

Stake Conference



The semi-annual Stake Conference of the Tallahassee Florida Stake will be held February 25 and 26. We will be privileged to have Elder Robert E. Wells of the First Quorum of the Seventy visit and speak to us during the conference.

Elder Wells was sustained a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy on October 1, 1976. Prior to being called as a general authority he was the head of the Church Purchasing Department. Elder Wells lived in South America in Uruguay, Argentina, and Paraguay for 18 years where he worked as a banking executive and also served as a mission president. He and his wife, Helen, have seven children.

Who should attend conference:

Saturday, February 25

- 3:00 p.m. Priesthood Leadership Meeting for all Priesthood leaders.
- 5:00 p.m. Saturday evening session for all adult members of the Stake. This includes not only husbands and wives, but single parents, young adults, adults from part member families, etc. This particular session provides a special opportunity to discuss vital matters in a reverent setting. Nourishing doctrines of the gospel are presented and inspiration and spiritual uplift provided.

Sunday, February 26

- 10:00 a.m. General Session for all members of the Church and their families and friends.

A Primary will be held during the Sunday general session for children ages 3 through 6. All other children should attend with their families.

It is likely that we will not have a visiting general authority as often in the future. We hope everyone will take advantage of this special opportunity and make every effort to attend. Priesthood leaders and home and visiting teachers should arrange transportation for those who require it.

VALENTINE THOUGHTS. . .



Love is the essence of self lost in the being of another.



Mrs. W. M. Gray

Love comforteth like sunshine after rain.

William Shakespeare

A true friend is the best possession.



Benjamin Franklin

What is a friend? A single soul dwelling in two bodies.

Aristotle



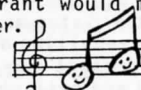
The Twain Shall Be One (But How?)

Do you think your marriage relationship could be just a little better? Would you like to feel more confident that you are prepared to enter a successful marriage? Maybe you are a husband overdue in taking your wife out on a date. Perhaps you are perfect, but your spouse could use some improvement in a few areas.

The annual Marrieds Seminar is just the answer to all of the above and more. On February 11, members will have the opportunity to learn some skills for better communication, raising and enjoying children, and dealing with intimacy problems from a gospel perspective. Time will be allotted for a question and answer period. Some of the finest, highly-qualified individuals will be discussing these and other topics.

Registration begins at 12:00 noon and instruction at 1:00 p.m. All adults, married or single, are invited to attend (whether or not you have any problems). The cost is \$4.00 per couple (\$2.00 per person), which will cover the cost of the finger-food snack to be served at 3:00 p.m. and any materials needed. The seminar will conclude at 7:30 p.m. No nursery will be provided.

Come and make it a special day. Perhaps a good movie or a quiet restaurant would make a perfect ending to your day together.



Mission Message

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Tallahassee Florida Stake full-time missionaries have started off the year with a bang! We would like to thank all of you that were involved in some way.

On January 5, we had a great opportunity to both hear and see Elder Neal A. Maxwell in "Our Acceptance of Christ," a fireside via satellite. This was an excellent opportunity to bring your non-member friends as well as you member friends. In the coming months, similar satellite broadcasts will be presented discussing such things as the plan of salvation, Joseph Smith, and distinguishing truth from error. Throughout the Tallahassee Stake, firesides of this nature are being held in members' homes and in various church buildings.

Perhaps you would like to have a fireside in your home. They are not quite as hard to do as they sound. All you need is a willing heart and a few friends and a set of missionaries.

We, as missionaries, have found that the greatest tool that we have in bringing people into the gospel is you, your family, and your home. When we all work together in finding people and then use your home to teach in, over two-thirds of the contacts will become strong and faithful members of the church. That is why we feel as strongly as we do about firesides, cottage meetings, and in-home discussions.

We would hope that each of us might take a moment aside and ask ourselves, "Who do I know that I can introduce to the gospel?". Chances are, before you know it, you will have a large list--and that's where the fun begins!

