

Chapter XXVI

Settling In

July 13, 1964 – August 2, 1964

P-day was the day the missionaries had to take care of their chores, write letters, and enjoy recreational activities – within certain limits. Some liked to sleep in, others liked to get up and get their chores done so they had more time for other activities. It was the only time that they could dress down from standard missionary attire, again within limits. Often a district or a zone would get together for an activity. P-day lasted until after dinner, when they were expected to go back to work at six o'clock.

Mililani was a quite place to be on Monday as the office staff were gone and the mission home staff had the day off. The assistants and the office staff were in and out during the morning. Upon their return from Kona, Elder Gibson was paired up Elder Simmons until travel arrangements could be made. In fact Elder Simmons had a doctor's appointment that morning and was cleared to return to his area. With Elder Wallace off for the day, the travel arrangements couldn't be made until the next day, so it would most likely be Wednesday.

After the busy week the week before, in fact ever since they got there, Sheffield and Ramona enjoyed a little down time as well. Sister Hanami took care of their laundry and housekeeping and Sister `Auli`i did the shopping, so they had some discretionary free time on Mondays.

They took advantage of this particular Monday by driving on up the Pali Highway to the Nuuanu Pali lookout, a place that they had visited often in the past. From the overlook they had a panoramic view of the Oahu's windward side with sweeping views of Kaneohe, Kaneohe Bay, and Kailua. It was also the place where in 1795 Kamehameha's campaign to unify the islands ended in victory as his army drove the last remaining opposition up the valley and over the one thousand foot cliff.

Remembering the counsel they were given that they were first and foremost a couple, that evening they went out to dinner and to a movie at the Hawaii Theater in downtown Honolulu. They went to see Circus World starring John Wayne and Rita Hayworth. It was about a circus owner who took his troupe on a tour of Europe in search of his long-lost love. While crossing the Atlantic, the ship sank taking the circus with it. He managed to salvage part of it and with the help of some European acts, he puts together a new show. In the end, he ultimately finds his love. When they got home, the office staff were returning from some teaching appointments they had with some of the Elders in the surrounding areas.

On Tuesday morning, Sheffield and Ramona began their day with prayer and companion scripture study, followed by personal study, just as the missionaries were expected to do. Sheffield resolved to memorize one new scripture each week. He decided to start with Alma 37:37: "Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto

God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.”

The first thing on Sheffield's agenda was a much longer discussion with Elder Gibson, who still remained defiant. About midmorning his belongings showed up and Elder Wallace booked his flight home for Wednesday. After the interview, Sheffield called his stake president in Ogden to appraise him of the situation.

Not only did Elder Wallace get the travel arrangements for Elder Gibson made, but he also worked out the arrangements to get Elder Simmons back to his companion and area on Wednesday as well.

Later in the day, Sheffield met with the assistants to discuss what they thought after reading “The Challenge”. Being not that familiar with their teaching methods yet, he assigned them to come up with some ideas for incorporating the principles that Elder Dyer outlined in his book.

Next they turned their attention to the upcoming transfers. They had the rest of the week to figure it out so the notices could go out. Sheffield wanted to include Ramona in on the discussion so he could take advantage of her counsel and perspective on the missionaries that would be affected. By now, Elder Mattheson knew better than to object to her being in on the transfer meeting.

With Elder Mattheson going home, Elder Shumway would become the senior assistant and someone new needed to be selected. After going through the names of the more senior missionaries, Elder Lee, who happened to be Jerry Gover's second cousin, seemed to be who they were favoring. There were a lot of missionaries who had been in their current areas for quite some time who needed moved around, not to mention four new Elders and one sister who would be arriving. That gave them a net gain of two missionaries and Sheffield wanted to make good on his promise to bolster the Hawaii Zone. They decided to open a new area in Kealakekua, between Kona and Honaunau. That meant dividing the Hawaii West District into the Kohala and Kona Districts. That alone would allow for a new district leader opportunity. It was also decided that it was time to rotate Elder Cooley out of the office and back into the field, so a new financial secretary was needed. By the time they identified the companionships that would be impacted, they decided to wait until the next day to actually start shuffling things around so they could have some time to ponder and pray about it. By the time the meeting broke up, Sheffield could definitely see the wisdom in involving Ramona in the process. Her insight and input proved to be invaluable.

