



Max Wheelwright

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Student, Teacher, Chairman of the Board

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Max Wheelwright". The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

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# Max Wheelwright Life Chronology

December 10, 1915	Born in Ogden, Weber County, Utah
1921-1932	Attended Ogden schools Quincy, Lorin Farr, Madison grade schools Central Jr. High School Ogden High School
1932	Graduated from Ogden High School
1934	Graduated from Weber College
October 1934- April 1937	Served in the French Mission
April 1937- September 1937	Attended classes at University of Neuchâtel (Switzerland) and toured Europe
September 1937	Returned to Utah and enrolled in Brigham Young University
1938	Graduated from Brigham Young University (mathematics & French)
September 26, 1938- December 2, 1938	Attended lithography course at New York Trade School sponsored by Lithographic Technical Foundation (LTF)
1939-1942	Employed by Schwabacher-Frey in San Francisco, California, as industrial engineer
May 29, 1939	Married Ann Coulam in the Salt Lake Temple
December 7, 1941	Japanese attack Pearl Harbor
April 19, 1942	Birth of first child, Margaret Ann (Peggy) in San Francisco, CA
May/June 1942	Moved to Salt Lake City, Utah 1469 South 1000 East (rental)
1942-Fall 1943	Employed by Remington Arms (ammunition factory) as industrial engineer
Spring 1943	Bought house at 608 South 1200 East in Salt Lake City, Utah
September 13, 1943	Birth of second child, Steven Charles (Steve)
Fall 1943- February 1944	Employed by building contractor in Pasco, Washington (building government housing project)
February 1944- 1946	Served in the U.S. Navy as commissioned officer (Ensign); promoted to Lieutenant Junior Grade; retired as Lieutenant
April 8, 1947	Birth of third child, James Craig (Jim)
1947	Established Wheelwright Lithographing Company
1950	Purchased home at 1785 Michigan Avenue, SLC
September 12, 1951	Birth of fourth child, Catherine (Cathy)
April 22, 1954	Birth of fifth child, Scott Matthew
October 26, 1957	Birth of sixth child, Thomas Max (Tom)
1958	Purchased home at 1751 Yalecrest Avenue, SLC
1976	Built new home at 1836 Sunnyside Avenue, SLC

July 1978- July 1981	Served as President of France Toulouse Mission
1983-1984	Built cabin at Bear Lake, Idaho
November 1984- May 1986	Served mission (as District President) to Mascarene Islands
June 4, 2001	Death of wife, Ann, age 80

## Chapter X

# Second Mission: Toulouse, France 1978-1981

**O**n Friday morning, January 13, 1978, Ann called me at the office on Fayette Avenue. She asked me, “What have you been up to now?”

“I don’t know, why?” I replied.

“President Tanner’s secretary just called and he wants to see you. Why?”

“I don’t know but I’ll call her.” Which I did, and I made an appointment to come by his office that afternoon at 1:30 pm. I would need to go home and change my clothes, which I did.

It was not a very busy day. January never is in our business. We sold off the last of our Wheelwright Lithographing Company printing equipment the year before, and the building also, hence our moving the office to Fayette Ave.

I had met President Tanner only on rare occasions. We have lived in Yalecrest Ward (Bonnevile Stake) since 1950. I became very active in the Boy Scout program and was Scoutmaster for eleven years, plus two years as Cubmaster and two years as a Salt Lake Council District Chairman, having taken many training courses, like Woodbadge at Shaver Lake, California and an LDS course at Philmont Scout Ranch in New Mexico.

But this day in January 1978 I was not thinking about any of my church activities, only about Wheelwright Lithographing Company and our involvement in printing services to the LDS Church. So at my appointment that afternoon I was surprised when President Tanner, after some pleasantries like “How is your health, and your family, and your wife?” asked

me how I would feel about a call to be a mission president. Wow! “I’d be honored and humbled,” I said.

“And how would your wife feel about it?” he asked.

“She would feel the same as I do.”

“Could we call her now?” he asked. “I’d like to talk to her. So he picked up the phone and I gave him our home phone number, but no answer. “Do you think you could have her call me this afternoon?”

“Oh, yes.”

“Let’s not talk about this to anybody until it appears in The Church News, and your assignment will be given to you later.”

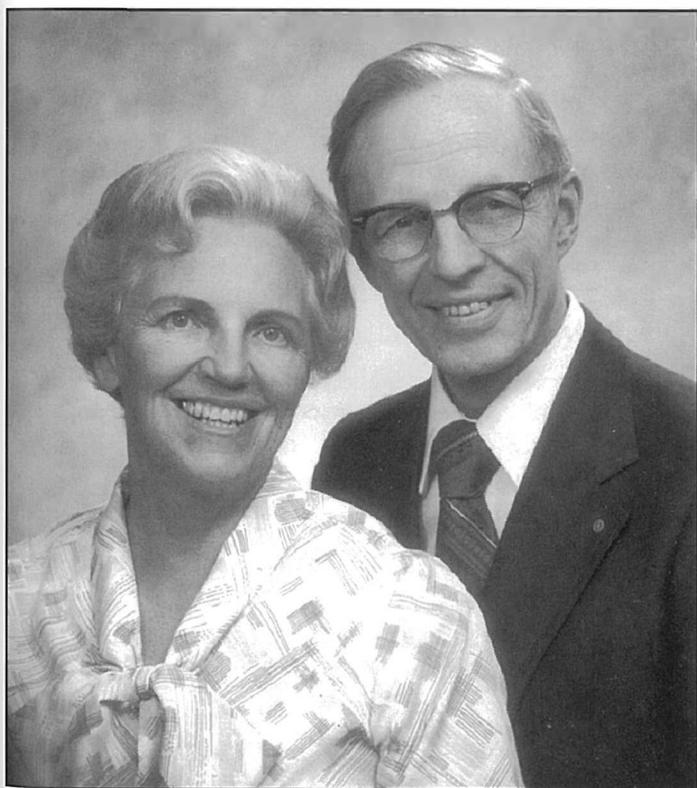
I thanked him and then went down to our office on Fayette, and when Ann came in about 3:15 pm she wanted to know what happened. “What he really wanted was to talk with you,” I told her. So I gave her his number, and she made the call. His secretary replied that he was very busy just now, so Ann tried several more times, but got the same answer. Finally time ran out, and her last call was about five to five o’clock. This time Ann said to the secretary, “But it was he who wanted to talk to me.” And she immediately made the connection. I heard her answers to his questions, and they were almost verbatim the same as mine were.

Scott was still living at home with us. Do we tell him? We promised not to tell anyone, so we did not tell Scott. Scott felt that there was something afoot, but went along with it. The next Tuesday at Rotary Club meeting our stake president, Frank Gibbons, who was working for the

First Presidency, came in and sat down next to me. His greeting was, "Max, are you sleeping well these nights?" So he knew what was going on! I could ask him about our secrecy problem, and any other questions we might have. Hurray! They realize that we cannot wait for the newspaper to start making plans. They just don't want us to shout from the housetops before their public announcement appears.

The ensuing months brought many more questions and answers and proof of Nephi's statement that we should obey the Lord's commandments, and he will help us do his will.

"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, said unto my father: 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." (1 Nephi 3:7)



*President and Sister Wheelwright  
France Toulouse Mission 1978*

**Following are some notes I made in the weeks before we left for Toulouse:**

**April 7, 1978**—Peg and Jim and their family came the night of 3/20/78 for two weeks. Jim has helped me with the building of the kitchen and bathroom downstairs. It's nice to have him here, because he knows how well to do it (He has just last summer added a large addition to his home in LaCrosse.) The kids are all growing up so fast. The baby, Amy, still does not sleep through the night, and the family really fills the basement, but it was so great to have them here. Jim was out of school and inasmuch as we won't see them for another 3-4 years, they took the kids out of school and came early for General Conference.

On a hunch that maybe we might be called to a French speaking mission, I started a 3<sup>rd</sup> year French 307 conversation class last Monday (3/27) at the University of Utah. The teacher is my old French Mission friend, Dr. Donald Barton. He speaks beautiful French and is a good teacher.

About the 15<sup>th</sup> of March Charles Boynton (Rotary Club friend) called to see if we would like to take a French boy for the balance of the school year. He's 17 and has been at East High School since September. I said we would be delighted, as soon as we have room (after Peg and her family leave). So on Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, Cristoffe Curutchet came to stay with us. He is using Tom's room downstairs. His home is in Bayonne, France, near Biarritz. He's scheduled to return to Bayonne on May 31<sup>st</sup>, but may stay a little longer to take a trip with other students to Utah's southern parks.

