

Revelation extends blessings of gospel

The First Presidency of the The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints released the following statement:

"As we have witnessed the expansion of the work of the Lord over the earth, we have been grateful that people of many nations have responded to the message of the restored gospel, and have joined the Church in ever-increasing numbers. This, in turn, has inspired us with a desire to extend to every worthy member of the Church all of the privileges and blessings which the gospel affords.

"Aware of the promises made by the prophets and presidents of the Church who have preceded us that at some time, in God's eternal plan, all of our brethren who are worthy may receive the priesthood, and witnessing the faithfulness of those from whom the priesthood has been withheld, we have pleaded long and earnestly in behalf of these, our faithful brethren, spending many hours in the upper room of the temple supplicating the Lord for divine guidance.

He has heard our prayers, and by revelation has confirmed that the long-promised day has come when every faithful, worthy man in the Church may receive the holy priesthood, with power to exercise its divine authority, and enjoy with his loved ones

every blessing that flows therefrom, including the blessings of the temple. Accordingly, all worthy male members of the Church may be ordained to the priesthood without regard for race or color. Priesthood leaders are instructed to follow the policy of carefully interviewing all candidates for ordination to either the Aaronic or Melchizedek Priesthood to insure that they meet the established standards for worthiness.

We declare with soberness that the Lord has now made known His will for the blessing of all His children throughout the earth who will hearken to the voice of His authorized servants, and prepare themselves to receive every blessing of the gospel."

Sincerely yours,

Spencer W. Kimball
Weldon G. Tanner
Marion G. Romney

The First Presidency

Priesthood news evokes joy

The First Presidency's announcement on June 9 that all worthy male members may be ordained to the priesthood has received positive reactions from both members of the Church and non-members throughout the world.

Reaction to the statement, which was issued in the form of a letter to priesthood leaders, quickly spread from the Church's headquarters in Salt Lake City to major news outlets across the nation and in other countries.

The Church's Public Communications office, which released the statement to the news media, received hundreds of telephone calls from interested parties throughout the world. All major television networks featured the announcement Friday evening.

The story was the lead item on the NBC Nightly News that evening. Time and Newsweek magazines held up deadlines in order to get a report in their upcoming issues. The New York Times, Washington Post and Los Angeles Times carried the story on their front pages, as did many other major newspapers.

News media representatives from Canada, England and several other countries called with requests for more information.

U.S. President Jimmy Carter, in a telegram to President Spencer W. Kimball, said, "I welcomed today your announcement as president and prophet of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints that henceforth all worthy men in your church without regard for race or color may have conferred upon them the priesthood in your church.

"I commend you for your compassionate prayerfulness and courage in receiving a new doctrine.

"This announcement brings a healing spirit to the world and reminds all men and women that they are truly brothers and sisters."

The most joyful reaction to the news, however, came from Church members.

Numerous bishops, stake presidents and other priesthood leaders expressed their pleasure and optimism about the opportunities that may come to all Church members now that the priesthood may be conferred upon all worthy male members.

The announcement brought tears of humility, elation and happiness to many members, especially black men and their families.

Robert L. Lang, a black member who has been serving as the first counselor in the Sunday School presidency of the Inglewood Ward, Los Angeles California Inglewood Stake, and his wife, Delores, were thrilled with the announcement. Sister Lang is the secretary to the Young Women in the ward.

"When I came in, my wife was crying," Brother



Joseph Freeman Jr. is now an elder. With him are son, Alexander and wife, Toe.

Lang said. "She had heard the news and was so happy. I know the Church is true, and I knew that the time would come when the Lord would make it right.

"It had not been hard for me to accept the Church. I knew I had found what I was looking for and I gladly accepted it.

"Delores and I will now get our endowments and will be sealed and do temple work for the dead. I know that they have been waiting for this moment, too."

Monroe Fleming, an active member in the Valley View 4th Ward, Salt Lake Valley View Stake, said, "I shouted for joy. We have had numerous calls from important people. This seems to be the thing the Lord has prepared."

Brother Fleming has been a member of the Church since 1966. "The gates are down," he said. "It is up to me to build my life up so that I will be worthy to enter."

Brother Fleming, who has been a popular speaker at firesides for several years, said that he will continue

to do the kind of missionary work that he has been doing.

Titus Ifedida, a Nigerian who serves in the presidency of the Sunday School in the Manhattan 2nd Ward, New York New York Stake, has been a member of the Church for three years.

