

Chapter XXV

All Settled In

August 3, 1964 – August 31, 1964

On the first Monday in August, Sheffield and Ramona drove up to Laie to go the Polynesian Cultural Center. The first time they were there, they were rushed through it too fast to really enjoy it. Then they spent the rest of afternoon and evening with their friends the Morleys in Laie. While they were enjoying some ice cold lemonade on their patio overlooking the ocean, Teancum and Takara came over with their two children. They were obviously excited about something, but before they could share their news, three and half year old Leilani beat them to it when she announced, "Mommy has a baby in her tummy."

Yes, Takara was expecting in January. Sheffield and Romana marveled at how far the little war orphan had come since she first came to stay with them. Who would have known then that what was to have been a few months in their home turned into a lasting relationship, not only with Takara, but with the family that she married into.

As Leilani climbed onto Grammona's lap, it made Ramona miss her own grandkids. But just as they considered Takara as their daughter, her children were their grandchildren away from home. Christopher referred to here as Grandma Ramona, but little Leilani ran it all together and it came out Grammona. Ramona actually preferred it that way. That evening before going to bed, Ramona wrote a short letter to Janet to tell her the news.

The very next morning when Elder Carlson brought her their personal mail, there was an unexpected letter from Janet, as that they had just received one from her on Saturday. As she opened it from one end, a photograph fell out. She picked it up off the floor to see that it was a picture of Janet holding a small child. All it took was for her read the first line of the letter to send her running with excitement to Sheffield's office.

He was working on his zone conference presentation when she barged in and practically shoved the picture into his face. "Listen to this, Babe." She plopped onto his lap and began reading before he could react. "'Dear Mom and Dad.' she begins. Now listen to this, 'Great news! We have a baby. Her name is Andrea and she is fourteen months old.'"

Sheffield looked up from the photograph. "Really. This is exciting. What does she say about her?"

"She goes on." Ramona continued as she read, "'Last Friday morning we got a call out of the blue from the Relief Society Social Service Department. They asked if we wanted a baby. I told them of course. They said that if we came into their office, we would pick her up that day.

"'Of course Jerry was over at the ranch so I called over there and told Gale to send him home right away so we could go get a baby. Within twenty minutes he came home and hurried and cleaned up and we dashed off to Logan. When we got there, they brought her out and we instantly fell in love with.' Oh Sheffield, isn't she adorable?"

"Yes she certainly is." Sheffield agreed.

"Here we are with no way to go see them. I don't know if I can wait until Christmas."

"Go on. What else does she have to say."

"Well lets see. Where was I? Oh yes. 'As you can see from the picture she is blond and has the most adorable dimples when she smiles. She has just started walking, although awkwardly. With a three year old and now her, its a good thing our house is still childproof.

"Andrea was born on June second nineteen sixty three here in Logan. All we really know is that she had been in foster care before coming up for adoption. We applied several months ago and I guess our number came up. We signed the paperwork and got to bring her home. Just like with Wesley, we have to wait for it to be processed by the court for it to be final.

"We brought her home and she acted as if she was home, although she isn't used to us yet. We didn't have a room set up for her, so when we got home, we got a twin bed that Gale and Wayne had in storage and set it up for Wesley in the spare bedroom and fixed up his room for Andrea. Sorry Mom and Dad but we don't have a room for you to stay in when you come. Besides you won't be coming for three years any way.

"No sooner than we got home, word got out that we had her, family and neighbors began stopping by. All of a sudden we have more food than we know what to do with. Andrea seems to thrive on all of the attention that she's getting. Wesley doesn't quite know what to think of the new order of things around here. We had talked to him about having a baby brother or sister someday, but she came so unexpectedly that we didn't have time to prepare him. So there is plenty of adjusting for everyone.

"She sure is a little jabberwocky. Most of what she says sounds like babel, but I'm sure that to her it means something. However, when she wants picked up, she holds up her arms and says 'uppy'. Its obvious that she doesn't know 'mama' or 'dada'. We're working on those. We want her to know that she has a mommy and daddy. I'm not sure if she understands the concept.

"I can't wait for you to see her. We are definitely planning on coming for Christmas. I know that won't be soon enough for you, but it will have to do. I called Craig and Norma. Craig and his family are going to fly out in Dad's Staggerwing next week. Norma and Wade are coming out for the Ricks family reunion later in August and were planning on coming to see us anyway.

"I'm sorry that this is so short, but all of a sudden there is a lot going on. I look forward to your letters. I just love hearing all about your experiences. I'll write again soon.' And she signs it, 'Love Janet.'"

"That's quite exciting, Grandma." Sheffield said as he gave her a quick kiss on the lips.

