

Stake Conference

The semi-annual conference of the Tallahassee Florida Stake will be held February 27-28. Elder Hartman Rector, Jr. of the First Quorum of the Seventy, will preside at all sessions. The theme will be "Turning the Hearts of the Children to Their Fathers: Building Eternal Families." Please note the new Saturday evening time in the following schedule of meetings.

Saturday, February 27

- 4:00 p.m. Priesthood leadership for all stake, ward and branch priesthood executive committees.
- 6:30 p.m. Adult session for all members 18 years and older.

Sunday, February 28

- 10:00 a.m. General session for all members of the stake and their guests.
- 10:00 a.m. Primary for children ages 3-6.

Following the Sunday session, a Single Adult Leadership Training Meeting will be held from 12:10-1:10 p.m.. All unit reps must be present. (Nursery will be provided.)

Sunday evening (February 28) at 6:00 p.m., Elder Rector will preside at the dedication of the new Moultrie Branch meetinghouse.

A PERSONAL GLIMPSE



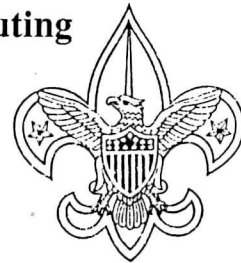
interesting conversion story and a strong testimony to share.

Elder Hartman Rector, Jr., a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy, has visited our area frequently over the last several months for firesides and other special speaking engagements. He became well-acquainted with the South and its people when he served as president of the Alabama Florida Mission from 1971-72; he later served as president of the California San Diego Mission. A convert in 1952, he is an entertaining speaker with an

Elder Rector is a retired naval aviator, served in the Office of Budget and Finance in the US Department of Agriculture, and remains a fierce competitor on the racquetball court. He has recently written two books and co-authored with his wife a series of books entitled *No More Strangers*, in which they relate unusual conversion stories from throughout the Church. He and his wife, Constance Kirk Daniel Rector, have also co-authored 9 children.

75th Anniversary of Scouting in the Church

by Richard Meik
Scoutmaster
Tallahassee Fourth Ward



1988 will mark the 75th year of Scouting in the Church. The LDS Church was the first national organization to adopt Scouting when it received its national charter in 1913, just three years after the young movement was brought to the United States from England. Since that time Scouting has grown to the foremost program for boys in the world. The Church, in continuing in its partnership, now ranks as the third largest sponsor of Scouting with over 300,000 boys registered in the U.S.

The scouting program was founded in England in 1908 by Lord Baden-Powell to help boys build character. In his words, "Field efficiency, back-woodsmanship, camping, hiking, good times, jamboree comradeship are all means, not the end. The end is character with a purpose." He further said, "There is no religious side of the movement. The whole of it is based on religion; that is, on the realization and service of God. Our objective in the Scout movement is to give such help as we can in bringing about God's Kingdom on earth..."

With such high ideals, it is no wonder why the Prophet Joseph F. Smith was quick to incorporate Scouting into the Church's Aaronic Priesthood program. In our day, President Ezra Taft Benson has said this of Scouting, "I would to God that every boy of Scout age in America could have the benefits and the blessings of the great Scout program. It is truly a noble program; it is a builder of character, not only in boys but also in the men who provide the leadership. And character, after all, is the priceless thing we build in this life and can take with us into the next."

A brief article entitled "One Hundred Scouts" reveals some impressive statistics regarding the effect of Scouting on the lives of boys. Of every one hundred boys who become Scouts:

- Twelve will have their first contact with a church.
- Only rarely will one ever appear in juvenile court.
- All will learn something.
- Almost all will develop interests from Scouting which stay with them for life.
- At least half will serve honorably in the military.
- At least one will use skills learned in Scouting to save another's life.
- Seventeen will later become Scout leaders as adults.
- Four will reach the Eagle rank with one of those four later saying that he values his Eagle above his college degree.

Only one in four boys in America will become Scouts, but the same article points out that three out of four of our nation's leaders in business, religion or government were Scouts as boys.

The above statistics relate to Scouting in this country as a whole. Within the Church, the positive numbers are double or greater in every

Continued on page 2

Stake Presidency Message

by W. Paul Nicholson
President

ACCOMPLISHING THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH

The theme of all ward and branch conferences this year is: "To invite all to

come unto Christ, by accomplishing the mission of the church through families." The ultimate responsibility of accomplishing the mission of the church lies with each individual church member. It especially lies with mothers and fathers, with the father as priesthood holder having the presiding role.