A medical doctor specializing in tropical diseases, he said, "We were excited when we heard the news, but I am too busy to be excited now. There is too much work to do.

"This is the true Church, and a true prophet receives revelation from our Heavenly Father. These are facts.

"Every black member of the Church should very humbly pray and realize that we must begin right now to share with others the precious gift of faith, which Heavenly Father has entrusted to us.

"In the face of disappointments, ingratitude, lack of cooperation, apathy or indifference in our lives, we

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Interracial marriage discouraged

For a number of years, President Spencer W. Kimball has counseled young members of the Church to not cross racial lines in dating and marrying.

Following are some excerpts of his messages on the subject:

In an address to seminary and institute teachers at Brigham Young University on June 27, 1958, President Kimball, then a member of the Council of the Twelve, said:

"... there is one thing that I must mention, and that is the interracial marriages. When I said you must teach your young people to overcome their prejudices and accept the Indians, I did not mean that you would encourage intermarriage."

Speaking to Indian students at Brigham Young University on Jan. 5, 1965, President Kimball, as a member of the Council of the Twelve, said:

"Now, the brethren feel that it is not the wisest thing to cross racial lines in dating and marrying. There is no condemnation. We have had some of our fine young people who have crossed the lines. We hope they will be very happy, but experience of the brethren through a hundred years has proved to us that marriage is a very difficult thing under any circumstances and the difficulty increases in interracial marriages."

Addressing a Brigham Young University devotional on Sept. 7, 1976, President Kimball counseled the students:

"We are grateful that this one survey reveals that about 90 percent of the temple marriages hold fast. Because of this, we recommend that people marry those who are of the same racial background generally, and of somewhat the same economic and social and educational background (some of those are not an absolute necessity, but preferred), and above all, the same religious background, without question."



Photo by Hack Miller

Active Church members in New York, Titus Ifediba and Milton Vasquez are anxious to advance in the priesthood.

Prophets tell of promise to all races

Former presidents of the Church have spoken of the day when the blessings of the priesthood would come to the blacks.

On Oct. 5, 1840, a report from the Prophet Joseph Smith stated, "If the work rolls forth with the same rapidity it has heretofore done, we may soon expect to see flocking to this place, people from every land and from every nation; the polished European, and the shivering Laplander; persons of all languages and of every tongue and of every color, who shall with us worship the Lord of Hosts in His holy temple and offer up their orisons in His sanctuary." (Documentary History of the Church, Vol. 4, page 213.)

In a sermon delivered Oct. 9, 1859, President Brigham Young said, "God has created of one blood all the nations and kingdoms of men that dwell upon all the face of the earth: Black, white, copper-colored, or whatever their color, customs, or religion, they have all sprung from the same origin; the blood of all is from the same element." (Journal of Discourses, Vol. 7, page 290.)

President Wilford Woodruff, in his journal, later records these words of President Young. "The day will come when all that race (the blacks) will be redeemed and possess all the blessings which we now have." (History of Wilford Woodruff, page 351.)

In his dedicatory prayer in the Salt Lake Temple on April 6, 1893, President Woodruff stated, "May an ever widening way be opened before them (the Church leaders) until they shall have raised the gospel standard in every land and proclaimed its saving truths in every tongue, that all the islands and the continents may rejoice in the testimony of the great work Thou art in these latter days performing on the earth."

President Heber J. Grant, in a letter to a questioner, dated Jan. 28, 1928, said, in speaking of the blacks, that they cannot hold the priesthood "until such time as he (the Lord) shall see fit to withdraw the decree."

President David O. McKay, then a member of the First Presidency, in a letter dated Nov. 3, 1947, wrote:

"Sometime in God's eternal plan, the Negro will be given the right to hold the priesthood."

Statement on priesthood

News brings excitement

Continued from page 3

will be bouyed up and spurred on because we will realize we can be Christ's instruments in bringing a bit of His warmth to offset the chill when love is absent."

Raymond Rivera and Milton Vasquez, members in New York City, were among the first black men to be ordained priests.

"I have never known such happiness," said Brother Vasquez, who has been a member of the Church for seven months. "I am anxious to advance in the priesthood and be married in the temple."

The man who has received the most publicity is Joseph Freeman Jr., who is believed to be the first black member ordained an elder in the Melchizedek Priesthood since the announcement on June 9th.

Brother Freeman has been interviewed by numerous reporters. His story has appeared in several newspapers and a segment originating in Salt Lake City featured him on the Today Show on NBC Television June 12. On June 13, he appeared as a guest of David Hartman on Good Morning America on ABC Television.

