

VANCOUVER MISSION MEMORIES

2005–2008

TONY AND CAROL MIDDLETON





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*Go ye therefore, and teach all nations,
baptizing them in the name of the Father,
and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:*

*Teaching them to observe all things
whatsoever I have commanded you:
and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto
the end of the world. Amen.*

Matthew 28:19-20

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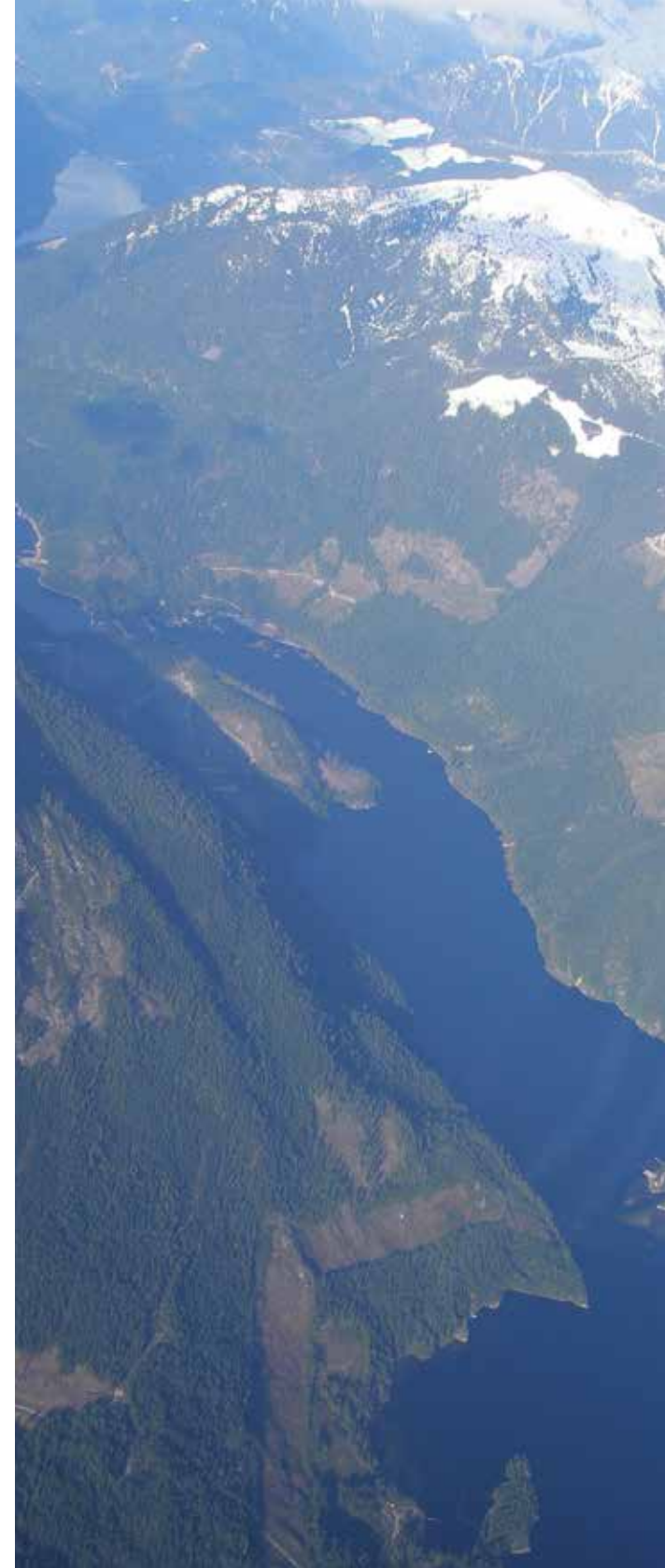
Flower closeups taken by the Middletons
at Butchart Gardens, Victoria, B.C.

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THE CANADA VANCOUVER MISSION

By Anthony W. Middleton, Jr. and Carol Middleton

Carol and Tony Middleton were privileged to serve as the Mission President of the Canada Vancouver Mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints from June 2005 to June 2008. It all began when we were requested to visit with Elder Russell M. Nelson, of the Quorum of the Twelve, in September 2004. In a meeting which lasted about one hour, Elder Nelson stated that we were being considered for service as a Mission President, but our meeting did not constitute a call. He then probed deeply into whether we would accept a call, would our family handle our three year absence alright, and whether the timing was right for Middleton Urologic to have us leave. He also explored whether our finances would sustain us through the mission years and likely into retirement afterwards. He then suggested that we not mention the meeting to anyone as there might or might not be a call resulting.

About one month later, we were asked to come to an appointment at Church Headquarters to meet with President James E. Faust. President Faust extended a call to us to serve in an English speaking mission. We accepted the call humbly. President Faust spoke of many of the duties and objectives

of a Mission President and his wife. He emphasized the point that a mission president's and wife's main objective must be to grow the missionaries over whom they served--spiritually, as leaders, as time managers, etc. He noted that one couldn't judge whether or not a mission president and his wife were successful until 20 years later, when the lives of the missionaries would attest to their success or not. He then went on to note that if we obtained baptisms along the way that would be a nice bonus.

We have chosen to organize this book starting with a summary and tribute written at the end of our mission to the British Columbia members, who stepped forward so magnificently in response to the Preach My Gospel message of involving members in finding those to teach. Subsequent chapters include our Vancouver Star weekly letters. The "Vancouver Star" name was chosen in tribute to the 14 months Tony spent in his first mission, the British Mission, as the Associate Editor of the Millennial Star, the Church monthly publication which dated back to the 1830s. The Vancouver Star was written to explain current missionary goals, upcoming Mission events such as a Tour by a General

Authority, honor missionaries who had achieved goals during the previous week, and especially to instruct, uplift and give encouragement in the work. It was limited to one page to encourage efficiency of message, and was distributed to all missionaries, all member leaders, and was e-mailed to the families of each missionary.


Distributed throughout are photographs taken during each month of our mission, with an appendix of Zone Conference photographs featuring a photo of all missionaries in the Zone at the time.

Our time in the Vancouver Canada Mission was surely the highlight of our Church callings through the years. The friends we made in Canada, and the missionaries with whom we served, continue to be great friends and associates, and this book allows us to renew the memories of the fabulous experience we were privileged to have with the fabulous saints and missionaries of British Columbia.

President and Sister Middleton



CANADA VANCOUVER MISSION ALUMNUS
"Disciples For Life and Beyond"
"You won't know if your mission was successful until 20 years have passed." President James E. Faust
**Invitation to Missionary Reunion
October General Conference 2025**
To Meet in Celestial Room with President Anthony W. Middleton Jr. and Sister Carol Middleton



The Kingdom is yours and shall be forever, if you fall not from your steadfastness.
D&C 82:24
If they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day.
1 Ne 13:37
We will meet in the Salt Lake Temple on the afternoon of Friday, October 3, 2025, the exact time to be established closer to the date. We expect to meet you then, whether we are on this side of the veil or the other.
We love you!!
President Anthony W. and Sister Carol Middleton

THIS 2x3½ INCH CARD WAS LAMINATED AND PRESENTED TO EACH OF OUR MISSIONARIES BEFORE THEIR RELEASE TO RETURN HOME. AS NOTED, IT CHALLENGES EACH OF THEM TO BE WORTHY TO MEET US IN THE CELESTIAL ROOM OF THE SALT LAKE TEMPLE ON OCTOBER 3, 2025.

VANCOUVER TEMPLE DEDICATION

By President And Sister Middleton, May 2, 2010

As all of our missionaries and the Church members in British Columbia know, it was announced by President Gordon B. Hinckley on May 25, 2006, that the Church was to build a Vancouver Temple. Receiving word on that Friday through a cell phone call from Elder Ronald Rasband, permission was given to share the wonderful news with BC members. The choice of the site in Langley had been revealed to President Hinckley in December 2005 during a visit to BC while he and President Monson were driven around Vancouver by Elder Paul Christensen, then President of the Abbotsford Stake, and now an Area Authority Seventy. When we learned of the Temple announcement in 2006, we sent an e-mail to BC Church leaders letting them know, and word spread almost instantaneously to all active members. The long-anticipated announcement became the topic of nearly all the Fast and Testimony Meeting testimonies borne in British Columbia wards and branches two days later.

In the summer of 2007, the groundbreaking in Langley occurred, and the temple building began. The Temple Open House was held in the weeks before the Dedication, and was

attended by thousands of people of other faiths. We were privileged to travel back to Canada for the Dedication, where we joined with 6 previous mission presidents and their wives to witness this historic event.

On Saturday, May 1, 2010, a Cultural Celebration featuring over 1200 BC youth bussed in from all over the province and from northern Washington state performed at the Langley Events Centre, a large arena near the Temple which accommodated thousands of visitors and saints. The theme was a celebration of the history of the Church in BC, portrayed in song and dance. Sister Shelley Murley composed the music and served as director of the cultural event. Prior to the event, President Monson had all the youth sit on the floor of the centre in front of him, and he told them of his love for Canada and recalled fondly his days as a mission president in Canada years before. He changed the opening song to “O Canada,” to the delight of all, and during his talk he had President Uchtdorf press a button on his lapel pin which proved to be a lighted flashing Canadian flag. He urged the youth during his talk to stand for their beliefs, promising them



PHOTO COURTESY LDS MEDIA LIBRARY

that if they did so they would not lose friends, but rather would gain new friends.

Titled “A Beacon to the World,” the program began when 172 saints who were pioneers in the area were led onto the floor by young men and women for recognition. The remainder of the program celebrated the coming of people from numerous countries to the province, where they learned of and joined the Church. The final scene featured a large replica of the Vancouver Temple which lay flat on the floor initially, and was gradually raised to its full height as the youth sang and circled around it. The temple replica had been crafted and built by Elder Paul Christensen and his brother. As the youth encircled the temple, they joined hands, representing the eternal nature of the building where families are enjoined forever.

The Dedication occurred the next day, on May 2, 2010, with President Thomas S. Monson giving the dedicatory prayer in three sessions. His prayer was beautiful, and was truly an answer to the collective prayers of the British Columbia saints over many decades. As we contemplated the hard work of all of our missionaries which led to the growth of the Church which made this temple possible, we were filled with gratitude for all the work that each of our missionaries had accomplished as together we worked in the service of the Lord. We wished that each of you could have been there with us.

Know that our prayers are with each of you every day, that the Lord will continue to bless you and us as He did in our time together in British Columbia. We miss you and love you, and are delighted to learn of your marriages, your successes in school and work, and of your continued service to the Lord in a variety of callings. Please keep us posted as to what you are doing.



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TRIBUTE TO BRITISH COLUMBIA SAINTS

*By Anthony W. Middleton, Jr.,
Canada Vancouver Mission President 2005-2008*

MEMBER MISSIONARY PLANS ACCELERATE CHURCH GROWTH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

In response to Preach My Gospel calling for members to become more effective inviters of their non-member acquaintances, the wonderful saints in British Columbia, Canada, have developed many wonderful member missionary ideas. Several of those ideas were spotlighted by an article in the August 2007 Ensign, “How to Be a Great Member Missionary.” Since then several additional and even more successful member missionary approaches have evolved with the Lord’s inspiration.

VIBRANT LEADERS NECESSARY FOR SUCCESS

First published in 2005, Preach My Gospel called for local Church leaders to develop their own Mission Plan. Embracing that challenge, the British Columbia stake presidents quickly developed four principles to guide their ward and family Mission Plans:

1. The plan should involve every member, not just the ward missionaries.
2. It should have measureable goals.
3. It should be simple.
4. Local leaders, families and individuals should create their own Mission Plan, as Preach My Gospel counsels.

As local leaders counseled and educated their members, many different Mission Plans were developed. Because local wards and branches had authorship, they sensed ownership of their Mission Plan and worked vigorously to implement it. It was noted throughout the province that bold leadership and participation by the bishop or branch president made a huge difference in the acceptance and implementation of each plan by members, as was called for by Preach My Gospel (PMG pg. 218).

Stake and district presidents soon realized their pivotal role in boldly guiding bishops and branch presidents into assuring that all members were becoming inviting member missionaries. They also saw that bishops and district presidents

were assuming oversight over the work of our full-time missionaries along with all missionary-related programs in the ward or branch. Full time missionaries soon attended PEC and Ward Council meetings, consistent with the counsel of PMG, to better coordinate their work with all ward priesthood and auxiliary heads, and Zone Leaders began meeting at least monthly with stake and district presidents to assure that stake and district activities had missionary goals. President Bennie Soll, the Surrey Stake President, began meeting with the Surrey Zone Leaders weekly, going over in each meeting the progress of every investigator in the stake, and from time to time he called ward leaders to make suggestions as to how their missionary efforts might be improved—the Surrey Stake missionary success then began rapidly escalating.

THE SIMPLEST MISSION PLANS WORKED BEST

A wonderful variety of Mission Plans were developed in response to the exhortation in PMG, encouraged by the stake and district president's leadership. Dozens of Plans were created; most were very innovative. They were accepted and acted upon with varying levels of enthusiasm by the members. Those that were lengthy and complex seemed to be embraced at first, but gradually fell into disuse. It was noted that the simpler the Mission Plan the greater was the likelihood that it would be accepted by members and that it would endure. Sister Linda Walker of the Vancouver Stake pointed out that it was a "KISS" principle (Keep It Simple Saints).

Elder M. Russell Ballard made the same observation in the June

2007 Mission President's Seminar in Provo, Utah, when he counseled, "If you are going to increase the numbers of convert baptisms...keep it simple. The devil loves complexity."

DEVELOPMENT OF STAKE AND WARD PLANS

The first stake guidelines for a Mission Plan were developed by President Paul Christensen of the Abbotsford Stake. He and his stake leaders had several points in their Mission Plan guidelines, the most bold and innovative being a call for each family in the stake to commit to bringing at least 3 non-member acquaintances on a Spiritual Tour of their chapel. The Spiritual Tour had been developed by the Tacoma Washington Mission in recent years, and consisted of giving the First PMG Lesson (the Restoration Lesson) while walking through the Church building and explaining the significance of each room to the investigator. A powerful tool, it allowed the investigator to experience first hand their potential new spiritual home while boldly presenting the basic beliefs of our Church. With great wisdom Elder M. Russell Ballard had asked that the Canada Vancouver Mission adopt the Spiritual Chapel Tour.

Over the next few weeks our other 6 stakes and our one district adopted similar goals, either to commit to bring 3 non-members per year on a Tour or, in the case of the Vancouver Stake led by President Thomas Walker, to bring 4 non-members per year. Each ward and branch wrote their own Mission Plan, with their stake and district guidelines incorporated, and each family was urged to write their own Mission Plan. Ward Mission Plans were brief enough to be written

on a 4 x 8 inch card, which then was laminated with a magnet on the back of the card to allow it to be affixed to each member's refrigerator as a reminder.

SISTER LENA MA DEMONSTRATES THE WAY

Sister Lena Ma, a member of the Wah Yan Chinese Ward in Vancouver, had become an extraordinary member missionary since being converted. Over a 10 year period she had been responsible for bringing 20 converts into the Church. Her approach was bold but very simple—she enthusiastically extended an invitation to “come and see” (John 1:39) to essentially all her non-member acquaintances. The success rate she noted was very similar to the success rate we found from all inviting members in British Columbia—1 of 7 invited to a Church-related event came (while 6 of 7 declined), and 1 of 7 who came to an event went on to baptism. The key to Sister Ma's success was that she did not become discouraged by the 6 of 7 who chose not to come, but kept on inviting.

WARD MISSION PLAN IDEAS FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA

Understanding that an article this short neglects mentioning many of the inspired and dedicated local leaders who stepped forth magnificently to lead their members to become effective missionaries, due to insufficient space, we mention a few whose ideas were especially important, that their ideas might inspire similar efforts by member leaders in other parts of the world. When the importance of brevity and simplicity were appreciated, wards began developing Mission

Plans which fit easily on a 4 x 8 inch card, as mentioned above. It was then distributed to every member family, so that its appearance on the refrigerator could serve as a frequent reminder of the role of the member as a missionary.

It quickly became apparent that wards and branches needed frequent activities to which their members could invite their non-member acquaintances. Monthly activities, or more often, became the goal of several wards, and the objective of making the activities well-done but inexpensive became a goal. Some activities used were:

- Spiritual Chapel Tour Day—held on a Saturday at the Maple Ridge Ward, 8 Tours were needed for the 30 people in attendance.
- International Potluck Dinner in the Westbank Branch—60 non-members attended, including the mayor; a similar International Dinner in Prince George had similar results.
- A Fall “Corn Roast Dinner” in the Sidney Ward—52 non-members and 10 less actives attended; a similar “Corn Roast Dinner” produced equally excellent results in the Kamloops Second Ward.
- A Genealogical Fair and Chapel Tour in the Kelowna First Ward—100 non-members were in attendance.
- A Spring Choir Festival in the Port Alberni Ward featured 8 separate choirs—5 from non-LDS churches, 2 non-denominational choirs, and the ward choir.
- A “One Fold, One Shepherd” original program in Prince George, written by Bishop Frank and Sister Shirley Penny, featured a reading by the Stake President, John Young, of scriptures telling of Christ's role in the Old and New World—10 non-members and 3 less active members came, and 6 Chapel Tours were given.
- An “Every Nation..Every People” original musical production, written by Sister Ruth Yates with music written by Sister Shelley Murley, featured performers from the Vancouver, Surrey and

Abbotsford Stakes, telling of the immigration to British Columbia of thousands of people from numerous lands. The production ran for two nights, and attracted hundreds of non-members invited by their member acquaintances.

- A Chinese New Year Celebration, featuring a dinner and celebration program, in both the Vancouver Wah Yan Chinese Ward and the Richmond Ward—each resulted in several dozen non-member attendees brought by members.
- A Ping Pong Tournament organized by the Coquitlam Ward Mission Leader David Zuskin, with many non-member participants.
- An original musical production by Vanderhoof members— attracted 40 non-members invited by their member acquaintances.
- Cattle branding in Vanderhoof—20 non-members helped by their member friends and the full time missionaries.
- A Luau dinner and program in the Richmond Ward—over 50 non-members (over 250 in all) at a standing-room only activity organized by Mission Leader Woody Williams. Following the program Bishop Travis Wolsey took all in attendance into the chapel and there presented the Restoration Lesson from the pulpit.
- A sit-down Mother’s Day Dinner in the Wah Yan Chinese Ward, organized by Ward Mission Leader David Chan. There were more non-member families than member families. Family photos were taken in an attractive setting as the families arrived, which were later delivered to the families by the full time missionaries. Chinese music and dance were presented, and the non-members were placed at tables with members to allow them to socialize and answer questions about the Church.

CAMPBELL RIVER WARD PIONEERS RECOGNITION OF MEMBERS WHO INVITE, EVERY SUNDAY

Of the many ideas developed by local leaders, the one that has been the most effective and has been embraced the best by the ward members in which it was first used is the Mission Plan developed by Ward Mission Leader Bill Mackie and Bishop Leonard Aspden in the Campbell River Ward. It calls for all members to invite their non-member acquaintances to a Church-related activity, each member inviting frequently with a goal of extending an invitation to all their acquaintances. They also began recognizing each member who invited someone through the week each Sunday at the beginning of their class or quorum meeting. They did so by holding a drawing of the soon to be built Vancouver Temple mounted on a black background before the class, then inviting each member who had invited someone to place a gold star on the black background to “illuminate the temple.” The concept endured and was increasingly embraced by the members. The idea could be described in a simple one sentence Mission Plan: every member will strive to invite a non-member acquaintance each week to a Church-related event.

Nearly every member in British Columbia knows over 100 non-members well enough to say hello as they pass on the street; being a good member missionary requires that each of them be invited to come and see at some point. Inviting one of their acquaintances weekly, a member will take a few years to invite every non-member they know.

Other wards and branches throughout British Columbia began adopting variations of the Mission Plan. The Richmond Ward Mission Leader, Woody Williams, placed a large silhouette of the Vancouver Temple near the ward bulletin board, and then placed a small paper brick on the temple outline for each invitation offered, starting at the bottom, to “build the temple with our invitations.” Other wards and branches followed with their own unique variations on this same theme.

WHY DOES WEEKLY RECOGNITION ON SUNDAY WORK?

Multiple scriptures make it clear that each member should invite everyone they know. “And at all times, and in all places, he shall open his mouth and declare my gospel” D&C 24:12 (and also Matt. 28:19; Mark 16:15; D&C 18:41; D&C 19:37; D&C 28:16; D&C 80:3; etc.) In the past, members motivated to invite would identify in their mind’s eye one or two acquaintances they felt would surely say yes to an invitation, would then do many things to friendship them, and upon inviting the friend that friend would decline (in BC, 6 of 7 who were invited declined). The member might have the same experience with a second acquaintance, and would then judge themselves as either poor missionaries, poor judges of potential investigators, or both, and they would throw their hands in the air figuratively and would stop inviting.

Knowing that in British Columbia 1 of 7 who are invited comes to see, as was the case with Sister Ma and all British Columbia member missionaries, then 6 of 7 decline. The weekly public recognition of

each member who had invited gave them in effect a public “pat on the back” for having made the invitation even if the person invited declined to come. That simple exercise kept members motivated to keep on inviting weekly, working through their list of non-members until they found that acquaintance who was “the elect of the Lord” (D&C 29:7), who would say yes. In no instance did we hear of a member who had lost a friend whom they had invited if that friend declined to come.

At the April 2008 General Conference Elder David A. Bednar called boldly for members to become effective member missionaries when he stated, “ultimately it is my responsibility and your responsibility to find people for the missionaries to teach. Missionaries are full-time teachers; you and I are full-time finders. And you and I as lifelong missionaries should not be praying for the full time missionaries to do our work!”

In British Columbia a pair of full time missionaries rarely covers more than one ward or branch. They very quickly worked through the ward’s part-member less active list (though very important to do), and then were dependent upon member referrals and tracting to find. While tracting was necessary in British Columbia it was not very effective—estimates were that tracting produced one baptism for every 5000 doors knocked upon. Clearly member referrals were the very most effective way to grow the Church in British Columbia.

The Lord has inspired both members and full-time missionaries in British Columbia to embrace the teachings He has given to our Church leaders through Preach My Gospel. As more and more of the British Columbia Church members understand and are embracing their central role in finding, the Church growth is rapidly accelerating, and the Lord is truly blessing British Columbia!



**THE
VANCOUVER STAR**

WEEKLY MISSION NEWSLETTER

CANADA VANCOUVER MISSION

WELCOME



OUR SERVICE BEGINS

JULY-SEPTEMBER 2005

JULY 28, 2005

ADVANTAGES OF PRIME TIME PROSELYTING

As you all know, the new Prime Time proselyting program is tremendously successful in the Tacoma Washington Mission, and is proving effective in Vancouver in those areas where both missionaries and members are trained in how to implement it. For purposes of hands-on training, two new Assistants have been called, so we can have a teaching/training companionship constantly traveling to teach techniques and nuances of the program in exchanges. Currently Elders Young and Bailey are traveling, while Elders Brough and Nemrow are office-based with their own proselyting area as well.

Also, we are asking every companionship to lead small groups of members on a tour through the ward or branch to demonstrate how effective, inviting and non-threatening it would be for a potential investigator. We ask that every member of your ward or branch be taken on a tour of the facility, conducted by you. It will likely take a few weeks to accomplish, but is very important training.

In other words, we have baptized 33% more converts despite having considerably fewer than the other missions in our area, but we are catching up! Our retention rate is far better at 86% than any other mission in our area, the next best being 67%, so our baptisms are quality new members—congratulations to all our missionaries!

Missionaries		Convert Baptisms YTD		% Change	Per Missionary		Retention with Males Ordained
2005	2004	2005	2004		2005	2004	
108	127	96	72	33%	1.7	1.3	*86%

(*Males 12 and older who have been members 4-6 months and have received the priesthood.)

WELCOME TO NEW MISSIONARIES

Sister Lindsey Leavitt from Alberta Canada arrived in our mission on July 25, 2005. Elder Craig Carter and Elder Austin Graff, both from Utah, arrived on July 27. They are both serving as Korean missionaries. We want to warmly welcome these 3 new missionaries to the Canada Vancouver Mission.

Finally, we share a quotation from our Prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley, which applies to us all as we embark on this new Prime Time Program.

With an eye to the glory of Glory of God let us find and teach.

President and Sister Middleton

*“The work of the world is not done by intellectual geniuses. It is done by men of ordinary capacity who use their abilities in an extraordinary manner.”
Gordon B. Hinckley*



THE MISSIONARIES OF THE ABBOTSFORD DISTRICT POSE FOR A PHOTOGRAPH OUTSIDE OF THE ABBOTSFORD WARD BUILDING.

LOWER MAINLAND SISTERS ON P-DAY,
JULY 18 2005



ASSISTANTS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT
MIDDLETON ON THE FERRY





AUGUST 1, 2005

MISSIONARY OBLIGATIONS

Sister Middleton and I have now completed our first tour through the Vancouver Mission, and I want to share with you a few observations:

1. The quality of the testimonies and dedication of our missionaries is extraordinary. Nearly all have embraced our culture of commitment with compliance with mission rules (i.e. up at 6:30, physical exercise daily, intense and meaningful personal and companionship study, filling each day with focused and well-organized seeking/finding/teaching and baptizing activities, and home by 9:00 (latest 9:30), and in bed by 10:30). Those few who have not achieved compliance have assured me personally that they will, and I have no reason to believe otherwise.
2. Those missionaries who are in total compliance are the happiest and most fulfilled.
3. British Columbia is amazingly beautiful and diverse, both in terms of geography and people. Clearly ours is the best mission there is!!
4. Calling two new Assistants to travel and teach continuously is proving effective. Elders Young and Bailey are our current traveling APs, and they stay and work with each companionship doing exchanges two to three days in each location. They are sharing ideas on how best to implement the “soft” door approach, and how to be most effective doing ward or branch tours during Prime Time proselyting. Our other two Assistants, Elders Brough and Nemrow, continue as before with office and zone conference duties as well as responsibilities to proselyte in the Richmond Ward area.
5. The Prime Time approach holds great promise. While we still need to show many of our missionaries the nuances to make the soft approach and tours work most effectively, each companionship which has been visited by our APs has become converted to the concept, and seem to have improved their skills.
6. Members Prime Time Training. We are asking each companionship to lead each and every member on a tour of your ward or branch. I would suggest that you start with the Bishop or Branch President and his family, then the ward mission leader and family, then take the other ward or branch leaders and their families on tours, and finally every other member. These tours will help our missionaries fine-tune their skills, and equally importantly, will train members about our new Church Tour/Prime Time Program.
7. Invite ward or branch members to join missionaries on ward or branch tours with investigators. When this program is fully implemented the mission companionship can invite a member with skills, interest and age similar to the investigator to join in the tour, and fellowshiping can then start at the first meeting.
8. Stress to all members how easy and non-threatening this new “soft” approach will be. Any member should feel totally comfortable in referring a non-member friend or relative over to their chapel for a tour.
9. The Canada Vancouver Mission is on the move!! Over the past 1+ years our success has been steadily improving. In looking at our mission report when compared with the other 8 missions in our area,

for the first time in a long time we have caught and surpassed an adjacent mission. Measuring over the most recent five-week period, Vancouver had an average of .091 baptisms per companionship per week. Just three weeks earlier our average was .067 for the prior five weeks. Congratulations Vancouver missionaries!

10. Welcome to our 3 new missionaries. Sister Leavitt arrived on July 25, 2005 to work in English-speaking areas of the mission. Elders Carter and Graff arrived on July 27, 2005 to work in Korean speaking areas. Welcome to all three!

Elders and Sisters, we love you. We rejoice with you in this glorious work of the Lord. We have been enriched by the power of your testimonies, which we have heard during this past month.

May the Lord continue to bless us all,

President and Sister Middleton

ELDER BARBER CASTS AGAIN FOR INVESTIGATOR
WHILE ELDERS LOOK ON



AUGUST 15, 2005

TRANSFER GOAL— STRENGTHEN YOUR COMPANION

Transfers are completed and all missionaries are in place now. The question arose last week as to the purpose and motivation behind the choices made for location and companion for each missionary. We want you to know the process. Transfers are the product of several days of intense study made with input from APs, Zone Leaders, and various other missionary and member sources. Throughout this period prayer and fasting is used intensively. We look at area needs and individual needs. To the extent possible we try to pair up individuals who are strong in one area or another with a companion who is weak in that area, so that the weakness can be made a strength. Sometimes missionaries are moved from one area to another because they have developed a particular skill lacking in another zone or companionship, which we want them to then teach so it can be spread throughout the mission. The proposed changes never are made until we have a spiritual affirmation that they are correct for all involved, in the eyes of the Lord.

We all have strengths and weaknesses. Our purpose on earth is to improve our weaknesses to strengths, and make our strengths even stronger.

“I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; . . . for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I

make weak things become strong unto them.” Ether 12:27

An important way to overcome a weakness in a missionary is to pair him or her with a companion who has strength in the area of the companion’s weakness, so the companion who is weak can learn by observing and then doing.

Our goal with each companion: strengthen him or her.

Our Lord and Savior succeeded in making those around Him rise to levels they never could have achieved without His patient teaching. We propose that every missionary emulate that example set by the Savior and have as his or her goal in a companionship to help the companion grow and succeed. To succeed in this goal we must first set the most perfect example possible in our own life, which includes perfect compliance in arising at 6:30, productive personal and companionship study, daily organization to fill each day with useful proselyting activities and outlining them in our daily planner. It means capturing and employing the inspired principles in the Prime Time/”soft” approach system and teaching them to your companion and to all ward or branch members by taking them on a properly designed facility Tour.

“And I give unto you a commandment that you shall teach one another the doctrine of the Kingdom. Teach ye diligently and my grace shall attend you, that you may be instructed more perfectly in theory, in principle, in doctrine, in the law of the gospel, in all things that pertain unto the kingdom of God, that are expedient for you to understand.” D & C 88:77-78.

As we read this counsel from the Lord, we realize that we cannot consider ourselves a successful companion until we strengthen our

companion. That process must be accomplished “only by persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned” (D & C 121:41). Only when our companion grows with us can we consider ourselves successful.

May the Lord bless us all as we preach and teach and baptize.

President and Sister Middleton

AUGUST 29, 2005

LEADERSHIP

In a previous *Mission Star*, we pointed out that one of the important goals each of us missionaries must keep constantly in sight is to strengthen our companion. We would take it one step further—if at the end of the transfer period your companion is not improved by your interaction with him or her, you have failed. The goal we all must have by the end of the transfer: your companion must have a stronger testimony, have developed a stronger work ethic and organizational skills, be able to give a more compelling and spiritual lesson, have bonded better with members through Church Tours, be more effective at the “soft” door approach, and be more loving and obedient through every moment of the day. And the driving force for us to improve our companion? The Savior counseled, “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have

done it unto me.” Matt. 25:40. Our Savior’s counsel compels us to strengthen our companion.

ABOUT CHURCH LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

When we served as bishop of a student ward at the University of Utah, we limited the time of service of our bishop’s counselors to 6 months. It meant more work for us because it took 2 or 3 months of hands-on training until the counselors knew their duties well. It would have been easier to keep them as counselors until they graduated. However, we viewed it as one of our responsibilities in the student ward to train future Church leaders. Since then, several of those bishop’s counselors have served as bishops, and at least one is now a stake president.

Similarly, our job as Mission President is to train future Church leaders. To that end we would plan on having each of our missionaries serve during his or her time in the Vancouver Mission in a leadership capacity. We expect that each of our missionaries will serve in Church leadership positions in the future, as Elders’ Quorum presidents, Relief Society presidents, bishops, stake presidents, and some of you may well be General Authorities. It may not happen unless you are given the opportunity to lead here in British Columbia and thereby learn the lessons and responsibilities of leadership.

LEADERSHIP CALLINGS ARE TIME-LIMITED

With the exception of Church leaders called to the Quorum of the Twelve or First Presidency, Church callings are time-limited. After President Middleton was released from the stake presidency, his next

calling was to teach a teenage Sunday School class. A friend of ours, Gary Sargent, was a counselor in a stake presidency until they were released, then the next week he was called to be a Primary teacher.

As is true of leadership calls in the Church beyond the mission, here in the mission we intend to rotate missionaries in and out of various leadership positions, so that all are prepared for future callings. While many missionary skills are learned only over time, the one skill that every missionary can exhibit from day one in the mission is exact obedience to the schedule—to arise at 6:30 a.m., devote 30 minutes to physical exercise, one hour to focused intense personal study, one hour to productive companionship study (plus one hour of language study for our language missionaries), then fill the day with productive proselyting effort including member and investigator Tours, etc., and be in bed by 10:30 p.m.

Our intent is to have every missionary who demonstrates exact obedience rotate through as many leadership positions in the mission as possible. Leadership positions would include Senior Companion, District Leader, Zone Leader, Trainer of a new missionary, and Assistant. Because there are relatively few Assistant and Zone Leader positions, it won't be possible to have some dedicated missionaries serve in each or either of these positions. But leadership responsibilities of some sort are our goal for every missionary who is willing to work hard. After a period of time in any of these leadership positions, most missionaries will then rotate to different responsibilities and assignments. If an Assistant, Zone Leader or District Leader is moved to a different assignment, it is not a demotion. It simply means that we need to move others into those assignments to give them the leadership training and responsibility they need to be future Church leaders and to train for success in all phases of their life beyond the

mission. We expect those missionaries who are called to less visible leadership positions to be exemplary in their diligence and obedience, to give maximum devotion and effort until the day they are released.

We love you all. Your success as a missionary is constantly on our minds and in our prayers. That we all might steadily grow in our testimonies and in our success as missionaries is our prayer.

President and Sister Middleton



AND A THANKS TO THE KITCHEN ANGELS,
VANCOUVER ZONE, AUGUST 2005

EN ROUTE TO WHISTLER



SEPTEMBER 5, 2005

WHY MEMBERS MATTER

When all other finding methods fail, tracting should be done. For many, many years the Church has been surveying to determine which methods are most effective in finding people to baptize. While the numbers vary a little with each survey, they are consistent with a recent survey taken by the Church of those investigators who have a lesson:

- **Less than 10% of individuals taught as a result of a tracting encounter go on to baptism.**
- **54% of individuals referred for lessons by a member go on to become baptized.**

In other words, tracting is our least effective method for finding potential converts, but should still be used when other approaches fall through or there are gaps in our schedule.

TO OBTAIN MEMBERS' HELP

The member chapel Tour is proving very effective. While many members initially resist, pointing out that they are in the chapel weekly or more often, once they take an effectively led mission-ary Tour they consistently are amazed that they have seen each room in a new spiritual light that they had not previously appreciated. Our goal as missionaries is to take every member on a Tour, starting with

the ward or branch leadership and then everyone else. At the end of the tour it would be appropriate to **commit the member to bring a non-member friend or relative on a subsequent Tour**. Point out that the Tour is totally non-threatening to a non-member—our goal is to introduce the Church in such a positive light that even if they choose for whatever reason not to proceed towards baptism they will henceforth be a good personal friend of you and the Church.

PRESIDENT'S FIRESIDE

Coupled with each Zone Conference we hold a Fireside in the evening for investigators, recent converts and less-active members. They are effective when properly advertised and orga-nized. We have had as many as 11 investigators present at one Fireside in Burnaby, and one of those 11 committed to a date for baptism as a result of the Fireside.

We would urge our missionaries to start passing out flyers 2-3 weeks before a Fireside, and have an advertising billboard up in the hall for 3-4 weeks before. Also, we would love to have the ward or branch mission leader in attendance (preferably with investigators in tow).

Elders and Sisters, this new Prime Time/"soft" approach is working. Those of us missionaries and members who have embraced it are seeing excellent success, and baptisms in our mission are significantly up over last year as a result. Our goal must be to have all our missionaries and members committed equally as we are.

May the Lord bless us all as we go forth in His work. We love you all, and relish the chance to work with you.

President and Sister Middleton

SEPTEMBER 12, 2005

FAMILY HISTORY AS A MISSIONARY RESOURCE

We understand that several months ago Elder David Sorenson traveled our mission and suggested using Family History as a proselyting tool. That was before our time, and as best we can tell nothing much was done with the suggestion because the stakes' Family History Centers didn't have enough people called to handle the anticipated increased load. We are told now that the stakes have called and trained more members, so we now can use Family History to attract new investigators.

FAMILY HISTORY PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION

To work properly, good coordination with your local Family History Center personnel is essential. So to implement and start the program, first visit your Family History Center, speak with the members who run it, and find out how best to deliver the newly filled out "Tell Me About Your Family" card from the investigator to the Center. Find out how long the pedigree chart or family group record preparation will take, then work out plans to pick up and deliver to the investigator his or her family history information.

Once you have visited the Family History Center, begin carrying several "Tell Me About Your Family" pass-along cards with you to give to investigators as you tract or find them on a Tour or any other way. Also, let your ward or branch leaders know of the program in your PEC and Ward Council meetings, and take time to announce the program from the pulpit at a Sacrament Meeting. Let us start this program at once.

JUST DO IT

As President Kimball loved to counsel us all, "Just Do It!" President Kimball also said this about Family History: "I hope to see us dissolve the artificial boundary line we so often place between missionary work and Temple and genealogical work, because it is the same great redemptive work."

From a practical standpoint, our missionaries might give investigators a family history pass-along card, which has the local Family History Center telephone number on it, and offer the investigator a free initial search of family roots. Call back over the next day or two at the homes where cards were left, to facilitate getting the filled out cards to the Family History Center. Then plan on delivering the pedigree chart or family group record back to the investigator, perhaps coupling its delivery with a Tour of the ward or branch. If you can, **carry your own personal four-generation chart as an example**, and share it with investigators who might have your same last name. Also, give additional family history pass-along cards to ward or branch members or investigators to give to their friends and relatives.

Please let us know how this program works for you. In missions

ELDERS FLITTON, BALCH, AND PRESIDENT MIDDLETON
ON THE HIKE TO "THE CHIEF" ON PREPARATION DAY



where it has been tried, it has been phenomenally successful, and we expect it to do the same for our mission.

May the Lord bless us all in this His great missionary effort. We love you all!

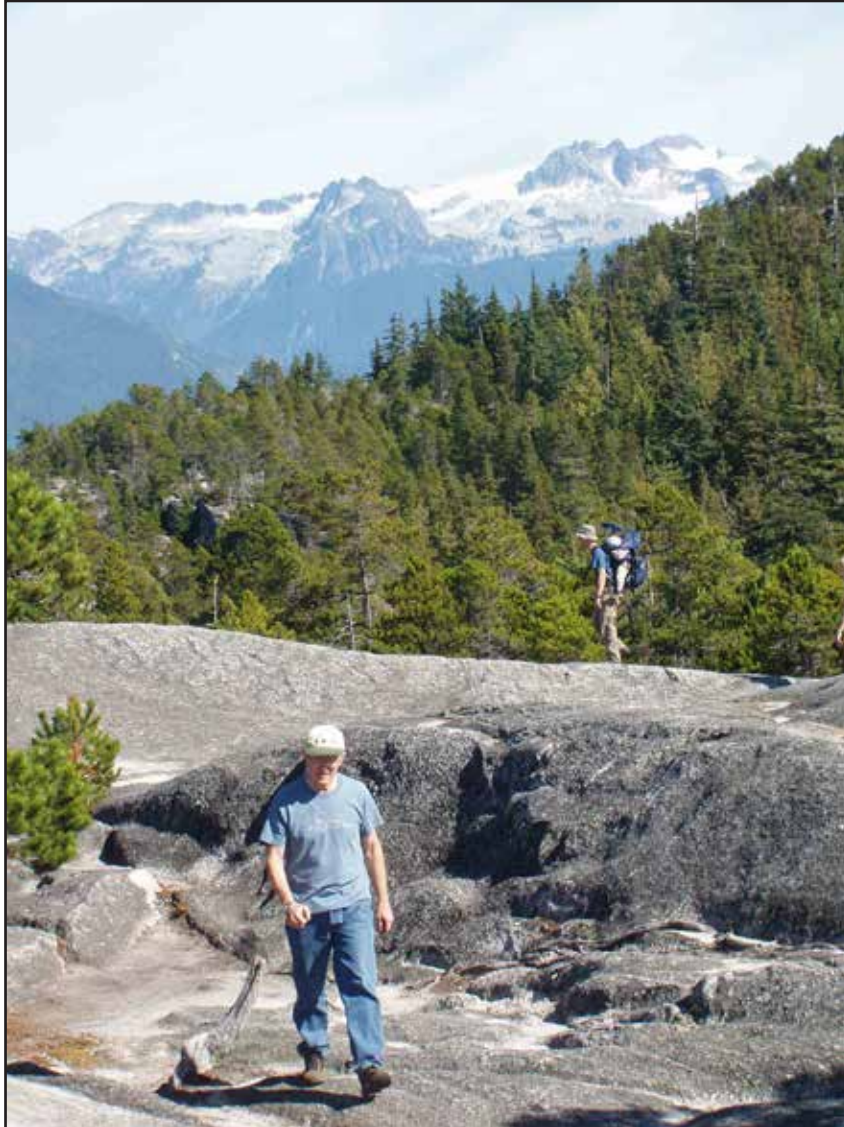
President and Sister Middleton

SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

LESSONS LEARNED IN PROSELYTING

In May 2005 President and Sister Stewart were instructed by Elder M. Russell Ballard, Elder David Sorenson and Elder Melvin Perkins (our Area Authority) to implement in the Canada Vancouver Mission the same focus on missionary work which had been developed in the Washington Tacoma Mission. The Tacoma Mission leaders had found that by focusing on selected methods outlined in *Preach My Gospel* their success rate in finding, teaching and baptizing went up significantly. Those methods included:

- 1. Prime Time** 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. This proved to be the best proselyting time possible, as usually both husband and wife are home to teach. The missionaries are asked not to have a meal during this time, but instead eat at other times in the day. Meals with members, given so generously in the past, can still be enjoyed with members at other times through the day. As an option, not an obligation, members can provide food to missionaries for use at their apartment.
- 2. “Soft” approach to investigators.** Instead of starting the conversation with a contact with a discussion of doctrine, missionaries are to strive to know and bond with investigators before committing them to a Tour of the chapel or lesson on the Gospel (PMG page 157). Of course, a discussion of the Gospel is the ultimate objective.
- 3. Ward or Branch Tour, given by the missionaries.** This approach is non-threatening, and is designed to be such a positive experience that even if the investigator chooses not to go on to baptism they will be left with a very positive impression of the Church. Each meeting room in the ward or branch is presented on the Tour, giving the role it plays in the life of each member, socially and in their family life as well as in giving instruction in the Gospel (PMG page 167). To acquaint members with the approach we have stressed member Tours, and have asked members to return with non-members to go on a subsequent Tour. Following the Tacoma model we initially tried to link tracting and a Tour, which is often useful, but are finding that the optimal use of a Tour is when a member brings an investigator and both member and investigator go on the Tour together. It makes a difference in Tour effectiveness whether the facility used for the Tour has been built by our Church or bought from another Church, as is true in some of our branches. Also, the distance an investigator must travel to go on the Tour matters in terms of whether a Tour or some other proselyting technique works best. A Tour given to a member by our missionaries serves two purposes: the missionaries improve their skills, and the members will view their ward or branch in a new spiritual light they may never have thought of before.



MEMBER REFERRAL REMAINS OUR MOST EFFECTIVE TOOL

At a recent Mission President Seminar in Seattle, Elder Ronald Rasband shared with us statistics developed when he was a Mission President in New York. He found the following:

- The chances of an investigator progressing to baptism were:
 - a. 1 in 4000 if found by tracting or street contact.
 - b. 1 in 100 if found through a Media Referral.
 - c. 1 in 20 if referred by a member who declined to have their name mentioned to the investigator by the missionaries.
 - d. 1 in 15 if referred by a member who went with the missionaries to teach in the investigator's home.
 - e. 1 in 7 if member-referred and taught in the member's home.
- Elder Rasband concluded, "A name from a member is equivalent to knocking on 1000 doors."

While we have not developed the statistics for the Canada Vancouver Mission, they are very similar to what Elder Rasband noted in New York.

THE RESULTS

The Tour/"soft"/Prime Time approach you have implemented so well is working. Baptisms through the end of August are 32% above that time last year, despite having 20 fewer missionaries to accomplish the work! While attributed in large part to the publication of "Preach My Gospel", the hard work of our excellent missionaries and the mission emphasis on those facets in PMG mentioned above,

we feel that the mission acceleration is due also in large measure to a quickening of the spirit throughout British Columbia. The Lord is truly blessing us!

May we all be equal to His expectations by working hard, and “working smart”. Utilize the tools given us in PMG, and the emphasis pioneered by Tacoma. That we all may work both hard and smart is our prayer. We love you all, and are humbled to be working with you in this great Canada Vancouver Mission.

President and Sister Middleton



REMEMBER OUR MISSION GOAL: 10 Gospel Contacts per day per missionary outside our usual finding and teaching duties.

FROM THE ASSISTANTS

At this transfer time we would like you to know that we have all fasted and prayed over the transfer that is now taking place. There is no doubt in our minds that we are each placed in our specific areas for reasons that are probably past our understanding. This past transfer has been unique because we have had the chance to visit nearly every Elder in this mission, and we are proud to report that we feel that everyone is working hard and being obedient. As we have traveled and finished all the Zone Conferences we can't stress enough how important it is for all of us to comply with the rules. There is no doubt that happiness is linked with the amount of obedience put forth on the missionaries' efforts. The mission right now is simply on fire. Our numbers are the best they have been in several years. The best part about the whole thing is that we are accomplishing our goals with fewer missionaries. That simple statistic tells a lot about the quality of missionaries that we have in the field right now. We all should be proud of the work that we are doing in this area of the Lord's vineyard.

With love,
Elders Brough and Nemrow
Elders Young and Bailey

DECORATIONS FOR THE PRINCE GEORGE YOUTH DANCE

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES

- September 29—Vancouver/Language
- October 6—Surrey/Abbotsford
- October 12—Vernon
- October 14—Prince George
- October 21—Nanaimo/Victoria

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford—Kyla Bysterveld, Virginia Houston, Joann Novak
- Nanaimo—Aime Beaumier, Malcolm Coffill, Stew Stowell, David Tancon
- Prince George—Gaylene Callihoo, Echo Hawkridge
- Surrey—Adil Bendachmane
- Vancouver—Justin Brietzke, Teerawat Luechachandej, Maureen, Raymond, and Sarah Matkin, Leona McVicker, Anna Romanova
- Vancouver Language—Nancy Avila, Ospina Gonzalez, Tom Jung, Louisa Zhang
- Vernon—Wyn Ward, Wade Williamson
- Victoria—Rose Rutt, Barb Smith, Emma Westbrook

REMINDERS

- Practice 10 minutes on the piano each day.
- Remember to clean up your apartments (cleanliness is next to Godliness).
- Get your converts to send a letter telling about their conversion or you write their conversion story and send it to President and Sister Middleton at the mission office.

*...it is required of the Lord,
at the hand of every steward,
to render an account of his
stewardship, both in time and
in eternity. D & C 72:3*

S E P T E M B E R 2 6 , 2 0 0 5

**STUDY AND LEARN THAT WE MIGHT
EFFECTIVELY TEACH**

We have noted in our interviews that since all missions have stopped giving certification or awards for scripture mastery or study the focus of our missionaries in their personal and companionship study has lagged some. Elder M. Russell Ballard has counseled us in the importance of goal setting:

“I am so thoroughly convinced that if we don’t set goals in our life and learn how to master the techniques of living to reach our goals,

we can reach a ripe old age and look back on our life only to see that we reached but a small part of our full potential. When one learns to master the principles of setting a goal, he will then be able to make a great difference in the results he attains in this life.” (PMG, pg. 146)

To better focus the studies of all of our missionaries we have distributed a daily study guide for reading from the Book of Mormon and a scripture memorization list from scriptures used in Preach My Gospel. We would ask all of our missionaries to focus on enhancing their reading and memorization by coupling their personal and companionship studying to these suggested guidelines plus structured, focused study in Preach My Gospel. We will ask that District Meetings as well as Zone Conferences devote time to the mastery of these magnificent resources, that we all may become more knowledgeable in the Gospel as well as more effective teachers. Once completed, we will distribute a similar schedule for the New Testament, the Pearl of Great Price and the Doctrine and Covenants.

BY MEASURING, PERFORMANCE IMPROVES

President Thomas S. Monson made an extremely insightful observation about measuring performance when he stated:

“When performance is measured, performance improves. When performance is measured and reported, the rate of improvement accelerates.” (PMG, pg. 150)

By setting high goals for scripture reading and memorization, our expectation is that our knowledge of the Gospel and teaching effectiveness will rapidly accelerate. Similarly, the goal of 3 baptisms per companionship per transfer, which our mission has adopted

after being suggested at our Zone Leaders’ Conference, should result in an acceleration of baptisms. While realistically not every companionship will achieve the goal of 3 baptisms, with prayer, faith and hard work many will. By “raising our sights,” as Elder Jeffrey R. Holland counseled at our recent Mission Presidents’ Seminar, as aiming toward 3 baptisms per companionship per transfer will require, our success rate will surely improve.

Our success rate already is improving, as noted by the 32% increase in baptisms this year compared to last, despite having 20 fewer missionaries. We humbly note that the Lord is blessing us missionaries with His success. There is indeed a quickening of the spirit perceptible all across British Columbia!

