



Dransfield to Serve Mission

Picture yourself sitting at home on a Friday night and the phone rings. You pick it up, and to your great surprise you find M. Russell Ballard, of the Quorum of the Twelve wanting to chat with you. He tells you not to get excited, he is just doing some background digging. You begin to see the direction the conversation is leading and express concerns about your abilities. A week later, after many days of fasting and prayer, the second counselor in the First Presidency of the Church, Thomas S. Monson, calls to issue your new calling as Mission President. What an overwhelming and glorious surprise!

Dale L. Dransfield, Tallahassee Third Ward, had this humbling experience a few months ago. He is presently serving as the Mission President's counselor. His experience is considerable since he started 8 years ago and has served under presidents LeGrand Curtis, Joseph Horne, and Floyd Packard. President Packard keeps him busy also as the mission financial secretary and as the mission vehicle coordinator. Dale took on the latter two "jobs" when he retired and sold his timber chopping company in 1984.

Although born and raised in an LDS home in Ogden, Utah, Dale became acquainted with the Tallahassee area when he served in the Florida Mission back in 1966. Later, he received a degree in economics from Weber State College. Peggy Ann Layne, a native Floridian from Blountstown, was attending BYU and shortly became his eternal sweetheart and companion. Dale joined the Air Force and moved his family to Florida after his release in 1973. He recently earned his flying instructor's license and has been teaching flight lessons.

Although at 39 Dale will be one of the youngest mission presidents, he has been regally prepared through his various callings and close associations with four mission presidents. "We are totally aware of what the call consists of and the great responsibility it entails. We are going into this calling with our eyes wide open which is a great advantage."

While many of the women are asking, "What does a

mission president's wife do?", Peggy Dransfield doesn't have to ask that question. She has worked and traveled with Sister Alice Packard. She knows what a mission President's wife does. Peggy has been a ward Primary and Young Women President, and ward Relief Society and Primary counselor. She was recently released as counselor in the stake Young Women presidency so that she could make plans and preparations to help move her family to Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. "People don't realize all the work involved. There are many decisions we have to make, such as what to do with our house for 3 years."

Dale and Peggy have been blessed with 5 loving, bright children. Their oldest child, Wendy, will have to settle for momentary visits to Harrisburg since she will be graduating from high school this year and going on to college. The other kids are looking forward to living in a state with snow, seasons, and dozens of spiritual missionaries traveling in and out of their lives each month. It will be a great experience for them.

Wendy, 17, will speak as salutatorian on June 6 for her high school graduation exercises. Her G.P.A. exceeds a 4.0 due to her involvement with honors classes. She has been offered a full scholarship at BYU and an in-state tuition scholarship at her father's Alma Mater. Decisions, decisions! Her talented fingers are used to rambling over the ivories when she plays for Young Women and the Youth Choir.

LaMar, 15, finds time to sing in the choir in between working on his Eagle Scout project which involves organizing a homeowners association dedicated to the improvement and upkeep of their privately owned street. He likes soccer and basketball and does odd jobs for neighbors in order to earn money for his mission.

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...even so in Christ shall all be made alive. (I Corin. 15:22)





Stake Presidency Message

by Loran C. Anderson
First Counselor

Easter is a very special time of year. There is beauty all around. The profusion of dogwood, azaleas, and wisteria nearly overpowers our senses. Yet, it is, or should be, also a time of intensified feelings of inner beauty and peace--one of mental and spiritual reassurance of the resurrection of all mankind. Through all ages of mortal existence death has been looked upon as the greatest enemy of man. But there is an answer to the query, if a man die, shall he live again, and that answer comes from only one source. "There is none other name given under heaven save it be this Jesus Christ, of which I have spoken, whereby man can be saved." (2 Nephi 25:20.) The happiest news that ever was announced to mortals was that given by the angel, who on that Easter morning said: "Fear not for I know that ye seek Jesus which was crucified. He is not here, for he is risen."

After his resurrection, he came to the multitude on the American continent and said: "Behold, I am Jesus Christ, whom the prophets testified shall come into the world. And behold, I am the light and the life of the world; and I have drunk out of that bitter cup which the Father hath given me, and have glorified the Father in taking upon me the sins of the world, in the which I have suffered the will of the Father in all things from the beginning." (3 Nephi 11:10-11.)

Actually, Easter was a pagan festival of Spring named after the Norse goddess Eostre; later it became a mixture of Christian and pagan celebration. Early followers of Christ decided Easter should be observed the first Sunday after the full moon on or following the first day of Spring. Easter is not the actual anniversary of the resurrection of Christ, but true saints gladly take it as an appropriate occasion to turn their attentions to the infinite and eternal atonement of Christ.

You might ask: "should the pagan aspects of Easter be observed?" We seek after things that are lovely or of good report. Easter may be an appropriate time to get a new dress or suit or to exchange small gifts to show our love for one another. And the Easter egg hunt is a joyous occasion for the children. In our household, we always had the egg hunt on Saturday, and explained to our children that although it was a nice activity, it wasn't fitting for the Sabbath day.

Some of our Christian friends wonder why we do not emphasize Good Friday. With our understanding of Christ's divine mission, we focus on the resurrection and the infinite blessings of the atonement rather than upon His suffering in Gethsemane and on the cross. Similarly, we do not recommend use of the cross or crucifix as a religious symbol. McConkie (in *Mormon Doctrine*) stated: "that is not harmonious with the quiet spirit of worship and reverence that should attend a true Christian's remembrance of our Lord's suffering and death. In fact, the revealed symbolism to bring these things to the attention of true worshippers is found in the ordinance of the sacrament."

