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A STUDY OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
OF A SAMPLE OF THE BLIND MEMBERS
OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

A Thesis

Presented to the
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Brigham Young University

In Partial Fulfillment
of the Requirements for the Degree
Master of Science

by
M. Lynn Cruser

May, 1963

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CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	ii
LIST OF TABLES	iv
Chapter	
I. Introduction	1
II. Survey of Literature	3
III. Method of Gathering the Data	8
IV. Social Conditions of the Blind	11
V. Economic Conditions of the Blind	36
VI. Summary and Recommendations	54
Appendixes	
I. Sample Questionnaire	58
II. Additional Tables	59
III. Names and Addresses of the Members of the Survey .	71
Bibliography	110

LIST OF TABLES

Table

1.	Distribution of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church According to Age Groups	12
2.	Male-Female Distribution of the Blind Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Three Main Age Groups	13
3.	Geographical Location of Male Members of the L.D.S. Church (Blind)	16
4.	Geographical Location of Female Members of the L.D.S. Church (Blind)	17
5.	Total Number and Percentage of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church from each State and Country.	18
6.	Rural and Urban Classification of Blind Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	19
7.	Total Number and Percentage in Classification of Marital Status of the Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church	20
8.	Types of Marriage of the Blind Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	21
9.	Marital Status of the Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church in the 21-40 Age Group	22
10.	Marital Status of the Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church in the 41-60 Age Group	22
11.	Marital Status of the Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church in the Over 60 Age Group	22
12.	Number and Percentage of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church with Spouse Blind or Sighted	24
13.	Number of Children per Family of the Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church	26
14.	Average Number of Children per Family of the Blind Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints	27
15.	Mobility Aids Used by the Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church	29

LIST OF TABLES (Cont.)

Table

16.	Age Group Analysis of Mobility Aids Used by Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church	30
17.	Church Attendance of the Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church by Age and Sex Groups	31
18.	Number and Percentage of Blind Males Holding the Priesthood in the L.D.S. Church and the Offices which They Hold . .	32
19.	Types of Church Positions Held by Female Members of the L.D.S. Church in the 21-40 Age Group (Blind)	33
20.	Types of Church Positions Held by Male Members of the L.D.S. Church in the 21-40 Age Group (Blind)	33
21.	Types of Church Positions Held by Female Members of the L.D.S. Church in the 41-60 Age Group (Blind)	34
22.	Types of Church Positions Held by Male Members of the L.D.S. Church in the 41-60 Age Group (Blind)	34
23.	Types of Church Positions Held by Female Members of the L.D.S. Church in the Over-60 Age Group (Blind)	35
24.	Types of Church Positions Held by Male Members of the L.D.S. Church in the Over-60 Age Group (Blind)	35
25.	Educational Status of Total Group of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church	38
26.	Educational Status of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church According to Age Groups	38
27.	Number of Husbands or Wives of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church Working to Support the Family	43
28.	Economic Self-Sufficiency of Members of the L.D.S. Church (Blind)	44
29.	Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church on Relief	46
30.	Total Number and Percentage of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church Receiving Different Types of Relief	46
31.	Number and Percentage of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church Receiving Relief According to Age Groups	47

LIST OF TABLES (Cont.)

Table

32. Number and Percentage of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church Receiving Two or more Types of Relief According to Age Groups	48
33. Employment of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church Obtained Through Ward or Stake Welfare	49
34. Types of Employment Given to Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church through Ward or Stake Welfare	50
35. Number and Percentage of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church Living on Farms	51
36. Types of Residence Occupied by Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church	52

Appendix

Table

1. Male-Female Distribution of the Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church in the Various Age Groups	59
2. Blind Male Members of the L.D.S. Church with "Other" Handicaps	59
3. Blind Female Members of the L.D.S. Church with "Other" Handicaps	61
4. Number and Percentage of "Other" Handicaps of Blind Male Members of the L.D.S. Church	63
5. Total Number and Percentage of "Other" Handicaps of Blind Female Members of the L.D.S. Church	63
6. Total Number and Percentage of "Other" Handicaps of Blind Members of the L.D.S. Church	64
7. Employment of Blind Male Members of the L.D.S. Church	64
8. Employment of Blind Female Members of the L.D.S. Church	66
9. Full-time Employment of Blind Male Members of the L.D.S. Church	67
10. Part-time Employment of Blind Male Members of the L.D.S. Church	69

LIST OF TABLES (Cont.)

Appendix (Cont.)

Table

11.	Full-time Employment of Blind Female Members of the L.D.S. Church	69
12.	Part-time Employment of Blind Female Members of the L.D.S. Church	70

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

From the earliest times, blind people have been placed in a class by themselves. In some societies, they have been looked upon as special individuals sent from the Gods to help the people in their societies. In other places, they have been looked upon as a waste product of humanity to be treated like animals, or even to be destroyed. The history of our own American society is no exception. The blind individual has been looked upon at the least as an oddity, and at the most as being expendable. It has been the observation of the writer that the blind individual has a relatively difficult time in finding his place in this society. Therefore, the writer decided to find just how difficult it was for blind persons to be assimilated into the society in which they live.

The writer decided to make a study of the blind members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. To answer four basic questions about the living patterns of blind persons in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, the writer wanted to learn:

1. What is the number of blind members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints?
2. What are some of the social aspects of the blind person's life; such as education, area of residence, marital status, and Church activity?

3. How does the blind person receive his subsistence?
4. Does the Church, through its welfare program aid blind persons to obtain employment, and if so, how is this accomplished?

CHAPTER II

SURVEY OF LITERATURE

It was found in surveying the literature on blindness that no attempts had been made to study blind people according to Church affiliation. Most of the information which was reported could not be used in obtaining a total impression of the blind person since the studies dealt with mainly one area of the blind person's existence.

The information available was divided into five main categories.

These were:

1. Education of blind children.
2. Counseling and rehabilitation of the visually handicapped.
3. Employment of the blind.
4. Social participation of blind persons, and
5. Medical aspects of blindness.

The problem of obtaining a complete census of blind people was experienced by many of the writers. The following quotation will help to illustrate the problems involved in obtaining a valid sample.

The World Health Organization of the United Nations in January, 1953 in a survey of the prevalence of blindness in the world estimated the total blind population to be about 6.6 million. This number in general is based on government censuses in the various countries and is considered far too low. Other informal surveys suggest that the figure of 14 million is nearer the truth. Unfortunately, no reliable statistics are available. One of the main obstacles to obtaining a true picture of the situation is the lack of an internationally accepted definition of blindness. . . . In the United States the definition of blindness most frequently used by federal and state governments reads as follows: 'Central visual acuity of 20/200 or less in the better eye, with correcting glasses; or central visual acuity of more than 20/200 if there is a field defect in which the peripheral field has contracted to such an extent that the widest diameter of visual field subtends an angular distance no greater than 20 degrees.' . . . On the basis of this definition the number of blind persons

in the United States as of July 1, 1959 is estimated to be about 355,000 or an average of 1.98 blind persons for each one thousand of the general population. Of this number about 10 per cent are under twenty-one years of age while at least 50 percent are over sixty-five.

It should be emphasized that although a uniform definition of blindness has been established in the United States, the figure reported is still given as an estimate of the number of blind persons in the United States.

Many agencies are concerned with the social and economic conditions of the blind. The Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation has shown great interest in the rehabilitation and the employment placement of blind persons. It has made available lists of Civil Service job titles which are or which may be suitable for placement of blind individuals. The following is a sample list:

- Abrasive Wheel Operator
- Agricultural Economics Assistant
- Automatic Drill Press Machine Operator
- Automotive Accessories Repairer (Fuel Pumps)
- Automotive Vehicle and Taxi Service Dispatcher
- Budget Administration Assistant
- Chemist (Analytical; Theoretical)
- Flatwork Ironer
- Instructor for the Blind
- X-Ray Technician, Medical (Darkroom).²

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is interested in the number of blind persons rehabilitated and their economic conditions before and after rehabilitation. Statistics which were made available in 1956 show that of 3,473 blind persons rehabilitated in fiscal 1955 65.0% were men, 26.8% were on relief for major support when contacted

¹Blindness, Some Facts and Figures (New York, American Foundation for the Blind, 1960), pp. 1-2.

²U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Revised List of Positions in Federal Civil Service. Director's Letter Number 17 - Supplement 19, June 10, 1957.

for rehabilitation, 73.2% were unemployed when accepted for rehabilitation, 46.7% were married and the average schooling was about nine years. After rehabilitation 81.6% were receiving earnings and 18.4% were farmers or other family workers.³

Another publication of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation gives information about the types of work in which blind persons are presently employed.

Today blind people are successfully holding down a wide range of jobs in business and industry, on farms, and in the professions. Many have succeeded in business of their own. Others are independent farm operators. Their numbers include clerks, typists, dictaphone operators, skilled and semiskilled machine operators in industrial plants, manufacturers, salesmen, engineers, lawyers, physicians, teachers, writers, publishers--in fact, they are engaged in such a great variety of occupations that it is impossible to list them all.⁴

The Veteran's Administration conducted a study in 1951 and 1953 of blinded veterans disabled during World War II and Korea. This study covered the "medical, psychological, socioeconomic and other aspects of the status and rehabilitation problems of approximately two thousand blinded veterans."⁵ From this study a list of occupations for blinded veterans was made available to all agencies interested in the employment of the blind.

The American Foundation for the Blind makes publications about blindness available to any person or group interested in blindness and

³U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Blind at Acceptance Rehabilitated During Fiscal Year 1955. Facts in Brief. Rehabilitation Service Series Number 360 - Supplement 2, July, 1956.

⁴U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation. Opportunities for Blind Persons and the Visually Impaired Through Vocational Rehabilitation. 1958, p. 2.

⁵U.S. Department of Veterans Benefits, Veterans Administration. Occupations of Totally Blinded Veterans of World War II and Korea. 1956, p.3.

its problems. One such publication gives some information on the employment of the blind since World War I.

In the 1920's the idea was still prevalent that there were very few jobs a person without sight could be trained to do, even though blind men and women, on their own initiative, had found work in factories during World War I when labor was needed on the home front. In World War II, blind men and women again took the places of men in service. Many plants where they and other handicapped people were at work proudly flew the Army and Navy E-flags. Employers praised their reliability on the job and the quality of their performance.⁶

Educators have been and are concerned with the education of blind children. In California, the Temple City Unified Schools, in an attempt to provide improved education for blind children in a sighted classroom faced another problem as well. ". . . when we were considering the employment of a teacher who was blind for one of our regular eighth grade classes, we found ourselves saying, "if we believe in a school program for children who are blind, don't we also believe in a program which would employ qualified teachers who are blind?"⁷

In the New Outlook for the Blind a study was reported concerning the social participation of adult blind persons in the community. Information was gathered by interviewing 100 blind adults in the St. Louis area in 1951 and 1953. The degree of difference between blind and sighted adults in situations other than those involving remuneration was

⁶Wood, Maxine, Blindness, Ability, Not Disability (New York, Public Affairs Committee, Inc., 1960), pp. 12-13.

