

Arkansas
Little Rock  **ck**
Mission

History

July 1, 1975 – March 31, 2025

Editor's Note: *This history (updated March 19, 2025) is organized around the 3-year terms of each of the presidents of the mission. Information contained herein was taken from Church Archive records, Mission Histories, Mission Statistics, The Leader, and photos provided by various persons. Mission histories, kept by each mission president or mission historian, were not all the same. For a few years there were no histories written. Other years contained short accounts of mission events, and some contained detailed, daily accounts. This history includes selected accounts from available records. Where details existed, more accounts are provided. Where little information existed, few accounts are provided. An attempt was made to select interesting or unusual events to be included in this history. Travel, zone conferences, departing and arriving missionaries, and other events that occurred on a regular basis have not always been included unless they were deemed different or exceptional. This history contains only a small collection of items from hundreds of pages of mission histories and other records that began in July 1975 and continue to this day. Rather than being a narrative history of the mission, this history is a compilation of generally non-related events and accounts extracted (with editing for spacing, spelling, and other grammatical items), as written, from previous mission histories. Elder Brooks Green, 2015*

Introduction

Missionary work began in the South in the 1830s, but it was not until August 11, 1878, that the Southern States Mission was organized. The Indian Territory Mission was organized in 1897. The Central States Mission was organized in 1899. The Texas Mission was organized in 1931. The Texas-Louisiana Mission was organized in 1945, and the Gulf States Mission was created in 1955.

Pre-1975 Missionaries



Sisters Ione Furiham and Louise Peterson – 1932



1st –Glade C. Labrum, President Miles L. Jones, Elder Joseph Fielding Smith, E. Verdel Lamb, and G.M. Brinkerhoff; 2nd-A. LaMar Andrus, Ervin S. Tolley, Milford W. Kempton, R. A. Wilson, C.A. Talbot, W.G. Kinghorn, and Scott Bringhurst - 1929



Circa 1935



Top Left – Elders Melrose Miller and Nelson Larsen; Top Right – Sister Alta Gardner; Bottom Left – Elder Roland Woolley; Bottom Right – Unknown, circa 1935



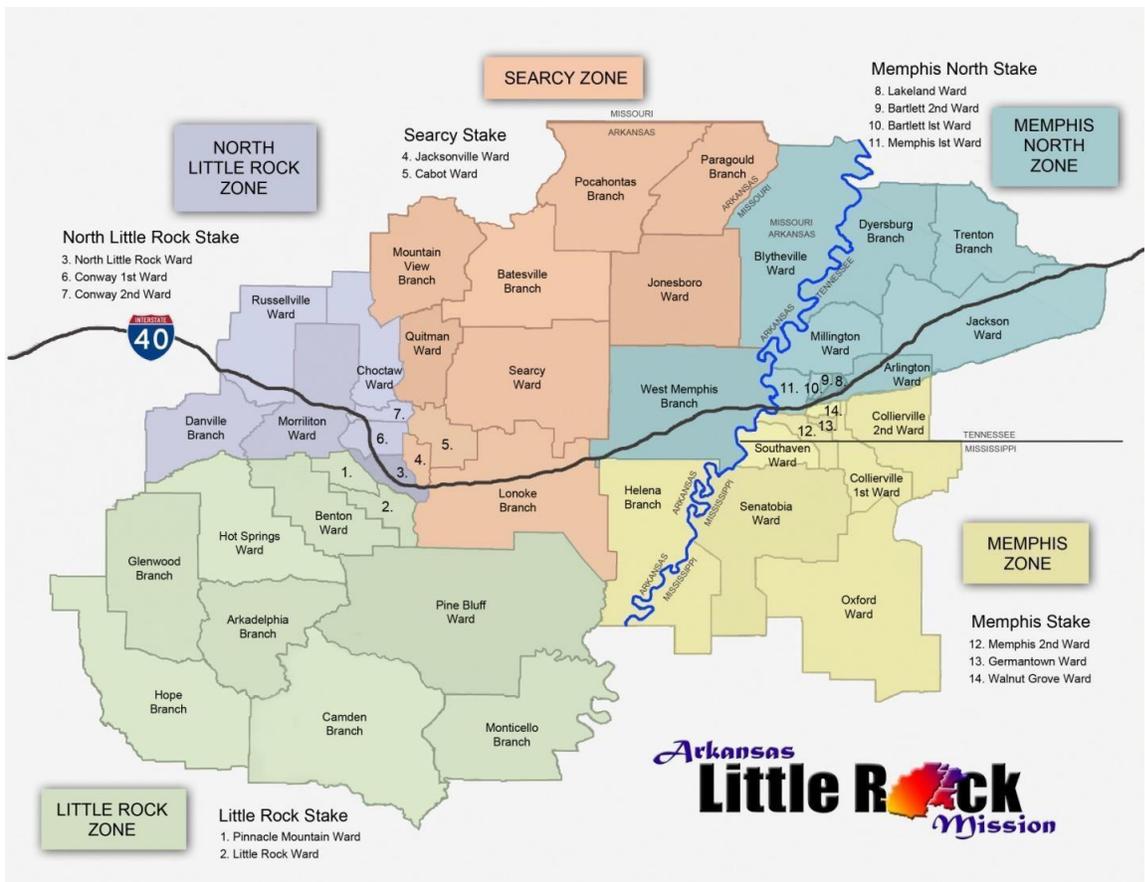
Top Left – Sister Gibbons; Top Right – Elder Rudd
Bottom Left – Elder Jensen; Bottom Right – Elder Alma Simmons



Elder Ursel Anderson

Elder George Gardner

On July 1, 1975, the Arkansas Little Rock Mission was officially organized. It was made from part of the Louisiana Shreveport Mission and the Oklahoma Tulsa Mission. It included two Stakes, the Memphis Tennessee Stake, and the Little Rock Arkansas Stake, and one District, the Northwest Arkansas District. Richard Merrill Richards was called as Mission President. He arrived on June 30, 1975, with his wife, Mary Gurnsey Richards and one of their sons, Mark Lynn Richards. The two assistants to the president were Raymond Walter Griffin and Randall R. Sorensen. The office staff consisted of Wendell Clyde Behunin as Mission Secretary, Mark Dee Langford as Financial Secretary and Fleet Administrator, Kent Nelson Cravens as Public Communications Director and Jonathan Greg Evans as Commissarian. A reception was held at the Little Rock Arkansas Stake Center for President Richards and his family. Both stake presidents were in attendance along with the district presidents of both the Louisiana Shreveport Mission and the Oklahoma Tulsa Mission.



Mission Map - 2015

President Richard and Sister Richards

July 1, 1975 to July 1, 1978



1975

October 2, 1975: Forrest City, Arkansas, and Paragould, Arkansas were opened up for missionary work. Elder Kyle K. Jeppesen and Elder Ronald Paul Kirkpatrick were

assigned to Forrest City and Elder Vance Morrill and Elder Sherman Bond were assigned to Paragould.



*Elders Robert Hays, David Galloway, Mike Carson –
Oct. 1975 (photo by Ron Record)*

October 17, 1975: George Vann Wing, of North Little Rock, Arkansas, was set apart as Executive Secretary of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission by President Richard M. Richards.

November 7, 1975: Three new areas were opened in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. The new areas opened are Huntsville, Arkansas, by Elder Daniel William Holayter and Elder Matthew Wade Hunting; Poteau, Oklahoma, by Elder Kurtis Leo Leany and Elder Glen Alan Wilson; and Van Buren, Arkansas, by Michael Adams and John Arthur Holladay.

November 21, 1975: One new area was opened in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. The area is Slayden, Mississippi, which will be in the South Memphis Zone. The elders opening the area are Larry Dean Sandberg and Chris L. Bishop.

December 14, 1975: The mission home of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission was dedicated today. The dedicatory prayer was offered by President Richard Merrill Richards, first mission president of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. The dedicatory services were held at 2:00 p.m. President Richards thanked Brother David Gonce for his assistance in purchasing the real estate. In attendance at the dedicatory services, which were held in the mission home, were George Romney; Regional Representative, Mervin J. Rasmussen, Memphis Stake President, Audi Lloyd; first counselor, Dr. Roger Hiatt; second counselor, Dean Andrew; Little Rock Stake President, J. Lynn Mellor; first counselor, Richard W. Cobb; second counselor, William J. Bohn; Ft. Smith Arkansas District President, Glen Titsworth; first counselor, Jerry Speir; second counselor, as well as Eugene Jowers; first counselor in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission presidency, and Arthur D. Browne; second counselor in the mission presidency. Sis. Richards and Mark Richards were also in attendance.

December 19, 1975: Three new areas were opened in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. They are Camden, Arkansas, North Memphis, and Covington, Tennessee.

Elder Ronald Record and Elder Martin Ellsworth opened Camden. Elder Dirk Smith and Elder Gregory Seibold opened the area in North Memphis. Elder Sanford Story and Elder Bruce Hardle opened up Covington, Tennessee.

190 baptisms

1976

January 30, 1976: Five new areas and six new districts were opened in the mission. The districts are Forrest City (Elder Kyle Jeppesen), Magnolia (Elder Laren Robinson), Fort Smith (Elder Clair Smith), and one in North Memphis (Elder Kent Beardall) and one in Millington (Elder Darryl Wagner). A sister district was organized in Little Rock (Sister Christine Landward). The new areas opened are North Little Rock, Arkansas, opened by Elder Steven Jackson and Elder Ronald Martin; Fort Smith, Arkansas, opened by Elder Barry Thomas and Elder Matthew Hunting; Millington, Tennessee, opened by Elder Darryl Wagner and Elder Kevin Jones; Newport, Arkansas, opened by Elder Kenneth Potter and Elder William Egan; and Senatobia, Mississippi, opened by Elder Paul Peterson and Elder Randall Child.

February 13, 1976: Two new zones were created in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. The El Dorado Zone and the East Memphis Zone Were created and zone leaders were called to head the new zones. The creation of the new zones was announced at the zone leader/district leader conference held in Little Rock. Elder Gary Ezra Tolman was called to be the zone leader of the East Memphis Zone. Elder Kelly Duane Tolman was called to be the zone leader of the new El Dorado Zone. Elder David Lee Stevenson was called to be the zone leader of the Jacksonville Zone replacing Elder Tolman. Four of the original six zones were reorganized in the new organization of zones.



Shelby Forest, TN April 1976 (photo by Ron Record)



Elders Mike Carson and Kelly Tolman, Camden, March 1976 (photo by Ron Record)



Shelby Forest, Memphis TN April 1976



Baptism of Tommy Newton, Elders Dirk Smith and Ron Record, April 1976 (photos by Ron Record)

The Church of Jesus Christ
of Latter-day Saints

Camden Sunday School March 14, 1976 10:00 AM

Devotional Prelude

Welcome: Roy Ed Davis

Opening Hymn: # 3 "Come, Come, Ye Saints"

Invocation: Elder Record

Worship through Music: #169 "There is Beauty All Around"

Inspirational Talk: Aaron Hilson

Inspirational Talk: Larson Daniel

Sacrament Hymn: #8 "God Our Father, Hear Us Pray"

Sacrament Gem: Kelleen Davis

Jesus said: I am the resurrection, and
the life. .whosoever liveth and believeth
in me shall never die. (John 11:25-26)

Sacrament Service

Class Activity

First Sunday School Program of the Camden Branch

May 15th, 1976: President Paul H. Dunn of the First Council of the Seventy, came to tour the mission. Fort Smith and Fayetteville Zones held a conference at which he spoke.

June 15, 1976: A zone and district conference was held in Little Rock. The concerns of this zone and district leaders conference was to perfect the "structures" of the mission. The round-table discussion began on a note of despair, but later, the proceedings ended with a spiritual ring.



President Richards' Car, American Motors Matador (photo by Ron Record)



Zone Conference, Memphis 4th Building April 1976 (photo by Ron Record)

July 1, 1976: "HAPPY BIRTHDAY ARKANSAS LITTLE ROCK MISSION."

On this date, the Arkansas Little Rock Mission celebrated its first birthday since being established on July 1, 1975. The Mission President is President Richard M. Richards and his loving wife is Sister Mary G. Richards. Serving as assistants to the president are Elders Parker Hansen and Kelly Tolman. The office staff consists of Elder Gary Woodward as Secretary to the President; Elder Ray Dumaguin as Mission Public Communications Director; Elder Kenneth Housley as Financial Secretary and Fleet Administrator; and Elder David Galloway as Mission Commissarian. There are presently 172 Missionaries serving in the mission field - 134 elders; 20 sisters; and 9 couples. An invitation was extended to the missionaries by President Richards to have them commemorate the event by holding a special gathering within their own areas from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Missionaries in and around Little Rock, including all couples meeting for a couples seminar here, met at Burns Park in the evening. There, ham and turkey were served along with other delights brought in by the visiting couples. Highlight of the evening was the singing of happy birthday to the Mission and the blowing out of the birthday candles by President Richards and Sister Richards.



Rogers, AR District – left to right – Steven Jackson, DL; John York, Greg Seibold, Dennis Passey, Bruce Handle (photo by Ron Record)

October 1st, 1976: The Arkansas Little Rock Mission and the Arkansas Stake joined financially to secure a booth at the 1976 Arkansas State Fair and Live Stock Show. The booth secured was situated in the Hall of Industry building and encompassed a 10'x10' area. The booth featured a large framed poster of the Tabernacle Choir with accompanying recorded tabernacle music. This bowed central section was flanked by four posters of various temples scenes. The office staff participated in the construction of the booth under the able direction of Elder Kent H. Dalton. The coordinator and master-mind behind this project was Elder Ray. R. Dumaguin. Various local missionaries helped to man the booth, which had a running period of ten days.

SUPPLEMENT TO THE HISTORICAL EVENTS RECORD KEPT ON THE ARKANSAS LITTLE ROCK MISSION, FROM JULY 1ST, 1975 UNTIL DECEMBER 31st 1976.

Due to a misunderstanding and not knowing exactly what to put in the significant events, this supplement is being given to make clearer some of the things that were done in the mission during the period of time given.

After each new missionary arrived in the field there was a testimonial meeting held with these new missionaries at the mission home, where President Richard M. Richards presided and conducted that meeting. In attendance at all of these meetings were the office staff, and the Elders and Sisters who did not have teaching appointments located and living in the Little Rock (immediate) area. Also when new Elders and Sisters and couples came into the mission field they were all interviewed that same day by President Richard M. Richards. Orientation was also given to all of the new missionaries and this orientation was held in the office of the mission. When missionaries went home from their missions and had completed their mission assignment, a testimonial meeting was also held in the mission home the night before they left. Guests, friends, and converts were invited to attend these testimonials. Many new converts whom the missionary had converted and baptized came to these meetings and visited the mission home. They bore testimony of the fact that that particular missionary had been sent to them to inspire them and being to them the truth of the gospel. These testimonial meetings were uplifting to all those who would attend, besides the converts members and friends, the missionaries living within the immediate vicinity of the mission home who did not have teaching appointments for that evening also attended.

Other not recorded incidents that took place were some mini-zone conferences which the President and the two assistants traveled to. They spent an hour with one or two districts giving them uplifting instruction for carrying on their duties as missionaries in the mission. These were quite successful and were held in the Little Rock and the El Dorado Zones.

It might also be noted that in February 1976 that a proclamation was signed by the Arkansas Governor, David Pryor, before President Richard M. Richards and the two assistants along with Bishop David Gonce of the Little Rock 1st Ward and Bishop Garrel B. Shaw of the Little Rock 2nd Ward, (Little Rock, Arkansas Stake) at the state capitol building. This proclamation was for Family Home Evening Week. Pictures were taken and Governor Pryor was presented the book *A Marvelous Work and a Wonder* as well as a signed booklet that came out from Ezra Taft Benson entitled *A Plea for America*. These books were presented by President Richard M. Richards.

It might also be noted that during 1976, President Richard M. Richards, Sister Richards and the assistants to the President, visited every apartment of the missionaries in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. At this time they looked at the apartments and saw that they were keeping them up as to cleanliness and also making sure that they were living somewhat in the best possible neighborhood they could find for the money that they spend for housing. These trips were very successful and will be done again in the year 1977. All in all, the apartments were kept fairly clean. There were only four or five that were sloppy and this of course was taken up on the spot with those missionaries who were not well kept.

When the Arkansas Little Rock Mission was organized a mission emblem was drawn depicting three sections on a shield: 1. the Prophet Joseph Smith kneeling receiving revelation; 2. the Gold Plates, and 3. the Salt Lake Temple. This emblem was also made into a shield for jewelry items such as lapel pins, tie tacs, charms, rings, cuff links, etc. Many of the missionaries have purchased these items. This has been done with no expense to the mission but directly accountable to the missionaries themselves.

465 baptisms

1977

March 10, 1977: President Richards and the assistants, Elder Clair John Smith and Elder Michael Carson conducted a zone conference in the North Memphis Zone. The zone conference was on setting goals and attaining them and there were two workshops on this subjects during the morning. Each of the assistants conducted one of the workshops. The missionaries listened to a tape from another mission about a 90 hour work week called the "Wilford Woodruff" week. It was suggested that the missionaries could try this if they wanted to but they were not required to do it. In all the areas that this has been tried in the mission, it has met quite a lot of success.

May 10, 1977: President Richard M. Richards left for Memphis, Tennessee, to meet President Paul H. Dunn from the airport at 12:00 p.m. President Dunn and his wife have come to take a tour of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. At 1:30 p.m. Elder

Dunn, President Richards (and their wives) and the assistants to President Richards, Elder Carson and Elder Dumaguin, met with the three Memphis zones. During the zone conferences, the missionaries were asked to submit some kind of goals for the months of May and June in baptisms. Elder Dunn talked to the missionaries about the growth of the Church and the importance of their work in its growth.

May 12, 1977: President Richards, President Dunn and their wives and the assistants traveled to Fort Smith where they held a conference for the Fort Smith and Fayetteville zones and once again recorded their goals for the months of May and June. Elder Dunn said that in two weeks he will read these goals to President Spencer W. Kimball and then he will review them with the prophet again in two months and see how well we did on them.

President Richards received notice from the First Presidency today that the zone boundaries would be changed on July 1, 1977 and that the Fort Smith and Fayetteville Zones would be in another mission as would all of the Fort Smith District. We would be gaining the Texarkana area. This change is to keep the boundaries of the welfare areas such that the boundaries of the priesthood representatives were no longer overlapping. President Richards instructed the office staff and the assistants to keep this quiet until such time as he should see fit to release it to the missionaries.



Elder at Little Rock bus station



Elders at Parley P. Pratt grave



Groceries on bikes

June 9, 1977: President Richard M. Richards travelled to Memphis to participate in a fireside there in which President Richards introduced Billy Casper and Johnny Miller. They were in Memphis, Tennessee, participating in a golf tournament, the Danny Thomas Golf Classic. Upon learning of their participation in said tournament, Elders Dirk Smith and Elder Richard Bramwell contacted them and they consented in speaking at a special fireside in their honor. President Richards introduced the players who answered questions and bore testimony of the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Stake President, President Hiatt of the Memphis Tennessee Stake, bore his testimony and the President Richards bore his testimony. There were about 150 in attendance with about 75 investigators. On June 10, President Richards wrote to Salt Lake to see about getting some publicity in the *Church News* for the golfers and their successful fireside.

August 14, 1977: The following changes were made at the Little Rock Arkansas Stake Conference which began at 10:A.M. at the Jacksonville Arkansas Stake Center. Six units were taken from the Little Rock Stake and the El-Dorado District was created. The District Presidency was formed under direction of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission President, Richard M. Richards, and the Little Rock Stake President, Jessee Lynn Mellor, who both in their respective positions act under the Direction of President Spencer W. Kimball.

Sept. 12, 1977: President and Sister Richards went to Atlanta, Georgia, to attend the Mission Presidents' Seminar. The conference lasted 3 days, and at the conference was Elder Boyd K. Packer, of the Council of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Paul H. Dunn, and Elder M. Russell Ballard. Each of the different presidents conducting gave information on the statistics of their own mission. Elder Packer expressed the importance of the member families working to bring people into the church. He also pointed out that the position of the missionary is to assist the members in their fellowship, and it is the responsibility of the members to fellowship new converts. It is not the responsibility of the missionary as much as the member, to find new people to teach, said Elder Packer. During the course of the 3-days conference, other various topics were discussed. All were edified by the spirit and went away with renewed vigor and strength.



Elder Paul H. Dunn with missionaries

September 30, 1977: The mission sponsored a booth display as this was the first day of the Arkansas State Fair and Livestock Show which will run for 10 days. The topics of the booth are "How's Your Roots? Ancient America Speaks, and the First Vision." The "How's Your Roots" topic deals mostly with genealogy and temple work.



Chapel in Ft. Smith, Arkansas

October 29, 1977: Elder Bruce R. McConkie of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles addressed the opening session of the Little Rock Stake Conference held in Jacksonville Stake Center this Saturday night. Members from both stakes were present as Elder McConkie spoke on the importance of authority, and how all of the various keys of this dispensation were restored in their proper order. All were edified and the spirit of the Lord was strong.

448 baptisms

1978

February 6, 1978: Elder Russell M. Ballard, of the First Quorum of Seventy, arrived at the Memphis Tennessee airport and was greeted by President Richards, Sister Richards, and the assistants. After a brief welcome, they retired to the Memphis 2nd Ward, and were greeted by the missionaries of the North, East, South, and Old Miss Zones. The conference got under way at 11: a.m., and was presided by Brother Ballard. The opening hymn was "The World has need of Willing Men," and Elder Jeffrey Isom offered the invocation. President Richards then addressed the conference, and he was followed by Sister Richards, then Elder Haslem, and Elder Richard Johnson. The conference then sang "Let us all Press On" and the morning benediction was offered by Elder Jeffrey Peters. A 65-minute lunch followed, after which the afternoon session of the conference began with "We Thank Thee O' God for a Prophet" and Elder David Anderson offered the invocation. Brother Ballard then addressed the conference, and admonished the elders to obey the rules, honor their commitments that they have made as missionaries, and be obedient to their leaders. The conference then adjourned at approximately 3:55 pm. and the closing song was "Ye Elders of Israel". The closing prayer was offered by Elder John York.

April 7, 1978: The mission acquired four new cars today: Three Pintos (colors; red, blue, and chamois.) and also a blue Fairmont. Four Hornets were reclaimed by Salt Lake and the mission is very happy. Several zone leaders came to Little Rock to switch around cars. The office staff will keep the new blue Fairmont, the assistants will keep the chamois Fairmont, Elder Kris Bitton in New Albany got the

Assistants' Vega (which, to help confuse this record some more, is the Vega that Elder Jeffrey Isom left last Saturday. In other words, the assistants traded cars with Elder Isom), Elder John York got a new Pinto (red), Elder Matthew Brady in Oxford got a new, blue, automatic Pinto, Elder Bryant Lancaster received Elder Dennis Passey's Vega for use in Forrest City, Arkansas, Elder Dennis Passey received a new chamois, automatic Pinto, and Elder John York's Vega went to Elder Jeffrey Peters in South Memphis Zone. Elder John York is in the North Memphis Zone. The Assistants worked today with Elder Matthew Brady and Elder Quayle Bateman. They will stay there tonight, also.

April 11, 1978: Elder Douglas King was hit by a car while riding on his bicycle in Batesville, Mississippi. Details on the accident are shaky. He is in the hospital in Oxford, Mississippi.

April 14, 1978: President, Sister Richards, and the assistants returned this afternoon from their visit to Oxford, Mississippi, to see how Elder Douglas King was doing. On the eleventh of this month, Elder King and his companion, Elder Glendon Chatterton, were riding their bicycles down the road when Elder King was struck directly from behind by a car. Elder Chatterton also wrecked on his bicycle because of the car, but wasn't hurt, Elder King was thrown quite a distance and ended up with compound, multiple fractures of the right leg and also cuts on his face, hands, and arms. One thing about the accident, there were no cuts where his garments were. His leg might have been broken where his garments covered, but no cuts were present. Another case of garments doing their thing.

June 27, 1978: Well, today was the big day. It started off with a call from President Jones in the Salt Lake City airport telling us that he would not be arriving at 2:00 as expected, but that he will not be in until 5:00. It seems that in the world there is a controller slowdown which is playing havoc with airplane scheduling. Later in the morning we got another call telling us that he would not be in until about 9:30 or later. But, I guess the Lord was able to help out when they were able to catch a flight that would bring them in at 5:20. They arrived at the airport on time and the Jones family was met by President and Sister Richards, the office staff, the assistants, and also some of the missionaries in the Little Rock area. The luggage was picked up and the Jones' were taken to the mission home. That evening at 7:30, a reception was held at the mission home for them. In attendance were the heads of the auxiliaries so that the Jones family would know some of the people in the ward when they attended church this Sunday. After the reception, President Richards finished packing up his car and they left the mission home and stayed in a motel tonight. President and Sister Richards will be driving to their home in Provo, Utah. Gretchen and Holly will keep them company in their travels. President Jones' family consists of: President Eugene L. Jones, his wife, Sandra Jones, the daughters; Chere - 14, Michelle - 10, Susette - 6, Stephanie - 5, and the son; Michael - 2 months.

June 28, 1978: At 7:00 President Richards, his wife, Gretchen, and Holly left the ALRM for home. Thus endeth the Richards' era, and thus beginneth the Jones' era. President Jones entered the office for the first time at about 1:30 and immediately sat down with the staff and the assistants, (the assistants at this time are: 1st Assistant - Elder Richard Johnson, 2nd Assistant - Elder Richard Bramwell. The office staff consists of: Elder Bill Workman - Secretary, Elder Kevin Wooden - Financial Secretary and Fleet coordinator. Elder Lynn C. Harris - Mission Recorder and Public Communications Director, and Elder Lex Anderson - Mission Supply Manager.) All sat down and discussed the mission, some of the programs that we have and some that President Jones wants to instigate, and also different ways to further the work.

President Eugene L. and Sister Jones

July 1, 1978 to July 1, 1981



July 2, 1978: President Jones, his wife and the assistants traveled over to Memphis, Tennessee, in preparation for the zone conferences to be held on the east side of the river. They stayed that night in Memphis. The ARLM is now three years and one day old.

July 7, 1978: The ARLM acquired a new car today. It is a Chevrolet Nova. It is quite a nice car and looks nice too. It is silver with a red interior. Everyone seems to think that they ought to drive it, but it has not yet been assigned to anyone.

July 11, 1978: While traveling down the street, two of the office staff were involved in an automobile accident. They were driving the blue Fairmont at the time and it got pretty smashed up. It was the other guy's fault and no one was hurt, except for the car. The car received upwards towards \$900.00 in damage to the right side. The whole right side will have to be repaired and will be done so with the funds coming from the other guys' insurance company.

August 4, 1978: At 6:30 p.m., in West Helena, Arkansas, Elder Kim Cooper was bicycling down the road with his companion, Elder Powell. A dog ran out in front of Elder Cooper and though he tried to avoid the dog, he still hit it. He, Elder Cooper, was flipped over the handle bars and did a couple of summer-saults down the road. The wreck was pretty bad and Elder Cooper wound up with a fractured skull and a concussion. He was taken to the hospital in West Helena, but quickly transferred up to the Baptist Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. Reports say that he is doing well, but it will probably take a couple of months to re-cooperate (no pun intended). It is not known at this point whether he will remain out in the field to re-cooperate, or whether he will go home for that time.

Sept. 13, 1978: The president return today from the seminar. Also the Little Rock area has reported 11 inches of rain in the last four hours. Flooding is being reported. We started for work at 8:30, but didn't make it. President and two of the office staff went to El Dorado this evening. We made a few surprise apartment checks and the president had a leadership meeting with the El Dorado district. The assistants are on tour again. They are working with the Jacksonville elders, and will be working later on this evening with the North Little Rock zone leaders.

November 30, 1978: Brother Joseph B. Wirthlin of the Council of Seventy flew into Memphis, Tennessee and President Jones and his wife and the assistants went down to meet him.

December 22, 1978: Sister Susan Dewy went home to Salt Lake City, Utah. The office is in the Christmas spirit. Awhile back, a tree was purchased and set out side in the front of the office.

405 baptisms

1979

January 1, 1979: Today preparations were being made for the zone leaders to come to Little Rock for a zone leaders' conference to be held here in the mission office.

There are presently eleven zones in the mission and twenty two zone leaders will be coming into Little Rock. This will be a session set up for the purpose of making some changes in the organization of the mission, these changes having been delayed for the first six months of President Jones' tenure in the mission field.

January 27, 1979: This is the final day of the month for record keeping. It seems to have been a slow month for baptisms because of the cold weather and poor continuity between the members and the teaching process.

March 13, 1979: It was office work as usual. Winter seems to be letting up as President Jones had the snow tires taken off his car and new tires put on. President and Sister Jones drove to Stuttgart, Arkansas, late this afternoon for a meeting with members there on missionary work.

April 1, 1979: General Conference was viewed today. The television station, Channel 11, in Little Rock area, broadcast two hours of the opening session of conference which would be the Saturday morning session. The missionaries with investigators and others, had the opportunity to watch this session and then listen to other sessions in the chapel where the direct wire broadcast brought the message.

August 26, 1979: President Jones and the assistants went to Conway where they had charge of the speaking assignment in the sacrament meeting. This meeting was held at 11:30 a.m. The Conway Ward is growing and has a lot of families. There was a good message given regarding the missionary effort that can be accomplished through the use of the *Book of Mormon*.

October 1, 1979: It had been generally assumed by the members that the conference broadcast from Salt Lake City of the Saturday morning session would be seen, however, the television station, Channel 11, did not schedule the conference broadcast. The conference sessions were listened to at the chapel coming in by direct wire. The sacrament meeting was scheduled in the afternoon.

October 27, 1979: Stake conference was scheduled for this weekend for the Little Rock Stake at the Jacksonville stake center. President Jones attended a meeting for priesthood leaders with the guest general authority for this conference who was Boyd K. Packer. Some excellent instruction was given, questions and answers were dealt with and the evening session was well attended by husbands and wives throughout the stake.

November 24, 1979: There was a baptism held in the Little Rock chapel. Two converts were baptized and President Jones baptized his 8-year-old daughter, Claudene.

November 29, 1979: This evening, Elder Jeffrey Gallacci was struck by an automobile in North Little Rock. He was very lucky that he was not seriously hurt. He did have a concussion and a loss of smell and taste.

December 8, 1979: The Little Rock 2nd ward sponsored a bazaar and survival fair at the Little Rock chapel. The missionaries were involved in the preparing of one of the booths and they circulated around talking to non-members and members and mingling with those who were present.

December 25, 1979: Today was a day off for a Christmas with families and members. All the missionaries were able to have a Christmas dinner with the members of the Church.

409 baptisms

1980

February 8, 1980: This evening, Larry Andrews, the District President of the El Dorado District, accompanied by his father, Dean Andrew, the councilor in the mission presidency, arrived in the mission home to stay overnight for a trip to Memphis for the regional council being held under the direction of regional representative, Lee Miller. The storm front that moved in to the state left an extremely icy condition and it was determined that the Little Rock Stake presidency and the mission group would not risk the trip to Memphis.

August 12, 1980: The representative from the Missionary Training Center (MTC), Brother Eric Ott, arrived in Little Rock to make an evaluation of the missionaries that had recently been through the MTC. There was a different type of discussions learned. Brother Ott went out and taught with the missionaries and contacted with them. Elder Ott remained for the remainder of the week.

September 7, 1980: The local radio station, KLAZ, offered their two-way talk show, "Point-Counterpoint" to the Church for a rebuttal to the presentation on that same show by Sonia Johnson, the ex-communicated member of the Church, who was in the area to promote the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment. As guests, President Jones, Sister Jones and Elder Scott Boley, took ninety minutes of the interview on air time, fielding the questions from the listening audience and talking about the Church. They seemed to have a good opportunity to present some solid facts about the Church, and its stand opposed to the Equal Rights Amendment.

September 13 1980: President and Sister Jones traveled to Memphis to attend the Memphis Stake conference. A leadership meeting was held in the evening. Elder Gordon B. Hinckley presided at the conference.

November 1, 1980: President Raymond Boyett came to Little Rock to receive some training with President Jones on furthering the member involvement in missionary work in the El Dorado District. The Little Rock Stake conference was held during that afternoon with the leadership sections beginning at 4:30. Elder Rex D. Pinegar was the conference visitor.

November 8, 1980: An accident took place in Booneville, Mississippi, in which Elder Durrant and Elder Kurt Young were injured. The elders had started to make a left hand turn and then got back to their lane when the other car in applying its brakes lost control coming into their lane and hit the car head on. The car was totaled. Fortunately after some period of hospitalization Elder Young was released from the hospital, Elder Durrant having been earlier treated and released on the day of the accident. These Elders lost considerable time during the next few days and their period of recovery.

December 3, 1980: President Jones accompanied Gene Sunday, the Regional Public Communication Director, to the KATV TV station, Channel 7 that had received a copy of *Mr. Kruger's Christmas*. There it was previewed and some of the facts about the film were discussed preparatory for the showing in the Little Rock and general Arkansas area on December 12 at 7:00 PM. The flyers were sent out to the missionaries throughout the stake for them to place in public places advertising *Mr. Kruger's Christmas*.

434 baptisms

1981

February 9, 1981: President Jones had a meeting with Brother Harry Jeffs from the Transportation Department in Salt Lake City. He came to Little Rock to inspect our procedures of caring for the mission fleet, and to discuss the details of strengthening the program. Brother Jeffs arrived at 1:00 P.M. and left Little Rock later that afternoon after we had time to look at the cars and to discuss the procedure to be followed in the mission for transportation.

February 17, 1981: The *Member Newsletter* was published, printed, and prepared for mailing. We also spent considerable time updating the list of addresses and names for the people receiving the *Newsletter*.

March 12, 1981: The assistants, along with President Jones, continued visiting missionary apartments in the Conway, North Little Rock, Morriston, and Russellville areas. The conditions of the missionaries' apartments were good and indicated that they had worked hard to make preparations for our visit. Area books and

minimessage records usually demonstrated some periods of time when the program had not been carried out very well. It would seem that visits to the missionary apartments on a semi-annual basis would be very helpful to maintaining the records and programs.

April 11, 1981: The Little Rock stake conference was held. The visitor to the conference was Elder Mark E. Peterson. During the course of the conference on Sunday, the stake presidency was changed with President Robert McChesney installed as the new stake president.

April 19, 1981: This was Easter Sunday. The missionaries were provided with the *Reader's Digest* inserts and used the inserts for a mini-message and distributed them to many on this particular day.

May 25, 1981: President Jones and the assistants continued north to visit missionary apartments in Selmer, Tennessee, and then on to Jackson and Dyersburg. Other apartments were visited in Blytheville, Paragould, and Jonesboro, Arkansas. The group spent the night in Jonesboro.

June 12, 1981: The North Little Rock zone conference was held in Jacksonville for the missionaries of that particular zone. In the evening, a musical production that the missionaries and a group of investigators and members had been working on under the direction of Sister Linda King, was held. It drew a large crowd of members and investigators to the Little Rock chapel. This production had been held the prior evening in the Conway Ward.

June 24, 1981: The movers came to the mission home and took the personal belongings of the Jones family. Final preparations are being made to clear all of the paper work preparatory for the transition.

June 30, 1981: President and Sister Tenney arrived in the early afternoon together with their daughter. They were met at the airport by President and Sister Jones and several of the missionaries. The balance of the afternoon was spent in orientation to help the Tenneys become familiar with the operation of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission.

President C. Vorris and Sister Tenney

July 1, 1981 to July 1, 1984



July 1, 1981: President Tenney's first day in the office. Most of the day was spent in conference with the assistants, Elder Wayne Sorensen and John Ott. They went over the basic outline of the mission programs and orientating President Tenney with the operation of the mission. President Tenney brought with him, from San Diego, his wife Marian, and his youngest daughter, Kathy.

July 2, 1981: The day was again spent with the assistants going over many of the programs and operations of the mission with President Tenney. In the evening, President Tenney attended a reception that was held in the Little Rock chapel where he was able to meet many of the stake leaders. Bishop Doan was there from the Little Rock 1st Ward and Bishop Spradlin from the Conway Ward.

August 19, 1981: The assistants were hit by a truck on the way to the airport. Luckily, only slight injuries were incurred, although the passenger side door of the new Citation was badly damaged.

October 4, 1981: The beginning of this week, on Sunday, marked the concluding day of a very inspirational 2-day district conference in El Dorado. In the conference, President Tenney outlined the ideas for missionary-member involvement which were taught to the mission presidents by Elder Mark E. Peterson of the Council of the Twelve Apostles in a special seminar in New Orleans on September 20-23. President Larry Andrew, the district president, and President Tenney, both challenged the people and the leaders to obtain the help of the full-time missionaries in reactivating at least one inactive family during the next 6 months and to host at least one cottage meeting (family social-type) with non-member neighbors or friends in that same period. That night, back in Little Rock, the Tenney's hosted a missionary fireside in the mission home where 7 or 8 investigators came with their member friends and missionary contacts. President Tenney worked through the rest of the week in the mission office to catch up with the correspondence and to complete his initial draft of ideas to help people who are troubled by anti-Mormon writers and speakers. At the same time, the assistants journeyed to Memphis for picture taking to complete the visual portion of the mission's new training aid for teaching missionaries how to work with members. The assistants also conducted some interviews and leadership training with the zone leaders in the Memphis and Ole Miss areas.

October 21, 1981: President and Sister Tenney and their daughter Kathy, along with the assistants, traveled to Memphis to meet Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone, the area administrator, who would be touring the mission. That evening they participated in the first open house tour through the new Memphis dual-stake center. Afterwards they met Elder Featherstone at the airport.

