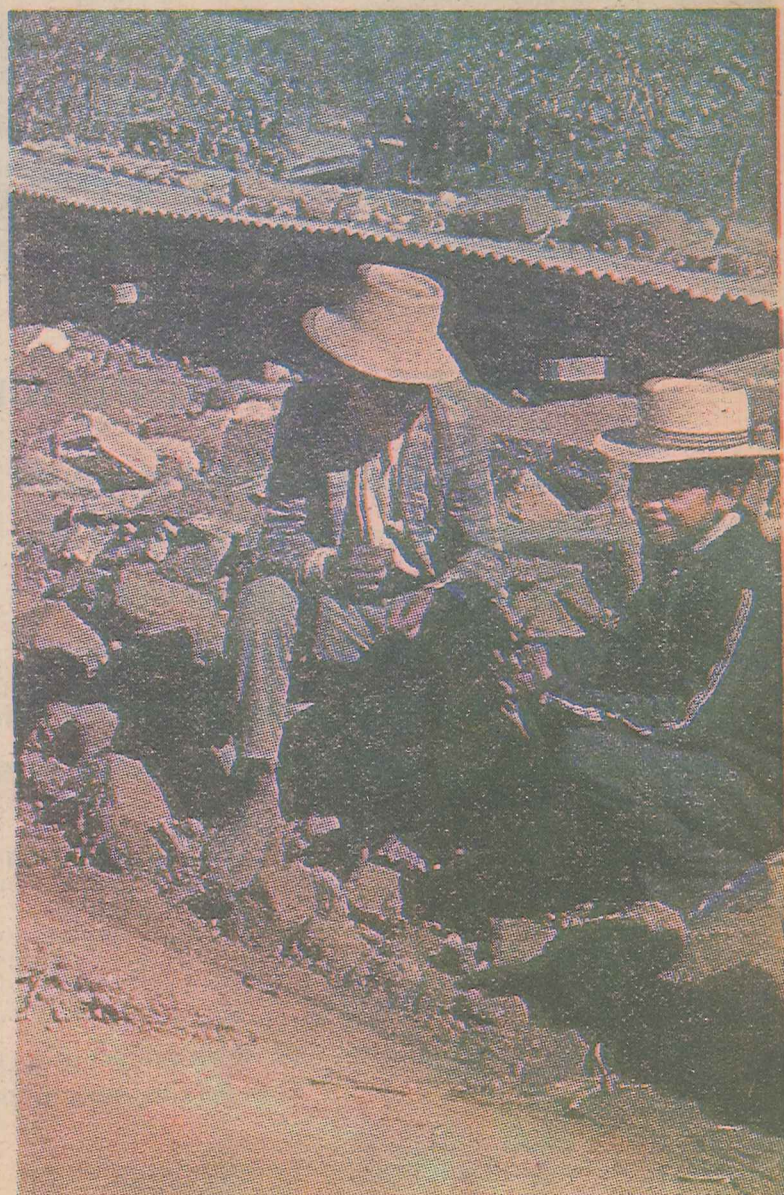