That evening Sheffield and Ramona drove to the home of Chauncey and Darlene Haggerty. After returning from the mission tour, Sheffield called Elder Tuttle to see how their first meeting went with the Haggertys. He reported that it went quite well and that he had a positive response and had invited them back. When Elder Tuttle told him that they had a return appointment on Tuesday, Sheffield told him to tell them that he'd be there. Elder Tuttle called back later to say that Commander Haggerty was pleased.

As Sheffield and Ramona walked up to the front door, he had a sense of deja vu as the outside of

the house looked much the same as it had when he and Geannie lived there more than twenty years earlier. They stepped up to the door and rang the bell.

A moment later, Commander Haggerty answered the door dressed in some casual civilian clothes and invited them in. "I'm so glad that you could come Admiral. Please come in."

"I hope were not too early." Sheffield said as he and Ramona stepped inside. Noticing the coat tree by the door, Sheffield hung up his hat.

"Not at all." Darlene said as she appeared at her husband's side as they exchanged handshakes and greetings.

"The Elders aren't here yet, but please sit down." Chauncey invited.

"Thank you." Sheffield said as he and Ramona sat down next to each other on the couch. "I see that the house has been remodeled considerably on the inside since I lived here. The floor plan is still pretty much the same. Being here brings back a lot of good memories."

"Exactly when did you live here?" Darlene asked.

"We moved in in January of forty when my wife and kids came over from the mainland when I was here with the Enterprise." Sheffield explained. "After they died and the war started I didn't stay here much. I moved out when I was sent back to the States at the end of April of forty two."

"I always liked this house." Ramona interjected. "I spent a lot of time here visiting."

"We really like it here." Darlene said.

"So you were a junior officer on the Reprisal when she was my flag ship off Korea?"

"Yes sir. I had an occasion to run into you on several occasions. I was impressed how you were always pleasant when you spoke to me. At the time, I had no idea what a Mormon was, let alone the fact that you were one.

"Tell me more about yourselves." Sheffield invited.

"Well," Chauncey began. "I was born and raised in Connecticut. I come from a long line of naval officers, so after graduating from high school in the spring of forty five, it was only natural that I went the Naval Academy. I graduated in the class of forty nine and received my commission. At first I was assigned to the Salem right after she was commissioned were I found my way into the navigation department. I sailed with her on her shakedown cruise and on subsequent deployments to the Med. Then I ended up on the Reprisal again in the Navigation Department.

"After that, I had short stint ashore before going back to sea for a while. While in the navigation department, I got into cartography. After moving around some more we ended up here about two years ago. I'm currently working with some oceanographers remapping the currents in the Central Pacific."

"What about you Darlene?"

“Even though I was born and raised in the Bay Area, I come from Mormon pioneer stock. When my father had an opportunity to take a job in Oakland and he and my mother and older siblings moved there in the twenties.

“Like I said, I was born and raised there. After high school I got an associate degree at Oakland Community College and went to work as a secretary. Although I was active in the Church, there weren't very many eligible LDS men and so I dated a lot of non members and ended up marrying one. We had it pretty good for a while, but after two children, he decided that he was tied down too much and found someone else who was fancy free.

“After being single for few years, I met Chauncey when he came into the city hall where I was working as clerk to pay a parking ticket. There was a spark between us when we first looked at each other. He paid his ticket and asked, 'What are you doing for lunch?' Since it was about noon anyway, he offered to take me to lunch and from there we started seeing each other. One thing led to another and we were married about eight months later. He took my kids in as his own and we had two more of our own.”

Chauncey continued the story from there. “She was a faithful member of the Church and I had no problem with her and the kids going to church. I even went with them on special occasions and was always made to feel welcome. Her family accepted me and were always such a good example, that I had nothing but a favorable view of Mormons.