November 8, 1981: President and Sister Tenney were the speakers in the Hot Springs Ward's sacrament meeting. The next week was devoted entirely to mini-zone conferences in all of the zones. Conference themes dealt with the following: (1) the new Hill/Harvey slide show on how to work with members; (2) a new door approach-adapted and modified from the San Diego approach; (3) Sister Tenney's talk and distribution of a handbook on manners and etiquette. Also, her thoughts on the "importance of you;" and (4) President Tenney's talk to the entire zone on goal areas in the weekly letters, how to increase our baptismal production, hand-out material on how to cope with people who have been adversely affected by anti-Mormon teachings, and a Thanksgiving message on gratitude. President Tenney interviewed each missionary at every conference.

364 baptisms

January 3, 1982: At 7:00 P.M., President and Sister Tenney and the assistants met in the mission home with Brother and Sister Scroggins , Brother and Sister Lewis, and Brenda Reese, a prominent women's leader in the black community. Sister Scroggin is the Stake Public Communications Director and Brother and Sister Lewis are a prominent black couple in the Little Rock 1st Ward. Programs in the Church to help member families were discussed and the film, "Welfare— Another Perspective" was shown. Brenda was greatly impressed.

January 9, 1982: President and Sister Tenney and the assistants went to the Memphis Stake Center to hold a missionary correlation and accountability meeting with President Martin and the zone leaders of the Memphis and North Memphis Zones. The stake mission president and the high council advisor were also there. The six point program was again presented and President Martin gave consent and commitment to the program. Included were promises to help train the ward and stake mission leadership in their roles.

January 27, 1982: President Tenney was invited by radio station KARN to be their guest on the "Information on Religion" series. President Tenney answered questions from 3:00 to 4:00 and was preceded at 2:00 by guest speaker and Mormon financial advisor, Howard Ruff. In spite of several anti-Mormon questions, it was felt to have been an overall plus for the Church.

February 21, 1982: A district presidency meeting was held in the morning. At 10:00 the entire El Dorado District came together for the main session. President Tenney presided and was the concluding speaker. Other speakers were Larry Andrew, the district president; Donny Sullivan; his counselor; two youth speakers; and Sister Tenney. The party returned that afternoon to Little Rock, stopping in Fordyce for a missionary fireside in the home of Elmer Smith in Bearden, Arkansas. The fireside was well attended by nonmembers and was well received. The film, "Ancient America Speaks," was shown.

February 28, 1982: President Tenney journeyed to Memphis, where he was to speak in the Memphis Stake conference. This conference was held under the direction of Elder M. Russell Ballard, one of the seven presidents of the First Quorum of Seventy. The party traveled to the Winchester chapel in Memphis for a baptism after the conference. They then returned to Little Rock in time for the monthly missionary fireside in the mission home. The fireside was well attended by many nonmembers. It featured President Callaway, a counselor in the mission presidency, who spoke on archaeological findings that support the *Book of Mormon*. The fireside was well received.

April 3, 1982: President and Sister Tenney and the Little Rock missionaries listened to the general conference broadcast by direct wire to the Little Rock chapel. The priesthood session that evening was also attended by the missionaries. It was in these sessions that President Tenney first heard official references to the 18-month announcement.

April 18, 1982: President Tenney and the assistants met with President McChesney at noon for the Little Rock Stake missionary correlation meeting. After this meeting, President and Sister Tenney and the assistants left for El Dorado, where a dedication meeting was held that evening in the El Dorado Branch. Members from all of the units of the El Dorado District came to a general district conference at which the area was dedicated for the preaching of the gospel. Talks were given to motivate the people towards missionary activities, and President Tenney gave the main address and the dedicatory prayer. The meeting was conducted by President Andrew. After the dedication meeting, a district missionary correlation meeting was held. The party then went to the home of Dan Jackson, where they were given a late dinner.

May 1, 1982: The "Showtime" Ricks College entertainment group presented a program in the Jacksonville stake center building. Most of the missionaries in the area and many members and their friends were in attendance. The program was extremely well done and well received.

May 8, 1982: At 8:00 P.M., the party attended the lecture of Brother Wilford Griggs in the Germantown stake center. His lecture presented material from ancient Israel that confirmed the authenticity of the *Book of Mormon*. An interesting point made by Brother Griggs was that the scholars who are familiar with the *Book of Mormon* are unable to explain the evidence but still refuse to accept Joseph Smith's account of how the book was translated. He concluded by bearing his testimony of the importance of prayer in gaining a testimony of the *Book of Mormon*.

May 29, 1982: At 7:00 P.M., a farewell program was held in the Jacksonville stake center for President Lynn Mellor, who is departing to take over the presidency of the Montana Billings Mission.

June 14, 1982: A zone conference was held under the direction of Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone at the Little Rock building. Missionaries from the Little Rock, North Little Rock, and El Dorado Zones were present. The zone conference lasted from 9:00 A.M. to 3:30 P.M.

July 4, 1982: A Stake Correlation Meeting was held with President McChesney, his counselors, the stake mission president, and the high council adviser, together with the zone leaders and the assistants in President McChesney's office. It was a very productive meeting. In addition to the regular correlation business, President Tenney privately discussed the steps that he is recommending to the brethren pertaining to the future of the El Dorado District and the possible division of the Little Rock Stake

with President McChesney and his counselors. President McChesney and his counselors agreed completely with the views presented.

August 7, 1982: President and Sister Tenney and their daughter, Kathy, journeyed to Crossett, Arkansas, where they stayed the evening with a Baptist family by the name of Strickland. The Stricklands agreed to attend the sacrament meeting on Sunday if President and Sister Tenney would come and stay with them. The afternoon and evening were very productive, spent in getting to know the family and in answering many of the questions that the family had about the Church.

September 2, 1982: President and Sister Tenney and Brother Harold Lewis and his wife left Little Rock to travel to Hope, Arkansas, for a fireside in the home of Brother Johnson, the branch president. When they arrived, they found three black families assembled who were interested in learning more about the Church. President Tenney's introduction was followed by the showing of the film, "Families are Forever." Brother and Sister Lewis, who are themselves black, then bore their testimonies to the black families of the blessings of the Church and of the temple which they had just attended. Several others present also bore their testimonies, including President Johnson. The meeting was adjudged to have been very fruitful in gaining some very important contacts.

September 17, 1982: In the morning, from 9:00 to 12:00, Elder Featherstone and President Tenney met with the zone and district leaders from the Little Rock, North Little Rock, and El Dorado Zones. These meetings were again adjudged to be very important and very successful.

October 2, 1982: President and Sister Tenney, in the company of three other missionaries, journeyed to El Dorado, Arkansas, for the baptism of Mrs. Sharon Strickland, who lives in Crossett, Arkansas. This baptism represents a very important event in the mission history because the family is a very important family in the Crossett area. The baptism represents a milestone in progress among the very strong Baptist families of the area. It was an extremely spiritual baptismal service. People present were tremendously inspired. The broadcast of General Conference was also piped into the building and could be heard after the service.

October 26, 1982: President Tenney took the film, "The Restoration of the Priesthood," to the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to show to a gathering of young adults under the sponsorship of the Latter-day Saint Student Association. The group was very small, but the program was well received.

November 24, 1982: President and Sister Tenney were invited to attend an ecumenical program at the Jewish temple or synagogue in Pleasant Valley. They were the guests of Dorothy Goldberg. Mrs. Goldberg also introduced President and Sister Tenney to a number of the dignitaries and rabbis there and was excited to receive a

talk that was given by Sister Mildred Handy, who is LDS, to the Jewish people in Johannesburg, South Africa.

December 2, 1982: At about 3:00 P.M., a very powerful and destructive tornado hit the Little Rock area, barely missing the mission office and the ward building. Although many missionaries were caught in the storm's path, none were injured. Violent weather was experienced throughout the Arkansas area in conjunction with this storm, but no members or missionaries were injured and, as far as it is known no members suffered property damage. President Tenney was at the office at the time the tornado hit.

December 13, 1982: President Tenney and the Memphis North Stake Public Communications Director jointly appeared on a talk show on Station WWEE in Memphis, Tennessee, to answer questions about the Church. The invitation was offered in response to two anti-Mormon articles that appeared in a major Memphis paper suggesting that the Mormons were a cult. The articles had been picked up for commentary by local radio and television stations and the coverage was generally not positive. The hostess, at WWEE was extremely gracious and kept the show very positive in tone. The program lasted for two hours. From comments received later, it was judged that the show had been a tremendous success.

December 17, 1982: President and Sister Tenney and two members of the office staff were invited to attend the Festival of Lights or Chanukah celebration at the Jewish synagogue or temple in Pleasant Valley. They were warmly received and had the opportunity to meet many of the leaders from the community there.

December 24-25, 1982: There was a recurrence of severe tornadoes and a great deal of rain resulting in flooding throughout the Arkansas area. This greatly dampened the spirits of the missionaries in the Little Rock area and prevented any of the plans for caroling from taking place.

344 baptisms

1983

January 7, 1983: President and Sister Tenney and the Assistants journeyed to Nashville, Arkansas, where they held a fireside in the Protestant chapel of a Mr. Robert Coulter. There were a number of non-members in attendance. The film "The First Vision" was shown. President Tenney was the principal speaker; in addition, Charles West and his family spoke. Their family also journeyed down and gave their testimony at the fireside because of the attendance of a number of black people. All the parties in attendance seemed to enjoy the meeting.

January 10, 1983: Elder Featherstone, President and Sister Tenney, and the assistants held a multi-zone conference with the four zones on the east side of the Mississippi River.

January 25, 1983: President Tenney and the assistants journeyed in the evening to Pine Bluff, where they participated in a reactivation meeting. The Relief Society President had chosen a number of families and names of inactive people that she wanted to work with and reactivate. President Tenney participated in speaking and showing the film the "The Restoration of the Priesthood" as a motivational device.

February 27, 1983: President Tenney and the assistants journeyed to Memphis, Tennessee, to participate in the Memphis Stake Conference where Elder Vaughn J. Featherstone was presiding. President Tenney was asked to speak at that conference along with Elder Featherstone. The meeting was very well received by the saints.

March 12, 1983: President Tenney and the assistants journeyed to Mud Island, where President Tenney performed a wedding for Larry Phillips and Cindy Farr.

March 14, 1983: President and Sister Tenney and the entire office staff journeyed to Hot Springs where they were guests at a show being put on by the Osmond Brothers. The four Osmond Brothers had a country western musical production there in Hot Springs, and after the performance that evening the party was taken backstage and had a chance to visit at some length with, the Osmond Brothers. The show was extremely well received and the Osmonds received a standing ovation.

March 26, 1983: President and Sister Tenney were invited in the evening to perform a special musical number at a meeting for all of the married couples and the young adults in the stake center in Jacksonville. Their song was "Walk Hand In Hand With Me Through All Eternity." It was very well received.

April 22, 1983: That afternoon President and Sister Tenney journeyed to the airport to pick up their daughter, Kathy, who had just returned from attending BYU.

April 23, 1983: President and Sister Tenney, the assistants and Kathy Tenney, all journeyed to an important district meeting in El Dorado where Tony Strickland, a very outstanding young man who graduated from High School as the valedictorian of his class, was baptized. He is from Crossett, Arkansas. His mother is a member now, but the other members of his family are not, but the meeting was very inspiring and it was felt that much good was done.

May 4, 1983: That evening President and Sister Tenney hosted Dorthy Goldberg for dinner at their home. They also showing a viewing of their slides that they had taken in the land of Israel. Dorthy Goldberg is a prominent member of Hodassa, the Jewish group here In Little Rock. She was very receptive and hopeful that she could obtain

an invitation from Hodassa to let President Tenney put on the same slide show for the group.

June 1, 1983: President and Sister Tenney attended the corner stone setting and the placing of the blocks in the corner stone of the Atlanta Temple at 10:00 in the July 16, 1983 President Tenney and the office staff for their P-day went to Petit Jean State Park. A portion of the day was spent enjoying the beautiful scenery and hiking down to the falls in morning. They attended the 4:00 p.m. dedication service at the Atlanta Temple.

June 19, 1983: With Elder McConkie presiding, the stake was divided and the El Dorado District dissolved. The El Dorado District had been under President Tenney's responsibility and jurisdiction up to this time, was incorporated into the Little Rock Stake. The stake that was divided off from the Little Rock Stake was the Jacksonville Stake, which represented all of the northern half of what was formally the Little Rock Stake. There was great excitement present after this great timely event taking place. The largest attendance ever in the history of the Jacksonville building or the Little Rock Stake occurred at all of these meetings.

June 29, 1983: At 3:00 pm that afternoon a telephone audit was conducted from the Church Department and the Audit Department at church headquarters by Dave Hill. It was conducted jointly with President Tenney and Elder Jeffrey Poor, the mission financial secretary.

July 16, 1983: President Tenney and the office staff for their P-day went to Petit Jean State Park. A portion of the day was spent enjoying the beautiful scenery and hiking down to the falls.

August 12, 1983: In the afternoon, President and Sister Tenney journeyed to Helena, Arkansas, for the wedding of Sherry Murphy. President and Sister Tenney sang one of the special duets .

August 28, 1983: They went to Hayti, Missouri, where they were the speakers in the sacrament meeting. President Tenney had been asked to stay in Little Rock that weekend where on the 28th President Tenney went to the St. James Methodist church in Pleasant Valley. He spoke to the Seeders class. This is a class for older adults, professional people who wanted to know more about the Mormon Church. There was much interest in this class to the things that were said and the questions were answered and President Tenney left some printed material for them to read.

September 3, 1983: President and Sister Tenney and their daughter Kathy, along with the entire office staff, journeyed to Hot Springs, AR. In the afternoon they visited the Mid-American Museum. It was very interesting and enjoyable experience

for everyone concerned. The museum is unusual and unique among other museums anywhere in this mission.

October 22, 1983: President Tenney and the assistants left that afternoon and journeyed to Booneville, Mississippi, for the baptism of the Dyer Family, which is the first black family to be baptized into the Booneville Ward in a long time.

October 31, 1983: President and Sister Tenney, along with Elder Jeppsen, attended a dinner at the home of Dorthy Goldberg, who is a prominent former Jewish leader in Little Rock.

December 10, 1983: President Tenney and the assistants journeyed to the Booneville Ward for the baptism of Hurbert Dyer, which brought the whole Dyer family in to the Church. Also baptized was the teenage daughter of Margret Marshall of the Oxford Branch. There was a beautiful spirit present.

December 23, 1983: The mission staff watched the Holliday bowl game between BYU and Missouri State. BYU won the game. The game was watched at the mission home.

361 baptisms

1984

No history submitted

287 baptisms

President LaMont C. and Sister Bennett

July 1, 1984 to July 1, 1987



1985

No history submitted

315 baptisms

1986

No history submitted

273 baptisms

1987

January 21, 1987: President and Sister Bennett traveled to Russellville, where President Bennett interviewed missionaries in the district. We had a pot luck lunch together, then under the direction of John Dilworth, Russellville Ward mission leader, the group toured the Arkansas Nuclear Power Generator.

February 1, 1987: President and Sister Bennett attended church in Little Rock 1st Ward where they witnessed the dividing of the ward. The new ward is to be called Pinnacle Mountain Ward. Jack Kramer to be the new Bishop with Brother Edgar and Brother Armstrong as counselors. The 1st Ward retained the present bishopric.

February 22, 1987: The Bennetts attended church at the Little Rock 2nd Ward which was held at the new stake center. That evening the mission president's monthly fireside was held at the Mission Home. Brother and Sister Dick and Ann Cobb were the speakers.

May 17, 1987: President Bennett participated in a stake presidency training session with President McChesney, President Griffin, and Eugene Calluns, our Regional Representative.

June 1, 1987: Monday, President and Sister Bennett traveled with the missionaries from the Little Rock and North Little Rock zones to Blanchard Springs at Mt. View for a special P-day which resulted from an excellent month of baptizing by both zones. A wonderful day was had, going through the cave, after which lunch was served and games played in the park. Sister Masiasomua had surgery on her knee in Jonesboro in an attempt to correct her knee trouble.

President Robert S. and Sister Turley

July 1, 1987 to July 1, 1990



(From a Newspaper clipping)

HISTORY - ARKANSAS LITTLE ROCK MISSION

August-December 1987

President Robert S. Turley Jr. was called to preside over the Arkansas Little Rock Mission March 10, 1987. Together with his wife, Maurine, they were set apart June 21, 1987. They entered the Missionary Training Center at Provo, Utah June 22, 1987.

ROBERT S. AND MAURINE JOHNSON TURLEY

Since moving from California to Bountiful six years ago. Brother Turley served as a temple worker, gospel doctrine teacher and other Sunday School positions. In California,

callings included stake missionary, bishop's counselor, high counselor, bishop of Woodland Hills 1st Ward and Canoga Park Stake presidency. He now works for the church auditing department and previously was president of Teledyne National, headquartered in Los Angeles.

Sister Turley was recently released from the general presidency of the Young Women. Prior to that she was the Young Women's president in the Bountiful 35th Ward and a seminary teacher at Millcreek Jr. High. While living in California she was in the stake Relief Society presidency, and auxiliaries and an early morning seminary teacher. She was also an active choir director and pianist.

Due to necessary back surgery in early May, President Turley was unable to assume his responsibilities in early July. He subsequently began his tenure July 27, 1987. President and Sister Bennett kindly consented to stay an additional month. There were approximately 120 missionaries serving in the Mission at the time. Because of the delayed arrival, two Assistants... Elders Ryan Rumsey and Nathan Wilcox ...were asked to extend their missions to help with the transition. President and Sister Turley scheduled Zone Conferences immediately to become acquainted with the missionaries quickly.

An Area Conference was held August 22-23, 1987 in the Memphis Convention Center. Attending were President and Sister Gordon B. Hinckley, Elder and Sister Russell M. Nelson, and Elder and Sister Rex D. Pinegar. Saturday afternoon, as the brethren were meeting in special leadership sessions, Sister Barbara Bruer introduced the wives of the General Authorities, Sister Callens (wife of the Regional Representative), Sister Turley, and the wives of the Stake Presidencies of the four stakes to Memphis and its charming history.

Of impact in the lives of the missionaries was a special meeting they were privileged to have with the General Authorities prior to the morning session of the Area Conference. President Hinckley urged the missionaries to have faith and patience. Sister Hinckley said that the happiest missionaries are the ones who work hard. President and Sister Turley had close association with these brethren at Church headquarters, so meeting with them during those two days was especially enjoyable.

Nashville, Tennessee was the place chosen for the annual Mission President's Seminar held **Sept 17-19, 1987**. It was hosted by President and Sister David Campbell, and presided over by Elders Maxwell, Pinegar, and Clarke. Elder Clarke was assigned as the contact for the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. This was exciting to the mission because President Clarke had just returned as a successful mission president of the South Africa Johannesburg Mission. Wonderful counsel was received.

Elder Clarke was in Little Rock **October 17, 1987** for a stake training meeting and was able to make an unscheduled visit to our mission district/zone leaders' and sister's conference. The missionaries eagerly listened as he gave them proselyting hints and bore his testimony.

The Otter Creek chapel was dedicated by Elder Clarke **October 25**. As President and Sister Turley drove him to the airport following that meeting he gave them the following advice:

- "You will find that missionaries are smarter than you think, but not as experienced as you'd think."
- "You can get missionaries doing more for you by loving them than any other thing."
- "The more energy you expel, the more you have."
- Have a saying, "In this mission it is not cool to have negative thoughts. We'll be glad to help you with your problems, but not if you speak negatively."

Chosen as counselors to President Turley were Roger Hiatt, Sr. from Memphis and Richard Cobb from Little Rock. President Hiatt is a former bishop and stake president, and a noted physician. He knows the local history well, and is highly respected by the saints in the area. President Cobb has formerly served in a stake presidency, and on the High Council. He is a gifted salesman by profession, a long-time friend to missionaries, and well-suited to work with members. President Hiatt was set apart **Aug. 23, 1987** by Elder Rex Pinegar, and President Cobb was set apart **October 24, 1987** by Elder J. Richard Clarke. These brethren bring great strength to the mission presidency. The Turleys and the Cobbs held a retreat at Petti Jean in October 1987 to orient President Cobb. President Hiatt was not able to attend.

An All-Mission Christmas Conference was held **December 23, 1987** at the Otter Creek chapel. Missionaries from the Memphis area were bused in. Well in advance, Sister Turley had arranged for parents to mail a small package to their missionary, and also a Christmas letter. Elder Cheney played Santa Claus and distributed the welcomed surprises. President and Sister Turley presented each missionary with a picture of themselves and a special Christmas message. The missionaries saw the movie, "It's A Wonderful Life", ate a delicious dinner prepared by local sisters, sang Christmas songs, visited with one another, then listened to President Hiatt give a presentation about the Savior. The missionaries concluded the day sharing their testimonies with one another.

298 baptisms

1988

The Little Rock Stake sponsored a black members' fireside after stake conference **January 24, 1988**. Powerful spirits were manifested in the testimonies. These people have an overwhelming love for the gospel.

The Martin's were a couple who came into the mission in **February of 1988**. On the way their car was stolen. Although it was recovered, all of their belongings were gone. (Some were later found). After they received a lot of comfort and love from the mission president and wife, President Turley assigned them to an area where, unbeknown to him, a number of their daughter-in-law's non-member relatives lived. Their assignment was

profitable. They were able to establish some wonderful relationships with the families and placed a number of **Books of Mormon**. Many seeds were planted.

CHANGE IN OFFICE STAFF

Elders Magelby, Miller, and Tuttle have given wonderful service in the office and to President Turley. We so appreciate their dedication. The new commissarian is Elder Robinson, and the referral secretary is Elder AhMu. Elder Hughes replaced Elder Tuttle as an Assistant. These elders are willing to give many additional hours of service! Many, many thanks from all of us!!!!!!

THE CENTURY CLUB

We have taken the challenge! 100 baptisms in April. This means 2 baptisms per companionship. The average mission goals will be: 1 .15+ each week in finding pool; 2. 5+ each week in teaching pool; 3. Move Investigators up, over, out, (or on hold) each week. LET'S GO FOR IT! United in FAITH, HARD WORK, and OBEDIENCE

.....

WE CAN DOIT!!!!!!!

APARTMENT INTERVIEWS:

The Mission Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval could go to MANY of you this month, but we MUST make mention of the Model District apartment in North Little Rock (Elders DaBell, Taylor, Ryan, and Pett). Not only were the kitchen and bathrooms spotless, but the rugs, WALLS, under the beds, oven etc., were CLEAN, CLEAN!

Two of our bike elders forced themselves out one cold, windy night to find a member. After a fruitless search of about an hour suddenly the bishop came by and picked them up. They knocked on a door and asked to use the phone to identify the address they were looking for, and while one elder was calling, the other got an appointment! Proof again!

VEHICLE REPORT

As of **April 30** we had zero days since the last preventable accidents. Three cars have been taken out of commission in five weeks. You never think it will happen to you until IT HAPPENS TO YOU!!

TOP BAPTIZERS

Elders Blatter and Gibbons had a grand total of seven. The office elders baptized eight and did all their staff work as well. Congratulations to these great missionaries and to everyone! It was a super month! The individual baptismal record to beat in the Mission is nine. Who is going to do it? (Clue: go after families). The mission record is 42. We anticipate surpassing that soon!!!!!! LET'S GO ALRM!!!!!!!!!!!!

The **winter of 1988** was extremely cold. There was more snow and ice than usual. The roads became ice-packed and hazardous on a number of occasions. Fortunately no one was injured.

Elders Hunsaker and Duersch were working in a very difficult area in Pine Bluff in April.

One day they called back on a lady to present her with a *Book of Mormon* she had shown interest in. When they arrived she had a party going and said she just wanted the book, not the accompanying conversation. One elder said to her that the book was free, but that a 45 minute discussion came with it. She reluctantly agreed, and eventually agreed to baptism. She attended church and kept all of her commitments. During Relief Society one Sunday morning the lesson was on prayer. She told the sisters that she had been praying for someone to help her through her problems, and shortly afterwards the elders knocked on her door. She was baptized Easter Sunday, even though her sister and husband had tried to persuade her otherwise with anti-Mormon literature. She is still a very strong member of the Church.

MISSION SONG

Sister Barbara Lowe has arranged our mission song for 4-part male voices. Any four of you want to try it in Zone Conference?

During a round of visits to bishops in August, President Turley left his Daytimer at one of their homes. He did not discover it until he got home, and by then could not remember where he had left it. His schedule and appointments were in it, and also his notes about the missionaries. Unlike himself, he was very distraught. The dilemma even forced him to his knees. About a half an hour later, the phone rang. It was Bishop Slade from Searcy. He had driven 75 miles to come to the mission home to deliver the lost Daytimer. The Lord seems very near mission presidents!

September 28 Sister Turley learned she had cancer. Early in October surgery was performed, and fortunately the prognosis was good. The doctor was able to eliminate the diseased tissue. Prayers were answered and family and friends so supportive. Although the following few months were difficult, she was able to function and carry on missionary activities. The Lord truly blessed her.

Sister Turley is doing well-following her operation. She expects to be in the field before the end of October. She has high expectations for baptisms rather than get-well cards. Let's hasten her recovery with a lot of Temporary Membership Records!

SET-A DATE

Elders Wilcox and Hedquist, along with many of you, are beginning to see results with the Set-A-Date program. They have already realized one baptism from a member referral, and have begun to teach another investigator in a member's home. We know many of you have great stories, too. How about sending them to us. You may become famous!

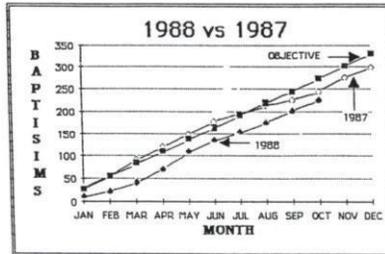
We started out behind in January, got further down in February and March and have been playing catch-up since then. As you can see, the lines are getting closer and closer; actually, we need the 1988 line to get above 1987. If we average 43 baptisms per month during October through December we will end the year with 330 baptisms; a minimal 10% more than in 1987. 43 is only 11 baptisms per stake per month. Individual zones have done that a number of times.

MUSIC TO MISSIONARIES' EARS

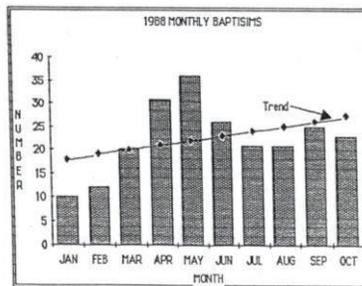
Bishops Slade from Searcy and Devoux from Hot Springs recently gave glowing reports of missionaries. Remarks like: "the members love them; they are hard workers, I never see them (meaning they do not hang out at members): these missionaries search out inactive; the ward mission leader knows their plans and results; they keep accurate records, we've never had missionaries do that before." Elders and Sisters, this kind of action builds high trust. Members and Bishops do notice.

WE'RE CATCHING UP!

Total 1988 baptisms are getting closer to 1987. Congratulations to those who are consistently using the Commitment Pattern to assist the Lord in converting those He has prepared. 23 baptisms in October bring us to 225 for the year compared to 245 in October 1987. Everyone is enthusiastic about stretching and doing even more than they thought they could. The response to calls during the weekend of November 13 to raise our sights higher was gratifying. You are wonderful!



The next chart shows our performance for each month during 1988. One way to understand it is to relate it to a basketball game. Our opponents blew us away in the first quarter (Jan-Mar). We outscored them in the second quarter, but not enough to catch up. In the third quarter (Jul-Sept) we continued to catch up a little bit, but not as fast as we did in the second quarter. In fact, our performance, although moderately good, was below our capability, expectations, and the trend of previous months. As a consequence, we enter the fourth quarter with a chance to win the 1988 game ... but November and December will require heroic action. It is good there are heroes in this mission! When every companionship baptizes at least one person consistently each month we will position ourselves in 1988 to better 1987 and establish mission records in the "play-off series" beginning in 1989. 1989 is the "play-off" because it will be the last season many of you will have to play on the ALRF1 winning team. We have the players, the plays, the crowds (member support), and the cheer leader (Sister Turley). Our enthusiasm and momentum are building up. It's exciting, isn't it? Remember, ATTITUDE makes ALTITUDE! Yeah team!!



1988

Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun July Aug Sep Oct Nov Dec

Baptisms

10 12 20 31 37 26 21 21 25 23 20 23

Missionaries

123 128 130 131 131 130 126 124 124 122 129 129

Average Cost

321 327 ? 336 337 347 338 347 332 353 353 345

265 baptisms

President and Sister Turley began the New Year by hosting people attending the law and medical schools in Little Rock at the mission home. Many students there are LDS from out of state. They brought non-member friends. President Cobb, counselor in the fulltime mission, was the after dinner speaker. He did an outstanding job giving an overview of the gospel.

Elder Russell M. Nelson and Elder Eugene Callins (Regional Representative) were guests in the mission home a night prior to the Jacksonville Stake conference (which was being reorganized) in late January. Elder Nelson shared some of his experiences in preparing the way for missionary work to open in Iron Country areas. He presented a copy of his new book, *The Power Within Us* to President and Sister Turley, and also two pictures for President Turleys' office ... the First Presidency, and the Quorum of the Twelve.

Elder Russell M. Nelson recently attended Jacksonville stake to reorganize the stake presidency. He wrote a letter saying, "I enjoyed meeting many of the missionaries and hope you will convey my love and best regards to these precious servants of our Father in Heaven. What a marvelous work they are doing. It was a joy to meet many people who are not yet members of the Church as well as those who have been recently baptized. It gave me a new sense of gratitude for the marvelous work of devoted missionaries. I am deeply grateful for each and every one of them. Please thank them for me."

A member, Sister Francis Shelton and her daughter, were baptized into the Church in 1953 by an Elder Steven Pitts. The husband did not join, but during the ensuing years, 33 members of the family did. Ironically, Elder Pitts son, Jared, was called to the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. His father had told him there was some unfinished business for him to attend to.

President Turley assigned him to the Jacksonville area before he returned home, and he began to visit Sister Shelton's husband. The second Elder Pitts was very persistent with Billy Ray. When it came time for Elder Pitts to go home, he was ready to be baptized. It was a very touching scene to see the two of them embrace one another as they stood in the water after the ordinance had been performed.

Brother Mike Davis was baptized in Searcy. He had been investigating the Church for 14 years! He had studied with over 30 sets of missionaries. He has obvious leadership qualities, and will be a great leader in this area soon.

During the month of March the mission home was broken into. The microwave, VCR, and VCR camera were stolen. Consequently, it was determined that an alarm system be installed for protection. New equipment was purchased.

The missionaries baptized 51 people into the Church in November. Although they did not reach their goal of 100, they did have the highest number of baptisms yet achieved in the

mission. It was a historic month!

January 1989: We must mention the mature sisters' shiny apartments. They are clean, clean, clean!!! Also, the Elders in Blytheville spent 6 P-day hours sprucing up their apartment before Inspections. We commend you!

February 1989: You did It! January baptisms totaled 33...and that's a great way to start off the year. February looks equally promising. Each zone is committed to numbers in double digits and are well on the way to accomplishing that. The exciting parts are the wonderful conversion stories that accompany these baptisms. As we double our numbers, we double our joy!

March 1989: You did it again! February baptisms totaled 37. That is not only the best February the mission has ever had, but the highest cumulative total In January and February. We are setting mission records ya'll! We congratulate you on your diligence, obedience, sacrifice, and spirituality. This is going to be a great year.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
Relief Society Bi-Stake

Women's Conference/147th Relief Society Anniversary



March 18, 1989
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Stake Center
8150 Walnut Grove Road
Guest Speaker
Sister Maurine J. Turley
Former Member, Young Women's
General Presidency
'The Relief Society Story'
Special Music - Luncheon

●

Bring a Friend

Women 18 and older No Children

April 1989: A miracle happened to Elders Bland and Coltrin. One morning, shortly after their prayer, (and also a resolve to live the rules of the White Handbook precisely) the phone rang. The call was about a non-member young woman who had attended BYU for two years. Her parents had just told her not to come home unless she renounced the Mormon "cult". Having a wonderful foundation in LDS doctrine from BYU religion classes and missionaries in Provo, she refused to do that, and was left early that morning to fend for herself. Bottom line ... a phone call was made to the elders in North Little Rock. Arrangements were made to teach her all the discussions that day, and she was baptized later in the evening! Some wonderful families have been caring for her and all is well. What a story!

Missionary proselyting hours, as of **April 1989**, doubled in 1989. Most missionaries at this time were working 50-60 hours, and by the end of the year, were working up to 70 hours a week. Teaching pool expectations were raised, and missionaries were beginning to realize they needed at least 10 in the teaching pool in order to baptize regularly.

June 1989: June 5th marked the day when Elders Arrington, Clement, Curtis, and Fenwick passed off the requirements for the new certification program. Elder Jensen certified a month earlier. We're proud of you! We know it will make a difference.

July 1989: On Sunday, July 9, President Turley called the mission leadership into the mission home for a special fast and commitment day. Missionaries in attendance are reaffirming their goals for personal spirituality. We pray that each of you will follow their leadership example now as we move towards achieving our 100 baptisms in November. Let's be a spiritual band of Helaman's Warriors!!

The goal for 1989 was to baptize 100 in **November**, and to have a record year. President Benson's counsel for missionaries to "WORK" was accepted and memorized by the missionaries.

December 1989: You know by now that our "Little Rock" is beginning to shine more brightly. November was the first month this mission exceeded 50 baptisms.

December 1989: We learned a lot the last few months. In the near-term, it has become evident that 1989 also can be historical as a record year. With our totals through November we have only one more year to top. In 1983 there were 350 baptisms. By the time you receive this, we will have 315+ which already puts us over every year since 1983.

Baptisms for the year of 1989 were the highest the mission had ever had. Goals are to double and triple the efforts during 1990, and to train the mission leadership competently so that the new mission president will have an easy transition.

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Baptisms	33	37	26	28	24	22	18	26	22	27	51	25
Missionaries	127	129	133	123	122	124	112	112	115	129	142	140
Average Cost	357	349	353	348	353	345	358	358	368	357	349	358 338

baptisms

1990

January 1990: Elder Lasiter was the General Authority visitor at the Jacksonville Stake conference January 27-28. He informed the members that the day will come when missionaries will not be sent to the United States. "We need 100,000 of them elsewhere across the world. This is and will be your work. Missionary work is of first importance", Elder Lasiter said. He counseled members to get their sons and daughters on missions. He asked for couples to go, either abroad or stay at home as stake missionaries. He admonished wards to schedule and conduct baptismal services, and have Shepherding Families for new converts and investigators. He asked that *Books of Mormon* have quality placements. He gave priesthood leaders strong admonition to become highly involved in missionary work. (President Wing has subsequently taken some promising measures to

bring this about.)

January 1990: Elder Ford broke a mission record with 10 baptisms in one month. What a thrilling climax to a wonderful mission. Elder Hawkins wasn't far behind with 6! The Holders and Elder McRae each had 4. This was a good example of member work. Six were from part-member families, initially visited with the home teacher, and the other four were friend shipped by members. Congratulations!

February 1990: Because of a mix-up in the Missionary Department last summer when no elders were sent during a three month period of time, the mission experienced a large influx of new missionaries during the fall of 1989. In the beginning of 1990, 60% of the elders had only been in the field 6 months. The lack of training and inexperience was obvious, and prompted President Turley to release a zone leader in each zone to become a trainer. He paired the existing zone leader with a district leader. The work improved immediately. During Elder Lasiter's visit to the mission in April, he recommended that two zone leaders again be over each zone because of added "shared leadership" responsibilities that were to be added to their assignments. The strength of the missionaries have improved, so President Turley gradually made that change wherever possible.

NUTRITION CORNER

You get an "A" if you fixed carrot strips and ate apples last month. Vegetables and fruit provide vitamin A so necessary to regulate our diets. This month we challenge you to include whole grains in your daily diet. If you will avoid white flour products and eat whole wheat bread, brown rice, whole grain cereals, bran, etc., your hunger level will be much lower and your system will be well regulated. Let's become a whole-grain mission. As a car needs good gasoline, so the body needs the right kind of fuel. If your body is not functioning properly, your spirit will suffer. Show by the food you eat that you care about yourself. You simply cannot function well as a missionary when you feast at the "fast food" tables. Be smart!

March 1990: The cancer that had earlier plagued Sister Turley in the fall of 1988 returned. A mission fast was held.

There were 42 baptisms in March!

April 1990: May we caution you about one more thing. Some of you may be concerned that these new planning and goal-setting procedures will be discontinued as the new mission president assumes his responsibilities. Let us reassure you that there will be consistency and continuity, and a very easy transition from one president to the other. We are fortunate to have an Area President that sets general guidelines so that this smooth carry over can occur. So, go to work with full assurance that what you are doing now will not be discontinued in July.

May 1990: Painting of the mission home and re-papering the bathrooms began the last of May. Plans were made to clean carpets and drapes, deep clean the house, and replace or

purchase any items the Fergusons would need.

Close to 50% of the mission baptized last month! That is an exciting move in the right direction. Six missionaries had 4 or more baptisms, sixteen had 3 or more, and twenty two had 2 or more. The top baptizers were Elders Allen and Price with 6, Elders David Hall and Killian with 5, and Elders Curtis and Harris with 4. Congratulations! Who will go for 10?

