

IT'S CHRISTMAS

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the
Stake

Not a member was stirring outside of their gate.
The bishops were happy and filled with delight
When at last all their meetings were through for the
night.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds
Anxious for Santa and his magic sled.
Excitement brimmed over in each warm household
Awaiting the morrow with treasures untold.
President Chapple retired to his cozy bed
While the whole stake in vision danced in his head.
Each branch was accounted for, and wards one and all,
And his journal now tells of the things that he saw.
The trees were all trimmed down in Apalach
In hopes that the next day would bring a good catch,
So the fish nets were hung by the chimney with care
Awaiting St. Nicholas who soon would be there.
Bainbridge is Georgia's first inland port city,
Three rivers converge and it's really quite
pretty.

In the center of town where old homes there
still last
You can pretend it's a Christmas of many years
past.

Cairo makes pickles to place on our shelves
And it keeps folks there busy, like Santa
and elves.

Cairo's "Beauties" adorned every gay
relish tray

And good food and fellowship were the
plans for the day.

A new four-wheel drive would just fit
the bill

For the rough and the rugged in yon
Crawfordville

To drive sandy roads and go down to
the Springs,

Yes! Much joy and happiness this
gift would bring.

Like the walls of great Jericho,
Madison's, too,

Aren't holding together, so
they must renew.

To be back in their chapel
by Christmas would be

A happy occasion, yes, all would agree.

In Monticello it seems that the work never ends
For the farms are well-stocked with pigs and farm
friends.

But after the chores are through for the day
There's plenty of time for all to be gay.

But, oh, funny thing, up in Moultrie we find

President Barlow and his branch keeping in mind
Some funds in the stocking for a building so new

Or, perhaps better yet, the building will do!

In Perry there's pine trees to cover the land

And the Buckeye's the mill making paper for man.

All ages of children write letters, you see,
To Santa for gifts he'll put under the tree.
The tobacco farms flourished in Old Quincy town
And one would expect they might still be around,
"But now it's poinsettias," Bishop Rudd says with
pride,

As we think of the meaning of this Christmastide.
Camellias up in Quitman they grow,
And the city is known for the beauty they show.
Dark glossy green leaves like the evergreen stay
And buds bloom just in time for this bright holiday.
In Tally we have the wards One, Two, and Three
And records go back and forth 'till settled they be,
With new faces to meet and old friends left behind
All are happy together with Christmas in mind.

The Student Ward's there for to mix and to mingle
Especially for those who still remain single,
And some will be dreaming the dream of their life
To find in their stocking a husband or wife!

The city of Thomasville has lots of roses
And summertime is a delight to our noses.

Then at Christmas the buds are asleep for a
while

But peace blooms in saints hearts and shines
forth in their smiles.

From all over the country to Valdosta folks
roam

For the Air Force takes many away from their
homes.

At Christmas they'll gather and share in
the feast

And traditions and customs of all kinds
will meet.

President Chapple could see in the Stake
all was fine

And the members good deeds for each
other did shine.

When out in the yard there arose such
a clatter

He sprang from his bed to see what
was the matter.

From the window he saw in a suit
of bright red

President Madsen who smiled as
he happily said,

"Merry Christmas, President. So glad you're awake.
I've been thinking of Christmas all over the stake.
The saints have been good and have been richly blessed.
As the light of the Savior in hearts has found rest."

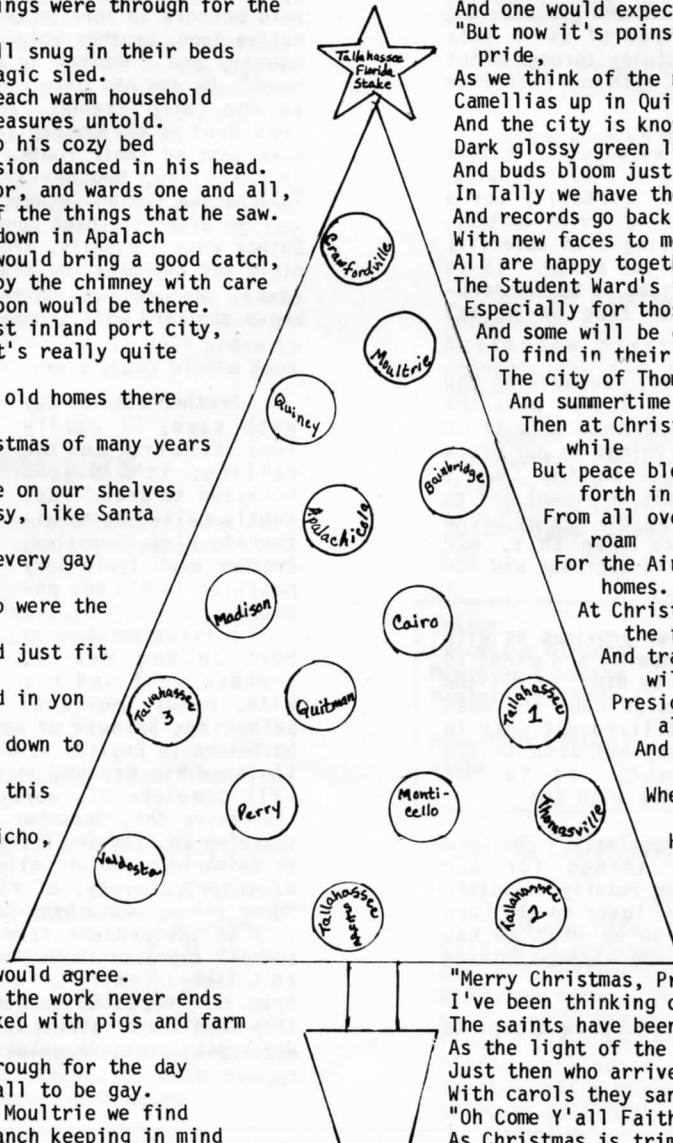
Just then who arrived but the Nicholson clan
With carols they sang as only they can.

"Oh Come Y'all Faithful" rang out in the air

As Christmas is trimmed with a true Southern flair.
President Chapple awoke and was certainly glad

For this dream all night long he apparently had.

One thought stayed in mind as he went through the day,
Christmas lives in our hearts as we follow His way.





Stake Presidency Message

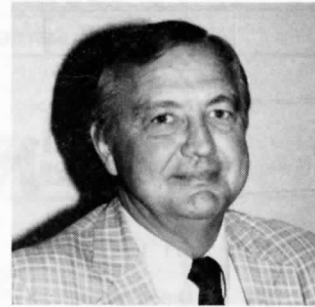
by Richard L. Chapple
Stake President

Despite the pleasant distractions of the holiday season, most of us nonetheless turn our attention to God in a special way as we contemplate the birth of Jesus Christ and those things for which we are thankful. Among our thoughts is the knowledge that we worship a God who is vitally interested in us as individuals and who is accessible to His children. We also have the knowledge that we can come closer to Him than we currently are and that growth and progress are not only possible but also required of us in this respect. Let us suggest four principles through which we can gain a closer relationship with our Father in Heaven.

1. We must know who we are. If we actually believe that we are sons and daughters of a Divine Being, that we have the blessing of mortality for a grand purpose, and that we have a divine destiny, we are better capable of dealing with adversity and profiting from being on the Earth. It is this perspective that allows us to be forward-looking and positive in the face of mortal problems.
2. We must repent when necessary. Because of the Atonement we will live again, and we have the opportunity to be justified in this life if we are willing to correct those things in our lives that are not in harmony with the Lord's teachings. The Lord invites all to repent and to come unto Him and promises us the joy of being clean and accepted. As we seek this, our confidence before the Lord will increase and our bond with Him will be stronger.
3. We must pray regularly. Prayer provides us with the opportunity to open our hearts and minds to the Lord and to be instructed by Him. Of all the things that we do, prayer is perhaps the most important. It should be utilized not only in times of joy and thanksgiving but also in the face of failure and doubt. It is the fountainhead of our relationship with God.
4. We must read the scriptures regularly. The Lord has already spoken many things for our edification and has made them readily available to all. As we study we grow closer to the Lord and desire more to do and to be what He has asked. We cannot love the Lord without loving also His word.

May it be the lot of all of us to grow closer to our God and know of His ways.

Who's Who Four New High Councilors



What makes Brother Callis Walker special in his calling is that he is "happy to be home and able to serve".