President and Sister Middleton

*“Wherefore, brethren, seek not to counsel the Lord, but to take counsel from His hand. For behold, ye yourselves know that he counseleth in wisdom, and in justice, and in great mercy.”
Jacob 4:10*



Mickell's
Pumpkin's



U-pick & Ready Picked
also Fresh Vegetables



MISSIONARY WORK STARTS WITH MEMBERS

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2005

OCTOBER 3, 2005

ABBOTSFORD STAKE CHALLENGE

Last week we were invited to attend a meeting called by President Paul Christensen, the Abbotsford Stake President. The meeting was extraordinary, and could prove to be pivotal in inviting our devoted British Columbia members to bring their non-member friends to us missionaries. We have sent a memo to all British Columbia stake and district presidents, printed below, describing the meeting and its conclusions. The principles presented in the meeting are found in Preach My Gospel, and have been focused to include every member beautifully by President Christensen. We implore each of

our missionaries to be aware of President Christensen's challenge, and incorporate it as you work with ward or branch members seeking member-referred investigators to take on a Tour and teach. Following is the memo we sent:

Last evening President Paul Christensen of the Abbotsford Stake kindly invited us along with two of our mission assistants and the Abbotsford Zone Leaders to meet with his stake leaders as well as the bishops and ward and branch leaders to discuss missionary work. The meeting was extraordinary. President Christensen outlined his vision of having each active family/member in the stake (as well as those less-active) join the missionaries on a Tour of their Church facility,

then commit to bring at least 3 of their non-member friends or family on a similar Tour each year. He noted that there are 50 active families per ward in Abbotsford, on average. Noting that the Tour system has resulted in one baptism for every three non-members taken on a Tour, he feels that a conservative estimate for this plan would result in 300 baptisms per year in the Abbotsford Stake!

We were elated! President Christensen is absolutely right in his estimations.

As you all know, without member referrals our missionaries are not too effective, and a recent commentary by Elder Rasband of the Seventy noted that one member referral to a missionary is the

equivalent of knocking on 1000 doors, in terms of finding investigators who go on to baptism. Traditionally, perhaps 3% of the members of any typical ward have brought their non-member friends to the missionaries, the others holding back because of a perceived fear of offending their non-member friends or for a variety of other reasons. The members who have gone on a missionary-led Tour, on the other hand, have seen first hand that the approach is non-threatening, and our missionaries report that 90% plus of members who have gone on a Tour have become comfortable enough with the approach that they have subsequently brought their non-member friends on a Tour. As noted above, one out of three of the non-members who go on a Tour go on to baptism!

The vision of what missionary work in British Columbia might become, if Church leaders embrace this approach, is positively thrilling.

The purpose of this letter is to solicit the input from all the other stake and district leaders regarding President Christensen's approach — would you all feel comfortable adopting this approach in your own wards and branches? Please let us know. Also, if you think of variations or nuances to the proposal that would make it even more effective we would love to have you share your ideas with us.



SOPHIE MOON BAPTISM

May the Lord bless us all in discharging His command to “find my sheep.”

With all our love. We pray several times daily for each of our missionaries, for your safety, that you might be obedient to your missionary calling all day every day, and that you might be inspired to use the most effective methods in your ward or branch (such as noted above in the memo).

President and Sister Middleton

*“Use boldness, but not overbearance; and also see that ye bridle all your passions, that ye may be filled with love; see that ye refrain from idleness.”
Alma 38:12*

OCTOBER 11, 2005

FAITH: OUR ONLY HOPE

The title of this month’s STAR is taken from President Hinckley’s marvelous book “Standing for Something”. It is the heading for Chapter 10 in his book, and summarizes well what drives us missionaries.

“Great buildings were never constructed on uncertain foundations. Vacillating leaders never brought great causes to success. Faith has always been, and always will be, at the root of any meaningful practice and endeavor.” Thus wrote President Hinckley. He goes on to note that he speaks of a “practical, pragmatic, working faith—the kind of faith that moves us to get on our knees and plead with the lord for guidance, get on our feet and go to work to help bring the desired results to pass.... There is no obstacle too great, no challenge too difficult, if we have faith.”

Those thoughts describe precisely what we must do to succeed as missionaries. Seeking for and obtaining that faith described by President Hinckley will be our secret to success.

WORK WITH MEMBERS

To reiterate what Elder Rasband noted, “a member referral is the equivalent to knocking on 1000 doors”. The Canada Vancouver Mission is no different. Our greatest source for baptisms lies with our members. Our missionaries are working hard already, and our urgent

advice to all our missionaries is to concentrate on methods designed to have members bring to us their non-member friends or relatives so that we can teach them about the Church.

Ward/Branch Tours accomplishes that goal. A good Tour given to a member should accomplish the following:

1. The member will gain confidence in you as a missionary and companionship.
2. The member helps you refine your Tours, giving you greater skills.
3. The member finds that the Tour is not threatening to any non-member they might bring.
4. It reminds the member that missionary work is the duty of every faithful Church member.

Please commit every member who goes on a Tour to come back with a non-member for a subsequent Tour. Put them in your planner and call them weekly as a reminder until they do. Remind them of the Abbotsford Stake goal of having every family bring three non-members per year on a Tour.

MEET WITH YOUR BISHOP OR BRANCH PRESIDENT

If you haven't done so, please set up a meeting with your bishop or branch president. In that meeting you want to assure him that our goal is to make his work easier by visiting his inactive or less-actives (one of his ward or branch leadership duties), and can report about



NANAIMO PREPARATION DAY. SISTER GRIMM, ELDER KNUDSEN, ELDER PASKETT, ELDER TAYLOR, AND SISTER DUNN. PHOTO BY ELDER MORGAN

them at each PEC and Ward Council meeting. Volunteer to home or visit teach less-actives. Include the names of less-actives on the Progress Sheet you prepare and copy for each PEC and Ward Council meeting, and discuss their needs during your time on the agenda. As Preach My Gospel notes, and we in BC have found, less-actives are extraordinarily good sources for finding non-members who can be taught and baptized, and we need to focus our energies on them.

That we all might work both hard and smart is our constant prayer. We love each of you and pray multiple times daily for your safety and success.

President and Sister Middleton

“And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also, for I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.” D&C 84:88



TAKUYA SPEAKS AT HIS BAPTISM

OCTOBER 17, 2005

BISHOP JOHN RUSSELL OF NANAIMO ISSUES CHALLENGE

Sister Middleton and I met with Bishop John Russell on Sunday, October 5, 2005 after we had spoken at the Nanaimo Ward. Our subject, not too surprisingly, was missionary work, and our implementing the “Preach My Gospel” Tour and Prime Time system. Bishop Russell has surveyed the needs of his quite strong Nanaimo Ward, and has concluded that his average attendance on any Sunday is about 150. His goal in the time he serves as Bishop, which probably will be 4 ½ to 5 years, is to double the attendance!

In a marvelous conversation we offered the services of our missionaries to help him achieve that laudable goal. We have suggested accomplishing that doubling of attendance by the following:

1. Have our missionaries visit the less-actives. Many of them simply need a little nudge to come back into full activity. Additionally, our missionaries throughout British Columbia are finding a number of non-members in the households of less-actives. They already know much about the Gospel, and are already prepared to be taught. Many of our baptisms are coming from lesser-active families as a result.
2. Have Nanaimo Ward members accept our challenge of bringing three non-members per year to the attention of the missionaries

to a Tour or other methods for allowing our missionaries to teach them. The Tours are designed to be non-threatening, and we feel that any member would feel comfortable bringing non-members over to meet with the missionaries. In some parts of BC one out of every three people who go on a Tour go on to be baptized.

3. Coordinate carefully to have our missionaries present throughout PEC and Ward Council meetings. Clearly much comes up that would involve the thrust of the ward in trying to reactivate, which the missionaries need to know in order to perform their tasks appropriately.



NANAIMO ZONE PREPARATION DAY.
SALMON SWIM UPSTREAM.

We are so excited by the challenge and goals set by Bishop Russell. We are hopeful that every bishop and branch president throughout British Columbia will take Bishop Russell's goal as a challenge, to see if they can meet or beat his objectives within their own ward or branch.

What an exciting time to be part of the missionary effort in the Canada Vancouver Mission! That our Father in Heaven will help all of us to succeed in this His noble missionary work is our prayer.

President and Sister Middleton

OCTOBER 24, 2005

FIGHTING DISCOURAGEMENT

Everybody as a missionary will have points in the mission where everything seems to be going wrong, and everybody seems to be aligned to produce failure in our lives. Perhaps we've had a bad few days where our investigators have fallen through, doors have been slammed, there have been misunderstandings with companions, etc. We all have those periods in missionary work. We urge you to work through them with a positive outlook.

THE LESSONS FROM THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN

In the early days of World War II when the axis forces had overrun most of Europe there was a terrible defeat for the British at Dunkirk, Belgium, and the rag tag forces of the British Army barely escaped capture or death. They escaped Belgium in an unlikely armada of fishing boats and pleasure craft that took them back to England across the channel. It looked like Great Britain would fall next. Great Britain was ill equipped either financially or in terms of having much of a war machine to counter the terrible forces of Hitler that had overrun Europe, and most observers thought Great Britain would be the next to fall.

In President Hinckley's marvelous book, "Way to Be", he talks about that episode in history. On June 4, 1940 the leader of Great Britain, Prime Minister Winston Churchill, stood before the House of Commons to address the defeat at Dunkirk and to rally the British to stand tall. He stated, "We shall not fail... we shall fight in France, we shall fight on the seas and oceans, we shall fight with growing confidence and growing strength in the air, we shall defend our island, whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches, we shall fight on the land and ground, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills; we shall never surrender."

It was his positive leadership, exhibited when pessimism was rampant throughout Great Britain, that rallied the people of Great Britain to stave off the Nazi forces in the Battle of Britain, and the rest is history.

President Hinckley goes on to make a very interesting observation:



PRESIDENT MIDDLETON IN FRONT OF MISSION HOME

“Years ago I read a comment by Sydney Harris that said that Sir Walter Scott and Lord Byron both caused trouble at school. Thomas Edison was considered dumb. Burns and Boccaccio did poorly in school. Thomas Aquinas, who was later thought to have perhaps the finest scholastic mind among Catholic thinkers, was labeled ‘the dumb ox’ at school. Sir Isaac Newton was last in his class. Each of these men was later hailed as a genius. I imagine most of you will be underestimated at some point in your life.”

Many of us in the Canada Vancouver Mission have been underestimated in our skills and abilities to bring people to the Gospel. Most importantly many of us underestimate our own skills and abilities. The devil would have you believe you are a failure. Do not despair. Do not give up. The down points in your mission are temporary, and will be followed by magnificent periods of your mission where everything clicks. The members will be forthcoming with magnificent investigators who go on to baptism and all will be well. God will not forsake us.

May we urge all of you to look upon life positively. Certainly your success as a missionary will be enhanced by the positive attitudes you bring to your duties. We know the Lord will help you in achieving your goals as a missionary. We know that through your hard work, through your earnest prayers to our Father in Heaven for His help, and through His intervention He will provide success in your missionary labors.

Sister Middleton and I wish you nothing but success, and want you to know that discouragement is of the devil, that a positive outlook on life is of the Spirit. Keep up the great work you are doing.

President and Sister Middleton

MISSION TOUR AND CHRISTMAS IN B.C.

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 2005

NOVEMBER 14, 2005

FLU IMMUNIZATION

In consultation with the Missionary Medical Department in Salt Lake City, we have determined that all our missionaries must be immunized this month or next with flu vaccine. Sister/Dr. Jeanie Chan has kindly informed us that Canadian citizens can obtain the vaccination at no charge if they fall into a “high risk” category (have cardiac, pulmonary or other chronic conditions) or if they are 65 years of age or older. Missionary Medical advises us that all of our missionaries should be immunized with the flu vaccine, even though most are not in the “high risk” category. The cost for immunization

will be reimbursed by the mission, if a charge is incurred; submit the receipt for the cost to Elder Balch.

In addition to flu vaccination, “high risk” missionaries should be immunized with pneumococcal vaccine for the prevention of pneumonia, if they have never had the vaccine.

We suggest that Canadian citizens who qualify for free vaccine (they fall into the “high risk” category) may obtain the injections either at Dr. Chan’s office or any clinic in BC if they present their health card (except for those from Quebec, who will need to pay). All other missionaries can receive their shot at a reduced fee by going to certain pharmacies throughout BC - Safeway, London Drug, Save-On-Foods,



SCENE NEAR QUESNEL. PHOTO BY ELDERS GRAHAM AND HANSEN

or Costco. Please let us know through reporting to your District Leader, so we can be certain that all our missionaries are immunized. There is great concern in the medical community that a current strain of Asian flu, which currently is only spread from infected birds to humans, may mutate to acquire the ability to spread from human to human, and it then would rapidly spread worldwide as a pandemic. Once contracted there is very little that modern medicine can offer. This particular virus is so violent that it kills approximately one half of all who contract it, but the flu vaccination that we are asking everyone to have should protect us.



QUESNEL-FALL 2005
PHOTO BY ELDERS GRAHAM AND HANSEN

MEMBER MISSIONARIES ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Through the end of October we have surpassed all of 2004 in convert baptisms - 156 this year compared to 155 for all of 2004. There is a quickening of the Spirit throughout BC. Clearly all of your hard work is paying off, and we feel the Lord is blessing us by working “smarter”. Throughout BC our missionaries have embraced and are using *Preach My Gospel*, and have concentrated wonderfully on the Prime Time (proselyting 5-9 p.m.) and Tour approach, the marvelous tool which has been given us in PMG. Another important factor is the increasing acceptance by members of their role as member missionaries. Members are understanding that it is not enough to simply feed the missionaries, although we are grateful for that help. They are realizing that they have not accomplished our prophet’s command of “every member a missionary” until they bring their non-member friends on a Tour of their ward or branch, and they are realizing how non-threatening a well-given Tour can be.

Please focus on our members. If they haven’t been on a Tour keep inviting them until they do. At the end of the Tour please obtain a commitment from them to return with a non-member friend for a Tour, and then keep reminding them politely of their commitment until they do.

We love working with each of you. Each of you with your determination and obedience is making a difference. We love the Gospel and we love you.

President and Sister Middleton

“I give unto men weakness that they may be humble... for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.” Ether 12:27

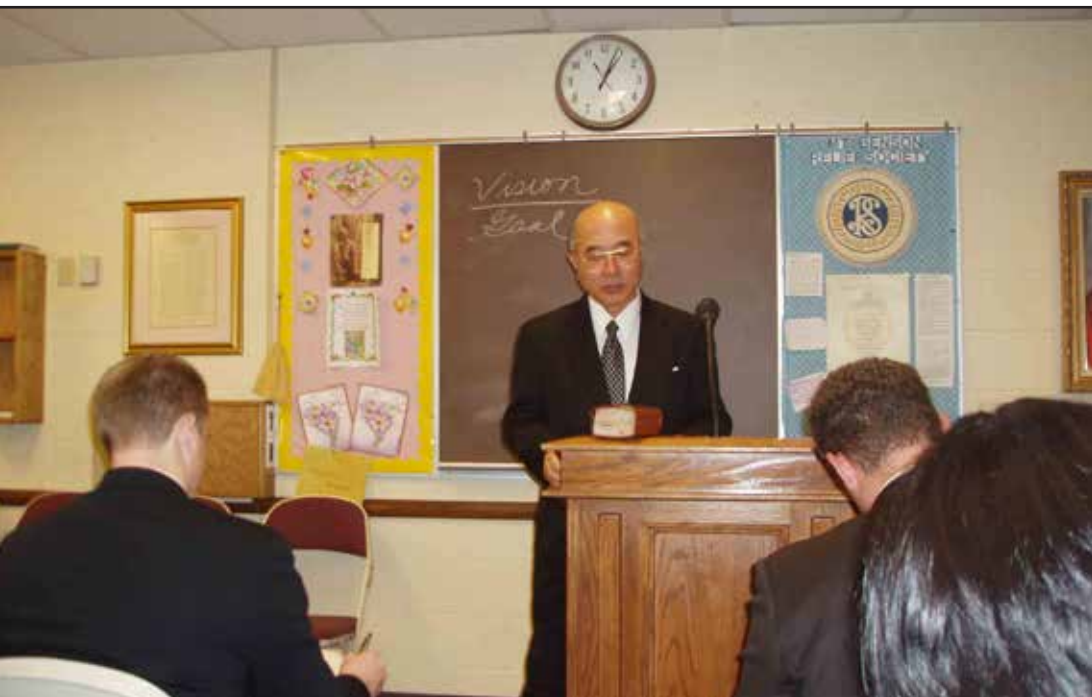


ARRIVING ELDERS AT VANCOUVER AIRPORT

NOVEMBER 21, 2005

THANKS TO ELDER AND SISTER KIKUCHI

We have been richly blessed last week by the Mission mini-tour of Elder and Sister Kikuchi. After they spoke, testified and exhorted at Vancouver Stake Conference on Nov. 12 and 13, we traveled with the Kikuchi's to Vancouver Island where we enjoyed a



ELDER KIKUCHI INSTRUCTS AT NANAIMO ZONE CONFERENCE

Zone Conference of the Victoria and Nanaimo Zones at the Nanaimo Stake Center on Monday, Nov. 14. We then traveled to the Lower Mainland where another Zone Conference was held in the Surrey Stake Center on Tuesday, Nov. 15, with the Vancouver, Vancouver Language, Surrey and Abbotsford Zones attending. Unfortunately, the Prince George and Vernon Zones could not attend due to the distance and expense needed to travel. We hope to summarize the highlights of the Kikuchi visit in this and subsequent Stars.

CANADA VANCOUVER MISSION GROWTH PREDICTED

Intermixing marvelous humor with solemn testimony, Elder Kikuchi challenged us to meet or surpass the baptismal record of the Tacoma Mission. Considering that Tacoma baptized 4 times as many as we did in 2004, the challenge is formidable, but doable. We shared with Elder Kikuchi that there is a perceptible quickening of the Spirit throughout B.C., that the number of baptisms through the end of October has exceeded all of 2004, and that our most recent 5 week key indicator report from Salt Lake shows that we enjoyed in October more baptisms per companionship than 4 of the 9 missions in our area. In other words, for the first time perhaps in decades we are no longer last among the 9 missions!

We pointed out that much of the improvement is attributable to Preach My Gospel with its new finding and teaching techniques, much is attributable to increasing member involvement in response to well-done ward and branch TOURS, and challenges to them by their stake and district presidents to bring their non-member friends

on a building TOUR, much is attributable to our missionaries not eating during the Prime Time of 5-9 p.m. and instead devoting that time to proselyting, and much is attributable to our missionaries working harder and smarter. While all of these factors played a role, overarching all of our increasing success is the fact that we are being richly blessed by the Lord!

Elder Kikuchi observed all this, then exhorted us to do better and gave us several ideas on how we might meet his challenge of achieving 150 baptisms per month in B.C. (3 baptisms per companionship, the goal and blessing we have been fasting and praying to achieve). Calling on certain missionaries randomly chosen, to come to the front, when sisters and elders were called forward unwarned, "No romance in the mission! If you do, Sister Kikuchi and I will return to kick you."

A few of the great ideas he gave include:

1. Know and practice giving the principles in sequence presented in each lesson in PMG. A way to test each missionary will be to have them give the 5 minute version of each lesson in their own words, which tests their knowledge of the principles and sequence of principles needed. We will test at Zone Conferences, calling missionaries randomly from the group during the skills training, then ask for a 5 minute lesson on any of the lessons. Practice them in companionship study time, so that you will know them thoroughly and with confidence.
2. Give a more powerful Joseph Smith First Vision story. Practice slowing your speech and intensifying your solemnity as you quote Joseph Smith's words, then give your own testimony similarly. We will call on missionaries to demonstrate at zone conferences, so practice in companionship study.

3. When asking an investigator to read the Book of Mormon, give them 7 or 8 chapters to read in one week. Choose chapters which speak of Christ, perhaps 2 each in 1st and 2nd Nephi, 2 in Alma, 2 in 3rd Nephi, and perhaps 2 in Moroni, including Chapter 10. Together these chapters will show that the B of M is another testament of Christ, and coupled with the sincere prayer you ask the investigator to use as they read should form the basis of their growing testimony.
4. Included is a printout brought by Elder Kikuchi from Salt Lake of every ward and branch in B.C. listing the number of nonmember spouses and unbaptized children of record age 9 and over. Work with your ward or branch clerk to find their names, and visit them as missionaries as soon as soon as possible. They already know about our Church - they live with Church members!

We rejoice with you that our Lord's servants, Elder and Sister Kikuchi, have joined with us to teach us and give us their blessings and challenge. You are all in our prayers constantly. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

“I give unto men weakness that they may be humble... for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them.” Ether 12:27

N O V E M B E R 5 , 2 0 0 5

FINDING THROUGH BAPTISMAL SERVICES

We’re finding that new tools described in Preach My Gospel are very successful in finding and accelerating our missionary activities. Elder David Paskett shared his experience in Nanaimo, where he and Elder Palmer focused on using a baptismal service to find new contacts. Here is his edited report:

“On Friday, October 21, 2005 Andrew Vautour was baptized. Andrew is a 15 year old boy who was referred by his recently baptized friend, Kendra Greene. Brother Evan Clarke, the Ward Mission

Leader, mentioned that a baptismal service, according to Preach My Gospel, is the number two most effective source for finding. Elder Taylor, Brother Clarke and I went to work to see if the baptism could be used as a finding tool. We assigned people to bring refreshments. We made certain that two solid speakers were scheduled and invited all the members to come and to bring a friend. Sisters Dunn and Grimm also brought members from their ward, which meets in the same Nanaimo building, and they asked that they bring friends. They also had the baptism announced in seminary.

“The goal was to fill up the Relief Society room with friends of Andrew along with fellowshipping members. On the night of the baptism we found that we overflowed the Relief Society room and filled up the chapel!! About six nonmembers were there, and most received a Tour of the building. All of those nonmembers felt the spirit of the baptism. One of the nonmembers we met was Remy Chartier, who felt the spirit strongly and went on to additional lessons.

“These lessons culminated in the baptism of Remy on November 26, 2005. That baptism was used in the same way that the baptism of Andrew had been, and on November 26 there were nine nonmembers there, and eight received Tours! Five of those nonmembers had a first discussion, and one of the nonmembers, a lady named Jessy, felt the spirit so strongly she stated that she would like to be baptized as well! I wish I had discovered this finding technique earlier in my mission. All it takes is a little extra work on the part of the missionaries and the ward, and it has proven to be extremely successful.”

What a fabulous finding tool! We hope all of our missionaries will use baptismal services similarly. We would appreciate it if you could briefly write up your experiences and send them to us for future STARS. Also send us written accounts of successful Tours you have

had with members only or with nonmembers as well.
We love you all, and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton

“And now, behold, I say unto you, that the thing which will be of the most worth unto you will be to declare repentance unto this people, that you may bring souls unto me, that you may rest with them in the kingdom of my Father. Amen.” Doctrine and Covenants 15:6.

ELDER KIKUCHI ABOUT TO HAVE ELDER WOLFE LIFTED EASILY

DECEMBER 9, 2005

CHRIST IS BORN!!

This coming Sunday we celebrate the birth of the most important person ever to live on earth, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. His birth was seen in vision and prophesied by many ancient prophets,



in Jerusalem as well as the Americas. We know that he is literally the Son of God, and we know from modern revelation that He is the Jehovah of the Old Testament, and the promised Messiah. Some historic evidence suggests that Christ was born in the Spring, and some interpret D & C 20:1 to mean that he was born on April 6th. Presidents Harold B. Lee and Spencer W. Kimball have both supported the idea of April 6th being the birth date of Christ but all Church leaders have agreed that we celebrate His birth on December 25th, as has become the tradition in the rest of the Christian world.

THE JOY OF PROSELYTING AT CHRISTMAS

Missionary work at Christmas is particularly effective. In my first mission, in England, I was stationed in Norwich at Christmas, a city northeast of London. Back then tracting was our primary finding technique, and we decided to tract on Christmas day. Working through an upper middle class neighborhood at that time, we were invited into less than one in 40 or 50 of the homes we visited on a normal tracting day. Usually even when invited in we were somewhat rudely treated. However, on Christmas day that year we were invited into every home, the families listened to our full lesson, and most offered to feed us! It was extraordinary!

Similarly, most people in British Columbia respond to a message about Christ at this time of year, so the whole Christmas season becomes “Prime Time”. As we celebrate Christmas there will likely be invitations to missionaries from members and others to dinners, parties, etc. While accepting hospitality graciously we urge all of our missionaries to maintain their focus on finding, teaching and baptizing, understanding that Christmas is a unique time of the year when we expect many people to relax their inhibitions



CAROLING BY PARLIAMENT



ELDERS NEMROW AND BAILEY AT
BISHOP HOUSHOLDER'S, PORT ALBERN

and become receptive to our message about the restored Gospel. Do enjoy celebrating with the saints, but stay focused on our proselyting efforts. Continue to work hard and work smart.

We must all keep in mind fully that He whose birth we celebrate stands at the head of our Church, directing the Church and its missionaries through His prophet, President Gordon B. Hinckley. We must always remember that our directive from Christ our elder brother is to spread His Gospel to the citizens of British Columbia, and that Christmastime finds more people willing to listen to His message than at any other time of the year. Work hard, work smart, and enjoy Christmas. Christmas in the mission field is something you will remember your whole life, we promise you.

NEW TESTAMENT READING SCHEDULE

Enclosed with this STAR is our New Testament reading schedule, the “Bible Bash”. We want all missionaries to start the schedule on Jan. 2nd, 2005. Read on schedule either alone or in companionship, or both. Sister Middleton and I like to do our reading aloud and take turns reading. Ponder as we read that this is the first person account of the ministry of Jesus in the Old World, including His supernal atonement and resurrection. Full knowledge of the New Testament is at the core of the lessons we teach in Preach My Gospel. Read prayerfully, seeking for better understanding both intellectually and spiritually.

Merry Christmas! We love you and love serving with you.

President and Sister Middleton

DECEMBER 15, 2005

TEACH BY THE SPIRIT

We must understand first and foremost that conversion only occurs by the Spirit. It isn't an intellectual exercise. A testimony cannot be obtained by using the scientific method of measurable experiments leading to logical conclusions.

THE CAMBRIDGE LESSONS

In my first mission, in Great Britain, my first assignment was in a companionship in Cambridge, England, a university city. School was in session, and hundreds of students were accessible to us missionaries. We had more teaching opportunities available to us than there was time to schedule, and only rarely did a student decline to meet with us. Despite teaching constantly we made no conversions. It wasn't until sometime later that I realized why we didn't convert. We were logically presenting the doctrine of the Gospel without striving sufficiently for the Spirit. The Cambridge students wanted to learn what our basic tenets were, but only in a comparative religion sense. Without seeking and finding the spiritual confirmation of the truthfulness of our message they were not converted.

ELDER KIKUCHI'S MESSAGE

Elder Kikuchi's tour of our mission taught us many things about being better, more effective missionaries. Two excellent ideas he shared with us have to do with teaching by the Spirit.

To achieve the presence of the Spirit as we teach, Elder Kikuchi gave a superb demonstration of how we should present Joseph Smith's First Vision. He urged each of us to slow our speech, "as though we are driving at 20 km/hour down a major highway". Coupled with our slowed speech we should speak with great reverence and solemnity, and should achieve eye contact with our investigator frequently.

When we perceive that the Spirit is present in abundance, we should pause and ask the investigator what they feel. They will describe feeling the Spirit in their own terms, but we can then point out that what we feel is in fact the Spirit giving confirmation to their soul of the truthfulness of the message. Elder Kikuchi urged that we practice giving the First Vision story in companionship study, that we might master this marvelous teaching technique.

ARISE EARLY AND MASTER THE LESSONS

Elder Kikuchi urged that we all arise before the PMG recommended 6:30 A.M. By arising at 6:15 A.M. we can accomplish an added level of self-control and self-mastery, allowing us to accomplish the day's basics such as shaving, 30 minutes of exercise and a rapid shower, then become fully dressed as if ready for proselyting. He urged that we then find a quiet area in our apartment, our own "sacred grove," where we might kneel in fervent prayer to achieve the Lord's direction and affirmation of the day's activities. We then can go forth with full

vigor, energized spiritually to accomplish the Lord's missionary work here in British Columbia.

Elder Kikuchi challenged us to then become better teachers of the Gospel message by:

1. Giving the "short" (3-5 minutes) lessons to our companion frequently through each week,
2. Write and rewrite each of the PMG lessons in a practice lesson plan, and
3. Aim toward giving a full lesson (30 + minutes) 10 or more times weekly. We are asking that each of you report in your Key Indicator report weekly the number of full lessons you gave through the week.

COMPLIANCE AND FAITH WILL BRING INCREASING NUMBERS OF CONVERSIONS

Elder Kikuchi has challenged us to bring in 50-60 new members in December, and then increase that number in the future to 160 per month. When we fully embrace the missionary techniques he brought to us, as mentioned above, and couple that with renewed faith that the Lord will help us achieve His work, there can be no doubt that we will achieve Elder Kikuchi's challenge. That number works out to be 3 baptisms per companionship per transfer, a goal we already are praying for.

We love each and every missionary, and are thrilled to be presenting our testimony of Christ with you to the wonderful people of British Columbia in this, the month we celebrate His birth. May we all have a merry but spiritually rewarding Christmas.

President and Sister Middleton

"I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." D&C 82: 10



ELDER TAYLOR BAPTIZING IN FREEZING RIVER AT MERRITT

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Erin & Vera Prendergast
- Nanaimo: Remy Chartier, Hilary Simms, Andrew Vautour
- Surrey: Jordy Stephens
- Vernon: Lindsay Guenther, Solomon Loewen, Paige Weston
- Victoria: Ian Brown, Lillian Davidson



DINNER AT THE LEE'S

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Scott Allen (Virginia), Andrew Bristow (Utah), Bryan Davis (Missouri), Austin Johnson (Arizona), Brian Perkins (Utah), Jed Pugsley (Utah), Justin Wilhite (California), Rian Wilhite (California)
- Sisters: Jill Berrett (Texas), Patricia Bland (Utah), Golda Janes (Idaho), Coleen Murray (Washington), Maria Slack (Arizona)
- Language Elders: Michael Reina—Spanish (Alberta), Donald Fewkes—Mandarin (California)
- Couples: Larsen & Maurine Boyer (Utah), Robert & Venna Gerber—Employment Center (Utah)

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder David Edwards

I love being a missionary. I'm so grateful for the wonderful experiences and blessings I received. I know Jesus is my Savior and that the Atonement is real and changes lives. I know the Church is true. The challenge now for all of us is to make sure and know that we are true to the Church. That is my prayer and hope for all of us.

Elder Derrick Wong

“Let us realize that the privilege to work is a gift, that the power to work is a blessing, that love of work is success.” (President McKay)
“Whatever you can do or dream you can begin it. Boldness has genius, power, and magic in it.” (Goethe) These are some of the greatest lessons I learned. Time is short. Make this the best time of your life.

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES

- December 29 Surrey/Abbotsford December 30 Vancouver/
Language January 5 Nanaimo/Victoria
- January 11 Vernon January 13 Prince George

FROM THE ASSISTANTS

It's a cold and yet wonderful time of the year! This past transfer has brought some changes that are going to be of great significance to the work here. We had Elder Kikuchi come on short notice and inspire us to use our time more wisely, teach with power, master the lessons and many other things that are being implemented into our daily missionary life. What a blessing and a pleasure to hear from one of the Lord's chosen. Also, this round of Zone Conferences we had the privilege of reading scriptures and singing songs in remembrance of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. As we heard the testimonies of the missionaries our testimonies were reaffirmed of the reality of our Savior. We love you all so very much and feel so blessed to be among you. May the lord bless you as we head into this new transfer with faith and with the spirit of Christmas!

Elders Nemrow and Bailey

Merry Christmas!

DECEMBER 27, 2005

NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS— THAT WE MIGHT BETTER SERVE

As New Year's Day approaches we would do well to reflect on our service thus far in our mission. Did we make every day count? Did we arise on time? Did we prepare ourselves for the day effectively and efficiently? Did we obtain 30 minutes of exercise to prepare us mentally and physically for the day, as recommended in *Preach My Gospel*? Did we then find our "own sacred grove" to earnestly seek our Father in heaven's guidance and affirmation of our plans, as was so eloquently urged by Elder Kikuchi? Did we then study with intensity and focus, both in our one-hour of personal study and a second hour of companionship study (plus additional time for language study in the language zone)? Did we then plan the rest of the day prayerfully, focusing on efficient use of our time, and prioritizing to focus first on the most effective missionary tool, the use of member missionaries?

Our observation is that every missionary in British Columbia is working hard and with focus most of the time; some missionaries are accomplishing it all of the time. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all our missionaries. Our sacred assignment is to urge every missionary to dedicate his two years, or her 18 months, to an effort that surpasses anything you have done previously in your life. The Lord expects it of us, and we each should expect it of ourselves.

MISSIONARY LABOR PREDICTS YOUR FUTURE LIFE

As we interview missionaries about to be released we are struck by a recurring pattern. Those missionaries who have expended all that they have in their work note that their time went by quickly, “in the blink of an eye”, and they are uniformly happy and fulfilled, comfortable that on the judgment day they can report that they gave their mission and the people of British Columbia their all. Those missionaries who had letdowns in their intensity at points in their mission have apologized to us in that release interview, knowing they could have done better. They tell us of their lapses, and I can forgive the lapses and congratulate them for their periods of intense effort, but I’m concerned about that final judgment day interview with the Lord. In 2 Nephi 9:15 we read, “. . . all men . . . must appear before the judgment-seat of the Holy One of Israel; and then cometh the judgment, and then must they be judged according to the holy judgment of God.”

Elder Jeffrey R. Holland was asked once about how hard a missionary should work, and his answer was succinct and to the point when he stated that a returning missionary should have left all they have to give in their mission field such that they would need to be met at the airport by an ambulance to take them home. He said it tongue-in-cheek, but his message was unmistakable.

President Henry D. Moyle, when in the First Presidency, observed that the performance of a missionary in the mission field was predictive of how they would do throughout life. With rare exception that has been our observation as well. The work ethic, focus, study effectiveness, growth in personal testimony, diligence, growth in ability to work well with companions, members and investigators, and ability to “grow your companion” in a very real sense will predict your future life.



ELDER REINA PLAYING GUITAR AND SINGING

Mind you, baptismal numbers alone are not on that list, as they will come with diligence in the work.

RESOLVE TO BE ALL THAT YOU CAN BE

Our Creator endows each of us with different skills and abilities, unique to each individual. “For all have not every gift given unto them; for there are many gifts... To some is given one, and to some is given another, that all may be profited thereby.” (D & C 46:11-12) We believe that each of us will be judged based upon whether we accomplished everything that our God-given talents would allow. While this requires that we give our all, we will not be required to do more than our abilities allow, as “it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength”. (Mosiah 4:27)

We urge each sister and elder to resolve that every moment of each day in 2006 will find us doing our best. Don’t resolve to wait until the next transfer, hoping that a new companion will inspire us. The time is now, the companion to build is our current companion, and the time to build ourselves is now. If not now, when?

We love you. That we might each of us be anxiously engaged in His work is our constant prayer.

President and Sister Middleton

“Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness.” D&C 58:27

We urge you to start the “Bible Bash” reading of *The New Testament* on Monday, January 2, 2006.

We will all be reading together– enjoy reading about the life of our Savior.



FOCUS ON BEING UPBEAT AND USING MEMBERS AS MISSIONARIES

JANUARY 2006

JANUARY 3, 2006

MISSIONARY SUCCESS STORIES

We have been urging all of our missionaries to share with us success stories, as we all might learn from their experiences. Please send us more, that we might share them.

THE CRECHE AS A FINDING TOOL

An 18 year old investigator, Kes Chen, agreed to join Elders Joel Leaman and Ethan Scharman at the Vancouver Ward Crèche before

Christmas. Elder Scharman writes, "I sat next to him while he watched Joy to the World. After it ended we walked into the cultural hall to see the nativities. Kes proceeded to ask me some questions about some very strong feelings he was having. I helped him understand that was the Holy Ghost telling him that what he was watching (Joy to the World) was true. He proceeded to tell me that he heard a voice, telling him to be baptized. So we set the date for Jan. 15, 2006. All of this happened because of the Creche."

ELDER KIKUCHI'S CHALLENGE TO A LONG-TERM INVESTIGATOR

Elder Mark Barber writes about a meeting Elder Kikuchi had with Mike Richardson, whose wife has been a Church member for over 40 years. Always favorable toward the Church, Mike had yet to join. Elder Barber and his companion, Elder Jeff Allen, were prompted one day to visit Mike, hoping to talk to him frankly about baptism. They found that Elder Kikuchi was already there visiting Mike. Elder Barber writes, "As we entered their home the Spirit was already strong. Elder Kikuchi spoke with power, authority and genuine love. He spoke boldly to Mike, asking, 'Mike, you have been married to this lady (pointing to his wife) for how long?' and learned that it was for over 40 years. Elder Kikuchi asked if he loved her? Mike replied that of course he did. Elder Kikuchi then asked Mike if he knew that her dream and prayer had been for over 40 years, 'that you, Mike, would take her to the temple and be sealed to her and your family. Will you answer her prayers? Please pray about it. I know that God will answer you that you should.'

"Elder Kikuchi then told Mike, 'if you don't, this is what God teaches us will happen to you after this life: you, Mike, will appear before Christ to be judged with your family. After you are judged they will go one way and you will go another. I know that is not what you want.' Elder Kikuchi then added, "Mike, you are bigger than I, and if I have made you mad you can throw me out the window.'

Mike said, 'No. You are right. I will pray about these matters.'

"Elder Kikuchi then knelt and offered a prayer at Mike's request, in which he pled for Mike and his family, almost commanding that the Spirit remain in their home.

"As we have met with the Richardsons since then, Mike has set a baptismal date of April 16, his wife's birthday. He is trying to have the missionary who baptized his wife years ago return to baptize him."

A MERRITT BAPTISM IN A FREEZING RIVER

Elder Brad Taylor writes that after he and his companion, Elder Austin Johnson, had completed teaching their investigator, Sam Eckstein, Elder Taylor baptized him in the Coldwater River before Christmas. Elder Taylor stated that the river "was still mostly frozen. That was a highlight of my mission."

Please send us your experiences that demonstrate success with building Tours, member missionary referrals or other successful approaches, that we might share them throughout the mission.

2005 WAS A SUCCESSFUL MISSIONARY YEAR

2005 is now history. We in the Canada Vancouver Mission have been richly blessed by our Father in heaven with 178 baptisms as compared with 155 baptisms in 2004. We accomplished 178 baptisms despite having 20 fewer missionaries in 2005 on average than there were in 2004. Congratulations! Rejoice for a moment, and then let us move forward knowing we can do better still, with the Lord's help.

We love you! That we all might redouble our efforts to work boldly and vigorously, anxiously engaged in the work, focused on inspiring members to bring their non-member friends to us missionaries to teach, is our constant prayer.

President and Sister Middleton

*“Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house, even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God.”
D & C 88:119*

JANUARY 9, 2006

THE IMPORTANCE OF A FIRST IMPRESSION

Elder M. Russell Ballard has sent us a letter dated December 7th, 2005, in which he gives advice to all Mission Presidents throughout the world. His counsel is so important that we share it with you in this Star.

“Teach your missionaries that they never get a second chance

to make a first impression. They are servants of the Lord. They should radiate the light of the Gospel in their faces and in their actions. There should be nothing in their conduct or appearance that attracts attention to themselves rather than to their message of the Restoration. Rings or multiple pieces of jewelry, etc., for example, can attract attention away from their message. The standard missionary name badge, along with clean and attractive appearance, will help them make a lasting first impression.



ELDERS PURSER, JENSEN, STRUM, ASHTON, AND WARD

“We believe the missionaries are becoming very good teachers. One of their great challenges now is finding more people to teach. Help your missionaries to master Chapter 9 in *Preach My Gospel*. Remind them if they want to teach more, they need to talk to more people. Have each one of them talk to at least 10 people every day, independent of tracting, working with members, or teaching lessons. Confirm to them that proselyting is talking to people wherever they find them. Wherever they are going or whatever they are doing, they need to talk to people and introduce to them the restoration of the Gospel.”

PRESIDENT HINCKLEY ASKS US TO DOUBLE BAPTISMS

Elder Ballard goes on in his letter, “Several years ago, President Gordon B. Hinckley asked us to double convert baptisms. He said ‘I am not being unrealistic when I say that with concerted effort... we could double that number’. To accomplish this missionaries need to stay grounded and focused on their work as explained in *Preach My Gospel*. They need to have companion study all seven days of every week. They will become master teachers as they devote time preparing their teaching outlines and practicing their teaching skills together. They need to plan together so that they use their time wisely. They need to keep their hearts and minds clean and pure so that the Holy Ghost can work through them in blessing the lives of those they teach. They need to ‘lock their hearts’ from any interest towards the opposite sex. President Spencer W. Kimball taught about the importance

of missionaries ‘locking their hearts’ while serving as missionaries.”

Elder Ballard then goes on to include a letter from President Spencer W. Kimball regarding missionaries’ ‘locking their hearts.’ “A missionary had been excommunicated years ago for a serious moral transgression, and President Kimball asked ‘Why didn’t you tell the President?’

“It’s time we begin to get involved when involvement is proper. And when any missionary in any mission begins to break mission rules, it’s time that all of his companions should become involved. It doesn’t mean that they take over. It doesn’t mean that they get ugly and mean. It just means that they are interested and involved. There is a nice way to do it.

VERNON ZONE ELDERS DOING CURLING



“I tell you there wouldn’t be very many broken rules if one missionary would just say to the other ‘Let’s not do that. That isn’t good!’

“And if we stop it when it’s fresh, when it’s young, we can stop it, but when it gets deeply entrenched, that sin is awfully hard to dig out.

“If missionaries, when they leave the Missionary Training Center, will just lock their hearts! If they’ve got a girl in there that’s all right, lock her in! But if you haven’t got one in, then lock your heart against all other girls of every description! And the same applies for young women too. I am talking mainly to you elders. You lock your hearts and leave the key at home. And you never open it here!”

CANADA VANCOUVER MISSION TO HEED PRESIDENT HINCKLEY’S ADVICE

My good elders and sisters, what profound and inspired advice! We are on the way in British Columbia to meeting President Hinckley’s injunction that we double our baptisms. We know how we can do it, every one of us. Clearly we feel a quickening of the spirit throughout B.C. It is by applying the advice of Elder Ballard, and by working to have every member in every ward truly become member missionaries, to recognize that being a committed member of our Church entails that they bring their non-member friends to us to be taught, that we may find success. May we implore each of you to continue to work hard, as you have been, and then work even harder, redoubling your efforts. While working hard, work smart, concentrating on those finding and teaching activities that are the most productive and will bring you best to those who will hear the word of our Lord.

We love each of you, and love working with you! That each of our magnificent missionaries might enjoy increasing success is our constant prayer.

President and Sister Middleton

“Choose you this day whom ye will serve...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

JANUARY 16, 2006

ON BEING UPBEAT

One of the interesting observations we have made about missionaries is that the difference between those who succeed mightily and those who struggle is oftentimes very slight. Oftentimes we sense that the intrinsic abilities of those who are struggling are really greater than those who may have lesser ability but are succeeding admirably. In most cases the difference between the two seems to be one of attitude.

In his marvelous book, *Success Is A Choice*, by the highly successful University of Kentucky and now University of Louisville head basketball coach, Rick Pitino, the observation is made that being positive is a discipline. Rick Pitino notes, “We often can’t help feeling crabby, but mood swings can be reversed. We can control our mood... A mood is simply a reflection of our attitude, and we can certainly change our attitude.”

Pitino goes on to observe, “Unmotivated people generally see a huge division between their work and their play, their vocation and their avocation. Self-motivated people see little difference. They love what they do. They can’t wait to get to work in the morning. They can’t wait to get started. They’re the ones who believe there aren’t enough hours in the day to achieve the goals they’re trying to reach.” Pitino goes on to observe that being positive is a discipline, and he further observes that anyone can program themselves to be positive. He notes further that everyone likes being around positive, upbeat people. They feel lifted by them and they feed off their energy. “If you are positive about life and work other people will want you on their team; they’ll want to work with you on projects; they’ll want to include you at work and at other times.”

We have observed the same thing in missionary work, where one highly positive and self-motivated missionary spreads infectiously those same attributes to those surrounding him or her. Pitino makes an observation among his basketball players which is also very true among missionaries, that, “If individual players start to spread positive vibes, the whole team will build that sense of self-esteem, and the attitude will change dramatically... And you know what? Good things start to happen.”

Pitino goes on to note that if anyone is willing to put forth the effort and has the right plan of attack, (as *Preach My Gospel* offers), he or she can prepare themselves to face any tough challenge. He

makes an interesting further observation, “And the more adversity you face, the more positive you have to be.” Pitino goes on, “Positive people can take on the world.”

WORK POSITIVELY, WITH FAITH, TO SUCCEED

As missionaries we need to understand that our success in finding investigators who will listen to our message is not so much about our intrinsically God-given talents as it is about our desire to do our best, our very best. In Ecclesiastes we read, “The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong.” Eccl. 9: 11. In missionary work, as in life, winners are generally those who endure to the end. What tremendous and huge strength there is in commitment!

The Apostle Paul, when a prisoner in Rome, while Nero was the emperor, wrote, “God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord.” II Tim 1:7-8

So we see that the scriptures tell us how we can succeed as missionaries. Working with power, with love and with determination to have a positive spirit are the ingredients of missionary success. If we with full determination and with a positive outlook resolve to do our very best every day, to be up by 6:15, then to follow precisely the order of the day with 30 minutes of physical exercise, then personal study and companion study, followed by structured, focused productive missionary work, we will see success. Where doubt creeps in, where the adversary tells us that being negative is the smartest way to look at the difficulties of being a missionary, we will fail.

That we all might stride forth “boldly, nobly and independent”



PRESIDENT AND SISTER MIDDLETON AT PRINCE GEORGE AIRPORT

as the Prophet Joseph Smith implored, and with the surety that the Lord is on our side, is our constant prayer for each and every one of our missionaries.

President and Sister Middleton

*“Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid.” John
14:27*

JANUARY 23, 2006

NEW TEACHING PAMPHLET

We have received the first shipment from the Church of marvelous new pamphlets entitled “The Restoration of the Gospel of Jesus Christ,” “The Plan of Salvation,” and “The Gospel of Jesus Christ”. These pamphlets are produced so that each missionary companionship can give one to individuals or families to whom you teach the corresponding lesson. It will be a marvelous resource to us missionaries, we think you will agree.

Accompanying the pamphlets are the following instructions, which we include in their entirety below:

HOW TO USE THE MISSIONARY PAMPHLETS

“At the conclusion of each teaching visit, provide the investigator with something to read and ponder in preparation for the next meeting.” ((Preach My Gospel [2004], 190).

Learn to Use the Pamphlets

- Read page 190 of Preach My Gospel, and complete the companion study activity.
- Complete the first personal study activity on page 193. For each situation, consider how the pamphlets might be used, and practice using them in the suggested situations.

Help Investigators Understand

As you teach, use these pamphlets to:

- Review the doctrine from the previous lesson.
- Show visuals.
- Use scripture references and study questions.
- Explain unfamiliar terms.
- Invite investigators to church.
- Remind them of commitments.
- Point them to www.mormon.org.

Other Ideas

- Study the pamphlets in preparing for lessons.
- Refer to the pamphlets in your language study.
- In your planning, consider which pamphlets to use with each person or family you are going to teach.
- Use the pamphlets in finding situations.
- Have investigators write their commitments in the pamphlet.
- Use the pamphlets when teaching members.
- Encourage members to share the pamphlets with their family and friends.

You will notice that the last two pages of the pamphlet need to be filled in by you missionaries, noting thereon the time of Sacrament meeting and the chapel address, and also outlining reading assignments from the Book of Mormon, a baptismal date, and also the time of your next appointment. You also should list both of your names and your phone number on the pamphlet.

Use These Pamphlets With Each Investigator

This pamphlet is so extremely well written that no investigator should have any of the first three lessons without leaving the corresponding pamphlet behind, with you taking enough time to briefly explain what the pamphlet is about, and pointing out the assignments and other items you have filled out on the back of the pamphlet. In our view, this pamphlet is truly inspired, and will give us an immense assist in proclaiming the Gospel to the people of British Columbia.

Use the Restoration Pamphlet with each Tour

The Tour has proven to be so effective as a non-threatening way to have members introduce their non-member friends to the Church that we trust all our missionaries are continuing to stress it. All of Elder Kikuchi's ideas were designed to allow us to give a more effective Tour, and in no way do his ideas supplant the Tour as perhaps the most effective finding tool in BC. We urge that at the end of each Tour a "Restoration" pamphlet be given. Use it to commit members to return with a non-member friend, and non-members to commit to read the Book of Mormon, attend Sacrament Meeting, etc.

May the Lord be with all of our missionaries as we strive to find, teach and baptize. We pray that the Lord's Spirit will increasingly touch the hearts of our marvelous British Columbia members, that they might view it as an important part of their Church membership to bring forth their non-member friends to be taught by us missionaries on a Tour or meet us missionaries in another setting. We love you all and love serving with you in this His great proselyting effort.

President and Sister Middleton

"For with God nothing shall be impossible." Luke 1: 37

FROM THE ASSISTANTS

This recent New Year’s Day, the resolutions were made worldwide by people striving to improve their lives. Here in the Canada Vancouver Mission we do the same, but with added spiritual ‘umph’. We are on the Lord’s errand, and we’ve made sacred covenants. We’ve been reminded of those covenants with this last round of Zone Conferences. It appears evident to us that we are all living our covenants, and the Lord is responding by blessing us with answers to our prayers to find precious souls. Thanks for your diligence, and the inspiring success your obedient efforts have produced. In doing so, you all have become remarkable exemplars and spiritual light to not only us, but to those you serve. Carry on!

Elders Nemrow and Young

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Richard Ashton, Solomon Jensen, Nathan Purser, Devin Ward—all from Utah
- Language Elder: Matt Strum (Alaska) - Korean

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder Aaron Jensen

“To achieve the impossible, we must first attempt the impossible.”

Elder David Paskett

Bye to my friends. I love you. Work hard. It’s been great, and I’ve learned a lot.

Elder Michael Shaw

“The Lamb of God has . . . performed that for man which man could not accomplish for himself.” (Wilford Woodruff) Christ has performed his deed. Let us do the best to perform ours.

