



the Community of Christ

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description of work: A history of the Richland WA Branch of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints from 1943 to 1951, written by congregational historian Mildred Cox.

“Christians,” says Brother Charles Hield, “are dynamic!” “These are they” complained the unbelieving of early Christian times, “who have turned the world upside down!”

Hanford, Washington, will be remembered by the world for the development of the atomic bomb. From this busy, was-built town came that horrible and destructive weapon which has changed the course of warfare. As we ponder upon its almost unbelievable possibilities, we can well appreciate the scriptural statement, “Except the Lord should hasten the time, there should be no flesh left.”

From all over the United States men came to work on this dread weapon. Probably ninety-five percent of these workmen had no idea of what they were assisting to make. But it was war work, and it paid good wages, so they came in cars, dragging trailers, and settled. In a few weeks this barren, sun-baked strip of Washington desert became a roaring, tough, and hard city where the population worked hard and gave birth to the atomic bomb.

But we are told that even in the depths of hell, God can be found by those who look for him, and so it was in Hanford. There, from the depths of iniquity, grew up the power of God.

“The kingdom of God is like unto leaven which a woman took and hid in a measure of meal,” said Jesus. And so it was in Hanford. There were people there who had the gospel and like leaven they began to work. They worshipped, learned, and grew with their brethren.

During the process of construction, in the year of 1943 Apostle Clyde Ellis of Independence, Missouri, and Priest J. G. Juergens visited all the saints that they were able to contact in this area. As a result of their visits, the saints met together on Sunday, December 10, 1944, at the home of Brother and Sister Mahlon McDermott, 1002 Smith Avenue in Richland and organized a Sunday School. Elder A. J. Crownover was elected superintendent, Teacher M. J. McDermott, secretary, and Priest H. C. Savage, treasurer. The Sunday School met for several weeks at the home of Sister Hunsaker, 410 Hugo Street, Pasco, Washington. The group met at the Marcus Whitman school March 7, 1945, and organized a mission consisting of 50 members with Apostle D. T. Williams presiding. Elder H. E. Chapman was appointed pastor, Elder A. J. Crownover as associate pastor, Teacher M. J. McDermott as recorder of the group, and Priest H. C. Savage was elected as bishop’s solicitor and treasurer of the group.

Regular meetings were held each Sunday morning with Sunday School, Junior Church, and preaching



services at Marcus Whitman school. Wednesday evening prayer services were started at the home of Brother and Sister Harold Klusman from March 8, 1945, to October 1, 1946.

Brother Carlos Crownover was ordained to the office of deacon at the organization of the group on March 8, 1945.

By October 1, 1946, the membership had increased to 62 members.

Bible Studies by Thelona D. Stevens, an accredited *Bible* course, was held each week. The Women's Department met every other Thursday afternoon at various homes of members. A *Book of Mormon* class for young married couples met each Friday evening at the homes of various saints.

The officers elected and appointed to serve the year from October 1 to September 30, 1947 were as follows.

Harold Hight ... Director of Religious Education; also Junior Church Pastor
Harold Klusman ... Zion's League Director
H. C. Savage ... Bishop's Agent and Branch Treasurer
E. P. Sanders ... group Historian
M. J. McDermott ... group Recorder
Evelyn Hight ... Director of Women
J. G. Juergens ... Director of Music

As of October 1, 1946, the group included the following priesthood.

Elder H. E. Chapman	Priest S. L. Bowerman	Teacher Harold Hight	Deacon Carlos Crownover
Elder A. J. Crownover	Priest J. G. Juergens	Teacher M. J. McDermott	
	Priest H. C. Savage		

Since the organization of the group the following have been baptized.

Irene Bowerman	Sandra Reninger	Keith Wilhite	Richard Winship
Pauline McKee	Jimmie Savage	Dorothy Ann Winship	

The following children have been blessed.

Julia Marie Carl	Jackie Cox	Judy Cox	Judy Klusman
Billie Cox	Jimmie Cox	Pamela Crownover	

Seventy Philip Moore held a series of meetings in October 1946.