At this Easter season, let us renew our commitment and, as King Benjamin (Mosiah 5:15) said: "Be steadfast and immovable, always abounding in good works, that Christ, the Lord God Omnipotent, may seal you his, that you may be brought to heaven, that ye may have everlasting salvation and eternal life, through the wisdom, and power, and justice, and mercy of him who created all things, in heaven and in earth, who is God above all. Amen."

New Branch President

Timothy E. Burnette, Sr., was sustained as President of the Moultrie Branch on January 25, 1987, succeeding Neil Roberts who served for about 2 years.

Brother Burnette was born and raised in the Moultrie area. He graduated from Norman Park High and Moultrie Area Vo-Tech in 1976. A construction worker, he has enjoyed working on jobs ranging from paper-making to pipe welding at a nuclear power plant. He is presently employed at a farm machinery construction company in Moultrie.



Brother Burnette married Brenda Gail Farmer of Tifton, Georgia, on September 6, 1974. They were baptized together on December 29, 1979, the product of the tracting efforts of a pair of sister missionaries. Gail is currently serving as Young Women President in Moultrie. The Burnettes have three children: Tim, Jr., 8 years; Alisha Kalleen, 4 years; and Angela Jeneane, 3 years.

The Moultrie Branch is looking forward to moving to their new meetinghouse which is expected to be completed in May. "We feel," said President Burnette, "that with the attention this structure is drawing to the Church and with the renewed missionary effort we will see many converts to the Church in Moultrie this year."

When asked about goals, President Burnette replied, "We desire to grow more unified as a branch in following our Heavenly Father's plan of salvation, to be the example others follow, and to soon be a ward. I have a testimony of the gospel, the Church, and that we will see tremendous growth in our area in time to come."

Serving in the branch presidency are Gene Lybber, first counselor, and William Harvey, second counselor.

Calls...

Jackie Taylor (Tallahassee I)
Texas Houston Mission



Daniel Bowers (Bainbridge)
California Fresno Mission (Spanish Speaking)

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Easter and Spring

Easter is just around the corner and many of us are thinking about EGGS!! If you are tired of the traditional dying methods try nature's way for a change. This is how your great-grandparents did it!

Put eggs in pan of water with natural ingredient plus a few drops of vinegar (for more vivid tones) and boil 20 minutes.

COLOR	INGREDIENT
beige, tan, buff	fresh oregano, mint, walnut shells
orange	onion skins
yellow	carrot tops, orange peels, thyme
lavender	yellow delicious apple peel
red	red cabbage leaves, beet juice
pink-gray	spinach leaves

There are numerous roots, barks and leaves you can use. Experiment! This would make a fun family home evening activity. Happy Coloring!!!

Single Adult News

by Carolyn Thompkins
Stake Single Adult Co-Chairman

The Stake Young Single Adult conference has been moved to the weekend of May 22. Be prepared for a bonus this year; look out for your registration form!!

The stake needs singles to help with the conference: stuffing envelopes, decorating, organizing sight-seeing packets, and more. Let your ward/branch representative know or tell your bishop/branch president: we really need you.

Singles! Did you take the stake president's challenge to read the Book of Mormon? Well, hang in there; you can do it!

If you have something to say about the Single Adult program, good or bad, write us. We would love to hear from you. Send your comments to:

Single Adults
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
312 Stadium Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32304

Blazer Scout Day Camp

by Cleo Miller
Stake Primary President

Eleven-year-old scouts are in for a treat! Saturday, April 25, is Blazer Scout Day Camp. Fun activities and learning experiences are planned for these scouts and their leaders all day. The camp will be held at Lake Moore near Tallahassee. Scout leaders and other qualified persons from our stake will serve as instructors. The boys will be able to earn several skill awards that day as well as have a good time.

Contact your Primary president or bishop/branch president for further details.



Genealogy Library Needs Your Help

by Laura Byington, Librarian

Genealogists who have been utilizing the Branch Library are excited to see workmen starting the addition which will house our new library. Our librarians look forward to having more room for additional equipment and new records now available to us. The primary addition will be a microfilm-microfiche reader and copier. This piece of equipment will allow us to copy documents and records directly from either microfilm or microfiche. By copying directly much time will be saved and accuracy in our research will improve. Half of the cost of this reader will be paid by Church headquarters but we must pay the balance on a local level. Patrons have been contributing for several months but a substantial amount is still needed if we are to have this copier.

We would like to request that each family in the stake donate one (1) dollar to this fund. This would be enough to pay our portion. Please mark your tithing slip "Stake Genealogy Library." These funds will be set aside for this specific purpose.

If you haven't visited the library recently you will be surprised at the new records available and should know that we have updates on several of the older records. We invite you to search our "Shoe-Box Library" (235 volumes) of 100 genealogical reference works on microfiche. Come see us!

Library Hours:
Tuesday, Wednesday 9 a.m. - 12 noon
Wednesday, Thursday 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

Relief Society



Our Dearest Sisters,

In the springtime of the year as nature renews itself, let us contemplate our new beginning. Let us renew our commitment to Christ and strive to increase our knowledge of Him, and as we do so may our lives be filled with hope and joy.

The theme of our Relief Society lessons this year is "Learn of Me". Each of these lessons is truly inspiring and should provoke within us a desire to increase our knowledge of the Savior and to develop a closer relationship with Him and Our Father in Heaven. As we draw closer to our Redeemer and truly love Him more than any other, we will find that our love for our fellowman has increased significantly. As we serve each other within our homes, the Church, and our communities, we are indeed demonstrating our love and devotion for Christ, and our Heavenly Father. Today is the day to learn of Him who gave His all that we might be blessed with all that our Father has for us.

