

## Genealogy Library: Key To The Past

The Stake Genealogy Library is hidden between the drinking fountain and the meetinghouse library, but don't let its size fool you. We would need an extra wing to the Stake Center if all the information was contained in bound volumes rather than microfilm.

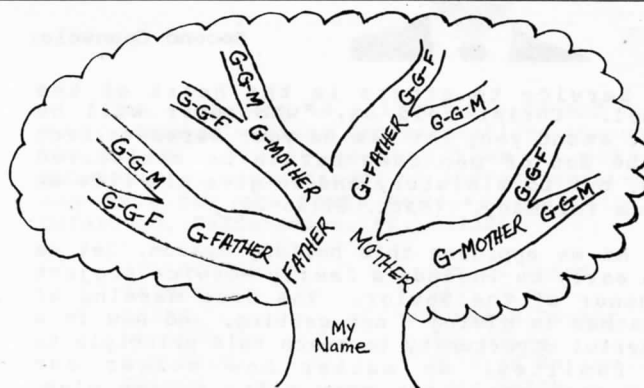
Our Branch Genealogical Library Number 297, one of over 500 in the world, is a branch of the Church's main Genealogical Library in Salt Lake City. The library provides help of two kinds: first, research materials located in the library itself and, secondly, access to the enormous amount of information on file at the Salt Lake Genealogical Society.

On the bookshelves one will find "how to do genealogy" text books, reference books concerning the South, cemetery records, and regional marriage records. Also of interest is a complete set of "Wiregrass Pioneers" by Judge Folks Huxford, which is a compilation of biographical sketches of early settlers in South Georgia. Our library has the 1850 U.S. Census Indices for most of the Southeast, as well as New York and Pennsylvania. U.S. Census films for 1790-1880 and 1900 can be ordered from the main library in Salt Lake City.

The International Genealogical Index (IGI), is also available. This index includes the names of deceased individuals whose temple work has been completed, either from individual submission or the name extraction program. The time span is from 1500 to 1980, and there are entries from all over the world. Not surprisingly, this information takes up 5,542 sheets of microfiche. The IGI is a permanent part of our Stake library and is constantly being expanded as reasearch and temple work continue.

To use the IGI, a researcher must know the individual's name and place of birth. The IGI itself provides information such as the date of birth and parents' names. In addition, it will refer the researcher to the original authenticating document, such as census records or a will, and this information can then be ordered from the main library in Salt Lake City. If the name had been submitted by a church member, the researcher may be able to discover someone else who is interested in the same ancestral line.

The name extraction program mentioned above is not actually a part of our library, but is a process of extracting information from microfilmed parish registers of christenings and marriages. This information is sent to Salt



Lake where it is computerized and comes back to all branches of the genealogical library system as part of the IGI. Our Stake extractors are currently working on records from Mexico.

The library has three microfilm (roll film) and two microfiche (sheet film) machines. Use of these readers is limited to 30 minutes when people are waiting. The Church is gradually converting to all microfiche because it is more efficient and contains more information in less space.

Library hours and workers are as follows:

Tuesday:	8:30am-noon	Lorine Lahtinen Doug Rusmissett
	5:30pm-9:00pm	Stella Herring Johnnie Helms
Wednesday:	8:30am-noon	Lorine Lahtinen Carol Bliss
	6:00pm-9:00pm	Lorine Lahtinen Doug Rusmissett

An average of eight to ten patrons, about 90 percent of which are non-LDS, use the library each time it is open. Our Library Director, Lorine Lahtinen, and the other workers are very helpful and most anxious to do so. Doug Rusmissett is a non-member who is working to be a certified genealogist through the BYU Home Study Program. He spends a good deal of time in the library and has volunteered his help.

Sister Lahtinen also opens the library during Stake leadership meetings held quarterly on Saturdays. This is an excellent opportunity for members from outlying areas, especially genealogy teachers, to travel with those attending the leadership meeting and spend some time in the library. The library is closed on Sundays since it is being used by Stake extractors.

For information you can call (904) 224-6431 during library hours, or after 6:00 pm (except Wed.) Sister Lahtinen can be reached at (904) 878-5087. The mailing address is:

Lorine Lahtinen  
BGL 297  
P.O. Box 6687  
Tallahassee, Fl. 32301

# Stake Presidency Message



by

**Paul Nicholson****Second Counselor**

Service to others is the heart of the gospel. Christ told us, "whosoever will be great among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life as ransom for many." (Matt. 20:26-28)

As we approach this holiday season, let us plan early to include a family service project in honor of the Savior. The true meaning of Christmas is giving - not getting, and now is a wonderful opportunity to teach this principle to our families. No matter how meager our resources, there are many gifts we can give. For instance: the gifts of companionship to the lonely and love and caring to the elderly, hope to the depressed, comfort to those that mourn, a visit to the shut-ins, a surprise for a friend, and love to everyone. One of my family's choicest experiences was the Christmas we decided to go caroling to a few friends and relatives, most elderly or shut-in. Even though we sang off-key, they really appreciated our efforts because it came from the heart. You don't have to sing well to spread joy by singing to someone! All these things are within our power to give, and cost nothing but time. The greatest gift we can give to anyone is the gift of ourselves.