⁷Manshardt, Clarice E., The Role of the Public School System in the Education of Blind with Sighted Children. An address delivered at the Northwest Conference on the Education of Children Who are Blind, Portland, Oregon, October 24-26, 1957.

the object of the study. It was found that the amount of social participation by the blind was similar to that of the sighted adults.⁸

Other available reading material about blindness will be included in the Bibliography for the reader's interest.

⁸Gravitz, Leonard, "Social Participation of Blind Adults", New Outlook for the Blind, V. 48 (May, 1954), 149-151.

CHAPTER III

METHOD OF GATHERING THE DATA

After talking with a number of people, it was decided that it would be necessary to contact some of the General Authorities of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Since the Presiding Bishopric is in charge of the temporal matters of the members of the Church, it was felt that this would be a good place to begin a contact.

Bishop Carl W. Buehner, then Second Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric, who was in charge of the Welfare Program of the Church was the first person contacted. He suggested a visit to the then Presiding Bishop, Joseph L. Wirthlin, who was the President of the Society for the Aid of the Sightless, an auxiliary organization concerned with the Blind in the Church.

Bishop Wirthlin was visited. He related that a previous survey of the blind had been made by his office which had proved very unsatisfactory. Very few replies were received from the questionnaires sent. Therefore, there was some question whether there would be any value in making a new survey of the Blind. After studying the questionnaire which the Presiding Bishopric had sent, it was felt that the main reason for the failure of the survey to yield valuable information was that the questions were so organized that they demanded too much additional writing on the part of the Bishops. It was felt that if a questionnaire could be formulated which could be answered quickly and with relatively little writing on the part of the Bishops, the success of a Church-wide survey would be possible.

The proposal was presented to Bishop Wirthlin in May of 1958, along with a tentative questionnaire, and he agreed that the survey should be made. It was also decided that a cover letter signed by Bishop Wirthlin explaining the purpose of the survey should accompany the questionnaire. This would give it official sanction and possibly increase the percentage of returned questionnaires.

It was decided that the Presiding Bishop's Office would send out questionnaires to each Ward and Branch in all Stakes of the Church. Three questionnaires would be sent in each letter, and provision was made so that more questionnaires could be had upon request if they were needed. Each letter which was sent contained the following items:

1. Three questionnaires,
2. a self-addressed envelope, and
3. a cover letter from Bishop Wirthlin.

All sending and receiving of the questionnaires was to be handled by the Presiding Bishop's Office.

As the questionnaires were returned, they were checked to see if additional questionnaires had been requested. The materials were then forwarded to the writer for his attention.

The number of Wards or Branches receiving questionnaires was 2,460.⁹ The total number of replies received,¹⁰ either reporting "presence of blind members", or "no blind members", was 2,113, or 85.89% of the total number mailed. Using the 2,113 replies as a base, a total

⁹Questionnaires were placed in the mail early in July of 1958.

¹⁰The last replies were received in March of 1959.

of 511 Wards and Branches reported having blind members or 23.71%, and 1,602, or 76.29% reported "no blind members". The total number of blind members was 674 in the 511 Wards reporting blind members enrolled.

The questionnaire was designed to obtain information from the Bishops in the following areas: personal information, educational attainment, marital status, economic condition, geographical location, and Church activity. (See sample questionnaire in appendix.)

CHAPTER IV

SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE BLIND

For discussion purposes, materials are divided into two main areas, namely, social and economic, although it is known that the two areas will overlap extensively. However, division will permit easier analysis and presentation of the questionnaire materials. In this chapter, the social conditions of the blind members, as indicated by the findings, will be presented.

Because the social conditions of the blind members are found essentially in two separate areas of the questionnaire, the line numbers in the sample questionnaire will be referred to. Lines one through three will be excluded in the discussion because they pertain only to identification of the respondent of the questionnaire. Lines four and five, as will be noted, are for the identifying name and address of the blind member. Line five will also be used to determine the geographical area in which the members are found. A list of these names and addresses will be found in the appendix.

Age Distribution of Blind Members

It will be noted from Table 1 that as the age rises, the number of blind also rises. The over-60 category contains almost half of the members of this survey. If it were assumed that half of the questionnaires which did not have the age given (or a total of 3) were over 60, then

half of the individuals would be 60 or older.

TABLE 1

DISTRIBUTION OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

Age Group	Number in Age Group	Percentage of Total
Under 5	20	2.97
5-11	34	5.04
12-20	31	4.60
21-40	114	16.91
41-60	135	20.03
Over 60	334	49.55
No Age Given	6	.89

Age is a key factor in the social and economic problems of the blind. Consequently, age will be referred to extensively throughout the remainder of our discussion.

Male-Female Distribution of Blind Members of the Church

Out of the total of 674 individuals, the findings show that 52.37%, or 353, are male, and 47.63%, or 321, are female. When the sex information is broken into age groups, the information becomes more interesting as well as more helpful in understanding the real situation of the blind.

In Table 2 we find that from the ages of 0-20, the females are in the majority. In the middle or 21-60 group, it will be noted that the males outnumber the females almost two-to-one, and then in the over-60 group, the pendulum swings back again so that the females have the edge.

TABLE 2

MALE-FEMALE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS IN THREE MAIN AGE GROUPS

Age Group	Total No.	Male Members		Female Members	
		No.	%	No.	%
0-20	85	38	44.71	47	55.29
21-60	249	155	62.25	94	37.75
Over 60	334	156	46.71	178	53.29

The possible explanation is that under the age of 20, both males and females are subject to an approximately homogenous type of activity. Thus the causes of blindness are more evenly distributed between the two groups. The main causes of blindness during this period of time are hereditary defects, congenital defects, accidents, and diseases. The explanation for the sharp increase in male blindness in the 21-60 group might be because of dangers to which the men are exposed in fulfilling their duties in the labor force of the country. In addition to the causes of blindness already mentioned, some others which may have increased the amount of blindness in this age and sex group are industrial accidents and military activity. Since males outnumber females in this age group, it is seen that one of the basic problems of this group is to find a way to be trained and placed in productive employment.

In the over-60 group, not only do the women surpass the men in the number of blind, but the proportions of blindness also increase.

This is probably explained by the fact that the females outlive the males and that the diseases causing blindness increase. (For a further breakdown of the age groups, see Table 1 in the appendix.)

Geographical Location of Members

The information regarding the location of blind members was obtained in two ways:

1. The addresses of the members given in the questionnaire as well as the Ward and Stake information were used to determine what states were represented and how many members were in each state.

2. By asking a question regarding residence, the following information became available:

- A. Whether the member lives in an urban or rural location, and
- B. If the member lives in a rural area, does he or does he not live on a farm?

For the U.S., blind L.D.S. Church members were found in 25 states and also in the District of Columbia. They were also found to reside in three foreign countries. It will be evident from the Tables, that the Western States dominate the figures, with Utah ranking first in the number of blind members, and with California, Idaho, and Washington following in that order. The three foreign countries represented are Canada, Mexico, and New Zealand. At least the first three highest states in the number of blind members are to be expected since this

corresponds with the large Church membership in those states.¹¹ For a more detailed analysis of the geographical locations of the blind members, see Tables 3, 4, and 5. In these tables, the states and foreign countries in which members reside are given, with the number of male and female members listed for each state or foreign country. In addition, the age of the members is listed.

Important to the social as well as the economic condition of the blind member is his place of residence--whether it be rural or urban. It might be supposed that as one progressed from the younger to the older age groups, he would find a definite trend of the members to live in urban rather than rural residential areas since it might be felt by the blind person that there were more opportunities in the city for those of employable age. It might also be supposed that the oldest group would move to the urban centers to obtain more accessible services such as transportation, medical care, etc. The information from the questionnaire does not bear out this latter supposition.

Table 6 shows the distribution of members according to sex and age in the urban and rural areas. The average for the entire group in the rural areas is 32.34% and for the urban areas, 67.66%. It can be

¹¹ According to Church statistics for 1958, the distribution of members throughout the Church shows the states with the highest membership in the following order: Utah, California, Idaho, Washington, Oregon, and Nevada. It will be noted from Table 5 that the distribution of the members in the survey corresponds with this ranking.

TABLE 3

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATIONS OF MALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH (Blind)

State or Country	Over 60	41-60	21-40	12-20	5-11	Under 5	No Age	Total
Alabama	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Arizona	9	4	..	..	1	..	1	15
California	21	18	15	..	2	3	..	59
Colorado	..	2	2	..	..	..	..	4
Florida	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	3
Georgia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Idaho	16	7	7	6	2	1	..	39
Illinois	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Louisiana	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Maryland	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Michigan	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Mississippi	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Missouri	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Montana	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Nevada	3	2	1	..	..	..	1	7
New Jersey	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
New Mexico	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	2
New York	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Oregon	3	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
So. Carolina	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	2
Texas	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	3
Utah	93	44	35	8	6	4	2	92
Virginia	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Washington	2	..	1	..	1	1	..	5
Wyoming	..	..	1	..	..	1	..	2
Washington, D.C.	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Canada	2	..	2	..	..	..	..	4
Mexico	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
New Zealand	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1

TABLE 4

GEOGRAPHICAL LOCATION OF FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH (Blind)

State or Country	Over 60	41-60	21-40	12-20	5-11	Under 5	No Age	Total
Alabama	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Arizona	5	3	..	1	2	..	..	11
California	23	13	9	2	3	1	..	51
Colorado	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Florida	5	..	1	..	..	..	..	6
Georgia	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
Idaho	18	4	4	..	3	2	1	32
Illinois	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Louisiana	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Maryland	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
Michigan	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	3
Mississippi	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Missouri	4	..	1	..	..	..	..	5
Montana	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	2
Nevada	6	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
New Jersey	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1
New Mexico	3	..	..	1	1	..	..	5
New York	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Oregon	4	2	1	1	1	..	..	9
So. Carolina	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Texas	4	1	..	..	..	..	..	5
Utah	84	25	24	9	9	3	1	155
Virginia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Washington	3	..	1	2	2	1	..	9
Wyoming	2	..	..	1	..	1	..	4
Washington, D.C.	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1
Canada	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Mexico	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
New Zealand	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

TABLE 5

TOTAL NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE
OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S
CHURCH FROM EACH STATE AND COUNTRY

State or Country	Total Number	Percentage of Total
Alabama	1	.15
Arizona	26	3.86
California	110	16.32
Colorado	6	.89
Florida	9	1.33
Georgia	3	.45
Idaho	71	10.48
Illinois	2	.30
Louisiana	3	.45
Maryland	1	.15
Michigan	4	.59
Mississippi	2	.30
Missouri	6	.89
Montana	3	.45
Nevada	13	1.93
New Jersey	2	.30
New Mexico	7	1.04
New York	1	.15
Oregon	13	1.93
So. Carolina	3	.45
Texas	8	1.19
Utah	347	51.48
Virginia	1	.15
Washington	14	2.08
Wyoming	6	.89
Washington, D. C.	2	.30
Canada	7	1.04
Mexico	1	.15
New Zealand	2	.30

seen from the table that the groups having the largest proportionate percentage living in the rural areas are the under-5 and the over-60 groups.

