

Deborah Ann Coulam

Wheelwright



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Chapter VII

Toulouse, France Mission 1978-1981

Journal Entry January 13-14, 1978

What an eventful day! President Nathan Eldon Tanner called Max in for an appointment and later talked with me on the phone and asked us to accept a call as a mission president, to leave the end of June. What a mind-boggling, spirit-searching event. The number of changes to be made in our lives can hardly be imagined.

Not much sleep last night. Too many ideas going through our minds. Max was up by 5:00 a.m. and it seems like I was awake for hours.

My XPB group was here for lunch. There was much talk of missions because the Clingers and Gwen Ward are on missions now. It was hard to sit there and participate in the discussion and not tell anyone our news. We are bound to secrecy until public announcement. We haven't even told Scott and this is very hard. I'll be glad when we can at least tell our children. We need to set up some priority lists and get started.

We bought a building that needs remodeling and will be moving Wheelwright Press offices there in February, we hope.

The evening sky is so beautiful from our living room sofa. I really enjoy our beautiful home.

Where will we be six months from now?

Talk Given June 18, 1978, at Yalecrest Ward before Max and I left to preside over the France Toulouse Mission

I don't know what to say when I see so many of my friends and relatives; it's almost like being at your own funeral. But it's wonderful, and what a sight to see so many of you. Some of you have come such a long way and I do appreciate it. I tried all week to have laryngitis or something and I got as close to it as I could get.

One of the principles of the Gospel that we all accept when we take our vows in the temple is the principle of consecration. The law of consecration is a celestial law in which we promise to dedicate all our time, talents and means to the building up of the Kingdom of God here on earth. Probably, many of you behave much as I have most of my life. We believe in the principle, but don't really feel called upon to practice it. We accept our assignments in the ward and stake and try to fulfill these assignments well, but they still only fill a small edge of our total living.

What does the law of consecration really mean? We know that the people of Enoch lived it, and they were taken up into heaven because of their righteousness and dedication to the Lord. We read from Moses 7:18: "And the Lord called his people Zion, because they were of one heart and one mind, and dwelt in righteousness; and there

was no poor among them.” We also know of the people who lived on this continent after Christ visited here. We read from Fourth Nephi, verse three: “And they had all things common among them; therefore there were not rich and poor, bond and free, but they were all made free, and partakers of the heavenly gift.” In more recent times, some of the early saints in this dispensation lived the law of consecration for a brief period of time through the administrative system of the United Order.

The law of consecration will be lived in the Celestial Kingdom, and for us to be ready to abide in this kingdom, we must begin to prepare ourselves now by consecrating our lives towards building up God’s kingdom. One of the most prominent elements of the law of consecration is the concept of stewardship. A steward is one who is given control over affairs of property and is expected to care for, improve and give an accounting of progress to a master. We each have areas of stewardship and responsibility in the kingdom that we are expected to care for and improve and render an accounting of to our Father. In our Doctrine and Covenants, section 72, verses 3 and 4, we read: “And verily in this thing ye have done wisely, for it is required of the Lord, at the hand of every steward, to render an account of his stewardship, both in time and in eternity. For he who is faithful and wise in time is accounted worthy to inherit the mansions prepared for him of my Father.”

How can we begin to live the law of consecration now? By committing ourselves to living the Gospel. We must learn to love God and all mankind. We must put the Gospel first in our lives even though it may require self-denial and sacrifice. We must love the Lord with all our heart and our neighbors as we love ourselves. As we seek to keep all the commandments, our lives will become more dedicated. Our attendance at church meetings, fasting, and prayer, demonstrate to the

Lord our desire to serve. Quality time spent with our families in showing love to all God’s children are examples of our own personal commitment to build the kingdom.

We all need to examine our lives in several areas. The first area is church service. The Lord’s Church is organized so that members are given responsibilities in administering the Church and in serving their fellow men. The Lord admonishes us to learn our duty and act in the office appointed in all diligence. These callings are inspired of the Lord and we are blessed according to the faithfulness in the calling, no matter how great or small.

Another area is in the use of time. The Lord has given each of us the gift of a lifetime, whether it be short or long. While large amounts of time are spent doing necessary, everyday tasks, we still choose how we will spend much of our time. Richard L. Evans once said: “Time is the essence of all our opportunities. It is precious, perishable, irreplaceable, and it won’t wait.” This is the day in which this day’s work should be done.

Another area is in the use of our talents. No two of us are created alike. Each has our own talents. One way of showing our gratitude to God is to use our gifts wisely. Again quoting from Brother Evans: “Talents will shrivel and waste away unless we use them well.” One talent we can all cultivate is the ability to remember the Lord in all we do. Remembering the Lord in our daily activities will strengthen our personal commitment and increase our commitment to consecrate our lives. In this way our very thoughts will be turned toward building the Kingdom of God.

A fourth area is in the use of our material possessions. We can be perfect in paying our tithes and offerings. These may be supplemented by voluntary effort to assist the poor and needy among us. We have frequent opportunities to be generous by sharing our material possessions with those around us.

Sharing tools, information, and friendship with neighbors and family are ways we may use our material possessions to further the Lord's work.

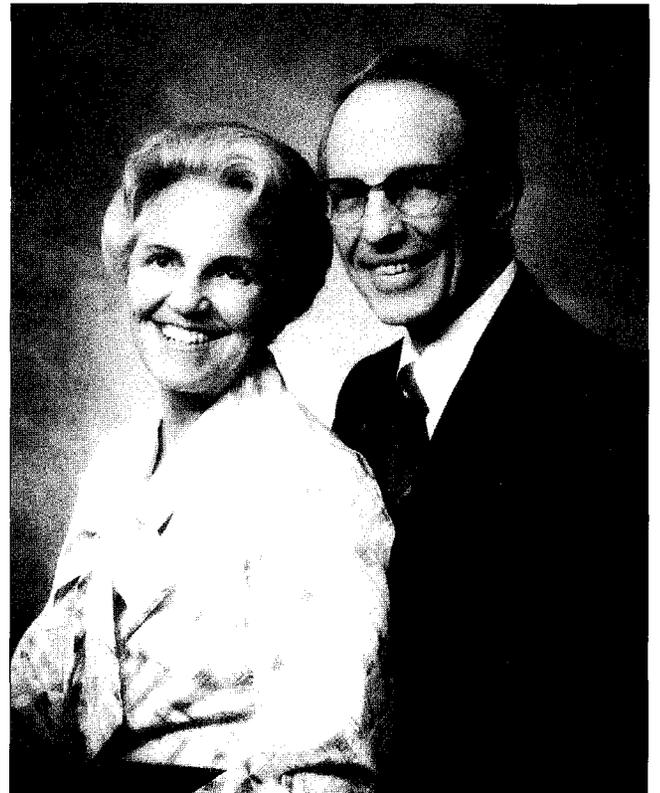
The law of consecration is related to the two greatest commandments—to wholly love the Lord and to love our neighbors as ourselves. Dedicating our lives to the Gospel of Jesus Christ helps us prepare to live the law of consecration. Hopefully, all of our friends and neighbors and family members who are here in this audience tonight will recognize that my sermonizing about the law of consecration this evening is entirely for my own benefit.

As Max and I enter upon this new assignment, the only way we can hope to be successful is by having a completely dedicated spirit and by completely consecrating our lives for three years to the building of the kingdom in the country of France. We have had missionary examples in our family and have seen the spirit of dedication grow and develop in each one of them. I am sure that as we seek guidance and strength through prayer, the Lord will assist us to more fully dedicate ourselves to service in his kingdom. We read from Second Nephi, chapter 32, verse 9: "But behold, I say unto you that ye must pray always, and not faint; that ye must not perform anything unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul."

Over the years both Max and I have had many great opportunities for service on both the ward and stake level, but we have never really been required to consecrate on a full-time basis as administrators and missionaries in furthering the work of the Lord. Our mission covers one-fourth of the country of France and we will be responsible for 125 missionaries and 1700 members. We will need the faith and prayers of all of you at home plus our own complete dedication to

the assignment. In First Nephi, chapter 3, verse 7, Nephi said: "I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them." I am counting on this promise to extend to me and to Max the learning of the French language and in our ability to take care of this new assignment. I hope I can learn to get along without all of you here today, all of the family members and friends and neighbors who have been such a great influence in my life. We love all of you and will miss you terribly, but know that now is the time, this is the day to do that which should be done.

I have a testimony of the truthfulness of this Gospel; that we have a living prophet who receives daily guidance through revelation; that our Heavenly Father watches over all of us. May the Lord bless you and keep you I say in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.



President and Sister Wheelwright

Following are journal excerpts from the three years in Toulouse, France.

July 1, 1978

Today is the official day for the beginning of our mission to the France Toulouse Mission. To bring me up to this point and how it came about I'll go back and pick up some details of our call, etc.

We received our call on Friday, January 13 from President Nathan Eldon Tanner—who called in the morning and asked to see Max at his office. This was a most auspicious occasion and the call came as a complete surprise even though Max had been trying for some time to volunteer or find some suitable employment. He had hoped to find an opportunity to work for the Church but had never openly expressed the hope for this call as a mission president. I had on several occasions included in my prayers a hope that he would find some niche for himself worthy of his many steadfast talents—so in reality this was an answer to prayer.

It was not until after April Conference that we received the specific call to Toulouse, France. Prior to that time Max had enrolled in French classes at the university and we had agreed to take a Rotary exchange student from France into our home for the balance of the school year. My hopes were for an assignment to a French speaking mission but I had had no real premonition of the area. At the French reunion we attended the first part of April, we both were inspired to ask some questions about Toulouse but not many specifics. We met Brother Didier at this time and were very impressed with his intelligence and his spirit. We will be working under his direction in this mission.

For two weeks prior to April Conference Peg and Jim Parry and their 5 lovely children visited and worked with us in our many preparations. Jim and the boys helped considerably with the building of the base-

ment apartment and Peggy and I did packing and planning. It will be hard not to see them again for three years but we are so proud of them and their accomplishments. After 9 years of stalwart work as a district in Minnesota and Wisconsin their area was made a stake the last Sunday in April. At that time Jim was set apart as stake patriarch.

As soon as the Parrys returned home we took Christophe Curutchet of Bayonne, France into our home. A good young man of a fine family, we were happy to have him and he contributed to our enjoyment of learning of our new area of labor and of the French language. We hope we were able to influence him for good and that at some time in the future he will be receptive to the Gospel. Through him we also met Lionel, another French boy, and we enjoyed this contact also. For our family evenings we read from the missionary discussions in an effort to help us with the French language, Christophe with the English language and also some basic Gospel teachings.

Also during this period we met and became well acquainted with Marie Chantal Roussel—a young convert from France. Our Scott enjoyed her companionship and she also helped with our language development.

Christophe and Marie both returned to France in May. We hope to meet them again while we are here.

We had many preparations to make to get ready for leaving our home and our business interests for this three year period. We left our home rented to David and Brenda Bennion. David will be doing a three year residency at the University Medical Center so this should be a good arrangement for both of us. Scott will stay in the basement apt. while he is working at Hercules this summer. Dorothy Sheffer will be in charge at Wheelwright Press with Steve keeping an eye on progress and future needs there. Jim Sipherd is acting as our agent on the real

estate. We hope that all goes well in our absence.

The week before going to the seminar, we had Randy & Cathy and their two darlings with us. It was great to visit with them and they also helped with many of our final moving preparations. They were able to play a lovely cello duet at our farewell and Randy also gave the closing prayer. We are so pleased with their situation in Lebanon, Oregon. We pray that they will be able to keep this position and continue to make a contribution to the growth of the Church in that area.

July 11, 1978

Our week at the mission presidents' seminar was a tremendous learning experience—and what a thrill to be in such close contact with the leaders of the Church. There were 72 new mission presidents at the seminar & 70 wives. We received four days of instructions in Provo at the LTM from the missionary committee and the general authorities. Our sessions started at 8:00 each morning and lasted until 9:00 or 10:00 each evening. We ate our meals in the cafeteria with the missionaries—saw Elders Landau, Challis & Robison while there. On Friday we returned to Salt Lake for a very special day. Thursday evening we had the opportunity to meet many of the parents of France Toulouse missionaries. Friday morning we had a meeting with the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve, and many other general authorities. This was a culmination of great messages. A testimony of the Gospel contains three main elements—a belief in Christ as the Son of God, in Joseph Smith as a true prophet of God and in our latter-day prophet President Spencer W. Kimball. President Romney spoke to us about Jesus Christ and His divine mission. Bro. Mark E. Petersen gave a beautiful address about Joseph Smith, beginning with the film *The First Vision* followed by the story of his life and teaching illustrated with slides & scriptures. The con-

cluding speaker was President Kimball, who in his usual humble way implored us to increase the baptisms, teach the word and find representatives of every tongue and people. Baptize them so they can carry the word back to their own people. We have seen examples of this work here in France. This past week a Hungarian boy was baptized and a Black man from Ghana.

I neglected to mention in my previous writing about the new revelation from President Kimball regarding the priesthood now being available to all worthy males regardless of race or color. This was a thrilling event in our lives. Since that revelation there has been a Black member here in Toulouse who has been given the Melchizedek Priesthood and also called to be a counselor in the Toulouse II Branch presidency.

To conclude my notes about the seminar—we had a lovely luncheon on the top floor of the Church office building followed by a program. That evening we had dinner at the Lion House as guests of Bro. & Sister Neal Maxwell. He is our zone adviser and all western European presidents and their wives were present. We had a spiritual testimony meeting at the conclusion.

We were able to spend Saturday, Sunday & Monday saying goodbye to friends & family, packing and moving to the basement. The apartment is in good order and we feel satisfied that all will work out well at home.

Tuesday morning June 27th we left Salt Lake City for Boston, arriving there at 4:30 in the afternoon. Steve and Margaret and their lovely children met us. We spent a great day with them Wednesday June 28th celebrating Marianne's birthday. We went to lunch at the Hyatt House and had a good day before taking off for Paris at 8:00 p.m. The trip over was strenuous with practically no sleep.

Tom & other Paris missionaries met us at the airport. Tom looks great and is very enthusiastic about the work. His French sounds great. We took him & his companion

to dinner and then had a good night's rest to help us with the time change problem.

We arrived in Toulouse on Friday afternoon June 30th at 2:30 p.m. Pres. & Sister Broschinsky & their fine family & many elders met us at the airport. Because of their family (5 children) we asked to stay at the hotel, which we did, until after they left on Tuesday morning July 4th. The time at the hotel gave us a chance for some peaceful evenings. We were oriented at the office on Saturday, went to church on Sunday & then right to work on Monday. Also both Friday & Saturday evening we were involved in branch socials with the members. Thank goodness I can understand most of the French, but I must work hard to be able to speak properly and fluently. Oh how I need to schedule some learning time.

Tuesday afternoon we visited the 2 elders at Rodez and then back to Toulouse for our first night in our home. Max has mission presidency meetings on Tuesdays. It was up to me to figure out the secrets of a French washing machine (16 cycles to choose from) and dryer. Not much sleep that night. Wednesday morning we left early to visit and interview missionaries around the mission. We took the southern route to the west visiting Tarbes, Pau & Bayonne. The missionaries are really great spirits—with large portions of young enthusiasm and spirituality. Many are recent converts and the only one of their family a member. The branch president [in Bayonne is] Bro. Sorhaitz. Sis. Sorhaitz is a lovely person—wish I had her close by to help with the French. We spent the night in Bayonne—drove right by Christophe's home but no time to stop. Hope we can next time. Also stopped overnight & interviewed at Angouleme.

Thursday—On to Bordeaux where there are 22 missionaries and a full chapel building. The area is divided into 3 proselyting districts and 2 branches. The missionaries are enthusiastic and are baptizing and there is real progress being made. There is a great

camaraderie among the missionaries. Guess I got my cities mixed up. It was Thursday night we stayed at Angouleme. Interviewed there on Friday morning & also in Limoges and Brive. We are more and more impressed with the quality and dedication of the elders & sisters.

Back in Toulouse Saturday afternoon. Early (6:00 a.m.) Sunday morning we went to Montpellier. Montpellier is a beautiful spot with a special spirit in the branch there. I was able to stay to Sunday School while Max was interviewing. The branch president taught the lesson and did an excellent job. The salle was full and it's a most attractive salle. We visited with some more missionaries on the way back to Toulouse & then visited an elders' apartment here in the evening.

Spent Monday cleaning up the home and trying to make it suitable for us. There was lots of mess but no real dirt so I accomplished a lot in one day. Even caught up on the washing and ironing.

Tuesday 6 new missionaries came in from the LTM. Wednesday evening we had them here for dinner. My first attempt to prepare a whole meal in my French kitchen with French food. I haven't cleaned a chicken from scratch for many years—but the chickens were super fresh and the meal turned out well. We had a fine testimony meeting with them. These young men have learned well at the LTM and are ready to go out and proselyte, teach and baptize. Thursday evening July 13th we had a farewell dinner for 4 departing missionaries. It is amazing to see the maturity of mind and spirit with these elders. The contrast is very sharp when comparing them with those from the night before. It is really a testimony to me of the truthfulness of the Gospel and the greatness of this missionary work to see this development. The mission will miss these fine young men—but others will step into their shoes. Friday I worked in the office helping the supply manager.

After lunch we drove to Castres to interview 2 more missionaries and Friday evening late we drove to Carcassonne to meet the missionaries there and also to enjoy the 14th of July celebration. We have never seen more elaborate fireworks. The old city of Carcassonne is walled and turreted—almost unbelievable as it sits against the hillside. They had a fire and smoke sequence that was unbelievably realistic. There were thousands of people there—lots of tourists and even a few Americans.

July 16, 1978

Sunday Max was interviewing more elders while I attended Sunday School. I enjoy the lessons just as much in French as in English but I really miss not being able to participate. I feel like a mute. I don't really know how to go about learning how to speak. It's really discouraging.

July 17, 1978

I have gone to the office a couple of days this week but there is just no place for me there—no desk—no real responsibility and I am so afraid of doing the wrong thing. I get impatient and just add to Max's problems. He has so much to do.

July 19, 1978

There was a baptism at the Toulouse salle this evening. A young boy (13) here visiting from Spain with his grandparents who are members. There are several Spanish people in the branch here so the baptismal service was carried on in both French & Spanish. After the baptism we drove out to Blagnac to see the property the Church is negotiating for a chapel site. It looks good to me. The problem seems to be in getting Frankfurt to agree to price, etc. Max talked to Bro. Didier & he is in favor.

July 21, 1978

While I have some extra time today I'll mention some of the customs & particulars of this home & area. The mission home is several miles from the office so I am always without transportation and totally dependent on others. I get so lonesome these days

here alone I can hardly stand it and just feel like crying most of the time. I really do not know how to be just a housewife—especially with no children—Max putting in a full 12-hour day & most evenings besides—no friends—no language—I'm just a mess. Our personal goods haven't arrived so I have no sewing handwork even. The home is not a very comfortable home. Our bed is especially uncomfortable. We have the mattress on the floor which helps but the traffic going by is so noisy I don't sleep well and am nervous during the day. The weather has been cool & unsunny except for 3 days last weekend when it was terribly hot and humid. Most days are "sweater" weather. The air is damp. Plants really grow well both inside and out. We have beautiful huge hydrangea bushes on the north side of the house.

Shopping for groceries is a panic. All fruits & vegetable are weighed & price marked by a special clerk in that area of the store. When you check out you bag your own in flimsy plastic sacks—very unhandy. The checkout clerks are impatient and expect you to hurry along.