“But, I didn't see where being a Navy man and church man would work very well together. Over the years, I even gave up smoking, but couldn't see how I could reconcile both worlds. Then when Darlene told me that you would be speaking at that fireside, I wanted to go and hear what you had to say. What really hit me the most was when you talked about how you balanced the two, even before you joined the church. Because of my respect for you, it occurred to me that I didn't really have an excuse. But even more than that, a strong feeling came over me that I needed to take the Church more seriously. I knew that Mormons believed that families can be together forever and liked the idea. Then you went on to talk about how your late wife had been looking for someone who believed in the principle and how that was what led you to join the Church.

“Right then and there, I told Darlene that I was ready to have the missionaries over and was serious about listening to them. When Elder Tuttle and Elder Bradbury came over last Thursday, what they had to say rang true and I invited back for tonight. When they stopped by on Sunday evening to tell me that you would be coming too, I have been looking forward to talking to you.”

“I've never seen him so excited about the Church.” Darlene added. “I've been praying for this for more than seven years.”

Just then, the doorbell rang. Chauncey went to answer the door. It was Elder Tuttle and Elder Grant

Moore. Elder Tuttle explained that he was on an exchange with Elder Moore that night while Elder Bradbury was with Elder Moore's companion over in Moanalua.

Darlene called for their children to come and join them. Soon, fourteen year old Ellen, eleven year old Bruce, six year old Kevin, and four year old Susan were all seated around on the floor, ready to participate.

After exchanging some casual conversation and a prayer, the Elders set up their flannel board. Before they started into the second discussion, they asked him if he had read the things that they had asked him to. He had and they discussed it and answered two or three questions that he had. When they were ready, Sheffield and Ramona set back and let the missionaries teach the lesson, adding a comment here and there. They watched as the two Elders carefully guided him through the memorized script, which flowed so naturally. At the appropriate places they asked the questions to which he responded just as Mr. Brown would have in the script. After each point, the Elders bore their testimony of that principle, allowing President Brason to do the same, before moving on to the next concept.

At the end of the discussion, Chauncey again agreed to have them come back and also committed to attend church on Sunday and the Elders scheduled another meeting for the following week. Chauncey invited Sheffield to come but he had another commitment at that time, but promised to come again at some other time.

On the way back to Mililani, Sheffield and Ramona talked about how well the evening had gone. It was good for them to have been there for a number of reasons. For one, Commander Haggety's connection to Sheffield, and for another, to actually witness their missionaries in action. It gave them a better feel for what they were doing. True, they had sat in on a lot of missionary lessons over the years, but this time they observed from a whole new perspective.

The next day marked two weeks at Mililani. A lot had been packed into those two weeks, but there was so much more to learn. With one week until transfers, that morning Sheffield and Ramona met with Elder Mattheson and Elder Shumway to determine who was going where.

After having a twenty four hours to think about it, they began the process of shuffling around pictures on the area board. The first thing to do was to take down the pictures of Elder Mattheson and Sister Hall who were going home. Added to the mix were the pictures of the four Elders and one sister who were coming out. They also added Naalehu to the area board with Honaunau as a new district in the Hawaii Zone.

They had settled on Elder Lee to take Elder Mattheson's place. That left the need to replace him as the zone leader over the Oahu Zone, and so the process began. Each move necessitated another move. One determining factor was how long the missionary had been in their current area, another was opportunities to move up in leadership positions. But those certainly weren't the only factors. The biggest

factor had to be the promptings of the Spirit. Ramona's insight was useful when it came to pairing up companionships. In the end, sixteen missionaries were affected.

From the office staff, Elder Cooley was replaced by Elder Moore who they had been at the Haggertys the previous evening. Not only was Elder Moore to take over as the financial secretary, but also as the district leader over the office staff. Elder Moore was from Ontario, Oregon and had been in the mission field for thirteen and half months. Another new face around Mililani would be Sister Rachel Manning who was replacing Sister Carmichael. She was from Provo, Utah and had been out for eleven and half months.