Elder Brent Masters
Sister Linda Wilson



Stake Presidency Message

by Charles H. Madsen, Jr.
First Counselor

Recently as a good sister was preparing for her Gospel Doctrine class, she had occasion to study a description of ancient Babylon which included both physical and cultural aspects. She asked her husband to read the article and to comment. Upon completion, her husband turned to her and both agreed that the life in that wicked city didn't sound much different from today. This was a revealing insight. The city used as an evil example by the Lord in the scriptures was like those in which we live. This reaffirmation of the reality of the last days is a very sobering and solemn realization.

We are waging a war for the souls of men and the weapons being used by the two sides need to be fully understood. The cause of Satan is advanced when we allow ourselves to be overcome or even tempted by such things as lust, worldly appetites, greed, power, pride, immorality, dishonesty, and discouragement. These same weapons have been used since the beginning of time to enslave the children of our Father. They have been used from the time the greatest war ever fought began: the one in the pre-mortal existence which was lost by Satan and his followers. This war began with the rebellion of Satan and was the prototype for the present war being waged between the forces of good and evil which is continuing, and in fact, accelerating in the present day.

What are the weapons being used on the side of righteousness? We need to "put on the whole armour of God" (Ephesians 6:11) to protect us. What has the Lord given us to combat the weapons of evil?

The Lord has symbolically illustrated what we need for protection.

Wherefore, lift up your hearts and rejoice, and gird up your loins, and take upon you my whole armour, that ye may be able to withstand the evil day, having done all, that ye may be able to stand.

Stand, therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, having on the breastplate of righteousness, and your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace, which I have sent mine angels to commit unto you;

Taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked;

And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of my Spirit, which I will pour out upon you, and my word which I reveal unto you, and be agreed as touching all things whatsoever ye ask of me, and be faithful until I come, and ye shall be caught up, that where I am ye shall be also. Amen. (D&C 27:15-18.)

The protective coat for the loins is truth--total, complete, and unabashed reliance on truth and honesty in every situation, at all times, in all places, including the recesses of our own minds. The breastplate is one of righteousness. We must live the commandments to the very best of our abilities, making no compromises. We must be committed to the Lord and understand that the only reason we are here is to find our way back home to our Heavenly Father. The shoes we are to wear are shoes of the preparation of the gospel of peace. We run from anything not in keeping

with the gospel. We control our appetites and passions and use our strength to build the Kingdom. The shield to ward off the darts of the adversary as they attempt to gain control in our minds is faith. This implies an active, deep, and deliberate faith in the Savior and His plan. The helmet is one of salvation, looking up and ever onward to celestial exaltation while we wield the sword, which is the Spirit of the Holy Ghost and the word of God. The Lord has promised that all who wear this armour will be able to withstand evil.

We must keep up our guard as evil may creep into our lives and homes in small ways. The following very few examples are not exhaustive, but are very common. They represent ways that we are slowly conditioned to become more like Babylon and less like Zion. They may be avoided if we maintain our armour in righteous splendor.

Example: "Children, now I know we all love the bishop, but he really should not have called Sister W. to be Primary president. Why, everyone knows she's not very good with children."

Problem: If we criticize and don't in every way sustain our leaders, we are in very subtle ways on the road to apostasy.

Example: I'm really too tired tonight to read my scriptures or pray. Besides, I'm very religious and committed and Heavenly Father won't mind if I miss one night's prayer or one day reading.

Problem: The two single most important means we have to keep up our shields and armour are prayers and scripture reading.

Example: I've heard that that movie is just outstanding. It won an academy award and I've heard it isn't too bad. Seeing it won't have any effect on my spirituality.

Problem: There is one clear way to judge any movie, TV program, or any other entertainment, and that is this. If it could take place in the cultural hall of our chapels with all family members present, then and only then should Latter-day Saints see it. This excludes all X, R, and many PG rated movies. (The same is true of books or magazines. If we feel good reading them in our chapels, then they could be read at other times.)

Example: We really do need some milk for the children, and once in a while it is OK to go to the store on Sundays.

Problem: Emergency health needs and drugs can be purchased on Sunday. Otherwise, as the brethren have pointed out, we should plan ahead so we do not have to go to service stations, supermarkets, convenience stores, drug stores, or any other place to buy. The Sabbath is the Lord's day. It is not a holiday but a holy day.

Example: I don't want to hurt feelings. Sometimes it is better to tell a little white lie so that feelings are not hurt.