The mission of the church is to help families and individuals to preach the gospel to all the world, strengthen the church members, and redeem those who have passed through the portals of death by researching our genealogy and performing the sacred ordinances for our ancestors and others in the holy temple.

The church exists to help families accomplish the mission of the church. We refer to the mission of the church, but in reality it is the mission of each individual to accomplish these things. Only members can preach the gospel. Only members can strengthen themselves. And only worthy members can do the work in the temples.

We are asking each of you as individuals to set goals in each of these areas. And we are asking the home teachers and visiting teachers to help families set and reach these goals.

How wonderful it would be if each of us could bring someone into the church in 1988! How wonderful it would be if all of us held family home evening, had a year's supply of food, studied the scriptures and paid tithing! How wonderful it would be if all adults held temple recommends and used them to do 12 temple endowments or sessions this year!

When we do these things, then we can say we have tried to "invite all to come unto Christ."

SCOUTING, from page 1

category. Here locally, for example, almost one in five LDS boys has achieved Eagle over the last four years. Within the Church an Eagle Scout who stays active has virtually a ninety percent chance of filling a full-time mission and/or later serving in a position of Church leadership. We can expect the Church to continue to emphasize the importance of Scouting as the need for the character traits the movement fosters continues to increase in our society.

Editor's Note: A special satellite broadcast about scouting is scheduled on Sunday, February 14. However, because this conflicts with our stake's already scheduled musical fireside, the broadcast will be taped and scheduled for showing at a later date. Be on the look-out for more information!

Home Away From Home

by Conrad Futch
Stake High Councilor

The Tallahassee Stake has rented a two-bedroom apartment in Atlanta for the purpose of increasing our temple work. This arrangement has been very successful in other stakes and we feel it will be successful here. The apartment is located very close to the temple.

The stake feels very strongly about attending the temple often and we feel this will be a great blessing to our members. For a while it may be confusing and mistakes may be made, but if we all work together we can achieve great blessing from this apartment.

The Tallahassee Stake will have use of the apartment during the months of February, April, June, August, October, and December. During the other months Dothan Stake will be using the apartment.

A team of four will be assigned by the stake to work at the temple from Monday through Thursday. However, if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Conrad Futch at (904) 893-6433. The cost will be \$8 per person per day. Each ward or branch will be assessed an amount determined by the stake. A priesthood leader from each ward or branch will be assigned to collect the fee from the members using the apartment. On Fridays, the apartment will be open to the membership and will be assigned on a first-come-first-serve basis by reserving it with Brother Futch.

Groups can reserve the apartment, such as Priesthood, Relief Society, or Single Adults. If more than 5 go they will need to carry their own bedding.

Only temple recommend holders may stay at the apartment and no children are allowed. This apartment is for the use of members doing temple work.

We know you will be blessed greatly as you assist in the great effort.



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Calendar

February

- 12 Famous Couples
- 13 Tri-Stake Youth Dance (Marianna)
Boy Scout Eagle Merit Day
- 14 Stake Young Men/Young Women Musical Fireside
Bainbridge Branch Conference
Valentine's Day
- 19-20 Stake Basketball Tournament
- 20 High Priests Social
- 21 Moultrie Branch Conference
- 27-28 Stake Conference



March

- 4-5 Single Adult Temple Trip
- 6 Cairo Branch Conference
- 8 Stake News deadline
- 11 Laurel Presentation Practice
(Daddy-daughter dinner dance)
- 12 Regional Basketball Tournament
- 13 Crawfordville Branch Conference
- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 18 Gold & Green Ball
- 19 Temple & Family Day*
- 20 Quincy Ward Conference
- 26 Primary Day Camp
- 27 Monticello Branch Conference
Stake Hymn Festival
Fast Sunday for April General Conference
- 29 Stake Leadership Training (Auxiliaries/Priesthood)



April

- 1 Good Friday
- 2-3 General Conference (noon, 4 pm, priesthood at 8 pm)
- 3 Easter
- 9 Youth dance sponsored by Single Adults
Boy Scout Eagle Merit Day
- 10 Perry Branch Conference
- 12 Family History Workshop
- 12-16 Temple Appreciation Week (for concentrated effort)
- 16 Temple & Family Day*
- 17 Thomasville Ward Conference
- 23 Young Women Camp Clinic
- 24 Madison Branch Conference
- 29-30 Stake Roadshows



*TEMPLE & FAMILY DAY:

A "Temple & Family Day" has been scheduled each month in 1988 to help ensure that members have time to spend with their families and attend the temple. It is hoped that wards and branches will also avoid scheduling activities on these days.

