

Dana Ward Bishopric

<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>Pat Rogers</i>	<i>695-7616</i>

Dear Dana Ward,

November is traditionally the month of thanksgiving (though every month should be). The Lord has said, "And ye must give thanks unto God in the Spirit for whatsoever blessing ye are blessed with." (D&C 46:32) "And he who receiveth all things with thankfulness shall be made glorious; and the things of this earth shall be added unto him, even an hundred fold, yea, more." (D&C 78:19).

Elder Joseph B Wirthlin, in the September 2001 *Ensign*, stated the following regarding thanksgiving:

I agree with Robert Louis Stevenson, who wrote, "The man who forgets to be thankful has fallen asleep in life." Unfortunately, because the beauties of life are so abundant, sometimes we take them for granted. That is why we often take for granted the beauty of this world: the flowers, the trees, the birds, the clouds—even those we love. Because we see them so often, we see them less and less.

Those who live in thanksgiving daily, however, have a way of opening their eyes and seeing the wonders and beauties of this world as though seeing them for the first time.

I encourage all to look around you. Notice the people you care about. Notice the fragrance of the flowers and the song of the birds. Notice and give thanks for the blue of the sky, the color of the leaves, and the white of the clouds. Enjoy every sight, every smell, every taste, and every sound.

One of the best ways we show our gratitude is by blessing the lives of those around us. The great King Benjamin taught his people:

"If you should render all the thanks and praise which your whole soul has power to possess, to that God who has created you, and has kept and preserved you, and has caused that ye should rejoice. ...

"... If ye should serve him with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants." (Mosiah 2:20–21).

King Benjamin told us how we can render thanks unto God as well: "And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God" (Mosiah 2:17).

We can live in thanksgiving daily by opening our arms to those around us. When was the last time you told someone you love how much they mean to you? When was the last time you expressed your gratitude to someone who has always been there for you, someone who has sacrificed for you, someone whose heart has always been filled with hopes and dreams for you?

When was the last time you unselfishly reached out to help another in need? Every time we cheer another's heart, every time we ease another's burden, every time we lift a weary hand, we show our gratitude to that God to whom we owe all that we have and all that we are.

I am thankful for each of you and for the role you fill in our ward family.

Love,
Dwight Morris

COUNT YOUR MANY BLESSINGS

(These ward members shared some special things they are grateful for this Thanksgiving season. We all are truly blessed.)

Happy Thanksgiving to you all

Kaia Mehlberg - our food and to be with our family.
Rod Boone – for our Dana Ward Family.
Anne Berryman – for the love of the Savior.
Zach O'Bryant-for a healthy body.
Lavena Herbert – for my parents and their teachings.
Chris Smelser-for lots of sports. (physical fitness)
Karen Schnebly-for the beautiful world & blue, blue sky.
Judy Ahlberg-for 'goodly' parents.
Darren Shope-for a Stake Presidency and a Bishopric of valiant priesthood holders.
Jonaton Morello-for many blessings in hard times.
Michelle Unga- for education.
Alex Shope-for a roof over my head and good friends.
Miriam Douglass-for the generosity of my Aunt Chris Martin and her listening ear.
Jonathan Martinez-for the closeness of our family since we joined the Church.
Kyle O'Bryant-for a home.
Katy Smelser-for family and being a mother.
Donna Smith-for the missionaries that taught & converted my family in 1967.
Noah Nichols-for my brothers.
Walter Johnson-for my wonderful family and dear wife (although I miss her terribly).

"Count your blessings; name them one by one, and it will surprise you what the Lord has done." Hymn #241

Happy Birthday!

NOVEMBER

10 Marnita Hill
11 Marie Montgomery
11 Jeff Hoepfner
12 Alfred Burt
13 Kaye Legler
14 Bert Charon (90 yrs)
14 Walter Johnson (90 yrs)
14 Katy Smelser
15 Noah Nichols
16 Jacob Standage
17 Nancy Tiffany
18 Raizja Moore
20 Edith Mosley
20 Willa Stago
21 Ray Southwick
22 Shannon Garrett
23 John Barnum
23 Erica Morgan
25 Spencer Nichols
26 Carol Ransom
26 Rowena Root
27 Samuel Stevens
28 Connor Morgan
28 Summer Smalley
28 Thomas Newman
29 Richard Hale

DECEMBER

2 Alyse Turner
2 Edwina Dastrup
5 Janet Hassell

Missionary Mailbox

Elder Keith H. Hunt
California-Oakland Mission
4945 Lincoln Way
Oakland, Ca. 94602