Last night Carlos Asay's secretary called about 6:00 pm to say that my letter of assignment is at the Missionary Department office. Would I like to pick it up? Would I! So this morning after the opening session of Rotary District Conference at the Hotel Utah I went over and got it, then brought it home and Ann and I opened it together...FRANCE, TOULOUSE Mission! Wonderful!

Now I'm glad I'm taking a French class at school. Though it is not coming as fast as I had hoped it might, it is coming, and I feel more and more comfortable. Christoffe's home is within the Toulouse Mission. His English is not nearly

Max Wheelwright

**THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS**

OFFICE OF THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84111

January 26, 1978

Elder Max Wheelwright  
1836 Sunnyside Avenue  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108

Dear Elder Wheelwright:

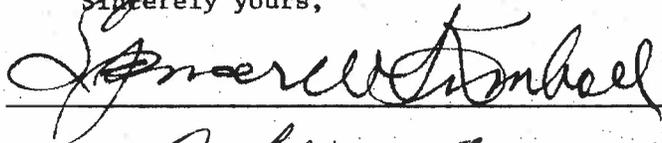
We are pleased to extend to you a call to preside over one of the missions of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The name of the mission will be given to you later. We also extend a call to Sister Wheelwright to serve as your companion in this important undertaking. The date on which you will assume the presidency will be approximately July 1, 1978.

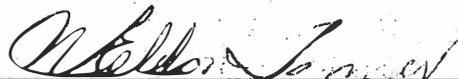
In this assignment as mission president, you will be fully responsible for the supervision of the mission and will be expected to direct all of its affairs according to the instructions of the First Presidency. The missionaries assigned to labor under your presidency will rely upon you for assignments, for guidance, and for motivation to put forth their best efforts. In a measure they are entrusted to your custody. They will need and deserve your understanding and sympathetic counsel. Becoming close to them is an essential element in your leadership.

We pray that our Heavenly Father will bless and sustain you by the power of His Holy Spirit so that you may be abundantly qualified to discharge all the duties devolving upon you to His honor and glory. We pray also that through the diligent, harmonious, and united labors of you and your associates, the Saints may be blessed and strengthened and many others may be brought to a knowledge of the truth.

When you write to accept this call, we would appreciate your sending a short biographical sketch on you, your wife, and your family, with a photograph of you and your wife, to the Missionary Department. This information will be included in a future issue of the Church News when your call is announced. If for any reason you would like the announcement delayed beyond a given date, please mention this when you send these materials.

Sincerely yours,







The First Presidency

as good as it should be for having been here all year. And his French is so fast that Ann and I do not get much more than half of what he says in either language. He is a Rotary exchange student, and I'm sure the Lord sent him to us to help us and to help him.

Tonight we had five Rotary out-of-town couples here to supper. Ann prepared a terrific dinner, although she has been sick most of the week. (I think she overdid while Peg and the kids were here the two weeks previous.)

**April 11, 1978**—I went in this morning and picked up papers at Murdock Travel, passport applications, visa applications, etc. Ann's passport will be valid for the entire time we are gone, but mine will run out, so I am applying for a new one. Tonight we took pictures of her and me, and I printed photos for our applications. I will take them in tomorrow. Yesterday afternoon I stopped by the Missionary Department and got information re the Toulouse Mission. Bob Burton was most helpful. The mission has 126 missionaries, 14 branches, 1718 members, no stakes, and had 13 baptisms in the first two months of this year. It covers about the SW 1/3 of France—Montpellier to Biarritz, north to Bordeaux, east through Angoulem, Limoges, south to Montpellier. I have never been in that part of the country.

I talked with Harvey Glade at Rotary. He said to get as many local people as possible called on full time missions and learn Church policies thoroughly; beyond that mission presidents have tremendous (complete) authority. He quotes his wife as saying that it was a short three years, but there were some long days.

John Fetzer said: Be strict. It will be easier for you if you are very strict with your missionaries. Don't use LMs in the office. Don't make a hospital out of your mission home. Keep in good physical shape. It's an exhausting job.

**April 16, 1978**—Yesterday and today were Bonneville Stake Conference. Allen Lundgren was released and George R. Hill (Jr.) was sustained on the high council. I was released as of June 15th, and Doug Smith (now mission president in London and due to be released July 1) was sustained to take my place.

**April 19, 1978**—Peg's birthday. At high council tonight it seemed strange not to have Allen Lundgren beside me. Some missionaries reporting back were:

Elder Booth from Arcadia, California Mission (President Goates), used the Hermosilla, Mexico "Baptize Now" program until forced to change to the "Commit Now" program;

Craig Cannon, El Salvador, #1 baptizing mission in Central America (100/month);

Elder Ralphs served under George Lee, Navajo, used "Harvest of Souls" program...enter Hogan, ask to kneel and pray with family; Melissa White (Asa's daughter), Montreal, one stake (English, two French districts, which include one Spanish branch with four missionaries, and one Chinese branch with two elders); last month they passed 100 baptisms (had been goal for some time); Book of Mormon was their greatest tool; 200 missionaries (35 LMs).

**April 22, 1978**—Scott's birthday (we'll celebrate tomorrow). Ann, Christoffe and I went to Bear Lake, sold the trailer to Vernon Keller of Mink Creek for \$500. (It was in poor shape due to weather.) Turned keys in to Ruth Nielsen at Montpelier. Then we drove to Ogden for the Wheelwright Family executive committee meeting at Fern Harrop's home, 864 E 5500 S. Scott drove the pickup and met us there to unload all previous issues of Family Bulletins and eat supper with us. Then he and Christoffe came back home while Ann and I completed transactions of business and turned the reigns of the organization over to VP Jack Wheelwright and acting secretary, Fern Harrop.

**April 24, 1978**—This morning at 9:00 am I met with John Chipman, attorney for Unigard Insurance, who had the insurance which covered the accident I had on February 3, 1977. In that accident I hit the rear end of a car driven by a Mr. Shauan. Gertrude Shauan is now suing us for about \$87,000, as I recall. Mr. Chipman hopes the claim can be settled for about \$10,000. The trial is to be May 22, 1978. There is no question about whose fault it was; the question is the extent of damages. It was a nice sunny day just before noon. I was traveling east

on 33<sup>rd</sup> South at about 450 West, just going under the overpass of I-15 and getting ready to turn left. I was momentarily distracted, and when I looked up I was too close. I slammed on the brakes, but collided. I was driving the Mercedes, and it smashed in the front end. I was not hurt, though I had been traveling about 35 mph. I think I was going about 5-8 mph when I hit the rear of their old Thunderbird. I could not see any damage to their car whatsoever. After checking with Mr. Shauan I went to 5<sup>th</sup> West to an auto salvage yard and called the police and Dorothy and asked her to call Garff's to send a wrecker. Mrs. Shauan did not get out of the car until the paramedics came (in response to a call from the highway patrol). They took her to the hospital. She had not appeared to me to be hurt, and I was surprised to see the medics come. Mr. Shauan was obviously not hurt. He said he had seen me in his rear view mirror and had figured that I could not stop soon enough.

**May 4, 1978**—With Don Barton. When Don arrived in his mission (Franco-Belge) he found 60-70% of members inactive; many had never had official visits (home teachers, etc.) for many years. Many branches had missionaries as presidents, etc. He set up a plan whereby members were visited by members. There were not enough priesthood brethren to visit everyone every month, because so many families were so scattered. So he set up to visit it by rotation, so many this month, so many others next month, etc. Over the course of a year every family was visited 3-4 times. Many were found to be living in sin so courts were held and some were excommunicated, but many more were reactivated.

Local brethren were called to preside over branches. If no satisfactory brother were found within the branch, one was imported from a neighboring branch. These brethren were then trained to run the branches, others trained to run the district with a high council, etc., just like a stake. Thus they were trained to take care of the members and prepared to become a stake. He thinks this could have been done 15 years sooner, if proper emphasis had been put on doing so.

When members can take care of their own, then missionaries can concentrate on proselytizing and have much better success.

Music—most branches have piano or organ. In some of the smaller branches it is possible to use taped accompaniment with a live music director. He found this to work quite well (much better than no instrument at all).

**May 22, 1978**—No trial today. The plaintiff's lawyer, Phil Hansen, is involved in a trial for Hutchison, the city commissioner who is being tried on a morals charge (contributing to the delinquency of a minor boy). Trial is postponed indefinitely.