Special Fireside

"A Time to Love" will be presented Sunday, February 14, at 6 p.m., at the Tallahassee Stake Center for all Young Men, Young Women, and their parents. Written especially for young people and presented by them, this musical fireside celebrates the joys of romantic love and warns against the pitfalls of immorality. Choral numbers, solos, scriptures, news items, statements from Church leaders and other prominent personalities such as Mother Teresa, Ann Landers, and Norman Vincent Peale combine to provide a powerful program that can make a difference in the lives of young people in the world today.

This program is both candid and sensitive. It was written by Carol Lynn Pearson and Lex DeAzevedo and is being directed locally by Ann Cluff of Tallahassee First Ward. The evening will be similar to a "standards night" and attendance will qualify as a seminary class. (No seminary will be held the following Monday morning.)



Famous Couples Evening

by Gail Roberts
Stake Activities Committee

You're invited to walk through the "Tunnel of Love," Friday, February 12, at 7:00 p.m. Then as we quiz some of our stake leaders and spouses, we'll find out who has the greatest number of nuts on his/her family tree plus other interesting and assorted facts. We'll test our photo acumen with pictures of their baby days. Choose to dance in the French Riviera, attend the film festival, gather a group and make a fool of yourself as you play Pictionary, or choose to do it all. Come, enjoy, be lucky and win the door and/or the quiz prize!

Gold & Green Ball

and Laurel Presentation

"Through the Looking Glass"

March 18, 1987

New Bishop

On Sunday, January 24, the Thomasville Ward sustained Randall Smith as their new bishop. He will be assisted by Charles King, first counselor; Gary Cranford, second counselor; and Dan Watson, ward clerk. Melton Covington will serve as High Priest Group leader. The complete story will appear in our next issue.



To Stand as a Witness

by William A. Christiansen
Second Counselor
Stake Mission Presidency

Brothers and Sisters,

As we start a new year, may each one of us carefully reflect on the many blessings we have received the past year. May we acknowledge the influence our Heavenly Father has had on each of our lives and count the number of times he has answered our prayers. May we understand and appreciate his great love. So great is his love, he sent his only begotten son to atone for all of our sins and to show us the way of truth and light. So great is his love, he has blessed us with the restored gospel of Jesus Christ. He truly cares and loves each one of us and he wants each one of us to return to him.

May we show our Heavenly Father we truly love him by doing the things he has asked us to do. Of course, there is no greater way to show our love for him than to share the gospel with our families, friends, and neighbors. May we remember we are under covenant, made in the waters of baptism, "to stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death." (Mosiah 18:9) May we share our testimonies with the world, may our "light so shine before men that they may see our good works" and, most of all, may we always show our love and appreciation to our fellow men. Only then are we showing sincere love for our Heavenly Father.



New Members

We welcome the following converts who were baptized in our stake during November and December 1987:

Bainbridge:	Caroline Lott, Cheryl Thumberg
Monticello:	James and Patricia Dunbar, Emma Garbo, Derck, James, and Sheraka Hill
Perry:	Kevin Compton
Quincy:	Wilmer Miles
Tallahassee II:	James and Patricia Bailey
Tallahassee III:	Alicia Norris, Franco Smith
Thomasville:	Alvia Young, Larry Walden

The gifts of things
are never as precious
as the gifts of thought.

Family History Center

by Stella Herring
Assistant Family History Librarian

How blessed we are to live on this beautiful earth that Heavenly Father has created for us, especially at this time when the Gospel has been restored with all its gifts and blessings. Included in these blessings is the lovely, spacious Family History Center (formerly Genealogy Library) in our Stake Center, with the capable librarians who are there to help all of us do the work for ourselves and our ancestors so that we may return and live with our Heavenly Father eternally. Without our ancestors we cannot become perfect; neither can they without us.

The majority of the patrons of our new center still run 85 to 90% non-LDS. Let me encourage every member to take advantage of the opportunity that is ours now, while we can. Next month or next year may be too late, so let's learn the things we must know to be exalted.

We must be taught how to live in the presence of the Lord. We must be taught the laws of heaven and be obedient to them, showing our willingness to understand and to obey. Then we can be counted worthy to enter Heavenly Father's presence.

The temple is the only place where we can receive this knowledge, so we must prepare by receiving the blessings of the temple. President Brigham Young said, "Your endowment is to receive all the ordinances in the house of the Lord, needful for you before departing this life." Elder John A. Widsoe said of the things that the endowment can teach us, "The temple ordinances encompass the whole plan of Salvation."

