

Dana Ward Bishopric

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|-----------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| <i>Bishop</i> | <i>Richard Hale</i> | <i>834-3041</i> |
| <i>1 Counselor</i> | <i>Dwight Morris</i> | <i>962-8221</i> |
| <i>2 Counselor</i> | <i>Mark Standage</i> | <i>964-1685</i> |
| <i>Exec Secretary</i> | <i>Anthony Kaberry</i> | <i>835-5149</i> |

"The Rifle"

by Rian B. Anderson

Pa never had much compassion for the lazy or those who squandered their means and then never had enough for the necessities. But for those who were genuinely in need, his heart was as big as all outdoors. It was from him that I learned the greatest joy in life comes from giving, not from receiving.

It was Christmas Eve 1881. I was fifteen years old and feeling like the world had caved in on me because there just hadn't been enough money to buy me the rifle that I'd wanted so bad that year for Christmas.

We did the chores early that night for some reason. I just figured Pa wanted a little extra time so we could read in the Bible. So after supper was over I took my boots off and stretched out in front of the fireplace and waited for Pa to get down the old Bible. I was still feeling sorry for myself and, to be honest, I wasn't in much of a mood to read Scriptures. But Pa didn't get the Bible, instead he bundled up and went outside. I couldn't figure it out because we had already done all the chores. I didn't worry about it long though, I was too busy wallowing in self-pity.

Soon Pa came back in and there was ice in his beard. "Come on, Matt," he said. "Bundle up good, it's cold out tonight."

I was really upset then. Not only wasn't I getting the rifle for Christmas, now Pa was dragging me out in the cold, and for no earthly reason that I could see. We'd already done all the chores, and I couldn't think of

anything else that needed doing, especially not on a night like this. But I knew Pa was not very patient at one dragging one's feet when he'd told them to do something, so I got up and put my boots back on and got my cap, coat, and mittens. Ma gave me a mysterious smile as I opened the door to leave the house. Something was up, but I didn't know what.

Outside, I became even more dismayed. There in front of the house was the work team, already hitched to the big sled. Whatever it was we were going to do wasn't going to be a short, quick, little job. I could tell. We never hitched up the big sled unless we were going to haul a big load. Pa was already up on the seat, reins in hand. I reluctantly climbed up beside him. The cold was already biting at me. I wasn't happy.

Pa pulled the sled around the house and stopped in front of the woodshed. He got off and I followed. "I think we'll put on the high sideboards," he said. "Here, help me."

The high sideboards! It had been a bigger job than I wanted to do with just the low sideboards on, but whatever it was we were going to do would be a lot bigger with the high sideboards on.

Pa went into the woodshed and came out with an armload of wood -- the wood I'd spent all summer hauling down from the mountain, and then all fall sawing into blocks and splitting. What was he doing? "Pa," I asked, "what are you doing?"

"You been by the Widow Jensen's lately?" he asked.

The Widow Jensen lived about two miles down the road. Her husband had died a year or so before and left her with three children, the oldest being eight.

"Yeah," I said. "Why?"

"I rode by just today," Pa said. "Little Jakey was out digging around in the woodpile trying to find a few chips. They're out of wood, Matt."

That was all he said and then he turned and went back into the woodshed for another armload of wood. I followed him.

We loaded the sled so high that I began to wonder if the horses would be able to pull it. Finally, Pa called a halt to our loading, and went to the smoke house and took down a big ham and a side of bacon. He handed them to me and told me to put them in the sled. When he returned he was carrying a sack of flour over his right shoulder and a smaller sack in his left hand. "What's in the little sack?" I asked.

"Shoes. They're out of shoes. Little Jakey just had gunny sacks wrapped around his feet when he was out in the woodpile this morning. I got the children a little candy too. It just wouldn't be Christmas without a little candy."

We rode the two miles to Widow Jensen's pretty much in silence. I tried to think through what Pa was doing. We didn't have much by worldly standards. Of course, we did have a big woodpile, though most of what was left now was still in the form of logs that I would have to saw into blocks and split before we could use it. We also had meat and flour, so we could spare that, but I knew we didn't have any money, so why was Pa buying them shoes and candy? Really, why was he doing any of this? Widow Jensen had closer neighbors than us. It shouldn't have been our concern.

We came in from the blind side of the Jensen house and unloaded the wood as quietly as possible, then we took the meat and flour and shoes to the door. We knocked. The door opened a crack and a timid voice said, "Who is it?"