**May 31, 1978**—Christophe Curutchet has been with us since April 1st. He is 17 and will be 18 on July 13, 1978. His home is at Maison Harriet, Rue de Pau, 64100, Bayonne, France. A Rotary exchange student at East High, he came to us from the Charlie Boyntons' at 1348 Arlington Drive. He has enjoyed his stay with us, and although he has not wanted to go to church with us, he has done it a couple of times. We shall miss his thick accent, black wavy hair and fun sense of humor. He took drivers' training this last term and has passed his Utah drivers license. Yesterday I took him to AAA Auto Assn. and got him his International Drivers License. This will save him about \$400 in training fees in France. I also took him to Rotary and out to the copper mine, which is now open again for visitors. We spent all the rest of the afternoon looking for a large format book of pictures of American Indians which he saw three months ago. He wanted to buy it for his father, but it is apparently out of stock all over town. Instead he had to settle for a smaller format book of the same pictures.

Tonight we shipped our household goods to Toulouse. I forgot to put in my shoes, so will have to carry them with me. We sent books, slides, tapes, clothing, Topcon, Rolliflex and Bronica cameras and lenses, etc. Ann wanted the Teton painting, so we sent it too.

Charlie Nielsen came by with his wife, future daughter-in-law and an elderly couple from North Platte (where he lives also and is branch president). His son is now laboring in Limoges.

When they came I was out home teaching, so Ann called me at Pearl Milne's to come home. I keep hoping that Doug Christensen, my companion, will get on the ball earlier in the month, but even leaving it to the end I sometimes end up doing it by myself. I have assigned him to set up all the appointments. He's a great boy, senior at East High, Barbara and Joe's son, very devoted to the Church and baseball, but not in that order. I hope when he gets on his mission that he will be more dependable.

Another French boy who has been going to school at East High is Lionel Navilloe whose home address is Le Renouveau, 73320 Tignes, France, which is up in the French Alps near Isere. He has made good friends with the French teacher at East and thinks the sun rises and sets on her. He at first stayed with an LDS family in the lower avenues, but did not enjoy it there, perhaps because he wears a beard and smokes. He looks like a hippy but he doesn't act like one, at least he hasn't around here the twice that he has come to visit Christophe here. He seems to feel better about the Mormons since he got acquainted with us and has met LDS missionaries here along with Marie Chantal Roussel, whose home is just north of Lille, France.

**June 2, 1978**—This morning I met with Brother Earl Sperry of the Church Financial Section (mission accounting) and went over the accounting system of the Church re missions. He will be touring the European missions in this July and will spend two days in Toulouse with Ann, me and our mission financial secretary. Apparently some procedures are not being properly followed in most of the missions, so he is trying to straighten them out.

Then I dropped over by the new visitors center on Temple Square. It replaces the old museum. They have installed a whole big room re temples and marriage, etc., with tremendous windows opening to the north toward the temple. There is a full size baptismal font on 12 oxen, 3-4 theatres, dioramas, etc—a beautiful granite building.

Steve came in this morning at 3:00 am and stayed until this evening. Ann had asked him to come, and they spent the whole day going over

the company operations, mostly financial. Steve is going to loan us some money to carry on the reprints of the nature books, and Ann is getting a refinancing of the house at 2256 S 21<sup>st</sup> East to obtain the balance of the money needed. We may be able to do the Glacier book. I need to talk with Dick Shaw and see if he can find someone to be the distributor up there. We'd need to get the book into other stores, other than the park.

Tonight the high council had a party for Allen Lundgren and me, celebrating (?) our release from the high council after almost seven years of service. Dave Hatch was the chairman along with Dick Winters and John Kennedy. They had asked Doris Wendelboe to write a poetic eulogy to Ann and me, and Bernice Hicks had written one on Allen. They were both read after a musical program put on by Dian McCouen and Sam Sipherd. Sam is a fantastic pianist, plays so beautifully, and all she uses is a list of titles and improvises everything. It was a lovely dinner in the Relief Society room of the Bonneville Stake Center. They had Allen exhibit nine of his oil paintings, which he has just finished (the result of a challenge set by President Gibbons last fall), and I exhibited a dozen pots. At the end they presented Ruth with a set of Neal Maxwell's books, Allen with a large package of blank canvasses and brushes, Ann with three blank journals (sewed and hard bound) and me with a beautiful brown soft suitcase that will hold suits and has a settable combination lock.

Last night Dick and Martha Young, our neighbors (and it was Dick who was the architect for our new home here at 1836 Sunnyside Ave.), held a neighborhood party in our honor. They had a potluck supper and it was a superb evening. It was good to see most of the neighbors together. It gave us a chance to explain to them where we are going and why, and answer questions about our family.

**June 3, 1978**—Saturday, another moving day. But first, as is my custom these days, a private prayer (in French), then a few minutes of French study and a few minutes of gospel study (in French, reading the D&C). I find that praying

in French has greatly expanded my vocabulary and ease of praying in French. When I do my roll-ups in the mornings I count in French, not always from #1, often starting with 50, or 61, etc., to get practice. First thing outside this morning I went over to Joseph Terry (next door east) and patched his roof. He had lost part of a shingle from the wind last week. He has an area about 9' X 10' that is quite weathered to the right and above center on the south side. The rest of the roof looks pretty good, but I think he'll need to have someone look at it before next winter. The north side should last another five years.

Then I installed a closet rod in the south closet of the master bedroom downstairs, so Scott could help Ann move things downstairs, which he did after he mowed and trimmed the lawn. Meanwhile I went to 65 W. Fayette to sort things in the east garage—hailed a load of paints to 861 LeGrande basement storage and later today a load of misc. to 2268 S 21<sup>st</sup> East garage for storage. I will be so glad when I finish moving from Fayette. I should have finished by 3/15/78 but all these other things seem to come up and are more urgent. If I can get a couple of more days there, I can finish it. I'll have several loads to haul to the dump.

Several times in the past three years I have started keeping more regularly a diary. After visiting at Gibbons' last week, I'm starting again.

**June 4, 1978**—Sunday. I'm still on the high council of the Salt Lake Bonneville Stake, so I'm still attending meetings at Monument Park 2nd Ward. Today, however, is Fast Day, and it is custom for high councilors to attend their own wards on their own ward's Fast Day. So I attended opening of priesthood meeting at Monument Park 2<sup>nd</sup> Ward, then went to Yalecrest 1<sup>st</sup> Ward to attend priesthood meeting, Sunday School and Fast Meeting. In priesthood meeting (high priest group), Jay Welch was the instructor, and the subject was tithing and offerings (see D&C 104:16-18). The question was raised as to how to determine how much tithing is 10%. 10% of what? Gross? Net???

My feeling is that tithing is a step toward the United Order. The 10% is up to the individual to

decide, everyone for himself. The closer he wants to get to perfection the less he should be worrying about the detail of 10% of what. The more he gives the closer he becomes to perfection. It is not like income tax where it is desirable to use all the loopholes and exclusions and deductions. Bill Clawson told of his father, a dentist, who used the cigar box accounting method. When received payment for his dentistry, he put \$9 in one box, and \$1 in the tithing box. This was 10% of gross but Bill could never talk him out of it. He felt he received so many blessings that he could never repay the Lord anyway.

Brother Joseph Anderson (formerly secretary to the First Presidency and since about 1972 a member of the First Quorum of Seventy, General Authority), who has lived in Yalecrest Ward longer than we have (which was 1950), was there today. He mentioned that it is the duty of every tithe payer to tell the bishop if he pays full tithing, or just part. He says whenever he visits a stake conference he is always shown the confidential record of tithe payers, and particularly sees the tithing record of the stake officers. In one Provo stake that he visited recently he discovered that 80% of the stake were full tithe payers, and 3.4% of the stake members were on full time missions. These are extremely high figures.

This afternoon Jim and Bev came by to visit just as we were preparing dinner. They wanted to discuss their upcoming jaunt to Africa and Europe. They have both been teaching school this year and have saved their money well. They will move to Santa Rosa in early July and leave from there in late July for 4-5 months abroad.

Tonight Doris and Strat Wendelboe (and later Calvin) came to visit. They had never seen our house. Of course it is all torn up now. That is there are packing boxes all over, because we are going to store all of our books and personal things downstairs or elsewhere, while we are gone on our mission to Toulouse, France.