The streets in Toulouse go in every direction and are mostly one-way so you have to learn incoming & outgoing routes for wherever you travel. A map is really necessary & even then it's easy to get lost. I haven't driven at all yet and may never. I sound grumpy today but I really am! Maybe by the time the 3 year mission is over I will have become reconciled to the position of wife. I can't even find things to do around the house. I study some French—read some scripture & wander about—housework doesn't require much time.

July 26, 1978

It's a good thing I feel better this week. I really had a low point last week. Three days are just too many to stay here alone with no communication and nothing to break up the boredom. Sunday is a better day because at least I can go to meetings.

Monday was planning & preparation day for zone leaders' seminar held yesterday.

The zone seminar was held at the salle and the constant trains going by do interrupt the spirit—but not much. The elders are fantastic people with a great deal of faith, determination and love of the Gospel. We had several hours of instruction on the theme “Living with Exactness”—I received much more than I gave. All of the messages made me realize how far I have yet to go in my attitude of true dedication.

Today Bro. Creer from Frankfurt was here with Max going over property problems, etc. and they came home for lunch. I really am a social person and appreciate such contacts.

Our airmail shipment arrived after a full month on the way—but the items we really need are in our boat shipment. Wonder when they'll come. It's very frustrating to need an item for cooking, for clothing, for working with the office and think we have it & then remember it's still coming.

July 30, 1978

Max has really been concentrating on the individual missionaries and their needs.

Yesterday we had our first diversion day. Jim & LaVon Gibb came to visit for the afternoon & early evening. It was great for us to just relax & “let our hair down” with good friends. What I miss most. I am getting acquainted some in the branch and am really enjoying the sister missionaries who are here in Toulouse. Starting this next Tuesday Sis. Segeuret of the branch is going to help me with my French.

August 4, 1978

Today we are in Bardas to the youth conference for the whole district. There are about 70 young people here and many of the leaders—district and branch presidents and their wives—all fine young people. The conference is being held in a nun's convent & the head sister herself can't understand why she was willing to let “Mormons” use

the facility. It is rustic, but large, and just perfect for the occasion.

I am a real drag, not speaking the language. Last Tuesday Sis. Segeuret came to the house and spent the afternoon helping me with pronunciation and some conversation. She will help me again next Wed. Hopefully something will finally get me to talking.

I have such ups and downs of the spirit. I know my real place is to be a help and support to Max but I have been so used to feeling valuable in my own right without being dependent on anyone—this having to wait to be asked, to be included, and to be needed is so hard to adjust to. I can keep the house in order in one day a week & can do what's needed at the office in another day so I have plenty of time to study—it's just being so lonesome that gets to me. I know I have not humbled myself nor perfected my attitude of service anywhere near enough.

Our personal goods that we shipped from home in May have finally arrived in Toulouse and will be delivered to the house on Tuesday. I can hardly wait—it will be like Christmas.

Women in France do not worry at all about wearing matching colors. One of the sisters here today has a purple flowered skirt—a deep red sweater over a gold blouse with red jewelry and yet she looks okay. They wear pleated skirts and soft knit sweaters or shirtwaist blouses. Their dresses are mostly soft shirtwaist styles. The young people dress casually like at home—Levis, cords, sweatshirts, sweaters & droopy blouses.

August 7, 1978

We have returned from a fabulous 4 days spent at the youth conference in Bardas. It was a very special opportunity for us to get acquainted with Bro. Didier, our area supervisor. He is a spiritual man but with a great deal of drive and organizational ability. He spoke to the youth Saturday evening about the government of the Church and how it

works. A very necessary concept for these young converts to understand. Saturday afternoon the entire group went to Bayonne to try missionary work. They also sang in the Cathedral Square. After lunch we had a Sacrament Meeting. I spoke my first two French sentences before an audience. I am trying to use the French language more but it is so hard to remember words, verbs & tenses, etc. The couples who were in charge of the conference are great young leaders. The Church is in good hands here in France. They just need more of them.

Food habits are so interesting here and really have some great points to them. Food is served in courses—beginning with an appetizer which is generally like a mixed salad or finger vegetables—or instead of this a good vegetable or cream soup. The main course is a starch or a meat but not usually both. There may also be a vegetable dish. Their bread is a necessary part of the meal. They use it to sop up the dressing from the salad (usually just a spiced vinegar & oil) or the gravy from the meat or the liquid from the vegetable. The food is served on the same plate but the plate is quite clean. The salad that follows the meal is just plain lettuce with vinegar & oil. They may also serve cheese & more bread as the finale or just before the dessert. The food is quite spaced & I find myself eating much too much. I have gained about three pounds since arriving and was already at my top possible level. Their chocolate is so cheap and so available that Max has bought it and I always manage to eat it. I must cut way down or I'll be a mess with no clothes to wear. Also they have delicious puddings, yogurt and cookies of all kinds besides a real tendency to drink sweet drinks. The members of the Church especially drink sweet soft drinks instead of the wine generally used.

While at the youth conference we stayed in a Basque hotel in the town of Bidache—right next to Bardas. On Saturday night,

when Bro. Didier was there also, there was a wedding celebration going on. The band of accordion, drums and horns played continuously until 5 a.m. and then the cleanup crew started. What a night to remember.

After taking Bro. Didier to the airport Sunday evening we took a quick look at the beach at Biarritz and visited the elders in their apartment there. This is a fancy resort town with Europeans from all over coming there. Monday morning we returned to Bayonne & visited the other elders' apartment and also the sisters who live at the salle.

We then drove to Pau and met a lovely older couple that Max interviewed for the temple.

We took a side trip to Laruns in the Pyrenees. I've never seen more beautiful mountains. It was great to get back to Toulouse, even to this noisy house.

August 16, 1978

Since last Friday we have had 4 zone conferences. The first one was for the Perpignan District and was held in Beziers. What a great spiritual experience. I spoke on devotion through thought and word and deed. In addition two new proselyting techniques were given—on genealogy & “lacing”—a baptism approach. After all these fine presentations and a lunch time in between—we had a super testimony meeting. The spirit of the missionaries is wonderful. Their French is excellent & their ability to express themselves is great. I bore my testimony in France for the first time in Beziers. It was short & I was nervous but I did it. The presentations have been completely different from one zone to another but all have been creative and interesting. The elders and sisters are so full of the Spirit—and also full of lots of good fun. Two more zone conferences—at Bordeaux and at Perigueux. While in Bordeaux I visited several apartments. The elders' apartments need repairs and improvements. This must be one of our projects—to clean up, repair,

and properly furnish all mission apartments.

The zone conferences were all great but it was a joy to get back to Toulouse—that is really our home now.

August 25, 1978

What a full week this has been. Tuesday a.m. early we left by plane for Paris to spend the day with Tom and with the Robinsons, learning about financial matters and just generally talking about mission specifics. Tom is doing a great job as financial secretary. He seems so happy with the work. Tuesday evening we treated him & Elder Chanteraud (his companion) to dinner at the Hilton Hotel at Orly airport. Elder Neal Maxwell & Colleen & also Bro. and Sis. Gordon B. Hinckley came in from England & Wed. a.m. we all flew on to Madrid & Santiago Spain for the mission presidents' seminar. Here in Santiago these men had an interview with the king of Spain and we all met the mayor and other city officials.

Our seminar has been so special. To be so closely allied with all these special men and their wives. We have received two days of excellent instruction & exchange of ideas and this morning we had the culmination in a beautiful testimony meeting—so great to feel everyone's spirit and be so touched by each of them.

September 2, 1978

I am so blessed to have such a special husband with qualities that make him worthy of his calling as mission president.

We had 3 good days in Toulouse this week getting caught up at the office and preparing talks, etc. for district conferences. The first one is in Limoges this weekend.

Friday we drove to Bordeaux by way of Montauban. At Bordeaux Max had people to interview—then we drove on to Angouleme to see the sisters & elders there. The elders are doing well too. Angouleme is old and very hilly. We arrived in Limoges after midnight last night. This is a very charming city.

While Max was at meetings Saturday I studied my talk & got caught up on letters. I really don't feel like my French is making much progress. Sunday morning there was a small youth meeting and then the general session. About 130 persons present. I gave my first address in French. It was difficult & I was nervous—but I get even more nervous for Max when he is trying so hard.

Bro. & Sis. Knight were with us and we had a pleasant visit on our ride home together. He comes from a family—Catholic-German—from a town in Wisconsin near LaCrosse but they were converted in Miami. They are really a fine young couple.

September 13, 1978

Last weekend we were in Bordeaux for district conference and what an inspiration that was. The members there are fantastic and have such a desire to grow in numbers and become a stake. They have set a goal of 1981 to become a stake. I hope we can see it come to be. The Salarnier family are the real leaders there—just like Jim & Peg were in LaCrosse. He is the district president. There were about 250 present Sunday to the main meeting. We had a Sacrament Meeting and a baptism! These events are so thrilling and really give a boost to the spirit.

This week we were disappointed in the number of elders received. We actually have six who have finished at the LTM but who do not have their visas yet.

Cristophe Curutchet & his father stopped by for an hour on Tuesday—the first we've seen him since leaving Salt Lake.

Max & I went out to the university and made arrangements for me to go in next week and take the language test. I hope that I can manage the language class along with my other mission duties. I really need to be able to speak, read & write good French.

September 21, 1978

The weeks speed by so quickly. We have finally received all of the missionaries held over from August & September but they have come in 4 separate groups so we have

had lots of extra work with orientation and the dinner & testimony meeting here at the house. Each group coming in seems like the best ever.

Bro. Mourik came from Frankfurt and we had a meeting here to have [him] explain the building program of the Church. The Toulouse branches really need to make some immediate changes.

Jim called tonight. He & Bev are in Paris on their travel. We will probably see them in November. We miss all of our family so much—sometimes I get so lonesome for familiar faces—but I do love it here—more each day. Max is doing better every day with his language. I am very proud of him and the great effort he is making in this job.

I forgot to mention the fine district conference in Pau last weekend. We met more of the fine members there and renewed our acquaintance with others—we really do enjoy these people.

September 30, 1978

Last weekend we were in Perpignan for district conference where the people are more Spanish than French. Very warm-hearted. This week has been spent in the office. The weather here is definitely like fall—cold mornings and evenings. Last weekend in Perpignan was very warm. We are so very fortunate to have the great family we have. They all write to us on a regular basis and are so active in the Church and so supportive. Margaret is expecting at Christmas time—Cathy in April. The Gospel is so great. These missionaries here are extra fine—we love them all—but some are especially outstanding. Our office staff is superior—each young man trying to do his very best. The mission baptism record is running way ahead of last year at this time and we are hoping to reach 200 by the end of the year. Our goal for the last 3 months of 1978 is 4 baptisms per zone per month—a high goal but hopefully attainable.

October 7, 1978

Last weekend was the district conference at Toulouse. In the afternoon we were able to hear two sessions of General Conference—1 in French and 1 in English. How great to hear the familiar voices and to hear the great messages. During this past week we have had 5 of our 6 zone conferences. Each conference has its own spirit because of the different leaders & different missionaries. We held the two Toulouse conferences at our home because it was so cold at the salle—no heat & the temperature has really dropped.

October 15, 1978

We were in Bordeaux last weekend and attended all 3 branches. Cauderan rents a building in downtown Bordeaux. I was able to attend Relief Society while Max was in priesthood meeting—my first Relief Society since coming to France. We attended Sacrament Meeting in the Larmont & Talence Branches. The Larmont meeting was small but the spirit was excellent in both meetings. The young men who have been out for two years are so mature and strong—we pray they will remain that way through their lives. It will be so interesting to meet them in several years—see them with families and great church responsibilities.

Friday the 13th we finally held our Angouleme zone conference at Brive. It was a great success. All over the mission they are feeling their president's fine spirit and his dedication and desires for them to live with exactness—to plan well—to be successful. I appreciate him more each day also.

Today we are attending meetings in Toulouse among more familiar faces. I'm still not conversing much but I can understand better and better. We paid for me to take a French class at the university—it will start in November. I am getting anxious. I feel comfortable giving my testimony but am far from being fluent. Max is showing

great improvement and when he spoke at the member missionary conference Saturday he was able to talk just from notes—not read it all.

Today is a beautiful sunny fall day. I walked to church this morning which was needed exercise. I need a daily walking program. The yard here at the home is pleasant but only a bench to sit on—wish I had my chaise from home—not that there's really any time to use it.

October 22, 1978

We finally had our Angouleme zone conference in Brive. The zone provided the lunch—we had sweet & sour hotdogs on rice. Only missionaries could come up with such an adaptation. Actually it was very delicious and filling. Wednesday was a busy day at the office. The office got a new carpet in the central area Thursday & then Friday the assistants cleaned their carpet and also the president's. The whole office now looks very nice and presentable to Elder Didier.

Yesterday (Saturday) was my 58th birthday—a time for reflection and goal setting. As usual one of my greatest needs is self-discipline. I need to really cut down on food consumed and also I need to be much more careful of my words & behaviors in front of the missionaries. I am always inclined to talk too much. The office staff came by the home and brought some lovely flowers and also a birthday cake. Max had bought candles so we had a regular birthday party—not quite like at home, but a reasonable facsimile. Max & I spent the afternoon doing some shopping and we bought a very nice, flannel-lined, long, raincoat for me. I imagine I will have lots of chances to wear it when the rainy season starts.

Today we got up early to drive to Limoges—a beautiful drive on a cool, crisp October day. Many rolling hills and lovely countryside. We had letters from everyone of the family this week except Jim & Bev. Peggy has joined the ranks of the pregnant—hers will be due in May—that means

3 additions to our family in 1979. Zion is growing.

Every day I feel more & more the need for more concentrated study. I did read my patriarchal blessing yesterday—it was given to me forty years ago and it is amazing and thrilling to see how the many wonderful promises have been fulfilled. I have certainly been greatly blessed. Most especially and probably my greatest blessing has been & still is my fine husband. He is a real strength to me and he is always so willing to overlook my weaknesses.

This coming week will be spent in the company of Elder Didier—a real opportunity and blessing for us—for the missionaries and for the members. I have been working on a talk to be given to the missionaries and the subject that has come to my mind, again and again, this past week is “Obedience” so I will talk on this—mostly for myself but hopefully to help some missionaries who are having problems.

October 27, 1978

In the talk I take some help from an address by Elder Stapely in which he gives four ways to learn obedience: 1) By studying the scriptures 2) By believing in and relying on the words of the prophet and other Church leaders 3) By disciplining our own lives 4) By having faith, especially in the face of adversity and trials. I gave this talk at each of the zone presentations with Elder Didier & it went well. We had a fantastic week with 7 meetings in 3 days—5 zone meetings & 2 special member meetings in Toulouse & Perpignan. Elder Didier presented his “Time-Line” introduction to the Gospel—a great pre-lesson to give to first-time contacts before the discussions. We then drove to Montpellier by way of Sète—the coastal route along the Mediterranean. We even took time to take a walk on a beautiful stretch of beach & collect some sea shells. Today has been perfect Indian summer weather. This coastal area is much warmer than Toulouse & the northern areas

of the mission. There is a typical wind in the Narbonne area & along the coast this time of year, but it is a warm wind.

Elder Didier suggested that we find another mission home—one that is quieter and with a bigger kitchen, etc. It may be hard to find something but I am certainly willing to try. He also suggested that we shouldn't wait indefinitely for the members to find a new salle or two salles in Toulouse—that we should do it & soon even if we have to call 2 missionaries for the task. Thank goodness that after four months I don't get so discouraged with myself any more but I do wish my conversational French was in better shape.

November 5, 1978

Last Saturday we had all of the district presidents here for an all-day seminar along with the mission presidency. Diane Knight & I prepared a fine lunch for all of them & Sister Aujé also helped. Sunday evening we had a group of prospective temple-goers here for a learning time. Many couples from throughout the mission are going to the temple later this month. While this meeting was in session Jim & Bev arrived. It was great to see them & they were glad to be here for a few days rest. They stayed here until Friday morning so we had time for a pretty good visit.

My class started Monday morning and I go for 3 hours each day Mon. thru Friday. So far the class has been great and I am trying harder to converse and to hear more French. We have about 17 in the class—a large mixture of nationalities with French the only common language. The teacher speaks only French so we have to understand all definitions, word & sentence constructions, etc. by thinking in French. During the oral part of the period she doesn't like us to write at all so we have to keep thinking. I am slower than some in the class but hopefully will learn quickly.

Saturday was a busy day for sure. We had Bro. Alain Marie from Paris here to give

a seminar to branch and district leaders on public relations & communications.

In going over my notes from Elder Didier's talks I thought I should add some notes here as to special things he said.

The message a missionary brings is that 1) Jesus is the Christ, the son of God, the Savior of the world. 2) Joseph Smith is a prophet 3) The LDS Church is a divine church led by a modern-day prophet. The Book of Mormon reinforces the above.

How to share the message with investigators. 1) Spark interest. 2) Give them basic principles. 3) Find out what they know. 4) Give them the message of the restoration. 5) Get a commitment. 6) Teach!

Touch French minds & then testify to their hearts.

November 24, 1978

It is almost impossible to realize that almost 5 months have passed since we arrived here. Every day is full and almost too much happens from day to day. This past week has been a particularly busy one. We left Sunday morning 11/19 at 5:30 a.m. to go to Bergerac for Priesthood and Sunday School. I attended Relief Society also. I even gave the closing prayer—not too successfully but I did it. I must do more praying in French—this is an absolute must. Max & I then drove to Brive and delivered a refrigerator to the missionaries there. We went to Perigueux for Sacrament Meeting. I bore my testimony & Max spoke. Then we drove to Angouleme for a fireside at 8:00 p.m. There was a fine turnout. We met the members—heard some reports and then I bore my testimony & so did Max—a very humbling day.

Monday we drove to Limoges to meet with district people & with the missionaries. Tuesday we drove to Bordeaux for Max to meet with a building representative re the upcoming chapel in Larmont. Unfortunately the meeting ran very late and we didn't leave Bordeaux until 11:00 p.m. arriving in Toulouse at 3:00 a.m. When we got to our home Jim & Bev were sleeping on a mattress

in our garage—the office missionaries had let them in but had no key to the house.

I finally got back to school Thursday morning and found out how much I missed. My actual speaking is progressing very slowly but I am understanding better and really catching the fundamentals of the language. I had to miss the Friday last hour of class so we could leave for Bordeaux again. Bordeaux is a great place to come because we have a nice hotel that is quiet—it is close to the chapel and the people are very friendly. The young people are really great and I get kissed a lot.

Bro. Didier is here with us today and we are going to have the groundbreaking for the new Larmont chapel as well as the district conference.

Sunday

We had a real surprise today. We drove Bro. Didier to Bilbao, Spain, where he was to meet the Doxeys. It was raining for a good part of the trip but there was very little traffic going down. Bro. Didier drove. He made the trip from Bordeaux to Bayonne in 1 ½ hrs. and another 2 hrs. to Bilbao. The green hills in that area are beautiful but the towns are all big, dirty and very industrial. We went for a 20 min. walk in Bilbao before returning to Bayonne for the night. After we got to the hotel the Sorheitz family came by and visited with us for half an hour. They are the finest family you'll ever meet. It's hard to imagine there aren't lots more like them that are ready for the Gospel—if we could just find them.

The highlight of this week was Tom's return to us on Tuesday. He is well—full of the Spirit and anxious to continue serving. He worked at the office. His experience in Paris is a great asset to us.

December 3, 1978

Saturday morning the three of us drove to Limoges for Angouleme District conference. We ran into black ice on the roads and it was slow and scary. There are so many curves and we saw lots of accidents. The

meeting Saturday evening went very well. Tom spoke and bore his testimony. The Sunday morning general session was interesting if nothing else. When I spoke, it was a disaster. The microphone wasn't working & then when it did there was terrible feedback—plus children crying etc. I felt like giving up because it's so hard for me to read the French anyway—but I persisted and I guess some message came across.