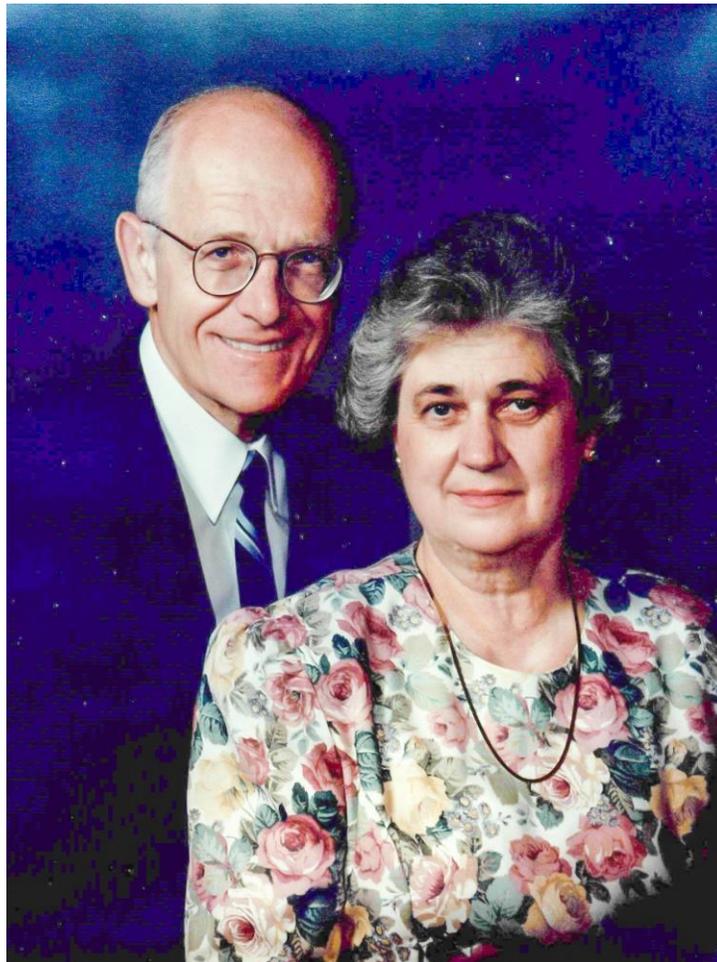
June 1990: Sister Turley entered the hospital for a bone marrow transplant and was there the balance of June.

President Turley said goodbye to the missionaries at two combined zone conferences the last week of June.

President and Sister Ferguson, the new mission president and wife, entered the mission field to assume their new responsibilities June 28, 1990.

President Robert T. and Sister Joan M. Ferguson

July 1, 1990 to July 1, 1993



Robert Thomas Ferguson was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, the son of Clemon E. and Lucile E. Ferguson. He was from the Valley View 11th Ward, Salt Lake Holladay North Stake. His church callings included Young Men General Board member, stake executive secretary, stake missionary, high councilor, district president, bishop, young men president, and Sunday School teacher. President Ferguson was a retired otolaryngologist with a bachelor's and medical degree from the University of Utah.

President Ferguson married Joan Mendenhall who was born in Salt Lake City, Utah to Wells Barney and Thelma Marianne Browne Mendenhall. They had seven children. Sister Ferguson was a ward activation missionary, visiting teacher, stake Primary president's secretary, ward Relief Society president and secretary, Young Women teacher, Primary teacher, ward organist and Blazer B Leader.

July 7 through July 13 1990: During this week, President and Sister Ferguson travelled to Memphis to meet the stake presidents, President and Sister David Denton and President and Sister Donald Spencer. They also met with President and Sister Roger Hiatt, who has been a counselor to President Turley.

August 8, 1990: Dinner at the home of President and Sister Boyd Lee in Memphis was enjoyed by President and Sister Ferguson. President Lee was asked to be a counselor to President Ferguson.



MISSIONARIES — Ricky Coley, left, and Steven Showalter are serving a two-year period as missionaries in their church, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The young men are currently working in Kennett. (Photo by Lyman Skyles)

CJCLDS Missionaries working in Kennett

Two young men from the west and southwest regions of the U.S. are in Kennett doing missionary work for their church.

Rick Coley, of Phoenix, Ariz. and Steven Showalter, of Clackamas, Ore. are members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.

During the brief time they have been in Kennett, Showalter said they had met and spoke with lot a people. "The people here are real nice," Showalter declared.

The young men are serving a

two-year stint in mission work for their church. They are working out of the Little Rock Mission. During this mission period they are responsible for paying their own way, through their own efforts and those of their families.

They usually spend four to six months in an area visiting with people and furthering the work of their church before being re-assigned to a new location.

The nearest chapel of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is located in Blytheville, Ark.

From DAILY DEMOCRAT, Kennett, Mo
31 August 1990

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I am pleased to announce the names of my two counselors. They are Presidents Richard

W. Cobb and W. Boyd Lee. Both are outstanding missionaries, priesthood leaders - tried and true, great family men, and leaders in their professions. President Cobb lives in Little Rock and President Lee in Memphis. Their main functions will be twofold: (1) to assist me in relationships with the stakes and (2) to focus on how we, as missionaries, can help the stakes in convert retention.

Coupled with our recent fast for increased faith, this month I challenge each missionary to improve his or her personal prayers. Prayer is a commandment from God." But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul." (2 Nephi 32:9) Nothing will help us keep our attention on God and on our duties as missionaries more than prayer. All of our thoughts, our words, and our actions are influenced by our prayers.

Dear elders and sisters, as for me, I spend more than just a few minutes in prayer each day. I witness to you that our Heavenly Father has answered my prayers on your behalf many, many times already during our mission.

September 21 & 22, 1990: An overnight retreat was held at the mission home with President and Sister Ferguson and his counselors, President Boyd and Dorothy Lee, from Memphis and President Dick and Ann Cobb from Little Rock.

December 11 and 13, 1990: Two Christmas functions were held. One at Rodney Parham chapel and the other at the Memphis Stake Center. Some training was conducted by the president and his assistants, a Christmas program was enjoyed by the missionaries, gifts from home, dinner and a testimony meeting.

With 34 baptisms in **December** we set a record for 1990 of 416. Congratulations to all of you. With the Lord's help we did it. We have done well but the battle continues.

Today I reported to our area president, Elder John R. Lasater, about our success and about our proposed goal for next year of 720 baptisms. He said, "President that just isn't high enough. Your missionaries can do better than that. You should have a mission goal of 100 baptisms per month."

416 baptisms

1991

March 1991: STATE OF THE MISSION: I feel the mission is healthy. The missionaries have a good attitude, and we are on the verge of having great things happen. The secret will be for every missionary to carry his/her share of the burden by baptizing every

month. We will achieve 100 baptisms in a month. It will require our faith and hard work. Let's make it happen.

Congratulations everyone for going 90 days without a preventable accident. To the best of our knowledge this is a record for the mission. We are setting a goal that we can go the rest of the year without a preventable accident. We must count on each and everyone to do their part to accomplish this goal. We love you and thank you.

April 27, 1991: A couples' conference was held at the mission home. The 8 couples were instructed about how to inspect apartments. The couples who are in the different areas will do the inspecting instead of the office couple. This inspection is part of the I CARE program started in the mission in March 1990.

June 1991: The Little Rock 2nd Ward had 11 investigators at church on June 30!!! That's awesome, keep up the good work!!!!

PROGRESS AND CHANGE IN THE MISSION

On **June 9, 1991** a new stake was formed in Tupelo Mississippi. Part of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission is now included in the Alabama Birmingham Mission. The cities no longer in the ALRM are Tupelo, Booneville, New Albany and Corinth, Mississippi. Eight of our ARLM missionaries are now serving in the Alabama Mission. These are Elders Borrego, Buttars, Harris, Johnson, Pennington and Thone. Also Sisters Porter and Wengreen. In June, the Conway Ward was divided making the Conway 1st and Conway 2nd Wards. A new branch was formed in Quitman, Arkansas during June. A missionary couple was assigned there. A new branch was formed in Clinton, Arkansas in December. Missionaries will probably be assigned there in March 1992.

The Senatobia Zone was taken from the Memphis Zone in November. This makes 7 zones in the mission. A new building in Batesville, Arkansas was completed in the Fall. A new stake center in Bartlett, Tennessee is under construction and will be completed in the Spring of 1992. The Jacksonville Stake Center had major remodeling work done to it this year. The city of Hope, Arkansas was staffed with missionaries for a period of 3 months.

Jacksonville Stake held many fringe area firesides in the towns in the stake where there were no LDS churches. These were well attended. The two new branches in Quitman and Clinton area result of these firesides and another branch will soon be formed in Danville, Arkansas.

July 20, 1991: - A youth group from Memphis visited the mission home on their way home from the Dallas Temple where they had gone to do baptisms for the dead. President Ferguson spoke to them about being future missionaries.

CONGRATULATIONS!!! AS OF AUGUST 7, 1991 THE ALRM HAS GONE 79 DAYS WITHOUT AN ACCIDENT!!!!!! GOOD JOB!!!!!!

Telephone answering machines: These should only be used in a professional manner. Keep your message simple and brief as follows: "Hello this is Elder/Sister _____ of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Thanks for calling. Please leave your name and number and the time you called and we'll call you back shortly." NO MUSIC. NO FRIVOLITY.

August 1991: If you are having problems budgeting your money, a general rule of thumb would be that if you are spending more than five (5) dollars a day, you WILL run out of money before the end of the month, (try using your ledgers he he he!)

October 13, 1991: The president's counselor, Dick Cobb, was made bishop of the Pinnacle Mountain Ward in Little Rock. He was replaced as counselor by Charles McGrath.



Elder Crockett



Elder Snow



Elder Broderick



Elder Talcott



Elder Hoopes

Top baptizers in September and October

MISSIONARY EXPENSES - 1991

MONTH	# OF MISSIONARIES	BAPTISMS	COST/SINGLE	COUPLES
JANUARY	137	35	\$365	\$835
FEBRUARY	135	31	366	880
MARCH	135	43	367	890
APRIL	134	36	364	875
MAY	131	33	369	994
JUNE	125	30	369	940
JULY	126	26	377	1,063
AUGUST	122	30	376	1,030
SEPTEMBER	125	37	359	959
OCTOBER	124	20	362	1,040
NOVEMBER	128	18	363	980
DECEMBER	131	26	391	1,103



Serving the community

Elder Young (left) and Elder Snuka are two missionaries with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints who are serving part of their two-year com-

mitment in West Memphis. The young missionaries work in the food bank at the local Good Neighbor Center each Friday to satisfy the requirement for community service.

February 2, 1992: President and Sister Ferguson visited the new Clinton Branch in the morning. This new branch was just started in December and meets in a rented hall in the center of Clinton, Arkansas. There were about 25 people in attendance. The branch members have plans to fix up the building with carpeting and paneling to make it a very nice place to meet in. The members are very enthusiastic and would like to have missionaries assigned there. A few months ago fringe area firesides were held in Clinton and it was decided to organize a branch there.

February 15, 1992: Elder Todd Christofferson came to dedicate the Rodney Parham chapel. It has not been rededicated since the remodeling. Longtime residents of the ward along with Bishops Dick Cobb and Neil Littlefield spoke about the history of the church in Little Rock 1st Ward and Pinnacle Mountain Ward. The Stake President, James E. Griffin also spoke.

LK resident is named ward bishop

Harold A. Lewis Jr. of Little Rock was recently sustained bishop of the Little Rock Second Ward of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

As bishop, Lewis will preside over a congregation of about 250 members.

Lewis said that he and his wife, Lanniece, are converts to the church through "well-known proselyting efforts of the LDS missionaries" and have been active members for 11 years.

During that time, Lewis has held numerous church positions, including Sunday school teacher, clerk and counselor to the stake mission president.

He also has served as one of 12 stake high councilmen, people who help oversee LDS Church affairs in this stake, and as director of public affairs for the church's Little Rock Arkansas Region.

Lewis, the first black LDS bishop in the state, said, "While I'm sure I'll have my



Harold A. Lewis Jr.

hands full handling the day-to-day business of the Second Ward, I hope my presence will encourage those who have questions about the LDS Church - especially those concerns regarding racial equality.

"I want people to know that in the church of Jesus Christ, it's not the color of your face that matters, but the fervor of your faith."

The Lewises have been married for 12 years and have four children.

May 24, 1992: A new branch has been organized in the Jacksonville Arkansas Stake. It is in Lonoke, Arkansas. The branch president is President Daniel Davis. President and Sister Ferguson attended their first meeting. There were about 30 people in attendance. They are meeting in a hall in town. A potluck dinner was held following this first sacrament meeting.

June 13, 14, 1992: Little Rock Stake conference was held. President Ferguson spoke in the leadership session on Saturday afternoon and also in the Sunday morning session. He spoke on missionary work. Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin, Elder Lionel Bateman, a new Seventy, and Elder Todd Christopherson, regional representative, were in attendance to reorganize the stake. President James E. Griffin, C. Jeddy LeVar and Richard A. Pierson were released after serving for 9 years. The new stake presidency is President Richard Cobb, David Wilkinson and Terry C. Webster

September 1992: Meetinghouse construction in Jacksonville Stake is as follows: new meetinghouse in Batesville Branch - completed; extensive remodeling of present stake center on Highway 67; a new large stake center located in North Little Rock will be completed in January or February, 1993; ground has been broken for new meetinghouses in Mountain View and Quitman.

EVENING TIMES, WEST MEMPHIS, ARK., TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1992 PAGE 7



Mormons' gifts

Photo by Lemica Hopkins

Elders Jason Sadler (right) and Nathaniel Hobbs of the Church of Jesus of Latter Day Saints (Mormons) present on behalf of the church a video tape and a copy of The Book of Mormons to Char-

lene Chaney, program coordinator for the Northside Redevelopment Corp., 502 N. 11th. The video and book will be used in Northside's new enrichment programs, Ms. Chaney noted.

In Little Rock Arkansas Stake there was a change in leadership in **June, 1992**. President James Griffin and his counselors were released after 9 years of dedicated service and President Dick Cobb was called as the stake president. President Cobb is known to many since he served as a counselor to President Turley and stayed on to serve with us for about 15 months. When Elder Joseph B. Wirthlin reorganized the stake he gave them the challenge to "fill the buildings." We feel that will happen.

Further developments have been division of the Memphis 6th Ward creating a Collierville ward and a new ward meetinghouse nearing completion in Southaven. President Donald B. Spencer still presides in the Memphis Stake.

In Memphis Tennessee North Stake the most significant change was completion of a

large, beautiful stake center in Bartlett. This was completed in **April, 1992**. Bartlett Ward was divided and a new Cordova Ward created. President David Denton still presides in the Memphis North Stake.

353 baptisms

1993

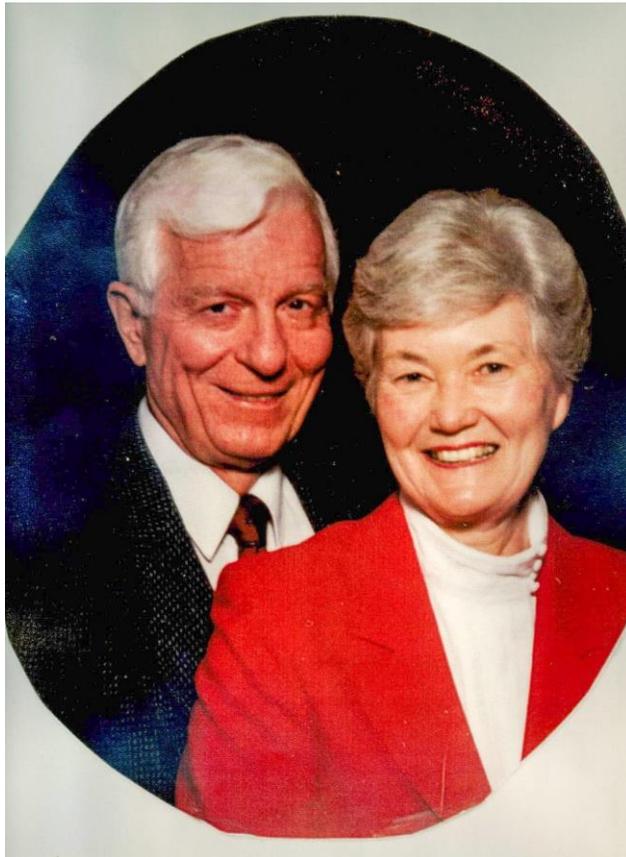
Significant events of 1993 include:

February 14, 1993: Memphis North Stake Center was dedicated.

President Robert and Sister Joan Ferguson were released from the mission on **1 July 1993**, after completing their full three years of service here. Their tenure in the mission will be remembered for excellence in teaching skills amongst all the missionaries, a high level of obedience, and a high level of accountability.

President Lawrence E. and Sister Virginia Stevens

July 1, 1993 to July 1, 1996



Lawrence E. Stevens was from the Monument Park 17th Ward, Salt Lake Monument Park North Stake. He was born in Holden, Utah, son of William Elbert and Elizabeth Bishop Stevens. His callings included ward mission leader, stake president's counselor, high councilor, stake Sunday School president, district president, bishop, high priest group leader, and priest quorum advisor. Professionally, President Stevens was medical doctor. His bachelor's and medical doctorate were from the University of Utah. He also served as chairman of the Department of Surgery at the LDS Hospital. President Stevens married Virginia Bird. They had six children. Sister Stevens was born in Kanosh, Utah, daughter of Howard D. and Pearl Emily Barney Bird. She served as a nursery leader, stake Relief Society president's counselor, ward Relief Society President, Young Women president, Sunday School teacher, and ward newsletter coordinator. She earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Utah.

President Lawrence and Sister Virginia Stevens arrived on **1 July 1993** to fulfil their calling as mission president and companion. They immediately met all the missionaries through a series of multi-zone conferences, and then visited every apartment and missionary in the mission during the month of July (except for the couples assigned to Hope and Camden, Arkansas)

A sisters' conference was held on **August 29, 1993**, at the mission home and was attended by twenty-nine sisters. President and Sister Stevens presented a day-long conference focusing on each sister centering her life on the Savior. Each sister expressed appreciation for the conference, and the testimonies of each that were expressed at the conference were deeply felt and beautifully expressed.

A couples' conference was held on **September 30, 1993**, at the mission home, and featured an outdoor picnic at the Maumelle State Park on the afternoon and evening before the conference. All couples attended which included ten couples as well as President and Sister Stevens and President Tom Brown, counselor to the president of the mission. The day proved to be a beautiful fall afternoon and a delicious dinner was served just before sundown at the lakeside in the park. Watermelons were particularly memorable. The group also visited Pinnacle Mountain State Park and hiked to the observatory and took many photographs.

Elder and Sister Richard P. Lindsay toured the mission on **November 8 – 10, 1993**. They attended a series of multi-zone conferences and met with local priesthood leaders.

The missionary support fund to each missionary was reduced from \$160 to \$150 per month. Telephone calls were reduced to 12 minutes or less within the mission.

The mission office was refurbished, **October/November 1993**. The entire suite of offices was repainted and redecorated.

The Senatobia and Memphis Zones were combined to provide greater efficiency in travel and time expended.

The telephone accountability system was simplified to focus on individuals in the teaching pool.

A joint Conversion-Retention-Activation report was put in place reflecting the unity of purpose and function of the mission.

327 baptisms

1994

The year 1994 brought many blessings for the Arkansas Little Rock Mission (ALRM). We have 146 full time missionaries assigned to the mission at the close of December 1994. We are blessed with 10 couples serving in the mission and we also note the safety with which our missionaries have continued throughout the year of 1994. We appreciate the great blessing of protection which is afforded us as missionaries if we obey traffic laws and mission guidelines.

Another great blessing in our mission is the fine support from members who live within our mission borders. This support is expressed in member referrals, in fellowshipping, in transportation support, and in meals for our full time missionaries.

Significant events of 1994 include:

1. We have emphasized unity of mission effort between the stake or member and the full time missionary components. A joint Conversion-Retention-Activation report has been placed into use reflecting the unity of purpose and function of the mission within our borders.
2. A new building has been completed for the Quitman Branch and they are beginning its use; the open house will be held **January 15, 1995** at which time we hope to entertain many non-member visitors and introduce them to the gospel.
3. Another blessing for our mission is the continued support with transportation. We continue with 40 mission cars for missionaries, a van for transporting missionaries primarily at transfer time, a car for the assistants and a car for the mission president. In **February 1994**, we received a new Ford van which has operated well for the past year. Our low maintenance record and safety record for 1994 has been excellent; we hope to be high in the awards for the fiscal year 1 July 1994 through 1 July 1995. As a noted change for the October replacement of our automobiles we received Dodge Neon cars which have now been placed into use.
4. Financially the mission has done very well for 1994, finishing the year well under budget and without any financial stresses during the year. We have reduced the inventory in the commissary and have reduced levels of cash in the office to improve security.
5. The major concern for the year of 1994 has been the gradual reduction in the

baptisms across our mission. Our retention rates of recent converts is excellent, and estimates indicate as many people are remaining active after a period of one year from the present number of converts as from the higher number in prior years. This factor has in no way dampened our resolve to increase the number of baptisms for 1995. Some measures that were taken during the year to identify causes and to correct them, as regarding reduced numbers of baptisms include:

- a. Instigation of "Days of Diligence" to motivate missionaries, this project continues and has resulted in high levels of diligence amongst the missionaries in this mission.
- b. Nightly call-ins by telephone were instigated for a 3 month period 1 May through 1 August 1994. This required extra effort and expense on the part of the mission and baptisms were not increased in number. Accordingly, we resumed the system in which each companionship reports nightly to their district leader for security purposes; the reports from the district leader to the zone leader and then onto the assistants and the president are completed on Wednesday nights and on Sunday nights as before.

210 baptisms

1995

A new building was constructed in Quitman. An open house was held **January 15, 1995**.

One stake president has been released and another sustained in the Memphis Tennessee North Stake. President David Denton was released and President Calvin Hansen was sustained in February of 1995. The other three stake presidents within the mission borders remain in their assignments.

Realignment of borders between the Memphis North and the Memphis Stakes took place in **September of 1995**, swinging portions of the Walnut Grove Ward from the North Stake into the Memphis Stake. This change provided additional members and leadership for the Memphis Stake, which had suffered dwindling numbers.

Borders of the full-time missionary zones within the Memphis Tennessee North Stake were also realigned, and this was completed in **December of 1995**. The Jonesboro, West Memphis and Memphis First Districts were organized into the Memphis North Zone, replacing the Blytheville Zone. The Cordova Zone is currently made up of the Jackson Tennessee, Cordova and Memphis Central Districts. This realignment resulted in equal numbers of missionaries in each zone and spread the responsibility of providing zone conference lunches to multiple wards with larger numbers of sisters available to help.

Two new branches have been organized within the mission borders during 1995. They were both organized under the stake leadership in each instance, and are staffed and administered through the member stake organizations. The first of these was organized in June of 1995, and was named the Memphis Central Branch. This branch was organized in central Memphis, where members had been moving over several years into the suburbs.

Another branch was organized in the North Little Rock Stake as a single adult branch and entitled the North Little Rock Single Adults Branch. It meets in Conway at the meetinghouse there, and has been organized to meet the needs of single adults who attend the colleges in Conway or who have employment there, and the attendance has exceeded 25 on the average since its organization in August of 1995.

Several new meetinghouses have been completed and others have begun construction during 1995. Chapels at the Quitman Branch and at the Lonoke Branch have been completed and authorization has been given to begin buildings in the Danville Branch and the Collierville Ward and in the Dyersburg Branch. This building progress continues the steady, active development of wonderful meetinghouses for each of the church units within the mission borders.

Other notable events of 1995 include:

1. The Arkansas Little Rock Mission won 4th place amongst all the missions of the church for their vehicle record for 1994-1995. This award is based on the safety record, maintenance record, and resale value of the automobiles in the mission fleet.

President Don L. and Sister Lora D. Christensen

July 1, 1996 to July 1, 1999



Don L. Christensen was from the Sunrise Villa Ward, Las Vegas Nevada Paradise Stake. He was born in Salina, Utah, to Paul DeLloyd and Gladys Nicholena Christensen. He served as a ward mission leader, regional representative, stake president, high

councilor, stake and ward Young Men president, district president's counselor, bishop and counselor, branch president, and elder's quorum president. President Christensen was a retired medical doctor having received his bachelor's and doctor of medicine degrees from the University of Utah.

President Christensen married Lora Dee Nelson. They had six children. Sister Christensen was born in Salina, Utah, to Elmer and Margaret Jensen Nelson. She served as a Young Women advisor, stake Relief Society board member, Young Women president and advisor, Relief Society and Primary president. She received an RN degree from St. Mark's Nursing School.

Obituary: *Don L. Christensen, president of the Las Vegas Nevada Temple, died July 24, 2003, while vacationing with his family in San Diego, Calif. He was 73. A surgeon for more than 30 years, he had been chief of staff at Sunrise Hospital Medical Center in Las Vegas, from which he retired in 1996; he founded the center's medical ethics committee. A former regional representative, he presided over the Arkansas Little Rock Mission from 1996-1999. He had presided over the Las Vegas Nevada Temple since 2001; his wife, Lora Dee, served as temple matron.*

260 baptisms

1996

Elder F. Burton Howard, President of the North America Southeast Area held a special meeting for missionaries at the North Memphis Stake Center on **November 2, 1996**.

On announcement from Elder Boyd K. Packer, Acting President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, was received on **December 16, 1996**, the promoted a missionary satellite broadcast and open house. The purpose of these activities was to give friends and investigators an opportunity to learn more about the blessings of the restored gospel and the peace and happiness families can enjoy when parents teach correct principles. **243 baptisms**

1997

At the beginning of the year, we set a goal of 300 baptisms which would represent a 27% increase over the 243 baptisms for the year 1996. We were fortunate not only to meet our goal but exceed our goal significantly with a total of 345 baptisms for the year 1997. This is an increase of 102 baptisms, which represents a 42% increase in baptisms over the year 1996.

In **February, 1997**, we had a mission tour by F. David Stanley, a counselor in the North America Southeast Area Presidency. This was a marvelous experience, and his messages were very well received by the missionaries. We feel this definitely assisted us in

motivating the missionaries and increased our effectiveness for the remainder of the year. Also, in December of 1997, we had a second mission tour by Elder Alvie Evans, Area Authority Seventy. This was a very uplifting experience and again, we greatly appreciated the training and motivation of our missionaries.

One of the challenges has been to more effectively service our media. During the year, it increased 2 to 3 times the level of previous media in our mission. The distribution of the media requests throughout the mission was extremely varied. In some areas it was extremely heavy, to the point that it was difficult, if not impossible, to deliver all the media. Some areas did not receive any media.

With the utilization of the *Bible* in the media, we found we had a marked increase in the number of requests. Many of these wanted only a free *Bible* and really don't seem interested in the message. The challenge has been how to sort these out and more effectively progress those select media referrals who really are interested in the gospel and its message. We have diligently attempted to service the media in a timely fashion.

Elder F. David Stanley, 2nd counselor in the Area Presidency participated in a combined Conway/Jacksonville zone conference on **February 19, 1997**.

A similar conference was held for the Cordova/Jonesboro/Memphis Zones on **February 20, 1997**.

In **December 1997**, Elder Alvie Evans, an Area Authority Seventy, toured the mission.

344 baptisms

1998

June 7, 1998: An article was published in *The Commercial Appeal* (Memphis) about Southern Baptists going to hold a convention in Salt Lake City. Southern Baptists had been preparing for this convention for over a year. Richard Floyd, a former Baptist, reflected on his conversion and talked about the Church. Brother Floyd noted about baptism for his deceased relatives, "It's given me a great peace to know that I may join them in the eternal kingdom."

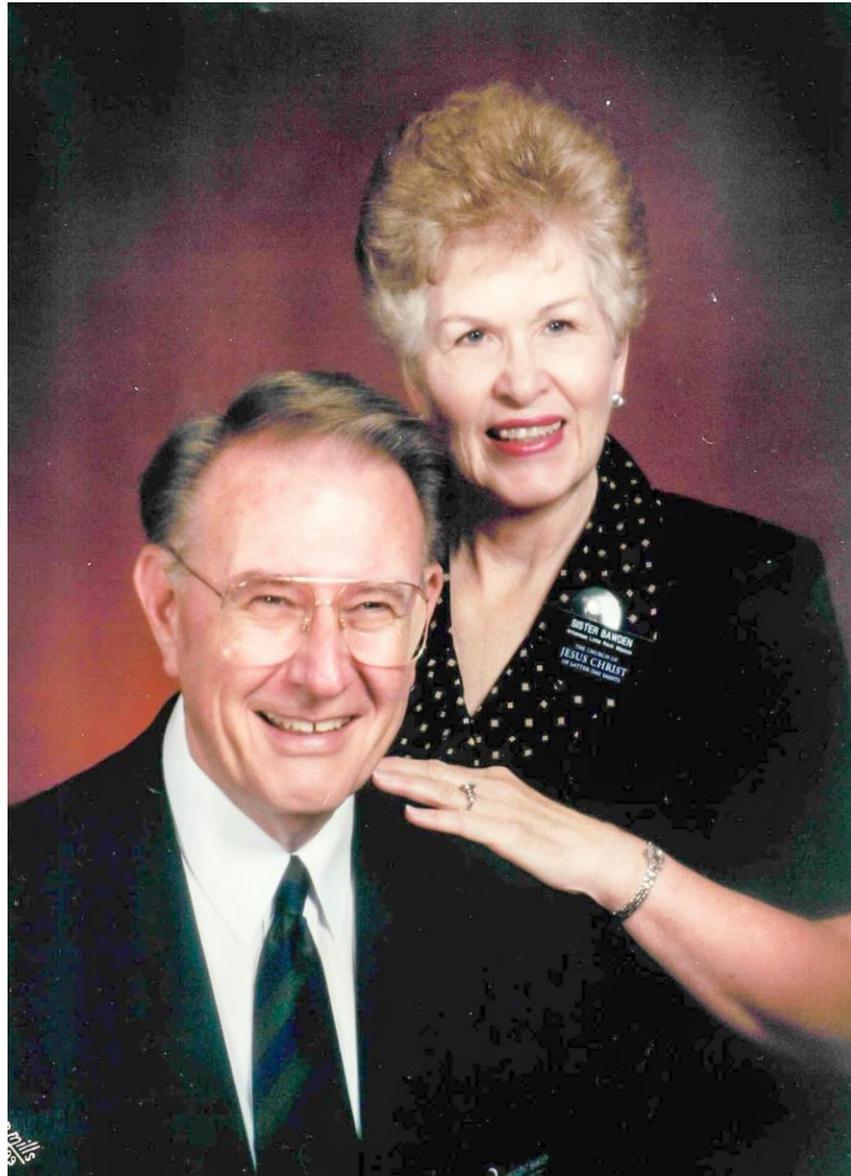
339 baptisms

1999

William Dean Bawden, Jr. with his wife, Marcia Whittle Bawden, arrived on **June 28, 1999**, from Huntington Beach, California, to become President of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. His official date, as President, was July 1, 1999 to July 1, 2002.

President William D. and Sister Marcia W. Bawden

July 1, 1999 to July 1, 2002



William D. Bawden, Jr., was from the Huntington Beach 9th Ward, Huntington Beach California North Stake. He was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, to William Dean and Trilma Geneal Francis Bawden. He served as a counselor in the presidency of the Salt Lake City Temple Square Mission, stake president and counselor, high councilor, bishop, and high priest group leader. He was a retired educator having received a bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in education from the University of Southern California.

President Bawden received his bachelor's degree in biology and master's degree in education from the University of Southern California. He attended the University of Laverne, where he received his doctorate in education. He is a former educator, having served as a high school teacher and then assistant principal of the school. Later, he

became Assistant Supervisor of the Torrance, California Unified District, where he was responsible for five high schools and the instruction material used therein.

President Bawden married Marcia Whittle. Sister Bawden was born in Preston, Idaho, to Merlin Thompson and Mildred Dunkley Whittle. They had five daughters: Nanette, who is deceased; Valerie Barnes of Jermome, Idaho; Corrin Linde of Mesa, Arizona; Stephanie Skousen of Mesa, Arizona; and Angela Giles, of Huntington Beach, California. Sister Bawden was a missionary with her husband in the Salt Lake City Temple Square Mission, ward Primary president and counselor, ward music chairman and choir director, Sunday School teacher, Laurel advisor, Relief Society chorister, and Primary organist and chorister. She received a bachelor's degree in education from Brigham Young University. As a teacher, she worked primarily with first and second grade students.

Beginning with the **September 22, 1999** transfer to the November 3, 1999 transfer, the mission began to receive new missionaries every six weeks rather than every month. This policy came from the Church Missionary Department.

As his counselors, President Bawden continued with President Tom Garrett and President George Wing, who had both formerly served with President Don Christensen. In **December 1999**, President Garrett was called as the bishop of Bartlett 1st Ward in Memphis, Tennessee. President Bawden submitted the name of Keith Merrill to the Area Presidency, and he was sustained as second counselor in the Presidency. President Wing became first counselor.

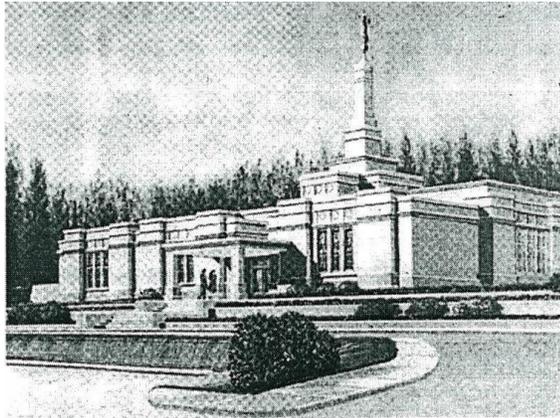


257 baptisms

2000

One of the exciting events in the mission was the opening of the Memphis Temple. Before a temple was within the mission boundaries, temple-worthy members were required to travel to the Dallas Temple. An open house was held from **April 10 - 15, 2000**. Excellent media coverage was given in the form of an insert in the daily newspapers, both in Arkansas and Tennessee. The temple was dedicated by President Faust of the First Presidency. President and Sister Bawden were invited and honored to sit in the Temple Ordinance room where the dedicatory prayer was given by President Faust. Television screens were placed throughout the Memphis Stake center building,

next door, where ticketed church members were allowed to review the proceedings.



LDS temple tours

The new Memphis temple of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormons), at 4199 Kirby Whitten Road in Bartlett, will be open for public tours April 8-15. The temple will serve about 16,000 members of the church in more than 70 congregations across West Tennessee, Arkansas and North Mississippi. For further information, call 384-0724.

The following elders served as assistants to President Bawden: Steven L. Andersen, Abram Collard, Timothy Moore, Adam Lawyer, Jared Wright, Kristopher Kuchenmeister, Eric Bailey, Daniel Stuart, Elder Bleak, Drew Coombs, Elder Gubler, Elder Fry, and Rulon Fullmer. Couples who served in the mission office included William and Orell Bindrup, Gerald and Sue Watt, Robert and Jean King, Marvin and Nancee Vernon, Robert and Linda Frizzell, Cameron and Carol Callison, Taft and Carol Miller.

The Ash Flat Branch, North Little Rock Arkansas Stake, was created and included in the boundaries of the mission.

Missionaries were able to watch the dedication of the Palmyra Temple on **April 6, 2000**.

The Nauvoo Temple was dedicated in **May 2000**.

The mission office was refurbished by Church Facilities.



With Elder Scott



With President Bill Clinton

Elder Moore and Elder Lawyer were responsible for having a new mission logo designed by a local member of the Pinnacle Mountain Ward, Nathaniel Dailey. The theme was “We Have a Dream,” based on the saying of Martin Luther King. It was here in the south that this saying originated. And, it is here that some of the baptisms performed by our missionaries, were those of blacks.

While Elder Wright and Elder Lawyer worked together as companions, they had the opportunity to talk to a group of Catholic Youth. On the same panel was a Jewish Rabbi and a very educated man of an Eastern Faith. The young elders answered every question asked openly to the panel, firmly and by the Spirit.

As a result of a change in the mission boundaries, Ash Flat, Arkansas Branch was established. Elder and Sister Tooley, senior missionary couple from Fish Haven, Idaho, were assigned to the branch to give their support and expertise.

In **December 2000**, Elders Nathan Bleak and Nicholas Ludwig were the focus point of a Memphis news reporter, who followed them through a day of proselyting. It was entitled “Men on a Mission”.



251 baptisms

2001

In early **February 2001**, the mission office received new software to replace the old Mission Management System. It would now be called Mission Office System, MOS. Elder Paul Jay Whiting, a young elder, about to be released at the finish of his mission, was conscripted to install the program, which was a somewhat complicated procedure. Then, it was he who would teach the office staff how to use it.

August 2001: We enjoyed visiting a few of your apartments in July. Several names were added to the “WHITE GLOVE.” We saw some really celestial work! Thanks to all, visited or not, who put forth the extra effort to have things, clean and neat. Keep up the good work, and don’t forget to wipe out the refrigerator and the microwave when you do your weekly cleaning. One more thing, when you get transferred, take your stuff, or throw it out! My guess is the next Missionary won’t want it either. The Lord said, “My house is a house of order.”

2002 baptisms

2002

President J. Robert and Sister Janene M. Bonnemort

July 1, 2002 to July 1, 2005

J. Robert Bonnemort was born in Salt Lake City, Utah, and was raised in Kaysville, Utah. He served a mission in the French Mission. Following his mission, he graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor’s degree in economics. He received his Master’s of Business Administration from the Tuck School of



Business at Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire. He spent two years serving as a commissioned officer in the United States Army and was stationed at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C. He was involved in banking, equipment leasing, and real estate development in Chicago, Illinois and Salt Lake City, Utah.

President Bonnemort served as a stake high councilor, counselor in bishoprics, ward clerk, Scout Master, Young Men leadership, Gospel Doctrine teacher, and as an LDS Family Service Substance Abuse Recovery missionary.