The weather has been quite cool lately, no real hot weather yet this year. Our garden is growing well, however. The spinach which I

planted last December 1<sup>st</sup> is almost all gone, but the radishes are at their height, the peas are blooming and the beans and chard are up about 3-4 inches. The raspberries are doing very well, and the newly planted strawberries look like they will take hold very well.

**June 5, 1978**—Started moving again at 65 Fayette. I'm going to finish there this week. Tonight I took Ann to see the George Burns' movie *O God*. Although it is somewhat light-hearted (actually funny), it does have some very good points: 1) God is human (albeit glorified); 2) He can appear to whomever he wishes; 3) he wants us to succeed; 4) the scholars scoff at most of the above. Some errors the author indicates are that God cannot foretell the future, and he does not have a church. This is the first movie we have seen in many months in a theatre.

**June 6, 1978**—Tuesday. Still moving. Richmond and Barbara Anderson and their daughter Joyce visited us.

**June 7, 1978**—Wednesday. Still moving. I now have everything out that I want. I have asked Dorothy to reach Ron Hughes to see if he will sell the plate punch and viewer. We'll give him 50% of anything he can get for them. I've invited Bob Miller of Lorraine Press and Bob Davis of Davis Press to send someone over to see if they want to take any of the oils and greases and chemicals that are left. They might want to pay something or not. Ça m'est égal. It's a goodwill gesture on my part.

Yesterday we received slides and tape and maps from President George Broshinsky of Toulouse. They are very interesting. It's so nice of him to do this.

Tonight was my last high council meeting. I did not get a chance to say thanks to the council in any extended manner. Apparently President Gibbons was anxious to leave. They are great men, so devoted to the Lord, so anxious to do His will.

**June 9, 1978**—Friday. Yesterday and today I have been finishing the painting of the house at 2256 S 21<sup>st</sup> East. I had started last year and had to stop because the weather got too cold. While cleaning and sorting at the garage on Fayette

Ave. earlier this week, I found among all the paint three opened gallon cans of exterior white enamel, which I used on the house trim.

Last evening Ann and I had dinner with LaVon and Jim Gibb. It was lovely and peaceful.

Lorin came up this afternoon and brought in the blue-line proof of Mother's autobiography. It's going to be a beautiful book. He has done a lot of work and gone to a lot of expense to produce it. I have not offered to help pay for it because we have not had the money to do so. I doubt if he will sell very many; he will probably give most of them away. We will sell them for him at 925 S 300 West.

Tonight after we finished eating supper, Scott came home from a trip to Yellowstone Park with Bob Dykstra. They both graduate tomorrow from the University of Utah in chemical engineering. Scott has received an offer to come to work for Hercules at engineer's salary (\$1350/mo.) for the summer.

The big news of the day, however, was the announcement of the First Presidency of the new revelation which states that all men (including Negroes) may (subject to their worthiness) be given the Priesthood. This will have far reaching effects throughout the entire world. It's great to have a prophet alive today.

**June 11, 1978**—Sunday. Yesterday was the University of Utah commencement. Scott received his B.S. degree in chemical engineering. There was a general commencement exercise at the Special Events Center at 8:30 am, followed by lunch at the Marriott library, with a convocation of the engineers at Kingsbury Hall at 2:00 pm. Now he is a graduate engineer, cum laude. He has done well, and is a fine young man, a good example for all to follow.

Today was the launching of the fund raising program for the building of the Jordan River Temple. The Saints in the Salt Lake valley have been requested to raise all the money for its construction. Our Yalecrest 1<sup>st</sup> Ward share will be about \$34,000. We shall receive letters from the bishop with suggested amounts. They hope that every man, woman and child will participate. We have not had the occasion to participate in helping to build a temple. We shall do

our part. Tonight Edna and Bill Clawson invited the study group to supper at their home to hear Ann and me tell about what we expect in the France-Toulouse Mission.

**June 12, 1978**—Monday. I started trimming the locust trees around the duplexes. More sorting and packing. It's nice to have Scott home, and Cathy and Randy and Mark and Jeanine. I don't care much for sorting and packing. It involves too many decisions.

**June 13, 1978**—Tuesday...more of the same. I attended my last Rotary meeting of the Salt Lake club.

**June 14, 1978**—Wednesday...more of the same. I attended Rotary at the Holladay club for the last time. This was to make up for next week at the Mission Presidents Seminar.

**June 15, 1978**—Thursday...more of the same. I'm about finished with tree trimming of locust trees. Our garden looks great! The green peas are in full bloom, vines are two feet high. The lilies of the valley that I got from Marguerite Booth are doing well, as also the violets from Nellow and Ruby London, and the starts I planted last year of euonymus from Pearl Milne, and ivy. These latter two didn't do much last year except to take root. They look like they are going to take good hold this year. The raspberries we got at Bear Lake in April are doing remarkably well, even blossoms on many of them. And the 50 strawberry plants I put in in early May are doing fairly well. Everything does better with more water. I think I did not give enough water last year.

**June 16, 1978**—Friday...more packing. Scott started work at Hercules Wednesday past and he seems to be enjoying it. I have been working on my talk for next Sunday's Farewell.

**June 17, 1978**—Saturday. Scott took a load of trimmed branches to the dump. I cleaned windows and around the yard. I have been getting up about 5:30 daily and studying French and the mission presidents' handbook for about one hour. These grandchildren are sure cute.

**June 18, 1978**—Sunday. I shuttled between Monument Park 2<sup>nd</sup> and Yalecrest 1<sup>st</sup> wards today, trying to take in meetings at both places. I have also worked on the budget for next year's

publications. I met with President Gibbons on my personal goals.

The meeting this afternoon went very well. Ann spoke mostly on consecration and did a fine job of it. I do love my mission companion. I told about the call and how things fell into place and learning (or relearning) French. We had a big crowd: Ralph and Carl Wheelwright and their families, Jacksons, Greenes (Phyllis and Gordon and Steve, Sandy, Bob, Jim and their families), Georgia, Greg Hamblin and all their families, George Meredith, Ron Hughes, Bob Gang, Bob Barnes, Max Larkin, Fred Weenig (Holladay Rotary) and their wives, Lorin, Mona Lowe and families. Lorin recorded the service. Randy and Cathy played a cello duet that was really lovely.

The Open House afterward was great. So many friends! How could anyone miss with all that support?!

**June 19, 1978**—Monday. The seminar for new mission presidents and their wives started this morning at the Language Training Mission in Provo. The Church has a large beautiful facility there for language training, feeding and housing 72 new presidents and their wives (except for President Ho Nam Rhee of So. Korea, whose wife was prevented from coming by their government). The keynote speaker this morning was Elder Tom Monson of the Quorum of the Twelve. He introduced this group and gave advice on how to motivate the missionaries through personal interviews, transfers, meetings, newsletters and member involvement. Neal Maxwell told us to think in terms of stake-hood; we need more local members on fulltime missions.

**June 20, 1978**—Tuesday. Ezra Taft Benson gave the keynote address. Then Royden Derrick spoke on motivating missionaries, and Arthur Strong et al on missionaries' problems. Tonight was entertainment at the DeJong Concert Hall by the Lamanite Generation, mostly Indian dances, with all LTM missionaries and presidents in attendance. Well done! We toured the LTM learning facility this afternoon. Excellent!

**June 21, 1978**—Wednesday. At the LTM presidents' seminar Duff Hanks led off with "Use

of Scriptures.” Every missionary should study scriptures every day, as well as language. This will build him for the rest of his life. Most missionaries leave the LTM with language ability at level 1.75; tests indicate that at the end of their mission they are about level 2.9 after two years, 58% at level 2 after 6-8 months; level 3 is minimum for good missionary results. Natives with good language ability are level 5.

**June 22, 1978**—Thursday. The keynote address today was given by Gordon B. Hinckley. He listed eight gifts every missionary should take home (concepts and habits, not things). These are excellent subjects for talks with and to missionaries: 1) knowledge of God the Father, of Jesus Christ, the Redeemer (testimony); 2) knowledge of and love for the scriptures (consistent study habits); 3) increased love for parents (write every week); 4) love for the people among whom they labor (understanding); 5) appreciation for hard work; 6) meaning of inspiration, a great gift that we can seek (cultivate a responsiveness to whisperings of the Spirit); 7) importance of teamwork, look for virtues in your companion and make it a good companionship; 8) beauty and importance of personal virtue (...let virtue garnish...D&C 121:45); 9) the faith to do what is asked of them (1Nephi 3:7); 10) the humility to pray.

