

Pioneer

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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Oklahoma City Second Ward

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This is a replica of Leonardo da Vinci's painting of The Last Supper. This famous masterpiece took over seven years to paint. The interesting story behind the painting is this: da Vinci felt that he should use living persons as models since this was to be such an important picture. He started with the painting of Christ. Hundreds of young men were studied to find a man whose face portrayed innocence and beauty. After a long search he found a man whom he felt could portray Christ. The painting of Christ took six months. When Christ was completed, da Vinci worked for six years painting the disciples until all were completed but one. That one was Judas. To find someone, whom da Vinci thought looked like Judas, was a problem. After a long, discouraging search, da Vinci heard of a man in prison at Rome who was sentenced to die for his brutal crimes.

Leonardo went to Rome. As the prisoner was brought before him, he saw a man with an ugly, vicious face, scarred and full of hate. He knew immediately that this was the man he wanted to represent Judas - the Saviour's betrayer.

By special permission from the King, the prisoner was brought to Milan to pose for da Vinci. For six months he sat for da Vinci at appointed hours each day. Finally, the gifted artist finished his painting. As the guards were taking the prisoner away, he broke loose. Rushing to Leonardo's side, he gasped, "Look at me. Do you not know who I am?"

With his sharp, piercing eyes, da Vinci looked at the man and said, "No, I do not know you. I never saw you until you were brought before me in Rome." Then the prisoner lifted his head toward Heaven and cried, "Oh, God, have I fallen so low?" Then he turned to da Vinci and said, "Leonardo da Vinci, look at me again. I am the same man you painted only seven years ago as the figure of Christ."

**BISHOPRIC**

Terry K. Payne
Leonard Davis
John A. Ramos

ELDERS QUORUM

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Rodney Hernandez
Gary Massey

RELIEF SOCIETY

Beth Ramos
Jane McDonald
Sarah Brown
Feliz Hernandez

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Ronald Coggins
Max Thompkins
Charles Smith

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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Charles Hill

YOUNG MEN

Dennis Anderson
Tommy Storie
Arturo Valdivia
Robert Coggins

YOUNG WOMEN

Gissella Lusk
Laura Vongchanyakul
Marie Gibson

MISSION LEADER

Randy Kirk

PRIMARY

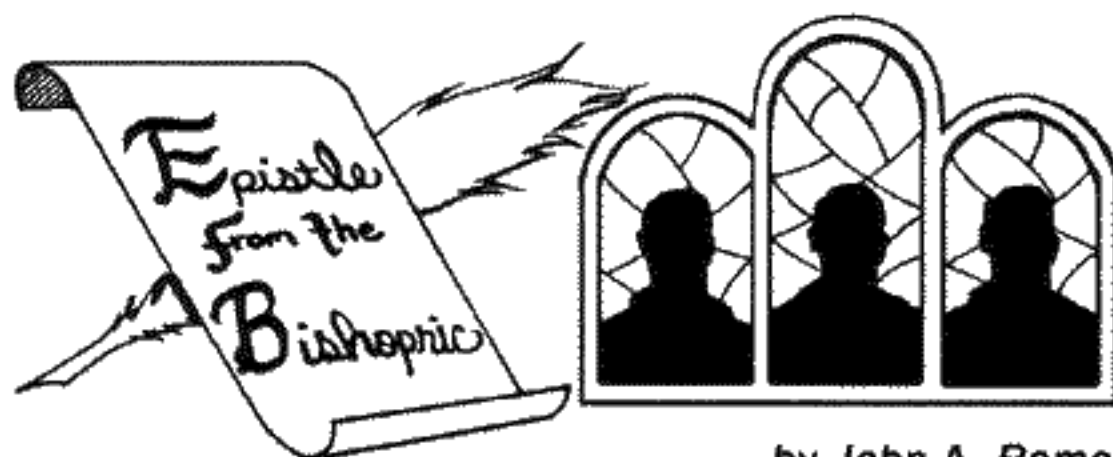
Bonnie Harry
Sandra Davis
Cheryl Cordes

SINGLES

Hazel Hersh
Ladd Kuehne

ACTIVITIES

Pat Smith



by John A. Ramos

This April's General Conference will be the first of the last decade of the 20th Century. We are very close to the beginning of the seven thousandth year of mankind on earth.

