. After Mae finished at the Redwood Elementary school she went Visiting Teaching. I got home about 4:30PM and being alone I roasted almonds and made two batches of almond butter. I do not understand why but I used the same recipe for both batches but to the second batch I had to use much more olive oil to get the same texture. I have noticed that some batches take more or less oil but I thought it was a difference in the variety of almonds but this time the almonds were the same variety and even came out of the same sack. I don’t understand the difference. Mae came home after 6PM and she had stopped and bought some Mexican Food for us to eat this evening. We watched the movie “The Man Called Peter” on DVD. We have seen this show several years ago but enjoyed it again, just as much as before. I took the two batches of almond butter and mixed them together to get an even consistency and put it into bottles. I took my shower and we went to bed. Mae filled out Valentine for our Grand-children while I showered.

Saturday, February 05, 2011

Shafter, California

I woke at 4:45AM and didn’t want to disturb Mae so I lay in the recliner. I dosed off and on until 6AM when workers started getting equipment out to the yard to work in the orchards today. Mae woke a short time later and had me come back to bed. It was late when we got up. We had a wonderful breakfast of waffles and scrambled eggs. We worked together preparing it and then again cleaning up and doing the dishes. It is good to relax and be with Mae! I worked on my talk for next Sunday. Mae visited with David, Shauna and each of the children. We had a knock at the door so I went to it. It was two gentlemen from the Jehovah Witness so I stepped out the door and visited with them for a few minutes. After lunch I took a nap. Mae has been busy getting things cleaned and in order for us to pack to go home. At 4:30PM we went over to Merrill and Kellie Dibble’s home in Bakersfield for dinner. We were happy and surprised to have Bishop Spencer and Michelle Birch and their family there also. The Birches are back for a couple of weeks but Spencer will leave in a couple of days to go back to Argentina. They are still waiting for visas to go through before the family can go there. We had a nice evening visiting and eating. We did not know that the Shaw’s were invited also but Merrill finally called and they hadn’t got the message. We stopped at the grocery store for some eggs, two cups of yogurt and some whipped topping. We were in and out of the store for just over five dollars. Who! That doesn’t happen very often. After getting home I entered the last of this journal entry. We lessoned to 3 or 4 chapters of “The Second Sun” before shutting the CD player off and going to bed.

Sunday, February 06, 2011

Shafter, California

We didn’t get up until 6:30AM, then showered and shaved and got ready for church. We got to the church house at 9AM and got our nursery room ready before going into the chapel for choir practice. The Sacrament meeting was very good and the testimony’s very appropriate and spiritual. In the nursery we had 15 children, one assistant and sometimes 1 or more parents but it was very busy. The first 15 minutes or so I held little Brooklyn Allred on my shoulder trying to get her to stop crying. She finally did and was good the rest of the time. It was challenging but we made it through the 2 hours. When we got home we were very tired. Mae had invited the missionaries over for dinner this evening against my wishes. She hadn’t planned on doing it but things just worked out that way. I wish that I had been more understanding with her. We took a nap although Mae only lay down for maybe a ½ hour and I slept for over an hour when I heard Mae working in the kitchen. I got up and gave her a hand with what I could do in the preparations of dinner. I worked for a while on my talk. So far I don’t feel a good direction with what I am writing down. Bishop Spencer Birch had told me a story of a young man in Argentina so I called him and asked for some details about it. I had just got off the phone with him when the Elders came. We had a lovely dinner and enjoyed the visit, the Gospel discussion and the Spiritual time we had together. I did a little more on my talk but we put on the last CD of the book “The Second Son” of the series by Chris Stewart “The Great and Terrible” and lessoned to that. It is now almost 10:30PM so we went to bed.

Monday, February 07, 2011

Shafter, California

Mae made hot cakes for breakfast. Elder Shaw and I first changed the filters on the AC units on the plant office. We then went out to the Sherwood homes and worked out there until 3PM. We came back to Elder Shaw’s trailer and I tried to help Sister Shaw with Adobe Photo Shop but it is a newer version than ours and it is not the same at all. I come home and showered and shaved and we left to go to Lee’s home. Lee and Kim took the Shaw’s and Mae and I out to eat at the Red Lobster in Bakersfield as a going home diner for Mae and I. We had a wonderful evening being together. It was after 9PM when we got home. Mae worked on the computer for a few minutes and then I got on it and entered this journal entry. I Have a head ache so we soon went to bed.

