

Life History

Margaret M Goodwin

Born: October 3 , 1914

Baptized: March 1, 1952 (Blackfoot 2nd Ward Chapel by Jacob VanOrden

Confirmed: March 2, 1952 by Avery Leroy Goodwin

Married June 25, 1933 (Blackfoot Court House by Bishop Phillip Dance)

Sealed & Endowed June 19, 1952 , Idaho Falls Temple

I was born in Blackfoot, Idaho October 3, 1914 in Bingham County. I obtained my schooling from Blackfoot, Shelley, and Firth schools. I graduated from Blackfoot High School in 1932.

I have so much to be thankful for I was born in Blackfoot, Idaho, October 3, 1914, at 1:30 in the morning to Harry Clyde McLaughlin Hudson and Lennie Mae Downing Hudson; in a red brick house with Dr. Davis attending my mother. I was the third child of an eventual family of seven and had on older brother and sister at the time of my birth. This house is still standing (Feb. 27, 1969) next to the railroad tracks and the Blackfoot Auction Company. My Aunt Elsie & Uncle Keith Steinback and their two children lived in part of the house. It has been remodeled several times but is essentially the same. I couldn't tell my story without telling a little about my parents and grandparents and other relatives because I realize what I am is the result of others around me. My mother was Lennie May Downing and my father was Harry Clyde McLaughlin Hudson. My Maternal grandfather and grandmother came from Cabool Missouri to settle in Blackfoot. Grandfather Jeff Downing and his Father William Alexander Downing came out first to what was then known as Eagle Rock, (now Idaho Falls). They then went back to Missouri to get their families. Mother had five sisters and one brother, Elsie, Loula, Neola, Edith, Opal, and Hebert. Aunt Opal was the only child born in Idaho and when she was four grandmother Downing passed away leaving her girls to raise the family. Uncle Hebe, as he was known, was a cripple from birth and never married. He was able to work and was a very intelligent man. We have pictures of him and my mother with their hand guns on the Blackfoot river near the Downing home. The family also enjoyed fishing and uncle Hebe was an ardent fisherman all his life. Mother was very close to all her sisters and we enjoyed our cousins. My grandmother was Juliann Deck and was originally from Tennessee. My mother Lennie Mae Downing was the 2nd daughter in the family. I don't know too much about her early years, as she died when I was only 14, but her sisters told me a little about her. She loved horses and rode well and hunted with her brothers and sisters. She had a pretty little grey horse that pulled a buggy. She was a good singer and my father met her when she was singing in the old Rialto theater in Blackfoot. He had a very good voice and sang with her. At the time he was really courting her sister Elsie but he soon changed his mind. My mother was the fourth child born to Jefferson Davis Downing and Julia Ann Deck. She was born in Cabool, Texas County, Missouri, on April 10, 1891. She came to Idaho with her parents, four sisters, and one brother in about 1900. She attended school in Blackfoot and married my father April 28, 1909, at the age of 18.

My father came from Minnesota when he was 21 to teach school but for some reason he didn't get a job at this. He told me that he had many various jobs the first few years he and mother were married. Farm hand, cook at the state hospital, baggage man on the railroad, carpenter he was kind of a jack of all trades. He worked as a baggage man at the time of my birth. When I was 2 years old he came down with inflammatory Rheumatic (?) and was sick in bed for a year or more. Finally they decided it was poison from his teeth and after having some pulled and a bridge put in he got better. Dad had a very difficult life as a boy. His dad was an alcoholic and after his mother died when he was a young boy, his dad let his children be adopted out. He was first taken by a Methodist minister, (her other account said he was a Baptist Minister) Reverend Metcalf and when his family got too big it increased by 2 or 3 kids so he couldn't feed his own 7 children, he was taken in by a family named Hudson. They were good