"This is something we've waited a long time for," said Brother Freeman, a member of the Granger 15th Ward, Salt Lake Granger North Stake, as he spoke of his ordination to the priesthood.

James Dawson, a black member of the Tabernacle Choir and an employee in the Church Office

Building, said he is "overjoyed about the announcement, not just for the fact that blacks can now receive the priesthood, but my feeling is that this gives the gospel a much greater opportunity to be heard worldwide."

Ruffin Bridgeforth Jr., leader of the Genesis Group, an organization of black Latter-day Saints in Salt Lake City, said that he's always had faith that all worthy male members would someday hold the priesthood.

Malcolm Williams, a member of the Atlanta Ward, Tucker Georgia Stake, said he was reading the scriptures and the Church News when his home teacher called to tell him about the news.

"I didn't know what to think," he said. "My first reaction was that I thought it was marvelous. I feel blessed that the Lord has seen fit to provide the revelation to make this possible. I feel that I can accept the responsibilities of the priesthood."

Paul Devine, a black member in San Pedro, Calif., said of the revelation, "It's the greatest thing that has happened to the black man since we have been in this life."

A high school physical education instructor, Brother Devine estimates that he is one of 12 black men among approximately 250,000 Mormons in Southern California.

He said that when he joined the Church 12 years
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James Dawson, left, works in Church's Postal Services Department.



Jose Ramon Diaz, right, is greeted by Robert Brady, regional leader.

Priesthood news brings joy

Continued from page 4

ago his black friends criticized him and called him a traitor to his race.

"I knew at that time that I couldn't hold the priesthood, but it didn't matter to me," he said. "God had said that it wasn't yet the time."

He said the first thing that he wants to do after he is ordained to the priesthood is to baptize his two youngest children. He and his wife, Ernestine, have three children.

The news of the announcement had great impact in Puerto Rico and throughout the islands of the Caribbean. Arline and Frank Talley, Church leaders in Puerto Rico, called a friend in Haiti, Alexandre Mourra, who is an Arabian member.

"Glory be to God!" said Brother Mourra. "I can't believe it. Is it really true?"

Brother Mourra told Sister Talley that he had more than 21 people who have been waiting for the missionaries to come teach them. "How soon can someone come over to baptize them?" he asked.

All of Brother Mourra's friends who have been investigating the Church are, like most Haitians, black.

Victor Nugent, a faithful Jamaican member, said when he heard the news, "I never thought I would see the day. Does this mean that I can take my family to the temple?"

Brother Nugent told Amos Chin, who is part Oriental and part black, about the news. Brother Chin, a 20-year-old convert of one year, asked, "Does this mean now there's a chance that I can go on a

mission?"

On June 4, Jose Ramon Diaz bore his testimony in a meeting. "I have waited years for the priesthood and I will wait forever if I have to," he said.

It was just the next Friday that Fela Ramirez, a member friend, ran out of her house to tell him the

Souvenir copies of the June 9 edition of the Deseret News announcing the historic change that all worthy male members of the Church may now hold the priesthood are available for 45 cents. They will be mailed anywhere in the United States.

Extra copies of this souvenir edition of the Church News recording the impact of this historic event are also available for 45 cents.

To get one or both copies write to the Church News, Department K, P.O. Box 1257, Salt Lake City, Utah 84110. Additional postage required for foreign delivery.

news she had just heard on the radio — that blacks could now be ordained to the priesthood.

"I stood there like someone had struck me," he said, "just kind of unconscious. I could not believe it. My knees almost gave way.

"It means that I can go to the temple and have my family sealed to me."

Brother Diaz, who has been a member of the Church for 30 years, has most recently served in the Sunday School presidency of the San Juan Branch in the Puerto Rico District of the Florida Ft. Lauderdale Mission.

He was ordained an elder on Sunday, June 11. Two brothers, Edgardo Pastrana and Bernave Pastrana were ordained priests.

Brother Diaz, before his ordination, was waiting in the hallway of the meetinghouse to be interviewed. A member came by and said to him, "They're keeping you waiting."

"I don't care," he said. "I've waited 20 years; what's 20 minutes more?"

Sister Talley said that the chapel of the San Juan Branch was filled to capacity on Sunday. "Everyone was weeping," she said. "Everyone was hugging each other. It was a thrilling thing to see. We were all so happy."

