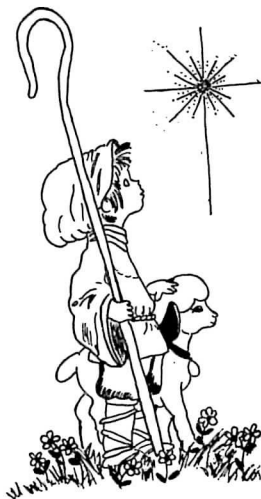


Christmas Festival of Music and Lights



Even more miniature lights are aglow this year at the 2nd Annual Christmas Festival of Music and Lights already underway at the Stake Center.

Approximately 70,000 lights illuminate church grounds while Christmas music fills the air each night from dusk until midnight through January 2. Feel free to park your car and walk around, to pause in front of the manger scene and ponder the true meaning of Christmas amid the peaceful setting. In addition, live musical performances are being presented every Sunday evening through December 22.

Invite your friends! They'll be glad you did.

Please park in the rear of the Institute building for all evening church attendance, to avoid hindering the view of the lights for others.

Youth Find Joy In Service

The Young Men and Young Women in each ward and branch of the stake were challenged to perform a service project and present the results of the project at the Annual Service Film Festival on November 17. The nine units that participated showed us the real meaning of Mosiah 2:17:

...that ye may learn that when
ye are in the service of your fellow
beings, ye are only in the service
of your God.

Service projects were performed both in and out of the Church, and the slides, songs, and narration presented at the Festival could not adequately convey the creativity, enthusiasm, and love involved in each project.

Thomasville - The youth have been sponsoring bingo games every third Wednesday of the month to patients at the Glen-Mor Nursing Home, complete with prizes for winners. (They have been doing this for 3 years now!)

Tallahassee I - Four elderly couples were chosen from the ward to be honored. They were interviewed, and then chauffeured to the church for a display and presentation telling about each couple's life, complete with photos. Each was given a corsage/boutonniere, and served their favorite dessert.

Monticello - Though small in numbers, they cleaned the yard and painted the house of an elderly member of the Church.

Bainbridge - They organized a talent show in a nursing home with an interesting twist - the patients put on the show! (only with the encouragement and support of the youth!)

Moultrie - The youth sponsored a dance at the Green Oak Rehabilitation Center, complete with lively Halloween decorations and refreshments. The Young Women also volunteered at the Blood Mobile during the summer months.

Tallahassee III - They worked with Pregnancy Help and Information Center (PHI - formerly TAPS - Tallahassee Area Pregnancy Service). First, they invited the organization to come and present what they were all about. Then, they raised money through a car wash and stuffing envelopes for an insurance company, along with collecting used maternity and baby clothes and furniture to donate to the organization. The Young Women also chose a monthly "Queen for a Day" where they chose someone to visit and provided her with a crown. One sister they later learned had cancer, and they began visiting her regularly. The largely non-member family invited the Young Women to sing at the woman's funeral.

Cairo - Several projects were performed, some of which are listed here: making goodie bags for orphans, selling things they had made to raise money for the branch building fund, making chocolate candies for the Relief Society sisters to take to the sisters they visit teach, and making cupcakes and ice cream for branch conference.

Valdosta - Here the youth cleaned the yard and washed windows at an elderly woman's home. They sponsored a spaghetti dinner to raise money to purchase new hymnals for the ward. The Young Men also made basketball and volleyball nets for the Church.

Tallahassee II - The youth planted azaleas along Highway 27 South (Apalachee Parkway) in conjunction with Arbor Green to beautify the community.

Many youth were gratified to find they touched the lives of others beyond those they directly served. All expressed that they developed a love for those they served and formed relationships that will far out-last the project itself. Teresa Brantley of Monticello said, "If you lose yourself as Jesus did in the service of others, you will gain a testimony of the Church and of compassionate service."

We are proud of our youth and the examples they set for us, for "inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matt. 25:40)



Stake Presidency Message

by Richard L. Chapple
Stake President

The message of Christmas is surely a message of life. The Savior's words that "I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10) are still the profound message of this holiday season.

The passing of some of our members in the recent past causes us to appreciate this message even more. We will have the opportunity to associate with Henry Redifer, Dorothy Creel, and Don Davis again.

Brother Redifer of Perry lived a long and full life, and his passing was in a sense a blessing because of his ill health. Sister Creel of the Tallahassee Third Ward took with her a testimony of the Lord and His Church. Her ill health was made easier by the great love shown to her by the young women in her ward.

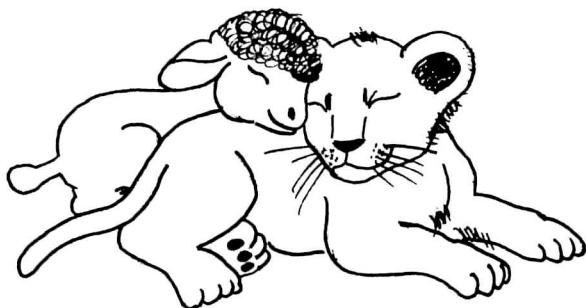
Don Davis was, at least on the surface of things, different from these others. He was much younger, in good health, and seemingly had most of his life yet to live. Many moments with his family were yet to be experienced, and cherished. His Tallahassee First Ward friends were shocked that the Lord took him so soon.

The testimony has been expressed that all three were taken by the Lord in His wisdom. This conviction illustrates the true meaning of the life that the Savior brought. He brought immortality by overcoming death through the resurrection, and this enables us all to hope for the future and to look forward to a reunion with our departed.

The abundant life, however, is made possible by His suffering and our willingness to live as He taught. Our hope for the future is not confined to reunions but has the vision of Eternal association. We will not only see our departed again, but we have the goal of "forever families."

At Christmas time we ponder the Savior's birth, death, and Eternal mission. The life that we enjoy and that we hope to enjoy is attributable to Him, whom we love and honor.

May you all have a joyous and spiritual holiday season.