Problem: Satan is the father of lies. God never lies and neither should we. Absolute honesty is always required within the gospel. There are never any excuses for dishonesty.

Example: The church really doesn't deny a temple recommend for drinking drinks with caffeine, so it's all right to have one occasionally, especially if you're thirsty and nothing else is available.

Problem: The church has warned us against any habit-forming substance. Excellent committed members will not come close to the devil's arena.

This list could go on and on and include perhaps 1,001 different examples. We must be alert to the ways we are being led down the road to bondage after our armour is tarnished and then let down. We must always be on guard in many small ways. If we maintain extremely high standards, then when we make mistakes, as we always will, we will have less of which to repent.

Stake Teaching Workshop



by David Salisbury
Stake Sunday School President

In the Priesthood Session of April General Conference in 1981, President Spencer W. Kimball asked priesthood leaders to:

Please take a particular interest in strengthening and improving the quality of teaching in the church. The Savior charged us with feeding His sheep. I fear at times that all too often many of our members come to church, sit through a class or meeting, and then return home having been largely uninformed. . . . We all need to be touched and nurtured by the Spirit, and effective teaching is one of the most important ways this can happen.

This is still very much a concern of our leaders today.

In an effort to improve the quality of teaching in our stake, we will be holding a Stake Teaching Workshop from 4:30 pm to 6:00 pm on Saturday, February 18, immediately following the Priesthood and Auxiliary Leadership meetings. The Stake Teaching Workshop is sponsored by the Stake Sunday School and is intended for teachers in all church organizations, including Aaronic and Melchizedek Priesthood, Young Men, Young Women, Primary, Relief Society, Sunday School, and Seminary.

Three simultaneous sessions will be held: one each for teachers of adult, youth, and children's classes. Qualified people have been selected to present these sessions, and it is hoped that they will provide practical and valuable help to teachers in the stake.

Elder M. Russell Ballard said at the April 1983 General Conference:

The Apostle Paul placed the priority of teachers in the Church next to the Apostles and the prophets when he said, "And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers." (1 Corin. 12:28.)

I believe there is no greater call in the Church than to be an effective teacher. Effective teaching by the Spirit can stir the souls of men with a desire to live the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ more completely.

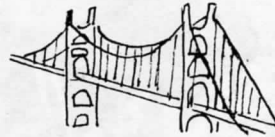


1984 ROADSHOWS

One of the most exciting events of the stake will soon be upon us -- the 1984 ROADSHOWS. The theme for this year is "It's a Small, Small World." The Roadshows are scheduled for April 14 and more information will be available in each ward and branch.

Last year's Roadshows were really great. We'd like to see all the wards and branches participate this year. This is a time to use our talents for the entertainment of others. It is important to be worthy of the gifts and talents we have by sharing them generously and helping others to acquire them.

We're looking forward to this year's Roadshows to be a lot of fun for all.



Relief Society

by Cherie B. Garr
Stake Relief Society President

We, the Stake Relief Society Presidency, wish you all a great year ahead in 1984! We hope you have set new goals for yourself and your families. We are looking forward to a great year with you all.

We have set as our theme for the year 1984 "A Season for Strength," knowing that each of us can stand strong through all the challenges of our lives, supported and guided by the gospel of Jesus Christ. We will be using this theme in our leadership meetings and at ward and branch conferences.

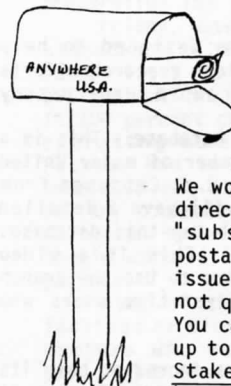
As women we are assured that personal strength comes through righteous living and staying close to our Savior. Barbara B. Smith, General Relief Society President, counsels that women today, as in former times, face many complex problems and challenges. But regardless of marital status or circumstances of life, this can be a time for building the strength we need to face whatever adversity this life may bring. We turn to the Lord for reassurance and He gives us answers, oftentimes through the eternal truths of the gospel, to meet our present needs. To keep that eternal perspective is probably one of the most difficult parts of daily living, but certainly one of the most important.