TABLE 6

RURAL AND URBAN CLASSIFICATION OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Age Group	Urban			Rural		
	Male No.	Female No.	%	Male No.	Female No.	%
Under 5	10	2	60.00	1	7	40.00
5-11	9	17	76.47	4	4	23.53
12-20	8	14	70.97	6	3	29.03
21-40	50	34	73.69	21	9	26.31
41-60	63	40	76.30	21	11	23.70
Over 60	101	103	61.08	55	75	38.92
No-age	4	1	83.33	..	1	16.67

If the age groups are combined into three groups as on page 13, it is found that the under-20 group has a percentage of 30.85 living in rural areas. This percentage drops to 25.01 in the middle group. This may be accounted for by the fact that more employment possibilities are available in the urban centers than in the rural areas. A sharp reversal is evident upon examining the over-60 group. The percentage of those living in the rural area rises from 25.01 for the 21-60 group to a percentage of 38.92.

Those members who live on farms will be discussed in the next chapter, dealing with economic conditions.

Marital Status of Members

In the questionnaire, the following classifications were used in designating the marital status of the member: married, single, widowed, divorced, separated, and remarried.

In Table 7, the remarried group has been added to the number of married individuals thus producing the total number of married blind members of the Church as per this study. The remarried classification will not appear in this table.

TABLE 7

TOTAL NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE IN CLASSIFICATIONS OF MARITAL STATUS OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Classification	Total Number	Percentage
Single	145	21.51
Married	327	48.52
Divorced	19	2.82
Widowed	175	25.96
Separated	5	.74
No Answer	3	.45

TABLE 8

TYPES OF MARRIAGE OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS ¹²

Type of Marriage	Total Number	% of Marriages
Temple	183	55.96
Civil	144	44.04

¹²No information was available from the Church statistics to make a comparison between the blind and the Church group as a whole for Temple and civil marriages.

Since all of the members in the survey have been classified according to marital status, the number 674 has been used as a basis for the percentages. It must be kept in mind that Table 7 deals with the entire age range from infancy to old age. Although the percentages shown describe the marital status of the entire group, a distorted picture is drawn of the marital status of those who are of marriageable age. Therefore, in the Tables 9-11, the writer arbitrarily set the marriageable age at 21 in order that he might obtain a better evaluation of the marital status of the blind members.

TABLE 9

MARITAL STATUS OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE 21-40 AGE GROUP

Marital Status	Male Members		Female Members		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Single	27	38.03	6	13.95	33	28.94
Married	40	56.34	29	67.44	69	60.53
Divorced	3	4.23	7	16.28	10	8.77
Remarried	1	1.40	..	..	1	.88
Separated	..	..	1	2.33	1	.88
Temple	21	29.53	10	23.26	..	..
Civil	19	26.76	19	44.18	..	..

In Table 9 it is evident that there are many more males who are single than females, notably 27 (or 38.03%) single males and 6 (or 13.95%) single females. This is a difference of 24.08%. Since the exact age of the members is not had, trying to discover causitive

TABLE 10

MARITAL STATUS OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE 41-60 AGE GROUP

Marital Status	Male Members		Female Members		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Single	7	8.33	10	19.61	17	12.59
Married	75	89.29	34	66.67	109	80.74
Divorced	1	1.19	1	1.96	2	1.48
Widowed	1	1.19	4	7.84	5	3.70
Remarried	..	..	2	3.92	2	1.48
Temple Marriage	43	51.19	11	21.57	..	..
Civil Marriage	32	38.09	23	45.09	..	..

TABLE 11

MARITAL STATUS OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE OVER-60 AGE GROUP

Marital Status	Male Members		Female Members		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Single	6	3.85	4	2.25	10	2.99
Married	92	58.97	38	21.35	130	38.92
Divorced	4	2.56	3	1.69	7	2.10
Widowed	43	27.56	127	71.35	170	50.94
Remarried	9	5.77	1	.56	10	2.99
Separated	1	.64	3	1.69	4	1.20
No Answer	1	.64	2	1.12	4	1.20
Temple Marriage	68	43.59	27	15.17	..	..
Civil Marriage	24	15.39	11	6.18	..	..

It should be noted that of those 20 years and younger, there was only one female who was married and she was married in the Temple.

factors would be doubly difficult. In the 41-60 age group, the opposite situation exists concerning those who are single, with the single females outnumbering the single males. In the over-60 group, there is only 1.60% difference between the single males and the single females, with the edge going to the men.

In studying the tables, two things are evident about those who are married:

1. There is a higher percentage of Temple marriages in the over-60 group than in any other group, and as the age decreases, the percentage of Temple marriages also decreases.

2. The percentage of men married in the Temple is greater than for the women.

As one moves up the age-group ladder, the number of those widowed increases. The highest percentage of those widowed is in the female group who are over 60.

The 21-40 age group provides the largest percentage of divorced persons, with a total of 8.77%. The female members in this group have the largest percentage of divorces of the entire survey with a percentage of 16.28. In the other two age groups, the percentage of divorces drops sharply and each group contains about the same percentage of those divorced.

As might be expected, the number of marriages increases as the age group increases for both males and females.

It is necessary to consider the no-age-given group separately here. Of the individuals in this group, one is single and the balance

are married. This is the only example of the percentage of women married in the Temple outnumbering the percentage of men married in the Temple, but since it is such a small group involved, these results are rather meaningless.

Spouse Blind or Sighted

One of the important factors concerning the social adjustment of the blind individuals is the number of people whose husbands or wives are also blind.

Since there was only one married female 20 or under, whose spouse was sighted, she was not included in Table 12. Tabulations begin with the 21-40 age group.

TABLE 12

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH WITH SPOUSE BLIND OR SIGHTED

Age Group	Members With Spouse Blind		Members With Spouse Sighted		No Answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
21-40 Males	6	14.63	35	85.37	..	..
21-40 Females	9	31.03	20	68.97	..	..
41-60 Males	9	12.00	62	82.67	4	5.33
41-60 Females	8	22.22	22	61.11	6	16.67
Over-60 Males	4	3.96	92	91.09	5	4.95
Over-60 Females	3	7.69	31	79.49	5	12.82
No-age Males	4	100.00	..	..	..	..
No-Age Females	1	100.00	..	..	..	..
Total	44	..	262	..	20	..

Two points are evident from this table:

1. As the age increases, the percentage of blind spouses decreases, and
2. The number of mates who are blind is consistently higher in the female group than it is in the male group.

The probable reasons for these situations are that during the time individuals are seeking a mate, there are fewer blind persons, and during this time, the blind seek each other more often as mates. As age increases and the number of blind increases, more people become blind who are already married, but the spouse does not become blind in most cases. In regard to the second point, it would be helpful if further study were made to determine whether it is easier for a male who is blind to obtain a sighted spouse than it is for a female, who is blind.

Children

From Table 13, information is available concerning children of members in the survey. In all the age groups listed in the tables, the males outnumber the females in the number of children per family. The average number of children per family in the male group is 2.71, while the average number of the children per family in the female group is 2.09. The average number of children per family in the entire survey group is 2.34.¹³ In every category except the female 21-40 group, the average number of children per family is smaller in the families where

¹³Church statistics do not provide available information for comparisons between the blind and the total Church membership on the average number of children per family.

TABLE 13

NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER FAMILY OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

No. of Children in Family	No. of Families of Male Members With Specified No. of Children	No. of Families of Female Members With Specified No. of Children
21-40 Age Group		
0	8	13
1	6	8
2	11	6
3	5	8
4	4	2
5	1	..
6	2	..
7	1	..
8	1	..
41-60 Age Group		
0	11	8
1	4	5
2	22	9
3	14	5
4	7	3
5	6	2
6	1	3
7	5	..
8	..	..
9	1	..
10	..	..

TABLE 13 (Cont.)

No. of Children in Family	No. of Families of Male Members With Specified No. of Children	No. of Families of Female Members With Specified No. of Children
Over-60 Age Group		
0	27	46
1	4	12
2	15	21
3	15	16
4	15	23
5	17	4
6	16	14
7	10	10
8	6	10
9	4	2
10	3	2
Over 10	1	9

TABLE 14

AVERAGE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PER FAMILY OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Age Group	Total Average For Age Group	Average When Both Parents Are Blind	Average When One Parent Is Sighted
Male 21-40	2.44	1.67	2.58
Female 21-40	1.38	1.67	1.29
Male 41-60	3.03	1.20	3.17
Female 41-60	2.11	.83	2.38
Male Over 60	3.85	2.75	3.89
Female Over 60	3.38	2.00	3.41
Male No Age Given	1.50	..	1.50
Female No Age Given	1.00	1.00	..
Total Male Group	1.87	2.71	3.21
Total Female Group	1.50	2.09	2.36

the husbands and wives are both blind, than in the families where one member of the couple is sighted.

Table 14 gives the average number of children per family according to age groups.

Some of the couples in this survey had children who were also blind. The number of these children is 8. Three of these children were born to parents who were both blind. This represents a percentage of 7.18 of the number of children born to parents who are both blind. The remaining 5 were born to couples in which one member of the couple was sighted. This represents 1.87% of the children born to these couples. It would seem that when both members of the parents are blind, the chances for having children who are also blind are greater than when one of the members of the couple is sighted.

Mobility Aids

One of the major problems encountered by the blind individual, whether viewed from a social or economic position, is the difficulty connected with mobility. Aids have been devised to help in making the individual more mobile. These aids fall into two main categories, the Seeing Eye Dog, and the white cane. The following categories were available under which to classify the responses:

1. white cane,
2. Seeing Eye Dog, and
3. other.

It is difficult to know what "other" would include, and since no comments

were made by those filling out the questionnaires, it has been necessary to list the "other" category as it appears, without further elaboration.

Tables 15 and 16 give a breakdown of the number of people using aids, as well as the different types of mobility aids which are used. Table 15 is based on the total number of people in the survey, while Table 16 is broken into age groups.