to him though very strict. They had no children of their own but when dad was about 12 they had two children of their own and from then on it was different. Dad was able to get an education and graduated from high school and then worked summers and put his self through university at Windom Minnesota (her other account says Hamlin University). Though dad was a small man he was very strong and played football and was a good wrestler. He was very musically inclined. He sang in many choirs and quartets. He could play quite a few instruments by ear and had some training on the violin. He told us his mother was a beautiful auburn haired lady with a beautiful contralto voice, that I like to believe was handed down to my daughter Karen. Dad loved to hear his children sing and tried to give us all lessons and on one or another instruments. Dad came from a quite large family. Almond Cely McLaughlin had a family by his first wife and then had five by his second wife Emma Charlton, dad's mother. She had a girl by another husband named Whitmore. So dad had half brothers and sisters on both sides of the family. Dad's mothers' family came from England and his father's family from Scotland. We have a little genealogy but not much. Dad served in the Army three times. He was in the army in the U.S. Calvary division in 1918 World War I. He, Eddie, Don were all in the national guard when war was declared in 1942 and they were called up. All national guards to regular army. Don and Eddie served 8 years. Don in the Air Force, Eddie in the Army as master sergeant cook. Eddie was in army of occupation in Germany for 3 years. My father, Harry Clyde McLaughlin Hudson, was born to Almond Cely McLaughlin and his third wife, Emma Maria Charlton in Gettysburg, Potter County, South Dakota, on January 30, 1886. At the age of 5, his mother died and he was put out for adoption. He was adopted by a childless couple, D.I. Hudson and his wife. They later had two children of their own, so he left their home at the age of 18 to make his own way. After attending college for 2 years at Windom, Minnesota College, he came west to make his fortune. He was 21 years old and wanted to teach school, as there were no jobs open for school teachers he tried other work. In 1909, he was working as a singer at the Rialto Theater where he met the sister of his girlfriend, Elsie. He and Lenna May Downing were married April 28, 1909. Dad and mother had 7 children. Harry Everett, oldest, Dorothy, me, Julia, Betty, Buddy, Don.

I don't remember too much of my earliest childhood. My earliest memories of several of my mother's sisters and the good times we had going to my Grandfather's (Downing) house.

We lived for some time in a small white house belonging to my grandfather. While in this house, my father worked on the railroad. He had rheumatic fever and was very ill for 2 years. It was very hard on the family and the help my mother's family gave us was greatly needed. My father was called into the Army in 1918 and left us for about a year. He learned to cook while in the Army and when he came home he adopted this as his profession.

I started school in Blackfoot, my first teacher was Mrs. M.N. Austin. She had told me that I was quite a nervous child who chewed her pigtails and was a tomboy. About all I remember about the first grade was being in the school Christmas play as an angel or a fairy, winter in the old days meant long handled underwear. I was told that I was quite a hit. They rolled the sleeves up to the shoulder and as high up on the legs as possible. The fairies in the costume of cheese cloth then went into their dance. My long underwear was tucked up under my costume. While doing my dance, my underwear slipped down. But the Hudson fairy had done a bad job of rolling up her underwear and between pulling up her underwear and trying to dance gracefully on her toes it became a spritely dance of the cricket. It was quite a dance with me pulling at my underwear and trying to be beautiful and airy. Everyone laughed and I'm afraid I was a ham, because I put on quite a show. Dad was engaged in the café business for as long as I could remember. We moved from place to place.

About this time when I was six they began to build a school at Firth, Idaho and also to improve the roads. My father was able to lease a restaurant and we moved to Firth. Mother made all the pies, did some of the cooking and tended my three sisters, my one brother, and me. It was here that we had two terrifying experiences. One morning as we were huddled around the stove, my younger sister, Julia

fell from a chair onto a piece of kindling, with nails in it, that was laying on the floor. The nail lodged in her temple. We were close to the café where my father worked so we ran for help. They took her to the druggist in town as there was not a doctor at that time. They pulled the board and the nails out and by the kindness of God there was no serious damage done and she recovered.

I'm sure that the hard work was too much for mother. She had a new baby boy arrive early. He lived but was very delicate. Mother was never strong after this. Aunt Opal, mother's youngest sister came to stay and help us. She was the best ear washer I ever saw. She stayed with us for some time.

During this time, dad sang with a quartet, the Sundquists. I remember the quartet he sang with practicing on the piano in the café. They sang at weddings, funerals, programs. The Sundquist boys and Neil Lydem and Helen Sundquist played the piano. I also remember Dad was also a very good wrestler. I also remember Dad Wrestling up in an old dance hall every week. He was good too. Years later my husband and I attended dances in the same hall. It was held in Firth. After about 2 years we moved to Shelley where dad had another café. We were only there for a short time when we moved to Aberdeen and another café. It was hard work with little reward. Another baby boy was born in Aberdeen making seven in all. At this time we became active in the Methodist Church. I fell in love with the preacher's son. I remember the church picnics and the Epworth League (youth association). While in Aberdeen, we all had chickenpox and the mumps. Our baby, Don, almost died of the chickenpox but a good friend who was a nurse, took him to her home and pulled him through.

