

Patriarchs and Blessings

A CALLING AS A PATRIARCH

"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some evangelists." (Eph. 4:11)

"An evangelist is a patriarch," the Prophet [Joseph Smith] said. "Whenever the Church of Christ is established in the earth, there should be a patriarch for the benefit of the posterity of the saints, as it was with Jacob in giving his patriarchal blessing unto his sons." (Mormon Doctrine, p. 241)

Stake patriarchs are chosen according to the revelation found in D&C 107:39.

"It is the duty of the Twelve, in all large branches of the Church, to ordain evangelical ministers, as they shall be designated unto them by revelation."

When the stake president receives inspiration that an individual should be called as patriarch, it is discussed as a presidency with prayer and fasting. When confirmation of their decision is received through prayer, the individual is recommended to the Council of the Twelve for approval. They, too, "must study it out in [their] minds; then [they] must ask me if it be right. . ." (D&C 9:8). Upon approval, a stake patriarch must be given at least three months to spiritually prepare for his calling.

It is significant to note that this office in the priesthood was listed right after apostles and prophets (see Eph. 4:11). When under the inspiration of their calling in the Church, evangelists, or patriarchs, are prophets, for they know by personal revelation that Jesus Christ is the Son of God and are then in a position to gain other revelations, including those which foretell future events and facts regarding an individual's life revealed during a patriarchal blessing.

Patriarchs are also high priests. Their special assignment is to give patriarchal blessings to members of the Church, but they can also perform any duty of a high priest, seventy, elder, or holder of the Aaronic Priesthood.

WHAT IS A PATRIARCHAL BLESSING

"The First Presidency (David O. McKay, Stephen L. Richards, J. Reuben Clark, Jr.), in a letter to all stake presidents, dated June 28, 1957, gave the following definition and explanation: 'Patriarchal blessings contemplate an inspired declaration of the lineage of the recipient, and also where so moved upon by the Spirit, an inspired and prophetic statement of the life mission of the recipient, together with such blessings, cautions, and admonitions as the patriarch may be prompted to give for the accomplishment of such life's mission, it being always made clear that the realization of all promised blessings is conditioned upon faithfulness to the gospel of our Lord, whose servant the patriarch is. All such blessings are recorded and generally only one such blessing should be adequate for each person's life. The sacred nature of the patriarchal blessing must of necessity urge all patriarchs to most earnest solicitation of divine guidance for their prophetic utterances and superior

OUR NEW PATRIARCH

In his opening remarks at the recent stake conference, our newly called stake patriarch said, "I have had many callings in the Church, as many of you know, but this is the most awesome calling I have ever had."



Lincoln Barlow was born in Crossland, Georgia (near Moultrie) while many of us probably cheered him on from our pre-mortal existence. He met his lovely wife, Mildred (also a native of the Moultrie area), on a blind date; they were married in 1939, joined the Church together in 1942 in Moultrie, and were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple in 1947. The Barlows have five living children -- 3 sons and 2 daughters -- and 26 grandchildren.

Most of us in the stake are acquainted with Brother Barlow. For 41 years he has honorably carried the title of "president." He was called as the first branch president in Moultrie in 1944, and has also served as branch president in Quitman and as a counselor to 6 mission presidents and 2 stake presidents, including President Chapple. After his most recent release as Moultrie branch president in June, he was called to teach the Valiant class in Primary, a choice new experience for him.

Brother Barlow is small in stature but has an enormous heart and a tremendous love for the Savior and all mankind. He insists he wasn't always this way, however. Two things he determined to do many years ago were to love everybody, as our Savior would, and to be obedient. Those who know Brother Barlow can testify that he has been successful in developing these attributes.

Brother Barlow expressed that as "president" in various capacities, he always felt close enough to the Savior to be able to handle anything. He said that perhaps the most "awesome" thing about this calling is the need for constant inspiration. He feels the Lord gave him this calling to prompt him to "get back" to that close relationship.

But to Brother Barlow, faith without works is dead. One step he has taken to improve this relationship is in his work at Riverside Manufacturing Company (makers of industrial uniforms). One of his duties there is to measure material. Over the years, Brother Barlow has acquired the ability to approximate the measurements with a high degree of accuracy. Since being called as patriarch, he more heavily feels the importance of honesty in all dealings and now carefully measures each piece of fabric.

Sister Barlow, who has always been a supportive wife, will serve as secretary to her husband in his calling as patriarch.