Brother Jack Reninger was ordained to the office of deacon on November 5, 1946, by Brother D. T. Williams and A. J. Crownover.

Prayer meetings were held in the home of W. M. Cox for a year and on the Wednesday night of November 6, 1946, Apostle D. T. Williams and A. J. Crownover were in charge of the meeting with a good attendance. Apostle Williams gave an interesting talk "Let Nothing Come Between You."



Zion's League met November 17, 1946, at the home of Brother and Sister Harold Klusman.

A good fellowship dinner and program were held at the High School cafeteria in Richland, and invitations were sent to all non-members who had at anytime made contact with the church group. Several of them were present. The program was sponsored by the Department of Church School. Harold Klusman was in charge of the program; Sister Evelyn Hight in charge of the dinner.

Sunday, December 1, 1946, was a day long to be remembered by the Richland saints. An outstanding worship service was held at 9:45 a.m. with Evelyn Hight in charge. She had for her theme for this service "The Birth of Jesus, God's Greatest Gift to Man." Brother L. A. Whiting, the newly elected President of the Spokane District, was with the saints here in Richland all day, ministering to the saints in a very spiritual way which was very helpful to all. After the sacrament service at 11:00 a.m., Brother Whiting preached a wonderful sermon at the home of Brother and Sister Daer at which time and place Brother Whiting again gave an inspirational talk. He was accompanied to Richland by his wife and son, Gary.

Prayer meetings were changed from the W. M. Cox home to the pastor's home, A. J. Crownover, 1326 McPherson. Thursday afternoon the Women's Department gave a Christmas party.

Brother L. A. Vosmer of Denver, Colorado, came to Richland on December 16, 1946, to work for the General Electric Company. Brother Vosmer holds the office of Priest and makes a fine addition to the very fine body of ministry of the mission.

The Women's Department is showing great interest and at the February 2, 1946, meeting the women decided to call the circle the "Emma Smith Circle." At this meeting the women also decided to purchase two communion sets, one collection plate, and two bread plates at a total cost of \$29.06.

Sunday afternoon, February 2, 1947, Brother and Sister A. J. Crownover, their son, Carlos, and Brothers Juergens, L. A. Vosmer, and Elder Robert Chapman of Portland, Oregon, went to Walla Walla to minister to the saints in that place where no services are being held. At this time, they had an opportunity to partake of the sacrament and also hear a very fine sermon preached by Brother Chapman. In the evening the Zion's League met in the home of Brother and Sister Hight. The Zion's League, under the leadership of Brother Harold Klusman, is coming along fine and they are using as their study book, *Between the Covers of the Book of Mormon*.

The saints met in the home of W. M. Cox on Sunday night, February 9, and were favored with a fine sermon from Elder Kemp from Spokane. He and Sister Kemp were enroute to California for a short vacation trip. Brother D. T. Williams also visited our group on the 12th of February and gave us a fine illustrated talk on his trip to the Hawaiian Islands.

The services of Sunday, February 23, 1947, were very interesting and long to be remembered. Sister Hight was in charge of the worship services and very ably told the story of the "Three Hebrew Children" cast into the fiery furnace. After the classes had convened, Pastor A. J. Crownover presented a matter of business before the group which was the resignation of Brother H. C. Savage as branch solicitor and treasurer. The group voted to accept his resignation and Brother W. M. Cox was elected as the new treasurer. Pastor Crownover received a letter on March 24, 1947, from Brother Lasater appointing Brother S. L. Bowerman as bishop's solicitor for the Richland group.



A fine reception and welcome party was given April 22, 1947, for Brother Carlos Crownover, and wife, who were married April 13, 1947, at the Liberty Street Church in Independence, Missouri. A very fine time was had with about 50 in attendance.

