

This Christmas we have added enrichment in having new friends in Zimbabwe and South Africa, where we spent 18 months on a mission for the church.

What a wonderful experience for us! To teach the Gospel in such a beautiful place. We were constantly amazed at the beauty of the Flora and Fauna of Africa, and the people were so kind and friendly.

We came away from that beautiful place with a renewed conviction that God loves all his children and that his children there are striving to serve Him, live the best lives they can, and are trying to give their children more opportunities than they had.

What does a scientist do on a mission? What every other missionary does. He packs away the scientific books, etc. for the duration of his mission and does what his Mission President tells him to do, and the things he sees that obviously need to be done to strengthen the Church and the people in the area in which he serves.

It turned out that one of the things we needed to do in Zimbabwe was to help the people (especially the women) find ways to supplement their income. Making baby quilts seemed to be a good answer. Tracy made ten sets of quilting frames and we taught the ladies to quilt. We are happy to hear that some of them are increasing their quilting skills and earning money selling baby quilts to the shops.

After a brief time in Johannesburg, where we attended the ground breaking for the Johannesburg Temple, we spent the last few months of our mission in an area called Mitchell's Plains, near Cape Town. There we knocked door-to-door just as do the young Elders. The wide streets in Mitchell's Plains look as if Brigham Young had laid them out. We saturated the area with Latter-Day Saint literature and lessons and came away with many friends and happy memories. We pray that our work there may yet bear fruit.

Nevertheless, it was good to get back to America and see the five new Grandbabies who were born while we were gone, and find our children well and prospering.

The world is full of turmoil and war. Yet all of us can find Peace and Comfort in the scriptures. One of our favorite is: St. Matthew 11:28-30:

"Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden light."

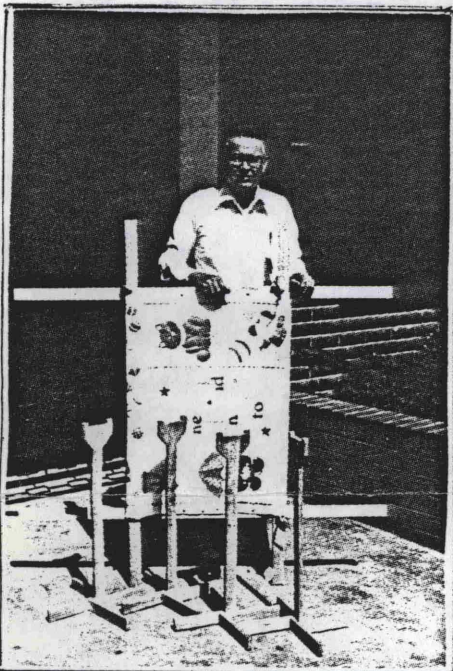
To all of you, near and far, we send our warmest love and pray that all will be well with you and yours in the coming year. MERRY CHRISTMAS.



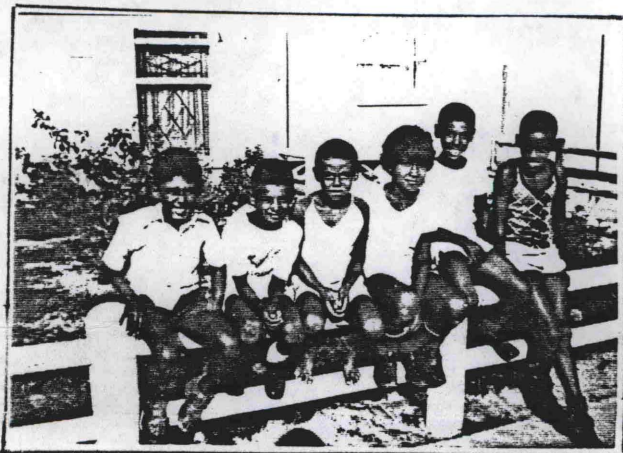
Elder and Sister Hall



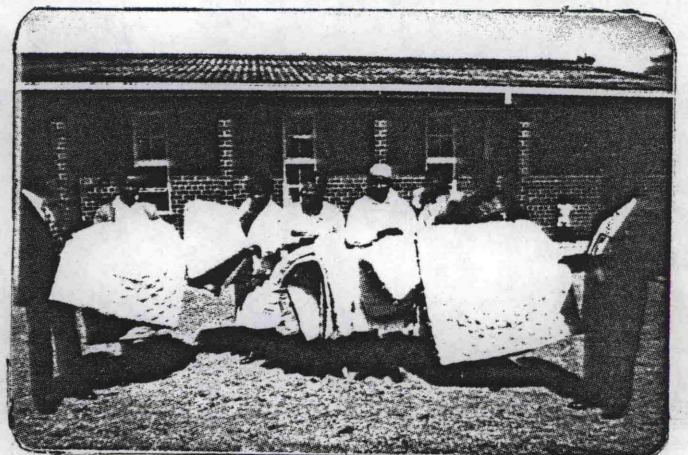
A Baobab Tree



The Carpenter



Cambridge St., Mitchell's Plains



Highfield Relief Society Quilters

Ida-Rose and Tracy Hall