After two years we moved back to Blackfoot and mother was glad to be where she could see her family more often. Dad worked at Frenchy's Café and I attended 4th and 5th grade at Irving School. We all got the itch. It was a dreadful time of boiling long underwear, being smeared with lard and sulphur, and hating long black stockings. It was also a time of good neighbors, the Clarks, Paysens, Coxes, and the long rides to school in a covered sleigh. In the summer we dearly loved to call the neighbors over for a game of Red Rover or Run, Sheep Run. One night while doing the dishes, I scalded Julia with the hot rinse water. The black stockings cooked her legs and she was lucky not to have any scars. This was a time of making apple cider from the apples in the orchard, burning my hand pulling out honey taffy, picking strawberries, and helping weed the huge garden. I really loved that small farm.

Wanderlust pulled at Dad again and we moved back to Shelley. While in Shelley Eddie was very active in sports playing football, track and baseball. He wasn't very big but was very agile and fast. Dorothy played on the basketball team and was very good. There I attended the 6th and 7th grades. The big point I remember here was working out in the fields with my Uncle Harve who had come to live with us. He taught us to pan gold down on the river and we enjoyed listening to his tall tales. He and I picked peas in the in the summer, and potatoes in the fall. I earned enough to buy new coats for school for my sisters and myself. Dad and my elder brother, Eddy, went to Parma that summer and worked in the fields. On the annual spud day festival I won \$ 3 picking spuds and \$ 5 in the Charleston contest. My Aunt Edie came for a visit and taught us all the latest Charleston steps.

Mother, Dad, and all us kids had fairly good voices. We loved music and although we didn't have the money to take lessons. There was always music in the house. Dad could play a little on the piano, violin, and trombone. Eddy could play mouth organ, ukulele, and later the banjo and guitar. It was a shame not to be able to pursue this talent; we all loved to sing.

Mother was very ambitious and kept a very clean house, sewed, and although her health wasn't very good, took in boarders the last year they were in Shelley. I was here that we learned that she had diabetes. Aunt Opal came for a while to help the family while mother was in the Idaho Falls hospital. When she was better, we moved back to Blackfoot.

My father went to work for Egin Lamprecht as a cook and I started high school in the fall of 1928. One day mother went to the fair and brought a friend from Shelley home with her. She went into the bedroom, laid down, and took a nap. The next day we heard that she had died. A few days later mother got up ill, by noon she had gone into a coma. The neighbors called dad home from work, and he called

Dr. Parite. He came and said he didn't know anything about diabetes and suggested we call Dr. Beck. We did and for 2 days Dr. Beck worked with her; finally he told us that he couldn't do anything for her. Aunt Lou came from Pocatello and they decided to take mother to the doctor in Idaho Falls, that had taken care of her before. The doctor said that if we had brought her sooner he could have helped but it was too late now. Two days after my 14th birthday, I lost my mother she was only 36 years old. She left 7 children for dad to raise. The youngest was 4 and the oldest 18.

My Aunt Elsie came from Reedsport Oregon for the funeral and it was decided to let our baby go home with her. It was hard to see him go but the rest of us were all in school. Dad wasn't making much money and times were sure hard. Mother's sister and her husband and children came to live with us for about four months after mother died. We got along pretty well. I remember that first Christmas after mother died, it was as nice as dad and aunt Oley could make it. In the spring Buddy, our six year old brother began to fail. He had always been sick since birth. Buddy was what was called in those days a blue baby. He never was strong and died six months after my mother did at the age of 6 (?). He was doing well in school but one day he came home sick and in about three days was dead. They thought at first it was meningitis and quarantined us but later decide it wasn't. we never did find out what it was. But dad always claimed it was from a broken heart. Eddie quit school and got a job at a service station when he was 18. Dorothy went to work after school & Saturdays at the drug store. This left me to carry on at home.