Our Heavenly Father has been so generous with us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." (John 3:16) "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Rom. 6:23) Although this is the greatest of all the gifts our Heavenly Father has given us, it can't be fully received and enjoyed in the flesh. Nephi wrote that the Holy Ghost, "is the gift of God unto all those that diligently seek Him. For he that seeketh shall find: and the mysteries of God will be unfolded to them by the power of the Holy Ghost." (1 Nephi 10:17,19)

Our Heavenly Father has given us so much, and if we are to become like Him we must learn to give also. Take the opportunity this holiday season to teach your family the joy of giving as well as receiving. If you start early and plan, you can teach what the Savior tried to tell us when He said,

"For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in:

Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:35-40)

## Where Does Your Contribution Go?

### Tithing and Donations

☐ Cash ☐ Check

Name (last, first, middle): Use same spelling on all your donation slips

Address		Date
		19
1	Tithing	\$
2	Fast offering	
3	Budget	
4	Building	
5	Welfare	
6	Missionary	
7	Other:	
Total		\$

WHITE—Place with donation in envelope. Give only to member of bishopric or branch presidency.

YELLOW—Keep for your own records. PFCL0523 10/81 Printed in USA

by Sue Morgan

Have you ever wondered how the contributions we make to the Church are distributed? Have you ever felt that you would like to make an additional contribution, but didn't because you weren't sure which category to put it under? Or perhaps you chose to spread your meager earnings over several categories because you weren't sure where it was needed most.

Below is a general description of how funds are used in each of the categories listed on the donation slip.

① Under the law of tithing, the Lord asks that we return to Him one-tenth of the increase He has provided for us. This money is sent to Church headquarters in Salt Lake City to be distributed Church-wide as needed. It is used for the construction of Church buildings such as chapels, temples, and schools, and for their maintenance and upkeep, including salaries for custodians. It provides the necessary funds for Church administration, the Church Educational System (including Seminary and Institute), and the support of mission presidents. It is the general operating fund of the Church.

② The money collected from fast offerings is used to meet the immediate cash needs, such as housing, utilities, and medical expenses, of those determined in need by their bishop or branch president. Any excess at the ward or branch level is forwarded to the stake, and excess at the stake level is sent to Salt Lake. The cash flows in an opposite direction when there is a deficit.

③ Funds received from budget contributions are used locally. They cover ward/branch expenses such as utilities, postage, books, supplies, and social activities. Each unit is also assessed a certain amount by the Stake to meet its similar expenses.

④ Local contributions for the construction of new buildings must equal 4 percent of the total. The remaining 96 percent is paid by the Church through tithing.

⑤ Each stake is assessed a certain amount to be raised for the welfare fund. This, in turn, is broken down into ward and branch welfare assessments met by individuals' contributions. While this money is sent to Salt Lake, it ultimately returns to this area in the form of

maintenance of the Bishop's Storehouse in Jacksonville. Even though the nearest Storehouse is in Jacksonville, goods are sent over on a regular basis to meet the needs of our Stake.

Welfare assistance differs from fast offering in that the assistance is provided in commodity rather than cash. In either case, however, the recipient earns the assistance by working on an assignment.

⑥ Missionary contributions are used for the support of missionaries from our Stake who need assistance. Any excess is forwarded to the general missionary fund of the Church.

⑦ The "Other" category is provided for individuals to designate money for any special reason, such as the temple construction fund.

Tithing and fast offering are obligations we have as members of the Church, and President Kimball has urged us to be honest and generous in these areas. Other than tithing, contributions are determined in a personal interview during tithing settlement. They are voluntary and made according to the needs of the ward or branch and according to our ability to do so. For instance, a ward may have several missionaries serving at one time and need missionary contributions to support them. Or, in preparation for a new chapel, donations to the building fund are needed to raise the 4 percent required locally.

Our contributions assist in the building of the Lord's Kingdom and provide an opportunity for us to help and serve one another. They teach us to be unselfish. We must participate with a willing heart; then, like the widow who "cast in all that she had," (Mark 12:41-44) the Lord will bless us abundantly.

## Primary



The annual Tallahassee Stake Priesthood Preview was held November 6, 1982 in honor of the eleven-year-old boys preparing to receive the priesthood. During this meeting, the boys learned about the authority and power line of the priesthood from Young Men's President, Jim Dame. President Paul Nicholson spoke on the fundamentals of the priesthood and the important role it plays in these young men's lives. The boys were quizzed by President Charles Madsen while learning about the ordinances and blessings that come through the priesthood. He encouraged them to stand worthy at all times so they may honor the priesthood of God.