Elder Charles Yoon

The spirit is quickening in B.C. First Elder Eyring, then Elder Kikuchi, and now President Hinckley has spoke of this. There is a calm before the storm, and there will be a great awakening in B.C. Believe it. We are a part of something great. Be the first group to ignite the fire. I am excited for you new missionaries. “. . . the gospel [shall] roll forth into the ends of the earth, as a stone which is cut out of the mountains without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth.” D & C 65:2 Go forward in faith.

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Bonnie Burton, Carleen Hewitt Nanaimo: Gaelyn MacDougall
- Prince George: Charla Brogden, Dallin & Kyle Mountfield, Myshala Wile

- Surrey: Rosemary Behrendt, Darcie Blackall, Josephine Fohn, Sandra Parker, Joshua Wannamaker
- Language: Ji Soo & Sariah Park Vernon: Sam Eckstien, Elizabeth Taylor, Pearl Witter
- Victoria: Edward Archibald, Beth Landry

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR FEBRUARY

- 02—Vancouver/Language
- 09—Surrey/Abbotsford
- 16—Nanaimo/Victoria
- 22—Vernon
- 24—Prince George

MEMBER AND MISSIONARY SUCCESS STORIES

The reported baptisms in British Columbia for the week ending January 15th show remarkable progress, with 15 baptisms for that week alone! Truly the Lord is blessing the missionary effort in the Canada Vancouver Mission! There is a quickening of the Spirit, and we rejoice with you in being a part of this quickening. Without question these baptisms would not have occurred were it not for the acceptance by the members that they truly are member missionaries, and they have brought their non-member friends forth to be taught and baptized.

MISSIONARY SUCCESS STORIES

Several of our missionaries have shared with us their success stories, which we share with all of you:

“*Mr. Krueger’s Christmas* is a hit! Bishop John Russell took *Mr. Krueger’s Christmas* to a new level this past year. He ordered 100 copies of the movie for the members as well as for their friends. We had the privilege of delivering these DVD’s to all ward members as well as their friends the week before Christmas. We sent around a sign-up sheet to the Elders Quorum, the Relief Society, Primary and Young Mens/Young Women and asked them to provide us with the names and addresses of any of their friends to whom they would like us to give a DVD. We were able to receive 14 referrals, all of which we’ve found to be extremely grateful for the thoughtfulness of their friends. It gave us a chance to share the Christmas Spirit and, more importantly, the Gospel.” From Sisters Grimm and Nielson.

From Elder Howell (and Elder Jensen) we received this report, speaking of the week ending January 15th—“If we cut down on a lot of dinner appointments and use the extra time for planning, our lessons and activities go much better. If we shift our focus from the old method of G.Q.’ing and ‘work smarter’ it really does work!”

Elders Transtrum (and Elder Eckman in Maple Ridge), in speaking of the week ending January 15th - “President Christensen said to us that there is going to be a baptism every week in this area, and so far his statement is coming true. There are persons coming out of the woodwork!”

Elder Twedt (and Elder Glass) report on the week ending January 15th - “We have 3 baptisms scheduled for Saturday, so that is really exciting. Yesterday at Church we had almost 60 come out and that’s really unusual. It is great!”



ASSISTANTS YOUNG AND NEMROW

Elder Clyde (and Elder Wolfe) speaking of the week ending January 15th—“Out of the middle of nowhere we are given the opportunity to teach Joshua and Lyndsey Pennie, who are the two kids who showed up for the Presidents Fireside. They now have a baptismal date. ...our weeks are beginning to be full.”

Elder Fernandez (and Elder Dial) - “The Spanish Ward is doing amazing things with referrals. In order to get missionary work rolling in the area again, we pushed lovingly several weeks ago to have a meeting with the Bishopric to study together Chapter 13 of *Preach My Gospel*. We all agreed to have all of the remaining ward activities for the year missionary- focused. We started with an investigator/new member B.B.Q. hosted by four ward families, which went on well into the night. We then agreed to have another activity, and it was decided to have a fireside on the Plan of Salvation. It was of better quality than anybody anticipated, and although no non-members came, all the members became fired up. We then had the annual Ward Talent Show, which was a stunning success such that there were more non-members than the missionaries could handle!

“After our Talent Show success the bishopric and ward choir director pushed to have the Christmas Fireside be more missionary-focused than ever before. Nearly two months of hard preparations ensued with the missionaries taking part in the program (plus bringing Books of Mormon, DVD’s, and investigators). The program consisted of a one hour presentation of songs and scriptures, followed by dinner and a dance, (the dance after the missionaries had left, of course). The Spirit was so strong at that meeting, and so many people came that some had to stand as the chapel didn’t have seats for everybody. After all had sung, the choir director stood at the pulpit, being a returned missionary, and bore her testimony of Christ and of the Book of Mormon. During the dinner she personally gave gifts of Book of Mormons, Joy to the World DVD’s and other gifts to

non-members. The total attendance was well over 250, with close to a third of that number being investigators, inactive members or non-member friends. We subsequently received referrals from people who had not attended the fireside, when they heard of the success. The moral of the story is: When the focus of activities is the ward’s non-member friends, missionary success follows. When that spirit persists the missionary success increases, and when missionaries are involved in planning and execution the focus stays riveted on missionary work. The essential effect is the same as having missionaries knock on thousands of doors all in one night.”

President and Sister Middleton

*“Now when our hearts were depressed....the Lord comforted us, and said....bear with patience thine afflictions, and I will give unto you success.”
Alma 26:27*

OBSERVATIONS ON "UNBAPTIZED MORMONS" AND SISTER MA

FEBRUARY-MARCH 2006

FEBRUARY 6, 2006

THERE AREN'T MANY "UNBAPTIZED MORMONS"

For many years Church members have urged each other to pray that they will meet someone they can tell about the Gospel. In talking with B.C. members and B.C. Church leaders we are realizing that nearly all members are praying to meet an individual who is a Latter-day Saint in every way except for being baptized. They await the day when they will be led by inspiration to an individual who has no word of wisdom problems, whose personal life style is like that of

a member who holds a temple recommend, who is happily married, or chaste if not, who is a solid worker in an excellent vocation or is well on his or her way through training to an excellent vocation. In other words, members are waiting to meet someone who in their mind's eye is an "unbaptized Mormon", and anyone who doesn't fit that mold isn't worth their time and emotional commitment to tell about our Church.

There is the occasional individual in B.C. who fits that description, and as missionaries we need to be certain all who fit this description are told lovingly but boldly of the eternal blessings they will gain by being baptized.



However, flawless individuals who might be thought of as “unbaptized Mormons” are rare, and most Church members will never meet such an individual in their lifetime.

MEMBERS ARE URGED TO BE BOLD

We no longer are asking members to pray that they will find someone prepared for the Gospel message; most members who are waiting for that “unbaptized Mormon” to walk into their lives need to become aware that it simply won’t happen. Instead, we pray constantly that members will gain courage to invite their non-member friends to meet the missionaries on a Tour of their chapel (the easiest, least-threatening approach in B.C.) or by some other method. We pray constantly that our members will become bold. That missionary approach that we pray all of our members will adopt is described in the Book of Mormon where it counsels each of us to “Use boldness, but not overbearance.” Alma 38:12

Virtually all Church members in B.C. have dozens if not hundreds of non-member acquaintances. They simply need the courage to invite them to come on a Tour of their church. Our members need to be convinced that they already have the “heart” which was sought by Dorothy’s lion friend in “The Wizard of Oz.”

MEMBERS SHOULD INVITE EVERYONE THEY KNOW

Bishop Harry McLean of the Burnaby Ward in the Vancouver Stake has prepared a marvelous training guide for his members,



BESIDE A WINTERY ROAD IN PRINCE GEORGE



BALCHES ON STUMP BY SHANNON FALLS

“Sharing the Gospel.” He is calling specifically each of his ward members to go through a 5-week course using his manual as the course guide. A critically important point made in his manual is that most members harbor the false idea that “if we become close friends with someone, it will increase the likelihood that he or she will accept an invitation to learn more about the Church.” An analysis of this notion, Bishop McLean’s booklet notes, “is false, deceptive and time-consuming. There are no pre-requisite social engagements that must precede invitations to learn about the Gospel. You should ...invite everybody.” Any acquaintance, anyone to whom you would say hello as you pass them, is someone whom you should invite on a Tour of the Church, or by some other method invite them to be introduced to the Church.

URGE MEMBERS TO “SET A DATE”

Bishop McLean has reprinted Elder M. Russell Ballard’s marvelous Nov. 1986 Ensign article, “We Proclaim the Gospel.” In it Elder Ballard urges every one of us members to set a date by which we will invite someone to come to our Church. We don’t necessarily have to have a close non-member friend in mind, but rather we simply must have the faith that one or more of our non-member acquaintances will accept our invitation to see our Church on a Tour before the date we have set for ourselves. No member is exempt. Elder Ballard urges each of us to share the date we have chosen with the missionaries and bishop or branch president, and then prayerfully choose an acquaintance or acquaintances to bring to the Church. That prayer must include asking for courage and boldness. It works! The Lord will help each of us.

THE SISTER MA EXAMPLE

We have never seen Sister Ma, who is a member of the Wah Yan Chinese Ward, inside a Church building without a non-member friend at her side. She probably does come to Church occasionally without an investigator along, but we have never seen it. Sister Ma has been responsible for over 20 baptisms, including one last week! Her invitations to her acquaintances to join her at Church have always been lovingly made, and we are not aware of her invitations ever jeopardizing or fracturing any of her many friendships. That we may all become like Sister Ma, inviting any and all friends to our Church, is our constant prayer.

We love you, and revel with you in being part of the Lord's missionary work in British Columbia.

President and Sister Middleton

“For with God nothing shall be impossible.” Luke 1:37

FEBRUARY 13, 2006

OBSERVATIONS BY OUR MISSIONARIES

We are pleased to share the experiences of missionaries throughout British Columbia

Sister Gonzalez (and Sister Berrett)—for the week ending January 15, 2006

“The bishop gave us a very long list of people we have to contact. We are working hard here in Duncan, and we have seen the changes in the members' attitude. When we first came they were reluctant toward missionary work, but now are getting referrals to us after much work. On February 12 we will hold a fireside for the ward in which we'll show “By Small and Simple Things” and then challenge every family to give away a Book of Mormon and bring a friend for a Tour. It'll be similar to the presentation Sister Dunn and I, Sister Gonzalez, made for the Nanaimo youth.”

Elder Jeffrey Davis (and Elder Joseph Pettersson)—for the week ending January 22, 2006

“Elder Pettersson and I started the week with a fast and the goal of finding 3 new investigators, 2 new families, and 3 reactivations. We've been doing Elder Ballard's program of ‘setting a date’ with the

members so we figured why not set a date with ourselves. We hoped to attain this goal by the following Sunday, and with fasting and lots of prayer the Lord blessed us and we attained the goal. We were at one of our last appointments Sunday night when at the last possible minute, the dad walked in with a referral of 2 families of 4 and told us they were waiting for us to visit them that night. We met with one of the families and attained the goal.

“We went on exchanges with the new branch leaders this week and doubled our goal of lessons with a member present. This area is amazing!”

Editor’s Comment: the Vernon Ward has begun a new member-missionary approach in which they have 2 member-priesthood holders sign up in quorum meeting for one night of the week to do exchanges with the missionaries. The members who sign up are then responsible for setting up the evening’s appointments with their non-member friends, less actives, etc. They can take their friends on a chapel Tour; meet them in their home, or whatever works best. The advantages are huge—members get to know the missionaries much better, members are encouraged to invite their non-member friends to the Gospel, and on the evening of the exchange the missionary companionship covers twice the ground by each missionary going out with a member to separate appointments. If your ward or branch priesthood leaders are in agreement to this proposal, we would urge that all missionaries try it (Sisters work with Relief Society or Primary leaders to accomplish the same objective, or exchanges with the priesthood holder and his wife).

Elder Taylor Clyde (and Elder Samuel Wolfe)—for the week ending January 8, 2006

“This week Elder Wolfe and I had an extremely interesting thing happen to us. We went tracting on Wednesday and met a girl named Teresa. We set up an appointment, and she seemed excited to learn about what we had to teach as we taught the full First Lesson. During



HEART ATTACK ON THE MIDDLETON'S CAR



CHINESE NEW YEAR PERFORMERS



the lesson I wanted to ask her if she had any questions, but each time the Spirit told me to wait until the end. The First Vision went great, and I know she felt the Spirit. After we finished the lesson, we asked her if she had any questions. Well, this opened a floodgate of questions, such as polygamy, why does the Book of Mormon contradict itself, and she made statements saying we are saved by grace, we need no baptism, and we need not follow the commandments. (All the questions came after her boyfriend, Dave, and his friend, Bill, had joined in the conversation.)

“Needless to say it put us into a Bible bash. As we were confronted by these antagonistic questions we experienced the most amazing thing. We have always been given a promise that as we have the Spirit with us we will not be confounded before men. Well we were not confounded! In fact, as you study in *Preach My Gospel* under page 3, “Teaching by the Spirit”, we experienced every bullet point listed. We had the Spirit with us! The Spirit was bringing things to our remembrance and made us, being weak, strong before two men.

“Dave was in the ministry and was going to a bible school, and Bill was extremely well versed in the Bible, more so than Dave. They threw scripture after scripture, and we were given answers. Scriptures that were committed to memory came flowing out of our mouths, and the doctrine came to mind as well. Dave and Teresa grew quiet due to the fact that they had been confounded. We completed the discussion and left.

“There are two reasons that I share this:

1. To show how the Lord protects His servants, and He will not let them be confounded by men. But there is something in addition—we went in with the Spirit to teach a First Lesson, and if we had only partially given it, it would have left a bad impression in

their minds to the effect that we weren’t converted. We weren’t attacking them, they attacked us and then we answered their questions boldly, with authority, in the defense of the Church. I guess the point I want to make is that the Lord protects us when we are doing His work and trouble comes.

2. It is important to have effective studies. It is extremely worthwhile for us to memorize scriptures, because they are brought to our remembrance when we are in need.



SISTERS MA AND MIDDLETON WITH THE CHINESE PERFORMERS

“We seem to be teaching about the same number of lessons each week now but they are just more effective.”

We are so pleased to share these observations by your fellow missionaries. Each gives ideas that will be helpful to us all as we proclaim the Gospel throughout British Columbia. As you have missionary experiences or observations please send them to us so we can share them with the rest of the mission. We love you all.

President and Sister Middleton

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matt. 21:22

FEBRUARY 20, 2006

OUR MISSIONARIES SPEAK

We wish to share the following experiences some of our Canada Vancouver Mission missionaries have written about:

A Dream Predicts the Future?—Elder Tron Graham (and Elder Brian Perkins)

“Things are going well here in the Kamloops 2nd Ward. We are really pushing members to invite friends, and we just had a meeting with our bishop on how best to accomplish that goal.

“I had a cool dream the other night: Three other elders and I went up to a hill overlooking Kamloops and we prayed for the work in the area. All of a sudden we saw a bright light, and Jesus was standing by us. He talked to us and then we were filled with the Spirit and we went tracting and everyone was listening to us. We then were shown an aerial view of the city and it was totally black except for the member’s homes, which were indicated by small yellow lights. As we watched, the lights started to intensify and increase in number, spreading until the whole city was glowing yellow. Then the four of us were back on the hilltop looking at the city and now we saw many church buildings and stake centers, and the whole city had been converted.

“We thought this was a really cool and motivating dream. The next day Elder Perkins and I got some Chinese food and my fortune said ‘Your fantasy will come true.’”



Editor’s Note: Elder Graham’s dream should not be taken as a revelation from God, but as a symbol of where our mission is going. Coupled with the quickening of the Spirit here in British Columbia we feel that it bodes well for the future for not only Kamloops but for all of British Columbia. With continued hard work by our missionaries the Lord will so bless us.

**Elders Howell, Jensen and Hsiao share
“My Search for the Truth—The Conversion Story of
James Khoo” in the Port Coquitlam Ward**

“My search for the truth was a long and difficult journey that spanned 53 years of my humble life. I studied at least four different religions—Buddhism, Islam, Christianity (Jehovah’s Witnesses) and Mahikari (a Japanese faith). However, I felt that something was still missing in each of these religions. I had recognized at an early age that humans have a Creator, who has a plan for us in this mortal life and in the afterlife.

“Right from the beginning I had the firm belief that God is merciful and just, the two traits that compliment each other and can never clash. I believe that God is infallible and is incapable of an error or misjudgment in His dealings. Thus it is plausible to imagine that I read it as arrogance when I came across John 3:5 ‘Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.’ This verse would totally preclude all the people who had led good lives and who follow other religions. This concept totally upsets the principle of justice, for every man must be judged by his works at the judgment day, ‘...whereof they shall be judged, every man according to his works, whether they be good, or whether they be evil.’ (Mosiah 3:24)

“At the age of 60, I had my first big break in my arduous task of



YOUNG SINGERS AT CHINESE NEW YEAR

finding the truth. Albeit the trip was made to pursue a new business venture, I never could have imagined that the final outcome of this travel would produce the culmination of my search for the truth. My business associate is an American living in Salt Lake City, Utah and is a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. On my first evening he took me to dinner in the Joseph Smith Memorial Building at Temple Square and later to the other wing, where I watched the film “The Legacy” and felt greatly touched by the early pioneers. As I left the theatre, I was most surprised to observe many different nationalities gathered in the adjoining hall and nearly everyone was a member of the Church. At that time I thought the Mormon Church was exclusively reserved for Caucasians and existed in America only. Finally I struck a conversation with a Japanese girl, who later took details about me for contact in the future.

“I had totally forgotten this incident when the missionary elder in Kuala Lumpur in Malaysia rang me about 15 months after the first contact. Luckily I agreed to become an investigator and to undergo learning of the doctrines of the Church. When the doctrine of baptism for the dead was first brought up, it was like the light had suddenly entered into my dark world. No doubt the Holy Spirit had opened my eyes and I could finally see the whole truth right before me. For me baptism for the dead is the key that unlocks the mystery that had plagued me all my life. This teaching has brought the doctrine of justice into full play and given the good man a second chance to enter heaven. In an instant my lifelong objection dissipated and I was freed from my prison chains for the first time. Although I went proselyting with the Jehovah’s Witnesses for a span of two years, I was never baptized. When asked why not by my elders my reply was always this ‘in due time my baptism will come’.

“However, I had to satisfy myself that this doctrine comes from the Bible and not the Book of Mormon, for then I was not yet convinced that the latter is the Word of God. The elder showed me I Cor. 15:29 ‘...what shall they do which are baptized for the dead.’ To the best of my knowledge, I had never come across any mention of this doctrine from any other Christian denomination.

“Another teaching that had a tremendous sway upon me is the word of wisdom. No doubt the word of wisdom has been a great obstacle for many who would have come into our fold had the Church relaxed on this matter. But how could spiritual doctrines be ‘doctored’ for the sake of convenience or popularity; righteousness must remain unchanging or God will become powerless. I testify that being obedient to it is pure wisdom in itself.

“Since my baptism on 30 August 1998 I have made a 180 degree turn around in my life. Before that I was living in sin and could hardly realize that I had sinned. Before my conversion I believed that an action is a sin only when it hurts someone physically or financially, otherwise it is okay. Like every human being I was looking for happiness but unfortunately, in all the wrong ways and wrong places. I could never understand how one can be happy without wealth, pride and power. Today I have never been happier before and never been poorer too. Before, all my goals were aimed at the vanities of man; today I seek for treasures in heaven as in Matt. 6:20, ‘But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal.’ Can a person change so much and be born again? Yes, very much so I must assert.

“I testify before my readers that this is the only true church upon the face of the whole world and my humble prayer is that you will not

take so long to find the truth. I leave you with my strongest testimony that the Bible is true, that the Book of Mormon is the word of God, that the head of the Church is Jesus Christ and that today we are led on earth by a living Prophet, Gordon B. Hinckley. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.”

We know that many people in British Columbia are searching for the truth, as was Brother Khoo. That we missionaries, working with our wonderful members, might find them and baptize them is our prayer. We love you all!

President and Sister Middleton

“...the Lord is pour(ing) out His Spirit on all the face of the land to prepare the minds of the children of men, or to prepare their hearts to receive the word.” Alma 16:16



THE CHINESE LION IS AWAKE, BESIDE PRESIDENT MIDDLETON

FEBRUARY 27, 2006

WHEN MEMBERS LEARN TO BECOME MEMBER MISSIONARIES

President Paul Christensen, in the Abbotsford Stake, has challenged each active family to commit to bringing 3 of their non-member friends on a Tour or in some other way introduce them to the Church per year. He has found in the Abbotsford Stake that 1 out of every 3 individuals who goes on a Tour goes on to be baptized. Conservatively, he feels that the Abbotsford Stake, once all members fully embrace the concept of being a member missionary and truly bring 3 or more non-member friends per year on a Tour or Church activity, that the Abbotsford Stake will realize 300 baptisms per year!

We feel that President Christensen is absolutely correct. His prediction of 300 baptisms per year is conservative, but is based upon the total and complete acceptance of being a member missionary into the mindset of every active member in the Abbotsford Stake.

APPLYING MEMBER MISSIONARY MATHEMATICS TO THE NANAIMO WARD

Elders Coon and Palmer presented a zone leader training at the Nanaimo Zone Conference on February 16, 2006, in which they analyzed the missionary potential in their assigned Nanaimo Ward.





PRINCE GEORGE SISTERS DECORATE FOR STAKE HAWAIIAN NIGHT

In their ward they estimate there are 75 active members. They feel confident that each of those active members has at least 10 non-member acquaintances. Assuming that at least one of those 10 acquaintances agrees to come to the Church and go on a Tour, they note that of the 750 acquaintances that the 75 active members have, 75 will go on a Tour. We have BC—specific data outside of Abbotsford Stake, which demonstrates that there is 1 baptism for every 7 people brought on a Tour by a member. In recent months members of the Vernon Ward referred 42 non-member acquaintances to the missionaries, of which 6 went on to baptism, or 1 in 7. So Elders Coon and Palmer predict that of the 75 investigators who go on a Nanaimo Ward Tour 11 will go on to be baptized, using the more conservative 1 baptism for every 7 people going on a Tour, instead of the 1 in 3 noted in Abbotsford. Assuming that those 75 active members accept the challenge to bring 3 non-member acquaintances to the attention of the missionaries every year, the number of baptisms in the Nanaimo Ward will be 33 per year!

There is no reason to doubt these figures. The figures are based on data generated from the assumption that each of the active members truly, truly adopts the idea that they are a member missionary, which requires that they, in good faith, step forward boldly to ask their non-member acquaintances to join them on a Tour through the Church.

APPLYING SIMILAR LOGIC TO ALL OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

Using the same mathematical assumptions made by Elders Coon and Palmer for their Nanaimo Ward throughout British Columbia, we find the following:

Assuming an average ward in BC has 75 active members, and each brings 3 non-member acquaintances on a Tour each year, then each ward will average 33 baptisms per year. With 40 wards in BC we expect to see 1320 baptisms yearly in our wards!

We note further that there are 25 branches in British Columbia. We make the assumption that the average number of active members of each branch is 15 (that may well be too low), and each of the 15 brings 3 non-member acquaintances per year, or 45 investigators. Understanding that 1 out of 7 would go on to baptism, that means that each branch will have 6.5 baptisms per year on average. That translates to 162 baptisms in the branches alone, if each branch active member truly commits to becoming a member missionary and brings 3 of their non-member acquaintances per year to the missionaries for a Tour. Between the wards and branches, with the wards realizing 1320 baptisms per year and the branches realizing 162 baptisms per year, we would see a total of 1482 baptisms per year in British Columbia! We feel this math is conservative, and boldly underlines the importance of members truly becoming member missionaries. Considering further that in the history of the Canada Vancouver Mission there have never been over 300 convert baptisms in one year, we see vividly the contrast between tracting, which our full-time missionaries have done mostly until now, and members stepping forward as effective member missionaries as they will do from now on.

Our challenge as leaders in British Columbia is to convince each member that to be a true member missionary they need to give the missionaries what they truly need, and that is a referral of their non-member acquaintances. Our members are committed and dedicated to the Church, but haven't before understood how best to be member missionaries. Our job as full-time missionaries is to lovingly, patiently, show them the way.



THE BLACK LION, WITH TWO CHINESE PERFORMERS INSIDE

NEW MISSION WEBSITE ANNOUNCED

The Canada Vancouver Mission website is now up and can be accessed at www.vancouvermissionmemories.com. It is an unofficial site and is designed to show Zone and other missionary photographs, *Vancouver Stars* sent each week, interesting photographs taken in our travels around British Columbia, plus other interesting mission data. One can link from it to the other historic Mt. Top Mission site as well, where biographical information on mission presidents and their wives back to the creation of the Canada Vancouver Mission can be found. Ours is a site in progress, and we hope will be a site through which all of our missionaries and interested others can communicate with each other life-long through its e-mail linking feature. We extend our heartfelt thanks to our son-in-law, Greg Lowe, who has set up the site and will help us maintain it. Enjoy!

We love each and every one of our missionaries, as we love each and every one of our members with whom we associate. That we all might step forward boldly in this the work that we're commanded to do as missionaries in His Church, we pray.

President and Sister Middleton

“Everyone who is familiar with this (missionary) work knows there is a better way (than tracting). That way is through the members of the Church. Whenever there is a member who introduces an investigator, there is an immediate support system.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley

MARCH 8, 2006

IMPORTANCE OF PRIME TIME

The special proselyting use for Prime Time from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. each day was initiated last June. It is time to assess how well it has served its purpose and project its use in the future. You may recall that Prime Time initially was modeled after the Washington Tacoma Mission Plan and consisted of tracting from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m., asking people at the doorstep to return that night for a Tour of the chapel. Between 7 and 9 p.m. we would then give Tours and lessons. Eating was to be done outside of this time. The creation of Prime Time from 5—9 p.m. resulted from studies in Tacoma and elsewhere, which showed that 5—9 was when most individuals, and especially couples, were available to be taught.

The use of Prime Time for proselyting instead of eating is not new. Our son Wayne used it in his German mission in the early 1990's, and it was found to be very effective.

MODIFIED PRIME TIME WORKS WELL

Soon after we started the Tacoma Prime Time system, it became apparent that it would work better in British Columbia with a few modifications. In BC our chapels are often so far from tracting areas that to return to the chapel that night is not practical. We also found that tracting in BC is not well received by the public, and

the people in BC were cool to the idea of returning that night on a Tour. Nonetheless, the Tour of the Church building has served us well when set up somewhat differently than is done in Tacoma. A Tour as the first contact an investigator has with the Church presents the doctrine and the “by-their-fruits-ye-shall-know-them” aspects of the Church. A well-done Tour allows missionaries to explain the practical, social and family bonding/raising advantages in Church membership, presents the magnificent building facilities we enjoy, and allows the “Restoration” lesson in *Preach My Gospel* to be given, all in about 45 minutes. It becomes easy for the new investigator to



ELDERS MOLYNEUX AND BALCH INSTRUCT THE NEW MISSIONARIES

picture in his or her mind's eye what Church membership would be like, and feel comfortable with that image. As Elder M. Russell Ballard has pointed out, we only have one chance to make a first impression, and the Tour allows that first impression to be a much more complete one than can be achieved by a doctrinal lesson alone in the investigator's home.

The Tour is being constantly improved and refined. It is most commonly used now to introduce non-member referrals from members to the Church, hopefully every time with the member along on the Tour to serve as an instant fellowshipper. We are finding that both the members and their investigators benefit from the Tour, with

all present coming away with a strengthened testimony of the Church.

Brother Jayson Noffle in Chilliwack has developed posters to display in the Church buildings which beautifully enhance the Restoration lesson being given on the Tour, and Brother David Zuskind has worked to duplicate the posters so they can be displayed in our buildings throughout BC. We are receiving increasingly frequent feed-back from our missionaries that the Tour is working well. It is now being used to introduce non-members to the Church anytime they come to the building for any cause—before or after baptismal services, in conjunction with athletic events in the Church, at times of Relief Society or any other auxiliary activity to which a non-member comes, and many other activities which bring a non-member to our Church buildings.

We predict that the Tour will remain a fundamental part of our finding and teaching, and will become increasingly effective as we further refine its use.



ELDER BALCH INSTRUCTS NEW MISSIONARIES

THE BENEFITS OF PRIME TIME IN PROSELYTING

We have also seen the huge advantages to be gained in using Prime Time, 5—9 p.m., for proselyting. Before, missionaries would accept invitations to eat with members during Prime Time, and while the mission rule asked the missionaries to limit their time eating with members to one hour, it often stretched to two. Missionaries now can eat with a member family during Prime Time, but only if a non-member eats too, and a lesson is given. The Prime Time concept is so successful that we cannot envision that we will ever abandon it.

FROM AGNOSTIC TO BAPTISMAL DATE BY A WELL-DONE FIRST VISION PRESENTATION ON A TOUR

Sisters Hatch (and Khong) have shared this story of a young woman transitioning from thinking she was agnostic to having a testimony of the Gospel and setting a baptismal date, in the course of a single Tour:

“The ward missionaries had organized a “Night of Culture,” which was a huge success in getting both nine non-members and twelve less-active members to come. After the activities had slowed down, one of the ward missionaries asked if we would take her friend on a Tour. Her friend claimed to not believe in God but was willing to have a Tour to better understand her friend.

“For lack of time, we hurried through the first few rooms until we got to the Joseph Smith display. After reciting the first vision using the Elder Kikuchi method, we asked how she felt. ‘Well...well actually, I feel really tingly,’ she answered. We explained what that feeling was: the Spirit affirming the truth of our message.

“Next on the Tour was the baptismal font. As I pushed back the curtain, I heard her gasp behind me. She said she remembered her mother being baptized. She wondered if it was into our Church, but regardless, it meant a lot to her. Her mother passed away four years ago, but at that moment she felt like her mother was there with us. As we taught about baptism, she cried. The Spirit was there, and she committed to baptism right then.

“Later, as we gave her a Book of Mormon and asked her to read Moroni 10:3-5, she read the first two verses and paused with teary

eyes. When she finished she looked up and let us know that right then she already knew it was true. She will be baptized March 18, 2006. The Spirit has converted her, lifted her up, and made her strong.

“We learned that when the Lord has a miracle to give us, He usually prepares us to receive it gratefully by sending trials first, as we had been confined to our apartment by sickness for a few days before this Ward event. Satan was probably happy, thinking we had slowed down. But he did not know the mind of God and what was in store. We had reaffirmed the truth of the hymn, ‘When upon life’s billows you are tempest tossed, when you are discouraged thinking all is lost, count your many blessings!’ And may I add, to count on more blessings to come.”

May we express our joy in proclaiming the Gospel to the people of British Columbia with you. We love each of you,

President and Sister Middleton

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS YOUNG & SORENSEN

The work seems to be rolling forth with more and more urgency every day. This comes as a direct result of the hard work of both missionary and member alike. Our Heavenly Father has blessed us with many wonderful tools to help this work progress. Some of them include Elder Kikuchi’s version of the First Vision, *Preach My Gospel* and so forth. Each one of these tools is there for one purpose: to allow the Spirit to proceed with the conversion process. If any of you have felt love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness or temperance, now is the time to express gratitude and plead for continued strength in the work. As you do so, and as you

demonstrate your devotion to God by daily acts of righteousness, you will feel an added sense of devotion to the great and marvelous cause we are all called to do: SAVE A SOUL.

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Brandon Loong (UT), Skylar Weeks (PA), Brian Fisher (AZ)
- Sister: Julianna Little (AB)
- Language Elders: Woong Choi (S. Korea), Jonathan Kano (UT), Korean; Stephen Beins (UT) and Chia Liu (Taiwan) Mandarin
- Senior Couples: Max & Kathy Molyneux, office (UT); James & Evelyn Curry (UT)

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder Cheuk Him Fong

I am so grateful for serving here with you. This two years is great—a lot of ups and downs—but I learned that our Savior, Lord Jesus Christ is in charge of this great and marvelous latter-day work. Keep up the good work and let the Spirit guide you.

Elder Jeremy Hansen

The Church is true.

Sister Christala Hatch

Have you noticed that no matter how cold it is outside, if the sun is shining, the whole world seems happy? We have the ability to bring the son, Jesus Christ, into the lives of people even on the cloudiest days and teach them that joy is possible even in the face of gloom and terrible trials. The Gospel is true! The work is real! Our Heavenly Father loves us, and I love Him!

Elder Philip Parlee

Life is hard; so *do* things hard. Learn to play hard while you work. It takes a lifetime to do things right. Your best is a lot better than you think. You don't need luck, you need courage.

Sister Katherine Reed

John 13: 34-35 I love these verses because we are all disciples of Christ as we love and serve one another. I love this Gospel; and I know it is true. We are the Lord's instruments in His hands. We should never give up, but keep serving him by serving others. I was once told that if you look at the size of your area, there has to be at least three people waiting to hear the Gospel. That is what kept me motivated: find those who are waiting.

Elder Kyle Steadman

As I walk through the valley where I reap and sow, I take a look at my life and realize the wonderful places I was able to go. It's been such a blessing for a farmer guy like me, but I've come to realize Celestial

Glory isn't free! Work and faith: that's the formula for success. D&C 35:13 Keep up the good work. I love you all.

Elder Brett Welch

True to the faith that my mother has cherished, true to the truth for which Joseph has perished, to God's command, soul heart and hand, faithful and true may we ever stand. This is the Kingdom of God and Christ is coming! I know it!

Elder & Sister Balch

What a wonderful two years this has been. The Church is true and the mission field is a wonderful place to serve our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We love the work and the people whose life the gospel touches. We are so very grateful for the opportunity of serving and being around wonderful people. The Book of Mormon is true and it is tangible proof of the reality and truth of the Prophet Joseph Smith. Our lives have been blessed and that of our family greatly blessed. Thanks be to our Father in Heaven.

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Doreen & Raven McIntyre, Carolyn Anderson, Trevor Armsworthy, Eric Mitchell
- Prince George: Jillian Butcher, Brandon Doolittle, Quintrell Hunsaker, Kristen & Kyler Milton,
- Surrey: Antonio Segovia-Quiroz Vancouver: Lara Aippersbach Language: Jesse Baeza, Sarah Lee, Cathy Liu, Maria Roque, Tingki

Yeung, Edward Chen, Gerry Liao, Tiffany Yang Vernon: Brandon Obay, Douglas Hempstock, Pearl Bonner Victoria: Eli & Travis Woodford, Sally Sama, Katrina Barber, Marie Gillian

COMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR MARCH

- Mar 17—Nanaimo/Victoria
- 22—Vancouver/Language
- 23—Surrey/Abbotsford
- 29—Vernon
- 31—Prince George
-

*“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another.”
Romans 12:10*

MARCH 13, 2006

SISTER MA: MODEL MEMBER MISSIONARY

Arguably the most successful member missionary in British Columbia might be Sister Ma. A member of the Wah Yan Ward, the Chinese Ward, Sister Ma rarely is seen in Church without one or



ELDER MOLYNEUX INSTRUCTS NEW MISSIONARIES

more of her non-member friends along as a guest. We had occasion to interview Sister Ma on March 5, 2006. Although she speaks English quite well, she asked that Elder Fong be present to interpret so that she could truly state the feelings of her heart.

Sister Ma is a convert to the Church, having joined 13 years ago. Her schooling was somewhat limited, attending school only through grade school in Singapore. She met Cantonese-speaking missionaries here in Vancouver 13 years ago, and felt their Spirit and was converted through the Spirit. Because of the language difficulties with the missionaries who converted her while struggling somewhat with the Cantonese language, Sister Ma felt that she didn't really understand the scriptures and doctrines thoroughly but joined because of the affirmation to her Spirit that the Gospel was true. Initially Sister Ma became somewhat less active. When her son, Raymond, reached 5 years of age she felt that she should become more active so that Raymond would have the Gospel in his life. Since then, she has been extraordinarily missionary-minded.

When I asked how many baptisms have resulted through her work, Sister Ma thought for a moment and then guessed it was more than 20! More than half of the people introduced to the Church by Sister Ma were new immigrants from China.

Sister Ma's Advice to Member Missionaries: Love People, Care, and Be Sincere

We asked Sister Ma what special technique she used to find so many people among her acquaintances to bring to the Church. Her comment was, "I just do what the Church teaches us in church", which consists of deeply caring about people. She expresses her love

for people in word and deed, and is totally sincere. The people whom she meets truly feel of her love.

Early on, Sister Ma prayed that she might find somebody she could introduce to the Church. A friend of her husband came to her home by mistake, and as she began talking to him it led to a Gospel discussion which was quite successful. Since then, she always prays for opportunities to serve, and that service often leads to a missionary presentation as well. She states that she is so excited and motivated to do missionary work that everything else day-to-day is boring. Sister Ma is a landlady, overseeing an apartment which she owns. She often tells her tenants about the Church, and on one occasion she even called a meeting of the tenants with no other purpose in mind except to talk about the Gospel. She likes to focus on new immigrants to Canada, understanding that they are a bit overwhelmed and seeking a new life, and as she was in that position herself once she can empathize beautifully with them.

In regard to her favorite Church activity to which she brings investigators, she stated that she uses any and all activities—a Tour, a ward activity or event, and Christmas/New Year’s parties in particular are very effective. If there is no activity planned she simply invites her acquaintances to come to Church with her. Another point that she makes is that she likes to match a member of the Church with an investigator early, so that he or she develops a fellowshipping.

ONE IN SEVEN OF SISTER MA’S INVESTIGATORS JOIN

Sister Ma estimates that about 1 out of every 7 investigators that she brings to the Church goes on to baptism, which is about the same ratio that we see elsewhere in British Columbia. Considering that only 1 in 3,000 to 5,000 or more people who are found tracting go on to join the Church the success of member referrals that Sister Ma brings to the Church is phenomenal, and is also seen throughout British Columbia by all Church members who bring their acquaintances to the Church. Sister Ma carefully explained that she does not become disappointed when her contacts don’t go on to baptism. Rather, she feels that the investment of time and energy that she makes for her acquaintances, taking them to a doctor’s appointment, arranging for places to stay, helping them work through visa issues, etc., is time well-spent in that she feels that she is following our Father in Heaven’s counsel given in Mosiah 2:17, “when ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.” As a result, she does not feel like a failure at all in regard to the 6 out of 7 investigators she brings to the Church who choose not to go on to baptism. She befriends people, and views them as friends whether or not they go on to join the Church. She feels that as a representative of God we serve our friends, even if they are not going on to baptism at that moment.

As she goes about finding those she will bring to the Church she first prays about them, asking her Father in Heaven to let her know which acquaintances to ask to come to the Church with her. A part of her prayer also is to ask for opportunities to serve her friends, many of whom aren’t Church members and understanding that 6 of 7 on average might not become Church members.

When asked what advice she would give to members to truly become member missionaries, she offered the following:

1. Plan on some sacrifice to be a true personal friend in every sense.
2. Be bold.
3. Choose to make the commitment to ask and invite your acquaintances, truly a commitment of the heart.
4. Don't be lazy.
5. Be friendly.
6. Plan on expending as much time as is needed with investigators and those newly baptized.
7. Every member should become a missionary, and should not leave their missionary work to the "full-time professionals", who are only in a given ward on a transient basis.
8. Only a member can be a true life-long friend to an investigator, as the member will be here permanently whereas the missionaries will not.
9. Member missionary work starts with local Church leaders, who necessarily must motivate and inspire their members to accomplish missionary work.
10. Members need to be taught to be persistent - don't give up too early on a given investigator.

The other scripture which is a favorite of Sister Ma, in addition to Mosiah 2:17, is the entirety of the 4th Section of the D & C, which points out that "the field is white already to harvest; and lo, he that thrusteth in his sickle with his might, the same layeth up in store that he perisheth not, but bringeth salvation to his soul." Section 4 also points out "...see that ye serve him with all your heart, might, mind

and strength, that ye may stand blameless before God at the last day."

Sister Ma is truly setting the standard for all of us, being the type of member missionary that we all should emulate. That we might step forward boldly with our own commitment to become a member missionary as Sister Ma has done is constantly in our thoughts and prayers.

President and Sister Middleton

"And now, behold, I say unto you, that the thing which will be of the most worth unto you will be to declare repentance unto this people, that you may bring souls unto me, that you may rest with them in the kingdom of my Father. Amen." D&C 15:6



BE POSITIVE; JACK ARMSTRONG MISSIONARY ADDRESS

MARCH-MAY 2006

MARCH 20, 2006

BROTHER JACK ARMSTRONG ADDRESSES THE NANAIMO/VICTORIA ZONE CONFERENCE

The combined Nanaimo/Victoria Zone Conference on February 16, 2006, featured an address by Brother Jack Armstrong, who lives in the Nanaimo Ward. Almost 90 years old and retired for several years, he achieved tremendous success in the Imperial Oil Company, rising in a meteoric career from the bottom all the way up to CEO of the company. As a young man starting out in life he was making 50

cents an hour working in a gold mine. He was urged by a fellow gold mine worker, a Swede, to get out of the mine, obtain an education and make something of himself. He took that advice, where he became a seismologist, then climbed in the company in a true Horatio Alger story. Along the way he became converted to the Church, and served in various Church capacities, including serving in a bishopric and serving in the mission presidency in Toronto, Canada.

Brother Armstrong gave a most interesting address to our missionaries, answering a number of questions. A few of the standout observations made by Brother Armstrong included:

- The secret of success is to work hard.
- The secret to happiness is found in hard work.
- Treat everyone you meet as you would be treated.

Brother Armstrong noted that in the company offices (and everywhere company employees worked) he made it a point of knowing everybody's first name no matter how high their position or how low their position in the company.

- In leadership, delegate fully a given job, then get out of the way while the person who has been given the responsibility of accomplishing the job does so. He pointed out that people naturally make mistakes along the way, as they work their way through the intricacies of the task to which they've been assigned. He urged that as a leader you must support your subordinates even when they make mistakes, and give them encouragement so that they will not make the same mistake in the future. Similarly, compliment them profusely when they succeed.
- “You can't be promoted until you train someone beneath you to take your place.”

All of these pearls of wisdom and advice and more, taken from Brother Armstrong's extremely successful life, are applicable to us as missionaries. That we might learn from the successful life of Brother Armstrong is our fervent prayer.

Service as a Finding Tool, by Sister Katherine Reed (and Sister Coleen Murray)

“On Tuesday we found a new investigator. The following day he committed to baptism and came to church that next Sunday! It was amazing to see it happen, and it was all due to service. A few

months ago Sister Gonzalez and I started service at the Rose Wood Towers—having early morning conversation and games with some of the residents. After awhile only one person was coming—Wesley. One day we began talking about the Church. It turned out that he had received a Book of Mormon from missionaries a few years ago but hadn't been interested then in learning more about it. We kept meeting with him on Tuesday mornings, and after several weeks learned that since he'd been meeting with us had started reading the Book of Mormon. He told us last week that he knows it's true, and so



KATHY'S BAPTISM

we started teaching him and asked if he would like to be baptized. He said, “Yes”! This is one of the best finding experiences we have had.”

**Ward Missionaries Effective in Large Numbers,
by Elder Stuart Young (and Elder Kyle Cluff)**

“In the Vernon Ward during the last 3 months 14 ward missionaries have been called. They usually spend 2-3 hours a week (some spend more) in activation work or on exchanges with the missionaries. Ten of these ward missionaries are couples, and 2 more are sisters who work together. The old ward mission leader teaches *Gospel Essentials* and is also called as a ward missionary, and he works with the ward mission leader during the week. Each week the 7 “companionships” are assigned 2 or 3 names to visit (semi-active, or less-active). They report back during the next Ward Missionary Co-ordination Meeting. Ideally this is how it is supposed to work. Training and instruction is given to the ward missionaries at the co-ordination meeting.”

Editor’s Note: With the great success in calling many ward missionaries in the Vernon Ward and elsewhere in British Columbia, we hope every bishop and branch president throughout British Columbia is calling many members as ward missionaries. Unlike years gone by when ward/branch missionaries did little, thinking that tracting was what missionary work entailed, with the new *Preach My Gospel* concept they now work with assigned less-active families, many of which are part-member families, to fellowship, teach, reactivate and baptize. In areas using ESL they can be assigned to teach English as a Second Language, then invite the ESL students on a Tour of the chapel and teach them the Gospel as well.

Congratulations to each of our missionaries for working both smart and hard. Congratulations also to the dedicated B.C. members who are stepping forth with referrals of their non-member acquaintances. The quickening of the Spirit that is evident in B.C. wouldn’t happen without faithful members who boldly ask - - thank them every chance possible. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.”
Matthew 28:19*

MARCH 28, 2006

LET HIS COUNTENANCE SHINE IN YOURS

We were particularly impressed at a recent Prince George Zone Conference to hear Sister Cyndi Wellington, a Fraser Ward missionary, bear her testimony. She related that after a recent missionary encounter she went home filled with the Spirit, and remarked to her husband, “Do you see Him?” He didn’t understand the question—“See whom?” And then Sister Wellington asked again, “Do you see Him in my face?” Again her husband raised the question, “I don’t know who it is that you reference.” Sister Wellington pointed out that she was referring to the countenance of the Lord which shone in her face as a result of her missionary activities, and then her husband fully understood.

In 3 Nephi 19: 25 we read, “And it came to pass that Jesus blessed them as they did pray unto him; and his countenance did smile upon them, and the light of his countenance did shine upon them, and behold they were as white as the countenance and also the garments of Jesus; and behold the whiteness thereof did exceed all the whiteness, yea, even there could be nothing upon earth so white as the whiteness thereof.”

That glorious countenance, with the reflected light of our Lord, should shine in all of our faces as described in 3 Nephi, and as Sister Wellington so beautifully pointed out with her question to her husband.



SISTERS RUGE, HANSEN AND DOAN AT FAREWELL DINNER

All of us as Church members and as missionaries need to carry with us that continued reflected shine from Him in our countenance!

**An Amazing Member Referral,
by Elder Benjamin Zufelt
(and Elder Thomas Sorensen)**

In November shortly after Elder Sorensen and I opened up Westbank we received a call from a Sister Mutch from Alberta, who told us about her non-member nephew, Brandon Obray, who is living in Westbank. She suggested that we invite him out to Church. We called him, and the next day he showed up in a suit! None of the members introduced themselves to him because they thought he was a member. Subsequently we taught him the Restoration Lesson, and the Spirit was strong. Our words flowed. Brandon went with us to priesthood meeting, and during that meeting a request for volunteers for the upcoming Christmas dinner was made. Brandon instantly volunteered.

Two days later we learned that his cousins, Aaron and Jaden, were Church members, Jaden being on a mission. His cousins asked Brandon to pray and ask God if the Church were not true. Brandon did so, and received a witness by the Spirit. In further conversation we discovered that one of his cousins, Aaron, was going to be playing football for B.Y.U., lockering right next to Elder Sorensen next fall.

After we taught him about repentance, he said, “Well I am going to have to go home and repent.” Two days later he came to the Christmas party and afterwards helped clean up, just like a regular member. During the 3rd lesson he commented that he wanted his cousin Jaden to baptize him; however, he wasn’t coming home from



MISSION HOME DOOR HEART-ATTACKED BY SISTERS

his mission until summer. We tried persuading him to be baptized sooner, but he didn't want to budge initially. Together we read Alma 32, and we also marked Alma 34 and asked that Brandon read it. We then proceeded to watch *By Small and Simple Things*. When the testimonials and the DVD came on the girl mentioned how happy Mormons are, and Brandon commented, "Yeh, that's how I feel. You guys are happy all the time."

Brandon still resisted an earlier baptism, however. I thought to speak of the temple, pointing out, "The only problem I see is if you want to get baptized in the summer it will be that much longer to be able to go to the temple. If I were your cousin, Jaden, I would much rather want to attend the temple with you than to baptize you." After we explained the purpose of temples, I stated, "You know, Brandon, it doesn't matter what we want. If it were up to us we would take you out right now and baptize you. But it is up to God, and you need to ask Him if you need to get baptized in 6 months or sooner. But it is up to Him." Elder Sorensen then said, "Let's write our questions to God." We wrote up 8 questions, including: Is the Book of Mormon true? Is Joseph Smith a prophet? Should I get baptized? and others. Then Elder Sorensen said, "O.K., what I have found works best is to have each of us say a prayer. We'll go first, then you can." We all agreed, and after I said a short prayer then Elder Sorensen did and then Brandon prayed. As he did, the Spirit came upon us. It was awesome. Brandon asked if the Book of Mormon was true, and as he did so his voice changed. He had received a witness of its truth. We then set a baptismal date for January 21, 2006, and now Brandon was very happy with this earlier date.

Many family members from all over the world attended his baptism. Some were Church members, but several were not, and several of the non-members who came are now studying the Gospel. We learned that if we keep our covenants the Lord will bless us and as we fulfill our mission God will give us success. Brandon is now a solid member of the Westbank Branch and is serving as a branch missionary.

Our prayer is that the radiance and joy shown in the countenance of both members and missionaries will draw people to the Church. We love you all.

President and Sister Middleton

*"But ye are a chosen generation,
a royal priesthood, an holy
nation..." 1 Peter 2: 9*

APRIL 3, 2006

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED

As we bask in the spiritual glow of General Conference it is important to reflect on the inspirational messages we received. We were very pleased to hear and see President Hinckley speak, recovered from his recent surgery. An extremely well-read man, President Hinckley's reflections on his life were particularly tender. He quoted part of Robert Frost's poem *The Road Not Taken* as he began his reminiscences,

*“Two roads diverged in a wood,
and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the
difference.”*

He reflected in the Sunday afternoon session upon his remarkable association with many great Church leaders, and his life inspires us all. The advice given to President Hinckley by his father as he left for England on his first mission some 75 years ago was recalled

by Elder Jeffrey Holland in his Conference address, “Be not afraid, only believe.” (Mark 5: 36). That advice became the driving force for President Hinckley through his life as he made increasingly more important decisions in the management of Church affairs and so ably led all of us Church members with his wise exhortations and counsel, inspired always by the Lord. What a privilege to know that we are led by a living prophet, who is in turn led from on high.