She said that the news spread quickly throughout the islands. "The members kept calling us to confirm it," she said. "They heard it on the radio but just couldn't believe it. Our phone rang all day."

She said that El Mundo, the largest newspaper in the Caribbean, carried a front-page story on the announcement. El Mundo is published in the Spanish language. The San Juan Star, an English newspaper, also carried news of the announcement.

Jerry Cahill, a spokesman for the Church, said that the news of the announcement has generated favorable comments from many areas.

Sixteen telephone lines rang constantly in his office for three hours. Some of the calls were to confirm that the news was true and other calls were from those expressing their happiness.

He said that some, hearing that the news reports were accurate, broke down and cried in happiness.



Clydia M. Kelley has done more than 200 baptisms for ancestors in temple.

Photo by Saxton Weir

Temple goal closer now

JACKSONVILLE, FLA.

Clydia M. Kelley has had many happy moments since she joined the Church in 1962.

But perhaps the happiest of all those moments came June 9 when she heard on the news that the First Presidency announced that the priesthood would be extended to all worthy male members.

This announcement had great significance for Sister Kelley, a black woman who has done more than 200 baptisms in the Washington Temple for her ancestors.

"I always felt that the barrier would someday be lifted and that my people would have the full benefits of the temple ordinances," Sister Kelley said.

A member of the Jacksonville 3rd Ward, Jacksonville Florida Stake, Sister Kelley first visited the Washington Temple before it was dedicated.

"I saw the bride's room and fell in love with it," she said. "My niece was with me and said how wonderful it would be to be married there. I explained that only worthy priesthood holders and their brides

could be married there.

"Whenever anyone from my ward has gone to the temple to be married, I have been so thrilled for them. I always want to go up to them and shake their hands — I'm a good handshaker!

"Now, thank God, the day has come when the blessing of the temple can come to us all if we are worthy."

Sister Kelley said that her husband, Carlos C. Kelley, although a non-member, has supported her "more than 100 percent" in her research of her family's genealogy.

"He's been very supportive of me going to the temple to do these baptisms," she said. "He's a good man, and I know someday we will go to the temple together and be sealed for time and eternity."

Speaking by telephone on June 9 with a Church News reporter, Sister Kelley said, "This is the greatest day of my life — the greatest day in the Church, as far as I'm concerned.

"I wish tomorrow was testimony day; I'm so anxious to get my testimony to Church."



Photo courtesy Church Historical Department

Since early Church days, blacks have set an example

Samuel D. Chambers, is shown with wife, Amanda Leggroan Chambers, in 1908.

Green Flake's daughter Lucinda, center, and her daughters, Martha and Belle, were Church members.



Photo courtesy Mary Lucile Bankhead

As the history of the Church has unfolded since the restoration, faithful black members have made contributions all along the way.

Since the time of Joseph Smith, these members faced many trials and tribulations with the other members, according to Church Historical Department records.

One of the first black members baptized in the Church was Elijah Abel, who joined the Church in September 1832.

Brother Abel was one of a number of black members who were converted by missionaries during the early history of the Church. Others joined during the early developing years of the Church.

The reminiscence of one of these, Jane Elizabeth Manning James, expressed the degree of devotion they had to the gospel. She described the trip to Nauvoo, Ill., after she and a party of family members and friends were baptized.

"... we left the boat and started on foot to travel a distance of over 800 miles.

"We walked until our shoes were worn out, and our feet became sore and cracked open and bled until you could see the whole print of our feet with blood on the ground. We stopped and united in prayer to the Lord; we asked God the Eternal Father to heal our feet and our prayers were answered and our feet were healed forthwith."

She wrote that they were treated with rebuff and trial until they reached Joseph Smith's home. There they were invited to stay until housing could be found for them.

She lived with the Smith family until after the Prophet's martyrdom, when she went to

stay at the home of Brigham Young. Sister James crossed the plains and remained an active member of the Church the rest of her life.

Another black member with a remarkable story was Samuel D. Chambers. He was baptized at night in 1844. Brother Chambers didn't have another contact with the Church for 21 years. With the Emancipation Proclamation, he and his family acted upon their new-found freedom by saving means in order to travel to Utah.

"Being young when I received the gospel, the Spirit of God remained within me," he said in a deacon's quorum testimony meeting later.

After his baptism, he said, he greatly longed to gather with the saints, but he never could see how it could be brought about.

Brother Chambers and his family were active in the Church in Salt Lake City, and he was appointed to help the deacons (often grown men in those days) in maintaining the meetinghouse.