The endowment that was given by revelation can best be understood by revelation, and to those who seek most vigorously, with pure hearts, will the revelation be the greatest.

The endowment is for individuals, but the sealing ordinances are for the family relationship. So we see and know that we cannot learn all these things just by doing for ourselves alone; we must do the ordinance work for our kindred dead. By learning and doing for our family relationships, we learn and understand the things we have to know to enter the Celestial Kingdom.

High on a beautiful hill the Atlanta Temple stands
It says, "Come up and fill the living and dead demands."
Let us now go up to serve the Lord,
And assist with temple work with one accord.



Releases. . .

Ivan Lybbert (Tallahassee Fourth)
Canada Montreal Mission

Chris Shipley (Tallahassee Third)
Brazil Saõ Paulo Mission

Stephen Garland
Utah Salt Lake City South Mission

The Stake Bookstore: Bigger and Better Than Ever

by Dorothy Roberts
Stake Bookstore Representative

Many thanks to all those who have helped the Stake Bookstore grow. Without your support, we would not be where we are today. And where are we today? Well, we have come from the trunk of a member's car, to one small shelf in a member's home, to a closet in the Institute, to two closets and two glass cabinets in the Stake building, to a small but beautiful room with shelves and display racks in the rear of the Stake Center.

We who work with the Bookstore are really excited about our growth. We will be able to increase our stock and display it in a manner that will make selections easier and more appealing to the eye. We will continue to carry books, tapes, music, hymnals, journals, scriptures and covers, childrens' books, and tapes and novelty items. We also hope to carry new items such as greeting cards with LDS themes.

We hope that all the members will take advantage of our new facility and continue to support the Stake Bookstore because your money goes to a wonderful cause. Even though the Bookstore has been in operation for thirteen years, many members do not realize that the profit made goes to help support missionaries from our stake who need assistance. So you see, you get something good to read or listen to, and at the same time, help a missionary who is spreading the gospel. You really get your money's worth!

The Stake Bookstore not only has changed its location, but has also changed its name. We made the change to help everyone remember where their money is going. Our new name is Tallahassee Florida Stake Missionary Fund. We realize that this is a lengthy title, but with the help of a little rubber stamp, we can print it on your check in a second.

Also, please let us put your mind at ease if you are concerned about making a purchase at the Bookstore on Sunday. The Stake Presidency has gotten approval from the First Presidency to operate the Bookstore on Sunday, because the money is being raised for the support of missionaries from our stake.

We are slowly adding new Bookstore representatives and soon hope to be fully manned. Dorothy Roberts, Jr. and Suzanne Meik from Fourth Ward and Shirley Ellis from Second Ward are on our staff now. They will be glad to help you during their meeting schedule. We hope to announce representatives for First and Third wards soon.

Dorothy Roberts Sr., who now has charge of the Bookstore, will be glad to help you with special orders or answer questions. Please feel free to offer suggestions that might help us serve you better. And remember, if we don't have an item, we can get it.

NEW RELEASES

Youth Leading Youth, by Shane Barker. LDS youth today often find themselves in leadership positions that hold great opportunities for service and growth, but many don't know how to lead. *Youth Leading Youth* is packed with real-life experiences.

Teens, Temple Marriage, and Eternity, by Allan I. Burgess. This selection, written especially for youth, discusses the importance of

temple marriage and explains step by step how to achieve this goal, from deciding whom to date to setting the wedding date.

Especially for Mormons, Vol. 5, offers faith promoting poems, short stories and verse.

Coming soon: Video cassettes suited for LDS families, including scripture stories, Church history, "My Turn On Earth," "A Time to Love," "A Field So White," and many more. Prices will be very reasonable.

Marc Madsen Receives Eagle

Sheer determination, hard work and an unrelenting desire to be an Eagle! That's what it takes to receive Scouting's highest award. Marc Madsen knows. He's just 12, but he's an Eagle. Marc, son of President Charles H. Madsen, Jr. and Sister Diane Madsen, of the Tallahassee Fourth Ward, received this prestigious award at a Court of Honor held for him on December 29, 1987.