The work of women is of eternal importance and must be done by today's women as by those of the past. Children must be loved and nurtured and good homes must be established and maintained where families can flourish and service is rendered. Latter-day Saint women receive strength through the utilization of gifts from the Lord -- revealed truth, priesthood leadership, individual talents, and opportunities for service to others.

Marian R. Boyer, counselor in the Relief Society general presidency, has said, "Knowing the Savior will come again, Latter-day Saint women must be ready for His coming by perfecting their lives." If we abide in the Savior, he'll abide in us. The promise of the gospel is that we don't have to do it alone.

Special Note: We would like to bring to your attention that we have a new Stake Homemaking board member, Dena Hall. We are happy to have her working with us.

Date to Remember: February 18, 1984, Saturday, 4:30 to 6:00 pm - Stake Teaching Workshop. All Education Counselors and teachers in Relief Society are encouraged to attend.



Stake News "Subscriptions"

Moving? Kids gone away to school? We would be happy to send the Stake News directly to any out-of-town address as a "subscription" for the cost of the postage, which is thirty-seven cents per issue. This mail outside the Stake does not qualify for the bulk-rate postage. You can subscribe for any length of time up to a year (\$2.22). Write or call the Stake News at 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304, (904) 575-2117 to arrange a subscription.

A WAY PROVIDED

by
Lorine Lahtinen

Stake
Genealogical
Librarian



Front (L to R): Johnnie Helms, Stella Herring, Lorine Lahtinen, Douglas Rusmisell; **Back:** Laura Byington, Carol Bliss, Pres. Madsen. Not shown: Wanda Crowe

There are specific things we must do to be able to return to Heavenly Father's presence. Most of these we all know quite well, such as repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and being sealed in the House of the Lord to our spouse and our children. But what about the rest of our celestial family? What about grandparents and relatives who died before you were born?

Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Council of the Twelve said:

"We have been commanded to perform vicarious ordinances for all who have died. . . . Billions have lived and we are to redeem all of them. In order to get some idea of what a billion is, consider the following:

A billion seconds ago World War II was just ending.

A billion minutes ago the ministry of the original Twelve was coming to a close in the Roman Empire.

A billion hours ago stretches into the dim reaches of antiquity so far that recorded history was millennia away."

Overwhelming? Not quite! For we are the sons and daughters of God and He has provided a way. He has told us that He would give "no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them. . . ." (1 Nephi 3:7.)

In the January 1977 *Ensign*, President Kimball stated: "I hope to see us dissolve the artificial boundary line we so often place between missionary work and temple and genealogical work, because it is the same great redemptive work."

Before temple work can be done for these billions of spirits, each one must be individually identified by name, date, and place. Again, a way is provided. Stake records extraction is a program where people are called, set apart, and trained in extraction procedures as well as in old record reading, old record-keeping practices, and handwriting styles. Then under the supervision of local priesthood leaders, they take all the names from a record and send the names to the Genealogical Department, where the names are processed for proxy temple ordinances.

We now have several new film readers in our library and are soon to acquire the following major new research tools and services:

Family Registry: A service designed to help members coordinate their genealogical research efforts of the same line and thereby avoid unnecessary duplication of time, etc.

Accelerated Indexing Systems Database: This is a private firm that has indexed a number of major United States records, particularly the U. S. Censuses from 1790 to 1850. Branch libraries will have a detailed list of sources and instructions to tap this database.

BGL Orientation Program: This is a video cassette orientation program on "How to Use the Branch Genealogical Library" geared to first-time users who want to actually get started.

Our genealogical library has increased both its staff and its hours to better serve you. The staff now consists of Carol Bliss, Laura Byington, Wanda Crowe, Johnnie Helms, Stella Herring, Lorine Lahtinen,

and two non-members, Clydene Nelson and Douglas Rusmisell. Our new hours are:

Tuesday and Wednesday--8:30 am to 12 noon

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday--6:30 pm to 9 pm
If these hours are not suitable for you, we will be happy to arrange for the library to be open on Saturday afternoons if you make an appointment ahead of time.

We are also happy to announce that the Valdosta Ward is setting up a library as an auxiliary to our Branch Genealogical Library. Dr. Malcolm Goodwin will be the director there. They have already received some of their equipment and should be in full operation within the next two months.