We are blessed not only with the four standard books of scriptures, but also with the Ensign magazine. In the March issue of the Ensign was a comment made by a new member from Italy. Dr. Mario Ottaviano testified: "*We are not a religion*" in the same sense as those churches founded by men, "*We are the true faith.*" As such, he says, the Church does not need to be classified with religious of the world. It stands alone.

The poem "*Until the Day*" on page seven, same issue, portraying the feelings Noah must have felt just before the flood seems so fitting for our time. Our ark today is Zion. It is almost completed, and we, as Noah, "*trembling and grieved*" may have to be the ones to close the door slowly to the wicked who will mock and deny the Church restored by God, just prior to the fulfillment of the prophecy of the Lord's return.

Remember General Conference, and to put in practice the council our Church Leaders gives us. []



For an appointment with Bishop Payne, please contact
Brother Brock at 946-6662

RELIEF SOCIETY

by Beth Ramos

President Gordon B. Hinkley said, "God has given the women of the Church a work to do in building His Kingdom."

In Moroni 10:30-32 we are admonished to "Come unto Christ, and be perfected in Him..." This plea to come unto Christ is synonymous with service to one another. Service is the focus of Relief Society. By offering service to each other we can assist the Priesthood in perfecting and strengthening the Saints, as well as converting others to the Gospel.

As we each strive to "Come unto Christ" we are not alone. Not only do we have the Savior, we also have each other. May we each serve one another with more Christlike love, today...hold a child, send a note, call someone, visit the sick, say hello, shake a hand, give a hug, give a smile, emulate the life of Christ with each other. []

Relief Society Lessons April

- 1 General Conference
- 8 Home & Family #3 Pg 115
- 15 Spiritual Living #6 pg 32(Easter)
- 22 Stake Conference 10am
- 29 Comp. Service - Conf. Address

May

- 6 Spiritual Living #7 pg 38
- 13 Home/Family #4 pg 119
- 20 Spiritual Living #8 pg 45
- 27 Comp. Service #4 pg 174

June

- 3 Spiritual Living #9 pg 50
- 10 Home/Family #5 pg 125
- 17 Spiritual Living - Conf. Address
- 24 Comp. Service #5 pg 178

Homemaking Night is the first Tuesday
of every month



by Rodney Hernandez

You perhaps recall the story of the blacksmith who gave his heart to God. Though conscientious in his living, still he was not prospering materially. In fact, it seems that from the time of his conversion more trouble, affliction and loss were sustained than ever before. Everything seemed to be going wrong.

One day a friend who was not a Christian, stopped at the little gorge to talk to him. Sympathizing with him in some of his trials, the friend said, "It seems strange to me that so much affliction should pass over you, just at the time when you have become an earnest Christian. Of course, don't want to weaken your faith in God, or anything like that. But here you are, God's help and guidance, and yet things seem to be getting steadily worse. I can't help wondering why it is."

The blacksmith did not answer immediately, and it was evident that he had thought of the same question before. But finally he said, "You see the raw iron which I have here to make into horses shoes. You know what I do with it? I take a piece and heat it in the fire until it is red, almost white with the heat. Then I hammer it unmercifully to shape it as I know it should be shaped. Then I plunge it into a pail of cold water to temper it. Then I heat it again and hammer it some more, And this I do until it is finished."