Brother Whiting, District President, was accompanied by Patriarch J. F. Curtis on Saturday, May 17, 1947, to minister to the saints here in Richland. They visited in the homes of various saints and in the evening a priesthood meeting was held in the home of M. J. McDermott, 1323 Sanford. Brother Whiting made a very impressive talk on the importance of the ministry feeling their responsibility as leaders. It was a profitable and spiritual priesthood service. Sunday afternoon, Patriarch Curtis gave a number of the members their patriarchal blessings. Brother Whiting occupied the 11:00 a.m. hour and gave the saints a very fine sermon using a portion of the Lord's prayer as his text, i.e. "Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done On Earth As It Is In Heaven." In the evening, the saints gathered in the auditorium of the Marcus Whitman School and were engaged in a short prayer and testimony meeting under the leadership of Brother Whiting and Brother Curtis, after which Brother Curtis gave a talk on Latter Day Saints vs. the Mormons.

During the month of June 1947, the following children were blessed: Lawrence Edward Hawthorne, son of Ester Hawthorne. This service was held at the Marcus Whitman School and a fine program was had in the remembrance of Children's Day. Sunday afternoon June 15, a special service of blessing children was held in the home of Brother and Sister Cox at which time Elder Crownover blessed a son and daughter of Brother Ray Peterson. A number of saints and friends were present.

A group of the Richland saints, on Sunday, July 13, 1947, visited the saints at Yakima. Brother Floyd McDowell and Apostle Roscoe Davey were there and ministered a spiritual feast for all in attendance. Brother McDowell and Brother Davey visited the saints in Richland on Monday, July 14, 1947, at which time services were held in the Marcus Whitman School at 8:00 p.m.

Sunday afternoon at 3:00 p.m. on August 10, 1947, a baptismal service was held on the Columbia River a few miles from Richland. Roberta Cox and Billie Cox were baptized by Brother J. G. Juergens.

The annual business meeting of the mission was held in the auditorium of the Marcus Whitman School on October 4. The meeting was opened by Pastor A. J. Crownover asking for suggestions as to who should preside. It was moved and seconded that Brother L. A. Whiting, who had recently moved to Richland for employment, be chosen to preside over this meeting. At this meeting, Brother L. A. Whiting was also elected as pastor for the coming year. Brother Whiting suggested a standing vote of thanks to Brother Crownover for his fine work as pastor. Brother Crownover responded with a very humble acknowledgment. Brother Whiting appointed Brothers Crownover and H. E. Chapman as his counselors. Other officers elected were: Mildred Cox, secretary; Marvin Cox, treasurer; Harold Hight, church school director; Evelyn Hight, women's leader; Jack Reninger, Zion's League leader; Sister Crownover, publicity agent; Claire Chapman, music director; Brother L. A. Vosmer, historian; Brother L. A. Whiting recommended Brother Harold Klusman to the office of teacher and Brother Carlos Crownover to the office of priest. Both accepted very humbly.

In the remainder of 1947 and into 1948, we feel that definite progress has been made in many fields. There is a greater unity among the people, our attendance has increased in spite of the time lost during the flood which cut off all outside attendance for nearly 30 days. Our priesthood strength has been augmented by the addition of four elders, two priests, and one teacher. Two short series of meetings were held by Apostle R. E. Davey, one of four days length in October and one of six days length in March. Average attendance



was forty-five at these meetings with thirty-six non-members attending the March series.

We also had Brother Paul M. Hanson for two days. Many enjoyed the ministry that he brought. Several, however, were unable to attend due to flood conditions.

June 1, 1948, Alice Posey passed away. Apostle P. M. Hanson officiated in the burial service.

At present we have a total of 17 members of the priesthood here in the Richland Branch.

Heavy losses were felt in our priesthood ranks in 1948 when, because of physical requirements, two elders found it necessary to move from our midst – Elders I. N. DeLong and A. M. Baker. On New Year's Eve the grim reaper reached forth and called Brother Juergens from his work, while lack of employment took another priest from us in Brother Mel Crownover. Several families of saints and friends were also lost in the employment reductions, causing us much concern. In spite of all the year's discouragements we have much to be thankful for. God has blessed us abundantly and to him do we give thanks for his sustaining grace.