Satisfied with the results, Sheffield took the transfer list to Elder Carlson to have it typed up and make enough photo copies to send to each companionship in the mission. In the past, the list was held back and not mailed out until Saturday, meaning the missionaries wouldn't get them until Monday, giving them two days to get ready to move. Rather than such short notice, Sheffield directed Elder Carlson to mail out the notices on Friday so they would arrive on Saturday. That gave those affected more time to wrap up any loose ends and say their goodbyes. The process was more involved than expected the first time and it took a good share of the day.

On Thursday, when Elder Carlson delivered the mail, there was letter from Janet with some recent photographs of Wesley. It made Ramona just a little homesick for the grandkids. The day seemed full of interruptions for Sheffield. He was working on a report to send into the missionary department detailing his anticipated needs for the last three months of the year, only to be interrupted by telephone calls. One was from the police chief in Kaneohe who had received a complaint that the missionaries were violating a no soliciting ordinance. After going back and forth, he succeeded in assuring the police chief that they were not soliciting money in any shape or form. Another call was from the District President on Maui inquiring as how to proceed with a potential discipline matter involving a member in one of the branches. The rest of the interruptions were minor.

Eventually he completed his report without any further interruptions. He had three Elders and one Sister going home in October, three Elders going home in November, and four Elders, one sister, and one couple going home in December. That was pretty cut and dried, the part he struggled with was how many additional missionaries to request to cover the areas that he anticipated opening. He had promised to bolster the number of missionaries in the Hawaii District and was opening a new area in the upcoming transfer. He could open two areas in August and one in September. He hoped to get a better idea of areas that could be opened when he met with with his counselors later that evening.

After dinner, Sheffield met with his counselors. In light of his efforts during the afternoon, He asked about potential areas to open as missionaries became available. President Kaaloa suggested Kaumana,

which is part of Hilo, and Honomu which is just eleven miles north of Hilo. As for other possible areas, President Galloway suggested Kailua, next to Kaneohe or Nanakuli on the leeward shore of Oahu. They all agreed that the Maui and Kauai Districts were pretty much covered for the time being. As for the size issues in the Hawaii District, Sheffield assigned Richard Kaaloa to work with the district presidency to come up with a plan for dividing the branches in both Kona and Hilo and split the district into two. Richard said that he had already given it some thought since the district conference and would see what they could come up with. After the meeting, he spent the night at the mission home and returned home the next day.

With only a few days before Elder Mattheson was to go home, Sheffield asked him and Elder Shumway to report on their assignment to find ways to incorporate The Challenge into the way the missionaries taught the gospel.

“For one thing,” Elder Mattheson stressed, “It is important to memorize the discussions word for word, and to be able to recite them verbatim. But as Elder Dyer pointed out in Chapter Two, 'The presentation isn't cut and dried.' He said that when we teach by our knowledge of the lessons alone, we often end up confusing people.”

Elder Shumway continued, “As we have discussed this, we came to the conclusion that although we have the discussions memorized, they should be an outline and guide, but we shouldn't get hung up on them. To truly teach by the Spirit we need to allow it to guide us. For an example while working with one of the zone leaders last week, we were teaching man who wasn't very educated. I found that simply reciting the lesson to him wasn't working. Instead, I was prompted to teach the same concept in simpler terms that he could understand. I found myself adding examples and explanations that weren't in the lesson to help him better understand. And do you know what, I saw the light come on in his eyes. At that point, I was prompted to bear testimony of what I had just taught him, even though the lesson didn't call for it just yet. Then something remarkable happened. He said that he knew and understood what I had just taught him was true.”

Elder Mattheson added, “It's not the lessons that convert, it's the Spirit and the power of the testimony of the principle that converts. They both have to go together. I know many missionaries hold back when it comes time to testify during a lesson. I was that way as a new missionary. Rather than hold back we need to bear testimony more frequently, even in places where the lessons don't call for it.”

“Very, very good.” Sheffield said. “That's exactly what I was hoping you would discover. As I have been thinking about bearing testimony, I read something that I want to share with you. Open to Doctrine and Covenants section one hundred.” He paused while they opened their scriptures. “Are you there?”