"But sometimes I find a piece of iron that won't stand up under this treatment. The heat and the hammering and the cold water are

continued on page 5



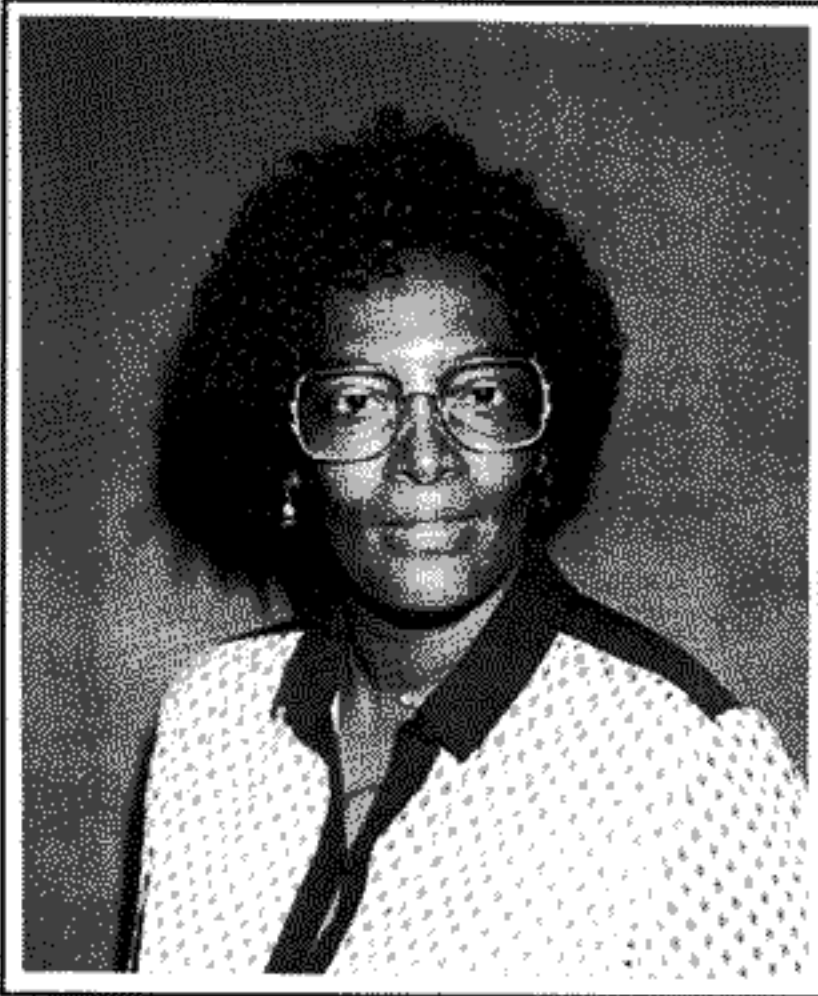
PEOPLE YOU SHOULD KNOW

Georgia Neil Battle daughter of Joe D. and Florida Mae Nelson was born in New Boston, Texas on the 21st day of March 1942. She has one sister and one brother who is deceased. She has 4 sons: Ricardo, Orlando and Rolando (who are twins born 9 minutes apart) and Mark Anthony. She has a 5 year old grandson and another one due in June.

Sister Battle's Mother passed away when she was just 7 years old, so she was left to live with her grandmother Frances Sims. Mama Frances as she called her was the "most beautiful lady she has ever known" always giving and helping people. She loved school and to learn, her Father taught her the

value and importance of education, she remembers with pride how her Father thought her Mother how to read and write. Georgia was chosen two consecutive years to represent her school for her excellent spelling and writing abilities.

In 1955 she left Texas and came to Oklahoma City to live with her sister, she



worked tending children and went to school at F.D. Moon Jr. High and attended Douglas High for one year. Two years later she was on her own. In 1968 her family moved to Tulsa where she earned her GED in November of 1970. In 1971 she entered Tulsa Jr. College and Graduated as a Occupational Therapist in 1975. Georgia worked while going to school

at the Municipal Court as a Deputy court clerk and as the presiding judge jury clerk. In 1975 she was one of the first women to work as a correctional officer at John 3:16 in Tulsa, and she was there for the grand opening as one of the first coed workers at Mann Community Treatment Center