"Lucas Miles, Ma'am, and my son, Matt. Could we come in for a bit?"

Widow Jensen opened the door and let us in. She had a blanket wrapped around her shoulders. The children were wrapped in another and were sitting in front of the fireplace by a very small fire that hardly gave off any heat at all. Widow Jensen fumbled with a match and finally got the lamp lit.

"We brought you a few things, Ma'am," Pa said and set down the sack of flour. I put the meat on the table. Then Pa handed her the sack that had the shoes in it. She opened it hesitantly and took the shoes out one pair at a time. There was a pair for her and one for each of the children -- sturdy shoes, the best, shoes that would last. I watched her carefully. She bit her lower lip to keep it from trembling and then tears filled her eyes and started running down her cheeks. She

looked up at Pa like she wanted to say something, but it wouldn't come out.

"We brought a load of wood too, Ma'am," Pa said, then he turned to me and said, "Matt, go bring enough in to last for awhile. Let's get that fire up to size and heat this place up."

I wasn't the same person when I went back out to bring in the wood. I had a big lump in my throat and, much as I hate to admit it, there were tears in my eyes too. In my mind I kept seeing those three kids huddled around the fireplace and their mother standing there with tears running down her cheeks and so much gratitude in her heart that she couldn't speak. My heart swelled within me and a joy filled my soul that I'd never known before. I had given at Christmas many times before, but never when it had made so much difference. I could see we were literally saving the lives of these people.

I soon had the fire blazing and everyone's spirits soared. The kids started giggling when Pa handed them each a piece of candy and Widow Jensen looked on with a smile that probably hadn't crossed her face for a long time. She finally turned to us. "God bless you," she said. "I know the Lord himself has sent you. The children and I have been praying that he would send one of his angels to spare us."

In spite of myself, the lump returned to my throat and the tears welled up in my eyes again. I'd never thought of Pa in those exact terms before, but after Widow Jensen mentioned it I could see that it was probably true. I was sure that a better man than Pa had never walked the earth. I started remembering all the times he had gone out of his way for Ma and me, and many others. The list seemed endless as I thought on it.

Pa insisted that everyone try on the shoes before we left. I was amazed when they all fit and I wondered how he had known what sizes to get. Then I guessed that if he was on an errand for the Lord that the Lord would make sure he got the right sizes.

Tears were running down Widow Jensen's face again when we stood up to leave. Pa took each of the kids in his big arms and gave them a hug. They clung to him and didn't want us to go. I could see that they missed their pa, and I was glad that I still had mine.

At the door Pa turned to Widow Jensen

and said, "The Mrs. wanted me to invite you and the children over for Christmas dinner tomorrow. The turkey will be more than the three of us can eat, and a man can get cantankerous if he has to eat turkey for too many meals. We'll be by to get you about eleven. It'll be nice to have some little ones around again. Matt, here, hasn't been little for quite a spell." I was the youngest. My two older brothers and two older sisters were all married and had moved away.

Widow Jensen nodded and said, "Thank you, Brother Miles. I don't have to say, 'May the Lord bless you,' I know for certain that He will."

Out on the sled, I felt good, deep inside. When we had gone a ways, Pa turned to me and said, "Matt, I want you to know something. Your ma and me have been tucking a little money away here and there all year so we could buy that rifle for you, but we didn't have quite enough. Then yesterday a man who owed me a little money from years back came by to make things square.

Your ma and me were real excited, thinking that now we could get you that rifle, and I started into town this morning to do just that. But on the way I saw little Jakey out scratching in the woodpile with his feet wrapped in those gunny sacks and I knew what I had to do. Son, I spent the money for shoes and a little candy for those children. I hope you understand."

I understood, and my eyes became wet with tears again. I understood very well, and I was so glad Pa had done it. Just then the rifle seemed very low on my list of priorities. Pa had given me a lot more. He had given me the look on Widow Jensen's face and the radiant smiles of her three children. For the rest of my life, whenever I saw any of the Jensens, or split a block of wood, I remembered, and remembering brought back that same joy I felt riding home beside Pa that night. Pa had given me much more than a rifle that night, he had given me the best Christmas of my life.

My prayer is that each of us might serve others in a way that we will have "the best Christmas of our lives". Please remember the Savior and what He has done for each of us. May we emulate him in every way. Let our gift to Him be service and love to our fellow man. Then will our Christmas truly be

centered in Christ. Merry Christmas to you all.