Just then, Elder Moore appeared in the open doorway. He didn't know what to think when he saw the mission president with his wife on his lap, let alone kissing her. He tuned to leave as quickly as

appeared.

“Come on in Elder.” Sheffield called to him.

That was Ramona's cue to get up. “So do you want to see our newest granddaughter?” she beamed as she handed him the photograph.

Still somewhat red faced he took the photograph from he out stretched hand.

“I hope we didn't embarrass you.” she apologized after the fact. “I trust that you've seen your mom and dad be affectionate before.”

“Actually, no. My Dad is very guarded about things like that.” He looked up from the picture. “She's pretty big for a baby.”

“She's fourteen months old.” Ramona explained. Then to clear up his misunderstanding, she added. “They just adopted her.”

“Congratulations.” he said politely as he handed the picture back. “President, the books you ordered from Salt Lake just arrived.”

“Oh good. Thank you Elder. They came faster than I expected. Now we can take some with us this week and start distributing them.”

“Do you know what would be nice?” Ramona commented. “You should personalize them first. You know, write a personal note in each one and sign it.”

“That's a great idea, Sweetheart. It will take a little time but I like it. Can you help me come up with what to say?”

Elder Moore was thinking to himself, “Did he just call her Sweetheart?”

“Where are they, Elder?”

“Right out here, just inside the front door.”

“Can you help me bring them in here?”

“Sure.” he answered as he lead Sheffield to where they were.

They brought them all into the office staked them behind his desk. Elder Moore returned to his work while Sheffield opened the box on top of the stack nearest to him. He opened it and picked up a pen. “What should I say?”

“It depends on who it's for.” Ramona said. “We've only met most of them once. Between the two of us we should be able to come up with something.”

“Let me get out the notes.” he said as he stood up and walked over to the file cabinet that his notebook was sitting on. As he returned to his desk he said, “Well we'll be in the Hawaii Zone on Thursday. Lets go through them zone by zone, so lets start with Elder Peterson.”

Ramona pulled up a chair and sat beside him and said, “How about something like...’

After about an hour, they had personalized one for each of the sixteen missionaries in the Hawaii Zone. The books came fifteen to a box, so they placed them all back into the empty box and Sheffield wrote "Hawaii Zone" on the side of the box. The box was set aside with the sixteenth book on top of it. Then they began on the Maui Zone and had only done about half of the zone when they were called to lunch.

"Thanks for your help, Sweetheart. We can finished Maui and do Kauai tomorrow. The rest can wait until next week."

That evening while Sheffield was meeting with his counselors, Ramona wrote another to Janet to tell her how excited they were for her and Jerry and little Andrea. She was getting ready for bed while Sheffield watched the ten o'clock news.

Earlier in the evening, shortly before midnight in Washington D.C. on August 4th, President Johnson made a speech to the nation in which he described a second attack by North Vietnamese vessels on two U.S. Navy destroyers on the high seas and requested authority from Congress to undertake a military response. The President stressed that Hanoi was the aggressor, which put the United States in a defensive posture. He emphasized his commitment to both the American people, and the South Vietnamese government.

Sheffield knew about the history of Indochina and how the region had been ruled by the French for decades until defeated by the communists in 1954 which resulted in the partitioning of Vietnam into north and south. The United States had military advisors in South Vietnam since 1961. Sheffield was worried on one hand that President Johnson was asking permission to step into another Korea. On the other hand he felt strongly that communism must be opposed wherever it spreads. He hoped that if the United States did get involved that the military campaign would not be micromanaged and mishandled by Washington as was the case in Korea.

The next day, they finished personalizing the books for the Maui and Kauai zones and made other preparations for the conferences.

On Thursday morning Sheffield and Ramona packed for their trip before going downstairs. After meeting with the office staff, Ramona pulled Elder Shumway aside. "I have something for you." She said. "I was out and about a little yesterday and I got these for you." She held out a small bottle of pills.

"What is it?" he asked as he took them from her.

"Dramamine. Their for air sickness. Take one an hour before take off and it should help settle the queasiness. Our daughter Norma used to get air sickness so I got her some and it did the trick. They're good for twenty four hours, but I'm afraid that it won't do anything for the anxiety."

"Thanks Sister Brason. I'll go take one right now."

When it was time to leave, Roy drove Sheffield and Ramona to the airport. Elder Wallace had

arranged for the same Cessna 210 that Sheffield took on the mission tour earlier. In fact, Elder Wallace was able to schedule its use for the rest of the year, based on the new schedule.