A lifetime member of the Church, Brother Cal Walker was born and raised in Tallahassee but finished his last year of high school in Cairo. He has lived in Ohio and Michigan, but mainly in California.

Upon hearing a talk given by President Kimball who said members in foreign countries should stay in their native land, Brother Walker felt "Well, I wasn't in my country and I wanted to get back to where my roots were." He and his wife Anne, Relief Society President in the Cairo Branch, and their daughter, Katie, president of the Church sorority Lambda Delta Sigma have settled their roots. Although the family lives in Cairo now, brother Walker is the "one and only" Tallahassee Zoning Technician.

An alternate high councilor assigned to visit the Quincy Ward presently, Brother Walker is also responsible for coordinating missionary work throughout the stake. He wants to do the best he possibly can and knows the Lord will strengthen him.

Brother Stanley Jay Webb says, "I really look forward to the calling; it's a good occasion to grow." Recently called as an alternate high councilor, Brother Webb feels very positive in his new position.

A lifetime member born in New Mexico, Brother Webb and his wife, Mindy, moved to Bainbridge because of employment. He received his bachelors in English at BYU, and after his mission he finished his masters at the University of Utah. He will complete his work on a Ph.D. in Comparative Literature this December. Brother Webb is currently teaching English and French and coaches a tennis team at Bainbridge Junior College. He and his wife have a daughter, Cheyney, of five years; a son, Branagan, three years; and a baby due in April.

At the present time, Brother Webb is the high council representative for the Cairo Branch. He says it's like a family affair; everyone is cordial and open. He hopes to be accessible to the members as they need him by giving them moral support and help in developing creative solutions.



IT'S CHRISTMAS

Christmas is a magic time
When all the world is bright;
It finds a place within our hearts
And fills us with delight.

The world is much more beautiful,
A richer, softer glow.
It seems that God is reaching down
To touch each soul below.



Christmas is a happiness,
A day of hope and peace,
When everyone is kind and good
And worries seem to cease.

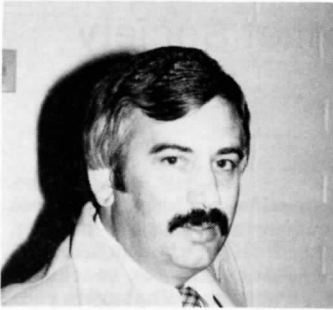
A time of love and blessedness,
Remembrance fond and dear,
A childlike faith is ours again
This precious once a year.



Let us keep Christmas beautiful
Without a thought of greed,
That it might live forevermore
To fill our every need,

That it shall not be just a day,
But last a lifetime through,
The miracle of Christmastime
That brings God close to you.

Garnett Ann Schultz



Brother McCreless, called to be an alternate high councilor in September, enjoys his new calling because it boosts his testimony to witness the gospel being taught the same in each ward and branch he visits. "It thrills me to death to be able to go around and see that the Church is the same wherever you go."

Maylon McCreless joined the Church through the efforts of his wife, Mary, and his children--six to date: Matt 12, Chris 11, Hannah 7, Hattie 4, Megan 3, and Cassie 1. Brother McCreless came to appreciate and gained a testimony of the organization of the Church when, before he became a member, his wife was stake Relief Society President and brought her husband to all the ward and branch conferences. He joined the Church in February of 1978 and he and his wife were sealed in the St. George Temple on their tenth wedding anniversary in March of 1979.

Currently assigned to the Moultrie Branch, brother McCreless also oversees the Primary in the stake and works together with the stake Primary President, Sue Williams. He is also assigned to carry certain messages from the stake presidency such as benefits from temple attendance, tithing, and tithing settlements that should be held with the bishop.

He is happy to be with the members in Moultrie and is impressed by their desire to serve and dedication to get a new chapel built. He is looking forward to working with them.

A lifetime member of the Church, born and raised in Lake City, Brother Joseph O. Durrance is the owner of Durra-Print on Gaines Street in Tallahassee. He considers his job to be a hobby which he began nine years ago.

Another love which Brother Durrance has is to meet other members of the Church and to grow from their testimonies. Brother Durrance has a chance to do this now that he was called in October to be an alternate high councilor. As the high council representative for the Madison Branch and Student Ward, he tries to focus mainly on the needs of the members and will concentrate on how to best accomplish the goals set by the stake which coincide with the mission of the Church. These include preach the gospel, perfect the saints, and redeem the dead. Also, he tries to focus on temple marriage.

Brother Durrance is blessed with a sweet wife, Connie, and seven children with one due in May. He has also served in the Air Force and has been to Korea and Viet Nam. His greatest accomplishment recently was his loss of 80 pounds in weight.



Genealogy Library Change in Hours

The new Genealogy Library hours are as follows:

Tuesday and Wednesday	8:30 - 9:00 am 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Thursday	7:00 - 9:00 pm

"Primary Is Fun"



"Primary is fun" says the new Stake Primary President. Called in September, Sister Sue Williams is very pleased and feels at home in this position. In fact, Sister Williams says she doesn't ever remember getting as excited about a calling as this one. She feels sure that it's "going to be fun."

A wife and mother of four: Kim, 16; Courtney, 14; Tiffany, 13; and Dallin, 6 ("who isn't spoiled at all"), also takes courses at FAMU in Graphic Arts. Currently taking a Lithography class, Sister Williams says she is continuing her education by keeping up her skills.

Her new calling keeps her very busy also. She is assisted by her counselors Barbara Canova and Karen Torgeson. One of their main responsibilities is to help ward and branch leaders with any problems and assignments through private counseling and also in stake leadership meetings. This past meeting held November 19th, the Primary Presidency showed a videotape entitled "Sharing Time" which dealt with ideas for that half hour time in Primary. Sharing Time is to help the children understand the lesson through dramatization, story telling, puppet shows, and songs about the subject. Sister Williams has also been busy attending such meetings as the "Priesthood Preview" on November 5th for 11 year old boys.

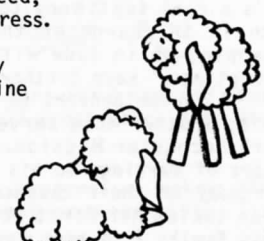
In answering the question about how her family has influenced her, Sister Williams said, "Having children of my own is all the difference in the world as far as experience and capabilities go in teaching and handling Primary children. I remember being called to teach Primary and feeling petrified of the first graders. They seemed older and more sophisticated." As her own children reached that age, she realized it was "no problem at all." At this point, Sister Williams has to work to get back into being with children of primary age. "I have to think on a different level since I have been working with adults."

One of the most important things Sister Williams would like to see happen during her time as President is a general change within the stake members' attitude toward accepting callings in Primary. Looking back at her own past callings, those she enjoyed the most have been in Primary. Not only did she enjoy it because of the children, but the people she worked with made it fun also. "It was more fun there than anywhere else, and probably most [people] don't realize that. I love it; in fact I'd rather be teaching a Primary than doing anything else. It really is fun!"

MY RESOLUTION

Into the new year I take the power
Of prayer to order my days, indeed,
My life, into a pattern of progress.

Into the new year I take the joy
Of adventuring to lift the routine
Into a challenge of increasing
Achievement.



Meet Apalachicola's

Branch President



Van Russell was called as branch president in Apalachicola in August. He succeeds James Copeland, who moved from the area with his family.

President Russell has a familiar challenge to face in Apalachicola. Several active members of their already small branch moved away and the branch is short on members. In addition to being Branch President, President Russell is also serving as Elders Quorum president. His first counselor, John Joe Buzzett, is also the branch clerk. But the spirit is not dampened, for the members know that the "Lord giveth no commandments . . . save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them" (1 Nephi 3:7). The goals of the branch lie in the areas of reactivation and missionary work.

President Russell is a lawyer by profession. He says that practicing law in Apalachicola is interesting and keeps him on his toes because there is little opportunity to specialize. While he admits to having his favorite types of cases, there is a wide range of legal needs in a small town and you just "have to be able to handle whatever the people need," he said.

President Russell is a native of North Florida, having lived in Madison and Tallahassee before moving to Apalachicola three years ago. His father was a member while President Russell was growing up. However Van had little contact with the Church during those years. President Russell was converted through the example and influence of his wife, Susan, five years ago. When not busy with Church and career, President Russell enjoys sailing and his pet bull terrier.



