

General Authority To Visit Stake Conference

Elder Ronald E. Poelman, counselor in the North America Southeast Area Presidency, will preside at Stake Conference on February 22 and 23. Scheduled meetings are as follows:

Saturday, February 22

4:00 p.m. Priesthood leadership for all stake, ward and branch priesthood executive committees.

6:00 p.m. Adult session for all members 18 years and over. The theme of this session will be "A Choice Seer Will I Raise Up," taken from 2 Nephi 3:6-7, with emphasis on Joseph Smith to whom the scripture refers.

Sunday, February 23

10:00 a.m. General session for all members of the stake and guests. Primary for children ages 3 to 6 will be held during this session.

MARRIED'S CONFERENCE

by Gail Roberts
Tallahassee First Ward

Fun! What an opportunity! Something for everyone! Come one, come all, to the Annual Marrieds Seminar on March 15 from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.

Come and discover new things about your spouse and the world. All classes have an emphasis on "HOW TO" (no lecturing--I promise!). We will learn how to stay in love, deepen our feelings for one another, use our resources, and enjoy life.

Several corners will be filled with ideas for us on dating, available resources for our kiddies, reverence techniques, and quick home decorating tips. The dating corner will have information gathered from all of us on things we do for fun in our locale. The time frame for these date ideas will range from 5 minutes to weekend trips. The expense will range from free on up. The Kiddy Corner will have sheets with services available to frustrated families, learning classes available for children, and educational materials easily obtained in Tallahassee. For example, one educational item is a packet of animals -- a whole safari menagerie -- the giraffe alone is 3.5 feet tall available for \$4.95. Alphabet letters--the whole 9 yards will be there for us to see. Quick home decorating tips will include window treatment, wall treatment, and room treatment. It is an idea corner on how to transform our homes into "Better Homes and Gardens."

(See MARRIED'S CONFERENCE, pg. 7)



Meet Elder Poelman

Elder Ronald E. Poelman was called to be a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy on April 1, 1978.

Since his call as a General Authority he has served as a managing director in the Genealogical Department, first counselor in the General Presidency of the Sunday School, and as chairman and chief executive officer of the development Board. Presently, he is a counselor in the North America Southeast Area Presidency.

He graduated with high honors from the University of Utah in 1953 and received his juris doctor degree from the University's Law School in 1955. In 1965 he graduated from Harvard University Graduate School of Business Administration, Advanced Management Program.

At the time of his call to full-time church service, he was vice president, corporate secretary, and a director of Consolidated Freightways, Inc. in San Francisco. He is a member of the Utah Bar Association.

In civil life, he has been a rehabilitation counselor for the American Cancer Society, active in the Boy Scouts of America, and a director of Junior Achievement of Bay Area, Inc. He was a member of the San Francisco Symphony Foundation, Commonwealth Club of California, World Trade Club, and San Francisco Commercial Club.

He has served the Church as counselor in the Palo Alto Stake presidency, bishop, high councilor, seminary teacher, and missionary to the Netherlands, 1945-47.

Born May 10, 1928, in Salt Lake City, he married Claire Stoddard, graduate of Brigham Young University, on March 30, 1950. She died May 5, 1979. They are the parents of three daughters and a son. He married Anne G. Osborn on June 29, 1982.



Stake Gold and Green Ball

The Stake Gold and Green Ball will be held on Valentine's Day, Friday, February 14, 1986.

Appropriate to both the date and the event, the theme of this year's ball is "Sweetheart's Forever." The dance will begin at 8:00 P.M. A highlight of the evening will be the introduction of some of the stake's loveliest young ladies during the Laurel Presentation beginning at 9:00 P.M.

Farrel and Todd Wahlquist will be DJ's for the evening, and the sweetheart theme will adorn the cultural hall with beautiful decorations.



Stake Presidency Message

by Charles H. Madsen, Jr.
1st Counselor

As examples of the gospel of Jesus Christ we need to take stock of some of our basic attitudes concerning people and our children. How glorious it is to know for a certainty that all mankind are literal spirit children of our Father in Heaven. We all have a parent-child relationship with Him.