My new companion is so awesome! He has lots of energy and enthusiasm and is easy to get along with. Serving from a bike instead of a car is also quite a bit of fun. I am just borrowing my bike and it has an odometer so it was pretty amazing to find that we rode over 75 miles last week. Maybe that will trim off a few pounds! However, riding a bike makes us hungrier, so we eat more! We are excited about a family we have been working with. We met the wife first while doing doors. She was mildly friendly but did invite us back. Sometimes they do that so we will go away and then they just don't answer the door next time. But on our 2nd visit, we also met her husband who invited us in and told us they had just recently taken a vacation to Utah to visit Temple Square. They loved it. They and their little kids wanted to know more so we taught them everything we could think of concerning the temples and explained about 'forever families'. The spirit was so strong.

Patricia, another investigator, is still enthusiastic about the lessons but says her 'husband' won't talk to her about them getting married. She has such a strong testimony. She is talking about moving back to Tennessee and leaving her 'husband'. She says that one way or another, she will be baptized! We are teaching a 15 year old youth named Jose. He has a very checkered past, even at such a young age. He has been in a lot of trouble with the law and talks very rough. We found him a white shirt and tie and took him to church last week and it was a lot like babysitting. He is enthusiastic about the Church but has a long way to go. He did seem to overall enjoy the meetings and we are hoping that with time and continued contact with the Church, he will improve his behavior. We were glad he went with us.

Doris was finally baptized. She has been taught by the missionaries since I

was in the 7th grade. She finally made the commitment and we are so happy for her! It is actually the first time I have actually performed a baptism since last January.

A few members of the branch found out it was my birthday last week and when we came out of meetings they had spelled out 'Happy Birthday' in sticky notes on the windshield of the car we were using for the day. The Branch Pres. invited us all to his home for cake and ice cream. It was nice.

I am looking forward to Mom and Dad coming in just a few weeks. Keep on 'keep'in on'!

Love, Elder Hunt

NOTE: Elder Hunt will complete his mission and return home Nov. 22nd. His parents are flying to pick him up and return home with him. The Hunt's are hosting an Open House for Keith at their "cabin" (2317 E Capri), Sunday Nov. 23rd from 6:30-8:30 pm. Everyone in the ward is welcome to come!

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

With the mission changes, this will be my last letter home. My companion, along with 24 other missionaries, were stuck in Sweden for over a month, waiting for their Russian visas to be renewed. He said they all worked in the temple every day while there. He finally returned a couple of days ago, but was reassigned. The new elder who was supposed to replace me, actually arrived last Wednesday and became my companion and I have been training him as well as doing all the paper work in preparation for our area to be closed. It is a little like preparing for a

'mass burial' in missionary terms! The Church is also getting a second passport for all the newer missionaries so there is quite a bit of paperwork that we have been gathering up and will deliver to Ekaterinburg the end of this week. Last week was really good serving with Elder Pulsipher. We worked overtime trying to get some new investigators. We did street contacting almost all day, every day. We got 13 contacts, the most I have ever done during my mission and we had a good meeting with one of them already. The bad news is that Inga still has not been able to come to church, so she will not be getting baptized before I go home. It makes me sad, but I am pretty sure she eventually will be baptized. The store she works for changed ownership and the pay is really bad now. I think the stress has made her ill. She has found another job that doesn't pay as well, but she will have Saturday and Sundays off. The weather here has been quite nice. It snowed last Monday and actually stuck around for a few hours. But now it has been staying above freezing and is about 4 celcius. (Sorry, I don't know what that translates to in farenhite!) One of the Elders that share our apartment is from Canada and they celebrate their Thanksgiving Day in Oct. He prepared a Thanksgiving meal for all of us. All I can say is I am looking forward to an American Thanksgiving dinner when I get home to Arizona! With the mission changes, I am living with and traveling home with Elders Carlin and Taylor. Elder Taylor was my MTC companion, so it looks like we got to start and end together. We make up 'the Trunky Threesome'! I am looking forward to seeing everyone at home but am having such 'mixed' feelings. I am both nervous but also excited. See you soon!
Love, Elder Stradling

Note: Elder Stradling will be returning home two months early because of the expense and difficulty of the Church in renewing Russian visas. There is a backlog of many missionaries waiting in Sweden for their visas, so the decision has been made to release missionaries early who are close to completing their missions rather than attempt to renew their visa. The Church is closing down his current service area. Elder Stradling is expected to arrive home Nov. 12th.