Single Adults

The Single Adult program of the Church is organized to help fill the needs of all singles in the Church 18 years of age and older. To meet varying needs, the Single Adults are divided into three groups by age: Young Adults, 18 to 26 years; Young Special Interest, 26 to 40 years; and Special Interest, 40 and up. Almost every member of the Church will spend some part of his or her life in one of these groups.

The following are leaders in the Tallahassee Stake Single Adult program.

Young Adult Chairman - Ken Futch

Ken is presently working for Starcom South (satellite distributors). He returned from the South Dakota Rapid City Mission in August. In January he plans to begin school, probably studying electrical engineering. He attends the Student Ward.



Young Adult Co-Chairman - Marcie Madsen

Marcie is attending FSU majoring in nursing and minoring in music. She sings with University Singers. Marcie plans to study pediatric nursing at BYU. She also attends the Student Ward.



Young Special Interest Chairman - Lamar Anderson

A native of Florida, Lamar has a degree in advertising. He gave up his own advertising business in California and returned to Florida to work with his hands -- he now owns a fencing company and is also known for his mechanical abilities. He enjoys jogging and body building, and is currently taking dance lessons. Future goals include learning karate and to play the piano. He joined the Church about six years ago and is a member of the Tallahassee Second Ward.

Young S. I. Co-Chairman - Carolyn Tompkins

Carolyn is from Belzoni, Mississippi. She is working on her masters in music theory at FSU. Carolyn has two boys, and she enjoys swimming and other outdoor sports. She joined the Church in 1979 in Michigan. Carolyn suggests that singles don't have to feel excluded from the family. "The Single Adult program can help us feel like a family as a group of singles, but we have to interact with each other to make the organization work. Participation is needed."



Young Special Interest Secretary - Barbara Young

Barbara is a member of the Tallahassee Second Ward. She is from southern California and attended BYU. She served a mission in West Germany and currently enjoys journal writing.



SINGLE ADULTS (continued)



Special Interest Chairman - Max Sweat

Max has had a wide variety of callings in the Church, and he currently serves as the High Priest Group Leader in the Tallahassee First Ward. He was lead to the Church through a search for the purpose of life. One night while driving, he passed a motel and was impressed to go back and spend the night. In his room was a Book of Mormon, and Max read the marked passages that night. He then contacted the Church to learn more. Max comes from Waycross, Georgia, and enjoys hiking, dancing, swimming, and canoeing.

The Relief Society has a vital interest in singles also. About one-third of the Church is single, and in the stake, about one-third of the women are single. This includes women 18 and just out of high school, single parents, widows, divorcees, and those who have never married. Laura Allen is the Single Women Representative to the Stake Relief Society Board. In her position she serves in an advisory capacity to the Stake Single Adults, making sure everyone's interests are represented and addressed in Relief Society as well as in Single Adults.



Laura is in the Tallahassee First Ward. She teaches a class for the profoundly mentally handicapped at Gretchen Everhart School. She was a welfare services missionary in the Mexico Guadalajara Mission. Laura serves in the same capacity on the ward level as on the stake.



Welcome Our NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members who were baptized in our stake during September and October:

Apalachicola: Reginald James

Cairo: Beverly Benton, Renda Sadler, Sarah Snipes

Moultrie: Lloyd Miller

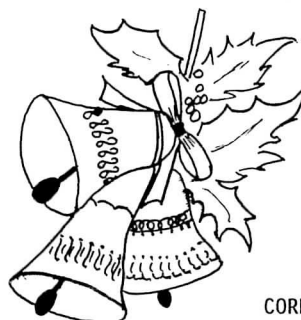
Quincy: Gloria and Johnny Burke, Gloria and Michael James, JoNell and Randall St. Cyr

Tallahassee II: Hubert Jones, Alphonso Peterson

Tallahassee III: Richard Grzegorzewski

Thomasville: Robert and Robyn Weber

Valdosta: Adam Warren



Genealogy

by Laura Byington
Stake Genealogy Librarian

CORRECTIONS

As you research in the 1984 edition of the International Genealogical Index (IGI) you will note many duplications of ordinances with only minor differences in the information listed. When names are submitted for the performance of ordinances, any difference in the information provided causes the name to be cleared again to have the ordinance performed.

Often we see names listed that are obviously our ancestor, but because we have additional information we submit the entry again. This is not the proper way to make corrections. Instead, this uses additional time repeating the ordinance already completed and causes delay for another anxiously awaiting his ordinances so that he may progress in Father's Kingdom. I have one ancestor who has been baptized and endowed five times, thereby causing four individuals an unnecessary wait for their work to be done.

Those of you who submitted your four generation pedigree and family group sheets as requested in 1981 received a file number. We have been advised that in the near future we will be able to modify our records with new and corrected data. Let us be patient and wait to use this method when requested to do so, thereby freeing time for more to receive the blessings of the temple.

We must realize that the purpose of genealogy is to provide the opportunity for our ancestors to grow in the gospel, and as long as we can be certain the work has been done, we can cross the T's, dot the I's, and add new information when requested.

* * * * *

Don't forget that the Tallahassee Branch Genealogical Library will host a Genealogical Computer Fair Saturday, January 18, 1986, from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Stake Center.

Area genealogists will demonstrate their computers and software.

Teacher of the Year

Sister Linda Holt of the Cairo Branch was selected as 1985 Teacher of the Year at Northside School where she teaches kindergarten. Sister Holt has been teaching kindergarten and first grade for the past 13 years after earning her Master's Degree in Child Development at F.S.U. She has also held various Church callings and currently serves as the Young Women president in Cairo. She and her husband Stephen have two daughters, Stephanie and Lynley.

Sister Holt's favorite aspect of teaching is the enthusiasm of the children - especially as they come to attend school for the first time and are excited about this new experience. One of her main goals is to teach the children that school is a fun place to be and that they're capable of achieving whatever they set their minds to. She helps her students to accomplish a lot by always having high expectations of them.

We congratulate Sister Holt for her recognition as an excellent teacher!