Our theme for our Branch and Ward conferences is "Abound in Hope". We know that men are that they might have joy and we could add, that without hope joy cannot abound. A wise and loving Heavenly Father has placed us here to be tried and tested. He has given us opposition in all things to heighten our awareness and appreciation of the positive, praiseworthy, and joyful aspects of our earth life. By sending His only Begotten Son to atone for our sins, He has given us an eternal hope that can burn within our souls and shine brightly before us that no earthly temptation, trial, or circumstance should be able to extinguish if we choose to endure to the end.

We cannot talk about a quest for knowledge and abounding in hope without reflecting upon our pioneer sisters who endured more than any of us will probably ever experience in our lifetime. As they made their way West step by step, they had a sure knowledge that the Prophet of God was leading them to a promised land where they could be free from persecution and injustice. Even as they laid their loved ones down in shallow graves along their journey, they maintained a burning hope that their Father in Heaven would deliver them to their promised valley.

If those early Saints had given up hope, if they had succumbed to their trials and circumstances, where would we be today? Their faith directed them and their hope sustained them and millions have profited from their unwavering testimonies.

Sisters, as we strive to learn of the Savior, and as we abound in hope, let us be found serving one another with tenderness and love. Let us share our love of Jesus Christ with those we visit, teach, with our neighbors, friends, and associates. It is our prayer that as we draw nearer to each other, our hearts will be filled with the love of our Savior, and our countenances will reflect our renewed hope and joy in this life and that which is to come.

Sincerely,
Your Stake Relief Society Presidency



Banquet Honors Eagle Scouts

On February 26 the local scout council honored area young men who are recipients of the coveted Eagle Scout award. The Tallahassee Florida Stake was well-represented with six young men who received the Eagle award within the past year.

In attendance were Bennett Packard, son of President Floyd and Alice Packard; Billy Roberts, son of Bill and Dorothy Roberts; Daniel Copelin, son of Bill and Cheryl Copelin; Ben and David Torgeson, sons of Joe and Karen Torgeson; and Matt McCreless, son of Printess and Mary McCreless. Each young man was presented with an Eagle scout neckerchief and was seated with a representative of a profession in which he had indicated an interest. This gave each Eagle scout the opportunity to discuss his future plans in a practical and detailed manner. U.S. Representative Bill Grant provided the address for the meeting.

Youth

Attains

Eagle Rank

Matt McCreless, 16, was awarded the rank of Eagle Scout at a Court of Honor on December 31, 1986. Matt is the son of Printess and Mary McCreless, of the Tallahassee Third Ward, and is the oldest of six children.



Matt has been active in scouting since Cub Scouts and continues in helping others obtain their goals in scouting. Of special note is his Eagle Project. Matt organized child care for a sister in his ward who needed to further her education. By arranging for her to spend time in school she was able to complete her classes and now holds a job with the Sheriff's department.

Matt is a junior at Lincoln High School and is an Honor Student. He plans on continuing his education in Tallahassee until he serves a mission.

"The mother has a greater influence over her posterity than any other person can have. And the question has arisen sometimes, 'When does this education begin?' Our prophets have said, 'When the Spirit of life from God enters into the tabernacle.' The condition of the mother at the time will have its effect upon the fruit of her womb; and from the birth of the child, and all through life, the teachings and the example of the mother govern and control, in great measure, that child, and her influence is felt by it through time and eternity."

Wilford Woodruff

Youth Star in School Musical

Janene and Janelle Packard



The auditorium at Leon High School was packed as hundreds of eyes watched Janelle Packard, in the role of Annie, lock lips with her leading man. Many of those eyes turned away from the scene in the musical "Annie Get Your Gun" to try and glimpse a reaction from a man seated in the middle row--Mission President and father of the leading lady, Floyd Packard. Janelle, a senior at Lincoln High School, and Janene, a junior playing Annie's sibling, were having a great time on stage. This was Janelle's second play, the first being "Guys and Dolls" in which she played Adelaid last year. But, it was Janene's first. They were grateful that so many church members came out to support them.

"It takes a lot of time and hard work to do something like this," they said. Since they have no real aspirations to pursue professional acting, what, besides fun, do they get out of this? "The Church encourages everyone to try to discover and develop their talents. Sometimes, we don't know what they are unless we try something."

This musical was one way in which Janelle could develop her gift in singing. Her interest in play performing was stimulated when her older sister, Melodie, tried out for and got the lead role in a high school musical two years ago. (Singing, dancing, and performing obviously run in the family.) She became a constant source of encouragement and support as she helped Melodie rehearse and learn her part.

Janelle directs the choir for the Young Women in Tallahassee Third Ward. In school, she and Janene are involved in the choral program, a singing/dancing ensemble, and the National Honor Society. Janelle graduates this June and plans to try out for a musical scholarship at Rick's College in Idaho. Janene will return with her family to Carlsbad, California this summer when her parents are released from their mission calling. She will go on to BYU after she graduates next year.

The kids at school are well aware of the Packard girls' devotion to the Church and the gospel principles. Even though their integrity has prompted good-natured teasing at times, it has also served as an invitation to share the true gospel with their peers. One school mate that Janelle has become acquainted with in the choral group and singing/dancing ensemble is Kevin Kirkbride, her leading counterpart (Frank) in the musical production. Kevin accepted Janene's invitation to hear the missionary discussions and was baptized last November. A senior, Kevin has a gifted singing voice and gained some experience for this leading role by playing a Crap Shooter in "Guys and Dolls" last year. He is a priest in the Tallahassee Third Ward.

If the youth today are our leaders tomorrow, it's refreshing to have these young people as an example. Tallahassee has been blessed with their talented happy faces.

Young Women

by Suzanne Chapple
Stake Young Women President



Our Young Women of the Church have been counseled for many years by inspired Church leaders to delay dating or any pairing-off with young men until they are at least 16 and then, even at that wonderful age, to do their dating in groups. Those who heed this counsel are special indeed.