While Sheffield was checking out the plane, Elder Carlson and Elder Westlake dropped off the Assistants. As they approached the plane, Ramona asked Elder Shumway, "Are you ready?"

"As ready as I'm going to be. I took a Dramamine like you told me. We'll see if it will work."

The Elders stashed their bags in the luggage compartment while Ramona climbed into the cabin and took the front seat next to Sheffield. The two missionaries boarded the plane and Elder Shumway closed the hatch and secured it.

As Sheffield started the engine, Elder Shumway tensed up and grabbed the back of Ramona's seat. She turned and looked over her shoulder and said, "It's not so bad if you relax. Just let go and breathe deeply. Close your eyes and concentrate on your breathing."

Sheffield taxied out to the runway and got into position and when given the clearance he began his take off run. Rather than hyperventilate as he had done on their last trip, he did as Ramona suggested and focused on breathing deeply. As the plane rose into the air, he remained calm.

"We're off the ground, Elder Shumway." Sheffield informed him.

Still breathing deeply, he opened his eyes and looked out the window as the plane banked to the south east and flew parallel to the shore as they gained altitude. For midmorning on a weekday, Waikiki Beach was swarming with people. For the missionaries, that was about the best look they'd get of the famous beach. All the way to Kona, Elder Shumway tried very hard to relax and enjoy the flight. The Dramamine worked. By not suffering from airsickness actually helped his anxiety. He still didn't enjoy flying, but at least it was more tolerable. Elder Lee on the other hand, quite enjoyed the flight.

Richard Kaaloa met them at the airport and drove them to his home for lunch before taking them to the chapel for their meetings. The first item of business was the personal interviews. This time Sheffield met with each missionary alone, unlike the last time when Ramona was included. During each interview, he presented them with their own copy of "The Challenge". While Sheffield was holding his interviews, Ramona visited casually with the missionaries as they mingled about.

Sheffield was pleased with how the conference went. For starters, in the shoe comparisons there were several with a shine equal to his. Then during the scripture bee, he was able to demonstrate his command of the few that had memorized. Elder Shumway did an excellent job of explaining the need to memorize the discussions word for word and yet remain flexible in presenting them to investigators. Sheffield talked about developing close ties with the members to gain their confidence and then relying more on them to find people to teach. By the time the last missionary concluded his testimony, the luncheon was ready.

After dinner, Ramona went back to the Kaaloas while Sheffield kept his prearranged appointments with the members. Anyone else who wanted to meet with him were worked in. Then finally, he and President Kaaloa met with the district presidency to discuss the details of the pending division and other matters. After their meeting, Dick took Sheffield home with him and he and Ramona spent the night.

On Friday they were off to Maui and to Kauai on Saturday for the conferences there. At Kauai they also participated in their district conference before returning home on Sunday afternoon. In the mail that had piled up was another letter from Janet. Ramona quickly opened it to find four more pictures taken with a Polaroid instant camera and a short note. Christmas seemed like a long ways away and she wished that she could simply hop a plane and fly to Utah, even if only long enough to hold little Andrea.

Sheffield called Chauncey, as promised. During the fifth discussion he formally committed to be baptized on Saturday the 15th and asked Sheffield if he would perform the ordinance. Naturally, Sheffield was honored to be asked and accepted the invitation. Chauncey told him that the Elders were coming over Thursday to teach him the last discussion. Sheffield suggested that they come over and have dinner and meet with the Elders at Mililani.

Sheffield and Ramona had Monday to rest up from their trip before getting back to work. Ramona wrote a letter to the kids telling them about their recent trip while Sheffield caught up on the newspapers that had accumulated while they were away, and finally the Monday August 10th edition. He read the front page story about congress passing the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution which gave President Johnson authorization, without a formal declaration of war by Congress, for the use of "conventional" military force in Southeast Asia. Sheffield wondered what that might lead to.

As he got further into the paper, an article about a surfing competition in Waialua caught his attention. The thing that attracted his attention was the photograph that accompanied the article about Ronnie Haunakua winning the Oahu North Shore Surf Meet 64. Standing behind the champion amid several bikini clad women were Elder Taylor and Elder Wren. The missionaries stood out like a sore thumb.

"Ramona, how would you like to take a ride up to Waialua with me tomorrow?"

"Sure, Babe. Why?"

"Take a look at this." He said as he handed her the paper.

"Oh oh. Somebody's in trouble."

"I'd say. I won't know where to find them today, so I'm going to have Elder Shumway call and set up a meeting with them. I think I'll just have him tell them that I'll be in the area and want to stop by."

"What are you going to do?"

"I suppose I won't know until I talk to them."