We and our children dwelt in the presence of the Gods before the foundations of this earth were laid. We saw and conversed with and knew the Gods of heaven. We heard and understood and accepted the Gospel of God, the Plan of Life and Salvation, and we were thrilled with the privilege of coming to earth to put its conditions and principles into effect in our lives. We knew the truth; we rejoiced in it. Thus we conclude that the development of faith and testimony in this life is (once again) the process of relearning the refeeling and reviewing that which once was supremely obvious to us all. It is not as though we must start from scratch, for we are working upon souls which already know, but must be reminded.

With these glorious thoughts in mind, perhaps we should consider the need to do the following in building faith and testimony in our children.

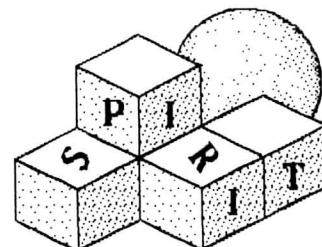
First, we must take the time and set the mood in our homes such that we can bear our testimonies to our children. It is not enough for our children to hear such testimonies expressed in fast meetings. It is not enough for them to hear them expressed on our death beds. Nor is it enough for our little ones to witness our testimonies as we express them through a righteous example. Necessary as each of these is, they are not sufficient. We must look deeply into the eyes of each child and boldly bear witness of those things in life which we know to be true: Jesus is the Christ; Joseph Smith was God's Restorer of Truth; the Church is divinely directed and alive today. Nephi taught that "when a man speaketh by the power of the Holy Ghost the power of the Holy Ghost carrieth it unto the hearts of the children of men." (2 Nephi 33:1.) And it is to the hearts of our children that we must speak if we desire to unlock the hidden treasures therein.

Second, we must teach our children what a testimony is, what it means to feel the power of the Holy Ghost, and also to recognize the hand of the Lord in their lives. Children should be taught that spiritual things are known in different ways from temporal things, and that one can come to know something spiritually without having seen or smelled or touched the same -- that the things of God are often only understood through internal evidence.

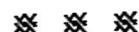
It is often helpful for a father or mother to interrupt his lesson or chat with an observation like: "Ginger, that feeling you feel now is the Holy Ghost. Isn't it a special feeling?" or "Billy, when you watch this film you're going to feel something deep down inside of you. That's the Holy Ghost bearing testimony that this message is true." The wise mother or father will begin early to teach their children to pause for a moment after their personal prayers, to listen, to wait and be aware. The Lord taught us that we must teach the children: "Be still, and know that I am God." (Psalms 46:10, D&C 101:16.)

Third, children should be taught of the importance of bearing their testimonies in public as early as possible. The testimony is built as it is exercised, not only in the assemblies of the agnostics, but also in the synagogues of the Saints. Children will come to feel and sense the divine in a deeper fashion as they express their small witness to the household of faith. This practice also opens a door, whereby that which one once knew perfectly, slowly makes its way into the understanding and heart. Children should be taught that feelings of emotion or gratitude may accompany the bearing of testimony, but do not necessarily constitute the whole of one's witness.

Fourth, children should be taught of the testimonies of great men and women, what such persons did to receive their witness, and how such testimonies proved to be the anchors to their lives. The scriptures and history of the Church are replete with moving examples of persons who sought and obtained, often at a great price and after much personal struggle. Where could we find better examples of how one can turn his life around and gain an unshaken faith than in the experiences of Alma and Paul? Where could we search to find a better lesson for our children on the fact that testimonies come gradually, line upon line, than in the lives of Lorenzo Snow, Joseph F. Smith, or David O. McKay?