Marc is the youngest scout in the Tallahassee Florida Stake ever to achieve the Eagle rank and the youngest the troop has ever elected to Senior Patrol leader. Since joining the troop, his attendance at campouts has been 100% and he has rarely missed a Scout meeting. Richard Meik has been Marc's Scoutmaster for the entire period of his scouting experience. Commenting on Marc's achievements, Brother Meik said, "In meeting the requirements for rank advancement he has always gone the extra mile, involving far more service hours than is the average, earning more merit badges than the minimum required. Having met his Eagle goal, he is continuing to set goals for Scouting activities and service. The Eagle rank is an honor for all who achieve it. Marc is a fine example of a scout who deserves that honor."

Marc's Eagle project involved providing over 300 sets of fingerprints of children and teenagers to parents in the Tallahassee Florida Stake. He began the project in September of 1987 and travelled to every ward and branch within the Stake. Special help was given by Shawn Christiansen, Joey Bass, Anthony Jennings and Bracey Poppell.

Marc received letters of congratulation from a variety of government officials including Mayor Betty Harley, State Representative Pat Thomas, U.S. Representative Bill Grant, and U.S. Senators Lawton Chiles and Bob Graham. He was asked to appear before the County Commission and received a congratulatory plaque read by Chairman Lee Vause and signed by the entire commission.

Marc is a seventh grade honor roll student at Griffin Middle School and he is active in band, football and baseball. In his spare time, Marc likes to collect coins, model trains, and work on his computer. He also sings with the Capitol Children's Chorus. Marc serves as a counselor in his deacon's quorum presidency.

Single Adults

by Donald M. Whitley

In life we face many situations that require decisions. Some are day-to-day while others are long-range decisions. For many people there is help or support in decision-making from family members, but with single adults there is not the same support in their lives. This is just one of the many areas where a single person can feel frustration. The emphasis of the church has long been upon family and a strong family unit. Members are taught to marry in the temple and raise a family close to the church. Indeed, these are true general statements heard frequently, and it is part of our Heavenly Father's plan upon the earth. But we are not told that this is Heavenly Father's plan for all during their mortal life. What we do have is a pattern for each person to follow in order to individually insure, as much as possible, his/her return to live with Heavenly Father.

Frustration is a major problem among single members, and part of it is due to unsuccessful attempts at reaching inappropriate goals. When a list of goals is developed, they are usually prioritized, whether mentally or in writing, and it is in prioritizing that singles make decisions which sometimes lead to failure, frustration, self-doubt, loss of confidence, and lowering of one's self-esteem. Probably the most frequent goal with the highest priority is that of getting married. Because our religion tends to be marriage-oriented, it is only natural that it is a priority. The problem arises when marriage becomes too high a priority.

Marriage takes two individuals while a single adult is just that--"single". With only themselves to work with, singles will obviously become very frustrated if their priority is to be married because marriage is a joint decision. I don't believe the Lord wants singles to focus the majority of their energy upon getting married. I believe that he wants singles to create the best person they can in their own given situation. This will entail examining goals and priorities with the results possibly requiring an adjustment in one's life. How can I become a better person--emotionally, physically, and spiritually--with what I have right now? This is the question that needs an answer.

We have been given our free agency and how we choose our life path is our decision. There is no magic wand to take pain or frustration away. The key to mortal life is to learn all we can and exercise the Boy Scout motto of "being prepared" as we never know for sure what we will be facing in life. However, we can control many of the frustrations of our life by correct goal setting, prioritizing the goals correctly, and being in a state of continual learning. Change is not easy, but if we don't become discouraged and keep striving for knowledge and righteousness, the Lord will bless us.

Editor's Note: Don Whitley is a practicing psychologist and former bishop. He currently serves as a counselor in the Stake Mission Presidency.

SINGLES CALENDAR

MARCH 4-5	Singles Temple Trip
APRIL 9	Youth Dance Sponsored by Singles

God can mend a broken heart,
provided you give him all the pieces.



Relief Society

To each and every one of you, our dear sisters of the Tallahassee Florida Stake, we send this message of joy and love. May you find great joy as you ponder the love our Lord, Jesus Christ, extends to you each day of your life. He recognizes your every need, and He bestows countless blessings upon you as you strive to do His will.

Do not let your imperfections bring you down into the depths of despair and depression, for these feelings are only tools of the Adversary. Have faith and hope in the Lord as you endeavor to overcome your imperfections. Pray for the sweet spirit of charity, the pure love of Christ, to fill your hearts, most especially as you see to your family obligations and your visiting teaching commitments.

You can grow to love all your sisters, even the ones who seem most difficult to love. Keep a prayer in your heart for those you visit teach, those who are less fortunate than you, those in need. Do that something extra to fill another's heart with joy and love.