Also at 16, a young woman in the Church becomes a Laurel, a girl whom the younger girls admire and want to emulate. We want these lovely Young Women and daughters of God to feel of their individual worth and to experience being in the limelight. Through the Laurel Presentation at the annual Stake Gold and Green Ball, we as a Stake choose to recognize our 16- or 17-year-old girls, just ready to burst into the full bloom of womanhood, for their strength of character and righteousness. We desire, too, to provide an opportunity for our young women to learn some poise and graciousness in a social situation.

Those young women who were so honored at a banquet with their parents on February 6, and at this year's Ball on February 13 were Janet Sampson, Michelle Kitchens, and Barbara Crawford from Bainbridge; Donna Newell and April NeSmith, Thomasville; Andrea Prady and Holly Parrish, Moultrie; Melanie Walden, Cairo; Angela Allen, Tiffany Williams, and Larissa Chapple, Tallahassee II; and Sheri Broadhurst, Keely Carpenter, and Altera Tew, Tallahassee III.

The Stake Young Women Presidency appreciated the spiritual insights and planning done by Jeannie McInelly, who served as specialist for these two fine events. Sue Williams was our official photographer.

Book Review

by Michelle Gowan

Michelle Gowan, a former Tallahassee 2nd Ward member and bookstore staff member, has written a review on 3 books she has recently read.

The Mormon Church: A Basic History, by Dean Hughes, is a great book for new members or for general reference. It contains a brief overview of the organization of the Church to the present time. Each prophet of the Church is personalized and remembered for his contributions to the Church.

Murph, an autobiography with Brad Rock and Lee Warnick, is a portrayal of the life and example of Dale Murphy. Hey sports fans! Hey non-sports fans! Read all about it! It is great, light reading, yet you can feel the depth and warmth of the man he has become.

Lectures on Faith, prepared by the Prophet Joseph Smith, is back in print. The contents were originally bound with the Book of Commandments, (now the Doctrine & Covenants) and were taken out by prophetic order in 1921, as they were never canonized. It contains several lectures of the Prophet Joseph Smith and also a question and answer series with the Prophet.

Crawfordville

by Fran Council
Crawfordville Public Communications Director

January 17 saw a most unique event, even for Crawfordville. Jennifer Fish was married to Roy Tompkins in a most unusual wedding. It seems on a previous trip Jennifer's mom joked about the Branch having "red-necks." So when the family arrived they found Stan Tucker trying mightily to learn "Here Comes The Bride" on his banjo. Bob Little, who was supposed to conduct, arrived decked-out in his camouflage hunting suit. And last arrived Bob Kerns, the photographer, in white shirt, garish tie and bib overalls. Pulling out a small instamatic he pretended to take casual snapshots while the video camera immortalized the event for posterity. Only moments before time for the ceremony to begin were hidden suits pulled on and a beautiful wedding ceremony performed. The videotape became a branch gift to the newlyweds.

The annual mother-son cake bake and auction was more riotous than usual. It began when little Matthew Tucker's cake fell apart and only his tears forced the cake's inclusion as the "what you see is what you get" cake. Whenever bidding slowed auctioneer Bob Little would say "smile Matthew and wave at your momma." Needless to say it was a big seller of the night. The laughs continued all night, but perhaps the greatest fun of all was when Bob changed from "5 dollar bid" to "500 dollars." Mary Albaugh bid along, then suddenly realized what he was saying as she suddenly stopped the bidding saying, "Seven HUNDRED dollars???"

Perhaps the greatest joy of being part of such a special "church family" is the togetherness of shared happiness. Crawfordville is richly blessed.

Jennifer and Roy Tompkins



"There seems to be a power which the mother possesses in shaping the life of the child that is far superior, in my judgment, to the power of the father, and almost without exception. . . . A mother's love seems to be the most perfect and the most sincere, the strongest of any love we know anything about."

Heber J. Grant

Bishop's Corner

by Tim Burnette
Branch President, Moultrie

In our Branch when we hear "compassionate service," we usually think "Relief Society lesson." When we hear service, we understand. We should all strive for compassionate service. This is service that we are not asked to do or that is not required of us because of a specific calling.

"Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness. For the power is in them." (D&C 58:27-28) As we desire to do more for our fellowmen the Spirit will grow stronger within us. With the guidance of the Holy Ghost, with that constant companionship, our talents and abilities will grow, thereby allowing for more and greater compassionate service.

With the Holy Ghost as a constant companion we are blessed to receive revelations. Through this communication we can know who might need help and also the solution to his or her problem. In Doctrine and Covenants 52:40, we are admonished, "Remember in all things the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted, for he that doeth not these things, the same is not my disciple." One of the things our own salvation depends on is our willingness to help those around us that are in need--not only those in the Church but non-members, not only friends but also strangers.

The Relief Society motto is "Charity Never Faileth." Without charity there couldn't be compassionate service, for service is the giving of oneself. Paul said to the Corinthians in the first epistle, 13th chapter, 3rd verse, "And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing." Brothers and Sisters, we do not want to go through this life and end up with nothing. We want to store up treasures in heaven. This can only be done through selfless service to our fellowman and strict obedience to our Heavenly Father's gospel.

New Members



We welcome the following converts who were baptized in our stake during January and February 1987:

Cairo: Verlene Garland and Sondra Williams

Crawfordville: Orville Hilliker

Madison: David, Rebecca and Robbie Stokely

Quincy: Manuel Fierro, Eutrina Holley, Ruthie Smith, Antoine Stevenson, and Tara Walker

Tallahassee I: Audrey and Jason Plummer, Patricia Santas, and Michael Sherman

Tallahassee II: Heather Clemons

Tallahassee III: Michael Mallory and Kristina Winney

Foster Parenting: Extending Love

Our last issue featured an article on foster care and identified some of the "myths" commonly associated. For this issue, our "roving reporter" talked with two of our stake members who have opened their homes for foster care. The first interview is with Barbara McDermid of the Monticello Branch; the second is with Dee Durrance of Tallahassee III. We hope you enjoy their insights into this rewarding experience. If you would like to learn more about becoming licensed as a foster parent, contact your bishop/branch president.