Of a total of 674 who could possibly have used aids, 170 or 25.22% use them in some form. It will be noted in Table 16 that no aids are used by those under the age of 12. Except for the no-age-given group, those using the least aids are found between the ages of 12-20, while those using the most aids are found in the 21-40 group. The women consistently use fewer aids than the men, and the most frequently used aid is the white cane.

TABLE 15

MOBILITY AIDS USED BY THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Type of Aid	No.	% of 674 Using Aid	% of All Those Using Aids
Seeing Eye Dog	33	4.9	19.41
Combination of Seeing Eye & Cane	4	.59	2.35
White Cane	128	18.99	75.29
Other	5	.74	2.94

TABLE 16

AGE-GROUP ANALYSIS OF MOBILITY AIDS USED BY BLIND MEMBERS OF L.D.S. CHURCH

Age Group	Seeing Eye		White Cane		Combination		Other	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male 12-20	..	..	2	14.29	..	..	..	..
Female 12-20	..	..	2	11.76	..	..	..	..
Male 21-40	10	14.08	13	18.31	2	2.82	..	..
Female 21-40	7	16.28	4	9.30	..	..	5	11.63
Male 41-60	10	11.91	19	22.61	2	2.39	..	..
Female 41-60	3	5.49	10	19.61	..	..	..	..
Male Over 60	2	1.29	56	35.89	..	..	..	..
Female Over 60	1	.56	20	11.24	..	..	..	..
Male No-Age-Given	..	..	2	50.00	..	..	..	..

Church Activity

In Table 17 the results of the responses to the question concerning Church attendance are given. There are only two age groups in which the females outnumber the males in Church attendance. These are the under-five age group and the 41-60 age group. Since there are so many "no answers" in the under-five category, the information in this group is probably not significant. Only in the 41-60 age group do the females attend Church in greater number than do the males.

The over-all totals show that there are more people who attend Church (51.04%) than there are who do not attend Church (43.92%). The remaining 5.04% is accounted for by those questionnaires in which no answer is given.

Table 18 helps to give an idea of Church activity by showing

TABLE 17

CHURCH ATTENDANCE OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
BY AGE AND SEX GROUPS

Age Group	Attend Church		Do Not Attend		No Answer	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Male Under 5	2	18.18	2	18.18	7	63.64
Female Under 5	4	44.44	1	11.11	4	44.44
Male 5-11	10	76.92	2	15.39	1	7.69
Female 5-11	12	57.14	5	23.81	4	19.05
Male 12-20	11	78.57	2	14.29	1	7.14
Female 12-20	13	76.47	1	5.88	3	17.65
Male 21-40	45	63.38	26	36.62	..	..
Female 21-40	19	44.19	24	55.81	..	..
Male 41-60	52	61.90	32	38.10	..	..
Female 41-60	33	64.71	18	35.29	..	..
Male Over 60	75	48.08	76	48.72	5	3.20
Female Over 60	66	35.08	103	57.87	9	5.05
Male No-Age-Given	2	50.00	2	50.00	..	..
Female No-Age-Given	..	..	2	100.00	..	..
Total	344	51.04	296	43.92	34	5.04

the number of those who hold the Priesthood and the office which they hold.

One indication of the activity of the members is the number who hold positions of responsibility. When those members of the Church under 12 are excluded, the number remaining in the survey is 620 who are potentially available for positions in the Church. The actual number who hold positions is 129 or 30.81%.

TABLE 18

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF BLIND MALES HOLDING THE PRIESTHOOD IN THE L.D.S. CHURCH
AND THE OFFICES WHICH THEY HOLD

Age Group	No Priesthood		Deacon		Teacher		Priest		Elder		Seventy		High Priest	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
12-20	3	21.43	3	21.43	2	14.28	4	28.57	2	14.28	..	..	..	..
21-40	6	8.45	8	11.27	5	7.04	9	12.68	37	52.11	5	7.04	1	1.41
41-60	8	9.52	4	4.76	2	2.38	6	7.14	45	53.57	4	4.70	15	17.86
Over 60	16	10.26	2	1.28	1	.64	4	2.56	48	30.76	4	2.56	81	51.92
No Age Given	1	25.00	..	..	..	..	1	25.00	2	50.00	..	..	..	..
Total	34	10.33	17	5.17	10	3.04	24	7.30	134	40.73	13	3.95	97	29.48

TABLE 19*

TYPE OF CHURCH POSITIONS HELD BY FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE 21-40 AGE GROUP (Blind)

Position	No. Holding Position
Relief Society Class Instructor	4
Primary Organist	1
Ward Relief Society Chorister	1
Stake MIA Maid Supervisor	1
Primary In-Service-Trainer	1
Relief Society Visiting Teacher	1
Relief Society Magazine Director	1
MIA Music Director	1

* The total number of women holding positions is 11 or 25.58% of this age group.

TABLE 20*

TYPE OF CHURCH POSITIONS HELD BY MALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE 21-40 AGE GROUP (Blind)

Position	No. Holding Position
Ward Teacher	16
Stake Missionary	4
Genealogical Committee Member	4
Senior Aaronic Advisor	3
Sunday School Superintendency Member	3
Ward Teaching Supervisor	3
Master M Men Coordinator	1
Y.M.M.I.A. Stake President	1
Y.M.M.I.A. Ward President	1
Sunday School Teacher	1
Senior Aaronic Priesthood Secretary	1
Y.M.M.I.A. Organist	1
Stake Ward Teaching Committee Member	1
Priest Quorum Supervisor	1
Sunday School Organist	1
Sunday School Committee Member	1
Counselor to Senior Deacons	1
Quorum Presidency Member	1
Scout Troop Committee Member	1

* The number of men holding positions is 35 or 49.30% of the total. There are 26 holding 1 position, 7 holding 2 positions, and 2 with 3 or more.

TABLE 21*

TYPE OF CHURCH POSITIONS HELD BY FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE 41-60AGE GROUP (Blind)

Position	No. Holding Position
Relief Society Visiting Teacher	4
Relief Society Class Instructor	3
Sunday School Teacher	1
Relief Society Secretary and Treasurer	1
Primary In-Service Trainer	1
Ward Chorister	1
Beehive Leader	1
Genealogy Home Teacher	1

* There are 10 women holding positions or 19.61%. There are 8 with 1 position, 1 with 2 positions, and 1 with 3 or more.

TABLE 22*

TYPE OF CHURCH POSITIONS HELD BY MALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE 41-60 AGE GROUP (Blind)

Position	No. Holding Positions
Ward Teacher	15
Ward Teaching Supervisor	8
Genealogy Committee Member	2
Stake Missionary	2
Senior Aaronic Priesthood Committee Member	2
Ward Teacher Instructor	1
MIA Teacher	1
Sunday School Teacher	1
Stake Special Interest Leader	1
Elders' Quorum Attendance Committee Member	1
Priesthood Organist	1
Elders' Group Leader	1
Welfare Representative for Elders' Quorum	1
Assistant Secretary of Aaronic Priesthood	1
Assistant Ward Clerk	1
Home Sunday School Advisor	1
Branch Clerk	1
Assistant Scout Master	1

* There are 33 men holding positions, or 39.29%. There are 24 with 1 position, 8 with 2 positions, and 1 with 3 positions.

TABLE 23*

TYPE OF CHURCH POSITIONS HELD BY FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE OVER-60 AGE GROUP (Blind)

Position	No. Holding Position
Relief Society Visiting Teacher	5
Primary President	1
Chairman of the Building Fund	1
Stake Missionary	1
Relief Society President	1
Organist	1

* There are 10 women holding positions, or 5.62% of the total.

TABLE 24*

TYPE OF CHURCH POSITIONS HELD BY MALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE OVER-60 AGE GROUP (Blind)

Position	No. Holding Position
Ward Teacher	16
Stake Patriarch	4
Genealogy Committee Member	3
Priesthood Committee Member	3
Group Leader of High Priests	2
Stake Missionary	2
MIA Teacher	1
Sunday School Teacher	1

*The total number of men holding positions is 30 or 19.30% of the total.
There are 28 with 1 position and 2 with 2 positions.

It will be noted in Tables 19-24 that there are no individuals between the ages of 12 and 20 who hold positions in the Church, and that the women consistently hold fewer positions than do the men. Of the positions held by the men, the one we find most frequently is that of Ward Teacher.

CHAPTER V

ECONOMIC CONDITIONS OF THE BLIND

As the economic conditions of the blind members of the Church are discussed in this chapter, it seems only fair to remind the reader that a certain amount of overlapping is unavoidable. Each separate area listed in this chapter could have also been discussed in relationship to its social impact on the individual member, but since it was felt that the areas listed here were more applicable to the economic condition rather than the social condition of the blind member, it was decided to place them in this chapter.

Other Handicaps

One of the problems facing an individual in establishing himself in the economic world is his ability to perform a necessary task suitably and capably. Any hindrance in performing this task, whether real or imaginary, will make it more difficult for the individual to be economically employed. One handicap has already been dealt with in this survey. It was felt, therefore, that additional information needed to be gathered on handicaps other than blindness which the members of this survey might have.

On lines six and seven of the questionnaire, the Bishops were asked to mention other handicaps which the individual might have. This

left much room for a broad definition of a "handicap". Some types of illness listed as handicaps might not ordinarily be considered as such. The individual who filled out the questionnaire was probably in the best position to know whether the disorder which the individual had was functioning as a handicap.

Tables 2-6 (See appendix) deal with the number and percentage of members considered to have handicaps, as well as the types of handicaps had. It will be noted that there is a distinct change in the prevalent types of handicaps when the 21-40 age group is reached. The over-all picture seems to show that less than one-fifth of the males and less than one-sixth of the females are hampered by "other" handicaps which might prohibit still further their ability to find employment.

Amount of Formal Education Obtained by Members

The amount of education obtained by an individual often helps to determine his economic status. On lines nine through twelve of the questionnaire, the question concerning the amount of formal education obtained by the member was asked. Tables 25-26 show the information about the education of members as it was obtained from the questionnaires. Table 25 gives the educational status of the total members included in the survey. Every member, even though not of school age, is included here.