Finally, our children deserve to know what to do when their faith or testimony is temporarily shaken. Nothing is quite so traumatic or devastating than to have one placed in a doubting posture by people or materials which seek to destroy faith. In such tenuous moments children should have been taught: (1) to hold fast to that which is true; (2) to draw upon those spiritual reservoirs, made up of special past feelings and experiences; (3) to get back to that which matters most (the three basic elements of a testimony we mentioned earlier). Moments like these point up the need for parents and teachers to teach the truth, such that the hope of the child is in something which is real and of enduring substance. Myth or sensationalism or the "candy" of the doctrine of the Church do not sustain one in a trial of faith; safety is to be found in hoping "for things which are not seen, which are true." (Alma 32:21.) Children must be taught to sit and ponder carefully upon the question of the truthfulness of the Church, to listen and respond to that inner voice (which has a sure knowledge) as it says, "Go ahead. What you are doing is right. The Lord lives and He guides the Church."



Missionaries Called....

Elder Stephen Garland (Tallahassee Student Ward)
Utah Salt Lake City South Mission

....and Released

Elder Richardo Shipley (Tallahassee Third Ward)
Ohio Cleveland Mission

Sister Lori Nowlen (Tallahassee Student Ward)
South Korea Pusan Mission

Primary

by Cleo Miller
Stake Primary President

TIPS FOR USING PRIMARY TO TEACH YOUR CHILD

1. On the way home from church, ask each child what he learned in class. Don't let anyone else talk as he/she responds. (Teaches the child that what he learns in class is important knowledge.)
2. Teach your child to pray for his teacher by name in his prayers. (Helps your child develop a loving relationship with the teacher. The teacher could probably use the blessings, too.)
3. Express thanks to your child's teacher occasionally for all he/she does to help your child. (People who know they are appreciated can be so much more effective.)
4. Include Primary songs in Family Home Evening. Occasionally let each child share something they have learned in Primary in Family Home Evening. (When you share something you have learned, you remember it yourself much longer.)
5. Find out what kinds of things your child should be learning in Primary this year. (See the January issue of the *Ensign*, p. 20-21, for a good outline. Your Primary president or child's teacher will be happy to help too.)
6. Have your child at Primary early enough to walk in and be seated reverently before Primary begins. (Teaches reverence as well as consideration for others.)
7. Be happy for the opportunity to help your child prepare a talk or give a prayer in Primary. Work with your child on his/her level to prepare something he/she feels comfortable with. Assist in presentation as needed. (This teaches your child at least a dozen things as well as giving him confidence in himself.)
8. Do teach your child the Gospel in Family Home Evening and during a daily scripture time. The child who has learned something at home reaps ten times as much from Primary as the child who has no other source of learning the Gospel.

Good luck, and may your rewards be happy and eternal.

Genealogy

by Lorine Lahtinen
Stake Genealogy Librarian

Even religion may assume a new aspect, or your respect for it may be increased. Suppose you find that you are descended from Mary Dyer, the "Quaker Martyr" who was hanged in Boston, 1 June 1660? Wouldn't you want to know the reason for her fate? There is a saying among her descendants that they are all close-mouthed because she talked too much and got herself hanged.

If you find that your family moved from Dartmouth, Massachusetts, to Nine Partners, Dutchess County, New York, won't you want to know why there was a migration across Connecticut about 1735, and, moreover, why any town should have been called "Nine Partners"?

You'll find that a large group of people who had become Quakers wanted to get away from the rather severe and unpleasant ostracism of the predominating religious element in Massachusetts and have a place of their own, where they could worship as they pleased (and, perhaps enforce their own ideas of religious belief). You'll learn the history of the grants in Dutchess County and perhaps find your family located in that curiously named area, the Oblong, no longer on the map.

You may learn of the rise of the Hicksites, a group of Quakers who seceded from the main body of that faith and followed Elias Hicks, many of them moving westward into Kentucky and southern Ohio. You will run into a hundred and one other sects, each centered around some picturesque leader, such as Mother Ann.

Possibly your people became Mormons and followed Joseph Smith to Nauvoo, Illinois, and later accompanied Brigham Young across the plains to found Salt Lake City and the Mormon empire beyond the Rockies. After a visit to Salt Lake and to what is perhaps the most magnificent location for a city in the entire United States, admiration for the vision of the great Mormon leader grows apace.