December 12, 1978

The days pass by much too quickly. This past week we assigned Tom to the Chemin de la Bette apt. He was able to go tracting and teaching. We three and Don Knight went to Perpignan for the weekend for district conference. It was a gorgeous day Saturday and we went early enough so we could stop and take a tour of the Cité at Carcassonne. It is a real medieval castle with double wall, etc. It is still being lived in & of course caters to tourists.

In Perpignan Tom & I had a chance to walk all through the downtown area on Saturday afternoon while Max & Don were in meetings. We did a little shopping too—including a gift for Steve & Margaret's new addition—a son Spencer David born December 5th. Perpignan is a friendly, open city & Saturday it was warm enough to go without a coat.

December 18, 1978

What a busy week. Tuesday 4 fine new elders arrived. We had a fine dinner and testimony meeting Wednesday & then they were assigned to their first companions.

We expected Scott to arrive Thursday but instead he came on the night train from Paris and arrived at 7:30 a.m. Friday. He looks great & it is fun to have both boys with us. Sunday morning we had [a district] conference session. We both had to talk & Tom bore his testimony also. I wonder if I will ever get to the point of not suffering over my talk. My accent is poor and my rhythm is worse—and it's the rhythm that makes French sound French. The content of my

talk was good—on unity in the home and all helping each other—the French was correct because Sis. Seguret had helped but the actual presentation left much to be desired. We decorated the house for Christmas and even have a small tree. Scott brought some packages with him so there are packages under the tree. He also brought some slides of Cathy's two darlings. We received new pictures of both Peg's & Steve's families. My how they are growing up. They are so individual and yet each one has family resemblances. They are all beautiful.

December 26, 1978

We had a great time with Scott & Tom this past week. We left Tuesday & went to Beziers for zone conference there on Wednesday. The spirit was terrific. From Beziers we went to Perpignan. We then drove back to Toulouse & were here just long enough to pick up some clean clothes & check out the mail before going on to Pau. Friday evening the Pau District Primary had their Primary Christmas program. It was delightful & really put us in the Christmas mood. Saturday we took the long way back to Toulouse & went up close to the mountains & home by Foix. It was a beautiful clear day with the mountains much in evidence.

Monday was Christmas Day. We were all tired so had a slow start but the four of us had a terrific testimony meeting before opening gifts. Scott & Tom are both so fine and so spiritually oriented. Max sets a great example for them. I hope I am doing likewise. We enjoyed a quiet turkey dinner—played several games of "Go" & in the evening the office staff came by & we ate, laughed and played games. It's great to relax like this occasionally.

December 31, 1978

Scott & Tom left at 5:45 a.m. Tuesday by train for Limoges, Paris, London, San Francisco, Salt Lake. We really hated to see them go. We miss family so much. Both boys are so great even though they are so very different. Today Tom will be giving his

homecoming address in Sacrament Meeting. I hope that many of our friends and family are there to hear him.

This past week Max & I have been traveling again. It seems like everyone has been sick—the teaching hours are low—there have been no baptisms for several months but the desires are great. Friday was the zone conference in Perigueux. Six baptisms there this month and another one coming up. Max is agonizing over this month's transfer because he wants to bring in a new assistant and also a new secretary. Also new zone leaders are needed. Finding enough suitable leaders is always a challenge.

We received lots of good Christmas mail so I need to write lots of letters and thank yous for checks and gifts & notes.

Max is sick in bed today. He has a bad cold and really needs the rest. I hate to see him so pressured all the time. Tomorrow begins a new year and also the beginning of our second six months in France. We feel generally good about the mission but there are always many personal missionary problems and also many branch and district problems.

Today I started on a serious diet. I must make my health a primary goal—and then others can follow. I know I am making some language progress but not nearly enough. Having three kinds of goals—mental, physical and spiritual is a real necessity on a mission.

January 15, 1979

What a busy two weeks. After Max got out of bed with his cold he gave it to me. We left for [Grenoble] on the second of January to spend 3 days at the mission presidents' conference. Beautiful country we drove through and it was exciting to see the Alps with snow. Grenoble has a beautiful setting. There are many large walnut orchards nearby—lovely river and the mountains surrounding the valley. As we left Grenoble [we] stopped to visit Bro. & Sis. Farber—

one of the oldest & longest members of the Church in France. We were with Presidents Aragona & Robinson who had known them in Paris. Max had sent tracts to them to distribute when he was on his mission in 1936. A darling French couple in their late 80s. They are still humble & faithful. We drove to Montpellier & Beziers & then to Perpignan, where Max had Saturday evening meetings with the branch & district people relative to the division of the Perpignan Branch which took place on Sunday. This makes 18 branches now in the mission's five districts.

Sunday was a special day with Sunday School first and then we went to dinner at the Tadros' family. They are Jordanian-Lebanese with seven children. They really put on a feast for us—12 different items of food—each one delicious. We were full for two days.

Bro. Tadros is a brilliant man—quite a Bible scholar and of course very up on Middle East affairs. A very interesting afternoon.



With Jean-Thomas Aujé

Monday started a busy week again with my French class beginning again. Saturday & Sunday were busy eventful days. We held a district leaders' seminar here at the house with the district presidencies all invited. We served dinner to 20 on Saturday & 16 at lunch on Sunday.

Max has been gaining weight also so we are trying to eat less & walk more. We walked to & from Sacrament Meeting Sunday so that was a good start.

The past few days the weather here has been beautiful—freezing cold during the night but clear and bright and sunny during the day. I wear a sweater constantly and wish I had one for my legs.

January 24, 1979

We have had a peaceful two weeks here in Toulouse with no traveling—even two Sundays at Toulouse meetings. It helps to get reacquainted in our own branch. Last Saturday the 2 branches held a district Homemaking day. I helped with the luncheon and really enjoyed the female association. My talking is still elementary but I understand well and give short phrase replies. Today we held our zone leaders' seminar. What a great learning day. These young men are so mature and so anxious to do their best and to be good leaders.

It seems like my French class is really pushing along at a very rapid rate. My remembrance from French classes 40 years ago is much better in the written than in the spoken and the same goes for the new things we are learning. Sometimes my mind is more like a sieve than a retention reservoir—which is really what it should be.

We have been doing lots of looking at buildings—both as possible salle locations and as home locations. We haven't found the perfect place for either as yet but hope to soon.

Had a nice long letter from Steve and another from Margaret saying that their new baby Spencer David was able to come home for New Years. Family and financial con-

cerns cross our mind every once in a while but not really very much—we are just too busy. Every day is so full. This weekend we are going to Limoges to install a new branch president.

February 2, 1979

The meetings last weekend in Limoges went well. They had a family soiree with games for all Saturday evening, mostly as an ice-breaker between some families who haven't been too friendly with each other. One of the biggest problems in these small branches is the personal interrelationships. At Sacrament Meeting Sunday Jean-Jacques Chanteraud was installed as new branch president. He was a mission companion to our Tom for six months and is a sincere hard-working young man but also with a great sense of humor. We had dinner on Sunday with the Chedeville family. He is the district president and seems to be handling his job well. They have a two-month-old baby girl and they have so much paraphernalia for the baby—clothes, carriers, beds, playpens, buggy, cart, stuffed animals etc. French people really dote on their children. Their first furniture is a large buffet for dishes, etc.—as nothing is built in, a good sized dining table with chairs and then lastly, if at all, some kind of couch or chair. Quite often these are just made of squares of foam. They seem to always have a TV set. Bedrooms are furnished with the bed, a small double bed, and a large wardrobe for storage. Kitchens are always minimal installations & the only item furnished in rentals is the sink. Even water heaters are usually owned by the renter. Cupboards are makeshift & belong to the renter.

February 3, 1979

I have really been “blue” this week—very down in the dumps and always on the verge of tears. I get so discouraged with my inability to speak French and also with my complete lack of female companionship. How I would love to have a friend close by or at least someone to call on the phone. I am on

school vacation right now so am in the office all day.

The past few days I have been working on a baptismal survey to see if we could identify any patterns. Member involvement really seems to be a big part of the answer—and then they need to learn to fellowship better. So many get baptized and then drift away because of unfriendly members who never accept them & love them.

We have been looking at a beautiful chateau in L'Union as a possible piece of property to buy. It is so lovely we are afraid to hope that it might be approved by all concerned.

The Toulouse II Branch had a crepe fête last night (Feb. 2 is National Crepe Day). The Primary children presented a short program and some of the missionaries did a skit.

February 7, 1979

Today Bro. Didier came for a review of our mission. As soon as we left the airport we took him to see the chateau at L'Union we have been looking at as a possible property. He thinks it's a great value and has possibilities. It is such a lovely place and I have such a good feeling about it. We have looked at so many places but nothing that seems to solve the various problems of distance, price, size of rooms, etc.

This evening we are having 2 baptisms at the salle and then a meeting here after about the building situation.

February 16, 1979

This past week has been full. Last weekend Marie-Chantal Roussel and her brother Jean Louis came Saturday evening and stayed until Monday morning. It was great to visit with Marie.

Bro. Mourik came from Frankfurt Tues. afternoon to look at properties. I told Bro. Mourik we needed the salle first & had better wait on the home. I'm not sure why I had such a strong impression to say this.

We drove to Bordeaux yesterday afternoon leaving Toulouse in a spring snowstorm—light & feathery but cold. It's cold

here too but the sun is shining. This hotel is very comfortable and quiet & I always enjoy the rest.

Today is zone conference. Max had already done quite a bit of interviewing. He enjoys the missionaries. He really has tremendous capacities for understanding problems and seems to be growing rapidly in his ability to help both the missionaries and the members. I wish I was a better support to him on the member side. I really need to understand & speak the language. Max assures me I am making progress but I have a hard time seeing it. One thing about it—I don't talk too much.

February 24, 1979

This has been a hard week with many problems and also great spiritual experiences. We had excellent district conferences in Bordeaux but didn't get away from there until after 5:00 p.m. Sunday & neither Max nor Brother Knight had had anything to eat all day. Their work in the Church sustains them until they stop & then the physical discomforts are felt. In France restaurants are open from 12 to 2 & then again after 7 or 7:30 at night. We drove to Agen & ate dinner there. My state of health worries me. I am overweight by many pounds & I just keep eating.

We left Toulouse Monday afternoon to go to Bayonne for the zone conference. The zone conference went well with a great spirit among the missionaries.

Thursday evening Max & the two assistants had an opportunity to present the film *Meet the Mormons* to the Bayonne Rotary Club, of which Christophe's father is a member. They had a lively discussion with the men there & Max felt they had done some good in improving public relations.

We drove to Limoges Friday morning leaving Bayonne at 6:00 a.m.—a 6 hour drive and then held zone conference here in Limoges. As usual the building was not warm enough and the late start ran us until after 8:00 p.m. with interviews & still 10 el-

ers to be interviewed this morning. I got much too tired & hungry. I seem to fall apart when cold & tired & hungry. My body is my worst enemy and I wonder how to develop the faith & attitude to overcome these ever recurrent problems. When in Toulouse the language is the beast I have to work at—when on the road it's the sleeping & eating. Max tries so hard and I am such a drag for him. I'm just not up to him in the ability to work long hours without complaint.

March 4, 1979

The district meetings went well last week. There is a good spirit in Limoges and in the Angouleme District. While I was in Limoges I spend Saturday fortifying my spirit with some additional prayers. I received a strong impression to bear my testimony in English along with my talk on consecration and self-evaluation. I probably bore the strongest testimony I have ever borne. I am so appreciative of such opportunities. I continued this pattern in the two zone conferences in Toulouse North and Beziers zones—never quite as strong as on Monday but I can certainly feel the Spirit better when I'm not agonizing over the French words.

March 11, 1979

Friday March 9th was the big day of our sisters' missionary conference. What a memorable day. Every team gave a great presentation. There were lots of fun songs—beautiful singing—violin music—good food & just lots of fun, plus great spirituality. They are all talented—each in her own way. The conference was late starting because of train schedules & late closing too. As a consequence the 6 sisters of Perpignan zone missed their train here. The 2 from Angouleme were staying also & the 4 from Toulouse didn't want to be left out so all 12 stayed here overnight. We got out a temple jigsaw puzzle & had peanut butter sandwiches. Everyone got away from here early Saturday morning. What an event.

Today was more Toulouse District conference. I spoke better today & I was congratulated. Yesterday I had my hair done—that was a nice change. Surprising how many elders mentioned it. I really do respond to praise. There were 5 new elders ordained today. Toulouse is making progress. It's exciting to see the new converts take hold so well. The members in Toulouse are friendlier all the time & I am beginning to feel at ease somewhat. I tried hard to have some real conversations today and I did better than I expected.

March 17, 1979

The weeks I am overwhelmed with work are the better ones for me. When I have time to stop and think, I get homesick, lonesome and discouraged. I can really sympathize with the missionaries. We have been here in Toulouse 8 months and I still feel very much a stranger in a strange world. My inability to speak the language fluently enough to have a real conversation is a terrible stumbling block that I must overcome. I need to just push myself to talk more—but it seems that whenever I do I really gaff & usually am asked to repeat myself & then I get nervous & self-conscious. Why my mind won't think fast enough I just don't understand.

Tonight the branches are having their Relief Society birthday party. We are tending John-Thomas Aujé because he is sick. I'm sorry to miss this special event. I feel just a little cheated because I get so few social contacts but the service is more important. Sis. Aujé is Relief Society president so had to be there and Brother Aujé is in Paris.

I had a good letter from [a] friend this week in which she talked about the importance of keeping a diary & not being afraid to express your inner most thoughts. I feel that I complain too much and don't express often enough my thankfulness for all the great blessings we enjoy. Max is such a good husband—always thinking of others and trying so hard to do his very best. He seldom complains. If he gets discouraged with

himself like I do with myself he really keeps it quiet. My biggest problem is myself. I just never measure up to what I want to be.

March 30, 1979

Where does the time go? We have been in France nine months— $\frac{1}{4}$ of our total time. It's hard to imagine that that much time has passed. Last weekend we went to Perpignan for district conference. The Knights now have her two nieces with them—Christine & Lynn Ann. They are sweet girls and deserve a good home. I hope they can endure the culture shock as well as the home change. Along with Sis. Aujé & Jean-Thomas we drove out to Canet to the beach. It was very windy but is a beautiful spot. Saturday was a warm, beautiful day. Sunday it rained some but the spirit was warm. The members are really great. We spent the first part of this week getting ready for zone leaders' seminar on Wednesday. The seminar went well. I gave a presentation on unity that I hope will help the leaders get their districts moving toward baptisms. Oh it is a challenge to keep everyone well motivated. Every time there's a transfer it takes days for everything to settle down again.

We had a short letter from Scott today—he seems to be doing well & has been put in the Elders Quorum presidency in his ward. We've heard from Tom & he's doing well too. My class at the university is so interesting with all the many foreigners. I enjoy the various activities & am constantly learning but probably should be doing more Gospel study too. Time seems so tight & it's hard to squeeze in all that should be done. Yesterday Max & I had lunch with Bro. Fartin—our Black man from Ghana who is in the branch presidency. He is a fine Christian gentleman with a firm testimony. He's 80 years old, somewhat crippled but very hale & hearty—a vegetarian & health advocate. We went to the Sacuto home last Friday & that was a great experience. She is Canadian & he is French-Tunisian-Italian & Jewish. They have 2 darling daughters and a new

baby boy. He has been a bishop in Paris. We had another interesting experience last week. One evening we attended the Rotary program put on by their foreign students here—saw some of my class there & met Rotary people also. I'm a social stick with French people but I can certainly do fine with young people. Somehow I lose my fears and relate better.

April 13, 1979

More busy times. For the weekend we visited Tarbes, Bayonne and Pau. Saturday evening the branch had a soiree—it was fun to enjoy the relaxed atmosphere. The Sorhaitz family were most of the program. Their son Frederic is a real musician so it was most enjoyable with Basque songs & instruments. We drove to Pau for Sacrament Meeting. The Pyranees are so gorgeous this time of year. It was a beautiful drive and the meeting was fine. Max spoke and I am more amazed each week at his great development in speaking and language ability. It is very humbling to me to see his growth. I am trying harder to talk to the members but I'm certainly no linguist. This was transfer week again with much agonizing and searching to determine the best moves. Max really works with personal revelation.

Wednesday of this week was the last day of my class before Easter vacation. I showed slides of the United States and took a carrot cake for a treat. It was a fun thing to do and hopefully will open up some communication about the Church—if not now—later.

April 27, 1979

We had the two LaBec [Knight] girls with us for the week following Easter Sunday. They are darling girls and I really did enjoy having them but it was different having to worry about children again.

We planned some very different zone conferences this round with a sports play day in the morning and our serious presentations after lunch. Our first one was held in Agde for the Perpignan zone and was a great success. We visited the missionaries in their

apartments. Max did his interviews there & I inspected the apartments & talked to the missionaries. I am able to get very well acquainted with them this way and can notice problem areas. For the Angouleme zone we followed the same routine with interviews in each city at apartments. We were able to start early so there was plenty of time for everything, including a very special testimony meeting. The assistants are presenting a special baptism program to each district as they travel also & each district is in turn presenting a skit or talk on "Getting Fathers to Pray" plus a musical number. Very creative presentation.

I certainly continue to have my low points. When I have a day of just following & waiting all day I get very uptight & wonder why I am here & what my place really is. I can't honestly answer these questions & do often wonder what the hereafter will be like—what the women will be doing.

May 8, 1979

We finished our zone conferences at Bordeaux & Pau. We visited the apartments and found them in good shape & each district with good leadership. While in Bordeaux we attended the Affinites Mutuelles conference on Saturday—lunch & dinner & dance. In the morning Bro. Aujé, Max & Bro. Didier each spoke. Max really can hold his own now both in content and in French. He did the best he's ever done on any talk. Monday we had our zone conference. Tuesday we drove to Pau by way of Bayonne. The day in Pau had to be changed somewhat because Max had to be in Toulouse by 3 p.m. Thursday to sign the papers on the new chateau in L'Union for the 2 Toulouse branches.

We had a call from our Tom last Friday afternoon, May 3, telling us of his engagement to Rosemary Jackson—the daughter of my cousin David & his wife Lou. She is Tom's 3rd cousin so I guess there's no genetic problem. She's 3 or 4 years older than him—teaching school & well matured. They

should do well together. They certainly sounded excited. They are planning an Aug. 1 wedding. Oh how I hate to be missing these special family events.

May 22, 1979

We are preparing another zone leaders' seminar for tomorrow. The theme is "Who Am I"—I'm speaking on goals & being perfect.

The Relief Society had a lovely morning of cultural talent two weeks ago. It was great to hear the violin and the piano plus see art works, etc.

This past weekend we had 2 days of meetings for district presidencies here at our home. We served dinner Saturday & a sandwich lunch Sunday to 20. I felt like I had spent the whole weekend in the kitchen. My back & feet really get tired from standing so long. Saturday night the presidencies did skits & musical numbers that were fun to see. The best fun was seeing the radiance in the face of Bro. Beagles as he tells of his new found love. He is planning to marry in a few months, and at his age, it's exciting & most interesting. He has really had some great spiritual events in his life since joining the Church.

We received from Tom this week a copy of pages from his journal explaining his actions & experiences re marrying Rosemary. I can't imagine not going to the wedding, but I must be spartan about it, but it's hard & I really want to go. The date is August 8th.

Cathy had a baby girl, Sharon, on Apr. 13th. Peggy had a baby boy, Steven Max, on May 14th. We talked to Scott because a neighbor boy here is going to Berkeley this summer & Scott has been finding information. Steve called to wish me a Happy Mother's Day & also to make more arrangements for their trip here the end of June.