President Bonnemort married Janene Margo Poulson who was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. President and Sister Bonnemort had six children and several grandchildren. Sister Bonnemort graduated from the University of Utah with a bachelor's degree in Child Development and Family Relations and an Elementary Education Certificate. She served as a Relief Society president, counselor in Primary and Young Women presidencies, Scouting, and as an LDS Family Service Substance Abuse Recovery missionary.

July 3, 2002: The first week as president of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission started with a whirlwind tour of the mission to meet the great couples, sisters and elders serving in the field. The two assistants (Elder Garrett Fry and Elder Rulon Fulmer) guided the Bonnemorts through the mission to each of the ten zones so they could introduce themselves to the missionaries and extend their love and friendship. It was wonderful to tour the mission and go to chapels throughout Arkansas, Tennessee, and Mississippi.

August 22, 2002: President Gene R. Cook, the new NASE President, came for one day to meet with President and Sister Bonnemort at the mission home in Little Rock, Arkansas. A zone and district leadership meeting was held at the chapel in Little Rock, Arkansas. Elder Cook spoke about missionary leadership and teaching skills. It was a very motivating and spiritual meeting.

September 3, 2002: Sisters Emily Clawson, Kristen Barton, and Adrien Criddle were hit by an 18 wheel truck loaded with 80,000 pounds of paper while driving their mission car in 1-430 from Southaven, Mississippi, to their apartment in Memphis, Tennessee. They had just left zone conference and were in heavy rush hour traffic on the south side of the city of Memphis. The front right bumper of the truck hit the left front and rear doors on their vehicle pushing their car out in front of the truck. They did three 360 degree turns and turned into the center median traveling toward the oncoming traffic. The sisters all reported the "feeling of protection being all around them and something actually stopping them". It was a miracle! The skid marks on the road indicated the number of turns and the distance that they traveled in front of the heavily loaded truck. The driver reported true amazement that they were unharmed! They were truly protected. President and Sister Bonnemort were just a few minutes behind them and arrived shortly after the accident to see and speak with the sisters, trucker, and highway patrol. President drove their car to their apartment with Sister Bonnemort and the three sisters following. Soft tissue injury was sustained by both Sister Clawson and Sister Barton who were in the front seats. Sister Criddle was in the center back seat and sustained no injury.

September - October 2002: President and Sister Bonnemort made an office out of the bedroom next to theirs. The transfer board was removed from their bedroom and placed in the office. A fax line was installed. The two twin beds were taken to another bedroom upstairs. Interviewing elders and sisters in an appointed office is much more professional and comfortable.

264 baptisms

2003

JANUARY

A Mission Focus was established for the year. Missionaries were taught to prioritize their work. New Mission Medical I.D. was issued to all missionaries.

FEBRUARY

A mission tour was conducted by Elder Gene R. Cook from February 11 - 13.

On February 11 he attended a zone conference with the five zones in the Little Rock and North Little Rock Stakes. The conference was held at the Little Rock Stake center from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and a leadership meeting and an investigator and new member fireside was held later that evening at the North Little Rock Stake center in North Little Rock, Arkansas.

On **February 12** Elder Cook, the Bonnemort's and the assistants traveled to Alma, Arkansas, to visit the grave site of Elder Parley P. Pratt. Later that evening a dinner was held at the mission home for the Little Rock and North Little Rock Stake presidencies and their wives and President and Sister Wing of the mission presidency with Elder Cook. Following dinner Elder Cook and the Bonnemort's traveled to Memphis.

On February 13 a zone conference for the five zones in the Memphis and the Memphis North Stakes was held at the Memphis Stake Center in Memphis, Tennessee. That evening a dinner was held at the Memphis North Stake Center for Elder Cook, the stake presidencies for both stakes, high councils, bishops, branch presidents, ward mission leaders, and President Hamilton and his wife of the mission presidency. A leadership meeting and an investigator and new member fireside was held at 7:30 p.m. that evening.

Elder Gene R. Cook was asked to find a place in Little Rock, Arkansas for President Hinckley to come and hold a five stake meeting. President Hinckley said he had a free weekend and had never been to Little Rock, Arkansas. This would be a thrilling event for Little Rock, Arkansas and the mission. A committee (President & Sister J. Robert Bonnemort, President & Sister Richard Pierson, Bruce and Sharon Hass, and others) was formed to make preparations for his arrival. No venues in Little Rock or the surrounding area were available on the specific date needed. Subsequently the event was moved to the Desoto Center in Southaven, Mississippi. President McBride of the Memphis Tennessee Stake coordinated the arrangements for President Hinckley's visit.

March 1, 2003: President Gordon B. Hinckley visited the DeSoto Civic Center in Southaven, Mississippi. The membership from the Memphis Tennessee Stake, Memphis Tennessee North Stake, Little Rock Arkansas Stake, North Little Rock Arkansas Stake, and the Tupelo Mississippi Stake was invited to attend along with civic and community leaders, friends, business associates and family members. “Grab Life by the Horns” President Hinckley tells 5,000 Saints who gathered to hear him speak. Prior to President Hinckley’s address the entire Arkansas Little Rock Mission met in the Memphis 1st Ward building in Memphis, Tennessee, to hear Elder M. Russell Ballard, Elder Jon Huntsman, and Elder Gene R. Cook speak and bear testimony about missionary work.



President Gordon B. Hinckley

March 1, 2003

DeSoto Civic Center

Southaven, Mississippi

Memphis Tennessee Stake

Memphis Tennessee North Stake

Little Rock Arkansas Stake

North Little Rock Arkansas Stake

Tupelo Mississippi Stake

Arkansas Little Rock Mission Song

Text: Eddie Peterson & Scott Hansen

Music by Ohleen Campbell

Moderately, with vigor

1. We strive not for
2. We work like the
3. Though we're far from

glo - ry; we strive not for fame. We're serv - ing in Ar - kan - sas with on - ly one
Proph - et de - fend - ing the right. We're strong and we're loy - al and work with our
per - fect, our God is our King. For Him We will work now, to Him we will

aim. The Priest - hood of God with which oth - ers we bless, The most glo - ri - ous
might. A Proph - et has called us; He's shown us the way; Our com - pan - ion - ships
sing. We work for our Fa - ther, and this is our goal: The sal - va - tion of

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hon - or that man can pos - sess; Yes! We fol - low the Proph-et We teach of the Lord! We
 build us! We'll work! We will stay! a tempo
 thou - sands, the sav - ing of souls!

test i - fy dai - ly of His church re - stored! A mill - ion will join us! It's the end of the

drouth! We're called to the har - vest! It's the day of the South! South!

MAY

The mission home gardens were refurbished and some were redesigned and planted. Seven overgrown pine trees were removed from the mission home gardens because they had grown too close to the home and had limbs hanging on and touching the roof. A chain link fence on the east side was removed, in the back yard new lawn was planted and the gardens were reshaped and cut and a beautiful Arkansas rock wall was added just of the back patio. New flowers and shrubs were planted where needed. An existing chain link fence was painted black. New patio furniture was purchased.

Two new chapels were dedicated this summer in Danville and Ash Flat, Arkansas. A new chapel in Trenton, Tennessee, was dedicated during the fall. The saints in each area held very successful open houses prior to their dedication. They were pleased with the number of visitors who attended.

AUGUST

We were asked as a mission to participate in a CELL PHONE TRIAL PROGRAM. New cell phones were distributed throughout the mission to the delight of all. We will be one of ten missions participating in the cell phone trial study.

DECEMBER

Elder Joseph Calkins and Elder Randy Runyan sustained severe face and head burns. They had gone with the ward mission leader and another companion Elder Daniel Weber to the home of an investigator to teach him a discussion. Upon arrival they found the investigator out in back of his home burning trash. He ask them all to help him move a broken down car away from the trash fire. As they began to move the auto away from the fire there was an aerosol can in the fire which exploded and sent a ball of fire in their direction. These two elders sustained first, second and some small third degree burns on their faces, heads, necks, hands and arms. They received priesthood blessings, emergency medical help and treatments which continued until February. They have completely healed. They have no scars of any kind. It was truly a miracle.

Total number of missionaries serving at the end of 2003: 166

305 baptisms

2004

In late March and early April, 2004, the mission office moved to North Little Rock Stake Center, 905 Kierre Drive. An open house and reception was held on **April 3, 2004.**



We have moved!

Our old address is:
1123 S. University Ave. Ste #210
Little Rock, AR 72204

Our new address is:
905 Kierre Dr.
North Little Rock, AR 72116-3709



Counselors to the President: George Wing, Mike Hamilton, Thomas Garrett

Assistants to the President: Garrett Fry, Rulon Fulmer, Jared Ferguson, Brandon Wernli, Ivan Bigney, Derek Muaina, Chad Henkel, Trevor Smith, Ryan Ghemlich, Kasey Call, and Mark Trask, Brett Turman, Mclain Knutson, Joseph Chambers, Russell Lewis, Benjamin Fallows, Russell Lewis, Jared Nelson, David Tolman, Matthew Banks, Jason Marden, Devin Lethbridge.

Couples who served in the mission office: Cameron and Carol Callison, Taft and Carol Miller, Gary and Sherry Johnson, Warren and Marilyn Pickering, Robert and Shanann Singson, Thomas and Kathryn Parkinson, Floyd and Karen Wells, John and Ann Jeffress.

A scrap book of the mission presidents and their wives and a history of the mission home was begun for use and display in the mission home.

Mission home tours for members, youth firesides, and other groups were begun.

The mission song was updated and reprinted. Elder Ryan Gehmlish and Sister Pamela Werner of the Pinnacle Mountain Ward worked on the song.

On the first Sunday evening of each month, cottage meetings began to be held in the mission home.



*Elder & Sister
Crocket*

*President & Sister
Bannemort*

The Hot Springs Zone was established and the Mountain Zone was eliminated.

Fax machines were purchased for the zone leaders

Missionary Business cards were prepared and used by the missionaries

A map book for the mission was compiled

The mission home kitchen was remodeled

The new missionary book, *Preach My Gospel*, arrived in the mission

Elder F. Burton Howard and his wife, Carolyn, toured the mission.

On **October 4, 2004**, a bilingual event was held at the North Little Rock Stake center to commemorate National Hispanic Heritage Month.

274 baptisms

2005

June 14, 2005, an open house was held in the mission home for President and Sister Bonnemort

June 25, 2005, an office open house was held to welcome President and Sister Batchelor to the mission.

President Gary N. and Sister Verla K. Batchelor

July 1, 2005 to July 1, 2008



President Batchelor was born in Los Angeles, California, and raised in Layton, Utah. He attended Davis High School where he was student body president and active in sports. He attended Brigham Young University where he played basketball under Coach Stan Watts and baseball under Coach Glenn Tuckett. After graduating from BYU with his bachelors and master's degrees in physical education and a minor in math, he moved to Overton, Nevada, to teach at Moapa Valley High School. He coached all sports and was head basketball coach for 31 years and taught geometry and math subjects for 35 years.

President Batchelor served in many callings in the Church. They included Sunday School teacher, Elder's Quorum president, seminary teacher, Young Men's program, stake Young Men presidency, bishopric, bishop, stake High Council, stake presidency, stake mission president, a CES mission in the Micronesia Guam Mission, and a Church Service Mission-Addiction Recovery Program.

He married the former Colleen Cowley in September 1998. They had three girls and three boys. Sister Verla Kay (Hickman Lewis) Batchelor was born in Salt Lake City, Utah and raised in Overton, Nevada. She was active in music, drama, sports, cheerleading and drill team before graduating from Moapa Valley High School. She attended Brigham Young University. She taught high school physical education for one year. She was also the drill team instructor for 10 years and the school secretary for 25 years. Some of her Church callings included Ward/Stake/Regional and Area dance director, Primary presidency, Primary president, Relief Society presidency, Relief Society president, stake Young Women counselor and secretary, ward organist, choir director, member of the Activities Committee, stake missionary, a CES mission in the Micronesia Guam Mission, and Church Service Missionary-Addiction Recovery Program. She was married to the former Allen Edward Lewis. They were the parents of one girl and four boys.

Counselors to the President: George Wing, Thomas Garrett



George V. Wing

Gary N. Batchelor

Thomas Edward Garrett

Assistants to the President: Jared Nelson, David Tolman, Matthew Banks, Jason Marden, Devin Lethbridge, Forrest Hammeren II, David Brown, Jeffery Adams, Bradley Turner, David Wilcox, Jacob Blickenstaff, Steven Brady, Daniel Wright, Landon Smith, James Richards, Peter Gross, John Taylor

Office Couples: Lennis and Myrna Anderson, Clarence and Marilyn Allen, Marshall and Linda Garner, Douglas and Hazel Coffey, Robert and Shanann Singson, Gary and Sherry Johnson, Floyd and Karen Wells, John and Ann Jeffress

In August, 2005, Elder Gene R. Cook and his wife, Janelle, visited the mission.

Cottage Meetings were held at the mission home on the second Sunday of the month in Little Rock and on the third Sunday in Memphis.

September 23, 2005, Elder Allan Packer called to check on the mission after hurricane Katrina. Two missionaries from the Mississippi Jackson Mission were assigned to the ALRM because of Katrina.

233 baptisms

2006

THE MISSION SCHEDULE

Our missionaries depart and arrive every six weeks. The week they arrive we have departing missionaries in on Monday evening, then they leave the next morning. They are followed by the arriving missionaries coming in the afternoon. Transfers take place the next day (Wednesday) and on Friday Zone Leader Council Meeting is held. The second week zones hold zone meetings or district leader meetings. New missionary orientation is held on Thursday and/or Friday depending how many missionaries come in and where they are assigned. The third week are the zone conferences (eight zones and two zones combine each day). The fourth and fifth weeks are to do interviews in. The sixth week is for interviews that haven't taken place and preparation for the transfers coming up.

A cottage meeting is held at the mission home each second Sunday of the month. Other cottage meetings are held in the Memphis area on the third Sunday.

The mission has a special fast on the third Sunday of the month for missionary work. All the missionaries unite their efforts together to bring this to pass.

On the second Tuesday of the month, President Batchelor meets with President Richard Pierson of the Little Rock Stake at 6 p.m. at Pinnacle Mountain Ward and with President Thomas Williams of the North Little Rock Stake at 7:30 p.m. at the Arkansas Little Rock Mission office.

On the second Thursday of the month, President Batchelor meets with President Robert McBride of the Memphis Stake at 6 p.m. and President Timothy Taylor at 7 p.m. at the Walnut Grove Stake Center.

Saturday, **January 14, 2006**, President Batchelor and President George Wing were asked to come and do some training for the leaders of the Little Rock Stake in the afternoon. The wards were trained on trying to get missionary work done in the wards and to help

the ward mission leaders to learn more about what they need to do to carry out the program in their ward, get more help from members, and work closer with the missionaries assigned to their ward. After the dinner a Readers' Theater about the Prophet Joseph Smith was held. This was followed by the Saturday evening session in the chapel. Several people were asked to share how the reading of the *Book of Mormon* had affected their lives or that of their families. There were some great examples. Some were brought back into activity because of President Hinckley asking and encouraging families to read the *Book of Mormon* by the end of the year.

January 30, 2006, Elder Abram George Holladay had a wreck on his bike, breaking his arm and scratching his face and arms. He had to be taken to a hospital. His arms healed quickly and he was able to get back out and do missionary work.

A mission tour with Elder Douglas Callister and his wife was held in **February 2006**.

The mission started holding the zone leader council meeting in the High Council room having the elders sitting around the table.

Because of the size of the group New Missionary Orientation was held at North Little Rock for all the missionaries on the Arkansas side of the mission on February 9 and in Memphis at the Bartlett building on **February 10, 2006**.

The mission sent letters to the parents of all our missionaries for Mother's Day and Father's Day. Several letters were received back from parents thanking us for sending these letters.

May 20, 2006, Saturday, the couples and senior sisters met for an outing. They met at the North Little Rock building and car pooled to the Arkansas Queen (river boat) where they took the noon boat ride up and down the river and had lunch on the boat while they visited and enjoyed the scenery. They returned to the North Little Rock building where they had a short testimony meeting and said farewell to those who would be leaving the mission soon (Sister Steams and Sister Peterson, the Sabins, and the Nelsons who had already gone home). A group picture was taken and those leaving those leaving were presented a book of the beautiful scenes of Arkansas. A good time was had by all.

The Assistants had decorated the van and trailer all up to surprise the missionaries. They had strung streamers across the trailer. They had party hats and wax false teeth waiting inside to welcome them to Arkansas. Pictures were taken of them sitting on the floor of the trailer with their wax "false teeth." They had really arrived in Arkansas. That evening we had a nice dinner, slideshow, testimony meeting and showed them on the mission map where they would serve.

President and Sister Batchelor had a unique experience on Sunday, **July 2, 2006**. They attended sacrament meeting in Searcy, Arkansas, then traveled on up to Newport, Arkansas, to see a man by the name of Joseph Modica who was in the Grimes Correctional Facility. He had written the mission and requested a *Book of Mormon* and

asked that someone come and visit him. He had some questions to ask. He had met a former inmate who was a member of the church who had a *Book of Mormon* and he liked the things he had told him. President visited with Joseph for part of an hour and told him we would come and visit him again. The mission sent him a *Book of Mormon* and a *Bible* upon returning home. He is very interested in the church, but has some time left to serve. He will continue to read and study and have more questions the next time President comes to visit.

Saturday, **August 12, 2006**, the Hope Watermelon Festival was held in Hope, Arkansas, where they grow delicious watermelons. The Hope sisters put together a booth and received help from the branch taking turns sitting in the booth to answer questions and hand out materials to interested people. It is held at the fairgrounds with booths of all kinds and lots of things to see, entertainment, demonstrations and you can get a huge slice of watermelon for \$1.25 that was nice and cold and delicious. It draws thousands of people from all over the state and other places.

Elder Keith and Sister Susan Hilbig toured the mission in **September 2006**.

Apostle Henry B. Eyring attended the Little Rock Stake conference.

Sister Anderson didn't feel well and was in a lot of pain during the conference. Elder Anderson took her to the hospital later that evening, **December 5**. The doctors ran tests and ended up doing laser surgery to remove her gall bladder the next day. She stayed overnight in the hospital and was released the morning of December 7. She rested at home the rest of the day and returned to work at the office on December 8. It was as though nothing had ever happened. She has done well since.

233 baptisms

2007

Monday, **February 26, 2007**, the mission home received a new intercom system. The missionaries love to come to the door and hit the intercom button and sing a song.

Wednesday, **March 7, 2007**, we were blessed to have Lane Steinagel and Brian Kohler some from the MTC and do some training on how to be more effective in planning. The Core Training Group consisted of eight missionaries. The Extended Training Group included an additional fourteen missionaries. The first day they covered topics of "purpose, study, planning." The second day was directed to "studying and teaching for commitment invitations." The last day was devoted to "planning/finding."

Thursday, **March 29, 2007**, Patriarch Thomas Brown of the Little Rock Stake passed away. His funeral will be April 3, 2007 at the Otter Creek building on Quail Run Road in Little Rock.

Friday and Saturday, **April 20 and 21, 2007** - Parley P. Pratt program honoring Parley P. Pratt in Alma, Arkansas was held. Little Rock Ward prepared a written program (written by Michael McCurdy with music conducted by Jeanie Pierson) and was presented by the Little Rock Stake at the celebration. It was outside the boundaries of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission so none of the missionaries could attend. The program went well and there was a good.

Recommendations- May 2007

Never skip breakfast: Breakfast is to “break the fast.” Skipping breakfast permits blood sugar to drop, which triggers the stress response. Breakfast skippers work inefficiently, suffer more mid-afternoon fatigue and are prone to obesity. If you are not hungry in the morning, eat less at supper the night before and preferably earlier than 9 o’clock. If it is late at night - eat light.

Snacks: Eat a handful of walnuts, pecans, almonds or peanuts. If you are allergic to nuts eat a granola bar - read ingredients.

Sugar: i.e., chocolate bars. Eating concentrated sugar quickly raises blood sugar. It works like an electrical jolt and you instantly feel more energy. But, less than two hours later, that energy surge plummets. This is “rebound hypoglycemia.” A single can of pop has at least 6 teaspoons of sugar in it.

Salt: Excess use of salt is associated with high blood pressure, migraine headaches and premenstrual cramps. Sports drinks like Gatorade should be used sparingly. If you become dehydrated or have vomiting &/or diarrhea Gatorade is good to help restore your electrolytes. Too much salt prevents you from sweating. You need to sweat.

Fiber: helps prevent constipation. It is best to keep foods as fresh and natural as possible with skins and seeds intact. Eat fresh tomatoes and oranges rather than their juices; they may have added sugar and salt. Foods high in fiber: whole grains and cereals, vegetables and fruits, legumes - peas, beans and nuts and seeds, oranges, avocados, almonds, beans. Go at it slow - you don’t want gas or cramps! 80 - 90% of abdominal pain can be cured by a laxative. But if you take the recommended 35 grams of fiber a day you can prevent constipation.

Time-Out: Take some to relax. Take a deep breath, in through nose and out through mouth, 3-4 times a day. Relaxation calms the body and the mind.

Saturday, **June 9, 2007.** For the Saturday night meeting of the Little Rock Stake conference, the program Brother Michael McCurdy had written and Sister Jeanie Pierson had conducted the music for in the celebration of Parley P. Pratt was presented to the Little Rock Stake. It was very well written and performed by the group. It was done similar to a Reader’s Theater. The characters took on the part of the individuals they were portraying. The music were some hymns not usually sung and they were presented very well. There was a special spirit.

Sunday, **June 24, 2007** President Thomas Williams was released as stake president of the North Little Rock Stake and President Bruce Berkheimer was sustained as the new president. Counselors were Bishop Moline from Conway and Brother Brown from the

North Little Rock Ward. They will make a great stake presidency. However, we will miss working with President Williams.

June 2007: President and Sister Henry B. Eyring visited the mission.

June 2007: Sister Dorothy Wagner, age 102, was baptized in the Ash Flat Branch.
Monday, July 2, 2007: This was a special day for Memphis, Tennessee, the Arkansas Little Rock Missions and the Church in this part of the vineyard. The Mormon Tabernacle Choir came and presented a concert. President and Sister Batchelor were asked to be hosts. VIPs were invited to a social before the concert. Visitors from around the mission and especially in Memphis were introduced and some were asked to say a few words. Choir conductor, Craig Jessop, spoke and told a little about the choir and how grateful they were to stop here, the last stop on their tour. They had been in Canada, Chicago, New York, and other places during the last two weeks. Memphis was the last stop before heading home. They presented all the VIPs with a CD of “Showtime” to remember the performance.



Friday, **July 6, 2007** Doug Smith from the *Arkansas Times* came and talked to President Batchelor, then spoke with the assistants about the Church and why the missionaries serve missions, what they do, how they decide, and a little about their service (leaving home and school and going wherever they are called), then he had his camera man follow the assistants as they tracted and went to teaching appointments. The article will come out at a later time.

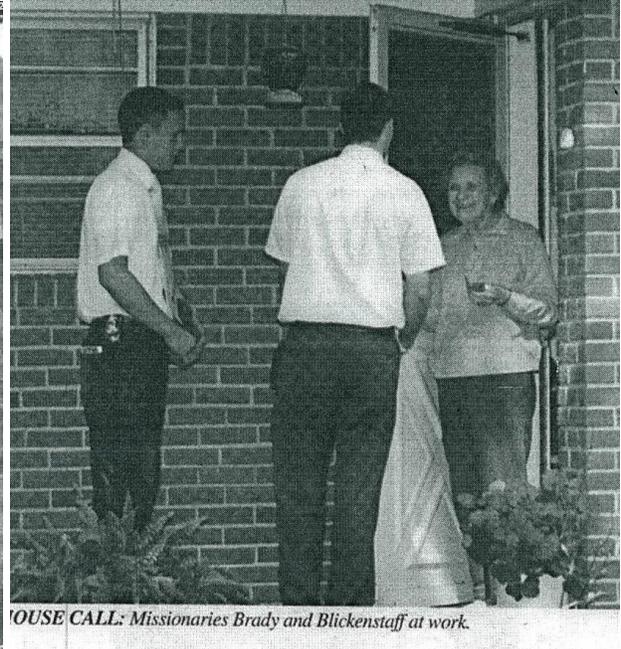
The passing of President James E. Faust on **August 10, 2007**, brought sadness to all of our lives. He was a great man in example of everything he did. His funeral services were broadcast by satellite so we could view it.

Sunday, **September 2, 2007** President and Sister Batchelor try to visit all the branches and wards and today was no different. They attended the Helena Branch in Helena, Arkansas. It used to have a big congregation and was mostly black, but the town is very depressed now and the branch is small. Those who attend are wonderful people (black and white) and they try to keep the branch going. The Larsens serve there and they have done a lot of visiting to help bring people back. It is a beautiful spot to visit. It sits on the bank of the Mississippi River in Arkansas right on the border. As you cross the bridge of the Mississippi River, you cross over into Mississippi. Many of the original homes are well kept. Some are in use as bed and breakfast type places. You can tell that it was once a beautiful, thriving community.

Saturday, **September 8, 2007**, there was an open house for the outgoing Stake Presidency of the North Little Rock Stake, President Thomas Williams, President Lorimer, President Babcock. This was held at the Jacksonville Ward building. There was a large turnout to give their thanks and appreciation to them for the service they gave. President Williams (and his counselors) were all willing servants and gave of their time freely. President Williams supported the Spanish Branch and got a group going in Conway with the Spanish people there. He got the temple to open on Monday morning the first and second Mondays of the month and asked the wards and branches in his stake to come out and support it. The wards and branches were divided into the first or second Monday so the temple would have good attendance both times. They were praised by the people for a job well done.

Elder William R. Walker, 2nd Quorum of the Seventy, toured the mission in **September 2007**. He was able to involve the missionaries in discussions, taught them how to receive spirituality and answered some questions the missionaries had come up with.

Thursday, **October 18, 2007**. The *Arkansas Times* printed the article from their interview with President Batchelor and the assistants back in July. We rounded up lots of copies. They did a pretty nice job. The assistants' pictures were on the cover. There were four pages referring to the church. They added comments about Mitt Romney and also had to mention the Mountain Meadow Massacre. Overall, they did a pretty good job.



December 2007: It has become kind of a tradition for the office elders, assistants, office couples, and President and Sister Batchelor to go to the North Little Rock Nativity Program. They display nativity scenes in the cultural hall, have a musical program, then you can get a nativity picture with the group. It has been a fun thing to do. Many of the group use this for their picture on their Christmas card.

240 baptisms

2008

President Gordon B. Hinckley passed way Sunday, **January 27, 2008.**

The First Presidency was announced: President Thomas S. Monson; 1st Counselor Henry B. Eyring; 2nd Counselor, Dieter F. Uchtdorf.

Elder John Madsen toured the mission in **February 2008.**

A mission truck and trailer were stolen (two separate events).

In **June, 2008,** President Batchelor was asked to submit an article to the *Church News* about a missionary success in the mission. The article appeared in the June 21 issue.

A farewell reception was held for President and Sister Batchelor on **June 14, 2008,** at the home of Bishop and Sister Beheshti in Little Rock.

President Robert W. and Sister Roberta J. Gilson Drewes

July 1, 2008 to July 1, 2011



President Drewes was born in Berwyn, Illinois to John Herbert and Beatrice Sleeper Wyman Drewes. He was from the Rockwall 1st Ward, Richardson Texas Stake. He served as bishop of the Dallas 11th (YSA) Ward, in the stake presidency, stake high

council, high priest group leader, and Gospel Doctrine teacher. He was president of the L-3 Communications Group and a retired Major General in the United States Air Force. He married Roberta J. Gilson and had three children.

Sister Drewes was born in Attleboro, Massachusetts, to Donald James and Madeline Ruth Ross Gilson. She was a ward Relief Society teacher, a counselor in the stake Relief Society presidency, a counselor in the stake Young Women's presidency, ward Relief Society president, ward Young Women's president, and a temple ordinance worker.

Centenarian takes Mormon plunge

BY FRANK LOCKWOOD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Dorothy Wagner has been baptized twice in her life: The first time by sprinkling in a Presbyterian Church, the second time by immersion in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

The first ritual took place before women's suffrage. The second — more than a century later — occurred in the Internet age.

Of the 279,218 Mormon converts in 2007, Wagner was the oldest in Arkansas — perhaps the oldest anywhere, church officials say.

The Horseshoe Bend woman was nearly 103 when she received "baptism for the remission of sins" and reached what the church has called the "gateway to the celestial kingdom."

On Saturday afternoon, Wagner shared her testimony with about 100 fellow Latter-day Saints who had gathered for a church relief society meeting in North Little Rock.

The day's theme: "A New You."

"I'm still a youngster in the church. I can't wait to tell you my secrets," Wagner told the crowd, smiling as she said it.

After sharing her story, she read aloud John 3:16: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

Someone asked Wagner what she'd want to tell the world about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"I'd say 'Join it. Join me,'" Wagner said. "All these lovely people: I can't praise them enough."

For most of Wagner's life, the Mormon church had been a distant entity — a tabernacle choir, a Temple Square, a place of worship in a distant city.

But about five years ago, Mormons built a house of worship in Ash Flat, about 15 miles from Wagner's home.

One Sunday, dissatisfied with her church, Wagner drove to the Mormon church instead and walked through the doors.

"They'd never seen me before, and I'd never seen them," she said in an interview. The people inside were "all smiles and wondering what on earth I was doing there."

Soon, the widow found herself surrounded by new friends, people who don't smoke or drink alcohol or coffee, people who typically put on their Sunday finest when they go to worship God.

"They always dress and look so fresh and nice," she said. "The men are cordial. They always come up and shake hands with me."

Church members offered to bring Wagner to church, but she declined their invitation, preferring to drive her 20-year-old white Cadillac to services.

During the week, Wagner studied Mormon teachings and watched BYU Television, a cable and satellite station affiliated with the church's



Dorothy Wagner (right) receives a family history book from missionary Emogene Tindall. "I'm still a youngster in the church," says the 104-year-old Wagner.

flagship university.

Church members embraced "Sister Wagner," taking her food and visiting her home several times a week.

Eventually, Wagner decided to become a Latter-day Saint herself.

"They act like they like me," Wagner said.

"More than like. We love you," interjected Teresa Bailey, a Visiting Teacher who checks on Wagner.

When she visits, Bailey offers companionship more than doctrine.

"I have a good listening ear. That's what she wants. That's what she needs," Bailey said. "She's just a delightful person, and I learn from her."

In 1904, the year of Wagner's birth, there were only 324,289 Mormons on the seven continents of the world. Today, there are 13.2 million.

"It's the fastest growing church in the world. Did you know that?" Wagner said. "Must be doing something right."

On December 30, 2008 the ALRM mission council set the goal for baptisms in 2009 at 409. This goal was set during a long meeting in which all participants were fasting. A long time was spent on our knees. We are united in knowing this goal is achievable. It is well within our capabilities. It is predicated upon our individual and collective obedience, faithfulness, prayers, and dedicated work. It does not look in the "rear-view mirror" for where we have been. It assumes our best all day every day. It is do able. It is surpassable even in 2009.

2009

President's Note (March/April 2009):

The work has picked up greatly (his month. Teaching pools are larger. Commitments are being made and kept. Conversions are increasing. There is a growing confidence and sense of "can do." Our goal of 409 in 09 is doable. WE must plan for success and then work boldly 'with unwearied diligence.'" (Hel 15:6) in Hel: 15:5 the Lord recognizes the good works being done by the "more part" of the Lamanites and that "they do walk circumspectly before God." Do you know what this means? "Circumspectly" is an adverb. It means heedful of circumstances or future consequences. So the passage means that these good people were having success because they recognized the future consequences of their labors. They understood that their lives, the lives of their loved ones and the lives of those whom they taught were secured unto salvation through their steadfastness in faith. So, it is for us also. As we are firm in faith, our lives and the lives of our families and our investigators will be ennobled now and through eternity. I exhort you to use your time wisely each day.



Courtesy Sister Karen Witt

Missionaries from the Arkansas Little Rock Mission unload school supplies sent by the Church to help 7,000 children.

Sister Missionaries in Dyersburg

Sisters Campbell and Davis are the first sister missionaries for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latterday Saints to serve in the Dyersburg area. Sister missionaries must be at least 21 years old or older and serve for a period of 18 months. Elders must be 19 to about 24 years old and serve for 24 months.

Both Campbell and Davis have been out for about 15 months. Sister Campbell has served the Germantown and Collierville, IN wards and Sis Davis in Cabot and Maumelle, AR wards.

Sister Campbell is from Holladay, UT, one of 6 children, she has 2 brothers and 3 sisters. Her eldest brother served a mission in Brisbane, Australia, her father also served in Australia as a young missionary, her other brother served in Santa Rosa, CA.

Sister Davis comes to us from Duvall, WA, and has one sibling, a brother. Her father served a mission in Rapid City, South Dakota.

One of Sister Campbell's sisters sent her a quote at the beginning of her mission: "When it gets too hard to stand, kneel, and reach up as far as you can and He will reach down the rest of the way." She said, "When my sister sent this quote, I based my mission on its message. Missionary work is difficult and needs the guidance of Heavenly Father."

Sister Davis told one sister who's 3 year old perished in a house fire "Life isn't fair but eternal Life is. You will be with him again if you live your life righteously." She added, "With faith in the plan of our Heavenly Father gives us knowledge that there is something more. With that knowledge we can make it through."

Sisters Campbell and Davis are grateful to be serving in the Dyersburg area and hope to be in contact with many of you to share the message of our Heavenly Father's plan. Any



Sis. Campbell and Sis. Davis

TWO MAJOR EVENTS THIS PAST YEAR

-The Spanish group that meets at the Rodney Parham building became a Branch

-The Little Rock Inner City Group grew too big to continue meeting at the rented house that the elders live in and consequently moved a few feet down the street to meet in the Seventh Day Adventist church which is being rented to us. We are excited about the growth with minorities



First Annual Sisters' Day

499 baptisms

2010

January 2010: Elder's, remember to read p. 48 of the white handbook, the rules and regulations on the cars. Especially note the rules about giving rides to members and nonmembers.

June 2010: In order to better fulfill our purposes as missionaries and to answer the

Prophet's call to go to the rescue, we have adjusted our goals as a mission and are committed to have at least 505 convert baptisms in the year 2010 as well as improving our retention rate to at least 85%.

July 2010: At the top of page 1 of the *Missionary Handbook*, we read, "This handbook contains the standards of missionary service and conduct approved by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. Follow these standards." Turning to page 4, we read, "When you accepted your call, you promised to live by these standards. You are accountable to the Lord and the leaders of the Church for how well you honor this promise."

Pacesetting Times

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2010 703 SOUTH BEND DRIVE, HORSESHOE BEND, AR 50¢ VOLUME 23, NUMBER 8

Oldest resident honored - 106 years old

Dorothy Wagner of Horseshoe Bend celebrated her 106th birthday at Horseshoe Bend City Hall surrounded by friends, city officials, members of the Church of Latter Day Saints of Ash Flat, and the Red Hat Society on Thursday, September 2 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wagner and her husband Howard moved to Horseshoe Bend from in 1968, building themselves a house and a future in Arkansas where Dorothy was a beautician for many years.

She joined the Church of Latter Day Saints in 2007 at the age of 103.

Wagner, looking beautiful in her red-daisied hat and an orchid wrist corsage, was presented with



HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU! Dorothy Wagner enjoys the voices of friends, members of her church and the Red Hat Society at Horseshoe Bend City Hall. Wagner turned 106 years old on Thursday, September 2.

Photo/C Estes



SPEECH, SPEECH! Horseshoe Bend mayor Bob Barnes with 106-year-old Dorothy Wagner. "I had a speech all written down on my hand," said Dorothy. "But now I've gone and washed my hands," she giggled.

Photo/C Estes

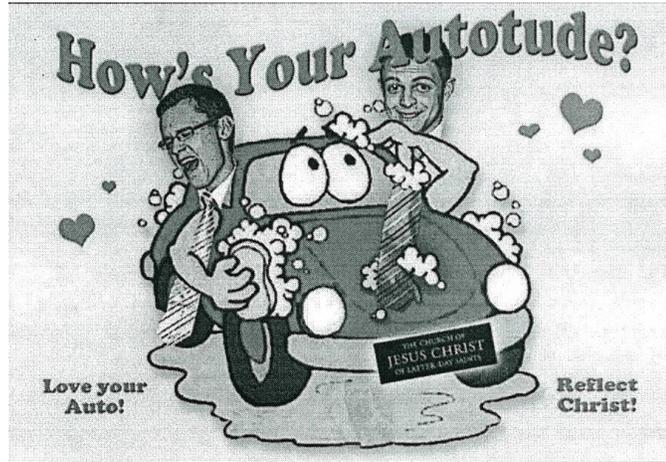
467 baptisms

2011

On **June 23, 2011**, Bishop Carlton Wing and Stake President Bruce Berkheimer participated in a news-talk radio broadcast responding to questions about the Church.

On Wednesday, **June 29th**, Sister Kenworthy (mission secretary) received a call from a reporter of a TV station in Memphis. He wanted to do a segment about "A day in the life of a Missionary". He wanted to have the names of two missionaries in our mission who lived in the Memphis area. She contacted President Drewes, who was at the airport picking up President and Sister Petersen. President Drewes said he needed time before he could give those names. It was important to choose two missionaries who would represent the missionaries and the church in the best way possible. He wanted elders who

would be able to speak with conviction at the drop of a hat. Sister Kenworthy informed the reporter that she wouldn't be able to give him those names until the next day. President Drewes asked Sister Kenworthy to call church headquarters and inform them of the event. In the meantime, she was contacted by Brother Bob McBride who informed her that he was the Public Affairs person for that area and he could take care of it. He then called the reporter and offered his assistance.