Tuesday, February 08, 2011

Shafter, California

We slept in until 6:20AM and then got up. Mae prepared a nice breakfast as normal. I picked up elder Shaw and we drove to Tulare which is about 45 miles north on Hwy 99 and went to the World AG Expo 2011. We spent about 4 ½ hours walking through the exhibits. As Elder Shaw said after that time “We have seen so much I am not shore if we are seeing new exhibits or just seeing what we have already seen.” We left and found a Sub-Way where we ate for much less than we could have at the fair, and then headed for home. The farm equipment was very impressive and interesting as to the new development but I was disturbed that most of the implement displays were from countries outside the United States. I couldn’t help asking, what has happened to the U.S. building our own equipment? The other thing that I missed was not having Mae with me. It would have been much more enjoyable had she been with me. We stopped at Home Depot in Delano for a few supplies and then came on home. I took a nap for a ½ hour. I had received an email from my cousin Gennie Griggs and so I replied back. Mae prepared dinner and as we ate a truck drove into the equipment yard. It was a load of bee haves so I took the camera out and took a picture of it. I talked to the bee keeper and he is from Soda Springs, Idaho. I asked him if he know the owners of Trail Creek Lodge and he said that he was their Home Teacher. We visited for a few minutes and he told me that he and his father had been bringing bees to South Valley Farm for 20 years. Mae got on the computer and found reservations for a Motel 8 in San Diego for the Shaw’s and us for the next three nights. The Shaw’s son hadn’t confirmed reservations for us in time to get them for this week. That is ok for Mae’s reservations are much cheaper anyway; just hoping the motel is a good one. We watched two series of J.A.G. this evening. It is now 9:25PM so we had better get to bed.

Wednesday, February 09, 2011

I woke up at 4:30AM and found a note from Mae that got to sleep until after 12:30AM so I let her sleep later. Elder Shaw and I worked at the Sherwood home masking for paint. We worked until 12:30PM and then quite for the day. Elder & Sister Shaw picked us up about 2:30PM and we left for San Diego. Elder Shaw drove and that was fine with me. We stopped at Maria Calendars for dinner towards the south end of L.A. Although I guess there are many sub-cities it all seemed like one continues city to me. There are free-ways and over-passes everywhere. Boy! I sure wouldn’t want to live here or as far as I am concerned I don’t want to live in California. When we got to San Diego we went to the Shaw’s son’s home on the Navy base. There we met their son and their three grandchildren. Their son had purchased tickets at the base and saved us quite a bit on money that way. We found our Motel and checked in. The rooms are small but quite nice especially for the price of $119.00 for three nights.

Thursday, February 10, 2011

San Diego, California

We slept well although the electrical out let that I plugged my CPAP into shut off after there was no movement in the room so I woke having difficulty breathing. I slept most of the night without it. We had a wonderful day today visiting Sea World. It was fun being with the Shaw’s and they having been here before helped us to see some of the high lights. The grounds alone were beautiful and we enjoyed the animals. We took the “Wild Arctic” ride twice, the “Shipwreck Rapids” the “Bayside Skyride” , the “Journey to Atlantis” rides and saw the shows, “Sea Lion and Otter”, “Dolphin” and “Shamu”, plus “Flamingo Cove”, “Shark Encounter”, “Penguin Encounter”, “Turtles”; in other words we saw almost every show, exhibit and rides for adults in Sea World. We were tired but we then rode up to the San Diego LDS Temple and out to eat at Home Town Buffet. When we got back to the motel we invited the Shaw’s to our room where we watched “The Grass is Greener” with Cary Grant and Deborah Carr, Mae and I showered before going to bed very tired.