The Barlows look forward to serving a temple mission sometime after their retirement next year.

Stake Presidency Message



by
W. Paul Nicholson
Second Counselor

Appreciate and Understand the Sacrifice of the Savior

Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world. He came not to save just a few, but all that could be saved of every nation and people. He is the God of the dead as well as the living. Of these things the scriptures very clearly testify. This is His church and bears His name "The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints". How could that be stated any clearer. "The Church" means the only Church that he recognizes as His.

Stake conference was so refreshing, being centered around the atonement of the Savior, and how through this atonement, mercy and justice could be satisfied and the laws of heaven not be bent even the least bit for the forgiveness of our sins. The opportunity to attend stake conference is a blessing that should be taken advantage of. The talks, the spirit, the opportunity to see old friends again was something that should not be missed. I think everyone went away having been uplifted in spirit and more dedicated to living the gospel. I know that I personally enjoyed it immensely.

Many comments were made after conference of the need for more talks, more classes, more discussions and more understanding of the Savior's death, the atonement and the resurrection. It is because of those sacrifices that salvation, eternal life, and exaltation are possible for us. We have not, nor could we ever have had the power or ability to do for ourselves what the Savior did for us.

This great Church bears His name; we call ourselves saints and christians. We have entered the waters of baptism, a symbol of His death and resurrection. Let us continue on by having a clear understanding of what its importance is, not only to take advantage of it ourselves, but so we can proclaim it to all the world with confidence and zeal!



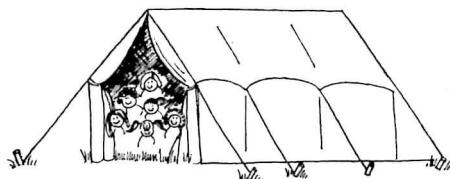
Genealogy Computer Fair

The Branch Genealogical Library will host a Genealogical Computer Fair January 18, 1986 from 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. at the Tallahassee Stake Center.

It would be appreciated if those who are now putting their genealogy on computer would share their experience and knowledge with the library.

Please contact the genealogy library by mail at P.O. Box 6687, Tallahassee, Florida 32301 or call Sister Laura Byington at (904) 575-9104 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Young Women



by Teresa Bliss
Young Women Secretary

Girl's Camp -- Superchallenge 1985

We had an absolute blast at Girl's Camp this year (August 13-16). There wasn't a single person who attended Girl's Camp who did not come home without a special experience and some certain insight gained in their life.

There were many who attended Girl's Camp for the first time, including me. And, being the newest member of the stake Young Women presidency, I was quite nervous about the whole affair. What an adventure though, a real super challenge!

It all started on Tuesday morning, August 13 at 8:30 a.m. We enjoyed putting names with faces and meeting each girl and each unit leader as they checked in. We found there were a few older campers (summiteers) and many new ones (yearlings). By Friday morning many of the girls and their leaders met their certification requirements only to have accomplished another goal in their life with new dimension. Thanks to Kati Walker (camp director), Dee Durrance, and Dianne Poppell (camp counselors) this year was a great success. We all experienced pure, clean FUN!

Tuesday night at 12:30 the scheming stake leaders woke up all the girls and brought them through a morbid, haunted house. We finally got to sleep by 2:30 a.m.! There was canoeing, swimming, hiking, singing, cooking, eating . . . and speaking of cooking, Wednesday each unit had to prepare and cook their own meals - breakfast, lunch, and dinner. We gave the award for this activity to Tallahassee II which included Sister Karen Lunt and her Young Women. They managed to start and maintain a fire in the rain, and oh, how it rained!

From wake-up call through cabin inspection, to lights out, we were busy learning and doing. Thanks to Marty Guris and his canteen and the YMCA staff at Camp Indian Springs, we weren't totally isolated from civilization. We had plenty of good food (and junk food) to eat.

Our camp was perhaps one of the most unique in that it featured an official "prank committee." Through this special committee the girls and the leaders were able to safely play pranks on one another, because every prank had to be approved. There was one episode, however, where the approvers and the pranksters were taken to camp court under the honorable "Judge" President Nicholson. But, this too proved to be just part of the entertainment. Needless to say, watching out for unsuspected pranks kept everyone on their toes.