Today was my last day at school. I'll really miss the class, the language instruction and the people too. It's been a wonderful experience and I've learned a lot of French &

also enjoyed the young people from all over the world. Today I actually stood in front of the class & told them how I felt & then offered free brochures and Books of Mormon. I was pleased I could actually make myself understood. I have made good language progress but I must keep studying and talking.

This evening Bro. Mourik is coming from Frankfurt. We have a couple of homes to show him & he also needs to see the place at L'Union & give some instructions for repairs, etc. We would like to resolve the home problem soon.

[not dated]

Bro. Mourik came and tentatively approved the home & office combination on the north/east side of Toulouse—Rue de Lanusse. The new place at L'Union is getting into shape but the work seems never ending.

Sunday May 27th the two branches in Toulouse were combined into one with Bro. Aujé as the new branch president. We hope the branch will develop a real unity and strength in numbers and with good priesthood leadership. As a result of this change Max now has as his new counselor Bro. Sacuto—a former bishop from Paris.

The missionaries in the office play tennis on Saturday, their "P" day, & they have invited me to play with them a few times. I love the activity & the sun but need to find a partner of my own—for some regular practice & play. My arthritis is so miserably painful sometimes and I do think regular exercise helps. I have been trying to keep on a diet to some degree. I have just got to manage myself better.

It's time to prepare the June transfer. We have 9 elders & 5 sisters coming, with 7 & 3 going home, with threesomes in both elders & sisters. It's very hard for 3 to be together—they just can't seem to get much work done.

The weather is summery most days. The flowers, shrubs & trees are all so beautiful

right now & at the market Saturday there was a real abundance of beautiful fruits & vegetables. We do get lots of rain in this part of France so that helps everything to grow.

Just a word about the fine elders now in the office. All in all they are a special group and we really appreciate them. They remembered both Mother's Day & our wedding anniversary with special cards. They always try to do what is right and to be thoughtful of us.

June 11, 1979

We had a phone call from Steve from Palo Alto—he & Margaret were there house hunting. They are planning to move west this summer. Tom is going ahead with his plans & is even trying to plan a honeymoon to France.

Jim has been in San Francisco taking a travel agency class & he & Bev are talking of moving to Boulder, Colo. I would love to see them really settled someplace.

Last Saturday the Toulouse Branch had a workday at the new salle with a picnic & dance following. Our missionaries joined in the work effort & used up some of their high spirits and energy in a worthwhile project. They need an outlet of freedom from dressy clothes once in a while.

The Sacuto family stayed with us Friday night after the dinner we had honoring Bro. Aujé & Bro. Bize for their work in the mission presidency. We were 20 to dinner & it went very well. I am certainly getting lots of practice at entertaining. I have probably served more meals to guests in this first year here than I did in 5 to 10 years at home. Max really enjoys this and appreciates it. My cooking seems to be well tolerated & except for getting very tired, I enjoy it too.

I have been reading the biography of President Kimball & really enjoying it. I have been at home both Saturday morning & today (Monday) waiting for a painter to come. Strange that he hasn't even called. Seems like it's impossible to get anything done in a hurry here.

June 19, 1979

We have had a busy week. Last Tuesday we received 13 new missionaries—12 from the LTM & 1 from Zurich. All outstanding. Excellent language ability—all were able to bear their testimony in French & do a creditable job. On Thursday we had 10 departing missionaries. What a fine group of young men & women. We will miss their leadership. Friday we went to Bordeaux for our first zone conference in this series. Saturday was regional conference for all of the leaders from Pau, Angouleme & Bordeaux Districts. Max gave an excellent presentation on the "Peer" program. I attended the Relief Society session. French women have a tendency to be a little cool toward each other until they really know you. This is very hard for new members & investigators. There are notable exceptions such as Sis. Sorhaitz in Bayonne.

Sunday afternoon we drove to Perigueux for Sacrament Meeting. The branch there is a delight to attend. The members are mostly Portuguese—very humble, super clean, and children are well-behaved. There were 45 at the meeting.

We had a lovely experience Monday evening. We drove back to Toulouse by way of Fumel & met the Von Tonder family from South Africa. The mother & 7 children (2 to 14) are all lovely spirits. They came to France to live—not really knowing why—just following the Spirit. The father will be coming next month. It's hard for this family living so far from other members but they are so united & the mother is so exceptional—one of the real French jewels.

June 27, 1979

Steve & Margaret, Marianne, Mindy, Kristen & Matthew all arrived last night. What fun to be with them. The children have all grown but otherwise seem very normal. They didn't bring their new baby Spencer on this trip.

Since writing last we have been in Perpignan for an excellent zone conference

& 2 days with members. Sat. was regional conference combining Toulouse & Perpignan Districts. It's really hard to be a missionary in this area with all of the distractions. The beach is off-limits but it's always there enticing. The 2 Perpignan branches have a great many young girls & they torment the missionaries too. Takes strong ones to withstand the temptations.

July 1, 1979

Well, we've been in France one year. What a different year this has been. I guess the hardest part has gone by and from now on things will be easier.

Steve and Margaret have been with us and what fun it has been. We went to Carcassonne and to the beach at Leucate Thursday. Got a bit of sunburn but not too much and the beach was lovely. However, now we know for sure that all French beaches must be off-limits to our missionaries. Most of the women wear only bikini bottoms—no tops. Really quite an eye-opener.

Wednesday we had a birthday party for Marianne—her twelfth. Bro. & Sis. Didier were here in Toulouse for just a few hours & we took them & Steve & Margaret to see the house on Rue de Lanusse. Bro. Didier approved and hopes we can make the change. Now we just wait for word from Salt Lake & Frankfurt. He (Bro. Didier) is being transferred in his assignment & will no longer be here in Europe after August. He will live in Salt Lake & cover all of Canada. Bro. Robert D. Hales will be our supervisor from now on. The children enjoyed a few minutes of meeting Bro. Didier. He even taught them how to play dominoes.

Friday we took a short trip to Durford & Revel where they make beautiful copper pans and lovely furniture reproductions. Saturday we drove to Pau—the beautiful city of the mission. This weekend marked the moving of the Toulouse Branch to the new salle in L'Union. Over 100 people at testimony meeting—really great. The spirit was tremendous.

July 7, 1979

Steve & Margaret & family left on Tuesday morning. For the past three days we have been in Tarbes with the mission Young Adult conference. Only 12 participants but all quality young people.

During the week we received pictures of Cathy's family & her lovely new baby girl Sharon and also of Peggy's family & her lovely family including the new baby Steve. 3 new babies that will be 2 years old before we see them.

July 12, 1979

This past week has been one of our very busy weeks as it was transfer week again. On Tuesday 7 elders arrived from the MTC—a really fine group. All positive and in good control—also very united. We had them with us for dinner & testimony meeting. I served fried chicken & potato salad—an excellent meal on a hot, sticky day. Thursday was transfer day & the going home elders—all 13 were together for their last time. It was really a hard, hard day for Max because 5 of the 13 had disobeyed, quite directly, what Max had asked them to do—they had traveled to other cities on Wed. or before—not just coming straight to Toulouse Thursday morning. It really spoiled the feeling of the going home. Max gave none of these 5 their temple recommends because he felt they were not upholding their priesthood leadership. It's too bad to have this lax attitude & we must clamp down. I hope my attitudes have not contributed in any way to the problems. I love each of these young men & I really understand their rebellious spirits because I so often feel the same way & it's hard to control actions when thoughts are contrary.

Last night I was complaining again to Max—I really cause him too much worry. I get too tired & then I feel useless & wonder why I'm here & what I should be doing. I really don't want to only be known as a "great cook." That's not nearly enough. I need to be a positive influence for good.

We are now in the process of preparing for the next zone leaders' seminar & zone conferences. We need to come up with some strong, inspirational helps to bring baptisms and avoid breaking of rules. I wish I was more positive and really had the language working for me.

July 18, 1979

We got word today that the house we have been looking at was not approved so guess we'll get busy & fix up this one. Received a good business letter from Steve today. He is trying to get Wh. Press operating in the black. He is such a great son—always interested and always helpful. Margaret sent me a pretty new dress today.

I have decided to be on a diet again. Today I got too hot & miserable so goofed but tomorrow I start fresh.

I really have several major goals to accomplish this next two years while in France—

- 1) Gain in spirituality. Learn to see the best in everyone.
- 2) Learn the French language well. Speak fluently. Read & write.
- 3) Reach ideal weight of 146 lbs. In good physical condition.
- 4) Make a real contribution to the France Toulouse Mission.

July 24, 1979

Received one elder today who has been waiting for his visa for two months. He has been in New York. We had a small 24th of July celebration in the office with home-made ice cream & chocolate cake. What a funny thing it is to find the ice—only the fish markets have any.

I am having another tooth worked on by the dentist.

July 30, 1979

What a week—tooth & jaw ache all week. Yesterday (Sunday) we found a dentist & she ascertained that the problem was not with the tooth itself but I am having an acute attack of inflammatory rheumatoid arthritis.

We received a good letter from Rosemary and all seems to be going well with the wedding preparations. Steve & Margaret sold their home & will be able to bring the whole family for the wedding so all 14 grandchildren will be there.

August 7, 1979

The tooth & jaw problem is better—now I just wait until September to go get it filled.

Max & I went to Bordeaux on the 3rd for the youth conference—held in an old Catholic school in Gradignan. Forty-five participants and an excellent conference. I'm feeling at ease now when I bear my testimony in French but my heart still beats very fast. I feel the Spirit and want to participate. At the dance on Friday night it was interesting to see how much the same young people behave—all over the world. Bro. & Sister Knight are excellent youth directors for the mission.

From Bordeaux we went to Perigueux to visit the missionaries. Sunday morning we went to Brive to meetings. Sunday School & testimony meeting—very enjoyable and it looks to us like Brive is ready to be a real branch on its own. We then drove to Limoges to see the elders there. We spent the night in Limoges & got up early Monday morning to drive to Angouleme. The weather is hot & humid—but bearable.



All the grandchildren, August 1979

This is the day before Tom's wedding. I need a stiff upper lip to get through this week.

August 28, 1979

Almost three weeks since I last wrote and Tom & Rosemary have come & gone again. In this three week period the weather has changed completely—now it rains often & it is quite chilly both morning & evening with nice warm afternoons—when it isn't raining.

We had 7 new elders arrive Tuesday the 14th. Tom & Rosemary arrived Wed. the 15th & joined with us for dinner & testimony meeting. They are a darling couple and we feel good about their marriage. She is so steady and Tom is so bubbly, they balance each other well. Thursday evening was the departure day for 4 very special elders. I love the fine spirits and testimonies of these departing elders—they are no longer boys but are now men.

Saturday the 18th we went to Pau for Tom to see Eric Riva—a former companion of his. We bought a pretty lace table runner and also some teaspoons. We don't get many chances to just have a "P" day.

We returned to Toulouse Sat. evening and attended Sunday School here in Toulouse—then we drove to Montpellier for Sacrament Meeting. Our first zone conference in this series was in Montpellier—a very good spirit present & a good response to our bearing down on obedience, example and trust. On our way home Tuesday we stopped in Carcassonne & also Durford—two nice outings with Tom & Rosemary.

We went to Limoges on Wed. the 22nd. Thursday was their zone conference but I spent the morning with Tom & Rosemary looking at china. They decided on an all white set & also bought some gift souvenirs. They left on the train for Paris at 6:30 p.m. the 23rd—I sure hated to have them leave. We had a great visit & I think their trip was worthwhile so we could all get acquainted.

Our Monday zone conference here in Toulouse went very well. The Spirit was strong. I do love the testimony meetings.

September 5, 1979

Last week we finished up our zone conferences with one in Toulouse on Tuesday and one in Pau on Friday. We really spent a lot of time on the road because Bro. Mourik came into Toulouse from Frankfurt on Wed. noon & we drove him to Bordeaux to look at properties for the Cauderan Branch. Thursday morning we drove him to Bayonne to see a piece of property there.



Looking for properties

This week has been one for me to spend here at the home. The painter finally came & he is painting ceilings this week. I am trying to get ready for the seminar which will be held here next Sat. & Sun. for district presidencies. Bro. & Sis. Creer from Frankfurt & Bro. & Sis. H. Burke Peterson from Salt Lake will be here too so we want the house to look its best and I am also pre-cooking some of the meal items. In between I'm trying to do a little office work & some letter writing. Seems like the letters never get caught up.

September 14, 1979

Well—the seminar went very well. After instruction from Bro. Peterson we had a great testimony meeting with each of these members of branch presidencies telling their conversion story. They are really the "elect" of southern France, and it is a real privilege to be here with them. We had a fine buffet lunch for 26 and a chance to visit with our special visitors. It was nice to talk to the women especially. Bro. & Sis. Peterson both spoke at Sacrament Meeting & then Bro.

Peterson talked to the missionaries. All in all a very special weekend.

Yesterday 4 of the missionaries here in town picked wild berries and I made 3 batches of jam—also I had Sis. Aujé and Sis. Cuvalier come as visiting teachers. We had a pleasant afternoon. It's good for me to have a chance to just gab a bit in French. I still stumble a lot but I'm not as fearful as I used to be. Had to back down to the painter today. I had chosen a green for the entryway wall & he repainted it the former red. If I had been at home I think I would have argued the paint but somehow it isn't worth it here.

Received good letters from Peggy & from Phyllis this week & also my Sewing Club friends. I love receiving mail & don't even mind answering it but I do get bouts of homesickness because of hearing about one & all. I especially hate to be missing so much of the growing-up of the grandchildren. We got slides from Scott of the various families at the zoo together & it's hard not to know the youngest ones.

My fight with fat is on again. I have got to conquer this problem. I don't have clothes to wear & I'm too easily tired because of the extra 35 pounds I'm carrying around. I must change my ways and permanently.

October 14, 1979

We have really had a busy month. We toured the mission with Bro. King, the building maintenance man from St. Egrève, and then toured it again with Bro. & Sis. Robert D. Hales. He is our new Western Europe administrative supervisor. In 4 days we had 3 meetings with members & 5 meetings with missionaries. Bro. Hales has a dynamic personality and some great ideas from his recent job as president of the London mission. He expects us to have 100 baptisms a month instead of 10. We are praying for the success to start. We have been having more baptisms in Toulouse—now to get Bordeaux and all of the areas moving along too. We have some great new leaders. The new missionaries who arrived from the MTC seemed

to have a great spirit—in fact every month they seem better trained.



Max, Elder & Sister Hales, Ann, Elder Foote

This past weekend was spent in Bordeaux for their district conference. I had no assignment this time so spent time with Kerry Sacuto and her lovely children—Rebecca, Sarah & Jacob.

October 20, 1979

Had good letters from everyone this week because of my birthday tomorrow. The missionaries have been most attentive and kind also with all kinds of cards & cakes. They are so loving and so easy to love in return. We had our zone leaders' seminar yesterday & presented two new programs—one a new reporting system & the other a member-missionary teaching program.

November 6, 1979

These zone conferences we are now having are different than others in the past because of all the instruction needed to use the new reporting system and also to present the member-missionary program. The attitudes have been great. The missionaries really want to succeed and they are going to work hard on the new programs—the con-

stant continuation is necessary & where they falter. I'm the same way—with ups & downs. Satan tries so hard to bring discouragement into our lives. We had with us for several days Bro. & Sis. Ben Griffin. He is a traveling patriarch and was here to give blessings in our mission. He was able to be in Toulouse, Bordeaux & Angouleme before going on to Spain. They are fine examples of long-time service in the mission field.

I forgot to mention our two day trip to Amsterdam for the mission presidents' seminar. It was so nice to meet the new presidents and renew old acquaintances and to hear the messages of inspiration from Bro. Bruce McConkie, Bro. Robert D. Hales & from the other mission presidents. It was also great to meet with the wives & feel of their spirit and also their trials & tribulations—whether young or older. The main message was—we must have more baptisms—enough to increase the membership so we can have stakes. Until there are stakes and temples throughout the world, we will not have the Second Coming of Christ. I hope I can be worthy of this calling. I need to forget myself and concentrate more on helping Max and being a loving companion—at the same time trying to really be of service wherever I'm needed. I am really try-



La Famille Zambon

ing to learn patience and to always be positive.

Yesterday at zone conference here in Toulouse the Relief Society sisters—Duprée, Haas, Zambon & Knight prepared the lunch. It's really amazing what French women can do in a kitchen with no equipment. They still have no stove at the salle so were using a single burner with a gas bottle and a large pressure cooker. They are never fussy about clean counter tops nor do they seem to ever spoil anything—their food always tastes good.

November 14, 1979

We have now finished our zone conferences where we introduced our new reporting forms and also had the zone leaders and trainers tell how to use the member-missionary program. We are praying for this to be the way to start this mission growing. Last weekend we were in Pau. The spirit there is lovely. Bro. Gaudens is a fine district president. They released Bro. Beagles as a district counselor as he is planning to go to Salt Lake in January. I really love that man. He told a story of being in China when he was 19 yrs. old. The city had been practically destroyed by the Japanese & there was only poverty & misery every place but a friend of his took him into an inner court & showed him a beautiful white lotus flower growing in the middle of a dirty neglected pond. He was so impressed with this possibility of being pure & perfect even when surrounded by filth & problems. He used this as an example of being in the world but not of the world, in his conference talk. Pau will really miss him.

Monday I had an interesting experience with Soeur Nautre—one of our loveliest missionaries who is going home this month. Her bike was stolen while she was at the baptism last Saturday held in the river. Some Gypsy children were nearby and it was guessed that they had stolen it. I took her & Sis. Landry to the spot to try & find the bike. Sister Nautre was so sweet and

kind in her presentation of her need for the bicycle that the children found it and returned it to her. Her gentle way & sincerity made this possible.

Yesterday I had a funny thing happen—2 pairs of sisters from the branch came to do their visiting teaching. I got a good chance to practice some conversational French.

Max continues to work very hard with both missionaries and members. He is so dedicated and anxious for success here in this area. There are constant problems but somehow he just rides the waves and keeps plugging along. The sisters who arrived today were in a companionship with Marie-Chantal Roussel while at the MTC. Marie has gone to the Fiji Mission.

November 21, 1979

This past weekend was spent in Perpignan—some really long days with district conference plus two sessions of General Conference on video tape. It's really great to see the conference this way. Even in French it seems more like the real thing, and I could understand it quite well.

Bro. & Sister James Martin were here with us Monday. He is the regional representative now for the French missions. It was great to visit with them. Sure hope our baptisms start picking up soon—with the member-missionary program in effect. It is mandatory that something happen to give additional baptisms. The present rate is just too discouraging to the missionaries.

November 27, 1979

I have had a cold for several days & am now coughing a lot—a real nuisance. We were in Bordeaux this past weekend with the Conference video tapes. The meeting hall at Talence was bitter cold and our hotel room was not much warmer. All heating systems here are hot water radiators & the rooms only seem warm right next to the radiator. We went to Sunday School at the Cauderan Branch. This branch is doing very well & seems to be well-organized. They are

trying to find a suitable piece of property to build a chapel as they rent now.

I have had many manifestations of the Spirit lately—when I have received very strong impressions—not really like dreams but during the night.

December 14, 1979

Yesterday the new missionaries arrived. In this group was Elder Kim Childs from Bonneville Stake. He has worked at Wheelwright Press for three years.

Last weekend we were in Perigueux for the re-transmission showing of Conference in the Angouleme District—100 members there. Really exciting to feel their response to this fine method of showing Conference. This tour of the mission has been very worthwhile. Much better than the staticky radio presentations of former years.

Today we have 6 elders and 1 sister going home—a fine group and we will miss them all.