Friday, February 11, 2011

San Diego, California

Mae and I slept in until 8:30AM and couldn’t believe the time when we woke. We weren’t finished eating breakfast when the Shaw’s came to get us. Today we went to the Water Front and started with seeing the “Midway Aircraft Carrier”. That was amazing and it was 1:30PM before we got off. We bought tickets for “The Seal Tour” before eating lunch. We just had time to walk to the tour. That was a Sea & Land Adventure tour in a water and land vessel. When we returned for that we went on the tours of the “The Star of India”, a Pirate ship, a Russian sub-marine and the U.S. sub-marine -----. We then went out to eat at “Antonio’s Sea Food” before returning to the motel. We had to recharge the battery for the camera and down load the pictures so that we can take pictures tomorrow. We were very tired this evening so we soon went to bed.

Saturday, February 12, 2011

Shafter, California

We woke earlier this morning and got things packed up. After leaving the motel we went to Old Town San Diego and went to the Mormon Battalion Museum. This museum has just been reopened this year, after it was completely rebuilt. It is a beautiful museum depicting the battalion leaving Winter Quarters (I believe) and traveling to a Mexican settlement of San Diego. It is very well presented and very enjoyable. After our visit there we walked through shopping areas of Old Town. We ate lunch at Café Coyote and then Elder Shaw and I walked to the truck and rested while Mae and Sister Shaw did a little more shopping. We drove form Old town to the San Diego L.D.S. Temple and though it is still closed for some repairs we walked around the grounds and took some pictures. Sister Shaw had some CD that we lessoned to as we traveled that were sure enjoyable. We stopped at Home Town Buffet before going over the pass from Los Angeles. I slept for a while after that. We got home about 9PM. It has been a fun and very enjoyable trip. I wrote in my journal and worked on my talk for tomorrow.

Sunday, February 13, 2011

Shafter, California

I got up before the alarm, read my scriptures and worked on my talk. We went to church in time to prepare our class room and attend the choir practice although we will not be singing with the choir after today. Mae gave a wonderful talk, I had more materials than I had time but I think the spirit guided me and it went fairly well. I hope it was encouraging to some in attendance. The nursery class went well and I think we had 14 children there today. We were able to turn the materials over to Sister Grant who will be taking our place. We stopped by Manuel Masias’s home and visit one last time with he and Camella. I don’t know if we have done much good there but at least they seem to have appreciated the visit. We went to the Ryan & Bonnie Slade’s for a dinner appointment. Elder and Sister Shaw as well as Elder Bill’s and Elder Manning were also there. Sister Slade provided a very nice dinner. While Mae visited I set on a couch and fell asleep. We went from there to Peter & Tara Guyton’s where we had dinner with their family. It was 7:30PM before we got home. I entered this journal and played some games on the computer while Mae talked to Shellie’s boys and then to Shellie. Shellie told us that Garrett is going to purpose to Nora tomorrow evening. That is exciting news. She also told her that she was helping Roy in their attic and she fell through the ceiling, landing in their bathroom. Luckily she was not seriously hurt. I have been copying some of the pictures taken of Wasco Ward activities on to a CD so that we can leave copies of the pictures that we have taken with Sister Payne. I also copied my journals onto a CD so that we have a back-up copy. It is now after 10PM so we had better go to bed.

Monday, February 14, 2011

Shafter, California

We woke a little early and then went back and cuddled for a few minutes but still would like to have stayed and slept longer. I think the vacation and busy Sunday wore us out. Elder Shaw and I drove out to the Paramount processing plant and brought back two pallets of Pistachios to the plant. When we got back to the plant Travis Jones told me that he had two boxes of almonds for me. I also bought a box of the Pistachios plus Mike gave me four sacks of Pistachios for Elder Shaw and I going out to get them. The 100 lb of almonds and the box of 16 pistachios cost me $160.00 so that is quite reasonable. Elder Shaw and I then went out to Sherwood and worked on masking the east house for painting. We just about have it ready to paint. I came home and showered and shaved. At 6PM Mae and I went to Sister Louise Hyer,s for a dinner appointment. Elder and Sister Shaw and Bishop and Sister Brown also were invited. We had a very enjoyable evening, getting home after 9PM. I filled out this entry and we went to bed.