Love, Bishop Hale

Ward Family Christmas Party

December 15, 2007

Ward Cultural Hall 6 PM

Invite and bring a Friend

Dinner and Fun Evening

Effective December 1st, the temple will no longer accept the old recommends. If you have **not** gotten a new "bar code" **recommend** please see a member of the bishopric.

The Mesa Temple is closed for Winter Maintenance. It will reopen Tuesday, Dec. 11th. The Snowflake Temple is open.
928-536-6626

Missionary Mailbox

Elder Justin Schnepf
Dominican Republic, Santiago Mission
PO Box 30150
Salt Lake City, Utah 84130-0150

Dear family,

I hope that all is well in Mesa and that the weather has been a little better there than it's been here. If you didn't hear, we had the tropical storm Noel blow in. It seemed like the entire country flooded. In our town all of the light posts that bring electricity to the town were down and we saw many houses that were completely under water and some were washed away. The main bridge to the town was washed out and we had to walk in water up to our hips in the streets. The devastation was

and is still very bad. The Dominican's have been telling us that they have never seen so much rain in their lives.

We were called to the Stake President's house and were assigned to go out and check on the members and see if they needed any help. We also passed out humanitarian aide from the church: food, blankets and kits. So everyone from home that helped put hygiene kits together and made quilts, thanks from your Dominican brothers and sisters. I have really grown to love this area so much that when I received the call that I was being transferred with my companion to another area, it was very hard to leave. We packed up all of our very wet belongings in the dark and set out for the town of Maimon. Pres. Thomas gave us permission to go back to Fantino and attend a baptism. The sister being baptized asked my companion, Elder Lee's, to baptize her. I'm happy that my kid companion has his first baptism. We have another baptism scheduled for next Saturday if all goes well.

When we reached our new area we found out that the water pump that supplied the town was flooded and there was no electricity or water. The electricity was finally restored a few days later, but we are still waiting for water. We bucket water to our apt. each day from the store across the street. Even with all of the inconveniences we have been really blessed in this new area. Everyone seems to want to listen to us and we actually have investigators that progress and want to come to church. I never contact in the street here. All of our work comes through referrals which is much more efficient, so family, when the missionary's ask for referrals, **give them referrals**. We tracted out a lady named Mercedes that we baptized and found out that her best friend was in our ward. We had asked her for referrals and she told us she didn't know anyone. When we came to Maimon, we had a training meeting with the members of the branch and taught them about giving referrals to the missionary's. We used Mercedes as an example of how our friends are waiting to hear the gospel and we, as member, are responsible to help the missionary work along by recognizing that our friends will accept the gospel. Since the training with the branch, we have been busy and blessed. The people here are so open to the spirit.

I was called to be the branch clerk here because the branch president is computer illiterate and doesn't have a clerk. I do all of the stuff a clerk does in the states. Sunday night I printed out all of the tithing declarations to get ready for tithing settlement so I am learning new things and having fun.

I hope all of you enjoyed Thanksgiving because it's just another day out here. My comp and I are the only Americans in our zone so we didn't celebrate at all but that's ok. We are all going to the temple next week. This is our Christmas celebration in our mission. So - Merry Christmas from the Dominican Republic! May the Lord bless each of you this coming year with missionary experiences.

Love, Elder Justin Schnepf

Elder Michael Hale
(Washington, Spokane Mission)
10113 Harris Rd.
Moses Lake, Wa. 98837

Dear Family,

We had a great Thanksgiving which made the week pretty fun. Thanksgiving also made it pretty tough though as a lot of our investigators went out of town and lots of other people had family in town so they couldn't meet with us. Now people are putting up Christmas decorations and getting into the Christmas spirit and it makes it really easy to talk about the Savior and transition it into His Gospel. Many more people are willing to talk with us and the Christmas spirit is all around. I love this season!

We went to quite a few members' houses for Thanksgiving, but thankfully (no pun intended) only ate an actual meal at the first one. The rest were just desserts and it was wonderful!

We also were able to play in a pretty sweet Turkey Bowl. The Elders Quorum President here in the Pines ward is the CEO and co-owner of the Spokane Shock, a local arena football team. So we were able to play our Turkey Bowl in the team's indoor practice arena. It was so perfect. Our team won both of the games we played. It was a lot of fun.

I'm working in the mission office now so this coming week is going to be crazy again because it's the week of interviews and we have to go

around to all the Districts with President Clark and we will do training while he is interviewing. That should be a lot of fun.