We love you and you are often in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to seeing each of you as we visit your wards and branches during these next few months. The conference theme this year is "Invite All to Come Unto Christ."

We hope you will each strive to center your lives on the Savior and His teachings. In so doing your lives will be blessed beyond measure.

Sheila Greene, First Counselor
Stake Relief Society Presidency

Crawfordville

by Fran Council
Crawfordville Public Communications Director

The Crawfordville second phase is really growing. The roof is on and the building is beginning to take shape. What makes it doubly special is the growth in the missionary efforts that are coming forth. As a holiday gift to the county, the Branch put up a roadside billboard encouraging people to spend time with their families. A Church insert came out in the paper and a concentrated missionary canvas of the county with members trading off with missionaries has been carried out. The county also has a new missionary couple, the Hunters. Not only are they special people, but one cannot help wonder if part of the glow we feel doesn't come from the 90 children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren they have saying prayers on their behalf back home.

Among the highlights in the last few months have been a special dinner cooked by the young men for the young women, the Christmas parties, a mysterious video question, a completed Relief Society temple trip and a youth temple trip, and most special of all, the baptism of Bill Hindle by Bob Little and Bobby McCabe by his father Jon. A *Book of Mormon* share with your friends and then share the joy of giving with the Branch had much success.

Altogether, 1987 has been a wonderful year for the Branch. We wish to share this "joy in the gospel" with all our friends throughout the stake by sending these wishes of peace in the new year.

Branch President's Corner



by Billy P. Canova
Madison Branch President

Another year has begun. As usually happens I have heard many New Year's resolutions over the past few weeks from friends and associates. Unfortunately, most of us fail to follow through with the commitments we make. As I was watching a television

newscast recently, a manager of a weight-loss program who had a record number of people enrolled was being interviewed. He said that from past experience, at least half would drop out of the program within a few weeks.

All of us want to achieve--to feel good about ourselves, but sometimes we let discouragement stop us before we really begin. What we should do is be more conscious of President Spencer W. Kimball's motto "Do It".

When Jesus performed an act of healing he usually began with an action verb, "Go and wash," "Take up thy bed," etc. He knew that taking action liberates further energies and is a great builder of confidence.

More often than not, our spiritual goals suffer most. These seem to be easier to push aside and rationalize about. George Bernard Shaw made the statement that, "Progress is impossible without change; and those who cannot change their minds, cannot change anything." We must realize that to carry out our share of the Lord's work we must become a stronger, wiser people. To do this we must set goals and work each day to improve ourselves.

I am happy to see the church theme for 1988--"Come Unto Christ". It is my prayer that we will all make a commitment to make Christ the center of our lives, to develop a personal relationship with him and follow his example. He will support us if we will just Do It! Then our 1989 New Year's resolution can be simply, Improve Upon It.



Becoming a Forever Family

by David Salisbury
Tallahassee First Ward

Part III of a Three-part series on family topics

GENERAL CONFERENCE STATEMENTS ON FAMILY ISSUES

One of the greatest blessings we have as members of the Church is that we have living prophets who counsel us as a Church in matters of current importance. In this column I would like to present some of what the General Authorities have said recently on several topics which relate to the family.

1. *Sex education in the public schools.* In last April General Conference President Hinckley spoke on this issue and expressed his agreement with the author of a recent article which appeared in the newspaper *USA Today*. The author observed that "More sex education in public schools will not reverse the damaging legacy of the sexual revolution unless the clear message is premarital chastity and marital monogamy. . . . There are many defects in sex education courses. The philosophy behind them is to ridicule chastity, scoff at fidelity, and glamorize sexual adventurism. They teach there is no such thing as right and wrong. . . . Most sex education in the public schools morally disarms the students rather than giving them moral sensitivity to help them make the proper sexual choices." Also, in June the First Presidency sent a letter to all general, regional and local Church authorities stating that, "Many public and private schools are offering instruction on human sexuality and related subjects. Parents should be aware of the content of such instruction, so they can supplement it with appropriate teachings of moral values and responsibilities in the home. Where schools have undertaken sex education, it is appropriate for parents to seek to ensure that the instruction given their children is consistent with appropriate moral and ethical values. With encouragement from parents and other citizens, many schools that are currently offering sex education can be persuaded to include instruction on the importance of chastity, marriage at the appropriate time, the role of parents in prescribing moral standards for family members, and the moral and ethical responsibilities of family members. Latter-day Saints should encourage and support the teaching of morality."