President Steven M. and Sister Pauline G. Petersen

July 1, 2011 to July 1, 2014



President Petersen was born in Ogden, Utah, to Denis Merrill and Taunya Maris Yearsley Petersen. He served in many Church callings including: Ward Mission Leader, Bishop, High Councilor, Stake President, and Area Public Affairs Council member. He served for two years as a full-time missionary in the Switzerland Zurich Mission.

President Petersen has a passion for work. He began welding in his garage at 12 years of age, became a certified welder and started his own business with his father at 14. He grew his business, ultimately expanding it into what is now an international manufacturing firm providing service and equipment in the nuclear reactor industry, environmental clean-up industry, and aerospace and mining industry.

He is an avid outdoorsman and sportsman. He enjoys backpacking, golf, and horseback riding. He loves all sports, but has a soft spot for basketball. In fact, his team won the gold medal in basketball at the Huntsman World Senior Games in 2010.

Sister Petersen was born in Ogden, Utah to Raymond Ralph and Maxine Hardy Grange. Some of her Church callings include: Relief Society teacher, Primary president, Young Women president, Relief Society president, Stake Primary counselor, and Area Public Affairs Council member. Her crowning call, however, is that of wife, mother, and grandmother.

She loves to sew, quilt, and enjoys most other crafts. She is adventuresome, once spending an entire 30-degree Wyoming winter in a travel trailer. She raised seven children of her own and assisted her brother in raising his four children when her sister-in-law succumbed cancer at age 33. According to her husband, she “is a valiant spirit who would pull handcarts over Rocky Ridge if the Prophet asked.”

A young Steven Petersen met Pauline (Polly) Grange at her home on December 12, 1977, when he came to visit her brother. He was instantly smitten. The couple married in the Ogden Utah Temple on April 28, 1978. In addition to their seven children, they currently have fourteen grandchildren.

Counselors to the President: Thomas Williams, 1st Counselor, Rodney Blain, 2nd Counselor, Erik Oliver, 2nd Counselor

Assistants to the President: Elder Austin Peay, Elder Sean Kelly, Elder Jaron Badger, Elder Aaron Hawkins, Elder Shoney Ivens, Elder Bradley Ferguson, Elder Dallin Truman, Elder Aaron Whelan, Elder Kadan McMurtrey, Elder Tyler Marchant, Elder Jason Adams, Elder Dylan Barney, Elder Brandon Armstrong.

July 2011: Elder Raddison Mark Veater from North Ogden, UT and Elder Jaron Dane Badger of Kaysville, UT were chosen to represent our missionaries in the ALRM. They were not companions but were put together for the next few days. They traveled to Little Rock on Friday, July 1st to meet with President Petersen for the first time. They were given counsel and blessings from the new president. The segment was taped on Monday, July 4th and shown a few days later. The reporter followed the missionaries riding their bikes, knocking on doors, talking to investigators, etc. Elder Veater and Elder Badger represented the Church, the missionaries and the Arkansas Little Rock Mission with integrity and competency. At the end of the taping Elder Badger presented a *Book of Mormon* to the reporter and challenged him to read it. He said he would. We were later informed that at least one baptism resulted from this event.

August 12-14, 2011 - An Apostle Arrives—Elder D. Todd Christofferson and Elder Vincent O. Haleck stay at the mission home with President and Sister Petersen. It was an honor and privilege to host them for President Berkheimer of the North Little Rock Stake. President Berkheimer lives in Searcy, Arkansas, which is an hour's drive from Stake Center. Elders Christofferson and Haleck come to preside over the North Little Rock Stake conference. A special missionary meeting was held Saturday Morning, August 13 at 9:00 in the NLR Stake Center. A photo was taken. It was a special time for all the missionaries who were able to attend. It was amazing to have an apostle in our midst.

October 28, 2011— Accident: Elder Bigelow was hit from behind on his bike with a car in Memphis, Tennessee. He was blessed to be alive. He was wearing his helmet. He had surgery on his leg and stayed in the hospital for 10 days. He flew home to Idaho to recover.

405 baptisms

2012

February 18th- An open house was held celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Danville Branch. A flyer and program is attached. They now have a cute little building which was completed on March 16th, 2003. A fellow senior missionary couple, the Lemons, organized the open house. The considerable preparatory work was apparent. They had displays and demos on family history, primary, Relief Society, Priesthood and on the history of the Danville branch. They had good attendance and many good things will result from the effort. Attending the Open House were a lot of great people, member and non-member. One of those in attendance was a fun Mennonite family, the Yoders: father, mother and 8 daughters, all in their cute little head covers. The Yoders also sang a few musical numbers which was fun. President and Sister Petersen traveled the 200 mile round trip to be in attendance and to be supportive of the effort.

THE
DANVILLE BRANCH
OF
THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY
SAINTS

20th
Anniversary
Celebration

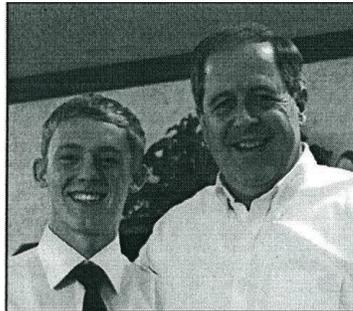


13842 N State Hwy 27
Danville, Arkansas 72833

Elder Stephan Allen, Managing Director of the Missionary Department, along with his wife, toured the mission on **February 22 and 23, 2012**.

On Saturday, **February 22, 2014**, a Black History Month Celebration was held at the

North Little Rock Stake center. Speakers included Gladys Knight, Rhonda Stewart, Sericia Battle Cole, and Darius Gray. The Gloryland Pastor's Choir participated.



Elder Korban Bluth and Richard Floyd. Elder Bluth's father baptized Brother Floyd 37 years ago in Memphis, Tennessee! Bro. Floyd comes from a long line of Baptist ministers. He is a great member who has been a bishop, is a temple worker and now serves as the public affairs person in his Stake.

Completed the *Missionary Tool Box* as assigned by President Petersen. Stake Presidents from each stake contributed ideas as to how to improve and better coordinate missionary work between the mission and the local units of the Church. Ideas were I collected, edited and compiled into one 20+ page document which was printed and distributed to all stakes, wards and branches in the mission. Training was also provided for all local units in the mission. A copy was provided to the Missionary Department of the Church and met with their approval.

May 28-30 — New Zone organized to give more individualized attention to our missionaries and to limit mileage driven to training—North Arkansas Zone. Zone training will take place in the Searcy, Arkansas building,

The Searcy Arkansas Stake was formed from parts of the North Little Rock the North Memphis Stakes. There are now five stakes in the mission: North Memphis, Memphis, Searcy, Little Rock, and North Little Rock.



December 25 - Christmas Day

The work in the mission was significantly disrupted not only by the normal activities of Christmas but more significantly by a historic storm that hit Arkansas, Tennessee and surrounding states on Christmas day and the days following. For example, North Little

Rock had about 10-12 inches of snow from the evening of December 25th through the next morning. Power outages were common throughout the area with the President's home without power for nearly three days. Over 285,000 people were out of power- some up to 8 days. There was much damage to trees and the cleanup continues. The missionaries were not able to enjoy a normal schedule which is difficult for these young people who are used to planned days of missionary activity. The region has experienced other storms throughout the month in what appears to be an unusual occurrence for the area.

426 baptisms

2013



January 16-18— Mission Tour/Zone Conference

We were richly blessed by the mission tour with Elder Erich W. Kopschke on January 16-17, 2013. Elder Kopschke proved his mettle by spending 12 hours on the road between Memphis and Little Rock due to bad weather in the area. He arrived at the president's home in the early morning hours eating spitzel and red cabbage especially fixed for him by President and Sister Petersen at 2:00 am. Even with the limited amount of rest, he was enthusiastic and engaged as he taught the missionaries how to more effectively teach the principles of the gospel. In his opening comments he reminded the assembled group that you "can only teach what you know and you can only receive what you are ready to receive." He had the missionaries do a special role play with their companions with an emphasis on companionship planning and how to use the scriptures and personal testimony to teach the gospel.

New Zone Created - Church policy calls for zones to include between 20-24 missionaries. The increasing number of missionaries coming to our mission necessitated the creation of a new zone. The Jonesboro Zone was organized with the Jonesboro District, Paragould District and Midtown (Memphis) District.

February 16 & 17— Elder Bednar Visit

It was a historic occasion to have all 150 missionaries including senior couples come together in the North Little Rock Stake Center the morning of Saturday, February 16 to be taught by Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, Elder Richard J. Maynes, of the Seven Presidents of the Seventy; Bishop Gary E. Stevenson, the Presiding Bishop; and Elder R. Randall Bluth, Area Seventy. With Elder Bednar's permission a group picture was taken.

April 2013: Mission Leadership Council

The Lord's Church is governed through councils at every level. Full expression from all participants is invited in council settings, unifying the efforts of both male and female council members.

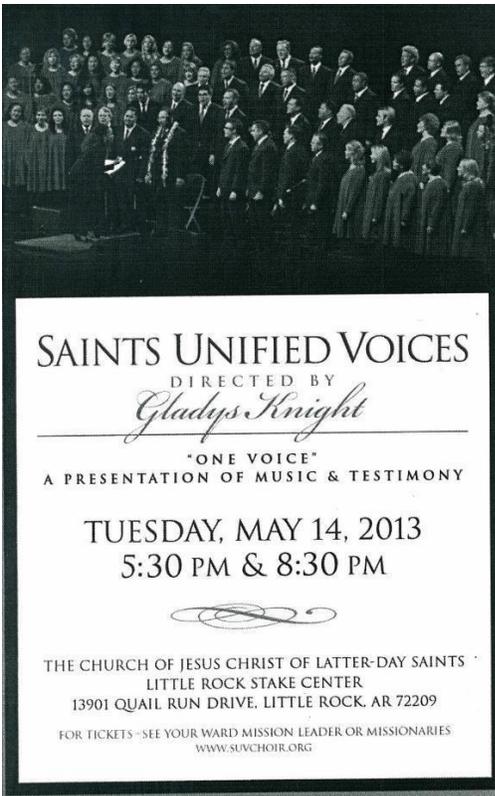
Sister Training Leaders

Some sister missionaries should be assigned as sister training leaders to help train other sisters. These sister training leaders are responsible to conduct companion exchanges with other sisters.

May 14-15— Saints Unified Voices Choir with Gladys Knight.

After several months of planning and anticipation, the Saints Unified Voices (SUV Choir from the Las Vegas area under the direction of Sister Gladys Knight arrived in Little Rock. The Little Rock Stake had the primary responsibility for the planning and the execution of the plan for these presentations. Two devotionals were held at the Little Rock Stake Center on Tuesday, May 14 at 5:30 pm and 8:30 pm. Some Elders were asked to assist with the equipment set-up on Tuesday morning and 13 missionaries were called to be "Assisting Missionaries" with the responsibility to greet our visitors. Through the efforts of the members and the missionaries there were about 800 in attendance at each of the sessions. Those in attendance were invited to fill out "Request Cards" inviting the missionaries to come to their homes with a gift package made up of a sample CD from the choir, the Restoration DVD and a *Book of Mormon*.

About 170 Request Cards were filled out in Little Rock. The choir then held two devotionals at the Memphis Stake center under the direction of the Memphis Stake on Wednesday, May 15. Again, 12 missionaries were asked to be "Assisting Missionaries." We estimate that 1000 invited guests were in attendance at each of the two sessions with just over 200 Request Cards completed. We anticipate numerous new teaching opportunities as a result of the SUV visit.



Elder Ulisses Soares and Elder Alvin F. Meredith visited the mission to train missionaries and priesthood leaders on **May 17-18, 2013**.



On **September 22, 2013**, the Morrilton Ward was created from the Morrilton Branch. Branch President, Martin Peterson, was sustained as bishop.

September 22— Creation of the Morrilton Ward. The missionary effort extended by members, full time missionaries and Senior Couples have been instrumental in the growth of the church in the Morrilton area. The results of their labors was the creation of a ward in that area with the former Branch President, Martin E. Peterson, called to be the first Bishop of that newly established ward in the North Little Rock Stake.

Total Number of Missionaries as of December 31, 2013

English Sisters	74
Spanish Sisters	11
Spanish Elders	15
English Elders	106
Senior Couples	11

518 baptisms

2014

Elder Erich W. Kopischke, 1st Quorum of the Seventy, and Elder Alvin F. Meredith, an 6th Quorum of the Seventy, attended and participated in a Special Zone Conference.

Elders W. Craig Zwick, 1st Quorum of the Seventy, visited the mission.

On **April 27, 2014**, a tornado struck in the mission and caused destruction in a variety of places, primarily in the towns of Vilonia and Mayflower. One member of the Conway 2nd Ward, Daniel Wassom, lost his life while protecting his children. His wife was injured, but recovered. Many missionaries contributed hours of service in the recovery effort.



Missionaries participating in the tornado disaster cleanup

President and Sister Petersen completed their three-year mission at the end of June 2014. In **July 2014**, President and Sister Wakolo arrived to take over the leadership of the mission. The rest of this historical summary will provide information regarding President

and Sister Petersen's last few months of their mission and the first few months of President and Sister Wakolo's mission. President Wakolo is the 14th president of the Arkansas Little Rock Mission.

Missionary companionships have been asked to compile supplies for a 72-hour kit to be used in the case of an emergency.

President Taniela and Sister Anita Wakolo

July 1, 2014 to July 1, 2017



President Taniela Wakolo was born in Vanua Balavu, Lau, Fiji Islands in the South Pacific to Taniela Vosa and Temalesi Buadromo Wakolo. He attended a boarding school of 500 boys for 6 years at the age of 12. He worked as an Interpol Officer for 11 years before moving to work for the Church in the Fiji office and Area office in

Auckland, New Zealand. President Wakolo also served in Iraq under the auspices of the United Nations in 1993.

President Wakolo joined the Church at the age of 27. He has served in many Church callings including Young Men presidency, High Councilor, Seminary and Institute teacher, Seminary and Institute Supervisor, Branch President, counselor in the Stake Presidency, counselor in the Bishopric, Stake President, and an Area Seventy.

Sister Wakolo was born in Taveuni, Fiji Islands to Netani Ganitoga and Olive Lily Moimoi. She raised 2 children and 18 other children who are nephews, nieces, and cousins. She supported them as they went to school. All of the 18 children are older than her two children. Of the 18, 14 of them joined the Church and the youngest is currently serving in the Philippines Baguio Mission.

Sister Wakolo has served in Relief Society presidencies, Primary teacher, in a Primary presidency, a Young Women presidency, Gospel Doctrine teacher, Primary president, and Seminary teacher.

President and Sister Wakolo were ordinance workers in the Suva Fiji Temple and are both first generation and youngest members of the Church in their families.

The mission goal for baptisms, confirmations, and reactivations for the month of **November in 2014** was 100 in each category. There were 92 baptisms, 90 confirmations, and 231 reactivations. It was an exceptionally productive month with missionaries working hard, being obedient, and remaining steadfast!

Most mission districts participate in a car sharing program. This means, for example, that a district with five sets of missionaries will share four cars. Cars will be rotated so that each set of missionaries will have a car for four weeks and walk or bike for one week. Additionally, a Car Steward program has been implemented. Each district has an elder or sister designated as the Car Steward. That missionary is responsible to see that cars are properly cared for and inspected on a regular basis, generally once a quarter. The inspection results are sent to the mission office and a copy retained by the Car Steward. Training of Car Stewards is ongoing.

A plan has been implemented whereby missionary companionships have identified a home to which they would go in an emergency. They would then contact the mission office regarding their location and safety.

689 baptisms

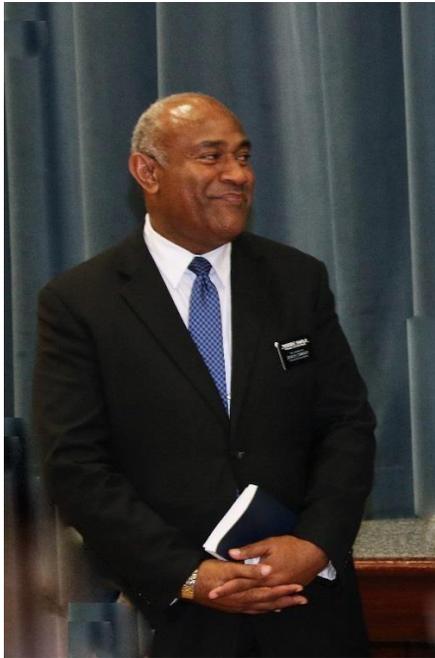
2015

The mission goals for 2015 is 680 baptisms and 480 reactivations.

President Wakolo has instituted a plan whereby all missionary companionships walk a week, regardless of the availability of a vehicle. He wants missionaries “on the ground” to be in closer contact with the people.

The new mission **Motto** is: Find, Teach, Baptize, Retain, and Reactivate

President Wakolo has informed the Church Missionary Committee that he is sensitive about missionaries waiting for visas and that he welcomes them in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission while waiting for their visas.



President Wakolo

February 2015: Elder Hamula, an Area Authority Seventy, visited the mission. While here, he had meetings with the missionaries and provided instruction. Elder Hamula is a very close friend of President and Sister Wakolo and was the General Authority over Fiji, the home of President and Sister Wakolo.

February 2015: David Archuleta was in the mission and was invited to attend a transfer meeting in Memphis. While at the meeting, he sang for the missionaries.

March/April 2015: Sister Fai, from Fiji, visited the Wakolo’s at the end of March and early April. She is a prominent political figure in Fiji.

April 2015: While President Wakolo was traveling, his vehicle was hit from behind. The person who rear-ended the President’s vehicle drove off without stopping. The President’s vehicle was damaged, but he was not hurt.

May 27, 2015: The mission is scheduled to receive iPads. All missionaries in the mission gathered at the North Little Rock Stake Center where they received training and instruction regarding the use of the iPads from Elder Zwick. iPads will be distributed later. This is the first time all missionaries in the mission were together since 2011.

June 12, 2015: All of the missionaries in the mission gathered at the North Little Rock Stake Center to meet with Elder Kopischke. An historic gathering of missionaries so close to the last complete meeting!

July 1, 2015: The Arkansas Little Rock Mission turned 40 years old July 1, 2015. The mission will hold a two-day reunion. The first will be on July 31 at the North Little Rock Stake Center. An open house will be held from 3:00 – 7:00 pm in the mission office. The second will be on August 1 at the Memphis Temple. Former mission presidents and missionaries and members of the Church in the mission are invited to attend. Former President Peterson, a newly sustained Area Authority Seventy, and perhaps other former presidents, will attend. A detailed schedule follows:

40th Anniversary Mission Reunion events on July 31, August 1 & 2, 2015, in North Little Rock & Memphis and throughout the ALRM. Former missionaries (and families), past Mission Presidents (and families), missionary converts, as well as local members and leaders are ALL invited to participate.

FRIDAY, JULY 31, 2015

3pm to 5pm - Mission Office Open House - North Little Rock Stake Center - 905 Kierre Drive, North Little Rock, AR 72116

5pm to 7pm – Meet and Greet – North Little Rock Stake Center

7pm to 9pm - Mission Reunion Devotional - North Little Rock Stake Center

SATURDAY, AUGUST 1, 2015

9am to 1:30pm - Memphis TN Temple Sessions - 4195 Kirby-Whitten Pkwy, Bartlett, TN 38135

5pm to 7pm - Open House - Memphis TN North Stake Center – adjacent to temple

7pm- Mission Reunion Devotional - Memphis TN North Stake Center

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2015

Ward/Branch Fast Sunday Sacrament Meetings

Ward/Branch Devotionals with former ALRM missionaries



40th birthday photos (photos by Elder Cheney)

July 1, 2015: Also on this date, the very first ever transfer meeting was held and transmitted from the Mission Office site to a site in Memphis. This two-way, video conference, transfer meeting enabled President Wakolo and others to conduct the transfer meeting from one location and not have to rush to Memphis for another transfer meeting. It was a great success. The president said it saved hundreds of hours and miles. President Floyd presided at the meeting on the Memphis side of the mission. The photo below, taken by Elder Cheney, is of the Memphis-side missionaries.



President Wakolo and daughter, Jasmin celebrating the President's birthday (photo by Elder Cheney)



Sister Cheney (CES missionary) and Sister Wakolo preparing dinner for new missionaries (photo by Elder Cheney)

July 10, 2015: President Wakolo prepared and held a luau for Elders to celebrate the 4th of July. The Memphis side luau was held July 3 and the Arkansas-side Luau was held July 10. The photos below, taken by Elder Cheney, are of the Arkansas-side Luau. The photos show dirt being taken off the roasting pork, chicken, fish, and potatoes; the food being uncovered and transported into the Office Elders' truck, and moving the food to a table behind the Jacksonville/Cabot church. It was a great experience.



1975 – 190	1986 – 273	1997 – 344	2008 – 282
1976 – 465	1987 – 398	1998 – 339	2009 – 499
1977 – 448	1988 – 265	1999 – 257	2010 – 467
1978 – 405	1989 – 338	2000 – 251	2011 – 405
1979 – 409	1990 – 416	2001 – 275	2012 – 426
1980 – 434	1991 – 365	2002 – 264	2013 – 518
1981 – 354	1992 – 353	2003 – 305	2014 – 689
1982 – 344	1993 – 327	2004 – 274	2015 – 386
1983 – 361	1994 – 210	2005 – 233	2016 – 287
1984 – 287	1995 – 260	2006 – 233	
1985 – 315	1996 – 243	2007 – 240	

October, 2015: A new Office Couple came into the mission—Elder and Sister Nicosia.

December 4, 2015: Senior missionary social at the Mission Home.

December 8, 2015: All-mission, Sister Day.

December 9 & 10, 2015: Wonderful Christmas Zone Conferences were held. The lunch in Arkansas was provided by the North Little Rock Stake, and Memphis North Stake did the lunch in Tennessee.



December 16, 2015: Last transfer meeting held in North Little Rock and in Memphis.

2016

January 26, 2016: The first Transfer of 2016. Eight missionaries returned home, and the mission welcomed seven new ones. This month we also said goodbye to Elder and Sister Durrant, an Office Couple. And we welcomed two Senior Sisters—Sister Nichols and Sister Womack.

We also had a historic Worldwide Broadcast from Church headquarters, encouraging us to forsake our sins, repent, and continue on.

February, 2016: Elder Renlund visited with the Stake Leadership in the area, including President Wakolo. A new Office Couple arrived in the mission the last day of February—Elder and Sister Hartzell.

March, 2016: The musical “The Book of Mormon” came to Memphis. President and Sister Wakolo and the missionaries, and sometimes even Jasmin, greeted the theater-goers both before and after the musical, handing out over 2,000 copies of the Book of Mormon, most with testimonies of missionaries inside, and over 6,000 pass along cards. We received many wonderful comments, and were, for the most part, treated with respect.

We also said goodbye to two senior couples: Elder and Sister Bagley, and Elder and Sister Green.

April, 2016: Elder and Sister Cheney headed up installing new carbon monoxide detectors in every missionary apartment. These are owned by the church, and are good for 10 years.

We also saw the return of Elder and Sister Cahoon to the mission to serve as Vehicle Coordinator and Assistant for 6 months.

June, 2016: We were honored with a Mission Tour by Elder Mervyn B. Arnold and his wife, Sister Devonna Arnold. He was in Little Rock to reorganize their stake presidency, and we were so glad to have him spend Monday, June 13, in North Little Rock, and Tuesday, June 14, in



Memphis, with us in special conferences. He was inspiring us with messages of trying to be

“Susan Fulcher” missionaries. As he said, “We must NOT delay going to the rescue . . .”

June, 2016: A Senior Social for all Senior Missionaries was held at the Mission Home.



June, 2016: The Mission Presidency was reorganized. President Layne Jones of Little Rock is the new First Counselor, and President Ivon Faulkner of Memphis is the new Second Counselor. We welcomed them and their wives, Sister Sharon Jones and Sister Ann Faulkner.



We will miss the faithful service of President Floyd and President Busbea and wish them well.

We also welcomed Elder & Sister Rasmussen who will be our new Military Relations couple.

July, 2016: There has been quite a problem in the mission with bed bugs, and Elder Thompson, Sister Thompson’s husband, was called to be the Bed Bug Coordinator. Notice is sent out to all the missionaries on the process for getting rid of bed bugs.

July 2016: For The Leader, a count was taken and we found the following number of missionaries were serving in our mission from the following places:

States: Washington 7, Oregon 2, California 12, Nevada 8, Idaho 22, Montana 1, Wyoming 1, Utah 80, Arizona 19, Colorado 9, New Mexico 5, Texas 4, Oklahoma 1, Wisconsin 1, Indiana 2, Ohio, 1, Georgia 1, Florida 1, Maryland 1, Virginia, Alaska 1, Hawaii 1.

Foreign Countries: Canada 1, Mexico 1, Guatemala 1, Chile 1, Philippines 2, Micronesia 1, Samoa 2, Australia 1, Fiji 2.

September, 2016: We lost two wonderful Senior Couples—the Cheneys, who were our photographers and multi-taskers; and the Cahoons, our Vehicle Coordinator and Office Staff. They will be missed.

October, 2016: President and Sister Wakolo attended a Mission President’s Seminar in Georgia and brought back some changes to our way of doing things. We also said goodbye to Senior MLS Couples the Milks, and the Harmons, and welcomed a new MLS Couple—the HARRISES.

December, 2016: We had a wonderful Senior Social at the Wakolo’s.



Also, the new Office Couple, Elder & Sister Sorensen, arrived December 12th, to take care of Vehicles & Referrals/Media.

December, 2016: The stake relief societies gathered items to be in white gift bags to give the missionaries at the Christmas Zone Conferences. We had a wonderful program in the chapel with Elder & Sister Beheshti, delicious luncheons, fun games and activities, and wonderful gifts for the missionaries to take home and enjoy.



Arkansas Program



Searcy Zone



Little Rock Zone



North Little Rock Zone



Memphis North Zone



Memphis Zone



Tennessee Program

2017

January, 2017: We had Transfer Week January 2-4. Our dear Sister Hugentobler had her last day in the Office on Friday, January 13th. Our new Mission Nurse, Elder Hess, and his wife arrived in our mission on Tuesday, January 24.

Wednesday, January 25, was the Missionary Satellite Broadcast from SLC. Changes were made to the missionary daily schedule, and we were reminded of the trust our Heavenly Father and our church leaders have in us.

Saturday, January 28, was our Mission Conference with Elder Neil L. Andersen. He taught us about “high love and high expectations.” He was accompanied by Bishop Waddell, Elder Klebingat, and Elder Beheshti. We were well-taught in our meeting.



February, 2017: A big change was made in the mission—The 5 zones were divided in half and there were 10 Zone Leaders called. Elder & Sister Schank arrived in the mission and will serve in Memphis. Elder and Sister Harris needed an early release for health reasons.

March, 2017: We welcomed 3 new ASL sisters in addition to the regular transfer. Also, the 5 zones were divided into 10 zones. They also had the first Spanish zone conference.

Elder & Sister Griffiths arrived with a new assignment—to be over the new Self-Reliance Initiative. They will also serve in Memphis.

April, 2017: Our own dear President Wakolo was called to be a General Authority Seventy. He will start his assignment in August when he has finished serving as our mission president. We are very excited for his new calling.

Elder and Sister Palfreyman left, and we welcomed Elder and Sister Wies.

May, 2017: The final Zone Meetings were held on May 3 in Arkansas, and May 4 in Tennessee.

June, 2017: The final two Zone Conferences from the Wakolo Presidency were held.



MEMPHIS 2ND ZONE



SOUTHAVEN ZONE



MILLINGTON ZONE



WEST MEMPHIS ZONE



SENIORS AND VISITORS



BENTON ZONE



PINE BLUFF ZONE



RUSSELLVILLE ZONE



CONWAY ZONE



JONESBORO ZONE



SEARCY ZONE



SPANISH ZONE



ARKANSAS SENIORS

June 29, 2017: President and Sister Wakolo leave the mission, and President Norman E. and Sister Karen Hansen arrive.



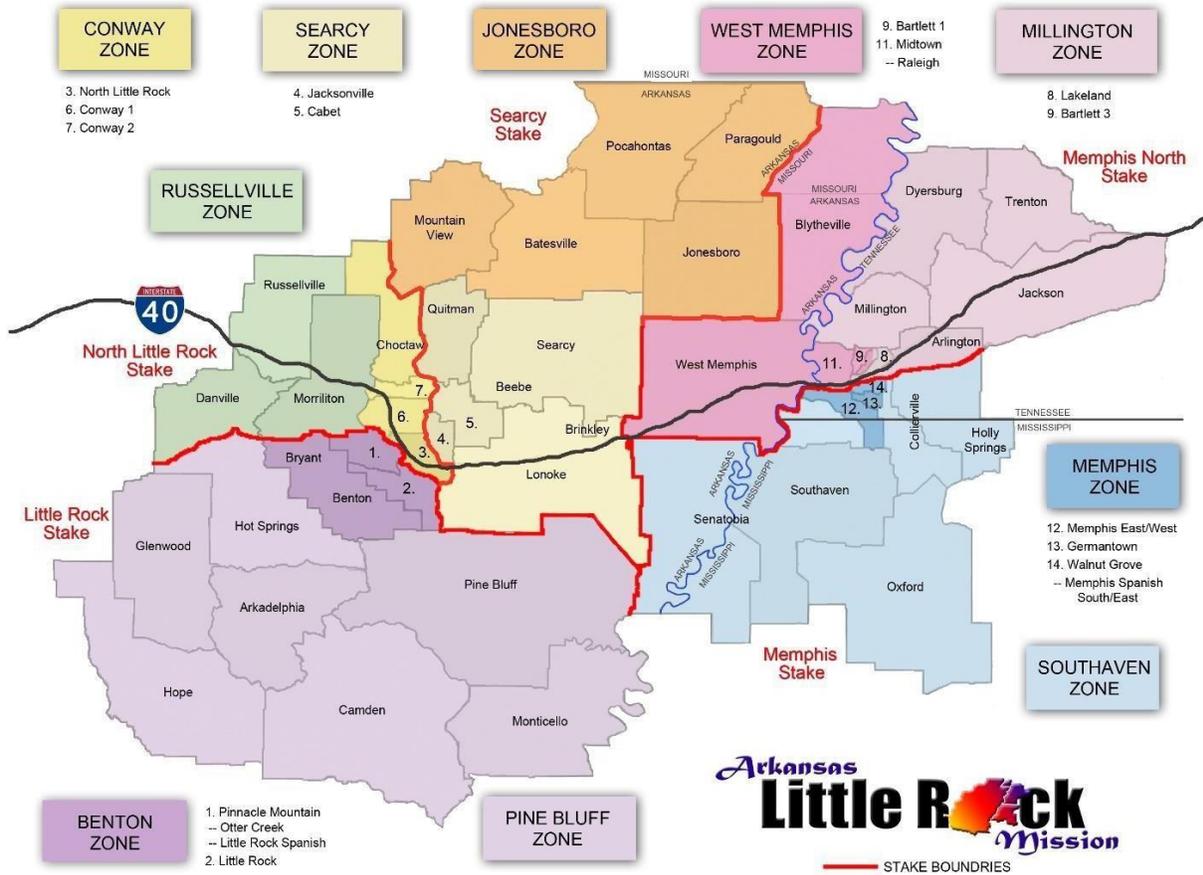
The Stake Presidents and their wives, the Temple President and his wife, Elder & Sister Beheshti, and President & Sister Wakolo



Sister Wakolo, Sister Hansen, President Hansen, President Wakolo



President Norman E. and Sister Karen Hansen



President Norman E. & Sister Karen K. Hansen

July 1, 2017 to July 1, 2020



President Norman Hansen, 57, was born in Rupert, Idaho, to Vernon and Emma Hansen. He has served in many Church callings including: Scout Master, Bishop, Stake Mission President, Stake Presidency Counselor, and Stake President. He served a full-time mission as a nineteen-year-old in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission 36 years ago!

President Hansen learned the value of hard work at an early age growing up on a three generation family-owned dairy farm in Rupert, Idaho. He has 4 brothers and 3 sisters and is the fourth out of 8 children. President Hansen says he had an ideal childhood that did not include a TV in the home. He was very involved with Scouting as a young man and earned the rank of Eagle Scout at age 14. He attended the 1975 BSA World Jamboree in Norway. President Hansen enjoys gardening, racquetball, camping, hiking, boating, and all kinds of fishing.

Sister Karen Hansen was born in Glendale, California, to James and Patricia Keysor. She has an identical twin sister, an older brother, and a younger sister. Some of her previous callings include: Young Women's counselor, Primary President, Den Leader, Activity Day Leader, Relief Society President, Stake Public Affairs Committee member, and Stake Primary President. Her hobbies include reading, family history, music, gardening, and cooking. Sister Hansen taught a Yoga/Exercise class for her Relief Society sisters for over 13 years.

President and Sister Hansen met as freshman at Brigham Young University. After President Hansen returned from his mission, they resumed dating and were married in the Salt Lake Temple. In their first few years of marriage, both President and Sister Hansen finished their Bachelor of Science Degrees from BYU. President Hansen graduated in Animal Science and Sister Hansen in Family Science. Shortly after their graduations, they moved to Chehalis, Washington, where President Hansen started his career as a Field Manager with Darigold, a large farmer-owned dairy co-op. He was employed with them for 32 years and retired early to accept the assignment to preside over the Arkansas Little Rock Mission.

President and Sister Hansen are the parents of 5 children and 7 grandchildren. Their family members are the joys of their lives. President and Sister Hansen have a great love and commitment for the Gospel and the Missionary program of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. They have had over 100 missionary lessons in their home during their almost 36 years of marriage. They are excited and honored to be returning to one of the greatest missions in the world! Both President and Sister Hansen have a deep belief that with "God all things are possible." (Philippians 4:13)

July 2017: President Hansen is initiating changes in the mission. We now have all Zone Leaders also acting as District Leaders of their own Districts. These are to be called "Model Districts." President Hansen presided over five special Zone meetings, which were held so that missionaries could meet President and Sister Hansen. Interviews were held with each missionary. President Hansen's first Transfer sent 15 missionaries home and welcomed 22 new Missionaries.

17 baptisms in July

August 2017

We welcomed twenty-two new missionaries to Arkansas Little Rock: Elders: C. Andersen, D. Andreasen, M. Billings, A.J. Bolos, C. Carter, I. Clark, M. Clayton, S. Dawson, A. Green, L. Huntington, R. Morris, K. Ramage, T. Robinson, B. Stirling, B. Stradling, P. Taylor, C. Thrasher, H. Trejo, H. Turner. Sisters: V. Hawkes, N. Jensen, E. Shumway, B. Stirling.

A farewell to Elder K. Baker, R. DeGolyer, S. Hill, B. Jacquez, H. James, S. Johnson, P. Kowal, T. Penrod, B. Rasmussen, A. Stewart, T. Stratton, J. York. Sister A. Decker, K. Beckstrand, D. Fifield. We thank all for their faithful service.

We are all adjusting to a new mission president. We are enjoying his enthusiasm and vision for our mission.

Zone Conferences were held Aug 7 – Russellville & Conway zones, Aug. 8 – Jonesboro & Searcy zones, Aug. 9 – Benton & Pine Bluff zones, Aug 15 – Southaven & Memphis 2nd zones, Aug. 16 – West Memphis & Millington zones. President Hansen taught about meeting and finding. He directed missionaries to obtain phone numbers and email addresses so that after prayerful consideration, a message or video could be sent to the new individual. He also introduced a new program of missionary home teaching and visiting teaching. Under the direction of the ward or branch, Bishops, Elders Quorum, Relief Society leaders would assign 15- 20 less active, non-members to be visited twice a month by missionaries.

13 Baptisms in August.

September 2017: We welcomed twenty six new missionaries to Arkansas Little Rock: Elders: C. L. Anderson, C.R. Anderson, B. Bingham, C. Broadbent, K. Bybee, T. Deushane, C. Herrscher, S. Miller, N. Oseen, D. Padilla, N. Scott, B. Short, A. Skelton, W. Tilby, N. Webb. Sisters: K. Anglesey, C. Ball, A. Beishline, S. Jespersen, L. Winn, E. Robles, T. Lumpkin and K. Keiser

A farewell to Elders: D. Anaya, J. Erickson, K. Geddes, A. Goaslind, G. Gonzales, J. Hawkes, H. Henderson, M. Hirschi, C. Jorgensen, K. Lewis, A. May, K. Ockey J. Taylor, T. Trendler.

Zone conferences were held September 21 for the Memphis Zones and September 22 for the Arkansas Zones. It was an exciting conference because our mission was chosen among 12 in the world that will be implementing smart phone use instead of tablets. Smart phones were distributed, one per companionship, and missionaries were instructed on how to use Facebook for missionary work. We also practiced in preparation for Musical tribute devotionals that will be held throughout the stakes in the mission starting in October.

Our beautiful Memphis Tennessee Temple is scheduled to close on September 29, 2017, for an extensive renovation project that will alter the interior and exterior appearance of the building. The Memphis Tennessee Temple was the first temple built in Tennessee, though plans for a temple in Nashville had been announced several years earlier.

President Gordon B. Hinckley wanted to make temples available to all Church members no matter where they lived. The Memphis Tennessee Temple was dedicated in 2000 and one of the smaller temples built throughout the world. Its beautiful celestial room has oak leaves and

Magnolia blossoms decorating the ceiling and surrounding a beautiful tear drop chandelier. The Memphis Tennessee temple has been in use for seventeen years and has been a blessing to Arkansas and Tennessee members.