Sheffield and Ramona went about the rest of their day and the next morning after meeting with the

staff, Sheffield and Ramona drove up through the Central Valley up to Waialua where they met the Elders at the meetinghouse, as arranged. After exchanging greetings, Ramona sat on the lawn in the shade of a tree while Sheffield took the Elders inside and found a room.

“So Elders, hows the work going?”

“Fantastic, President. We have a good teaching pool right now and were making progress with several of them. We have a baptism scheduled for this Saturday.”

“I'm glad to hear that Elders. Your weekly reports indicate that working hard. Is there anything going on here out of the ordinary that I should know about?”

“No President. Not that I can think of.” Elder Taylor answered.

“What about you, Elder Wren?”

“No sir.”

“Can you explain this to me?” Sheffield said as he pulled the newspaper from his briefcase and showed them the photograph.

“Sure.” Elder Taylor beamed. “That's Ronnie Haunakua. He's the one we have scheduled for baptism on Saturday.”

“And who are these two?” he asked pointing out the missionaries in the picture.

“That's us.” Elder Taylor admitted rather nervously.

“Now Elder Taylor, you've been out for more than a year now. Even you Elder Wren, you've been out for three months. You both know the rule about going on the beach.”

“But President. We weren't on the beach.” Elder Taylor protested.

“I see here two missionaries with a surfer and several young women. Would you mind explaining the circumstances behind the picture?”

“Ronnie was participating in the meet and invited us to watch. I explained the beach rule to him and he suggested that we watch from a hill across the road from the beach. We were just trying to be supportive. Then when he was announced as the winner we went down to the parking lot to congratulate him. That was when he posed for the picture. I didn't know that we were in the background.”

“I see.” Sheffield replied. “Now everyone in the State of Hawaii has seen the picture of two Mormon Missionaries partying with girls and surfers. Do you know how that looks?”

“Not very good.” Elder Taylor said with his head down.

“No I'm afraid not.” President Brason said sternly. “I realize that you were staying within the letter of the law, but unfortunately you placed yourselves in a compromising position that reflects poorly on the rest of the mission.”

“I understand. But in our defense, if you will look closer at the picture, we are standing out in front of

those girls.”

Sheffield looked more closely at the picture and said, “So you are.”

“President, do you know how hard it is here? Everywhere we go we encounter women dressed immodestly. He have to look straight ahead as if we're wearing blinders and when we find ourselves talking to one of these ladies, we're sure to look them in the face. It's refreshing when we do encounter ladies who are dressed modestly.”

“I suppose you have a point there, Elder. I commend you for your integrity. I suppose people aren't going to remember what they saw in the paper. But can you see why I was concerned?”

“Absolutely. It doesn't look good. We had no idea that we were even in the picture.”

“Alright then. Thanks for clearing that up for me. I see no reason to have to issue any discipline here. Just be careful of the surroundings you place yourselves in. I want you to know that I appreciate your hard work. Keep it up.” Sheffield stood up and extended his hand.

Elder Taylor and Elder Wren stood up and shook his hand.

As they left the room, he asked them to tell him about Ronnie. As they exited the building, they told them all about how they met him and began teaching him. Ramona got up off the ground and came over to say goodbye as they got into their Nova and drove off.

“So how did it go Babe?”

“Why don't I tell you all about it over lunch.”

They found an open air café along the shore and over lunch he told her about his interview with them. He paid attention and watched people and saw what Elder Taylor was talking about. He was right about the prevailing dress standard.

After lunch Sheffield took off his jacket and tie and rolled up his sleeves as he and Romano strolled hand in hand along a section of beach. The rule didn't apply to them. It was one of those moments for them to be a couple.

They drove back through the valley and back to Honolulu and arrived at the mission home in mid afternoon. That evening, Sheffield met with his counselors in their weekly presidency meeting. Dick brought Connie along with him and they spent the night in the guest room.

During the week, Sheffield and Ramona worked on personalizing copies of “The Challenge” to hand out at the next week's zone conferences. On Thursday evening, Sister `Auli`i prepared enough for the Brason's and their guests in addition to the office staff and the Sister missionaries. When they were finished, she cleared away and set ten additional settings. Since she was working late, Sheffield paid her for overtime out of their personal funds.

The timing couldn't have been better, for the Haggerty's and their four children arrived momentarily.

Soon after they arrived, Elder Dayley and Elder Bradbury arrived as well. During dinner they enjoyed some casual conversation and got to know the Haggertys even better.

Chauncey was excited for his pending baptism. He told Sheffield, "Darlene's brother and his wife are flying over to attend the baptism. I know that I had already asked you to baptize me, but would you mind if I had him do it?"