I admit I didn't have any great success for a while after mothers death, my aunt Oley (Neola) and her family came to live with us while her husband was hunting work. This was in the depression years and work was very poorly paid. Dad was a cook at a local café. We rented our home. Our youngest brother Don was taken to Oregon by my Aunt Elsie as he was only 4 and the rest of us were in school and no one home to tend him. He stayed until he was 12. My brother Buddy died just 6 month after my mother. We never did know exactly what the matter was through we knew his heart was weak. My Aunt & family lived with us for about 5 months then moved to Shelley. For the next few years of my life there was just school and chores and the normal growing up. I was never a real good student just average. I just didn't apply myself. I loved sports and was quite a tomboy. I played basketball and made the 2nd team. Just about this time the schools stopped having girls teams because of the expense I loved to dance and after I was about 17 dad allowed me to the public dances. Dad was very strict with us girls. He was raised a Methodist and really didn't believe in dancing but everyone else was dancing at public dance halls so he let us. He had a very strict curfew for us. The responsibility, I didn't really date too much. But I always seemed to have some boy on the string. No one had much money we went to picture shows & had a 5 cent root beer. That was a big date or a dance and maybe ice cream afterwards. He felt for his girls was great. We had struggles but we learned to iron and keep house. I graduated from Blackfoot High School.. I was in the first class to graduate from the High school that is now the Junior High. The depression was really bad while I was in high school. Dad worked at the bakery for \$1.00 a shift- 10 hours a night. I met Roy about 9 month after I finished high school. We had a three month courtship after which we were married. My sister Julia & girlfriend Edith met him first and told me they had met a neat guy. I met him later at a dance and we found out we were all talking about the same guy. It was in January we met and he was driving in town from his home 10 miles out at Thomas in a sleigh. The roads were all closed with snow and it was one of the hardest winters, we ever had. When the roads opened in March we kind of resumed our courtship. In June 2 of our friends Gwen Heaton & Roy Larsen were to get married. We must of liked the idea because we decide to get married at the same time. Roy say's I proposed but I can't remember that part but he must have been willing. We were married June 24, 1933. We were married by Bishop Phillip Dance of Thomas in the Bingham County Court house. Gwen & Roy Larsen were married at the same time. Because of a lack of funds it ended up that both couples shared a Motel room that first night together, the girls slept in the middle of the bed and Roy's feet hung out of the window all night long. Religion was talked about as he was

L.D.S. and I wasn't. Neither my father or mother ever had anything much to do with Mormons. My father was even quite bitter towards them. Roy and I had great idea's—none of them ever came too much. We were going to let our children choose for themselves when they were old enough I had never been to religious though I always enjoyed going to church. While in high school I had attended lots of L.D.S. meetings with friends and though I had no knowledge of the Gospel I had no resentment against the church. We had our children named and blessed in the Thomas ward. Roy's family were all ardent fishermen and hunters and we spent many of our recreation hours in the hills or on a good fishing stream. We lived at Thomas the first nine months we were married. We then moved to the Pingree-Springfield ranch of Barney Johanneson where we worked for 6 months. It was so cold in the house at night that we needed to find a warm spot for all our bottled goods. So all of the food went under the bed. One night it was so cold that we could hear the bottles bursting under our bed. Here our first child was born, Margaret Anne. In the fall of 1934 we moved back to Thomas where we farmed the old Ike Allred place for 2 years. We then rented the farm of Leroy's mothers which Phillip, his younger brother had been farming. Grandma Carrie Goodwin lived with us until her death (The girls remember that granny never said a cross word to her, even though grandma Carrie always took the girls side and did everything she could to get them out of work. Grandma Goodwin appreciated Grandma Carrie, teaching her a lot of things including how to cook, they were all adults before they realized how hard it must have been to have your mother-in-law live in your home for many years). In the fall of 1936 we bought Roy's old home from his mother. We moved into two rooms of the old house to live. Here in 1937 our second daughter, Karen Gaye was born. In 1938 we bought forty acres from the Utah mortgage and Loan company. This was located about ¼ mile north ¼ mile west from our home. We farmed this place for about 3 years. We then sold this farm to Milton Woods. Roy then became interested in stock buying and raising our third daughter Rebecca Carole who was born October 22, 1942. I had been told 4 years earlier that after the difficult birth of Karen that I was not to have any more children. The doctors told me that the best option was an abortion. The doctors were told that an abortion was not an option. I was told that a doctor in Pocatello had some success with caesareans and maybe he could help. This became my next great adventure. During all these first years though our children were all named, baptized, and confirmed in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints we parents were not very active. In 1951 home missionaries Jacob VanOrden and William Turpin called on us and talked to us about getting me baptized. Roy was already an Elder but wasn't very active. On March 1 1952 I was baptized by Jacob VanOrden, and Confirmed by Roy. In June we went to the Temple in Idaho Falls and were married and our three daughters were sealed to us for time and all eternity. In January 29, 1953 our daughter Margaret Anne was married to Don James in the Idaho Falls Temple. I was thinking of some of the important things that went on during my life time that impressed me. I can remember as a small child being so excited about going down to the depot to see President Harding. I really can't say what year that was. Of world war one I have only a vague recollection of illness in our home and of being at my grandfather Downing's. I presume this was while my father was in the Army. I remember the depression while I was growing up. It was hard times, for everyone. We went from Victrola, to radio, to TV. From model T Fords to model A when we were married Roy had one of these Model A's. The style in clothes changed year by year but always seem to go back to the oldies. However new fabulous material synthetics came in to being during my life time. The style of hem lines changed from modesty to roaring 20's, probation, and 2% beet to women's lib and free love. The old values are still the best and I hope my family remembers them. Love marriage, babies, togetherness, and happy family life. The conquering of space and the walk on the moon and I'm sure this is only a start. The atomic bomb, the hydrogen bomb, nuclear energy, all great power to work for man for good or bad.