Tuesday, February 15, 2011

Shafter, California

I didn’t sleep the best last night and I woke at 4:15AM and in order to go to sleep I took some asburns and did go to sleep. Mae realized that I hadn’t slept so she let me sleep until 6:30AM. I had to hurry but I was glad for the extra time. Elder Shaw and I were able to get the primer coat of paint on the west Sherwood home. I was sure tired when I finished so we cleaned up and went home. Mae got the truck serviced so that it is ready for the trip home. She has also been busy getting things packed. We relaxed and watched a J.A.G. series while eating dinner. After the show I helped Mae do the dishes and then I shaved and took a shower. I called Shellie and told her what Brother Kenneth Haywood had told me about the instructions the Sealer were given. I just wanted to have her aware of the changes before they got to the Temple. Garret and Nora are officially engaged as of last night. We sure join the family about being excited to have Nora join our family. Georgia called and visited with Mae for a few minutes and while they visited I got a couple of things packed. We then watched a second J.A.G. movie. While I finished this entry Mae continued to pack. She doesn’t stop much!!!

Wednesday, February 16, 2011

Shafter, California

Besides getting up at 6AM, which just gives me time to leave for work at 7AM, I also spent extra time down loading Mae’s write up on the farm so that it can be inserted into the farm journal that Mae and Sister Shaw have been working on. Sister Shaw will have to finish the scrap book after we leave. Elder Shaw and I painted the finish coat of paint in the Sherwood home. We then removed all masking and floor protective coverings. There were several areas that the masking tape did not hold and paint spray went through and was on the flooring. I spent almost 3 hours on my knees scrubbing paint off. I was again very happy that I had my knee pads. Mae called me to tell me that Chelci gave birth to a 8LB 1 OZ 20 ½ inch long girl, born 2:30 AM today. They named her Addison Mae and will call her Addie Mae. We finished about 3:30PM so I stopped at the plant and filled my pickup with fuel. I also stopped at the Kimberlina housing and picked some grape fruit and there are many left. Mae had dinner ready shortly after I got home. We watched a J.A.G. series while we ate. We then worked together packing. I got a lot packed into the pickup and it made it so Mae can have room to finish the packing. Mae was also able to find us a motel in Las Vegas for Friday night. We therefore will leave shortly after the dinner at the plant and start for home. We want to stop by Brenda Romas’s and tell her good bye. She has been a great assistant in the nursery and we want her to know that we appreciated her. At 8PM we stopped and watched another series before going to bed.

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Shafter, California

Mae continued packing and cleaning and when I got home I finished loading the truck. Elder Shaw and I worked on the Sherwood home finishing the painting and putting fixtures up. I installed two toilets, a bathroom vanity light and a medicine cabinet. The one toilet I had to remove the tie down pipe and install a new one as the other was installed wrong. I cleaned out my truck but put back some tools for tomorrows work. I was going to wash the pickup but the washer was turned off and the shop was locked up. When I got home I finished packing the pickup. Mae has worked all day cleaning and packing. We had time to shave and shower and get ready before the Shaw’s arrived to take us out to dinner. We went to the Home Town Buffet in Bakersfield. It was a wonderful treat and a special time to be with the Shaw’s. They gave us a sack of little gifts.

1st  nine cookies (the gift of giving Acts 14:17);

2nd  a plaque (As for me and my house we will serve the Lord). The gift of work D&C 4:2;

3rd CD by Jack R Christianson “Doubt not Fear not” the gift of problems and family 2nd Nephi 25:26;

4th DVD “The Ultimate Gift” – The gift of Love Proverbs 6:23;

5th a $20 gift card to Subway,

6th DVD “The incredible Mr. Limpet” – The gift of Laughter Ecclesiastes 3:4;

7th DVD “Mormon Messages (20 messages of hope and inspiration) – The gift of learning D&C88:118;

8th card with letter expressing love and appreciation and pictures of us and the four of us –

The gift of friends D& C 88:133;

9th DVD “The Eternal Christ” Truman G. Madsen in the Holy Land – The “Ultimate” gift John 17:3.