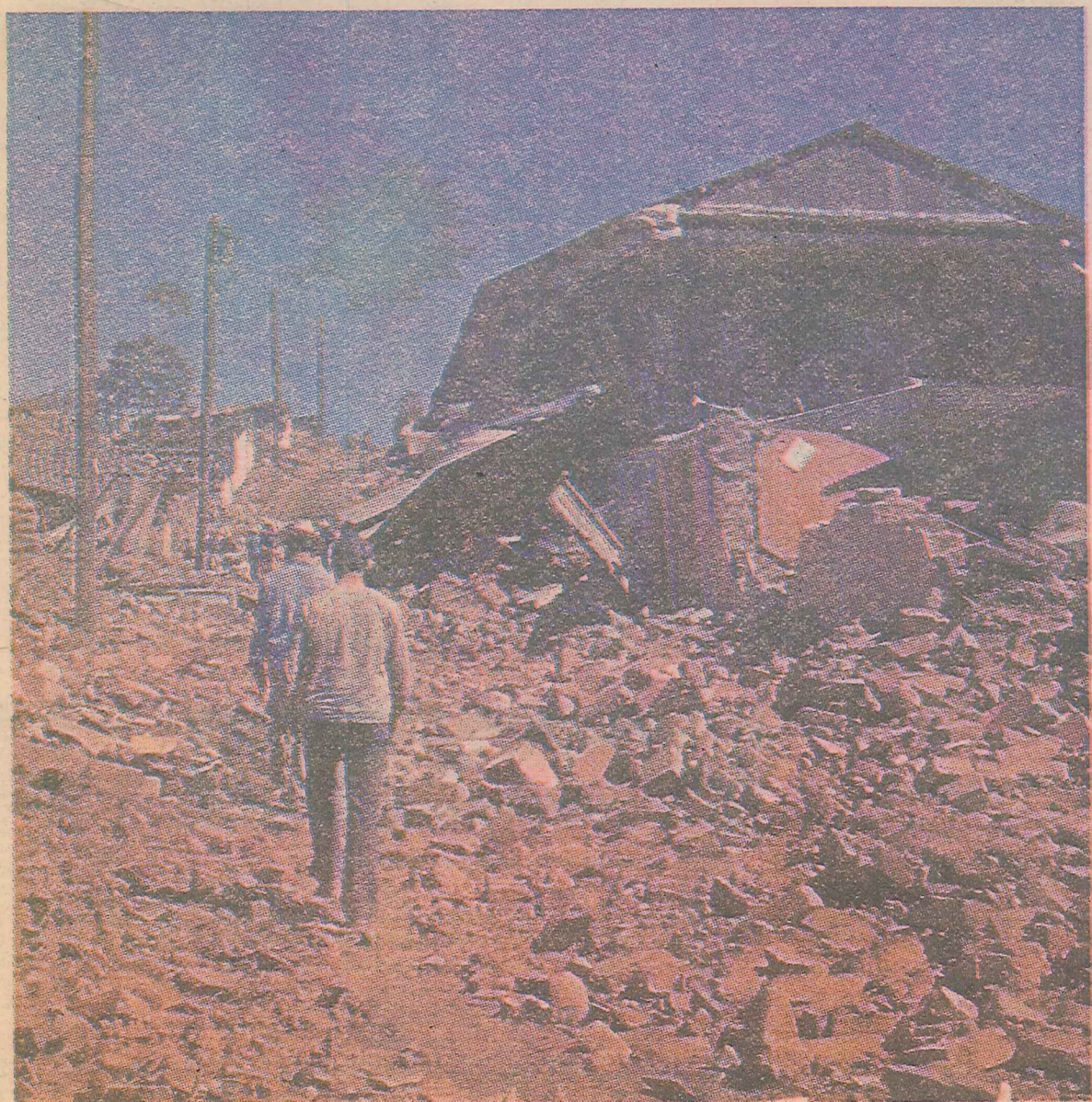