The Man With A Million Things To Do

Harvey Moss of the Tallahassee First Ward was called and sustained as Stake Executive Secretary at Stake Conference in September. As Brother Moss enumerated his many responsibilities, he jovially conceded that "there's just a million things." His stewardship lies in communicating messages from and scheduling appointments with the Stake President and following up on them. He also coordinates the Stake calendar, Stake magazine drive, gives the proper information (i.e. Church articles, books, etc.) to LDS military persons, and sends communications to various units.

Brother Moss is most impressed by the amount of inspiration that plays a role in leading the Church. "It's amazing to watch the brethren as they pray and receive obvious answers concerning certain matters. It's a real testimony to me that the Lord is the one who is in charge of the Stake and that President Chapple, so in tune with the Spirit, follows those promptings," says Brother Moss.

A Jewish convert to the Church baptized in May of 1978, Brother Moss served as a missionary in the New York Rochester Mission. He will be celebrating two years of marriage to his wife, Debra, and the one-year birthday of their daughter, Rachel, who was recently seen taking her first steps. Congratulations to the Moss family - in more ways than one!

Relief Society

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Everyone has problems, challenges, hopes, desires and dreams. You may be suffering from ill health, struggling with temptations, dealing with injustices, coping with frustrating relationships, or searching for answers for personal progress. Whatever your situation, the Lord wants to bless you and give you strength. As the Psalmist affirms, "the Lord is the strength of my life" (Psalm 27:1).

The theme for our women's meeting held September 24, "A Season for Strength," reminds each of us that we can stand strong through all the challenges of our lives, supported and guided by the gospel of Jesus Christ. Videotaped segments throughout the program are based on real life incidents that give perspective on how each of us can meet the problems that confront us.

General Relief Society President Barbara B. Smith spoke on developing strength in the Lord through living His principles.

General Primary President Dwan J. Young discussed the need for preparation in gospel living. The scriptures testify that when adults teach the gospel to children and serve as examples to them, the children will be strengthened and prepared to keep the commandments of their Father in Heaven.

General Young Women's President Elaine A. Cannon instructed us on agency and accountability. God gives us the gift of freedom of choice, but each of us must realize the responsibility that accompanies this great gift.

The concluding speaker was President Gordon B. Hinkley, First Counselor in the First Presidency of the Church, who spoke to every age group: older primary girls, young women in their teens, relief society women in various stages of life, and non-member friends, on being a woman today and staying close to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we viewed the special women's meeting, we were to ask ourselves these questions:

1. How can I build strength in my life through following the Lord?
2. Which principles of the gospel do I need to work on the most?
3. What strengths can I contribute to the lives of those closest to me?
4. How am I using the free agency I have been given?
5. How can I help to build the Kingdom of God?
6. How can I build the strength to stand up for my beliefs when challenged by my friends?
7. How can I help prepare children to meet the challenges of life?

A videotape of this special women's meeting is now available in our stake library. We would like to encourage the various women's auxiliaries to use this videotape in any meeting they feel would be helpful. There are also eleven discussion questions available to aid you in the use of the videotape. This would also make a very nice Family Home Evening discussion.

We wish you all a very happy holiday season! We love you all.

With love,
Cherie, Pat, Donna, Lenae
Stake Relief Society Presidency



The Stake News will be published bi-monthly beginning February 1984. Submissions can be mailed to Stake News at either 110 Dixie Dr. #C3 Tallahassee, FL 32304 or 2310 Oxford Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32304 or they can be left in the Stake News/Public Communications box in the Stake Office.

Young Men and Young Women

by Maureen Webb and Arnold Garr
Stake Young Women and Young Men Presidents

"Reach for Tomorrow" was the theme of the 1983 Priest and Laurel Conference held October 7 & 8. A dance was held Friday night with out-of-town youth staying overnight to attend the workshops Saturday morning. Those who attended were rewarded well by excellent teachers. Joe and Connie Durrance instructed the youth on how and what to plan for in the areas of finances and careers. "Dressing for Life" was the theme of the workshop by Gene and Becci Lybbert. The Young Women learned some basics of wardrobe planning and how it ties to the Church standards. Loran and Renee Anderson presented a delightful course of etiquette to the Young Men. The areas covered will help the Young Men to be better sons, missionaries, and in the future - husbands! Lincoln and Mildred Barlow gave an inspiring biography of President Spencer and Sister Camilla Kimball. They shared many experiences from the books written about the Kimballs and taught how we can apply the truths they lived. President Richard L. Chapple admonished the youth to strengthen themselves through the gospel and to live up to the expectations given them.

Lunch was prepared and served by Rex and Sandy Taylor with Joyce Martin assisting.

A special thank you to all those who helped to put this conference together. It is the willingness and dedication of the many people who taught and carried through with their assignments that make the youth programs possible.

Upcoming Events in 1984

January 7th, Saturday at 7:00 pm - Stake Standards Night for all Young Women 12-18 and their mothers.

January 28th, Saturday - Mini Youth Conference for all youth ages 14-18.

Young Women Spotlight

On October 26 the Young Women leaders in our stake were treated to a training seminar held in Marianna by Sister Linda Palmer, secretary to the General Young Woman Board in Salt Lake. Sister Palmer taught the basics of the Young Women program and answered questions on how to solve some of the problems that arise. As she bore her testimony, Sister Palmer encouraged us to be more dedicated than the adversary. A force is particularly strong against the young women in the Church. As youth leaders, parents and families, we must pull together to strengthen these young women through supporting them in the gospel and giving them spiritual rods of iron to hold fast to.

The Church is for the family. It is the vehicle we have to bring us closer to our Father in Heaven. In the coming year it is our goal to help strengthen family ties through the young women. We appreciate all the support we've received in the past year. Every hour of service has been vital to this program. We hope to have this continued support next year. May we all have a spiritual strength as we strive to live the gospel principles.

Young Women Presidency:
Maureen Webb
Diana Moser
Sue Ellen White
Jacki Stone



Institute

This semester the Institute has offered a number of courses at various times to try and meet the needs of all who have a desire to attend.

There have been two evening classes. Brother Arnold Garr teaches a Church History class on Wednesday nights and Sister Joyce Williams teaches a Doctrine and Covenants class on Thursday nights. Once in October the two classes met together for a special lesson on women in the church. Sister Williams spoke on the life of Emma Smith and Brother Garr spoke on Mormon women in the 19th century.

During the day there are also two classes. Brother Denis Roberts teaches a New Testament class on Mondays and Wednesdays at 7:00 a.m. Brother Garr also teaches an Old Testament class on the FSU campus every Tuesday and Wednesday at 12:20.

In addition, there is a monthly class for couples entitled "Achieving A Celestial Marriage." This class has had a different set of lecturers each month. President and Sister Chapple taught in September, Brother and Sister Garr in October, President and Sister Madsen in November, and President and Sister Barlow were the teachers in December.

The schedule for the spring semester will be the same as the past semester. The second half of each course will be taught. Classes will begin the week of January 9. We invite all to come.

We wish all Institute students a happy holiday season and are looking forward to seeing you at Institute next semester.

Cultural Arts Festival



by Linda Hall
Stake Cultural Arts Specialist

The Stake Cultural Arts Festival, the "Parade of Holidays," was a real FESTIVAL. Santa Claus and Uncle Sam entertained as Masters of Ceremony and they were great! (They even told a few good jokes!)

All but three units were represented with super talent. The holiday theme was carried out in the displays of arts and crafts from each unit. The Tallahassee Stake is well blessed with creative and talented members. In keeping with a holiday atmosphere, the refreshments were delightful and delicious. Each holiday was represented with food relevant to that season. The little ones also had special Halloween refreshments served "special" for them.

The Stake Activities Committee extends special thanks to all those who put so much time and effort into making this event a success!

"A Celebration Of The Family"



Drawing Contest Winners

Family Week was a real success and a lot of fun in Tallahassee this year.

Marion Whitley and President Charles H. Madsen Jr. conducted a family communications survey among college freshmen who recently left home regarding how satisfied they were in their families. One of the obvious statistics showed that fathers need to improve their verbal and physical expressions of love for their families.

Rex and Sandy Taylor chaired a Children's Drawing Contest for grades kindergarten through five in the Leon County schools. The children were given a choice to draw a family portrait or what they like to do best with their family. Nearly 2,000 entries were received and displayed at the Tallahassee and Northwood Malls.