Friday, February 18, 2011

Las Vegas, Nevada

I got most everything packed before I left for work. Mae continued to clean and get things ready to leave. First I went to the Kimberlina shop and washed my pickup so that it was clean to turn back over to Lee. I then went to the plant and found out what needed to be done on the new office area. Lee told me that the paper holder, the paper towel dispenser and the soap dish needed to be mounted as to Handy Capt specifications. I had to go to Wasco and buy some parts and also go to the shop at Sherwood and find a toilet paper holder. I got all three items mounted before noon. Mae got everything ready and came to the plant by noon. It was 12:30PM before the food arrived for the luncheon. Elder and Sister Shaw were able to return in time for the luncheon. Merrill said some nice things about us and he gave us a gift bag with a picture of an aerial view of the plant which everyone had signed and a large book about farming. He had us say a few words also. I turned in my keys and credit card and we said our goodbyes. Lee then took us to the orchard and showed us inside the bee hives. We went to Wasco and bought a gift for Brenda and took it to her home. She was still at work so we couldn’t see her before we left. We got gas and left for home about 3PM. Mae drove to Tahachipi while I slept. I drove from there to Las Vegas where we stayed the night in a Super 8 Motel.

Saturday, February 19, 2011

Cedar City, Utah

We stopped at the restaurant at the Motel 8 and ordered breakfast. Outside on the sign a fairly reasonably priced breakfast but that was not what we found on the menu. Our breakfast cost us almost $30.00 for the two of us. It was very good, but very expensive. We left Las Vegas for St. George, Utah; stopping for gas just on the outskirts of town. We then traveled on to St. George arriving at Aunt Joy’s between at 2:30PM. Diane and Keith, Aunt Joy’s daughter and husband were there. We visited there until 4:30PM before leaving. Keith invited us to come to their home in Canada and he would take me out fly fishing on his boat and he said it is really easy the way he does it. We stopped and bought new windshield wipers before driving to Cedar City. Ten miles before we got to Cedar snow & ice packed the high way and within those few miles there was 9 to 10 cars that had slid off into the bar pit, one was on its top. The highway patrol had already arrived and an ambulance. We arrived at Uncle Van and Aunt Allison’s. They had dinner ready for us and made us very welcome. We slept there tonight.

Sunday, February 20, 2011

American Fork, Utah

We arrived at Mike’s at 9:30AM and enjoyed the morning. Sandi and Nick came shortly after noon and Mae and I rode to the chapel with them. The Sacrament meeting went very well. David gave a special talk and then played a melody of songs he had put together. It was beautiful, it ended with the “Warriors of Heleman”. There was a large turnout for the meeting with many relatives on both sides attending. David and his family and Jeff and his family also came even though the roads were very bad coming from the north. After the meeting the house was packed with visitors. About 4PM I decided to drive up to Clinton and unload the pickup. We were concerned that the oranges and grapefruit we had brought from California would freeze if left in the pickup over night and we also needed some items that were packed in the back of the pickup. I drove to Clinton but at 5:30PM at mile marker 323 on I-15 I was involved in an accident. I believe that a car in the HVO lane came into my lane, which would have been the fast lane, and collided with the side of my pickup. When I got off the freeway and stopped, I got out of my pickup and walked back to the car that had hit my pickup. The driver walked towards me saying, “I’m sorry, I’m sorry” and I asked him what had happened. He replied “I’m not sure”. I looked at his car but did not go to the side because of the busy traffic. I asked if he and his passengers (for he had a young lady in the passenger seat and a child in the back seat in a child’s seat) were ok. He told me that they were all ok. We determined that there was enough damage to the vehicles that we needed to call a highway patrol. He pulled out his IPod and started trying to find a number to call, so I told him that he should just call 911. He did and while we were waiting for an officer, I set in the truck to keep warm. When the officer arrived he made a quick survey of the accident and told us to follow him off the busy freeway as it was not a safe place to be. We followed him to the next exit and there we filled out the reports. After we both filled out the reports the officer told me that the other driver said that I had turned into his lane. I had said that the other driver turned into me. He could not determine and so was not going to give a citation to either but would let our insurance co. determine the fault. I picked up Jeff and he helped me unload the truck. On the way back to Jeff’s mother-in-laws, Jeff and I got into a disagreement about the Church and I came back quite upset.