If your people are of Pennsylvania German ancestry, you may want to dig into the history of the Palatinate in the eighteenth century and find out why there was a great migration from Germany to Pennsylvania in the first half of that period. There you will discover along what paths those people moved on, southward into Maryland and Virginia, and later westward over the mountains and through the Ohio Valley.

(This is an excerpt from a non-Mormon genealogy lesson showing where and how to look for ancestors.)

New Year's Eve Dance A Success

December 31 turned out to be a very entertaining evening for those who attended the New Year's Eve dance at the Stake Center.

A well-rounded selection of music enjoyed by young and old alike was provided by DJ Farrel Wahlquist. One's imagination could float to any height as guests danced under a "cold air balloon" (a miniature version of a hot air balloon) in the center of the cultural hall. In addition, 564 purple and white balloons decorated the hall and were released at midnight to welcome in the new year. (Hats off to Jackie Clawson and her decorating committee for

getting them all blown up!) Refreshments were plentiful and delicious, thanks to the Stake Relief Society.

One thing noticeably different about this dance was the number of children present. The stake decided to have a family activity for those who desired to attend as a family. This helped those who could not get a babysitter, and it gave children a chance to see mom and dad all dressed up and dancing together. Children dressed in their finest seemed to put on their best behavior and enjoyed the evening with their parents.

Spotlight

A few years ago people would have said that Jean Furman's chances of finding and accepting the restored gospel were just about zero. But they would not have been aware of the courage and determination of a very special young lady.

Jean was abandoned by her unwed mother at birth, 25 years ago. She was adopted by a family in Augusta but when only a few months old, Jean was diagnosed as having cerebral palsy and mental retardation and was returned to the State of Georgia to be cared for. She was placed in the Gracewood State School and hospital for the disabled and retarded.

When Jean was about 8 years old, she came to the personal realization that she might be handicapped in body, but not in mind. Due to communication and sight problems, Jean's knowledge of her own mental abilities was unknown to others until a mandatory re-evaluation when she was 18. Before this time, Jean was taught no useful skills and relied on television and her own keen sense of observation to teach herself about the world. Another five years passed; with the help of a ward administrator, Jean was able to set up her own home in Valdosta. Her friends and co-workers at Gracewood said she wouldn't be able to handle life being confined to a wheelchair and living alone. But Jean is a very determined woman and she knew she didn't belong at Gracewood.

"Imagine you are from Thailand or Russia and you're dropped into a whole new culture. That's how I felt. Real life is not like life on TV." With the help of social workers and teachers, Jean has learned to do all the things required of a young woman living alone. She does her own housekeeping and grocery shopping as well as cooking her own meals. She has learned to pay her bills and call for repairmen. She has learned to read and has developed a keen understanding of other people, thus preparing herself to be employed.

Jean rents a room in the upstairs portion of her house to help with expenses. For the first few months this room was occupied by a full-time trainer to help Jean adjust to her new life. This trainer became a good friend and introduced Jean to the Church.

The first Church meeting Jean attended was a general conference broadcast. "There was a man on the television, whom I later realized was a general authority, and he was telling the story of Joseph Smith and the First Vision. To me it was like hearing a story I had heard before. I asked my friend to invite the missionaries over to my house. Everything they told me made such beautiful sense. It was just a continuation of a truth I seemed to have learned sometime in the past. The missionaries were amazed at my grasp and understanding of the concepts they were teaching me.

"My friend and I read the Book of Mormon together a lot during this period. I was ready and eager when I was baptized on my birthday in October, 1983. From the beginning the members of the Church have treated me like a regular person instead of someone who has a disease or is a robot. So often people see the wheels and not the person. People in wheelchairs get treated like they are not real people sometimes, but the members of the Church never talk down to me. They accept me as a child of God.

"My membership has helped me to grow as a person. I communicate better now and can control my temper when I get frustrated over everyday problems. Prayer is a part of my everyday life. I know that

Heavenly Father loves me very much and I want to be the best person I can be.

"I love to watch Church video programs. In fact, I like them better than regular movies. I listen to Church tapes often. I particularly like to study Church history. One thing I would like to do is to be able to correspond with other disabled members. We would have so much in common."