In a baptismal service held July 18, 1948, in the Yakima River, Jerry Wilhite, Deanna McDermott, Rodney Piert, and Peggy Piert were baptized.

Chrystal Rose Brand was blessed July 25, 1948, by L. A. Whiting and C. E. Hammel.

Emmy Lou Daer war married to Gerald Charlton of Roundup, Montana, September 19, 1948, by L. A. Whiting.

The yearly election of officers was held on Sunday morning, September 26, 1948. Brother Ralph Briggs, president of the Spokane District, was in charge of this meeting. At this meeting Brother Whiting gave the names of Harold Hight called to the office of priest, Angus Daer to the office of teacher, and W. M. Cox to the office of deacon. The group voted unanimously in favor of accepting these names in their respective priesthood office. Brother Whiting was again nominated as pastor of the Richland Mission, Brother Harold Hight, church school director, Mel Crownover, Zion's League leader, Mildred Cox, music director, Evelyn Hight, women's leader, W. M. Cox, treasurer, Mildred Cox, secretary, Irene Bowerman, publicity director, L. A. Vosmer, church historian and auditor.

The meeting for the purpose of organizing the members in Richland and vicinity into a branch of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, to be known as the Richland Branch, was held November 29, 1948. Brother C. G. Mesley was in charge of this meeting. He was supported by Brother A. F. Gibbs, Seventy, and Brother Lasater, Bishop of the Northwest Area, Brother Philip Moore, pastor of the Spokane Branch, also a seventy, and Brother L. A. Whiting, pastor of the Richland Mission. Brother Whiting introduced Brother Mesley who reminded the group that everything God does has significance and it was he who chose the word "branch" to designate the various congregations of his church. Brother Mesley stated that a move to organize the saints of this area into a branch has the approval of the General Church officers and of the District of which it will become a part. He suggested that Brother H. E. Chapman, the first pastor of this group, make a formal motion to this effect. Brother Chapman declared it a pleasure and an honor to do so since he had shared with the saints, for years, a dream that a meeting for such a purpose might materialize. His motion was seconded. The motion was then placed before the group which accepted it unanimously. Brother Mesley read the number of families belonging to the church in this



vicinity. There were, at this time, nine families in Pasco, ten in Kennewick, twenty-five in Richland, nine in North Richland, and five in Benton City. He suggested that these families become charter members. He also suggested that the present nineteen members of the priesthood constitute the recognized ministry of this branch. It was moved and seconded by the group that the officers elected in the regular business meeting, just a month previous, be sustained in office. It was voted upon and carried unanimously. Brother Mesley, representing the General Church officers on this occasion, asked the saints to dedicate themselves to the unfinished tasks that lie before them. He told them that only when they invested heartaches and backaches on the branch would it really begin to mean something to them.

Considerable work was done by the secretary and pastor in enrolling the members on the Richland records. Some 116 enrollment blanks were filled and submitted to the Department of Statistics at the General Church headquarters for a permanent record of membership in the church.

June 1949, a fine young couple, Ernest and Erna Sprecher, were baptized by Brother L. A. Whiting.

Brother A. F. Gibbs held a series of meetings starting November 30 to January 10 at the Marcus Whitman auditorium; also, one week at North Richland from January 12 to January 19. Much interest was created in non-members as well as saints. The meetings were well attended and the divinity of this great work was the testimony that Brother Gibbs was more than eager to bear. He also presented colored slides to all the schools in Richland which proved very interesting.

Dale Gene Sprecher was blessed April 24, 1949, by C. E. Hammel and J. I. Verhei. Beverly Gail Daer was blessed August 21, 1949, by L. A. Whiting and A. J. Crownover.

May 20-22, 1949, a Regional Priesthood Institute was held, the first of its kind to be held in Richland, and we of the branch were very grateful for the ministry that our brothers, Apostle W. Wallace Smith and High Priest Orlan Crownover, gave to us; the theme of the institute being "Ministry To The Home."