Thursday evening put the finishing touch on this year's Girl's Camp Superchallenge with a fireside testimony meeting. The testimonies shared were very sincere and beautiful as many of the girls and leaders bore testimony to the truthfulness of the Gospel and the mission of the Savior Jesus Christ. And it was here where we learned that the many months of planning, preparation, hard work and all the experiences of camp were really worth it. Thank you girls and leaders for helping to make Camp Superchallenge a success.



Relief Society

by Ann Nicholson
First Counselor, Stake Relief Society

We are happy to announce that the following sisters have been called to positions on the Stake Relief Society Board:

Helen Whiddon - Compassionate Service
Shirley Ellis - Nursery
Jeanne Fordham - Music/Recreation

With these positions filled, we are now fully staffed, and hope to serve you better.

The liaison program, in which each board member is assigned one unit to visit monthly, is set up and functioning. These visits are such a pleasure, as we get to know you better, and can be in touch more often.

With summer over, ward and branch conferences have resumed. We enjoy so much being able to take part in these as a board. We appreciate the love and hospitality shown us as we participate in your conferences. Most of all, we enjoy just being with you.

Our board has been busy setting up the Stake Relief Society calendar for 1986. We have several big events planned: a homemaking fair, single women's conference and a musical mini-play. We are excited about it and look forward to a great year.

Our annual Leadership Training Meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 29 from 7 to 9 p.m. Relief Society presidencies, secretaries, homemaking leaders and mini-class chairmen are invited to attend. Please plan now to be there.

We want you to know of the love we have for the sisters in the stake. We are mindful of your needs and pray for you often.

Priesthood Preview

by Cleo Miller &
Nadine Gairns
Stake Primary
President & Secretary



ESPECIALLY FOR BOYS

It's exciting for young boys to think about someday holding the priesthood. Many wonder just what it will be like. The time for them to find out is fast-approaching. The Priesthood Preview is a program designed to strengthen each Blazer boy's commitment to preparing himself to receive the priesthood.

During the second week in November a special Priesthood Preview is to be held for all 11-year-old boys. This is a special night with activities both fun and serious planned for the boys, their dads, and their Blazer and priesthood leaders. A nice meal will be served and a deeper understanding of just what it means to hold the priesthood will be gained.

Last year's events focused attention on the Christlike qualities that the boys are developing. Other activities consisted of inspirational talks, educational games, and motivational activities. The boys also enjoyed a filmstrip "A Boy and the Power of God."

Special moments will be shared by Dad and son. Every 11-year-old boy and his dad or home teacher should come away feeling closer to each other and more thankful for the privilege of holding the priesthood.

New Primary Presidency



L to R: Candy Settles, Pat Smith,
Cleo Miller, Nadine Gairns

Many of us have already had an opportunity to meet some of the members of the new stake Primary presidency as they have begun visiting wards and branches in the stake.

Cleo Miller is a native of North Florida; she and her husband joined the Church several years ago. A former schoolteacher, she is a full-time homemaker and has served as ward Primary president, Primary nursery coordinator and Junior Sunday School Coordinator. She has four children: John, 12; Michael, 9; Benji, 6; and Joseph, 2.

Her first counselor is Candy Settles, who is employed as an executive secretary. For many years she has served in the Primary organization in the Church, and most recently as a Primary nursery coordinator. She is the mother of two children: Sonja, 14; and Phillip, 5.

The second counselor is Pat Smith, a full-time homemaker who was raised in Bartow Florida. Her parents were converts and she graduated from BYU. Pat has also served in a ward Primary presidency. Her children are Michael, 7; Megan, 5; Alison, 2; and a baby on the way.

The Primary secretary is Nadine Gairns, who was also the secretary in the previous stake Primary presidency and brings with her a wealth of experience, including teaching in Primary. She is employed full-time as an office manager and has three children: Melissa, 18; Michelle, 14; and John, 12.

Sister Miller sums up the goals of the stake Primary this way: "We want to ensure that all the children know that they're special to Heavenly Father, and he loves them just the way they are."

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who were baptized in our stake during August:

Apalachicola: Asa Tingle

Cairo: Debra Harden, Dawn and Zandra Snipes

Crawfordville: Brian Byrd

Monticello: George Snelgrove

Moultrie: Angeline Cribb, Amanda Temple

Tallahassee II: Armgrad and Ralph Valencia

Tallahassee III: Richard Davis

Tallahassee Student: Michael Flynn

Valdosta: Dale McCombs

Genealogy

by Alicia McMahon
Genealogy Librarian

Smith names, Fry names,
Dead and gone and dry names!