Branch President's Corner

by Douglas D. Taylor
Cairo Branch President

As we reflect on the season of Thanksgiving, we, as Latter-day Saints, should consider the many blessings we are thankful for. I think of the struggles we contend with in our small branch, yet these are minor compared with the problems and decisions our ancestors had to face.

We have the privilege of expressing our thanks so often in our Church duties that Thanksgiving as a holiday seems to pass us by. Our Sacrament, Fast and Testimony meetings, and the daily living of gospel principles lead us to a continuous attitude of thanksgiving. Our prayers are offered up beginning with thanks for the blessings we have already received.

All through scriptures, we are reminded of the attitude of thanksgiving. One scripture with this strong message is in Alma 34 verse 38: "That ye contend no more against the Holy Ghost, but that ye receive it, and take upon you the name of Christ; that ye humble yourselves even to the dust, and worship God, in whatsoever place ye may be in, in spirit and in truth; and that ye live in thanksgiving daily, for the many mercies and blessings which he doth bestow upon you."

Brothers and sisters, let's not limit our Thanksgiving to November 28th, but keep the spirit of thanksgiving throughout the year. We will see our lives become more enriched and meaningful. May the Lord bless you in all your righteous efforts.

We thank Thee, Lord, for each new day
For hope that sets us on our way
For life and health and morning light
For ears to hear and gift of sight
To watch the fleecy clouds drift by
Across a blue and endless sky.
To be caressed by gentle breeze
That whispers softly to the trees.
All these wondrous gifts are free
And Lord, we know they come from Thee.

This poem was submitted by Alice Powell (Tallahassee II) and written by her neighbor, Josephine Lamb.

I Hope They Call Me On A Mission!



Not just any teenager would look forward to spending a summer getting up at 6:00 a.m., studying the scriptures, memorizing missionary discussions, and knocking on doors, but for Machelles Madsen, 19, it was an exciting challenge.

Last April, Machelles was looking forward to attending BYU in the fall. She led an active social life, but one day in a casual conversation with Alice Packard, the mission matron, she expressed her

anxiousness in waiting to go to BYU. When Sister Packard mentioned her conversation with Machelles to

her husband, she had no idea that President Packard had been searching for a way to avoid putting three sister missionaries together for three months because the mission was short one sister. As Sister Packard spoke, President Packard knew immediately that this was the answer.

Machelles's parents, Diane and Charles Madsen, Jr. of Tallahassee Third Ward, were contacted first, and they, too, knew that this was the right thing for their daughter to do. Stake President Richard Chapple also concurred, and he issued a call to Machelles to become a temporary, full-time missionary. Machelles had only five days to prepare. She informs us, "I was really excited at first, but when the realization hit me of what I was going to do, I got scared and started shaking all over."

How does one prepare for a three-month mission in only five days? Well, she wasn't preparing to leave the country, or even the state, but Machelles had to withdraw her enrollment at F.S.U. where she majored in dancing and music. She had to quit three part-time jobs as well as her modeling at Governor's Square Mall and participation with the Tallahassee Ballet Company where she also served on the Board of Directors. What about spiritual preparation? That's when the conduct of your life can come in handy. Machelles had no time to take any special steps to spiritually prepare, but had to rely on her pattern of prayer, scripture study, and obedience to the commandments for spiritual strength. She joined her waiting companion, Sister Meade, in Crestview, Florida on May 1.

How successful can anyone be in only three months as a missionary? Machelles memorized and "passed off" the missionary discussions. She and Sister Meade were teaching 10-12 investigators per week, and although Machelles didn't see anyone enter the waters of baptism, four of the people she taught were baptized the month after she left for BYU. Besides proselyting, the sisters worked with the members in Crestview to encourage and excite them about missionary work. The bishop of the Crestview Ward, who felt his members were apathetic toward missionary work, said, "These sisters are going crazy; they're out of control! They have turned the whole ward around in missionary work."

President Packard described Machelles as "spiritually oriented, obedient, and a go-getter."

President Wing of the Mariana Stake presidency said that Machelles and Sister Meade were the "best role models the young girls ever had." He expressed that it was good for the young girls to see someone like Machelles who had many outside interests yet was a good, strong, uncompromising member of the Church.

One quality Machelles's parents enjoy in her is her optimistically animated manner. One girl the sisters were teaching had a monetarily valuable collection of old (and rare) Playboy magazines. When the sisters finally convinced this woman to burn her pornographic literature, they joined in the back yard for a weiner roast over the bonfire. Machelles's attitude was, "We can't waste a good fire!"

Machelles says her favorite experience was attending a black A.M.E. Church at the end of a week-long revival. They were invited to participate by the minister, whom they had been teaching. Machelles and Sister Meade sang "I Am a Child of God," and Machelles continued to play background music while the ward mission leader spoke. Machelles said she feared for her life when the mission leader bore his testimony that the Mormon Church was the true Church, but to her surprise, the people sounded their amens "in a more sober way" and shook hands and thanked the Mormons for coming. She said, "It was really neat to be able to teach all those people at once. It was hard to leave because I felt like I had just learned what I was supposed to do. I can't wait until I can go on another mission!"

Young Women

by Cherie Garr
Stake Young Women Presidency



Forest Meadows Country Club provided the setting for our September Stake Young Men/Young Women joint activity. We had about 80 youth and leaders attend. The activities were racquetball, swimming, tennis, hot tub, exercising, plus just relaxing and enjoying the terrific snack food!

Then on October 12, the Priests and Laurels of the stake had a great experience going bowling. This was a new experience for many of our youth. We had a lot of "gutter balls" but no one seemed to mind. It was fun being together and getting to know each other better. After bowling, we returned to the church for a movie, chicken dinner and a dance, with music provided by our "D.J." Brother McCreless.

On November 10 the Young Women had a fireside broadcast over the Church's satellite system. The theme of the fireside was "Stand for Truth and Righteousness." The fireside featured remarks from President Gordon B. Hinckley, General Young Women President Ardeth Kapp, and others. Each young woman was presented with a special young women issue of the NEW ERA magazine, which identified the duties and responsibilities of Latter-day Saint young women - to help them better understand who they are and what they stand for.