Aunt Karen remembers going to Salt Lake with her parents, and that once when they were staying in a motel in Salt Lake they were awakened in the middle of the night when the hotel across the street was burning down. When Grandma Goodwin cooked out in Thomas there were men who worked in

Blackfoot who would race out to Thomas during their lunch hour to get a piece of Grandma's Banana cream pie. She was an especially good camp cook. She cooked the most delicious food over a camp fire when they went fishing. On one fishing trip when grandma didn't come back to the car and it was getting pretty dark. Grandpa got worried believing she would have planned to be back by dark so he went looking for her. The girls worried about both of their parents finding their way back to them, so they decided to honk the car horn so they would know where they were, so they kept honking and honking and never considered that they might run the car battery down. Can't you just see those three little girls in the car, worried about their mom and dad and can't you see grandma and grandpa hurrying back to the car in the dark to find that the car battery was run down. (Lisa Lim Wrote) My grandma is the smartest grandma. As a child I remember she always had a book in her hand, and still does. As we watch the game shows on TV grandma always knew the answers. In games she played with uncle and aunts and cousins it seemed she won most of the times. Grandma knows a lot about the gospel of Jesus Christ and she would tell you so. My grandma is lots of fun and is always on the go. Grandma loves to shop. You can tell from all the beautiful dolls she has collected. She likes to go to garage sales, it seems that she's not buying for herself but buying for everyone else. I like to hear about things my grandma has done, or things she has seen. I remember one time going over to her home, she just returned back from California. She told me about Sea World, and one of the shows she had seen, was the otter and seal show. It was funny because she acted the whole show out for me. She clapped her hands like the seals and made the sounds they make also. I thought I was going to die laughing. Grandma can always make me laugh or put a smile on my face. Something's I remember about my grandma as a child it would have to be her cooking. I remember going over to her home staying the night. Then in the morning having cream of wheat and toast. Now whenever I eat cream of wheat it reminds me of grandma. Grandma made the best pies I think everyone in are family would say so. I remember Grandma's turquoise jewelry. I always thought it was so beautiful. I remember Grandma and Grandpa always going fishing. It seemed grandma was always the better fisherman. I always remember Grandma singing a song to the babies and making funny noises to make them happy. As I see her doing this it makes me smile. Grandma on Sundays always has a beautiful flower on her blouse. My grandma always smells so good. She wears Taboo perfume. Whenever I smell that smell it reminds me of her. My grandma has the most Beautiful brown eyes. When I look into them I see such warmth and love. My grandma loves us, I know this from all the things she does and has done for me. But I feel it most when she gives me those hugs that me feel loved and safe inside. **I love you Grandma and always will, Your Granddaughter Lisa)** One day as Becky and Granny were driving down the road listening to the radio the subject matter being discussed was longevity. The announcer stated that if your parents had died at an early age you had the great possibility of the same happening to you. Granny said her famous, "Oh Pooh!!!" Becky said why are you upset momma? Grandma said my mom was only 36 when she passed and my dad died young too, I guess I'm not going to live very long! Becky said, "Momma I don't think you need to be too concerned about that your already 85". She was a great homemaker and besides her awesome cooking skills, she was gifted at handiwork too. She made sure each grandchild had a quilt or shawl to wrap around them to remind us of her love. She won many ribbons at local fairs and was very proud of them. She made with a little help as her hands had become a bit shaky, many beautiful porcelain dolls to add to her collection. When she moved out of her home the dolls were divided between the daughters and granddaughters so we could still enjoy their beauty. Granny was an avid fisherman alongside Grandpa. They were know far and wide for their fish fry parties. Granma loved giving parties and everyone loved coming. She may have not have always out fished him but she was quick to remind her son-in-laws that she could sure out fish them any day of the week. Time spent with her son-in-laws was always treasured. She loved them dearly and when Gale first met her and stared to call her "Granny," the name stuck (We are not sure she liked it at first). She loved to spoil her new boys with special treats made just for them. She would cook something special then she would say