Old names, bold names,
Hard to spell and cold names!
This is what I used to think:
Those silly people eat and drink,
Who study family histories,
Places, dates, and mysteries,

Love and heartaches;
Wheel on Grandma's cart breaks,
Babies teething,
People -- living, breathing.

Now I know what joys are found
In searching volumes leather bound
And finding that a wholesome life
Was lived by Great-great-grandpa's wife.

These are sigh names
Make-me-laugh or cry names.
Names aren't dry names
When I find they're my names.

(Genealogy by S. Orrock)

A cemetery is sometimes the only real evidence of some women's lives. A woman, hidden in her father's household during her growing years and recorded in pre-1850 censuses as "female 5-10 years of age", may be located under her own name for the first time on her tombstone. The local cemetery may also contain the only evidence of some young nineteenth-century lives.

The popular stones for markers in years gone by were often soft. Often old inscriptions are so weathered or covered with moss they can hardly be made out. Harsh abrasives or wire brushes to remove moss may further damage the inscription. Numerous other methods do a better job without causing damage.

To enhance the inscription, wash badly discolored stones with a vinegar-saturated sponge or rag. It will remove even the worst moss with little extra effort.

Photography provides an exact copy of the stone itself. For stones which are faint, lay a sheet of paper over the surface and rub a piece of charcoal or crayon over it until the inscription appears on the paper.

It's time once again to start copying the local tombstones. Come join us. For information call 576-1868.

Missionaries Released

Elder Gregory Carroll from the Tallahassee Third Ward was released as a full-time missionary in the Texas Houston (Spanish) Mission. We welcome him home and congratulate him for his faithful and honorable service.



CRAWFORDVILLE

by Frances Councill
Crawfordville Branch
Public Communications
Director

The Gonzalez family has returned to Crawfordville and it is with a special sense of joy that they are welcomed back. Somehow it is like having members of the family return home.

Boy Scout troop 126 recently hosted a Branch and community service project by sponsoring the Florida's Hunter Education Course put on by the Game and Fresh Water Fish Commission. The course ran about 15 hours and covered topics on wildlife management, handling of firearms, archery, first aid and outdoor ethics. There were many people in attendance at each session.

There were three special "fun" events recently that were thoroughly enjoyed. First, was a Primary roller skating party. The primary children brought several non-member guests with them and together they proved how much fun motion can be. A short while later the Branch had a "Daddy-daughter" cake bake and auction. Fathers and daughters of all ages participated and much of the conversation had prideful fathers recounting their daughters' skills. Bob Little acted as auctioneer and it is hard to say whether he or the children had more fun as parents corralled children's hands from bidding and flustered parents bid against themselves. The Young Women Girl's camp at Indian Springs was also attended by several Crawfordville ladies.

The last homemaking meeting was turned into a joint mother-daughter treat. Classes were taught in making gold bead necklaces and in making silhouettes. Everyone especially enjoyed one refreshment which was a watermelon made up as a lady's face. It was a special sharing time for all.

The Young Men and Young Women of the Branch along with some of their friends enjoyed a Branch activity in town where they played putt-putt golf topped off with pizza.

The last news from Crawfordville is for us the best news, for the Branch had two very special baptisms; one was for Sister Boots Palmer and the other for Bryan Byrd. There is no moment quite so warm and full of our Heavenly Father's love as when one of His children comes home. The Branch is very honored to have them with us.

Provident Living

by Lois Davis
Tallahassee First Ward
Home Production and Storage Resource Specialist

When the Jones's moved to another house we were low on food. The only meat in the fridge was a pound of sausage. Because I've developed the habit of squirreling away extra food and have some beans and other things stored, I was able to make a nourishing soup for two fairly large families. Sister Jones said it was so nice to come home from work and discover that she didn't have to make dinner when there was so much else to be done. It only stands to reason in order to be able to give there have to be resources to take from.



The View**From the Pews**

And now, behold, I give unto you a commandment, that when ye are assembled together ye shall instruct and edify each other, that ye may know how to act and direct my Church, how to act upon the points of my law and commandments, which I have given.