Elder Childs brought with him some pictures from Tom's wedding. The group photo of our family is really magnificent with 21 beautiful people. Tom & Rosie make a lovely couple.

It was Max's birthday Monday and many of the missionaries made treats and cards for him.

December 16, 1979

We have had a good weekend here in Toulouse beginning with a delightful Primary program Friday evening. The meeting was very French—late starting—lots of ups and downs in the audience but really better than usual. They had a nice buffet table.

Today brought the usual meetings. Relief Society lesson was on growing old gracefully & happily. I keep trying but have lots of doubts.

December 22, 1979

The zone leaders' seminar went well with great enthusiasm and a renewed desire to be successful baptizers. The work is hard & discouraging but it's really amazing what

great faith most of the missionaries manage to maintain. Thursday evening the branch prepared a lovely turkey dinner for all the Toulouse missionaries.

We had 4 of the office staff here cleaning & helping us prepare for our Open House Sunday night.

January 14, 1980

Our Open House after church on the 23rd was a great success. We probably had at least 150 people come by—members and missionaries and investigators. We had set up 2 films *Le Pas de Jesus* et *Le premier Vision* in one room downstairs & several other films in the other room. Between eating and visiting most everyone saw the films. We had cleaned and decorated the house so it was lovely and the food went over well.

Christmas Eve we were invited to have dinner with the Zambon family. They have been members about five months and are so loving and anxious to please.

Christmas Day the Knight family prepared breakfast for all the missionaries in Toulouse. She & the girls had made stockings for each person filled with goodies from U.S. The missionaries presented several skits including one about Scrooge—Christmas past, present & future—relating it to lost missionary opportunities. The funniest thing was E. Hamill as the ghost with 7 discussion books—each in a different language. What a punishment for sure. Dianna served a full breakfast. Good food & fun for all.

Christmas dinner we went to Sacutos with their lovely children plus some other branch members. Another turkey dinner. My, how I overeat always. On our way home we stopped & visited the Rodriguez family. While there I was looking at the toys, doll, etc., received by Audrey (3 yrs. old) & I thought we were having a good conversation with communication when she said to me "Pourquoi tu parles toujours en espag-

nale." What a deflating experience. Whenever she hears Spanish she doesn't understand it so when she couldn't understand me she assumed I was talking Spanish. Will I ever learn this language?



Visiting with the Sacuto family

We had phone calls from Steve & Margaret & from Scott & Tom for Christmas. So great to hear from them. We received lovely pictures from each family—they are all so beautiful and I am so proud of each one. I really bore everyone when I show photos & talk about my children—but oh how I love them & miss them.

Since the 1st of the year we have had our series of zone conferences. They went well and the missionaries seemed to receive them well with good testimony meetings.

This past week we received 7 sisters and 1 elder. We sent home 7 elders & 3 sisters. The new ones coming in included 2 from England & 1 from Lyon, France—1 Quebecois. We continue to have a good mix.

Today Sis. Aujé & Sis. Cuvalier came as my visiting teachers. I do enjoy these times to just have conversation & they are both kind enough to help me with my stumbling language. It needs to improve. I need to take more study time for the language & for the scriptures. It seems I am always behind schedule in writing letters and if I do that I don't get the studying done. I procrastinate too much—just like many of the missionaries. We must all try to do better. Now is the time to be making New Year's resolutions

and then really sticking to them. It seems like just the daily living takes so much of our time. Even keeping up with just the missionary side of the work is a real task—the weekly reports—the personal problems—the zone conferences and all the interviews—the transfers, etc.—and then the districts. Max is just like a stake president over a larger area. Even though the districts have leadership they are young in the Church and just learning how to do things. I can really see why greater numbers & organized stakes would help so much.

Every day I appreciate Max more. He is such a hard worker and always so dedicated. Our dinner is waiting (7:15 p.m.) because he has an interview with a member. A normal occurrence—but necessary.

We received Christmas & New Year greetings from many friends. We miss them but we are getting used to Toulouse & France.

It was especially nice to have Sister Martin here for Saturday & Sunday. She is a lot like me and easy to talk to and work with. Bro. Martin has such a pleasant, open personality.

January 18, 1980

The day of the big snow in Toulouse. It has snowed all day—at least 10 inches or more. What a beautiful sight to cover all the drab grey with a pure clean white. Traffic was a real problem. The French drivers aren't used to it so there were lots of traffic jams—funny to watch here at our corner at home. They all drive to the center of the street and then one gets stuck & no one can go so they just honk.

I am determined to be on a diet and get back into some clothes—look better and feel better. This is my big personal challenge and I know with a good attitude & desire I can make it. I am also trying hard to use more French and to study it every day.

There will have to be some changes here in Toulouse Branch. Bro. Aujé is moving to Paris to work so we'll have a new branch

president. Seems like there are always changes in the Church.

January 28, 1980

Yesterday Bro. Carme, a member of only a year and a half, was sustained as the new branch president. He and his wife were baptized after we reached Toulouse. It's exciting to see the activity and interest in the branch here. We had a baptism Sat. night and another one coming this week.

I must write a bit about a special experience this past week—Sis. Von Tonder called Wed. night from Fumel—she has been suffering from a back problem for 3 months now and was definitely in a depressed almost impossible state when she called—very tense, very much in pain and upset. I felt so touched by her need that after talking for 20 min. & calming her a little I felt I had to pray with all my heart for her. I also called Max at the office & asked the mission presidency to pray for her. Our united efforts helped her and many problems have been somewhat resolved this week. What a blessing it is to be able to pray & to receive an answer from our loving Heavenly Father.

February 5, 1980

A new dimension for Toulouse. We have staying with us 2 of the Von Tonder children. Jean Jacques (9) and Gisele (7). Their mother is having serious back problems and she needed complete rest so we picked them up on our way home from Bordeaux last week. Today we made bread—what a process. Our wheat has bugs in it so I freeze it, then I sift out the bugs and pick out the weeds before I grind it. After the flour is ground I sift out the bran and then it's ready for bread making. Even with an electric grinder and an electric mixer it takes between 2 & 3 hours to make a batch. My oven will hold 4 small loaves which means making it often.

March 5, 1980

The Von Tonder children were with us for 2 ½ weeks and then the next week all 7 children were parceled out among the mem-

bers in Toulouse. Dianna Knight & I took 10 to Carcassonne one day for a fun outing. The day was very windy but the children all enjoyed climbing on the old walls, etc. & we had a picnic.

We have had district conferences in Bordeaux, Toulouse & Limoges with Pau this weekend & Perpignan next week. They have gone well—even my talk. We have also been on zone conference tour with great success. The thrust of the zone conferences is to teach with the Spirit and to have every team baptizing before April 6th.

All of our children seem to be doing well. Steve & family are well settled in Palo Alto. Cathy & Randy seem to be always positive—Sharon is walking already. Peg's Steven is crawling & pulling himself up to furniture—and Steve's Spencer has been walking a couple of months. I regret never having seen them as babies—but I guess that's only a selfish desire on my part. Jim & Bev seem to be settling down in Sacramento. Tom & Rosemary seem to be well adjusted and happy—though working hard long hours. We have so much to be thankful for with our fine family. I know that such a family would not have been possible without a fine man like Max to guide it.

March 25, 1980

Last weekend we were in Perpignan for district conference. We had Bro. & Sis. Martin with us which was very enjoyable. He spoke at each meeting so I didn't have to. A real relief for me. Sis. Martin is so easy to be with and so is Bro. Martin. They are good company and don't complain about conditions.

I have been trying hard to be on a diet and am starting to lose a little. Sure is hard when we have a weekend like this immediate past one. We went to Bordeaux to the inauguration of the new Larmont chapel Saturday morning. Max had interviews & meetings all day until 10:00 p.m.—never time to eat a meal. Sunday was more of the same. We just eat cheese & crackers & fruit

in the car & I always eat cookies too. I really do crave sweets and even fruit never seems like enough—but I am managing a little better than usual. Today I am at home & have made prune bread & whole wheat bread—great temptations for me.

Yesterday was a beautiful spring day here in Toulouse. We spent a few minutes on the tennis court but didn't have reservations so for our exercise Max cut the lawn & I cleaned up the garage. We bought a chest freezer for the mission home which will be delivered tomorrow. This will be a real help in being able to cook & shop in advance.

April 12, 1980

Monday was our zone leaders' seminar. What a special day. It's really humbling to be in a room of 14 of the choice young men of this mission plus a very special spirit—my husband—the president. My presentation involved analyzing the mission call and each person's patriarchal blessing as to challenges and promises—a most interesting analysis. My blessing shows 28 promises & few challenges—at least not in proportion. I have received most of the promises and now must endure to the end—some things are becoming easier for me, but sticking to a diet and not eating sweets is still my “Jonah.” Tuesday was a busy day—finishing up all the preparations for the sisters' conference. The sisters' conference was a lovely day—long, arduous but also spiritually uplifting and a good time for all. The sisters had prepared their presentations well & the spirit was great with a fine testimony meeting at the end. After supper we all went together to an operetta at the Toulouse Capitol Theatre—a different experience. Singing after midnight—lots of good feelings. Our American girls are more natural & relaxed it seems but even French, Quebecois, English, New Zealander, all enjoy.

Bro. Cueno was here from St. Egrève working with Elder Way, our excellent, unusual financial secretary. He made the

comment that my language has improved greatly in the past year—I always think not but guess it must be true. At least I am trying harder to speak French—but oh what a trial.

This month is our big birthday month—Jim, Margaret, Peggy, Scott, Melinda. Wish I could be with each of them for their day—but that's a selfish wish. I am where I am supposed to be—doing what I was called to do.

April 29, 1980

We have been to half of our zones now on this round of zone conferences. They have been unusual in that there are only serious, spiritual presentations.



Zone conference in Beziers

Our first missionaries (elders) that have been only with us as president are going home this month. All of those who were here when we came are now gone. Lots of changes in leadership will be necessary the next 3 transfers—almost half the mission changes during the summer months. Our missionaries are working hard to be worthy of having more & more baptisms.

May 13, 1980

This past weekend was the quarterly district presidencies' seminar. We had 20 leaders of the mission here. Max & his 2 counselors do a fine job of instructing the districts. I fed 25 Saturday evening and 30 Sunday noon. It's a big chore but I cooked all day Friday & Saturday & all turned out well. The French men love to argue & it is a

delight to listen in on one of their discussions. No matter what the subject, there is always someone who wants to argue the point. However, on Sunday morning when we have the testimony meeting the Spirit is so wonderful. In Max's talk he asked each one to tell a personal experience where they have put the Lord to the test. The experiences were so varied and so interesting and all really spiritual.

We received 9 new missionaries today & there are 2 more to come this week. Max is in Bordeaux to meet Bro. & Sis. Hales, Elder Petersen and his daughter. Bro. Petersen will speak tonight in the Talence chapel & to the missionaries there tomorrow morning. I'm in Toulouse with the new missionaries. We have 5 baptisms here in Toulouse tonight so we'll all go to the services. The baptisms include a Vietnamese, a Black from Africa and a fine French family that lives in L'Union, close to the salle here.

Sunday was Mother's Day in the U.S. and I received cards & phone calls from our fine children. Steve called Saturday. He & Margaret are coming to visit the 20th of June. I'm really looking forward to that. Jim & Bev called at midnight Sunday. We were so glad to hear from them that the late hour didn't really bother us. The others sent greeting cards & letters—always so appreciated.

There is a partial strike in many areas of the mission this week. Seems like strikes are the order of the day in the springtime. Instead of everyone going out together they keep public utilities and services partly in operation so you may have electricity cut in one part of town—or just the baggage not being carried on the train. There were no newspapers printed today.

May 18, 1980

What a week. We received 11 new missionaries and sent 9 home. Sure hate to see the experienced ones leave but it's always great to see the enthusiasm, fear, tiredness and desire of the new ones. Hope we can

really lead them to great heights in this great missionary labor. Our meetings with Elder Petersen went very well. There were over 300 in attendance in both Bordeaux and Toulouse. He also spoke to the missionaries in both places along with Bro. and Sis. Hales. You could feel the Spirit very strongly in the meetings here in Toulouse. We were crowded here for sleeping arrangements but it was a real privilege to have these general authorities in our home. Bro. Petersen is so humble and sweet and yet so firm and strong. His daughter Peggy Barton travels with him. I felt more at home with Bro. & Sis. Hales this time. This was probably their last time to visit us as his area of responsibility changes July 1.

Because of the visit of Bro. Petersen our transfer week was on a different schedule and we had a luncheon on Thursday for incoming missionaries and a dinner Thursday evening for the outgoing ones. We had to leave immediately after to pick up Bro. & Sis. Martin from the airport. We then drove to Barcarès for the Young Adult conference. This was a lovely time to meet the youth of the mission & have a fireside and a testimony meeting with them. Bro. Martin spoke & so did Max.

I got 2 hours to just lie on the beach in the sun. It was not overly hot but there was quite a breeze all the time—quite characteristic of this side of the Mediterranean. I have never been more physically tired than this weekend—after the 100+ meals I served this past week.

Today was a regular Sunday meeting day here in Toulouse—a special privilege to just be normally at home for the day. As I have been writing in this journal over the past two years I realize it has been a somewhat factual account of happenings without a lot of introspection or delving into feelings, etc. I know I should do more of this in my writing—to make it more personal & also to help increase my own personal spirituality and

discernment. One problem is that my hand tires quickly when writing.

May 29, 1980

Today is our 41st wedding anniversary. It's hard to imagine that this much time has passed. So much happens every day and time passes quickly but looking back I can see many accomplishments. Especially when I look at our wonderful family. How very blessed we have been with such wonderful spirits to have had the privilege of raising to maturity. We are so blessed to have this wonderful family of 27—no major difficulties of any kind. All have good minds and healthy bodies and a desire to live a good life.

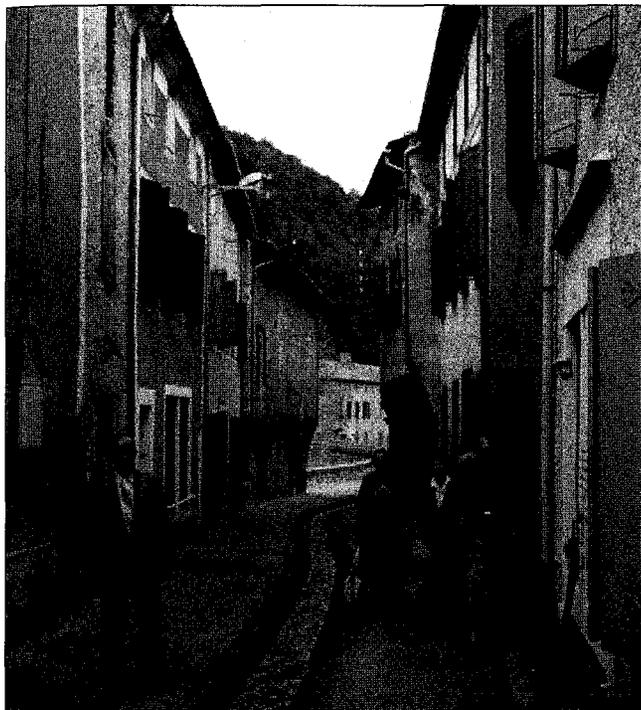
My most important blessing is a very special husband who still loves me in spite of my many weaknesses and imperfections—my fat body and my not so diligent ways. We are both so blessed to be here on a mission—difficult as it seems at times. Max gets discouraged because we are not having the baptisms at the rate we should be having them. We really don't know why our missionaries are not having more success. They have more investigators and are teaching much more with the members but our baptisms are not being realized. Max works hard and is very faithful in his responsibilities.

June 6, 1980

A quiet week this past week with no big dinners to fix nor guests to entertain.



In front of the Toulouse meeting hall with Steve & Margaret and Christine & Lynn Knight



With Fackrells and Woods in Durford, France

Seems like every day there's another interesting problem to solve with the missionaries.

I have spent today working on the next zone conference presentation. They are always such a challenge. It's hard to know just what will hit the mark—be of the greatest benefit. I always learn a lot from the preparation.

June 21, 1980

This past week we have had 3 zone conferences. We started in the Angouleme zone. I talked on personal preparation—really need to do so much more myself. Bordeaux zone went very well too.

We've been here just a week short of two years now—only one year left to see some real results. We need to pray harder and be worthy of greater blessings for the mission. I have so many wonderful blessings & really don't deserve them.

From the *Ensign* January 1979 on the law of consecration "To Prepare a People" by Wm. O. Nelson:

"The redemption of Zion requires the purging of one's heart and soul by the Holy Ghost of all un-Christ-like motives; it means

overcoming selfishness, covetousness, greediness, and idleness—problems specifically condemned by the Lord in early Doctrine & Covenants revelations; it means overcoming tendencies to complain, criticize, and backbite; it means serving God with all one's heart, might, mind, and strength; it means self-mastery; it means being endowed with the power of God through keeping covenants; it means willingly sacrificing all that one has for the sake of the Kingdom of God; it means taking on the divine nature; it requires becoming a holy person. Zion's redemption must await a generation of Saints equal to this standard."

July 10, 1980

The 3rd year of our mission to France. The past two years have been filled with marvelous experiences—chances to meet and grow to love many wonderful young men and women—the missionaries and the members and even a few non-members, investigators and just friends.

Because this is such a difficult growing period for the missionaries we are close to them in thought and spirit all the time. Their weekly reports give us an insight into their hopes and dreams and I find myself becoming more introspective and more aware of my spiritual temperature. I'm sorry to say that age doesn't necessarily bring greater self-knowledge or greater personal spirituality. Many of the young men live close to the Spirit all the time—something I find difficult to do. I still am easily distracted by worldly problems and details. We have elders who are literally spiritual giants.

The Knight family are returning to the U.S. to live. My how this branch and this mission will miss them. Max will have a hard time replacing him. He & Dianna have worked so well with the youth. This week we received 13 new missionaries.

July 22, 1980

This past weekend we went to Beziers. From Beziers we drove to Rodez. We attend-

ed Sunday meeting in Rodez—they just have a Sunday School but it was interesting. Seems like our greatest need in these small member towns is a strong leader & with no examples to follow, how do they learn? The branch at Castres is redoing an old centre ville apartment for their meeting hall & it is looking very good. They have lots yet to do but have made much progress over the past few months. They have several families there.

Last evening Don & Dianna came by with all the goodies they had brought from the U.S. for us. Just like Christmas. We had a good visit with them. They brought us up to date on some of the problems in the U.S. right now—riots in Miami, heat wave in southern part of country, tornadoes, continued volcanic activity in Washington plus the political problems. Much unemployment also. It makes us glad to be on a mission so we don't have to worry about these things. Our worries are all concerned with our missionaries, our branches and our own personal responsibilities toward them.

I have started on a home study course from the B.Y.U. to help me lose weight. I know I would feel better and be more productive and happier if thin—that is, of normal weight. This is my time to do it. I would be a great example to the missionaries in addition to the great feeling of self-worth it would give to me.

July 28, 1980

Our zone leaders' seminar went well last Thursday. The zone leaders are always the cream of the mission so it is a real blessing to be with them.

I am trying hard to have good eating control & with no eating between meals have had good success the past 3 days. Now I must continue & also cut down calories of the actual meals. I don't really have enough to do when home all the time so it's easy to think of eating—a habit I've had all my life—eat whatever, whenever.

I have been studying the New Testament lessons & we are reading from the N.T. in French & it is inspirational to read about Jesus and the early apostles. I want to be worthy of my husband, our super family and also this missionary calling.

August 11, 1980

Max has gone to Brussels to meet with Elder Paramore for the day—along with the other French & Dutch mission presidents. We have had a very busy week this past week—lots of people, meals, cooking, etc. & I find my most vulnerable eating problem is when I am cooking & also eating with guests.