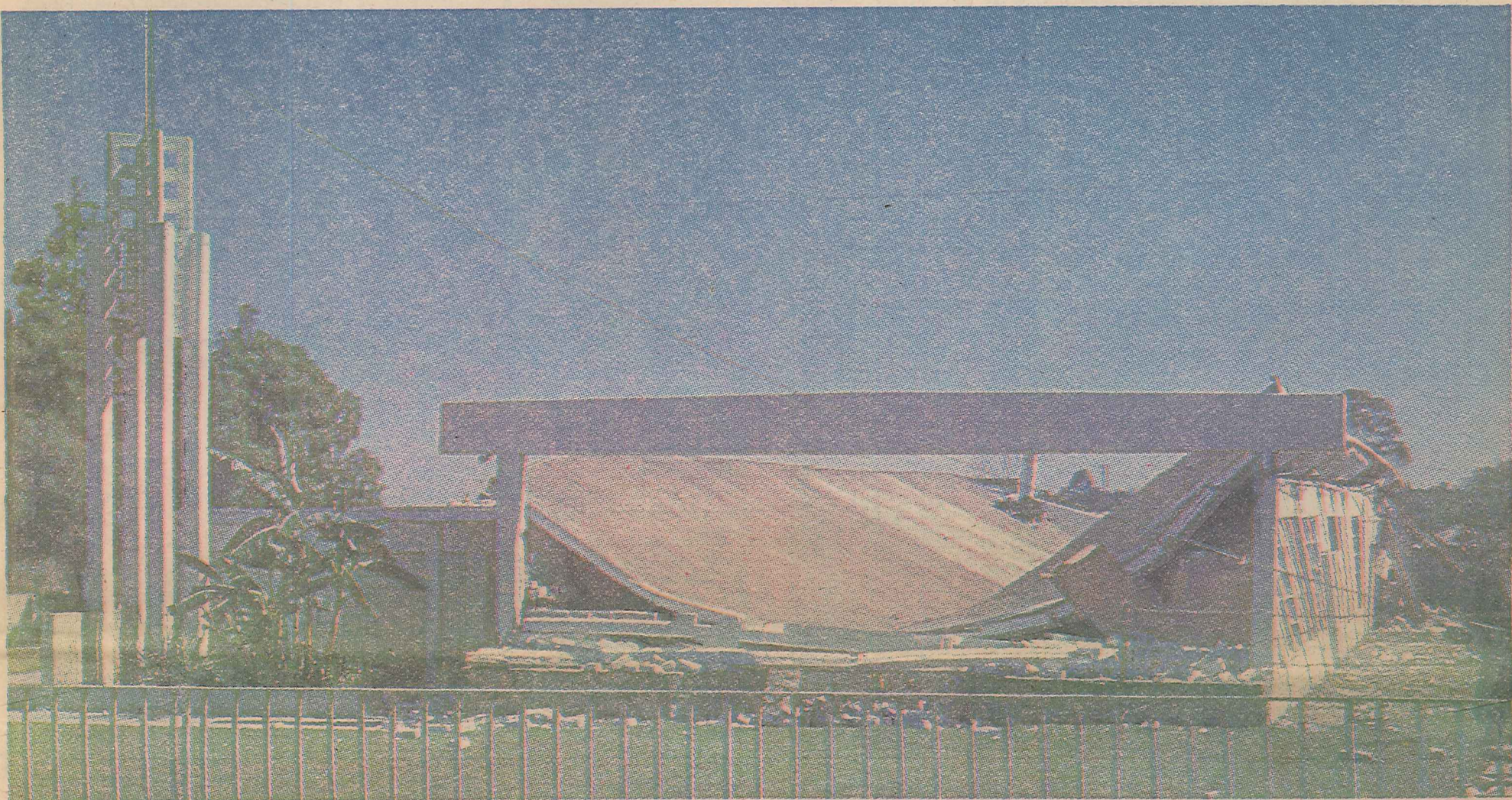