### Priesthood Preview Honoraries

Madison	Tallahassee II
LaMar Dransfield	John Barfield
Tony Floyd	Andy Cranford
Shawn Robinson	Michael Gray
	Matt McCreless
Tallahassee I	Scott McDermid
Keith Davis	
Michael Poppell	Valdosta
Billy Roberts	Joey Dubose
	Chris Maxwell
Thomasville	Jeff Maxwell
Dennis Maxey	Jared Walker
Shane Roberts	

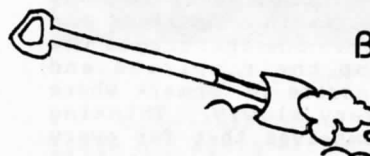
The past year has brought new growth to the Primaries in our Stake. Our children are truly blessed with loving, kind leaders. We, too,

have grown stronger through our association with you. The foundation is being laid for the leaders of tomorrow through the selfless sacrifice of these Primary workers.

We send our love and best wishes to all this holiday season!



Maureen Webb - President  
Janice Smith - First Counselor  
Karen Lunt - Second Counselor  
Debra Moss - Secretary  
Jo Blanton - Blazer Leader



## Breaking Ground in Cairo

A visit to the Cairo Branch is quite an experience in many ways. Upon arrival, one would not recognize their meetinghouse as a church, and would surely miss it if they didn't know what to look for. On the corner of 3rd St. SE and 2nd Ave. SE stands a small, white, wooden house across from the family and children services center. The Cairo Saints have been meeting there for about 2 years. Only last winter did they secure some space heaters to take the chill off during the cold months.

But there is another type of warmth felt as you enter the door - a warmth that touches the soul. The rooms are small, but clean and neat, and pictures that remind you of life's most precious things adorn the walls. You will undoubtedly be greeted with a smile and a handshake, or an arm around your shoulder. Your Priesthood, Relief Society, and Sunday School meetings may be enhanced by the overheard tones of Primary children singing. During Sacrament Meeting, the members overflow into two or three rooms and may not even see the speakers unless they are perched in a doorway. Hymns are accompanied by a small table-top organ, which recently replaced the old piano.

It only goes to show you that it doesn't take a beautiful building with comfortable bench seats and plenty of classrooms to enjoy the Spirit of the Lord. Verily, verily, I say unto you, as I said unto my disciples, where two or three are gathered together in my name, ... behold, there will I be in the midst of them - even so am I in the midst of you. (D&C 6:32)

On Saturday, November 13, Charles Butler, Sr. had the privilege of breaking ground for the new Cairo chapel. Brother Butler was the first Branch President of the Cairo Branch, which was formed in December, 1946. A division forming the Thomasville Branch in January 1966 took many members away and the Cairo Branch was later closed. Members traveled to Thomasville, Moultrie, and Tallahassee to attend church. In March of 1979, the Cairo Branch was re-established. Land for the chapel was purchased in the late 1950's, and the members have waited patiently all these years for this special day. Construction will begin soon, and completion is expected early in 1983.

President Larry Brock reminds us all that a new building will not make him a better branch president, nor any of the officers and teachers better in their callings. It still takes our individual obedience and willingness to serve our Heavenly Father as He desires in order to find happiness and success. But perhaps they will be more comfortable in their labors and proud of the accomplishments they have made.



# Elder Maxwell Visits, Counsels Missionaries

Recently, missionaries from throughout the Florida Tallahassee Mission met for a special conference in the Tallahassee chapel. The guests that afternoon were Sister Colleen and Elder Neal A. Maxwell, of the Quorum of the Twelve. Although they addressed the missionaries specifically, their messages have application for us all.

Sister Colleen Maxwell spoke of "a gospel of love" and pointed out we could help so many people, as Christ did, by taking the light and love of the gospel to them. She encouraged the missionaries to keep up their spirits and related a story of missionaries in Denmark where the Church is growing very slowly. Thinking positively, they tell themselves that for every door they knock on, someone is baptized in Mexico! She reaffirmed that as the missionaries develop in righteousness they will be blessed in their work. Sister Maxwell spoke of her great love for the Lord and for the missionaries. She told them of the comfort she felt in knowing her husband loved her, their family, and the Lord so much. She expressed her gratitude to know President Kimball and emphasized the importance of heeding the counsel of a living prophet.

Neal A. Maxwell was excited to be with the missionaries and told them how special the mission president and his wife are. He talked of the signs of the times, reporting that a Stake is being formed behind the Iron Curtain in Freiburg, East Germany and how Brigham Young's prophecy of temples throughout the world is coming to pass. He told of a student in Peking, where religious faith is discouraged, who knew that the Bible and Book of Mormon were true and asked what he was to do next, illustrating that people are prepared by the Lord long before a

Latter-day Saint meets them. He counseled the missionaries to make what is left of their time count, for 18 months would be just an afternoon in their lives which would pass very quickly. He promised them that the more they worked the happier they would be.

He told the missionaries that they must have a reverence for those they meet. He was grateful a missionary had the courage to speak to his dad and invite him to Church. He said the Lord takes people out of the crowd of life because he has a work for them to do. Elder Maxwell said that even though the missionaries could not know what effect they were having, they were part of a great work and a worldwide link (Alma 29:8). We should not be upset or discouraged by those who reject the gospel message, but we must keep our poise and spiritual balance (Acts 28:24). We should not be embarrassed that we know more than we can express for the Lord's spirit will do the transmitting for us, not our intellectual prowess. We should help people identify the feeling of the spirit. Elder Maxwell counseled the missionaries to be "sweetly bold" - in their own style without any contention. Investigators deserve the missionaries' best and need and expect to see them as servants of the Lord.