We received 3 fine new sisters & 5 elders and sent home 4 sisters and 4 elders. Seems like we have lots of health problems continually plaguing our missionaries. Thank goodness Max & I are well.

My knees have been giving me lots of pain lately—must be the humidity. My hands and feet are quite swollen also. I do wish I had a reliable doctor to work with. Just a few more months and then I'll be home & complaining about missing the missionaries, etc. Seems like I'm hard to satisfy.

August 29, 1980

We have now finished the zone conference tour. Our theme was "Individual spiritual growth is the key to numerical growth in the kingdom"—a quote from Pres. Kimball.

Our baptisms have not increased. We seem to be stuck at 7 per month. We are going through a period of difficulty in the mission—not enough trained leaders and lots of sickness. [Two elders are] ill in Bordeaux and not making a lot of progress—a real worry as the doctors here seem to just prescribe medicines—never diagnose diseases. So far we haven't found an answer for them.

I have started to lose some weight and must maintain my determination & desire. This coming week is one of preparation for another district presidents' seminar—for

the visit of Bro. James M. Paramore—for the September transfer with many leaving & few coming in.

I have been reading the novel *Shogun*, an historical Japanese story. So enlightening but probably not helpful spiritually, but it has been great to have the relaxation after the busy days. It's very hard for me to confine my reading to only Church materials. I'm not as refined as I should be nor as much as we expect our missionaries to be. I want to be a good example but fall short often. Last evening my Relief Society visiting teachers came by & it was great to visit for an hour or so. I get so hungry for just someone to talk to.

We hear quite regularly from our former "star" missionaries & occasionally from others. All marriage invitations received so far have been for temple marriages—this is most pleasing.

The weather has started to cool down & mornings & evenings are comfortable even when the days are hot. We really appreciate being well and able to do what is needed. Max has so much energy and he has so many responsibilities. The Lord really blesses us both continually.

August 31, 1980

We had such a lovely Sabbath day today. In Sunday School the lesson emphasized the particular roles of each prophet of the Church and how he was needed for his time. We pray every day that we are doing what is expected of us right now in this mission.

After dinner today the Sorhaitz family from Bayonne dropped by. They had been to the temple for a week. While they were here our friends the LeComptes dropped by to say goodbye—they gave us an opportunity to tell them about the temple. They have moved north a way—to a small village near Maissac. They would make lovely members of the Church. Too bad we didn't touch their hearts to feel the truth of our message. They are people we would enjoy as friends—anytime—any place. Maybe we'll get another

chance with them some day. After these 2 families left, we drove to Samaton to enjoy the corn from Sacuto's garden. Max ate his year's supply in one sitting.

Monday, September 1, 1980

Always some discouraging moments. One of our elders wrote in his report that he had heard me say negative things about another missionary. I certainly can't remember when but it must have been done—he was upset—and rightly so. I should be above such actions. I certainly meant no harm but words can cause trouble if not properly guarded. I must make every effort to avoid any such occurrence in the future. I hadn't been conscious even of negative thoughts.

Friday, September 12, 1980

What a week! We had our district presidents' seminar last weekend—Sat. & Sun. Not quite as many in attendance as normal but Max felt very good about the workshops. Bro. Jim Stevens was here—he is now regional representative as well as seminary-institute director. My meals went well & the house looked fine. We had to work on the transfer after everyone left Sunday afternoon. We seem to be having many elder problems right now.

Bro. Paramore was here for 5 meetings—from Mon. noon to Wed. afternoon. What a man. Very spiritual, very loving, full of great ideas and kind and supportive all the way. We had Bordeaux & Angouleme zones together Mon. afternoon in Bordeaux. He talked baptism. Only increase in numbers will cure the problems here. We need stakes of Zion. To have stakes our missionaries must baptize every month—every missionary. This is vital to the progress of the mission and to France. He is a great motivator. He told both missionaries and members that it has to be done by member involvement—circles of influence.

Wednesday evening we had our dinner and testimony meeting for 2 new elders and 2 new sisters that arrived from the MTC.

They are 4 fine new young people with great desire and faith. By Thursday I was so tired that I was late with the dinner Thursday evening for our going home missionaries. Altogether there were 19 of us. Ordinarily preparing dinner for this many is hard but it was extra hard & I couldn't move at a decent pace.

Tuesday, September 23, 1980

Another busy week. Last weekend we went to the northern part of the mission—saw missionaries in Bergerac, a baptism in Perigueux, Sunday meetings in Angouleme & then to Bordeaux. We saw our sick missionaries & decided in our own minds that there was a bad gas leak in the Le Bouscat apt. & that had caused our elder's sickness. It was to be re-aired this week. Hope that's the answer.

Tuesday night we had a soiree here at the house—missionaries & members & there were 16 investigators present. One young woman asked to be baptized. Others are coming to church. It seemed to go over very well. We were pleased with the results.

We left Toulouse Friday afternoon & drove to Narbonne (saw Elders there) and then to Nîmes. There are Roman ruins there from before Christ—a huge arena that can seat 21,000 people. There must have been lots of people in that area in those times—many more than now.

Max had a regional meeting in Marseille with Bro. Jim Stevens, our regional representative, Bro. Bennion, the Swiss-Geneva mission president & Bro. Pia the stake president in Nice. Marseille is an interesting, dirty, old seaport town right on the Mediterranean—it is France's largest seaport. The day was hot and beautiful. We drove back to Montpellier by way of Aix en Provence & Arles so we got a pretty good idea of that area. We went to church in Montpellier. We can see progress has been made in the branches since we arrived. They are trying to have the complete

Church program. The new 2 hr. time block does help them to be better organized.

Last night Steve called us from Geneva. It was great to visit with him and hear about their summer activities. The children are all growing up so quickly and we're missing 2 full years of the newest grandchildren. Sometimes everyone seems so far away—it's as if we had died.

October 1, 1980

What a great weekend we had. Saturday was the first regional meeting held by this mission where all the leadership met together in one place—here in Toulouse at our lovely meeting place. There were 190 leaders who came to participate in the spirit. Max spoke & Bro. James Stevens spoke—both gave a challenge for member missionary work. Sunday the Toulouse Branch was divided & a new branch, the Mirail Branch, was formed. Bro. Carme was sustained as branch president of the Mirail Branch & Bro. Chacon the branch president of the Toulouse Branch. We'll both continue to meet at L'Union. Eventually the city should be divided into 4 branches & then it will be ready to be a stake.

Max bought me a stationary bicycle for exercising. I must use it faithfully & build up my endurance—remake my muscles, lose weight & just generally get into condition.

I have so little self-confidence in my French speaking ability.

I am certainly having to learn to live with myself while on this mission. So much of my time is spent alone. It's easy to get down on myself—and get discouraged. Today is a grey, gloomy day. We have had a good September with sunny days all month long. I hate to see the rainy season start.

October 3, 1980

Today we held a 3 hr. zone leaders' seminar. What fine young men we have as zone leaders. Each time they seem like the best ever. Today the entire thrust was on baptisms with total member involvement. This past week we had 6 baptisms—the best

week in 3 yrs. time—now we must keep building on this with no breaks. I talked about good health today—proper nutrition & exercise for all missionaries. Some missionaries overdo the spartan living and need to eat better. Some want to exercise more than is necessary. I need to set a good example—Max too. Hopefully we can both trim down & get in good condition.

October 18, 1980

The days pass so quickly and before I know it the weeks and months. Our first fall district conference was held in Toulouse last weekend. All went well. The Saturday evening family presentation went especially well & Max gave his best talk ever—on the need for member missionary work. Bro. Jean-Paul Guerinot is the new 2nd counselor in the mission presidency. He is from Larmont so will have a lot of traveling to do. Max has rearranged the assignments so that he has Toulouse District, Bro. Sacuto is responsible for Pau & Perpignan, Bro. Guerinot will be in charge of Bordeaux & Angouleme.

We received the tapes from Oct. Conference. What a pleasure to hear them. Next Tuesday will be my 60th birthday and it scares me so—1) I can't imagine that I'm really that old 2) I still have bad habits & weaknesses much like I had 40 years ago 3) I must be better than I am if I can ever hope to be worthy of eternal life with my great husband and family.

November 1, 1980

After finishing district conference in Angouleme on the 19th of Oct. we drove to Poitiers to spend the night (an old city—much like Limoges) and then on to Versailles Monday. We arrived in Versailles at the lovely old Trianon Palace Hotel in time for lunch and the beginning of 2 lovely days. What a privilege to meet with the 14 mission presidents & wives + Bro. & Sis. Stevens & Bro. & Sis. Van Dam & Bro. & Sis. Paramore and Bro. & Sis. David B. Haight. We had great meetings—beautiful French

meals and even a walking tour of the Versailles Palace and grounds. Tuesday night at the dinner all of these special people sang a “Happy Birthday” to me. The only thing better would have been with family—but a special opportunity like this only comes once in a lifetime. We have such a great responsibility here—all these young missionaries to love and to guide as well as the beautiful members & their families. It's an awesome privilege & responsibility.

We left Versailles Wed. after lunch & drove through the beautiful Loire valley to Bordeaux & saw many chateaux. Saturday was district conference at Pau. After the drive there I was so tired I just collapsed at the hotel. I don't know how Max can keep up the pace of so many meetings.

Monday Oct. 27 was the first in this series of zone conferences. Today is district conference here. I am trying to catch up on letters, etc. I enjoy my rest times because we are always so pressed. Max doesn't ever get enough of these times—but somehow he seems to manage. He is amazing.

November 10, 1980

Monday Nov. 3 was our zone leaders' seminar. As usual—this seemed like the greatest group ever. They reported on their 24 baptisms this past month and their projections for 50 in November. The attitudes are changing—the members have caught the spirit too—now just to keep up the momentum. Thursday a.m. we left to drive via Tarbes and Pau—stopping to see missionaries both places—on our way to Bayonne. The weather has turned crisp and cold. There was snow on the Pyrenees and on the rooftops in Tarbes. Such a beautiful ride. The entire weekend was one of too much pressing business for Max and long waits for me. I did get a chance to talk with some of the missionaries and this is a good idea. Max didn't get enough sleep and by Sunday afternoon he was 3 hrs. behind with interviews, etc. He had planned to do personal interviews in Perigueux Sunday

evening but we didn't arrive here until 9:30 & he was too tired. He has a very sore shoulder that hurts all the time. He can't seem to locate the cause so he just suffers.

To backtrack a little—Sis. Sorhaitz served an excellent meal Thurs. evening. All was delicious and very family style. She also makes her own white bread & that was a nice change. Saturday night we ate with the Salarnier family. She is a very special cook and always has "different" food. We had chicken (deboned) and stuffed with sausage, bread & fruit—plus potato puffs—French eating is always an experience.

November 30, 1980

Max went to the dr. & found he had what the French call a zona and what we call shingles—an infection of the nerve endings. The treatment consisted of Vit. B shots, virus medicine & pain-killers—but happily in 10 days time he was better.

December 11, 1980

Yesterday was Max's 65th birthday. We celebrated it with 6 new missionaries and our assistants. He is in good health & for the moment all is going well here. What a surprise to receive in the mail a lovely group portrait of 8 of our former assistants—such beautiful handsome young men. How could we be so fortunate as to have spent six months or more with each of them? Seeing them all in one group is spectacular. They are likely to be leaders in the Church always.

The weather has been very cold for 3 weeks but today was sunny & much warmer. The wooly underwear is now standard equipment so clothes are tighter. I am not making any progress with a diet. I really get discouraged with myself.

We are preparing for several coming events—zone conferences—Christmas letter—Christmas cards—Christmas Open House—all needed in next 10 days. I wish I could go at a faster pace.

December 18, 1980

Max is traveling without me yesterday and today. He went to Bordeaux to sign Cauderan building papers & today is looking at a building in Pau. Zion is growing. Pau has completely filled their building and must have more space immediately. Hope this house will be a good one. Seems like we have looked at dozens and none were just right.

Scott called this morning. It was great to hear his voice. He is planning to come to Europe and go traveling with us after our release. I'm getting trunky already but I know we'll have lots to do right to the end—so I must concentrate on each project as it arrives. This week I am cooking and getting the house ready to have an Open House Sunday evening for all members, missionaries and investigators. Quite a chore. Also we start zone conferences the 26th so I must prepare several things for that too.

We received a lovely picture of Cathy & Randy & the children and also pictures of Peg's children. They are all growing up. I am anxious to meet the 3 littlest ones & also to get reacquainted with all the others.

It's amazing how much I miss Max even on an overnight trip. I complain about waiting around so much but it is better to be with him. I have really learned to appreciate him and enjoy his company.

December 25, 1980

Christmas Day—our 3rd and last in France. It's hard to imagine we've been here this long and that our stay will soon be over—but time passes so quickly. In other ways it seems forever since we saw our family. I miss them terribly & have had a couple of crying spells this week—when I think of them all.

We had a lovely Open House last Sunday. About 80 people came by. I had cooked lots but most of it was eaten and enjoyed. There weren't many non-members but it's nice to do something for the members and missionaries too.

Tuesday evening the Toulouse branches had a lovely turkey dinner for all of the Toulouse missionaries. A lot of work for them but really appreciated and they seem to feel it is necessary to do it. Again and as usual I ate too much.

I was so tired yesterday morning I went back to bed for a couple of hours. Max had interviews all day long both Tuesday & Wednesday but I had a chance to get some things prepared for zone conference. I am giving each pair of missionaries a package of cracked wheat. Each missionary gets a new cookbook. My talk this time is on goal setting.

Today we had the office staff here for a pancake breakfast. We sang a few songs and just enjoyed each other's company. We also listened to Max's tape of Mr. Kruger's Christmas—a video presentation being shown in the U.S. during December.

After the missionaries left I listened to the Parry family tape. David really plays the organ well & Ann sings so well. It was great to hear all of them but made me more than a little homesick.

For dinner today we went to the Zambons'. We had baked lamb roast, roasted potatoes—browned & served with parsley bits, plus string beans—a green salad of escarole & bacon bits + bacon fat—well seasoned—3 desserts—blueberry, strawberry tart, and apple pie, *Buche de Noel* of ice cream. As usual I ate everything and enjoyed every mouthful.

January 3, 1981

A new year with new resolutions—new desires to improve.

The zone conferences are finished and we are home again. Seems like each time they are difficult. Traveling in the van is not my cup of tea at all. I get a sore neck, a backache and am just generally uncomfortable. Our first conference was in Toulouse with both zones. It went very well. Our 2nd conference in Beziers didn't go as well as it

should have. One of the lessons we must all learn in the Church is obedience to and respect for leaders. We returned to Toulouse for Sat. night & then left Sunday afternoon for Tarbes interviews & Pau interviews before the Monday Pau conference. This conference went especially well. From Pau we went to Bordeaux.

In Pau the weather was bitter cold. It was foggy and cold in Bordeaux and for part of the day there was not heat in the building. My legs & feet were just like icicles. We stayed at the Royal Medoc Hotel in downtown Bordeaux—a very comfortable place. I was able to get some family letters written & a few notes answered while Max was interviewing. We have received just bushels of mail. We had planned to have a Christmas card showing all of the missionaries but it didn't turn out well enough to use so I am trying to write New Year's notes to everyone we received greeting from. It's really quite a project. Many of our former missionaries have written and I am also sending back last year's goal envelopes.

January 7, 1981

The transfer went out and it seemed like a very large transfer but there were others who would like to be changed. Some of our sisters are having a very hard time. Those who like to work hard and learn how to do it never complain unless they have a lazy companion. Others have personal self-image problems that the mission just accentuates. A good self-image is so important.

Tuesday we received 5 new elders from the MTC. We also received a sister from the Paris Mission. What a blessing these native missionaries are to the mission.

January 11, 1981

Yesterday & today is our mission district presidencies' seminar. They all met at the office during the day Saturday & then came to our home for dinner. By the time dinner was over I crashed—but somehow I managed to clean up the dishes. At times like this I need help but don't really know who it

should be. The arrangement of this home makes it very tiring—extra food, etc. all stored in the garage & the kitchen on the 2nd floor. We had a good dinner. For dessert I had fruit cake & pound cake and vanilla ice cream with caramel sauce. I tried to make caramel candy for Christmas & it never set up—hence the caramel sauce.

After the dinner the men had a fireside which ended with a discussion session. When these French discuss they often become quite loud and outspoken. They seem to argue a lot but I think it's just a habit—not a good one though.

January 14, 1981

Well the weekend ended and we had a fine zone leaders' seminar. I gave a short talk on the importance of work—for success in any field, but especially for missionary work.

Max had to go to Rodez for a baptismal interview today & I have been writing all those New Year's greetings. Another 10 or so letters & I'll be caught up. What a chore. We only send to those we hear from except for all branch & district presidents and yet I have probably handwritten 150 greetings.

January 16, 1981

Because of the recent heavy snow, followed by heavy rains there is flooding all over this area and west to Auch. The rivers are overflowing and the fields are under water in many areas. Just as if there were hundreds of lakes—rather than plowed fields. We have sick elders in Bordeaux and it is raining heavily there. Often the elders don't wear adequate clothing and get their clothes wet and then they chill in the cold air. Bad colds and flu are the result.

January 17, 1981

Today is Saturday and market day here on our corner. It's positively amazing the varieties of vegetables and fruits that are available here in mid-winter. There is so much choice it's hard not to buy more than we can use in a week. I continue to be frustrated by the French language. I have a cold

today & I had a hard time making the man at the marché understand.

It continues to rain so everything is now very muddy. Spring must be on its way.

One of our missionaries who is going home in February has received lots of mail lately—he says it's the death-bed repentance syndrome of friends & family. Mail is such a lifeline for missionaries and families separated—it's a shame not to keep up a steady flow.

January 22, 1981

Max has had tooth problems again. A lower wisdom tooth broke off so the dentist suggested pulling it. He tried for a whole hour & was not successful. Today Max went to the University Hospital to have a surgeon pull it & he says the root is so impacted that Max must be in the hospital for the operation & stay 3 days. This he has no time for so tomorrow the dentist will try again & then we'll see. We have many sick missionaries too and we always feel so helpless and unable to suggest what to do. Our missionaries hate to go to doctors and generally it doesn't help much.

January 29, 1981

This week has been a little better health-wise but I continue to have trouble off & on with an aching jaw or tooth. Max will have his tooth pulled tomorrow.

Monday night we did a little bit of planning toward our trip home. Tuesday we went to Montauban & visited with the elders there. While there we went to see the Von Tonders. They are really being pioneers with little heat & her being pregnant. She is having real problems drying clothes and is constantly behind on the washing. She has lots of faith & tenacity. They really live out in the country—but it's a lovely area when the weather is a little warmer.

February 1, 1981

Just 5 more months as missionaries here in France, and every day here brings new events and experiences. I'm afraid life will be boring at home.