Upon reaching his declining years, he often stood and bore his testimony to the young men in priesthood meeting. He was an ardent missionary and refused to tolerate criticism of the Church leaders.

Another such member with roots in the early Church was Green Flake, a liberated servant of James M. Flake. Green was baptized April 7, 1844, by John Brown, according to Jeffrey O. Johnson of the Church Historical Department.

The Flake family were plantation holders who were converted after hearing the gospel from Benjamin Clapp. After joining the Church, they disposed of the plantation. Green stayed with them voluntarily

He was sent to accompany the first wagon train in its trek west.

Two incidents during the trip impressed him — first, seeing a buffalo calf and asking what kind of animal it was, and second, seeing a band of Indians in war paint surround the company and demand payment for crossing their territory.

Brother Flake earned historical renown by being the driver of the wagon which carried Brigham Young into the Salt Lake Valley in 1847. That summer, he helped in planting crops and building cabins.

The same year, he returned east and brought the Flake family west in 1848.

After the saints were established, he worked in quarries hauling granite for the Salt Lake Temple. He remained in close contact with the Church for the rest of his life. It is said that he dug the grave in which Brigham Young was buried.

The foundation for faithfulness laid by Brother Flake continued through some of the members of his family.

Blessing to all races foretold

Continued from page 4

This statement was repeated by the First Presidency in The Priesthood Bulletin, February 1970, over the signatures of Presidents Hugh B. Brown and N. Eldon Tanner, counselors to President McKay in the First Presidency.

They further stated, "Until God reveals His will in this matter, to him whom we sustain as a prophet, we are bound by that same will. Priesthood, when it is conferred on any man, comes as a blessing from

A great-granddaughter, Mary Lucile Perkins Bankhead of the Valley View 4th Ward, Salt Lake Valley View Stake, has been an active member all her life.

"My great-grandfather, Green Flake, was his own man. He was a very kind man and was always singing, from what I heard of him."

She said she remembered Abner Howell, another strong associate in the Church, who later married her mother, Martha Stevens Perkins Howell.

Brother Howell, who came to Utah after the completion of the railroad, was an active member.

"He taught classes in Church; he taught in Mutual. He had a very strong testimony.

"He tried to get everybody he came in contact with to join the Church. He never mentioned anything about the priesthood to me," she said.

Sister Bankhead is a visiting teacher for the Relief Society and heads the Relief Society in the Genesis Group, an organ-

God, not of men."

In an interview with United Press International in October 1972, President Harold B. Lee said, "The Negro will achieve full status. We're just waiting for that time.

"Our doctrine toward Negroes cannot be explained in abstract terms. If one believes in revelation, then the reason is clear; if he doesn't, then there is not adequate explanation."

President Spencer W. Kim-

ization of black members formed Oct. 9, 1971.

"I was born in the Church," she said. "I have been active all of my life. I went to the Primary, Beehive Girls; I sang in the choir."

She said her children found it difficult to find marriage partners, but that they did very well. She has one son who is active and others now who have expressed interest in being reactivated. It was hard to keep them active as youths, she added.

"They saw other boys who had the priesthood who didn't honor it, and it was hard for them. I know the other boys will have to answer for it, as I will have to answer for my life, but it was hard for my boys to see that.

"I don't complain. I have had many blessings. I have had a wonderful life.

"This announcement has been wonderful, especially for the young boys. Now they can hold the priesthood and become deacons when they are old enough."

ball, addressing representatives of the media in a news conference Dec. 31, 1973, replied to questions regarding blacks: "I'm not sure that there will be a change, though there could be. We are under the dictates of our Heavenly Father and this is not my policy or the Church's policy — it's the policy of the Lord who has established it and I know of no change though we are subject to revelations of the Lord in case He should ever wish to make a change."



...esper for Joan Leslie's
...-sleeved tunic worn
...skinny pants, above.
...ht, coral wool jersey
...with modified blouson
...from Jerry Silverman.

...ed topper in poplin, wool,
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...mubby-knit sweater.

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...adowy loulards, paisleys
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...ing strong.

...now, Eleanor Lambert
...mix solids in various
...textures and tonalities.

...now is to watch for
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...also are fabrics to suit
...to use Ms. Lambert's words
...nes to materials, this is a
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...ue, chambrase, tweeds
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...or-knits. Ultra-solids domi-
...y York designer collections
...ters and rays have joined
...us crowd. And it's the first

Great variety abounds, too, on the evening scene

The disco beat has strongly influenced fashion designers, Eleanor Lambert says. It has ushered in a whole new category of dressing — costume-like, sensuous, bold.