The theme of the Zone Conferences was working out of a love for the Savior. President Clark is such an amazing man and I love hearing him speak and give trainings. He's not a very big guy, but he is powerful when he speaks! We listened to a lot of testimonies of Apostles and previous prophets about the Savior and read a lot of scriptures. It was wonderful to be able to look at each of the missionaries from the stand, and watch as they receive promptings from the spirit. It was a powerful testimony and reminder to me about what we are really doing here. I love the Lord and I want to serve him. I have never felt so much joy in my life, than here. I am doing my best to serve my Master. Of course, this is absolutely the hardest thing I have ever done, but definitely the most rewarding.

Well I love and miss you all and pray that you have a wonderful Christmas!

Love, Elder Hale

Elder Keith H. Hunt
California-Oakland Mission
4945 Lincoln Way
Oakland, Ca. 94602
936 Fletcher Lane #11
Hayward, Ca 94544

Exciting News! Our investigator Raul, was baptized! The Ward Mission Leader thought it'd be a good idea to have the service right after church so that more members would go and it worked. Half the Branch was there which was really nice since Raul needs the extra support. I got to baptize him and it was one of the coolest experiences of my life. Something else that was cool is that Pres. Beck asked me to train one of the "Greenies" which makes me a Sr. Comp. This is going to be a huge change with me taking the lead with all of our discussions in Spanish. Pres. Beck suggested that I teach Elder Hutchinson (from Provo, Utah) all the good stuff my trainer taught me and all the stuff I wish my trainer had taught me!

Last week, we slept out on our balcony. It was pretty cold but it was like camping out. I am really enjoying having a greenie. He is a

hard worker and very obedient and has a ton of enthusiasm for missionary work! We are having a lot of fun and working hard together.

We had a neat experience earlier in the month. We were talking about the sign of the 2nd Coming with a family we were teaching and we were reviewing "wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes and ..." just then, an earthquake hit. Things began shaking and it lasted for about 20 seconds. We were very pleased with the "special effects"! Actually, there was no local damage - it was just perfect timing!

The English Elders recently ran into a Spanish guy and turned his name and address over to us. We met with him the next week and he told us he's always liked the Mormon Church and the things they do and teach, so I invited him to be baptized right there, on Dec. 16th and he said he would. We noticed that he smoked so we taught him the Word of Wisdom. He told us he would stop smoking and the next visit, he was so excited. He said God had given him the strength and had taken away his desire to smoke and he had gone a week without cigarettes. This- after smoking 5 packs a day! Edgar has so much faith and is so awesome!

One of the couples we have been teaching, got married and have been coming to Church. They also invited us to eat Thanksgiving dinner with them. I told them I'd make the rolls and potatoes because I don't think I could go without those parts of Thanksgiving. They made tamales which a lot of the Latinos do for holidays.

Happy Thanksgiving! Merry Christmas!
Elder Hunt

Elder Jared K. Stradling
(Russia, Yekaterinburg
Mission)
POB 30150
Salt Lake City, Utah 84130-
0150
(Address for letters only)

Happy Thanksgiving everyone! The ZL's came up and spent the week-end with us. We made up a roast and potatoes and some other good stuff. They sell frozen dough here so I

bought some and made up pies. It wasn't half bad!

We are excited that our investigator Vladik, came to church the past few weeks. He is a really nice guy who has had a hard life. He pretty much believes what we teach him and he is taking it all in. Egor is doing ok. We have taught him lessons on the restoration and baptism and the law of chastity and avoiding pornography. He never shows a great deal of excitement or enthusiasm, but he seems to understand and says he is trying to do what we tell him. We were tracting last week and a guy let us in and let us teach him a lesson. His wife came home and we talked to her for awhile and they have invited us to come back. They were really nice people and seemed open to our ideas. Hopefully, something will come from the experience.

We found an old lady while tracting and went back for a second visit. She told us there are too many differences in what the Church expects from her and the life she is now living and she doesn't want to change. We were able to share some scripture verses with her but she is typically Russian and doesn't want any changes in her life.