Saturday was Homemaking day at Relief Society—a really interesting day because it was so different from what one would be at home in Salt Lake. It's hard to describe the differences but they are very noticeable. The French women participate wholeheartedly—they really don't listen much at all; they all talk at once & loudly so quite often the instructor has to ask for quiet. They discuss between 2 or three or answer out loud—no raising of hands to take turns. The morning consisted of 5 different lessons, the visiting teaching message, as well as a general message on not labeling sisters that you visit. We had 2 homemaking lessons on nutrition and how to present food to make it interesting etc. French people love to eat and they make a big thing out of every meal. The appearance is as important as the quality of the food. Lots of discussion about menus (actually written), flowers, table settings, etc. There were 3 mini-classes, all non-participating, demonstration type. Sis. Duprée gave a lesson on preparing for a catastrophe—meant to be on emergency storage. We also had a demonstration by Sis. Toulouse of a water softener-purifier. The 3rd mini-class was given by Norma Turtos and was on how to lay out and cut from a pattern. She is working in a clothing manufacturing concern & this is what she studied in school. Fashion is so important here but it's amazing how few have ever tried to sew for themselves or their children. Clothes are so expensive, it's really too bad. We had a most interesting lunch. They had pressure-cooked pig's feet & legs with beans & sauerkraut. They removed the meat and added carrots & macaroni to make a very hearty soup. That was the first course. Then they served the meat, skin, fat, etc. with boiled potatoes as the main course. They served tartar sauce & mustard with the meat. A lettuce salad, French bread & baked apples with caramelized sugar were the dessert. It was all quite tasty but the pig's feet/skin & fat were not the least bit

appetizing to look at. We would have thrown away a lot of what they ate, and it seems that everyone eats everything, especially when served to them.

February 10, 1981

We have just had our first in this series of district conferences. It was at Limoges. I had prepared a talk on the mother's/wife's responsibility in the home but because of lack of time I just gave a 1 minute conclusion. I hate to have Max feel so crowded for time that he can't give his prepared talk. The members don't listen well to me anyway because of my pronunciation.

French TV had a documentary of 50 minutes last week. It was on our genealogy program and microfilming from their archives. The commentator never gave the Church the benefit of the doubt—but all in all it was better than no publicity. Max has had good conversations with several people this week as a result of the broadcast.

Max finally got his tooth pulled and he managed without too much suffering. The root was hooked around the jaw bone so they (2 dentists) took 3 hrs. to get it out. I have been to the dentist again & he has done a root canal on a bottom tooth. My teeth are not very good.

Yesterday our new February missionaries arrived. We have 2 from the MTC, one from Switzerland and one from Belgium plus a French couple from the Paris stake. I'll never be French—that's for sure. My language is so poor and Max is so fluent. His head just goes forward & he doesn't get discouraged at all. When we were home I rarely felt useless but here I quite often feel that way.

February 11, 1981

I am under the weather but managed a good dinner for our departing missionaries. We also had a lovely testimony meeting. The spirit was strong and it is always a thrill to bid successful missionaries goodbye even though sad.

March 2, 1981

Here it is March already. Only 4 months to our departure date from France.

What a week the past one was. We had 2 trips to Bayonne. We had district conference in Pau. It went very well. Bro. Stevens was able to be there Sunday. Bro. Mourik came from Frankfurt to approve a building for Pau. Our first zone conference was in Pau. This round we are doing them in French.

I took a spill at the sisters' apartment in Angouleme. Fell on my knees & face. No great damage—just discomfort & bruises. I lost another large filling. The dentist seems to be my real "Jonah" during this mission. My teeth are in bad shape. I must really restrict my sugar consumption & also the French bread. It is tough to chew & hard on teeth & gums. It was nice to be in Toulouse for meetings—especially Sacrament Meeting. We attended the Mirail Branch. They are doing well but really need a building in their own area. So many investigators are found who never come to church because of the poor transportation available & the expense too.

Several member families are going through very trying times right now. It's very hard to know just what to do to help them. Max is a great strength and he apparently gives good advice in interviews.

One thing I have really grown to appreciate while here are the Church magazines and other publications. I read them avidly from cover to cover & just wish even more was available. I still read too fast.

We finished our zone conferences for this time around. The assistants introduced a program of certification for teaching skills of missionaries. It should upgrade their abilities if followed correctly.

We had an excellent district conference in Perpignan. Both Perpignan & Montpellier had well prepared choirs. The district presidency gave excellent talks & so did Bro. Sacuto & Guerinot & Max. I bore my testimo-

ny but as usual was too scared to do well. Honestly I can't imagine that I am still having such a bad time in front of an audience. I literally fall apart whenever French is involved. I can have quite good conversations now if the other party is listening but even there if the accent is different and I don't know the subject being started I may flounder. This great inadequacy of mine is very humbling. We did the zone conferences in French & my talk on obedience went well. It seemed to touch some of the missionaries most in need.

The weather was beautiful and spring-like Saturday & Sunday. I got a chance to walk around a bit. Perpignan has lovely pink marble sidewalks but they are usually very dirty. Dogs seem to be preferred to people—at least their owners don't seem to care where they do their messes. In spite of that the atmosphere is pleasant & not too rushed. I bought myself a lovely India silk print scarf & that really cheered my spirits.

At the Sunday morning meeting there were 125 people present + 33 at the salle for Primary—3x as many as 2 years ago. It's exciting to see the growth. The biggest problems are space problems. Of course there's always a shortage of active priesthood but even that number is increasing. Max can feel proud of the changes & improvements that have occurred since we came. He has done a good job of leading and will continue to work hard until his last day here. Tomorrow we are having an Open House here for the missionaries, members & investigators in this part of Toulouse.

March 10, 1981

The Open House went beautifully last night. The format of a Heber C. Kimball fire-side was used. There were 8 investigators, 10 missionaries plus the assistants, us and 6 members. It was a spiritual experience for everyone there. This kind of a meeting should be a regular affair as new investigators come on the scene. A very touching testimony was given by the man who was just

baptized Sunday. He is 64 years old but was ready to change & he accepted the Gospel easily. He had to change his habits and it was very difficult but he is so happy now. A young man who was here also bore a beautiful testimony. He has a problem with cigarettes he hasn't yet overcome but that will come too—and then he can be baptized. I served an apple cake with cream topping and it was accepted well. Actually it was delicious.

Max has been sick with a cold and hot & cold chills plus a sore throat. He hasn't slowed down much but I can tell he is just really pushing himself.

March 17, 1981

Max's cold got better. My bruises are almost healed from my fall in Angouleme over 2 weeks ago and my current dental work is done—only one temporary filling to be replaced next week. The dentist just did 3 root canals and enough to get me by until I get home again.

We went to Bordeaux Friday. Stopped at Montauban on the way to see the elders there. The district conference went very well—the themes of missionary work and a stake in Bordeaux were really pushed. They need numbers of baptisms—more & more members to make it happen. I only bore a short testimony but that was just plenty. After the Sunday meeting there was a baptism—a young man from the Larmont area.

Had our new missionaries arrive today—all from different places. A real international group. Swiss-French, Swiss-Italian, Belgian, Canadian, English, 2 Americans, 1 sister & 1 elder. An elder from Australia & 1 from New Zealand were delayed because of visa problems.

Last evening I went with [the] sisters to help them teach an older woman investigator here in the neighborhood. It was an interesting experience but not too encouraging. The woman is 64 and thinks she is much too old to change her ways—mostly the tobacco & coffee problem. They really

make slaves & addicts out of millions of people—and here in France the wine is another big problem. The evidences for the Word of Wisdom are so strong.

I am trying to get some revelation on what to base the sisters' conference on this year. It's only 2 weeks away & I must get into it immediately—now that transfer is over.

March 22, 1981

I finally decided on the subject matter & theme for the sisters' conference—"I will be a baptizing missionary." I am using the 15 ideas—based on the Greatest Salesman in the World—but each companionship has a scripture & some important part of missionary life to portray. I'll get the letters out tomorrow to everyone.

We went to Perpignan Friday afternoon & I knew I would have time to study & prepare for the conference so I put my scriptures, both English & French, plus the new book I've been reading, into my satchel to take with me. Somehow I left the whole thing on the sidewalk outside our driveway. Naturally it wasn't there when we got home at midnight. I feel terrible about losing my scriptures—so well marked and enjoyed—like losing my best friends. Maybe by some miracle I'll get them back.

During the week we received our new missionaries, 4 elders, 4 different countries—U.S., Canada, Switzerland, England; 3 sisters, 3 different countries—U.S., Switzerland-Italy, Belgium. French has to be the common language—not English. I had to do the orientation in French also. Certainly made it shorter. Max had 3 separate trips to the airport Tuesday. Quite a day. Our evening together Wednesday went well and it was good for the missionaries to have a few minutes to get acquainted with us & each other.

Thursday we had 4 elders & 4 sisters & 2 mothers to our going home meeting. It's always so hard to see these seasoned veterans go home.

Today I have a sore throat again. I think that Max & I are just taking turns with the same germ.

Today we went to Castres for their branch conference. Only 8 members, 4 missionaries plus a dozen district people were there. However, the meetings were fine.

April 1, 1981

Just 3 more months in this wonderful assignment. It's scary to think about going back to a regular life. Yesterday we received our release letter, effective July 1, and also Max talked on the phone a few minutes to Bro. & Sis. Hutchings who will be our replacement. Also yesterday we heard about the shooting of President Reagan.

I am busily preparing food, programs, house, etc. for sisters' conference April 3. We had a fine zone leaders' seminar on Monday. I'm always thrilled and amazed with the spiritual power of these very special young men. There is a real power in the priesthood & I always feel so privileged to be in their midst.

We received good letters from Tom & Rosie this past week. Tom will continue his studies at the U through August. Every day I am more thankful for my fine husband. He has been sick again—this time an infection on his head. It started in his neck & has spread. Today his forehead is fiery red & his eye is almost closed but he never stops. He has gone to Perpignan with Bro. Mourik to look at a piece of property there.

April 6, 1981

Another anniversary for the founding of this marvelous Church of which I have the blessing of belonging to. I hope Tom has made tapes of the General Conference for us. I thirst after the messages. Every month when we receive the new magazines I devour them most avidly. There is just no way to get too much in the way of messages from the prophet and our general authorities. Max & I are reading the D & C—in French—and we look forward eagerly to each morning. When we have to miss a

morning I am very disappointed. I read alone too but together is even better.

We had a wonderful sisters' conference here Friday. As usual, I was a nervous wreck on Thursday but the conference itself went well. Each pair of sisters had prepared well.

The food was simple but good and everyone seemed to have a great time. We attended a Mozart opera in the evening. It was lovely and a different experience. Many of the sisters brought token cards or flowers to me—I don't deserve the honors but I do appreciate them.

Sat. was sunny so I took a long walk & that surely brightened me up a bit. My perpetual problem is getting regular exercise and trying to keep healthy. Controlling my flesh has been my greatest weakness all my life.

April 17, 1981

We have been through another transfer week and as usual I am completely "bushed."

France is in the midst of their political campaign for president. The left wing parties seem the strongest. The communist leader is so radical & says such scary things—but the socialist leader is only a little less radical. If they back one of them (combine) for the finals, France will certainly have a new kind of government. They already have many more social problems and social programs than seems necessary but if they go even further socialistic who knows what will happen.

The U.S. sent their first space shuttle up this week & it returned safely. For the very first time the TV announcers have had only positive things to say about the U.S. & their success. Usually the commentators are sarcastic & not pro-U.S.

Our family has really been blessed during our mission. They have had few problems & those they have had they have been able to solve.

April 22, 1981

Today is Scott's birthday. Hope he has a good one and does something special. Peggy was 39 on Sunday the 19th. We received a letter that Jim Parry has been made the bishop of their ward. He's glad to be back in the harness. His life will certainly be full & busy now.

Max went to Marseilles & Aix-en-Provence on Monday for a regional meeting. Today he goes to Paris for mission presidents' winter-spring conference & Sat. & Sun. we have the district presidencies' seminar again. I am getting menus ready & will be cooking the next few days. We start on zone conferences again next week.

May 2, 1981

What a week. The seminar for the district presidencies went very well on Saturday & Sunday. We had 22 for dinner Saturday night. I spent all day Tuesday cooking again for the combined Toulouse zone conferences held on Wednesday. We left Friday morning—in the van with the assistants—for Brive & Limoges.

Today we drove to Perigueux for the zone conference. My talk is on studying the scriptures every day as a means to spiritual growth. I always am so fearful when giving in French that I freeze up and don't get as much audience response.

The primary elections were held last Sunday. The French are really involved in politics. Many parties but a sharp division between right & left. They had 85% of their voters vote.

May 5, 1981

The zone conference was great. Wednesday morning we drove to Bayonne by way of Arcachon—the beautiful Atlantic beach area just west of Bordeaux. It was a fabulous day—started with fog but cleared by 9:30 & we had a lovely drive. While Max was interviewing the elders in Biarritz I walked to the beach & watched the surf for about an hour. A week of that kind of weather and that lovely place would really be a

super vacation. As we drove to Pau the scenery was fantastic. I've never seen a more beautiful day any time or place.

The zone conference in Pau went extremely well. Again the zone leaders were well-organized & they gave an excellent presentation.

May 14, 1981

Well the new missionaries arrived, the old ones left & the transfer was made.

A really different group came in—but the ones going home really are varied also—guess that's normal, but we do get whole groups sometimes that seem to be cohesive in their action and desire.

I received Mother's Day greetings from all 6 children. What a lovely family we have. We are so blessed. They are all doing so well. Our Jim is finally finishing his PhD & he is doing well with his work. Had a good letter from him & another from Bev this month. All of the family will be in Salt Lake for the 19th of July—our Homecoming Day.

In the news—Francois Mitterand, the socialist leader, was elected president of France. A terrorist shot the Pope in Rome & he is in serious condition. President Reagan is better after the shooting of him about a month ago. We surely live in a crazy world.

One of the biggest problems our missionaries have with baptisms is finding out that their investigator family is not married, one or the other is not legally divorced, or they have had one or more abortions or other moral problems. It's very sad. We are baptizing a few more this month but 50 looks like an impossible goal—it's hard to keep believing that it's possible. There have been 6 baptisms in the small town of Rodez lately—all Vietnamese.

Last weekend we were in Perpignan for Sunday meetings after a Sat. zone conference. What a melting pot of people—all the different shades of brown hair, brown skin—it's really incredible—Indians from India—Islanders—Southeast Asians—Spanish—French—Italian—Catalan—& all the mixes

in between. Arabs also—Lebanese—you name it, they have it, and they are making more progress than any other area of the mission.

May 23, 1981

We have packed all week so the house is in a mess. It's amazing how much we have accumulated in 3 years in addition to what we brought. My clothes are now all too small but I am taking them home anyway. There is really no way to dispose of them here and who knows—maybe I can succeed again on a diet & get thinner forever. Certainly my success has been nil here. We thought the moving people were coming yesterday but no show & now we don't have a fixed date.

Bro. Mourik came from Frankfurt to see the home we have found. He likes it & if we can get the right price etc. etc—it will go through. It's so hard to keep the seller waiting while all the Church paper work & decisions are made. It's a lovely home & would be much more comfortable than this one. Hope a deal can be made.

It's hard to go through these final weeks & realize that we'll actually be leaving France. I have never really felt at home because of the language but I do enjoy the different culture & appreciate many of the differences. I'm sure I'll miss lots of things when we go home.

The loving members in Perpignan gave us a lovely Catalan tablecloth and napkins set. In addition the Jacas family came up with some special gifts. Sister Jacas had knit a sweater vest for me—lovely blue—on her knitting machine. Mary & Mark made a book of their art work & the older boy prepared a pin & string plaque. It was hard to say good-bye to such fine friends. We will really miss them.

May 29, 1981

We spent Monday & Tuesday in Toulouse getting caught up a bit on various needs there. We left for Bordeaux Wed. morning. Max had several interviews there.

He is in the process of changing the district president.

Today is our 42nd wedding anniversary and we are in Bayonne for the Young Adult conference. Today we started the day with the opening remarks of April Conference given by Pres. Kimball. We discussed his talk & I wrote an outline on the board. At the end he had each full time missionary present bear their testimony. They called on me & Sis. Stevens also. As it is our wedding anniversary today I bore testimony of my fine husband and the wonderful blessings I have received because of him. What a great life I have had—in comparison to what it might have been. We have had moments of difficulty and will probably have more—but thank goodness for a fine husband and the blessings of a temple marriage, and a lovely family raised in the Church with the priesthood in our home.

The entire youth conference went very well. Bro. & Sis. Stevens presented a workshop on the word "joy" in the Book of Mormon and we talked about what joy really is. It is having the Gospel of Christ, understanding it and living it—and appreciating the accrued blessings. Kerri Sacuto & I prepared & presented a Relief Society lesson on the role of women in the world & in the Church. Kerri talked a few minutes about the law of chastity as being the base of all the commandments. It is such a problem here for anyone to really understand because the French society has no base at all along this line. I talked about the eternal perspective and how important it is to see forward into the future and also into the past—always keeping in mind you as a person—an individual. It's so difficult to really express what I want to say in French. The only time I seem at all capable is in one to one conversations and when I bear my testimony.

Before leaving Bayonne we went to visit Mrs. Curutchet—Christophe's mother. After 3 years we finally met her and had a short

visit. She has had a breast removed for cancer & is having chemotherapy. She tires easily but looks well. Christophe is in the Navy—now in the Indian Ocean and won't return to Bayonne until the end of August. We were sorry to miss seeing him but were certainly happy to meet his mother.

The District of Pau had a soiree in our honor Saturday evening. Each branch presented a number representing their region—a dance or song or poem. It was a delightful program.

The branches each gave us a lovely gift. After the retransmission broadcast on Sunday the Primary children gave roses & gifts to all mothers for Mother's Day. What a great weekend.

June 4, 1981

This week has been a week of cleaning & packing & tying up some loose ends. We are going to Bordeaux tomorrow.

June 10, 1981

We had a great weekend in Bordeaux. We went to the Talence chapel for a talent soiree presented in our honor. Each of the three Relief Societies had prepared a special gift for us. The Larmont Branch had embroidered a lovely tablecloth and napkin set—edged in crochet. The Young Adults made us a pottery bowl and the Young Women a picture. The Cauderan Branch had embroidered a tray & coaster set—beautifully done & also made a lace-covered box. The branch of Talence really extended themselves. They made a beautiful patchwork quilt—hundreds of hours of dedicated stitches. Also one of the sisters made a large Bordelaise doll dressed in traditional costume. The talent soiree was really excellent. They have some very special talents in that district. Many musicians & they presented two playlets. For Sunday we were there in the morning for the retransmission of April Conference. At 1:30 we left and drove to Angouleme so Max could do a baptismal interview. From there we drove to Limoges.

Today we received our last group of incoming missionaries. It's hard to believe these are our last & final events of this mission. The three years has been long but also has passed quickly with many wonderful experiences. Salt Lake has approved the new mission home. Now it will be up to the lawyers & then the Hutchings. I hope they like the new home.

June 19, 1981

Scott arrived Saturday the 13th. Sure good to have one of our boys with us. He brought me a pair of comfortable walking shoes so we went into downtown Toulouse Saturday & did some sightseeing. He's enjoyable to be with. Sunday we went to the Toulouse Branch—our first time there in many weeks. It was good to see everyone. The Sacrament Meeting went well. I was asked to give the closing prayer and as usual was tongue tied & couldn't think coherently. Guess I'll never learn to be spontaneous & thoughtful in French.

Scott helped me clean out the garage. We made lots of garbage. Max saves everything that might ever be usable but Hutchings don't need to have all that surplus to get rid of.

Our first zone conference was with the two Toulouse zones together. It was really a fine conference. The spirit was strong during the testimony meeting and it was so good to hear from everyone.

We had a terrible heat wave here Sat., Sun., Mon. & Tues. Thank goodness it cooled off Wednesday & has been just comfortably warm since. I am still having dental appointments. I'll need more when I get home. Today, Friday, we have had our Perpignan zone conference in Montpellier. Everything went well. We have 2 Quebecois, 2 Swiss, 2 French, 1 Belgian in this zone so the whole meeting was in French.

June 22, 1981

Yesterday was a good Sunday. We attended church in the Mirail Branch. The branch

is progressing well. They have such lovely young adults & young families.