In general, after dark the look is more vampy than frilly: evening pajamas, tunics, kimonos, short dancing dresses, ankle-stop jeans worn with sexy high-heeled sandals, silk pants with fullness at the hipline and skinny legs.

And speaking of pants, that skinny-legged silhouette is the thing to remember. That, and the shorter, ankle-stop length.

What about other lengths — daytime dresses, for instance?

Well, New York designers aren't fussing about them. The longer look is generally accepted now — below the knee to mid-calf is standard. Except when you have Saturday Night dancing fever. Then, once again, anything goes!

Anything goes in accessories, too.

Ms. Lambert says 1978 is a banner year for accessories, an ideal time to have some fun. How about a knock 'em dead belt with a bejeweled clasp? How about some crazy fake jewels? Anyone for a fox stole trimmed with head and tails? How about a charming little hat with a veil (it's a big season for the chianti in New York). Or, perhaps, some textured stockings?

The point to remember: accessories can make or break the outfit — whether it's a New York designer gown or not.

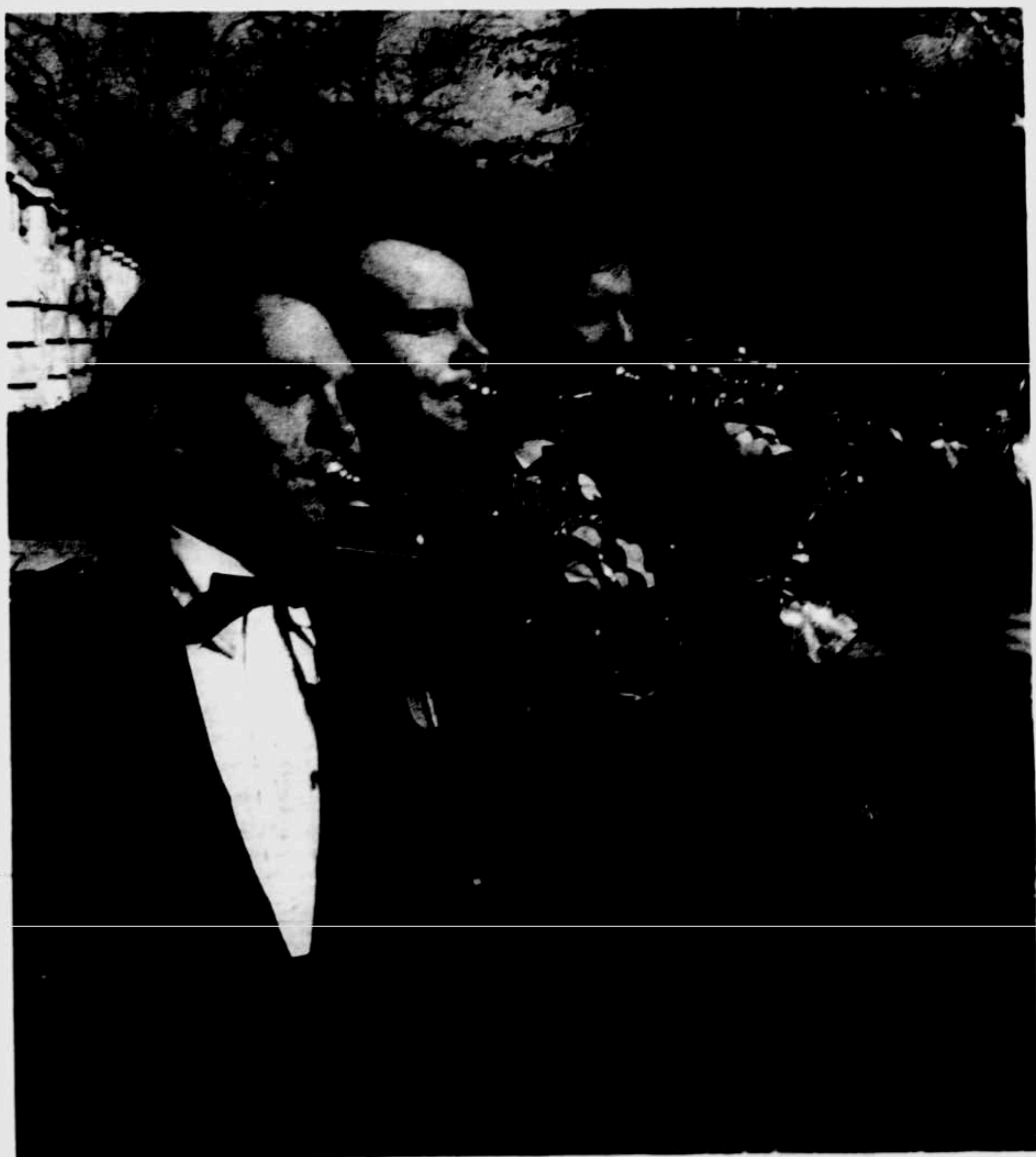
Learning to accessorize with flair can make all the difference. More than anything else, it can send a woman soaring to lofty heights in that big, wide, Wonderful World of Fashion.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY
SAINTS