A very spiritual ordination service was held December 12, 1948. After the remarks were made by Brother Gibbs, Brother L. A. Whiting, assisted by S. L. Bowerman, ordained Brother Harold Hight to the office of priest. Brother Carl Hammel ordained Brother Angus Daer to the office of teacher and Brother A. M. Baker, assisted by L. A. Vosmer, ordained Brother W. M. Cox to the office of deacon, after which Brother A. F. Gibbs gave a sermonette closing with the singing "Rise Up O Men Of God."

After notice appeared in the local papers that the Atomic Energy Commission had decided to allow churches to build on AEC installations on Oak Ridge, Los Alamos, and Hanford, Brother Lloyd Whiting wrote a letter dated January 12, 1948, to General Electric Company and to the AEC for permission to build and asked for a site at the corner of Swift Avenue & Long, or as a second choice, at the corner of Swift & Thayer Drive. Brother Whiting received an answer with a formal application from Mr. Barnes on May 2, 1948, which he promptly filled out and returned to his office on May 7, 1948. In a letter received October 4, 1948, from Mr. Barnes, it was indicated that he had approved the first site we asked for which address is 1004 Long, Richland, Washington.

After discussing plans for a building with Brother Roscoe Davey while he was here in Richland holding a series of meeting from March 14-19 at the Marcus Whitman School, Brother Whiting sent a letter on March 14, 1948, to the Presiding Bishopric requesting a loan from the Houses of Worship Fund. During Brother Gibbs stay here in December, Brother Lloyd Whiting and Brother A. F. Gibbs went and looked at the



barracks owned by the Nettleton and Sound Co., and on December 15, 1948, a bid was submitted by letter for one of the barracks. The price was to be \$5,500. On December 23, 1948, Brother W. M. Cox, treasurer for the Richland Branch, deposited with the Nettleton Sound Co. \$1,000 as token fee for purchasing of the buildings.

On December 17, 1948, Brother L. A. Whiting submitted a letter to the Presiding Bishopric requesting a loan and also included a sketch of the building plans. Brother Mesley wrote the Bishopric on January 5, 1949, recommending the loan. A check for \$4,000 was wired by the Bishopric on January 7, 1949, including \$470.75 from the old Pasco Branch fund. Starting the first part of February, all men available started to tear down the newly purchased barracks and among those helping to do this job, was none other than Bishop Monte Lasater and Brother A. M. Baker, the latter making daily trips by walking many blocks to help with this good cause. \$2,564.27 was added to the fund making a total of \$6,000 from the General Church.

The Finance Committee consisted of W. M. Cox, Harold Hight, and H. Klusman. The Building Committee consisted of C. E. Hammel, S. L. Bowerman, and L. A. Vosmer.

Ground was broken on August 18, 1949. Footings for the foundation were poured October 1, 1949, and the men began laying the block walls on October 6, 1949.

Officers elected on September 11, 1949, were as follows.

Pastor ... L. A. Whiting
Church School Director ... S. L. Bowerman
Junior Church Pastor ... Harold Hight
Zion's League Leader ... Jack Hight
Leader of Women ... Faye Reninger
Music Director ... Mildred Cox
Secretary ... Mildred Cox
Publicity ... Irene Bowerman
Treasurer ... Marvin Cox
Historian ... Harold Klusman
Auditor ... L. A. Vosmer
Book Steward ... Jack Reninger

A very beautiful service was held on October 2, 1949, for the purpose of installing the officers above listed for the new year.

In October 1949, Bishop G. L. DeLapp, M. E. Lasater, and Apostle George Mesley visited Richland and called a meeting of the Building and Finance Committees to discuss final plans for the erection of a church building. The following men met at the Mart for discussion of the details.

Bishop G. L. DeLapp	Marvin Cox	H. C. Klusman
Monte Lasater	C. E. Hammel	L. A. Vosmer
Apostle George Mesley	Harold Hight	L. A. Whiting
S. L. Bowerman	C. F. Klusman	



A very fine spirit prevailed and many valuable suggestions were obtained.