In closing the year 1985 the stake young women presidency want to wish you all a very happy and wonderful holiday season!

Single Women Ages 18-80+

You are Cordially Invited

to attend a

SINGLE WOMAN'S CONFERENCE

on Saturday, January 25, 1985

from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

at the Tallahassee Stake Center

Sponsored by the Tallahassee Florida Stake

Featured speakers include President Richard L. Chapple, President Charles H. Madsen, Jr., and other well qualified members of the Stake who will address concerns of all single women whether yet unmarried, divorced or widowed, as well as single parents. Topics such as gaining and maintaining health and beauty, cycles of crisis, fitting in the ward or branch, and family and single parenting will be among the many concerns addressed.

A highlight of our day will be a "Caribbean Cruise" luncheon complete with tropical atmosphere and music.

A nursery will be provided for your children. Please bring a sack lunch for each of your children in the nursery.

We look forward to seeing you there!!!



Primary

by Nadine Gairns
Stake Primary Secretary

We on the stake Primary board think Stake Leadership Meeting October 29 was a huge success. Of the fifteen units in the stake, thirteen had leaders present. The focus of this leadership meeting was on helping Primary leaders solve problems that frequently arise in their organization. The night's agenda included "Strengthening Relationships" by Pat Smith, Stake Primary Second Counselor, and Don Driggs, Tallahassee First Ward; "Delegating" was discussed by Candace Settles, First Counselor; and "Evaluating" by Nadine Gairns, Secretary. Cleo Miller, Stake Primary President, presented a workshop on problem solving.

We feel we gained real insight into many of the issues that are a hindrance to primary leaders. We will be working on ways to help each leader control or eliminate these problems. The challenge for 1986 is: Reach Out To The One. Scripture reading 1986 is The Old Testament.

To all Primary presidents and counselors, we wish to extend our sincere thanks for your continued support and cooperation. Keep up the great work! Our prayers are with you always.

In the future a nursery will be provided for all leaders attending leadership meeting. However, it is requested that you exhaust all other methods for babysitting first.

PRIESTHOOD PREVIEW 1985

On November 12, the Stake Primary prepared a program and dinner for all Blazer A boys. The program began with games to break-the-ice and get the boys and their fathers or other male companion acquainted.

Stake President Richard L. Chapple greeted the guests. The opening prayer was given by his son Michael.

Dinner included ham, baked potatoes, rolls, green beans, fruit cups, and ice cream for dessert.

The Priesthood Preview is a program designed to strengthen each boy's commitment in preparing himself to receive the priesthood. Events focused attention on the Christlike qualities the boys are developing, inspirational talks, educational games, and motivational skills. "I Can Help My Son Prepare to Receive the Priesthood" and "I Can Prepare to Receive the Priesthood" were presented by Brother George Smith and his son Thomas, Tallahassee Third Ward.

Remarks on the importance of the priesthood, where it comes from, and holding the priesthood were given by President Charles H. Madsen, Jr., First Counselor in the stake presidency, and President Paul Nicholson, Second Counselor.

The boys enjoyed the filmstrip, "A Boy and the Power of God". The closing prayer was given by Dusty Brock.

We wish to extend a great big thanks to Suzanne Meik for her hard work in coordinating and scheduling the program for this important event.

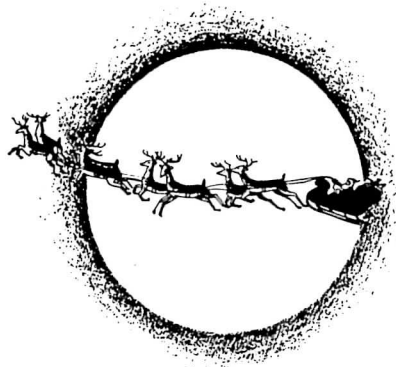
Missionaries Called....

Ivan Lybbert (Tallahassee Third Ward)
Canada Montreal (French Speaking) Mission

Chris Shipley (Tallahassee Third Ward)
Brazil San Palo Mission

...and Released

Ed and Elma Bone (Tallahassee Third Ward)
New Mexico Albuquerque Mission



Fall Institute: Milestones in Our Religious Education

by Teresa Bliss
Institute Secretary

Yes, the fall semester for us at the Institute has accomplished many milestones. It began with two spectacular opening socials: one for the singles and one for the marrieds. No, we don't advocate segregation of marital status; we merely try to appeal to the varied interests of college students. Each opening social began with a dinner -- Brother Garr really knows the way to a college student's heart -- followed by the lecture/class, and concluding each special evening with a dance. We appreciate the efforts of Brother Garr's wife, Cherie, and the Young Women, along with their advisors, from the Tallahassee First and Third Wards. They worked so hard to make the dinners tres excellent! The singles class has focused on preparing for celestial marriage for those who have set their sights high on an eternal level; the marrieds class has discussed the poignant and providential position of parenting.

Our outstanding speakers during this semester have included such men of high regard as President Richard Chapple, Bishop Donald Whitley, President Charles Madsen, and, of course, our beloved Institute Director, Brother Arnold Garr.

I dare not forget to mention the two classes we've had on Church History. There is the continuing traditional night class, and our 3-1/2 year-old day class which meets on the FSU campus twice weekly. I'm not too certain as to what goes on in the night class except for many outstanding lessons by Brother Garr, and refreshments! (Let's not forget the essential part of class.)

I've been attending the day class on campus for the past 3-1/2 years even though I graduated from Institute 2-1/2 years ago. I find that there is so much to learn about the scriptures and the history of our divine Church. I never leave class without some new insight or piece of information gained. It's amazing how the Spirit works with us.