Elder Maxwell reassured the missionaries that this is where they are supposed to be, that their work goes to both sides of the veil, and that no other human effort is so everlastingly important. He concluded by reminding everyone that it is no accident that Jesus Christ's name was put on this Church and encouraged all to keep their perspective of this work. He closed with a blessing upon the missionaries that they would do well in sharing the gospel.



## Monticello Branch

Welcome to Rhedda Paisley McKown, born September 27 to Tommy and Ginger McKown! Rhedda was the first baby blessed in the Branch since it was organized over three years ago. Brother McKown also had the privilege of baptizing his daughter Rhonda Marya on October 10th.

The Monticello Branch held a swimming social September 3 at the home of Jim and Judy Abbott. Grilled hamburgers and a hayride were also enjoyed.

The Relief Society hosted a "survival dinner" on October 10. The entire menu consisted of foods prepared out of food storage, and some were as much as fifteen years old!

A Halloween costume party was sponsored by the Primary on October 29. Games, dinner and lots of fun were enjoyed by all.

The Stake is producing a pocket-size Stake calendar which will be available for purchase in your ward or branch around the middle of December. (They make great stocking stuffers!)



## Temple Missionary Returns

by Vickie Lockmiller



Sister Ruth Moody, of Quitman, has returned from a mission at the Washington D.C. Temple. Sister Moody served a year and worked in all areas of the temple. She said that she enjoyed everything, "but the place I enjoyed most was the brides' area. Sometimes we would only have two or three brides and sometimes we would have 25 or 30. And they were so lovely and excited! They were a joy to work with."

While on her mission, Sister Moody lived in Church housing about a mile from the temple. She shared an apartment with two other sisters.

Sister Moody worked in the temple from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Saturdays she had an opportunity to do baptisms or endowments. In her free time Sister Moody was able to do some traveling. Maine, Pennsylvania, and Maryland were some of the states she saw. One trip that was especially enjoyable was a trip to Palmyra, New York where she visited the sights of early Church history. Sister Moody described this mission as the most rewarding experience of her life.

The family of John Clayton Davis would like to thank all those who remembered them in their time of sorrow.

## Using Her Talents



Anna NeSmith

by Vickie Lockmiller

If you attend the Thomasville Ward adult Sunday School class, you are apt to see an array of elaborate visual aides. These, as well as many covers for the Sunday bulletin and posters that dot the hall bulletin boards, are the creations of Sister Anna NeSmith. This art work has earned her the reputation of official ward poster maker.

Sister NeSmith has been a member of the Church for six years, but has been an artist much longer. She says, "Ever since I can remember, I've drawn. I was lucky. I had a mother who made me draw." She painted a panther on their living room wall.

Sister NeSmith's fame extends beyond the ward boundaries. At work she is the official in-house cartoonist. Sister NeSmith works as a medical technologist for a local doctor. Her water color cartoons cover the refrigerator, all available cabinet space, the walls, and some doors in the office. While patients are waiting for lab work to be done, the displayed artwork gives them something to read and look at.

Another talent she has is painting on clothes. She uses acrylics to paint ducks, birds and other animals on shirt sleeves, collars, shirts, and bags. Her creations are washable.

She also draws her own greeting cards. It would not be unusual for many sisters in the ward to receive a hand-drawn card or cartoon in the mail. This is one unique way Sister NeSmith has of touching others lives, including those she visit teaches. Everyone can respond to a cartoon.

Recently, an article was published in the Thomasville Times-Enterprise about Sister NeSmith's artistic abilities. Since the article, she has started her own small business - "Custom Arts and Crafts" in Thomasville. If someone wants a shirt or skirt painted, Sister NeSmith can do it. She has decided to expand her talents and will have items on display at the Deep South Arts and Crafts Festival in May. Sister NeSmith said that something she has always done for fun has now snowballed into a business adventure for her good.

Cartoon by Anna NeSmith



## Tallahassee II



by Colleen Porter  
Ward Public Communications Representative

The Boy Scouts are big news in Tallahassee Second Ward. The scouting year got off to a great start this fall with a Merit Badge Skill Award Workshop and Mother-Scout Breakfast. Scout Jeff Klotfelter gave an inspiring talk on "The Importance of Mothers." Following the meal, scouts and moms attended classes on subjects ranging from drafting to law.

In October, the scouts had a campout at Florida Caverns near Marianna. The 14 boys and their leaders arrived late Friday night and so were subjected to one of the most challenging tests in all scouting: putting up their tents in the dark. The next day they enjoyed a trip through the elegant rock formations of the caverns, a hike through the surrounding countryside, and a swim in a spring head. The water was described as "the coldest in Florida" by Scoutmaster Bill Canova, who was thrown in headfirst by his rowdy charges.