2. *Community involvement.* James E. Faust stated in the last April Conference that Church members should become involved in promoting legislation which upholds a moral society. "It simply is not true", he said, "that our private conduct is our own business. Our society is the sum total of what millions of individuals do in their private lives. . . . Adults and children need to know that public and private morality is not outmoded. Laws, policies, and public programs with a moral and ethical basis are necessary for the preservation of a peaceful, productive, compassionate, and happy society." Also, at a recent meeting at BYU, President Benson re-emphasized that Church members must "become informed and knowledgeable citizens. That includes learning constitutional principles and the role of government so as to avoid accepting programs or organizations that help erode freedoms. We must become actively involved in supporting good, wise, and honest people for public office and assume an active part in improving our communities," he said.

3. *Abortion.* In the 1985 April conference, Elder Russell M. Nelson quoted John Calvin, the 16th century reformer, who wrote: "If it seems

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GENERAL CONFERENCE STATEMENTS from page 7

more horrible to kill a man in his own house than in a field, because a man's house is his place of most secure refuge, it ought surely to be deemed more atrocious to destroy a fetus in the womb before it has come to light." He indicated that only 3% of all the 1.5 million abortions performed annually in the U.S. are performed in cases where the life of the mother is in danger or for circumstances arising from rape or incest. "The other 97% are performed for what may be termed 'reasons of convenience,'" he said. "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has consistently opposed the practice of abortion," Elder Nelson said. "One hundred years ago the First Presidency wrote, 'And we again take the opportunity of warning the Latter-day Saints against those . . . practices of foeticide and infanticide.' President Spencer W. Kimball said, 'We decry abortions and ask our people to refrain from this serious transgression.'"

4. *Disintegration of the family.* In speaking of the disintegration of the family, Elder James E. Faust said, "Alternatives to the legal and loving marriage between a man and a woman are helping to unravel the fabric of human society. That fabric, of course, is the family. These so-called alternative life-styles cannot be accepted as right because they frustrate God's commandment for a life-giving union of male and female within a legal marriage (see Genesis 1:28). If practiced by all adults, these life-styles would mean the end of family." He also indicated that even though many families are not functioning well, they are still "the greatest social unit, the best answer to human problems, in the history of mankind. Rather than further weaken family ties, they need to be strengthened."

5. *Pornography and music.* Also in last April conference, President Benson encouraged young people and families to not see "R-rated movies or vulgar videos or participate in any entertainment that is immoral, suggestive, or pornographic. Don't listen to music that is degrading," he said.

6. *Dating.* President Benson also counseled young people to "not take the chance of dating non-members, or members who are untrained and faithless. [You] may say, 'Oh, I do not intend to marry this person. It is just a fun date.' But one cannot afford to take a chance on falling in love with someone who may never accept the gospel."

A Haven In A World Of Turmoil

by Vaughn J. Featherstone
First Quorum of the Seventy

The season of the world before us will be like no other in the history of mankind. Satan has unleashed every evil, every scheme, every blatant, vile persecution ever known to man in any generation. Just as this is the dispensation of the fulness of times, so it is also the dispensation of the fulness of evil. We and our wives and husbands, our children, and our members must find safety. There is no safety in the world: wealth cannot provide it, enforcement agencies cannot assure it, membership in this Church alone cannot bring it.

As the evil night darkens upon this generation, we must come to the temple for light and safety. In our temples we find quiet, sacred havens where the storm cannot penetrate to us. There are hosts of unseen sentinels watching over and guarding our temples. Angels attend every door. As it was in the days of Elisha so it will be for us, "Those that be

with us are more than they that be against us."

Before the Savior comes the world will darken. There will come a period of time where even the elect will lose hope if they do not come to the temples. The world will be so filled with evil that the righteous will only feel secure within these walls. The Saints will come here not only to do vicarious work, but to find a haven of peace. They will long to bring their children here for safety sake.

I believe we may well have living on the earth now or very soon the boy or babe who will be the prophet of the Church when the Savior comes. Those who will sit in the Quorum of Twelve Apostles are here. There are many in our homes and communities who will have apostolic callings. We must keep them clean, sweet, and pure in an oh so wicked world.