"I want to show other people through my actions that the Church is the true church. I know the Church is special. Just because you have a visible handicap doesn't mean you have to be shut in all the time. It doesn't mean you have to be babied. Heavenly Father is the Father of all of us."

Young Women

by Cherie Garr
Stake Young Women President

The 1986 Young Women theme is "We are daughters of a Heavenly Father who loves us, and we love Him. We will stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places..." as we strive to live the Young Women Values." (Mosiah 18:9.) The theme was presented at the November 10 Young Women satellite fireside. It will be presented again to the Young Women of our stake at their individual ward and branch New Beginnings event held in January and February. Also being presented is the Young Women motto: "Stand for truth and righteousness" and the Young Women Values.

As Young Women of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and daughters of a loving Heavenly Father, we believe that as we come to accept and act upon these seven values, we will be prepared to make and keep sacred covenants, receive the ordinances of the temple, and enjoy the blessings of exaltation.

1. Faith. I am a daughter of a Heavenly Father who loves me, and I will have faith in his eternal plan, which centers in Jesus Christ, my Savior (see D&C 14:7).
2. Divine Nature. I have inherited divine qualities which I will strive to develop (see 2 Peter 1:4-8).
3. Individual Worth. I am of infinite worth, with my own divine mission which I will strive to fulfill (see D&C 18:10).
4. Knowledge. I will continually seek opportunities for learning and growth (see D&C 88: 118).
5. Choice and Accountability. I will remain free by choosing good over evil and will accept responsibility for my choices (see Joshua 24:15).
6. Good works. I will nurture others and build the Kingdom through righteous service (see 3 Nephi 12:16).
7. Integrity. I will have moral courage to make my action consistent with my knowledge of right and wrong (see Job 27:5).

It is our prayer that the Young Women and leaders in our stake will live the Young Women Values and make a commitment to stand for truth and righteousness. As each of you determines to take this stand, we promise you that the Lord will strengthen you and you will feel His love.

We want you all to know we love you, and are excited to be a part of this wonderful Young Women program.

"
Sweethearts
Togethert

Gold and Green Ball

Friday, February 14, 1986

Dance Begins 8:00 P.M.

Laurel Presentation - 9:00 P.M.

Dress - Semi-formal

(that indicates long dresses - jacket or coat and tie)

(Jeans or casual dress is inappropriate)

Crawfordville

by Frances Councill
Crawfordville Branch Public Communications Director

The holiday season found Crawfordville even busier than usual. The Halloween party was a big success with Disney movies, a fishing pond, apple bobbing and refreshments. There were some really unique costumes including such things as Gloria Kight as Dolly Parton and Spencer Hunter as a pirate.

A couple of members had entries in the North Florida Fair. Most notable was Ruth Harrell who grew a white pumpkin which took first prize. It was such an unusual entry that the Agriculture Department asked to receive seeds from it for some research.

The most special event of the last quarter for Crawfordville was the dedication of the building and grounds. Part of the dedication prayer was the request for the preservation and care of the building against natural hazards. As Hurricane Elena came through, all the trees that fell in the area of the church building fell towards the building except for the tree right next to it. The trunk was twisted around so that the tree fell in the other direction and this totally missed the building. What a special blessing.

The hurricane left quite a surprise for the youth of Crawfordville. They had already planned a work project to help Grace Tucker with her yard. Thanks to the storm they had a full day's work. Grace had a surprise of her own as she snuck out and bought hot dogs to feed the hungry crew.

Several men from the branch participated in a real old fashioned roof raising on the Jon McCabe home. Among those present were Don and Jon McCabe, Bob Little, Stan Tucker, Wally Allen, Sonny Whiddon and others. Enroute to the "raising" Bob Little was in an accident as another vehicle hit the back of his truck. His knee was injured and he later had to have surgery on it.