"No. Not at all. That's the way it should be."

Elder Dayley spoke up. "Since we're changing things around, you had asked me to confirm you. I wouldn't mind if you had President Brason do it."

"That's a good idea." Chauncey said. "Admiral Brason, I'd like very much for you to do the confirmation."

"Are you sure you don't mind, Elder Dayley?"

"Like you said, that's the way it should be."

With those arrangements taken care of, after dinner the Elders proceeded to teach the last lesson. Afterwards, Sheffield took him aside and interviewed him for baptism personally. Typically, that was left to the district or zone leaders. Sheffield found him to be prepared and sufficiently taught. Even more important, he had a testimony and had made the changes in his life that demonstrated true conversion.

Since the last half of the next week would be taken up in zone conferences, Sheffield and Ramona and Elders Shumway and Lee began working on the transfers. There was one Elder and one sister going home. In return they would be receiving three Elders, one sister, and a couple. That meant that they could open two new areas. That would let Sheffield keep his promise to bolster the work on Hawaii. In addition, there were a lot of missionaries who were due for a transfer. As they started looking into it, it was going to be much more involved than the last one.

On Saturday evening, Sheffield and Ramona drove over to the Pearl Harbor Stake center for Chauncey's baptism. The Haggerty's arrived a moment later and were accompanied by their guests from the mainland.

"Admiral Brason, Ramona." Chauncey began. "This is my brother in law, Hank Carroll from Oakland and his wife Carrie."

Sheffield and Ramona shook their hands while Chauncey continued the introductions. "Hank, Carrie, this is Admiral Sheffield Brason, the mission president and his wife Ramona. It was the Admiral who convinced me that I needed to take a serious look at the Church."

"We're pleased to meet you." Hank responded for himself and his wife.

"Since when did they start referring to a mission president as Admiral?" Carrie inquired.

"They don't." Sheffield explained. "I retired from the Navy as an Admiral."

“Forgive me.” Chauncey begged. “You see, being a naval officer myself, its just habit.”

“I don't mind.” Sheffield said.

“Yeah.” Ramona joked. “You can call him about anything, except for late for dinner.”

They went on to get better acquainted with each other for a moment until the Elders arrived, then Chauncey and Hank had to go change their clothes. There was also a family of five by the name of Reed who were being baptized that evening as well. A few minutes later, they showed up accompanied by Sisters Gould and Hopkins.

While those being baptized and those performing the baptisms changed their clothes, the rest gathered in the Relief Society Room, adjacent to the font. Sister Hopkins played some prelude music while they waited for the rest to join them.

Dressed in his white clothes, Elder Dayley stood up to conduct the service. As he announced the opening hymn, he realized that he had forgot to arrange for a chorister. Sensing his predicament, Ramona stepped forward and consulted briefly with Sister Hopkins. Ramona led the twenty or so people in singing “Come Follow Me.”

There was a short talk followed by the baptisms. First the Reeds were baptized by Elder Dayley and Elder Bradbury, then Chauncey was baptized by Hank. There was some interlude music while the participants changed their clothes.

When they all returned, there was another short talk, followed by the confirmations. Again, the Reeds were confirmed first by either Elder Dayley or Elder Bradbury, with the other standing in along with President Brason. Lastly, Sheffield confirmed Chauncey with Hank and the Elders standing in. After a closing hymn and a prayer, the service was over.

On Monday, Ramona wrote home telling about their week, which was highlighted by Chauncey Haggerty's baptism. They counted it as their own personal missionary success story, although he was actually taught by the full time missionaries. It was because of Sheffield that he was willing to be taught the lessons in the first place. They were there for three of the six lessons and had actively fellowshiped him. Not bad for only being in the mission field for six weeks.

Tuesday and Wednesday were devoted to finalizing the upcoming transfers. It proved to be much more involved as it affected roughly a third of the mission. In an effort to breath new life into four areas, both missionaries were transferred out and were replaced by a new companionship. As far as the office staff was concerned, Elder Carlson would be rotated out and Elder David Bateman from Farmington, Utah would become the new mission secretary.

Two new areas would be opened, but it turned out different than Sheffield had anticipated. A set of Elders would be sent to Kaumana, adjacent to Hilo as he had promised. He had intended to send the senior

couple that was coming to Honomu, about twelve miles up the coast from Hilo. Instead, he got the strong impression that he needed to send the Cartwrights to the branch on Guam. Honomu would have to wait until September when they picked up a net gain of two more Elders. Besides, the divisions that he anticipated making had not taken place yet.