A 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prize was awarded at each grade level. Winners received a place ribbon along with a \$10, \$30, or \$50 gift certificate donated by the Tallahassee and Northwood Malls. Fifteen honorable mentions also received ribbons. Terry Hughes, an artist at FSU and member of the Tallahassee Second Ward, participated as one of the judges along with three other professors from the art departments at FSU and FAMU.

These prizes were presented at "A Celebration of the Family," a special evening of family entertainment held Tuesday, November 22. At least 50 people were left with standing room only in the 175-chair capacity auditorium at Security First Federal. Five non-member Tallahassee families were recognized as model families in the community and a plaque presented to them. Among the recipients were Bobby Bowden and his wife, Anne, who were present to receive the recognition. This project, organized by Joyce Williams, defined certain criteria essential to good family life. Included in the criteria were such things as regular activities together, close relationship with extended family, high moral and health standards, community involvement, patriotism, and being good neighbors.

Debra Moss, assisted by Kristina Booth and Gay Griner, did a super job of planning, organizing, and directing "A Celebration of the Family." Two family

skits were presented: one by the Joe Durrance Family and one by Elsie Peddie, Patty Shaffer, and Lori Maurer and her children. Margaret and Joy Williams sang a cute family duet entitled "I Am Learning How To Spell." Jan's Puppets (marionettes) entranced the children in the audience, and a complimentary visit from Chuck E. Cheese won their hearts. "The Best of the Homefront", a series of Mormon television commercials offering family messages, concluded the program.

Gail Roberts and the First Ward Young Women took charge of the refreshments. A beautiful cake, made by Beverly Decembrino of the Quincy Ward, maintained the theme of the evening in the form of a home with graham cracker shutters and spoon-sized shredded wheat roof tiles. Popcorn and a delicious sherbet punch were also served.

Channel 6 (WCTV) was present to film a portion of the evening and Tallahassee's celebration of National Family Week made the 11 o'clock news.



THE CHIMES
by Erma Bombeck

Everything is in readiness.

The tree is trimmed. The cards taped to the doorframe. The boxes stacked in glittering disarray under the tree.

Why don't I hear chimes?

Remember the small boy who made the chimes ring in a fictional story years ago? As the legend went, the chimes would not ring unless a gift of love was placed on the altar. Kings and men of great wealth placed untold jewels on the altar, but year after year the church remained silent.

Then one Christmas Eve, a small child in a tattered coat made his way down the aisle and without anyone noticing he took off his coat and placed it on the altar. The chimes rang out joyously throughout the land to mark the unselfish giving of a small boy.

I used to hear chimes.

I heard them the year one of my sons gave me a tattered piece of construction paper on which he had crayoned two hands folded in prayer and a moving message, "OH COME HOLY SPIT!"

I heard them the year I got a shoebox that contained two baseball cards and the gum was still with them.

I heard them the Christmas they all got together and cleaned the garage.

They're gone, aren't they? The years of the lace doilies fashioned into snowflakes . . . the hands traced in plaster of paris . . . the Christmas trees of pipe cleaners . . . the thread spools that held small candles. They're gone.

The chubby hands that clumsily used up two dollars' worth of paper to wrap a cork coaster are sophisticated enough to take a number and have the gift wrapped professionally.

The childish decision of when to break the ceramic piggy bank with a hammer to spring the fifty-nine cents is now resolved by a credit card.

The muted thump of pajama-covered feet paddling down the stairs to tuck her homemade crumb scrapers beneath the tree has given way to pantyhose and fashion boots to the knee.

It'll be a good Christmas. We'll eat too much. Make a mess in the living room. Throw the warranties into the fire by mistake. Drive the dog crazy taping bows to his tail. Listen to Christmas music.

But Lord . . . what I would give to bend low and receive a gift of toothpicks and library paste and hear the chimes just one more time.

(From If Life Is a Bowl of Cherries -- What Am I Doing in the Pits?)



Chuck E. Cheese and fans



by Patrick and Helen Lightcap

Madison

The Madison Branch is alive and well. On August 5th, David and Terri Taylor hosted a branch social at the Madison KOA Campground. In spite of the occasional burst of rain the food got cooked and all the many participants had a great time of good fellowship.

September saw the beginning of early morning seminary with 100% of the eligible students registered and attending. Brother Lightcap, seminary teacher, meets daily with Richard and David Floyd and Joey and Ray J. Robinson for a continuing study of the Old Testament.

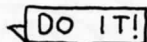
Stake conference in late September and general conference in early October saw a lot of traffic to and from Tallahassee but it's worth it. We all need to spend time with those in authority whenever possible.

It was during this time that it was learned that the branch chapel was suffering from some previously unknown construction defects. This required finding an alternate location for sacrament meeting. On October 9, the Madison Woman's Club building became the temporary meeting place for the Madison Branch. But did this hold Madison back? No!

The Madison Branch conference was held on schedule October 23. Stake leaders gathered with the locals at the Woman's Club building for training, inspiration, and fellowship. Of course, the fellowshiping included tables piled high with food. The branch conference ended in the best way possible - baptism! Greg and Keith Simmons were baptized after the conference. This completes their family with their parents having been baptized in June of this year.

Building or no building does not hold back the Madison Branch. October ended with four more baptisms on the 29th. Nina Williams and her three children, Cliff, Laura, and Angela became part of the church. You see, the Holy Spirit doesn't depend on the building. It takes members and missionaries caring about others. Thank you Sisters Griffiths and Bastian. Help us stay pumped-up. Look out Tallahassee, Madison wants to be a ward.

Student Ward



by Janice Larsen
Relief Society President

"WE DID IT!"

Sunday, November 6, was a very special day for all the sisters in the Tallahassee Student Ward. Bishop Hall honored each sister with a long-stem red carnation. The reason -- the sisters in Relief Society achieved 100 percent visiting teaching for the month of October (actually 102 percent with a couple of non-members on the routes).

Each sister was also given a small tag to wear that day that said, "We did it!" The coined phrase was in response to President Kimball's famous words "Do It!"

Our sisters felt very honored and special that day. Not only for the good feeling of doing their share in the Lord's work and fulfilling their responsibility in their calling, but also for the support they felt from the Bishop and the ward as a whole.

Moultrie



by Wendell and Shelia Ann Allegood
Public Communications Directors

The Lord continues to bless the Moultrie Branch abundantly as individual efforts are rewarded with goal attainments in several important areas for the entire congregation.

Little more than half the year had elapsed when branch convert baptism goals were tallied at 100 percent.

Then at the end of September a summer long effort by the members culminated in the attainment of a very special branch goal. That goal as set forth early this year by the branch presidency was to gain sufficient attendance to qualify for a new Phase II meetinghouse. It had been determined that the present meetinghouse, dedicated in 1955, was fast becoming inadequate for the needs of a growing branch.

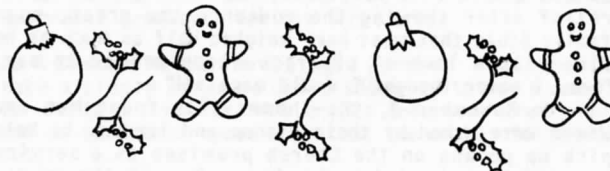
Intense effort centered on member families getting non-member relatives and friends to come to special sacrament services. A memorable sacrament program presented by the primary drew grandparents, aunts, uncles, and cousins. Maximum reactivation effort was directed to inactive members and the response was so good that when attendance figures were averaged for the 90-day period the goal had been met and surpassed.

A victory celebration was held Saturday evening October 15. The program was enhanced by a special talk given by a long-time member, Sunday School president Robert Thornton. Brother Thornton spoke of the diligence and sacrifice of those earlier Moultrie saints who established the Church in Moultrie and constructed the present meetinghouse. A special spirit enveloped those present as Brother Thornton told of the true brotherhood and sisterhood that developed among those members involved in that great effort.

Those attending were then treated to a special guided tour via video cassette. Valdosta, Georgia ward custodian Sarah Rigdon conducted the tour which featured interior and exterior shots of their combination Phase I and Phase II meetinghouse. The presentation was made possible by the generous contribution of a video camera and technical expertise by two non-member friends of branch media representative Wendell Allegood, who narrated the cassette feature.

As a conclusion to the program Branch President Lincoln Barlow outlined the building program upon which we must now embark. President Barlow solicited support and input from all members regarding the earning of funds to make that important local contribution.

