

H. Tracy Hall, Bishop, Pleasant View 1st Ward
July 4, 1976-August 19, 1981

Some of the things that I remember well are:

1. How surprised, but how pleased I was to be called. Previous bishops serving in our stake had been in their 30's or very early 40's. I was almost 58.
2. We reorganized the ward after taking office (a big chore for a new bishop).
3. One month later, the ward was divided and we had to reorganize all over again.
4. The great number of missionaries who served during my five-year tenure. There were 63, an average of one missionary called each month. President Olsen once asked me to give a talk at a stake meeting to explain why we were so successful at getting missionaries into the field. I told the audience that the reason we were so successful was that neither my counselors, the executive secretary, the clerks, or I had even been on missions. The statement that none of us had been on missions was true, and perhaps made us eager to see to it that our young people would obtain the blessings that we had missed. However, the main reasons were otherwise. We had been blessed by a baby boom that had occurred in our ward from about 1955 through 1961. These kids had parents who were devoted to the gospel and taught them correct principles. They also had great bishops (Bishops Colvin, Free, Peterson, and Baird) as well as other devoted church leaders in our ward. We were fortunate to inherit these babies as young adults of missionary age some 19 years later.
5. The many changes revealed through our prophet, President Kimball, including: a) Priesthood for all worthy male members of the church regardless of race or color, b) repentance of sins that had not been resolved in the past, c) the consolidated meeting schedule, d) the two piece garment, e) the invitation to women to offer prayers in Sacrament Meetings.
6. The "mantle" that definitely falls on a bishop.
7. The love, warmth, and concern that swelled within my soul for all ward members.
8. A peculiar dream that came to me stressing the urgency of missionary effort, particularly regarding missions for older couples.
9. The sudden loneliness and "postpartum blues" that came to me upon my release.
10. The love and support received from my wife during this calling.

Written January 16, 1987