Pres. Allen and his wife and the AP's came up to visit from the Mission Office but they decided not to bring packages with them! They did tell me that I had 2 in the office. I just love isolation! It is so great not knowing what is going on – getting everything late-knowing you have mail but not getting it! ...But the good news is – I was transferred to the Mission Office in Yekaterinburg for 6 months. It took a 23 hour train ride to get here. I will be in charge of member records. My new comp is Elder Charles, from Scottsdale, who is the travel secretary. He is leaving the office in about 2 months at which time, I will take his job. That

will mean I will be responsible for getting everyone around this crazy country for transfers and arranging for immigration trips to Moscow and St. Petes and for all of President's trips. This will be a lot of responsibility and I hope I don't mess up too badly. There are 2 office elders, a Sr. couple and 2 church employees. We share an apartment with the AP's. We do office work during the days and regular missionary work at night. Transfer weeks though, are pretty crazy. This is going to be so great! I will get my mail the same day it comes in! Life is sooo good!

It is below freezing here now. It has snowed, but melted. I bought some new heavy duty boots so I should weather the winter in good condition. It gets dark by 5 pm and the locals tell me that it soon will be dark most of the day.

Christmas Greetings from Russia!

Love – Elder Stradling

**Elder Patrick W. Rogers Jr.
(Mexico, Tijuana Mission)
PMB 157
P.O. Box 439056
San Diego, Ca. 92143-9056**

Dear Dana Ward, Working in this branch for the past 2 ½ months has definitely had it's ups and downs. There are very few members – usually 50 at most. Yesterday in sacrament meeting I realized that 20 of the people in the congregation were there because of my companion and myself. We had 12 investigators and 8 recent converts. My Branch President came up to us after sacrament meeting and hugged us and started to cry. We have worked so hard to build this branch up. The fruits of our labors are finally starting to show. Pres. Solis is an awesome man. It has been such a privilege to work here in the Libertad Br. It is my favorite area so far.

I don't know how familiar you are with Tijuana but there are a ton of churches here – Jehovah's Witnesses, Light of the World, Apostolic, Adventists, Baptists, Gnostics, Masons and Catholics. Many people just set up a little church in their

home. There are as many Catholic churches as there are dogs on the street. Seeing all these churches in a small area has really opened my eyes.

I have eaten some pretty interesting meals in the last 8 months. We ate lunch with a recent convert this week and upon seeing the food on the stove, I quietly asked my companion why it looked like pig's hoofs in the pot. He said, "Because it is Elder!" I said, "Oh, Okay." They weren't that bad but not on my Top 10 list of favorite Mexican food.

I want to thank you for your thoughts and prayers. I'm proud to be a missionary from the Dana Ward. I hope you have a good Christmas. I love you all! Elder Rogers

Elder Jared R. Eyring
China Hong Kong Mission
2 Cornwall St.
Kowloon Tong
Kowloon
HONG KONG

Dear Dana Ward,

I went to the Hong Kong temple. The Mesa temple is a mansion compared to the Hong Kong temple. I don't meet very many people who speak English. The weather has been very nice. Once November came it got really pleasant. All the native people think it is so cold, they are all bundled up in jackets, but this Mesa boy doesn't think it is that cold. I ate dinner at some members home and they had bowls of rice, bowls of crawdad tails, bowls of whole crawdads, a plate of duck meat and a bowl with chicken feet. I passed on the chicken feet. I have located and eaten a few times at McDonald's and Pizza Hut!

The street markets here are crazy. There are dead and live animals everywhere. It is the most disgusting yet coolest thing I have ever seen. My companion and I taught a young woman the gospel and then we baptized her all in one day. I love it here. It is so awesome! The church is true.
Love, Elder Eyring

Old Faces in Dana Ward Places

"Welcome Home" to **Miriam and Conley Martin** who have returned to the Dana Ward. They are living at 1809 E. Dana (Mom, Chris' home). We couldn't get along without them, so they agreed to come back! Phone # 480-313-7194 or 313-7196

George and Ann Cherrington are back for the Winter. It's good to have them home again!

Notes on Dana Ward Folks

The **Kerwin Blau** family are hopeful that their 2 year old son, **Ronan**, can soon be taken off all heart medication. Remember them in your prayers.

Brother Walter Johnson fell recently and was having difficulties standing and walking on his own. He has worked so hard with his physical therapy, they let him come home yesterday. He said he didn't belong in that care facility with all those "OLD" people! Walter turned 89 on his last birthday, Nov 14th, but he is still very young at heart! We have missed him! Welcome Home!

Several of our Ward Family members are still recuperating and struggling with health issues. We have included their addresses if you would like to send them a little note or Christmas card.