Church News

PRIESTHOOD
GRANTED TO
ALL RACES
STORIES, PAGES 3-6

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SOUND OF A TRUMP Ted Lewis, Victor Bowman and Jeffrey Novak lend LDS note to U.S. Air Force Band. Story, page 10.

WEDDING
...rn and
...Elkington

GOLDEN WEDDING
Julius and Celeste
Billeter

In honor of the 50th Wedding An-
...niversary of Julius and Celeste
...Billeter, their family will
...invite and relatives to an Open
...House on Tuesday evening, June 20,
...1978, 7:30 p.m. Location: Social
...Center 42 East South Temple, Salt
...Lake City. 1978. The gifts please.

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Message Of Inspiration

It has always been the disposition of the true disciples of Christ, as they reached higher degrees of spirituality, to look after the needy.

—Bishop J. Richard Clarke



(From an address given at General Conference, April 1, 1978)

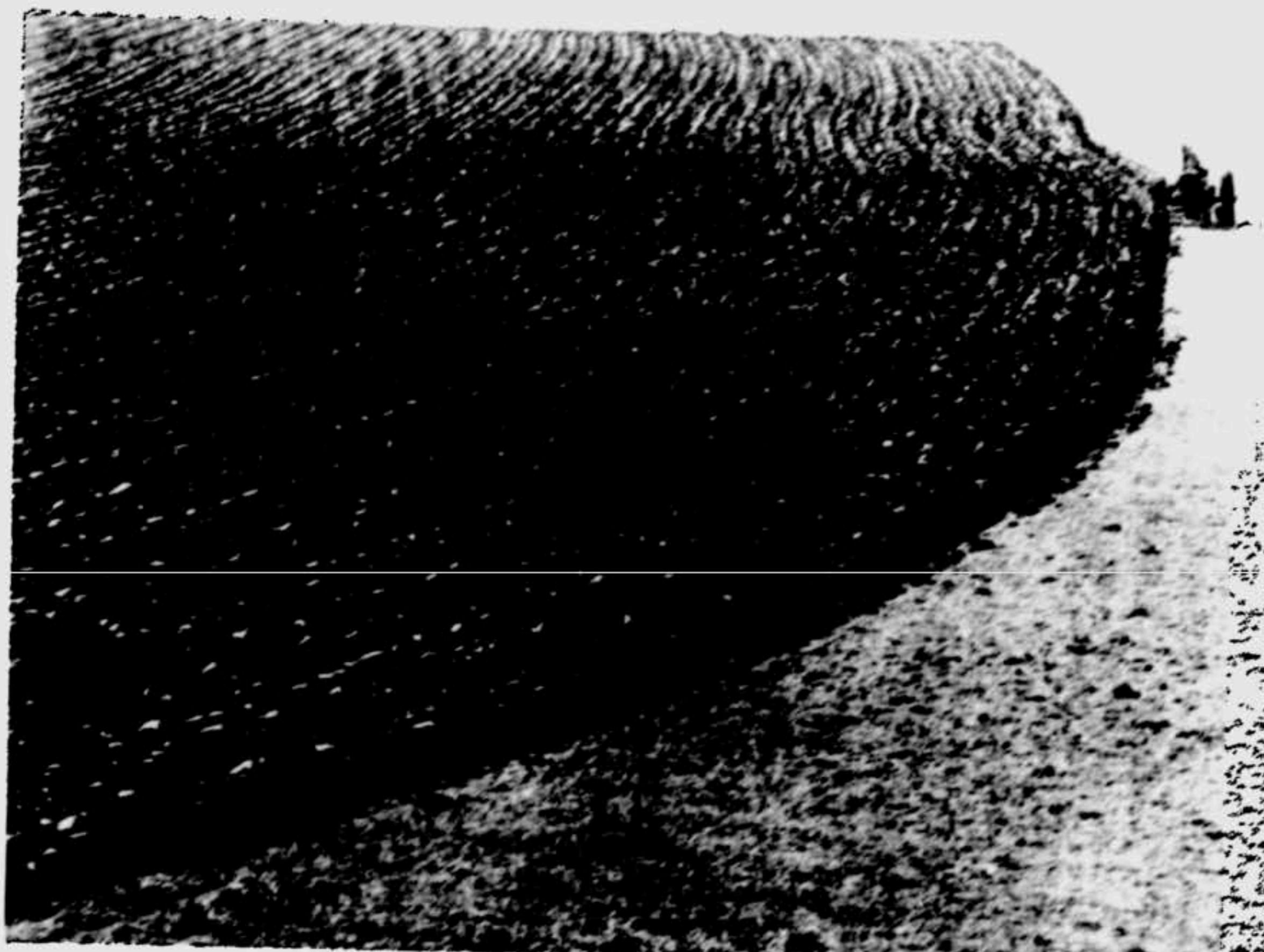


PHOTO BY J. MALAN HESLOP

My most influential teacher

BY BARRY BONNELL

Professional baseball player
ATLANTA, GA.

Randy Wardwell and I went to high school together in Milford, Ohio, a small town near Cincinnati.

He was a member of the Church but it didn't make much difference to me for I knew very little about Mormons.

I had no idea then that one day I would be a Mormon myself nor that Randy would be my most influential teacher.

I lost track of him for a while after we graduated from Milford High School. I went on to Ohio State University and, when he turned 19, he went on his mission.

During the time he was gone, my conversion took place. I met a young Mormon girl on an airplane. I was so impressed with her character and her testimony that I became interested in the Church and gradually gained a testimony.

I remember being at the airport when Randy returned from his mission. He not only was amazed to see me but was happily surprised that I had become a member of the Church.

I was only back in Milford for about six months, wanting to be drafted into professional baseball by a major-league team. It was during that six months that Randy Wardwell changed my life.

He taught the gospel essentials class in the Milford Branch, the class I was attending at the time as a new



Barry Bonnell

member of the Church.

I remember being impressed with the depth of his understanding of the gospel and particularly with his familiarity with the scriptures.

Through his example, I began to study the scriptures, seeking answers to my own questions about the gospel. It wasn't easy at first but the more I read, the more exciting the scriptures became. Through Randy, I have learned to consult the scriptures as decisions have arisen in my life.