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

Dear Family,
Well, we continue to have success here in Los Olivos. Miguel Angel was baptized on Thursday. He actually took his sister and nieces and nephew to Church yesterday. They're getting baptized this Sunday after the stake conference with Elder Mickelsen. The stake is going to be reorganized. A lot of members in the stake are in low spirits. The main problem that I've seen here is an incredible amount of negative gossip. There are bishops in this stake that interview members and then tell their wives, missionaries and others about what was said. It's sad to watch all of this unfold. Some families that have been sealed in the temple are inactive. In almost every case they went inactive because of gossip. Elder Mickelsen is coming for the conference and tomorrow we have a zone leader council with him. I'm really excited to go.
Something sad happened this week. Bladimir, the guy that I baptized last week, was assaulted by 5 or 6 men just

as he was leaving his work on Monday night. They beat him up pretty bad. I didn't get to see him til Thursday. When we saw each other I almost cried. I felt so bad. He just said "You were right Rogers, Satan is trying to bring me down. I won't let him though." He was at Church on Sunday with his white shirt and tie, ready to go. He's definitely going on a mission. He went to a young single adult fireside last night and made quite a few new friends. That guy is so AWESOME! He'll be ordained to the office of Elder this Sunday after stake conference. Elder Villeda and myself are way excited for him.

There are transfers this coming Monday and Elder Villeda thinks that he might be reassigned. I don't want him to leave, but I think that he's had his fair share of time here. 12 missionaries are going home this transfer and 16 are arriving. That means that there will be a lot of transfers. We'll just have to wait and see what happens. I love you all! Have a great week!

Love, Elder Rogers

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

Transfers came at the beginning of October. I have moved to Chai Wan, it is on Hong Kong Island. My companion is Elder Neibore. We are on the 3rd floor of a 12 story building. I like that much better than the 30th floor. We go to church in Wan Chai. On Saturday, we went with the ward to Shek O beach for a barbeque. We barbequed hot dogs and played football. We had a lot of fun. The missionaries got together for a conference. Elder Watson spoke to us.

He told us to keep working on our Cantonese. Another Elder and I were translators. That was hard. We had to have talks prepared in case we got called on. I was one of the lucky few who were selected. I talked about the Christ-like attributes, like faith, and about the power of prayer. Prayer can boost us up and help us endure to the end. We had a cheng out (eating out) with 2 less active members. We did the daa bin louh (hot pot). That is where you have a pot of boiling water in the middle of the table and you put as much food in as possible and then just scoop out what you want to eat. It is so good, I loved it. There are some vegetables called louh baat. It looks like white carrots and they are very good. We are going to the sports night with the Wan Chai ward. The other day we found a guy to teach. He is a dad who wants to be better and seemed real sincere. I was very hopeful for him. I got the package that the Carter's left for me. That was a nice surprise. I appreciate them thinking of me. Love, Elder Eyring

Elder Caleb T. Oldner
(Argentina, Resistencia Mission)
AV. Rivadavia 323
Resistencia, Chaco
Argentina

Everything is going great here in Argentina. My companion, Elder Rohde and I are having fun preaching the gospel and we are working hard finding new investigators and making contacts on the street. My Spanish is improving everyday. I love the mission and am excited to be out here.

Yesterday, we had a really bad rainstorm and the streets were flowing like white water rapids. We had to move the baptism date for our investigator Cecilia to Nov. 15th because we need to teach her a few more basics in the Gospel. I am so excited for her and she is very excited about her prospects of becoming a member. Next week, we will be traveling to Posados again for Zone

Conference. Seems like we were just there for the last one. We look forward to them for recharging our batteries and receiving new instructions. I hope all are having a great week. I love you all and think about you. Keep me in your prayers and I will do the same.
Love, Elder Oldner

Getting to Know You

Mac and Jessica Rainwater recently moved into the Dana Ward at 2445 E. Alpine. Mac's cell phone: 480-577-4208. Her cell phone: 480-299-3603. Mac is the son of Tom and Connie Rainwater of the Kachina/Lazona Ward. Mac and Jessica were married in Oct. of 2007. Both were born in Mesa and grew up mostly in Mesa. Mac graduated from Mesa High and filled a mission to Idaho, Boise (Spanish speaking). Jessica (Casey) and Mac met years ago growing up in the old Kachina ward together. Jessica's brother and Mac were best friends. Then, for a few years, her parents moved to Snowflake and she graduated from Snowflake High School and then they moved back. Jessica is licensed in cosmetology and she and Mac are both students at the University of Phoenix. Mac is pursuing a degree in life science and then plans on attending dental school. Jessica is working towards a psychology degree. Mac also works full time at the U of Ph as an enrollment advisor and Jessica is employed with Creative Environment in their HR, benefits dept. They are team teaching the 6 & 7 year Primary class in the ward. Both Mac and Jessica enjoy fishing and hiking activities together and they also are big fans of any of the 'Osmond' music. Welcome to the Dana Ward family!