“Okay, I'm there.”

“Me too.”

“Alright. Elder Shumway, will you read versus five through eight.”

“Therefore, verily I say unto you, lift up your voices unto this people; speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts, and you shall not be confounded before men; For it shall be given you in the very hour, yea, in the very moment, what ye shall say. But a commandment I give unto you, that ye shall declare whatsoever thing ye declare in my name, in solemnity of heart, in the spirit of meekness, in all things. And I give unto you this promise, that inasmuch as ye do this the Holy Ghost shall be shed forth in bearing record unto all things whatsoever ye shall say.”

“Thank you Elder. What did it say in verse seven was the key to bearing testimony?”

“In solemnity of heart, in the spirit of meekness, in all things.”

“That's an important part of it. I think any good missionary does that already. Back up to what it said just before that.”

“That ye shall declare whatsoever thing ye declare in my name.”

“Very good. The key is, 'In my name.' Every time we bear testimony of a principle, we should do it in the name of Jesus Christ. I know it might sound awkward, but what is the promise in verse eight?”

“The Holy Ghost shall be shed forth in bearing record unto all things whatsoever ye shall say.” Elder Mattheson repeated.

“There is so much more in the book that we need to focus on, but I feel that we should start with these two points. I'd like that to have this be the emphasis of our round of zone conferences next month. Elder Shumway, I'd like for you to prepare the presentation. We'll cover other points later. I think the next thing I want to address is President David O. McKay's slogan of 'Every Member a Missionary' out of chapter six and stress the member's role in finding and fellowshiping potential investigators. I'd like to see our missionaries working more closely with the members and spending time in their homes and get to know them. Then I believe they will naturally be more conscious of their missionary opportunities. Once they know and have confidence in the missionaries, they will trust them with their relatives, friends, and neighbors. I think I will cover that in the next round of district and stake conferences. Everyone has heard the saying, but I'm not sure they know how to apply it. I have some ideas there that I want to think about further.

“I would like for every missionary in the mission to have a copy of The Challenge. Before he's transferred, I'm going to ask Elder Cooley to order several cases of it for us.”

From there they went on to discuss the way things were scheduled. “Speaking of zone conferences.” Sheffield said changing the subject. “I've looked at the schedule for the next three months and I'd like to redo it. Right now they are strewn throughout the month. Here's how I want to do. I do like how the district conferences are scheduled for the second week of each month, rotating through the three districts every three months. I want to hold the zone conferences for Kauai, Maui, and Hawaii on the Thursday, Friday, and

Saturday prior to the district conference, That way we can consolidate our travel time, especially when it comes to chartering a plane. Then we'll have the zone conferences for Oahu, Pearl Harbor, and Honolulu two weeks later on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. I realize that sometimes, they will fall during transfer week, but I don't have a problem with that.”

“What about your presidency meeting on Thursdays?” Elder Mattheson asked. “This schedule would interfere with them during zone conference weeks.”

“Yes it would. I was just getting to that. I don't see any reason why we can't move it to Tuesday night.”

Sheffield continued, “I see that in August we have a mission tour scheduled with Elder Hinckley. That happens to be during transfer week, so we'll have to work around that. Now that I've laid it all out, do either of you see any conflicts that it might cause?”

Elder Shumway replied. “No, I see the logic in that. No matter how you schedule things, there is always something that interferes. This way will probably work better.”

“Now about those district conferences,” Sheffield continued, “Now that were splitting the Hawaii District, that will through another conference into the mix. To keep a three month rotation, there is at least one month with five Sundays during the quarter. We'll use those fifth Sundays for the fourth conference and still stay on schedule.”

Satisfied with the new schedule, they went on to other matters during the rest of their meeting.

While Sheffield was meeting with the assistants, Elder Carlson got the transfer notices in the mail. On Saturday those who were affected knew where they were going next and their companions who were remaining in the area learned who their new companion would be. Even though the mission was spread throughout the islands, the number of missionaries were relatively small, therefore most of them knew each other. Over the weekend and on p-day they had a chance to wrap things up, say their goodbyes, and pack for the move.