With recent developments in computer technology and communications, it now seems possible to handle the large volume of work that will be required in order to perform ordinances for the billions who have passed away. We must join in the urgency of this work and accept the responsibility of furnishing the mortal bodies for vicarious temple work, as well as seeking out our own personal ancestry. A basic missionary work of this church is to identify the spirits of the departed and offer them the same opportunity for exaltation that we offer missionary contacts here upon the earth now. Let us take advantage of the new ways provided for doing this great work.

Young Women

by Maureen Webb
Stake Young Women President

Stake Standard Night
January 7, 1984



"I will go and do the things the Lord hath commanded" (1 Nephi 3:7) is the 1984 Young Women's theme which was presented by Diana Moser.

The evening began with a musical done by the Cairo Young Women and their mothers, "Walk Tall, You are a Daughter of God," accompanied by Katie Walker. Maureen Webb shared some of the memories and feelings about her mother and encouraged an eternal friendship between mothers and daughters. The "Role of a Daughter" was taught by Coni Jo Durrance. Some of the responsibilities she mentioned were listening, respect, and the easiest--being a friend.

"Come Take a Child's Hand" was sung by Ann Cluff accompanied by Debra Moss. Diane Madsen, through personal experiences, encouraged the girls to live righteously and as they do so, they will find the "happy ever after" they dream of.

In closing, the filmstrip "Families Are Forever" was shown reminding us to make good use of the time we have on earth, for we are here for just a moment. Prayers were given by Jackie Taylor and Kelly Brock. Refreshments were served by Gloria Stuckey. The girls and their mothers had their pictures taken in a cozy home scene done by Kristina Booth and Debra Moss.

A special thank you to those that helped with this annual event and to all who attended making it a wonderful evening.

Young Women Announcements

In conjunction with the **Gold and Green Ball** planned for March, all worthy young women turning 16 years old by July 31 who would like to be presented should contact Maureen Webb.

243 Carlton Court
Tallahassee, FL 32304

More details will be forthcoming.

Please plan now to attend **Stake Girls Camp** August 14 - 17 at Indian Springs Camp. This is for all stake young women ages 12 to 18.

What's a PCD?

by Earl Childers
Stake Public Communications Director

The Public Communications program is relatively new in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One basic purpose is to communicate accurate information about the Church. Administratively, the program is organized from the Public Communications Department in Salt Lake City to Public Communications Directors (PCD's) at the area, region, stake, ward, and branch levels. The Tallahassee Stake currently has 14 PCD's out of 16 wards and branches.

The two basic areas of communications are within the Church and to the public. President Chapple has directed that the stake newsletter be used to communicate to those within the stake.

The Public Communications Department in Salt Lake City has directed that each administrative level work toward the goal of having a committee composed of the following specialists: electronic media (radio/tv), print media (newspaper/magazines), photographer, speakers bureau (public lectures by members), community relations (open house/fairs), and others as needed. The Tallahassee Florida Stake Public Communications Committee currently consists of Diane Anderson as electronic media specialist, Cynthia Baird as secretary, Colleen Porter as print media specialist, Sanford Porter as photographer, and Terry Trent as the Stake News editor. A PCD at any given level must wear all of these hats until his program grows enough to warrant the need for more people to be called.

Other than a general framework and very few specific directions, PCD's at all levels are expected to use initiative and prayer to develop their own programs suited to their own area's needs, especially where it concerns the public media, as the needs vary in different parts of the country. With this independence comes much room for inspiration and creativity and also much chance for trial and error. All public communications activity is under the direction of local priesthood leaders.

Coordination with other auxiliaries can be productive. For example, the activities committee is a complimentary area to public communications and each can specialize in their own area to promote the Church. Another good opportunity for publicity is working with the auxiliary leaders, especially when the public is invited, to announce a church event through the public media.

In an effort to reach non-members, PCD's sometimes need to sponsor their own activities, such as open houses and events held in the community because the activities committees are concerned with events to be staged "inside" the Church. A recent example of this was Family Week. After much diligent effort, the week culminated in Family Night at a local Tallahassee auditorium. The auditorium was filled to overflowing with many non-members in attendance.