NEWS OF THE
CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY
SAINTS

Church News

BURMESE MEMBER
OVERCOMES
MANY OBSTACLES
STORY PAGE 7

PUBLISHED BY THE DESERET NEWS, VOL. 46, NO. 7 SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH FEBRUARY 14, 1976



GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE LDS Chapel, homes are among rubble left by quake. Stories pages 3, 8, 9.



Photograph by missionary tells graphic story of the death of a chapel by earthquake at village of Patzicia, Guatemala.

Twenty-two Church members were killed, an American missionary seriously injured and a Mormon chapel destroyed in the devastating earthquake that hit Guatemala Wednesday, Feb. 4.

The ravaging quake and the after-shock two days later killed 17,000 Guatemalans.

Church welfare services were on the scene almost immediately after the disaster giving relief to Church members and others in the quake area, Dr. James O. Mason, director of developing welfare services, said this week.

Church members throughout the stricken area have adequate food, and even in the outlying parts of the country it is being distributed through the priesthood to those who otherwise would have none, Brother Mason said.

"All of the saints in Guatemala City have housing and adequate food," he said, adding that members are being helped to again become self-sufficient and a reconstruction phase is beginning.

Most of the members died in the rubble of their homes in the villages of Chilmaltenango and Patzicia, about 40 miles north of Guatemala City.

The Church building at Patzicia was destroyed in the quake, and in its collapse, Elder Randall Ellsworth was seriously injured.

He was flown to Panama for surgery and then later to the United States for further medical treatment. Elder Ellsworth's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nylan Ellsworth, Rockville, Md., flew to Panama to their son's bedside.

The quake hit in the early morning hours of Wednesday, Feb. 4, with devastating effect. An after-shock Friday added to the misery of the people.

Relief poured in from all over, mainly the United States.

For Church members, Mission Pres. Robert B. Arnold mustered the available elders from the corps of 230 assigned to his mission to aid in rescue and relief work.

He used fast-offering funds to meet current food needs and for other essentials.

Three medical doctors were sent from Salt Lake City to aid health missionaries already serving in Guatemala. They provided emergency medical care or referred injured and sick members to local health facilities.

A great amount of supplies such as tents, blankets and medicines were readied for shipment, but it was found that some goods were not needed.

However, Dr. E. Ute Knowlton accompanied a huge shipment of medical supplies from Salt Lake City to Guatemala for use of Church members and others there.

Western Airlines carried 8,000 pounds of supplies from Salt Lake City to Los Angeles and Pan American World Airways carried the goods from the California city to Guatemala. Both airlines offered their services without charge.

Pres. Arnold kept the General Authorities in Salt Lake City informed of the progress of relief work by telephone and shortwave radio at Brigham Young University.

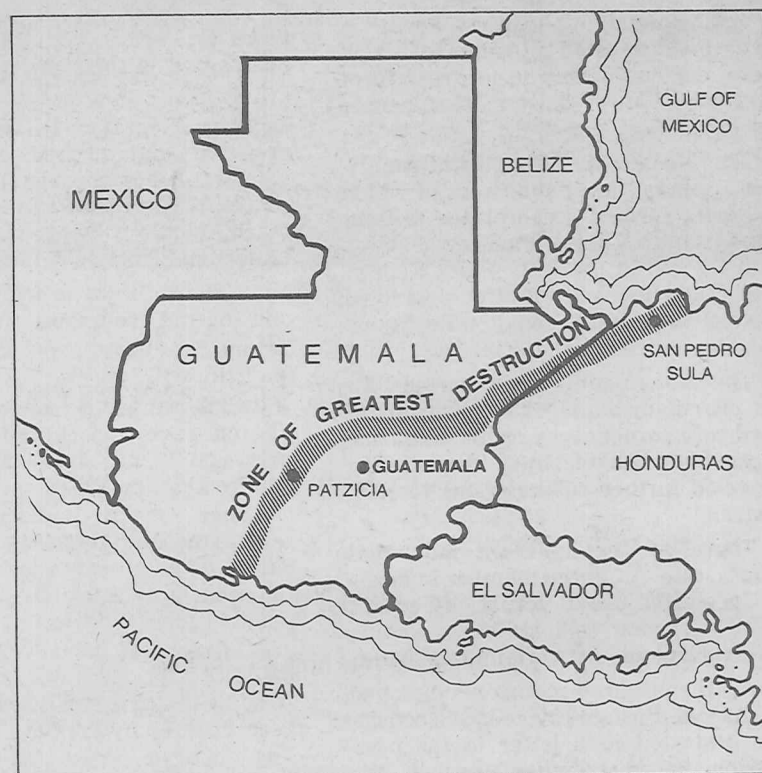
The Guatemalan government put a ban on the use of buildings and church services were held out of doors on Sunday.