The evening concluded with a dance in the branch social hall.



Please help us keep our mailing list updated! If you are not receiving the Stake News at your home or know of a member who isn't, send us the name and correct address, along with the name of the ward or branch and we will add it to our mailing list. You can also give this information to your unit Public Communications Director.

Please check with those people that you home and visit teach. It is important that our mailing list be as accurate as possible.

Thomasville

by Gary Cranford
Ward Public Communications Director

David Johnson's name has gone down in history in the short and simple annals of the Thomasville Cub Scouts. As Cubmaster for Pack 309, David taught the boys how to swim in Brother Pat Watson's pool this summer. Several sessions were held at the good grace of the Watsons, and several youth became proud achievers of such a difficult feat.

The Thomasville Beehives, Tonya Barnes, April NeSmith, and Mellony Maddi, planned an innovative service project that was also very ambitious. Following up on instructions by the Young Women's 1st Counselor, Darlene Clinkscales, these eager girls volunteered to take care of the little ones in the Relief Society nursery each Homemakeing night. This project started in September and is still continuing at the present time. Each Homemaking night, the Beehives award each child in the nursery with a "Great Kid" award, including the noisy ones. They have noticed that even the noisy children have been much more cooperative in anticipating the award. Perhaps it is true that our children really do strive to live up to our expectations.

Jonathan Cranford did such an outstanding job with a sacrament talk that it deserves mention, if for no other reason than the inspirational example it set for his peers as well as for youth and adults. Jonathan, who is a ten year-old Valiant in Primary, was asked to speak on the subject of obedience in sacrament meeting, October 16. Citing scriptures, stories, and examples from memory, he spoke all of four or five minutes without reading his prepared speech. Only a mite nervous and seemingly fearless, Jonathan delivered the speech from materials he himself had gathered and put together during the week prior to his talk. He said he had spent the week praying, but it was also equally apparent he had put a lot of work into it as well. If he will hold true to the faith and valiance demonstrated by this exceptional example, Jonathan surely is destined someday to yield a greater influence for good in the Church and Kingdom of our Father.

Sister Rhonda Smith, counselor to the Primary President, Carolyn Clanton, put together a highly effective Primary program emphasizing genealogy work in the Thomasville Ward in Sacrament meeting October 30. The children knew their parts well, and the program ran smoothly. "Grandma" Diane Parker, a Primary teacher, chatted with three "grandchildren," Kyle Johnson, Russ Covington, and Joni Smith, apart from the rest of the Primary children seated off to the side, each of whom recited in turn, while the youngest displayed heirlooms associated with their ancestry and told the audience something about them. New songs were memorized and enjoyed, such as "Genealogy I am Doing It." Including several long hours of practice, the sacrament program came to an end shortly after one of the smallest children, Trevor Smith, who is five years old, let out a great sigh of relief after showing the audience the great, huge family Bible that must have weighed half as much as he did, with a look on his face which seemed to say, "Gee, I never thought I would make it!"

On November 3, the Thomasville Young Men and Women were asked by their bishop and leaders to help pick up pecans on the Church premises as a service project that needed to be done. Two of the youth, Shawn King and Allen Clanton, showed up 30 minutes early, and some 145 pounds or more were gathered before the cookout and volleyball activity afterwards. Marilyn Cranford, Young Women president, noted that although the initial reaction to the idea was typically youthful, she observed that the youth experienced satisfaction in the project as well as in the fun later. Perhaps more of such projects might help them catch a larger vision of the labor that can be inwardly rewarding by the very nature of the sacrifice involved.

Tallahassee II & III



The Priests Quorum just a-swingin'

by Julie Denninghoff

On the evening of October 8, the Tallahassee Stake Center was the site of a very special event. The Young Men and Young Women of the Tallahassee Second and Third Wards presented a variety show called "Entertainment Through the Years." We saw everything from a peek into the fashions of the future to the lively act of the Tallahassee Second Ward Bishopric in "Trees." This was not merely a talent show, but a full-scale production complete with hors d'ouvres, sandwiches, and dessert - thank you Barbara Canova!

Some of the featured acts were: the MiaMaids with a skit featuring the Charleston of the 1920's, a trip to the Old West with the Laurels, and of course everyone enjoyed "Swingin" with the Priests (great legs Bill Canova!). Sonny Little helped us to remember some of the great musicals with a medley of Judy Garland songs, while Richard Tucker delighted us with an original composition. All in all, it was an evening of fellowship and fun. I'd be willing to bet we've got the most talent of any stake in Florida!



Stake News "Subscriptions"

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

In Fond Memory



Sister Thursa Adkisson of the Apalachicola Branch passed away at the age of 98 on Sunday, October 23, 1983.

Sister Adkisson was born in Bloxham, Florida on January of 1885. She joined the Church with her mother on January 19, 1900 at the age of 15. She married James Albert Adkisson on November 12, 1912 and they moved to Apalachicola in 1919. Brother Adkisson joined the Church in 1926 through his wife's example of devotion and strong testimony. The Adkissons had three children, one of which currently resides in Apalachicola. When Sister Adkisson lost her mate in 1931, she cut hair for 20 cents and made dresses for \$1.50 in order to pay off the mortgage.

Sister Adkisson was a mainstay of the Apalachicola Branch. Before any church meetings began in her area, she built her testimony through regular prayer and constant study of the scriptures. Sometime after they arrived in Apalachicola, the Adkissons discovered another LDS family and a home Sunday School was soon organized and held in their home for over 40 years. In March, 1958, a Relief Society was organized. Sister Adkisson was called to be the first president at the age of 73 and served in this capacity until she was 89 years old. She served as Relief Society president again at the age of 93 and was still attending the temple at the age of 96.

Sister Adkisson was an inspiration to all who knew her. She has left a wonderful heritage for her children, six grandchildren, and seven great-grandchildren. We extend our condolences to family, friends, and loved ones.

50



Golden Years



Happy 50th wedding anniversary to Jane Ellan and Thomas Walter Wood, Jr. of Cairo, Georgia.

Both Brother and Sister Wood grew up in Cairo. Brother Wood moved West and worked for a lumber company in the Sierras. He returned home to Cairo because of illness in the family, and met his bride-to-be at a baseball game he was umpiring. He returned to the West Coast and sent for Jane when he was "financially able to take on a wife," she said, "because this was during the depression." They were married on October 20, 1933 in Reno, Nevada. Only a few days after their marriage, the boarding house where they were staying burned. They lost everything they had, but were thankful to be alive.

They later moved to San Francisco and Tom worked his way up the ladder of a fine company while Jane worked for the Federal Government. The Woods entered the waters of baptism on September 5, 1959 through the influence of Sister Wood's mother who had come to live with them and had joined the Church. Their reason for looking into the Church was because they felt "there had to be something more to life than working and sleeping so one could go back to work the next day" they said. One year later on the 16th of September, 1960, they were sealed for eternity in the Los Angeles Temple.

Upon retirement, they returned to Cairo eight years ago. They never had children of their own but Sister Wood stated that she always loved working in Primary. They spend their time now caring for her sister who is in a nursing home in Tallahassee. They also attend baseball games, a love they've always shared.



Spotlight

Ten year old Chad Olson of Tallahassee Second Ward could be treading promising waters. Swimming since he was seven and a half, Chad swam in his second Junior Olympic try at Ocala this past August. Chad swam in three events: the 100 yard backstroke in which he placed fifth; the 50 yard fly, sixth place; and the 50 yard back stroke finishing third for the northern division of Florida.

Chad swims four days each week, two and a half hours a day all year round at A.T.A.C. (Area Tallahassee Aquatic Club). It is city affiliated and registration is on a quarterly basis. From the beginning Chad seemed to have a natural ability to swim, and within two years he has rapidly progressed through age group divisions and speed levels. Speed levels begin at "C time" or beginning swimmers and progress through "B time," "A time" and "AA time," which is the "qualifying time" for the Junior Olympics. Chad had a qualifying time in every event he participated in last August.

Chad's parents, Lamar and Diane Anderson, are very supportive. They have traveled with Chad to his swim meets at Columbus (Georgia), Panama City, Pensacola, St. Petersburg, Tampa, Ocala, Jacksonville, and they will go to Atlanta in December. Chad has won 5 trophies, 55 first and second place medals, and 167 ribbons. That represents a lot of races in only two years of swimming!

Keep up the good work Chad. We're proud of you!