Nevertheless, we have a small group that meets together in the day class, but we enjoy it without reserves. We all bring our lunch and eat during the class and hope that Brother Garr doesn't call on us while we're still chewing. (I find it most interesting the kinds of lunches each student brings. One student brings nothing short of a four-course meal, including hors-d'oeuvres. Another brings yogurt, not just one cup mind you, but four! Then, there is the typical junk-food-junkie who brings a diet soda and cookies or chips out of the vending machine. We try not to give him a hard time about it since he leads a busy life counseling -- what else -- college students. Poor Brother Garr has to wait until after class before having lunch.) Oh, I must tell you that we begin every class with a five minute session on sports trivia and I usually don't tune in until the opening prayer is given. Also, we have just purchased a set of Church History videos covering such topics as succession in the presidency, women in the Church, and the life of President Spencer W. Kimball.

Lest you think our institutional endeavor is all in vain, we have learned a great deal about the beginnings of our Church. We studied the lives of Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, Martin Harris, Joseph Smith's devoted family, the original First Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, many converts, and even quite a few non-members who were key people in the lives of the Saints. We've sorrowed through the studies of the Missouri persecutions, the Saints having to leave their beloved temple in Kirtland, Ohio, battles, massacres, and misfortunes. But, at the same time, we have felt joy at the doctrines and revelations received as the Lord carefully unfolded the gospel to them, rejoiced in the great success we learned that the Twelve Apostles experienced in England. After all this, I marvel in amazement to think that we would even try to begin to understand the gospel without knowing what the pioneer saints experienced and how the truth was steadily revealed to them. If we can't believe in the prophetic calling of Joseph Smith, then how can we believe that any other principle or practice of the Church is divine, or revealed by God? As our modern-day prophet proclaims: there has been a long line of unbroken succession of prophets since Joseph Smith.

If nothing else, the classes presented by the Institute program build character and a firm testimony of the restored gospel. So you took the same course by a previous institute director/teacher. May I remind you of how the Spirit speaks differently to each individual, especially when there is a specific need manifested by a class or certain students. We can learn new things by a new teacher who teaches the same course. I would hope that those of you who have not found time, nor interest in a continuous religious program, namely Church Education, would seriously reconsider. It is well worth the eternal consequences.

INSTITUTE SCHEDULE Spring 1986 Classes Begin January 7

Number	Title	Time	Place
REL 342	LDS History Brigham Young to Ezra Taft Benson	Wednesday 7:30 p.m.	Institute
REL 342	LDS History Brigham Young to Ezra Taft Benson	Tues/Thurs 12:20 to 1:10	FSU Campus, TBA
Registration:\$3.00 - College students of all ages and their spouses, and Young Adults under 26.			
\$10.00 - Non-college adults 26 and over.			

X-MAS--

Where's the Christ in Christmas?

by Gail Roberts
Tallahassee First Ward

What think ye of the commercialism of Christmas? Many find the commercialization irritating and use it as a point of complaint. Some say it takes the Christ out of Christmas. However, aren't even temporal things spiritual unto the Lord? "All things bear record of me." (Moses 6:63)

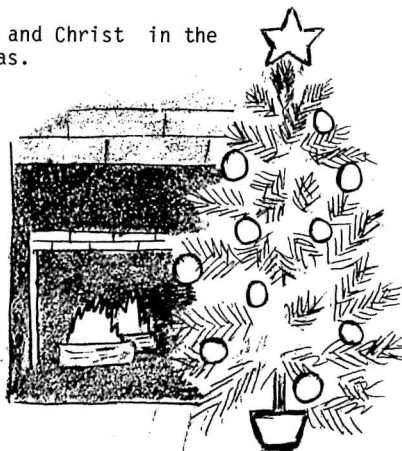
The challenge then lies with us to attach spiritual meaning to each commercialized or temporal symbol. If we train ourselves to ponder upon the spiritual symbols instead of the temporal objects, we will not lose sight of the Christ in Christmas.

The following is a list of interpretations we have assigned to the temporal creations that surround our family at Christmas. Yet, each of us can create our own spiritual interpretations for temporal items. What Think You of Christmas by Ester Rasband might be useful.

Temporal item	Spiritual reminder
stars	star over Bethlehem, heavenly sign of promise
candles	man's thanks for the star long ago
lights	He is the light of the world
Santa	we receive gifts daily from our Heavenly Father
gifts	the greatest gift is the love and life of our Savior
evergreens	everlasting life
bells	the good news of the gospel will ring to all the world
wreaths	there is no beginning nor ending
red	blood shed by the Savior in Gethsemane
green	eternal hope of mankind
candy canes	shepherd's crook
bow	spirit of brotherhood - tied as man should be with bonds of good will

May you find joy and Christ in the
spirituality of Christmas.

Merry Christmas!



CALENDAR

December

Nightly -Christmas Festival of Music and Lights
(through January 2)

25 Christmas

31 New Year's Eve Dance 8:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

January

1 New Year's Day

5 Mission President's Fireside 7:00 p.m.

12 Satellite Broadcast 8:00 p.m.

18 Genealogy Computer Fair

19 Stake Presidency's Missionary Fireside
7:00 p.m.

25 Single Women's Conference 9:00 a.m. to
4:30 p.m.

28 Stake Leadership Meeting

February

2 Student Ward Conference

Mission President's Fireside 7:00 p.m.

7 Laurel presentation dinner and rehearsal (with
fathers and escorts)

14 Gold and Green Ball and Laurel presentation
Valentine's Day

16 Bainbridge Branch Conference

Stake Presidency's Missionary Fireside 7:00 p.m.

22-23 Stake Conference

Books! Books! Books!



by Suzanne Meik
Seventies Bookstore Representative

The new books just keep coming to the Seventies Bookstore! Four of the newest ones are reviewed below:

- 1) The Miracles of Jesus the Messiah, by Keith Howick. Detailing the various miracles of Jesus, this book explains the significance and purpose of each one. Some miracles were directed specifically to the people, some to the leaders of the Jews, some to the Law, and some to the Apostles, but each miracle had one or more specific purposes illumined in this book.
- 2) In Loving Hands, by Kris Mackay. Here are 19 faith-promoting stories, each one a reminder of God's loving care, one of which was published in Reader's Digest.
- 3) 101 Talks for Children, by Marianne Shampton. Even small tots can give great talks with the help of this book. And it's so easy on parents, too. Just open the book, choose from a variety of gospel topics, and help your child learn the short talk. Excellent for use in Primary and family home evening.
- 4) This I Know, by Loren C. Dunn. This book is a testimony of truth, a guide to righteous living, a source of strength. Drawn from addresses given at devotionals, firesides, and conferences, here is a guide to joyous living.