He and I were also home teaching companions during

this short period of time.

Most of the families we were assigned were inactive in the Church. I remember being touched by his desire to regain these families.

Before we entered each home, we sat in the car and prayed for the inspiration of the Spirit to guide us as we worked with these families.

Through this experience I sensed the closeness missionaries must enjoy with Heavenly Father for Randy acted as though he were still on his mission.

He prayed for the help of the Spirit as if these families had just been introduced to the Church and were receiving the missionary discussions for the first time.

We always took messages of inspiration to these members and taught them while we were in their homes. Randy often assigned me to prepare a spiritual message and together we answered many questions.

Today, I'm trying to be the kind of home teacher Randy taught me to be.

Recently, my young companion and I visited the home of a family of new members. We prayed earlier that we might have the inspiration of the Spirit as we called on them and I felt impressed during our visit to explain to them the way their home teachers are to help them.

Among the points I explained, I said that we were to answer their questions about the Church. After my remarks, they began to ask questions about tithing, explaining their

difficulty in accepting this particular principle.

We spent the evening discussing tithing and they agreed to try it. The family has since told me of the blessings they have experienced by living this law.

As I look back on where I've

come from, I can see that the things I've learned from Randy Wardwell have been among the most important of my life. He taught me to search the scriptures, he taught me to depend on the Spirit for inspiration and he taught me the value of every soul.

IN THIS ISSUE

About 80 percent of the more than 105,000 people who have toured the recently remodeled Hawaii Temple are not members of the Church. Their favorable impressions have been evident in their comments about the temple, which was rededicated this week.

President Spencer W. Kimball and other General Authorities presided at and attended the rededication services. Nine services were held to accommodate the many Church members on the Hawaiian Islands who wished to attend.

Many local Church members, full-time missionaries, college students and employees of the Polynesian Cultural Center performed extra acts of service to accommodate the thousands who came to Laie.

For more information, see page 7.

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