Christmas of 1989 will always be remembered by sister Battle as a very special holiday, for it was the day when she entered



the waters of baptism and became a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. The story about her conversion is very inspirational, and helps us all as members of The Church to know that there are opportunities in our daily lives where we can bring the Gospel to others. Georgia met Elders DeGraw and Moran at the doctors office, while in the waiting room Elder DeGraw started to talk to her, nothing in particular just making conversation, eventually they made an appointment to come by her home. Sister Battle said she really didn't expect them to keep their appointment, but was so happy to see them approaching her house while she waited for them outside. Georgia always attended church (Baptist), but decided to *"listen to these two young men and see what they can tell me."* The first time she visited the Second Ward she felt the love and kindness her grandmother had taught her. Her sons did not like the idea of their Mother joining a *"Church that wasn't for Blacks"*, but after she took her youngest son to church with her, his reply was *"Mom, you did the right thing."*

Sister Battle is already involved in doing missionary work, she loves the Savior and does have a strong love and testimony of the veracity and truthfulness of the Gospel. She is presently serving in the nursery, she confesses she thought *"Oh no, what am I doing here? my children are all grown and gone!!!"* but she just loves it now, *"the children are so sweet and they are at an age where they can give and learn so much"*.

Georgia likes to read, do ceramics, paper macche, decopage, tool leather, and loves plants, she likes the outdoors, animals and, of course, flowers. She collects stuffed animals, her favorite being a little basket with dolls that reads *"Families are Forever."*

Sister Battle has a curious mind, and wanting to learn more, she wants to go back to school to become a Special Ed. school teacher. She calls Brother Tompkins *"The Professor"* and tries to apply his council: *"Read, Study, Search, Ponder, Prayer, Apply."*

ELDERS QUORUM

Continued from page 3

too much for it, I don't know why it fails in the process, but I know it will never make a good horse shoe."

He pointed to a heap of scrap iron that was near the door of his shop. "When I get a piece that cannot take the shape and temper, I throw it out on the scrap heap. It will never be good for anything."



He went on, *"I know that God has been holding me in the fire of affliction and I have felt his hammer upon me. But I don't mind, if only he can bring me to what I should be. And so in any way you wish, Lord, only don't throw me on the scrap heap."* -Lynell Waterman

This story was brought to my attention while I was on my mission. I share it with you in hopes that it will allow you to see your self-worth. Our Father in Heaven loves us all and wishes to throw no one on the heap. Brothers and Sisters, lets be as strong as iron. []



SEMINARY

by Yvonne Zitterkob

A short time before his death, President Lorenzo Snow visited the kindergarten rooms at BYU, Provo. Seeing those children at work, President Snow asked: "What are they doing?" His guide, Brother Brimhall, replied that they were making clay spheres. "That is very interesting," The President said. "I want to watch them." He quietly watched the children for several minutes and then lifted a

little girl, perhaps six years of age and stood her on a table. He then took the clay sphere from her hand and turning to Brother Brimhall said:

"Brother

Brimhall, these children are now at play making mud worlds. The time will come when some of these children, through their faithfulness to the gospel, will progress and develop in knowledge, intelligence, and power, in future eternities, until they shall be able to go out into space where there is



unorganized matter and call together the necessary elements, and through their knowledge of and control over the laws and powers of nature to organize matter into worlds on which their posterity may dwell and over which they shall rule as gods."

We are extremely blessed to live in this time of restored truth and knowledge. May we continue to exercise the faith and commitment required to progress throughout eternity. []



STAKE MISSIONARIES

by Randy Kirk

Brothers and Sisters,

We as Stakes missionaries are here to help you in your missionary efforts. Whatever form they may take, you will be hearing about some of our programs. Welcome neighbor, program cottage meeting to name two.

So, please help us to help others, your friends, loved ones or someone you know who is looking, searching for a meaning to their lives here on earth. Please think of all the happy memories you have had, and then think how you can help someone have the same kind of feelings of love, and security that you have.