In 1950 several baptisms were recorded including Brother Albert Arbogast, Allen Arbogast, Mabel Arbogast, Oma Piert. Then in June of the same year, Jacqueline Cox, Karen Crownover, Ruby Koehler, and Linda Hawthorne were baptized in the first baptismal service held in the new church building. The service was held on Children's Day.

Sister Henrietta Dunavan passed away on February 10, 1950. Brother Albert Arbogast passed away on November 1, 1950, and Brother Spencer on October 8, 1950. While we lost some of our membership by death, we had another service in which Brother Harold Hight baptized Raymond Edgar, Belva Jean Flynn, and Frances Wilhite.

Dorothy Ann Winship was married to James Federico on June 24, 1950. Ray Wilson Wilhite married Frances Elizabeth Johnson on July 1, 1950

On November 3, 1950, the Zion's League held a carnival in the basement of the church for the purpose of raising money for the building fund. A very good crowd attended and the sum of \$92.50 was turned over to the treasurer. Mel Crownover was in charge of this very worthwhile project.

The much loved A. E. Daer family, who had resided here in Richland for several years, moved to their previous home in Roundup, Montana, on November 30, 1950. They report missing the saints very much and, above all, missing the privilege of attending church. They are witnessing the best they can in a locality where there is no church and in a place where they feel they might create interest.

The yearly election of officers was held September 20, 1950. Those elected are:

Pastor ... L. A. Whiting
Church School Director ... A. L. Bowerman
Women's Leader ... Faye Reninger
Music Leader ... Pat Crownover
Publicity ... Maxine Crownover
Treasurer ... Marvin Cox
Secretary ... Mildred Cox
Auditor ... L. A. Vosmer
Book Steward ... J. J. Reninger
Church School Attendance Chairman ... Harold Klusman

Installation of these officers was held October 1, 1950.

The Emma Smith Circle had a very successful bakesale at the new C & H Foodstore in Richland. A profit of \$40.67 was the result of the labors of this group of women. Also, on December 14, 1950, the women's group had a most successful church supper, the first one of this kind in the new church; clearing a total of \$90.60.

The Zion's League went caroling to homes of all the saints in Kennewick and Richland. The evening was very much enjoyed and the chili that was served to the Leaguers at the Hammel home tasted mighty good after caroling for about four hours in the cold.



On October 18, 1950, Chrystie Ann Crownover, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Crownover, was blessed by her grandfather A. J. Crownover. Also, on the 15th, Robert Lee Taylor was blessed by L. A. Whiting. On ____ 7, 1951, Kathy Rae Wilhite was blessed by L. A. Whiting and James Raymond Edgar was blessed by A. J. Crownover. January 21, 1951, Kent Alfred Vosmer was blessed by L. A. Whiting.

February 9, 1951, Mabel Hammel was taken to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital with a cerebral hemorrhage and in a very critical condition.

February 11, 1951, Brother P. Al. Peterson was taken to Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital with a heart attack. He passed away on February 17.

February 16, 1951, Mrs. Cottew, a piano instructor, held a recital for her pupils in our church, giving proceeds to the building fund. The recital was greatly enjoyed and the proceeds were greatly needed.

March 17, 1951, Ethylyn Glee Wilhite became the bride of Charles Wayland Coleman in a very lovely ceremony performed by Harold Hight.

Harry Warner Cash was blessed January 14, 1951, by L. A. Whiting and A. F. Gibbs. Richard Arthur Cash was blessed January 14, 1951, by A. F. Gibbs and L. A. Whiting.

June 13, 1951, a beautiful baptismal service was held in the church. Those uniting with the church were Judith Ann Cox, Minnie Cottew, Larry McDermott, and Gene Eidem, with baptisms being performed by our pastor, Lloyd Whiting. Confirmations followed immediately.