With the transfers hammered out, it was time to turn attention to the mission tour by Elder Gordon B. Hinckley of the Quorum of the Twelve. They had met with Elder Hinckley in Salt Lake during their orientation and training and found him to be very optimistic and full of enthusiasm. At the time he didn't get to know them but told them of his upcoming tour of the mission and that he looked forward to getting acquainted with them at that time,

On the afternoon of Wednesday the 19th, Sheffield and Ramona personally met him at the airport when he flew in from the mainland. Even though he had already been greeted and presented with a lei when he got off the plane, Ramona presented him with another one when they greeted him, "Aloha and welcome to Hawaii, Elder Hinckley."

Sheffield quickly added, "And welcome to the Hawaii Mission."

"Thank you, it's good to be here. You know, I've never been here before."

"Well, we certainly hope that you enjoy your stay." Sheffield said. "Here, let me call for an airport porter to collect your luggage."

Presently, a young man appeared and Elder Hinckley pointed out his bags and the porter picked them up and followed them out to the car that was parked.

Once they were out of the parking lot and driving toward downtown, Elder Hinckley got his first glimpse of Honolulu with Diamond Head looming in the background. "How lovely," he commented. "It must be a real treat for you to be here."

"Oh it is," Sheffield said. "We're thrilled to be back in the islands."

"I take it you've been here before."

"Oh yes," Ramona responded. "I've spent so much time here that this is home for me."

Before she could explain, Sheffield began pointing out the attractions and landmarks along their route. They drove into the heart of downtown before heading north to the mission home. The conversation was a mix of describing the area, the mission, and small talk.

When they reached the mission home, Sheffield parked under the porte-cochère. Elder Bateman heard them pull up and stepped outside to retrieve the Apostle's luggage from the trunk of the car. He followed them as Sheffield and Ramona showed him to the guest room.

Once he was settled, he came out into their living room and they all sat down to visit. Elder Hinckley first wanted to get to know them and they spent the next hour getting acquainted. He was only familiar with

their brief biography on file so he listened intently as they told their story. When he learned that they had both been at Pearl Harbor, he said, "While I'm here, I'd really like to visit the Arizona Memorial."

"We can certainly arrange that."

They went on to tell how they got together, adopted their children, joined the church, and all that brought them to that point.

During the conversation, they learned that Elder Hinckley was about twelve years younger than Sheffield and that after graduating from the University of Utah with a degree in journalism and serving a mission in England, that he went to work for the Church as the executive secretary of the church's Radio, Publicity and Missionary Literature Committee. His responsibilities included developing the church's fledgling radio broadcasts and making use of the era's new communication technologies. After the Second World War he served as executive secretary to the church's Missionary Committee. He also served as the church's liaison to Deseret Book and was a reporter for the Church News section of the Deseret News. In 1958 he was called as an Assistant to the Twelve and then in 1961 as a member of the Quorum of Twelve.

After getting acquainted, Sheffield and Elder Hinckley went back downstairs to Sheffield's office for an extensive personal interview and to talk about the mission. After two hours, they were called to dinner. Sister `Auli`i had gone all out for their special guest. Over dinner he visited with the office staff and the Sisters who lived upstairs. Then during the evening Sheffield and Ramona took him out on the balcony, with its splendid view, and visited some more as he asked them more about themselves. After a long flight, Elder Hinckley wanted to retire early.

On Thursday, Sheffield and Ramona drove Elder Hinckley up to Laie for the zone conference. The conference followed the same outline as the ones two weeks earlier, beginning with personal interviews. Not only did Sheffield meet with each missionary individually, but so did Elder Hinckley.

During the interviews, Takara came to the church where they were meeting to see Ramona. She had brought all of the snapshots of Andrea and Wesley that Janet had sent her so she could show them to Takara.

The meeting itself consisted of the usual business. Elder Shumway gave his presentation on teaching by the Spirit. President Brason kept his remarks brief, allowing plenty of time for the visiting authority. Afterwards, the Oahu Stake Relief Society hosted a luncheon. Since Sheffield didn't have any mission business to conduct as he had in the off island districts, they went back to Honolulu.

On Friday and Saturday, they held zone conferences in the Pearl Harbor and Honolulu zones. Saturday evening and Sunday they attended the Pearl Harbor Stake conference at which Elder Hinckley presided. He was joined by Brother Marvin J. Ashton, the first counselor in the General YMMIA presidency, who had flown in that day with his wife.

During the general session of the conference, Elder Hinckley called on President Brason to take a few minutes. That gave him the opportunity to talk about President McKay's saying, "Every member a missionary." He talked about the need for the members of the wards to be actively involved with the full time missionaries and fellowshipping investigators and new converts. He then told of his own personal involvement in teaching Chuancey Haggerty, who was in attendance, and what a thrill it was to see him progress from skeptic to convert. After the meeting, Sheffield introduced Chauncey and his family to Elder Hinckley.