Boy Scouting is more than just tying knots. The wide variety of learning experiences is exemplified by a recent event: the troop competition in extemporaneous speaking. Each boy stood before the troop and was given a topic. The scout then gave a one-minute talk without any preparation. The winner was Fred Williams, who was given the subject, "A Rug." Robbie Cloud and Ben Torgeson were runners up. Brother Canova was proud of all the scouts. "None of them were bashful and all of them did well, especially considering the subjects were difficult--except for one, which was 'girls!'"

In November the scouts participated in the Big Bend District Camporee where they competed in a variety of contests of their scouting skills.



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The children of Second Ward Primary know that being on time makes smiling faces. Children arriving promptly have their hands stamped with a smiling face, and percentages for each class are tallied. The children of the Valiant A class were the leaders in October.

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The Young Women's Presidency for the Second Ward has been reorganized. Laura Gregory is President, with counselors Diane Anderson and Marti Monti.



The Stake Christmas play will be performed in Thomasville Ward December 10 at 8:00 p.m. and in the Tallahassee Stake Center December 11 at 8:00 p.m. The play will be preceded by a dinner, only on December 10, at 7:00 p.m. On December 11 the play will be preceded at 7:00 p.m. by the singing of Christmas carols. The play, "Star of Wonder," was written by Fred Woolverton and is directed by Marilyn Cranford, both of Thomasville.



## Valdosta Ward

by Brenda Courson

Ward Public Communications Representative



### The Father and Son Outing

(or Daddy, Doesn't the Hook Hurt the Worms?)

October 29, 1982, at approximately 5:00 pm, the parking lot at the Valdosta Ward became a hive of activity. Yes! Once again, those brave, stouthearted fathers and eager young sons were gathered for a Father and Son Outing, headed up by none other than Gordon Walker and Carl Henderson.

After bedrolls, tents, fishing poles, canoes, and all members of the party were packed into the car and trucks, off they went - with only one stop to retrieve a cup of forgotten worms. Upon arrival, the group was greeted with the smell of BBQ chicken, and the chief chef was Brother Henderson. As he slaved away, others prepared the campsite.

The chow was received with hearty approval, as empty plates testified. Then it was time to try their luck with the trickiest game of all - fishing. The boys' and dads' efforts reaped a large harvest of 17 extra-large catfish!

Saturday morning dawned to greet the campers with a great breakfast - "fritters," eggs, bacon, and Brother Henderson's special dish, "Northern Grits" (Cream of Wheat). After breakfast, the Valdosta and Quitman groups engaged in a quick-paced game of football. At the end, Valdosta was down by one touchdown, (but there's always next time!).

To cool off after the "Big Game," some of the braver boys entered the depths of the Alapaha River. (There were unconfirmed reports of icicles seen hanging from some noses!) Once the swimmers thawed out, the canoes were launched. Everyone got in and safely made their way down the wild river, except for one minor accident: Brother Henderson seemed to somehow mistake the correct way to sit down in the canoe and he ended up sitting in the river!

At journey's end, the group unpacked and once again settled down for a great meal: fresh catfish, french fries, hot dogs and hamburgers. Then, as with all good things, there had to be an end; so the tired, sandy, group of fathers and sons packed it in and headed for home, each one feeling a lot of love for one another. That's what makes it a great success!

Thanks to all who gave their time and energy to make a memory happen!

**The Valdosta Ward Halloween Party**  
(or Bishop Spivey Makes a Great Papa Smurf)



Once again, this reporter was made aware of some spooky goings on at the Valdosta Ward. When I arrived, it was truly a gruesome sight! But since it was our annual Halloween party, I wasn't too surprised to see a variety of ghosts, goblins, and various, assorted trick or treaters all making their way into the multi-purpose room for a real monster get-together.

I was elected as the DJ in charge of music, and boy! was the place hopping! Creatures of all sorts roamed around. There was a queen bee

and her baby bees (Rhonda Gordon). Then Raggety Ann and Andy joined the gala event (Raynetta and Orrin Hill). Smurfs abounded - Papa and Mama Smurf (Thurston and Mary Spivey), Baby Smurf (Jana), and Young Son Smurf (Curtis). There was Farmer Groover Hackney and Combat Nurse Betty Hackney, who, by the way, really tripped the light fantastic with their dancing. Doctor and Nurse (Bruce and Debbie Oyston) had their young son Amos (he made a beautiful patient). I saw E.T.'s, gypsies cowboys, little green people, vampires, and a host of others. The Virginia Reel and square dancing were great fun.

The cookies were delicious! (I sampled several of each, so I speak from first-hand experience.) The building was decorated to a "T" and a good time was had by all.

I would like to give special mention to Sister Cindy Shearman for her work and time in getting everything planned and for the decorations. Special thanks, too, to our wonderful Relief Society for the yummy goodies!

For those who weren't able to come, we hope you will attend the Church functions as often as you can. It's great fun and a wonderful way to have fellowship and get to know other folks!



Cynthia Baird

## Spotlight

by Colleen Porter

Eighteen years ago Cynthia Baird found a copy of "A Marvelous Work and A Wonder" in the Florida State University Library. She was so excited by its message that she kept the book well past its due date. About the same time, her husband brought home a copy of the Book of Mormon, and a little while later some missionaries happened to stop by. Soon Cynthia was baptized.