D&C 43:8

We are commanded to go to Sacrament Meeting. During the meeting we are to instruct, teach and edify, to motivate each other. Why? "that ye may know how to act and direct my church". (emphasis added) It appears that many of our sacrament talks may fall short of the mark. Those who speak have an excellent opportunity to really instruct and edify the members of the church and leave them with something to work with for the rest of the week. Many talks are geared to the adults. We should also think about the teenagers and small children. It may be that we indirectly rely on the Sunday School or Primary classes to do most of the teaching where these age groups are concerned. However, this is an opportunity to give instruction and guidelines on how to act where not just the teenager and child can hear, but also the parents -- an opportunity to provoke thoughts and ideas that can be subsequently discussed by the whole family.



How does one instruct without being "preachy"? How do you "edify" someone? What do we need to be taught? How do you motivate someone? Not everyone will be motivated by the same things. Not everyone needs to know the

same things. We do have a lot of talent in our wards and branches that could be used to improve the quality of our Sacrament talks. Some people are very good at motivating. Some people have such a way with words that people are captivated as they are being instructed. If some of us are uncomfortable or downright reluctant to give a talk we might learn from someone (or through some material).

Reverence has been stressed throughout the last year and I have noticed that when good talks are being given the level of reverence is increased. Small children are quieter as they sense their parents' interest and desire to hear what is being said. The youth are more attentive and we are also left with something to ponder or act on.

My time is precious, isn't yours? Improved Sacrament talks would be a great blessing to the growth of the Church in our Stake.

In addition, let us remember that the basic element of Sacrament Meeting is what we bring with us as opposed to what we take home. Let us all bring the proper spirit, and if speaking, have the proper spirit and we will be able to renew our covenants, receive spiritual uplift and take home a greater desire to live righteously.

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Editor's note: "The View From the Pews" is an opportunity for members of the stake to present their opinions, either favorable or critical. Articles will be edited at the discretion of the editor, printed anonymously, and should be submitted to the STAKE NEWS, 2310 Oxford Road, Tallahassee, FL, 32304.

CALENDAR**October**

- 26 Halloween Costume Dance 7:00 - 11:00 p.m. (no masks)
- 27 Apalachicola Branch Conference
- 29 Stake Auxiliary Leadership Meetings 7:00 p.m. Priesthood Leadership Meeting 7:30 p.m.
- 31 Halloween

**November**

- 2 Volleyball Tournament
- 3 Madison Branch Conference
- 3 Special Stake Fireside (hosted by Student Ward)
- 8 Institute for Marrieds 7:30 p.m.
- 9 Region Volleyball Tournament
- 10 Young Women Fireside
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 12 Priesthood Preview 7:00 p.m.
- 12 Stake News Deadline
- 17 YM/YW Stake Youth Activity 5:30 p.m.
- 16 Single Adult Hayride
- 17 Cairo Branch Conference
- 17 Stake Priesthood Meeting 5 p.m.
- 24 Tallahassee Second Ward Conference
- 24 Single Adult Fireside
- 28 Thanksgiving Day
- 29 Festival of Lights and Music begins (activities through December)

December

- 1 Special Stake Meeting 6:00 p.m.
- 6 Institute for Marrieds 7:30 p.m.
- 13 Youth & Single Adult Dance 8:00 - 12:00 p.m.
- 24 Christmas Eve
- 25 Christmas Day
- 31 New Year's Eve Dance 8:00 p.m. to 1 a.m. (Jan. 1) (with breakfast on New Year's Day)



The Monticello Branch will be hosting a very special Christmas program featuring Marvin Goldstein and Gil Paige at the Monticello Opera House during the Christmas season. In an effort to contribute to the betterment of the community, all proceeds will be donated to the Monticello Opera House for planned remodeling.

Watch for more details about this program in your ward or branch!

Special Fireside

On Sunday night, November 3 at 7:30 p.m., the Tallahassee Student Ward will host a special Stake Fireside entitled "I Am a Child of God." The fireside will feature readings and music which teach of the purpose of life, the significance of the restoration, and God's love for each of us. Everyone in the stake is invited to attend and urged to bring friends!

Stake Conference Review

The Saturday evening session of stake conference was favored with an opening solo by Julie Humphreys entitled "O Divine Redeemer". Julie also sang with Paul Sparkman in a lovely duet "I Feel My Savior's Love".