Pres. Arnold said the priesthood pitched in with a fervor. Rice, corn and beans were distributed to members where needed and pans and pots for cooking and boiling water, tools, particularly picks and shovels, were provided where needed.

Pres. Mario Scheel of the San Salvador El Salvador Stake sent two van loads of supplies and Pres. Jorge Pere of the Guatemala Quetzaltenango Stake, which was not severely affected by the quake, also sent supplies and help.

22 Members Killed In Guatemala Quake

Deseret
News map
pinpoints
town of
Patzicia
where many
members
died.



Elder J. Thomas Fyans, an Assistant to the Twelve and General Authority area supervisor, coordinated efforts from Mexico City, and left for Guatemala the morning of Tuesday Feb. 10.

Brother Edward L. Soper, manager, field services for Mexico and Central America, Developing Welfare Services Department, was in Mexico City at a meeting when the quake struck.

He flew to the quake area immediately upon receiving word to evaluate the

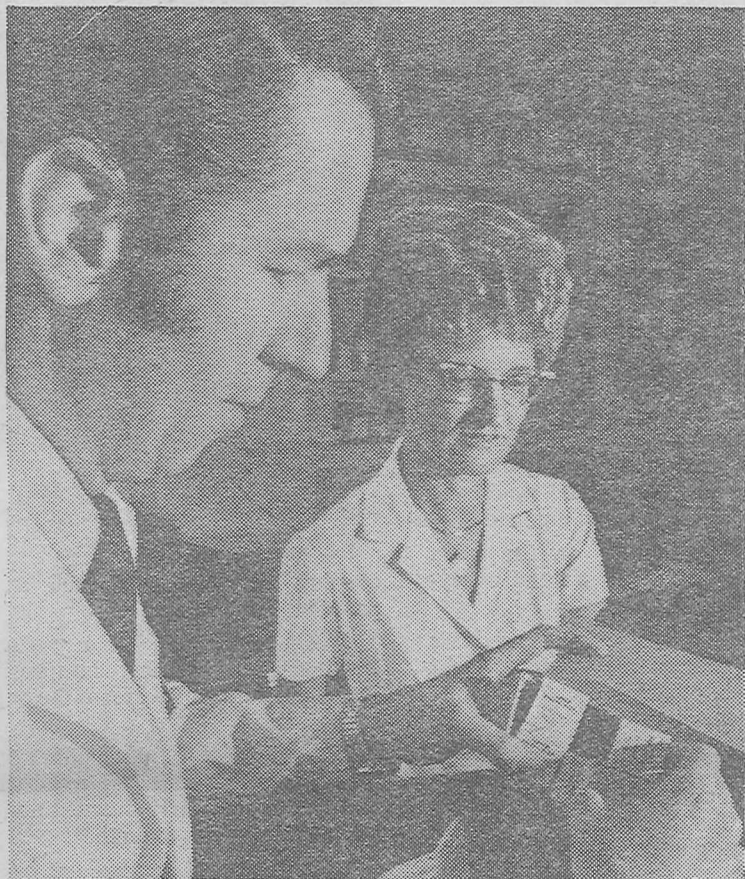
situation and to report to Dr. Mason and other officials in Salt Lake City.

"Ninety percent of the people won't have the means to rebuild their small homes," said Brother Soper after his return to Salt Lake City.