The annual business meeting held for the purpose of electing officers for the new year was conducted on July 10, 1951. Those elected are:

Church School Director ... Harold Klusman
Women's Leader ... Pat Klusman
Music Leader ... Pat Crownover
Zion's League ... James Lorenzen
Publicity Director ... Chrystal Crownover
Treasurer ... Marvin Cox
Secretary ... Mildred Cox
Historian ... Mildred Cox
Auditor ... L. A. Vosmer
Book Steward ... J. J. Reninger
Solicitor ... S. L. Bowerman
Junior Church Pastor ... Wallace McDermott

Each Monday night is designated as special work night at the church. A great emphasis is being placed on getting the church ready for conference which will be held the latter part of October. On several nights there have been eleven men working for about five hours each.

An outstanding Communion Service was held August 4, 1951, with Pastor L. A. Whiting in charge. A very wonderful spirit prevailed.



The Zion's League sponsored a box supper in the basement of the church. Not too good a crowd attended but a nice sum of money was turned into the building fund and a very fine time was had by all.

April 18, 1951, Wallace Clayton McDermott was called to the office of deacon. S. L. Bowerman moved to accept the recommendation as read by Pastor Whiting and Jack Reninger seconded. Wallace McDermott spoke regarding his calling. The recommendation was carried unanimously.

District Conference was held at Spokane on April 21 and 22. Many from our Richland Branch attended. Those attending reported that the conference was very inspiring as well as challenging.

Bishop Monte Lasater visited the branch on April 15, 1951, speaking at the 11:00 a.m. hour. We are always glad when Monte can visit us. He is one fine fellow and one who lives what he preaches.

A most beautiful service was held at the 11:00 a.m. hour on Sunday, April 29 in which Bruce Wheeler and Joseph Lamb were baptized by Priest Mel Crownover. Faye Reninger sang a very appropriate solo, "Cleanse Me."

A lovely shower for Winnogene Vickery was held at the Matt Crownover home, 1303 Acacia, on May 29.

It was a most enjoyable evening with a lovely shower of gifts.

On June 1, 1951, a double-ring wedding ceremony was held. Vows were exchanged between Winnogene Vickery and Cpl. Gene G. Eidem. Elder L. A. Whiting officiated at this beautiful ceremony with the altar banked with white and pink carnations with a rose background. The bride was given in marriage by C. E. Hammel. Her attendants were Miss Carol Hammel and Mrs. Joyce Brady. Soloists for this service were Harold Klusman and Chrystal Crownover. A reception in the church followed the ceremony. This fine couple is making their home at 72 Riverside Homes, Pasco, Washington.

Another wedding ceremony took place on July 1, 1951, immediately after Communion Service at which time Tamma Lemons and Joseph Lamb were united in marriage by Elder A. J. Crownover. Opal Simpson of Walla Walla, sister of the bride, was maid-of-honor, with Mildred Cox singing "At Dawning" accompanied by Pat Crownover at the piano. Jacqueline Cox acted as ring bearer.

The Emma Smith Circle women's group, of the Richland Branch, held their annual picnic on July 10, 1951, at the park in Kennewick. A good time and plenty of good eats were reported.

The annual business meeting, held for the purpose of electing officers for the new year, was held on July 10, 1951, with the following persons elected.

Pastor ... L. A. Whiting
Church School Director ... Harold Klusman
Women's Leader ... Pat Klusman
Music Director ... Pat Crownover
Zion's League Leader ... Jim Lorenzen
Publicity Director ... Chrystal Crownover
Treasurer ... William M. Cox
Secretary ... Mildred E. Cox



Historian ... Mildred E. Cox
Auditor ... L. A. Vosmer
Book Steward ... Jack Reninger
Solicitor ... Steve Bowerman
Junior Church Pastor ... Wallace McDermott

Building and Grounds Committee:

Matt Crownover ... Chairman
Steve Bowerman
Pat Klusman
M. J. McDermott
L. A. Vosmer

Finance Committee:

William M. Cox ... Chairman
Carlos Crownover
Wallace McDermott
Treasurer of the Women's Department

William M. Cox was appointed by the pastor as head deacon and also custodian for the church.