In Table 26, the information is reported by age groups starting with the 12-20 group. Since those between the ages of 5 and 11 would fall in the less-than-eighth-grade category, it would be neither helpful nor

TABLE 25

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF TOTAL GROUP OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Classification	Number	Percentage of Total Group
Less than 8th Grade	196	29.08
8th Grade	114	16.91
Less than High School Grad.	77	11.42
High School Graduate	123	18.25
College		
One Year	9	1.34
Two Years	13	1.93
Three Years	9	1.34
Four Years	4	.59
Graduate	31	4.60
Master's Degree	8	1.14
Doctor's Degree	5	.74
Vocational Training	16	2.37
No Answer	69	10.24

TABLE 26

EDUCATIONAL STATUS OF BLIND MEMBERS OF L.D.S. CHURCH
ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

Classification	Male Members		Female Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
12-20				
Less than 8th Grade	5	35.71	4	23.53
8th Grade	5	35.71	3	17.65
Less than High School Graduate	2	14.29	3	17.65
High School Grad.	1	7.15	5	29.41
College				
One Year	..	..	..	..
Two Years	..	..	..	..
Three Years	..	..	2	11.77
Graduate	..	..	..	..
Vocational Training	1	7.15	..	..

TABLE 26 (Cont.)

Classification	Male Members		Female Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
21-40				
No Answer	3	4.23	4	9.30
Less than 8th Grade	7	9.86	7	16.28
8th Grade	4	5.63	2	4.65
Less than High School Graduate	9	12.68	6	13.95
High School Grad.	24	33.80	12	27.91
College				
One Year	1	1.41	1	2.33
Two Years	5	7.04	1	2.33
Three Years	1	1.41	1	2.33
Four Years	1	1.41	1	2.33
Graduate	12	16.90	4	9.30
Master's Degree	3	4.23	..	..
Vocational Training	1	1.41	4	9.30
41-60				
No Answer	6	7.14	7	13.73
Less than 8th Grade	8	9.52	3	5.88
8th Grade	12	14.29	13	25.49
Less than High School Graduate	18	21.42	5	9.80
High School Grad.	21	25.00	15	29.41
College				
One Year	1	1.19	..	..
Two Years	..	..	1	1.96
Three Years	2	2.38	..	..
Graduate	7	8.33	3	5.88
Master's Degree	2	2.38	1	1.96
Doctor's Degree	4	4.76	..	..
Vocational Training	3	3.57	3	5.88

TABLE 26 (Cont.)

Classification	Male Members		Female Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
	Over 60			
No Answer	22	14.10	24	13.28
Less than 8th Grade	45	28.85	63	35.39
8th Grade	33	21.15	41	23.03
Less than High School Graduate	17	10.90	16	8.99
High School Grad.	20	12.82	24	13.48
College				
One Year	4	2.56	2	1.12
Two Years	3	1.94	3	1.69
Three Years	1	.64	2	1.12
Four Years	2	1.28	..	..
Graduate	4	2.56	1	.56
Master's Degree	1	.64	1	.56
Doctor's Degree	1	.64	1	.56
Vocational Training	3	1.94	1	.56

necessary to compile a table for this group.

It will be noted that as the age group increases from the base of 21-40, those obtaining 8th grade or less-than-eighth-grade education increase markedly. This is to be expected since our educational standards have improved considerably during the last 50 years.¹⁴

Employment

One of the most valuable, if not the most valuable, index of

¹⁴ Information was not available to make comparison possible between the education obtained by the blind persons in this survey and the education received by the population as a whole.

economic condition is the amount, type, and distribution of employment within the group.

In Tables 7 and 8 (See appendix), the number of those who are employed full-time, part-time, or not employed at all, is shown. These tables are made up for both males and females including everyone from the age of 12 through the "over-60" age group. Although the Table showing the employment of the females is valuable because of the information found there, the area of the most interest in the tables will be found in the male group between the ages of 21 and 60, because those either under or over these ages would find employment especially difficult to obtain.

Table 7 is particularly interesting for the groups covering those males who are 21-60, since there are 32.65% of these members who are not employed. If it were assumed that all of the members between the ages of 21 and 60 who had "other" handicaps were unemployable, and if that number (20.79% of the group) were subtracted from the number of the group who are not employed, the percentage remaining would be 11.86%. It is doubtful, however, if the handicaps listed in Table 6 in the Appendix would prohibit employment of one type or another. (The unemployment figure for 1958 for the nation was 6.8%).¹⁵

Although there are many who are not employed, it is interesting to see the variety of work which is being accomplished by those who do

¹⁵ Statistical Abstracts of the U.S., National Data Book, 83rd Ed., 1960, p. 215.

have employment. Tables 9-12 (see appendix) give the type and distribution of employment engaged in by the members.

It will be apparent that some of the jobs listed do not clearly describe the activity in which the member is engaged. This is because the types of employment listed in Tables 9-12 in the appendix have been copied directly from the questionnaires, and no further information is available.

Spouse Working to Support Family

It was felt that it would be helpful to know whether the spouse was working to support the family. This would be particularly important for the wives of the male members, since it would be assumed that the husbands of the female members would be working to support their families.

Table 27 shows that the greatest occurrence of wives of the members working is in the 41-60 male group. Also in Table 27, it is of interest that approximately one-fourth of the husbands of members do not work to support their families.

The "no-age-given" group is tabulated, but since there are so few members in the group, it is impossible to use the material except as it pertains to the entire survey.

When the information in the next few sections is studied, it will help to clarify the previous data, especially that which is in Tables 7-12 in the appendix.

TABLE 27

NO. OF HUSBANDS OR WIVES OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
WORKING TO SUPPORT THE FAMILY

Age Group Classification	Number Working	Percentage of Group
21-40 Male	9	22.50
21-40 Female	22	75.86
41-60 Male	31	41.33
41-60 Female	25	75.53
Over-60 Male	17	17.89
Over-60 Female	18	47.37
No-Age-Given Female	1	50.00

Economic Self-Sufficiency of Members and Families

In this section, two questions in the questionnaire have been combined to make the information more meaningful. On lines twenty and twenty-one, two questions were asked:

1. Is member self-supporting?, and
2. Is family self-supported?

In studying the following Table, (No. 28), it will be necessary to understand that the information found there is probably somewhat distorted because of a possible problem in defining the word "family". To some it might mean the immediate conjugal family, and to others, the paternal family.

Table 28 shows by age groups the number and percentage of members and the number and percentage of families who are self-supporting. In all cases except the "no-age" group and the females over 60 for which no information was given, the number of families who are self-supporting

exceeds the number of members who are self-supporting.

TABLE 28
ECONOMIC SELF-SUFFICIENCY OF MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH (Blind)

Age Group Classification	Members Self-Supt.		Families Self-Supt.	
	No.	%	No.	%
12-20 Male	2	14.28	4	28.56
21-40 Male	29	40.85	35	49.30
21-40 Female	5	11.63	24	55.81
41-60 Male	38	45.24	52	61.90
41-60 Female	9	17.65	31	60.78
Over-60 Male	62	39.74	72	46.15
Over-60 Female	80	44.94	..	..
No-Age-Given Male	2	50.00	..	..
No-Age-Given Female	1	50.00	1	50.00

Relief

Thus far in this Chapter, other handicaps, education, employment of members, whether the spouse works to support the family, and economic self-sufficiency of the members and families, have been discussed. All of these areas are important in gaining an understanding of the economic status of the blind member.

It is important to remember that although a member may be employed, his employment might not provide sufficient economic means to make him self-sufficient. Thus, he must rely on some type of relief. In Tables 29-32, the number of members who are on relief, as well as the types of relief which they receive is shown.

Because there was no one under the age of 21 who was reported to be on relief, the Tables show the age groups, starting with the 21-40 group.

TABLE 29
BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH ON RELIEF

Age Group	Male Members		Female Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
21-40	31	43.66	13	30.23
41-60	27	32.14	14	27.45
Over 60	80	51.28	93	52.25
No Age	2	50.00	..	..

Table 29 gives the total number and percentage who are on relief in age groups. The percentage was obtained by dividing the total number in each age group into the number who were on relief in each age group.

It will be seen that in all but one group, more males than females are on relief. The exception is in the females who are over 60. As might be expected, those over 60 have the highest number and percentages on relief. Those between the ages of 21-40 have the next highest percentage, thus leaving the 41-60 group with the lowest percentage of members on relief.

In Table 30, the total number of members on relief has been divided into types of relief received. The number and percentage of members

receiving a given type of relief is shown.

TABLE 30

TOTAL NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH RECEIVING DIFFERENT TYPES OF RELIEF

Types of Relief	Number	Percentage Based on Total on Relief
State	120	46.15
Church	17	6.54
Family	44	16.92
Other	2	.77
No Answer	1	.58
Combinations	78	29.25
Total	260	..

Table 31 is the same as Table 30 except that the information has been given according to age groups.

In every age group for both males and females, the type of relief most often received is State Relief. In all age groups, the combinations, (those receiving two or more types of relief), rank second. A breakdown of the different combination types of relief appears later. The family and Church rank next in the types of relief received.

Table 31 shows the types of combinations of relief received by the members.

Employment Received Through Ward or Stake Welfare

Questions were asked as to whether the member had received employment through the Ward or Stake Welfare Program, and if so, how this was accomplished. This was done in order to obtain some idea as to

TABLE 31

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
RECEIVING RELIEF ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

Type of Relief	Male Members		Female Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
	21-40			
State	15	48.39	7	53.85
Family	5	16.13	2	15.38
Church	3	9.68	1	7.69
Combinations	7	22.58	3	23.08
Other	1	3.23	..	..
	41-60			
State	16	59.26	6	42.86
Church	1	3.70	2	14.29
Family	2	7.41	1	7.14
Combinations	8	29.63	5	35.71
	Over 60			
State	41	51.25	34	36.56
Church	5	6.25	5	5.38
Family	8	10.00	25	26.88
Combinations	26	32.50	27	29.03
Other	..	..	1	1.08
No Answer	..	..	1	1.08
	No Age			
State	1	50.00	..	..
Family	1	50.00	..	..

TABLE 32

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
RECEIVING TWO OR MORE TYPES OF RELIEF ACCORDING TO AGE GROUPS

Type of Combination	Male Members		Female Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
21-40				
State and Family	2	28.57	1	33.33
Church and State	2	28.57	..	..
Church and Family	1	14.29	..	..
State and Other	1	14.29	..	..
Church, Family, & Other	1	14.29	..	..
State, Family, & Friends	..	..	1	33.33
Church, State, & Family	..	..	1	33.33
41-60				
State and Family	1	12.50	1	20.00
Church and State	3	37.50	2	40.00
Church and Family	2	25.00	2	40.00
Church, Family, & Other	1	12.50	..	..
State and Other	1	12.50	..	..
Over 60				
State and Family	11	42.31	14	51.85
Church and Family	5	19.23	3	11.11
State and Other	3	11.54	..	..
Church and Other	2	7.69	2	7.41
Church and State	2	7.69	2	7.41
Family and Other	1	3.85	1	3.70
Family and Friends	1	3.85	..	..
Church and friends	..	..	1	3.70
Church, State, and Family	..	..	3	11.11

how the Welfare Program has aided the blind members.