As the temple closing approached. Temple sessions were scheduled for all Missionaries to attend. Temple sessions were held Sept. 11, 18, 19, 20 and 25. Question and answer sessions were conducted by Temple President Danielson. It was a wonderful opportunity.



17 Baptisms in September

October 2017: We welcomed 19 new missionaries to the Arkansas Little Rock Mission: Elders E. Brinkerhoff, N. Billman, T. Cluff, J. Cundick, C. Diaz de Leon, M. Draper, J. Gunnell, G. Hunter, C. Lee, A. Nelson, A. Maddox, J. Obray, A. Seastrand, N. Woodland; Sisters R. Colwell, M. Ferguson, C. Palmer, R. Smith and N. Woolley.

A farewell to Sister A. Stringam, Elders S. 'ongi, M. Donahoo, C. Edwards, C. Glass, E. Hall, D. Lambson, E. Rohleder, P. Sandman, A. Smith, G. Smith, J. Speck, D. Thornton, D. Thurgood and T. Ullery.

We enjoyed a Mission Tour visit from Elder Klebingat of the Seventy. Zone Conferences were held for this event. Southaven, Memphis 2nd, West Memphis and Millington zones met October 6, 2017 in the Bartlett Tennessee building. Conway, Russellville, Searcy, Jonesboro, Pine Bluff and Benton Zones met on October 7, 2017 at the North Little Rock Building. Elder Klebingat inspired all that attended with his charge to share the Book of Mormon with Arkansas.

Organized by Sister Hansen, Six Musical Tributes to our Savior, Jesus Christ were presented to the five stakes in our Arkansas Little Rock Mission. Held October 8th for North Little Rock Stake, October 15th for Memphis Stake, October 22nd for Memphis North Stake, October 29th for the Little Rock Stake, November 18th and 19th for the Searcy Stake.

These events have been well attended. Music including: “Joseph Smiths First Prayer”, “A Child’s Prayer”, “We’ll Bring the World His Truth/As Sisters in Zion”, “Called to Serve” and “Amazing Grace” were sung by the missionary Choir. ASL missionaries signed the lyrics. A special number sung by Spanish Missionaries, a Cello/Piano duet of “Oh, Divine Redeemer” was presented by Elder Smalling and Sister Kerby, a chorus of Amazing Grace on Violin by Elder Russell, Vocal solo by Elder Larsen, “Savior, Redeemer of my Soul” with Sister Keller playing Flute and Sister Kerby at the Piano. These tributes have been inspiring and very well done by our talented missionaries.

In late October we received information that our mission would be used as a test mission in the use of Smartphones. Missionaries no longer will be bringing tablets to use in proselyting. Each missionary will purchase a smartphone under guidelines. The church sent church owned phones to each companionship to use while we transition. Missionaries are now able to use Facebook for proselyting, being able to chat and email. This makes contacting people and answering questions of investigators much more immediate and available for busy schedules. It also gives missionaries access to emergency information for safety.

22 Baptisms in October

November 2017: President Hansen with Assistants Elder B. Cowley and Elder K. Wall have been inspired to develop a mission culture, a mission statement that we sustain.

In the ALRM, our mission culture is to **Teach Repentance and Baptize Converts**

How?

- We Use the Book of Mormon for the Foundation of Conversion
- We Understand and Teach the Doctrine of Christ
- We Invite “All” to Come unto Christ
- We Live with Consecrated Obedience to the Missionary Handbook

President Hansen has challenged missionaries to bring 80 souls to baptism by the end of the year beginning in October.

Five Zone Conference meetings were held November 7,8,9,15and 16. Elder Klebingat’s charge to Flood Arkansas with the Book of Mormon was emphasized.

We said farewell to Elder Andrew and Sister Lori Rasmussen who have served for 18 months as Military Relations missionaries at the Jacksonville Airforce Base. We welcomed Elder Don and Sister Christine Tippetts.

Elder Robbins of the Seventy and his wife visited on a mission tour. Elder Robbins conducted interviews and taught in two special Zone Conferences held November 30 and December 1, 2017. A talk given by Elder Robbins in a BYU Devotional setting, “Being 100 Percent Responsible” was studied. Some of the highlights from his teaching: Open your eyes and ears before your mouth; look for clues in teaching; teach people not lessons; recognize people doing good things; a problem is a gold mine; you find happiness by counting your blessings; recognize people doing good things. Sister Robbins spoke on NOT being casual.

12 Baptisms in November

December 2017: Our December transfer brought fifteen new young missionaries: Sisters: C. Boyle, J. Kulikowski and E. Orr, Elders D. Albertson, J. Fealy, D. Harkness, T. Pincock, K. Reardon, J. Riley, B. Roberts, G.C. Stewart, J. Watts, K. Whitesides, I. Clark, and T. Shelley. We also welcomed Elder Gaylin and Sister Pamela Davies as Records Preservation missionaries.

Departing missionaries included Sisters: B. Duffin, K. Kerby, A. Lange, A. Minster, S. Olson, C. Petersen, M. Thornton, Elders: W. Hoyle, L. Ludrick, V. Schoessler and N. Wilson. Sister Patsy Womack and Sister Monica Nichols returned home after serving as Records Preservation missionaries.

Brother Donaldson, from Salt Lake, visited and gave instruction at two Mission Leadership Council meetings (MLC) on using the new smartphones and a new referral program that will be tested in Arkansas Little Rock Mission.

Missionaries participated in the Church Wide Light the World Initiative. This Christmas, the Church invited members worldwide to prayerfully consider how we can follow the Savior's example and share the light of Jesus Christ with others during the Christmas season. Missionaries participated in many ways on 25 days. They involved investigators and members and increased our love and focus on the Savior during the Christmas Season.



Zone Conference was held December 13 and 14. A nice Christmas Lunch was served by the Memphis and Little Rock Stakes. President Hansen and the Assistants instructed the missionaries on qualities of a good teacher. He said, you are only as good as the people you teach think you are. When you know where your authority comes from, you realize your potential. You represent Jesus Christ and the apostles that extended your call. Walk with confidence, be passionate about the gospel.

Our mission Christmas activities were held December 20 and 21. We played games, Watched "The Testament of One Fold and One Shepherd" followed by testimonies. We had a nice lunch and received gifts from home and from the mission. Every missionary received a new mission t-shirt. On Christmas Eve missionaries went Christmas Caroling as Districts and left cookies.

Missionary efforts saw much success in December. Twenty eight new converts were baptized in December bringing the mission to only eighteen less than our goal of eighty for the quarter. President Hansen stressed that those eighteen are still being prepared and we will continue to find them.

28 Baptisms in December

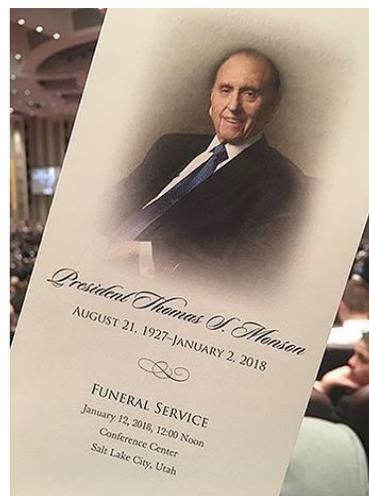
2018

January 2018: Our transfer brought seven new missionaries: Sisters: S. Gerratt, S. Pickens and R. Robinson, Elders: N. Alonzo, J. Dominguez, M. Graves and C. Jorgensen. We said farewell to Sisters: K. Dayley, M. Esplin, R. Povey, S. Van Orman, A. Burk, J. Anderson, A. Feinga, and K. Hunt, Elders: D. Breen and S. Santiago.

We welcomed Elder and Sister Davies as our new Records Preservation Missionaries and said goodbye to Elder and Sister Schank as MLS missionaries in the Memphis area. So grateful for their valiant service.

With Love and Respect, Missionaries watched the funeral services of our 16th Prophet, President Thomas S. Monson

Thousands gathered in the Conference Center on Temple Square and at televisions around the world to watch the funeral services of President Thomas S. Monson on Friday, January 12, 2018. His daughter, Ann M. Dibb; Russell M. Nelson, president of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles; and President Monson's two counselors, President Henry B. Eyring and President Dieter F. Uchtdorf, spoke.





January 16, 2018 – The 17th President of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was announced. President Russel M. Nelson (center), President Dallin H. Oaks (left) and President Henry B. Eyring (right).

Leadership Training Meetings were held with a focus on Consecrated Obedience and increased Referrals.

Zone Conferences held in individual Stake buildings introduced a new program of Scriptural Scholarship. Missionaries are encouraged to achieve an increased knowledge and spirituality through three levels of Scholarship. Bronze – identify and memorize 84 references for doctrinal points; memorize recitation scriptures Silver - Read True to the Faith, memorize the text for the 84 scriptures, for three months read scriptures of Jesus Christ listed in the Topical Guide. Gold - Read Jesus the Christ and memorize The Living Christ or Family Proclamation.

Arkansas
Little Rock
 Mission

LEVELS OF SCHOLARSHIP

"When performance is measured, performance improves. When performance is measured and reported, the rate of improvement accelerates" - President Thomas S. Monson

Scholarship may be achieved over the period of 2 years - both for Elders and Sisters
 Scholarship must be maintained for each successive award.

BRONZE	
<input type="checkbox"/> Identify 2 scriptural references for each Doctrinal Point in Preach My Gospel Lessons (one from the bible and one from the Book of Mormon) <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to memory the identified 84 references <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to memory all recitations on the 'Recitation Sheet' <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to memory the 42 Doctrinal Points in the Preach My Gospel lessons Signed by District Leader: _____ Date: _____	
SILVER	
<input type="checkbox"/> Read 'True to the Faith' <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to memory the text of the 84 identified doctrinal point references <input type="checkbox"/> Read and ponder all scriptures listed in the topical guide under 'Jesus Christ' (as directed by President Nelson) for two transfers (90 days) <input type="checkbox"/> Record your thoughts and impressions with the date of study (there must be 90 days of entries within 104 days) Signed by Zone Leader: _____ Date: _____	
GOLD	
<input type="checkbox"/> Read 'Jesus the Christ' by Elder James E Talmage within the 2 year scholarship period <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to memory either 'The Living Christ' or 'The Family: A Proclamation to the World' within the 2 year scholarship period and be able to recite it <input type="checkbox"/> Commit to memory the text of 26 additional scriptures besides the 84 already memorized Signed by Sister Hansen: _____ Date: _____	

January 27, 2018 - Mission Tour - We were privileged to receive a visit to our Mission from Elder Jeffrey R. Holland and Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf. Missionaries were honored to hear their words and shake the hands of two Apostles. It was a once in a life time experience for the missionaries and the people in Arkansas. President Hansen's highlights of their talks:

Elder Uchtdorf - Pray for your companion, don't give up when things get tough, listen to the Holy Ghost, need companionship support, trust in the Lord, Use PMG daily, become your own first convert, keep all the missionary handbook rules, importance of always finding - even when teaching, blessings only come when we commit, doses of love touch people's hearts, we only get to serve in our callings for a "Season" - make the best of it while it is ours to magnify, "lift where we stand", learn to counsel together, be unified, we are leaving a legacy for others to follow - what will that legacy be - it is up to us to determine that. The gospel gives us orientation, pray, repent and turn to Christ. He is the light that will direct our course, use the gospel to climb to new heights, share the Gospel, invite all, do missionary work, share the Book of Mormon, make the Bible belt become the "Book of Mormon Belt".

Elder Holland - Revelation always comes in silence - take time to ponder and listen, keep a journal; no vertical movements in the Kingdom of God. We have one head and that is Jesus Christ. The rest of us are Disciples of Jesus Christ, always do our best - that is what will be asked of us on the judgement day. Bear witness wherever you go and whatever you do, your mission is "real life", you can never go back to where you were before your mission. You will never be the same, We can't give to others what we don't have ourselves, love this Gospel forever, your mission is an "eternal investment, we will lose some sheep - but we can never lose the Shepherds, stay in touch with the members, Make sure we magnify our callings and do what we are supposed to be doing - while we have our callings, we need to look like and act like Disciples of Christ, ask ourselves this questions, "If every member of the Church were just like me, would the Church be recognized as the Lord's Church"?, be careful how we use our tongues.

6 Baptisms in January

February 2018: Sixteen hard working missionaries returned home. Elders: B. Cowley, J. Jennings, M. Sotomarin and K. Wall; Sisters: B. Ellis, R. Gummow, B. Guthrie, M. Hall, S. Inman, S. Johnston, A. Keller, A. McNall, E. Wheeler and N. Zollinger. Senior MLS missionaries in Memphis, Elder Craig and Sister Debra Schank also returned home. We will miss their valiant spirits.

Arriving missionaries include: Sisters: N. Anderson, A. Bolton, J. Gubler, T. Jeffress, M. King, A. Rowley. Elders: E. Rockwood and T. Cluff. We look forward to getting to know these great missionaries.

After several very busy months we focused in February on missionary work.

A Senior Family Home Evening was held at the Mission Home on February 19, 2018. Elder and

Sister Davies provided a lesson and the senior missionaries enjoyed a meal and social time together.

We staged an emergency drill for our mission. Missionaries were alerted to the emergency and reported to their safe house. Each area has two safe houses designated. The safe house called the office to report safe arrival. Missionaries also called their zone leaders from their safe house. We ask each missionary to be equipped with their 72 hr. kit as they go to their safe house. Our mission drill was successful. It took about 90 minutes to account for all the missionaries. We learned a few things and will have another in a few months.

23 Baptisms in February

March 2018: We welcomed a new senior MLS couple. Elder Gale and Sister Rebecca Lim will be serving in the Hope area.

Zone Conference was held on March 7 in Tennessee and March 8 in Arkansas. President Hansen taught the mission about Faith. Some of the attributes of faith taught include: obedience, gratitude, positive motivation, pure love, work and truth. Real faith is not contingent on results, doubt not fear not. We must continue in faith because we love the Lord with all our soul, no reward is needed. We humbly ask, seek and knock. We leave to the Lord the final decision.

A MLC meeting was held for mission leadership. President and Sister Hansen's daughter returned from serving a mission in Brazil. The Hansen family joined President and Sister Hansen in welcoming her home.

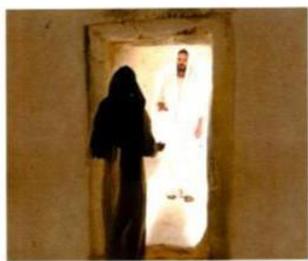
Preparations are being made to present another Music Tribute to the stakes in the mission. The first program was presented on March 25, 2018 in the Searcy Stk. Jonesboro building.

22 Baptisms in March

April 2018: General Conference for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was held April 1 with a Solemn Assembly sustaining President Nelson as the Prophet and President of the Church.

Leadership Training meetings were held on April 3,4 in Tennessee and North Little Rock. Transfers were conducted bringing five new missionaries to the mission Elder F. Ramirez, Sisters A Garner, J. Marshall, C. Mitchell an H. Oakes. Sister K. Brophy and Elder B. Gonzalez returned home after serving faithfully. Zone Conferences were held April 24, 25, 26 and May 1, 2. President encouraged the missionaries to seek after the "best" Referring to Elder Oak's Conference address, "Good, Better, Best".

Music Tributes are presented to the stakes in the mission. Programs were presented April 8 – Jacksonville building, Searcy Stake; April 15 – Conway building, North Little Rock Stake;



The Living Christ
A Missionary Music Tribute

Sunday, April 8 at 6pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
6110 T P White Dr.
Jacksonville, Arkansas

*Come celebrate the Easter Season
with us at this free community event that
includes a choir of 75 young missionaries*

Program provided by the
Arkansas Little Rock Mission

Hosted by the
Searcy Arkansas Stake

April 22 – Walnut Grove building, Memphis Stake; April 29 – Otter Creek building, Little Rock Stake; May 6 – Bartlett building Memphis North Stake. Missionaries presented “The Living Christ” in testimony and song. Music included “Called to Serve”, “Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”, “He is Risen”, “Joseph Smith’s First Prayer”, “He’ll Carry You”, “I Know that My Redeemer Lives”, “Amazing Grace” and “The Holy City”. Soloist included President Jones, Elder Stiles-Culver, Elder Barron, Sister Shumway, Sisters Brummett and E. Anderson, Elders Larson, Armstrong and Paopao. Instruments included Elder Anderson on the organ, Elder Smalling on the Cello, Sister Anglesey on the Flute and Sister Beshline on the Piano. The Music Tributes were beautifully presented and very well received.



Ezekiel 37:15-20

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

Arkansas
Little Rock
Mission
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints



*Promises from reading
The Book of Mormon*

Receive answers to life's most compelling questions.
Clearly understand your purpose here on earth.
Better understand the Holy Spirit / Holy Ghost.
Understand what it means to be born again.
Make better decisions - every day.
Come closer to Jesus Christ.
Understand how the Savior can heal your pains and struggles.
Have greater love and wisdom while counseling children.
Have the Spirit of the Lord permeate your home.
Mutual respect and consideration will grow within the home.
Be immunized against mind-numbing addictions.
Understand divine doctrine.
Strengthen your relationship with God.

Arkansas Little Rock Mission
905 Kjerre Drive, North Little Rock, AR
501-812-6322

A new mission pass along card was created by Elder Wall our former Assistant to the President. The card focuses on the companionship of the Bible with the Book of Mormon. The Stick of Judah and Ephraim joined together the words of God to his people. The card list blessings from reading the Book of Mormon.
15 Baptisms in April May 2018:

An MLC meeting was held for mission leadership on May 31 at the NLR building. Zone leaders and STL attended.

Elder and Sister Tippetts, Military Relations and Elder and Sister Sorensen, Vehicle Coordinator and Mission Secretary returned home from their Senior Missionary service. We welcomed Elder and Sister Butler as our new office Specialists. Elder K Safley, Elder A. Lawrence and Sister I. Wilson returned home after completing their missions. The mission welcomed two new Elders: A. Caringer and J. Ashworth and Sister K. Victor. We look forward to getting to know them.

18 Baptisms in May

June 2018

We had Zone Conference on June 8, 2018 and Elder Perkins of the First Quorum of the Seventy was in attendance with his lovely wife. From 9.30am to 5:30pm we were spiritually fed. That

same evening the Senior Missionaries were blessed to have a FHE dinner and fireside with Elder Perkins at the Mission Home. He shared many experiences he had with President Nelson and the members of the Quorum of the Twelve. Elder Johnson, who is an area Seventy living in Alabama, accompanied Elder Perkins for a Stake Conference in the area. Elder Johnson shared his testimony. It was so touching and spiritual. He worked hand in hand with Church Headquarters on the 40th celebration of the revelation on the Priesthood. Elder Perkins did a Mission Tour with President Hansen and returned to his home on June 13, 2018.

27 Baptisms in June



Elder Perkins, Sister Perkins, Sister Hansen, President Hansen



Elder Johnson, President Faulkner

July 2018

We welcomed 13 new Missionaries in July: Elder Payton Blatter, Sister Kaitlyn Bresee, Sister Brooklyn Dove, Sister Kara Harris, Sister Emma Fairbanks, Sister Madeysen Jones, Sister Natalie Jorgensen, Sister Edilyn Kemp, Sister Eliza Randall, Sister Samantha Scott, Sister Alison Taylor, Sister Hunter Uli'i, and Elder Colyn Walker. 20 Missionaries and 2 Senior Missionaries successfully completed their mission and returned home: Sister K. Andrews, Elder B. Barron, Elder K. Bleazard, Elders T. Caldwell, Sister K. Gray, Elder B. Janes, Sister C. Johnson, Elder R. King, Elder A. Maskovich, Elder M. Merrill, Elder N. Parks, Sister W. Peterson, Sister K. Petty, Sister M. Quigley, Elder P. Sagle, Elder J. Stiles-Culver, Elder E. Toomer, Sister R. Tyree, and Elder and Sister Hess.

24 Baptisms in July

August 2018

On August 6, 2018, the Senior Missionaries held a Family Home Evening at the Mission Home. Elder and Sister Davis gave a wonderful presentation on the Book of Mormon Tour they took to Mexico. It was so amazing to hear of the archeological finds there that substantiate the Book of Mormon. Of special note was the Tree of Life Stone discovered there with so many correlations to Lehi's dream of the Tree of Life and the traditions that the people still practice that are mentioned in the Book of Mormon.

We welcomed 12 new missionaries this month on August 15, 2018: Elder J. Cleverly, Elder G. Conceicao, Sister A. Ence, Elder T. Horman, Elder B. Hotton, Elder I. Hughes, Elder S. Jensen, Sister N. Maddocks, Elder T. Rich, Elder B. Spear and Elder M. Whitaker. We also said farewell to 11 missionaries on August 15, 2018: Elder K. Adair, Sister E. Brumett, Elder D. Cauilan, Elder J. Garn, Elder T. Ogaard, Elder R. Pickering, Elder P. Russell, Elder J. Smalley, Elder L. Smith, Sister T. Vaitai, and Sister M. Daniels. We love welcoming our new missionaries and are so proud of our departing ones.

19 Baptisms in August

September 2018

September was a fun and successful month for the Mission. We held a Fall Social on the 17th and 18th. (See pictures below). It was a huge success with fun had by all. Games included the plank ski game, Frisbee golf, kick ball, and Croquet, all of which help build teamwork. We are hoping to make this an annual event.



28 Baptisms in September

October 2018

This was another great month for the Mission. We welcomed two new ASL missionaries to our mission. Sister Erickson and Sister Swain. We said our goodbyes to Elder Jacob Brownell and Elder Nathan Smalling. We held our Senior Family Home Evening this month and Elder and Sister Wies gave us a wonderful lesson on the Journey of Lehi and his family. President and Sister Hansen had the amazing opportunity to attend the Mission President Seminar in South Carolina, where they were able to be spiritually fed by church leaders which included Elder David A. Bednar of the Council of the Twelve Apostles.

28 Baptisms in October

NOVEMBER 2018

Our Mission had a great month in November. We had special speakers at our Zone Conference that added so much to the success of the Conference. Elder John Morgan and Sister Puls were invited to speak. We added eight (8) new sisters and elders and said farewell to three (3). We all celebrated Thanksgiving in our individual ways. We completed a 21-question survey that helped us to know where we are as a mission and how we can improve. 100% of our Missionaries have confidence in our Mission President and the leadership.

31 Baptisms in November

DECEMBER 2018

This is proving to be a very busy and wonderful month for our mission. We celebrated the Christmas Season by holding our Christmas Socials for all our missionaries on December 12th for the Arkansas side and December 13th for the Memphis side. Gifts from President and Sister Hansen and the Office Staff were given to every missionary, including our new December arrivals. The Stakes provided a Christmas lunch for us which was delicious. We played some games and ended the social on a spiritual note with a Christmas Video and testimonies. Our mission presented Christmas Musical Tributes to all five (5) Stakes. They were well attended and were very beautiful and successful. We have so many talented missionaries and a very talented Mission Mom in Sister Hansen who was responsible for putting the Tributes together. The Mission Home was beautifully decorated (See Picture Below). On a more tragic note, our Mission Home had a water damage disaster which closed the home while renovations were being completed (See picture below).



We reorganized our Mission Zones going from nine (9) zones to seven (7). The new Zones consist of Hot Springs, Benton, North Little Rock, Searcy, Jonesboro, Memphis North, and Memphis.

21 Baptisms in December

234 Baptisms in 2018

2019

January 2019

We held our Mini Zone Conferences this month at the beginning of January. We sadly said goodbye to the Senior Missionaries, Elder and Sister Davis and Elder and Sister Baird. They will be greatly missed. We welcomed Elder and Sister Steele and are so happy to have them with us. Our mission also welcomed four (4) new missionaries: Sister Erika Martin, Elder Jebet Mote, Elder Aidan Ferrell, and Elder Salvador Fuentes Lozano. Elder Aaron Brinkerhoff, Sister Victoria Hawkes, Sister Nadia Jensen, Elder Skyler Larsen, Elder Timothy Mair, Sister Elizabeth Shumway, and Sister Brianne Stirling successfully completed their missions and have returned home. We exceeded our goal for baptisms this month thanks to the hard work of all our missionaries.

31 Baptisms in January

February 2019

February was a very eventful month for the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. We welcomed a new ASL Sister, Sister Black, on February 13th, and said farewell to Elder Raish on February 23rd. We also said goodbye to an MLS Senior Couple, Elder and Sister Wies. We were also blessed to have Elder Kyle McKay General Authority Seventy and his wife, Sister Jennifer McKay, visit our Mission on a Mission Tour where we helped him celebrate his Birthday (See picture below). We held our large Zone Conferences this month. We were also informed that we would be welcoming the Tupelo, MS Stake

coming from the Alabama Mission in July. This should give us an additional 30 or more missionaries to our ranks. We are very excited for this new development.



14 Baptisms in February

March 2019

We were sad to say farewell to several missionaries this month: Sister Anglesey, Sister Arumugam, Sister Ball, Sister Beishline, Sister Colwell, Sister Gunnerson, Elder Jackson, Sister Jesperson, Sister Lumpkin, Elder K. Patterson, Elder M. Patterson, Sister Spiro, Sister Szendre, and Sister Winn. While we were sad to see these wonderful missionaries leave us, we were happy to welcome 15 new missionaries to our ranks: Elder Bang, Sister Bray, Sister Crandall, Sister Damery, Sister Day, Sister Flagmeier, Sister Fridal, Sister Jackman, Sister Lake, Elder Lopez, Sister Lozoya, Elder Phillips, Elder Roberts, Sister Seegmiller, and Elder Sheffield. We also welcomed a new Senior MLS Couple, Elder and Sister Brendel.

26 Baptisms in March

April 2019

This was an exciting and wonderful month for the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. We were able to be a part of the Memphis Temple Open House that was held from Saturday April 13, 2019 through Saturday, April 20, 2019. Our faithful missionaries helped man the Temple tours and other miscellaneous activities as the general public had the opportunity to tour our beautiful Temple. There were hundreds of people that were able to see and experience the spirit of this beautiful building. This month the Mission will begin holding mini conferences exclusively, having done away with the large conferences. President Hansen made this change due to the fact the small conferences afford a more intimate and one on one experience for the missionaries. The First Counselor in the Mission Presidency, Elder Ivon Faulkner, was called to be a Bishop and will be leaving the Presidency. We are very sorry to lose him but know that he will be an exceptional Bishop. President Layne Jones will now be 1st Counselor and we are happy to welcome President Claude Zobell as our 2nd Counselor in the Mission Presidency. (See Picture below)



May 2019

The Memphis Temple has reopened and we as a Mission are extremely happy that it has. We held our Spring Socials for the Missionaries on May 13th and 14th. We were at the Jacksonville Church Building for the Arkansas side and The Arlington Church Building for the Memphis side. We had a wonderful picnic lunch and played kickball, Croquet, the Plank Game, and Volleyball. Each game helped the missionaries develop a sense of unity. It was a fun time for all. The following week we held our Zone Conferences with each individual Zone. We were also able to take all the June Departing missionaries, and their companions, to a Session at the Memphis Temple. We welcomed two missionaries, Sister Freeman and Sister Johns, from the Salt Lake City Mission. They will be with us until our July Transfers.

15 Baptisms in May

June 2019

We were able to welcome 5 new missionaries in June and said goodbye to 7. We began our Musical Tributes this month “Jesus Christ’s Visit to America”. These Music Tributes have been very successful and well attended by members and non-members alike. We once again held our Senior FHE on June 10th. We had an outside picnic dinner and played Croquet. Afterwards we held a very spiritual testimony meeting in which President Hansen requested that we only testify to what we know.

34 Baptisms in June

July 2019

July was a very busy and exciting month for our Mission. We welcomed the Tupelo, MS Stake to our Mission and along with it, 29 new missionaries (See picture below). We held six Zone Conferences which included our new Tupelo and Corinth Zones, and took part in a tri-Stake Youth Conference with John Bytheway and David Archuleta. We had a very large transfer with 24 missionaries departing and 13 arriving. Our departing missionaries were able to attend the Memphis Temple with their companions on July 8, 2019. We finished up our Musical Tributes “Jesus Christ’s Visit to America” and they were once again a huge success with members and non-members alike. We held our Mission Leadership Council at the North Little Rock Stake Center and finally, we held our Leadership Training Meetings.



18 Baptisms in July

AUGUST 2019

The month of August has been an exceptional month for the ALRM. We have set a new weekly record for finding with 508 people found. Elder Martino of the First Quorum of the Seventy visited our Mission and sent a letter to President Hansen stating how impressed he was with the all the Leadership in our Mission. Our AMA, Brother Bair came through and completed a Mission Tour. We all very much enjoyed meeting him. This month we had the North Little Rock Stake Conference and the Searcy Stake Conference. Our missionaries provided refreshments after each Adult session. This service has been very well received by the members of the Stakes. For the third month in a row, our Mission was #1 in North America and Canada for the fewest incidents and accidents with our vehicles. We are all very proud of our missionaries for their diligence and obedience to the rules and regulations of the road. Well done to Elder Butler, our vehicle coordinator, for his efforts to teach our missionaries safety and responsibility when operating church vehicles.

30 Baptisms in August

September 2019

This has been a full month for the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. Each of our Missionaries had the opportunity to attend the Temple on their Preparation Day. Our Assistant to the President, Elder Broadbent has fulfilled his Mission with honor and returned home on September 21, 2019. Elder Nery Alonzo has accepted the assignment to be our new Assistant to the President. We know that he will add a great deal of humility, dedication, and faith to his new responsibilities. Our Zone Conferences are being held the last part of this month and the first part of October. Sister Hurley (Mission Nurse) gave us a wonderful presentation on how to handle anxiety. Sister Hansen and Sister Thomas gave their presentations in a Breakout Session on being Women of God and techniques on how to care for makeup, hair, and overall grooming. We currently are on track to reach our goal of 38 baptisms this month.

37 Baptisms in September

October 2019

We have had another successful month in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. Our missionaries

have been working very hard to find the elect of our Heavenly Father's children and our Key Indicators reflect that. We welcomed two new ASL Sisters to our Mission on October 23, 2019, Sister Solstad and Sister Matthews, along with 18 new Spanish and English missionaries on October 18, 2019. Sadly, we said farewell to 14 others. President and Sister Hansen were able to attend the Mission President Seminar in Savannah, GA where they were instructed by Elder Bednar and other General Authorities.

26 Baptisms in October

November 2019

This month has been another very busy month filled with the Spirit of missionary work as we held 6 Zone Conference Sessions, attended the Temple with our departing missionaries, began our SemiAnnual Musical Tributes, held our Mission Leadership Council, and celebrated Thanksgiving. We are proud of our Mission as we continue to increase our dedication to the Savior and to His Church. We said goodbye to 10 departing missionaries and welcomed 10 new missionaries. We are planning and looking forward to the Holiday Season as we prepare for "Light the World" and our missionary Christmas socials. The picture below is from the music tribute held in Bartlett, TN. These tributes over the past two years have been very well received and attended by the various Stakes, members and non-members alike. Our Mission President's wife, Sister Hansen, has done an inspirational job of planning, organizing, and directing these musical tributes.



26 Baptisms in

November December

2019

As we enter the Christmas Season, we love to see our decorated Mission Home (See picture below). Our missionaries are participating in "Light the World" as they share the Gospel and the message of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The parents of our in-field missionaries were so generous in sending gift cards to the missionaries who are not as fortunate as others. Our Christmas socials were wonderful. We played brain teaser games, made crafts, had a gift exchange, and President Hansen performed an amazing magic show. We then had a wonderful Christmas lunch, watched "The Testaments", and had a spiritual testimony meeting. Our missionaries also participated in the annual "Toys for Tots". (See picture below)



30 Baptisms in December

301 Baptisms in 2019

2020

We started the year off with transfers, saying farewell to 14 missionaries and welcoming 10. We were also privileged to welcome two missionaries from the Salt Lake City Mission, Sister O'Connor and Sister King, who will serve with us for a two-transfer period. We then launched into our Zone Conferences. The Senior Missionaries had the wonderful opportunity to hold a special Family Home Evening with Elder Vern Stanfill of the First Quorum of the Seventy (see picture below of President Hansen, Sister Hansen, Elder Stanfill, Elder Beheshti). He also took part in the Mission Leadership Council and afterward spoke to all the missionaries. The Memphis side of the Mission was conferenced in via Webcast, where they were able to text questions for Elder Stanfill. President Hansen has asked the mission to commit to six (6) month goals to meet before his assignment as Mission President ends in June 2020. We closed out our month with Leadership Training Conference.

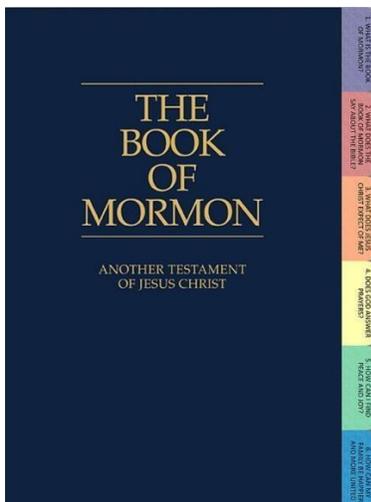
18 Baptisms in January

February 2020



We started off our month by going to the Temple with our departing missionaries. This is always such a special experience, not only for the opportunity of having a spiritual send off for our departing, but because of the wonderful spirit and reassurance always felt in the Temple. We in the Mission had the opportunity to help serve at the “Black History Month” that was presented by the North Little Rock Stake with the assistance of the Little Rock Stake. Our missionaries were in attendance to help in any capacity needed. They passed out programs and help greet the attendees, as well as helping with the serving of the luncheon.

We are beginning to institute a new program of tabbing our copies of the Book of Mormon (See picture below). We as a mission have also instituted a group text that involves the missionaries and the leadership of their assigned Units. This has proven to be very successful in helping keep the members involved in missionary work. We welcomed three (3) new missionaries and said farewell to five (5) including the Assistant to the President, Elder Alonzo.



19 Baptisms in February

March 2020

This month has proven to be quite a challenge for our Mission. The world is experiencing a pandemic outbreak of the COVID-19 Flu virus. There have been several changes made to, not only our Mission, but all Missions throughout the Church. Each missionary that has served 21 months prior to September 1, 2020 are being sent home. Our Senior Missionaries, other than critical need Office Staff and Medical positions, have been released and sent home, and other Seniors due to arrive have been postponed. Our Seniors are so important to the running of this Mission, and just as they were sad to go, we were sad to say goodbye. Reassigned missionaries from overseas missions are being relocated to Missions throughout the United States. All Church meetings and gatherings have been cancelled due to the outbreak, including Sacrament meetings. We as a Mission are working with the all the regulations of isolation and quarantine. The entire Mission is holding Zoom Studies with the Mission President twice a week. Missionaries are finding people through use of technology and online proselyting. Through all this upheaval, the Lord has given us peace, comfort, and reassurance that we are in His hands.

We need only work hard and be obedient.

29 Baptisms in March

April 2020

This month, we are still required to work through the COVID-19 pandemic changes in how we do our missionary work. We are so blessed to have technology to continue moving missionary work forward. Our missionaries have followed the counsel of the Brethren and President Hansen in using inspiration to develop innovative ways of spreading the Gospel. Our Technology Specialist, Elder Wittfeldt, has been an amazing help in setting up Live Missionary Broadcasts, Zoom Calls, Zoom and Facebook Teaching, etc. Every Zoom Study we share our ideas with each other about what has been working. We have been fortunate to have Sister O'Connor and Sister King, who came to us from the Salt Lake Mission, to help us with knowing proper procedures for using Facebook and other social media sites. We have been following Medical Guidelines of Self-Isolation, proper distancing when in public, wearing masks in public, and all other health guidelines that will continue to keep us healthy and safe. The missionaries have been working hard and are having amazing success in finding new people, teaching, and baptizing while only being able to use online contact. We are holding three (3) live sessions on Facebook for our Sunday meetings, which has allowed us to reach more people than we ever could have by door to door contact and regular referrals. Every day, we see the tender mercies of the Lord as His work continues forward even through these difficult times.

We were privileged to have Elder Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve on our Zone Conference Zoom Meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2020. He answered questions and spoke to us for over an hour. It was such a wonderful spirit filled experience and we are so grateful that he took the time to be with us. Our Mission has truly turned this pandemic isolation into a “Temple” experience rather than a “Prison” experience.



13 Baptisms in April

MAY 2020

What an exciting time this is! Thus far, we have welcomed 77 reassigned missionaries into our Mission (See pictures below). 53 different Mission cultures are being combined and through obedience and dedication, our missionaries have come together to fulfill their purpose. Slowly the States assigned to our Mission are beginning to relax the isolation conditions set by the Government. We are excited to get back to normalcy in how we can teach the Gospel, however regulations are still in place to social distance, wear masks, and limit the amount of people in a gathering. When we can go back to our normal standards of teaching the Gospel, we will continue to make use of what we have learned doing online proselyting, as it has proved to be very successful. We are still not able to hold regular Church meetings.



6 Baptisms in May

JUNE 2020

We in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission continue to work through the Covid-19 changes and regulations as we move forward with Missionary work. We were able to hold our Zone Conferences in the Church Buildings, if we adhered to the wearing of masks and the social distancing rules (See picture below).



We were so excited to have been given permission by the Stake Presidents to record our summer 2020 Musical Tribute that we would perform for the Stakes every 6 months. The title of this tribute was “This is My Beloved Son, Hear Him”. We are anxious to see the finished product which will be able to be viewed by members of the Stakes, and all who will be interested in watching. President Hansen has encouraged all the missionaries to invite members to ask their friends and less actives to their homes to watch the video.