Traditions Enrich Christmas

President Richard L. Chapple has encouraged all families to begin some family traditions, and holidays are a good time to do this. Let this holiday season sparkle for you by beginning or adding a new tradition of your own. Here is a list of four suggestions taken from the December Family Circle magazine.

Keepsake Ornament Box: Gift-wrap the top and bottom of a large box so it can be opened; cut out felt letters and glue on the name of a child; then, every year, give him a tree ornament that you make or buy. When he has his own home, he'll have a box of memorable ornaments for his first tree!

Be A Santa's Helper To A Single Parent: Volunteer to take a single parent's child shopping to buy Mommy's (or Daddy's) present. Mom or Dad gets some free time, and on Christmas opens a present she or he didn't pick out!

Homemade Family Christmas Cards: Send unique tidings by using your children's talents! Have them draw the family greeting cards or decorate the edges of your Christmas letters.

Celebrate The Birth Of Christ: One family has a tradition of baking a birthday cake on December 24 for Baby Jesus. Then, on Christmas morning before the presents are opened, they put a candle on the cake and sing happy birthday. This family tradition helps them remember the true meaning of Christmas.

Reflections Of 1983

WARD and BRANCH CONFERENCE MESSAGES

The stake leaders have traveled throughout the stake this past year and met with the members to teach them and to feel their strength and love and get to know everyone a little better. The messages delivered are worth reflecting on periodically as we strive to remember these things and use them to draw closer to our Heavenly Father.



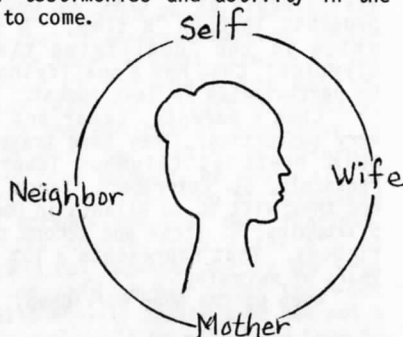
PRIMARY



The stake Primary leaders thoroughly enjoyed meeting with the children in Primary. The children are a real joy and reveal much about the quality of their weekly Primary. The stake Primary extends their thanks to all those who work in Primary and teach the gospel to these sweet spirits. This will be a foundation for their testimonies and activity in the Church in the years to come.

RELIEF

SOCIETY

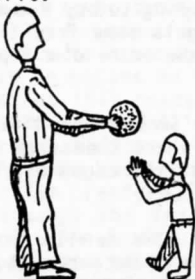


The Relief Society theme for this past year's ward and branch conferences was "The Circle of a Woman's Love" touching on a woman's varied roles as a daughter of God, a wife, a mother, and a neighbor and visiting teacher. Sisters are encouraged to continue to develop the following:

1. Take time for yourself and build your testimony
2. Be prayerful (D&C 90:24)
3. Read your scriptures
4. Be organized (D&C 88:119)
5. Build better relationships with your husband, children, and neighbors.
6. Improve your motherhood skills
7. Reach out and be of service to others.

It is in losing ourselves in service to others and the Lord that we (and our families) find true joy and happiness.

Sister Garr concludes, "We as your stake Relief Society want you to know how much we love you and care about you. We have enjoyed so much coming to your conferences this past year, and feeling of your sweet spirit."



PRIESTHOOD

President Chapple addressed the priesthood session of the conferences on the subject of fathering. The topic was chosen because of the pressures fathers face in modern society and because the

Lord has stated in the Doctrine and Covenants 29:48 "that great things may be required at the hand of their fathers." Seven points concerning fathering were reviewed:

1. We have to devote time to our wife, work, our family, ourselves, and a variety of things. The Lord gave us our time constraints so we would find the need to establish priorities. A study has shown that the average child watches television 24 hours a week while fathers spend ten to twenty minutes per week one-to-one with each child in the family. The question is posed, from the study, who is raising the children?

2. It is important to communicate with words and actions. While women tend to be better at expressing feelings, children need to hear words of feeling and love from their fathers. Fathers may make great sacrifices at work in order to be good fathers, but similar sacrifices are needed even more at home.

3. President Kimball has a sign on his desk that says, "DO IT!" Fathers need to practice "doing" more. Children are given messages when a father comes home from work and heads straight for the television, refrigerator, or newspaper without giving them any attention. A father can usually drop something he wants to do in favor of his children. Fathering means caring enough and loving enough to "do."

4. Fathering means holding meetings. Some of the most important include family prayer, family home evening (spiritual family time on Sunday and activity on Monday if schedule allows), family council (whenever it is needed), and personal interviews. Another regular "meeting" should be "date night" with one's wife.

5. Fathering means praying. Children should have the opportunity to learn to pray at their father's knee because of the patriarchal order. The father has the general responsibility to take the lead in spiritual responsibilities such as family home evening and family prayer.

6. The father must promote good attitudes and feelings in the family. Good things should be said about other people a gossip should not be allowed. Fathers are assured of eventual problems with their children if they are raised to dishonor Church leaders and other adults. President Chapple reminded the men that children are best at distinguishing the hypocrisy between what is said and done. Fathers were encouraged to teach even though they may feel that their wives are better teachers. This creates variety in teaching and an opportunity to teach about the value of mothers and women, the value of work, serving a mission, the "birds and bees" from a man's perspective, and the male's responsibility as husband and father.

7. Fathers were told they should organize their time and family so that the Church's three-fold mission (preach the gospel, perfect the saints, and redeem the dead) is working in the home. For instance, it is father's responsibility to have the children meet the missionaries to know what a mission is about and to tell the children about their ancestry to interest them in genealogy and journal keeping. Children should see their fathers writing the tithing check, reading the scriptures, praying, and going to the temple. The family should be taught why we have the Church and what it should do for us.



Conference
is a
time for
fellowship...





In the combined Priesthood/Relief Society session, President Madsen discussed testimony. A testimony is developed through a series of steps beginning with some interest and motivation. Desire follows, and must be nourished with study and prayer. One begins to believe and hope that it is true, and as they act on that belief they develop faith. Faith then becomes knowledge as the Spirit bears witness to them. This is the most certain type of knowledge.

A testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ consists of certain specific elements that should be included each time we bear our testimonies.

1. God the Father lives and is literally the father of our spirits.
2. Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world.
3. The Church is divine and is the vehicle by which families are exalted through the patriarchal order. The Church contains the priesthood authority of God.
4. There are living modern-day prophets. Joseph Smith was a prophet.
5. The Book of Mormon is true and is the only book of scripture that contains the fullness of the Gospel.

The following items are not components of a testimony:

1. Thankamony - while it is fine to mention certain blessings that have strengthened our testimonies, they should not be the basis of what we say.
2. Cryamony - we should strive for emotional control. However, we should not refuse to bear our testimonies if we can't do it without crying; rather we should practice until we can achieve this goal. Watch our leaders and follow their example.
3. Preachamony - if we have a message we want to deliver, we should wait until called upon to do so by our bishop/branch president in Sacrament meeting.
4. Historiamony - while temple trips and other such experiences are faith-promoting, the details are not part of a testimony.
5. Familyamony - families help build and support testimonies, but they are not what a testimony is made of.
6. Confessimony - bearing testimony is not a time to confess our sins; this should be done privately.

It is fine to mention these things while bearing our testimonies, but they should never be said in place of, or as the main part of our testimony. May we keep these ideas in mind as we contemplate and bear our testimonies.

YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN

The stake Young Men presidency has enjoyed meeting with the youth at ward and branch conferences during the past year. During priesthood meeting the stake leaders spoke to the Aaronic Priesthood Young Men about morality. President Madsen talked about sexual morality and the importance of youth keeping themselves clean and pure. Then the filmstrip "The Very Key" was shown wherein Elder Boyd K. Packer talks to the youth about moral cleanliness. Following the film, a member of the stake Young Men presidency spoke to the youth about morality in general and the importance of keeping one's thoughts clean.

In the past year, the stake Young Women presidency has also met at ward/branch conferences



with the young women. "How to be Morally Clean" has been the theme of their message. The young women also saw the filmstrip "The Very Key," followed by a discussion about moral issues. The girls discussed such Church standards as proper dating, dancing, and dressing. At the close of the class each girl was presented with a white rose, symbolizing purity. The girls were encouraged to look for gospel teachings to strengthen them in avoiding the influences around them. The stake young women presidency said, "It has been fun to get to know all of the girls personally!"