Irene Bowerman was elected as social chairman for the coming year.

Three of our young men who are students at Graceland College were called to the office of priest by L. A. Whiting. They are Richard Hammel, Harold Hight Jr., and Duane Whiting.

Several members of the church, mostly priesthood, met at the church on Sunday night, September 9, 1951, to show church slides, helping to qualify the priesthood better to go out and tell the gospel story.

A circle for the Pasco-Kennewick ladies was organized with Mae Piert as leader.

The first women's meeting for the new year was held October 16, 1951, at the home of Pat Klusman. The devotional was by Mildred Cox with Faye Reninger assisting. Most of the meeting was taken up in business since the women played an important part in the district conference that was held in Richland October 27-28.

True enough, there was a need for earnest workers in preparation for the conference. Several of the men worked sixteen hours a day on the church as it lacked a great deal in being ready for this important event. The new and larger auditorium had to be painted, and tile floor laid. Many odd jobs that were necessary had to be tended. Chairs and dishes were loaned to the church by the school system. A Westinghouse electric range was donated to the church by the Davis-Pleiss Appliance Company of Richland. God indeed blessed us abundantly as he looked down upon us and saw our many needs.

Many of the saints from a distance came to Richland on Friday, October 26, in order to be here for the beginning of the conference at 8 o'clock, Saturday, October 27. The theme of the District Conference was



“Seek Sources of Spiritual Power.” Apostle E. J. Gleazer, Bishop Monte Lasater, Sister Margaret Gibson, Brother Vern Webb, pastor of the Spokane Branch, Evelyn Hight, district leader of women, and Carl Hammel, district president, were in charge of classes and other services. The Kennewick and Pasco women served a lovely lunch at noontime on Saturday while the Richland group served a wonderful meal to over 250 persons Sunday noon. The meetings were well attended and a good spirit prevailed. God’s Spirit was in abundance at the prayer meeting held at 8 o’clock Sunday morning.

November 11, 1951, Priest S. L. Bowerman was ordained as an elder in the Melchisedec priesthood by Pastor L. A. Whiting.

Missionary George A. Njeim held a two-week series of meetings starting Sunday, November 18. Brother Njeim, a native of the Holy Land, is known throughout the United States and Canada as an outstanding speaker. The attendance was good every night and Brother Njeim truly planted good seed.

Brother Don Landon, a General Church appointee, came to Richland for a week to hear Brother Njeim and receive instruction. He went to Yakima from here and started his first series of meetings on December 2, 1951.

December 7, 1951, the women’s group held a bakesale and bazaar at the C. C. Anderson Department Store. This was a very successful project for the building fund.

December 18, 1951, the women’s circles of Richland, Kennewick, and Pasco held their annual Christmas party. A very nice program was presented depicting the nativity scene with group singing of Christmas hymns and the exchange of gifts. This was held in the home of Mildred Cox, 1102 Perkins, Richland, Washington. Refreshments were served by the hostess assisted by Jennie Stade and Jeanne Gurwell.

December 21, 1951, a Christmas program was given by the different classes of the Church School under the direction of Evelyn Hight. A good attendance was there to enjoy the fine program and also a visit from Santa Claus who brought fine treats for all the folks in attendance.

The worship service for the Sunday morning Church School on December 23, 1951, was not held until after the classes had convened. At 10:30 a.m. all the classes congregated in the main auditorium for the worship service which included a beautiful reading by Harold Klusman, depicting the Christmas nativity scene, assisted in music by the Zion’s League singing many of our best-loved Christmas songs. Taking the part of Mary was Mae Piert and Joseph was Jack Reninger. After completion of the worship service, Pastor L. A. Whiting presented a very appropriate sermonette.

We, as a church, have made great progress in the year 1951, but have we made as much as we could have? May God’s Holy Spirit continue to lead and direct our course in such a way as to be a beacon of light to those who sit in darkness.

Mildred Cox, Historian
Richland WA Branch