President Charles H. Madsen Jr. was the first speaker. He quoted Elder Bruce R. McConkie, "The atonement is the most transcendent event that ever has occurred or ever will occur from creation's morn through all the endless ages of eternity." He explained that temporal, or physical death, and spiritual death, which is being cast out of the presence of God, are both overcome through Jesus Christ because of the resurrection and the atonement. He told of the great suffering of our Lord, both in Gethsemane and on the cross, and how it took both His mortal and immortal powers to work out the atonement because that supreme sacrifice required both death and resurrection. President Madsen stated that the entire gospel is based on the atonement and that salvation comes by the grace of God, because of Christ and His atonement; because of this, men can have faith, perform works of righteousness, and endure to the end.

Bishop Reynold Meyer of the Tallahassee Second Ward discussed "How I Assist the Members of My Ward to Understand and Appreciate the Atonement." He said that this most effectively comes about through personal interviews with each member. As a judge in Israel, he often has the opportunity to teach and assist members with the necessary steps of repentance so that they can better understand and utilize the power of the atonement in their lives.

Cleo Miller, Stake Primary President, discussed "How We Teach the Atonement and the Principles of Divine Justice and Mercy in our Family." She suggested that we use examples which naturally occur in family life as teaching moments, and to utilize the Church's "New Testament Stories" to teach of the life of Christ. She also stressed the importance of setting examples in our own lives of appreciating the Savior, and remembering to be thankful for the atonement in our family prayers.



Elder James O. Mason, our Regional Representative, observed that the atonement is important because it is the kernel of the gospel.

He remarked that we encourage our people to be independent and qualified that, "The Lord is trying to make us independent in temporal or physical things, like food storage; but when it comes to spiritual things, we cannot be independent, for we are dependent on the Lord." He illustrated this by the story of Lazarus. Jesus had the people show him where Lazarus was laid, remove the stone, take off the bindings, and do everything they could. But it was He alone who could perform the resurrection and command Lazarus to "come forth".

He then discussed the relationship between justice and mercy. Justice is fairness, and people are judged according to the knowledge they have. Mercy is an advantage greater than deserved -- either the withholding of a punishment or giving more bounty than merited. However, through the atonement justice is served and mercy is extended.

He clarified the difference between the resurrection, a free gift to all, and exaltation, which we obtain through obedience and repentance. He described the gospel as "a do-it-yourself plan except that you can't do it all yourself."

SUNDAY SESSION

A primary chorus under the direction of Janice Tucker provided music for the general session of stake conference. Beverly Lybbert was the organist and Dorothy King the chorister.

The first speaker was President Richard L. Chapple. He said that we can teach one another of the atonement through sharing. He quoted from two letters, one from Lois Beardon, who is serving a mission in the Atlanta Temple, and another from Lori Nowlen, who is currently serving in the Korea Pusan Mission. Sister Nowlen charmingly described the changes that took place in a woman as she embraced the gospel.

President Charles H. Madsen Jr. spoke about the strength we have in that we are led by a prophet. He talked about the ability of the gospel to affect people's lives for the better, and challenged anyone to find a single Church practice that will lower anyone or be of ill-report.

Seventeen year-old Connie Jo Durrance spoke about the blessing of families and recounted an experience from her own life which helped her understand how much she cherished her brothers and sisters.

President W. Paul Nicholson talked about exaltation in the celestial kingdom; he remarked that we don't know how many will be there but we know what's necessary to get there. He said that we have the power to choose where we'll end up, and reminded us to keep our paths straight and our goals in mind.

Lincoln Barlow, a newly called stake patriarch, bore his testimony and said that, "the most important thing we can do is get the Holy Ghost as our constant companion to help us make decisions."

President Floyd L. Packard spoke about missionary work and reminded us that many of our friends and neighbors are looking for joy and happiness but don't know where to find it.

Elder Mason commended the stake for diligence in three areas:

1) Tithing -- He observed that it takes faith, not money, to pay tithing, and if we pay tithing we will have what we need. He told how, as a struggling medical student, an inspired aunt would always sense when he and his wife needed money and would send them exactly the amount needed to get through the month.

2) Temple work -- We need to get work for the living done first, and then return often to do work for others.

3) Missionary work -- We need to involve the Book of Mormon more in our teaching. We need to reassure investigators to keep the truth they have and then to add more truth, such as revelations on living prophets and the priesthood.

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wisdom for cautions and admonitions." (Mormon Doctrine, p. 558).