The bookstore has a good supply of stamped cross-stitch samplers from Mormon Handicraft in Salt Lake City. Also, if you are looking for Christmas music on cassettes, look on our shelves.

CRAWFORDVILLE



Bob Little, Levi Little,
and Brandon Floyd at
Halloween Party

by Frances Councill
Crawfordville Branch Public Communications Director

Crawfordville Branch has had a busy two months between Branch Conference, General Conference and Women's Conference. All were well attended. Brian Byrd was ordained a Deacon by Leland Sasser on September 29.

The Branch put on an Emergency Preparedness Seminar for Wakulla County. This course covered everything from meteorology (by Lee Eddington) to what to do with pets if you have to evacuate. Lee Eddington and Fran Councill went on the Good Morning Show with Anna Johnson to publicize the event. The final presentation of the seminar was that of the McCabe's backpack preparedness. Don McCabe also presented a section on securing the home.

There was a Halloween party featuring apple bobbing and fishing from a box. Everyone caught something, and some people more than one. The young men and young women organized a spook house walk which included flying ghosts.

Branch Conference was held September 22 and a dinner was held on the grounds afterwards. Two weeks later the Branch had a building dedication. On that same Sunday we were able to announce that Crawfordville has qualified for the Phase Two building. A summary of the history of the Branch was condensed by Stan Tucker, and a slightly edited version appears below:

The Crawfordville Branch was organized by the authority of God under the direction of the Tallahassee Florida Stake Presidency in the year 1979. Members of the stake presidency at this time were President Richard L. Chapple, First Counselor Lincoln Barlow, and Second Counselor Charles H. Madsen, Jr. After due consideration, William Hunter was released as bishop of Tallahassee Second Ward and called to serve as Crawfordville's first branch president. Robert Little was called to serve as counselor, Stan Tucker was called as Elders Quorum president, and Delos Dennis was later called to serve as his counselor. The first Relief Society president was Ina Miller (Slater). First Primary president was Marsha Tucker with Betty Hunter as counselor.

With the leadership in place, this small young branch ventured forth to the land of Wakulla County with much enthusiasm and pride in their hearts and a desire to serve their Heavenly Father by spreading the gospel and multiplying their membership. The first meeting of the Branch was held in the livestock pavillion on April 22, 1979. There were approximately

51 people there. The third meeting was quite an occasion. There had been a swine show at the pavillion on Saturday and nothing had been cleaned up afterwards. At this fast and testimony meeting it was unanimously decided that the branch would move. The Lord provided a way, and the May 13 meeting was held at the Wakulla Methodist Church. Meanwhile the branch presidency was in negotiation for a permanent home. It was finally decided to rent and later purchase the Dan Brough house and property where the branch remains today. The first meeting in this house was May 20, 1979.

As a new year came, so came new faces in the branch leadership. After serving for sixteen months, President Hunter was released and Jimmy Helms was called as Branch President at the first branch conference on August 3, 1980. President Helms was raised in Wakulla and his roots are here. Robert Little and Ed Gonzalez were called as his counselors and Helen Whiddon was called as Relief Society president, a position she held for five years.

Branch conference June 28, 1981 brought the release of President Helms. Don Whitley was called as branch president and chose Bob Kerns and Stan Tucker as his counselors. President Whitley served for one year, and once again, at branch conference on June 27, 1982, we see the release of another branch president. Robert Kerns was called as the new branch president with counselors Don Brock and Stan Tucker. President Kerns and family were no strangers to the branch for they had been here since its beginning. President Kerns, like others before him, only served one year. The members of the branch wondered who would be next. On June 19, 1983 the members unanimously supported the stake presidency's announcement of Robert Little. He chose Don Brock and Stan Tucker as his counselors. In the latter part of 1983 the Brock family moved, and a short while later Jon McCabe was called both as counselor and Elders Quorum president. President Little and his family had returned to Wakulla County several months prior to his new calling after being in Alaska two years. In his first remarks as branch president he said he was thankful for the opportunity to serve and did not know how long he would be here, but that it probably wouldn't be for long because branch presidents only serve a year in Crawfordville. President Little is now going on his third year.

A bright day in our history was December 15, 1983 as the saints gathered to break ground for our new building, and eight months later we held our first meeting in the new chapel. Many have played a part in making this branch work and have given us and our children a history that we can be proud of and one that the Lord is proud of. We currently have 106 members in the Branch with over 75 percent in Sacrament attendance.

Revisiting Ward & Branch Conference

The following articles are brief summaries of the messages delivered this year at ward and branch conferences. We wish to thank the following people for their contribution: Loran Anderson, Ken Driggs, Cherie Garr, Dena Hall, Printess McCreless

Melchizedek Priesthood



During unit conferences, the Melchizedek Priesthood were instructed by President Chapple and President Madsen. The subject was priesthood!

President Chapple observed that we often define priesthood with a short, standard definition without really paying much attention to the deeper meanings.

Continued on page 9

Scouting News



Last December Ivan Snow Lybbert was busy organizing his service project, making Christmas Baskets, for his Eagle Scout Award. A lot of food and many toys were collected from people in First and Third Tallahassee Wards for several weeks. Boxes were placed at church to hold the toys

and food as they were donated. Posters were made by the scouts and were placed around the church. On Christmas Eve Ivan and his older brother, also an Eagle Scout, went out and delivered everything. The response was so great that he had more than enough and the Salvation Army received what wasn't used. He passed his last merit badge the Sunday before his 18th birthday.