Notes on Dana Ward Folks

Dan and Jennifer Oliver had their baby girl, Oct 18th. They have named her **Madelyn Harper Oliver**. She arrived with a full head of thick, black hair and weighed 8# 6 oz. She is beautiful! Everyone is doing well and Dan, by the way, no longer has to commute to Tucson to work. He is working for Honeywell in Phoenix. Congratulations to the Oliver family!

Al and Joyce Berry are celebrating their 65th wedding anniversary on Dec. 18th. Congratulations to them! That is an impressive milestone. (58 great grandchildren)

Special Hoorahs for **Walter Johnson** who will celebrate his 90th Birthday Nov. 14th! He insists it will be a very QUIET occasion!

Bert Charon has been concerned about turning 90 Nov 14th. She had an encounter with another vehicle Sun, Oct.12th and both cars were totaled, but Bert and the other 2 people were not injured and she did NOT get the ticket! She is missing her car though and wishing it could have been part of her social activities for a few more years! We love you Bert!

Kaylea Patenge is becoming a great photographer. If anyone needs a good photographer for individual or family photos, she might be your lady!

GOOD NEWS! **Kimball and Mariah Rogers** switched to Franklin East School this year and tried out for the school's advanced orchestra. Mariah earned 1st chair

in the viola section and Kimball is 1st chair in the cello section. Mariah is also 1st chair in another elite music group at the school. Dad, **Pat Rogers**, had offered a \$25 incentive if the 2 could place in 1st chairs. Dad is now \$75 poorer and declaring bankruptcy! Way to go Kimball and Mariah! **BRAVO!**

John Barnum is recovering well from gall bladder surgery. **Dolores** continues to struggle with her health problems. Pneumonia is an ongoing risk and though the MRSA factor is a threat to others, she has been able to avoid secondary infections to herself. Lots of Luv to this good couple in our ward family!

Tima Hird has done some major renovations on their home. She removed one wall and has herself, installed a new laminate wood flooring. It looks beautiful! Way to go Tima!

Cora and Wally Burgess have also done some extensive remodeling of their home. Their children have assisted them in knocking out a wall and installing new wood flooring. Wahoo!

A lot of excitement at the **Unga** household as **Loni and Michelle** were sealed in the Mesa temple October 11th. Yahoo for them!

George and Ann Cherrington were able to move back into their smoke damaged home on Oct. 16th! The house is "smoke smell free" now! YEAH for them!

Jeff Hoepfner and Kevin Hunt were both featured in the Oct. edition of the "LDS Beehive" newspaper. Worth the time to read!

NOTE: Please go to the end of the Margin Notes for a view of the articles as printed in the Beehive Newspaper.

Lance McGraw recently completed 6 days of training and class work to achieve the Wood Badge leadership training award. He now has 18 months to complete the required personal goals to earn his 'tickets' to receive his Wood Badge Beads and complete the process. He was made a member of the Buffalo Patrol and will be working on his goals which are centered on personal improvements. The entire program is designed around improvement of the training he will be giving to our own Scout Patrol unit. Lance earned the rank of 'Eagle Scout' in his youth. Congratulations Lance, on your dedication and efforts to becoming a top-notch leader in the Boy Scout program!

Late Breaking News! **Michael Hale** made an important trip to BYU campus last week and convinced **Taylor Allen** (from Lewiston, Idaho) to become his bride. They plan to be married in the Mesa Temple May 22, 2009. Taylor's roommates enlisted her help with a 'psychology experiment' for one of their classes and blindfolded her and took her to the Provo temple where Michael was waiting. Surprised to see him there, she went to dinner with him, still thinking it had to do with the class 'experiment'. Everything went well and she said 'YES' and both flew back to Mesa for the week-end where the Hale family and Taylor got acquainted and fell in love with each other. She seems to 'really' like Michael too! Congratulations to the happy couple!