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During Sunday school the Aaronic Priesthood meets with the Young Women and they hear each member of the stake presidency speak. President Madsen leads a panel discussion on LDS youth and their relationship with their fellowman, especially geared to make the youth aware of problems with peer-pressure, popularity and Church standards. President Nicholson spoke to the youth about their relationship with their parents, and President Chapple discussed how they could improve their relationship with their Heavenly Father.



... a time for learning ...

President Nicholson opened the adult Sunday School with a discussion about commitment.

Whate'er thou art
Act well thy part

As members of the Church of Jesus Christ, we need to act our part well. This requires commitment and sometimes a change of attitude. Many times when accepting a calling we say "I'll try," or "I'll do the best I can," but in so doing we have given ourselves a built-in excuse for failure. We need to follow the example of the general who wanted his men to reply "It shall be done!" for then he knew they were committed to the task.

Elder Marvin J. Ashton of the Council of the Twelve spoke at the October General Conference of a boy who fell out of bed, and when asked why, he replied, "I guess I wasn't in far enough." Sometimes we fall out of the Church because we aren't in far enough. We aren't really committed to living the principles. Joan of Arc, when being burned at the stake for her beliefs and commitments, expressed that it is better to die believing in something than to denounce your beliefs and go through life without believing in something. Abe Lincoln was told to be something, not somebody.

Let us commit to lofty goals, for if we cannot pay our tithing, we will never be able to live the law of consecration. If we can't make it to Church meetings, we will never make it to the celestial



kingdom. May we concentrate on these short-term goals so that the long-term goals will fall into place.

True commitment is to keep the most important commandment, to "love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matthew 22:37.)



President Chapple addressed some specifics regarding prayer from the general standpoint of what, when, and how.

The following counsel was given on when to pray. Alma 37:37 enjoins us to pray morning and night, and promises that by so doing we will be lifted up at the last day. Ether 2:14 says that the brother or Jared was chastened for three hours by the Lord for not praying. Morning prayer seems to be the hardest for most of us, so perhaps we should establish a "trigger," such as arising from bed or sitting down to breakfast, as a reminder to pray.

Many people question whether or not to bless their food in a restaurant or when traveling. Several solutions are possible and one should choose something with which he would be comfortable.

It is important to us to pray in time of need, but if we pray only in time of need, the Lord may be slow to hearken. Unfortunately, when in transgression, prayer is one of the first things to fall by the wayside because we do not feel worthy, and it is on those occasions that we need communication with the Lord most. We have been counseled to "pray always," which means we should have a prayer in our heart or an attitude of prayer at all times.

How we pray is also important. While praying in bed is not inappropriate, we may nonetheless fall asleep before our discussion with the Lord is complete. Kneeling conveys more reverence and enables us to better keep our mind on prayer. Whenever possible we should pray vocally since this also keeps our minds better focused and not wandering. These are some reasons that we have been asked to pray in "our closets."

"Thee, thou, thy, and thine" are an intimate form of language and should be used rather than the words you, your, and yours when we speak to our Heavenly Father. It is not proper to close a talk or testimony "in the name of thy son Jesus Christ" because we are not talking to Heavenly Father but to the congregation. It has been suggested that we close talks, testimonies and prayers by simply saying "in the name of Jesus Christ" to avoid confusion.

We have received much counsel on what to pray for. The Lord knows our needs and has promised that His spirit will direct what we say. The scriptures add some sobering counsel to pray for that "which is right," (3 Nephi 18:20) and James cautions us that sometimes "ye ask and receive not, because ye ask amiss." (James 4:3.)

It is wise to consider two relationships when we pray: the relationship between thanking and asking and the relationship between praying for ourselves and for others. Many times we find ourselves delivering only a "wish list" in our prayers, whereas we should thank the Lord first and thank Him for more than we request. The dedicatory prayers of temples are excellent examples of this. If we are primarily concerned about praying for ourselves, we have an improper focus. In praying for others, our families should be foremost.

We have also been counseled specifically to pray that the hearts of the leaders of nations will be softened so that the gospel may be taught in all lands. And while we pray for far-away lands, we must also remember our own county, neighborhood, and family. We have also been counseled to pray that genealogical records may be gathered throughout the world. Most of the work in the temple comes from this process of name extraction.

We should pray for our Church leaders. While most of us remember President Kimball, our bishop or branch president needs our prayers more than any other. Our stake leaders and general authorities would all appreciate our prayers in their behalf too.

The Lord is concerned with our temporal as well as our spiritual welfare. The scriptures talk of praying over "fields and flocks," and this we may translate as our jobs, our gardens, our homes, and all of our temporal affairs.

Perhaps most important is that we ask for the Spirit to be with us throughout the day when we pray in the morning so that we will have guidance and strength to meet whatever comes our way.

President Madsen concluded the Sunday School portion of the conference with a talk on temple ordinances.

The highest ordinance of the gospel is the endowment in which men and women participate equally. In this ordinance we are endowed with the knowledge necessary to pass by the angels and with the power to be exalted; therefore, it is necessary for exaltation.

In the endowment we make certain covenants with Heavenly Father. A covenant is like a two-way contract whereby we are blessed as we fulfill our part of the agreement. However, a covenant always implies that one is of greater power and that we are never out of debt to Heavenly Father. The endowment contains covenants made with our Father in Heaven which include basic principles of the Gospel, among them those of sacrifice, obedience, chastity, and consecration.

The sacrament meeting talks were geared to the needs of each ward and branch individually. The Stake Presidency offered words of commendation for the progress that has been made in each unit and encouragement to press forward and do even better. They reminded everyone that we are an elect people with a divine heritage.

May we each understand the application that these messages have for us and review them often so that we may measure our progress and benefit from the resulting blessings.



... and
a time for
good food!

Bishop's Corner

by Donald M. Whitley, II
Bishop, Tallahassee Third Ward

As November comes in and fall begins to leave we enter into the holiday season. When we think of Thanksgiving and Christmas our thoughts usually drift back to those of the past where we had such great joy and good times. Important memories we can cherish all our lives and that never can be taken away often fill our minds. For some, the memories are more of what was received (especially children -- I remember a pillow I received when quite small) and others, perhaps what was given and the expressions of love and warmth that followed. Also each year, we listen as we are cautioned to remember the true meaning of each holiday -- our history of the pilgrims and their search for religious freedom which led them to seek out a new place to live; the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ, without whom we could not return to live with our Heavenly Father.

Indeed, we have so much to be thankful for that perhaps we should give that which is most important to us to others during this special season. This is a time to share with your family and friends the joy and happiness one finds in the gospel. Don't be shy, for we are in a special giving season. Remember your own beautiful feelings as you received confirmation through the Holy Ghost as to the truthfulness of the gospel and those feelings at baptism. Helping someone obtain the gospel would be a tremendous Christmas gift. "And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!" (D&C 18:16.)

Now, my dear brothers and sisters, I hope and pray that each of us will take it upon ourselves to make this a special season of giving that gift which brings more eternal joy than any other, our testimonies of the truthfulness of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A PRAYER AT CHRISTMAS

What does a little one really see
In the fairyland of a Christmas tree
That makes big eyes shine with delight
When lights are low and the fireplace bright?
Is it angels flying there in space
Or the smile on a gingerbread man's face...
Or tinsel sparkling, all aglow,
Like diamonds shining in the snow...
Or the star so high in the lovely tree
It is almost hidden from one so wee?

I pray as I hold her that someday in part
Christ will be Christmas in her tiny heart...

George L. Ehrman



The Story Behind

A Christmas Fairy Tale



Dr. Clement C. Moore, author of this Christmas fairy tale to which we are referring, was a scholarly man and of a scholarly family. It is said of him that he "skipped his boyhood, grew to manhood, and nobody ever called him 'Clem.'" Dr. Moore became Professor of Biblical Learning at General Theological Seminary in New York and learned many languages.

In 1809, he wrote a book entitled A Compendious Lexicon of the Hebrew Language. It wasn't exactly a best seller, but was in keeping with his fine reputation.

Then Dr. Moore became full Professor of Oriental and Greek Literature.

In 1813, at the age of 35, Dr. Moore married. Eventually, the Moores had children of their own. For the first time in his life, the professor could descend from his intellectual stratosphere and explore with them the wonderland of make-believe.