Sister McDermid, how long have you been a foster parent?

The first time the Church placed a girl with me was about 1983. I had two foster children, one at a time. Both of the girls I had were 18. The first girl stayed about a year, and the second stayed seven months.

What do you feel are some of the major challenges?

The biggest problem, when they come to the house is blending them with the family and working out new roles. I have three children of my own, and anytime you have another person come into your house, especially for an extended period of time, probably the biggest challenge is re-establishing in my children's minds that their position is secure and at the same time making the foster child feel secure. They [foster children] know that at any time you have the power to say "I don't want you here. I'm sending you back.", and that's the hardest thing.

Can you recommend being a foster parent to others?

I know it's right for me. I think some people should try it. I don't think it's as fearful as people think. We have an image, I think, of kids who come into foster care as being real screwed up with a lot of problems--that they're difficult kids--runaways, truants, bad. I haven't had that experience. Mine have been good. At [stake] conference Elder Mason talked about his...troublesome child. I think they just want what everyone else wants and that's to be appreciated. Children are a pain to a lot of people; they're a nuisance and in the way--and children feel that. I think with teenagers, parents need a cooling off period. They get in such a negative spiral with their kids that they need a separation. That's what foster care for teenagers can do.

But, there are a lot of reasons kids go into foster care: the parents health, violence in the home, parents drinking, abusing drugs, going to prison, becoming mentally/physically ill, death--all kinds of things. They're not all bad kids. The ones I've seen aren't. Even the "bad" ones...all they really want is just to be loved.

What perspective does the plan of salvation give you as a foster parent?

Just that each person that's here is a child of God and unique. We have to remember that they're noble. Sometimes the very strength that

they exhibit as children and the energy that drives us wild is the very thing that's going to motivate them to be the valiant leaders of tomorrow. We have to channel that. We have to teach them to direct it in a positive way. It's not an easy thing to do and I'm not always successful at it. But I spend time with them. We have that responsibility as adults to recognize who they are. They are closer to Heavenly Father than we are, and we have to work, I think, to be worthy of them.

We have to be very non-judgmental of the girls who come to us that are pregnant. I see people in the Church who are so condemning. I work with children in HRS, and many of the girls that are delinquent are reacting to their situation.

When a 14-year-old girl becomes pregnant who has been sexually abused since she was 3-years-old, who's the Lord going to hold accountable for that? We need to be real, real careful when we make judgments.

My patriarchal blessing says I will serve those who are poor in spirit. For a long time I wondered who the poor in spirit were. I now know that these children fit that description.

There are a lot of rewards. When our first foster child got married, and her mother was escorted down the aisle as the mother of the bride, I too, was taken down the aisle as the mother of the bride. And these kids are so grateful to have a place to go when they can't go home. They want so bad to love.

Another really hard thing to do is to show love to somebody else's child--especially a grown child. It can be done. One way I have found is to massage or rub their backs. It's a wonderful way to show love--a non-threatening way to deliver touch that is so important. Every one of these girls I've seen have been abused in some way. Strong Church families--still we have to remember that people in the Church are just...people. We need to open our eyes to what's going on around us. We need to give these kids a place to go.

I know that the LDS social services is trying to qualify more homes so that there will be options in case it is not the right time for a family to take on a foster child.

Have you ever had to turn down a child?

No. But because I have a 15-year-old son I would have a hard time taking a 15 year old sexually active, sexually aggressive girl. I don't want to create a bad situation. Sometimes it's a matter of what fits. I am qualified to take only two children, and if parents of four children were killed in a car accident, I would only be able to take two. There needs to be a variety to choose from. If they don't have that, they end up in a non-LDS state home which means they don't get to seminary, or Church on Sunday, or Scouts.

Sister Durrance, how long have you been a foster parent?

About 8 years.

How many children have you cared for?

Three, one at a time, all teenagers. We had an unwed mother, one that had a problem with drugs, and one that just had family problems and needed to be separated from her family.

How long did they stay with you?

The unwed mother about 5 months. Our second one stayed through a school year. The other one just stayed a month or two.

What are some of the major challenges for a foster parent? For a foster child?

I think for a foster child learning to feel comfortable in the home setting. They're being uprooted from their family in a home that they feel more themselves in; it takes them a while to feel comfortable.

For the foster family, I don't really know. I can't look back and see that we really had that big of a challenge. I guess with the size of our family (nine children) we were able to bring them in without much trouble.

Do you think you've been a positive influence in these children's lives?

I think definitely in hers (the unwed mother). Our second one that had the problem with drugs, I think it helped her to be in a different setting than what she was accustomed to. She still had a problem getting over some of her habits and breaking away from those problems. But, we still have contact with her. She says we were a positive influence.

What perspective has the plan of salvation given you as a foster parent?

I've been in several situations, and one personally in my own family, where you learn the importance of forgiveness and repentance, that it really is a miracle that Heavenly Father has given us. And I think being involved with young people that have problems has helped me realize how great that blessing is in our lives. That ability to ask for forgiveness, to change our lives, to go on with our lives. I learned more from the unwed mother than I did anybody. She had a hard time dealing with her situation and her sin, but she realized that when she chose to go through the pregnancy itself, that was the beginning of repentance; when she could have taken an easy step--one that many of her friends tried to talk her into--ending her pregnancy. So, I think, as far as the plan of salvation, is letting us know that when we do make mistakes that Heavenly Father is there to listen to us and forgive us and we can go on with our lives.