Wes and Jessica Larsen have moved out of the ward boundaries. **Jessica Hardina** and her children have moved to Gilbert

since her recent marriage. She says she loves her new ward but misses the Dana Ward. We will miss these families, but wish them well.

Many, many thanks to the 85 ward members who assisted special "friends" at the Randolph Training Center on Oct. 26th. A wonderful spirit was enjoyed by all who went. A Sacrament Meeting was held afterwards at the Center, with the Lazona Ward participants and our ward members enjoyed lunch together before returning home. What a great experience!

The Ward Halloween Party was a 'Howling' success! Bats, rats, skeletons and spiders were everywhere! **Trent Payne** was a 'Chic Magnet', accompanied by **Erika the Witch**, complete with green face, warts and all! **Mariah Rogers** was a 5 foot tall 'baby'. **Anjuli Hale** made a stunning 'nun'! **Andrea Tiffany** was an 'angel' in disguise, & **Ronan Blau** was a 'Racecar'. **Michelle Unga** was a 'Sun Devil' (of course) and **Loni** was a Native Tongan. Little **Bella Morello** made a darling 'Minnie Mouse' & **Korben Mehlberg** was the 'Hulk'. There were also pirates, lots of super heroes, lots of Harry Potters and a very nice assortment of fairies, princesses and witches. There was even a dead bride and her dead bridesmaid (**Harmony and Cherish Beals**). **Darren Shope** won first place in the Chili competition with **Darwin Chapman** 2nd and **Jeff Hoeppner** 3rd. **Michael, Kevin, and Richard Hale** and **Carol Ransom** entered the pie eating contest. Michael won but Carol held her own! She was a bit handicapped, having won a pie eating contest at school that same day! There were lots of games and the kids favorite, "Trunk R Treating"! We

are still trying to figure out who handed out rocks, which looked remarkably similar to the rocks in the church landscaping! Many thanks to all who brought food, came/participated and helped clean up! Special thanks to **Bro. & Sis. Reynolds** who were in charge of the kitchen and food and the **Primary Staff** who helped with the game tables. The **Hird family** and **Mark Standage** were special 'goblins of the evening' for helping put away tables and take down decorations afterwards! A special thanks to **Sister Beals and her family** for their extra efforts which made the event possible! **Many, Many Thanks to all who helped make the evening a frightful success!**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Ward Temple Night is Nov. 13th with a social after (abt 8 pm) at the Hunt Cabin. Bring a treat of your choice to share. Many ward members do sealings, initiatory or baptisms rather than a session. Come and socialize no matter when you were able to attend and whatever temple participation.

Clark Hirschi, public affairs spokesman in Salt Lake for the Arizona area of the Church was quoted in the Tribune (11-2-08) as saying: "We don't anticipate any groundbreaking of the 3 newly announced **Az. temples** until after the first of the year. It will probably be two to three years before any are ready for use. Precise sites have not been released and the sizes of the three Az. temples have not been announced. Plans must be completed and renderings readied for zoning commissions, planning boards and building permits before further information can be confirmed."

The Greater **Kansas City Temple** will be built in Clay County on residential land inside the Kansas City limits in a development known as *Shoal Creek*. The **Rome Temple** will be the original LDS temple in Italy. It will be built on 15 acres owned by the Church in the NE section of Rome. (source: LDS website)

Relief Society

Pres. Cris Rogers	695-4370
1 Couns Melissa Standage	964-1685
2 Couns MaryAnn Kaberry	835-3973
Sec Karisa Budge	610-6407

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Cooking Class: Mondays @ 9:30am @ the Storehouse. Nov 10: Soups Nov 17: Main dishes (turkey leftover ideas). Nov 24: Desserts and snacks. Dec 1: Gifts from your kitchen.

Senior Single Sister's FHE Mon, Nov 17, 5:30 pm @ home of Helen Fort. (969-1810)

Temple Session Nov 20, 10am session, lunch in temple cafeteria. (Also ward temple night Nov 13, 6 or 6:30 pm session.)

Book Group Nov 24, 11 am, @ home of Lynette McGraw. Ch. 2,3,4 of "Jesus the Christ".

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

Multiiplying our Power to Serve Sat, Nov 22, 6pm, dinner will be served and husbands are invited.