At that time, Sister Baird was a young wife, the mother of two little children, and a student at FSU. Today she is still happily married and a grandmother. She is living in Tallahassee and attends Tallahassee Second Ward. "I have never gotten over the 'Oh, wow!' feeling at the time of my conversion," she says. "The Gospel has made such a difference; it is the center of my life."

Sister Baird radiates cheerfulness and competence as she goes about her Church callings as visiting teacher and Relief Society chorister. You might never guess she is legally blind.

When she was 16, Sister Baird developed a retinal disease. While she cannot see what is in front of her, she does have some peripheral vision. The disease has its ebbs and tides: she was able to drive a car until 1968, but about the time she gave birth to her second child she was totally sightless for seven months.

Sister Baird was born in Jacksonville. She graduated from FSU with a degree in special education for the visually disabled. After





staying home with her children when they were little, Cynthia was unable to find a steady job in her field, and so considered other employment possibilities. "If other blind people can be secretaries, I could too," she decided, and for a few years she was one of two legally blind secretaries at FSU.

About a year ago Cynthia was blessed with a new job as a teacher for the State Department of Education, Division of Blind Services, where her training and experience are used helping blind people. She works with people ages 1 to 92 throughout a ten county area from Chattahoochee to Live Oak to Apalachicola. Her job is to help sightless individuals become as self-sufficient as possible, teaching them a wide spectrum of essential skills. These "activities of daily living skills" include lessons in grooming, cooking, sewing, and those skills that a sighted person takes for granted everyday. Cynthia also counsels parents of the visually impaired and helps to organize parent support groups with legislators, doctors, and other professionals in the field as guest speakers. Currently, she is trying to reorganize an adult education class for the visually impaired. The subjects will include "activities for daily living skills," crafts, writing, braille, use of the abacus, and an opportunity to exchange ideas about visual impairment. In addition to everything else, Cynthia talks to groups in the community about how to better assist the visually impaired.

Cynthia Baird was one of two employees chosen in the State of Florida from the Division of Blind Services as an exemplary handicapped employee. President Reagan endorsed October as "Hire the Handicapped" month and Governor Graham asked that a search be made for someone who was handicapped that had made a significant contribution to the lives of handicapped people. Ralph Turlington, Commissioner of Education, made the selections.

Cynthia takes most pride in her children. Her son, Edwin, is currently serving in the Colorado Denver Mission and daughter Lisa is a new mother. Lisa's husband, Alvin Morse, recently joined the Church and they are the parents of three-month-old James Henry.

Cynthia has had a life of rich activity in the Church, despite her visual impairment. She served as a teacher several times. Once, a manual had prohibitively small print, but one of the sisters in the ward read it to her. "A handicapped person will let you know if they can't handle a calling or assignment," Cynthia says. "But they need to serve, and there is something everyone can do."

Sister Baird's experience holds lessons for both the handicapped and their Church leaders. Sister Baird says that the Church organization is very supportive. Church headquarters has a department for the aid of the sightless, where legally blind members can obtain "Talking Book" versions of Relief Society or Priesthood Manuals and the Ensign, all at no cost.

Cynthia is frequently embarrassed at thinking one person is somebody else when she meets them in the hall at Church. Perhaps the hardest thing she has had to endure as a blind Church member is wanting people to understand without pitying. Yet Cynthia Baird is philosophical about her limitations, and discovering the Gospel has given her perspective. "Before I came here (to earth) I probably knew what it was going to be like. I want to be a good sport about it. I want Heavenly Father to be proud of me."



## Labor of Love

by Pat and Conrad Futch

Congratulations! The Tallahassee Florida Stake has again exceeded its yearly Washington temple goals. A special thanks to all who support our temple excursions. The following Saints attended the October excursion:

Tura Lea Buzzett (Apalachicola); William Wasdin, and Retha Blanton (Crawfordville); Leo Fagley (Monticello); Lucille Barber and Iwan Teare (Quincy); Donnie, Gail and Amy Dunn, Marion and William Harvey (Moultrie); Ruth Moody (Quitman); Elsie and Mark Peddie, and Callis Walker (Tallahassee I); Evelyn Cranford, Laura Downer, Conrad Futch, Stella Herring, John Maynard, Sharon West, and Fred Williams (Tallahassee II); Mary Ann Helms and Jean Koenig (Tallahassee Student); Barbara and Carlton Crum, Mae Dollar, Elizabeth Harden, Carmen Watson, and Frances Woolverton (Thomasville); Melba Henderson and Thurston Spivey (Valdosta).

Dennis Prescott, of the Student Ward, and Cheryl Dulaney were married for time and all eternity during the temple trip. Temple trips are special to the Prescotts; they met on one in 1980.

From the days of Adam to the present, whenever the Lord has had His people on earth, temples and temple ordinances have been a crowning feature of their worship.

This summer we will have a new temple in our area that will be more accessible to all the worthy members in the Stake. In the meantime, we have two excursions scheduled for the Washington temple; January 23-30 and May 15-21, 1983. We look forward to your usual support on these two trips.