It is with sadness that we say farewell to President and Sister Hansen this month, as they have completed their service to the Lord in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. They will be sorely missed, and we hope that we have conveyed our deep love and respect that we have for them. We are happy that they will be able to continue on with new adventures and service. We were all very touched by President Hansen’s parting scripture for all of us in *2 Timothy 4:7* “*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith.*”



President Robert and Betsy Cahoon July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2023



We welcome President and Sister Cahoon to Arkansas Little Rock Mission. President Cahoon will be the 16th mission president to preside since ALRM was created July 1, 1975. President and Sister Cahoon hit the ground running with Zone Conferences, Mission Leadership Conferences and missionary interviews within two weeks after their arrival. Our missionaries already feel of their love and are excited to be serving under Pres. Cahoon's inspired direction.

President Robert Cahoon was born in Des Moines, Iowa to Lysle R. and Betty J. Cahoon. He is the youngest of five children and he has three brothers and a sister. Their family moved to the Chicago area when President Cahoon was six months old, and that is where he spent his childhood and youth. He never returned to Chicago to live after leaving at age 19 to serve in the England Birmingham Mission.

Sister Betsy Cahoon is the daughter of Robert R. and Nancy T. Leinbach. She was born and raised in Cocoa, Florida, also the youngest of five children, with three brothers and a sister. She graduated from Ricks College and was attending BYU when she met President Cahoon.

President and Sister Cahoon were married in the California Oakland Temple. President and Sister Cahoon both worked while President Cahoon completed his business schooling at BYU. The majority of President Cahoon's career was spent in corporate finance and banking which took them to Wyoming, Texas (a couple of times), Utah (a couple of times) and Oregon. They've moved 13 times in the course of their married lives including four years in Sydney, AU where President Cahoon worked for an Australian bank.

The last 13 years of President Cahoon's career were spent in the fashion industry where he was President of a bridal gown design and distribution company. He semi-retired in 2017 and turned his attention to business consulting and investing until they were called to serve as mission leaders in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission.

President and Sister Cahoon are the parents of four children (two daughters and two sons) and

eleven grandchildren (five granddaughters and six grandsons). Sister Cahoon loves being a Mom and Grandma. She also enjoys being outdoors, riding bikes, playing tennis, pickle ball, and golf with President Cahoon. Her love for the water, sand, sun, beach, and palm trees began early in her childhood while growing up in Florida and continues to this day. Sister Cahoon served for nearly ten years in the Draper Temple in Utah and considers it among the richest blessings of her life.

President Cahoon grew up playing baseball, basketball and tennis. President and Sister Cahoon's first date was on the tennis court (her favorite score was "Love - Love"!). He's a Chicago Cubs fan, generally prefers college vs. professional sports, plays golf and pickle ball, jogs and enjoys bike rides with Sister Cahoon. He also has a love for music and often unwinds at the piano.

President and Sister Cahoon love the Lord and thank Him for His goodness which has allowed them to realize their lifelong goal to serve a mission together. They have faith and take courage in their knowledge that they, *"can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth,"* them.

The Arkansas Little Rock Mission said goodbye to Elder Thane and Sister Colleen Thomas who had extended their mission to help with the transition. The mission also welcomed the first office couple called since the outbreak of the virus. Elder and Sister Thrap will work remotely for the time being because of COVID restrictions. Elder Thrap will take over for Elder Thomas as Housing and Finance coordinator and Sister Thrap will take over responsibilities of Referral /Media Secretary. ALRM continued to receive missionaries- 16 reassigned missionaries and 7 whose mission call is to the Arkansas Little Rock Mission.

Elder and Sister Thrap are from Muscatine, Iowa. Both are native Iowans and converts to the church in their teenage years. They are so grateful for missionaries who taught them the gospel so many years ago. Elder Thrap baptized Sister Thrap before he left for his own mission in Austria. There he learned German and to love Austria and its people. Both Thraps attended BYU and remain true-blue Cougar fans. Elder and Sister Thrap were married in 1978 in the Salt Lake Temple and are parents of six children and 21 grandchildren.

July Baptisms-25

August 2020

The ALRM mission Presidency was reorganized. President Claude Zobell was called as 1st Counselor, and Shawn Oliver from Conway, AR is 2nd Counselor. Elder Julian Mitton has been called to be a 3rd Assistant to the President.

ALRM continues to welcome reassigned missionaries from all over the world. Some of these missionaries have finished their virtual MTC and are waiting for their mission country to reopen and have been reassigned to ALRM on temporary basis. We welcome them and feel blessed to have these missionaries in our presence for a season.

The reassigned missionaries who have been arriving since May are adapting well to our mission. Five missionaries have offered a perspective on challenges in missionary work as a reassigned missionary. Each spent time serving in a country outside of the United States before coming to Arkansas in 2020.

Baptisms in August: 28

September 2020

We said goodbye to Elder and Sister Butler, our vehicle coordinator and office secretary this month. At the start of the COVID pandemic, all senior couples serving in the mission were sent home, leaving only the critical office staff to remain. The Butlers were nearing the end of their 23-month mission and were asked by the missionary department to extend another 6 months during this difficult time. We are so grateful to the Butlers for keeping the office running smoothly as the mission continued to receive reassigned missionaries through the summer months. No senior couples are being called at this time to replace the Butlers so young missionaries, Elder Thompson and Elder Harvey, have been called to fill these critical office positions.

The stakes of the ALRM mission have begun having just sacrament meetings this month. The meetings are also zoomed to members who do not feel comfortable. We are grateful for the opportunity to see ward members on a more regular basis than previous months. All buildings have strict COVID rules with wearing masks, social distancing, and disinfecting surfaces after the meeting. Missionaries are again able to invite friends to come to church

Another unusual occurrence in this pandemic year has been welcoming young missionaries to the ALRM who have not yet received their temple endowments because of worldwide temple closures. The Memphis, TN temple has recently reopened under Phase 2 to offer live endowments. Under the guidance of Sister Cahoon, missionaries scheduled their endowment times, and in many instances, parents were able to fly to the mission and accompany their missionaries through the temple. The first ALRM missionaries to attend the temple to receive their endowments were Sister Oswald, Sister Simmons, and Elder Rosario. President and Sister Cahoon were able to be present at the temple to ¹⁵³support this special time.

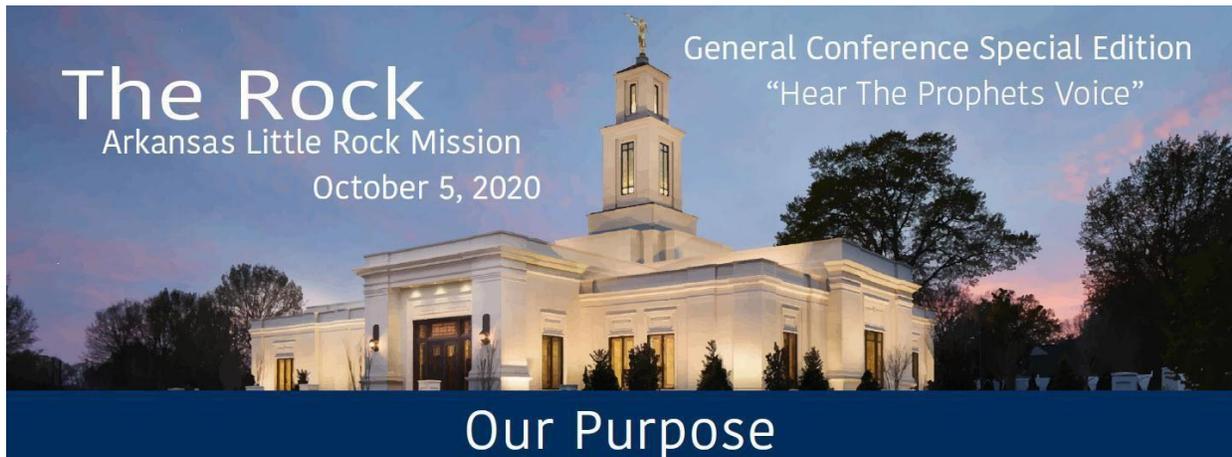
The ALRM welcomed our new senior missionary couple, Elder and Sister Bitner. Elder Mark Bitner was born in Salt Lake City, UT and grew up in Layton, UT. He served a mission in Santiago, Chile. Sister Lois Bitner was born in Logan, UT and later moved to Kaysville, Utah. She attended Davis High School where she met Elder Bitner. They dated through high school and were married in the Salt Lake Temple in 1970 after Elder Bitner returned from Chile. Elder Bitner is a retired physician specializing in Obstetrics and Gynecology and practiced for 35 years at the Tanner Clinic located in Layton. They are the parents of six children and 26 grandchildren. Originally, Elder Bitner was called to serve as medical advisor and Sister Bitner to work in the office in the Chile Santiago West Mission in 2019. The couple returned home in

March 2020 because of COVID. President Cahoon became aware of the Bitner's desire to continue to serve as full time missionaries and was able to have them reassigned to Arkansas. What a valuable contribution they are making to the health and wellbeing of all the missionaries. Elder Bitner will continue to serve concurrently as medical advisor to the mission in Chile. Sister Bitner will take on the responsibilities of mission office secretary.

September baptisms: 19

October 2020

We say goodbye to Sister Hurley, our mission nurse, and Elder Hurley as our media order assistant and bed bug czar. We thank them for all their hard work caring for the missionaries, especially during this pandemic year. Our other senior couple Elder and Sister Thrapp were approved to come into the mission office to work.



Invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

Missionaries were able to enjoy sessions of general Conference and feel the Spirit. Truly we have sat at the feet of our leaders and been taught what we need to know to prepare our families in these unprecedented times.

Our new mission newsletter, **The Rock** debuted this month. It is a forward-looking publication and will replace the Leader. It is intended to communicate, uplift, unite, keep us current with the happenings in the ALRM and help missionaries more fully engage in our missionary purpose. As part of **The Rock**, we will see graphs of the all the key indicators for conversion so missionaries can see the progress as related to their goals for the week and the month. **The Rock** will also feature a section called Mission Miracle Moments where ALRM missionaries share their success finding, teaching, and baptizing new converts. A Social Media Success section highlights missionary videos and shows how effective they were in reaching people and the amount of people who shared or commented on the videos. Our young missionaries are using these social media opportunities to spread the gospel more than ever imagined prior to 2020.

October baptisms: 26

November 2020

The Arkansas Little Rock Mission had the opportunity to be taught by Elder Marcos Aidukaitis in a virtual mission tour over three days - November 11th - 13th. All missionaries joined the meeting by ZOOM in their companionships or districts. We were encouraged to listen to the Spirit, asking their friends to identify what the Spirit had told them even when the topic hadn't been vocalized in the lesson. Elder Aidukaitis taught missionaries not to be afraid of silence in their discussions with friends and to teach shorter lessons which would leave the person wanting more. Missionaries recounted what they had learned from their studies. One missionary companionship, Elder Hale and Elder Williams, made this observation. We learned ways we receive personal revelation and new ways to teach and engage our friend. As the contact progressed, we were able to answer what questions she had, and then as Elder Aidukaitis counseled, we listened and were able to teach her a lesson addressing her concerns. We taught a

short and sweet lesson and left her wanting more. At the end of the contact she wondered if we could call her again the next day.

The Rock Nov 23, 2020-President Cahoon's message

We were richly blessed to witness President Nelson's hallmark message and prayer of hope and healing. What a stirring reminder that Our Father in Heaven speaks to His children through His chosen prophet.

President Cahoon encouraged the missionaries to look for the Lord's hand in their lives, the lives of those they serve and in the lives of their families. As you see His hand in your lives, thank Him for it. We promise you that the more you recognize it and give thanks, every day, you will experience healing and happiness, and will more fully see the hand of the Lord in your lives, every day.

In our mission newsletter, **The Rock**, missionaries have a chance to share the miracles they have seen in their mission on a weekly basis. The missionary companionship of Elder Schauman and Elder Larsen shared their story in the Nov 23, 2020 issue:

This weekend our good friend David was baptized! David was introduced to the Book of Mormon around 20 years ago and at first looked for flaws in it. However, after a very long process of studying, praying, and building faith, he came to know of its truthfulness. David told us that he wanted his testimony and foundation to be indestructible before he was baptized. After over 20 years of building his foundation "brick by brick", David has entered the covenant path with an unshakable testimony that the Book of Mormon is true and that this is the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We reached our mission goal for November with 35 baptisms.

December 2020

Mission Zone Conference/ Christmas Socials were held in December. The theme was gifts of the Spirit. Missionaries from the Millington and Memphis Zones gathered on Dec 15th. Among the zone conference talks, were musical numbers performed by selected missionaries. A \$5 gift exchange game was held among missionaries after a hearty lunch. Potato casseroles and desserts, provided by local stakes were dropped off, keeping with social distancing guidelines. The conference ended with missionaries enjoying the movie, *The Fighting Preacher*, and topped off the day with departing missionary testimonies. The programs were repeated for the other zones.

Mission Presidency: President Robert Cahoon and Sister Betsey Cahoon, 1st Counselor Claude Zobell, 2nd Counselor President Shawn Oliver.

December baptisms-22

Total baptisms for 2020- 253

2021

January

The new year brings a new logo to the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. It is dark blue and white and

features Moroni blowing his trumpet against the backdrop of the state of Arkansas. It has been well received by the missionaries. The mission has also started a mission-wide ZOOM meeting each Sunday evening. Missionaries are given specific readings encompassing Preach my Gospel, Come Follow Me Sunday School chapters, several chapters in the Book of Mormon and sections from the Missionary Standards for Disciples of Jesus Christ for the upcoming week. During the ZOOM meeting an update on the status of the mission is given.

A highlight of the meeting is when missionaries share how they have seen the hand of the Lord in their work the past week. A KAHOOT game is played, testing the missionaries' knowledge of topics studied the previous week.

ALRM welcomes back senior couple Elder and Sister Malone from Lehi, Utah. They will work as Records Preservation Specialists in Shelby County, TN and will live in Bartlet, TN. The Malones began their mission in February 2020 but had to return home in March due to Covid. Early in January 2021 they received clearance to return. We are grateful for their willingness to serve under challenging circumstances.



It is with great sadness the Arkansas Little Rock Mission has to report the passing of a young missionary in a tragic car accident. The accident occurred in the evening of January 7, 2021 on a county road in rural Arkansas near the town of Red Bud. Elder Jake Ryan Smith was serving as District Leader in the Beebe, Arkansas Area. He was the driver of the car and died at the scene of the accident. Elder Smith's home is in Lehi, Utah and had served in the ALRM since August 2019. Elder Smith was returning to Beebe after conducting a baptismal interview in Quitman. Three other missionaries riding in the vehicle, Elder Gavin Hatch, Elder McKay Jurgens and Elder Eli Sutherland, were also injured. Elder Jurgens had several surgeries which required him to return home to West Jordan, Utah to complete his recovery. Elder Hatch suffered a concussion and also returned home to Cedar Hills, Utah to fully recover from his injuries. Elder Eli Sutherland had minor injuries and soon returned to his full time service as a missionary in Beebe, AR.

The ALRM missionaries gathered to grieve and remember their friend and fellow missionary with stories of tender mercies and a renewed resolve to share the Plan of Salvation with those who feel hopeless. They now have a clearer understanding from the Spirit that this life is just one part of Heavenly Father's plan. Elder Julian Mitton organized a memorial tribute in which Elder Smith's missionary companions shared memories of Elder Smith to help missionaries heal from this loss. Missionaries were able to watch the funeral services for Elder Smith on YouTube-live to help bring closure.

Elder Jake Ryan Smith
Arkansas Little Rock Mission
August 2019-January 2021



Baptisms in January-18

FEBRUARY 2021

The Arkansas Little Rock Mission had the rare opportunity to acquire 29 2021 Chevrolet Equinox SUV's the first week of February. This was necessary to replace older high-mileage cars and rental vehicles that were being used in the mission due to the high influx of reassigned missionaries in 2020. All the office staff, assistants, and President and Sister Cahoon were enlisted to form a caravan to bring all the cars from Jacksonville to the mission office.



February brought a week of winter weather to Arkansas. Over a period of three days 12 inches of snow fell in Little Rock as well as in surrounding areas of the mission. Missionaries were advised to stay off the roads because of dangerous conditions. It is very unusual for such amounts of snow to fall in Little Rock and therefore the city has very little snow removal equipment. Most Arkansans stay home until the weather passes. Within three days after the snowfall the majority of the snow had melted and missionaries could once again venture out. Missionaries had many opportunities to give service shoveling out people and helping to push cars stuck in the snow. Several baptisms scheduled for the Feb 14th weekend had to be rescheduled.

Missionaries shared the story of a baptism that was able to be held that weekend in the February 22nd issue of the ROCK. Anthony's baptism had been planned for Friday, but due to snow it had to be pushed back to Saturday. On Friday afternoon missionaries were shoveling the church parking lot because the Bishop had said that it had to be perfectly clear and dry if there was to be a baptism that week. All six missionaries serving in Jonesboro spent an hour or more shoveling a few parking spaces and the sidewalk. A man then showed up on a tractor and quickly cleared an area ten times as big as what the missionaries had cleared. The missionaries testified of how the Lord magnified their efforts and blessed them to have the baptism.

On February 24, 2021, the ALRM said their fond goodbyes to 30 missionaries: 17 having been reassigned from other lands prior to coming to our mission. A departing dinner was held for the missionaries at the church followed by a question and answer period focusing on what comes next

using their post-missionary “My Plan”. The spirit- filled meeting concluded with each departing missionary bearing their testimony.

MARCH 2021

Zones were combined as the numbers of missionaries decreased resulting in a reduction from ten to eight Zones- Hot Springs, Little Rock, North Little Rock, Searcy, Millington, Midtown, Memphis and Tupelo. Zone Conferences were held March 16th-18th on the Memphis side of the mission and March 23rd-25th on the Arkansas side. Missionaries were encouraged by Elder Thrap to keep their apartments clean and say something if there is a problem. Missionaries also were given emergency preparedness pointers as inclement weather often comes to our area in the Spring.

An excerpt from The ROCK MARCH 29, 2021: “A few weeks ago, Sister Clinton made a story post for the Little Rock Facebook page about the Book of Mormon! A man named Mark saw it and said he’d be interested in reading the book! The Hope Elders dropped off a copy to him and he said he wants to JOIN the church! He’s on date for baptism in April. This all happened because of a simple story post! We truly know that online proselyting works, and that as we put in the effort and diligently work at it, we will each be able to see the miracles the Lord has prepared for us in our areas”. Submitted by Sister Clinton and Sister Madsen.

Baptisms in March -10



Searcy Zone March 2021



Little Rock Zone March 2021



North Little Rock Zone March 2021



Memphis Zone March 2021



Tupelo Zone March 2021



Hot Springs Zone March 2021



Millington Zone March 2021



Midtown Zone March 2021



Mission Leader Conference March 2021

April 2021

Missionaries were able to watch all sessions of General Conference and invite many of their friends they are teaching to listen to a prophet's voice. As missionaries gathered for the weekly mission ZOOM meeting Sunday evening, President Cahoon invited all of us as missionaries to be doers of the word and create our own "I will" statements as a reflection of what we will change based on our General Conference experience to become more like our Savior Jesus Christ. President encouraged us to take opportunity to record our "I will" statements in our journals where we can refer to them often.

These "I will" statements were recorded in the ROCK. Following is a small sampling of missionary statements.

- "I will testify of Christ's Atonement and how it has blessed me"
- "I will help those who have been recently baptized to have the opportunity to go to the temple and perform baptisms"
- "I will make General Conference talks part of my personal and mission study plan"
- "I will focus on loving myself more"
- "I will be more timely and meaningful in my prayers"
- "I will focus on the Atonement and the Savior more even when life is unfair. I will be a stone catcher instead of a stone thrower."

Missionaries are being called back to their original assignments as several countries removed travel restrictions. Many arrived and received training in the ALRM and now will be able to share what they have learned as they proceed to their original mission. We said our fond goodbyes and Godspeed to Elder R. Austin Farnsworth (Mexico Hermosillo Mission), Elder Garrett Petersen (Mexico Mexico City), Elder Samuel Phipps (South Africa Durban), Elder Ethan Cheney (England Leeds), Sister Elena Britton (Mexico Cancun), Elder Cole Henrikson (Brazil Curitiba), Elder Collin Danielson (Scotland/Ireland), Elder Koji Kano (Cambodia Phnom Penh), Elder Cole Hanson (Mexico-Tuxtia) Elder Colton Banks (Brazil Fortaleza), Sister

Kaylee Johnson (Italy-Rome) Sister Averí Hunsaker (Brazil-Joao Pessoa) and Ashlee Zaugg (Brazil-Recife).

We welcome two new Senior missionary couples to the Arkansas Little Rock Mission. Elder Dean and Sister Cyndy Luikart come to us from Sandy, Utah and will serve in the mission office. Elder Luikart will be the vehicle coordinator and Sister Luikart will assist in finances and other office duties. They are parents of 4 children. Elder Luikart was baptized when he was 21 and Sister Luikart's family was reactivated by wonderful home teachers and ministering ward members when she was ten years old. They both have a deep love of the gospel and are excited to serve. Their service will allow young Elders who have served so admirably as vehicle coordinators to focus more fully on teaching the gospel.

Elder Kent and Sister Barbara Larsen are called as Self Reliance Specialists. They will reside in Memphis TN and will do extensive travel throughout the stakes in the mission. The Larsens came from St.

George Utah and are parents of 4 children. They previously served a humanitarian mission in Thailand and Myanmar.

Baptisms in April-24

MAY 2021

During the zone conferences the last week of April and first week of May Elder Bitner, our mission medical advisor, assisted missionaries in updating their apartment first aid kits. Missionaries brought their expired medicines so they could be disposed of safely and were given new medicines and other supplies for their kits. Elder Bitner has been a great help in assisting missionaries getting their COVID vaccinations. As of the end of May, 144 missionaries have received at least one vaccine dose.

Senior missionaries gathered at the Memphis Temple to participate in an endowment session on May 7, 2021. The occasion was the endowment of newly arrived missionary, Elder Herrmann. It has been over a year since most of the couples had been inside any temple and it was a joy to share the experience together.

Front Row: Sister and Elder Thrap,
Sister and Pres. Cahoon, Sister
Bitner, Sister Luikart

Back Row: Elder and Sister Malone, Sister
and Elder Larsen, Elder Bitner, Elder Luikart



After President and Sister Cahoon traveled to Atlanta, Georgia for a Southeast United States Mission Leader Conference. They were instructed by the Southeast Area Presidency and interacted with several other mission presidents and their companions. The Cahoons returned from the conference with a greater portion of the influence of the Spirit as they continue to lead the Arkansas Little Rock missionaries.

The May 18, 2021 transfer brought more adjustments to the mission zones. The Hot Springs Zone has been combined with the Little Rock Zones resulting in seven zones. They are Little Rock, North Little Rock, Searcy, Millington, Memphis, Midtown and Tupelo. This more accurately correspond with the stakes on the Arkansas side of the mission.

The number of full-time missionaries serving in the Arkansas Little Rock Mission at the end of May was 160. At its peak, the mission had 240 missionaries serving in the summer of 2020.

Baptisms in May-18

JUNE 2021

We express our thanks and best wishes to President Claude Zobell at his release from the Mission Presidency. President Shawn Oliver has been serving as 2nd Counselor and now will be the 1st Counselor. We welcome President Nels Thorderson as the 2nd counselor in the mission presidency. He and his wife, Gina, reside in Tupelo and will be a great source of strength on that side of the mission. The mission now has merged into 6 zones which correspond with the six stakes in the mission. The zones in Arkansas are Little Rock, North Little Rock, and Searcy. On the eastern side of the mission are the Memphis North, Memphis, and Tupelo, MS Zones.

Almost all the missionaries currently serving in the ALRM have been able to receive the Covid vaccinations and have been able to remove their masks and contact people in parks and on the street. Many of the missionaries serving have not experienced street contacting because they entered the mission under COVID restrictions and are happy to be out and about meeting people. The finding of contacts has increased significantly, and we are excited to see the work move forward. President Cahoon challenged ALRM missionaries to find 1000 new friends by the end of June by exercising our faith, balancing our approach, being visible, OY Ming aka Open Your Mouth, and making 20 meaningful contacts every day. As our mission song says, "We work for our Father, and this is our goal, the salvation of thousands, the saving of souls."

Missionaries continue to see the hand of the Lord in their missionary efforts. Following are just two examples shared in the ROCK, our mission newsletter in June.

"One of our lessons had fallen through, and to fill the time, we felt inspired to go to a park here in Conway. We tried to make conversation with some people around with little success. This cute mom and daughter speaking Spanish walked by and we felt a strong prompting to talk with them. As we start talking, the daughter said she has been looking for a church to join. She said she wanted to take the lessons and learn more about what we believe in. Right as we began to invite them to the Spanish Branch, a member of the branch walks by! He was able to come up and personally invite them. It was so incredible to see that the Lord's timing is perfect and He is leading and guiding us as we follow through with the promptings we receive".- *Sister Leavitt and Sister Armstrong and Sister Powell.*

"We had a lesson with a few members and a part member family. We were in the part member family's home, and we taught The Gospel of Jesus Christ and focused on teaching 50/50 as a companionship. The lesson went great and the spirit was very strong. They gave us some pointers on

how we could improve and what we did well. At church, one of the members came up to us and said, "Elders every single person at the table during your lesson had a question in their hearts. You answered every one of them and Paul (non-member) asked us a lot about baptism."-Elder Sieverts and Elder Nielsen.

The crowning event on June 15-17 was the visit from Elder Matthew Holland, a member of the Quorum of the Seventy and counselor in the Southeast Area Presidency. A mission-wide ZOOM meeting was held followed by a Mission Leadership Council at the North Little Rock Stake Center on Tuesday. The three Arkansas zones met on Wednesday with Elder Holland and the Zones on the east side of the Mississippi met on Thursday. Elder Holland taught how important the Book of Mormon is to the conversion of our friends and to invite our friends to read from its pages. Missionaries did role plays with Elder Holland to demonstrate how the Book of Mormon can answer the questions and concerns potential friends are having such as decision to move one's family to a safer place and contentions among family members. Elder Holland demonstrated how each of these challenging situations can be referenced in 1 Nephi chapter 1. Our missionaries recommitted themselves to use the Book of Mormon in their contacting and have experienced positive results.

We say goodbye to 21 missionaries who have honorably completed their service in June and say farewell to six missionaries returning to their original assignments. Missionaries returning this month are Addison Lichfield Italy Milan, Jason Holgate-Botswana/ Namibia, Kayla Pendleton-Barbados, Bridgetown, Aaron Tolentino- Guatemala Antigua, Evan Neff-Guatemala Quetzaltenango, and Mason Toponce- Brazil Recife North.

Baptism in June-24



Departing Missionaries June 30, 2021

July 2021

ALRM welcomed 13 new Sisters and 9 new Elders to the great work of finding souls. Under the direction of President and Sister Cahoon, office staff set up short ZOOM interview with each of the new missionaries prior to their arrival. President and Sister Cahoon were able to get acquainted with each

one and answer questions and concerns of the missionaries with the goal of making them feel more comfortable. The great influx of Sisters is exciting and resulted in many of our sisters taking on the new responsibility of being first time trainers. Several have just completed their own initial 12 weeks of missionary service, so are keenly aware of the feelings and anxiety of new missionaries. Four missionaries from Idaho experienced travel issues and arrived at 11 pm July 1st. We are thankful they all arrived safely, and we are so glad they have chosen to serve the Lord at this time in their lives.

President Cahoon has made the decision to discontinue the mission wide ZOOM meetings on Sunday nights. It was determined that Sunday evenings are prime contacting and teaching time with friends and members. We will miss hearing the stories of how the hand of the Lord helped the Elders and Sisters in their missionary endeavors in the past week.

There are ongoing changes involving vehicles in the mission. With the declining numbers of missionaries, the missionary department is lowering the numbers of cars allotted to our mission. The number of vehicles went from 83 to 70. The number of miles missionaries can drive each month is being cut back also so many missionaries are riding bikes a few days a month. The mission has nine areas designated as bike areas. The opportunity to reach people when missionaries are walking or out on a bike is greater than using the car.

Sister Petersen and Sister McBride shared their experience in the ROCK. “We have been trying to save miles, so we decided to walk to a former’s house which took a little bit of trekking. When we arrived, we knocked on the door a few times but there was no answer. We felt strongly there was a reason we walked to this neighborhood. After leaving a message for our friend, we saw a lady sweeping her porch. We felt very impressed to go and talk to her and share a message. She was so excited to talk to us and she told us she has been searching for answers! We talked about the Book of Mormon, and she was so excited to learn more. We set up a return appointment this week and we can’t wait to teach her more about the Book of Mormon and how we can come closer to Christ. Baptisms in July- 13

August 2021

The month of August brought two new adjustments that were implemented to improve the missionary work in the mission. The first is a pocket size card given to all the missionaries listing 42 Doctrinal Points found in the chapters of Preach My Gospel; points that every new convert should know before their baptism. These cards are for missionaries to use when they are invited into members’ homes. The members can select any one of the 42 doctrinal points and role play with missionaries as they teach and testify of the selected doctrine’s truthfulness. This helps both members and missionaries increase their knowledge and improve the missionary’s teaching skills.

Another change in the mission is a new 12-week Missionary Training Plan based on Preach My Gospel. This will help new missionaries and their trainers have a more comprehensive training program focused on ALRM’s mission goals and objectives. It is divided into weekly training modules and objectives each week so missionaries can readily evaluate their progress. A similar program was implemented in the Utah Salt Lake City South Mission, when Pres Cahoon served there as counselor.

A challenge this month given by Sister Cahoon to the ALRM missionaries is to memorize the Restoration Proclamation. Missionaries are encouraged to memorize the Proclamation, paragraph by paragraph on a weekly basis with the goal to have the entire Proclamation memorized by General Conference. Several missionaries have already completed this challenge and many more are working diligently to memorize this inspired proclamation. As missionaries read and recite over and over the sentences, the Spirit again testifies to them of the truthfulness of this ongoing Restoration.

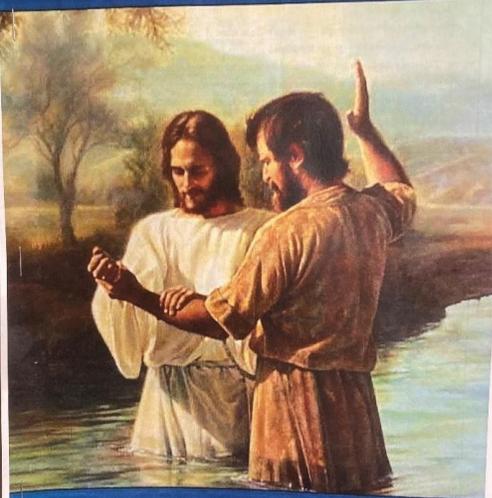
The mission-wide motto this month has been “FIX on SIX”. As missionaries exercise their faith and prayers the number of friends found in the mission has soared. In August, the mission recorded more friends being found than the monthly totals in the last year. Missionaries posted a high of 271 friends found in at the last week of the month - bringing the total in August to nearly 1000.

42 DOCTRINAL POINTS

1. GOD IS OUR LOVING HEAVENLY FATHER
2. THE GOSPEL BLESSES INDIVIDUALS & FAMILIES
3. GOD REVEALS HIS GOSPEL IN EVERY DISPENSATION
4. THE SAVIOR'S EARTHLY MINISTRY & ATONEMENT
5. THE GREAT APOSTASY
6. THE RESTORATION OF THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST THROUGH JOSEPH SMITH
7. THE BOOK OF MORMON
8. PRAY TO KNOW THE TRUTH THROUGH THE HOLY GHOST
9. PREMORTAL LIFE
10. THE CREATION
11. AGENCY AND THE FALL OF ADAM & EVE
12. OUR LIFE ON EARTH
13. THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST
14. THE SPIRIT WORLD
15. THE RESURRECTION, SALVATION, AND EXALTATION
16. JUDGMENT AND KINGDOMS OF GLORY
17. THE DIVINE MISSION OF JESUS CHRIST
18. THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST & DOCTRINE OF CHRIST
19. FAITH IN JESUS CHRIST
20. REPENTANCE THROUGH THE ATONEMENT OF JESUS CHRIST
21. BAPTISM, OUR FIRST COVENANT WITH GOD



ARKANSAS LITTLE ROCK MISSION



12 WEEK TRAINING PLAN

42 DOCTRINAL POINTS

22. THE GIFT OF THE HOLY GHOST
23. ENDURE TO THE END
24. OBEDIENCE
25. PRAY OFTEN
26. STUDY THE SCRIPTURES
27. KEEP THE SABBATH DAY HOLY
28. BAPTISM AND CONFIRMATION
29. FOLLOW THE PROPHET
30. KEEP THE TEN COMMANDMENTS
31. LIVE THE LAW OF CHASTITY
32. OBEY THE WORD OF WISDOM
33. KEEP THE LAW OF TITHING
34. OBSERVE THE LAW OF THE FAST
35. OBEY AND HONOR THE LAW
36. PRIESTHOOD AND AUXILIARIES
37. MISSIONARY WORK
38. ETERNAL MARRIAGE
39. TEMPLES AND FAMILY HISTORY
40. SERVICE
41. TEACHING AND LEARNING IN THE CHURCH
42. ENDURE TO THE END



For the first time since COVID pandemic started, our departing missionaries were able to attend the Memphis TN Temple as a group. The temple president generously opened the temple, normally closed on Mondays, just to serve the missionaries. All were touched by the Spirit and appreciated being in the temple again.



Aug 2021 Departing Missionaries in front of Memphis Temple

The mission also welcomed 15 new missionaries in August. For the first time in over a year, all these missionaries' original assignment is the Arkansas Little Rock Mission and attended both in-person MTC along with ZOOM MTC training. President and Sis Cahoon are very grateful for each one because of their dedication and desire to serve at this challenging time.



August 2021 Arriving Missionaries

September 2021

ALRM had the rare opportunity to have two transfers in the month of September. We received word from the Missionary Training Center of eight reassigned missionaries who had completed their online MTC training and were informed their original assignment countries had not yet opened for missionary travel. With less than three weeks' notice, President Cahoon quickly found experienced missionaries to become trainers and the mission welcomed them with open hands and hearts. President Cahoon noted that with the missionaries going to their first assignments and new missionaries arriving, the average ALRM missionary has been out six months.

The country of Canada reopened to missionary travel, and we bid farewell to five missionaries heading to the Canada Vancouver Mission: Elder Beatty, Elder Giles, Elder McCloy, Elder Smith and Elder Sowards. Each have served faithfully in the ALRM since December 2020. We also expressed our good wishes to the following missionaries-Sister Rebeta leaving to serve in Canada Calgary, Elder Blackburn to Mexico City South, Elder Dalton to Jamaica Kingston, and Elder Fletcher to Dominican Republic San Juan.

Our Senior couple in the office, Elder and Sister Bitner, our medical advisor and mission secretary respectively, completed their service and returned home to family in Utah. We wish them both well as they continue serving in other capacities in the kingdom.

We welcomed Elder Dennis and Sister Ann Margaret Grow to our mission, serving as part of our office staff. Sister Grow will be our mission nurse and Elder Grow will be working with Elder Thrap in Housing. The Grow family is from South Jordan, Utah, has five children and 15 grandchildren and bring a wonderful spirit. Sister Grow is an accomplished pianist and has already been called upon to play the mission song at recent zone conferences. They are grateful to be here as we are grateful to have them.

Our regular transfer came on September 21st as we said goodbye to ten missionaries returning home and welcomed seven Sisters and twelve Elders arriving to begin their fulltime service. Those next two days were full of excitement and wonder as they begin training. Every ALRM missionary is required to bring a bike and office elders are amazing at assembling new bikes, organizing incoming luggage, and gathering bedding bags and other items needed for the new missionaries. Baptisms for September- 11



Christmas Zone Conferences were held December 21st and 23rd. The Tupelo, Memphis North, and Memphis Zones gathered in Bartlett, TN. The program began with talks emphasizing the gifts of the Spirit intermingled with beautiful musical numbers performed by the Elders and Sisters. After lunch there was a fun gift exchange between missionaries followed by a short talent show. The day concluded with the movie “Witnesses” in the chapel. This program was duplicated on the Arkansas side with the Searcy, North Little Rock and Little Rock Zones participating. A highlight of this conference was an impromptu dance number performed by Elder and Sister Przybyla!

To focus even more on the Savior at Christmas, President Cahoon invited all missionaries to ponder on a gift they could personally give Christ for Christmas. President opened the weekly Zoom meeting with an invitation to all missionaries who wanted to share their thoughts. Among the answers to the question, the missionaries said they wanted to give the gift of their whole soul, their time, being in the present, being bolder with their testimonies, and being “all in” with the work.

Baptisms December- 12

Total baptisms for 2021-194

One hundred and seventy-one full-time missionaries are serving in Arkansas Little Rock Mission at close of 2021.

Mission President Robert Cahoon and Sister Betsy Cahoon, 1st Counselor Shawn Oliver, 2nd Counselor Nells Thorderson.

2022

January 2022

It is the start of a new year with many missionaries coming to join us.

26 January joining Arkansas Little Rock Mission is Sister Meg Deon Bowen, Elder Boyden Alvin Ewing, Elder Tanner C. Knudsen, Elder Britton Douglas Lawrence, Elder Corbin Alan Mapel, Elder Esteban Andres Ching, Elder Taylor Cleon Peterson, Sister Shannon Lorraine Pitman, Elder Alma Nalukea Riordan, Elder Jerrico Ezra Felipe Sagisi, Elder Nicholas Benjamin Saunders, Elder Christian David Soto Alanis, Elder Rodrigo Alejandro Torres Aguilar.

Departures on 26 January are faithful missionaries, Lauren Quincey Anderson, Zoe Bastian, Sadie Brooke McNeill, Carly Lynn Rowe, Danika Mary van den Akker.