Following the conference, Elder Hinckley had other business to attend to in Laie with the Polynesian Cultural Center, the Church College of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Temple on Monday and Tuesday, which kept him occupied.

During that time, on Monday Sheffield and Ramona attended to their personal business and spent some time together. After sending off her weekly letter in the mail, Elder Bateman brought Ramona their mail. There was a letter from Janet, but rather than her lengthy and descriptive type written letter, there was a short hand written note for Jerry. It turned out that Janet had had another of her accidents. Jerry told how she and his mother were canning beans when Janet severally burned her right arm from her wrist to her elbow on the pressure cooker. He explained that with her arm bandaged and in a sling, it was of little use to her, so he wrote to them for her.

After Ramona finished reading his note to Sheffield, he remarked, "That poor kid. She has had more accidents than anyone I know. I hoped she was through with them after falling down the stairs at church four years ago."

"That one was a tragedy, alright. I'm willing to bet that she has had some that she just hadn't told us about. I never stop worrying about her."

Tuesday was spent preparing for the mission tour. That evening Mililani was a busy place as Elder Hinckley had returned from Laie and several Elders bunked in the barracks over the garage while two sisters occupied the dorm room downstairs. Among those spending the night at the mission home were Elder Lane Hinckley and Sister Ellen Blue, who were going home, and their companions. That evening after dinner, they had the opportunity to report their missions and bear their testimonies. It was a special treat for the Apoatle as Elder Hinckley's father was his cousin.

Wednesday the 26th was transfer day. Elder Hinckley had some work to do and Sheffield graciously turned his office over to him. During the morning, a steady stream of Elders and Sisters came and went from Mililani as they were there either in transit to new areas or there to meet new companions. The new missionaries, three elders, one sister, and one couple were picked up at the airport and brought to the mission home. After getting acquainted, Sheffield interviewed each of them individually.

While visiting with Elder and Sister Cartwright, Sheffield discovered why he was impressed to send them to Guam. They were from Salt Lake City and were close to the same age as Sheffield and Ramona. He had been a professional counselor with a practice in Salt Lake. In 1944, at the encouragement of Elder Harold B. Lee, who was then the Chairman Church Servicemen's Committee, Elder Cartwright applied for and was appointed to be an Army Chaplain with the rank of Major. When he signed up, it was for a three year commitment. Guam had been retaken from the Japanese and after his training, he was sent there where he not only served the LDS servicemen stationed there, but was the in command of the chaplain corps on the island.

He said that in the beginning there were about fifty LDS servicemen, but by the end of the war that number had grown to over three hundred in several groups. After the war, he remained on Guam until he was discharged in 1947. As early as 1946 families of the servicemen were allowed to join their husbands and fathers stationed on Guam. At that time, Sister Cartwright and three of their five children joined him. Under his direction, all of the servicemen's groups were consolidated into one. Membership increased from converts among military personnel and among the locals. Before long, they had enough to organize the auxiliaries before he left, a branch was organized.

None of this had been included in the information that Sheffield had received from Salt Lake. He simply assigned them to labor on Guam sheerly by inspiration. They had no idea that Guam was even in the Hawaii Mission and were thrilled to be returning to continue with what they had started. Sheffield decided to make the assignment permanent for the entire eighteen months of their mission.

After meeting the arriving missionaries and giving them their assignments, Sheffield conducted his final interviews with Elder Hinckley and Sister Blue before seeing them off. This was the second time that they said farewell and it was hard to see the missionaries go home, even after only knowing them for such a short time. At the same time it was exciting to greet the new missionaries coming out. It was inevitable that in the course of time, they would be seeing the new ones off too when they went home.

Nothing ever stayed the same as the area board was rearranged every month. In addition to Elder Bateman joining the office staff, the biggest change was that the Hawaii Zone had been split into the Kona and Hilo zones, along the same lines as the anticipated division of the Hawaii District, when the approval came.

After the traffic through Mililani cleared away and Elder Hinckley had finished what he was working on, it was a good time for Sheffield and Ramona to take their guest to Pearl Harbor. Elder Hinckley was impressed at how quickly they were allowed in once Sheffield showed his Navy credentials. Rather than going directly to the ferry dock, they took him to the docks and explained how the attack developed and pointed out where the various ships had been docked. Then they went out to the Arizona Memorial.