Have you "grown" from these experiences?

I think Heavenly Father has allowed me this opportunity for a special purpose; I think, to help me as a mother to face the problems of my own. I have indeed grown through the experiences.

Missionary Mailbag



Greetings from the "cradle of the restoration." After going through the Missionary Training Center in Provo, we arrived here on September 24th. We had dinner with President Dale and Sister Naomi Shumway in the mission home in Rochester, New York and headed east about 30 miles to Palmyra. We arrived at Hill Cumorah in the late afternoon and met Elder John and Sister Lynn Russon who are serving as directors for the half-dozen historical sites in this area. They accompanied us to the Martin Harris Farm where we were to reside. This is a beautiful two story cobblestone house. We live in an apartment on the ground floor. The second day being Thursday was our preparation day. We did our grocery shopping, laundry and toured the historical sites. Friday found us on duty as full-time missionaries. As I was conducting my first tour, President Shumway came with some friends. Lincoln had the privilege of giving his first tour to the Mission President. That was a great way to get broken in.

We love the countryside here. The high hills and low valleys are a thrill to us. The fall colors--reds, yellows, golds, and browns mixed with the evergreen trees were a beauty to behold. The blue spruce trees are so graciously shaped--such beautiful form! I really wished for two pairs of eyes so that I could see more. It was much like my desire when the azaleas and dogwoods bloom in the south. I can't see enough!

We have found the people most gracious. Never was there a more friendly people. They have been more than good to us. We are assigned to the Canandaigua Ward, about 15 miles away. This is the largest ward in the stake. Sacrament meeting attendance averages about 275 people. We enjoy the ward family and the activities we are privileged to attend.

As tour guides we have met hundreds of people from all walks of life and of various religions. It has been thrilling to tell Martin Harris' story and to share our testimonies of the restored gospel. Very few of the members know the Martin Harris story and few leave with dry eyes.

Since the weather has been so cold--and that has taken some adjustment--we have had fewer tours and have had time for some proselyting. This also has been a thrill, teaching the standard discussions and seeing people come into the Church. Baptisms are a great way to make "eternal friends." We feel this mission is "extra special" because we meet people as tour guides and also as proselyting missionaries, the best of both calls!

We enjoy the study time together. We have just completed six months of our mission and have read all the standard works once (the Book of Mormon six times). We read twenty pages in the Book of Mormon each day. What a choice experience!

On arriving here, we expected to spend our entire mission at the Martin Harris Farm. However, last week we were called to go see Elder Russon. The assistant directors will be going home the end of March and we were called to move to Hill Cumorah as the assistant directors for these historical sites. What a thrill!! We are looking forward to the pageant coming up in July and August.

We love this work. One of the best things in life is to be able to share the things that are dear to you. Nothing is closer to our hearts than the restored gospel!! All our Father's children are beautiful and precious. Far too few have heard this great message. The field truly is white already to harvest. The laborers are too few. We would like to encourage couples to step forward in full-time missionary service. The rewards are so great!! Like everything in life we need to get a real feel for the work.

We send our love and blessings and ask for your prayers and faith.

Elder Lincoln & Sister Mildred Barlow

The highest words my tongue can frame,
The noblest thoughts my soul can claim;
Unworthy are to praise the name
More precious than all others.
An infant, when her love first came,
A man, I find it still the same;
Reverently I breathe her name,
The blessed name of mother.

George Griffith Fether



One of the questions after a study of magnets at Olympus Junior High located in Salt Lake City was: "What begins with M and picks things up?" More than one third of the students answered "Mother"!

THE CONSTITUTION: AN INSPIRED DOCUMENT

by John Barger
Tallahassee Third Ward

Part 1 of a Three Part Series

The Prophet Joseph Smith once said, "The Constitution of the United States is a glorious standard; it is founded in the wisdom of God. It is like a great tree under whose branches men from every clime can be shielded from the burning rays of the sun". Again testifying to the divine nature of this document, he added: "We say that God is true; that the Constitution of the United States is true; that the Bible is true; that the Book of Mormon is true". There can be no doubt that Joseph Smith was, as he often declared himself, the "greatest advocate of the Constitution of the United States there is on the earth".

As we commemorate the bicentennial of the Constitution, God's current spokesman on Earth, President Ezra Taft Benson, has encouraged each of us to study the Constitution and to become involved in activities to support and defend it. A true patriot and champion of liberty, President Benson has long proclaimed the Constitution to be the vehicle for establishing the Lord's "base of operations" in these latter days. In his words, the framers of the Constitution were imperfect men "raised up by the Perfect Man to perform a great work". This "great work" is best described in D&C 101: 79-80: "Therefore, it is not right that any man should be in bondage one to another. And for this purpose have I established the Constitution of this land, by the hands of wise men whom I raised up unto this very purpose, and redeemed the land by the shedding of blood".

* * * * *

For those who will accept President Nicholson's challenge (made at stake conference) to memorize the Preamble, we have included it below, written and spelled as the original.

WE THE PEOPLE of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common Defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this CONSTITUTION for the United States of America.

Sept. 17, 1787

General Authorities Speak at Regional Conference in Jacksonville



Gordon B. Hinckley



Marvin J. Ashton



Rex D. Pinegar

by David Salisbury and Roger Bowers

A special Regional Conference was held in Jacksonville March 14 and 15 with President Gordon B. Hinckley, First Counselor in the First Presidency of the Church, presiding. President Hinckley was assisted by Elder Marvin J. Ashton of the Quorum of Twelve Apostles and President Rex D. Pinegar, President of the North America Southeast Area and member of the First Quorum of Seventy.