Lavena Herbert

C/O Christie Ward (her daughter)
303 E. South Mountain Ave. Unit #77
Phoenix, Az 85042
(Phone: 602-323-0356)

(Lavena has been diagnosed with Parkinsons Disease, along with her Diabetes. She was the little "service sister" of our ward. She always shared vegetables from her garden with her neighbors, family histories with her extended family and even crocheted pot holders for all the sisters in her FHE group. Lavena is going to live with her daughter and family permanently. We miss her soooo much, but will try to keep in touch.)

Bob and Lonnette Millican

2026 E. 3rd Dr.
Mesa, Az 85204

(Bob was in the hospital twice last month and is not doing well at all. Please remember them in your prayers.)

Josephine Nischan

C/O Hearthstone of Mesa
215 S. Power Rd., Suite 1251
Room A104 B
Mesa, Az. 85206
(phone: 480-985-6992)

(Sister Nischan is still pretty banged up from her auto accident, but is recovering nicely. She is very impatient to "get going" again!)

Marian Galindo

C/O Springdale West
3130 E. Broadway
Mesa, Az. 85204

(Marian had a broken leg repaired with a titanium plate. The plate unexpectedly broke so they had to replace it. She is recovering at the care facility and would enjoy cards or notes from the ward.)

Our condolences to **LaVonne Perkins** on the passing of her husband **Bruce**, in mid-November.

Sister Zelma Ahlberg, a long-time member of the ward, recently moved to the home of her son, John. We were saddened to learn that she passed away Tues., Nov. 27th. Zelma is the mother of **Judy Ahlberg**, who provided many kindnesses and service to her mother in her later years. They were best friends.

We were sorry to see **Pete and Kaylea Patenge** and family, move from the ward. Pete got a job offer they couldn't refuse and they have moved to Chandler. We wish them the very best in their new adventures.

Pam Anderson has moved to the Lazona ward. The **Aponte family** has moved to the Acacia Ward. The **Baum family** has moved to California. **Vicki Nelson** who was

staying with Sister Halls, has moved to the Lazona Ward. We wish these families the very best in their new wards.

Congratulations to Robbie and Tamera

Turner on the birth of their new baby boy, **Bennett Kenneth Scott Turner**. He was born Nov. 3rd, 5 weeks early, but weighed a hefty 7#, 7 oz. Everyone is doing fine! What a nice blessing for the Thanksgiving Season.

Chris and Jennifer Carter blessed their daughter, **Madison**, a month ago and **Tyson and Alyse Hill** will bless their daughter, **Taye Lynn** today, at home with family.

Hats Off to **Sven Budge** who completed his engineering degree at ASU in 2006 and now works as Project Engineer for McCarthy Building Co., Inc. Sven and his company just completed the new Tempe Marketplace Outdoor Mall in 14 months, which is very fast for such a large project. It was built on a dump, which required a lot of remediation of the ground. Sven was in charge of 27 subcontractors and also the hardscape, landscape, building finishes, roofing and 5 water features. The rest of us will shop at a mall for Christmas, but Sven built a Mall! We are mighty proud of his achievements!

Floy Johnson is putting up her Christmas lights and Nativity displays again this year. She has graciously invited any ward members to drop by her house after Dec. 15th to see her display of 89 nativity sets that range from 1 inch to life size. (Guess what her hobby is?) She asks that you call her before you come so she can get all her lights on before you arrive. 964-6396

Craig Montgomery made 2 hunting trips to Wisconsin, 1 to Alaska and is hunting for deer in the Kaibab Mtns. **Marie**, his "Hunting Widow", meanwhile, is waiting for her Mountain Man to return with the results of his latest hunt! We aren't sure

if we should feel bad for Marie because she didn't get to go or happy that she didn't have to! HEY Craig - we love you!

We're just getting' the word out – **Chad Gardiner** is looking for a job opportunity in something related to building maintenance. He has training and experience in air conditioning repairs, plumbing, electrical, landscaping and pest control . If you are aware of any employment opportunities in these areas, call Chad at 962-9886.

Bravo to **Jeff Hoeppner** and **Rod and Brandon Boone** who were a great help putting up the Christmas Lights at the Temple grounds. We will thank those three ward brothers every time we drive by or get to see the lights up close this special season!

Special congratulations to Jess Root who will be 101 years young on Dec. 13th. (This is Rowena's husband, not Cami's!)

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!

Hey – The Ward Choir is looking and sounding GOOD! Practice is Sunday afternoons at 4 pm at the building. Come on out for some fun and help make "Beautiful Music" with **Kerwin Blau**, the new director. And... many thanks to **Gary Towne** for his past efforts and time directing the choir.