On Tuesday afternoon, the new arrivals flew in and were met at the airport and brought to the mission home. Upon their arrival at Mililani, Elders Raleigh Cook, Mark Bowers, Gordon Hitt, Zachary Jamison, and Sister Janet Moody looked like deer caught in the headlights. The blank expressions on their faces showed anxiety, fear, panic, surprise and confusion mingled with excitement, confidence, eagerness and anticipation. They were given time to put away their luggage, the elders in the barracks above the garage while Sister Moody was shown to the Sisters dorm room in the basement.

A few minutes later, they reassembled as they gathered around the large table in the dining hall. Once they were all there, Sheffield and Ramona came out of their office to greet the new missionaries, still wearing the leis that they received at the airport. They shook hands with each one and were able to call them

by name, since they had received their photographs along with their basic information.

Standing beside each other at the head of the table, Sheffield said, "On behalf of Sister Brason and I, Aloha. Welcome to the Hawaii Mission and welcome to Mililani. Mililani is the name of the mission home which means, 'a song of praise to the Lord.' I am Sheffield Brason, the mission president and this is my wife Ramona. Sister Brason and I have been looking forward to your arrival and hope that you are as excited to be here as we are to have you.

"Sister Brason will lead us in a hymn, after which, Elder Bowers, would you offer a word of prayer?"

After the hymn and prayer, Sheffield continued, "We have reviewed your files and have prayerfully assigned you to your respective areas and companions. We hope that each of you will get off to a good start to very successful mission. In a moment we will meet with you individually and tell where you will be working."

But first, they gave them some general information about the mission and talked about the success it was having. Ramona shared the story of a young man who had been baptized the previous Saturday. They reviewed the basic mission rules that had been explained to them in Salt Lake, plus some rules specific to the mission, such the beaches being off limits. From the blank stares, they weren't sure if they understood anything.

They began to loosen up when the authority figures standing before them began to tell a little about themselves. When they saw that they were real people who had also just left their home and families behind as well, they began to relax a little. Each one was asked to tell a little about themselves, their reason for being there, what they hoped to accomplish, and lastly to bear their testimonies.

When they were all finished, Sheffield said, "Now we'd like to visit with each of you individually and Sister Brason and I will give you your assignments. In the meantime, why don't you sit here and work on the first discussion.

Sheffield first took Elder Cook into his office for a personal interview. In addition to getting to know them better, he wanted to make sure there were not any unresolved issues as there had been with Elder Gibson. After spending several minutes with each one, he invited Ramona in to talk to the new missionary further. Together they told them all about the area to which they were assigned and showed them the picture of their companion and told them about them. They gave each the opportunity to ask any questions that they might have. Some couldn't think of any while others rattled off a whole string of questions. There was plenty of time to spend as much with each as necessary.

When they were all done, they paired each of the elders up with one of the office staff and sent them out into the area around the neighborhood to do some contacting for an hour. At the same time Sister Williams took Sister Moody while Sister Carmichael remained behind to pack for her transfer.

While they were gone, the table was set and when they all returned, Sister `Auli`i served dinner. In addition to everyone who lived at the mission home, they were joined by Sisters Eilene Hall and Brenda Draper who had come down from Laie, since Sister Hall was going home the next morning. As it was, Sister Carmichael was replacing Sister Hall. Rather than returning to Laie that evening with Sister Draper, they planned on spending the night at Mililani.

After dinner was cleared away, everyone remained seated while the spotlight was turned on Elder Mattheson and Sister Hall. Each was given the opportunity to make a report of their mission and bear their testimonies. Each had mixed emotions at leaving the mission field and returning to their homes.

The contrast between them and the new arrivals was stark. But both of them had once been in the same position as the “greenies”, each of who would soon enough be the seasoned missionaries on the eve of going home.

Elder Cooley, who was being transferred out of the office was also given a the opportunity to express himself. After Elder Cooley, Sister Carmichael stood up to express her feelings. Throughout the evening, a couple of other companions arrived so they could make their travel connections the next morning.