Monday, February 21, 2011

American Fork, Utah

Between the accident and Jeff’s attitude I woke quite upset. I decided that I would have to go back to our home this morning as I had forgotten to bring the accident report and I needed to contact our insurance co. Mae went with me and we tried to take pictures of the accident area but I still can’t figure out how it happened. I called our insurance co. from Bob & Carroll’s and gave them the information from the officer’s report. One thing that I noticed is that the other driver put on his report is that he was only driving 60 mph when the accident happened. If that had been true he would never have been near to me because I was traveling 70 to 75 mph when it happened. When we got back to Mike’s they had gone to make changes on their phone service. Becky prepared a very nice dinner this evening and then Mike took David, Mae and I to see the Bar J Wranglers perform at Thanksgiving Point Show Barn. The show was hosted by the Lehi High School FFA. It was very enjoyable and we had a good time. Mike has done some updating to our computer and Ipod for us. I filled out this journal entry before going to bed.

Tuesday, February 22, 2011

American Fork, Utah

We got up in time to eat with the family. Mike had to leave for school before 7AM. After eating I lay back down and slept for a while. Mae and I went to the Temple with David this morning. It was a wonderful session and we really enjoyed being with David. After the session we went to the cafeteria and ate lunch. At 2:30PM Taylor Page came to the Temple and she and David went to the Baptistery where David was able to be voice while Taylor was confirmed for the dead and the David was able to be the baptizer while Taylor was baptized for the dead. Mae and I were able to observe the ordnances performed. All in all it was a very enjoyable day. Becky prepared a wonderful meal this evening of roast with all the trimmings. Becky’s parents were also invited for dinner. After we all helped clean up and at 7PM President Tim Welch of the Hillcrest Stake came. The 3rd Ward Bishopric had arrived just before President Welch arrived. When President Welch arrived Mike turned the meeting over to him. He asked that we sing a Hymn with David accompanying. We sang “I Know That My Redeemer Lives”. He called on Bishop McMurtrey to open with prayer and then President Welch asked for David to bare his testimony, follow by Becky and then Mike. He then had Taylor Bare her testimony and then asked for any others that wished to so Mae and Grandma Stewart, followed by Grandpa Stewart, then myself, followed by Bishop McMurtrey. President Welch then set David apart as a Missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and added a most beautiful blessing. Standing in the circle was all Melch Priesthood holders, *Bishop* Gene McMurtrey, *1st Con.* Jordan Fong, *2nd Con.* Kevin Ash, *Father* Michael K. Browning, *Grandfather* George O. Stewart and *Grandfather* Kenneth H. Browning. President Welch of course was word in the blessing and gave a marvels blessing. We took several pictures before we broke up. Mike and Becky took David out for desert and a few minutes with him before he leaves tomorrow. I started this journal entry when Bishop Steven Smith called me to see if we were back in the State and if we would be in Church Sunday. When I said yes to both questions he then ask if my sweet wife and I would speak in Church on Sunday. Of course the answer was yes.

Wednesday, February 23, 2011

Clinton, Utah

Mike took today off work so that he could be with David when he went to the M.T.C. We enjoyed breakfast with the family and then packed to come home. We left for home about 9:30AM. The apartment is a mess and we spent some time just trying to decide where to begin. Mae got our bedroom cleaned enough so that we can stay tonight. She worked all day cleaning. I worked on getting the kitchen sink installed but when I finished the faucet leaked. I got the fridge and freezer leveled and ready to use. I removed and extra clothes dryer after checking to be sure the dryer that matched the washer worked ok. Scott, Mishelle and their children came over to help. They also went shopping and brought back dinner. After they left we quite and went to bed.

Thursday, February 24, 2011

Clinton, Utah

I woke shortly after 3AM and what sleep I got after that was in the recliner. Mae slept fairly well but still feels over whelmed with the work. When we knelt for Morning Prayer Mae broke down and cried. After breakfast, I got everything out of the storage area under the stairs and made plans to build new shelving there. Bob prepared dinner for us so that took a load from Mae. Bob and I went to Lowes and bought material for the shelves. We also brought the tools up to the garage so that we can start building the shelves tomorrow. Mae and I ate and then showered and cleaned up so that we could meet with President Mitchel at 5:30PM. We visited with President Mitchel for about ½ hour. He expressed his thanks for our service and had us tell him a little of what the mission consisted of. Before we left he asked us if we would be willing to go with High Councilmen to speak at various wards, which we said that we would. We came home, changed clothes and got some dinner. We went over to Jeff’s where we spent the evening. After the children were put to bed, Jeff, Gale, Mae and I played a game of Rook. Jeff and I won but it was a fun time.