Table 33 gives the number and percentage in each age group who have received employment from the Ward or Stake Welfare Program. The highest number occurs in the 41-60 Female Group in which 9.80% of this group have received employment through the Church Welfare Program.

TABLE 33

EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
OBTAINED THROUGH WARD AND STAKE WELFARE PROGRAM

Age Group	Number	Percentage of Age Group
Male 21-40	4	5.63
Female 21-40	1	2.33
Male 41-60	4	4.76
Female 41-60	5	9.80
Male Over 60	7	4.49
Female Over 60	..	..

Table 34 gives a list and distribution of the types of employment which have been provided through the program and are thus engaged in by the members. Some of the types of help which have been listed are somewhat vague, but they have been copied directly from the questionnaires.

Members Living on Farms

In Chapter IV, Table 6, the urban-rural distribution of members is given. The distribution of members living on farms was left until

TABLE 34

TYPES OF EMPLOYMENT GIVEN TO BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
THROUGH WARD OR STAKE WELFARE PROGRAM

Type of Employment*	Number Engaged in Employment
Advertising from Pulpit and Paper	1
Baby Sitting	3
Bishop's Storehouse	2
Canning	2
Chicken Business Through Quorum	1
Custodian	1
Deseret Industries	1
Deseret Industries Solicitor	1
Janitorial Work and Typing	1
Odd Jobs	1
Regional Warehouse	1
Welfare House	1
Welfare Square	1

*Although some of the questionnaires stated that employment had been received through the Ward or Stake Program, some of these positions were not specified.

now because it is assumed that those members who live on farms, especially from the age of 21 on, receive at least some part of their economic subsistence from the farm. Table 35 gives the distribution of members living on farms with the youngest age group shown being the 21-40 group.

In this Table, the number of males and females in each age group is given and the percentage of members living on farms was obtained using the total number of members in each group as the base figure.

It will be seen that as the age increases, the percentage of members on farms also increases. This may indicate that there is enough economic security on the farm to provide for the members. It will be

remembered that the type of employment having the highest number employed is farming.

TABLE 35
NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
LIVING ON FARMS

Age Group	No. of Male Members On Farms	No. of Female Members On Farms	Total % On Farms
21-40	7	3	8.77
41-60	8	5	9.63
Over 60	20	30	14.97
No Age	..	1	16.67

Type of Residence Occupied by Members

In Table 36 appears the answers to the following question:

"Does member live with: parents, friends, in own home, or other?"

Because no response was made to this question by any of the members under the age of 12, the Table starts with the 12-20 age group. The percentages given are based on individual age groups. The no-age group all live in their own home, so this group was not included.

TABLE 36

TYPES OF RESIDENCES OCCUPIED BY BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Type of Residence	Male Members		Female Members	
	No.	%	No.	%
12-20				
Parents	12	85.71	15	88.24
Own Home	..	..	1	5.88
Other*	2	14.29	1	5.88
21-40				
Parents	23	32.39	7	16.28
Friends	3	4.22	1	2.33
Own Home	39	54.93	33	76.74
Other	5	7.04	2	4.65
No Answer	1	1.41	..	..
41-60				
Parents	4	4.76	7	13.73
Own Home	75	89.29	39	76.47
Other	5	5.95	5	9.80
Over 60				
Family	15	9.61	44	24.72
Friends	3	1.92	2	1.12
Own Home	124	79.49	117	65.73
Other	13	8.33	14	7.87
No Answer	1	.64	1	.56

*The "Other" Classification here was specified on the questionnaires as Grandparents' home, and American Fork Training School.

This Chapter has reported the economic status of the blind members of the L.D.S. Church included in this study. The information may be of value as improved ways of giving aid to the blind members of the Church and society, are sought.

CHAPTER VI

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In this survey, it would seem that some goals were accomplished while others were not. However, all of the information gained may have some value. Time alone will tell.

The first goal was to send out a questionnaire that would be answered and returned by a majority of the L.D.S. Bishops. Since 85.89% of the questionnaires were returned, it would seem that this part of the plan was fairly successful.

The second purpose was to obtain the number of blind members who belong to the Church. Here there is some doubt as to the completeness of this part of the plan. It is estimated that in the United States there are two people per thousand who are blind. If the population of the Stakes and Wards in the Church in the middle of 1958 stood at about 1,300,000 (writer's estimate), the approximate number of blind in the Stakes of the L.D.S. Churches would be around 2,600. This would mean that the survey was able to find about one-fourth of the total number of blind L.D.S. members.¹⁶ It would seem from the comparatively low percentage of blind members found, that there would have to be some reason for this difference. It is possible that two

¹⁶ According to information obtained from the files of the Utah Commission for the Blind, approximately 100 persons were L.D.S. in the Weber County area in 1958. The number listed in the survey showed 36 over 12 years of age in the Weber County area. This would indicate that there were approximately three times as many L.D.S. blind persons in Weber Co. as were reported in the survey.

reasons for this difference are:

1. The Bishop's lack of knowledge of the blind members in their Wards, and
2. The fact that the members do not know or are not willing to recognize the fact that they are blind.

It certainly could be a combination of these two, plus other factors. It is also possible that those filling out the questionnaire did not understand the meaning of blindness.

Although information was received on possibly only one-fourth of the estimated number of blind members in the Church, it would appear that a good sample group was obtained.

In a recent report,¹⁷ the following information was given: There are now 355,000 blind people in the United States. One-half of these blind in the United States are over 65. There are 55,000 persons under the age of 21 who are blind, and 35,000 blind persons who are employed.¹⁸

It must be emphasized that there are no complete figures available on the number of blind in the nation, and this is the best estimate that is available.

The information obtained from the survey would tend to substantiate the estimates given. One might conclude, therefore, that either this study presents a good sample group, or the national es-

¹⁷ Carroll, Rev. Thomas, Meaning of Blindness, A Report to the Vocational and Rehabilitation Workers of the Physically Handicapped, Salt Lake City, March 19, 1961.

¹⁸ These figures apply only to the United States of America.

timate is too high.

The Third purpose was to gain some idea about the social and economic status of the blind members in the L.D.S. Church. The writer feels that this purpose has been achieved, at least in part. All of the information in Chapters IV and V is helpful in giving some idea of the social and economic conditions of the Blind. Those who read this study may draw their own conclusions as to its value, but the writer would like to call attention to two particular areas in Chapter V.

In Tables 9-12 in the Appendix, the types of employment engaged in by those members covered in the survey are listed. The variety of work which is being done is very broad. It is sometimes difficult to conceive of someone, who is blind, actively following the profession of an electrician, but that is what is being done by one member of the survey. Another member is a biochemist. There is also the member who is a Hod Carrier. The old idea that blind people can follow but three or four types of work is challenged. It must be assumed that the limits of what can be done workwise are often set only by the human mind. This limitation is two-fold in nature:

1. What can be done, and
2. How can it be accomplished?

The answers are not always easily available, but apparently some can be found. If the great excess of blind who are not employed is to be reduced to an appropriate size, the blind man who comes in with an idea cannot consistently be turned away with a continual "no" or "You can't do that." Of course, it is necessary to get the individual

and the job opportunity together. This is not always easy. This leads to the next area of Chapter V.

The Church, through the Welfare Program, is attempting to help its members who have difficulty finding employment obtain the necessary employment for their economic sustenance. The highest number of members who were reported to have been helped by the Welfare Program were the Females between 41-60. 9.8% of these people have been helped. There are at least two reasons why more help was not available through the Welfare Plan:

1. The members of the Church may not have taken advantage of the possibilities which the program offers, and
2. The Welfare Committees in the Wards and Stakes have not been educated to the problems of, as well as the possibilities for, the blind members.

It seems to the writer that there is much room for further study in many of the areas discussed in these pages. It must be recognized for example, that the view we have of ourselves, and the view that others have of us may be entirely different. It is most probable that each has much to offer in gaining understanding. In this survey, only one side has been presented - - the side that the Bishops have been able to observe. Were the blind members to be contacted personally, the story might be entirely different.

It is hoped that the information, or lack of information as the case may be, will promote more and better studies of the blind members of the L.D.S. Church and society in general, their problems, and what to do about them.

APPENDIX I

SAMPLE QUESTIONNAIRE

A SURVEY OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Please fill in the following information (one sheet for each blind member) to the best of your ability by placing a check in the space following the most nearly correct answer, or by writing in the information where it is called for. Blindness is defined legally as 20 over 200 in the best eye, with corrective lenses. For the purpose of this survey, the blind, in addition to the totally blind, will include those who cannot see well enough to consistently do their own reading, who because of impairment of sight cannot travel alone safely and well, or who have serious difficulty in being employed because of lack of vision.

* * * * *

1. Name of Ward _____ Stake _____ Branch _____
2. Name of Bishop _____ Branch President _____
3. Are there blind members in your ward or branch? Yes ___ No ___ How many? _____
4. Name of blind member _____
5. Address _____
6. Blind member is: Male ___ Female ___. Has other major physical handicap: Yes ___ No ___
7. Specify handicap: _____ No ___
8. Approximate age: Under 5 ___ 5/11 ___ 12/20 ___ 21/40 ___ 41/60 ___ Over 60 ___
9. How much education has member completed: Less than 8th Grade ___ 8th Grade ___
10. less than high school graduate ___ High School Graduate ___ College: 1 ___ 2 ___
11. 3 ___ 4 ___ College graduate ___ Masters Degree ___ Doctors Degree ___ Vocational Training ___
12. (check one or more)
13. Marital status: Single ___ Married ___ Divorced ___ Remarried ___ Widowed ___ Separated ___
14. Type of marriage: Temple ___ Civil ___
15. Spouse is blind ___ Spouse has sight ___. Some of children are blind: Yes ___
16. How many ___ No ___
17. Number of children: 0 ___ 2 ___ 3 ___ 4 ___ 5 ___ 6 ___ 7 ___ 8 ___ 9 ___ 10 ___ More than 10 ___
(check one)
18. Is blind member employed? Full time ___ Part time ___ Not at all ___
19. What kind of employment is member engaged in? _____
20. Does this employment provide enough income so that member is self-supporting
21. without additional aid? Yes ___ No ___ Likewise, is family self-supported? Yes ___ No ___
22. Does member receive his support from being on relief? Yes ___ No ___ Is this
23. relief: Church ___ State ___ Family ___ Friends ___ Other ___. Does spouse work to
24. support the family? Yes ___ No ___. Has member received employment through
25. your Ward or Stake Welfare Program? Yes ___ No ___. If "yes", how was this
accomplished? _____
26. Does member live with: Parents ___ Friends ___ In own home ___ Other ___
27. Is this area of residence: Rural (under population of 2,500) Urban
28. (population over 2,500) ___ If member lives in a rural area, does he live
on a farm? Yes ___ No ___
29. Does member use aids in moving about? Seeing eye dog ___ White cane ___ Other ___
30. Does blind person attend Church regularly? Yes ___ No ___
31. If member is male, what priesthood does he hold? None ___ Deacon ___
32. Teacher ___ Priest ___ Elder ___ Seventy ___ High Priest ___
33. If member now holds Ward or Stake Positions, please state what position
or positions held: _____

NOTE: If more questionnaires are to be mailed you, how many are needed? _____

APPENDIX II

ADDITIONAL TABLES

TABLE 1

MALE-FEMALE DISTRIBUTION OF THE BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH
IN THE VARIOUS AGE GROUPS

Age Group	Total No.	Male Members		Female Members	
		No.	%	No.	%
Under 5	20	11	55.00	9	45.00
5-11	34	13	38.24	21	61.76
12-20	31	14	45.16	17	54.84
21-40	114	71	62.28	43	37.72
41-60	135	84	62.22	51	37.78
Over 60	334	156	46.71	178	53.29
No Age Given	6	4	66.67	2	33.33
Total	674	353		321	

TABLE 2

BLIND MALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH WITH "OTHER" HANDICAPS

Name of Handicap	Number With Handicap	Percentage of Age Group
Under 5		
Mentally Retarded	1	9.09
5-11		
Mentally Retarded	2	15.28
Retarded Growth	1	7.69
Multiple Sclerosis	1	7.69

TABLE 2 (Cont.)