The 2008 Mesa Temple Schedule of closings:

Maintenance: 21 July to Aug 4
1 Dec to 15 Dec

Tues – 1 Jan
Saturday – 5 April (Gen. Conf)
Friday – 4 July
Sat – 27 Sept, after 1:30 session
Saturday – 4 October (Gen. Conf.)
Wed – 26 Nov after 10 am session
Thursday – 27 Nov
Wed/Thurs. – Dec 24 and 25
Wed – 31 Dec after 10 am
Thursday – 1 Jan. 2009

During the Easter Pageant

No sessions after 2:30 pm, March 11-15 and 18-22.

The Temple will be open on only TWO Mondays –

18 Feb – every 30 min, 7 to 11 am

13 Oct – every 30 min, 7 to 11 am

Write these dates on your calendar!

Relief Society

| | |
|--------------------------|----------|
| Pres. Chris Rogers | 695-4370 |
| 1 Couns Melissa Standage | 964-1685 |
| 2 Couns Lonnie Halls | 964-8596 |
| Sec Karisa Budge | 610-6407 |

Happy December Birthdays

| | |
|----------------------|---------------------|
| 2 – Edwina Dastrup | 12 – Katrina Ward |
| 3 – Cristal Shope | 13 – Julie Goodwin |
| 5 – Janet Hassell | 15 – Daline Maddern |
| 7 – Trina Penninger | 24 – Cami Root |
| 11 – Jill Schnepf | 27 – Ann Driggs |
| 12 – Anais Rodriguez | |

December RS Lesson Schedule:

Dec 2 The Errand of Angels is given to Women
Dec 9 #22 - Revelation
Dec 16 #23 - Shepherds of the Flock
Dec 23 Healing Power of Forgiveness (Pres. Faust)
Dec 30 #24 - Sharing the Gospel

JUST A REMINDER: The Christmas Angel Gifts are due on Sunday, Dec. 16, to any member of the RS Presidency.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Cooking Class: Mon. Dec 3 @ 9:30am @ the Storehouse. E-mail a recipe to share

and bring sample of that recipe to class.

lynnnetolman@yahoo.com Call 967-8551.

Adult Game Night Fri, Dec 21, 7pm, ward building. Husbands welcome!

Senior Single Adult FHE Check with Helen Fort. (969-1810)

Book Group: No mtg in Dec. Group resumes Jan. 28, 2008.

Temple Day Thurs Dec 13, 10am session, lunch after session in temple cafeteria. (Also ward temple night Dec 18, 6pm session.)

Kid's Play Group: each Wed @ 10 am @ Silvergate Park (S. of Pueblo on Briar)

YOUNG MEN

Pres. Darren Eyring 835-1799
1st Couns. Trent Payne 967-1101
2nd Couns. Lance McGraw 699-0723
Sec. Brian Mehlberg 279-2790

Happy Birthday To

10 – Sheldon Hassell 22 – Mark Driggs
13 – Alex Shope 27 – Brandon Eyring
Jan 6 – Isaac Standage

PRIMARY

President Kim Hale 834-3041
1st Couns Naomi Morales 218-5887
2nd Couns Elizabeth Stark 964-7754
Sec Erika Payne 967-1101

Sunday Assignments

Theme: Jesus Christ once lived on the earth and I have faith that He will come again.

Scripture: This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11)

Dec 2:

O. Prayer: Molly Allen

Scripture: Korben Mehlberg

Talk: Eden Carter

Art. of Faith #1: Jocelyn Gardiner

C. Prayer: Rhett Hird

Dec 9:

O. Prayer: David Morales

Scripture: Joseph Standage

Talk: Kaler Mehlberg

Art of Faith #1: Kimball Rogers

C. Prayer: Chris Germany

Dec 16:

O. Prayer: Shelby Standage

Scripture: Benjamin Shope

Talk: Mariah Rogers

Article of Faith #1: Renle Hird

C. Prayer: Raizja Moore

Dec 23:

O. Prayer: Mason Redd

Scripture: Payzlee Hird

Talk: Kaia Mehlberg

Article of Faith #1: Cole Montgomery

Class Presentation: Valiant 9

Closing Prayer: Donovan Blau

Dec 30:

O. Prayer: Chris Montgomery

Scripture: Kelly Eyring

Talk: Noelia Root

Article of Faith #1: Kamea Turner

C. Prayer: Rylee Hird

PRIMARY ACTIVITY DAY

Saturday - Jan 5th - 9:30-11 am

at the Church Building

We will be introducing the new theme and you get to meet the teachers. It will be tons of fun.