As you can see, the public communications program is really a missionary program. The brethren have determined that the Church needs a formal organization for publicizing itself. The PCD thus becomes the official spokesman, again under priesthood direction, for the Church in every geographic area that the Church exists. This is especially true where it concerns newspapers, radio and television. Thus, it becomes the PCD's greatest purpose to present the Church in a good light and to accurately present the teachings of the Church. Many times this means clarifying misconceptions about the Church without debate or argument. Public Communications Directors are an important tool in the Lord's hands to spread the gospel and build His kingdom on the earth.

The following people are Public Communications Directors for their respective ward or branch. Please contact them if you have any suggestions or news items for the Stake News or the public media.

Apalachicola - Eunice Dykes
Bainbridge - Bill Grant
Cairo - Douglas Taylor
Crawfordville - Randi Joiner
Madison - Jay Goldy/Patrick Lightcap
Monticello - Glennis Sasser
Moultrie - Wendell & Sheila Allegood
Perry - Daniel Bing
Quincy - Iwan Teare
Quitman - Warren Pritchett
Tallahassee I - Carol Bliss
Tallahassee III - Terri Liedy
Tallahassee Student - Barbara Young
Thomasville - Gary Cranford

Crawfordville

by Randi Joiner
Crawfordville Public Communications Director

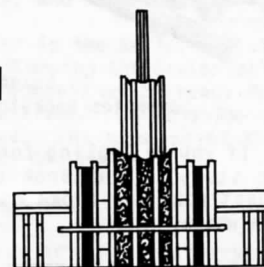
The Crawfordville Branch had a ground-breaking ceremony on December 15 for their new chapel. It was attended by members of the construction company, the architectural firm, President Richard Chapple from the stake, and many of the families which are a part of our growing congregation.

During the ceremony the speakers reminisced about the growth within our stake from one small ward in Tallahassee to its present size of 16 wards and branches. We were reminded of the times right after our branch was formed that we met in the livestock pavilion and the period we "borrowed" the Methodist church building. We then moved to our present location, and soon our new chapel will stand in front of the house we now use for our meetings.

Sister Grace Tucker brought some old pictures and programs to help us see our growth. Then we went outside to the building site and President Robert Little turned the first shovelful of dirt, followed by his counselor Stan Tucker and President Chapple. Many of the children participated by digging some dirt and they enjoyed being a part of our branch's growth. It was a lovely afternoon.

Student Ward

by Barbara Young
Student Ward Public
Communications Director



Thanksgiving Temple Trip

Over the Thanksgiving weekend a group of 22 Student Ward members carpoled to the Atlanta Temple. The Sunday before, a special fireside for endowed ward members was held at which President Richard Chapple and President Charles Madsen spoke about the temple in preparation for the trip.

Friday, November 25, turned out to be the largest attendance at the Atlanta Temple since it opened in June. There were 1,280 endowments recorded which is 133 percent of the temple's capacity (960 endowments is 100 percent capacity). The Atlanta Temple has been operating at about 60 percent of its capacity. Patrons had to wait as much as two hours between sessions, but while waiting in the chapel, President Julian, counselor in the temple presidency, spoke and called on individuals to bear their testimonies. The temple workers were excited about the large number of patrons.

Many of those who went on the trip expressed feelings of closeness and unity with the other ward members who were there, serving together. Many personal blessings were realized from the trip, and all have a strong desire to return again soon. Visiting the House of the Lord was a perfect way to celebrate Thanksgiving.

Institute

The celestial marriage Institute class is underway again this semester. The first class was held on January 20. Sister Ann Nicholson, with her energetic and animated manner, discussed ways to overcome contention in a relationship. She pointed out that looking at the eternal perspective often helps, such as "Will this [whatever the argument is about] really matter in 100 years?" President Paul Nicholson then talked about the importance of commitment in staying together. A couple must decide that they will work things out and not run away from their problems.