It was one day when in play, he told his children a wonderful fairy tale. It was a story told in verse about an old German handyman who worked for the Moores. The hired man was the model for the hero of his fiction. The trouble came when Dr. Moore put his story in writing.

One day the daughter of a rector was visiting, saw the poem, and asked for a copy. It isn't clear whether or not Dr. Moore consented, but he certainly expected her to maintain the privacy of his little family joke. But she didn't.

She sent the poem anonymously to the Troy Sentinel, and the newspaper published it. The Sentinel's story was quickly copied elsewhere and repeatedly. What had been intended as a little private bedtime story was printed with no explanation. Dr. Moore, fuming and fussing, hoped that nobody -- especially his associates at the seminary -- ever found out.

Dr. Moore preserved his dignity with cautious silence for 15 years. Then in 1829, the Troy Sentinel discovered his identity. He threatened suit if they named him, so they merely printed his humorous pretense with an explanation "In response to many inquiries the Sentinel wishes to state that this poem was written by a gentleman who belongs by birth and residence to the city of New York and that he is a gentleman of (more) merit as a scholar"

Dr. Moore could not let this fantasy be publicly associated with his distinguished name, to bring discredit upon all his truly fine writings.

In 1837, when the New York Book of Poetry was published, this verse was included. It was a year later before he ever owned up to it.

And so it is that this man who wrote a verse for his children is today enshrined in the hearts of all children. Dr. Clement Clarke Moore, for all the works of which he was most proud, is remembered for the one whimsical verse which embarrassed him. Forgotten is his Compendious Lexicon. Remembered is the verse which he wrote for his children, "Twas the Night Before Christmas."

(This story was adapted from a story by Paul Harvey)



Below are a few clever ideas for wrapping your Christmas gifts, large and small (most taken from the December Woman's Day magazine).

A seashell -- itself a present -- makes the perfect "box" for a small tissue-wrapped gift. Tie with a ribbon.

Continued on Page 15



KEEPING CHRISTMAS

It is a good thing to observe Christmas day.
 The mere marking of times and seasons, when men agree to stop work
 and make merry together, is a wise and wholesome custom.
 It helps one to feel the supremacy of the common life over the individual life.
 It reminds a man to set his own little watch, now and then,
 by the great clock of humanity which runs on sun time.

But there is a better thing than the observance of Christmas day,
 and that is keeping Christmas.

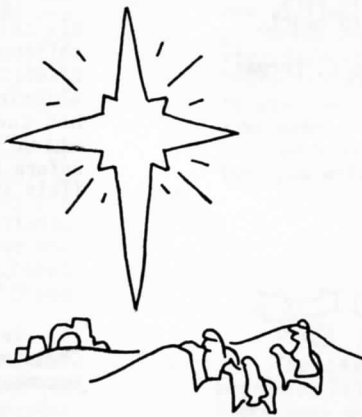
Are you willing to forget what you have done for other people,
 and to remember what other people have done for you;
 to ignore what the world owes you, and to think what you owe the world;
 to put your rights in the background, and your duties in the middle distance,
 and your chances to do a little more than your duty in the foreground;
 to see that your fellowmen are just as real as you are,
 and try to look behind their faces to their hearts hungry for joy;
 to close your book of complaints against the management of the universe,
 and look around you for a place where you can sow a few seeds of happiness--
 are you willing to do these things even for a day?
 Then you can keep Christmas.

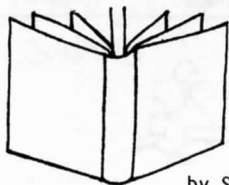
Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and the desires of little children;
 to remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old;
 to stop asking how much your friends love you,
 and ask yourself whether you love them enough;
 to bear in mind the things that other people have to bear in their hearts;
 to try to understand what those who live in the same house with you really want,
 without waiting for them to tell you;
 to trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke,
 and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;
 to make a grave for your ugly thoughts and a garden for your kindly feelings,
 with the gate open--
 are you willing to do these things even for a day?
 Then you can keep Christmas.

Are you willing to believe that love is the strongest thing in the world--
 stronger than hate, stronger than evil, stronger than death--
 and that the blessed life which began in Bethlehem nineteen hundred years ago
 is the image and brightness of the Eternal Love?
 Then you can keep Christmas,

And if you can keep it for a day, why not always?
 But you can never keep it alone.

Henry van Dyke





BOOK REVIEW

by Suzanne Meik
Seventies Bookstore Representative

Have you been wondering what to read lately? The Seventies Bookstore has many new books on its shelves -- books about games, novels, raising children, improving your marriage, and LDS history. For those of you who bought The Girl's Book, a Girl's Journal (filler) is now available. When one journal is complete, it can be taken out and replaced with another.

From Clergy to Convert, compiled by Stephen Gibson, (\$5.95), has proven to be a popular book. It contains 14 first-person accounts of the conversions of former ministers, priests, nuns and monks.

Mormons and Muslims, edited by Spencer J. Palmer, (\$12.95), is another new book, which is the eighth volume in the BYU Religious Studies Center Monograph Series, explores parallels, similarities and contrasts between the LDS Church and the Muslim faith.

Those of you who read Janet Cox's novel, Summergreen, will be glad to hear she has written another novel, Valley of Fire, (\$6.95), taking place in St. George, Utah.

Mark E. Petersen has written another book in his series about ancient prophets. This new one is entitled Alma and Abinadi, (\$6.95). It will prove to be a good supplement to everyone's study of the Book of Mormon.

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who were baptized in our Stake in August, September and October:

Madison: Gregory Simmons, Michael Simmons, Angela Williams, Clifford Williams, Laura Williams

Quincy: Suebrina Manspeaker

Tallahassee First: Jeri Terry

Tallahassee Student: Montunrayo and Olurotimi Fadiora, John C. Ledbetter IV

Thomasville: Sandra Gregg, Owen Maddi Jr., Tammy Maddi

Valdosta: Malinda Moore, Jimmy Striplin

GIFT WRAPPING IDEAS (from Page 13)

Wrap huge cartons with newspaper, then embellish with felt-tip pen or designs stamped on with sponges cut in holiday shapes and brushed with paint.

Light up a bicycle with multicolored bulbs, weaving the wires around wheels and handlebars to create a glowing effect.

Another idea for a bicycle is to wrap it in a decorated paper tablecloth.

If it's big and lumpy -- say, a chair, luggage or guitar -- bag it, bow it, festoon with tinsel. Plastic garbage bags come white, green, black.



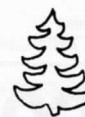
Calendar

December

- 18 Family Devotional Satellite Broadcast
Single Adult Fireside
- 31 Stake New Year's Eve Dance

January 1984

- 1 New Year's Day
- 5 Special Satellite Broadcast
(Investigator Fireside)
- 7 Young Women Standards Night 7:00 pm
- 28 Young Men/Young Women Mini Youth Conference
- 29 Husband/Wife Satellite Broadcast



Missionary Calls...

The last quarter found the following members called in the service of the Lord as full-time missionaries.

Elder Gregory Carroll (Tallahassee III)
Texas Houston (Spanish)

Elder Richard Martin (Tallahassee III)
Utah Salt Lake City South

...and Releases

Brother Mark Barnes from the **Thomasville Ward** was released as a full-time missionary in the **Netherlands Amsterdam Mission**. We welcome him home and congratulate him for his faithful and honorable service.

Oops! We forgot to include **Troy Mohrman** of the **Tallahassee II Ward** in a previous newsletter. He was released March 4, 1983 as a full-time missionary where he served a faithful and honorable mission in the **Switzerland Geneva Mission**. Troy is now attending BYU.

Editor	President Richard L. Chapple
Executive Director	President Charles H. Madsen Jr.
Managing Director	Charles King
Managing Editors	Earl Childers
	Joanne Childers
Executive Editor	Renee Mongillo
Staff	Sheri Dove
	Terry Trent

Thanks to Laura Allen and Phil King for their artwork!

The new rates for advertising in the **Stake News** will be as follows: **"Newsletter Sponsors"** (back of the newsletter - including typesetting) \$10 per block/per issue. Those who advertise all six issues will only be charged \$50. **"Classifieds"** - \$1.00 for first 3 lines and 50 cents for each additional line. Please mail business card, or words on paper with check to STAKE NEWS, 2310 Oxford Rd. Tallahassee, FL 32304 or call (904) 575-2117.

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