NOTE: Recently, one of the Primary kids from the ward was overheard singing... "Book of Mormon Stories that you'd better teach to me!" (Now you know!)

Primary December Birthdays

17 – Isaiah Flores

24 – Cami Root

23 – Mason Redd

29 – Rhett Hird

30 – Cayden Shope

Young Women

Pres. Arlyce Reynolds 615-1628

1st Counselor Lou Hunt 833-4867

2nd Counselor Janet Hassell 969-4276

Secretary Katy Smelser 292-9542

Happy December Birthdays To:

| |
|---|
| 2 – Alyse Eckert Turner 5 – Janet Hassell 17 – Darlene Nalvarte |
|---|

The YW just finished 4 weeks of softball. They had a good time playing and getting to know each other better.

The girls are enjoying meeting with the RS sisters for opening exercises on the 4th Sunday of each month.

YW Dates to Remember:

Dec 5 – The girls will be decorating a special box for the Christmas stories and ornaments they will receive from their leaders on Dec. 23rd. They will also be treated to a movie and popcorn that evening. Each Wed. the girls need to bring their Personal Progress books so their leaders can check on their progress.

Dec 12 – All the girls are going to the temple, 5 to 6 pm to do baptisms for the dead. Afterwards we will go back to the ward and play games and have refreshments.

Dec. 19- The YW are joining the YM to go Christmas caroling. Everyone is to meet at Br. and Sister Reynolds' house at 7 pm. After caroling, they will return to the Reynolds' home for hot chocolate and donuts!

Dec. 26th and Jan 2nd, there will not be any mutual activities for the YW. Enjoy the holidays with your families.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!

(Poem written by a ward member who asked to remain anonymous.)

WHO'S VOICES

Who's got their voice in your head?
Are they the living or the dead?
Do they speak of joy and Eternal Life
or of sorrow and stir up strife?
Who's dialogue are you listening to?
Is it false or is it true?
The sound track of a Happy Heart,
or some evil Satan's trying to start?
Only you can choose who to listen to
Whether to listen to it and see it through.
You have the power in your heart
to say "I believe it" or "Don't even start!"
God gave you will of action and of mind

to get on track or leave it behind.
You choose the train of thought you'll board,
and which ticket you can afford.
So don't waste your time on a dead-end
train-

It only leads to strife and pain!
Get on board with a "Right Thought"
and keep it pure like Jesus taught.

Christmas Quiz

(answers on calendar page)

1. Who told Mary she was going to have a baby? (Luke 1:26-33)
2. Why did Mary and Joseph name their baby Jesus? (Matt 1:18-21)
3. Where did Joseph and Mary live before Jesus was born? (Luke 2:1-5)
4. What was used for a crib for the baby? (Luke 2:6-7)
5. Whom did an angel tell about Jesus birth? (Luke 2:8-14)
6. Whom did the Wise Men ask for directions? (Matt 2:1-3)
7. Where did King Herod send the Wise Men? (Matt 2:7-10)
8. What were the gifts the Wise Men Gave? (Matt 2:11)
9. How were the Wise Men warned not to return to Herod? (Matt 2:11-12)
10. Where did Joseph, Mary and Jesus go to live after his birth? (Matt 2:13-15)
11. After Herod died, where did Jesus' family go to live? (Matt 2:19-21)
12. Santa Claus is also known as? (multiple answers)
13. What are Santa's helpers called?

14. Where is Santa's traditional home?
15. How Many reindeer pull his sleigh?
16. Who wrote the poem "Twas the Night Before Christmas"?
17. When Santa laughed, his belly shook like _____?
18. St. Nicholas was a bishop in what present day country?
19. In the poem, what were Santa's parting words?
20. What do children usually leave out for Santa?

Answers to Christmas Quiz

1. Angel Gabriel 2. angel told Joseph in a dream
3. Nazareth 4. Manger 5. shepherds 6. King Herod 7. Bethlehem 8. gold, frankincense and myrrh 9. in a dream 10. Egypt 11. Israel 12. St. Nick, Kris Kringle, Father Christmas, Sinterklaas, St. Nicholas and Juleman 13. elves 14. The North Pole 15. eight (nine with Rudolph) 16. Clement C. Moore 17. a bowl full of jelly 18. Turkey 19. "Happy Christmas to all and to all a good night." 20. milk and cookies.