A patriarchal blessing fulfills three basic purposes:

1. It pronounces your lineage in the house of Israel. "Nearly every member of the Church is a literal descendant of Jacob who gave patriarchal blessings to his 12 sons, predicting what would happen to them and their posterity after them. As inheritors of the blessings of Jacob, it is the privilege of the gathered remnant of Jacob to receive their own patriarchal blessings and, by faith, to be blessed equally with the ancients." (Mormon Doctrine, p. 558). Each of the 12 sons also received specific blessings which we inherit as descendants through a particular line.

2. It is a blueprint for life. As previously stated, patriarchal blessings are a prophetic statement of your life's mission, together with blessings, cautions, and admonitions. Answers to important decisions in life can often be found in patriarchal blessings. One should find a quiet hour to sit down and read it often. You may even want to fast and pray about it to try to understand and appreciate it better. As life's events unfold, things that may have seemed unclear or unimportant will take on new meaning. Fulfillment of blessings and promises in a patriarchal blessing is always conditioned upon the worthiness of the one blessed. They are intended as a guide in one's life, not as some kind of fortune-telling.

3. It has eternal perspective. We usually confine our hopes and dreams to what may be fulfilled in this life. The blessings one receives in a patriarchal blessing are not limited to this world and to this life. Many blessings found in patriarchal blessings were pronounced upon us in the pre-mortal existence. Also, some blessings may not be realized in this life. Patriarchal blessings from the Lord are given from the perspective of God, who sees us in our eternal existence -- our pre-earth life, our present world, and our life hereafter.

Preparing to Receive a Patriarchal Blessing

If you have not had a patriarchal blessing and desire to receive one, make preparations. How does one prepare?

First of all, a person should be old enough to understand what a patriarchal blessing is and how it can affect their life. President Madsen advises, "Psychologically speaking, young people cannot understand the abstract importance of a patriarchal blessing until they are at least 12 years of age." He adds that it is significant that the privileges and responsibilities of the Aaronic Priesthood are also not given before age 12.

It will be necessary to have an interview with and receive a recommend from your bishop or branch president. You will be expected to show worthiness through living the commandments, such as tithing, word of wisdom, attending church meetings, supporting church leaders, and so forth. Pray and fast about receiving the blessing. It is also recommended that you fast just prior to receiving the blessing to help you enjoy, understand, and appreciate the blessing as it is given.

If you have not had a patriarchal blessing and don't have a particular desire to receive one now, sometimes it is helpful to read the blessing of your mother, your father, a brother or sister -- particularly someone in your direct ancestral line. You can ask others close to you how they feel about

their own blessings. They may tell you how their blessings impressed them at first, how they have grown in meaning as time has passed, and how they see some of their blessings in eternal perspective. These things can be very stimulating and inspiring. It is important to remember, however, that patriarchal blessings are sacred to the individual and should not be read or discussed with just anyone.

Once you have taken the necessary steps to prepare, you can contact the secretary to one of our patriarchs to schedule an appointment. They are listed below.

Patriarch	Secretary	Phone
Mark Peddie	Elsie Peddie	904/562-2476
Lincoln Barlow	Mildred Barlow	912/985-4041
Ed Bone	Elaine Davis	904/575-4190

Book Review



by Suzanne Meik
Seventies Bookstore Representative

In the last stake newsletter, this column reviewed Bob Millet's two new books The Joseph Smith Translation and Studies in Scripture, Pearl of Great Price. In August, Brother Millet had a third book to roll off the press, Sustaining and Defending the Faith, which he has co-authored with Joseph Fielding McConkie. The kingdom of God will always be opposed by the adversary, and we must choose sides. Clear and precise, Sustaining and Defending the Faith sets forth principles by which we can strengthen our testimonies and our commitment to sustain and defend the gospel of Jesus Christ amid increasing opposition.

Paul Dunn has a new book: Seek the Happy Life. Happiness begins with self, he explains, so learn to appreciate your own uniqueness; then, holding fast to correct principles, stride forward by trying, by daring, by doing. Overflowing with stories, examples, humor, and wisdom, each chapter is a guidepost to happiness, marking the way to well-lived todays.

More books coming to the bookstore:
To a Chosen Generation, Hartman Rector, Jr.
Sermons Not Spoken, Neal A. Maxwell
Harold B. Lee, Prophet and Seer, L. Brent Goates
The Light of Christmas, Barbara B. Smith
This I Know, Loren C. Dunn
Gospel Symbolism, Joseph Fielding McConkie

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