The once-a-month "Achieving A Celestial Marriage" class is open to all couples in the stake and is intended to be a kind of "date night." The tuition is \$5.00 per couple for the semester. Upcoming classes are scheduled as follows:

February 17	We Will Work It Out Together	Renee Anderson
	Bringing Children Into The World	Loran Anderson
March 16	The Ongoing Responsibilities of Parenthood	Linda Campora
	Home is the Builder of Children	Steve Campora
April 13	Teaching The Family	Linda Hall
	Listening And Counseling In the Home	Jack Hall

The classes this year have been most enjoyable and enlightening. Refreshments are served afterward and couples have the opportunity to mix and mingle. There are still three classes left -- we hope to see you there!



Book Review

by Suzanne Meik
Seventies Bookstore Representative

If you're looking for some books to supplement your study of the Book of Mormon this year, I'd suggest four new books and one that has been around for a while.

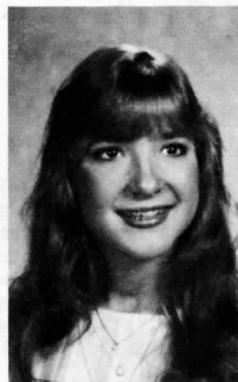
The Book of Mormon: It Begins With a Family (\$7.95) is a new book which is a compilation of articles by outstanding authors and Book of Mormon scholars. The authors include Jeff Holland, Terry Warner, Eugene England, and Chauncey Riddle.

Another new book, **Alma and Abinadi** (\$6.95), by Mark E. Petersen, is the story of three ancient prophets: Alma, Alma the Younger, and Abinadi.

In **Plain and Precious Things** (\$6.95), the author, Neal Maxwell, bears witness of the truth restored through what Nephi called the "other books" of scripture--the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants, and the Pearl of Great Price.

In **Book of Mormon Summer** (\$6.95) by Joy Lundberg, a family decides to go on a Book of Mormon vacation with a vow that each will give away one Book of Mormon. This is great reading for the entire family. Joe J. Christensen says this book is "warm, witty, and spirited . . . some very practical suggestions for sharing the precious message of the Book of Mormon with others."

A Companion to Your Study of the Book of Mormon (\$8.95) by Daniel Ludlow will help you verse by verse through the Book of Mormon.



Spotlight

Voice of Democracy

The Tallahassee Stake youth voice of democracy in the national Veterans of Foreign Wars contest was Marcie Madsen of the Tallahassee Third Ward. Marcie is the daughter of Charles H. Madsen, Jr. and Diane Broadbent Madsen. She is 16 years old and a junior at Leon High School.

Marcie entered the contest and was judged the first place winner in the local Leon County and adjacent county area. She was then judged on the regional level, again received a first place finish, and was awarded a \$50 Savings Bond. This took her to State competition in Orlando for an opportunity to win an all-expense paid trip to Washington DC and a chance to compete for the national scholarship prizes. Marcie took sixth place in the State.

Marcie's entry was based on this year's theme, "My Role in Upholding Our Constitution." Her knowledge of the fact that the Constitution is an inspired document helped her in writing and recording her entry, which was judged on delivery, content, and originality. The contest is a National Broadcast Scriptwriting program designed to give high school students the opportunity to voice their opinions on their responsibility to our country and to convey their thoughts via the broadcasting media to all America.

Marcie began her paper by comparing the freedoms our country enjoys with the lesser freedoms of other countries of the world. Marcie included in her script the following conclusion:

I believe in sustaining, understanding, and supporting the Constitution of the United States. In doing this I must learn as much about the Constitution and how it works in government as possible. I must obey the law, even the laws with which I disagree, and I must try to obtain character traits that will help me respect all mankind and thereby uphold the Constitution. My country has done so much for me. I am free because of my country's reliance on the Constitution. I will show my thankfulness by upholding the most important governmental document ever written in the history of the world, the Constitution of the United States of America.

Marcie is involved in various extra-curricular activities but has a favorite interest in music. She likes to sing and play the piano and enjoys ballet and musicals. She is a member of the Capital Singers and Melodears at Leon High, belongs to the Pierian Club (honor society), holds a small music-related office in the Anchor Club, and is involved in modeling at Governor's Square Mall.

We wish to congratulate Marcie for winning the local and regional contests and for placing so well in the State of Florida competition.

The Stake News will be published bi-monthly this year. The deadline for submitting articles for the next issue is March 13. Submissions can be mailed to Stake News, 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304, or they can be left in the Stake News/Public Communications box in the Stake Office.