After an evening of testimony bearing, the Sisters retired the dorm room and the Elders to the barracks.

On transfer days, Sister `Auli`i and Sister Hanami came in early since so many needed breakfast. Sister `Auli`i made up a big batch of pancake batter and began cooking up a dozen at a time on the huge professional grade griddle. They were served with coconut syrup and eggs.

By nine o'clock Mililani began to fill up with missionaries as they came to meet up with their new companions or to be taken to the airport to catch a flights to their new areas. Sheffield noticed something peculiar about their behavior. The Elders would stand in a circle each with one foot in the center. As it turned out, they were comparing their spit shined shoes. During the new mission president's tour of the mission, the one thing that seemed to really impress them was the navy shine on his shoes. It caught on and nearly everyone began working to perfect the shine on their shoes. A number of techniques were used, some with better success than others.

As people were coming and going, Sheffield and Ramona made it a point to talk to everyone. At one point there were six Sister missionaries there at one time. Ramona pulled them aside and joined in conversation with them. Before it was time for Elder Mattheson and Sister Hall to leave to catch their flight back to the mainland, Sheffield conducted their final interviews and tried to give them some advice that he hoped would stick with them during their transition to post mission life. When it was time to go, Sheffield and Ramona saw them off and wished them well. With all of their gear loaded into the back of one of the Nova

wagons, Roy drove them to the airport.

During the three weeks that they had been there, Sheffield had relied heavily upon Elder Mattheson to show him the ropes. He now had a pretty good idea and still had Elder Shumway and now Elder Lee to assist him. Elder Lee was able to step right in to his new role, but Elder Moore felt overwhelmed with his new responsibilities as the financial secretary. That very afternoon, his companion, Elder Wallace, and Ramona began showing him what was involved. The other new face at the dinner table that evening was Sister Rachel Manning from Provo, Utah, who had taken Sister Carmichael's place.

On Thursday Sheffield turned his attention to the upcoming zone conferences and the Kauai District conference in Lihue. That evening at their presidency meeting, Sheffield was surprised that President Kaaloa came with a plan for divining the Hilo and Kona branches and the Hawaii District. He looked over the numbers carefully and they appeared to be balanced. He even had recommendations for the new leaders who would be needed. Sheffield still didn't know them that well, having only met them briefly, but he felt confident that they were capable of filling the positions. He signed the form and assured Dick that he would put it in the mail to Salt Lake the next day. He had no idea what it would take for it to be approved.

With the first transfer day behind them and a new schedule worked out, Sheffield and Ramona had two weeks to settle in to more of a routine at Mililani before they had to travel again. Ramona and Elder Wallace continued to show Elder Moore what was required in his new assignment. He was a bright young man and caught on quick. In the meantime, Sheffield and Elder Shumway brought Elder Lee up to speed on the changes that were in the works. Together they worked out their presentation for the August zone conferences.

The letters from home kept them in touch with the kids and grandkids. They were good about sending pictures. In the month since they last saw them, they had already changed. Their letters told of what they were doing and other news from home. Ramona was quite detailed in her weekly letter that she wrote which gave the kids a good idea about what they were up to as well.

The kids weren't the only ones to write to them as they received letters from Sheffield's brothers. Even Mace and Pat wrote to them and told of their meetings with the missionaries. They had some questions that the Elders weren't able to answer for them and wanted Sheffield to clear up for them before they would agree to go any further. Sheffield took some time to ponder and pray about it before he sat down to draft his response. He gave it a lot of thought and hoped he had answered their questions and cleared up their concerns.

Perhaps the letter that brought the most most joy came from Harvey. Not only had Joseph given his consent to allow Anna and Paul to be baptized, but they were all sitting in the lessons the missionaries were teaching them. Harvey even said that they went to church with them in Sherman the the week before. For

Harvey, that was real progress.