Marie-Chantal Roussel was with us for the weekend. We had an excellent zone conference here in Pau. The testimony meeting was inspirational also. The zone leaders talked about scripture study & had a scripture chase to answer some difficult Gospel questions. A very interesting technique. It's amazing how knowledgeable many of the elders are. That's certainly an area I could use some extra study on. I can remember scriptures by book but not by chapter and verse.

June 26, 1981

The past two days have been spent in Bordeaux. When we arrived we discovered that all hotels were filled because of a World Exposition for wine growers. We had to take a hotel room 65 kms away in Pylas Mer—just south of Arcachon. A beautiful area but mighty inconvenient.

Wednesday we had to be at the chapel at 8:00 which meant leaving our hotel at 7:00. It was a long, busy day. The Bordeaux missionary district has 26 members which is a lot of interviewing for Max. The zone conference was excellent. The missionaries here see each other more often than in the other zones so the elders & sisters are all a little more social with each other. We were served the usual well prepared tasty lunch by the district Relief Society sisters. We were invited to dinner with the Salmier family—always a delightful experience. We'll surely miss our association with these people but we'll probably see them from time to time.

We are now in Bergerac & it is raining steadily. I didn't bring either a coat or an umbrella—forgetting that even when it's hot & sunny in Toulouse area, it's likely to be raining here. On to Limoges.

The zone conference went well in Limoges. The zone leaders did a clever bit on work. After a short introduction they outfitted everyone with equipment and gave

them assignments to clean the salle for the branch of Limoges. Great idea and many hands make light work. I was able to give my talk in English—much more effective. I am so paper bound & stilted in French.

One of the things Max has asked each missionary to do is to write up a spiritual experience and send to us. They are great. I have been reading them & they are really inspiring. It's hard to realize our time is about up.

June 27, 1981

We left Limoges about 8:30. It was almost 2:00 p.m. when we got to the salle at L'Union. They had prepared a lovely salad luncheon. They had a crowd of about 100 there—from the whole district. After the luncheon they had a lovely talent show in our honor. A highlight was the Sacuto family doing the 3 pigs. Also Sis. Satchet & her son did a snake charmer. She was the snake (at least her arm was). She was all curled up in a basket—very effective and fun to see a mother such a good sport. We received some lovely gifts from the members. A large Toulouse doll, a set of old Toulouse Gravure prints, a French copy of Grimm's Fairy Tales, several poems and a wood plaque. The young adults were especially thoughtful.

Sunday we attended meetings in both Toulouse branches and had an opportunity to give prayers & bear testimony. Max gave a final wind-up testimony in the Toulouse Branch. His language is very good now. Too bad he has to leave. Monday Scott & I really worked on cleaning the house ready for the Hutchings. Tuesday we had some office work to finish. Wednesday noon the Hutchings arrived. They are fine people but will have many adjustments to make to the French ways.

Wednesday evening we invited the mission presidency to come for a short evening—testimony meeting & dessert. The Sacutos, the Turtos, the Cuvaliers came & we had a most enjoyable evening. More spe-

cial people that we will really miss. Thursday we spent in show & tell with the Hutchings—grocery shopping, etc. I was really very tired by Thursday evening. I invited the office staff to eat dinner with us—to break the ice a bit between them & the Hutchings.

We left Toulouse Friday morning July 3, 1981 at 10:20 a.m. Just 3 years & 2 days after our arrival there. What an eventful time to leave behind. I could feel our memory fading from the missionaries even before we left. They were all so anxious to make a good impression on their new leader. Pres. Hutchings will catch on to the language quickly and also be able to take on the work load. The Lord prepares and gives support to those who are doing his work.

We left Toulouse with 9 pieces of baggage—much too much & very awkward while in Paris & London but Scott will take 4 with him so we'll be able to manage. What a fun two days we spent in Paris. We met Marie-Chantal Roussel & a friend of hers, Micheline, the first day plus another young man Edward the 2nd day. We visited the Rodin museum & gardens Friday afternoon—ate at a very lovely couscous restaurant in the evening & Scott & the girls went to an evening movie. Saturday we had an early lunch, really spent some time at the Jeu de Paume impressionist museum & then saw a Baghdad exhibit in the museum of the Petit Palais. I love the paintings of Renoir, Monet, Manet and Degas.

We had a lovely experience in the evening that we enjoyed very much in spite of fatigue. We saw the ballet Swan Lake at the new theater called Palais de Congress—a superior production. It was late when we got back to the hotel but really worth it.

July 5, 1981

Sunday we went to church at the Paris ward. We said goodbye to everyone—scurried back to the hotel for baggage & departure by train. Marie & Micheline helped with the baggage so we managed but Max

almost got his wallet lifted on the subway & Michelene did lose her change purse. What kinds of people there are in the world. They really need some spiritual uplift.

We went by train to Bologne, by bus to the ferry, by ferry to Folkstone, England and by train to Victoria Station, London & then by cab to our hotel. Each transfer required handling of 9 assorted pieces of luggage—a real nuisance but a most enjoyable trip. The hotel Hamilton House—run by Vietnamese—had not received our reservation so the only room was in the basement—next to the kitchen—very humid. However, we all slept well & today we have moved upstairs to a nicer room. I am still so exhausted I opted to stay in the room this morning while Max & Scott went sightseeing. My body feels 3 years tired and my reactions are not patient & sweet but cross & complaining. I mustn't spoil the rest of today & tomorrow—our last with Scott. He takes a plane for San Francisco direct.

We got two chances to go shopping at Harrods—London's great department store. I guess it's a good thing there was nothing like it in Toulouse or I would have spent more money. They have everything.

Tues. July 7, 1981

We went window shopping & back to Harrods before taking the bus to the airport. Scott took 4 of the 9 pieces of luggage we have been struggling with so we're down to 5. Still too many but we can manage.

Wed. July 8, 1981

After seeing Scott off we went to see a Mr. John Wheelwright—a very pleasant and interesting young man in London—one of Max's letter contacts. No visible recent relationship but he works in publications—then took a cab back to our hotel, picked up the luggage and on to Victoria Station. We almost missed the train to Lingfield, the train stop for the temple. What a beautiful countryside—green rolling fields with grazing sheep and still many big estates. The temple grounds are beautiful. We attended 4

sessions at the temple. My legs got tired but it was a quiet, renewing experience. The people are all so lovely—no matter what country they are from. The weather has been very warm & humid but not too uncomfortable. The sunshine is always more pleasant than gloom. We will leave this morning to go to Leeds.

Wed. July 15, 1981

What a busy week we have had. We left the temple Thursday morning and took the train into Victoria Station—transferred by subway to Charring Cross Station to catch the train to Leeds.

When we arrived in Leeds we rented a car—drove to Louth right from the train station Wed. aft. We visited the old cemetery there & found one gravestone of a possible family connection—a Thomas Wray & Jane (could be Jane Coulam). We found many Coulam families listed in the phone directory—tried to call a couple—but no luck. We stayed overnight at the Kings Head Hotel—a hotel started in 1775—so it was there when grandfather Coulam & his parents left there in 1847-48. Louth is such a small town (12,000 people) and so far off the regular large roads it's hard to imagine the early missionaries going there and finding and baptizing the Coulam family. It's a very picturesque place. They had an open air market Thursday morning. I imagine the town hasn't changed a great deal during the 135 years since my ancestors left there. We drove out to Raithby, just a farming area not far from town. There is an old church here but no cemetery markers. We tried to get to the Registrar's office the next morning but needed to leave to drive into Leeds before it opened.

We arrived in Leeds about 1:00 p.m. and went to the Registrar's office there to pick up the forms—certificates—that Fern Harrop had ordered on the Wheelwright family & then on to the Oak Villa Hotel. A Shelley Wheelwright had already been by

the hotel & we didn't make any further connection with her.

We went to the old Wortley cemetery but as there was no register there we only found gravestones of "maybe" relatives. There were Farrars & Bristows both—but no Wheelwrights. Saturday morning we drove to Rishworth to see the Wheelwright school. This area is really just like I pictured Yorkshire, green, rolling hills—not much vegetation except grass for grazing—small towns few & far between.

We drove to Wycke from there & met a lovely Wheelwright family—Edgar & Lily. They have a lovely home & garden—were most friendly. We were unable to fit them into the family but mostly because their records are so limited. We visited with them about an hour & then drove to Yeadon—near the Leeds-Bradford airport to visit with Sam & Margaret Wheelwright. They were glad to meet us & not afraid of us because we are Mormons—like many of the others were that we wrote to and talked to. We both feel that he is a relative but his records are very incomplete & he's not even sure of his great grandfather's name. However his father was Samuel & also his grandfather & they lived in Wortley.

David Boyce had stopped by to see us Friday evening & we made arrangements to go to church with him Sunday morning. We attended the Leeds 1st Ward. We have friends all over the world now as a result of our mission. As soon as church was over we drove to the Leeds station & caught the train for London. While traveling to London we made the acquaintance of a fine young lady who was very interested in discussing our church—the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its beliefs. We'll have to send the missionaries to her with a Book of Mormon.

When we arrived in London we had about three hours until our train left for Dover-Ostende-Brussels. That's quite a trip. We took the train at 9:30 p.m. & at Dover we took a boat. We had a stateroom so were

able to sleep for 3 hours & then another train into Brussels where we arrived at 7:00 a.m. Bro. James Martin met us. After a leisurely breakfast we napped until 1:00—went sightseeing in Brussels. Saw their lovely park, forests & then took a subway to see their main place—very ornate, gilded buildings in the Dutch style.

Monday evening Pres. Steve Hatch & his wife & daughter joined with us & Martins for a special dinner & evening of missionary stories. How privileged we are to be able to have such special people as our friends.

Tuesday morning, after a good night's sleep and a good breakfast, we took the train to Luxembourg. We left there at 2:30 to fly to Iceland, about a 4 hour flight. We had a pleasant surprise on arriving in Reykjavik. Bro. Williams, the district pres., & a missionary with his wife met us & took us to their home for dinner. They took us on a quick tour of their chapel building there—an excellent facility. They are doing a bit of remodeling so they can have a visitor's center & microfilm reader as aids to their work there. The weather was rainy & not very warm 55°, just gloomy but not uncomfortable. At 9:30 we caught a smaller plane to Akureyri where we spent the night. It is so far north here it is light all night long. This morning we rented a car & drove the rest of the way north in our effort to locate [Max's] grandfather's grave (Rasmussen). At Olafsfjord there is an old cemetery that really seems the most likely place. There are no records of where he was buried except that the shipwreck occurred off the point of Olafsfjord and it was a newspaper of Siglufjord that gave the account of the washing ashore of the bodies & their burial. We are in Siglufjord & have not as yet located the old cemetery.

More notes on Iceland. There was a lovely small church at Olafsfjord at the same location as the cemetery. The people of Iceland live in such a severe country that they use bright colored paint to cheer them-

selves. This little church is painted a bright yellow & has a red roof. It can be seen for many miles. Inside the colors are equally bright. The benches are a beautiful marine blue enamel and there is also bright yellow & bright red throughout. Very Scandinavian in style and very charming.

Our evening in Siglufjord was more productive than expected. Max attended part of a Rotary meeting and one of the men there who could speak and understand English took him to the old cemetery. There are only 3 markers there & of course, no records of others buried. We didn't come to any decision as to exactly where his grandfather is buried but Max has some good pictures of the northern Iceland area & he is happy with his attempt.

We left Siglufjord in good time and drove back to Akureyri Thursday morning. The weather was clearer than the day before and we were able to appreciate the scenery—so rugged and so beautiful. We saw many birds including swans nesting. It is really a primitive unspoiled country. We caught our plane to Reykjavik and had as a passenger the president of Iceland—a good looking woman—and apparently well liked.

By the time we got to Chicago on the long hop from Reykjavik I was exhausted. We had a 4 hr. wait in the airport and during the flight I started to have a sore throat and cold. By the time we finally caught the plane to Denver my cold was in full bloom. Air conditioning plus excessive noise & extreme tiredness are a poor combination. The parents of Steven Grover met us at the Denver airport and took us to their lovely home for a good night's sleep.

Friday, July 17, 1981

What a welcome for us at the airport. All of the children & their families were there except for Jim & Bev who are flying in on Saturday. There were also several of our missionaries there. What blessings we receive. I don't ever feel deserving but I love and appreciate these great people.

Ila & Lorin were at the airport too and they came back to the house for lunch with all of us. Peggy & Rosemary had planned well. I felt really punk all day Friday & not much better on Saturday—but some, thank goodness. I'm coughing a lot which is miserable.

The weather is so hot & dry but the mornings & evenings are lovely.

Saturday at noon Jim & Bev arrived. They both look great. We had an appointment at Busath Photo for a family group shot—all 27 of us. What an effort to arrange that many people & get them looking happy together. I hope the pictures turn out well.

After the photo we returned back to the house for supper—some France slides & Susan's 8th birthday party.

I must mention our home. The kids have done a good job of putting our furniture in & getting it functioning. Peggy is a wonderful organizer & Rosemary has helped a lot too. We can see lots of details that need attention but generally speaking all is in good condition. It's strange to get back to American habits & the easy living. We are so fortunate.

Monday, July 20, 1981

Yesterday was the big day of our official homecoming at Yalecrest Ward. There were over 450 people present. Lots of returned missionaries, parents of missionaries & fine family members plus new & old ward and stake friends. It was great to see everyone. Max & I gave good talks & Dave Parry played a Bach number on the organ. A lovely meeting. The Relief Society had made me a welcome sign & a lovely vase of roses. So nice to have so many friends. We had a family dinner after, here in the yard—Lorin & Ila—Sylvia & Mona & children were here—Georgia—Mike & Emmy & children & Susan plus all of ours & Rosie's mother. Quite a group. What a fun time to just relax. All of the girls had contributed to the food so the effort had been made beforehand.

Had a good time seeing our old friends the ex-missionaries. We talked together all during Sunday School. Today we just got back from a picnic at Liberty Park. Really fun when all the kids are together.

Talk given July 19, 1981 in Yalecrest Ward Sacrament Meeting

I thought maybe I'd be less nervous knowing I wouldn't be speaking in French, but I'm just as nervous as ever. It's great to see all of you. Everyone had told me Yalecrest Ward had changed, but I know everybody here today and it's just marvelous. You're all my friends. It's such a thrill to be home again. I have a rare opportunity today and the chance to publicly thank and express my appreciation to all those who have contributed so much to make my life so full of joy and happiness.

This is a homecoming from a very special three years. Three years lived in a foreign land away from family and long-time friends, but three years filled with new friends, new experiences and new opportunities. Time spent fulfilling a special call for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints as a selected messenger of our Heavenly Father.

When we received our call 3 ½ years ago it came as a complete surprise as to the timing and the position; however, I had always known we would fill a mission together because I was told this in my patriarchal blessing received over 40 years before, but the time and the place were a surprise.

I am so thankful for our wonderful family. The experiences gained in raising six children within the Church programs formed the needed knowledge and the background to serve as a mission president and wife. Each of our children had reached maturity with a well-developed stability of character. Their good works within their families, within the Church, and in their communities,

kept us free from worry or undue concern about them while we were gone. This freed us so we could really give 100% attention to the France Toulouse Mission. We also could see how the Lord truly blessed these families in our absence.

Our mission area covered some of the most beautiful area in Europe. The weather was never too severe and there were always convenient, modern roads to travel. We suffered no physical hardships.

What I would really like to talk about today are the special blessings that came to us as a result of our willingness to be instruments in the hands of a loving Father in Heaven.

During our three years we had about 350 different missionaries come into our mission. Each of these young people received an inspired call to serve at this time in this place. Every personality was different, with their special qualities needed for this time.

When we first arrived in France I was sure that I could never learn the names and faces of 135 young elders and sisters living in 18 different cities, in 45 different apartments, and from 10 different countries. At first it was a little difficult, but I discovered something great. Each one was such a special person with a unique personality and such special attributes and strengths, that they were easy to learn to know and to love. Many times in my life I have wondered how God could really know all of His children, could hear their prayers and answer them and truly love each individual. This mission experience has clarified this for me.

In our personal family we started as two. It was easy to know and love each other. As the children came to us we learned to know and love them and their special characteristics and personalities. As they have grown and married this has added to our family circle. Now, including the in-laws and the grandchildren, we are 27 in our family, and each one is personally known and loved.

It was just like this with our missionaries. We met them and talked with them, listened to their doubts and problems, and also their joys and successes, and grew to know them and love them, each individually. Now we have an expanded family of 27 plus 350. This is exactly how it works with our Heavenly Father. With his infinite intelligence and power he has been able to personally know all of the billions of his children that belong to this earth. I know that he directs this Church through his Son Jesus Christ and through our living prophet and through personal inspiration to its many leaders. I know that we are loved by Him and if we will open our hearts and minds to Him he can help us in our eternal progression towards perfection.

The missionaries were our most important responsibility, but not far behind came the members of the Church in our geographical area. In an area such as southwest France, where the members are widely scattered, there are no organized stakes, and most of the members have not been in the Church for long. Thus, it is the responsibility of the mission president to serve as their spiritual advisor and teacher. We were organized into five member districts. The president had two very fine counselors, and they and their young families became more extended family for us.

Among the 2200 plus members are some of the finest people we have ever met. Many of them will be our friends throughout eternity. Their love of the Gospel and dedication to their families and their callings in the Church are not exceeded anywhere. They are beginning to catch the vision of member-missionary work and we can imagine several stakes of Zion in that area in the years to come. We will really miss these people.

I wouldn't dare go on without saying something about the French language. It has been my particular weakness and the most difficult thing for me to learn to appreciate.

I still can't honestly say that I am completely comfortable when speaking French, but I can say that it is a beautiful language, very expressive, lovely to hear and to read. The members and missionaries and many friends that we met were all very kind to me and my slow learning.

As the wife of the mission president I never had to go through a transfer nor did I have the trauma of getting used to a new companion. My eternal companion was always close by. We celebrated our 42nd wedding anniversary in May and what a blessing this dear husband is to me. Another great truth that I have learned is the blessing of an eternal marriage and the rightness of a plan of salvation based on the family unit. My appreciation for Max has grown a hundredfold or more. His capacity for hard work is well known, but his willingness to listen and to counsel at any hour of the day or night and his ability to choose leaders, to delegate and to teach the principles of the Gospel has expanded and been magnified. He has worked under inspiration from his Heavenly Father received through study and prayer. Five suits worn right through the knees of trousers are good evidence of the hundreds of prayers offered for members, missionaries and investigators.

One of the most special joys of being a missionary is to see the changes in a person's life when he accepts the challenges of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and joins the Church. The change in appearance outside as well as inside is often quite evident. Our missionaries have the capacity to recognize what a person may become, not just what he is. They teach by the Spirit and with love.

We held several firesides in our home with investigators and our missionaries. What a thrill to feel the presence of the Holy Ghost and to hear members and non-members each testify that they felt the Spirit. Baptisms are the culmination of conversions and they are exciting.

I am happy to be home. I am happy to have served a mission in France. (How many of you here today were either missionaries or members in the France Toulouse Mission?) I know the Gospel of Jesus Christ is true and that we are members of His true Church. My testimony has grown and my love of life, of people, has expanded. I pray that we can all catch the vision of member-missionary work and set good examples to our non-member friends and family so they will want to learn more about a living, loving Christ and His plan of redemption for us.

Again, many thanks to all the family members and friends who have supported us and sustained us in our calling and who are here today so we can renew our acquaintances.

The program listed the following participants: Prelude Music by Richard Nygard, Conducting Bishop George J. Romney, Opening Hymn "They the Builders of the Nation," Music Conductor Harold Bell, Sacrament Hymn "While of These Emblems," Organ Solo by David Parry (grandson of Wheelwrights), Speaker Ann Wheelwright, Speaker Max Wheelwright, Closing Hymn "How Wondrous and Great."