Friday, February 25, 2011

We got up and had breakfast and then came over to our home. Mae did some house work but spent most of the time working on her talk. She went to Jeff and Gale’s at 2:30PM to tend their children while they went on an anniversary trip. I installed the new water faucet on the kitchen sink. Bob and I returned the material that we bought yesterday as Mae wanted the shelving finished. I worked most of the day on cutting the shelving out but at 6PM put things away and quite for today. Bob prepared lunch and dinner for us so that saved some time. This evening I tried to work on my talk but was too tired to keep my thoughts straight so I gave up for tonight and went to bed.

Saturday, February 26, 2011

I woke at 5AM so I got up thinking of the cabinets that I am building. I read the book of Enos and though it is short it carries so much Testimony of the plan of life and the need for a Savior as well as God’s love for his children. I got me something for breakfast and then thought that I would clean the walks and driveway of the snow that has fallen during the night. I did not think of the alarm that Bob and Carroll has had installed until a city patrol officer pulled up in front. This alarm is going to be interesting but even with it Carroll is still convinced that people (our neighbors to the east) are still breaking in and have bugged the house as well as tapped into our electrical system and stealing electricity from us. I worked all day on the cabinets for the wash room. Bob helped me quite a bit. At 2:30PM, I road with Bob and Carroll to Jeff’s house, for a demo of the T-Zone Vibration Technology machine. John Price and his wife brought it to us and gave the demo. I was pretty impressed with it. After the demonstration John loaded the machine in his trailer and brought it to our place. Mae stayed to play game with our children. I came home and got me something for dinner and worked on my talk. Jeff brought Mae home about 11PM. He played with our printer until he got it to print my talk. Any additions or changes I will have to make by hand. It’s now 11:45PM so I am going to take a shower and go to bed.

Sunday, February 27, 2011

We woke at 6AM in order to be at church by 9AM. When we arrived there was no one in the chapel. Sandi and Nick drove up as well as Scott’s family and Gail and the children. Grenn and Kathleen Clark also came. It then downed on us that the block started at 9AM with Priesthood and Relief Society being first. We were so embarrassed that we had forgotten that in this Stake the order of meetings is reversed as compared to our Ward in California. Some went home as they had other meetings that they needed to attend. Some went into the other meetings and some visited with us until time for Sunday School to start. we had several family and friends that came for Sacrament meeting and we felt their support. With the Lords help our talks went pretty good. I thought that Mae’s talk was very special. There was a special musical number between our talks and it was so spiritual and beautiful that I had tears in my eyes when I arose to speak. I did get mixed up as to the closing time and I talked to long. We felt bad that we couldn’t invite friends and family over to our place but we are still in too much of a mess with very little room. Bob cooked us a nice dinner. We then went downstairs and took a nap before going to Georgia’s and Rick’s. When we got there Kim and Jeanenne, Caleb and Michelle and Bryce, Terry were there. Caleb and Michelle were just telling of their engagement. Michelle is a very pretty young lady and we are so happy for the two of them. We had a very enjoyable evening visiting. At 7:30PM Terry had to leave for the airport to return to his home in Alaska. After all others left we stayed and visited with Georgia and Rick and played games for a while. We got home after 9PM but were hungry so got us something to eat. I filled out this entry and then we went to bed and watched a J.A.G. series before going to sleep. I need to add that all my children remembered my birthday with gifts and calls. Mae is very special.

Monday, February 28, 2011

We slept in until about 8:30AM. Mae had slept part of the night in the recliner. Her left hand was sore and she could not close her fingers into a fist. She wouldn’t do anything about it although I suggested that she should call the Doctor. She got breakfast; we ate and then started to work on the house. I finished the shelving with Bob helping me. At lunch Bob prepared something for us. Mae washed dishes, pots and pans, drawers and cupboards. As soon as I finished the shelf’s Mae started putting things away. I gathered up my tools, also added some finish strips to the back paneling of the cupboards and laid some floor covering in the storage area. This evening Mae and I did some grocery shopping, stopping for a Sub-Way sandwich for dinner. It was 9PM before we got back home. Mae put the groceries away while I entered my journal entry.