Then followed discussions on “Finding and Friendship,” using a baptism as means of meeting new prospects (excellent method!), demos of missionaries in discussions, etc., with families, public communications.

We were off at 3:00 pm for Salt Lake City. Tonight we met with parents at 50 E No. Temple. We met several, plus an elder who will enter the LTM in September. We answered questions as best we could.

Ann has been sick all week, for over a week now, but worse these past couple of days, sore throat, clogged sinus at night. We have put hot packs on her head the past two mornings before she could get out of bed (air conditioning too cold?).

**June 23, 1978**—Friday. I was set apart as mission president by Elder Tom Monson at 8:30 this morning, following which Neal Maxwell set

apart Ann, and then Tom gave her a special blessing of good health. They were beautiful blessings. He gave me the gift of discernment, a gift I have wanted all my life. He told her of her great role with the missionaries as well as the members, and traveling with me. She’s great! I surely do love my companion.

In sessions, President Kimball told us of the great amount of work to be done in proselyting the world, of the opportunities to preach the gospel to many foreign people in their own language in this country (more Poles in US than in Poland), etc. Mark Petersen gave a masterful address on Joseph Smith. President Marion G. Romney spoke on the Savior. (He seems to be recovering well from his cataract operation on his good eye; his other eye has been practically blind since youth.) This afternoon was testimony meeting in the assembly room of the Salt Lake Temple—very moving. Tonight was dinner at the Lion House with others under zone advisor, Neal Maxwell (all Europe), followed by assigned testimonies.

**June 24, 1978**—Saturday. Around the house, still packing, moving downstairs, working in the yard; had our first batch of peas from the garden. Ann is still under the weather.

### **Farewell talk given in the Yalecrest 1st Ward Sacrament Meeting June 18, 1978:**

Brothers and Sisters, it’s nice to be with you, today, or any time. I often think of one early morning when President Gibbons had invited President Brown to come and speak to our six o’clock Priesthood meeting, one Sunday morning, and President Brown was having trouble with his knees. They didn’t function very well, and President Gibbons was just a little apologetic for asking him out at such an early hour. Pres. Brown said something to the effect, “It’s always great to be where you’re supposed to be.” And this is where I’m supposed to be now.

This is a great ward. We have a great bishopric here. It’s a wonderful place to raise a family. You know we’ve lived in Bonneville Stake since 1942 and in Yalecrest Ward since 1950.

We've raised six children here, and I've had the opportunity of working with boys or boy programs in the church ever since we came here. The first year we were here I worked in the Mutual, in a class of Ensigns, if you can remember that far back, and then Scoutmaster, and then Cubmaster, and then the Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association. They gave me one year to work in the Sunday School and then back into the young people's programs again on the High Council. It's been a great opportunity, and I appreciate it. I think really the name of the game in life is service. We derive our greatest happiness through rendering service. We sometimes hear return missionaries say, "It was the greatest two years of my life." Now they can't really say that if they spent those two years as an extended vacation, or if they were only partially dedicated to the work, because two years is a long boring time if you're not doing the service and being the kind of servant that you are supposed to be.

I'm glad to see here one of my former mission companions, Elder Meredith. He reminds me that 41 years ago we were together in Neuchâtel. And it was that summer that President Heber J. Grant came through touring Europe with an entourage of general authorities, and right beside him was our own Joseph Anderson. That was the first time that I met Brother Joseph. It's been our pleasure to be across-the-street neighbor to him for many years. I've appreciated my work on the High Council. It's been a great six years. It's been a pleasure to work with the caliber of men who are so dedicated. I don't recall ever having heard President Gibbons offer an assignment to anybody on the Council but what the person receiving the assignment said, "Thank you, President, I'd be happy to do it." And he's a great neighbor. President Warner has always been my idol, so to speak, when it comes to working with the young people programs in the stake. And he's had lots more experience there than I have.

Several people have asked me a number of questions about this mission. The most common I guess is, "Why you?" And I can't answer

it. It's enough to strengthen a person's testimony. It's obviously a calling from the Lord, because who else would have thought of it? I'll never forget Friday, the 13th, in January. Ann called me at the office at about eleven o'clock in the morning and she said, "What have you been up to now?" I said, "I don't know. Why?" She said, "President Tanner's secretary called and asked if you'd call him." So I did. And she said very nonchalantly, "If you have time, sometime at your convenience, President Tanner would like to speak with you." I said, "When does he have in mind?" "Well, how about this afternoon? He has an opening at 2:30." Fine, OK, still no clues, you see. So I go home and change clothes and I'm sitting there in his outer office at 2:30 and when he called me in and asked me how I felt about being a mission president I don't think I made a very good impression. When I mentioned this some time later to President Gibbons, he said, "Well, don't be concerned about that. He's used to that kind of reaction." Anyway, he wanted to know how my wife would feel about it, and I said, "I think she'd feel very honored also." He said, "Well, I'd like to talk to her." So he picks up the phone and he dials her and she isn't home. So I go, "Maybe she's at the office." So he dials the office. She isn't there. And I didn't know where she was. He says, "Do you think you can find her within an hour and have her call me?" And I said, "Sure." "And don't tell her anything about it." So I did, and I didn't. But she couldn't get through President Tanner's secretary. He had a very efficient secretary, and she wasn't about to interrupt what he was doing, and so it wasn't until five minutes to five that afternoon that finally Ann said to the secretary, "But he wanted to talk to me." So then she got through to him. I only heard one side of the conversation of course. She was all smiles, and she answered just about the way I told him she would. And then we had this trial of not saying anything to anybody.

The next Tuesday at Rotary luncheon I came into the Lafayette Ballroom and here was President Gibbons sitting at a table, and the whole table was full except the chair next to him. So I walked over and asked if I could sit

there. He said, "Max, have you had any trouble sleeping lately?" So I went right home and found comfort in those scriptures, you know, that Ann has already read to you. If you've got your good book, turn to 1 Nephi 3:7. I memorized it better in French than I did in English. "And it came to pass that I Nephi said to my father, I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know that the Lord giveth no commandment unto the children of men save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them."

There's great comfort in the scriptures. You know, when the Lord's on your side you're the majority. There have been a million questions, and as Ann has explained some of them to you, many things have fallen into place beautifully. We didn't know where we were going until along in April. But we'd received the call. We went in and talked to Royden Derrick, who is one of the people in charge at the missionary department of the church. I felt much better after I'd spent two hours with him. I felt like now I know at least some method of procedure. On March 27, just in case it were to happen, I signed up for a couple of French classes at the U. with our old mission buddy, Don Barton. And that has been invaluable.

About that same time we had a phone call from a young lady, a member of the church, by the name of Marie Chantal Roussel, from Paris, who said she had met Tom, our boy in Paris, when he was laboring there. And before she could say anything else, I said, "Could you come to dinner next Tuesday night?" which she did, and at that time Peggy and her family were here, and so they got to meet her. And several times after that she came. She helped Ann and me considerably with our French. She is a linguist. She's right now in the middle of her exams for her Masters Degree at the Sorbonne in languages. That was great.

About the middle of March I received a phone call from one of my Rotarian friends asking if we would be able to take a French student who was here, for the rest of the school year. That'd be through April and May. And I said we'd be delighted. All the bedrooms are full at

the moment but the hotel is going to be empty the first of April so let him come, which he did. His name was Christophe Curutchet, which is a Basque name. Christophe was a typical seventeen-year-old boy. They grow them much the same in France as they do in America, Japan or anywhere else. He's from Bayonne, which is within our mission. Not LDS, but it was a great experience for him and for us.

Also about that time we had a general conference, and at the French mission reunion, I met Charles Didier, a member of the First Council of Seventy, who is the area supervisor over the French missions. I thought afterwards it was odd I was the only one in the group who asked him any questions about Toulouse. And if I'd known then what I knew a week later, I'd have asked him thirty questions about Toulouse. Because that following Friday I found out we were being called to the France, Toulouse Mission. So then it was for real. It was in earnest. And we visited with the missionary department, with the finance department of the church, church education services, and others, and I have to remark here about the growth of the church in France.