The real progress in their personal missionary effort was with Chauncey Haggerty. They hadn't been able to participate in the third discussion with them, but were able to be with them for the fourth discussion. Darlene was silently optimistic about the progress that he was making. She and the kids knew that this was something that he had to do on his own. Sheffield and Ramona could see the difference since they had last met with them. He had responded well to everything that had been presented to him, yet he remained noncommittal, at least verbally.

They contributed to the discussion from time to time as Elder Dayley and Elder Bradbury taught the lesson. Again he answered all of the questions with the expected answers, yet he wouldn't make any commitments. However, there were tale-tale signs that the message was getting through to him.

At one point in the discussion, Elder Dayley attempted to get to commit to attending church on Sunday. He hesitated.

"How about if I go with you?" Sheffield offered.

"If you come with me, I'll take you up on it." Chauncey said, much to everyone's relief.

The Elders finished the lesson and packed up their flannel board and other material and left. Sheffield and Ramona stayed and visited some more. It was just a casual conversation, and nothing of what had been taught that evening was even mentioned as they got better acquainted. It was obvious that Chauncey had a great deal of respect for the man he still referred to as Admiral.

As they were ready to leave, Chauncey said, "Thanks for coming. It meant a lot to me."

"You know," Sheffield said, "we ought to get together some evening and go out for dinner or something."

"We'd like that very much." Darlene answered for her husband.

"How would Friday evening work for you?" Sheffield asked.

"Chauncey thought for a moment and said, "Yeah Friday would be fine."

"Great." Sheffield said. "Why don't we pick you up around six thirty?"

Sheffield and Ramona made it a point to take time to be a couple and went out from time to time just to get away from it all. Rather than having dinner at Mililani on Friday evening, They drove back over to Halawa to the Haggerty's. Chauncey was ready, but Darlene was running a minute behind.

Once they were all in the car and Sheffield put it into gear, they discussed where they should go. Chauncey mentioned a seafood place that Sheffield and Ramona knew well and had been to on occasion in the past. They had an enjoyable visit over dinner and afterwards they took them to Mililani for some of Sister `Auli`i's homemade cherry pie and some ice cream. As they enjoyed their desert out on the balcony, the lights of the city began to come on as they visited some more. As it got later in the evening, Sheffield and

Ramona took the Haggertys home. It had been a good evening for both couples.

Sheffield still liked to keep abreast of what was going on in the world. He typically watched the ten o'clock news on the television before going to bed. In addition, they subscribed to the Honolulu Advertiser. Being an ex-navy man, the headline in the Sunday August 2nd edition caught his attention. He read with concern about a US Navy destroyer being attacked in international waters by four North Vietnamese patrol boats.

They went ahead and got ready for church and as promised, they attended church in Halawa with the Haggertys. Everyone knew who the Brasons were by now, but Sheffield deflected the attention away from himself and made sure that Chauncey was introduced to as many people as possible and that he was well received. Sheffield took him to Priesthood Meeting and Ramona and Darlene joined them for Sunday School. Elder Dayley invited him to attend the instigators class where they joined with others who the missionaries were teaching. After being lost in the discussion in the previous meeting, this one was much more on his level.

Afterwards Sheffield and Ramona went to their home for dinner before going back to sacrament meeting. Chauncey wanted to talk and opened up about how he was feeling about things. It was difficult for him to describe the sensation that had filled his soul. He described it as almost like a burning that began at the very core of his being.

Sheffield took the opportunity to explain to him what it was that he was experiencing and how he had felt when he first experienced it. He explained it in a way that Chauncey understood, and he realized that he knew.

Once back the meetinghouse for sacrament meeting, Chauncey was even more impressed as it was fast and testimony meeting. The "burning" that he had described stayed with him as he listened to person after person, old and young, men and women, bear their testimonies. When the meeting was over, he surprised Elder Dayley when he asked how soon he could be baptized.

Elder Dayley was caught off guard because he had read the Navy commander to be a tough nut to crack. He responded by telling him that he had to wait until they could teach him the last two discussions. The soonest that they set up another discussion for Thursday evening. Naturally he wanted Sheffield to be there. Sheffield explained that he would be off the island for meetings and wouldn't be back until Sunday, but promised to call when he got back.

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