The Saturday evening meeting for Priesthood leaders lasted four hours with each of the main speakers speaking twice. Elder Pinegar gave an introduction to the meeting by discussing how we should carefully listen, consider, ponder and pray about the things which the Church leaders tell us. Elder Ashton discussed several matters relating to the family and family life. He emphasized that an LDS father should never be abusive, either by voice or physical strength, to his wife or children. He also emphasized the importance of good daily family habits such as family prayer, husband and wife prayer, individual prayer and family scripture reading. "Children," he said, "should be reared on discipline and love, in the proper proportions." A central part of Elder Ashton's message was that we should never give up on a family member who strays from gospel living. "We start to fail in the home when we give up on family members," he observed. "Don't give up. When they least deserve our love is when they need it the most."

A major point of President Hinckley's talk was that bitterness and vindictiveness are becoming too commonplace in our society. Today there is too much litigation in the courts and a lack of forgiving and forgetting. "Bitterness against another person or persons saps the strength from our lives," he said. "The capacity to forgive and the capacity to forget is the test of every member of the Church."

In his second talk, Elder Pinegar discussed the responsibilities of the priesthood leaders who were present to

direct the missionary efforts of the Church in their areas and suggested several goals in the areas of missionary work, temple service, and activation. Elder Ashton discussed five basic goals:

1. Attend temple regularly.
2. Read the Book of Mormon.
3. Come back to church if you are not active.
4. Work in the church.
5. Live, love, and lift by the spirit.

President Hinckley, in his closing address focused on the point that the Church has never been as healthy as it is today. Some of the statistics he cited as an indication of this are: 33,000 missionaries in 201 missions; 1,622 stakes with 10,555 wards and 4,861 branches; 216,214 convert baptisms in 1986; 1,000,643 copies of the Book of Mormon distributed in English and 2,000,000 total copies of the Book of Mormon distributed.

Sunday's general session began with Rex D. Pinegar who spoke briefly about seeking the Law of the Lord, doing it, and then teaching it.

Elder Marvin J. Ashton's general theme was to "Do what is right--let the consequences follow." "Do what you know to be right, even though it may not be easy, or convenient--just do it and you will be blessed."

Also, he referenced John, chapter 8, which tells of Christ and the woman who had committed adultery. Christ said, "He who is without sin let him cast the first stone." Christ recognized her sin but treated her, not in vindictiveness, but in tenderness, patience, and love. "Go thy way and sin no more."

Majorie Hinckley, wife of President Gordon B. Hinckley, talked about how her father served his mission in the Jacksonville area many, many years ago. He would tell the family stories of the mosquitoes, malaria, heat and humidity, and general hardships he encountered. She countered with the remark that when she meets him again she'll tell him stories of the Tallahassee Regional Conference and how warmly the saints treated her and how lovely the area is now. She paid tribute to her husband for always encouraging her to develop her talents and told of how women in the Church are treated equally and can be exalted with their husbands.

James O. Mason, Regional Representative, was called to bear his

testimony. He spoke briefly about how during his youth he came to know that the gospel was true. His bishop had challenged him to gain a testimony. Elder Mason said that he went home and read all the standard works, with prayer. Nothing happened until he went to a fast and testimony meeting and he suddenly found himself on his feet filled with the fire of the Holy Ghost. He then knew of a surety that the Gospel was true. His testimony was very strong and delivered with the spirit of the Holy Ghost at the conference.

President Gordon B. Hinckley was the last speaker. He thanked everyone for doing what they were asked to do in the Church. His central message was what parents could do to have peace in the home and in their lives. He quoted Isaiah 54:13 "And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children." President Hinckley said now is the time to give emphasis to the home. He suggested four things parents can do to have this peace:

Growth, for parents and children, comes with good reading "out of the best books." Statistics show a child will spend 18,000 hours in front of the television (7,000 more than in school). Read good literature. Keep good literature available in the home. He said very plainly that there was no future in watching soap operas.

Fortify yourself against the forces of evil. Let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly. Avoid pornography in books and videos. Pray with your children and hold family home evening. Read the scriptures as a family.

Strengthen your family temporarily. Stay out of debt and relieve yourself of bondage. While contrary to money leveraging ideas, there is peace of mind in being free of mortgages and foreclosure on your home. Pay your tithes and offerings.

Prepare your children for responsibility. Teach them the value of work, of an education, of a mission. Instill in your children the spirit of unselfishness and sacrifice. Teach them the value of training for life's work so that they can support their own family.

The Tallahassee Regional Conference was spiritually uplifting to the thousands of saints who attended. Many people waited in line to get a chance to shake the speakers' hands after the meeting.

Calender

April

18 Roadshows
 19 Easter
 25 Primary Day Camp
 28 Stake Priesthood and Auxiliary Leadership Meetings
 Stake Sunday School Workshop

May

9 YM/YW Super Saturday
 10 Mother's Day
 12 Stake News Deadline
 15-16 Aaronic Priesthood Commemoration
 Father/Son Outing
 17 Crawfordsville Branch Conference
 Seminary & Institute Graduation
 Aaronic Priesthood Commemoration via Satellite
 19-23 Stake Temple Week for Concentrated Efforts
 22-24 Stake Young Single Adult Conference
 23 Stake Raquetball Tournament
 24 Moultrie Branch Conference
 25 Memorial Day Observed
 29-30 Stake Relief Society Temple Trip (by bus)
 30 Memorial Day

June

7 Tallahassee I Conference
 12-13 Young Women Girl's Camp
 14 Flag Day
 Boy Scout Camp (1st week)
 21 Father's Day
 Boy Scout Camp (2nd week)
 23-27 Stake Temple Week for Concentrated Efforts
 27 Mini Youth Conference
 28 Boy Scout Camp (3rd week)

Book of Mormon: Topic of Stake Conference Messages

Tallahassee Stake Conference was held on February 21 and 22. Elder James O. Mason, Regional Representative, presided at all sessions.