Name of Handicap	Number With Handicap	Percentage of Age Group
12-20		
Mentally Retarded	1	5.88
Diabetes	1	5.88
Improper Coordination	1	5.88
21-40		
Sugar Diabetes	4	5.63
Crippled	4	5.63
Hearing Loss	2	2.82
Mental Retardation	2	2.82
Muscular Incoordination	2	2.82
Epilepsy	1	1.41
Heart Condition	1	1.41
41-60		
Deafness	5	5.95
Diabetes	5	5.95
Arthritic	2	2.38
Crippled	2	2.38
Brain Tumor	1	1.19
Multiple Sclerosis	1	1.19
Over 60		
Crippled	10	6.41
Deafness	7	4.49
Heart Condition	4	2.56
Diabetes	3	1.92
Arthritis	2	1.28
Leg Amputated	2	1.28
Cancer	1	.64
Loss of Both Hands	1	.64

TABLE 2 (Cont.)

Name of Handicap	Number With Handicaps	Percentage of Age Group
No-Age-Given		
Paralysis	2	50.00

TABLE 3

BLIND FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH WITH "OTHER" HANDICAPS

Name of Handicap	Number With Handicaps	Percentage of Age Groups
Under 5		
Mentally Retarded	1	11.11
5-11		
Mentally Retarded	1	4.76
Cerebral Palsy	1	4.76
Speech Impairment	1	4.76
12-20		
Speech Defect	4	28.57
Mentally Retarded	1	7.14

TABLE 3 (Cont.)

Name of Handicap	Number With Handicap	Percentage of Age Group
21-40		
Diabetes	4	9.28
Partially Deaf	2	4.65
Mental Disorder	1	2.32
Spastic	1	2.32
41-60		
Crippled	3	5.88
Diabetes	3	5.88
Hearing Loss	1	1.96
Heart Condition	1	1.96
Nervous Condition	1	1.96
Over 60		
Deafness	8	4.49
Arthritis	7	3.93
Diabetes	5	2.81
Heart Condition	4	2.24
Asthma	1	.56
Cancer	1	.56
Leg Amputated	1	.56
Senile	1	.56

TABLE 4

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF "OTHER" HANDICAPS OF BLIND MALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Name of Handicap	Number With Handicap	Percentage of Total Age Group
Crippled	16	4.53
Deafness	14	3.97
Diabetes	13	3.68
Mentally Retarded	6	1.60
Heart Condition	5	1.42
Arthritis	4	1.13
Improper Coordination	2	.57
Leg Amputated	2	.57
Multiple Sclerosis	2	.57
Brain Tumor	1	.28
Cancer	1	.28
Epilepsy	1	.28
Hands Amputated	1	.28
Paralysis	1	.28
Retarded Physical Growth	1	.28
Total	70	19.82

TABLE 5

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF "OTHER" HANDICAPS OF BLIND FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Name of Handicap	Number With Handicap	Percentage of Total Age Group
Diabetes	12	3.86
Arthritis	7	2.25
Heart Condition	5	1.61
Speech Impairment	5	1.61
Crippled	4	1.29
Mentally Retarded	4	1.29
Hearing Loss	3	.96
Asthma	1	.32
Cancer	1	.32
Cerebral Palsy	1	.32
Leg Amputated	1	.32
Nervous Condition	1	.32
Senile	1	.32
Spastic	1	.32
Total	47	15.11

TABLE 6

TOTAL NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF "OTHER" HANDICAPS OF BLIND MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Name of Handicap	Number With Handicap	Percentage of Total Group
Diabetes	25	3.71
Crippled	20	2.97
Hearing Loss	17	2.52
Arthritis	11	1.63
Mentally Retarded	10	1.48
Heart Condition	10	1.48
Speech Impairment	5	.74
Improper Coordination	3	.45
Leg Amputated	3	.45
Cancer	2	.30
Multiple Sclerosis	2	.30
Asthma	1	.15
Brain Tumor	1	.15
Cancer	1	.15
Cerebral Palsy	1	.15
Epilepsy	1	.15
Hands Amputated	1	.15
Nervous Condition	1	.15
Paralysis	1	.15
Senile	1	.15
Total	117	17.23

TABLE 7

EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND MALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Classification	Number	Percentage of Age Group
	12-20	
Part-time	..	..
Full-time	2	14.28
Not Employed	12	85.72

TABLE 7 (Cont.)

Classification	Number	Percentage of Age Group
21-40		
Part-time	14	19.72
Full-time	30	42.25
Student	6	8.45
Not Employed	21	29.58
41-60		
Part-time	17	20.24
Full-time	36	42.86
Not Employed	30	35.71
No Answer	1	1.19
Over 60		
Part-time	6	3.85
Full-time	18	11.54
Not Employed	131	83.97
No Answer	1	.64
No-Age-Given Group		
Not Employed	4	100.00
21-60		
Part-time	31	19.98
Full-time	66	42.56
Student	6	4.22
Not Employed	51	32.65
No Answer	1	.59

TABLE 7 (Cont.)

Classification	Number	Percentage of Age Group
Total Male Group		
Part-time	37	11.25
Full-time	86	26.14
Student	6	1.82
Not Employed	51	32.65
No Answer	2	.61

TABLE 8

EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Classification	Number	Percentage of Age Group
12-20		
Part-time Student	3	17.65
Not Employed	14	82.35
21-40		
Part-time	9	20.93
Full-time	4	9.30
Not Employed	30	69.77
41-60		
Part-time	8	15.69
Full-time	5	9.80
Not Employed	38	74.51

TABLE 8 (Cont.)

Classification	Number	Percentage of Age Group
Over 60		
Part-time	1	.56
Full-time	2	1.12
Not Employed	172	96.63
No Answer	3	1.69
No-Age-Given Group		
Full-time	1	50.00
Not Employed	1	50.00

TABLE 9

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND MALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Type of Employment	Number Engaging in Employment
Attorney	4
Bakery Worker	1
Biochemist	1
Blind Center Worker	1
Blind Workshop Supervisor	1
Broom Maker	1
Candy Stand Manager	7
Chiropractor	1
Church Custodian	1
Clothing Manufacturing	1
Creamery Worker	1
Deputy Sheriff	1

TABLE 9 (Cont.)

Type of Employment	Number Engaging in Employment
Deseret Industries	2
Diesel Engineer	1
Dish Washer	1
Editor of Church Periodical	1
Electrician	1
Electronics Industry Worker	1
Factory Worker	1
Farmer	17
Floral Business	1
Government Employed	1
Government Wholesale	1
Grocery Store Owner	2
Head of Dept. for Education of Blind	1
Hill Air Force Base	1
Hod Carrier Bricklayer Helper	1
Jeweler	1
Labor Missionary	1
Manager of Blind Manufacturing Concern	1
Masseur	1
Mining	1
Musician and Tuner	1
Naturopathic Physician	1
Newspaper Seller	1
Osteopathic Physician	2
Radio Repair	1
Retail Work	1
Salesman	10
School Teacher	2
Service Station Operator	1
Shoe Repair	1
State District Judge	1
Street Entertainer	1
Supervisory Job	1
Weaver	1

TABLE 10

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND MALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Type of Employment	Number Engaging in Employment
Audio-Engineer TV	1
Bishop's Storehouse	1
Blind Center Worker	2
Candy & Newstand Manager	2
Caretaker & Custodian	1
Delivering Papers, Loading Bread Truck	1
Farm Labor	1
Farming	2
Justice of Peace	1
Laborer	1
Leathercraft Worker	1
Lecturer	1
Masseur	1
Musician	5
Night Watchman	1
Owms Accounting Firm	1
Packaging and Shipping	1
Painting Price Signs	1
Piecework Through Braille Institute	1
Rehabilitating Furniture	1
Rabbit Raising	1
Selling	3
Sheep Business	1
Street Entertainer & Upholsterer	1

TABLE 11

FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Type of Employment	Number Engaging in Employment
Blind Center Worker	2
Home Teacher	1
Housework	1
Ranching	1
Street Entertainer	1
Vending Stand Manager	4
Nursery School Teacher for Blind	1

TABLE 12

PART-TIME EMPLOYMENT OF BLIND FEMALE MEMBERS OF THE L.D.S. CHURCH

Type of Employment	Number Engaging in Employment
Apt. House Owner	1
Baby Tender and Houseworker	1
Blind Center Worker	3
Candy Stand Operator	1
Cashier	1
Greeting Card Business	1
Masseuse	1
Musician	1
Physiotherapist	1
Piano Teacher	1
Selling	1
Telephone Service	1
Typing and Home Laundry	1

APPENDIX III

NAMES AND ADDRESSES OF MEMBERS OF THE SURVEY

The following is a list of the names and addresses of the members of the survey. It will be noted that there are not 674 names listed. This is because not all of the questionnaires contained this information

Members Under 5

Anderson, Michael Leland
874 Prinsettia Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah

Bates, Larry G.
2802 Village Rd., Long Beach, California

Belnap Carlo Jo
Rt. 1, Meridian, Idaho

Belnap, Edith Lorriane
Rt. 1, Meridian, Idaho

Blatter, Lynda
1557 w Ave. H-8, Lancaster, California

Chabot, Mark Allen
617 South West 107th, Seattle, Washington

Davis, Darlene
Millwood, Georgia

Etherington, Wendie
565 Sherwood Drive, Layton, Utah

Henderson, Paul Ray
204 County Road, Evanston, Wyoming

Hicks, Danny
705 So. Concord St., Salt Lake City, Utah

Johnson, Dale A.
Rt. 2, Box 280, Moses Lake, Washington

Michiewicz, Russell
232 Parsons Dr., Port Hueneme, California

Poor, Le Ann
3125 So. 1640 East Street, Wilford, Wyoming

Reid, Nancy
St. John, Utah

Rosser, Russell H.
335 Reed Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah

Toomer, Kim Kay
291 West 1st South, Rigby, Idaho

Westmoreland II, James Ray
1941 Wall Ave., Ogden, Utah

Yancey, Steven James
4215 Rainbow Drive, Missoula Montana

Members 5-11

Allen, Mary Maureen
3455 N. 49th Ave., Glendale, Arizona

Ball, Jeffrey Alan
1020 Capstrano Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah

Brewer, Deborah Lynn
10212 35th S.W., Seattle 66, Washington

Brown, Dianne
1388 Richards St., Salt Lake City, Utah

Bushman, Daniel Lyman
545 W. 2nd Place, Maricopa, Arizona

Cleverly, Charlotte Ann
813 Idaho Street, Gooding, Idaho

Fielding, Ellen
35 So. 150 E., Orem, Utah

Fox, Lynette
1575 North State, Orem, Utah

Griffin, Thomas Allen
16507 Tribune St., Granada Hills, California

Hampson, Murray Haven
9901 32nd South West, Seattle 66, Washington

Hiatt Darrell Bryant
4074 W. 5580 So, Kearns 18, Utah

Holbrook Richard
699 Chester St., Ogden, Utah

Hughes, Ricky
Teton, Idaho

Jensen, Jo Ann
5601 So. 4170 West, Kearns 18, Utah

Jensen, Mary Ann
5601 So. 4170 West Kearns 18, Utah

Kracht, James Kurt
1558 Siesta Drive, Los Altos, California

Kracht, Sandra Jone
1558 Siesta Dr., Los Altos, California

Krantz, Debra Linda
612 W. 15 So, Bountiful, Utah

Lee, Ben
New Mexico School for Visually Handicapped, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Levine, Judy
601 East 4800 So., Sandy, Utah

Lewis Pamela Gaye
807 Beach, Klamath, Oregon

Lloyd, Wanda
Pingree, Idaho

Ostlund, Judith Lynn
512 W. Kaler Drive, Phoenix, Arizona

Perenzin, Linda Kay
112 SE, 95th, Vancouver, Washington

Reeder, Linda
4498 S. 2350 W., Roy, Utah

Rowe, Roger
McCammon, Idaho

Smith, Peggy
3050 A Walnut St., Los Alamos, New Mexico

Tuttle, Jerry Deloy
West Jordan, Utah

Voss, Robin G.
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Walton, Richard Allen
154 Leslie Avenue, Salt Lake City, Utah

Warrick, Linda Kay
R.F.D. 3, Rupert, Idaho

Watts, Lynn Lucille
15582 4th St., Victorville, California

White, Jeffry
1450 So. 9th West, Salt Lake City, Utah

Zentner, Teresa Ruth
1575 North State, Orem, Utah

Members 12-20

Allen, Billie Ruth
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Banks, Ellen
266 East Main, Lehi, Utah

Bayles, Evesue
1356 Michigan Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah

Clegg, Carolyn Louise
3111 South 1845 East, Wilford, Wyoming

Donohoe, Eldon
33 No. 5th West, Logan, Utah

Dyer, Donna Rae
N.M. School for Visually Handicapped, Alamogordo, New Mexico

Emory, Dennis Ray
199 W. Shelley, Idaho Falls, Idaho

Gaither, Devona Jolene
30 Esther Street, Pasadena, California

Goodrich, Betty Florene
2450 Fisher Lane, Salt Lake City, Utah

Gordon, David Kent
81 South 1st West, Tooele, Utah

Graversen, Patty Jo
409 W. 12th St., Kennewick, Washington

Hall, Dennis
2 N 3 W., Rigby, Idaho

Lake, Vickie
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Monson, Jo Ann
124 W. 7065 So., Midvale, Utah

Monteer, Dennis
1315 8th So., Salt Lake City, Utah

Muhlestein, Joyce
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Porter, Donna
Devils Slide, Utah

Rasband, Noel
332 West Center, Heber, Utah

Sheldon, Louise
2608 E. Roy St., Seattle, Washington

Skenzick, Dorothy Leigh
11346 NE Davis, Portland, Oregon

Stewart, Kenneth
Route 1, Gooding, Idaho

Tait, Charlotte
Ogden, Utah

Tait, Joan
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Torgerson, Gerald Wayne
Sigurd, Utah

Ward, Diane Vander
5368 Campo Road, Woodland Hills, California

Ward, Eugene
6180 So. 1700 West Murray 7, Utah

Wilbur, Richard Dean
3186 Harrison, Ogden, Utah

Members 21-40

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Koosharem, Utah

Baker, Frank Harding
92 7th St., San Francisco, California

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3214 South 23rd East, Salt Lake City, Utah

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649 So. 5th West, Brigham City, Utah

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1510 E. Clark, Pocatello, Idaho

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Cantley, Alean
Milford, Utah

Chase, Ralph
Rt. 1, Emmett, Idaho

Child, Austin R.
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Christiansen, John O.
Beaver, Utah

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Cruser, Lynn
Terreton, Idaho

Cunliffe, Naon
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Dahle, VaNon
Clarkston, Utah

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Devey, Eva L.
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Forbush, Harold
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Frellis, Jean Scott
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Hicks, Willard Allen
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Penrod, Vern Alfred
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Perry, Dorothy Lavene
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Wall, Verl
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Toquerville, Utah

Lamb, Geneive
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6261 Penrod, Detroit 28, Michigan

Nielson, Archie
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Ostberg, Anna
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L.D.S. College, Auckland, New Zealand

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Parcell, Mrs. Joseph
885 No. 100 W., Orem, Utah

Penrod, Owen R.
Delco, Idaho

Pesetto, Zella
336 E. 55 No., Provo, Utah

Peterson, George W.
1112 Eastman, Boise, Idaho

Platt, Vernon H.
5651 S. 8th St., Phoenix, Arizona

Pope, Clarence G.
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Popham, Carrie
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Rasmussen, Elmer
1213 Browning, Salt Lake City, Utah

Rasmussen, Vernie
1213 Downing, Salt Lake City, Utah

Ray, Frances Valoy
887 American Beauty Drive, Salt Lake City, Utah

Reber, Lyman
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Reeder, David Glen
1636 Mary Lou, San Diego, California

Ridges, Melvin
Salt Lake City, Utah

Riggs, Fredrick Alvin
4953 Maplewood Ave., Los Angeles 4, California

Robinson, David Delbert
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Rogers, Rulon C.
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Rose, Edgar Lamar
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Roylance, Arnold
165 N. 2nd East, Springville, Utah

Rudd, Thomas
Raymond, Alberta, Canada

Salvesen, Conrad D.
Downey, Idaho

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Sharcovitch, Gladys
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Shurtz, Leander
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Stacey, James Earl
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Thompson, Thelma Curtis
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Vernon, Ruby
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Wilde, Lloyd
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Wolf, Clyde Melvin
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Wood, Jackson
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Wood, Jesse Ray
131 Westminster Ave., Salt Lake City, Utah

Woolley, Dr. Dilworth Wayne
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Wright, Oral
Pleasant Grove, Utah

Wymer, Paul E.
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Yatman, Elizabeth Acker
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Yatman, William James
57 Reeve Ave., Bloomingdale, New Jersey

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Babb, Grover L.
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Bagnall, Lena
Chester, Utah

Bailey, William
Ephraim, Utah

Baker, Lucille Douglas
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Bean, George
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Beck, William
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Bell, Emery
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Beller, Mary
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Hansen, Idaho

Biddulph, Thomas
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Bigelow, Milton Eugene
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Blenthorn, Alice
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Bolton, John G.
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Braithwaite, Joseph
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Braley, John W.
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Brown, William
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Bunker, Melvin
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Call, Mrs. Jennie
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St. David, Arizona

Campbell, Effie
Roy, Utah

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Carpenter, Ola
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Christensen, Alma
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Christensen, Anna O.
1869 Frazer Ave., Sparks, Nevada

Christensen, Cleo
Manti, Utah

Christensen, Mrs. Nels P.
Ephraim, Utah

Christofferson, Sophia
Lehi, Utah

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Coffin, Mrs. Louisa
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Dayley, Clara

Dayley, Thomas E.
Burley, Idaho

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Dilworth, Ernest
Kimberly, Idaho

Douberly, Minnie
Lake Butler, Florida

Draper, Leigh
Centerfield, Utah

Duell, Agnes Watson Ott
5737 NE 37th, Portland, Oregon

Duffin, Alma Chambers
914 7th St., Rupert, Idaho

Duke, Mrs. Olive
Bennington, Idaho

Dustin, Sarah B.
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A STUDY OF THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONDITIONS
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OF THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS
(111 pages)

An Abstract of the Thesis of

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For the Degree of

Master of Science

in

Sociology and Anthropology Department

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ABSTRACT

The purposes for this study were (1) to learn how many persons who were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints were blind, (2) to determine the social and economic conditions of these blind members, and (3) to learn what the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has done to promote employment of blind members through its Welfare Program, and how this was accomplished.

Through the Presiding Bishop's Office and Bishop Joseph L. Wirthlin, the Bishops throughout the Church were sent questionnaires which the Bishops were asked to complete and return to the Presiding Bishop's Office. The Bishops responded by returning 85.89% of the questionnaires sent. Of this number, 23.71% indicated that blind members resided in their Wards. The total number of blind members was found to be 674. It would seem that all blind members of the Church had not been reported by the Bishops.

The questionnaires covered two main areas - -social and economic. It was found that there are 321 females and 353 males. Geographical distribution of blind members was comparable to geographical Church membership.

Information on marital status, number of children per family, and Church activity was found, but it was not possible to make a comparison in these areas because comparable information was not available for the Church membership as a whole.

It was found that approximately half of the blind members were

over 60 years of age. This figure compares favorably with national estimates which have been made.

The types of employment in which blind persons were engaged were found to be extremely varied. The unemployment rate was considerably above the national average of unemployment.

It was found that 38.58% of blind persons were receiving some type of relief and the main type of relief being utilized was state relief.

The Church through its Welfare Program has helped a small proportion of blind members to find employment, but this help has not been extensive.

In addition, the names and addresses of the blind persons are listed. Also, the types of employment in which the blind persons are engaged are given.

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