I had to make this because it is Don, or Keith's, or Gale's favorite. She was always interested in what they were doing and their hobbies and interests. Her favorite place to fish was probably Henry's Lake. She loved to go to Becky & Gale's cabin and challenge the lake. She and Grandpa also frequented Pass Creek and Wet Creek; along with anywhere else that water flowed. Fun with Grandma meant shopping, when taking Kitty and Kori to conference she didn't seem overly disappointed that we couldn't get in, it just meant that we would have to go shopping instead. If the power ever went out she would be the first to say we had better go in to Cathay Cafe for lunch her treat! One of the great blessings we had was as she aged she didn't feel comfortable being alone in the winter at her home. So all winter she would spend a month or so at each of her girl's homes. This gave everyone extra time to spend with her. She loved the great grandkids to come over after school to her trailer and she would give them odd jobs to do. Then when you jobs were done she had snacks including half drank pops from her fridge. When she first came to Aunt Margaret's house she wasn't so sure about their dog Tass, who wanted to sit on everyone's lap. But it wasn't very long until not only was he sitting on her lap but she was talking to him also, they became great friends. Russell remembers when asked what he wanted for his 16th birthday he said a pie, he got 16 pies. Also once driving his Corvette with Grandma in the passenger side from Bozeman to West Yellowstone, they were moving pretty good probably around 90 miles an hour. Grandma kept saying "go faster" and "pass that one Russ pass that one". He figured if he got pulled over he would say "my Granny made me do it". On a trip home from Alaska with Dennis's family and 2,000 miles of the most beautiful scenery Dennis asked, "how do you like all of this beautiful scenery?" she replied there is "A LOT OF BEAUTIFUL SCENERY". The thing you have to remember is if she ever flashed you that naughty grin and gave you a wink you had better watch out for what was coming next!!

Poem by Ruth R. Hinckley August 28, 1976

At this gathering we'll try to express
Our love, appreciate them, and thoughts, no less.
Of two choice people we've all learned to admire.
Their examples give us righteous desire.

As friends and loved ones, we unite at this time,
To tell the Goodwin's our feelings in rhyme.
How lucky we are you move to our town,
The GOODWIN name is now renown.

Your home had been in Thomas we know,
Planting crops and watching them grow.
But time brings a challenge we need to fulfill
A progressive urge-so we don't stand still.

The President loved the sail and the farm,
But imperfect health caused a bit of alarm.
An office job seemed a solution
And still work with farmers was his resolution.

Now four nice daughters made the Goodwin's mature,
Margaret saw them to church on Sunday for sure.
The spirit was catching, and soon she exclaimed.
This work is true! A convert was claimed.

She worked in a drug store, then a café,
Serving the hungry in her generous way.
While their daughters grew up and found their mates,
Time was marching on, at any rate.

The Production Credit Association was the one to gain,
They hired this farmer, all the same.
So the Goodwin's pulled a trailer to poky,
Camped on the outskirts where it wasn't smoky.

So on to the next of the life's episodes
Margaret & President, settled in their abode.
Since agriculture was the President's high aim
In his daily work he soon gained fame.

They came to church each Sunday as usual,
Met new people-friendships were mutual.
The Lord knew their talents and put them in charge
Made the Bishop to serve all at large.

But the President has a talent so rare.
A PEACE MAKER HE IS. He's always so fair.
Justice and mercy he learned nearly in life,
Cuz one roof housed his mother and wife.

This great talent is needed for all mankind
So the Lord called him to serve, where many more could find,
The answers to problems, trials and sorrow
From his strength, we all have borrowed.

His humor can lighten the loads we bear
His wisdom gives direction to overcome fear.
In his gentle and sincere way
Has won our hearts before parting this day.

And Margaret makes friends as easy as pie,
The results are great and that's no lie.
Her friendly visits let's us share her life.
And her pie baking, makes her a number one wife.

Now our hats are off to both of you,
You've served so well-our thanks is due.
Farewells are not the most cherished event
But the friendships endure & love can be sent.
How thankful we are for your leadership,
Now if only we can measure up to it.
You've set a pattern we can confidently follow.
It gives us much hope as we look to tomorrow.