When Elder Meredith and I were there, well, before that—I got there before he did—when I arrived there in 1934, Bob Barnes over here had left a few months before, and there were eight missionaries in the entire French mission, which included all the French speaking parts of Belgium, France and Switzerland. There were eight missionaries, and four of us arrived at one time, so we increased the mission population by fifty percent. We had 800 members in all of those countries put together, of which about two-thirds of them I guess lived in Belgium. Now, in 1978, there are four missions and two stakes in that area. I don't know the population of the other missions, but in the Toulouse Mission, as Ann mentioned, there are 1720 members. That includes Biarritz, Bordeaux, Limoges, Perpignan, Montpellier, Beziers, and some of those other good French towns. President George Broshinsky has been the president. He's a local man here, but was working previously in Paris as a representative of

Foreign Study League. So he's been overseas for six years with his family of five children.

I see eventually that all of Europe will become stakes. Our goal is to help to form stakes in southern France. In those days the missions will be involved only in proselyting, just as they are now in most of the parts of Utah, Idaho, Arizona, and California. It was interesting one night when Marie Chantal was at our home and we had Christophe there, and of course the two of them spoke French together. Once in a while they'd lapse into English just for our benefit, but Ann understood everything they said, and I did too, and it was interesting to watch Marie, who had been a local missionary in France, proselyte Christophe, and how she developed the subject of the gospel and the plan of salvation to him in his own native language. And then of course in family home evenings we would work with him. To improve his English we had him read the English version of the missionary discussions, and to improve our French we read the French version of the missionary discussions. It helped us both and we got into some interesting gospel discussions. Like the one on keeping the laws of the Lord, which includes chastity, and he wanted to know what that was. So we had to explain to him. There are some things he didn't understand very well, like he took drivers training and he didn't understand why you don't go through a stop sign when there's no traffic coming. This was hard for him to understand. Some of the things in the gospel were hard for him to understand but we did use one scripture, and we quoted it to him in English, we quoted it to him in French, and it's one that all of us have used ourselves at some time or other if we are converted to the church and the gospel. If you'll turn with me to Moroni 10: 4 and 5, "And when ye shall receive these things, I would exhort you that ye would ask God the Eternal Father, in the name of Christ, if these things are not true. And if ye shall ask with a sincere heart, with real intent, having faith in Christ, he will manifest the truth

of it unto you, by the power of the Holy Ghost. And by the power of the Holy Ghost, ye may know the truth of all things."

Christophe brought another friend to our house, a boy named Lionel, who was from eastern France, from the French Alps. We didn't convert him either, but we sure planted some good seeds. And he hasn't heard the last from us yet.

We are blessed to live in these latter days, when there is a true prophet of God living in our midst, to live in a day of revelation, when the word is told us directly, what we should do and



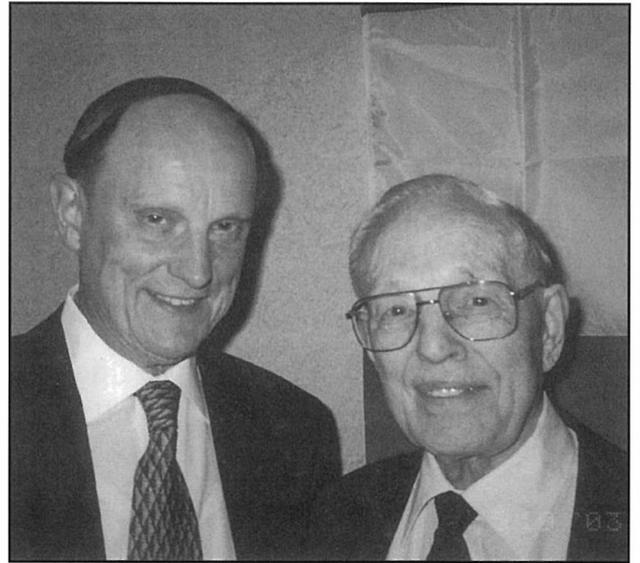
*Mission Presidency, January 1979  
Dominique Aujé; 1<sup>st</sup> Coun.; Max Wheelwright, Pres.; Donn Knight, 2<sup>nd</sup> Coun.; Edouard Turtos, clerk (standing)*



*Mission office in Toulouse*



*Sister missionary conference in Toulouse, April 1980*



*Elder Charles Didier, who supervised our mission the first year*



*Members and missionaries in Toulouse 1981*

how we should live. I thank you for being with us this day, for being part of our lives, for your influence on us and on our children, and I pray, let us all be witnesses for Christ, and become like Him in service to others as well as to ourselves. I bear you my testimony of the truthfulness of this gospel, and do so humbly in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, Amen.

**The following is a report I made to the Brethren at the conclusion of our time in Toulouse, dated June 30, 1981.**

MISSION FRANCAISE DE TOULOUSE  
Report of Progress towards Stakehood

I. *Requirements for Stakehood:* (in a convenient area: 160 Kilometers across)

- a. 1800 members.
- b. 125+ Melchizedek Priesthood holders.
- c. 5+ good branches, well organized and functioning.
- d. 4-5 buildings, adequate for full programs.

## II. A Little History

The mission was formed in 1975 from parts of the Paris mission and the Geneva mission with George S. Broshinsky as president. In the first three years President Broshinsky organized the districts, unified the members and the missionaries so they felt that they belonged together and would work together. Because of inadequate local leadership he was allowed to use missionaries in many positions of leadership such as Sunday School presidents and teachers, branch presidents and counselors, Primary president and teachers, branch clerks, branch mission leaders and home teachers. President Broshinsky was a very good organizer.

During the second three years of the mission, we have built upon the organization which had been previously formed. For example, every 3-4 months we have invited all the district presidencies to a 2-day seminar in Toulouse. We have held workshops on such subjects as home teaching, delegation without losing responsibility, communication, line of authority, principles of leadership, problem solving, personal missionary commitment, etc. To assist us as a mission presidency we have been fortunate to have consulting experts available to participate with us, such as the regional representatives, James Martin and James Stevens, and specialists from Frankfurt and St. Egreve/Torcy (Wolfgang Paul, Charles King, Antoine Turtos, Alain Paulus, etc.).

## III. Members

The training of local leaders has continued to the point where at the present time only one missionary is serving in a branch office (Brother Lucien Touret is on a one year mission with his wife, our only missionary couple).

We are still using some elders in 3 branches to help with the home teaching (Périgueux,

Bergerac and Montpellier). Otherwise, all home teaching has shifted from missionaries to members. Our policy has been that any job that a member can do, should be done by a member. Missionaries are to be used only to teach how, and only substitute in very small branches which lack priesthood holders. My instructions have been to teach the principle that all members, inactive as well as active, should have home teacher visits regularly. If all the members cannot be covered by the available home teachers every month, then half the members should be visited one month and the other half the following month. This would only appear as 50% home teaching on the reports but everybody would be reached on a regular schedule. (Unfortunately this principle is not always followed.)

We have tried to teach delegation, and to encourage district presidents to seek their own revelation and thereby solve their own problems as much as they can. I have been available but have not told them all the answers. When they ask what to do, I reply usually with a question, "What do you think we should do?" Then we discuss the problem and solve it together.

I have been blessed with superior counselors throughout the entire three years. They have been highly qualified, intelligent, devoted Latter-day Saints with supportive, devoted wives. With the last change in the Fall of 1980, I altered the assignments of the two mission presidency counselors. Previously one had charge of adult programs in the mission and the other the youth programs. Now each counselor is totally responsible for two complete districts, President Eugène Sacuto for the districts of Pau and Perpignan, and President Jean-Paul Guérinot for Bordeaux and Angouleme districts.

My reasons were two fold: 1) it enables those districts to be less dependent upon the mission president, which will 2) leave free the incoming mission president to concentrate more fully on the missionary efforts and training of the full-time missionaries. The counselors, being French, can teach and converse much more easily with the local leaders, advise them, be closer to them, and answer questions

more quickly for them than the president himself. I have worked directly with the Toulouse district president myself inasmuch as he lives only 2 blocks from the mission home. However, for the upcoming transition period I have asked President Sacuto to be responsible in addition to his other 2 districts in order to enable President Hutchings to concentrate first on the missionary work, then later on the members, as he sees the need.

We have recently completed an audit of all the membership records in the mission, comparing mission membership certificates with the local branch certificates, attempting to update both sets. Then, in accordance with the instructions received, we have sent our mission set to the PBO branch office at Torcy, France.

Baptisms have fluctuated in numbers, but the record month in the mission was 24 in October 1980. The following month the record was broken again with 28 (November 1980). We again reached 25 in May of 1981. The attached sheet shows the yearly totals by branches and districts. The retention rate is 70%.

The number of members of the mission serving on full-time missions has increased from 12 in 1978 to 21 in June 1981. This is almost 1% of the total mission population. Of those who have returned home, only one has become inactive.