New Members

We welcome the following new members who were baptized in our stake during the months of November and December:

Apalachicola: Charles and Mary Miller

Madison: Clifford Williams

Monticello: Consuelo, Josefina, and Olga Roca

Tallahassee I: Christopher Chapman, Barry Gardebled

Tallahassee II: Patricia Pumphrey

Tallahassee III: Benson and Rondell Turner

Tallahassee Student: Cheryl Bessenger, Darla Gaines, Gregory Griffin, and Janette Hankins

Valdosta: Thomas Russell

Calendar

February

3-4	Stake Basketball Tournament
10	Single Adult/Student Ward Valentine's Dance
11	Annual Marrieds Seminar
14	Valentine's Day
18	Auxiliary Leadership Meetings and Stake Teaching Workshop
25-26	Stake Conference
26	Single Adult Fireside

March

1	Special Broadcast - Investigator's Fireside
10	Single Adult Skating Party
10	Gold and Green Ball
17	Piano Concert
25	Single Adult Fireside
31	5000 Meter Run
31	High Priests Meeting and Social

Missionary Calls...

Elder David Taylor of the **Cairo Branch** has been called to serve as a full-time missionary in the **Utah Salt Lake City South Mission**. Congratulations!

Branch President's Corner

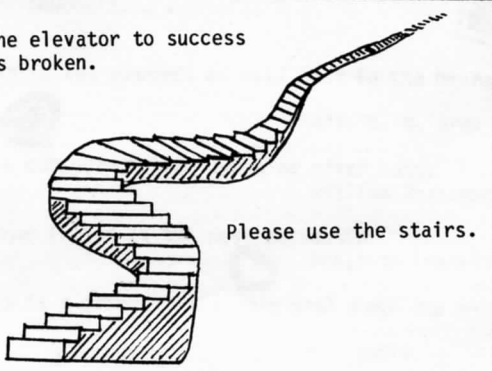
by James L. Moody
Quitman Branch President

As we begin this new year, let us not make a lot of New Year's resolutions that many of us would probably already have forgotten, but let us resolve to more fully keep the resolutions we made at the waters of baptism. Let us throughout this year be more obedient to the commandments of our Father in Heaven, and take upon us the name of Jesus Christ and bear it proudly each day throughout this year and eternity.

As earthly parents it makes us happy when our children are obedient. Likewise, when we are obedient to the commandments it makes our Heavenly Father happy, and He has promised us that many blessings shall come to those that obey. We may think that it is hard to keep the commandments, but the Lord doesn't give the impossible. As stated by one of the ancient prophets, "And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." (1 Nephi 3:7.)

The Lord is the same yesterday, today, and forever. If we are faithful and true to the covenants we have made, the way will be prepared that we can be obedient and keep all the commandments of our Father in Heaven. The Lord wants us to become perfect. All we have to do is to live the very best that we can each day, striving for continual improvement with a sincere desire to endure to the end. As our great Stake President, Richard L. Chapple, has said: "All we have to do is to be on the right road, doing the very best that we can in keeping the commandments and serving our fellowmen, and we don't have anything to worry about."

The elevator to success
is broken.



Please use the stairs.

...and Releases

The following individuals have recently returned from their service as full-time missionaries. We wish to welcome them home and thank them for their dedicated service.

Dan Chojnacki (Tallahassee Student)
Arizona Holbrook (Navajo) Mission

Edwin Baird (Tallahassee II)
Colorado Denver Mission

Patty Shaffer (Tallahassee Student)
California Oakland Mission

Editor	President Richard L. Chapple
Executive Director	President Charles H. Madsen Jr.
Managing Director	Charles King
Managing Editors	Earl Childers
	Joanne Childers
Staff	Betty Ennis

Special thanks to Patty Shaffer for the artwork, and for coming through in a pinch!

The rates for advertising in the Stake News are as follows:

"Newsletter Sponsors" (back of the newsletter - including typesetting) \$10 per block/per issue. Those who advertise for one year (six issues) will receive a discount of one free issue, or \$50 for the year.

"Classifieds" - \$1.00 for first 3 lines and 50 cents for each additional line.

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