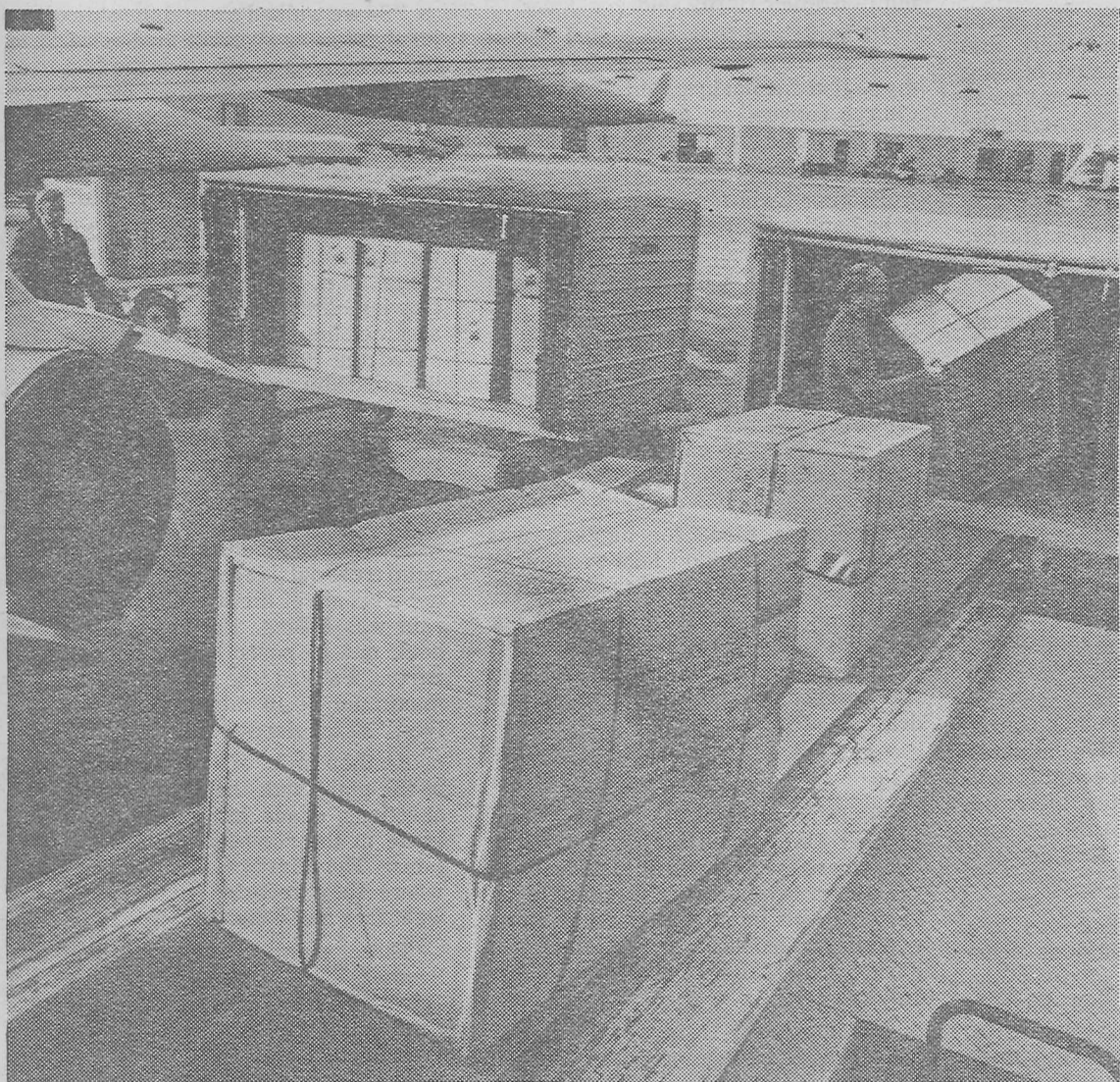
Most of the homes destroyed were small, adobe houses. With the first hard quake they collapsed on the sleeping families taking a heavy death toll.

Elder Russell Storms, son of Sister
Continued on page 8

Earthquake Aftermath



Craig Jackson, director of pharmacy, LDS Hospital, Salt Lake City, left, assisted by Audrey Holland load supplies for Guatemala. Below, medicines go aboard Western Airlines plane.



Guatemalans dazedly walk up what is left of street in Guatemalan town.

Continued from page 3

VerLee Storms of Salt Lake City, was in Guatemala City when the quake struck. He was scheduled to leave for home at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday after his release by Pres. Arnold.

"I had gone into Guatemala City and was sleeping with some zone leaders in their apartment while awaiting shipment home. Their apartment is toward the north end of town, and I helped them work Tuesday night.