MEMBERS ROLL IN MISSIONARY WORK IS CRITICAL

We were pleased to speak at the Smithers chapel on March 25 and 26 as part of the Terrace District Conference. President Daniel Tanner, Counselor in the district presidency, asked a very important question in his address on Sunday. He asked everyone in the congregation to stand who had joined the Church as a result of a member referral—about one half (or more) of the congregation stood. He then asked for those who had joined the Church through tracting to please stand—about 6 stood. In my subsequent talk I noted that over the past three decades, when most of those converts joined, our full-time missionaries spent approximately 95% of their time in tracting and 5% in teaching member referrals. Seeing how dramatically more effective member referrals are than tracting, we challenged the members to increase their referrals of their friends and acquaintances to the point that our missionaries spend 95% of their time teaching member referrals and just 5% of their time tracting. When that occurs in the Terrace District and all over BC our growth will explode!

Missionary Plans for Fraser Ward - by Sister Christala Hatch (and Sister Ha Anh Khong)

“Your talk in the Fraser Ward Sacrament Meeting was very inspiring to all the ward missionaries of which we now have *fourteen*. That afternoon we began rewriting the ward Mission Plan and the whole focus is toward three Tours per member per year to obtain 33 baptisms per year for the Fraser Ward. Everyone has adopted that goal. Every month there will be an activity designed for members to bring their friends and acquaintances to the Church, and have an opportunity so that the members might reach their three Tours commitment. All of us will go on splits and do multiple Tours at the same time.

“Counting adults only, there are 79 active members in the Fraser Ward and we will expect the youth to take the challenge also. One of the ward missionaries is going to make a chart with names and Tours:

Active Member

- Tour 1
- Tour 2
- Tour 3

“The ward missionaries, all 14 of them, have set the goal for themselves of 6 non-member referrals each year, one every two months, while the goal for all other ward members is three referrals per year. We’ll list everyone on separate charts, including Leadership, Ward Missionaries, Priesthood (probably divided into High Priests and Elders Quorums), Relief Society, Young Men, Young Women and Primary. One ward missionary will be in charge of keeping track,

and each month there will be some type of recognition/reward for the most missionary-minded auxiliary of the month.

“The ward missionaries are going to take some responsibility for getting all the members motivated to do the work as well. A blitz will be used to visit active members not participating, and we



ELDER SEEGMILLER AT BAPTISM OF TWO KOREAN SISTER

will show them *By Small and Simple Things*. We are also going to have a newsletter for the ward similar to the *Vancouver Star* but a little different, designed to keep the members missionary-minded. Candace Day will be in charge of it.”

TEACH MEMBERS TO REFER

In British Columbia one of every seven member referrals who goes on a chapel Tour or to another similar Church activity joins the Church. When all active members achieve three referrals per year our baptisms will climb by 10 times! Our BC-specific data shows this to be the case. Members need constant encouragement and support by us full-time missionaries to step forward boldly with faith. They need to understand they might ask six or eight acquaintances before one agrees to come on a Tour. They need to understand further that while one in seven referrals goes on to baptism, six of seven do not, and it may take two years for a given member who is bringing forth three acquaintances per year before their one in seven joins. They cannot, must not, become discouraged. Members must be carefully, lovingly taught that asking will not fracture a friendship even if that friend chooses not to go on a Tour just then. The member has done his or her part in fulfilling the prophet’s commandment of every member a missionary if they bring their acquaintance on a Tour—the acceptance of the Gospel is then up to that investigator. If every active member in their ward brings three per year, within three to five years the ward will need to be divided!

Our Church growth in B.C. is dependent upon our faithful member missionaries. That we might all step forth boldly, confidently, as true member missionaries is our constant prayer. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“After all that has been said, the greatest and most important duty is to preach the Gospel.”
(Teachings of the Prophet Joseph Smith, pg 113)*



BISHOP AND SISTER PENNEY WITH THE MIDDLETONS

APRIL 11, 2006

BE POSITIVE

As we go about our missionary labors we need to cultivate within ourselves an enthusiastic optimism. Enthusiasm is contagious! Everyone around us will perceive our enthusiasm, and will be converted to a “can do” attitude. Our determinedly positive outlook will rub off on both fellow full time missionaries and members alike.

PRESIDENT HINCKLEY SPEAKS ON BEING POSITIVE

In President Gordon B. Hinckley’s marvelous book *Way To Be* he wrote a chapter simply titled “Be Positive”. In it, he notes that the media tends to dwell on the negative. He notes that, “They feed us a steady and sour diet of character assassination, faultfinding, and evil speaking of one another that caricatures the facts and distorts the truth. Regardless of whom they write or speak about, they seem to look for his or her failings or weaknesses. They constantly criticize and seldom praise.” He goes on to note that far too often we as Church members allow negativity to creep into our dealings with each other. He comments that, “the snide remark, the sarcastic jibe, the cutting down of others—these too often are the essence of our conversation. Criticism is the... catalyst that leads to failure.”

Clearly negative comments or cynicism on the part of missionaries or members impedes our missionary work. President Hinckley has beautifully outlined the positive attitude that will bring us success as missionaries and in life.

ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE

President Hinckley noted, “I am suggesting that we look for the great good among those with whom we associate and live, that we speak of one another’s virtues and positive qualities more than we speak of one another’s faults, that optimism replace pessimism, and that our faith exceed our fears.” He notes the sage advice his father gave him many years earlier, “Cynics do not contribute, skeptics do not create, doubters do not achieve.” He goes on to note that, “In my ninety-plus years, I have learned a secret—that when good men and good women face challenges with optimism, things will always work out! Truly, things always work out!” He goes on to note that Winston Churchill’s optimism as Prime Minister of England in the early dark days of World War II was critical to his country’s success in staying free. When all observers felt certain that it was just a matter of days until the Nazis overran England, when fear gripped everyone, Churchill spoke: “These are not dark days; these are great days—the greatest days our country has ever lived and we must all thank God that we have been allowed, each of us according to our stations, to play a part in making these days memorable in the history of our race.”

After hearing the determined, optimistic words of Churchill, the people of England accomplished a victory that no observer thought possible.



PRINCE GEORGE WELCOME GUY



OUR MISSIONARIES AND MEMBERS WILL SIMILARLY SUCCEED

As we step forth in British Columbia in our missionary efforts we know that when members understand their role as member missionaries and refer 3 acquaintances per year to us full time missionaries, Church growth will increase dramatically. Some say that it can't be done, that members will not rise to the challenge. To those naysayers we counter with the faith and optimism spoken of by President Hinckley. We know that our God is on our side, to encourage us and help us succeed. "I will provide means whereby thou mayest accomplish the thing which I have commanded thee." (D & C 5: 34).

President Hinckley concluded his chapter on being positive by admonishing, "Cultivate an attitude of optimism. Know that God is watching over you, that He will hear your prayers and will answer them, that He loves you and will make that love manifest."

We too love you and pray constantly for your success.

President and Sister Middleton

*"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger....and evil speaking, be put away from you...And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
Ephesians 4: 31-32*

APRIL 17, 2006

INSPIRING COUNSEL FROM ELDER RASBAND

On April 7, 2006 there was a Mission President's Seminar in Seattle for all nine of the Area Mission Presidents, which we attended. Elder Ronald Rasband who is one of the seven Presidents of the Seventies, and also is assigned to oversee our Area, presided. Many wonderful ideas were brought forth in that seminar, a few of which we will share with you. Of particular highlight was a conference call in which we heard from Elder M. Russell Ballard and Elder Quentin Cook, both of whom are overseeing the worldwide missionary efforts of the Church.

Some excellent ideas brought forth were the following:

1. Full time missionaries should meet with the bishop or branch president weekly, in a relatively brief meeting to which they should take their Daily Planner as well as Area Book for review with the bishop or branch president. At the meeting they should find specific ward or branch issues that they need to address and also to co-ordinate their efforts to match members to the investigators for fellowshipping purposes, to assure that the investigators who are invited to Sacrament Meeting were either picked up or joined by a member to lead them over to Sacrament Meeting, to assure that the needs of the ward or branch are being addressed properly.
2. Zone Leaders should meet with the stake or district president monthly. The issues discussed should be similar to what are discussed as mentioned above with ward or branch leaders.
3. Work vigorously to see that stake, district, ward and branch members write a dynamic Mission Plan, which has the characteristics outlined by our stake presidents—simple and short, involve every member, and has measurable goals.
4. Have the bishop or branch president give 2nd interviews of investigators when needed, so that they can better know them prior to baptism. In the Handbook it suggests that the mission president or counselor give a second interview which, in many instances, is not physically possible because of the distance involved. A better idea in every instance is to have the interview done by the local Church leader for the reasons mentioned above.
5. Go over Chapter 13 of *Preach My Gospel* in ward council and missionary correlation meetings, to be sure that all ward and branch leaders understand their role in making missionary efforts successful.
6. Welcome strangers to each ward or branch meeting. Reports are repeatedly heard of individuals unknown to ward or branch members attending a Church service and never being welcomed or greeted by anybody. Continually remind in PEC, ward council and other meetings of the critically importance of proper welcome.
7. Be sure that each ward or branch has a dynamic insightful Mission Leader. It was shared with us the solution that Elder Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve suggested to insure that the Mission Leader be the proper individual - that each bishopric or branch presidency release the First Counselor to become the ward or branch Mission Leader. While that probably isn't necessary in

most cases, it underlines the importance the Brethren feel to be placed on having the most capable individuals to head the ward or branch missionary efforts.

8. Comply with the directions of *Preach My Gospel* in order to keep the missionary work simple. Elder Ballard made a strong point that when local leaders write intricate, lengthy and complex missionary suggestions or Plans that all they do is confuse the members and immerse yourself in and basically very simple work doesn't get done. He urged also that we use the short well-done pamphlets, which tie into each of the lessons in PMG to help get the basic message we bear to investigators.
9. Elder Ballard urged that the wall that seems to have crept up between members and full time missionaries through the years is a creation of Satan, and must be broken down at all costs. He urged that missionaries and members must be seamlessly integrated into a single effective missionary effort.
10. As PMG urges, missionary companionships should aim toward a minimum of 15 lessons per week, and should include all 4 of the first lessons among that number. There is no better method for giving compelling inviting lessons than to simply be giving them repeatedly, according to Elder Ballard, something we strongly urge all companionships to accomplish.
11. When missionaries have the investigators pray, it would be helpful to ask the investigator to "pray for us as well as to know that the lesson we've learned is true". By inviting the investigator to pray for each missionary companionship it invites them to understand

that they and their referrals are part of the important finding process.

12. Elder Ballard urged that the model for training outlined in PMG be used and used repeatedly. That model should be used by Zone Leaders every time they do exchanges, by District Leaders every time they have district meetings. It consists of explaining what a lesson should look like, and then demonstrating the lesson, then having the missionary companionships practice the lesson giving it to you, and then evaluate how they do it looking toward improvement. All Zone Leaders and District Leaders should do exchanges for no less than 24 hours, so that all aspects of the missionaries' habits and obedience are properly evaluated.
13. Elders Ballard and Cook made an important observation that every time a missionary companionship teaches an investigator they should ask for a referral, and should do so with every lesson they give. The dialogue should be something to the effect, "Who else would you like to have here with you in a lesson?"
14. Observe that President Gordon B. Hinckley has called for there to be a doubling of the number of baptisms yearly. When asked how that would occur, he responded that, "When the faith of the leaders and members equals that of the Prophet the baptisms will double". Clearly members and missionaries alike must step forward, and must step forward boldly and together. There is no question that the old statement that "united we stand, divided we fall" is extremely appropriate to successful missionary work.

That we all might heed the inspired sound advice of the General

Authority leaders who have given it to us, that we might step forth boldly and with faith to accomplish the goal that our Prophet has given us that we double our baptisms is our constant prayer. We love you and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton

APRIL 25, 2006

THE IMPORTANCE OF MEMBERS AS MISSIONARIES

More and more as we see what is effective in missionary work and what is not, we realize that member referrals are infinitely more effective than any other finding method. In regard to tracting, which has been the main finding tool used by our missionaries over the last 3 decades, we would share the following observations with you:

Tracting is Relatively Ineffective, by Elder Joshua R. Haren

“I have done much tracting in my almost 20 months as a missionary here in British Columbia. In fact for almost 8 months straight that is all that we did, all day every day. One day a few weeks ago I figured that I had knocked on close to 10,000 doors and had

never seen anyone I found through tracting come remotely near baptism. You could say that my experience ruins the mathematics world wide where 1 of every 1,000 people contacted through tracting are baptized. One of the saddest things about that 8 month stretch was that for half of it I had companions who had so much faith in tracting, and they seemed shaken after so little success.

Well, there you have it, the story of the 10,000 doors and zero baptisms.”

Elder Haren’s observation has been made by many others as we have done inquiries of our missionaries. At a recent Zone Conference we were sitting at a table with 8 full time missionaries all of whom had been out for over 1 year. Someone asked for a show of hands of how many of the missionaries had seen a baptism as a result of tracting. Out of the 8 missionaries present, only 1 had seen a baptism through tracting. The observation of Elder Haren, made above, where he notes that he has knocked on 10,000 doors and has yet to see a baptism from tracting, is fairly typical of the story we hear from many other missionaries. Elder Haren underlines the inescapable fact that member referrals are critical to missionary success in British Columbia. We urge all missionaries to tract or “GQ” if a period of time can’t be filled with a member referral, but do try to fill each day with the teaching of non-member acquaintances of members.

VANCOUVER STAKE CHALLENGE—FOUR REFERRALS PER YEAR FOR EVERY MEMBER!

We were privileged to attend the Vancouver Stake Conference on Easter weekend and were thrilled to learn of President Thomas

Walker’s challenge to all of his stake members to bring 4 non-member acquaintances per year to the Church for a Tour or other Church activity! In essence the Vancouver Stake Mission Plan calls for a Set-A-Date covenant by every member to find and bring an acquaintance every 3 months. That goal is lofty, but is low compared to what Sister Ma of the Wa Yan Chinese Ward of the Vancouver Stake has been doing for the past 10 years—bringing a non-member acquaintance to Church every 3 weeks, on average. Once all active members in the Vancouver Stake achieve their goal of 1 referral every 3 months, and assuming that 1 in 7 goes on to baptism, the Vancouver Stake will welcome 234 baptisms per year!! Now 6 of our 7 stakes have established a non-member referral goal for every member for 3 or more referrals per year.

THE KEY TO MEMBERS BECOMING MISSIONARIES—A DYNAMIC, INVITING MISSION PLAN

We have urged each local leader to be sure that their ward or branch Mission Plan has the following characteristics:

1. It should be simple and short. A lengthy or complex plan will be viewed by all the members except the one or ones who wrote it as overwhelming, and will not inspire the members to do the missionary referrals that are needed.
2. The Plan must involve every member of the ward or branch.
3. The Plan should have measurable goals for each member as well as for the ward or branch.

It is appropriate for our missionaries to give input to the Mission

Plan, if they’re asked. However, the Plan must be written by ward or branch members who meet in the Ward Council (or stake or district leaders), as is strongly urged in PMG. The other feature that we feel should be part of every Mission Plan is that it should be a living document, and should be reviewed quarterly or as often as needed by all of the ward or branch leadership in Ward Council to be sure that it truly meets the needs and demands of the ward or branch. It should also urge somewhat lofty but very achievable objectives and goals for each member.

TEACHING EACH MEMBER HOW TO BE A MISSIONARY TAKES TIME

Making each member a contributing member missionary will take time. For most members asking as many acquaintances as it will take to have 1 return on a Tour or other Church activity seems frightening and formidable. As leaders we must step boldly forward with enthusiasm that never slackens, to show through our example and instruction that it is not only doable but will bring great personal satisfaction. Share often the observation of our Lord Jesus Christ, “And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father! And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!” (D & C 18: 15-16). Gently, lovingly, patiently and repeatedly teach members how to invite their non-member acquaintances. Most importantly help each member to develop realistic expectations—it might require that they ask 6, 8

WHISTLER



or even 10 people before 1 joins them on a Tour or attends a Church activity with them; while 1 of every 7 who goes on a Tour becomes baptized, 6 of 7 do not; and when bringing 3 investigators per year on a Tour it might take over 2 years before a given member sees 1 of his or her referrals go on to baptism. Each member must be taught clearly what to expect, and perhaps having them attend a short class regarding member missionary techniques and expectations, as is being done by Bishop McLean in the Burnaby Ward and in several other wards and branches in British Columbia, might be the best way to teach members how to accomplish their earthly missionary obligations. As we full-time missionaries find our days being filled more and more with the teaching of those referred by members, our growth in British Columbia will accelerate beyond our wildest dreams.

May the Lord bless us as we proclaim His Gospel, we pray. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“For after much tribulation
come the blessings. Wherefore
the day cometh that ye shall
be crowned with much glory.”
D&C 58: 4*

MAY 2, 2006

OBSERVATIONS BY OUR MISSIONARIES

Our missionaries are sharing with us insightful and very helpful observations regularly, several of which we share with you below. Their excellent ideas might be used throughout the mission.

Burnaby Ward Creates a Simple, Direct Mission Plan, by Elder David LaSalle (and Elder Christopher Eckman)

“We taught 39 lessons this week! I just love being a missionary! Burnaby has never been close to the potential it has and I really feel like Burnaby is going to take off. Our main focus has been implementing a Ward Mission Plan. We’ve been working closely with our Ward Mission Leader and it looks like our Ward Mission Plan will be to have every member bring 3 people on a Tour during 2006. So, 3 Tours with a non-member. Simple!

“Another great thing happened is that we took our whole Ward Council on a “silent” Tour of our Church in Burnaby. We wanted the whole Ward Council to understand the importance of the Tour, but also see that our Church building needed a lot of work. It is very dull and the rooms need to be spruced up with more pictures and visuals along the halls. While trying to figure out what to do to explain these problems, it hit me! A “Silent Tour!” So we took 15 minutes to silently make a Tour. The only sound was footsteps. Afterwards they all realized that the rooms don’t express themselves. The halls

are dull and things could be a lot better. President, as you would say, “The members are getting on board.” And when they are all on board this area will boom! It is great to see the progress.”

**Importance of Teaching
Full Lessons, by Elder Daniel Roy (and Elder Soukson Praxaybane)**

“President, I feel that ever since we’ve begun to teach the full lessons, our investigators have made significant progress and the Lord has been truly blessing this area. We have a whole new area now with 3 investigators who want to be baptized very soon, plus our old ones are close to making the commitment to be baptized.”

**Importance of the Baptismal Service,
by Elder Joel Asay (and Elder Shane Hohman)**

“Bonnie Burton was found at the baptism of Chris Kozak last year. They are good friends. Wanting to learn what the Church meant, Bonnie took the discussions. Ultimately she wanted to change her life and be baptized. Her initial baptismal date, however, was 1 year in the future. She told us she wanted to be baptized in 3 weeks. The baptism went forth, and we had a great time contacting all her friends who came to the service.

“Since her baptism she has referred another 6 people to come on Tours!! She is, and will continue to be, a great example to her non-LDS and LDS friends alike.

“Trevor Arnsworth was contacted through our less-active/part member work. The family consists of Trevor, his formerly less active member wife, Michelle, and their 2 children. The first time we met

with them Michelle intended to tell us not to return. After feeling the Spirit, however, she desired another lesson. We returned, shared another lesson, and Michelle then realized Trevor was actually learning and feeling the Spirit. They asked if we would bless their children, and after asking the Bishop, were allowed to do so under his enthusiastic eye. We started meeting twice a week. Trevor smoked and drank much coffee when we first met, but once he felt the Spirit he only wanted to be baptized and he quickly complied with the Word of Wisdom.

“We fasted and prayed with him. He set the date of Feb. 3 for baptism and then was baptized with much enthusiasm and excitement. Since baptism he has expressed intense interest in progressing so that he can one day baptize his own children and be sealed to his family. Seeing a non-member progress toward baptism with an eye single to God’s glory and with an eternal family has been the best experience of my life.”

**Importance of Full Lessons,
by Elder James Corey (and Elder Paul Ackerson)**

“I would like to thank you for having us keep track of how many full lessons we have taught. I feel much more successful striving for 10 full lessons. Spiritual thoughts are great, but don’t lead to much life-changing things other than following up with members. Anyway, I’m happy to say Elder Ackerson and I worked quite hard this week getting 13 full lessons.

“We’re finding the best way to improve our teaching skills is to teach full lessons and teach a lot of them. They are more vital than any personal or companion study can be because of the unknown variable of the third person thrown in.”



**Sister Sheman, Model Member Missionary,
by Elder Travis Nemrow (and Elder Joshua Haren)**

“Sister Sheman has become an exemplary member missionary. She has captured the vision that Sister Ma has realized in the past, and has truly embraced the vision of taking her friends on Tours of the Church. She lives in the Burnaby Ward.

“Sister Sheman told me when we were preparing for her Tour that at night she lays in bed and stares at the ceiling pondering who she will bring on a Tour next! While on the Tours she bears a strong testimony about how the Church has changed her life! It made me understand how much more effective it is when a member brings a friend and bears his/her testimony—100 percent more effective!”

We love sharing your ideas. Please keep sharing them with us. We love all of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.” (Peter 2:9)

CARVING IN A TREE AT PRINCE GEORGE

ELDER RICHARDS' ADVICE; THANKS TO OUR MOTHERS

MAY-JUNE 2006

MAY 16, 2006

BLESSINGS, WORK!

We have been thrilled to see that the members of the Church in British Columbia are stepping forward as member missionaries! Our increasing number of baptisms, up 43% over 2005 year to date, are due to increasing member referrals. More and more members are setting a specific date by which they will have at least 1 of their acquaintances come with them on a Tour or for some other Church activity, which can be coupled with a Tour. The members are learning that they need to keep asking their acquaintances until someone agrees to go on a Tour, and they might need to ask 5 or 10

or more until someone comes on a Tour. One out of 7 who do so go on to baptism, as our experience in British Columbia demonstrates.

MISSIONARY EFFORTS MUST BE REDOUBLED

There is a natural tendency on the part of missionaries as they see the members stepping forward increasingly with member referrals of their non-member acquaintances to slacken up some and wait for the members to make a referral. We strongly urge that missionaries

not succumb to this natural human tendency. The members will be diligent and will be working vigorously to find referrals to give to those full time missionaries whom they see are worthy of referrals. They will not be inclined to refer those precious friends and acquaintances to missionaries they perceive as less than diligent. Therefore, to be certain that member referrals are forthcoming each full time missionary must be anxiously engaged 24/7 in his or her work. Do not sleep in—6:15 is the latest anybody should arise in the morning. The weekly key indicators from this point on will be shared with



KITCHEN ANGELS AT INCOMING MISSIONARY DINNER

each bishop and branch president as well as with stake and district presidents. In the weekly meetings between the missionaries and the bishop or branch president we have asked that the key indicators be a focus to give them that level of assurance that the missionaries are indeed working diligently. Bishops and branch presidents know that each companionship is striving for 10 or more full lessons weekly, and 15 or more total lessons. The key indicators also indicate the levels to which members are stepping forward with member referrals, with the column on referrals being an important part of the weekly evaluation. If member referrals need to be increased plans can be made at that meeting with the bishop or branch president to how that could be accomplished.

President Ezra Taft Benson made an extremely important observation when he noted, "I have often said one of the greatest secrets of missionary work is work! If a missionary works, he will get the Spirit; if he gets the Spirit, he will teach by the Spirit; and if he teaches by the Spirit, he will touch the hearts of the people and he will be happy. There will be no homesickness, no worrying about families, for all time and talents and interests are centered on the work of the ministry. Work, work, work—there is no satisfactory substitute, especially in missionary work." (Pg 121 *PMG*)

DEDICATED EFFORT NEEDED BY MEMBERS AND FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES ALIKE

May we echo the sound advice and wisdom given by President Benson. Hard dedicated work is necessary on the part of each and every one of our full time missionaries as well as members to

achieve the growth of the Church here in British Columbia which was prophesied by Elder Henry B. Eyring in March of 2005. You may recall his prophetic vision when he stated, “I am clear that the Lord is going to build the Church in this area in a powerful way and beyond what you might expect. This will come, for the Lord will build great strength in the Church in this area and substantial growth is before us. I can’t give you a timeline, but by my human judgment it will be a miracle.”

We are seeing that miracle! To effectively have that miracle play forth as Elder Henry B. Eyring prophesied it will require that each and every one of us dedicate ourselves to spending each and every moment of our mission working vigorously, prayerfully, and faithfully.

That we might so demonstrate our love for our Father in Heaven, and our gratitude to our Father in Heaven for entrusting us with this sacred calling of proclaiming the gospel to the people of British Columbia, is our prayer. We love each and every one of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“There is a law, irrevocably decreed in Heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated. And when we

obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.”

D&C 130: 20-21

MAY 23, 2006

HELP MEMBERS BE MISSIONARIES

We know that the key to successful Church growth in British Columbia lies in members understanding how to be member missionaries. To estimate how valuable member missionaries are, consider that if every active member brings 3 non-member acquaintances yearly on a Tour of their chapel, and if 1 in 7 who goes on a Tour joins the Church (which is our BC average), we estimate that we will see about 1500 convert baptisms yearly, up from the under 300 yearly we have seen in recent years when our full-time missionaries have had to rely on tracting primarily! More than just numbers, the 1500 souls we seek yearly are our Father in heaven’s children, whose salvation depends upon us to do His work here on earth.

LOVINGLY HELP MEMBERS UNDERSTAND HOW

In recent years members have gotten into the habit of relying on full-time missionaries to both find and teach investigators. A schism has inadvertently grown between members and full-time missionaries with a mind-set on the part of the members that the full-time missionaries will do the finding while the members support them mostly with meals. As Elder Ballard has recently observed, that schism between our members and missionaries is effectively a product of the devil. That schism dramatically impedes the growth of the Church.

Members must be taught lovingly but unmistakably that it is a commandment that each member be a finding missionary. Through the prophet Joseph Smith we were instructed in 1832 that each member should become a missionary when the Lord said, “Behold, I sent you out to testify and warn the people, and it becometh every man who has been warned to warn his neighbor. Therefore, they are left without excuse and their sins are upon their own heads.” D & C 88:81. That commandment is unambiguous. Coupled with the recent admonition by our prophets that every member must become a missionary, the commandment is clear.

For too long members have equated being a missionary with going tracting, and that prospect understandably frightens members. Most members are not equipped by training or disposition to tract, and most know that tracting in BC is not very productive. We must assure members now and repeatedly that they are not being asked to tract to fulfill their missionary obligations.

TEACH MEMBERS HOW TO INVITE FOR A TOUR

Instead, members need to be taught how to invite their acquaintances on a Tour. They need to be taught the “language of faith”. They need to learn that an invitation to an acquaintance given with the language of faith should start with the phrase, “Will you...”, instead of a phrase like, “You wouldn’t be interested in ... would you?” If the invitation is made lovingly, positively, it will be quite unlikely that the acquaintance will be offended or think any less of the Church member who asked them, even if they choose not to go on a Tour just then.

BREAK THE YEAR INTO MANAGEABLE PARTS

If a member consents to bring 3 (or 4 in the case of the Vancouver Stake) investigators yearly, they will not likely achieve their goal unless they break the year into manageable parts. Human nature would lead many of our best-intentioned members into procrastinating finding someone to come on a Tour until late in the year, and the chance of finding 3 for a Tour between December 1st and the end of the year is not great. Instead, if a member breaks the year into 3 separate parts, 4 months each, the task of finding 3 per year becomes fairly easy. In essence, the member will use the Set-A-Date program advocated for many years by Elder M. Russell Ballard and the rest of the Brethren, by which they will Set-A-Date with faith, then let the family members,

bishop and full-time missionaries know what that date is. Then they need to covenant with the Lord regarding achieving their goal, and ask for the Lord's help in doing so. Once they know what the date is the full-time missionaries can then help the member by calling weekly to inquire how they are doing and offer to help them in any way possible to find someone who will come with them to the Church on a Tour. We need to help members understand that it is in the nature of missionary work that they may need to ask 5 or 10 or more acquaintances before one joins them on a Tour. Reassure them, and don't let them become discouraged.

K.I.S.S. (KEEP IT SIMPLE, SAINTS)

The above acronym we understand originated with Sister Linda Walker of the Vancouver Stake, whose husband is President Thomas Walker, the stake president. In teaching members how to find, we urge that we focus on inviting non-member acquaintances on a Church Tour, or to a Church activity such as a baptismal service, dinner, Family History Center visit, etc. which can then be coupled with a Tour. A Tour allows us to reach the investigator during that all-important first impression by teaching doctrine through missionaries giving the Restoration Lesson during the Tour, but also during that Tour letting the investigator see our beautiful buildings and at the same time explain the important role of each Auxiliary Organization in the everyday life of our members (a "by their fruits ye shall know them" look at the Church).

Chapter 9 in *Preach My Gospel*, "Finding People", lists 22 different ways to find investigators. To present all 22 to a member will likely be not only confusing but overwhelming, and the training will not

be successful. By contrast, by focusing on just 1 of the 22 methods mentioned in *PMG*, the Tour, a member can be taught how to successfully invite their non-member acquaintance, with loving boldness, in one training session. A successful member training idea, tried with excellent success by Sisters Lindsey Leavitt and Julianna Little at the request of Bishop John Russell in the Nanaimo Ward, consisted of running a Tour through the Church building for 10 or



SILHOUETTE OF KATIE ON VICTORIA FERRY

15 members in one group and instructing them during the Tour on how they can succeed in bringing 3 investigators per year back on a Tour. Members need to know that to be a member missionary really is not difficult.

Training our members how to be missionaries will be critical to the success of our missionary efforts in British Columbia. That we might accomplish that goal quickly but with love is our prayer. We love you, and pray for your safety and success multiple times daily.

President and Sister Middleton

“Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me.” D&C 19:23

JUNE 6, 2006

ASSIST MEMBERS IN DEVELOPING A WARD OR BRANCH MISSION PLAN

To help members to function well as member missionaries, Preach My Gospel notes that an effective ward or branch Mission Plan is extremely helpful (PMG, pg 220). Many wards and branches throughout B.C. have developed a Mission Plan which brilliantly meets the inspired counsel of our B.C. stake and district presidents to be 1) simple and short, 2) to establish measurable goals for both members and the ward or branch, and 3) to involve every member as member missionaries. Some wards and branches are still working on writing their Mission Plan. We offer in this STAR a few observations on Mission Plans.

WARDS AND BRANCHES ARE DEVELOPING INSPIRED MISSION PLANS

Sister Middleton and I were invited to speak in Sacrament Meeting on May 28, 2006, in the North Shore Ward of the Vancouver Stake, and we spoke later that day in the Vancouver 4th Branch (Spanish). We were so pleased to feel the remarkable missionary Spirit which has developed in that ward and branch, and we noted that each has produced a truly inspired Mission Plan. Each of their Mission Plans



ELDER AND SISTER RICHARDS, THE MIDDLETONS, AND APS



ELDER AND SISTER RICHARDS AND THE MIDDLETONS

is sufficiently simple and short that it is easily contained on a 4" x 6" card, and each has been printed and has a magnet placed on the back so that when distributed to each ward and branch member it will sit prominently on the refrigerator to give a daily or multiple-time daily reminder on how to go about being an effective member missionary. Members will realize by looking at their Mission Plan on the refrigerator that to succeed as a member missionary they need to be thinking throughout every day about inviting their friends and acquaintances to go on a Tour with them or to a Church activity which can be coupled with a Tour.

The Mission Plan of the North Shore Ward calls for bringing a non-member on a Tour every 3 months, or 4 referrals of an acquaintance per year. The Vancouver 4th Branch Mission Plan calls upon members to bring 5 of their non-member friends or acquaintances on a Tour per year. In the case of the North Shore Ward each member will have to personally Set-A-Date every 3 months, setting a date 3 months off by which they will have completed the task their leaders, inspired by the Lord, have asked them to do, of bringing an acquaintance on a Tour. In the case of the Vancouver 4th Branch (Spanish) each member will use a personal Set-A-Date every 2 ½ months to bring 5 non-member acquaintances per year. There is no question that these Mission Plans, which have been developed by the ward and branch Mission Leaders and the bishop and branch president in conference with the full time missionaries and the Ward Council, are truly inspired and are precisely what is needed to grow their respective ward and branch. It will work!

IDEA ON HOW TO HELP WARDS AND BRANCHES RAPIDLY DEVELOP THEIR MISSION PLAN—THE VICTORIA 4TH BRANCH EXPERIENCE

At the Zone Leaders Council held May 25, 2006, the Mission Plan for the Victoria 4th Branch, the Singles Branch, was shared with us by Elders Tyler Bailey and Tron Graham. Theirs is a simple but direct Mission Plan which has been laminated and designed to be distributed throughout the branch, and it too calls for each branch member to bring 3 non-member acquaintances per year on a Tour.

The Victoria 4th Mission Plan was initially created by the full time missionaries and the Branch Mission Leader, Glenn Keyes, then was presented to the branch president, Grant Gainor, and full Branch Council where modifications were made to create the final Mission Plan. The creation of the plan was accomplished in only one week, and if this accelerated approach will work for wards or branches which have not yet been able to create their Mission Plan, this approach may be well worth trying.

There is no question but what the Mission Plan for each ward and branch, as so beautifully outlined in the inspired Preach My Gospel, is the will of the Lord, and will allow members to understand how to truly become thoroughly engaged as member missionaries, as our Church leaders have asked us all to become.



Successful Less-active Missionary Work, by Elder Richard Ashton (and Elder Jeff Allen)

“At the beginning of last transfer it became our goal to visit every less-active found in our Ward Directory. It was on one of these visits that we met Danielle Strate, an 18-year-old daughter of a less-active member. When talking to her, we discovered that she had been going to Church every once-in-a-while for the past 2 years, was almost half-way through reading the entire Book of Mormon, had a few friends who were members of the ward, and was very interested in taking the lessons. Within the next couple of weeks she had a baptismal date. Just last week she finished reading the entire Book of Mormon, which is an incredible accomplishment in itself, and has been baptized. This experience has helped me realize how key and effective working with less-actives really is.

“Also, we picked up a number of other investigators doing less-active work. About 6 weeks ago, we stopped by a house that previously had been vacated by a less-active member. We spoke with the current resident of the household, and discovered that she was the mother of 6 young children. Since then, we have taught the family a couple of lessons, have been on a couple of hikes with them, have performed service in their yard, and sat next to them during a session of General Conference. They are very family oriented, and strongly encourage religious values in their household. At the moment they do not seem too interested but we will continue to work with them to strengthen that first relationship that is so key. We are very enthusiastic about their future. Once again, this experience proves how imperative less-active work is in the mission field.”

We love you, and love working with you full time missionaries and our wonderful inspiring members, who are beginning to step forth boldly in ever-increasing numbers to become true member missionaries.

President and Sister Middleton

Reminder: ask for a referral in every conversation with a member or non-member alike....”Will you bring an acquaintance on a Tour, and when?”

Remember our mission goal: 10 Gospel contacts per day per missionary outside our usual finding and teaching duties. That includes a Gospel message to everyone you see.

Reminder: We are praying for 3 baptisms (or more) per companionship per transfer. When all companionships achieve 3 baptisms with each transfer there will be 1500 baptisms per year in B.C. which we know that, with faith and every active member referring 3 acquaintances per year, we can achieve.

*“Let us run with patience the race that is set before us.”
Hebrews 12:1*

JUNE 15, 2006

INSPIRATION FROM ELDER AND SISTER RICHARDS

We were privileged to have Elder H. Bryan Richards and Sister Lynn Anne Richards tour our mission from June 7-9, 2006. Inspiring counsel and advice was given, and all who participated in their training came away uplifted and instructed in how to be a better, more effective missionary. Because of the brevity of their tour the Prince George and Vernon Zone missionaries could not participate, regrettably. In this and subsequent *Vancouver Stars* we will attempt to share highlights from their visit.

PREACH MY GOSPEL PRINCIPLES ESSENTIAL TO MISSIONARY SUCCESS

Elder and Sister Richards repeatedly made the point that missionaries who knew and embraced the concepts taught in *PMG* would have great success. Not only must we know the contents of *PMG*, we must embrace its precepts and use them wisely and diligently. Exact obedience is the sine qua non for success. With exact obedience tremendous success will be achieved; without it little can be accomplished and the time spent in the mission is wasted. The Lord states, "I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when

ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." D & C 82:10

A poll was taken at each of the Zone Conferences by Elder Richards, asking the following questions of the missionaries and obtaining these answers:

1. What is the mission exact obedience estimate? 70% of our missionaries.
2. What is the work ethic in the mission? 60% are working hard at all times.
3. How many missionaries are constantly looking to find new investigators? 50% of them.
4. How many missionaries are using the Daily Planner to set goals and plan daily and weekly, as urged in *PMG* Chapter 8? 85% of Zone Leaders are, 68% of the rest of the missionaries are.
5. What is the faith that you will baptize monthly? 77% are confident they will. l.

We have no reason to doubt the accuracy of these polls. The percentages are disappointing. To each question asked we would ideally find 100% of our missionaries totally compliant and obedient. When each missionary in our mission is 100% exactly obedient, and can honestly answer yes to each of these questions, our success, as missionaries will soar!

We would challenge each missionary to help his or her companion to achieve exact obedience in questions 1 through 4. We would ask each bishop and branch president in his weekly meeting with the

missionaries to ask about questions 1 through 4. When a missionary companionship gives an unqualified “yes” to these 4 questions, their answer to the last question about whether they will baptize regularly will immediately become affirmative.

REVISE GOALS WEEKLY

Elder Richards noted that some of our missionaries are not using the Missionary Daily Planner properly. Each day must have the day planned, and the “Back Up Plan” column must be filled as well. The “To Do List” should be filled in as well as the “Study Topics” and “Key Indicators” should be written in daily.

Most importantly the “Weekly Goals” page must be filled out weekly at the Friday planning session. While companionships would be well served to have a goal of 3 or more baptisms per transfer, PMG asks that we prayerfully and realistically set weekly goals for each of the Key Indicators listed on the “Weekly Goals” sheet in your Daily Planner. We will ask to see your Daily Planner at each interview, and want to discuss with you how your weekly goals are established (hopefully with prayer and with a realistic assessment of your assigned area).

CONCENTRATE ON EXPANDING YOUR TEACHING POOL

Elder Richards noted that our mission baptisms per month follow an irregular jagged curve—up some months and low other months. The reason for this is that companionships obtain a progressing investigator and then fail to add new investigators to their teaching

pool until after the progressing investigator is baptized. Then after the baptism they must start over to find new investigators and it is a Transfer or two before another baptism occurs. May we urge that each companionship strive to continually find as has been urged by Elder Richards. As you establish weekly goals in the Daily Planner, be sure that filling your teaching pool becomes a priority.

EXPRESS THANKS OFTEN

Carry mission “Thank You” cards always, and leave them with a short message or give verbal thanks to everyone who helps you. Express thanks to member leaders often, and ask frequently what you might do to help them make their job easier. It is common courtesy but also will determine often whether or not you are a successful missionary.

Each of the points mentioned in this *Star* are small but will accelerate your success. There is already a quickening of the Spirit in British Columbia; attention on our part to these details will make us all the more successful.

Finally, may we urge that you have fun in His service! We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

“...The object of prayer is not to change the will of God, but to secure for ourselves and for others blessings that God is already

willing to grant, but that are made conditional on our asking for them.”
Bible Dictionary, pg. 753

JUNE 20, 2006

THE PRICE FOR MISSIONARY SUCCESS

President James E. Faust made a most insightful observation in what it takes to achieve success as a missionary:

“My dear young friends, there is another great truth that you young men must learn. It is that everything has a price. There is a price to pay for success, fulfillment, accomplishment, and joy. There are no freebies. If you don’t pay the price that is needed for success, you will pay the price of failure. Preparation, work, study, and service are required to achieve and find happiness. Disobedience and lack of preparation carry a terrible price tag. As priesthood holders of this Church, part of the price we need to pay is by living differently from the world. We are the possessors and custodians of these commanding powers which can and do roll back the power of Satan on the earth. With all my heart I urge you to please help us push back the world. We must stand against the wind. Sometimes we must be unpopular and simply say, ‘This is not right.’ (‘The Devil’s Throat’, Ensign, May 2003)

As President Faust so beautifully states, if we don’t pay the price that is needed for success, we will surely “pay the price of failure”. While his comments were written for young men, clearly the advice applies equally to our sister missionaries and senior couples. What does it mean when President Faust states that, “preparation, work, study, and service are required to achieve and find happiness”?

Clearly exact obedience is at the heart of missionary success. Exact obedience is necessary in every facet of the work. To report that you were up at 6:15 A.M. means that you were up, not dozing in bed listening to a talk. To report that you have given a “full lesson”, as Elder Kikuchi asked us to aim for 10 or more times weekly, it must truly be a full lesson, taking 30 minutes or more to deliver. If you report that “Companion Study” was achieved, it means that a full hour of focused study with your companion was achieved. We expect, the Lord expects, honest reporting on the Key Indicators. Anything less assures lack of success in the missionary effort, in our opinion.

SUGGESTIONS FOR EFFECTIVELY USING MULTIPLE WARD (OR BRANCH) MISSIONARIES

Both the Vernon and Fraser Wards have called 14 ward missionaries, and the Kamloops 2nd Ward is shortly to do the same. Most of these ward missionaries hold other callings as well, many in the leadership of their priesthood or auxiliary organizations. Brother Burnham in the Vernon Ward serves as a ward missionary as well as being on the Vernon Stake High Council. The ward missionaries meet in Co-ordination Meeting weekly under the direction of the Ward Mission Leader (as outlined in *PMG*), where they report on



how their assignments went during the previous week. They are not asked to tract (a common misconception of members regarding what they would do if called to be a ward missionary). Their duties, at least in the Vernon Ward, are outlined below in this report by Elders Stuart Young and Shawn Swapp:

“The Vernon Ward Missionaries have been used in multiple functions. Here is a list of ways Bishop Smith and Brother Schmidt (WML) have used the ward missionaries:

1. Teaching New Member Lessons: The full time missionaries teach the first New Member Lesson. The Ward Missionaries (one couple is assigned to a recent convert) teach lessons 2—5 plus 2 additional lessons the ward mission leader has created.
2. Reactivation and Part Member Families: Each couple not participating in New Member Lessons is given 2 or 3 names of less-actives or part-member families to visit. The intent is to try to make weekly follow-ups to help the less active become active, or to ask a non-member spouse or children to take the lessons. Some couples involved in the new member lessons still take 1 or 2 less-active family names during the week to visit.

Editor’s Note: as noted above, multiple ward missionaries can be extremely helpful to a bishop or branch president. Not only do they help accelerate the ward or branch finding, but they also serve an important role in fellowshipping and teaching new members as well as less-actives. Ward missionaries also are used in exchanges with the full-time missionaries, and are asked to find a non-member acquaintance to bring to the chapel on a Tour the night of the exchange.

In the case of the Fraser Ward missionaries they have established a goal of bringing 6 non-member acquaintances per year on a Tour, twice as many as is the goal for the rest of the ward members. It has worked well in some wards to have an assistant from the high priest’s group leadership, a counselor from the elders quorum presidency, and a counselor from the various auxiliary organizations also called as a Ward Missionary, to meet with the Ward Mission Leader in the weekly missionary co-ordination meetings (*PMG*, pg. 218 and 219) and serve as ward missionaries. If the concept would work in your ward or branch we would urge you to explore its adoption.

It is so much fun to be a missionary in British Columbia now, to be a part of the quickening of the Spirit which is evident all around us. The announcement by President Hinckley of our new temple, coupled with the inspired tools given us missionaries by *Preach My Gospel*, added to the new understanding by our faithful members of how to be true member missionaries makes this the most exciting mission in the world!

We love each of you, and pray constantly for your welfare and success.

President and Sister Middleton

*“Teach ye diligently, and my
grace shall attend you.”
D&C 88:78*

CHAPEL TOURS; THE SPIRIT IS CRUCIAL TO SUCCESS

JUNE-JULY 2006

JUNE 27, 2006

GREAT COMMENTS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

**Brother Murray Bennett, Westbank Member Missionary, by
Elders Mark Barber and Brian Fisher**

“**B**rother Bennett is probably the most dedicated member missionary I have ever met. Everything he does and almost everything he says is geared toward missionary work. He knows

literally hundreds of people whom he is constantly trying to help and invite to teach the Gospel. It is not easy for him, but he always tries. He is a kind man and is always introducing us to friends, hoping they will want to hear more about the Gospel. To introduce us to his friends he obtains coupons for haircuts, so that he can use that method of introducing us to his friends. He also uses a small neighborhood store where he has a standing tab under his name where we can visit to obtain food and goods, and get to know people better as we do our shopping. The method works.

“His best idea was an “International Potluck Dinner”. The idea was that people could come to eat different ethnic foods, listen to ethnic music, and learn about the Church Family History Program. Also, the full time missionaries could give visitors a Tour through the Church facility during the evening. The dinner was a tri-ward event, and the price of admission was to bring a less active or a non-member. The idea was developed by Brother Michael Jensen, the Westbank Ward Mission Leader, and he and Brother Bennett are ‘zealous missionaries’ who truly know the value of a soul. They have truly caught the vision, and because of them our branch has developed a great missionary attitude and a true desire to share the Gospel.

“The International potluck Dinner was a huge success. An estimated 60 non-members attended, including the mayor. Twelve Tours of the Church building were given, and the mayor was presented a picture of the Savior along with a Book of Mormon. Many new friends were made for the Church through that dinner. It was so successful that it is going to be an annual event.”

Editor’s note: If a similar dinner would work in your ward or branch, please give it consideration.

NEW MEMBER REPORT FORM TO BE DISTRIBUTED THROUGHOUT WARDS AND BRANCHES

We received a notification by the Priesthood Department in April, 2006, that a “New Member Report Form” has been created and will be used in each ward or branch to properly keep track of new members. The report form is to be kept by the Ward Clerk, and

is updated regularly by the Ward Mission Leader. The report has multiple columns in which the name of the new convert is listed, their age, the confirmation date, and a space is provided whereby lessons taught to the new member are entered. The home teachers are listed in another column, and the number of times the new member has attended Church are listed as well. The Priesthood given to the new member is listed, if the member is male, and another column is listed



ELDER AND SISTER MOLYNEUX WITH PRESIDENT AND SISTER MIDDLETON



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to indicate the responsibility or calling given to the new member in the ward or branch.

The information we have received states that the Ward Mission Leader is responsible for the report, but he works with the Ward Clerk who updates the report and “prepares copies for review in Priesthood Executive Committee and Ward Council meetings”.

This new report form and reporting system seems like an excellent idea to allow the ward or branch leadership to carefully track the progress of new members. Clearly the admonition of President Hinckley, who noted that there is no point in baptizing new members if they simply fall away from the Church thereafter, is being addressed by this new member reporting form. Please help ward and branch clerks and ward and branch mission leaders to use this form well.

THE VALUE OF MEMBERS TELLING THEIR FRIENDS ABOUT THE CHURCH, BY PRESIDENT DONALD ANDERSON

“When Church member Mikael Anderson was in high school he was kind and friendly to a young Korean boy who didn’t seem to have any friends. Mike gave him a Book of Mormon and talked to him about the Church. That new Korean friend, Brent Nam, took home the Book of Mormon and showed it to his father. His father was not receptive, however, and threw it in the garbage. Mikael left on a mission, and about three years later our Korean missionaries in the Port Coquitlam Ward were visiting some less active members, who turned out not to be home. They decided to tract in the same area

and ran into Brent Nam, the same Brent who had been befriended by Mikael Anderson and given a Book of Mormon some time earlier. He answered the door when the Korean missionaries were tracting his area, and soon began investigating the Church. He gained a testimony and was baptized in October 2005, and is now active in the Young Adult Branch of the Vancouver Stake.

“Interestingly, Mikael had returned from his mission and attended the discussions with the missionaries and Brent in the summer of 2005.”

This true story points out the importance of looking toward telling all in whom we members come in contact something about the Church, and share with them a Book of Mormon coupled with an invitation to our Church on a Tour or to a Church activity.

Missionary Reflections on the Poll Done by Elder Richards

Elder Richards did a poll during his Zone Conferences regarding our missionaries’ diligence and obedience, which we reported in the June 15, 2006 *Vancouver Star*. The answers given suggested that our missionaries had a good way to go before they were truly “anxiously engaged” in the work. Since then we have had the chance to interview many of those missionaries, and learn that their answers to Elder Richards’ questions were likely inappropriately modest, with missionaries not choosing to brag about their diligence and dedication. We understand now, and appreciate the more accurate appraisal and poll answers which were supplied to us by Elders Paul-Michael Fernandez and Alexander Bitting. They estimated what they felt were more accurate answers, speaking of the language missionaries. Our interviews suggest to us that their answers were

true for our English missionaries as well, and we share them with you:

1. What is the mission exact obedience estimate? 90% plus (70% was reported in the June 15th *Star*)
2. What is the work ethic in the mission? 90% plus are working hard all the time (60% was reported)
3. How many missionaries were constantly looking to find new investigators? 80% plus (50% was reported)
4. How many missionaries are using the Daily Planner to set goals and plan daily and weekly, as urged in *PMG*, Chapter 8? 100% (68% was reported)
5. What is the faith that you will baptize monthly? 100% in the case of Elders Fernandez and Bitting, likely 100% among all of our missionaries (77% was reported).

While modesty in general is good, in this case the modest answers given Elder Richards gave a false impression of the true and valiant efforts of our Canada Vancouver Missionaries. This redone poll reflects the hard work that we have noted throughout British Columbia. Humbly and sincerely we extend our heart-felt thanks to all of our missionaries. We deem it a rare privilege to work with you in this, His great missionary work. Keep up the great work! That we might remain anxiously engaged, at all times, is our constant prayer.

We love all of you, and your success and welfare are our constant prayer.

President and Sister Middleton

“Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence.” D & C 107: 99

JULY 4, 2006

MY PURPOSE AS A MISSIONARY

In his training for us missionaries, Elder H. Bryan Richards focused on Page 1 in Preach *My Gospel* where it succinctly states our purpose as missionaries:

“Invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored Gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.”