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Here are a few suggestions from Sister West of Tallahassee Second Ward on making the trip more comfortable:

1. Collapsible arm rests to alleviate back bruises.
2. Leg port holes out the sides for stretching the feet while sleeping.
3. A back window to see where you've been since you can't see where you're going OR a complete redesign of the bus which would make the bus three lanes wide so that all could have front row seats.



## A Look At Books

by Suzanne Meik  
Seventies Bookstore Representative

Beginning in January, 1983, the Gospel Doctrine class will study the New Testament. There are some new books available in the Seventies Bookstore that will supplement this study.

Even As I Am, by Neal A. Maxwell, Deseret Book, \$6.95.

After the triumph of the atonement and resurrection, when he had become fully perfected, Jesus Christ proclaimed: "What manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am."

In this perceptive and moving exploration of the Saviour's personality, Elder Neal A. Maxwell of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, takes up the challenge.

Attribute by attribute he examines all the qualities of the Saviour that lead us to perfection.

Even As I Am is an outstanding portrait of Jesus Christ written for all who love the Saviour and all who want to know him better.

Horizontal Harmony of the Four Gospels, by Thomas M. Mumford, Deseret Book, abt. \$5.95.

This book is not only a cross reference listing of similar scriptural passages from the four Gospels but a reproduction of those passages in convenient parallel columns for easy reading and reference. This volume will be a useful aid for both New Testament scholar and student.

The Four Gospels as One, by David H. Yarn, Deseret Book, abt. \$6.95.

This book is an arrangement of the Gospels in a single narrative form. First published by Harper Brothers, it now incorporates the Joseph Smith Translation and 3 Nephi from the Book of Mormon to provide a much fuller account of the ministry of Christ.

A Companion to Your Study of the New Testament: the Four Gospels, by Daniel H. Ludlow, Deseret Book, abt. \$8.95.

Written specifically to be used with the Latter-day Saint edition of the King James Version of the Bible, this book provides background and commentary for nearly every verse of the four gospels. Well-known for his excellence as a religion teacher at Brigham Young University, Dr. Ludlow supplements his own insights into the four gospels with hundreds of quotations from General Authorities of the Church. He also includes a section containing definitions of difficult terms, to make understanding the gospels as easy as possible.

With the course of study in the Church turning to The New Testament in January, these books would be excellent gifts this Christmas season and in the coming year.



## Traditions Enrich Christmas

by Marion Whitley  
Tallahassee II Social Relations Teacher



Nowhere else in the world is Christmas observed with a greater variety of customs and traditions than the United States. Our Christmas heritage is a composite of the whole world.

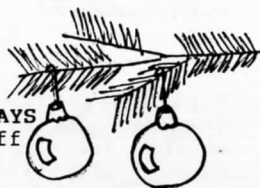
From Germany we received what is now our national symbol, the Christmas tree; from Austria, the beautiful carol "Silent Night;" and Saint Nicholas came to us from Holland. Our Santa Claus, the joyous symbol of gift giving, was given form in 1863 when Thomas Nast drew a picture from the description given in Clement Moore's "The Night Before Christmas."

As elsewhere in the world, Christmas in millions of American homes is essentially a feast of the heart and hearth. Within the confines of the family circle, the spirit of Christmas glows and shines in celebration of the birthday of the Christ Child. Grandma's recipes for cookies and cakes are cherished and shared. The sentiment linked with ornaments treasured from year to year is akin to that shared by people the world over.

Here are some ideas of traditions that you may find interesting and fun to include in your own holiday celebration.

- invite a special family to break a pinata filled with candy and gifts
- draw names for filling the Santa Socks
- sing carols for friends and neighbors when you deliver goodies
- make or select a new ornament each year for each child, to be given to them when they marry and leave home
- special candies, cut-out cookies, ginger bread houses
- child's hand-print wrapping paper using tempera paints
- birthday party for Jesus
- love and service coupons
- special family home evening with singing, stories, program, yule log, reading of Nativity (tape this home evening and send it to friends and relatives)
- "light seeing" through city or neighborhood
- secretly giving gifts to families on the 12 days of Christmas
- acting out the Nativity
- opening gifts one person at a time which makes it last nearly the whole day with time out for a special breakfast or lunch
- have children place a token or strip of paper in a box each time they perform a service or act of kindness; wrap the box and place it under the tree as a gift to Jesus on His birthday
- "progressive" caroling - as you carol at each neighbor's home, invite them to join you and afterwards, you can serve refreshments at your home
- tell your family history on the tree by making an ornament each year representing the family's most special event that year (i.e. birth of a new baby, family vacation, etc.)

Be creative - allow yourself to be a bit "crazy." One sister decorates every room in her house, including the bathroom, each having it's own tree! The joy and good times of the holiday season keep us going 'til spring comes!





Family traditions unite the family and create fond memories of the past. They can give a child a sense of identity and belonging. They are things to anticipate and depend upon, consistencies in an often inconsistent world. Traditions established in every Latter-day Saint home should include the teaching of gospel principles. They can build happy memories, and gospel-oriented memories can help shape good character.