Elder Craig Thrap and Sister Jo Ann Thrap finished their missionary service where they served faithfully in the mission office. Elder Thrap served as the Housing Coordinator for the mission. Sister Thrap served as the Referral Secretary where she was wonderful in all she arranged. Some of what Sister Thrap took care of was all media for the entire mission, kept the history of the mission, make beautiful and interesting mission bulletin boards each transfer, information on the new member and baptisms, ordered any items the mission needed to run the office. Both Elder and Sister Thrap also helped with all the dinners and breakfasts for the new missionary arrivals. Elder Thrap prided himself on making the very best eggs. The entire mission office including the President and Sister Cahoon had a final dinner to say thank you to the Thrap's on Monday Jan 10th at their favorite restaurant Red Lobster,

Total Baptisms in January- 20

Total Baptisms in February- 25

Ashley Lorene Dalling, Flores McGrew, Brigham Eduardo Guerrero Rodriquez, Luis Andres Jerez Gonzalez, Jerez Gonzalez, Aspen Isaiah Madsen, Cameron Scott McCally, Elizabeth Marilyn Petersen, Lauren Elizabeth Ryoster, Jason Zamiel Slover, Chase Stephen Thompson.

Departing Missionaries **April 13, 2022**, are:

Elder Nicholas Anthony Mihu and elder Jeremy John Sieverts.

Arriving New Missionaries on **April 13, 2022**

Elders Camden Taft Beardsall, Preston Charles Lee, Andrew Jose Peguero, Jayden Zachary Reaves, Connor Michael Rees, Ezra Dean Kwesi Reynolds, Soibi Simon Ross, Jordan Leonard Tracy Taylor John Whitmer and Sister Camille Joelle Oviatt. (1 sister and 9 elders)

Total Baptisms in April-15

May 2022



Senior couple Arrived on May 4, 2022, are Gary and Sandra Rane. They are coming from Washington, Utah which is near St. George Utah. He has worked in Construction there in Utah. They will be serving in Hope, Arkansas. The home that was found for them has been updated and remodeled to be nice and up to date. In Hope, Arkansas it was said to be a very nice home. The address of the home they are living in is: 209 Martin Street. Hope, Arkansas 71801

May 25, 2022, Makenna Elizabeth Dixon arrived at the Little Rock Airport at 5:55pm and will be picked up by President and Sister Cahoon. She will be serving as an ASL (American Sign Language) missionary. Sister Dixon has been training in Provo, Utah at the missionary training center for 6 weeks. We have been praying for her success in the MTC and that she will arrive to us safely. She did and is a darling sister missionary.

The Mission had 4 Zone conferences in the month of May. May 11th Little Rock had Zone conference; May 12th Searcy had their zone conference. The Following week May 18th Zone conferences were held in Tupelo and Memphis. Photos below of all 4 groups.

May 31st started Transfers week. Transfers week starts Tuesday of that week ending Thursday. Monday the Memphis Temple opens their doors for our group of departing missionaries. They all come in special just for us to allow the missionaries who have only been to the temple one time when they became missionaries. This is very special for us to be allowed to attend the temple on Mondays when they are normally closed.

Transfers- Week of May 30th, 2022

Monday, May 30th the missionary who are finishing their missions are able and allowed to attend the temple in Memphis. The temple presidency comes in on these Mondays and other temple workers come in just for us to do a session. It is a wonderful experience for these young sisters and elders who have usually only been inside the temple once. We gather in North Little Rock Stake Center / Mission office building and drive all together in the mission van, the two hours to Memphis Tennessee. The van is driven by Elder Dean Luikart and is full of sisters, elders, and some senior missionaries. We arrive just about 8:30 am. Starting the session on time is 9 am.

After we finish the temple session normally, we all meet and go to lunch together somewhere in Memphis. Many times, we will go to a yummy BBQ place called "Fat Larry's". This restaurant is run and owned by members in the area.

Fun Fact - They have a "missionary menu" where any missionary eats for free. They love to give back to all the missionaries.

Total Baptisms in May- 20

JUNE 2022-

Tuesday of this week was TRANSFERS. Many of the missionaries received new assignments to other areas with new or different companions.

Wednesday June 1st, we welcomed 7 brand new missionaries flying in from the MTC in Provo Utah. They all arrived at the Arkansas Little Rock Airport. Got in about 6:10pm. President and Sister Cahoon are there to welcome and greet these new missionaries. The office elders are also there to take all their bags and luggage to get them all back to the Mission office. We have a nice dinner waiting for them to feed them and get to know each one.

In June we all were preparing for our MISSION TOUR, where Elder Alvin F. Meredith and his wife Jennifer.



Here is a small Bio on Elder and Sister Meredith-

For many members of the Church, their first calling to serve away from their home ward or branch comes when they receive a mission call as a young adult. For a young Alvin Frazier Meredith III — or “Trip,” as his friends and family call him — that mission call took him to the Utah Salt Lake City Mission.

While that might not be the mission that some prospective missionaries would hope for, it was the perfect place for Elder Meredith, and it was far from the last place — or last time in Salt Lake City — where he would serve the Lord.

A little more than a decade after marrying Jennifer Denise Edgin in the Salt Lake Temple in 1998, the Meredith family found themselves in Hong Kong as part of a work assignment — a unique experience for a family with six children.

“It’s a very vertical city, so it was quite the adventure with all those strollers,” Sister Meredith said.

The family called Hong Kong home from 2010 to 2011. When they returned to the United States, Elder Meredith was called and sustained as an Area Seventy in the North America Southeast Area. He served in that capacity from 2012 to 2016 until the family moved to Asia once again for work.

With the move came another calling to serve as an Area Seventy, this time in the Asia Area from 2016 to 2018.

“We count it a great blessing to have served in the buckle of the Bible Belt in the South (of the United States), and all over Asia, and in the heart of the Church here in Salt Lake,” Elder Meredith said.

Their service in Salt Lake came when he received a second mission call, this time with his wife and children, to serve in the same place where he had served as a young missionary. Elder Meredith was serving as mission president of the Utah Salt Lake City South Mission when he was called as a General Authority Seventy.

During the last decade, Elder Meredith has fulfilled Church assignments in Utah, Tennessee, Arkansas, Alabama and North Carolina in the United States. In Asia he served in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Pakistan, China, Thailand and India.

Elder and Sister Meredith’s oldest son received his mission call while the family was living in Singapore. He was called to serve in Madagascar. And while serving in Utah, their second son received his mission call and is currently going through at-home MTC training prior to leaving to serve in Chile.

With so many opportunities to see the gospel of Jesus Christ through the lenses of individuals in over a dozen countries and states, the spiritual takeaway was easy to explain.

“We’ve learned that wherever you go, it’s the Lord’s work and it’s the Lord’s Church regardless of the language or culture they come from,” Elder Meredith said.

Sister Meredith said she first learned that principle while serving a mission of her own in Argentina as a young adult.

“That’s where I learned that the Spirit knows no language barriers,” she said. “Learning Spanish was a bit challenging at first. But I learned that when I testified, the Spirit could transcend my deficiencies.”

Despite the fact that the Meredith’s have lived and served in so many places around the globe, lifelong service and sacrifice in the Church isn’t a part of their heritage.

Elder Meredith’s mother is a convert to the Church. Sister Meredith’s parents are also converts.

“There were no handcars in our family history, no crossing the Plains,” Elder Meredith said.

“We’re a product of members and missionaries working together, and we’ll forever be grateful for all those who played a part in our parents joining the Church,” he said.

Sister Meredith’s gratitude is for the simplest of actions when it comes to her family’s conversion.

“I’m so grateful that people opened their mouths,” she said. “They shared the gospel of Jesus Christ that we might receive the same blessings they enjoyed.”

Her parents were raised in other faiths, but they had questions.

“They were searching,” she said. “They had questions that nobody could answer.”

Friends and co-workers helped her parents find answers to their questions. Following a work

transfer from England to South Carolina in the United States, new friends picked up where the others had left off. Eventually, the Edgin family was sealed in the Washington D.C. Temple.

Speaking of their two families, Elder Meredith said, “We come from good stock, just not pioneer stock.”

His own journey to a strong testimony of the gospel involved a challenging experience as a teenager.

“I grew up in Tennessee, surrounded by lots of really good people,” Elder Meredith said.

During Elder Meredith’s junior year of high school, he was elected by his peers to be the president of a group of Christian student athletes at his school upon learning that Elder Meredith was a member of the Church, the state leadership of that group refused to recognize The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a Christian religion. That meant Elder Meredith wouldn’t be the president of his school’s chapter of the organization.

Speaking of the experience, Elder Meredith said, “It caused me to look deep at what I believed and why I believed.”

After a time, the school and Elder Meredith were told that the issue had been resolved.

In a bit of irony, at the end of his senior year of high school, he was voted by his peers as the organization’s male athlete of the year. It was only then that he learned that the organization had not actually changed its point of view on his religion.

“My coach pulled me out of my ... class and said, ‘The state offices called and noticed your denomination, and you’re not going to be able to receive the award.’”

“My coach was a really good Christian man. With a little emotion, he told me, ‘I told them they needed to send someone here to explain this to you in person,’” Elder Meredith said.

The organization sent a representative from their state offices. Elder Meredith described him as “a really good man — well-intentioned, I’m sure.” He came to the school and explained 10 points of doctrine that he felt justified the decision to disqualify Elder Meredith for the award. Upon seeing a Bible in the man’s bag, Elder Meredith asked if the two of them could review some verses.

“I had a really good seminary teacher. So we turned to the scriptures and looked at each of those 10 points. We went to Chronicles and James and the Book of Revelation and Corinthians,” Elder Meredith said. “That man was not persuaded, but I was. My faith was challenged, and through the fire of that challenge, it was strengthened and has never wavered since.”

All the Missionaries were taught by Elder and Sister Meredith and there was a powerful spirit along with each lesson taught.

After the North Little Rock Mission Tour Meetings, the entire office staff, assistants, President Cahoon, and the Meredith’s all drove to Memphis, Tennessee where the second part of the mission tour would happen.

The “Memphis side” Mission tour was held at the Bartlett Building. It is on the same property as the Memphis Temple. It is beautiful in every way. The spirit was strong in the day long meetings. Elder and Sister Meredith meet each single missionary and joined in the Mission photo. Lunch was served to all. For lunch we had green beans with bacon bits, yummy rice pilaf and teriyaki chicken, it was very delicious.

The weather in the mission has been the highest in record recording. The high has been over 100 degrees for many weeks. It has been very dry in the mission as well.

Other news, one of our senior MLS couples, **Elder and Sister Wolfley** have finished their service mission and will be returning home to Montana. They have many children and grandchildren.

Elder Kent and Sister Barbara Larsen returned to Utah to complete their mission as self-reliance missionaries virtually until a replacement couple arrives.

June Total Baptisms- 14



July 2022

July 4th there was a big celebration all throughout the State. In North Little Rock the ward had a Breakfast and parade celebration. The breakfast had a very large turnout. Many of the members of the local ward invited their friends to come join and celebrate the day's activities. The North Little Rock district also invited many of the friends who they have been teaching. It was a great day to celebrate our country.

In the early evening of July 4th President and Sister Cahoon invited the district missionaries that live close, along with the Senior Missionaries for a fun evening to celebrate the Independence Day. BBQ-ing polish dogs and hamburgers. Everyone brought some kind of side dish to share. It was fun to be relaxed and all enjoy each other.

On the week of July 11th, we will have 14 new missionaries joining our mission. We have been praying for them since the moment we saw their name on our list and were made aware of their entering the MTC.

Total Baptisms in July 22

AUGUST 2022

In August on the 3rd and 4th are Zone Conferences. First in North Little Rock then in Searcy on Thursday the 4th. The zone conferences are wonderful moments full of the spirit and many lessons from both the President and Sister Cahoon, the Tech Elders, and the Social Media sisters. The second set of zone conferences took place on August 10th and 11th. First in Tupelo Mississippi Tennessee. Again, sweet spirit was in each meeting and the missionaries just love being together exchanging stories and lessons they have taught their friends. Great love and admiration are shown in these zone conferences.

On the 22nd of the month the departing missionaries meet at the North Little Rock Stake Center at 5:50 am to climb in the mission's travel van, drive to Memphis and attend the temple. The Temple presidency is so kind to open up the temple on a Monday and allow our departing missionaries go thru a session. It is a sweet day when we all are able to attend the temple. Genuinely after attending the temple our group goes to lunch at "Fat Larry's" BBQ. It is owned by a member in the Benton area.

Arriving on August 12, 2022, is Elder Dwain and Linda Rickertsen. Elder Rickertsen will be the Medical Advisor and Sister Rickertson will be working in the office helping with Finance. Elder Luikart will train her. The Rickertsen's are coming from Northern California. They have 8 children and have adopted 6 other children. They have a great love of family and will be a wonderful addition here in the mission.

Total Baptisms in August-21

September 2022

The Mission had great success in the month of September.

Our goal was 25 souls into the water of baptism, and we exceeded. Baptisms for September was 28. It was wonderful.

Baptisms in the mission- 27

November 2022

Approx. 26 October 2022 we were blessed to have another incredible senior couple join our mission. Elder and Sister Wright. David S and Mary Ann Wright.

They will be living in the Memphis side of the mission, working with Family search on Records Preservation.

In the month of November there was beautiful weather thru out most of the month.

Daily high temperatures decreased by 11 degrees F, from 69 F to 58F, rarely falling below 45F.

Or exceeding 80F. Daily low temperatures decrease by 9F, from 49F to 40F, rarely falling below 28F or exceeding 62F.

Departing on the 16th of November are 9 Missionaries.

These Elders and Sister have served faithful missions here in the ALRM. They served with all their heart and soul, giving it all to the Lord. We are beyond proud of the service they have given.

On November 29th, 2022, a group from Azerbaijan came to learn and visit about the freedom of religion we have in this country. These are nationals from all the areas of the country Azerbaijan. They first stopped by the United Nations in NYC, then flew to North Little Rock. They met with Stake President Carlton Wing along with Mission President Robert Cahoon. The meeting was about 1 1/2 long. Discussing God, Christ, and the freedom of Religion here in America and in the South.



December 2022

December 15, 2022 – Service opportunity with Oak Forest Methodist Church in Little Rock, AR.



The Memphis Temple opens up special just for us, allowing the departing missionaries to do one more endowment session before they finish their mission going home in 2 days.

In the month of December our mission had 18 new missionaries come join our mission family.

We ended the year of 2022 with 226 Baptisms.

2023

January

These are some of our friends that have entered the waters of baptism this month.

Renee Elisabeth Hale was baptized and confirmed on January 1, 2023 by Elder Tallen Voth. She is now a member of the Hot Springs Ward in the Little Rock Stake.



Paulette Van Vlack Stroud was baptized January 14, 2023 and became a member of the Millington Ward and of the Memphis North Stake. She was baptized by Elder Taylor and confirmed by Brother Joel James.



Arianna Christine Abbott and Hardison James Abbott were baptized and confirmed January 15, 2023 by their father, Daniel Abbott. They are now members of the Beebe Ward in the Little Rock Stake.



James William Cramer of Florence Alabama was baptized January 14, 2023, by Brother Randy Stevens (Elders Quorum President) and was confirmed January 15, 2023 by Brother Richard Jensen (Bishopric First Counselor). He became a member of the Florence Alabama Ward and the Tupelo Stake.



Anthony Paul Pazuchowski was baptized and confirmed January 15, 2023. He is now a member of the Hot Springs Ward and the Little Rock Stake. He was baptized and confirmed by Elder Voth



Elder and Sister Flamm arrived January 23rd.

Elder and Sister Flamm are from Kaysville, Utah. We both grew up in the Oakland- Berkeley California Stake and met at the Saturday Night Dances next to the Oakland Temple. We have been sweethearts since we were 16 years old. We are the parents of four children, and thirteen grandchildren. They are the light of our lives. Eight of our grandchildren live in Utah, so that's where we live. Elder Flamm served his first mission in the Utah-Idaho, Pocatello Mission. We both graduated from BYU, Curt with a degree in Accounting and Larae with a degree in Child Development. We have lived in several places since graduating. We've lived in Suisun City, CA, Idaho Falls, ID, Fruit Heights, UT, Vancouver, WA, and Kaysville, UT. Elder Flamm loves to golf, attend the temple, and enjoys the Home and Garden shows on TV. Sister Flamm loves to read, cross stitch, quilt, and bake. We have both been ordinance workers in the Bountiful Temple and loved every minute of it.

We were both raised in the church and developed our testimonies in our youth. We loved participating in things like the Oakland Temple Pageant, Dance Festivals, and camps. We have an abiding testimony of our Savior Jesus Christ, and of his Atonement and his teachings. We hope to become more like him. Our motto is "Steadfast and Immoveable". We have a testimony of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon, the Doctrine and Covenants and all our modern-day prophets. We are delighted to serve this mission. It has been a desire since we were young. We are hoping to serve a mission from home once we get done here in Arkansas.

February

These are some of our friends that have entered the waters of baptism this month.

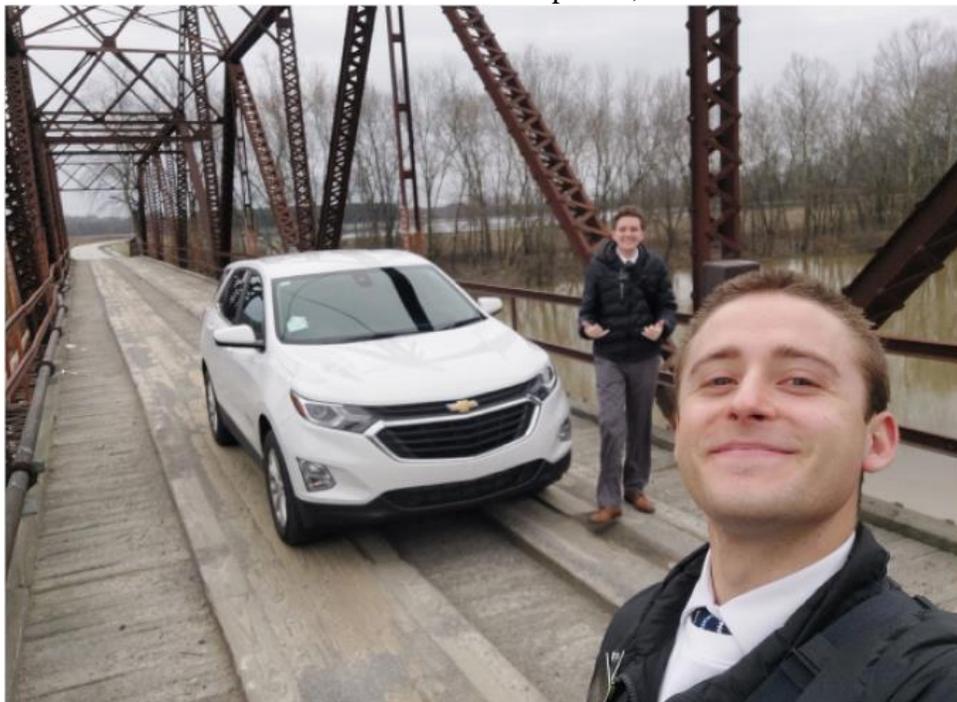
Ryker Severus Gamble (left) and Tiberius Phoenix Gamble (right) were baptized February 4, 2023 by their father, Eric Gamble. They are now members of the Russellville 1st Ward in the North Little Rock Stake. They were confirmed on February 6, 2023 by their father.



Shirly Carolina Lopez Izaguirre was baptized and confirmed February 16, 2023 by Sean Thomas. She is now a member of the Memphis 2nd Ward in the Memphis Tennessee Stake.



Facebook work works! We were able to find our friend Hayden last week! We started off with a light conversation on messenger about duck hunting and led it into how we feel God's love for us in nature. He opened up about some of the struggles he's faced and how he feels that he's drifted off the path recently. We were able to testify that the Book of Mormon is what he's mission to get him back on the path! We have met with him twice now in person as well! The Lord is anxious to put these tools in our hands and as we strive to OYM in all places, miracles will come!



Elder Ririe and Elder Pippin in Searcy 1

Mission Leadership Council, February 22, 2023 I will...

Therefore What?



- Be a good shepherd (protect, love, and take care of the lambs)
- Be a Preach My Gospel missionary
- Make a prayer list for our friends and our stewardship
- Follow up on uncontacted referrals with my stewardship
- Work more closely with the Ward Coordination members
- Discuss how we might extend a baptismal invitation in every lesson plan
- Set an example by having a positive attitude towards the mission goals
- Actually print the Therefore Whats
- Make it a habit to pray for the mission goals
- Have an “if the Savior stood by beside me” attitude
- Council on how to help my friends progress rather than solely how we found them
- Utilize the power of silence
- Work diligently all day, every day
- Observe, listen, and discern, as I teach
- Contact all referrals as many times as it takes to make contact
- Prepare for every prayer
- Evaluate how/if each activity in my schedule contributes to my purpose
- Stay connected with friends and recent converts

- Strive to recreate the spirit we felt today when doing our MLC debrief with our stewardship
- Better utilize members in daily contact with our friends
- Represent the Savior in my appearance, speech, and actions
- Seek the will of the Lord through prayer before giving priesthood blessings
- Help my stewardship remember “Remember This”
- Not wait for a ministering interview to report on our ministering efforts
- Be dignified in zone and district chats
- Tell our friends that our church needs them
- Make sure everyone has an assignment to complete afterward coordination meetings
- Apply the council I received from our progressing friends discussion
- Eliminate distractions ● Pray for the Gift of Discernment
- Make plans to serve the Lord with greater love for Him
- Make Christ the center of my teaching
- Sacrifice more of what I want for what the Lord wants
- Be positive with my stewardship when I announce the changes of sports nights and activities
- Find better ways to teach, and make changes in my teaching
- Develop a personal relationship with each of our friends
- Strive to be more in tune with the spirit in my teaching
- Pray for all those on date all the time
- Utilize the referral tools

Our missionaries came up with these thoughts and commitments on their own. President and Sister Cahoon said the Spirit was incredible the entire meeting.

February 23, 2023



Elder and Sister Boyce helped the Bartlett 1st Ward Relief Society with Emergency Preparedness – “Cooking Without Power”. They showed their homemade rocket stove and cooked up some fried potatoes with bacon and peppers. It was a real hit!

March

March 2nd Elder and Sister Pramis arrived to the mission.



The miracle we saw this week was with our friend Robin! A few weeks ago, Brother Ridgell asked the Raney family to have missionaries minister to his nephew Robin in the hospital located in Little Rock. The Raney family contacted the Little Rock Zone Leaders, Elder De Leon and Elder Saunders. They went over to talk to him and gave him a blessing. Since then, Robin has been interested in meeting with us again. He was previously taught by missionaries over 20 years ago and his uncle has been planting seeds ever since. This last Sunday he came to church and brought two of his kids with him. He has been loving the lessons which we are hopeful will continue.

Pamela Ruth Harris Murphy was baptized by Rory Bylund on March 4, 2023, and confirmed by Peter Schmeltz on March 5, 2023. She is now a member of the Jackson Ward and the Memphis North Stake.



Love, Share, and Invite

Why do we love, share, and invite?

Love: We are all sons and Daughters of a loving Heavenly Father. He wants what's best for all of his children. While here on earth we've been commanded to love one another just as God loves us (Matthew 22:36-39).

Share: Because we love God, we also love all of his children. We should seek to help others feel the joy of the gospel (Alma 36:24). As disciples of Jesus Christ we speak openly of Him, and the blessings he's brought into our lives (Doctrine and Covenants 60:2). We share love, time, experiences, and church programs to bless God's children and help them draw closer to the savior. We can share these things in normal and natural ways as part of personal, online and other interactions.

Invite: The Savior invites all to partake of his infinite love and mercy (Alma 5:33-34). As his disciples we invite all to "come unto Christ and be perfected in him" (Moroni 10:32). How can I identify someone to love, share, and invite?

- Pray for daily missionary/service opportunities
 - Introduce yourself to your neighbors
 - Get to know your co workers
- Ask other members if they are helping anyone and arrange to meet them People to think about
 - Close friends
 - Family members
 - Coworkers
 - Neighbors
- *Anyone in need How can I love, share, and invite? Love:
 - Deliver gifts/ treats to your friend
 - Take a meal to your friend
 - Ask a friend if they could use prayers
 - Serve your friend
 - Invite your friend over for dinner

- Introduce your friend to other members
- Text your friend letting them know you love them Share:
- Share a scripture with a friend that would be meaningful to them
- Share with a friend what family history is and why we do it
 - Give a Jesus pass along card to a friend
 - Share an uplifting video with a friend
 - Share your favorite Hymn with a friend
 - Talk to your friend about eternal families
- Write your testimony in a Book of Mormon and give it to a friend
- Give your friend a copy of the family proclamation or other church material
 - Share what you learned at church with a friend
- Ask your friend if they've heard of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints
 - Share an uplifting church produced video with a friend
 - Talk to your friend about your studies from CFM
- Share a scripture, quote or video on your social media page Invite:
 - Invite your friend to watch general conference in your home
 - Invite your friend to the next ward activity
 - Invite your friend to a baby blessing or baptism
 - Invite your friend to watch the primary program
 - Invite your friend over for FHE or CFM study
 - Invite your friend to take a church tour with the missionaries
 - Invite your friend to do family history work
 - Invite their youth to weekly activities
 - Invite your friend over for dinner with the missionaries
 - Invite your friend to join in on a service project

- Invite your friend to church
- * Invite your friend to learn about the gospel with the missionaries

2024



Our Purpose

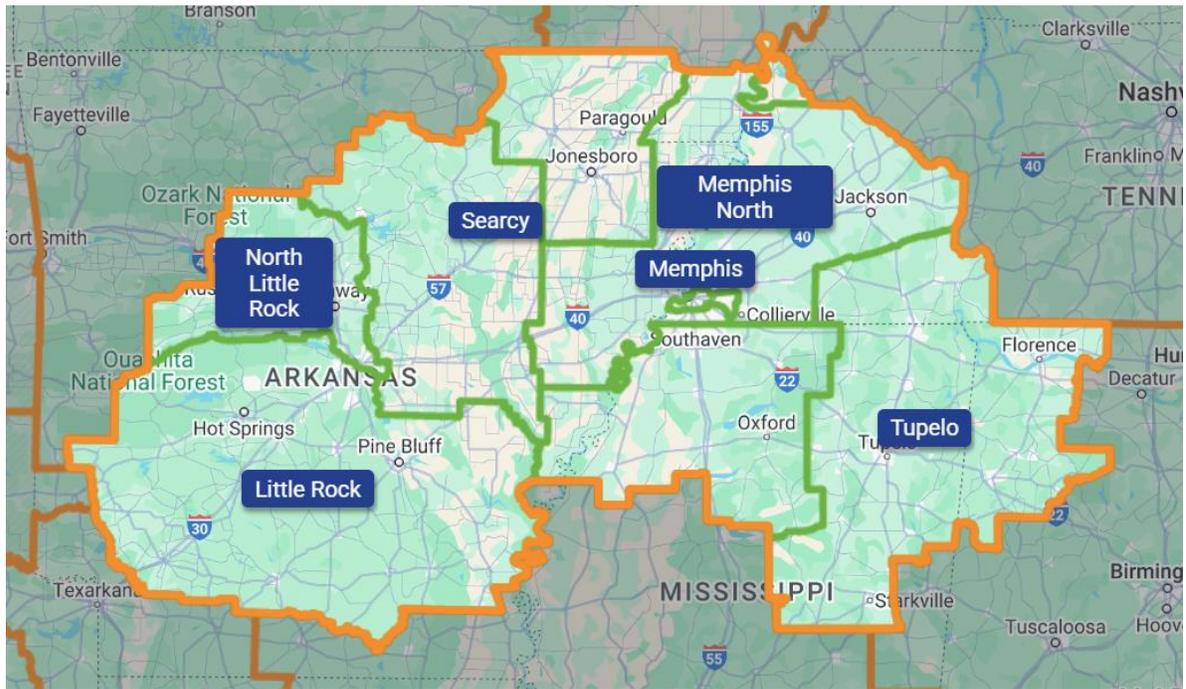
Invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.



Mission Leaders

Mark E. Larsen and Marianne H. Larsen, three children, East Bench Ward, Spanish Fork Utah Maple Mountain Stake: Arkansas Little Rock Mission. President Larsen is a former ward Young Men adviser, stake president, high councilor, stake executive secretary, bishop, bishopric counselor, elder's quorum president, high priests group leader assistant, and missionary in the Oklahoma Tulsa Mission. He was born in Vernal, Utah, to Lawrence Bernard Larsen and Luane McDonald Larsen. Sister Larsen is a former ward Young Women president, stake Relief Society presidency counselor, stake Primary presidency counselor, ward Relief Society presidency counselor, ward Young Women presidency counselor, ward Primary presidency counselor, and young single adult Relief Society adviser. She was born in American Fork, Utah, to Michael Jon Harvey and Nola Smith Harvey.

Arkansas Little Rock Mission



January



Elder Caroll & Elder Poulson in Highland Heights

Oscar and his family recently moved from Venezuela. We met him through his brother-in-law, who is one of our members. He wasn't too sure about everything for a little bit. But out of nowhere, our Branch President called us and said that he was ready to be baptized! A couple of weeks later Oscar was put on date, and just a little bit later, Oscar was baptized! A couple of weeks later, his sons, Jesús and Oscar said that they too wanted to be baptized and follow their dad's example! And after lots of thoughts and prayers, Oscar and Jesús are on date! This area is flourishing and the Lord's work is hastening!

February

Miracle



Sister Briscoe & Sister Brown in Tupelo 2

Members are the key to success! A new member brought his friend Camilla to church a couple of weeks ago and she loved it! Camilla now lives with a different member and has been learning so much about Christ's gospel! We have been able to go over and teach her, and Camilla has pointed out multiple times how strong the spirit is. Her first lesson she was put on date for baptism and she is so excited and elect! We know that God truly is preparing his children and that through members we can find the prepared and that our friends will feel more supported and have lasting conversion.

March

Miracle



Sister Murdock & Sister Scott in Conway 1st

We recently put our Friend Bobert on date!! He was being taught by the Pinnacle Mountain sisters but had moved over here so we got to meet him. Bob is so ready to hear and accept the gospel. He even bore his testimony this fast Sunday and so many members went to tell him how touched they were. We know God sent him to Conway because this is the ward he needs to be in to fellowship into the church. The Lord knows His children and will put them in places where they can grow to be their best selves!

Zone Conference

Little Rock



North Little Rock



Searcy



Memphis



Memphis North



Tupelo



April

Miracle



Sister Alley & Sister Haymore in Walnut Grove, Tennessee

We have seen the hand of the Lord a lot in Walnut Grove 2nd! One day we were knocking on some apartment doors where we met a nice Latina woman! We shared a scripture from the Book of Mormon and testified about the Savior and baptism. We also found out she was interested in learning English! The next day we went back to her home and met her husband and their daughter. We taught an English class and then jumped into a lesson and explained our purpose. Since then, we have met with them once or twice a week and they are now on date for baptism!! We know that serving our friends brings miracles and that the Lord is preparing people to receive His Gospel!

Temple Trip



May

Miracle



Elder Karren, Elder Zollinger, & Elder Ricks in North Little Rock 1

Referrals are gold! We received a request from a young mother looking to transform her life and learn more about Jesus Christ! She has been searching for truth and has been very prepared by God. We set up a lesson immediately with one of the priests in our ward preparing for a mission. The lesson was incredible! We were able to explain our purpose and teach her about the power of the Book of Mormon! She gladly accepted a copy and has already begun reading! She couldn't stop asking us questions! She was so hungry for the truth! Now we are meeting with her and her husband and they plan to attend church!

The Bowens' Mission Tour



June

Miracles



Elder Finch and Elder Jones in Morrilton

Our miracle was with our friend Jakota! Jakota was a member find. A member we hadn't been able to talk with much just called us up and said she had two people for us to teach, and one of them was Jakota! Jakota came to church with the member a few weeks ago and loved it, and wants to be baptized! After the first lesson, he read the Book of Mormon and came to know it's true. He's committed to being baptized! Members truly find great souls, it's a team effort!

New Missionary Group



July



Our Purpose

Invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

August

Miracle



Elder Sorensen & Elder Prince in Haleyville, Alabama

We were knocking on doors and felt prompted to start at a specific door. When we knocked on the door a lady answered. She said, "It's great to see you!" We were set back by her excitement. She actually had been to church many times throughout her life and loves missionaries. One of her friends who's a member has a son on a mission. We were able to teach her and set up a return appointment with a member. We know as we follow spiritual promptings in our planning and in the field, we will see miracles!

September



Twice in White



Byron
Taught by: Elders Taumoepeau,
Pulliam, Hammer, Bean, Ordóñez



Tyler
Taught by: Elders Eldridge, White, Embley,
Jones

Baptisms



Camila
Found Through: Member
Taught by: Sisters Spencer,
Scott, Smith, Arrington



Delilah
Found Through: Contacting in Public
Taught by: Elder W. Anderson,
Sisters Scott, Smith, Arrington

The complex block features a purple background with the word "Baptisms" in large white letters at the top. Below this are two photographs of baptism candidates with their families and church members. The first photo shows a young girl in a white dress standing between two women in patterned dresses, with a text box to the left identifying her as Camila. The second photo shows a young girl in a white dress standing between two women in patterned dresses and a man in a white shirt, with a text box to the right identifying her as Delilah. The background of the photos is decorated with colorful paper raindrops.

October

Miracle



Elder Horton & Elder Cluff in Tupelo, Mississippi

We saw an amazing miracle with our friend, John! A few weeks ago, we received a call out of the blue from John. He said that he had recently made the decision to join our church and follow Jesus Christ! Since then, we've been able to meet with him several times. He's been doing everything he can to grow closer to Jesus Christ, and he accepted an invitation to be baptized! We know that the Lord is preparing a people to make and keep covenants with Him, and we get to be His authorized servants and search for them!

Baptisms

Danny
Found Through: Media Referral
Taught by: Elders Parrish, Thomas, Thom, Christensen, Cluff, Eldridge, Smith, Parkinson, Menmott

Jamale
Found Through: Media Referral
Taught by: Sisters Adams, Vincent, Sorenson, Scott, Holman

A graphic titled "Baptisms" featuring two photographs. The top photo shows five men standing together; one man in the center is wearing a white baptismal robe. The bottom photo shows three people standing together; one man in the center is wearing a white baptismal robe. Text boxes provide names and details for each baptism.

November

Miracles

Elder Parkinson & Elder Richey



In Blytheville, Arkansas

We put almost a whole family on date! (Soon to be a full family) For a while now we have been teaching Mary (13 yr old), Ellie (Mother), Sam (Father), and Bill (Uncle). We knew this family was ready for baptism through the Spirit they felt in reading the Book of Mormon daily and keeping the commandments, which helped them in their daily lives. They saw it without a lot of pointing out from us! Once we figured out the date and prayed about it for a while, we invited Ellie and Mary to be baptized! They accepted and right afterward Ellie invited Bill to be baptized and he said yes as well. We plan to teach Sam more with the rest since he hasn't been to all the lessons.

Names changed for confidentiality

Mission Leader Council



Zone Conference



Little Rock



North Little Rock



Searcy



Tupelo



Memphis



Memphis North

Baptism



Fred

Found Through: Home to Home Contacting
Taught by: Elders Hawley, Farrer, and
Burraston

December



Our Purpose

Invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

Baptisms



Lindsay

Found Through: Member
Taught by: Elders Bylund, Scivally,
Bright, Crawford & Farrer



Alonzo

Found Through: Media Referral
Taught by: Sisters Ellsworth &
Infanger

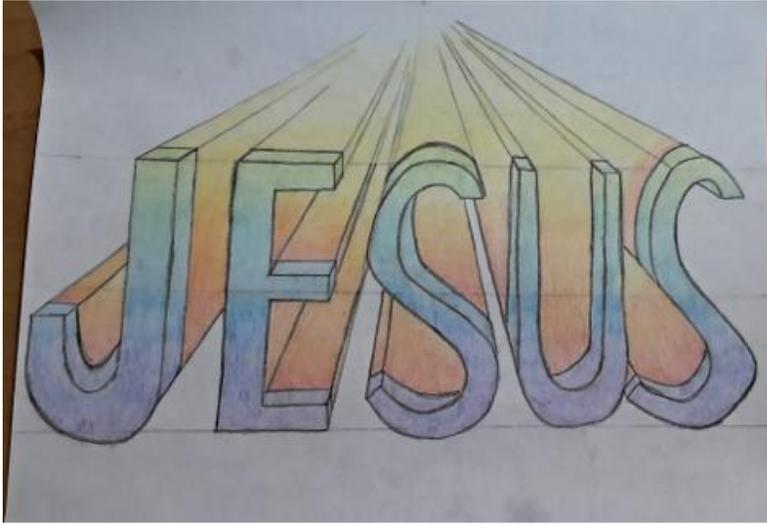
Miracles

Sister Smith & Sister Owens



In Tupelo, Mississippi

We have a testimony that God answers prayers!! We made it a goal this week to invite as many people as we could to church for our ward's Christmas program. Towards the end of the week, we were stressing about the lack of commitment from our friends to be there. One of our members told us, "if you're praying about it, why are you stressing about it?" So that night, we said a prayer & stopped stressing. The next day, so many of our friends & less active members came to church! Even friends we didn't invite showed up! When we have righteous desires, God provides a way.



By – Elder Flynn in Beebe, AR

Zone Conference
Little Rock



North Little Rock



Searcy



Memphis



Memphis North



Tupelo



ALRM Christmas 2024