The Sunday after the hurricane the Branch had the privilege of having Brother and Sister Bone speak on their missionary experience. A dinner was held on the grounds afterwards. Other visitors to the Branch were Jerome Heiker and his wife Alicia McMann who talked on their conversion and genealogy. Stake Relief Society and Primary presidencies visited as did Dale Dransfield who gave a moving talk on Wilfred Jourdon.

At a missionary fireside, Elders Weight and Galta presented an easy way to share the gospel and a way to mark scriptures for your friends. This was



Crawfordville Primary, December 1985.

followed by the Christmas satellite broadcast to make a full and lovely meeting.

Cub Scout Troop 126 held the Pinewood Derby and Crawfordville will be represented by Brian Speigner, James Sasser, Spencer Hunter and Kenji Kerns as alternate.

During December the Primary presented a special sacrament meeting for the Branch. They also had a tree decorating. The youth of the Branch brightened lives with their caroling. And, of course, the Branch Christmas party was treated by a visit from Santa Claus (a very close friend of Brother David Schrader) who had gifts for all and even had several adults sitting on his lap to express their wishes. Having enjoyed such a full and properous year, the Branch looks forward to 1986 and wishes all its friends in the Stake the best of new years.

New Members We Wish To Welcome

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

Apalachicola: Valerie Bryant, Jerry Bunyon Jr., Joseph Fichera, Jennifer Russ

Bainbridge: Charlotte and Wendell Carey

Cairo: Sarah Benton

Quincy: Leona and Clarence Chester

Tallahassee I: Brenda and Lori Bonnell, Roger Drinkall, Karen Greene, Kimberly Hamm, Shannon Spikes, Tabitha Washington

Tallahassee II: Jeffry Cox

Tallahassee III: Mary Drinkwine

Tallahassee Student: Thomas Cook, Kimberly Holm, Christopher Wessels

Thomasville: Jamie Alderman

Valdosta: Joey Myers, Nathan Rausch, Bradley Sutton

BEATITUDES OF A FAMILY GENEALOGIST by Wilma Mauk (StLGS)

Blessed are the great grandfathers, who saved embarkation and citizenship papers,

For they tell whence they came.

Blessed are the great grandmothers, who hoarded newspaper clippings and old letters,

For these tell the story of their time.

Blessed are all grandfathers, who filed every legal document,

For this provides the proof.

Blessed are grandmothers, who preserved family Bibles and diaries,

For this is our heritage.

Blessed are fathers, who elect officials that answer letters of inquiry,

For--to some--the only link to the past.

Blessed are mothers, who relate family tradition and legend to the family,

For one of her children will surely remember.

Blessed are relatives, who fill in family sheets with extra data,

For to them we owe the family history.

Blessed is any family, whose member strives for the preservation of records,

For their's is a labor of love.

Blessed are the children, who will never say,

"Grandma, you have told that old story twice today."



by Ann Nicholson
1st Counselor, Stake Relief Society

As we begin the circuit of ward and branch conferences this year, we really look forward to visiting with the sisters. We appreciate so much the efforts put forth by sisters in the stake to magnify their callings in Relief Society. The theme we will take to the units is, "Draw Near Unto Me and I Will Draw Near Unto You."

Our next big activity is the Stake Women's Conference on March 29. We plan to present a shortened version of the musical, "Because of Elizabeth." It was originally produced as an outdoor pageant in Nauvoo, Illinois in 1978, as a feature of the dedication of the Monuments to Women, and has since been enjoyed in various versions in over 1000 units of the Church.

Elizabeth's story was written to celebrate the contributions of individual women to the lives of those around them. She was an ordinary woman with an uncommon spirit. The play begins when Elizabeth is a young woman, leaving her home in England to join the saints in Nauvoo. It follows her life as she struggles with the saints to establish Zion first in Nauvoo, then across the plains to Salt Lake. It ends in her old age, as she looks back at the things that have happened during her lifetime.

Plan now to attend. You won't want to miss it! A nursery will be provided for those who cannot make arrangements for their children.

Thomasville

by Joe Ann Riles
Thomasville Ward Public Communications Director

The auxiliaries in the Thomasville Ward have all been busy. The following are brief summaries of some of their recent activities and plans for the future.