The Stakes Missionaries in our Ward are:

Wes and Donna Hernandez
Max and Claudia Thompkins
Jonas Thompson
Randy and Treva Kirk

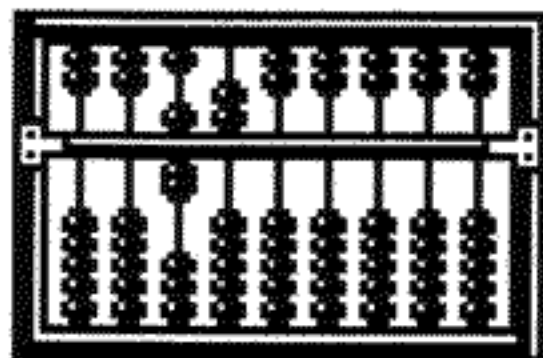
We want to help you, so use us. Give us a call.

"Contend thou, therefore, morning by morning; and day after day let thy warning voice go forth; and when the night cometh let not the inhabitants of the earth slumber, because of thy speech." (D&C 112:5) []

"Oh Dios, dame un hijo que..."

"Oh Dios, dame un hijo que sea lo suficientemente fuerte para reconocer cuando es débil, y valeroso para hacerse frente a sí mismo cuando tenga miedo; que sea orgulloso de no haber cedido en la derrota honesta; y humilde y generoso en la victoria."

"Dame un hijo que reconozca que el conocerse a sí mismo es la PIEDRA ANGULAR de todo CONOCIMIENTO. Te



ruego que lo guíes, no en la senda cómoda y fácil, sino en la de las pruebas, dificultades, y presiones. Deja que él

aprenda a hacer frente a las tormentas; deja que aprenda compasión por el derrotado."

"Dame un hijo que sepa autodominarse antes de tratar de dominar a otros; un hijo con corazón claro y elevadas metas; que aprenda a reír, pero aún así que jamás se olvide cómo llorar; que pueda alcanzar la profundidad del futuro, sin olvidar jamás el pasado. Que le des estos rasgos de carácter, te pido Señor, que le des dotes de suficiente sentido del humor para que no esté siempre serio, y nunca se tome a sí mismo demasiado seriamente. Dá-le humildad para que siempre pueda recordar la simplicidad de la verdadera grandeza, la imparcialidad de la verdadera sabiduría y la humildad de la verdadera fuerza. Entonces YO, su padre, me atreveré a susurrar: "No he vivido en vano."



YOUNG WOMEN

A note of recognition to our Young Women and to the young man who participated on the Road Show this past month. We are truly proud of you and hope you will continue to stand for what is right. Our Ward's youth received an award for best costumes!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Gospel Doctrine Schedule

April 15 - Deuteronomy 4; 6-11; 17-18

Psalms 78:1-8

April 22 - Stake Conference

April 29 - Deuteronomy 26-32; 34

Leviticus 26

May 6 - Joshua 1-11; 14; 24

Happy Easter!



Thank you!



Sister Cordes would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you Sisters who helped finish up the quilt that belonged to her Grandmother. The quilt was in the Relief Society closet for many years, and at the request of Sarah Brown some of the sisters got together and surprised Cheryl with the finished project.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Friday 13** - Single Adult Dance
South Stake 9pm.
- Saturday 14** - Leadership Mtg.
Seminary Competition 5pm.
Youth Dance 8pm.
- Sunday 15** - Easter Sunday. Special Program.
- Saturday 21** - Stake Conference
Adults 7pm-Moore.
- Sunday 22** - Stake Conference 10am
NW 3rd and Santa Fe.
- Thursday 26** - Know Your Religion
7pm.
- Friday 27** - Single Adult Dance North
Stake 9pm.
- Saturday 28** - Merrie-Miss Tri-Stk
Baby-sitting Clinic 10am.
Kochanski Concert (Norman).

All of you talented people who would like to show the ward what you can do, there will be a talent show coming up soon. Hosted by the Young Women Organization. Contact Sister Lusk 682-6548 if you would like to participate.



PLEASE FEED OUR MISSIONARIES!

631-2128

632-0455

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY
SAINTS

LA IGLESIA DE
JESUCRISTO
DE LOS SANTOS
DE LOS ULTIMOS
DIAS

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