The theme for the Saturday evening session was "Obtaining a Sure Witness of the Truth of the Gospel through the Book of Mormon." Daniel Bowers of Bainbridge spoke about his plans to use the Book of Mormon while on his mission. He testified that he has read the Book of Mormon and prayed as President Benson counseled and knows it is true. President Loran Anderson, First counselor in the Stake Presidency, admonished members to follow the words of Christ and the prophets. He challenged all stake members to follow the words of the prophet by reading the Book of Mormon before next Stake Conference and writing a letter to President Nicholson expressing their testimony and feelings in reading the Book of Mormon.

President Dale Dransfield, Counselor in the Florida Tallahassee Mission, spoke about the exciting growth taking place in the mission at this time. He said we need to be deeply

rooted in the gospel so that we can withstand external pressures. Elder Mason said the Church needs more missionaries. He said adult couples should be challenged to prepare for full-time missionary service when they retire. He testified of the Book of Mormon as the keystone of our religion.

Sunday's session began with President Paul Nicholson. The President thanked Stake members for all the love and support he's been given in the last six months. He said stake leaders are concerned about reverence in meetings and that there is a direct relationship between reverence and spirituality. He said that in this 200th year of the Constitution we've been admonished by the Prophet to participate in Constitutional celebrations, and he challenged members to study the Constitution and perhaps memorize the preamble.

He talked about missionaries: members should start missionary funds and young men and couples are needed. He reminded us that one reason we're here is to have problems to keep us humble and dependent on our Father in Heaven. We need to be open and tell our home teachers and priesthood leaders about our problems and get available help. We need to reach out to others and help them with their problems.

Janice Tucker told about preparing herself to use the Book of Mormon on her mission and related some experiences she has had in going out with the full-time sister missionaries.

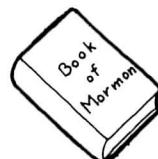
President Arnold Garr spoke on how we can have happiness in this life through virtue, uprightness, faithfulness, holiness and keeping all the commandments of God. He said the most important commandment is the one which is most difficult for one to live at this time.

President Anderson reiterated Saturday's challenge to members of the Tallahassee Stake to read the Book of Mormon by September and write a letter to the Stake President. He challenged non-members to read the Book of Mormon, too.

Sister Alice Packard, mission matron, talked about the importance of being an example on this earth and using our time wisely. She said that when we are called to return to our Heavenly Father, it will be like being called to a "come as you are party." President Floyd Packard bore his testimony of the great work going on in the mission and of the converting power of the Book of Mormon.

Brother Steven McInelly, Tallahassee Third Ward Mission Leader, was called from the congregation and bore his testimony of the Savior.

Elder Mason's closing message was that exaltation is a family affair. He said we are responsible to keep a clean and orderly home and adequately care for children. We work out our salvation within the walls of our home. Although we are released from other callings, we are not released as fathers or mothers. We should seek those treasures which last.



Sharing



This is your opportunity to share your talents with others and to develop and improve the skills you have been blessed with. Please submit your contributions to "SHARING," c/o Marion Whitley, 5084 Tallow Pt., Tallahassee, FL 32308.

Deeds

We can do a deed,
By helping those in need,
Jesus did this every day,
We can do it the same way.

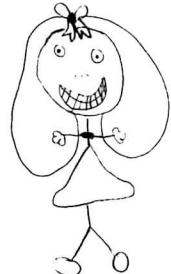
If someone falls down.
Make a smile from
the frown.

If someone falls in the
dirt,

Help them up, see if
there (sic) hurt.

Do good deeds with
a happy heart,
And you'll know your (sic)
doing your part.

by Hannah McCreless
Age 10
Tallahassee Third Ward



Kimberly Downer, age 6
Crawfordville Branch



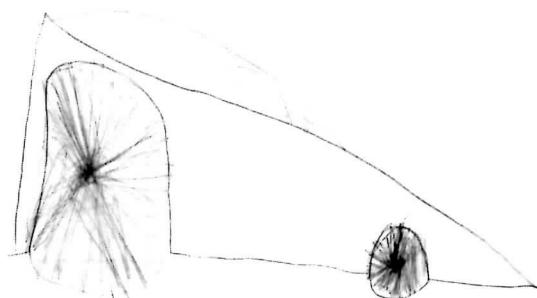
Brent Tucker, age 10
Crawfordville Branch



GUIDELINES

for submitting material to "Sharing"

- ✓ Drawings may be done in pencil, ink, chalk 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.



Shane Tucker, age 8
Crawfordville Branch



Bobby McCabe, age 7
Crawfordville Branch

DRANSFIELD, from Page 1

Vicki, 12, likes to babysit. She is the missionary of the family constantly "bothering" the neighbors! This socialite is the president of her Beehive Class. She likes to cook, sew, and do crafts. The trampoline is her domain.

Brian, 9, is usually busy entertaining his little brother but found time to earn his Bear badge in cub scouts. He recently taught his pack the skillful ways to tie knots. Baseball and basketball are his best playing sports.

Alan, 5, is a voracious movie buff and has seen the family's videos umpteen times. He goes to the FSU preschool once a week and teaches the college students a thing or two. Pound puppies are good pets but he can make He-man come alive!

The Dransfields are excited and honored by this special calling. Now that the initial excitement has died down, realistic anticipation has set in.

"We are grateful for the wonderful examples we have learned from in our lives that have helped us to develop up to this point. It is a tremendous honor to know that our name was considered and prayed about by the Brethren. And, that they received a good feeling anyway is very humbling."

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