Elder Richards then pointed out that some missionaries mistakenly focus on certain aspects of missionary work such as being “better” or “most obedient” or “more spiritual” than all of the other missionaries or “more knowledgeable”, and lose sight of their main objective of bringing souls to Christ. They become so focused on

an area of self-perfection that they become ineffective missionaries.

In receiving feedback from some of our missionaries I find that the intent of Elder Richard's point has been misinterpreted by some of our missionaries to mean that emphasis on the points of obedience can be ignored, and instead a missionary should only pay attention to the statement of "our purpose" quoted above. Nothing could be farther from the truth.

TO ACHIEVE OUR PURPOSE REQUIRES EXACT OBEDIENCE

To successfully "invite others to come unto Christ" requires that each of us incorporate all of the inspired advice and teachings of *Preach My Gospel* into our lives. Elder Richards' inspired counsel warned us against dwelling compulsively on one aspect or another of missionary self-preparation to the point where we lost sight of our ultimate purpose of bringing souls to Christ. But he pointed out repeatedly that our inspired instruction manual in how to achieve our purpose of bringing souls to Christ lies in *PMG* in its entirety. Our urgent plea to all of our missionaries is to be exactly obedient and anxiously engaged at all times. Then and only then will the Lord bless you with baptisms.

The Difference in Vernon, Then and Now, by Elder Magnum Morgan

"I started my mission off in Vernon and am now back in Vernon as a Zone Leader with Elder Shane Hohman. I served here from October, 2004, to February, 2005. The weather here is very cold

during the winter months, and at that time so was the work 'COLD'. However, since the change in proselyting with an emphasis on members stepping forward boldly as member missionaries, the work has rapidly increased. Now missionary work is a whole different experience. The weather now is hot and the work is even 'HOTTER'. I feel that the Vernon Ward/Stake is truly getting on board. When the baptisms scheduled for the stake are completed we will have already surpassed the number of baptisms in all of 2005. To be a part of this work is very exciting and a blessing."



ELDERS THOMPSON AND CORNWELL AT GARRY POINT

**The Exciting 50/50 Language Program,
by Elders Austin Graff (and Nathan Seegmiller)**

“The 50/50 program is a real aide in finding new investigators among those who come to ESL (English as a Second Language) to learn English. We promise 30 minutes of conversation and then share a special 30-minute Gospel message. The 30 minutes of conversation helps us “build relations of trust” (BRT). We don’t know how effective it will be to bring them to baptism yet, but our teaching pool is pretty full. We work mainly with college age students who are here to learn English.”

**The Amazing Conversion Story of Roger Leamis,
by Elders Mark Barber (and Jeff Allen)**

“The story of Roger Leamis is every missionary’s dream. One day Roger walked into the Port Coquitlam chapel to inquire about the Church. Luckily Elders McKenna and Firth were in the chapel and were pleased to give him a Tour. Although he lives within the boundaries of the Burnaby Ward, he went to the nearest L.D.S. chapel he could find, which was the Port Coquitlam building, to inquire.

“As the missionaries gave Roger a Tour, the Burnaby Bishop, Bishop Harry McLean, was being taken on a Tour of that same building by the Port Coquitlam bishop, Bishop Ray Swartzberg, and the two bishops saw to it that Roger was steered toward the Burnaby building, which was closer to his home after they had taken him on a Tour of the building.

“On his follow-up visit, an exchange appointment had already been set up so Elders Firth and Barber could teach him the Second

Lessons. Elder Barber committed Roger to a baptismal date three weeks from then. It was very easy to teach Roger, as he had already been prepared for some time. He had been found by missionaries through tracting years before, and on his own had read the Book of Mormon and knew it was true already. As the lessons were taught he accepted all the commitments, and asked Elder Barber to accomplish his baptism on the last Sunday before being transferred to the Vernon Zone. His baptism was amazing in that the whole ward turned out, and the baptismal program was excellent. Interestingly, his last name, Lima, means lemon in Portuguese, where his roots lie. My middle name is Lemon as well, which is my mother’s maiden name.”

Happy 4th of July for all of our missionaries from the United States, and we hope all of our missionaries had a happy Canada Day on July 1st. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“We believe that governments were instituted of God for the benefit of man; and that he holds men accountable for their acts in relation to them, both in making the laws and administering them, for the good and safety of society.” D&C 134: 1



JULY 11, 2006

GAIN A VISION OF POTENTIAL CHURCH GROWTH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

We were pleased to be invited by the Brethren to listen via the Internet to the final training session for the newly called Mission Presidents held in Provo at the MTC on June 29, 2006. We heard superb counsel from Elder M. Russell Ballard, Elder Richard G. Scott, Elder Dieter F. Uchtdorf, and President Boyd K. Packer. Excellent advice was given, and we share herein a few of the highlights with you. The advice given allows all of us in British Columbia, missionaries and members alike, to capture a vision of how we can grow the Church in British Columbia at a level consistent with the will of the Lord. President Hinckley has challenged the Church worldwide to double its baptisms. In British Columbia, because our growth has historically been so low, our vision is to grow the baptisms by tenfold over what they have been. That level of Church growth is not only doable, but has to be the goal of each and every one of us.

MEMBER REFERRAL COMMITMENT IS THE KEY

Consider what would happen to an average ward in British Columbia if each member commits to and accomplishes the goal of bringing three of their non-member acquaintances per year to the



FALUN GONG PROTEST

Church for a Tour or to a Church activity coupled with a Tour. We would urge each missionary companionship to ask the ward clerk how many active members there are in your ward or branch, then calculate what should be realized in number of baptisms yearly in that ward. If, for example, there are 75 active members in a ward, and each brings three of their non-member acquaintances on a Tour yearly, and one out of seven goes on to baptism, which is the consistent record we are seeing in British Columbia, that ward will have 33 baptisms yearly!! We would urge each missionary companionship to do that mathematical exercise, checking with the ward clerk to find out the average number of active, baptized members, and then calculate how many baptisms can be realized per year. When we consider that each new member baptized as a result of a member referral is far more likely to remain active, because he or she came into the Church with a built-in fellowship, his or her member friend, it is not hard to realize that within three to four years there will be sufficient growth in the ward to require that the ward be divided, or sufficient growth in a branch to require that a ward be created. Please do this exercise in your ward or branch. Understand that when these figures are calculated for all of British Columbia, it is anticipated we will have over 1500 baptisms yearly. We will not be satisfied that members and missionaries are doing their part in missionary work until that goal of 1500 baptisms yearly is reached or exceeded. We simply are not doing what our Prophet has asked us to do until we have achieved that goal—that vision of what can and should be done must remain our minimal standard. With the Lord's help, using the admonition in Alma to "use boldness, but not overbearance" (Alma 38:12), the goal of 1500 baptisms per year will be reached! Once you have calculated them, please share your ward or branch anticipated baptism figures with us.

WHY DO WE EMPHASIZE THE TOUR?

Some members have questioned why we emphasize using our Church facilities in our initial interaction with non-member investigators. Interestingly, Elder M. Russell Ballard in his advice to Mission Presidents on June 29, 2006, made the point that we need to use the beautiful physical facilities the Church has built as showcases for what we enjoy as members of the Church. In addition to the marvelous physical facilities we have throughout British Columbia, and that glimpse of our beautiful buildings should be part of the all-important, initial first impression that an investigator receives, a well-done Tour will present a brief glimpse of what we members enjoy by being members of Priesthood quorums and auxiliaries. Each week we receive instructions in our priesthood quorums and auxiliaries in how to meet the challenges posed in this modern, very challenging society in which we live, in addition to the important critical teachings we receive about the Plan of Salvation. We are finding repeatedly that to limit that all-important first impression to just simply hearing of the doctrine of the Restoration, which of course is critically important to understanding the Gospel, gives a new investigator only a partial understanding of why someone should join our Church. We must present the all-around picture of what being a member would be like by demonstrating our ward or branch building facilities as well as explaining the importance of contemporary family and life-style messages we receive through attending Church each Sunday.

Therefore, we are concentrating on the Tour as the means to first present the Gospel-restored to a new investigator.

In future *Vancouver Stars* we will outline additional points brought to us through the MTC training session.

Every Family is Developing a Mission Plan in Victoria Second Ward, by Elder Jed Pugsley (and Benjamin Zufelt)

“The Victoria 2nd Ward is on fire! Everybody is looking for somebody to bring on a Tour or to invite to take the missionary lessons. It is so cool to see the ward leadership excited about sharing the Gospel. Part of this excitement was generated from the creation of the awesome Ward Mission Plan, which is on a laminated 5 x 8” card with magnets on the back which is now on every member’s refrigerator. My favorite part is that each family has been asked to create their own Personal Family Mission Plan, which puts both authorship and ownership into the hands of the member family, and the members set goals that they can accomplish. This Plan is setting up the ward for great success.

“Attitude equals Altitude,’ and the attitude of the Victoria 2nd Ward is sky high, so there is no limit to where the work will go here. PEC meetings as well as Ward Councils are all centered on missionary efforts and what can be done to help current investigators as well as efforts that can be used to help us as missionaries to increase our teaching pool. Bishop Frank Hitchmough seems to be setting the tone and the rest seem to be catching the Missionary Spirit. It is awesome to be part of the quickening of the Spirit here in British Columbia.”

CORRECTION REGARDING ROGER LIMA’S CONVERSION STORY

Last week’s *STAR* talked of the conversion story of Brother Roger Lima, but misstated that he resides in the Burnaby Ward. Brother Lima is a member of the Coquitlam Ward led by Bishop Joe Bateman. We apologize for the mistake.

We love each and every one of our missionaries, and are finding that in addition to a great love for our full-time missionaries, we love our wonderful, indispensable, fabulous member missionaries, without whose efforts this work becomes instantly less effective.

President and Sister Middleton

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS SWAPP & LYMAN

“Seek first to understand then to be understood.” (unknown) “Life is like a box of chocolates: you never know what you’re going to get.” (Forest Gump) Peace out. Love Your Brothers In the Gospel.

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Lisiata Feinga (Mesa, AZ), Spencer Harrison (Salt Lake City, UT), Andrew Johnson (Riverton, UT), Logan Magnusson (Heber, UT), Tyler Shumway (Pleasant Grove, UT)
- Sisters: Kristiana Bardardottir (Hveragerdi, Iceland), Brittany Dow (Vienna, VA), Tracy Whiting (Highland, UT)
- Language Elders: James Cornwell-MAN (Las Vegas, NV), Benjamin Thompson-MAN (Barrie, ON)

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder Ryan Bench

I know that I wasn't the best missionary, but I feel that I gave it my best. Be consistent and enjoy yourself. I know this is the Lord's work. The Gospel of Jesus Christ was restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. The Book of Mormon is God's word. And to all my "boyz," I love you. Keep it "rill." Peace.

Sister Diana Gonzalez (Gonzo)

Elders and Sisters, it has been an honor to serve with such a valiant army of missionaries. Remember: "When the Lord commands, do it!" (Joseph Smith). He needs your hard work to build up His kingdom in *beautiful British Columbia*. The Church is the only true Church on earth. I know Christ lives. Love ya!

Elder Joshua Haren

"If you take life too seriously, you'll never make it out of 'here' alive." (V.W.)

Elder Steve Howell

Most of the blessings are found in the second mile, miracles are found in the third, and success is found in the love you give along the way. The only way to waste your time and heart here is to not give them all away. God lives, Jesus is the Christ, and this is their work. Do it!

Elder Hsiao

Matt 16:25—Or, as President Hinckley was told, "Forget yourself, and go to work." That is where the greatest joy and fulfillment lies.

Adieu

Sister Ha Khong

"Nothing happens in the Church unless you work. It is like a wheelbarrow: it doesn't move until you get a hold of the two handles and push. Hard work moves the work of the Lord forward, and if you have learned to work with real integrity, it will bless your lives forever. I mean that with all my heart. Believe in miracles. Be faithful." (Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley) I love you all.



NEW MISSIONARIES PREPARE TO SING TO KITCHEN ANGELS

Elder Joseph Leonard

Michael Jordon once said, “You miss 100% of the shots you never take.” If we don’t take the shots we’re given, our missions will pass us by. Take the shot, open your mouth and declare the glad tidings of the Gospel to all people everywhere. I promise you will find the joy this mission experience can bring. I hold no malice against any of you and I hope you hold none against me.

Sister Amy Nielson

This has been for “*real*” the most amazing experience ever! I am so thankful I have been able to serve around such “*chill*” people... You guys know who you are. It’s all about the memories. Remember: WORK HARD, PLAY HARD. FIND OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS. Peace and love, my friends.

Elder Michael Reina

“You cannot keep both feet on the ground and move forward! There is risk in every choice you make, but there is no true growth without risk.... Take the next step.” (Elder Larry Gibbons, Quorum of Seventy). The best part about the mission is when you look back and laugh about the happy and sad memories that made you grow. Work! Work! Work! And when times get tough, say “AKA-CHIN” ;)

Elder Samuel Wolfe

I once stood in a very dark place and my heart was totally empty. Now my heart is full of joy, and I stand in the light! The Church is true. Christ lives. His atonement is real and it works! What an honor it has been to serve here in BC. I love my mission. I will forever be

changed because of this marvelous experience. Take care and keep it real!

Elder Tyler Bailey (going home mid-transfer)

“Happiness is when what you do, what you think and what you say are in harmony.” (Ghandi)

Elder Robert Knudsen (going home mid-transfer)

“In case I don’t see you again, I left you a note.” (BJ Hunnicut) “... Know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good. ... Fear not what man can do, for God shall be with you forever and ever.” (DC 122:7, 9) I love you all. “O be wise; what can I say more?” (Jac 6:12) than goodbye, farewell and amen?

Elder Brady Twedt (going home mid-transfer)

“Death twitches my ear. ‘Live,’ he says, ‘I am coming.’” (Virgil) A mission, like life, comes and goes all too fast. So live it up, enjoy it, and make the most of it. Remember: “Life’s a garden, dig it.” (Joe Dirt) I’ve loved my mission. It was hard--really hard, but it made me, and I thank God for that. I’ve loved working for my Savior, and I’ve loved working with all of you. Peace.

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Jessica Beaumont, Jin Young Lee
- Nanaimo: Calia Gregory, Lauren Hiersemann
- Prince George: Terrance Stewart Surrey Language: Jesse Regnier
- Vernon: Laree Baber, Archie Chantymann, Reginald Daughtrey, Talon Hart, Amanda Hatch, Krista Hunt, Kielely MacDonald, Brent Przybille, Danielle Strate
- Victoria: Benjamin Fournier, Richard Gerrand, Peter Jimmy, Shane Joseph, Caitlin Miller, Kelleybeth Norris

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR JULY-AUGUST

- Jul 20—Van/Van Lang
- Jul 27—Surrey/Surrey Lang/Abbots
- Aug 3—Nanaimo/Victoria
- Aug 8—Vernon
- Aug 11—Pr George

“I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.” D & C 82:10



SENIOR COUPLES AT MISSION HOME

JULY 18, 2006

SEEK FOR THE SPIRIT AS WE TEACH THE GOSPEL

President Gordon B. Hinckley related in *PMG* an observation he made in his mission to Great Britain: “I always remember two young men who served in my mission. One was a superstar. He was educated. He was bright. He was quick. He was a little arrogant. We had another who was a sign painter. He came from a sign shop with very little education, but he knew his inadequacies and he relied on the Lord. When he prayed, you knew he was talking with the Lord. It wasn’t a rote thing, it was a conversation, and that young man accomplished wonders while the other young man went through the motions. The power that was in the one and the absence of power in the other was so apparent. Call upon the Lord (editorial emphasis added). He has extended the invitation and He will answer” (*PMG* pgs. 93-94). While every analysis of the Canada Vancouver Mission suggests that 1500 baptisms per year are readily possible, it will not happen until all of us, full-time missionaries and members alike, learn to rely on the Spirit.

CONVERSION IS ACCOMPLISHED BY THE SPIRIT

My first missionary assignment in the British Mission was to Cambridge, England. It was Fall, and the students were back in class, hundreds of them. The undergraduates wore a standard identifying black cape, and nearly all were very friendly towards us missionaries. Missionary discussions were easily obtained, and we taught all day, every day. Despite that, our companionship did not see a baptism, nor did we obtain a baptismal date. I was frustrated in our lack of success. I realized only later as I became a seasoned missionary why we lacked success—we were not teaching by the Spirit. No one is converted by learning the facts of the Restoration of the Gospel alone. Conversion always comes through the witness of the Holy Ghost.

Elder M. Russell Ballard notes, “True conversion comes through the power of the Spirit. When the Spirit touches the heart, hearts are changed. . . . This is how we come to *feel* the gospel is true” (“Now Is the Time,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2000, 75).

TEACH BY THE SPIRIT

In *PMG* we are instructed, “. . . Teach as directed by the Spirit, and testify that you know by the power of the Holy Ghost that what you teach is true” (*PMG* pg. 92). Since Elder Kikuchi toured our mission last November, we have asked each missionary to practice giving the First Vision using the “Elder Kikuchi technique” three times weekly with his or her companion. Telling of that miraculous First Vision with markedly slowed speech, with solemnity and gravity, obtaining

eye contact with the investigator to emphasize the importance of the message is a technique that is not intuitive for most of us. With practice it can be learned, but it must be practiced often. By altering the cadence of our speech and delivery, as Elder Kikuchi instructed, we instantly capture the attention of the investigator, and the content of our message about the First Vision draws the Spirit to whisper to the investigator's soul of the truthfulness of what we say. It is powerful. We shared with you in a previous *STAR* the story of a young woman in Prince George who went from considering herself an agnostic to being so moved by the First Vision recitation that she had committed to a baptismal date by the end of the first lesson on a Tour of the chapel. It works!

We must practice to draw the Spirit into our teaching always. We must become compellingly effective teachers of the Gospel, teaching always by the Spirit, which through its presence allows us to teach with power.

BE POSITIVE, BE ENTHUSIASTIC ALL DAY, EVERY DAY

The old saying that attitude equals altitude is precisely true in missionary work, in my observation. We all have heard the comment, “If you think you can, or you think you can’t, you’re right.” My dear missionaries, your attitude in dealing with members (who are absolutely critical to our missionary success and Church growth in BC) or investigators will either impel them to action or repel them into ignoring your message. It really is as simple as that.

We have heard the analogy made that the Old Testament focuses

on the negative with hundreds of Mosaic Code “thou shalt nots.” In contrast, the New Testament and Book of Mormon outline the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which is positive and hopeful, teaching us that “men are, that they might have joy” (2 Ne 2:25). That joy we experience as missionaries and Church members should always be visible in our countenances. Work towards that positive, contagious enthusiasm constantly. Without it we will just get by; with exuberant enthusiasm never wavering on our part members will step forward willingly with referrals of their acquaintances, and our investigators will feel that Spirit that is necessary for their conversion.

To be positive always, to be constantly enthusiastic is our prayer for each missionary. We love each of you and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton



“Every morning missionaries should get on their knees and plead with the Lord to loosen their tongues and speak through them to the blessing of those they will be teaching.... As they do so by the Spirit, their investigators will respond under the influence of the same Spirit” (Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, “Missionary Service,” First Worldwide Leadership Training Meeting, 11 Jan. 2003, 20)

VANCOUVER DOWNTOWN FROM BEACH

J U L Y 2 5 , 2 0 0 6

THE MEMBER MISSIONARY TOUR PROGRAM IN PRINCE GEORGE STAKE

President John Young, the new Prince George Stake President, has developed with his stake and ward leaders a powerful idea to help stake members attain the goal asked of them to bring three non-member friends or acquaintances on a Church Tour yearly. His inspired, visionary plan, which is a variation of the “Set-A-Date” Program the Brethren have asked us to do for years, is outlined below:

Prince George Stake President John Young Develops a Set-A-Date Tour Program, by Elders Taylor Edwards (and Samuel Wolfe)

“President John Young has really caught the vision. Elder Wolfe and I attended a Stake Correlation Meeting with him at which he outlined his new Tour plan for the stake. Previously, the stake members have had the somewhat vague goal of three non-member Tours per member per year. It wasn’t a bad goal, but nothing was happening with it. Nobody was calling us for Tours. So President Young developed a variation of the “Set-A-Date” program. He has asked everyone in the stake to set up a Tour with the missionaries about two or three weeks in advance and then bring a non-member acquaintance with them. They do not need to have asked someone

ahead of the time they schedule their appointment to come on a Tour, nor do they even need to have the person or persons in mind when they set the Tour date with the missionaries. This makes the invitation to their non-member acquaintance much simpler and even less intimidating because now they only have to ask someone to come on a Tour with them which they have already scheduled. The best part of President Young's challenge is that he doesn't want these Tours to be cancelled if the family can't find anyone to bring. Instead, he has asked that they come on the Tour anyway and prayerfully consider

other people they can invite to come on a subsequent Tour. The missionaries will work with the family on the Tour on their language used to invite their non-member acquaintances to a subsequent Tour, pointing out ways to lovingly invite in a non-offensive, non-threatening way. They then set up a subsequent appointment then and there for a Tour with an acquaintance. President Young hopes thereby to achieve the stake goal of three non-member Tours per member per year.

“President Young has asked that we help the ward and branch



leaders implement this plan. We are really excited about it, and we believe that with this specific plan we can reach the goals we have set for the stake. If a similar plan in other stakes is adopted, the goal of three referrals for a Tour yearly can be achieved mission-wide.”

Editors Note: We view President Young’s inspired insight as perhaps a “Eureka Moment.” If other stake and district presidents consider a similar challenge to each member, the goal of three referrals per year (or 4 per year in the case of the Vancouver Stake) will become easily attainable.

Place Copies of *Preach My Gospel* with Every Member Family, by Elder Jeff Davis (and Logan Rasmussen)

“When we started working in the Burnaby Ward, we found that Bishop Harry McLean was a great bishop. We decided to show him that we were there to work. We started by doing everything he asked and then going the extra mile. Slowly he began to trust us. We then decided to visit and teach him so he could see us in action. After lots of prayer we decided to teach him from *Preach My Gospel* with the intention of strengthening his testimony of it so he would use it more often. He loved what he heard, and we then presented him the idea of purchasing enough copies for each active family in the ward to have their own copy. He then suggested offering it to members for the reduced price of \$4.50, and he ordered 100 copies.

“We went to work visiting the members and giving them a “tour” of *Preach My Gospel*, hoping they would feel of its import as the bishop did. By the end of each lesson, the members were “sold” on the manual and wanted their own copy ASAP. The lesson we gave the members consisted of the following: One of us would introduce the

manual with some background information and then give a short 3-5 minute overview of Chapter 1. We would highlight the “My Purpose,” then note how the first word is “invite” and how all it takes is a simple invitation to their friends to come to Church on a Tour, read the Book of Mormon, etc. We then continued alternating teaching each chapter, all the while focusing on how *Preach My Gospel* applies to the member and how they can benefit from owning and using one.

“Other highlights we mentioned included the several ways the members can use *PMG* to introduce friends to the Church: Chapter 5, pg. 107, “Questions of the Soul,” Chapter 6, pg. 126, “Attribute Activity,” Chapter 7, “Learn the Language,” (great ideas if a friend is learning English).

“This manual applies wonderfully to members, but they would never know that until someone shows them how. We teach them that if their friend rejects an invitation, “no effort is wasted” (pg. 170), and that they have fulfilled their responsibility. Chapter 10 can help all members give better Sacrament Meeting talks and Sunday School lessons. The numbers of ways that *Preach My Gospel* can be applied to members are innumerable. We worked hard to have the ward leaders obtain a testimony of Chapter 13, “How Do I Work with Stake and Ward Leaders.” Jonas Prasad, the Ward Mission Leader, then spoke in Sacrament Meeting encouraging members to purchase a copy from the bishop for \$4.50. They sold quickly! The bishop just had members mark “Other” on their tithing slips, and since this big push for *Preach My Gospel*, the missionary work has greatly increased in the Burnaby Ward!”

Editor’s Note: No bishop or branch president will trust a full-time missionary fully, and no member will refer one of their non-member acquaintances until their assigned full time missionaries truly are



anxiously engaged in the work, filled with enthusiasm, and acting totally upbeat at all times. Coupled with an understanding of *Preach My Gospel* by members, we are impressed that Church growth in British Columbia is poised to explode!

START THE BOOK OF MORMON BLITZ ON JULY 31, 2006

We anticipate having completed our mission-wide reading of *Preach My Gospel* by the end of the week. Please start the “*Book of Mormon Blitz*” reading in your companionships on Monday, July 31, 2006. We are using the same ten-week reading schedule as previously, which was distributed in the white binder to new incoming missionaries as they entered the mission in recent months. Parents and BC leaders and members are invited to read with us and can access the reading schedule through the unofficial mission website at www.vancouvermissionmemories.com. Enjoy!

President and Sister Middleton

“...I will shew thee my faith by my works.” James 2:18

ELDER BALLARD'S SET-A-DATE APPROACH

AUGUST–SEPTEMBER 2006

AUGUST 1, 2006

THE ROLE OF MEMBERS IN A SUCCESSFUL TOUR

Of all the possible ways outlined in *Preach My Gospel* to introduce an investigator for the first time to the Church and to the message of the Restored Gospel, the chapel Tour in our view remains the best. The Tour has clear-cut advantages. It allows three important points to be made to an investigator in that all-important first impression:

1. The doctrine of the Restoration is presented as the First Lesson is woven into a well given Tour;
2. The investigator has the opportunity to observe directly the magnificent Church buildings in which we worship; and
3. We can present the advantages we as Church members enjoy in meeting weekly with fellow Saints in our auxiliaries and Priesthood meetings where we are taught how to live a moral, Christian, upstanding life, and how to raise a righteous family despite all of the temptations and challenges in our contemporary communities.

A FEW MEMBERS OBJECT TO THE BOLDNESS WE USE IN THE TOUR

We have received feedback from missionaries that a few of our British Columbia members would like to either abandon the Tour, or water it down to the point where it is simply a look at a Church building with no commitment being asked. They object that our missionaries commit the investigator friend of the member to meeting with them for a subsequent lesson, commit them to attend a Sacrament meeting on a subsequent Sunday, or suggest the possibility of baptism. We appreciate and are cognizant of these member's concerns, and would urge that each full-time missionary share with all the members of the ward or branch the important, inspired counsel regarding asking for commitments found in *Preach My Gospel*. In meeting with leaders in PEC and Ward or Branch Council, we would urge that you have them turn to page 40 in *PMG*. Read with the members the box labeled "Invitation to be Baptized" at the end of "The Restoration Lesson" on page 40:

"During this or any other lesson, do not hesitate to invite people to be baptized and confirmed. To prepare people for an invitation to be baptized and confirmed, testify often of the importance of all people being baptized by authority, of receiving a remission of sins, and of the wonderful gift of the Holy Ghost. You might say, 'As the Lord answers your prayers and you feel that this message is true, will you follow the example of Jesus Christ by being baptized?'"

"The invitation to be baptized and confirmed should be specific and direct: 'Will you follow the example of Jesus Christ by being baptized by someone holding the priesthood authority of God? We will be holding a baptismal service on (date). Will you prepare yourself to be baptized on that date?'"

As wards and branches increasingly urge the study of *PMG* by each family and individual in the ward or branch, the members will come to understand the importance of being bold, but also of being sensitive and being guided by the Spirit during a lesson in the matter of when to be bold. Before taking a member and their non-member acquaintance on a Tour, go over with them the counsel given in *PMG*. Be certain that they fully comprehend the importance of the boldness taught in *PMG*, and be certain that you resolve any objections they might have. A question such as the one underlined above strikes us as not being confrontational or overbearing. It simply asks the investigator that if they feel that the message is true will they then follow the example of Jesus Christ by being baptized by the proper authority—no more nor less. Be sure that you have carefully discussed this teaching method and the importance of asking this question with the member before taking that member and their friend on a Tour, and be certain that the member feels comfortable with the concept. Be careful as a missionary that you teach with love, guided by the Spirit, using the advice found in Alma 38: 12 to "Use boldness, but not overbearance."

AS MEMBERS READ PREACH MY GOSPEL, FEARS WILL RESOLVE AND THEY WILL BECOME BETTER, MORE EFFECTIVE, MEMBER MISSIONARIES

On page 161 in *PMG* we read the following:

"Many members of the Church have fears about doing missionary work. Many are unsure where to begin or what to say. Many fear that they will lose close friends if they try to share the Gospel with





ELDERS TAYLOR, LONG, CUCEK, COON, TAVERNINI,
WEEKS, ALLEN, TWEDT, AND POWELL ATOP MT. GOLDEN EARS

them. There are many ways to help the members. For example, help build their faith by teaching them the message of the Restoration and other doctrines of the lessons. Help them feel the Spirit and power of our message.... Help them understand that offering the restored Gospel will flow more naturally out of relationships where they are seeking to love and serve their family members and friends.... In all you do with members, seek to lift and build their faith to help them do missionary work.”

It goes on further on page 161 of *PMG* to quote Alma 6:6 to encourage members to “Join in fasting and mighty prayer in behalf of the welfare of the souls of those who (know) not God.”

THE CHURCH GROWTH IN BRITISH COLUMBIA WILL ACCELERATE AS MEMBERS BECOME MISSIONARIES

Many studies and multiple discourses by the Brethren have pointed out that by far the most effective missionary work is done when a member brings their non-member friend or acquaintance to the attention of the full-time missionaries. A Tour or other Church activity is ideally suited to such a purpose. Without members stepping forth in this all-important member missionary function, we full-time missionaries in British Columbia will be relatively ineffective. However, when members step forth boldly as member missionaries, when members follow the admonition and challenge of their stake president to bring 3 or more non-member acquaintances to the Church yearly through a Tour or other Church activity, the growth

of the Church in British Columbia will accelerate far beyond anything we have yet seen. When all members step forward we will see the prophesy of Elder Henry B. Eyring come true, that prophesy having been made in March of 2005 in the Nanaimo Stake Conference when he stated, “I am clear that the Lord is going to build the Church in this area in a powerful way and beyond what you might expect. This will come, for the Lord will build great strength in the Church in this area and substantial growth is before us. I can’t give you a timeline, but by my human judgment it will be a miracle.”

That growth prophesied by Elder Eyring is coming to pass, as members step forth boldly as member missionaries, linking arm in arm with our full-time missionaries. We deem it a privilege and honor to be a part of that missionary vanguard destined, we feel, to see that prophecy come true.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS AND FAST FOR ELDER CHRIS ANDERSON’S FATHER

Thanks to all of our full-time missionaries for fasting on Sunday, July 23, 2006, on behalf of Elder Chris Anderson’s father, Bishop Jan Anderson. As you know, Bishop Anderson sustained a critical head injury during the week before our fast, and he lies hospitalized in critical condition. Our prayers continue for him.

We love you all and love working with you, full-time missionaries and member-missionaries alike.

President and Sister Middleton

“Go forth... and establish my word... and I will make an instrument of thee in my hands unto the salvation of many souls.” Alma 17: 11

AUGUST 8, 2006

THANKS TO OUR BRITISH COLUMBIA LEADERS

On Sunday, August 30, 2006 I was privileged to join with all of our magnificent stake presidents, Presidents Kent Burnham, Paul Christensen, Randy Keyes, Bennie Soll, Collin Van Horne, Thomas Walker, and John Young, as we met with our Area Authority, Elder Melvin Perkins, and the Seattle Temple President, President Denzel Wiser, at the Vancouver Stake Center. The occasion was the quarterly Co-ordinating Council Meeting. Hearing our stake presidents speak, seeing their bold, inspired plans for the Church members in British Columbia was an uplifting experience for me. Their involvement in

missionary work is extraordinary. Every one of our stake presidents has developed inspired guidelines for their wards and branches to use in developing their ward or branch Mission Plans. The Mission Plans, all of them written in concert with *Preach My Gospel*, have been innovative and all have met the overall guidelines developed by the stake presidents in Co-ordinating Council Meeting 6 months ago when together they determined that to be effective a ward or branch Mission Plan should contain these 4 elements:

1. The Mission Plan should be simple and short (multiple page Plans just gather dust) so it could be distributed to every member on a single card to be visibly displayed in each member's home in a prominent spot, such as hanging on the refrigerator with magnets.
2. It should involve every ward member, not just leaders.
3. It should have measureable goals for the ward as well as for individual members and families, and
4. It should be flexible, to be reviewed regularly and revised as needed.

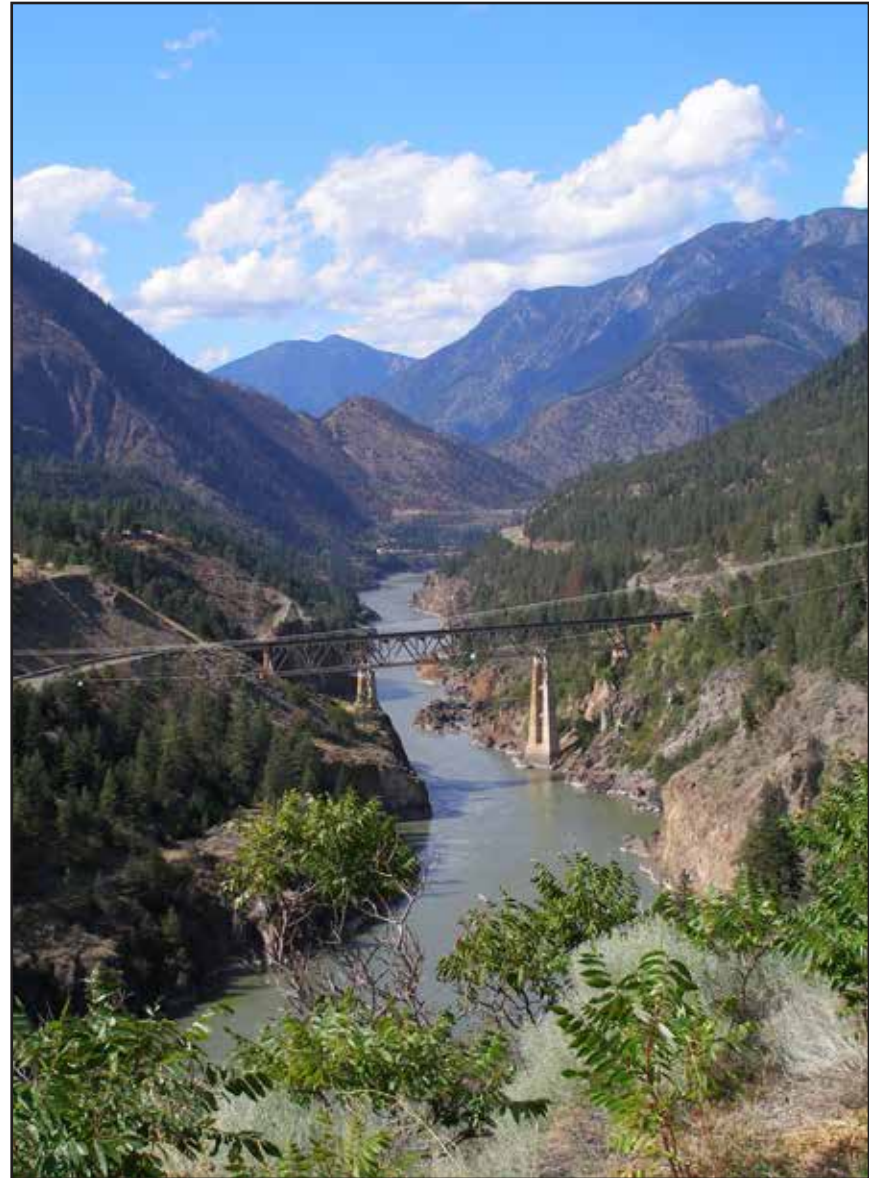
Nearly all wards and branches have written their Mission Plan, and members are steadily embracing their Mission Plan more and more. Many wards have urged their members to obtain copies of *Preach My Gospel*, to study in Family Home Evening and at other times so that they can become bolder, more effective member missionaries. Six of our seven stakes have challenged members to bring 3 non-member acquaintances per year on a Tour with the full-time missionaries (4 per year in the case of the Vancouver Stake), and several wards have

adopted the idea urged by President John Young to have members set up a date and time 2 to 3 weeks off for each family to go on a Tour, then have that family start inviting their non-member acquaintances and keep inviting until they have someone to come with them on that Tour.

The vision shared by all in that Co-ordinating Council Meeting is that when our 120 full-time missionaries become effectively 15,000 missionaries as the members learn to become effective member missionaries, Church growth in British Columbia will explode! The goal of 1500 convert baptisms yearly will then rapidly become a reality. Our heartfelt thanks go to each of our stake and district presidents, and the bishops, branch presidents and Ward Mission Leaders who are acting under their inspired leadership to help members truly become member missionaries.

A GREAT WARD MISSION PLAN FOR THE KELOWNA 2ND WARD IS DEVELOPED BY WARD MISSION LEADER BRAD RANGER AND THE WARD

During our visit to Kelowna in June we were delighted to receive a copy of the Kelowna 2nd Ward Mission Plan, which had been freshly developed and printed. Brother Brad Ranger, the Ward Mission Leader, shared the Plan with us. The Plan was developed by the Kelowna 2nd Ward leadership and approved by their Ward Council, and it truly is inspired. Printed on firm card stock, which is 5 x 6 inches, it is overprinted on a beautiful color picture of the Savior knocking on a door. The Plan consists of 4 parts, printed clearly on the card:



TRAIN TRESTLE LEADING TO LILLOOET

1. Chapel Tours, with 3 boxes to check off one by one as each Tour for their 3 non-member acquaintances is made through the year.
2. Read the *Book of Mormon*, and there is a box to check that off.
3. Pray daily for missionary experiences.
4. Phone the missionaries for assignments, and it lists the missionaries' phone numbers. It also reminds the member to use the Missionary Kit which has been developed in conjunction with the Ward Mission Plan to give tips and advice on how to step forth as an effective ward missionary.

On the back of the card are 2 magnets that allow the Mission Plan to be attached to the refrigerator as a daily reminder to each member as they go about their daily activities. Also on the back of the card appears a list of a few scriptures which are related to member-missionary work, including D & C 15:6, Mosiah 2:17, Mosiah 28:3, Alma 36:24, Joshua 24:15, Jacob 1:19, Luke 12:10-11, and Luke 22:32. Ingeniously, with an idea that was truly inspired, below the scriptures is a little statement printed reminding the member to bring the Mission Plan card with them to tithing settlement. This last piece of advice is truly brilliant, as it holds each member accountable to their priesthood authority in the ward, the bishop, to account for what they have done to accomplish the commandment to become a member missionary. It calls for the personal accountability that is central to the plan of salvation, that being that we each account to someone in authority above us for how we have carried out God's plans for us on earth.

This Kelowna 2nd Ward Mission Plan is ingenious. Please feel free to use the ideas developed by the Kelowna 2nd Ward if they fit your ward's circumstances. *PMG* also asks that each family and each individual develop their own Mission Plan. Only with the development of a Mission Plan with measurable goals can each of us fully plan to accomplish what the Lord wants us to do as His missionary here on earth.

Again, congratulations to the Kelowna 2nd Ward Mission Leader, Brad Ranger, Bishop David Burgess, and to all the rest of the leadership and members who have given input into the magnificent, truly inspired Kelowna 2nd Ward Mission Plan.

MEMORIZATION OF THE 54 CORE SCRIPTURES BY INCOMING NEW MISSIONARIES

As a new missionary arrives in British Columbia, we ask that he or she commit to memory the first 11 Core Scriptures during the 1st Transfer, the next 11 during the 2nd Transfer, and so forth until all 54 are known word-for-word by the 5th Transfer. Learn more than 11 if you can handle it, but plan on being quizzed at each Zone Conference based on this schedule of an additional 11 scriptures for each Transfer. Practice them with your companion back and forth throughout the day—this type of practice makes them far easier to memorize and keep in mind. Enjoy!

That we might each step forth boldly as obedient, successful missionaries is our constant prayer. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“Wherefore, be of good cheer, and do not fear, for I the Lord am with you, and will stand by you.” D&C 68:6

AUGUST 15, 2006

**WITH 15,000 MEMBER
MISSIONARIES, 1,500 BAPTISMS YEARLY!**

Steadily more and more of our great and faithful British Columbia Church members are stepping forth as member missionaries. As a result we are seeing increasing success in the mission, with convert baptisms up 36% over last year to this point. Essentially all of the increased growth has come from member referrals of their acquaintances, so we give thanks to our members! Vigorously and often!

HELP MEMBERS UNDERSTAND THEIR ROLE IN THE THRICE YEARLY SET-A-DATE TOUR PROGRAM

One of the easiest ways to help members accomplish the challenge of their stake presidents' goal of bringing 3 non-member acquaintances per year on a Tour or to a Church activity coupled with a Tour is to help them do a Set-A-Date Program. The Set-A-Date Program was presented over 20 years ago by Elder M. Russell Ballard and many other General Authorities, but has not been widely embraced by members until recently. To review how it works, with credit for this focus and insight going to President John Young and his Prince George Stake leaders, we note the simple steps:

1. Full-time missionaries set a date and time 2 to 3 weeks off with a member or member family for a Tour, or a President's Fireside, or a ward activity plus a Tour.
2. Commit the member or member family to keep inviting their non-member acquaintances until one of them agrees to join them on the Tour, explaining carefully that they may need to ask 5 or 10 or more acquaintances until one commits.
3. Give the Tour to the member family and their acquaintance together.
4. Be sure to schedule the next appointment for the investigator for the Plan of Salvation lesson to be given with the member or member family who brought them. (Incredibly, we have received

feedback from several members that the missionaries who led the Tour didn't even ask for a commitment for the next lesson, to read the Book of Mormon, or commitment to do anything at the end of the Tour! Please never let me hear of any of our missionaries failing to ask the investigator for a commitment ever again.)

If an acquaintance can't be found, or if they become ill or for another reason can't come, give the Tour to the member family anyway. A well-done Tour always lifts a member family's testimony, even if a non-member is not present (more so if there is a non-member on the Tour). If the Tour is given just to the member family, be sure to share with them the language of faith by which they can lovingly invite their non-member friends to return to a subsequent Tour, explaining how a well presented invitation will in no way risk offending or losing their non-member friend.

Following is an example shared by our missionaries:

**Success Through Member Referrals and Hard Work,
by Elders Eli Rhoads (and Benjamin Whipple)**

"This last week went very well. We continue to work hard to find in every way possible, from member referrals, working with part-members or less-active members, and also through our own finding efforts. It paid off in a big way this past Sunday, when Michael Hicks presented his Gospel-related fireside in the Surrey Stake Center. Prior to the fireside, we hand delivered invitations to members in the ward whom we felt would help with good missionary potential. Through preparation and follow up we ended up giving 3 Tours before or after

the Michael Hicks fireside! One was from a family in the Delta Ward—their friend brought along her 2 daughters. One was so touched during the fireside that she cried. A member from the White Rock Ward brought her son and daughter-in-law, and they seemed to enjoy the fireside as well, although they are soon to move to 100 Mile House. We are anticipating that further lessons in the Gospel will be given there. We could tell that she was very happy.

"The last investigator who joined us at the fireside was pretty neat. We had delivered an invitation to a member, Sister Ruby Madarang, and on Sunday after Sacrament meeting she called a co-worker and invited them to the fireside. They came all the way from Burnaby, and joined us on a Tour afterwards. The highlight of the Tour was Sister Madarang bearing her testimony of the Gospel, the blessings it brings her family, and the importance the Church brings her through understanding about and being a part of an eternal marriage. She asked her investigator friend if they wanted that too, and the Spirit was very strong!

"The Delta Ward under the leadership of Bishop Bill Davis, his bishopric and the other ward leaders, is having a special meeting to meet the various needs of the ward. Sacrament Meeting will focus on the Plan of Salvation, to be followed by a Sunday School, which will feature workshops on things ranging from personal and family finances, to emergency preparedness, to dealing with emotional and spiritual problems members might encounter. Bishop Davis has made up special invitations that we are delivering to all less-actives.

"The Spirit of missionary work, combined with our reactivation work, brings the Spirit of the Gospel like nothing else can. We are excited to work with both the Delta and White Rock Wards!"



HOW WE CAN ROUTINELY HAVE 1,500 OR MORE BAPTISMS YEARLY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Though precise figures aren't available, we calculate that we have approximately 15,000 fully or partially active members of the Church in British Columbia based on the fact that a 2003 Church Almanac placed Church membership in British Columbia at 27,875 in 2001. Allowing for Church growth since 2001, and allowing for less-active



ELDERS LUMSDEN AND EDWARDS
SING AT PRINCE GEORGE ZONE CONFERENCE

members, we estimate that there are about 15,000 Church members in British Columbia who are fully or partially active. Assuming there are 4 members in the average LDS family (this is likely too high when widows and other singles are factored in), if each family brings 3 acquaintances per year, and if 1 in 7 goes on to baptism (as we are seeing regularly in British Columbia), we can expect 1,607 baptisms yearly! Considering that one stake, the Vancouver, has increased the member challenge to 4 non-member referrals per year, and considering that the Tours given to non-members is often to non-member families with multiple baptisms resulting, we see that 1,500 baptisms yearly is likely too conservative an estimate. None of us, members or full-time missionaries alike, can rest until this goal is routinely being reached.

USE PRESIDENT'S FIRESIDE AS A SET-A-DATE EVENT FOR MEMBERS

From now on we would like to use the President's Fireside, held every 6 weeks at the time of the Zone Conference in each area, as an event to which full-time and ward missionaries can invite and commit members to attend, with those committed members then inviting non-member acquaintances to join with them at the Fireside. Typically our Fireside message is a basic introduction to the Church, and we usually show the Church DVD, *The Restoration*. For new investigators we would hope that a Tour of the Church facility is given before or after. This allows members to focus intensively for 2 or 3 weeks on inviting, and gives a nice way for members to fulfill their obligation of bringing 3 non-member referrals yearly to a Church activity.

With the Lord's help, with the commitment and understanding of our faithful members, and with the boldness in missionary work we are learning from the scriptures, from *Preach My Gospel*, and from the Brethren, it will happen. In our opinion, this is how Elder Henry B. Eyring's prophecy about British Columbia that "The Lord is *going to build the Church in this area in a powerful way... and substantial growth is before us,*" will come to pass.

We revel with you in helping the member missionary saints fulfill that awe-inspiring prophecy. We love you, and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton

*"Let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God."
D&C 121:45*

AUGUST 23, 2006

COMMITMENTS

As we teach investigators, as we work with our wonderful member missionaries, obtaining commitments is at the heart of our success. Commitments are essential for an investigator to progress. They must make commitments to read from the *Book of Mormon*, to pray, to attend Sacrament Meeting, to obtain a testimony, and to set a baptismal date before they ever will be baptized and confirmed into the Church. Similarly, if we fail to lovingly but boldly Set-A-Date with members to come on a Church Tour, and then commit them to keep inviting their non-member acquaintances until they find someone to come on the Tour with them, our success will be limited. At the core of being a successful missionary lies the ability to lovingly, persuasively obtain commitments, using the all-important *D & C 121* technique of asking with "persuasion, by long-suffering, by gentleness and meekness, and by love unfeigned" (*DC 121:41*). We are counseled in that important scripture that, "No power or influence can or ought to be maintained by virtue of the priesthood" (*DC 121:41*), and so our invitation to a member to Set-A-Date for a Tour to which they will find and bring a non-member acquaintance must be given boldly, but lovingly and diplomatically, assuaging their fears with reassurance that they are simply following the Lord's plan which was revealed to their leaders through inspiration. If our invitation for a commitment is not sufficiently bold, or even worse, if we fail to ask

for a commitment from the investigators or members with whom we work, our work will be quite ineffective. The heart and soul of our work as missionaries lies in boldly obtaining commitments. The need for commitments is true not only for full-time missionaries, but for member missionaries as well.

A COMMITMENT INVITATION IS ESSENTIAL TO FIND AND CONVERT

In *PMG* we read that “extending and following up on commitment invitations is vital because:

- “People become converted as they live the principles they learn and feel the Spirit confirm that what they are doing is pleasing to their Father in Heaven.
- “Repentance and change will help people conquer challenges, rid themselves of shame and guilt, and experience the peace and joy of God’s forgiveness.
- “Keeping commitments prepares people to make and keep sacred covenants” (*PMG*, pg. 196).

REMEMBER TO ASK FOR A REFERRAL FROM EVERYONE

The summary of how we can become effective missionaries appears on the inside back cover page of *PMG*. Note that the only bolded line of advice is to “ask for referrals from everyone!” That advice is essential for full-time missionaries to become effective, but

applies equally to members after they Set-A-Date for a Tour. They can and will find a non-member acquaintance to come with them on a Tour if they simply apply this advice given in *PMG* to themselves as they ask everyone they see to join with them on the Tour through their Church at the time to which they have committed, and if their non-member friend can’t go, then ask them for the names of their friends who might be interested. The Lord will help each of us in this bold request, and with His help we will not fail.

A Novel “Ether Rock” Set-A-Date Program in Kamloops, by Elders Daniel Roy (and Callin Morrill)

“We are starting a new ‘Set-A-Date’ program in the Kamloops Second Ward. We gave it a unique name—the ‘Ether Rock’ Program—and gathered the materials to make it work. It is a ‘Set-A-Date’ Program based on our Ward Mission Plan, and the story of the Brother of Jared. We gathered together some big rocks, made copies of Elder Ballard’s talk given in the last General Conference, and made the appointments. We then start off by reading Elder Ballard’s talk, ‘Creating a Gospel Sharing Home’ (which is the basis for our Ward Mission Plan), then we read the story of the Brother of Jared building the barges because he was commanded to. When he asked the Lord what they should do for light and air on the barges, the Lord answered how they could supply air, but left the question of the light on the barges up to the Brother of Jared to decide what should be done. Here is where the story gets symbolic. The Brother of Jared ponders what he should do (or in our case whom he could bring on a Church Tour). He came up with the solution to find rocks that could be made to give off light (or to bring people into the Church). He worked extremely hard to molten down the rocks into clear stones, but the rocks still

weren't glowing (member invitations, etc.). So he brings them to the Lord in FAITH, asking the Lord to touch the stones, (or the people's hearts) so they would then glow. The Lord did touch the stones and they were illuminated.