Ivan is a unique example of continued work in Scouting over seven years. He was a part of the large Scout Encampment held at the Church Ranch in central Florida in 1980. He had received 12 or more merit badges when he attended three weeks of Scout camp at Wallwood near Quincy and Euchee near Bristol when he was 12. In 1981 he had all his merit badges except two. He had several different scoutmasters and, although they tried to encourage him, most of the emphasis was placed on the younger boys coming into the program. Then Richard Meik, J.T. Little, and Joe Torgesen became associated with the scouts and they were determined to give Ivan the help he needed to finish his Eagle Scout requirements before his 18th birthday.

We hope this will encourage all Scouters in the Stake. As a famous coach once said: "The game isn't over until it's over."

After Ivan's application came back from the national office, it became very difficult to get a date for the Eagle court of honor where the Scoutmasters and Ivan's family could get together, and even then his older brother Gene and wife and the Meiks could not make it. August 17, 1985 was set for the date and a very lovely program was planned by the troop committee chairman, Sister Karen Torgesen.

We would surely like to thank all of Ivan's leaders in any capacity that encouraged him along the way. We are sure they all had a hand in his growth in scouting and in magnifying his priesthood. This February 6, 1986, Ivan will enter the MTC and prepare for two months in order to fulfill a two year mission to the Canadian Montreal Mission (French speaking).



MELCHIZEDEK PRIESTHOOD from page 8

He then reviewed through quotations of latter-day prophets some of the more profound and awesome aspects of priesthood. Although many priesthood powers, such as creating, redeeming, and purifying worlds, are far beyond our total comprehension, President Chapple noted we can use some of this power to act in the stead of God to bless the lives of others. This translates to service.

President Madsen reviewed the offices within the priesthood and emphasized certain practical, everyday applications of priesthood as patriarchs in the home. He suggested priesthood holders should not think they are absolute rulers of the household. Spouses can do many things better, including some of the decision-making. The area in which the patriarch should exercise his position as head of the house is in the spiritual realm. His spouse may be a better teacher, but he has the responsibility to teach in the home, and he cannot simply delegate that to others. He is responsible to see that family prayers are held, that scriptures are studied, and that members of the household develop testimonies of Heavenly Father, of the Savior, and of the restored gospel.



Relief Society

We have enjoyed the ward and branch conferences this year and have felt your love and sisterhood. Because we felt the need of the sisters to be able to grow together, our theme has been "Striving Together As Sisters In Zion."

Second counselor Dena Hall's talk was "Striving Together In Friendship." It was stressed that we are in charge of our own friendships. We have a very special friendship with Christ, and like all friendships, we need to work to strengthen it by service. As sisters, we already have a close relationship; let us now be friends and look for ways to become friends.

Ann Nicholson, first counselor, talked about "Striving Together In The Auxiliaries." All women in the Church are automatically members of the Relief Society. Sister Nicholson discussed the importance of striving to make all sisters feel a part of this organization. As we serve in Primary or Young Women, we are doing a service for our sisters. As we are called to serve, we should remember that we can grow in our calling by service to others. It is also important that the Relief Society members say thank you to these special sisters and also make sure that these sisters get the announcements and any other news. We are never too old to serve.

Renee Anderson, Stake Relief Society President, focused her remarks on "Striving Together Through The Generations." Sister Anderson spoke of her memories of growing up and seeing her mother and grandmother serve in Relief Society. She felt that their example helped her understand what Relief Society was all about. She pointed out that many of us do not have "generations of Mormons; that we are forming our generations now". She spoke about how she feels our generations go back beyond the veil, and how much help we can receive from our past generations. She encouraged us to be aware of our heritage and be proud of it.

President Chapple concluded the Relief Society session by reiterating the importance of each of the topics discussed. Using examples from his own life, he brought home the message that while many of us understand the principles, often we are slow to take the necessary steps to make them work, leaving that responsibility to someone else.



Aaronic Priesthood



As we reflect back on 1985 and assess the youth program in the Stake, we can't help but be pleased. The youth are a vibrant force and exciting to work with, especially since we know why they were brought forth in these latter days.

As we have traveled the Stake and visited each ward and branch, we have attempted to impress upon the Young Men the need for service to others, going on missions, activating other young men, and being involved in the Boy Scouts of America. We know that if we can get the Aaronic Priesthood involved in the Boy Scouts their opportunities for service and activation will be greatly enhanced.

The measure of success for any program is by the end results. This year has seen an increase in registered Boy Scout Troops, more Eagle Scouts, and a number of Young Men ready to begin their Eagle projects. Varsity Scouting was implemented and was enhanced by a high adventure camporee in the North Carolina mountains. Character traits are being built which will carry forth throughout each young man's life.

Find out about the youth in your unit. They will have a positive effect on your life!



Young Women

As members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, we find ourselves to be a goal setting people. And, the Young Women program is no exception. This year as we have traveled to each ward and branch conference, we have had the opportunity of discussing the "My Personal Progress" program with each group of Young Women. This program helps each girl set 12 goals per year-- two goals in each of six categories or areas of focus: spiritual awareness, homemaking arts, service and compassion, recreation and the world of nature, cultural arts and education, and personal and social refinement. Participation in this program encourages self-mastery, constant progress, inner strength, and growth in their own testimonies.

"My Personal Progress" can help each individual young woman to apply gospel principles in her daily life, to develop her potential as a daughter of God, and to learn to contribute to others.

Another area discussed is the Young Women 1985 theme D&C 59:5. Through story and example it is explained how important it is to love our Heavenly Father with all our heart, might, mind, and strength, and to serve our brothers and sisters in the name of Jesus Christ.

We also encouraged each young woman to make good choices and to be obedient to the gospel principles. We explained that straying from the protection of gospel principles, little by little, eventually results in unhappiness. Sterling W. Sill stated, "If we give everything we have for eternal life, it will still be the best bargain we can make."

We then presented each girl with a poem and a framed, cross-stitched rose which we made for each

girl in the stake to let her know she is loved by her stake Young Women leaders.

It is such a wonderful experience to work and serve the young women of our stake. We want each girl and her leaders to know we love you, we think you are great!