"Their apartment is in the wealthier area of Guatemala, but just a couple of streets away is a poor section. About 3 a.m. my bed was shaking and I heard stuff falling. I thought I could see the walls swaying and it lasted about 30 seconds.

"Elder Emirito Velazquez, the zone leader, tried to run outside but the building was swaying so much he couldn't get his footing," said Elder Storms.

"As we got outside I looked at my watch and it was 3:05 a.m. The house across the street had collapsed. Within 30 minutes the mission home had called to tell us to check on all the elders and lady missionaries in our zone. This we did and found them to be okay.

"As soon as it was light we surveyed our neighborhood and found that all the houses on the next street had collapsed.

"All the houses on one street had completely collapsed, except one. That house belonged to a family that had been baptized the week before," said Elder Storms.

"There will need to be total recon-

struction. The Patzicia church was almost totally destroyed. The only building standing is the classroom building to the north. This, also, is heavily damaged," said Brother Soper.

Brother Soper said that 40 families are homeless. However, tents were set up to accommodate 10 families to live in and the others are being situated elsewhere.

Twelve members, including Elder Storms and two of the smaller children, were killed. Choc, president of the Patzicia branch, died in Patzicia, the area with the largest number of members.

The quake caused the Patzicia church roof to slide backward about 10 feet, thus tipping over the massive concrete beams that supported the roof. These beams toppled on their own weight was too great and in the middle, dropping the nearly intact pieces into a V-shape, said Brother Soper.

He said this pulled the stage off its crushing benches and spilling it. Elder Ellsworth and Elder Atkins, were sleeping on a mattress.

As the beams fell, one fell on Elder Ellsworth's legs, pinning him to the stage. Another fell on Elder Atkins' pillow, but fortunately the vibration had thrown him from the stage and he escaped injury, Brother Soper explained.

The other elders cut Elder Ellsworth from under Elder Ellsworth and freed after six hours.



ns dazedly walk up what is left of street in Guatemalan town with wreckage of shops and homes on either side.



All his worldly goods
walks toward two m



Emergency aid table
Church members an

from page 3

arms of Salt Lake City, was in
City when the quake struck.
cheduled to leave for home at
Wednesday after his release
nold.

one into Guatemala City and
ng with some zone leaders in
ment while awaiting ship-
e. Their apartment is toward
nd of town, and I helped them
lay night.

apartment is in the wealthier
atemala, but just a couple of
ay is a poor section. About 3
ed was shaking and I heard
g. I thought I could see the
ying and it lasted about 30

Emirito Velazquez, the zone
ed to run outside but the
was swaying so much he
et his footing," said Elder

got outside I looked at my
it was 3:05 a.m. The house
street had collapsed. Within
the mission home had called
o check on all the elders and
onaries in our zone. This we
nd them to be okay.

n as it was light we surveyed
orhood and found that all the
the next street had collapsed.
e houses on one street had
collapsed, except one. That
aged to a family that had been
e week before," said Elder

will need to be total recon-

struction. The Patzicia chapel was
almost totally destroyed. The only area
standing is the classroom wing on the
north. This, also, is heavily damaged,"
said Brother Soper.

Brother Soper said that 40 families in
the Guatemala City Second Ward were
homeless. However, tents were set up on
the outside basketball court to
accommodate 10 families temporarily,
and the others are being situated.

Twelve members, including the wife
and two of the smaller children of Pablo
Choc, president of the Patzicia Branch,
died in Patzicia, the area where the
largest number of members died.

The quake caused the Patzicia chapel
roof to slide backward about three feet,
thus tipping over the massive reinforced
concrete beams that supported it. As
these beams toppled on their sides, their
own weight was too great and they broke
in the middle, dropping the roof in two
nearly intact pieces into a V-shape, said
Brother Soper.

He said this pulled the south wall in,
crushing benches and splitting the
stand. Elder Ellsworth and a compan-
ion, Elder Atkins, were sleeping on the
stage on a mattress.