November RS Lesson Schedule:

Nov 9: #21-The 2nd Coming & the Millennium
 Nov 16: #22-Gaining Knowledge of Eternal Truths
 Nov 23: "Daughter of God" by Elder Ballard
 Nov 30: Combined with Priesthood

Young Women

Pres. Arlyce Reynolds 615-1628
 1st Counselor Lou Hunt 833-4867
 2nd Counselor Janet Hassell 969-4276
 Secretary Yolanda Zepeda 834-4469

The Laurel Class Presidency:

President - Jessica Hale
 1st Couns - Carol Ransom
 2nd Couns - Lana Hunt

The Mia Maid class presidency:

Pres - Danielle Driggs
 1st Couns - Alyse Turner
 2nd Couns - Harmony Beals

The Beehive class Presidency:

Pres - Courtney Eyring
 1st Couns - Mariah Morales
 2nd Couns - Larissa Hunt
 Sec - Kyndra Hassell

The YW have enjoyed playing **softball and kickball** for the past 5 weeks. They showed great teamwork and good hitting, fielding and super cheering skills!

The **YW Evening of Excellence** with the girls and their parents, will be Nov 19th at 7 pm at the ward building. Each girl will display one of her Personal Progress projects and share what she has learned from the experience.

"Thank You" to all the sisters that donated fabrics for the Pioneer Trek skirts, aprons and bonnets. The Beehives made lap quilts and pillows since they are not old enough to go on the trek this year.

The YW and YM had some unique experiences serving at the Randolph Center and making new friends. They will be serving again at the ward Veteran's Dinner on the evening of Tuesday, Nov. 11th.

YOUNG MEN

Pres. Darren Eyring 835-1799
1st Couns. Trent Payne 967-1101
2nd Couns. Lance McGraw 699-0723
Sec. Conley Martin 313-7194

A Court of Honor is planned for Nov. 16th. More information to follow.

Joseph Standage has turned 12 and is the newest Deacon in the Deacon's Quorum. Wahoo Joseph!

The ward Scouts will be participating in a Stake activity Nov. 14 & 15 which involves a campout on the Mormon Battalion Trail, some hiking, learning some history of the Trail, and doing service hours to help the Park Service restore the trail and repair damage done by motorized vehicles. Those who participate will earn the 'Mormon Battalion Trail' patch.

dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may."

Nov 9

O. Prayer: Jocelyn Gardiner
Scripture: Eden Carter
Talk: Molly Allen
Art of Faith #11: Korben Mehlberg
C. Prayer: Cole Montgomery

Nov 16 *

O. Prayer: Mackenzie Price
Scripture: Luke Nichols
Talk: Evan Redd
Art of Faith #11: Claire Rogers
C. Prayer: Benjamin Shope

Nov 23

O. Prayer: Brittin Budge
Scripture: Kaler Mehlberg
Talk: Shelby Standage
Art of Faith #11: David Morales
C. Prayer: Spencer Nichols

Nov 30

O. Prayer: Rhett Hird
Scripture: Lauren Eyring
Talk: Mariah Rogers
Art of Faith #11: Renle Hird
C. Prayer: Raizja Moore

Please note that the **Primary Sacrament Meeting Program** will be **Nov. 16th**. Thanks for helping your child(ren) practice their lines. We appreciate you and your children.

PRIMARY

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

A Primary Activity Day will be held Saturday, Nov 15th, from 9:30-11:00 am, in the chapel, to practice the Sunday Program. No shorts please.

Sunday Assignments

Nov Theme: I am thankful to know that we are all children of God.

Nov. Scripture: "Thou shalt thank the Lord thy God in all things." (D&C 59:7)

11th Article of Faith: "We claim the privilege of worshipping Almighty God according to the

In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. 1 Thes. 5:9-11

And now I would that ye should be humble, and be submissive and gentle; easy to be

Margin Notes:

entreated; full of patience and long suffering; being temperate in all things; being diligent in keeping the commandments of God at all times; asking for whatsoever things ye stand in need, both spiritual and temporal; always returning thanks unto God for whatsoever things ye do receive. Alma 7:23

"We thank thee for every blessing
Bestowed by Thy bounteous hand.
We feel it a pleasure to serve Thee,
And love to obey Thy command."
Hymns, pg. 196

The first Thanksgiving Days in New England were harvest festivals, or days for thanking God for plentiful crops.

For this reason, the holiday still takes place late in the fall, after the crops have been gathered.

For thousands of years, people in many parts of the world have held harvest festivals.

The first Thanksgiving observance in America was entirely religious and did not involve feasting.

On Dec 4, 1619, a group of 38 English settlers arrived at Berkeley Plantation on the James River near what is now Charles City, Virginia.

The group's charter required that the day of arrival be observed yearly as a day of thanksgiving to God.