Following a suggestion of Elders James M. Paramore in February 1981, we challenged the district presidents to: 1) call as many district missionaries as we have full-time missionaries working in their districts, and 2) use them primarily as finders, to open doors so the full-time missionaries can teach their friends. These local district missionaries have now been called and are beginning to function.

May I express a word of thanks for one of the inspiring changes to take place during the past 2 years. That is the use of video-cassettes for replay of the Church General Conferences. These have given a spiritual uplift to the members, an insight and view of the Church, the Tabernacle Choir, and general authorities that never existed before. We hear such comments as, "So, that is what it's like," or "Now I feel that

I know the prophet," or "The choir is so impressive."

We will make even better use of the cassettes when we own our own color television set. Then we can use the cassettes anytime, anywhere, for firesides, investigator cottage meetings, priesthood training sessions, etc. We have very few members who own color sets, and those that we have borrowed we have thrown so far out of adjustment that the owners have sometimes had to hire professional repairmen to set them in order. The new generation of TV sets have a special channel for video cassettes and hence tune in very rapidly (5 minutes compared with 60-80 minutes for the older sets). We have taken the videoscope to each of the 5 districts for a Sunday to show the 2 General Conference sessions in one day. Rental cost for the TV sets runs from 150 to 450 FF each weekend (total 10 weekends per year = 1500 to 4500 FF per year). A new television set costs about 5000FF (US \$1000).

Previously the audio direct reception was so full of static that it was unintelligible and we often had confusion on the time schedule. The video cassettes are a marvelous way to take General Conference to the saints and to investigators.

#### IV. Buildings

In 1979-80 we established a missionwide building fund to help the branches who were in need of buildings. The fund is to help them make their down payment. Ground which had previously been found and approved was bought and the Lormont chapel (Bordeaux District) was built on it, construction being finished in March 1980.

Ground was bought and plans have been drawn for a new Cauderan chapel (Bordeaux District). Construction should begin on the revised plans by 1 September 1981.

A new villa was bought in Pau and is now being remodeled to accommodate the Pau Branch (attendance has been averaging 60-70 people in a room that only holds 40). The old house is being sold; the papers will be ready for signing as soon as the lawyers finish their work.

The branch should be in the new meeting hall (with capacity of 110 persons) by 1 August 1981.

A villa was bought in Toulouse area for the Toulouse branches in the spring of 1979 (moved in 29th of June). It is by far the most spacious and beautiful facility we have in the France-Toulouse Mission and will someday make a great stake center.

At the present time we have inadequate housing in Perpignan where we have two branches meeting in a lovely house bought in 1978, but which is now too small. The two branches have average attendance of 45 and 65. The main room will hold 45 persons. We have been searching for a larger building to buy or rent.

We are also overcrowded in Limoges, now with sometimes 60 people in attendance. They meet in two rooms connected by a single doorway. The speaker stands in the doorway with half the people in the front of him and the balance behind him. We are trying to find a larger facility to rent.

#### V. Missionaries

Due to lack of members and proselyting success we moved the missionaries out of the cities of Agen and Narbonne in 1980. I moved the Narbonne elders south to Perpignan where we baptized 10 people in May of this year, and the 2 Agen elders to Bordeaux, where the very next week they tripled their number of discussions taught. Also in Spring of 1980 I moved 2 elders from Bayonne to Mont de Marsan where we have a very strong family (Roussely), another couple (Paoli) and have since baptized 4 additional people. We were well received in this city, the mayor even gave us a free facility in which to meet until the branch grows large enough to rent its own meeting hall.

We have made good progress in moving missionaries out of member meeting halls. In 1978 we had missionaries living in 9 halls (all were apartments or houses). In June 1981 we still have elders (no more sisters) in 4 halls, but arrangements are being made so that within the next 4 month all missionaries will be living in

separate apartments, none connected with meeting halls.

Missionary apartments have been upgraded during these past three years. We have moved out of some that were below-standard housing, yet we have tried to hold down the costs of housing as much as possible. We established an equalization program whereby every missionary pays the same rent no matter where he lives. All rents, charges, water bills, taxes, heat and power bills are handled and paid by the mission office. Some of these expenses are paid monthly, some quarterly, and some annually or at other times. All apartments are on lease, and repairs are paid from this rent fund, so the apartment housing is paying its own way. Unfortunately France is currently undergoing an annual inflation rate of about 15-17%, so rents are continually being raised. The missionary rent has been 425FF per month, but is being raised to 475FF (about \$90 per month) on July 1, 1981.

#### VI. The Future

Bordeaux. When the district president, André Salarnier, asked me in late 1978 if I thought they could have a stake in Bordeaux before 1 July 1981, I told him, "Yes, if you really want it." They have made some progress so far as buildings go but not much in number of members. To make it in a reasonable time, they need to be baptizing 40-50 per month instead of 2-3. They have not yet learned to have genuine love for each other as members, and they lack zeal. It is a paradox, for at the same time they have strong testimonies and love for the Lord.

On Sunday 7 June 1981 we called Jacquie Simonet to be the new district president. He is an ardent proselyter with a family that is strongly missionary oriented. I do not foresee at this moment a date for a Bordeaux stake.

Toulouse. As Elder Charles Didier used to say, "Toulouse has always been a good baptizing town." Though they have fewer members, 420, compared to Bordeaux's 690, they are growing faster, and could easily be the first stake in southwestern France, perhaps even in 5-6 years.

The other districts are much smaller and will probably be merged, with boundary changes, before a date can be set for stakehood.

VII. Statistics

	1978	1981
Members (we need more)	1819	2185
Districts	5	5
Branches (One was a new branch, others were dependent Sunday Schools which became independent branches.)	14	21
Buildings owned	4	6
Meeting halls in which missionaries live	9	4
Missionaries holding offices in branches (Other than home teaching)	16	1
Full-time missionaries in MFT	136	123
Members serving full-time missions	12	21

VIII. Personal Observations

Many of the good things that happened in the mission during these past three years would probably have happened even if I had not been there. But it has been my pleasure to have played a part in these events.

This has been the most rewarding experience of my life. And it is all because of the wonderful people we have been privileged to work with. My wife, Ann, has been a constant source of help and inspiration, always there, always available, cheery and optimistic, encouraging, patient, a wonderful companion. She has great qualities and skills that I had never seen before. Her zone conference talks have touched the heart of many a missionary, her gift of discernment has helped solve many a problem, and the French people have truly admired her ability and determination to speak their language well.

Branche	N° de Membres	1977	1978	1979	1980	
<b>ANGOULEME</b>						
Angoulême:	145	4	17	2	4	
Bergerac:	34	6	9	2	1	
Brive:	23	3	13	1	3	
Limoges:	118	2	9	2	15	
Périgueux:	56	5	11	7	1	
Total:	376	20	59	14	24	
<b>BORDEAUX</b>						
Caudéran:	235	17	1	10	7	
Lormont:	151	1	2	3	17	
Talence:	304	10	8	10	11	
Total:	690	28	11	23	35	
<b>PAU</b>						
Bayonne:	44	2	3	8	6	
Mt. de Marsan:	19				2	
Pau:	94	2	5	7	6	
Tarbes:	41	4	6	1	3	
Total:	197	8	14	16	17	
<b>PERPIGNAN</b>						
Béziers:	84	14	4	1	3	
Montpellier:	117	4	13	8	4	
Narbonne:	117	2	1	0	0	
Perpignan:	11	11	2			
St. Gaud:	80			3	7	
St. Martin:	122			2	8	
Total:	403	31	20	14	22	
<b>TOULOUSE</b>						
Agen:	36	0	0	0	1	
Carcassonne:	36	0	2	0	0	
Castres:	22	3	0	1	3	
Mirail:	103					
Montauban:	42	0	1	8	4	
Rodez:	1	1	0	4	4	
Toulouse:	317	28	28	42	30	
Total:	520	32	31	55	42	
<b>Total de la Mission:</b>		<b>2186</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>122</b>	<b>140</b>

*New member baptisms in the Toulouse Mission*

As a couple, Sister Wheelwright and I have drawn closer together. Our lives have been touched by 350 missionaries, the choicest spirits on earth, and by hundreds of members and others. Some of our spiritual growth has been a result of rubbing shoulders with other mission

presidents and sitting at the feet of General Authorities, such as Charles Didier, Robert D. Hales, James M. Paramore, and others.