“So too can the hearts of those with whom we have been working be touched. If we do all we can to prepare the stones as best we can, then the Lord will do His part and touch them (or send His Spirit to testify of truth). After explaining the concept we then present the members with a rock and coloring tools to write three dates on the rock—one date for each of their three Tours. We have made a follow-up binder with our ‘Ether Rock’ appointments and commitments because our goal is to have every family doing this ‘Ether Rock’ Set-A-Date program.”

The Relationship Between a Bishop and the Full-Time Missionaries, by Elder Larsen Boyer (Elder and Sister Boyer are senior couple missionaries working in Kamloops)

“You suggested that I write up some of my thoughts about my past experience as a bishop regarding my interacting with full-time missionaries. When I was a bishop, various missionaries in my ward were either dead weight or charitable ministering angels. I found that missionaries would either plead for help in finding something to do or, in contrast, give ready service in whatever way might be needed. In the latter case, the blessings are always mutually beneficial. Every bishop has very little spare time, but I have learned that making time for a working relationship of trust with the full-time missionaries is extremely helpful not only in growing the ward numbers, but also in the retention of new members. The following paragraph from *Preach*

My Gospel epitomizes mutual benefits:

“The starting point in building strong relationships with members is the bishop. Offer to help and serve in any righteous way that he asks. Regularly ask yourself, ‘Am I a blessing or a burden to the bishop?’ Develop a ‘How can I help?’ attitude. If you will look for opportunities to love, serve, and teach, the bishop and ward members will be more likely to trust you with their family members and friends (PMG, pg. 161).”

We love each of you and pray constantly for you.

President and Sister Middleton



VANDERHOOF CHAPEL

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS LYMAN & J. DAVIS

Humility is concerned with *what* is right. Pride is concerned with *who* is right. Forget yourself and go to work, “...for he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it” (Matt 10:39). You are here to represent the Lord for only two short years, so as soon as you have finished reading this newsletter, get back to work.

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Joshua Binks (Bountiful, UT), Tanner Carlisle (Auburn, WY), Jared Fullmer (Sandy, UT), Jeffrey Johnson (Winnebago, IL), Spencer Lassetter (N Salt Lake City, UT), Alex Marcum (Brigham City, UT), Scott Marianno (Fairfield, CA), Stanley Peck (Payson, UT), Brandon Ruesch (Las Vegas, NV), Peter Stevenson (Idaho Falls, ID)
- Language Elders: Jacob Roberts-MAN (Spanish Fork, UT)

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder Jefferson Allen

Stay positive and love your life because you only have one.

Elder Norman Arbuckle & Sister Olive Arbuckle

“It takes a little courage and a lot of self control and some given determination if you want to reach a goal. It takes a deal of striving and a firm and stern set chin, no matter what the battle if you’re really out to win. There is a rule in life to guide you as you see prosperity: Never

put your wishbone where your backbone ought to be” (unknown). “If you wake up in the morning with your hardest job to do, don’t start the day with grumbling; that won’t help you see it through. Be glad for work that’s difficult, for tasks that challenge you. Workers find a thousand blessings the idle never knew.” (Unknown) We will miss you all and will think of you often.

Sister Claudia Calderon

“Angels (you) are declaring it, for the purpose of preparing the hearts of the children of men to receive His word.” Do you see them in white? Do you see His vision (*PMG*)? “Let us glory, yea, we will glory in the Lord; yea, we will rejoice.” He who gives all will see. Arise, and go forth, as the Lord commands. Love them. Jesus is the Savior of all mankind. This is God’s work. So work! I love you all. El vive, He lives.

Elder Joshua Coon

I’m tickled and delighted to have served here. At the close of these two years I can only plead, “I am willing, ...O Lord. Help me keep you in my life” (M. Brothers). Thanks to all of you who have helped me do this thus far. Sweet is the work! This is Christ’s Church.

Elder Christopher Eckman

We can’t become what we need to be by remaining what we are.

Elder Paul-Michael Fernandez (extending)

Preach His Gospel. “[U]nto what were ye ordained? To preach

my gospel by the Spirit, even the Comforter which was sent forth to teach the truth” (DC 50:15).

Elder Nathan Firth

“Faith is the power; Love is the motive; Obedience is the price; The Spirit is the key; and Christ is the reason” (Ed Pinnegar).

Elder Shane Hohman

Our Heavenly Father loves us. Jesus Christ atoned for our sins. The Holy Ghost testifies of truth. I know this is true more than ever before. “I’m headed home at last; [Canada] is in the past. I was finding out who I was and [it’s] raining on Christmas” (Royle).

Elder Jonathan Jensen

2 Tim 1:7-8 This Gospel is the greatest thing anyone can have in this life. We are here to build the Celestial Kingdom. This Church is true. Trust in the Lord and miracles will happen, and have fun as you work.

Elder Joel Leaman

It has been a wonderful opportunity here serving a mission. I’ve found that when things go wrong, just don’t worry so much and get back to work. Whatever situation you’re in just know “thine afflictions shall be but a small moment,” and that “all these shall give thee experience.” God knows your potential. Look for the lessons He teaches to become who He knows you can become.

Elder Bucky Lumsden

Be obedient and get ‘er done! Most importantly, love all as you are loved!

Elder Soukson Praxaybane

Thank you to my wonderful companions and missionaries who gave me strength and hope when I was sad and empty. Your love and friendship with your testimony of the Gospel has helped build my own testimony. I have gained a testimony of gratitude and love and charity. Because of my experiences this past two years, my Asian heart has grown to a new level. All of ya’ll is a mighty blessing to me. I love ya’ll, folks.

Elder Eli Rhoads

Experience has taught me that there are no secrets to missionary work. Don’t complicate things! The things we’ve been taught all along—obedience, work, prayer, faith, and, of course, love are all that’s needed. The rest is left to the Lord and He always does His part. I love the Lord, this people, and all of you, and leave without any regrets.

Elder David Seamons

Our dreams are made out of real things like two years to serve the Lord, hard work and sacrifice. Love is the answer—at least for most of the questions of my heart—Why are we here? Where do we go? How come it’s so hard? (Hymn 221) It’s been epic and yet it seems the saga has just begun.

Elder Daniel Taylor

As Uli Mendel from Terrace would say, “You guys are truly the magic missionaries.” The Lord lives, Joseph was a prophet, scripture power is the power to win. Classic times, my friends, CLASSIC!

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Patrick Yuan
- Nanaimo: Duane Duncan, Sharon Greene, Charlene McIver
- Prince George: Kaiya Conniff, Shawnalei Ballantyne
- Surrey Language: Jocelyn Chiang, Viviana Ospina, Emily Yang, Jia Mei Yuan, Juan Quina Hernandez
- Vancouver: Daria Mikhailytcheva, Garnet Mushka



- Van Language: Elizabeth Macintosh, Jozef Ter-Mitchell, Leda Diaz, Brian Perez, Henry Perez, Jean Zhao
- Vernon: Nicole Johnson, Peder Tarp, Chelsea Wallach, Megan Kovacs
- Victoria: Tamara Fisher, Patricia Aleck, Dennis DeHoop, Richard Gerrard

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR JULY-AUGUST

- Aug 31—Van/Van Lang
- Sep 7—Nanaimo/Victoria
- Sep 13—Surrey/Sur Lang/Abbots
- Sep 20—Vernon
- Sep 22—Pr George

*“If any man will do His will,
He shall know of the doctrine,
whether it be of God, or
whether I speak of myself.” John
7:17*

ELDERS JENSEN AND LUMSDEN AT BAPTISM OF CONNIE

AUGUST 30, 2006

THE POWER OF THE SET-A-DATE PROGRAM

The Set-A-Date program, presented forcefully and eloquently by Elder M. Russell Ballard and the Brethren for years and most recently at the April, 2006 General Conference, works magnificently when faithful members Set-A-Date for 2 or 3 weeks off for a Tour, then repeatedly ask among their non-member acquaintances until an individual or family agrees to come with the member on the Tour to which they have been committed with the full-time missionaries. One of every seven investigators who goes on a Tour with a member acquaintance goes on to become baptized. It works! It is the single most effective method the Lord has given us to present the Restored Gospel to one of His children in British Columbia.

We are finding repeatedly that when the ward or branch leadership embraces this “Set-A-Tour-Date” and leads by their example, the rest of the ward or branch members rapidly follow suit. On the other hand, if the ward or branch leadership doesn’t support this concept, or is lukewarm, that same attitude is reflected in nearly all of the members. An outstanding example of how strong hands-on leadership in a ward motivates members can be seen in the account of a Victoria 2nd Ward PEC meeting:

Set-A-Tour-Date Program Embraced by Bishop Hitchmough and Ward Leaders in Victoria 2nd Ward, By Elders Jed Pugsley (and Tyler Shumway)

“Let me tell you about the reaction that we got as we introduced the ‘Set-A-Tour-Date’ program to the PEC. The plan was accepted very well! Some comments included, ‘It just makes sense,’ from Brother Richard Palfrey, the Elders Quorum President. Brother Dale Ruttan, of the bishopric, pointed out that the commitment just needs to be made as he spoke to the PEC. Bishop Frank Hitchmough then went around his office and asked for a date from everyone in attendance. Those who set a date were: Bishop Frank Hitchmough, Brother Dale



Ruttan, Brother Richard Palfrey, Brother Emery Baldry, Brother Gordon Goodman, Brother Mike Mulholland, Brother Jim Arnott, and Brother Walter Brautigan. I think that this is just the beginning for our Set-A-Tour-Date program. In the Victoria 2nd Ward, Bishop Frank Hitchmough believes that things start at the top and then work down, or as the leadership leads by example, the members will follow.”

Editor’s note: Congratulations to Bishop Frank Hitchmough and his Victoria 2nd Ward leaders for embracing so vigorously the most effective missionary tool we have in British Columbia, the Set-A-Tour-Date challenge. The ward members will now take their cues and their enthusiasm from this bold ward leadership. We share Bishop Hitchmough’s vision that “things start at the top and then work down”—it has always been and will ever be so in effectively leading any ward, branch, stake, mission or indeed the Church.

The Value of a Tour for Less-Active Members, by Sisters Coleen Murray (and Brittany Lyn Dow)

“We met with a family in our ward that was baptized eight years ago, but have been attending Church very rarely the past five years. Their home teacher mentioned to us that they would be a good family for us to visit. We were able to meet with them in their home, and there invited them on a Tour. The Tour proved to be a marvelous opportunity for them to feel the Spirit, and many of their concerns about coming to Church were brought up and resolved during it as well. This family came to Church the next Sunday and has been attending for 4 Sundays in a row now! We are grateful to have used the Tour as an effective tool in less-active work and have used it for several other less-active and part-member families as well.

“We also had a successful Tour with the Towne family. The mother is a member but hasn’t been to Church for years. Her husband and their two boys are not members. During the Tour they committed to come to Church on Sunday, to read a chapter of the Book of Mormon together, and to have us come over and teach them. It was awesome!”

Thanks to all our full-time missionaries and our many member missionaries for all that you do. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art luke-warm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.”
Rev 3:15-16*

Our constant prayer is that our missionaries, full-time and member missionaries alike, might become white hot in the work, that our Father in Heaven will bless us with accelerating Church growth in British Columbia.



SEPTEMBER 5, 2006

ELDER BALLARD'S COUNSEL ON BECOMING A SUCCESSFUL MISSIONARY

Many of our member and full-time missionaries in British Columbia have noted the inspirational and prescriptive counsel that Elder M. Russell Ballard gave during the April 2006 General Conference. His address was entitled “Creating a Gospel Sharing Home”, and we would like to refer to a few of the points he made as they clarify the guidelines by which we can successfully accelerate the growth of the Church here in British Columbia.

SET-A-DATE PROGRAM IS RE-EMPHASIZED

Elder Ballard in his remarks noted, “More than twenty years ago I suggested that the key to successful member missionary work is ... to prayerfully Set-A-Date to have someone prepared to meet with the missionaries. I have received hundreds of letters from members who have exercised their faith in this simple way. Even though families had no one in mind with whom they could share the Gospel, they Set-A-Date, prayed, and then talked to *many* (editor’s emphasis) more people. The Lord is the good shepherd, and He knows His sheep who have been prepared to hear His voice. He will guide us as we seek His divine help in sharing His Gospel.”

The Set-A-Date program was outlined in an address given by



CAROL AND TONY AT BUTCHART GARDENS

Elder Ballard over twenty years ago, and the principle and concept has not changed but has only been refined with time. It works! Every time one of our British Columbia members or families has tried it, it has worked.

A simple calculation shows that if each of our member families in British Columbia uses this Set-A-Date program to find three non-member acquaintances yearly to bring on a Tour or to another Church activity coupled with a Tour the number of baptisms will be at least 1600 yearly. It works!

MISSIONARY WORK IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF EVERY MEMBER

Elder Ballard in that same Conference address noted, “Quite frankly, what missionaries need now is more people to teach. Experience has shown that the best teaching situations develop when our members participate in the finding and teaching process. This is nothing new—you have heard it before.”

AN EXAMPLE OF THE SAVIOR INVITING NON-MEMBERS TO HIS HOME

Elder Ballard also noted the following, “The Savior Himself showed us the way when He invited His disciples to ‘come and see... where he dwelt, and (they) abode with him that day.’ John 1:39. Why do you suppose he did that? The scriptural record does not explain His reasoning, but I am confident that it had nothing to do with

comfort or convenience. As always, He was teaching. And what better way to teach His followers than to invite them with Him so they could see and experience his magnificent message first hand.”

While the Savior did not use a Tour in the same fashion we do, the principle He outlined as he invited disciples to come with him to come and see where he dwelt illustrates precisely what we try to do with a Tour for our non-member acquaintances. Our “home” to which we invite our non-member acquaintances on a Tour is our ward or branch building, our spiritual home.



SISTER OAKS INSTRUCTS WIVES IN PORTLAND

OUR LOVE FOR THE LORD SHOULD MOTIVATE US TO COMMIT TO A SET-A-DATE CHALLENGE

In that same magnificent April General Conference address, Elder Ballard noted, “Our love for the Lord and appreciation for the Restoration of the Gospel are all the motivation we need to share what gives us much joy and happiness. It is the most natural thing



LEE'S HOME IN WESTBANK, VIEW OF LAKE OKANAGAN

in the world for us to do, and yet far too many of us are hesitant to share our testimony with others.”

The Lord through inspiration to Elder Ballard and the other General Authorities has given us a mechanism by which we can invite our non-member acquaintances to see our Church, through the non-threatening method of inviting them to a Tour of our Church building. It truly is a non-threatening request that we make, and in no way could offend anybody.

MEMBERS INVITED TO “RELAX” AS THEY SERVE AS MEMBER MISSIONARIES

Some British Columbia members have mistakenly focused on one sentence in Elder Ballard’s April Conference address, where he said, “Today I invite you to relax and set aside your concerns and focus instead on your love for the Lord.” The “relax” has been lifted out of context by a few to mean that they can abandon any Set-A-Date program. We ask that these members read the entire talk to understand that Elder Ballard was simply urging that we abandon our anxieties about becoming member missionaries, and instead use our love and testimony and gratitude to the Lord to motivate us to become joyous Set-A-Date members and families. It works!

It is important to understand that when a member or a member family invites a non-member acquaintance to come with them on a Tour, and indeed comes with them on the Tour and is prepared to answer questions and bear testimony, they have done their part in the finding process. They have done all that our Father in Heaven has asked us as members to do. We quote further from Elder Ballard’s talk, “A Gospel sharing home is not defined by whether or not people join the Church as a result of our contact with them. Our opportunity and

responsibility are to care, to share, to testify, to invite, and to allow individuals to decide for themselves...at the very least, we have a rewarding relationship with someone from another faith and we can continue to enjoy their friendship.”

Elder Ballard has magnificently summarized in his address the challenge and command which our Father in Heaven has given each of us as members to accomplish. We want to assure each of our great members that they will be blessed richly if they follow the counsel and advice of Elder Ballard and step up to the challenge given to them by their stake, district, ward and branch leaders to bring three non-member acquaintances per year to the Church through a Tour, or to another Church activity such as a President’s Fireside or another event which could be coupled with a Tour.

This is the Lord’s work. He has given us through His inspired leaders the methods by which we can accomplish our goal here on earth of proclaiming the Gospel, a challenge which is every bit as essential to our salvation as any other activity we are commanded to accomplish on earth.

That we might go forth boldly, filled with faith, to use the Set-A-Tour-Date program to accomplish our member missionary responsibility is our constant prayer.

We love you and love working with you in this, the Lord’s work.

President and Sister Middleton



LAKE OKANAGAN FROM BALCONY
OF THE LEE'S HOME IN WESTBANK

“The bishop is responsible for missionary, retention, and activation efforts in the ward. His personal participation and leadership are essential.”
PMG pg. 218

We urge our full-time missionaries to offer to help the bishop in any way they can to accomplish his responsibility for missionary work, retention and activation.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2006

THE SET-A-TOUR-DATE LEADS TO BETTER CONVERT RETENTION

The confluence of the Set-A-Date program advocated for all Church members by Elder M. Russell Ballard and the Brethren for over twenty years, with the magnificent chapel Tour program outlined in *Preach My Gospel*, gives unparalleled tools to become effective

member missionaries. The conjunction of these two approaches into a “Set-A-Tour-Date” program is truly inspired of the Lord. It allows every Church member to step forth boldly as a member missionary easily, 3 or 4 times each year, as their inspired stake presidents, bishops and branch presidents have asked. The program works thus: a member or member family Sets-A-Tour-Date with the full-time missionaries for 2 or 3 weeks off, then focuses on asking as many non-member acquaintances as is necessary to find an acquaintance to join with them on the Tour with the full-time missionaries.

One out of every 7 of those acquaintances thus taken on a Tour goes on to baptism! Experience shows that converts made from member referrals like this are more solidly converted and endure better as active members than those from other finding methods. Once every active member and member family commits to 3 or more Set-A-Tour-Dates yearly, the growth of the Church will become 10 times that seen in recent years! It works!! It also gives to each member a system by which they can focus on asking their non-member acquaintances intensively for 2 or 3 weeks three times yearly, and then they can “relax” substantially at other times in the year. The program allows a member to organize his or her year so that the inspired goal asked by their stake president can be achieved.

CONVERTS FROM MEMBER REFERRALS ENDURE BETTER

While solid Church members in British Columbia have come from a variety of finding sources, consistently the best finding method that is linked to solid retention is when a member brings a friend or acquaintance to the Church. Elder Jeffrey R. Holland made this point strongly when he said:

“Indeed, one of the axioms of our day is that no mission or

missionaries can ultimately succeed *without* the loving participation and spiritual support of the local members working with them in a balanced effort. If today you are taking notes on a stone tablet, chisel that one in deeply. I promise you won't ever have to erase it. Initial investigators may come from many different sources, but those who are actually baptized and who are firmly retained in activity in the Church come overwhelmingly from friends and acquaintances known to members of the Church" ("Witnesses Unto Me," *Ensign*, May 2001, pg 14).

ELDER BALLARD DESCRIBES THE TOUR USED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Elder M. Russell Ballard and several other General Authorities addressed the outgoing Mission Presidents at the MTC in June of this year, and by internet or satellite hook-up all the other Mission Presidents already out in the field. Elder Ballard summarized in his address a few approaches successful missions are using, including this important description of a chapel Tour:

"Use our ward and branch buildings. This is the greatest temporal investment that we have. Let's use them. Take investigators through the building. Show them the various rooms and explain what goes on within the buildings of the Church."

Elder Ballard described exactly what our full-time missionaries do as they lead members and their friends and acquaintances on a Tour. It is inspired, it is from the Lord, and it will work.

We urge our full-time missionaries to gently and lovingly but persistently work with each member to help them become the member missionary that the Lord has commanded them to be, to

help each member understand the power in their hands as they accept a Set-A-Tour-Date. It will give them a system by which they can easily reach the goal asked of them by their stake president of bringing 3 or more of their friends and acquaintances on a Tour each year. It works!

We love you, and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton



ELDER AND SISTER OAKS GREET THE MIDDLETONS



*“As ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called His people, ...stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, ...that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection.”
Mosiah 18: 8, 9*

SEPTEMBER 19, 2006

SET-A-TOUR-DATE TO REMOVE A “GUILT TRIP”

We were pleased to speak at Sacrament Meeting in both Kelowna Wards and the Westbank Branch on September 10, 2006, at the invitation of their respective leaders. The meetings were wonderful, and the spirituality and dedication of the Saints was impressive. Just



PASSING FERRY NEAR VICTORIA



BAPTISMAL SERVICE AT RICHMOND WARD



PRESIDENT AND SISTER GESSEL
WITH THE MIDDLETONS IN PORTLAND

before one of the Sacrament Meetings a good brother pointed out that if we spoke about the Set-A-Tour-Date program it would worsen some of the member's "guilt trip". Subsequently we mentioned his comment to the bishop of the ward, whose response was, "Good, I hope it does", uttered only partially as a tongue-in-cheek statement.

Our address to the congregations was focused on the missionary power of the Set-A-Tour-Date, when every member commits to a Tour with a non-member acquaintance 3 times yearly, then keeps inviting until someone comes with them. Each ward will see 33 convert baptisms if the program is embraced by every member, and the Westbank Branch should see 30 or more converts yearly. We mentioned early in our talks the comment about "increasing a member's guilt trip", and then pointed out that when a member embraced the program enthusiastically their guilt would be gone and their joy and happiness would grow exponentially! The conjunction of the Set-A-Date and the Tour program, both programs having been given the saints through the inspired counsel of Elder M. Russell Ballard, and advocated by many of our General Authorities in their sermons, has given to us saints in British Columbia a relatively easy and non-threatening system by which we might achieve our stake presidents' challenge of bringing 3 or more non-member acquaintances on a Tour or to a Church activity which can be coupled with a Tour yearly. It works!

A Testimony of the Tour Program, by Elders Justin Wilhite, (and Logan Rasmussen)

"My testimony of the Tour program has grown immensely as we strive to make it our goal to Set-A-Date with members. Both of our baptismal dates have come as a result of powerful Tours. It just takes a well-outlined Tour, which hits the points of the First Lesson, the Restoration Lesson, demonstrates the beautiful building, and talks of the contemporary living lessons we learn by attending Church. The Tour and lessons are perfected through practice. I have felt the Spirit stronger on a Tour than in any other setting. I know that as we



PORTLAND MISSION PRESIDENT'S SEMINAR

continue to make full lessons and Tours our goal, and as we strive to work hard and effectively, baptisms will result.”

**Invite Investigators To A Dinner with Members
During Prime Time, by Elders Austin Johnson
(and Benjamin Grover)**

“To get the members on board we are inviting our investigators to member dinners and teaching them a lesson with the member present. That way the members can become involved in missionary work and become excited about proselyting. It also allows the investigator to meet a member and develop a friendship that is going to be important in the fellowshipping process as they learn about the Church. It also allows us missionaries to have dinners with members during Prime Time, something that many members would like to see come back. Dinner with members during Prime Time is encouraged whenever an investigator can be there too and receives a lesson.”

**The Power of a Well-done Tour for
Less Actives, by Brother Reg Olson**

“My name is Bro. Reg Olson, from Kelowna in the Vernon Stake. I want to tell you about a wonderful experience when taking a Tour of our building.

“Last Thursday Sister Coleen Murray called and wondered if we knew a less active brother in our ward. It happened that we have worked extensively with that good brother and had some success in activating him initially, but then he lapsed into inactivity again. Sister Murray had felt impressed to call this brother and invite him to a Tour of our building. He accepted, and she then called us to ask

if we would accompany them. Of course we were delighted to. As we progressed along the Tour Sister Olson and I were so impressed with the Sister Missionaries’ presentation at the different stops!

“When we got back to the chapel, by the Sacrament table, Sister Murray finished by asking this good brother if there was anything we could do to help him along the path. Then she bore testimony to him and related word for word Joseph Smith’s description of the First Vision. I closed my eyes in reverence, and the way this dear Sister related that vision made it appear as if we were actually in that grove and saw the events that took place that day! It was soooooo spiritual! I will not forget it nor will Sister Olson, nor will our less active brother either. I understand that he came to Church the next Sunday. We will continue to work with him, but I thought you might like to know some of the positives that go on in our ward because of these special missionaries. This Tour was ‘celestial!’”

We love you, and love working with each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“...when a man speaketh by
the power of the Holy Ghost
the power of the Holy Ghost
carrieth it unto the hearts of
the children of men.”
2 Nephi 33: 1*



ELDER AND SISTER PETERSON WITH THE MIDDLETONS



ELDER AND SISTER OAKS WITH THE MIDDLETONS

SEPTEMBER 26, 2006

JUST SAY “HELLO”

Recently we spoke at a British Columbia ward regarding how important it will be for every ward member to commit to a 3-times yearly Set-A-Date for a Tour (or Set-A-Tour-Date) 2 to 3 weeks off, then prayerfully and faithfully proceed to ask as many acquaintances as it takes until one agrees to return with the member on a chapel Tour. We pointed out that the average-size British Columbia ward will obtain at least 30 baptisms yearly once all members are setting three Tour dates yearly!



ELDER OAKS WITH ELDERS RASBAND AND PETERSON

Interestingly, at the end of Sacrament Meeting one of the sisters in the ward pulled us aside to make the disturbing observation that her ward members tended to not be friendly to visiting strangers, or to newly baptized members. She noted that a recently baptized single mother and her daughter came to Church for a while, but have since stopped coming because the girls in the ward of her daughter’s age were not welcoming, and seemed to shun her daughter. With shock and sadness, we promised this good sister that we would do all in our power to see that this won’t happen again, to do all that we can do to awaken each and every saint in British Columbia to the critical importance of being friendly towards everyone who comes into one of our churches.

HELP NEW MEMBERS, WELCOME VISITORS

President Hinckley made an extremely important observation regarding those who have recently joined the Church when he said: “...try to imagine what it is like. It can be terribly lonely. It can be disappointing. It can be frightening. We of this Church are far more different from the world than we are prone to think we are.”

He then quotes a letter he received from a recent woman convert: “When we as investigators become members of the Church, we are surprised to discover that we have entered into a completely foreign world, a world that has its own traditions, culture, and language... At first the trip is exciting, our mistakes are even amusing, then it becomes frustrating and eventually, the frustration turns into anger. And it’s at these stages of frustration and anger that we leave. We go back to the world from which we came, where we knew who we were, where we contributed, and where we could speak the language.”

Preach My Gospel, pg. 214. Fortunately, in this woman's case the mission president intervened to ease her integration into the Church.

We must become a warm, friendly, inviting member of Jesus Christ's restored Church, a Church which has at the very core of its teachings a message of love and caring for one another. We all must work at it. To all who come we must learn to warmly say, "Hello! I want to become your friend. How can I help you?"

**Always Welcome a New Face in Church,
by Elder Henry Curry (and Sister Evelyn Curry)**

"Can you spot a new face in your ward or branch? If not, try to shake hands with everyone that comes to Church, but pay special attention to those that you do not recognize. Find out who they are, where they live and if they are members. Are they attending with a friend or relative? Be bold!

"I recently spotted a new face in the group of members moving through the hall. We introduced ourselves to each other and at first just made some small talk that would make him feel at ease. I then asked if he was a member and he said "no". He talked a bit about how he happened to come to Church that day and some of his life experiences. I listened as much as possible and let him do the talking. That seemed to make him more at ease. He told me that his brother had joined the Church a few years ago and he had attended a few times with him. Then his brother had moved away, so he knew very little about the Church. I asked if he would like to know what the LDS Church is all about. He indicated that he had been studying all faiths for the past 2 years, and for that reason, had come to our Church that day. We set a teaching appointment right then, and 2 months later

he was baptized! Brother Garnet Mushka has been ordained a Priest and has fit right into the North Shore Ward."

Our urgent plea is that everyone who comes into one of our Church buildings is immediately greeted warmly and genuinely by full-time missionaries and members alike. If an investigator or less-active member doesn't feel instantly bathed with our love, it will be hard or impossible for them to recognize that our Church is based on the unconditional love that the Savior has for all of His children.

We love you, and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton



ELDER RASBAND ADDRESSES MISSION PRESIDENTS



ELDER RASBAND'S MISSION TOUR

OCTOBER 2006

OCTOBER 4, 2006

SET A GOAL OF THREE OR MORE TOURS WEEKLY

Having presided in the Canada Vancouver Mission now for 15 months, we have obtained an excellent sense of what missionary approach works best, and which approaches work less well. The very most effective missionary tool we have, by far, is to have a member ask an acquaintance to come on a Tour of their chapel with the member

and the full-time missionaries present. Chapter 9 in *Preach My Gospel* lists 22 finding and teaching options, including a chapel Tour. We are finding that the Tour works better consistently than any of the others here in British Columbia, with our BC-specific experience being that one of every seven non-members brought on a Tour by their member acquaintance goes on to baptism. That success rate is better by far than any other approach of which we know.

FOR IT TO HAPPEN, THE WARD OR BRANCH LEADERSHIP MUST LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Each stake presidency in BC has challenged every member or member family to bring three or more non-member acquaintances on a Tour through their chapel each year. While members are aware of their challenge, until they commit to a Set-A-Date schedule for themselves three times each year, they will not likely reach their goal. By committing to the full-time missionaries and the ward leadership the specific date and time they will be going on a chapel Tour, two or three weeks from the time they commit, and then asking everyone they know until they find someone to come with them on that Tour (which is really a non-threatening ask of their friends), members can easily accomplish their goal of three Tours per year.

As Bishop Frank Hitchmough of the Victoria 2nd Ward has pointed out, it starts at the top. When the ward leadership leads by example, everyone in the ward follows suit. The following letter underlines the importance of this point:

Bishop Frank Hitchmough and Other Ward Leaders Set-A-Date, by Elders Jed Pugsley (and Maclain Miles)

“The work here in the Victoria 2nd Ward is going very well. We now have a total of 17 Tours set within the next four weeks [from the time of the report written on September 18, 2006]. The Tour dates were established by Bishop Hitchmough explaining in PEC and Ward Council about the Set-A-Date program. He then followed through by committing everyone present to Tour dates. It was way awesome!

“...We also committed a fellow who came to the President’s Fireside to baptism. It was really cool! He wanted me to thank you for that.”

Editor’s note: Congratulations to Bishop Frank Hitchmough and his inspired Victoria 2nd Ward leaders! With one investigator in seven who is brought on a Tour by a member going on to baptism, we can expect two or three baptisms to come from the 17 Tours already set up in the Victoria 2nd Ward! It works!

We are asking each missionary companionship to achieve at least three Tours per week through their ward (which is the Abbotsford Stake minimal challenge to each of their wards and branches). However, with each active family bringing three acquaintances on a Tour per year, we expect each companionship to eventually reach six or more Tours per week. As each companionship meets with their bishop or branch president each week to go over their Key Indicators, which are e-mailed to each bishop and branch president weekly, the “referrals from members” column should be at least three to achieve the goal of three Tours per week. Prayerfully, lovingly, patiently teach ward and branch members how to Set-A-Date, and stress to the leadership their all-important “lead by example” roll.

How to “Manage Up,” by Elder James H. Curry, senior missionary

“How to effectively ‘manage up’ will be one of the most important skills you can learn. After you graduate from college and are working in the business world, this skill will have a great impact on your salary.

“As a supervisor or manager of any large company, you will be required to write annual objectives that are clear, concise and measurable. Each year you will be evaluated on how well you

completed your objectives and how important they were to your employer [and to your supervisor]. You “manage up” to succeed in the company by helping your supervisor succeed in achieving his or her goals.

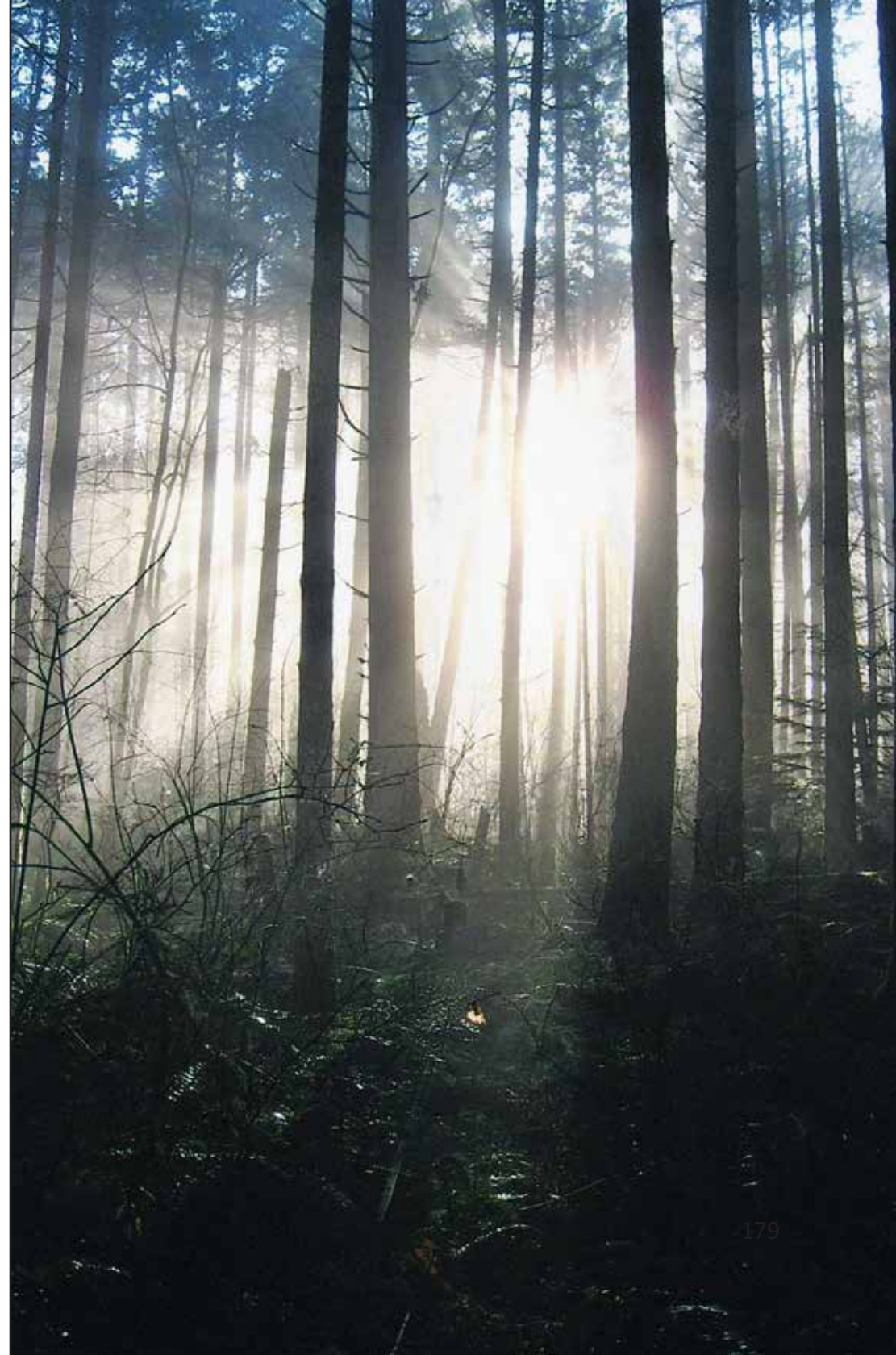
“...The same principles apply to our calling as missionaries. We should all have written objectives that tie in to our District Leader, Zone Leader, Mission President, the Prophet, Jesus Christ, and our Heavenly Father. Heavenly Father’s and Christ’s objective is to ‘bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.’ The Prophet has called us to teach the Gospel to all men, and *Preach My Gospel* asks us to ‘invite others to come unto Christ.’

“President Middleton has a goal for the Canada Vancouver Mission to have 1500 baptisms per year. Our Zone Leaders and District Leaders also have goals for their areas of responsibility designed to help President Middleton reach his goal. Our objective should include all aspects of missionary conduct as found in the *Missionary Handbook*. Remember to be specific when addressing areas where *you* have control. Example: I will study the assigned memorization scriptures so that I will be able to recite them whenever required or needed. By following all Mission rules to the letter, we will have the Spirit with us strongly at all times and be able to teach with power. We cannot have an objective of a specific number of baptisms per transfer because we do not have control over that. We can, however, have a goal and pray that Heavenly Father will help us reach *our* goal.”

Editor’s note: Elder Curry spotlights an important truth. Our success is our leader’s success, and all of our success collectively brings success to the head of our Church, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We love you and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton



FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS J. DAVIS & BAKOW

“But when he saw the wind boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink, he cried, saying, Lord, save me. And immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand, and caught him, and said unto him, O thou of little faith, wherefore didst thou doubt? “ (Matt 14:30-31) Doubt not, fear not. Go get ‘em!

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

Elders: Daniel Banks (Wellsville, UT), Jason Barker (Millville, UT), James Brown (Thunder Bay, ON), Jacob Earnest (Culver, OR), Justin Fillmore (Trophy Club, TX), Adam Hassell (Woodburn, OR), Youngho Hea (Seoul, S. Korea), Abram Howard (Narrows, VA), Ryan Mousseau (Jim Thorpe, PA), Nicholas Ramirez (Irving, TX), Gavin Ramsey (Phoenix, AZ), Carlton Taylor (Pleasant Grove, UT), Daniel Walton (Highland, UT), Jason Wells (Roosevelt, UT)

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder Taylor Clyde

My friends, I love you. Thank you for serving our Lord in this great and latter-day work. Remember, all good things require effort. That which is worth having will cost. Pay the price! We are but servants of the Lord. It is His work we are doing. Submit yourselves to Him. Our cause is just. Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is our Redeemer and He lives. Take care.

Elder Michael Donohue aka Don Don

“When people point and laugh, and you ask, “why me?” just remember, Christ died for you, because that’s how it had to be” (unknown). This is the best work around, so enjoy the epic times. Live it up and get ‘er done.

Elder Andrew Drayson

Only those who receive temple ordinances gain eternal life. Seek the Holy Ghost to confirm that your goal is acceptable by God and then make it happen. A member invited me to a YSA activity; he had met me two weeks before. I was baptized six weeks later.

Elder Tron Graham

“When we try in faith to walk in obedience to the requests of the priesthood, the Lord opens the way, even when there appears to be no way” (Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley). Catch the vision, sustain your leaders, pray always, be obedient, work hard, and most of all, have fun! I love the people here. I love the Savior, and I love all of you.

Elder John Grover

My last words: GET TO WORK and everything will fall into line. Be yourself and rely on the Lord like nothing else. That’s where you will see the true divine. “God be with you ‘til we meet again.” GET TO WORK NOW!

Elder A. Michael Hansen aka The Count

Romans 8:16-18 “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God: ...joint-heirs with Christ; if so be we suffer with him [in this work]. For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.” The hand of God in this work is real! Christ does guide and sustain it. It’s been righteous serving with you all! Have fun!

Elder Michael Masterson

If we don’t try, then we don’t do. And if we don’t do, then why are we here? “Therefore, dearly beloved brethren, let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power; and then may we stand still, with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed” (DC123:17).

Elder McKenna

“Eagle, fly high, touch the Great Spirit. Share your medicine. Touch me, honor me, so that I may know you too” (Siskiyou Buckle). “True love is letting go” (Rufio).

Elder Magnum Morgan

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, love and of a sound mind. Don’t fear things, because if we could see the end so clear, we would surely lose our fear” (unknown). Step out of your comfort zone and earn your sleep.



ABBOTSFORD ZONE ELDERS' QUARTET

Elder Garrin Palmer

Joseph Smith was a prophet. The Book of Mormon is the Word of God. Christ is leading this work and is our Savior. I know that now more than ever before. The mission was tight and “this opportunity knocks once in a lifetime” (Eminem). So live it up.



MIDDLETONS IN FRONT OF TERRACE CHAPEL

Elder James Powell

“What we do in life echoes in eternity” (Gladiator). It has been a pleasure to serve with all of you in this great mission. Remember to cherish every moment, because one day it will be over. Jesus Christ lives and He loves us. His Church has been restored through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Sweet is the work!

Elder Jordan Sparks

Alma 36:26 Do the work and have a dang good time doing it! Once the Spirit hits your lips, there is no stopping the Lord’s servants. Much love to all.

Elder Shawn Swapp

Why was 6 afraid of 7? Because 7, 8, 9! Have fun, be obedient, and follow the Spirit and you will never lose. Remember, “When you’re on your knees, you’re taller than trees” (Johnny Cash).

Elder Ben Whipple

“...This time passed away with us, and also our lives passed away like as it were unto us a dream...” (Jacob 7:26). I love our Savior Jesus Christ. I love serving Him, and I will continue to do so. DON’T WORRY! I love you all –especially my boys.

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Karena Coulson
- Nanaimo: Michael Ellis, Crystal Lorenzen
- Prince George: Constance Cornelissen, Denise Davis, James Patterson
Surrey: Frederick Embree, Tristan Goodes, Praveen Kumar, Stewart Zukerman

- Surrey Language: Ally Zhang
- Vancouver: Geoffrey Akena, Roy Gong, Body Jockene, Martha Ojulu, Steven Reader
- Vancouver Language: Ji Yeon Lim, Claudia Wong
- Vernon: George Swerdelian, Jamie Johnstone
- Victoria: Erma McArthur, Kevin Lu, Susan Lu

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

- Oct 11—Van/Van Lang
- Oct 19—Surrey/Sur Lang/Abbots
- Oct 26—Nanaimo/Victoria
- Nov 1—Vernon
- Nov 3—Pr George

Challenge members to Set-A-Date for a Tour or a Church event, which can be coupled with a Tour at least 3 times yearly.

“I, the Lord, am bound when you do what I say; but when ye do not what I say ye have no promise.” D&C 82:10

OCTOBER 10, 2006

TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

Reinvigorated and inspired by the October General Conference, we expect both our full-time and member missionaries to step forward boldly in our missionary efforts. Through our inspired Church leaders we are now armed with those techniques and methods by which we can become significantly more effective missionaries. The Set-A-Tour-Date allows us to achieve the missionary success our Father in Heaven has asked us to, and relatively easily, when we step beyond our comfort zone and ask. As noted in the missionary reports below, when we add work and commitments to the mix, the Lord will bless us richly.

Set-A-Date for a “Corn Roast” a Huge Success in Sidney Ward, by Elders Michael Donohue (and Hunter Heaton)

“We had a corn roast this last week where 52 non-members and 10 less-actives attended! The turnout was great. In all, about 160 people attended.

“Elder Heaton and I made flyers and gave all the members 5 of them each, then committed them to pass them out to their friends. We then took care of the neighborhood in inviting them also with a flyer.

“The turnout was great and the members got to see how easy



TERRACE DISTRICT MEETING

missionary work is. We are now working on the next activity for Halloween and the follow-up process with the members who brought friends out.”

**The Kamloops Second Ward Members
are Referring Their Friends, Many and Often,
by Elders Daniel Roy (and Callin Morrill)**

“Things are going extremely well in the Kamloops Second Ward. I’ve never been happier as a missionary. Elder Morrill and I have been working very hard at inviting our members to assist us in our missionary work. We have been receiving many referrals, food and even a typewriter. Our Ether “rock” lesson has been working wonderfully to produce an amazing number of referrals and Tours. I have never before had so much work, or so many people to teach with several people who are preparing themselves for baptism.

“I believe that all these blessings are a result of the faith of the members. We were a little slow to get our 13 ward missionaries involved, but we’re changing that by meeting with them regularly and in their priesthood leadership and auxiliary presidency meetings.

“This past Friday night was probably the highlight of my missionary Tour experiences. Before, I’ve given Tours to lots of people, but not in the number we did at our ward’s “Corn Roast.” We knew through talking and challenging that the members were bringing many of their non-member friends to this activity and over 15 non-members were brought by members. We were wise in asking Elder and Sister Larsen and Maurine Boyer from the Kamloops First Ward to help us in giving Tours that night. We gave 5 groups of people Tours, and in total we brought 13 non-members on Tours, all of them invited and

brought by the members. We were so busy that all 4 of us missionaries had to split up and take our groups on Tours at the same time. The Spirit was there in abundance, and we gave powerful, quick Tours. After, we received very positive feedback from both investigators and members alike. We feel that we’ve never been more liked by the members and we’ve never had so much work in one area. In fact, the members are all using the Set-A-Tour-Date so well that we have been having 5 or more Tours each week for several weeks. I’m really excited about the future!”

Editor’s Note: President Spencer W. Kimball issued the challenge to all Church members to “lengthen your stride.” While that urgent challenge was issued a few years ago, it applies to all of us today, and his challenge is starting to be met by the magnificent, energetic and wonderful saints throughout British Columbia. We full-time missionaries must lengthen our stride too, in step with the members, that we might be instruments in the Lord’s hands to accelerate the growth of His Church in British Columbia. There clearly is a quickening of His Spirit!

We love each of you and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

- **Oct 11**—Van/Van Lang;
- **Oct 19**—Surry/Sur Lang/Abbots;
- **Oct 26**—Nanaimo/Victoria
- **Nov 1**—Vernon;
- **Nov 3**—Pr George

“Therefore it is given to abide in you...that which quickeneth all things.” Moses 6:61

OCTOBER 24, 2006

EXPERIENCE WITH CHAPEL TOURS

The Tour of the ward or branch building remains the best method to present the Gospel to an investigator in British Columbia. In making that all-important first impression for an investigator, a member brings a non-member acquaintance to the Church for a Tour and thereby starts the fellowshipping process. It also allows the missionaries to present the Restoration Lesson as they walk through the building with their recitation of Joseph Smith’s description of the First Vision invariably bringing the Spirit to the meeting when given well. A Tour also gives the investigator a look at our buildings, which are magnificent, and as our missionaries describe the various priesthood and auxiliary rooms they explain the advantages we enjoy as members in learning how to cope with the many challenges to families and individuals posed by our modern society. A few accounts of how the Tour is working follow.

Asking Abbotsford Acquaintances to a Tour is not Hard, by Elders Alexander Bitting (and James Powell)

“I want to share an awesome experience we had with a sister of our ward, the Abbotsford 1st Ward, Sister Gloria Murley. Sister Murley had always been terrified to share the Gospel and invite people to hear the message of the Restoration. We visited the Murleys a couple of weeks ago and shared a ‘PMG Tour’ with the family and they loved it! The Spirit was so strong as Elder Powell and I shared our testimonies of the blessings of a gospel-sharing home. However, Sister Murley wasn’t too keen on inviting people on a Tour and really didn’t see the effectiveness of it!

“The next day we had a message from Sister Murley that really took us by surprise. As she was preparing her primary lesson she came across a scripture in 2 Kings 5: 12-13, which relates the story of Elisha the Prophet and Naaman. Naaman had been sickened with leprosy and inquired of the prophet as to how he might be healed. Elisha sent a servant to Naaman to tell him to wash himself in the river Jordan seven times and he would be healed, but Naaman was wroth because the prophet himself had not come. The servant said unto him (v. 13) ‘If the prophet had bid thee do some great thing, wouldest thou not have done it?’ Basically it was a simple thing that he was asked to do and he should exercise faith and not murmur. When Sister Murley read this she knew that President Christensen had asked the entire stake to each bring 3 non-members on a Tour. It isn’t a difficult thing that he asks...we should just do it without murmuring! So within a week Sister Murley invited 34 people on a Tour and 7 people came! Out of those 7 people (all non-members), one was very touched and will soon be investigating the Church. It was remarkable!”

Coupling a Family History Fair with Chapel Tours in the Kelowna First Ward, by Sisters Coleen Murray (and Kristjana Bardardottir)

“Our ward hosted a huge Genealogical Fair in our building. A large crowd enjoyed a dinner and a speaker, and all attendees were invited to come Tour our building and Family History Center before the program started. We were available as soon as people registered and offered them a Tour. Most everyone said ‘Yes!’

“It was a great experience, and with all the missionaries working we had several Tours going at the same time. In a thank-you card given to us by the ward member (Phyllis Thompson) who organized the event, she stated, ‘Close to 100 people attended the Family History International Dinner. Nearly half of those took a building Tour and many of those commented the next day how impressed they were with our missionaries and with the values of our religion (including a couple of devout Baptists)’”

Members Feel the Spirit through The Set-A-Tour-Date Program in the Langley Ward, by Elders Benjamin Zuniga (and Joshua Binks)

“After President Paul Christensen spoke to the congregation this past Sunday we have been setting more Tour dates in a one-on-one basis with the Langley Ward members. As the members begin to do missionary work out of love for the Savior and not for other reasons, such as out of necessity to reach a numeric goal, that’s when the work will ‘explode.’ So we want them to strive for at least 3 Tours per year so members can feel the Spirit and desire to do this work with enthusiasm. They then can rejoice in the work as we do.

“We have seen the Tour have a good effect on the less-actives. We had a good Tour with Sister Pauline Sowinsk a little while back, and she has since returned to Church a number of times and loves the people. Tours work!”

Editor’s Note: We urge every companionship to aim toward at least 3 Tours weekly. Help members use the Set-A-Tour-Date to achieve their personal goal of 3 referrals of acquaintances per year. That we all might utilize the Tour boldly is our constant prayer.

We love you, and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton



SQUAMISH CHAPEL



UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

- Oct 11—Van/Van Lang;
- Oct 19—Surry/Sur Lang/Abbots;
- Oct 26—Nanaimo/Victoria
- Nov 1—Vernon; Nov 3—Pr George

“Be not afraid; only believe.”

Mark 5:36

OCTOBER 31, 2006

ELDER RASBAND VISITS THE MISSION

We were very pleased to have Elder Ronald A. Rasband visit the Canada Vancouver Mission on October 13 and 14, 2006. On the evening of October 13 a combined Coordinating Council and Area Authority Seventy meeting was held at a dinner in the Langley Ward. We were inspired as we heard from Elder Rasband, as he gave a description and preliminary sketch of the upcoming temple. Elder Rasband spoke regarding the importance of the temple in missionary

work, and as the ground is broken and publicity is spread, and as Tours are taken through the temple prior to its dedication, its importance to missionary work will become increasingly evident.