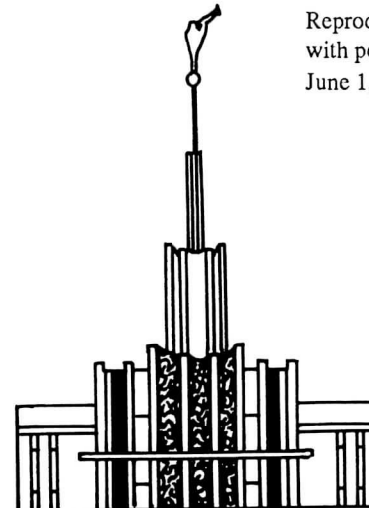
There will be greater hosts of unseen beings in the temple. Prophets of old as well as those in this dispensation will visit the temples. Those who attend will feel their strength and feel their companionship. We will not be alone in our temples.

The covenants and ordinances will fill us with faith as a living fire. In a day of desolating sickness, scorched earth, barren wastes, sickening plagues, disease, destruction, and death, we as a people will rest in the shade of trees, we will drink from the cooling fountains. We will abide in places of refuge from the storm, we will mount up as fair as the sun and clear as the moon.

The Savior will come and will honor His people. Those who are spared and prepared will be a temple loving people. They will know Him. They will cry out "blessed be the name of He that cometh in the name of the Lord; thou art my God and I will bless thee, thou art my God and I will exalt thee."

Our children will bow down at His feet and worship Him as the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings. They will bathe His feet with their tears and He will weep and bless them for having suffered through the greatest trials ever known to man. His bowels will be filled with compassion and His heart will swell wide as eternity and He will love them. He will bring peace that will last a thousand years and they will receive their reward to dwell with Him.

Let us prepare them with the faith to surmount every trial and every condition. We will do it in these holy, sacred temples. Come, come, oh come up to the temples of the Lord and abide in His presence.



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June 1, 1987

Annual Christmas Festival of Music and Lights Continues to Grow

This year's holiday celebration, under the direction of Gail Roberts (Stake Activities Committee), was even more spectacular than previous years. Thousands of lights were added, with over 130,000 miniature lights of all colors adorning the stake center and surrounding grounds in Tallahassee. The light display won first place in the non-resident category in the City of Tallahassee's first annual "Light Up Tallahassee" contest.

The number of people driving around the building and listening to the music has increased each year. Last year over 30,000 vehicles and more than 100,000 people attended the Festival. Approximately 46,000 cars toured the grounds this year. On Christmas Eve, traffic was backed up for several blocks in both directions.

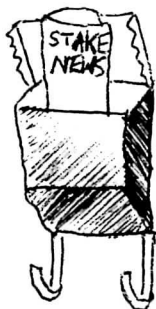
In addition to nightly videos, several special events were held. The event that drew the most people was on December 16. Over 1,000 people lined up to get Dale Murphy's autograph. Dale is an Atlanta Brave's star player and a very active church member. A press conference was held earlier with three television stations and the local daily newspaper interviewing Brother Murphy. Excellent media coverage followed. Later that night over 1,500 people packed the chapel and cultural hall to hear Dale Murphy and Elder Hartman Rector, Jr., First Quorum of the Seventy, speak at the Christmas Devotional. This was an event the Florida saints and non-members will not soon forget.

30,000 brochures, containing the Festival schedule, were printed and distributed to visitors. The brochures also contained a special mail-back feature for people desiring more information about the Church.

This Festival is our holiday greeting of goodwill to the people in Tallahassee and the surrounding areas. It is our desire that non-members may learn more of the Church through our annual "Festival of Music and Lights."

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We would be happy to send the *Stake News* directly to any out-of-stake address as a "subscription" for the cost of mailing. You can subscribe for any length of time up to a year. Write or call the *Stake News* at 575-2117 to arrange a subscription.



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Sharing



This is your opportunity to share your talents with others and to develop and improve the skills you have been blessed with. We look forward to hearing from men and women of all ages with poetry, short stories, and artwork. Please submit your contributions to the *Stake News*, 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL 32304.

GUIDELINES

for submitting material to "Sharing"

- ✓ Drawings may be done in pencil, ink, marker or crayon. Color originals are acceptable; however, it is best to avoid blues and greens. These colors fade in black and white camera reproduction. Also keep in mind that some detail may be lost in reduction of size for printing.
- ✓ Our ability to print will be limited, to some extent, by the length of submissions.
- ✓ All submissions will be printed at the discretion of the editors.
- ✓ Submissions will be returned after use only if requested.

Out on a Limb

One day I was sitting out on a limb,
And I heard a voice from heaven saying
Oh God, Eternal Father,
Thank you for this earth.
And I said to myself,
what has this world become of out on a limb.
And as the sun slowly set out on the horizon,
I said to myself again,
What has this world become of out here on a limb.

Naté C. Sushereba, age 7
Tallahassee Second Ward

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