Take time to remind yourself how nice it is to live in a country where you can celebrate a religious holiday, when in fact there are so many people living in this world who aren't allowed to do that. Remember how nice it is to be loved and to be able to show your love to those around you.

Christmas is a special holiday that has deep significance for Latter-day Saints. This Christmas, commit yourself to start a new tradition for your family, continue an old tradition, and discover the joy that comes from celebrating the Savior's birth.

## NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who were baptized in the Tallahassee Stake in September and October:

**Apalachicola Branch:** Clifford Dykes, Jr.  
James Joyner

**Crawfordville Branch:** Ronald Nasworth

**Perry Branch:** Clifton Beach

**Tallahassee I Ward:** Kenneth White

**Tallahassee II Ward:** Fred Gill, Jr.

**Tallahassee Student Ward:** Janet Smith  
Elizabeth Wirfel



## Calendar

### December

- 10 Stake Christmas Play, 7:00 p.m., in Thomasville
- 11 Stake Christmas Play, 7:00 p.m., in Tallahassee
- 25 Christmas
- 31 Stake New Year's Eve Dance and Breakfast

### January

- 1 Stake New Year's Breakfast Continued
- 1 1983
- 15 Mini-Youth Conference
- 22 Priesthood Leadership Meetings  
Stake Auxiliary Meetings
- 23 Temple Trip
- 29 Stake Quartet Festival
- 30 Stake S.A. Fireside, Institute, 7:30



### February

- 11 Stake S.A. Dance
- 12 Stake Marrieds Seminar, 1:00 p.m.
- 18 Stake Y.M. and Y.W. Dance
- 19 Stake Basketball tournament
- 26-27 Stake Conference
- 27 Stake S.A. Fireside, 7:30 p.m.

### March

- 11 Gold and Green Ball, 8:00 p.m.
- 13 Student Ward Conference
- 20 Quincy Ward Conference
- 26 Priesthood Leadership Meetings  
Stake Auxiliary Meetings
- 27 Monticello Branch Conference

## Missionary Releases

Brothers Mike Greenberg and Roger Gorge, both from the Tallahassee Student Ward, were recently released from the Ecuador Quito and Venezuela Caracas Missions respectively. We congratulate them for their faithful and honorable service.

The following is a list of ward and branch Public Communications Representatives throughout the Stake. Please contact them to make any submissions, suggestions, or address updates you may have for the Stake News, or mail to 2310 Oxford Rd, Tallahassee, Fl., 32304.

APALACHICOLA	Eunice Dykes
BAINBRIDGE	Bill Grant
CAIRO	Douglas Taylor
MADISON	Jay Goldy
MOULTRIE	Mildred Barlow
QUINCY	Iwan Teare
TALLAHASSEE I	Carol Bliss
TALLAHASSEE II	Colleen Porter
THOMASVILLE	Bill Clanton
VALDOSTA	Brenda Courson



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Beginning in 1983, the Stake News will be published quarterly instead of bimonthly. Issues will be mailed about the 1st of the month in March, June, September, and December. The deadline for the next issue is **February 13**.

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### Stake News Staff

<b>Editor</b>	Pres. Richard Chapple
<b>Executive Director</b>	Pres. Charles Madsen, Jr.
<b>Managing Director</b>	Max Sweat
<b>Managing Editors</b>	Earl Childers
	Joanne Childers
<b>Staff</b>	Brenda Bryant
	Vickie Lockmiller
	Sue Morgan
	Colleen Porter

Our thanks to **Lauretta Garrett** for the artwork she provided for the newsletter.

## CLASSIFIEDS

**"Reach A Child With A Song"** - contact Suzanne Meik, (Brite Music Rep.). Children's songbooks, tapes, records, by Janeen Brady. (904) 386-6791.

**Absolute Carpet Cleaning** - combines best of shampoo and steam. Call Max Sweat for a free estimate. (904) 575-1881.

**Piano Lessons** available at FSU School of Music. Former music student seeks students. Contact Phil King (Student Ward).

**Experienced Piano Teacher** - lessons available; **Sewing** - women's & children's clothes, men's shirts, dolls, minor alterations. Contact Gayle Hardee (904) 576-2661.



# Relief Society Sisters & Young Women

are cordially invited to

## Brunch with Camilla

featuring

The Florida Premier showing of the new movie  
*"The Life of Camilla Eyring Kimball"*

Saturday, January 8, 1983, 11:00 am  
Tallahassee Stake Center

Special Guest: Dr. Ruth Brasher, Associate Dean,  
BYU College of Family, Home & Social Sciences

*Benefit for Camilla E. Kimball Chair, BYU*

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ADMISSION BY TICKET ONLY

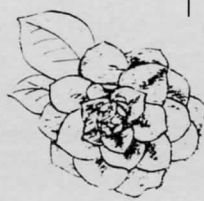
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Please admit  
Sister



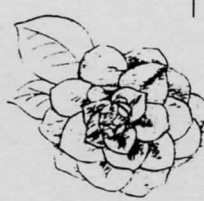
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11:00 am - Stake Center

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