The 1st Thanksgiving in New England was celebrated in Plymouth less than a year after the Plymouth colonists had settled in America.

The first dreadful winter in Massachusetts had killed about half the members of the colony.

New hope arose in late summer of 1621. The settlers rejoiced over the good corn

harvest, despite poor crops of peas, wheat, and barley.

Thus, Governor William Bradford declared a harvest festival for Dec 13, 1621 to give thanks to God for the colony's progress.

The festival lasted 3 days. The men of Plymouth had shot ducks and geese.

The menu also included clams, eel and other fish, wild plums and leeks, corn bread and watercress.

The women of the settlement supervised cooking over outdoor fires. The children were assigned to turn the meats on spits.

About 90 Indians also attended the festival. They brought 5 deer & wild turkey to share at the feast.

Everyone ate outdoors at large tables like one large family. They enjoyed games, sermons and songs of praise.

Similar harvest Thanksgivings were held in Plymouth during the next several years, but no traditional date was set.

The custom of Thanksgiving Day spread from Plymouth to other New England colonies.

During the Revolutionary War, 8 special days of thanks were observed for victories and for being saved from dangers.

In 1789, Pres. George Washington issued a general proclamation naming November 26th, a day of national thanksgiving. This caused discord among the colonies.

Many felt that the hardships of a few Pilgrims did not warrant a national holiday. Later, President Thomas Jefferson scoffed at the idea of having a day of thanksgiving.

For many years, the country had no regular national Thanksgiving Day. But some states had a yearly Thanksgiving holiday.

By 1830, New York had an official state Thanksgiving Day and other Northern states soon followed its example.

In 1855, Virginia became the nation's first Southern state to adopt the custom.

Sarah Josepha Hale, a magazine editor in the United States during the 1800's, worked many years to promote the idea of a national Thanksgiving Day. She received credit for persuading Pres. Abraham Lincoln to make Thanksgiving a national holiday.

Then President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed the last Thursday in November 1863, as 'a day of thanksgiving and praise to our beneficent Father.'

Each year afterward, for 75 years, the President formally proclaimed that Thanksgiving Day should be celebrated on the last Thursday of November.

But in 1939, President Franklin D. Roosevelt set it one week earlier. He wanted to help business by lengthening the shopping period before Christmas.

Public uproar against his decision caused the President to move Thanksgiving back to its original date 2 years later.

In 1941, Congress ruled that the fourth Thursday of November would be observed as Thanksgiving Day and would be a legal federal holiday.

{From the Beehive Newspaper, Sept - Nov 08, pg. 18.}

LDS Prison Ministries continue to bless lives as new guidelines are published - by Cecily Markland

The scripture, "I was in prison ye came unto me," has personal application for many who say the LDS prison ministries have made a telling difference in their lives, sustaining them temporally and spiritually while they were incarcerated.

Jeff Hoepfner, of Dana Ward, Mesa Pueblo Stake, had been in and out of prison most of his life.

"I was what I guess you would call an 'unfit' person, a type of person that most people would not have wanted to be around," Brother Hoepfner says. However, one LDS family knew Jeff and didn't give up on him but had the Ensign, Church News, and a set of scriptures sent to him and visited him regularly.

"The other great support for me were the LDS services members that would come each Sunday," Jeff says. They "would give up their free time to be with us convicts; yet, they never made any of us feel like convicts. They certainly made me feel the love and compassion of our Heavenly Father and our Savior, Jesus Christ, and their love for each of us."

Since his release, Jeff has been baptized, ordained an elder, sealed to his wife in the temple, and currently serves as a ward missionary.

Richard, a former inmate who asked that his last name not be used, had a similar experience.

"During the 6 months I spent in the county jail, my wife divorced me, my son disowned me, I lost my business, my home, my vehicles, my bank accounts, and all my other worldly possessions, large and small."

When he arrived at the Florence prison, he says, "I was nearly physically dead, weighing only 140 pounds, emotionally bankrupt and spiritually empty."

He searched the "plethora of religious programs," but "found them all lacking in one regard or another."

Then, a friend invited Richard to attend LDS services, "I clearly recall that the instant my foot crossed the threshold of that room a feeling of warmth, security, and love, such as I had never felt before, descended upon me." The feeling lasted the entire meeting and, "I returned the

following Sunday, and the next and the next, and I've been returning ever since."

"Without exception, all the volunteers were men and women of character and radiated sincerity and integrity, and I desperately wanted what they had. I hoped and prayed that if I hung around long enough some of that would rub off on me, and I could begin to cultivate some long-lost self-esteem and self-respect."