**ELDER RASBAND SPEAKS TO
THE LOWER MAINLAND MISSIONARIES**

Elder Rasband stayed overnight and spoke to the Lower Mainland missionaries as well as the Area Authority Seventies in the Langley chapel on October 14. Unfortunately, all of our Zones could not hear Elder Rasband’s remarks, and we will hopefully touch the highlights herein.

Elder Rasband called on Elder G. Perrin Walker, an Area Authority Seventy, to speak. Speaking as a former French mission president, Elder Walker gave magnificent insight into missionary work. He had told his missionaries in France, who suffered from low productivity prior to his coming, that “The field isn’t brown ready to dig, but it is white and ready to harvest.” By refocusing his missionaries with that thought, as well as having the missionaries focus on working hard and effectively, their productivity increased dramatically and the Lord blessed them.

President Paul Christensen, the Abbotsford Stake President, was asked to address the group, and he gave a powerful address regarding the coming of the temple and urged the missionaries to step outside their comfort zone and go forward with faith.

ELDER RASBAND ANSWERS MISSIONARY QUESTIONS

Elder Rasband started his address by soliciting questions from the missionaries, a few of which we summarize. He pointed out that there is a spiritual preparation that must be made for the upcoming temple, and we as missionaries are an important factor in that preparation. In fact, we are here under the decree of the Prophet to prepare British Columbia for a temple, and we are here to prepare members and non-members alike.

A question was asked as to how we can lose ourselves in the work. Elder Rasband pointed to the advice given to President Hinckley while starting his mission as a young man, when he wrote home to his father complaining that he wasn't accomplishing much and he thought he ought to come home. His father replied in a letter, "Forget yourself and go to work." Elder Rasband noted that advice serves well for every missionary here, and Elder Rasband went on to admonish missionaries to forget about "your pickup truck, your girlfriend, etc. The righteous things will be there when you return from the mission." He also quoted the important scripture in Alma 38:12, "Use boldness, but not overbearance; and also see that ye bridle your passions that ye may be filled with love; see that ye refrain from idleness." He urged that if inappropriate CD's or pictures were brought from home or sent from home, then, "get rid of them."

A question was asked as to how to evenly divide duties within a companionship. Elder Rasband commented that both missionaries have been set apart to do the work, and he quoted from John 3:30 where it was pointed out at the baptism of Christ, "He must increase, I must decrease." That important admonition must guide our relations

with our companion in that our goal must be to see that he or she increases during each transfer. He went on to observe that even if a senior companion thinks that a junior companion will not give his or her portion of the lesson well that we should let them proceed and allow the opportunity for the Spirit to work. He urged that each companion be given equal parts in teaching.

THERE ARE THOUSANDS OF THE LORD'S ELECT ALREADY PREPARED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Another question was raised as to how we maintain a sense of urgency. Elder Rasband noted that the temple is coming, and there is urgency in preparing people to go to the temple. He noted also that there are thousands of people prepared by the Lord already in British Columbia that they are the Lord's elect, "*and ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect; for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts*" (D & C 29:7). He noted that those people are already prepared, and they will hear His voice and harden not their hearts. They are, "*only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it*" (D & C 123:12).

He went on to point out that people are trained by society to say "no," but we must be persistent. There are ways to break down barriers by sharing a thought, by singing a song, by using another approach. For example, a missionary might say, "Before we go may we share a thought with you? . . . a song with you? . . . Let me show you a picture of the family I left behind to come on this mission." Elder Rasband *noted that the elect don't wear white nametags*. With the help of the members we can find the elect, and members already know those elect but don't yet know which of their many non-member

acquaintances are already prepared by the Lord and are His elect.

Another question was asked as to how to ask for referrals in every conversation with people we see several times each week. The question was a good one, and Elder Rasband started by urging that we not use the S.T.P. (same ten people). He urged that we spread our net broader, throughout the ward or branch. He also asked that we ask for a name, “not just a referral.” He urged that we interact with members and non-members alike to be creative, to focus on life changing events, such as recent deaths, births, moving, etc. “Do you know anyone who has moved into your neighborhood recently? May we use your name? How would you like to go with us to visit them? How about you inviting them to come over and we’ll share a message with them.” He pointed out that every time we involve a member, our effectiveness as missionaries will increase.

PICTURE YOUR INVESTIGATOR IN WHITE

Elder Rasband concluded by focusing once more on temples. He quoted from D & C 109 where the Kirtland Temple dedicatory prayer is given. He urged that we picture in our mind as missionaries that we are going forth to find someone to kneel at the altar in the temple. While that person will be dressed in white when they are baptized, “picture in your mind the second time they will be dressed in white-in the temple.”

His final thought was that if we forget ourselves and go to work with members the Lord will bless us. “He knows His elect by name.”

We are so proud of the excellent, well thought-through questions that the missionaries asked Elder Rasband. They prompted thoroughly inspiring responses. Hopefully we have shared in this *Vancouver Star* with all of our missionaries the essence of Elder Rasband’s inspiring

comments, and we are so grateful to him for joining with us.

We love each of you and love working with you in beautiful British Columbia. We are all inspired and energized by what we need to do to prepare for the upcoming temple.

President and Sister Middleton

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR NOVEMBER

- Nov 1—Vernon;
- Nov 3—Prince George

“I, the Lord, am bound when you do what I say; but when ye do not what I say ye have no promise.” D&C 82:10



ELDER SPENCER CONDIE'S ADVICE

NOVEMBER–DECEMBER 2006

NOVEMBER 7, 2006

WHY 15 OR MORE FULL LESSONS WEEKLY

As mentioned previously, Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi noted last year that when he had served as a mission president a few years ago he challenged his missionaries to teach 17 or more “full” lessons weekly. A full lesson is one which begins and ends with a prayer, and focuses on a missionary lesson or principle for 30 minutes or more. Typically a Tour will qualify as a full lesson as the Restoration Lesson is taught during a Tour, and most Tours will last about 45 minutes. Elder Kikuchi noted that every companionship within his mission which taught 17 or more full lessons each week had baptisms at least monthly, and often baptized every other week.

Preach My Gospel sets a goal of 15 or more lessons weekly, so we are asking that each companionship in the Canada Vancouver Mission commit to and achieve 15 or more full lessons *each week*. Each and every lesson given, whether it be any of the lessons outlined in *PMG* or whether the full time must be spent on a principle in a lesson in *PMG*, must bring the Spirit to the investigator and member involved so that they feel a spiritual affirmation of the doctrine. That spiritual uplift is essential before they will then accept our challenge to a commitment, which should be part of every lesson. We strive for 15 or more full lessons not just for the number, but that the full lesson will bring the Spirit to the meeting to prepare for the commitment for which we will always ask.

TEACH TO BRING THE SPIRIT

Brigham Young studied the Restored Gospel for over one year before being baptized. In his *Journal of Discourses* (1:90) he noted: “If all the talent, tact, wisdom, and refinement of the world had been sent to me with the Book of Mormon, and had declared, in the most exalted of earthly eloquence, the truth of it, undertaking to prove it by learning and worldly wisdom, they would have been to me



BAPTISM OF RAINBOW AND VIVIAN

like smoke which arises only to vanish away. But when I saw a man without eloquence or talents for public speaking, who could only say, ‘I know by the power of the Holy Ghost that the Book of Mormon is true, that Joseph Smith is a Prophet of the Lord,’ the Holy Ghost proceeding from that individual illuminated my understanding, and a light, glory and immortality were before me. I was encircled by them, filled with them, and I knew for myself that the testimony of the man was true” (*PMG*, pg. 199).

Brigham Young was converted by the Spirit, as every one of our investigators must be. As we teach each full lesson, we must seek to bring the Spirit to the meeting to influence all who are present.

ALWAYS SEEK A COMMITMENT DURING A LESSON

Preach My Gospel teaches us that with each lesson we should “consider the needs and status of each investigator and include one or more commitments in your lesson plan” (*PMG*, pg.196). If we are giving a full lesson to a member or member family, the Spirit presence should build their testimony in preparation for us then to ask to Set-A-Date for a Tour or a Church activity which can be coupled with a Tour. Always ask for a commitment, and then follow through with a call every day or two to see how you might help them achieve their commitment to bring a friend or acquaintance.

If the lesson is given to an investigator, the commitment asked for should be enthusiastically and lovingly given, to attend Sacrament Meeting, to pray for confirmation of what they learned, to read in the Book of Mormon, to consider being baptized by the restored

priesthood authority, and so forth! Be bold, yet not overbearing (Alma 38:12). Prepared by feeling the Spirit in that full lesson, the commitments asked will usually be given. Ask in faith, but always ask.

STRIVE FOR AT LEAST ONE BAPTISMAL DATE INVITATION WEEKLY

We are concerned that in our Key Indicators we have many more “Progressing Investigators” listed than “Investigators with a Baptismal Date.” *Preach My Gospel* teaches us to aim toward an invitation to be baptized at the end of the First Lesson, provided we have sensed a high level of spirituality in the lesson (*PMG*, pg. 40). *PMG* furthermore urges that we be bold (but not overbearing), and boldness entails asking at least the “soft” baptismal commitment invitation, noted in the first paragraph of *PMG*, pg. 40, or if the Spirit dictates, ask for a commitment for a firm baptismal date, as noted in the second paragraph.

Success in Bringing the Spirit to the Tour, by Sisters Brittany Dow (and Dionne Oliver)

“I can feel the Tour fever starting around here. We took two ward leaders on Tours this week and both times the members were in tears as we presented the words of Joseph Smith as he described the First Vision. We even had people coming up to us on Sunday to schedule Tours. Hopefully in no time we’ll be up to six Tours per week.

“While visiting a less-active sister last week we found a new investigator whom we started teaching. This week our less-active

sister announced that she wants to be married in the temple, so her fiancé is going to start taking the lessons! The Spirit was very strong during the First Lesson, and it looks very promising. We just got a new Ward Mission Leader, Brother Art Gilliland, and our ward missionaries are willing to help in whatever way they can. The work is great here!”

Preparation and Planning Leads to a Wonderful President’s Fireside and Tours, By Elders Joel Asay (and Tyler Shumway)

Our District put much focus on the President’s Fireside in Kelowna in September, and prepared it throughout the whole transfer. After deciding the topic, then came the real work of inviting EVERYONE! Every member, less-active, and non-member we came in contact with was given an invitation flyer, and continued encouragement. The result was a fabulously spiritual fireside in which 8 non-members were present along with 40 + active and less-active members! From that, there have been 3 non-members go on Tours and continue learning more. One of the investigators at the Fireside couldn’t contain their excitement, and asked to go on a Tour RIGHT AFTER THE FIRESIDE! Truly these firesides are an undervalued tool that can increase the spirituality of members, non-members and missionaries ALIKE!”

Editor’s Note: The President’s Fireside is designed to be a Set-A-Date event to which members can be committed to bring a non-member friend or acquaintance. The date of each Fireside is known 6 weeks in advance. Please challenge many members to Set-A-Date, and check back with them every other day or so to offer help and encouragement. A Tour of the chapel could be given to the

investigator(s) before or after the Fireside. District and Zone leaders: please see that early planning takes place.

We love you each and every one. Thank you for the determined and faithful work that you do.

President and Sister Middleton

“And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.” Matt 21: 32

NOVEMBER 15, 2006

FOUR HOURS OF SERVICE WEEKLY TO FIND

President Paul Christensen, President of the Abbotsford Stake, has made the excellent suggestion that we clarify the use of missionary community service in the Canada Vancouver Mission. The Brethren have requested that all full-time missionaries give four hours of community service weekly. The *Missionary Handbook* points out that

we should be constantly looking for opportunities to serve all with whom we come in contact, including our companion, investigators, Church members and everyone else. Much of the time this service will be in the form of a spontaneous, unplanned act. “When ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God” (Mosiah 2:17). In addition, missionaries world-wide are asked to perform four hours of community service weekly. *PMG* notes, “Through service, you and those who are prepared for the restored gospel come together in a powerful, inspiring way. Your good works will help people recognize you as a servant of God and will lead to opportunities to teach the restored gospel” (*PMG*, pg. 168).

We are asking each companionship to evaluate carefully the weekly service project in which you serve. The *Handbook* notes that we should “limit planned service activities to daytime hours on days other than weekends, holidays, or preparation days. Stay with your companion..., do not put your health or safety at risk, create a legal liability..., or put you in an inappropriate situation..., and not in such places as schools or day care centers” (*Missionary Handbook*, pgs. 39-40). It also notes that our service “should not replace the efforts of priesthood quorums and auxiliaries, especially in meeting the needs of members” (*ibid.* pg. 40).

CHOOSE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROJECTS WHICH ALLOW YOU TO PROSELYTE

Most importantly, during service we must “look for teaching opportunities that arise from your service” (*ibid.* pg. 40). In other words, every community service project should be done with an eye



ELDER AND SISTER JACOBSON ARRIVE

toward proselyting. Some projects of which we are aware have been dead end as far as teaching the gospel, and we have recommended switching to another more promising service activity. As part of your service, always preach the gospel. *PMG* teaches us to “pray for the ability to see unplanned opportunities to serve and teach” (*PMG*, pg. 156). We serve, as did the Lord, that we might teach, both by example and word. While occasionally service will be rendered without you giving a missionary message, a gospel message coupled with an invitation for a Tour or other Church activity should normally be a part of each service rendered. *Always remember that we are missionaries*, and as such we should invite *everyone* with whom we have contact in any setting. Remember too our goal to ask for a referral name in every conversation. Bear your testimony! Let everyone you meet hear from your lips that you know this Church is true!

**Tours are Successful in North Vancouver,
by Elders Scott Marianno (and Kelby Godfrey)**

“The Church Tour Program is finding success in North Vancouver. The North Shore Ward currently has 15 Tours set up in accordance with Elder Ballard’s Set-A-Date Program. We recently gave a Tour to a non-member visiting from Las Vegas. She is married to a less-active member who invited her to attend Church while she was in Canada. The Tour sparked her interest in the Church as well as introduced her to the message of the Restoration. The Spirit was strong as we testified of the truthfulness of the First Vision in the chapel. She now has a baptismal date set for later this month. We attribute her success to the Tour, which enabled her to become familiar with the Church before Sunday services as well as the member support system that

was immediately built in when two members came along on the Tour with her. The Tour Program works!

“The Tour Program works well for less-actives as well. Elder David A. Bednar in his recent Conference address has invited all members to extend an invitation to a less-active member to come back into fellowship with the Church. The Church Tour Program is an excellent tool in rekindling the fire that may have been lost in inactivity. We recently gave a Tour to a less-active member who had years before been baptized in the North Shore Chapel. After refreshing his memory on the wonderful teachings and programs of the Church, showing him the exact place where he covenanted to always remember Jesus Christ and to keep His commandments, we shared the familiar message of The Restoration. His response after our testimonies was ‘What Can I do to come back?’ The Tours can help rekindle that testimony that may have been smothered by some perceived member offense or addiction. It is ultimately their choice whether or not to come back, and some may not even after a strong witness of the Spirit. However, we can extend an arm out and invite those who have left the fold to no longer cut themselves off from the blessings of the Restored Gospel by inviting them on a Tour.”

**We Strive to Invite at Least One Investigator
to Set a Baptismal Date Each Day,
by Elders Donald Fewkes (and Taylor Zmoos)**

“The Richmond Ward is great with lots of work waiting for us. We were recently able to help an investigator commit to baptism on the 30th of November. She insisted on it being that far away because it is her daughter’s birthday. I feel like the practice of ‘baptismal invites’

that we do every day is a great help. By looking to extend a baptismal invitation daily, we become comfortable committing people, and we are now striving to obtain a baptismal date commitment daily, using either the ‘soft’ or ‘hard’ commitment questions outlined on page 40 in *PMG*. We now have the goal of at least once daily asking someone to be baptized. Now we focus on the idea constantly that while we are here to teach the gospel, we also are here to baptize the Lord’s children. Since focusing on it, our baptismal invites have skyrocketed, and we expect markedly increased success.”

Editor’s note: Elders Fewkes and Zmoos have established an excellent companionship goal of extending at least one invitation to be baptized daily. We have asked every companionship in B.C. to strive towards at least one baptismal invite weekly; one daily takes the challenge to a wonderful new level, and if in your companionship one baptismal invite daily is a feasible goal, by all means set it, in faith. In fact, we are asking that a baptismal invitation be given at the end of each first lesson, the Restoration Lesson, either the “soft” invitation, or, if the Spirit suggests that it is appropriate, make a “hard” baptismal invitation for a specific date.

We love each of you and love working with you. Our prayers are constantly given for your well-being and success.

President and Sister Middleton

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS J. DAVIS & BAKOW

“For behold, this is my WORK and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man” (Moses 1:39). Hard work is the key to success. We love you all.

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: William Hatton (Winnipeg, MB); Matthew Klekas (South Jordan, UT); Justin McAllister (Sandy, UT); Kyle Shaw (McKinney, TX)
- Sister: Brigitte D’Amours (Fauquier, ON)
Welcome to Beautiful British Columbia!



SISTER MIDDLETON IN FRONT OF MISSION HOME IN SNOWSTORM



MIDDLETONS IN FRONT OF MISSION OFFICE

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Jennifer Campbell, Robert Goddard
- Nanaimo: Scotty Forster
- Surrey: Michael Woollends
- Surrey Language: Edna Ospina Pedraza
- Vancouver: John Bohonis, Tracy May, David Ojulu
- Vancouver Language: Tao (Ruby) Jiang, Peng (James) Wang
- Vernon: Miranda Kuss, Gladys Richards, Roger Spahan-Charlie
- Victoria: Jason Guest

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING:**Elder Robert N. Gerber**

Pres. Marion G. Romney said, “Service is not something we endure on this earth so we can earn the right to live in the Celestial Kingdom. Service is the very fiber of which an exalted life in the Celestial Kingdom is made.” What greater service is there than to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ to our brothers and sisters here in British Columbia. God bless all the missionaries in this mission as they serve in this great mission.

Sister Venna R. Gerber

I truly believe 1 Ne 3:7. Also, I hope you all will go and do as you teach! Jesus taught this way. Set an example to all you come in contact. Pray often and with a sincere heart. May God bless you all!

Sister Jen Grimm

This has been an awesome experience! I have absolutely loved serving with every one of you. We have the best boss in this line of work... live it up! I know the Lord loves each and everyone of us. (1 Ne 21:16) He rejoices in the service rendered to build His kingdom here on the earth. I love you all so much!

Elder Corban Lindsay

There is no better joy than preaching the Gospel. I wish, along with Alma, that I could be an angel proclaiming this Gospel on the roof tops. Of course, I should be content with the things that I have been given and the time that I had. This Church is true; Jesus is the Christ; and Joseph Smith is His prophet. I love all of you and keep working hard.

Elder Gary Lyman

One cannot hide their true character. It shows in everything they do and say. Let us decide who we are, so like the Apostle Paul, we can say, “I am now ready... and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith” (2 Tim 4:7). With all my love, your brother in the Gospel. Peace out.

Elder Joseph Pettersson

Remember, there is no better title in the whole entire world than to be called a “disciple of Jesus Christ!” Always try to build each other up. We are on the same team!

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR NOVEMBER/
DECEMBER

- Nov 28—Van/Van Lang
- Nov 30—Surrey/Sur Lang/Abbots
- Dec 7—Nanaimo/Victoria
- Dec 13—Vernon
- Dec 15—Prince George

“Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence” D&C 72:3

NOVEMBER 21, 2006

FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES’ GOAL: HELP THE WARD MISSION PLAN SUCCEED

Nearly every ward and branch in British Columbia has now written their own Mission Plan, as *Preach My Gospel* has counseled. Those Mission Plans have been inspired by the Lord and have been distributed to the ward or branch members. Each Plan is unique to its ward or branch, and each addresses the unique needs of that particular ward or branch. Each Plan generally incorporates the stake or district-wide guidelines, which were developed in an inspired fashion by the stake and district leaders. Each stake and district has developed simple guidelines for their members, which have been incorporated for the most part into each ward and branch Mission Plan. Those stake and district guidelines call for each member or member family to bring 3 non-member friends or acquaintances per year (4 per year in the Vancouver Stake) to the Church for a Tour or to some ward or branch activity or event at which the investigator can be introduced to the Church through a Tour. Beyond that each Plan differs, with additional challenges that are unique to the ward or branch.

We counsel each of our missionary companionships to meet at least weekly with the bishop or branch president to discuss the weekly Key Indicators, which are e-mailed to each bishop and branch president. During that meeting and all other meetings with local

leaders let it be known that full-time missionaries have as their major goal to help the ward or branch Mission Plan succeed. The bishops and branch presidents are in charge of missionary work in their ward or branch and have been instructed by the Brethren that missionary work within their ward or branch is now their number 2 priority, as noted below.

PRIORITIZATION OF BISHOP'S AND BRANCH PRESIDENT'S RESPONSIBILITIES

By way of reminder we mention that as part of the Canada Vancouver Mission Coordinating Council Meeting of October 16, 2005, which was presided over by Elder Mel Perkins, our Area Seventy Authority, a very important point was made to the assembled Stake Presidents, Mission President and Temple President. It was pointed out that the Brethren had done a survey of various bishops in the Church. They listed 6 areas of bishop responsibility and asked the bishops to prioritize them in order of importance. Their survey answers appear in the graph below in the column on the left. The Brethren then gave the inspired counsel that bishops throughout the world were to reorder their priorities, and instead of having missionary oversight of their ward or branch coming in sixth out of six areas of responsibility, it should be *second*, with the only priority more important to them being that of President of the Aaronic Priesthood, as noted in the second column.

6 Areas of Responsibility of Bishops

Bishop Survey Prioritization of each Responsibility
Prioritization Asked by the Brethren

1. Presiding High Priest
2. Common Judge
3. Welfare
4. President of Aaronic Priesthood
5. Finances/Records
6. Missionary Focus in the Ward

Clearly the oversight of the missionary effort within the ward or branch has to become a very high priority item for every bishop and branch president.

Our full-time missionaries have as their primary goal in working with each ward and branch to help the bishop and branch president in their important responsibility of missionary oversight. As such, the full-time missionaries are there to facilitate, not to take over the ward's missionary program and not to work independently of the Ward Mission Plan, which has been developed under inspired guidance by the bishop or branch president and the other leaders through the ward or branch. That important concept must be embraced by our full-time missionaries as well as by each set of ward or branch leaders before the work will go forward as rapidly as the Lord would have it.

The Entire Victoria First Ward High Priest's Quorum Sets-A-Date for a Tour, By Sisters Brittany Dow (and Dionne Oliver)

“This Sunday was wonderful! The Ward Mission Plan is being written by the Victoria First Ward leaders, and we expect to have it in about 2 weeks. Sister Oliver and I both spoke in Sacrament Meeting and aimed at motivating the members. We were invited into the High Priests' class after, and we had every single one of them Set-A-Date. We have 6 Tours scheduled for this week alone. The members are really getting on board here and we love it.”

Bishop Meek Leads the Nechako Ward in Missionary Work, By Elders Andrew Bristow (and Jose Guerrero)

“We took Bishop Ron Meek, bishop of the Nechako Ward in Prince George, with us to a teaching appointment with our investigator. We had a very spiritual lesson and it was great to have Bishop Meek with us. This fast Sunday Bishop Meek stood up in Sacrament Meeting and talked about the lesson we gave. He explained to the congregation ‘You can trust these missionaries.... They teach with the Spirit.’ He later bore testimony of missionary work saying, ‘It's the responsibility of every member to do missionary work,’ and then he held up the Ward Mission Plan and asked, ‘Have we been doing our missionary work?’ Bishop Meek also explained that he and his wife have brought 9 people on Tours so far this year! He then looked at everyone and said, ‘Everyone should book a Tour with the missionaries and feel the powerful Spirit on the Tours.’ Bishop Meek is an amazing leader and has set a great example for the ward in doing missionary work.

“It is my hope and prayer that all missionaries understand the

importance of gaining the trust of the bishop. Even if it's one short exchange with the bishop, or even an appointment in his home, TEACH! Let him feel the powerful Spirit that a full-time servant of the Lord carries. Build their trust. If you gain the trust of the bishop, you can easily gain the trust of the ward.”

We love you, and love the members with whom you work to find missionary success.

President and Sister Middleton

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto man” Col 3: 23



NOVEMBER 28, 2006

ELDER SPENCER J. CONDIE SHARES A GREAT NEW MEMBER FELLOWSHIPING IDEA

We recently learned of a great system to integrate new members into the Church from Elder Spencer J. Condie, who is a First Quorum of the Seventy member and valued friend and mentor now serving as the New Zealand/Pacific Island Area President. He shared with us an idea for rapidly and effectively fellowshipping new members into the Church which was developed in one of the wards he oversees. That ward assigns four different member families to have the new member(s) over to their home for Family Home Evening and dinner on four consecutive Monday evenings. Over their first month, therefore, a new member becomes a close friend with four different families in the ward, and fellowshipping and integration of the new member into the Church is aided and accelerated immensely. If this system from “down under” would work in wards or branches here in B.C., we would urge that you adopt it, and we thank Elder Condie for sharing the idea with us.

HARD WORK BRINGS BLESSINGS

The definite correlation between hard work and missionary success is clearly evident in the Key Indicators Reports received

each week. Whereas six of our nine zones averaged 15 or more “full” lessons per companionship in the week ending Nov. 12, the Vernon Zone reported 20 average full lessons, and had two companionships reach 31 full lessons each! (Congratulations to Elders Callin Morrill, Abram Howard, Trenton Amann and Andrew Johnson for achieving that number.) As a result of that work output the Lord blessed the Vernon Zone with 11 investigators with a baptismal date by the week ending Nov. 19, and despite the disruptions of it being Transfer Week, the Vernon Zone even averaged 15.1 full lessons that week. Clearly hard work brings blessings!

President Hinckley made the observation that, “Nothing happens in the Church unless you work. It is like a wheelbarrow. It doesn’t move until you get hold of the two handles and push. Hard work moves the work of the Lord forward, and if you have learned to work with real integrity it will bless your lives forever. I mean that with all my heart. It will bless your lives forever.”

We understand that Transfer Week was disruptive to the work of several of our companionships, but we urge all our missionaries to reach the 15 or more full lessons weekly again and keep above 15 consistently. The blessings promised by Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi to his missionaries and to each of us of baptizing at least monthly with that level of work output will come true.

Preach My Gospel Teaches Members How to be Successful Missionaries, By Elders Benjamin Zufelt (and Peter Stevenson)

“Elder Ballard made the statement that there was a wall between the members and the missionaries. I realize now what that wall is. The leaders of the ward and leaders all over the world have come

out of the ‘rudimentary’ memorization form of missionary work. When they served as missionaries years ago they were taught to be ‘Full-time Missionaries’ and when they went home, many did not know how to be a member missionary. Today we are in the ‘*Preach My Gospel* Era.’ I came across an interesting statement on page xi of the Introduction under the section ‘Use by Ward Missionaries and Leaders.’ It states that ‘*Preach My Gospel* is for the full-time missionaries of the Church. However, the principles and doctrines taught herein are also applicable to ward missionaries and leaders as they seek to build the Lord’s kingdom.’ Then it makes this statement regarding members: ‘Frequent study of this manual will enable them to fulfill their responsibilities as member missionaries and will foster unity with the full-time missionaries.’

“As full-time missionaries it is imperative for us to learn how to become member missionaries so that we can teach the ‘rote-memorization era missionaries’ how to be member missionaries along with the other members of the Church. The way to learn to be a member missionary is through *PMG*. *PMG* teaches members how to be missionaries and prepares full-time missionaries to be member missionaries upon being released from our full-time missions..

“We have switched our focus in working with the members to teaching them how to use *Preach My Gospel*.”

Youth-Oriented Video Made in Abbotsford First Ward, by Elders Alexander Bitting (and Daniel Roy)

“This has been my best week in the mission! For the past two weeks the Ward Mission Leader, Bro. Blair Porowski, Elder Roy, and I have been coming up with some awesome ideas to get people excited!

We wanted to focus our efforts with the youth. So with a combination of talents we made a video using the youth that focuses on the importance of Chapel Tours. After a full day of editing the film was completed. This past Tuesday we had a Youth Fireside in the ward. It wasn’t one of those firesides where the kids just sit there and listen to a speaker. They were actually participating in a few activities we had planned with the Ward Mission Leader. We stressed the importance of members in the conversion and retention of people coming into the Gospel. We premiered the youth movie and it was a hit! Everyone loved it and we concluded with each youth receiving their very own ‘Ether Rock.’ Each youth Set-A-Date to bring someone on a Tour, writing the date on the rock. We set 16 dates in one night and most of the youth already have someone in mind! They are excited and the leaders were excited! Forty people were in attendance including two non-members who are on the brink of conversion. We now have a total of 26 dates and more are to follow in the near future! Everyone is feeling the urgency as we share our goals with the members, and they are thinking about inviting those around them.

“I had the opportunity to speak last Sunday in Sacrament Meeting and pointed out that Satan knows there is a Temple going to be built here. He doesn’t want the missionaries or members to succeed. Many members thanked me for the reminder, and many are now setting goals to assist our Heavenly Father in ‘bringing to pass the immortality and eternal life’ (Moses 1:39) of our Father’s children.”

We love you, and we so much appreciate that you are demonstrating your love for the Lord by your enthusiasm and hard work.

President and Sister Middleton

“Therefore, strengthen your brethren in all your conversation, in all your prayers, in all your exhortations, and in all your doings” D&C 108:7

DECEMBER 5, 2006

CANADA REGIONAL CONFERENCE— A MISSIONARY FOCUS

The Canada Regional Conference on November 19, 2006, was inspirational and very uplifting. To hear words of counsel from our own Prophet, Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, as well as from Elder M. Russell Ballard of the Quorum of the Twelve, and Elder R. Conrad Shultz was extraordinary. We were particularly pleased that much of the focus was on missionary work, and several wonderful missionary ideas were presented.

REACH OUT TO FRIENDS AND ACQUAINTANCES

Elder Schultz noted that for each member family to develop a Gospel-sharing home is not a program, but rather should be a way of life. He urged every member to invite friends into the flow of their family, and pointed out that friends and relatives have earned the right to hear the Gospel message and see a Gospel-centered family in action. As friends of members start lessons with the full-time missionaries, the members ideally should be present in the lessons to give support, help answer questions and bear their testimony. He also pointed out that members need to make themselves available to the full-time missionaries to become fellowshippers for their investigators. President Hinckley focused on fellowshipping as well when he urged that we all reach out with love to every convert. He counseled that every new convert should be given a calling early, and he plead with us as members and families to be so welcoming that there is no more loss of new members into inactivity.

INVITE INVESTIGATORS TO BAPTISMS

Elder Schultz urged that we gain a list of four to six friends or relatives of those to be baptized and then invite them to come to the baptism. While at the baptismal service these friends and relatives will feel the Spirit and the warm and inviting camaraderie of the saints. He made the excellent suggestion that while the new convert is dressing after the baptism that the full-time missionaries give a 10-minute rendition of the Restoration Lesson, so that the non-members present might learn of the reason why their friend or

relative was baptized. Of course the non-member should be taken on a Tour and further introduction to the Church on the day of the baptism, or an appointment should be made to do so. Elder Schultz noted that two of very five non-members who attend a baptism go on to lessons. If the person being baptized is a child, Elder Schultz urged that the Primary teacher make up invitations for that child's non-member friends and relatives.

Let us all focus on each and every baptism as a proselyting opportunity, as the Brethren have so wonderfully and forcefully urged, that each baptism might lead to additional baptisms.

CAMPBELL RIVER WARD DEVELOPS “SMILEY FACE” MISSION PLAN

We were privileged to drive to Campbell River for a Ward Dinner on November 11 and then stayed over to speak at Sacrament Meeting on November 12 and to a Fireside that night to which six investigators plus several less-active members came. We were pleased to see the new Ward Mission Plan, which challenges each member to bring four or more “families and/or individuals” each year to a Tour of the chapel. The Plan is distributed with “Smiley Face” stickers, with boxes along the lower border of the Plan to which a sticker is applied each time someone is brought on a Tour.

Congratulations to the Ward Mission Leader, Bill Mackie, and to Bishop Leonard Aspden and the rest of the ward leadership for their great, novel idea. Especially for families with children this idea will spark great interest.

A Baptism and Many Investigators From Tours in the Victoria 2nd Ward, by Elders Maclain Miles (and Brandon Loong)

“Things here in Victoria are going really well. Bishop Frank Hitchmough is thoroughly on board; he has taken seven people on Tours so far. We also have 30 Tours set up with the families in the ward. This Saturday we are getting our first baptism out of the Tours, so Tours really do work! We also have some awesome investigators that are progressing.”

Editor's note: The members of the Victoria 2nd Ward are following the lead and example of their inspired bishop, Bishop Frank Hitchmough. We are observing the same phenomenon throughout B.C., that members will do what their leaders show them they should do through their own example coupled with loving, enthusiastic exhortation to their members to do likewise.

We love you, and love working with you and our marvelous, faithful members in this Christmas season.

President and Sister Middleton

*“Be faithful and diligent in
keeping the commandments of
God, and I will encircle thee in
the arms of my love” D&C 6:20*



UNTO US A CHILD IS GIVEN

DECEMBER 2006

DECEMBER 12, 2006

FOR SUCCESS, AVOID DOWN TIME

The close correlation between hard work and missionary success is becoming ever increasingly evident. Companionships which consistently have 15 or more full lessons each week are being blessed by the Lord with increasing numbers of investigators with baptismal dates. In missionary work perhaps more than any other aspect of life the promise made by the Lord holds true when He said, “I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise” (D&C 82:10).

President Ezra Taft Benson made the same observation in a

slightly different way when he said, “I have often said one of the greatest secrets of missionary work is work! If a missionary works, he will get the Spirit; if he gets the Spirit, he will teach by the Spirit; and if he teaches by the Spirit, he will touch the hearts of the people and he will be happy.... Work, work, work—there is no satisfactory substitute, especially in missionary work” (*PMG*, pg. 121).

Elders Donald Fewkes (and Taylor Zmoos) Have Success Through Hard Work

Noting that Elders Fewkes and Zmoos had 2 Chinese baptisms last week, one scheduled this week and another one next week, we

asked what their secret to success was. Elder Fewkes answered, “It isn’t much of a secret. We simply have no down time. We strive to fill every minute of every day and achieve 15 or more full lessons in the process.”

His answer was both simple and profound in its wisdom. We succeed and are blessed as missionaries when we work hard. When we plan vigorously, hitting the phone every night to fill the next day

with focused, well-organized work, filling each day to capacity and then some, managing our time so that we spend no more than one hour with any investigator or member, then we are blessed, as Elders Fewkes and Zmoos have been.

Sister Caitlin Morgan of the Campbell River Ward Tells of Her Conversion and the Impact of Tours

“Before I heard about the Latter-Day Saints Church, I thought that if we led a good life we would go to heaven, and if we didn’t, well tough luck. But I also didn’t think God had a plan for each one of His children. I told my LDS friend Geoff Marr that, and in the nicest way possible he told me I was all wrong. He told me about all of the different glories of heaven, and I liked that idea. Then somehow we started talking about Joseph Smith, and how the people treated him, and I didn’t know what to think. Geoff asked me to come back to his house, and we read some of the *Book of Mormon*. He gave me his old one, and asked me to read it. I took it home, and it sat on my bed side table for probably a week. I was afraid of it. It just sat there, staring at me. Finally, Geoff asked me if I had read any of it, and I said no. He challenged me to read it that night, and then pray to see if it was true. I was so nervous; my heart was beating out of my chest. I read the first chapter of the first book of Nephi, and I didn’t understand any of it at all. But I prayed about it, and I felt the Spirit tell me it was true.

“I then went on a Tour of the chapel with the missionaries. Geoff insisted, and I finally said okay. Elder Anderson and Elder Wilhite led the Tour. The Spirit was so strong during the Tour, and they gave me the first two lessons afterwards! Two of them!! Elder Anderson told me about Joseph Smith, and I thought in my head, “I am getting



MIDDLETONS IN FRONT OF
SNOW BANK IN FRONT OF MISSION OFFICE

baptized.” I don’t even think I knew what baptism was yet, or that people did it when they were my age, but I swear that’s what I thought! This all happened towards the end of February. The missionaries set a date for me to be baptized on March 11th, but my parents said no, so we decided on April 8th, the weekend after General Conference. So it was a little more than a month after I met with the missionaries for the first time. I think Tours are very effective, and we should be bringing more people on Tours. I already have a few people lined up!

“This was truly the best thing that I have ever done. I know that my Heavenly Father loves me very much. The Lord knew that I needed the Gospel, and it couldn’t have come at a better time. I know that the Prophet Joseph Smith restored the Gospel to the earth today. I am so very grateful for that. My Savior Jesus Christ took upon Himself the sins of the world. He died for me and for you. He died for everyone. I love Him for that. I love hearing from the apostles and the prophet, because I know that they are receiving direct revelation from Heavenly Father. The Lord continues to bless my life, and it never ceases to amaze me at the wonderful blessings I receive from being a member of the everlasting gospel.”

**Point Out Blessings From the Lord to Obtain
Member Family Referrals, by Elders Logan Rasmussen
(and Justin Wilhite)**

“We just recently baptized a family of three. We came in contact with them through a member family. (We have all heard it time and time again—member referrals are the way to go.) Elder Wilhite and I had decided after a long day of proselyting that we were really going to start pressing member referrals with all members we visited. We

had looked at previous experiences, areas, and situations and realized that in the past, many members were sometimes reluctant to give them.

“In devising an approach to make members more willing and comfortable in letting us meet their friends, we concluded that we needed to be more bold and persuasive, but at the same time demonstrating our great love towards them. We found that the best way of obtaining referrals was to show the members the blessings they already had in their lives from the Gospel. Sometimes as members I think we all take things for granted and fail to notice our everyday blessings. As we pointed out their blessings, they began to truly feel the Spirit. As they did so, then we asked them whom they know who would be willing to accept the same blessings into their life. We’ve seen this approach work because the Spirit helps the individual at that very moment. Through this approach we were introduced to a family of non-members and were able to share the blessings a member family enjoys every day. The referred family is now baptized and looking forward to attending the temple.

“Our advice to all missionaries: work with the families of your ward, gain their trust, and show them you are responsible and fully engaged in the work. Then member families will introduce you to their friends.”

We love you, and love working with you and our marvelous, faithful members in this Christmas season.

President and Sister Middleton

*“And again, it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might win the prize”
Mosiah 4:27*

DECEMBER 19. 2006

UNTO US A CHILD IS GIVEN*

May we take this opportunity to wish you each and every one a wonderful, memorable Christmas. Together we share the opportunity to give the greatest gift we ever will give, the gift of eternal, celestial life through a knowledge of the Savior and His teachings. Christmastime is unlike any other time in the year, as people throughout British Columbia open their hearts and their doors to us that we might tell them about Christ. Much the way merchants view December as their most successful sales month of the year, so it is with missionary work. We will find Canadians more receptive to our message about Jesus Christ this month than at any other time of the year.



INCOMING MISSIONARIES DYE, CARIBOU, AND DOUGLAS WITH THE MIDDLETONS AT THE AIRPORT

MY FIRST MISSION CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

The Christmases you spend in the mission field are always the most memorable Christmases of your life. My first missionary Christmas was in Norwich, England. My companion and I went tracting on Christmas Day. Whereas tracting then in Norwich was much like tracting now in BC, with most households refusing to hear our Gospel message, on Christmas Day things were quite different. We were welcomed into every home, with no exceptions. We found the entire family home, and every family was receptive to what we now call a “full lesson” of 30 minutes! No other day in the mission was as sublimely glorious; no other Christmas in my life was quite so memorable.

We invite each of our missionaries to make Christmas Day as memorable for you as it was for me years ago in Norwich, England. Do call home to wish your family well, but limit the call to one hour or less so that you might spend as much of the day in the Lord’s missionary work as possible. Visit your investigators with a Christmas message, and plan on tracting much of the day prepared to be warmly received everywhere. Brief visits with members on Christmas Day might be in order, but spend most of Christmas Day in personal finding. We predict that it will be the most productive day of your mission.

Tracting with Inspiration, by Elders Jeffrey Davis (and Russell Nebeker)

“One day this week I went into a room of our house and prayed for direction. I grabbed a map that was nearby and my attention

was drawn to 57th Avenue, and we were inspired to tract there. It was snowing quite hard which I think helped to soften the hearts of the people with whom we spoke. We knocked on the only house that had Christmas lights on and an Indian family answered. They weren’t interested but before leaving we asked them if they knew of any Spanish people on that street. The mom said no and she was just about to shut the door when her four-year-old son spoke up and said there was a Spanish family two houses down. (It pays to ask everyone for a referral, no matter how old they are.) We knocked on the door and sure enough, a Spanish lady answered. She wasn’t too interested, and she said her daughter was too sick for us to come in anyway. We spoke up boldly and told her that the Lord had sent us to give her daughter a blessing. The Spirit overcame her as she invited us in. The blessing was powerful, and the Spirit was strong. The mom was brought to tears as she told us how she had been praying that God would heal her daughter and then she said that she knew God had sent us. It’s because of experiences like this that I will never give up on tracting. We now have a return appointment to teach their family of seven about the Restoration.”

Our Lesson of Nephi Building the Ship, a Good Missionary Tool, by Sisters Tracy Lynn Whiting (and Coleen Murray)

As we meet with member families we hand out pieces of colored construction paper to everyone there (including parents and us). We ask the members, ‘who built a ship in the Book of Mormon?’ They point out it was Nephi. We then ask the members to build a ship from the paper without tearing or tape. So they try and can’t build a stable one. We read Nephi 17:8 where Nephi is commanded to build the ship. We point out that the members didn’t ask us how to make the ship, but Nephi in verse 9 asked God where to find the tools to

make their ship. Then we tell the members that we are just there to help them, and when others start to persecute them like Laman and Lemuel persecuted Nephi (we read verse 5), and as we continue to pray for guidance (like in Nephi 18:3), the Lord will help us with missionary work! Just like he helped Nephi! All we need to do is ask!

“Then we commit the member to either set-a-date or pray about a date. Then when the member sets their date, they write it on their boat. We have magnets that we leave with the members so they can put their ‘ship to the Promised Land’ or ‘date for a Tour’ on their refrigerator!

“Andrew Cooper was so excited about the lesson; he had three non-members over to his house for a mini fireside. One of those non-members came to Church today! We are so excited!”

Editor’s note: Sisters Whiting and Murray have presented a wonderful, novel idea. If it will work elsewhere, please try it and let us know how it works.

Finally, may we tell you each how much we love you, and extend to you our warmest wishes for Christmas. That this might be your most memorable Christmas ever is our prayer.

President and Sister Middleton

“Lift up your head and be of good cheer; for behold, the time is at hand, and on this night shall the sign be given, and on the morrow come I into the world...” 3 Nephi 1:13

*See Isaiah 9:6 and 2 Nephi 19:6

DECEMBER 27, 2006

A TIME FOR REFLECTION, RESOLUTION

As 2006 has come to a close we feel it is appropriate that we each make time to reflect on the year, and give thanks to the Lord for the many blessings He has showered upon us. As a mission we have been blessed to experience a quickening of the Spirit. Our baptisms in 2006 have significantly increased, with 201 convert baptisms in British Columbia through Christmas. In 2005 there were 176 baptisms, while



CAROLERS AT BUTCHART GARDENS

in 2004 there were 155. Overall this improving growth reflects the fact that our Father in Heaven is blessing His Church in BC. Looking for the component parts leading to His blessings is useful, for the Lord blesses us in proportion to our faith and dedication (“*I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.*” D & C 82:10)

COMPONENTS OF SUCCESS

Reflecting on what we did well and what we might do better is helpful. We urge each missionary to list his or her personal experiences on paper as we now list what we feel are some of the helpful mission-wide points of endeavor through which the Lord has blessed us as a mission:

- *Exact obedience.* As a mission we have seen steady improvement in the personally controllable obedience issues—every missionary up by 6:15 a.m., thirty minutes of aerobic exercise, two hours of focused intense personal and companionship study (with one extra hour for the language missionaries), at least one hour of personal finding, and proselyting rather than eating during “Prime Time” (5-9 p.m.) Without exact obedience the Lord will not likely bless us with success.
- *Better time management.* In order to see as many people as possible in a day, we are learning to limit each appointment to one hour or less and are striving to fill each day fully.
- *Better planning.* Upon arriving at our apartments by 8:30 p.m.

(occasionally later if circumstances require), we are immediately calling the next day’s appointments to confirm and then fill gaps in the schedule with calls to members to go on a Spiritual Tour of the Chapel or to some other teaching activity.

- *Fifteen or more “full lessons” each week.* This goal, given to us by Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi during his tour of BC, worked well for his



ASSISTANTS BITTING AND BAKOW
AT THE LEE'S WESTBANK CHRISTMAS DINNER

missionaries when he was a mission president to assure one or more baptisms each month. While several missionaries were skeptical initially that they could attain this level, now most of our companionships do so routinely and many exceed 20 full lessons each week, and the promised blessings from the Lord are coming true.

- *Focus on making each ward and branch Mission Plan succeed.* Our pre-eminent goal is to help the bishop/branch president and mission leader make their Mission Plan succeed. While nearly every ward and branch has now developed its own Mission Plan during 2006, as urged by *Preach My Gospel*, each Plan has its unique characteristics, and we are stepping forth boldly to help the ward/branch leaders achieve their specific Plan goals.
- *Integrating into wards and branches.* In years gone by missionaries spent all of each day in personal finding (tracting, “shop,” etc.) while the members viewed their role as little more than feeding the missionaries from time to time. *PMG* makes it clear that the best success in terms of productive, efficient finding, and in subsequent new convert retention is found when all members function as true member missionaries, with the full-time missionaries effectively integrated into all ward functions to facilitate members becoming effective member missionaries.
- *Members finding and bringing three or more acquaintances each year.* Nearly all ward or branch Mission Plans call upon each member or member family to bring three acquaintances/friends per year on a Spiritual Tour of their Chapel, or to a ward/branch activity which can be coupled with a Tour to optimally present the all-important Restoration Lesson. Numerous examples of the positive impact of a well-given spiritual Tour have been

presented in the *STAR* in 2006, and our increasing baptisms are linked to their impact, which bring the Spirit to the investigator in a powerful way to testify of the truth of our message. Members are still learning how to be member missionaries, how it always requires “asking many to find the few” whom the Lord has prepared as His “elect.”

- *Spiritual Tours of the Chapel given often, to improve and refine teaching skills.* The ideal use of a Spiritual Chapel Tour is when every ward/branch member or member family organizes their year as member missionaries by establishing a Set-A-Tour-Date



LIGHTED TREE AT BUTCHART GARDENS

every three to four months. One of every seven investigators who first learns of the Church through a Spiritual Tour goes on to baptism, as our BC experience has shown. Members often are invited to go on a Spiritual Tour on short notice, even one day or same day notice, to allow the missionaries to practice and refine their lesson-giving skills. We are asking members to be prepared to offer constructive criticism to the missionaries at the conclusion of the Tour so that the quality of their teaching can be improved.

These and a few other components constitute the Lord's plan to achieve increasing Church growth in BC. We know now how to realize the Church growth in BC prophesied by Elder Henry B. Eyring in March of 2005 when he told us from the pulpit in Nanaimo, "I am clear that the Lord is going to build the Church in this area in a powerful way, and beyond what you might expect.... substantial growth is before us... by my human judgment it will be a miracle." Our job in 2007 both as full-time and member missionaries is to embrace and perfect these tools He has provided for us.

That we might each and every one learn to incorporate all of these missionary methods into our finding and teaching in 2007 is our prayer. We love you, and pray for the Lord's richest blessings to be showered upon you.

President and Sister Middleton

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elder: Cory Douglas (Pleasant View, UT)
- Sisters: Crystal Caribou (Flin Flon, MB); Te'Ama Dye (Bountiful, UT)

- Couple: Veon & Mary Hatch (100 Mile House, BC)

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder Taylor Earl Edwards

AMEN!

Elder Jonathan Vance Kano

Matt 6:21 "For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Find your treasure, and that is where your heart will be. Peace.

Sister Lindsay Antonia Leavitt

I can honestly say God has filled my soul with exceeding joy. God has transformed me. I am a firm believer of 2 Timothy 1:7, "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." God lives, the *Book of Mormon* is my shield. I cannot go a day without it. Lose yourself in the work. He will fill your soul.

Elder Steven Carl McGrath

"Life is sometimes unpredictable. But in the end it's right, so I hope you had the time of your life" (Green Day). Enjoy what you have because you are not always going to have it. To my boys, J. Wilhite and H. Heaton, I wasn't the best trainer, but do your best! "O be wise; what can I say more?" (Jacob 6:12)

Elder Daniel Jonathan Roy

I know that Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ live, and He loves all His children. Our job is to show that love to the wonderful people of British Columbia. How blessed and how privileged we are

to be representatives of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to the people of BC.

Elder Nathan William Seegmiller

My beloved friends, it has been great serving around you up here in Canada land. It has definitely been an adventure! Remember, you have two years to serve the Lord and the rest of your life to talk about it. D&C 31:3 “Lift up your heart and rejoice, for the hour of your mission is come; and your tongue shall be loosed, and you shall declare glad tidings of great joy unto this generation.”