Primary

Members of the stake Primary presidency enjoyed visiting the various Primaries throughout the stake. They had an opportunity to observe ward and branch Primary leaders interacting with the children, and then they shared a story and activity about the ninety and nine with the children. This story portrays the theme for Primary that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love each of us with a very special love greater than anything we know. They show this love in many ways such as providing us with a good place to live and good things to eat and drink. It is hoped that each child came away with a greater understanding that he or she is important to Heavenly Father, and that even when our Heavenly Father must seek after the stray, he makes sure that the ninety-nine are safe and sound first.



Sunday School

Each year in the United States six million wives are physically beaten by their husbands. Between two and four thousand of them die from those beatings. Statistics reveal that one husband in four slaps his wife. Two thousand children die each year from child abuse. Experts estimate that between 25 and 38 percent of all girls under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse at some point in their childhood. One out of eight girls will experience very serious abuse.

These grim figures and others are recited by Presidents Richard L. Chapple and Charles H. Madsen, Jr. in addresses delivered to adult members during Sunday School at ward and branch conferences. President Chapple introduces the subject, apologizing as did Jacob of old for using "boldness of speech. . . before your wives, and your children, many of whose feelings are exceedingly tender." (See Jacob 2:6-10) President Madsen discusses specifics of the sober topic making it clear that the Church is very deeply concerned with maintaining quality family relationships.

President Madsen, who holds a Ph.D. in psychology and has maintained a fairly extensive private practice in addition to his teaching duties at the Florida State University, said he is constantly impressed with the serious impact these experiences can have on children. "This past experience in life many times destroys a person's ability to enjoy a full and beautiful relationship with their mate as the Lord intended it," he says. He stressed that "the victims of the evil acts of others are not guilty of sin." He cites extreme and unwarranted guilt on the part of the victim as one of the worst results of the sexual predation of children.

Temple recommend interviews have for the last few years asked members about the quality of their relationships with their families. President Madsen pointed out that this question is concerned with, but not limited to, physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse and excessive punishment. "Child



SUNDAY SCHOOL (continued)

molesting or cruelty to your spouse and children are among the offenses that can lead to a Church Court. The penalty for incest is mandatory excommunication," he explains.

President Madsen reads from a February 7, 1985 communication from the First Presidency of the Church:

"Victims of rape or sexual abuse frequently experience serious trauma and unnecessary feelings of guilt. Persons threatened with rape or forcible sexual abuse should resist to the maximum extent possible or necessary under the circumstances. The extent of resistance required to establish that the victim has not willingly consented is left to the judgment of the victim, who is best acquainted with the total circumstances and their effect on his or her will."

The First Presidency's letter goes on to say that children are too young to be held accountable in evaluating such behavior, and should not be judged. President Madsen stresses that even teenagers should not be held accountable for acts that are with an adult in a position of authority or responsibility over them such as parents, stepparents, other relatives, youth leaders, teachers, or other similarly placed individuals. He cites statistics to the effect that 80 percent of all abuse is perpetrated by friends or relatives of the victim.

With regard to children, President Madsen suggests teaching them that "nobody touches you or looks at you in places covered by a swimming suit." He urges parents to believe their children when they say they have experienced sexual abuse. "Children usually don't lie; never disbelieve a child about these things."

President Madsen cites emotional neglect and excessive physical punishment as very real but less publicized problems today. "I can't understand how any member of the Church, especially a priesthood holder, can take a belt to a child. It is OK to discipline a child and to use physical punishment. But, the parent has got to be under control when it's done. A parent should never discipline a child when he or she is angry or out of control."

Bishops who become aware that members have been the victims of abuse should urge them to seek professional help. "There are so many long-term effects that can have a great impact on your life," President Madsen points out. Interestingly enough, he said children under the age of eight are the easiest to work with after an incident of abuse because they seem to be much less affected by it.

Youth Sunday School



President Paul Nicholson opens the youth session of Sunday School with some discussion about the three-fold mission of the Church. Because this is the Lord's Church, this three-fold mission takes in all of our Heavenly Father's children by focusing on missionary work to everyone that is not a member of the Church, "perfecting" those that are members, and providing vicarious ordinance work for those who have gone before so that all may have the opportunity to return to our Heavenly Father. He explained that the Church is governed by councils, beginning with a Heavenly Council, the Council of the Twelve Apostles, area, region, stake, ward and branch, and on down to family councils. The three-fold mission of the Church is accomplished through these councils.

President Richard Chapple then addresses the same sensitive topic with the youth as with the adult Sunday School class, the bottom-line message being that children and teenagers who are victimized by sexually predatory adults are not guilty of any sin and should not fear going to their bishops or branch presidents to talk about such experiences.

"Adults, especially those who are relatives or who have positions of trust in the lives of children and teenagers, are the principle offenders when they impose their unrighteous desires on the young people who place a trust in them," President Chapple tells young people. "These events need to be dealt with promptly so that the young victims may be told that they do not bear the blame when they are the victims of sexual abuse. They must know that they can put it all behind them and get on with their lives."

President Chapple stresses to these Sunday School classes that all of them will likely encounter someone who has or is presently enduring this awful experience. "They will want someone to talk to, and you should listen. You should encourage them to report the incidents and to seek professional help. Your being a good friend at this point in a sexual abuse victim's life may be one of the greatest positive contributions you can make for your peers," he emphasized.

The youth Sunday School classes are encouraged to react and discuss their own feelings on this subject by President Chapple. The classes usually start with students being a bit shy about the topic, but rather quickly warm up to active response under President Chapple's gentle hand. Their responses make it clear that young people are aware of this problem in our society, and that they recognize the extremely damaging impact it can have on a young person who does not get the benefit of professional help. The primary point made in the presentation is that if you have a friend or a schoolmate or even a relative who obviously has something severely wrong in their life, it could be the result of sexual abuse. This presents an opportunity for LDS young people to perform a valuable, compassionate service in the life of another person by being a good listener and encouraging them to take corrective steps.

"Frankly, the responses I get from young people around the Stake just continues to confirm my belief that we have a lot of really good kids in our units who are prepared to take the principles of Christian living into their lives, and are ready to help a friend in need," President Chapple observed.




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