The Thomasville Primary went Christmas caroling on December 22 to three nursing homes -- Camellia Gardens, Glen-Mor Nursing Home, and Thomasville Nursing Home. Seven adults and twenty children participated in this service project.

The Primary presidency is excited about the new year. We now have a full staff including five new teachers: Carolyn Clanton, Bill Riles, Carmen Watson, Kelsey Cowling, and Ronnell Watson. Our new pianist is Barbara Hurst.

Darleen Clinkscales
Primary President

I was asked to tell about the Thomasville Primary Nursery. I think it's neat to watch the children grow and learn about the Church. I have really enjoyed teaching them.

Three of the children just left the nursery to go to Primary. Their names are Whitney Cowling, Sandra Clinkscales and Brice Smith. We'll miss them in the nursery.

I'm so thankful to be in the nursery. It makes me feel so good inside to know I'm teaching God's children.

"Pammy" Riles
Nursery Leader

During December some of the Young Women went to visit a homebound man and woman to decorate for Christmas and set up a tree. Sister Barbara Weber is an in-home nurse and alerted us to this couple and their situation. The Young Women really enjoyed helping someone less fortunate.

We picked out a tree, cut it down, and took it to this home. It was a great thrill to see the joy in these people's eyes as they saw a little Christmas come into their humble home.

Diana Parker
Young Women President

The Young Men Program in the Thomasville Ward is presently undergoing reorganization. With this reorganization and with dedication from the leaders and the boys themselves, we have high hopes and expectations that we will see development of stronger testimonies of the Gospel through following the outlined programs of the Church.

The Young Men have, in combination with the Young Women, been visiting a nursing home once each month to play bingo with the residents. We feel that this has helped the youth develop a greater appreciation for older people and the problems associated with the aged. The leaders are also planning some fun activities and surprises for their combined activities.

Pete Moody
Young Men President

The resolutions made by the Thomasville Ward Relief Society for the year 1986 are many. We as sisters want to attend all our meetings. We will willingly help with the nursery when needed. We will willingly teach mini-classes and accept other assignments. We want to reach all our sisters through doing our visiting teaching regularly. We want to meet the needs of all our sisters.

The next year promises to be an exciting and challenging one, one in which we will learn, grow, and become true sisters by helping each other.

Rhonda Smith
Relief Society President

CALENDAR

February

14 Gold & Green Ball and Laurel Presentation 8:00 p.m.
Valentine's Day
16 Bainbridge Branch Conference
22-23 Stake Conference

March

2 Quincy Branch Conference
Mission President's Fireside 7:00 p.m.
11 Stake News deadline
15 Annual Married's Seminar 1:00-7:00 p.m.
16 Monticello Branch Conference
Stake Presidency Missionary Fireside 7:00 p.m.
22 Region Basketball Tournament
23 Thomasville Ward Conference
Palm Sunday
29 Women's Conference "Because of Elizabeth"
Stake Boy Scout Conference
30 Easter Sunday

April

5-6 General Conference
6 Mission President's Fireside 7:00 p.m.
18-19 Stake Roadshows 7:00 p.m.
20 Valdosta Ward Conference
Stake Presidency Missionary Fireside 7:00 p.m.
25 Annual Bishop's Social

MARRIEDS CONFERENCE from pg. 1

After our homes are transformed with color, the men and women can learn how to transform themselves with color. That's right -- the ole color analysis tips. Fun. Fun. Beauty for all.

On the more serious note, classes and information will teach us 10 ways to double our money, how to raise our self-esteem, and how to identify and manage our resources so that our entire family is working toward financial and spiritual peace.

One class will answer questions about how we prepare for the unexpected. Preparing for the unexpected will include such things as how wills help us, what probate court is, exactly what happens when a loved one passes away, and what happens to our children and property if I or my spouse die. Can someone override our appointed guardian? How can we be sure that our property will be distributed as we intended?

In the "My Best Friend" class, we remember with our spouse what attracted him/her to us when we met and what attracts him/her to us now. We recall and learn what the other thinks is wonderful about us.