As the beams fell, one fell atop Elder
Ellsworth's legs, pinning him to the
stage. Another fell on Elder Atkins'
pillow, but fortunately the violent shak-
ing had thrown him from the mattress
and he escaped injury, Brother Soper
explained.

The other elders cut the stage out
from under Elder Ellsworth, who was
freed after six hours.

Elder Taz Evans of Safford, Ariz.,
and Elder Julio Salazar of Guatemala
City, were sleeping when the first tremor
hit and they stumbled out the door of
their small home just as the big quake
hit. Their house collapsed onto their beds
and belongings.

Three elders sleeping in a small
house adjoining the Patzicia chapel were
saved when the walls of the house fell
outward. This let the gabled roof fall at
once with the gabled part directly over
their beds. They escaped unscathed.

Elder Daniel Choc, son of Pres. Choc,
and Elder David Frischknecht were in
Sumpango. Every home on their street
was a mass of rubble, except theirs. It
held, and the elders were not injured.

"Brother Leocadio Per, his pregnant
wife and five children, found themselves
miraculously standing together outside
their collapsed home after the quake. .

"They told the missionaries:
'Frankly, the Lord took us out of the
house'," said Brother Soper.

In Comalopa the Misa family, who
were recently baptized, as the first
converts in the town, stumbled out of bed
and knelt in prayer in the center of the
room as the house shook. The heavy
adobe walls fell in all around them and
none of the family was injured.

Brother Soper said that although
confusion in the helping of members
might have occurred during the first few
hours of the quake, it is understandable.

But, complete evaluations of damage
and loss to members are now underway
and it is hoped that plans for long-range
reconstruction and other helps will be
formulated in the next few weeks.



Interior shot shows benches of ruined Patzicia chapel
with roof beams and other debris fallen in.



town with wreckage of shops and homes on either side.

chapel was
The only area
n wing on the
ily damaged,"

t 40 families in
nd Ward were
were set up on
all court to
s temporarily,
situated.

uding the wife
ildren of Pablo
tzicia Branch,
rea where the
ers died.

Patzicia chapel
out three feet,
sive reinforced
ported it. As
eir sides, their
and they broke
he roof in two
V-shape, said

south wall in,
splitting the
nd a compan-
leeping on the

fell atop Elder
g him to the
Elder Atkins'
e violent shak-
the mattress
Brother Soper

the stage out
rth, who was

Elder Taz Evans of Safford, Ariz., and Elder Julio Salazar of Guatemala City, were sleeping when the first tremor hit and they stumbled out the door of their small home just as the big quake hit. Their house collapsed onto their beds and belongings.

Three elders sleeping in a small house adjoining the Patzicia chapel were saved when the walls of the house fell outward. This let the gabled roof fall at once with the gabled part directly over their beds. They escaped unscathed.

Elder Daniel Choc, son of Pres. Choc, and Elder David Frischknecht were in Sumpango. Every home on their street was a mass of rubble, except theirs. It held, and the elders were not injured.

"Brother Leocadio Per, his pregnant wife and five children, found themselves miraculously standing together outside their collapsed home after the quake. .

"They told the missionaries: 'Frankly, the Lord took us out of the house'," said Brother Soper.

In Comalopa the Misa family, who were recently baptized, as the first converts in the town, stumbled out of bed and knelt in prayer in the center of the room as the house shook. The heavy adobe walls fell in all around them and none of the family was injured.

Brother Soper said that although confusion in the helping of members might have occurred during the first few hours of the quake, it is understandable.

But, complete evaluations of damage and loss to members are now underway and it is hoped that plans for long-range reconstruction and other helps will be formulated in the next few weeks.



All his worldly goods on his back, a Guatemalan walks toward two missionaries in quake zone.



Emergency aid tables are set up to help quake victims by Church members and missionaries shortly after temblor.



Interior shot shows benches of ruined Patzicia chapel with roof beams and other debris fallen in.