As they were leaving the base, Elder Hinckley confided, "After Pearl Harbor, I wanted to do my part so I applied to the Navy Officer Candidate School. But they rejected me on the account of my allergies. Who knows, I might have gotten to serve under you. Instead I found my niche and by a stroke of fortunate timing and landed a job as the assistant station manager for the Denver and Rio Grande Railroad in Salt Lake. If I couldn't be out there with everyone else, at least I could see to it that the material and supplies got there."

To that, Sheffield said, "Without men like you, men like me couldn't have done our jobs."

Just outside the main gate, Sheffield slowed down and pointed out where Geannie and the kids came under fire during the attack.

"I can't even begin to imagine how much that must have hurt." Elder Hinckley said softly.

The visit to Pearl Harbor had peaked Elder Hinckley's interest and he wanted to know more about President Brason's war experience. As they sat out on the patio again that evening, Sheffield told him some of his war stories and how he worked through his grief. He just happened to have brought a couple of extra copies of 'Reprisal: The Forgotten Carrier' which he autographed one and gave to Elder Hinckley.

On Thursday, Sheffield, Ramona, the assistants, and Elder Hinckley set out for the remainder of the mission tour in the chartered Cessna 210. Elder Hinckley was a little taken back by the arrangement, until Sheffield explained how much he has saved on transportation costs. Ramona allowed Elder Hinckley to sit up front and she took the back seat, behind Elder Shumway and Elder Lee.

Their destination that first day was the big island of Hawaii. Their first stop was in Hilo where the missionaries in Hilo Zone had gathered for the special meeting. As at the other meetings the week before, both Sheffield and Elder Hinckley interviewed each of the missionaries individually. Following the interviews, President Brason had a few remarks and introduced the visiting authority. Elder Hinckley then addressed the assembled missionaries. At the conclusion of his remarks, the time was opened up to the missionaries for the bearing of testimonies. Afterwards, the Hilo Branch Relief Society served lunch.

After lunch, they took off again and flew across the island to Kona. Sheffield detoured around Mona Loa to give Elder Hinckley a good look at the volcano. The meeting in Kona went much the same as the meeting that morning. At the conclusion of the meeting, the Kona Branch Relief Society provided a meal. After Dinner, they met with the district presidency and President Kaaloa from the mission presidency in which they shared with Elder Hinckley the growth on the district and the planned division. He assured them that he had reviewed the application and had passed it on to the First Presidency with his recommendation. That evening, Elder Hinckley and the Brasons stayed with the Kaaloas while the Assistants stayed with the zone leader and his companion.

The next morning, Richard and Connie Kaaloa served breakfast before the entourage set out for a second day of meetings. Their first stop that day was on Maui during the morning and onto Kauai for the

afternoon for meetings identical to those from the day before. That night, they stayed in the home of Frank and Olina Alapai , the first counselor in the Kauai District presidency.

As they flew back to Honolulu on Saturday morning, Elder Hinckley talked about how impressed he was with what he found on his tour of the mission. He told Sheffield that he could see the efficiency of chartering the plane because if they had flown on commercial flights, they would never been able to hold four meetings in such remote locations in two days.

Once back in Honolulu, Elder Hinckley had one final personal interview with Sheffield. He gathered his luggage and left for his assignment at the Honolulu Stake conference held at the Honolulu Tabernacle. As with the conference week before, he was joined by Brother and Sister Ashton who had vacationed in the islands during the week. Sheffield and Ramona also attended and again, Sheffield was called on to give his “Every Member a Missionary” talk that he had given the previous week. After lunch, Sheffield and Ramona got to say goodbye to Elder Hinckley before he left for the airport and his flight back to Salt Lake City on the 30th.

On Monday, Ramona wrote home to the kids and told them all about the previous week. It was hard to believe that they had been there for two whole months. By then they were all settled in to their new roles at this stage of their lives. It was different from anything either of them had ever done and, except for their family, the most satisfying and rewarding.

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The story about the missionaries in the photograph from the surfing competition was inspired by a story that was going around in my mission before I got there about two Elders who got into trouble when the mission president saw their picture in the paper at a Denver Nuggets game.

Elder Gordon B. Hinckley was the supervisor of the Hawaii-Oriental missions at the time, but his assignment in Hawaii at this time is fictional. The part about him being rejected for Navy officer training and going to work for the railroad is from his biography, “Go Forward With Faith”.

At that time, Marvin J. Ashton was the First Counselor in the General YMMIA. His participation in the conferences is also fictional.

The information about LDS chaplains in World War 2 is from the Church History In The Fullness Of Times Student Manual, Chapter Forty: The Saints during World War II. The information about the church in Guam during and after the war is from the Deseret News Church Almanac. No missionaries were actually assigned to Guam until 1970.