Richard says, "Without realizing it, I was on my way to becoming the man God had intended me to be from the beginning."

Following his release, on "March 22 of this year, by my best reckoning 14 years to the day after I attended my first LDS meeting, I was baptized," Richard says. "I was ordained to the Aaronic Priesthood the following day... The dream and aspiration which kept me going for all those years is now a reality."

Kenneth Jarvis, who lives in Alta Mesa Stake and serves as first counselor in the Gila River Branch - Prison Ministries, says, "It's a wonderful program. We've seen much good come out of it over the years."

Part of the Casa Grande Stake, the Branch is led by Pres. William Cavenue, with counselors Kenneth Jarvis first counselor; John Power, of Chandler Alma Stake, second counselor; and Mel Willis, of Queen Creek Stake, third counselor. Under their leadership, approximately 62 missionaries and volunteers, from most of the East Valley stakes, provide weekly meetings in 21 different locations, working with nearly 400 men in the Florence prison.

Similar efforts are ongoing in correctional facilities in the Tucson Wilmot Branch under the direction of Pres. Kenneth L. Thueson, and in the Perryville Branch, with Pres. Richard L. Hunt, as well as in prison units and jails in Yuma, Douglas, Kingman, Winslow, Safford, Globe and Maricopa County.

Further success is anticipated as priesthood leaders become aware of the recently published Church guidelines, titled

"Providing Support for Those in Correctional Facilities."

The guidelines can be accessed at www.lds.org/mp/pdf/MP_Correctional_Facilities_2008_eng.pdf (or, go to www.lds.org, click on "Serving in the Church," then "Melchizedek Priesthood," then under shortcuts, "Support for Those in Correctional Facilities.")

(Same issue, page 36 also by Cecily Markland))

Take some note cards and a pencil, jot a few thoughts down each day and, 35 years later, the result will be 114 volumes of personal journals and family history.

Kevin Hunt, of the **Dana Ward**, Mesa Pueblo Stake has done just that. On May 20, 1973, Kevin sat in a young adult Sunday School class taught by J. Darwin Gunnell, long-time Mesa resident who owned and operated Gunnell's Big O Tire Store for 53 years and served in many positions in the Church, including director of the Mesa Temple Visitors' Center for 10 years.

Kevin says, "Brother Gunnell read a quote from President Kimball about journal writing and challenged us all to go home that day and start writing in our journals."

Bro. Hunt took the challenge seriously. He went home, found a "little green journal" and wrote his first entry of "about 2 paragraphs;" and, "I've made an entry for every day since then," he says.

Kevin wrote directly in his journal at first, then, he began carrying note cards with him, jotting a few words down as thoughts came to him during the day, and then compiling them in the evening or on Sunday or Monday nights.

His daily writings now fill volumes, each bound into a hardcover book. The first 100 volumes are hand-written accounts, detailing his mission, his marriage to his wife Lou, the births of their 9 children and the many experiences in between.

After the hundredth volume, Brother Hunt started keeping his journal on the

computer, still carrying note cards to use as memory joggers. “The last 14 volumes are computer-generated,” he says.

Now, he also uses LDSjournal.com, a Web site he says has large storage capabilities and backups that offer added security. “I like their system,” he says. “I like the reminders they send out and it’s set up like a word processing system, so it’s easy to write with their format.”

He says LDSjournal.com can be helpful for people who are just getting started, and he adds, “It’s never too late to start, you can just start now, from where you are.”

For people who may not have kept a journal, but who want to start compiling their family history, Brother Hunt recommends a modified version of his note card system. “Pick a topic a week or so, such as ‘dating,’ or ‘my mission,’ or ‘my courtship.’ Take note cards with you during the day and while you’re at the doctor’s office or at a red light, jot down ideas about that topic.’

Brother Hunt, who has served as a ward missionary, stake missionary, Sunday School president and ward mission leader several times, says he’s written 25 books, many of them extracted from what he’s written in his journals.

His children, also, go to his journals for ideas for school reports and, “If they have a question about almost anything, they can go to dad’s journal to get an answer,” he says.

Yet, the greatest benefit and blessing from journal keeping, Brother Hunt contends is that “You can really see how the Lord works daily in our lives and, over time, you see the progression and the Lord’s blessings that come over time as well.”

To contact Brother Hunt about presenting a fireside or workshop about journal-keeping, e-mail kevandlou@huntbunch.com or call 480-833-4867.