Our family has supported us strongly all the way, as we have felt the love and faith of the French people, members and non-members, leaders and followers.

The time has passed unbelievably fast, although there were some long days now and then. A learning time, a working time, a few difficult times, a spiritual time, and above all a most rewarding time. I shall be eternally grateful for this great opportunity and challenge. It surely has been worthwhile, for God lives; He does answer prayers, we are on his team, He has restored the Gospel in these last days, and we'd better hustle or we'll miss the train that takes us back to His presence.

Addendum:

The last item you request in the report is a statement of my employment plans after returning home. Frankly, I don't know what the future holds for me. There are several possibilities:

1) We own some rental properties. I am sure some of them are in need of repairs. I could do most of the repairs myself.

2) I have received a telephone call regarding a printing firm which has gone into receivership. The creditors have asked if I would be interested in salvaging the company. Sounds interesting.

3) Via the grapevine I have heard that in some aspects things have not been going too well at the Deseret Press. Could I be of service there?

4) I know I want to be actively engaged in something worthwhile. I have another 20 years left and I intend to use it to the fullest extent possible. I appreciate your interest in my well-being.

### **Following is the Farewell talk I gave in the Toulouse Branch 28 June 1981.**

Je parle de l'expérience d'un missionnaire. Je travaillait avec un nouveau dirigeant

d'équipe. J'étais un nouveau missionnaire. Nous voulions vraiment trouver des gens à enseigner et nous travaillions dur, au moins 60 heures par semaine, faisant le port-a-porte toute la journée et des "retours" call-back, tous les soirs.

C'était un Jeudi soir, après notre jour de preparation, on faisait des call-backs, et vers 8:45 on avait fini le dernier, encore sans succès. On s'est découragé, il faisait tard, on avait déjà travaillé 65 heures et c'était la fin de la semaine. Mais on voulait vraiment trouver des gens à enseigner. Donc, on s'est décidé à faire le porte-a-porte dans ce même bâtiment. Mon compagnon regarde son carnet: on a déjà fait ce bâtiment 2 fois sans succès; quand même nous étions poussés à le faire. La sixième porte portait maintenant un nom de famille. C'est drôle; les autre fois c'était un bureau. Frappe, frappe, un homme ouvre la porte. Il prend à parole nous arrivions dernièrement du Havre, je vous ai vu en bicyclette en ville, avec vos chemises blanches. Je me suis demandé: qui êtes-vous? J'aurais voulu vous inviter venir me rendre visite, mais, vous savez, cela ne se fait pas. Toutefois j'ai prié pour que vous veniez me voir.

C'était en réponse à sa prière que nous sommes venus ce soir-là chez la famille Enal, nous avons enseigné l'Introduction à l'Évangile, on a ressenti l'esprit très fort. Maintenant toute la famille, père, mère, et 2 enfants sont baptisés et restent fort dans l'église.

On apprend beaucoup de choses en mission.

1) Nous avons des missionnaires bien dévoués, qui travaillent 60 heures toutes les semaines, même s'ils se découragent de temps à autres.

2) Nous avons des membres, des dirigeants qui se consacrent 100% au Seigneur, des membres qui ont une telle grande foi que moi, comme leur dirigeant, représentant du Seigneur pourrais leur demander n'importe quoi et il le ferait de bon cœur, (ex: Sr. Sanchez-tithing)

3) Il existe un moyen d'obtenir tous les programmes de l'église pour vous et pour vos familles, un moyen de sauver les âmes plus vite, un moyen de faire agrandir le Royaume de Dieu plus vite ici à Toulouse. Ceux sont des principes vraiment simple:

1. Faire une longue liste de toutes vos connaissances.

2. Aller les voir avec 2 missionnaires:

a. Exprimer nos sentiments vis-à-vis l'évangile et l'église. Qu'est-ce qu'ils m'apporte? A moi et a ma famille?

b. Demander: Aimerez-vous savoir davantage? Quand pouvez-vous recevoir ces deux missionaries? (Ouvrir les portes des amis pour que les missionaries puissent les enseigner. Les missionaries sont les bons enseignants de l'évangile.)

4) Chaque personne peut recevoir sa propre revelation s'il suit ces quatre principes:

1. Obéir a tous les commandements.

2. Prier d'un Coeur sincere, avec foi.

3. Etudier les écritures tous les jours.

4. Rendre service dans l'église aux autres.

(faire son devoir)

5) Qu'est-ce que l'évangile m'apporte? Quels sont mes sentiments?

a. La vie éternelle si je fais toujours le bien.

b. Le bonheur eternal avec mon épouse, Ann, et notre famille.

c. L'occasion de server les autres enfants de Dieu.

d. A connaître les grand prophètes et Jesus Christ lui-même.

e. A devenir comme le Christ.

6) Je vous aime tous. Il m'a fait grand plaisir de vous connaître. A travailler avec: Frère Sacuto, Rodriguez, Turtos, Cuvelier et beaucoup d'autres. Merci au Seigneur pour mon épouse, son soutien, sa patience. Elle a des bonnes qualites et des capacites que je n'avais jamais connus auparavant. Les discours qu'elle a donnés aux conférences de zone des missionnaires ont bien touché le Coeur, et son don de discernement m'a aidé a resoudre bien de problèmes.

Cette mission a été l'expérience la plus enrichissante de toute ma vie, c'est parceque j'ai eu l'occasion a faire la connaissance de vous, mes amis, nos members, nos missionnaires. Comme couple, nous sommes plus unis. Notre vie a été touché par 350 missionnaires et des centaines de members et autres Français.

Notre famille a bénéficié aussi de notre mission. Le Seigneur les a beni.

Le temps s'est passé incroyablement vite. Parfois on avait des longues journées, mais les mois et les années passent vite. Je suis infiniment reconnaissant d'avoir eu cette occasion de travailler a plein temps pour vous et pour le Seigneur. Cela vout la peine, toujours, car Dieu vit; Il répond aux prieres des fideles; Il a rétabli son évangile d'amour et son église dans ces derniers jours. Et il nous faut nous dépêcher, autrement nous allons manquer le train qui peut nous amener chez notre Père Céleste.

Je vous rends témoignage qu'Il vit, qu'Il nous aime! Qu'Il nous dirige par son prophète actuel, Spencer W. Kimball.

Je prie qu'Il vous bénisse toujours, au nom de Jesus Christ. Amen.

### **Notes from my homecoming talk given in the Yalecrest 1<sup>st</sup> Ward in July 1981:**

Bonjour des member et des miers France. I feel honored to have been called to serve in France. There are some things I have learned to appreciate. One is the faith and devotion of our missionaries, for example, Elder Jon Drake. It was 8:30 pm on a Thursday night and he'd already worked 65 hours that week. Should they go home? No, he decided they should tract. They find a family living on the sixth floor where there was previously an office. They had just moved from Le Havre, and they had wondered who those young men were, but hadn't dared ask. "Come in," they said. Eventually the whole family was baptized.

Elder Bishop related the special challenge given by the zone leaders in Bordeaux one day after Fast Meeting, "Go find a family before breaking your fast!" They did it in Lormont. I also appreciated the faith and devotion of the members. Jean-Paul Guerinot would travel 20 minutes by car plus 2 1/2 hours by train to get to Toulouse for a three hour mission presidency meeting on Saturdays, paying all of his own way. Edouard Turtos, who was a sign painter for Elf Oil Company, served as the temporary pres-

ident of the Carcassonne Branch. He traveled the 60 miles there and back two times a week for nine months, also paying his own way.

I learned that every person can obtain personal revelation through obedience (obey all the commandments), prayer (with faith and a sincere heart), scripture study every day, and service (in the Church and otherwise).

I also learned of Sister Wheelwright's patience and hertofore unknown abilities. While I attended meetings and interviews, she talked with people, listened, helped them to understand the Gospel way of life, always cheerful, patient, and supporting. She prepared excellent talks that touched the hearts of missionaries in zone conferences, and her gift of discernment helped solve many a problem.

I am thankful to everyone—parents, former missionaries, ward members and friends—for your prayers and support. Our family also actively supported us and has been richly blessed, as are the families of all missionaries.

It has been a short three years with a few long days and the most rewarding experience of my life. As with all missionaries who are 100% dedicated, it's total service to others. It is the true Church of Jesus Christ. I bear you my testimony that Jesus is the Christ, He loves us, as does our literal Father in Heaven; He has restored his church in these latter days to enable us to find our way back to the presence of our Eternal Father, not just us alone but with our families.