Come! There will be something for you. A nursery will be provided for those who can't make other arrangements. Please bring a blanket for each child and have a name tag on each child. At closing we can use your energy to pull taffy, play shuffle board, bowl, play ball, dance, and eat hot dogs and have a picnic.

If there are any questions, please feel free to call Gail Roberts at (904) 576-7757 up to 11 p.m.

A Look At Books



by Suzanne Meik
Seventies Bookstore Representative

Have you been looking for some Old Testament study aids for the Gospel Doctrine class? There are many available in the bookstore, and they are listed here:

GOSPEL SYMBOLISM, by Joseph Fielding McConkie
JOSEPH SMITH TRANSLATION: THE RESTORATION OF PLAIN AND PRECIOUS THINGS, BYU Religious Studies Center
THE FIRST 2,000 YEARS, Cleon Skousen
THE THIRD THOUSAND YEARS, Cleon Skousen
THE FOURTH THOUSAND YEARS, Cleon Skousen
ISAIAH SPEAKS TO MODERN TIMES, Cleon Skousen
ISAIAH AND THE PROPHETS, BYU Religious Studies Center
THE OLD TESTAMENT: A MORMON'S PERSPECTIVE, Glenn Pearson

Two new books which would also help with your scripture study are OLD TESTAMENT AND RELATED STUDIES by Hugh Nibley; HOW TO UNDERSTAND AND ENJOY THE SCRIPTURES by Allan Burgess.

Nibley's book contains papers and lectures on topics relating to the Old Testament, many of which have never before been published. This book provides a deep and unique insight into the world of the ancient prophets that will make every reader's study of the Old Testament an interesting and enlightening journey of discovery.

Every member who has ever started to read the scriptures and has given up in frustration will love HOW TO UNDERSTAND AND ENJOY THE SCRIPTURES. Its simple style and moderate length make it a pleasure rather than a chore to read.

Valdosta

by Maureen Webb
Valdosta Ward Public Communications Director

The closing of the Quitman Branch a few months ago brought several new members to the Valdosta Ward. For some time, the Branch had been struggling with too few members. While these members from the Quitman area now have farther to travel to attend church, they can better enjoy the benefits of the full programs of the Church. We sure are happy to have them here!

December was a busy month in the Valdosta Ward. December 7 the Relief Society sponsored a festive evening for the adults. A fun crowd enjoyed good food and crazy games such as "Do You Love Your Neighbor?", Charades, and the Newlywed Game! The following Saturday the Primary children met to create Christmas decorations out of clothes pegs and felt. The ward enjoyed a delightfully decorated tree that the children put together.

Throughout the month the youth practiced and prepared a play, "Come Let Us Adore Him," to be put on at the ward Christmas party on the 20th. Many evenings were spent building and painting scenery under the direction of our youth leaders, Gordon Walker, Vic Johnson, Freda Gill, and Ruth Kassum. Our youth always shine when they do something, and this play was no exception. Narrators for the evening were Tammy Kassum, Mack Goodwin, Michelle Godair, Bruce Chambliss, Julie Henderson, and Kati Shirley. Samuel the Lamanite (Jared Walker) brought our minds back to the account in the Book of Mormon of the prophecy of the Savior's birth. The reenactment that followed brought all in attendance closer to the true meaning of Christmas. Mary and Joseph were played by Felicia Burgess and Joe Gill. The angels were Julie Solomon, Michael Abercrombie, and Shea Giddens. Jessy and Jerry Gill and Jamey Giles were the shepherds. The Wisemen were played by Ginger Shirley, Anisa Wheeler, Amelia Goodwin, and Janet Shirley.

Following the play Anisa, Ginger, Amelia and Jared played Christmas carols on their flutes and several of the youth sang Christmas carols while goodies were munchied by all.

Sister Betty Hackney treated the children with her version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears followed by a surprise visit from Santa Claus with the help of John Pritchett.

A special thanks to all our youth who helped with this party! They are the greatest.

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