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford:
- Nanaimo: James Emery, Stephen Faires, Sarah Jim, FuShing Ma
- Prince George:
- Surrey: Carlin Fothergill, Ivette Urroz, Robertlyn Zeigler
- Surrey Language: Rainbow Chen, Vivian Chen, Audrey Soong
- Vancouver: Steven Chan
- Van Language: Jorge Alfaro, Rudy Ventura, Angela Xiong
- Vernon: Coreen Geisheimer, Miranda Kuss
- Victoria: Jason Guest, Victoria Lan, Derek Soule

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS BAKOW & BITTING

At the closing of the year we would like to congratulate all of our fellow hard-working missionaries for the heartfelt service you give. This year our mission has improved dramatically in more ways than one. It seems that the way things are going next year will be as they say, “epic.” Now it’s time to make our New Year’s resolutions. We must

step up to the plate and show our Father in Heaven that we truly are serving with all our heart, might, mind, and strength that we may qualify ourselves for all the blessings that He has in store. Show your love for the Lord by selflessly forgetting yourself in this work. We love you and are pleased with your efforts to “aid in this cause that is worthy of archangels” (Joseph Smith).

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR JANUARY

- Jan 4—Van/Van Lang
- Jan 11—Surrey/Sur Lang/Abbots
- Jan 18—Nanaimo/Victoria
- Jan 24—Vernon
- Jan 26—Pr George

“Organize yourselves; prepare every needful thing; and establish a house even a house of prayer, a house of fasting, a house of faith, a house of learning, a house of glory, a house of order, a house of God.” John 7:17



ASKING SEVERAL TO FIND THE ONE

JANUARY–FEBRUARY 2007

JANUARY 2, 2007

ASK SEVERAL TO FIND THE ONE

First, may we wish all of you a very happy and prosperous new year. The prosperity which we wish for you is a missionary prosperity that you might find, teach and baptize at an accelerating rate, that you will be blessed with good health, that your families at home will be blessed through your dedicated missionary service. We pray that you will grow during 2007 in your testimony, in your teaching and organizational skills, in your Gospel knowledge and in your love for the Lord.

THE ESSENCE OF MISSIONARY SUCCESS—ASK MANY

Reflecting on the nature of missionary work reveals that the process is always the same—we ask several to find the few who are prepared by the Lord to learn of His restored Church, His “elect.” It has ever been so. As we read of the missionary labors of the saints in ancient times in the scriptures, throughout the *Old* and *New Testament*, and throughout the *Book of Mormon*, missionaries have always had to present their invitation to learn of Christ and His Gospel to many people before finding the few elect of the Lord. The same is true in this last Dispensation. While their message was initially ignored by many, faithful Church members have heeded the command of the Lord when he told them, “And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect; for mine elect hear my voice and



harden not their hearts” (D&C 29:7). Undaunted, faithful Church members have continued to ask as many acquaintances as is needed until they find one who consents to come with them to a Spiritual Tour of the Chapel, or to a Church dinner or activity which can be coupled with a Spiritual Tour.

MISSIONARY WORK IS MUCH THE SAME FOR FULL-TIME AND MEMBER MISSIONARIES

All full-time missionaries know and understand the concept of having to ask many to find the few. Even the very best full-time missionaries must ask several hundred through tracting, GQing, etc. before they find the one who goes on to baptism. When members ask their acquaintances, on the other hand, they ask far fewer than is necessary for full-time missionaries to ask before finding the one, but nonetheless they must ask several to find the few.

Members don't yet understand this concept. They must be lovingly, patiently taught that if they Set-A-Date for themselves, a date by which they will have found an acquaintance to come with them to a Spiritual Tour of their Chapel with the full-time missionaries, or to a Church dinner or activity which can be coupled with a Spiritual Tour, they will likely need to ask 5, 10 or more acquaintances before they find the one who will come with them. They must be patiently taught that their member missionary work is very similar to the work of full-time missionaries in that regard. To accomplish the member missionary work the Lord has asked of them in *Preach My Gospel*, and in the thousands of talks given by the Brethren on the subject of how

STEVE AND BEA ON LYNN VALLEY SUSPENSION BRIDGE

all members must become missionaries, members must understand that they will need to ask several to find the few. It is a winnowing process the Lord has asked us to do, sifting through several before the elect is found. To succeed, members must embrace the concept that they must keep asking with the same upbeat enthusiasm with each friend until they find the one.

EVERY ACTIVE MEMBER KNOWS SOMEONE WHOM THE LORD HAS PREPARED

Elder Gene R. Cook has made the excellent observation that there are hundreds if not thousands of the Lord's elect living in all missions including in BC whom the Lord has already prepared through their life experiences to receive and accept an invitation to learn about the Church. It is likely that every Church member in BC even now knows someone who is the Lord's elect, but members won't know until they ask which of their acquaintances is that elect. They must lovingly be taught that they should ask repeatedly until they find the one. With faith they must be taught that that person or family who is prepared is already known by them. They then must ask lovingly but boldly several to find the one. When all members fully embrace their important calling as a member missionary, a calling which every Church member accepts by virtue of being a member, the missionary work in their ward or branch will accelerate immensely.

Greater than 15 Full Lessons Brings Blessings, by Elders Russell Nebeker (and Joseph Pettersson)

“We were worried about Rudy, one of our investigators, but he came to Church today and all is well. We had seven non-members at Church today, so I can tell you that going over 15 full lessons really does bring promised blessings.”

Talks and Member Spiritual Tours Lead Members to Set-A-Date Commitments, by Sisters Jill Berrett (and Kristiana Bardardottir)

“Several weeks ago Sister Little and I had planned with the Branch Council in the YSA Branch to have a Sacrament Meeting dedicated to missionary efforts, and specifically the Spiritual Tours. I was asked to give a talk. Inspired by the talk given to us by Elder Ronald Rasband, and with much divine help as I prepared, I knew that my words were what Heavenly Father wanted the branch members to hear, not simply what I wanted to say to them. In my talk I told them about our need to find Heavenly Father's “elect” (D& C 29:7) and the effort that it is going to take on each member's part. I then felt strongly that they needed to know why all of the missionaries are so focused on the Spiritual Tour of the Chapel, so I shared with them the idea that by focusing on this finding tool all of us will become the best at it that we can. I shared with them a few of the Spiritual Tours that Sister Little and I had been able to give with some of the YSA members and their friends, and then asked them to think of how those Spiritual Tours would have felt to one of their friends or neighbors who had never felt the Spirit. The Spirit was very strong in the meeting, and

our Relief Society President was able to keep that Spirit going into Relief Society.

“Before the Relief Society lesson she shared her own experience of coming on a Spiritual Tour with us. She then passed a calendar around the room, asking the sisters to sign up for a day that they could come on a Spiritual Tour with us. The calendar filled up, and we have at least three people signed up every week until the end of next month. I realized how much these sisters wanted to help us—they just needed a little more information combined with a very powerful Spirit.”

That we might boldly invite many to find the one is our prayer for each of our full-time missionaries and members.

President and Sister Middleton

*“Be not afraid, only believe”
Mark 5:36*

JANUARY 9, 2007

COMMENTS ABOUT OUR 15 FULL LESSONS WEEKLY MISSION GOAL

When Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi toured our mission, he gave us several excellent, inspired and very practical ideas for our missionary labors, ideas by which we might reach President Gordon B. Hinckley’s challenge to double our baptisms. He has followed our mission’s progress since his tour and sent us a succinct summary of his thoughts on how to be a successful missionary recently, a copy of which we have shared with our missionaries last transfer. We focus in this STAR on Elder Kikuchi’s challenge to us in regard to striving toward more “full lessons” (30 or more minutes of teaching focused on a lesson or principle in *PMG*):

“Teach full lessons—planned with prayer—of 30-45 minutes or more. Increase the number of full lessons and teach 2 or 3 everyday until you are reaching up to 18 lessons per week. The mission should average eventually 15-18 full lessons in a week.”

Elder Kikuchi went on to observe, “When the mission averages 12-13 or more full lessons each week by each companionship, then convert baptisms will at least double. When the mission averages 15-18 full lessons per week by all companion sets, convert baptisms will increase even more.” Elder Kikuchi has promised that the Canada Vancouver Mission will more than double its baptisms when the goal of 15 or more full lessons is attained weekly by each companionship!!



LYDIA AND RICHARD WITH PRESIDENT MIDDLETON



LYDIA AND RICHARD WITH ELDERS ZMOOS AND ROBERTS

WHY DOES A MISSION AVERAGE OF 15, PLUS FULL LESSONS, MORE THAN DOUBLE BAPTISMS?

To achieve Elder Kikuchi's challenge requires intense, focused, hard work. It requires making many phone calls each evening to confirm the next day's appointments, and to fill in gaps in the next day's schedule with member or non-member Spiritual Tours and lessons. Elder Kikuchi noted a few other components in missionary success, all of which will be realized by any companionship achieving 15 or more full lessons weekly. Those components include member



YSA VANCOUVER KITCHEN ANGELS

referrals, the KEY to success (his emphasis); exact obedience in morning schedule (“the morning is the symbol of our resurrection”); challenges to “eternal investigators” to progress; working with non-member spouses and children in part-member families; achieving companionship unity; finding more faith, “like unto the sons of Nephi in the Book of Helaman” (Hel 3:27-28); contacting many people daily by “your own finding;” and mastering all the lessons so that “you can teach your investigators with power and authority at anytime (emphasis by Elder Kikuchi). To this list he added the importance of presenting Joseph Smith's account of the First Vision using Elder Kikuchi's style: “present it speaking slowly (15 miles per hour speed), with a prayerful, humble attitude with the power and authority of God.”

All of these attributes can and will be realized by each member of a companionship which averages over 15 full lessons weekly. That is why the goal of 15 or more full lessons is so important, and the results of compliance with his admonition will be so great!

FIFTEEN PLUS FULL LESSONS WEEKLY BY EVERY ZONE

Understanding the importance of Elder Kikuchi's challenge, our missionaries achieved 15 or more full lessons for the week ending Dec. 24th in 6 of our 9 zones (20.8 average full lessons that week by the Victoria Zone, with Sisters Brittany Dow and Dionne Oliver reaching 40 full lessons that week)! Our mission averaged 15.2 full lessons for that week! Congratulations are in order. Our goal of having every zone average over 15 full lessons weekly is within sight.

We would challenge every companionship to reach 15 or more

full lessons weekly. Of course that isn't always possible, if sickness or other problems beyond your control intervene. But if healthy, we would challenge all to reach 15 or more full lessons. As Elder Kikuchi has promised, and as our missionaries are finding, the Lord will bless you. If you serve in a ward or wards with many members, a companionship goal of 20 or more full lessons would be more realistic. The commitments obtained at the end of each full lesson, of course, play an important role in the increased baptisms realized by reaching at least 15 full lessons each week.

Spiritual Chapel Tours Bring Success in North Vancouver, by Elders Scott Marianno (and Kelby Godfrey)

“The Church Spiritual Tour program is finding success in North Vancouver. The North Shore Ward currently has 15 Tours set up in accordance with Elder Ballard’s Set-A-Date Program. We recently gave a Tour to a non-member visiting from Las Vegas. She is married to a less-active member who ‘invited her to attend Church while she was in Canada.’ The Spiritual Tour sparked her interest in the Church as well as introduced her to the message of the Restoration. The Spirit was strong as we testified in the chapel of the truthfulness of the First Vision. She now has a baptismal date set for later this month. We attribute her success to the Spiritual Tour, which enabled her to become familiar with the Church before Sunday services as well as the member support system that was immediately built when two members came along on the Tour with her. The Spiritual Tour Program works!

“In regard to the Spiritual Tour Program and less-actives, Elder David A. Bednar in his recent conference address has invited all less-active members to come back into fellowship in the Church. The Church Spiritual Tour Program is an excellent tool in rekindling the fire that may have been lost in inactivity. We recently gave a Tour to a less-active member who had years before been baptized in the

North Shore Chapel. After refreshing his memory on the wonderful programs of the Church, showing him the exact place where he covenanted to always remember Jesus Christ and to keep His commandments, we shared the familiar message of the Restoration using Elder Kikuchi’s technique of speaking slowly with great power and solemnity. His response after our testimonies was, ‘What can I do to come back?’ The Spiritual Tours can help rekindle that testimony that may have been smothered by offenses, addiction, or other causes. It is ultimately their choice whether or not to come back, and some may not, even after a strong witness of the Spirit. But we can extend our arm out and invite those who have left the fold to no longer cut themselves off from the blessings of the Restored Gospel by inviting them on a Spiritual Tour of their Chapel. It works!”

That we might each become more powerful missionary tools in the Lord’s hands by striving mightily to achieve the objectives outlined above which were given through inspiration to Elder Kikuchi, one of the Lord’s Anointed, is our fervent prayer for the coming year. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“A great and marvelous work is about to come forth among the children of men... Behold, the field is white already to harvest”
D&C 11:1-3*

JANUARY 16, 2007

HARD WORK, THE SOURCE OF TRUE JOY

So many people in today's world try to obtain joy and happiness in their lives through the superficial life styles proclaimed as desirable by the media and many misguided but prominent sports figures, politicians, business leaders and others. Their message is beguiling and sounds glamorous and attractive, until we realize that



MIDDLETONS AND CURRYS

a life of partying, promiscuity, and profligate high living ultimately leads to misery and woe. The Lord makes an important observation in this regard when He states, "The wages of sin is death" (Rom 6:23). Bishop David Smith, a wonderful bishop in Vernon and a practicing psychiatrist, made an important observation recently about people who need his professional services. While many of his patients develop mental problems through no fault of their own, Bishop Smith noted that a significant percentage of them would never have reached the point of anguish and despair which required his professional services if they had lived lives in compliance with the basic teachings of the Church.

HAPPINESS PROMISED TO MISSIONARIES BY THE FIRST PRESIDENCY

The First Presidency has placed an important message in the introduction to *Preach My Gospel* regarding the joy that will be ours through dedicated missionary labor. They note, "There is no more compelling work than this, nor any which brings greater satisfaction." Later in their introductory comments they note, "The Lord will reward and richly bless you as you humbly and prayerfully serve Him. More happiness awaits you than you have ever experienced as you labor among His children."

We read in 2 Nephi 2:25, "Men are, that they might have joy." The Lord gave further counsel on how His children might obtain that joy when He noted, "Verily I say, men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause.... And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward" (D & C 58:27-28).

HAVE FUN AS A MISSIONARY

Please note that “anxiously engaged” is far different than being “anxious.” The happiness in missionary work promised to us by the First Presidency in *PMG* is found in the joy in working hard and working smart. When we find, teach and baptize through hard, smart work, we will experience a joy that is beyond description. So work hard, but have fun proclaiming the Gospel. Two sister missionaries who have recently gone home, Sisters Hatch and Reed, had as one of their goals to make each other laugh at least 5 times each day. That wouldn’t be a bad goal for each companionship to adopt.

ELDER M. RUSSELL BALLARD SENDS COUNSEL ON HOW TO SUCCEED

We received, as did all mission presidents, a wonderful letter written just before Christmas by Elder M. Russell Ballard. He makes some important observations about goal-setting and the direction of the work of all full-time missionaries if they are to achieve their greatest success. He noted, “Unless missionaries set a goal to baptize, they will not know how to plan their daily work. They need to always think about the number of new investigators they need to find and the number of lessons they need to teach in order to reach their baptismal goal.”

Through study of the members in their ward or branch, through prayer and inspiration, with input from the bishop or branch president, ward mission leader and other local leaders, every companionship should establish a lofty but realistic goal for the number of baptisms

they want to achieve during the transfer, and then should work mightily to realize those baptisms. Elder Ballard in his letter notes, “It is the missionary’s responsibility to find new investigators using all sources outlined in Chapter 9 of *Preach My Gospel*.” He notes further, “If you want to baptize more people you need to talk to more people.” Elder Ballard also noted that success requires “talking to at least 10 more people every day,” (which is our goal) “and asking after every lesson for others to teach will add many investigators to the teaching pool.” He also stated, “Of course, finding by tracting will also help increase teaching opportunities.” He also reminded each missionary companionship, “Under the direction of the bishop, work with the less-active members and secure referrals from them. Work hard focusing upon the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ.” He urged that all of us missionaries “constantly review the check sheet on the inside back cover of *Preach My Gospel* entitled ‘Remember This.’” We would urge that every companionship review that page at least weekly on your Planning Day, Friday, and use it to help set your goals for the coming week.

Finally, Elder Ballard in his letter stated, “Give our love to your missionaries, and have a great year.”

May we join with Elder Ballard in wishing that each of you has a great year. Have fun, work hard (the two are closely related) and may the Lord pour out His richest blessings upon you. We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

“I know thy work, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth” (Rev 3:15-16).

JANUARY 23, 2007

INNOVATIVE MISSIONARY IDEAS BY OUR MEMBERS

As we learn of new ideas for implementing our missionary efforts as called for in *Preach My Gospel* we share them with you. In this week’s *STAR* we share some very practical and effective ideas from Langley, Nanaimo, and Burnaby which are innovative and excellent. If they will work in your ward or branch we urge you to adopt and implement them.

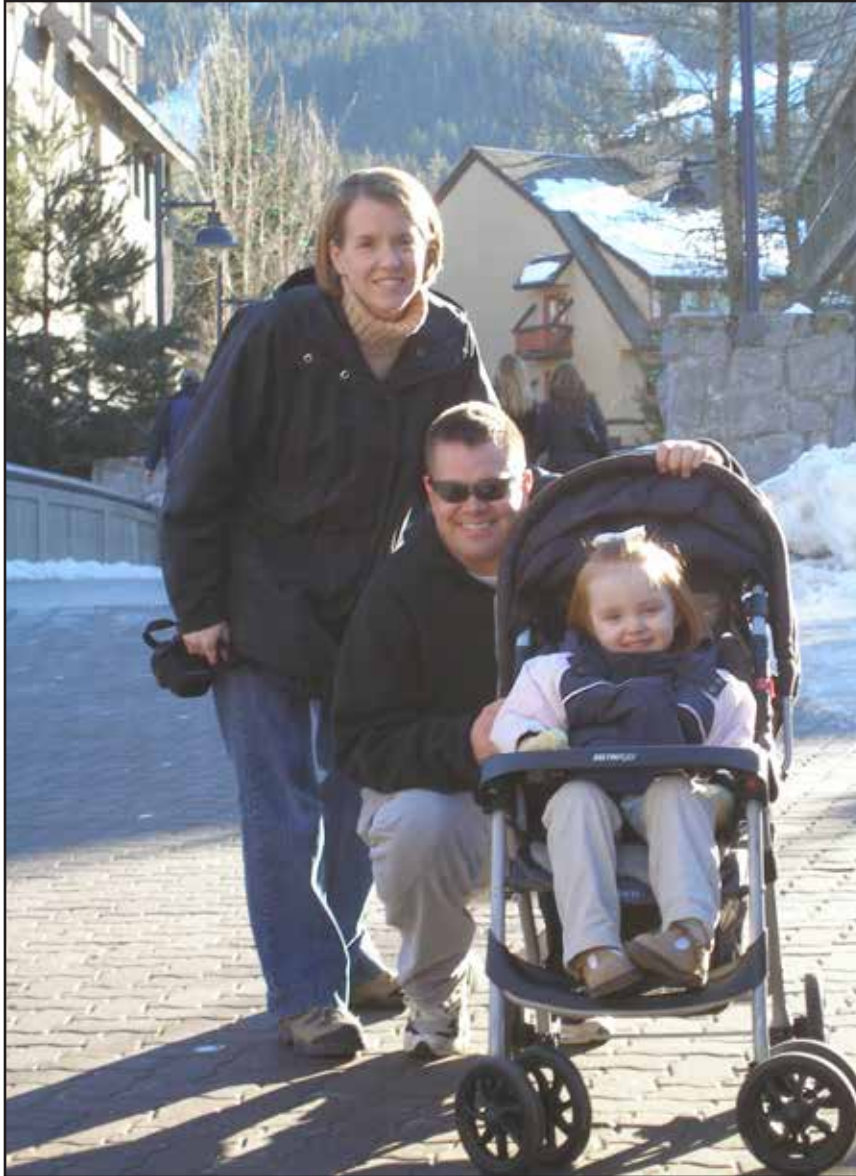
The Langley Ward Mission Plan, and Bishop Neil McKenzie’s Method of Inviting Friends on a Spiritual Tour, by Elders Ryan Glass (and Lisiate Feinga)

“Things here in Langley are going wonderfully. Our Bishop, Neil McKenzie, and our Ward Mission Leader, Robert Kearl, have come up with a new Ward Mission Plan. It reads as follows:

1. Bring three people on a tour of the Church each year.
2. Read *The Book of Mormon* daily to feel the tender mercies of the Lord (1 Ne 1:20).
3. Set-A-Date.

“This Mission Plan has been printed onto a magnet so it can be kept on the refrigerator as a constant reminder. There is plenty of room next to the Set-A-Date so if the date the members set doesn’t work out we can just cross it out and write a new one. We were given the task of making sure everyone in the ward has one on their refrigerator with a date. What we do is very simple—we simply call the members to make an appointment to come over to share the new Ward Mission Plan with them, teach one of the Lessons, and then present them with their new magnet. We then set a date with them. We have kept track of all the dates on a big white board so we know who to call and with whom to follow up. That’s the key—follow up.

“Bishop Neil McKenzie and his family have been a great example to the ward by bringing four people on Spiritual Tours of the Chapel in just three months. Bishop McKenzie told us how he does it in a combined fifth Sunday meeting with the ward members:



ROBBINS FAMILY AT WHISTLER VILLAGE

1. Every morning when he prays he prays for missionary experiences.
2. He looks everyone in the eye throughout his day and asks himself, 'Are you the one?'
3. He brings up the Church sometime during their conversation, and then simply asks, 'Hey! Would you like to come on a Tour of the Chapel?' If he gets a no he just keeps on talking about other issues like nothing happened. That way they don't know that the Spiritual Tour invitation was what he was trying to do, and no one becomes offended. Those three steps are so simple. We have been trying them, and they truly do work. Bishop McKenzie also says you need to 'Turn your radar on. If you are not looking you won't find.'

"We know as all the members get on board the work is going to explode here in Langley and the rest of BC as long as we are all working hard."

Nanaimo Ward Develops a "Team Fellowships" Approach for Investigators, by Elders Brian Fisher (and Trenton Amann)

"This week has been a really great one, one of the best in my mission. The people seemed to be accepting and doors were opened. We called two less-active members who have been on a 'Do Not Contact' list for a while and we got to visit and teach both of them. All of the little things here in Nanaimo are helping the area progress.

"I can definitely see we're lacking in investigators in Sacramento

Meeting and lessons to investigators with a member present. I believe that these two indicators correlate strongly with proselyting success. As an investigator feels that they will be welcomed and they will know people at Church other than the missionaries, they will come to Church and take those steps toward becoming a member of the Church.

“We’ve developed a plan with our Ward Mission Leader, Leigh Sheppard, to solve this problem. We’ve set up a calendar that has written on it exactly what members are available at what times so that when we’re scheduling appointments we can make sure there will always be a member with us even if it isn’t the ‘fellowship.’ This will also give the investigator a chance to meet more of the members so that we have a ‘team fellowship’ going on in the ward. I surely love the work in this area!”

START READING THE “DOCTRINE & COVENANTS DASH” ON JANUARY 24TH

Having completed the “Bible Bash” read, our reading of the New Testament, we are asking all companionships to start reading the Doctrine and Covenants out loud together according to the schedule. Start the read on Wednesday, January 24, 2007. Read for knowledge, read for the Spirit, but most of all read for enjoyment. Your parents and other members are welcomed to join us in our reading, and can find a reading schedule on our unofficial website at www.vancouvermissionmemories.com. Enjoy!

Thank you so much for your dedicated and effective hard work. Our average number of “full lessons” taught weekly mission wide is

now over 15, with 6 or 7 zones out of our 9 consistently averaging over 15 full lessons! Be assured that the Lord will bless our mission for this dedicated level of work. Thanks, also, to all the members who are stepping forth so wonderfully as true member missionaries. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“By small and simple things are great things brought to pass”
Alma 37:6*

JANUARY 30, 2007

USE MEMBER EXCHANGES WEEKLY

*P*reach My Gospel makes the point that our full-time missionaries can be used by bishops and branch presidents in home teaching (or sister missionaries in visiting teaching) to visit less-active and part-member families (pages 214-215). It further states, “Preferably you will be paired with a member for such visits,” or in other words the companionship might go on an exchange, each full-time missionary with a different member. There are excellent benefits from

such exchanges: 1) The member who knows the less-actives or part-member families can set up the appointment; 2) The members quickly learn to know the missionaries and their teaching skill and power; 3) The full-time missionaries can complete twice the number of teaching appointments in the evening—instead of a twosome, our missionaries become four during the exchange; and 4) A fellowshiping bond is developed between the less-active family and ward member on the exchange which will endure (while the relationship to the full-time missionary is transient as he or she will be transferred eventually). Not only does this exchange model allow for better reactivation, it also leads to teaching part-member families so that the entire family might enjoy the blessings of baptism and Church membership. It serves as a marvelous resource to grow the ward or branch.

DO WEEKLY EXCHANGES WITH THE YOUTH

We urge our full-time missionaries to aim towards weekly exchanges with the youth, the Elders with Aaronic Priesthood young men; the sisters with young women of the same age. In this age group everyone has dozens or hundreds of school acquaintances, and they can Set-A-Tour-Date with their friends to come with them on a Spiritual Tour of their Chapel to learn about our Church. Exchanges with the youth are also called “Mini Missions,” and they serve to let the youth come to understand the joy of missionary service so that they can become excited about future full-time missions for themselves. Young men who are Priests can stay overnight with full-time missionaries in multiple day “Mini Missions,” although Deacon and Teacher age youth cannot stay overnight, but rather limit their “Mini Missions” to just one day at a time. Weekly exchanges with YSA

members can also be especially productive—if at all possible set up YSA exchanges once or even twice weekly.

EXCHANGES WITH WARD MISSIONARIES AND WARD OR BRANCH LEADERS

PMG points out that the bishop (or branch president) should call a vibrant Melchizedek Priesthood holder to be the ward Mission Leader, and should also call “a sufficient number of ward missionaries to meet the needs of the ward” (*PMG* p. 218). Several wards have multiple ward missionaries in BC, and often they also serve as counselors in priesthood quorums or auxiliaries to better align the ward organizations with the missionary efforts of the ward. According to *PMG*, those in attendance at weekly Missionary Coordination Meetings, which are chaired by the Ward Mission Leader, are all the ward missionaries plus an assistant from the High Priest’s Group Leadership, a counselor from the Elder’s Quorum Presidency, and a counselor from the Relief Society Presidency (*PMG* p. 219). There is great wisdom and power in having our full-time missionaries do exchanges with all members who attend this Coordination Meeting, weekly or twice weekly, perhaps rotating through members of presidencies. The quickening of the proselyting work in such wards is evident, and the Lord will surely bless each ward or branch which fully adopts the idea.

Using the Spiritual Tour of the Chapel for Less Actives and Investigators, by Elders Andrew Bristow (and Jose Guerrero)

“The Prince George area(s) are going really well. We are all working hard and seeing results because of the hard work. There is a less-active family with whom we are working whose children are all in their twenties. When Elder Guerrero came here, I pointed out the family and we decided to make visiting them one of our weekly focuses. It looks like good things will happen! After service with the family at their cabin last week, they invited us over for dinner, and while there, we committed them, the whole family, to take a Spiritual Tour. They accepted! There will be 3 or 4 non-members on this Tour, and this could very well be the turning point in reactivating the family.

“Bishop Ron Meek took a non-member on a Spiritual Tour of the Chapel this week also. He invited a woman who used the building for Scouts to come about 30 minutes early for a Spiritual Tour, and she accepted. The Tour went great and we found that she has just moved in from Quesnel. We offered to help in any way; she accepted and things are really going to go well! See, it’s really not hard to invite! If you want to ‘chalk it up’, that is the ninth Spiritual Tour to which Bishop Meek has brought non-member friends!”

Proselyting Success at Christmas, by Elders Youngho Hea and (Elder Richard Ashton)

“Following the idea that President Middleton suggested to put more effort on tracting around Christmas time, my companion and I decided to go out tracting near the Vancouver 41st Chapel. As we

started to walk outside we saw a number of people happily talking to each other. Then we soon realized that the Lord softened the hearts of the people to help them let us share the message of The Restored Gospel. In only three minutes after we began talking to them, we got a phone number from one of the ladies. As obtaining phone numbers from people on the street in our proselying area rarely happens, we were astonished! Then we started to knock on doors of houses on the street. Instead of the feeling of doubt whether the people would open the doors or not, we were filled with a feeling of confidence and started to feel the Spirit strongly. The results? We knocked on about 20 doors, and everyone opened the door, except for two. We shared our message with them, and to some of those people we talked for more than 20 minutes. We tracted for two hours on that day and gained a strong testimony that the Spirit of Christmas (Christ) truly softens people’s hearts. It was the best tracting I have ever done in my life.”

That we might join forces more effectively with our faithful members to find the “elect of the Lord”, knowing that at least one ‘elect’ is known by every member, although they don’t yet know it, is our prayer. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

“When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God” Mosiah 2: 17

FEBRUARY 7, 2007

JUMP START THE TRANSFER WITH FULL LESSONS

As is usually the case, several missionary reassignments have been needed at the first of this transfer to accommodate the needs of the mission. The assignments have been made after much prayer and fasting and are the product, we feel, of inspiration from the Lord. As always, we strive to have every missionary experience leadership while on their mission, the only prerequisite being that a missionary is exactly obedient and working hard, to the best of his ability.

SET A GOAL OF 20 OR MORE FULL LESSONS DURING THE FIRST TWO WEEKS

To jump start this transfer, we would urge that each companionship establish a goal of 20 or more Full Lessons in each of the first two weeks. This is important especially for those missionaries who are new to an area. It will allow you to meet the leaders of the ward or branch early, as most of your Full Lessons will likely be Spiritual Tours for member families. More importantly, it will allow the members to meet you, size you up, and gain confidence in your teaching abilities and organizational skills. Be sure to ask members to be prepared to offer constructive criticism of your lesson, so that your lesson-giving

SISTERS OLIVER, WU, AND BERRETT
DRESSED FOR THE CHINESE NEW YEAR



skills will improve, and be sure to gain a commitment from each of the members to return with a non-member acquaintance for a Spiritual Tour or a Church activity such as a dance, dinner, etc., which can be combined with a Spiritual Tour to present our beliefs to their non-member friends. Teach members that they likely will need to ask several people to find the one who comes. When 40 Full Lessons are given in the first two weeks of the transfer, the rest of the transfer will likely be filled with lessons for investigators the members bring back to fulfill the commitments they made in the first two weeks.



NANAIMO STAKE CENTER

Members in the Victoria First Ward Boldly give Referrals, by Sisters Brittany Dow (and Te’Ama Dye)

“Wow, we have been so blessed here in Victoria! The members are really showing their support and giving referrals. All of our serious investigators have come from members introducing us. I’m thoroughly convinced the reason they are ‘serious’ investigators and progressing so well is due to the fact that they have the automatic support and fellowship from the member friend who referred them. The members here keep up daily contact with their progressing friends, and are there for them at anytime to answer questions. The members also come to the appointments and bear testimony about the things we are teaching. The testimony that our investigators hear means so much more coming from someone they know and trust!

“The Church is true. I love this work!”

Build Trust with Members by giving them PMG Lessons, by Elders Benjamin Zuniga (and Justin Whilhite)

We have some less-actives returning to Church here in Burnaby. We have had some excellent experiences while teaching and discussing our missionary lessons with both the active and less-active members. As stated in *Preach My Gospel* concerning our work with members, ‘Strengthening their understanding of the Doctrine of Christ will do more to increase their trust in you and to build their excitement to do missionary work than anything else you can do’ (page 161). As such, we’re working to ‘help them feel the Spirit and power of our message’ (page 161).

“As I continue in my studies, I find more and more insight as to the ‘war’ we are fighting here. Truly we will have to fight as we did

in our pre-earth life, ‘by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of (our) testimony...’ (Rev. 12:11).

Striving for a Strong Spiritual Experience in every Spiritual Tour, by Elders Logan Rasmussen (and Craig Carter)

“Something that we have started here in Nanaimo is to focus the Spiritual Tours more on the gospel. In the past, I think many missionaries mostly focused on just general organizational aspects of the building. Recently here in Nanaimo we’ve given probably around 10 Spiritual Tours to members. At the end of each Tour we ask for suggestions from the members on how we might improve the Tour. The most common comments are that they really enjoyed the Tour, especially with our new layout and focus. And then of course they will add a little something on how to make it better. Something that we should strive for as we work to give excellent Tours is the organization and the atmosphere. We need to be giving our Tours when everyone involved can feel of the Spirit the strongest. Across the mission many wards have been scheduling activities to attract non-members to the building, but during some activities there is so much noise and distraction that it is hard to draw the Spirit into the Tour. However, if ward activities in a limited part of the ward which don’t detract from the Tour are underway, it is often helpful to let investigators experience first hand seeing the benefits of Church membership. Sometimes it is better to use ward activities for missionaries to get to know the individuals, have the investigators meet members, and then set up a different time for a Spiritual Tour when it will be more conducive to the Spirit. Also, we should always give Tours in companionships, as when we do, we’ll be able to testify and be bolder in our words.

“The organization of the Tour needs to be well thought out to make it flow well. Start in one area of the building and progress steadily through the ward, always with the chapel being the final room. Also, if we can relate the Joseph Smith First Vision right before the chapel, the Spirit from that experience will still be there when our commitment is extended. A well done Tour is truly the best way to teach the Restoration Lesson and always brings the Spirit very strongly to the investigators.”



BAPTISM OF BRENDA AND DENNIS HOPPER
BY BRYAN COLLETT AND ELDER ALEX BITTING

That we might effectively jump start each transfer with 20 or more Full Lessons during each of the 1st two weeks, and that we might strive for and obtain the presence of the Spirit in each Spiritual Tour of our chapels is our prayer. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

ANNOUNCEMENT!

We are excited to announce that Elder Marcus B. Nash & Sister Shelley Nash of the First Quorum of the Seventy will be touring the Canada Vancouver Mission between March 5-8. All Zones will have the opportunity to meet and receive instruction from them. We look forward to having them in our midst.



DANCER AT THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR MARCH

- Mar 5—Van/Van Lang/Surrey/Sur Lang/Abbots (Surrey Stake Center)
- Mar 6—Vernon (Kelowna Chapel)
- Mar 7—Prince George (Prince George Chapel)
- Mar 8—Victoria/Nanaimo (Victoria Stake Center)

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elder: James Hunsaker (Smithfield, UT); Scott Spongberg (Salt Lake City, UT); Kyle Taylor (Flower Mound, TX)
- Sisters:
- Couple:
- Farewell to the Following
- Elder Jose Romeo Lozada

GGG-Unit! A dream come true, Man! It's been a blast. Good times! Much love to "my boys;" you know who you are. "Happiness is only found in bringing it to others." Keep it freestyle! Super!

Elder James & Sister Evelyn Curry

Very often what some consider to be a sacrifice is actually just another blessing from our Heavenly Father. We feel that our time here in the Canada Vancouver Mission has been a very special blessing. It has been a pleasure to be associated with all of you and to have been able to serve the Lord by serving the people here in British Columbia. You have been an inspiration to us and we are pleased to have been privileged to serve with you.

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: John Milner, Julia Pahlke
- Nanaimo: John Faires,
- Prince George:
- Surrey:
- Surrey Language:
- Vancouver: Lindsey Petursson, Savannah Watkins
- Van Language: Sergio Alamillo Campos,
- Vernon: Jordan Fowler, Candace Shmyr
- Victoria:

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS BITTING & ZÚÑIGA

“Up, awake, ye defenders of Zion! The foe’s at the door of your homes; Let each heart be the heart of a lion, Unyielding and proud as he roams. Remember the trials of Missouri; Forget not the courage of Nauvoo. When the enemy host is before you, Stand firm and be faithful and true... When the enemy host is before you, Stand firm and be faithful and true.” (Hymns, 248) It has been an amazing transfer and we are so pleased with all of your hard work and dedication. We urge you to continually rely on the Lord and exercise your faith in him.

“If ye are prepared ye shall not fear” John 7:17



THE CHINESE WHITE LION AT BURNABY CHINESE NEW YEAR



BE ANXIOUSLY ENGAGED WITH THE PROPER KIND OF PRIDE

FEBRUARY–MARCH 2007

FEBRUARY 13, 2007

DEVELOP THE RIGHT KIND OF PRIDE

We are warned repeatedly in the scriptures to avoid pride. We read, “Pride goeth before destruction” (Prov. 16:18) and, “Be not wise in your own conceits” (Rom. 12:16) and, “Thou shalt not be proud in thy heart” (D&C 42:40) and, “Wo unto the wise in their own eyes” (2 Ne 15:21) and, “God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace unto the humble” (James 4:6). Elder Bruce R. McConkie has written, “Pride is the opposite of humility,” and he describes pride as having “inordinate self-esteem.”

SEEK JOY IN ACCOMPLISHMENT, SHUN HUBRIS

The Wikipedia Encyclopedia defines pride as “a strong sense of self-respect, a refusal to be humiliated, as well as joy in the accomplishments of oneself or a person, group or object that one identifies with.” A second definition of pride mentioned in Wikipedia is “hubris, or excessive pride... excessive pride also manifests itself as arrogance.” This latter definition is the unhealthy, self-destructive pride warned against in the scriptures and by our General Authorities, and is to be avoided at all costs.



MANDARIN-SPEAKING ELDERS SING AT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

The first definition of pride is essential to our success as missionaries, when we think about it, and indeed is a critical ingredient in all aspects of life. Without striving for “pride in a job well done,” we will then be satisfied with less than our best. President Gordon B. Hinckley writes, “There is nothing in all the world so satisfying as a task or performance well done. There is no reward so pleasing as that which comes with the mastery of a difficult problem or challenge” (Standing For Something, pg. 208). This righteous pride is characterized by doing our very best, without the bravado and bragging that turns righteous pride into the hubris or arrogance warned against in the scriptures.

GOAL SETTING IS PART OF RIGHTEOUS PRIDE

We have heard of a quotation used in the mission, “when competition is eliminated, pride disappears.” Yes it does, but so does achievement. All life is characterized by competition. Carried to its logical conclusion, with that idea in mind, a person would be well-advised to never take a job, but rather just live life on welfare in order to avoid pride. The competition in life would definitely be removed by so doing. But that is not what the Lord expects of us in life. He challenges each of us to be the best that we can be, and to do so requires that we engage in the competitive arena of life.

President Thomas S. Monson has made the important observation that, “When performance is measured, performance improves. When performance is measured and reported, the rate of improvement accelerates” (PMG pg. 150). By reporting Key Indicators each week we have the opportunity to compare our work product with that of every other missionary, and that comparison (competition

CHINESE SISTER PLAYS UNUSUAL WIND INSTRUMENT





CHINESE CHILDREN CHURCH MEMBERS SING



RELIEF SOCIETY SISTERS SING
CHINESE SONG AT NEW YEAR'S CELEBRATION

if you will) drives us to do better. Consider that one year ago few of our companionships achieved 10 full lessons weekly, while now the mission average is over 15. That change has occurred through the principle stated by President Monson above, as we see through reported measurements in the Key Indicators how other missionaries are doing and we are motivated to do at least that well or better.

And so we ask each missionary to be the best, the very best that he or she can become. Understand that the Key Indicators give us a way to compare our work ethic and effectiveness with other missionaries in the mission, but understand further that the best we can be will vary from missionary to missionary. In any given week, one or several missionaries will likely achieve more than we did. The only measurement that the Lord will hold us accountable for is whether we did the very best that we as an individual can do. The Lord tells us, “It is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength” (Mosiah 4:27). So set lofty but achievable goals and then take pride in the fact that you did your very best. The Lord expects this of us.

Bishop Calan Strom in Salmon Arm Urges All members to Become Better Member Missionaries, by Elders Austin Johnson (& Nicholas Ramirez)

“The work out here is really going good for us right now. We started doing service for a dairy farmer, where we help him milk once a week at 5 a.m. and 4 p.m. While we milk, we have plenty of time to have gospel conversations. We also meet with a less-active member who does veterinary work there.

“This week at Church, we had a combined Relief Society and Priesthood meeting in which Bishop Calan Strom spoke the whole



SISTERS OLIVER, WU, AND BERRETT WITH
ELDER SCHARMAN DRESSED FOR THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

hour on our Ward Mission Plan and how to become better member missionaries. He said, ‘We should provide so many people for the missionaries to teach that they will have to put another set of missionaries here.’ He also said, ‘Make a date on your calendar when you are going to invite someone to your home.’ Bishop Strom is a great help to us and the work is exciting.”

Editorial Note: Bishop Calan N. Strom, Brother Jean Drolet, Ward Mission Leader, and the entire leadership of the Salmon Arm Ward has developed a wonderful Ward Mission Plan, and with their excellent leadership we feel that there will be a great quickening of the Spirit in Salmon Arm.



THE MIDDLETONS AND NASHES WITH APS LASALLE AND ZUNIGA

INCREASING NUMBER OF FULL LESSONS

Elder Yoshihiko Kukuchi has challenged the Canada Vancouver Mission missionaries to aim toward 15 or more full lessons, noting that when he was a mission president every companionship which achieved this level of work output eventually baptized monthly or more often. We are pleased to see that our missionaries are averaging over 15 full lessons for a few weeks now! For the week ending February 4, 2007, the mission averaged 17.9 full lessons, with 7 of 9 zones averaging over 15. The Victoria Zone that week averaged 27.8 full lessons, and in that zone Elders Brandon Loong and Kyle Shaw had 50 full lessons (the current mission record), while working in the Victoria Second Ward! Congratulations to Elders Loong and Shaw, and congratulations to Bishop Frank Hitchmough and all the Victoria 2nd Ward members who are stepping forth with such magnificent support!

That we might take righteous pride in our best work efforts, and that the Lord will bless our wonderful missionaries and members is our constant prayer.

President and Sister Middleton

“If ye are prepared ye shall not fear” D&C 38:30

FEBRUARY 27, 2007

GREAT MISSIONARY TECHNIQUES DEVELOPED BY MEMBERS AND FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES

Under the inspired guidance of the Lord our members and full-time missionaries are developing PMG inspired ideas that work wonderfully well. Herein we describe several in reports sent to us by our missionaries. If they will work well in your ward or branch, and their adoption should only be determined after careful and prayerful deliberation and discussion in your weekly Missionary Correlation Meeting, PEC and Ward Council, please use them. Our greatest success, and an important reason why we are blessed with a quickening of the missionary Spirit here in BC, is through sharing new missionary ideas with each other, then implementing the ideas where they will work.

Exchanges TWO NIGHTS EACH WEEK Are Accelerating the Abbotsford First Ward Missionary Work, by Elders Skylar Weeks (and Richard Ashton)

“The work has really picked up here in the Abbotsford 1st Ward with one of the main reasons being weekly exchanges with our Ward Missionaries on one night, and our High Priests on another night.



ELDERS FEWKES AND ROBERTS IN DARK LION DANCE

It is amazing to see how much work can get done with these well-planned and executed exchanges, and Bishop Glenn Collingridge is very helpful in encouraging a personal or family missionary plan by all members. I have found that, on average, the weeks during which we schedule exchanges with both our Ward Missionaries and High



AARONIC PRIESTHOOD PERFORMANCE
AT CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

Priests we are able to get 8–12 Full Lessons taught on just 2 nights of the week! This has truly helped the work here as investigators and less-actives are being met on a weekly basis. Also, the local members are feeling more involved in the work and we have received more referrals because of it. I believe the value of exchanges is greatly underestimated and when applied and tried, the Lord has and will bless us with increasing baptisms!”

Editor’s Note: Exchanges weekly or more often is a fabulous idea, and we expect that when 2 or more nights each week are devoted to exchanges with members, more and more ward and branch members will come to truly embrace their role as member missionaries. A night each week devoted to an exchange with the Aaronic Priesthood youth (or to Young Women by our Sister missionaries) in addition to another exchange night with the Ward Missionaries, and still a third night with Melchizedek Priesthood holders could become an excellent ward or branch goal. Each exchange night accomplished doubles the number of investigators and/or members seen that night, and with 3 exchange nights weekly our force of 120 full-time missionaries grows effectively to many times that number. We are asking that every companionship establish at least one night weekly for exchanges, more nights each week if it will work in your ward or branch.

**Dinner with Members and Their Non-Member Friend(s)
During Prime Time are Successful, by Elders Richard
Ashton(and Skylar Weeks)**

“What we have discovered is that it is a misconception by the members to assume that dinners have been completely discontinued during the 5-9 prime time with the missionaries. When hearing

complaints about the fact that we no longer have dinners, we simply have explained that we can have dinners as long as a non-member friend or acquaintance is present as well. This explanation has been received well, much like the Spiritual Tour system; dinners with potential investigators are very non-threatening and are excellent ways to help the members still feel like they're helping us out.

“We’ve experienced the fruits of this missionary technique. A couple of weeks ago we had dinner with two sisters in the Ward with their good friend present. After feasting, we sat down and proceeded to share the Restoration Lesson. The Spirit was strong, and the two sisters supported our message with their testimonies. At the moment, their friend is reading the Book of Mormon.

“We’ve shared this experience with a number of members and they like the idea. While feeding the missionaries, members have the opportunity to feed the work! If members don’t feel inclined to set a date for a Spiritual Tour, perhaps a date for a dinner with a friend present would be of more interest to them initially which could be followed with a Spiritual Tour at a later date.”

Love and Patience Changes Hearts and Leads to Baptisms, by Elder Brian and Sister Jennifer Hall

“In July of 2006 we had the privilege of teaching and baptizing a young woman. At that time she faced some harsh opposition from both her husband and her father-in-law. In fact, about three weeks after she was baptized her father-in-law decided that he would come to Church with her for the sole purpose of discouraging her and pointing out the things that were wrong with the doctrine we were teaching.

“He came for several weeks and began asking questions, then started to enjoy the Gospel Principles Class and attending Priesthood

Meeting. Soon we began to ask him to participate in class. One day we received a strong prompting from the Spirit to invite him to be baptized. Whilst trying to ignore this prompting it began to press harder on our minds. So we did as we were told and it came as a great shock to him. He told us he had a lot of reservations still and quite a few concerns. We invited him to take the discussions so that we could address the concerns as they came along and he agreed.

“It was amazing to see the Spirit working with this man. He searched diligently the scriptures seeking answers to his questions. He sought answers to his prayers and fasted and prayed for a testimony



THE EARLY MORNING BASKETBALL
PLAYERS AT THE RICHMOND WARD



THE WHITE LION HAS VANQUISHED THE DARL LION

of the Book of Mormon and the Restoration. He was baptized in November. We witnessed the mighty change of heart spoken of in the ‘Book of Alma.’ It was a wonderful experience for us, one we will treasure all the days of our lives.

“This story is not finished here. In December he baptized his son, the husband of the young woman we mentioned in the beginning of this account. Our hearts fill with joy when we see them all walk into Church every Sunday—three generations of a family on their way back to Heavenly Father. He has a calling; he is passing the sacrament and is actively joining in everything he can and loving it. His daughter-in-law tells us he is a changed man. The Lord can do that for all of us if we let Him.”

That we might each of us become and remain anxiously engaged at all times, seeking constantly for ways in which we might join with faithful members in proclaiming His Gospel to the citizens of British Columbia, is our constant prayer. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“Be thou humble; and the Lord Thy God shall lead thee by the hand, and give thee answer to thy prayers.” D&C 112:10

MARCH 6, 2007

GREAT IDEAS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

Under the inspired guidance of our Father in Heaven our missionaries often develop refinements in the finding and teaching methods outlined in PMG which make them more successful. We share in this Vancouver Star comments from our missionaries which may well be applicable in other wards and branches in BC, and we encourage all our missionaries to use them if they are a proper fit with your ward or branch.

Hard Focused Work Brings Many Investigators and Blessings, by Sisters Patricia Bland (and Golda Janes)

“On Sunday, February 11th, we had an excellent ward Missionary Fireside. Carson Noftle came from Abbotsford and spoke on Joseph Smith’s history and the coming forth of the Book of Mormon. We had two of our investigators there and members brought 6 other non-member friends and family! We have also been receiving good referrals recently and have added 7 people to our investigator pool giving us 16 investigators we are currently teaching. We have three Tours scheduled for this week, which will hopefully add even more investigators. After working very hard in the Maple Ridge Ward the Lord is blessing us. I am so very grateful. We think we will have three baptisms in the near future, and more to follow. I love this ward and the people here.”

Editor’s note: The Senior Sisters continue to set the pace for all of us of all ages. Congratulations Sister Janes and Sister Bland!

Tracting Results in Member Referrals in Nanaimo, by Elders Brian Fisher (and Trenton Amann)

“Some may ask how in the world these two correlate. Here in Nanaimo we have seen great success from our personal finding (tracting) as people continue to allow us into their homes. As the members see us bring those to Church whom we have found through



LYDIA, A RECENT CHINESE CONVERT,
SINGS AT CHINESE NEW YEAR CELEBRATION

our own efforts, the results have been outstanding! The members realize that we are here to work and to bring to pass God's purposes in all possible ways. This has brought such a great increase in the missionary spirit! Members are getting involved in teaching or even just saying hi. They are getting excited about the work. Because of this increase in missionary zeal, member referrals are up, and it started at the top with the leadership gaining trust in us as hard-working, effective missionaries. Truly, personal finding is our meat and potatoes and it is just that much better with the 'gravy' of member referrals."

Editor's Note: From the above story of success through tracting



CHERRY BLOSSOMS AND SCULPTED HEDGE, RICHMOND

in Nanaimo we understand the Lord's purpose in asking us to do personal finding (tracting) at least one hour daily. Not only does it lead us to the Lord's elect who might not yet be known by a member, but through seeing our dedicated efforts ward or branch members realize that they must boldly step forth to help the missionary effort by inviting their acquaintances to come see the ward through an activity or a Spiritual Tour. Members will also learn by observing that our personal finding is a matter of asking several to find the one, and they will come to understand that they too must ask several acquaintances to find the one prepared by the Lord to accept their invitation.

Hymns are Powerful Gospel Teachers on Spiritual Tours, by Elders Justin McAllister (and Stanley Peck)

"In Quesnel we are using music during the Spiritual Tour of the Chapel. We begin with a hymn. It does not matter which; if it is a member we have them pick a favorite. For a non-member we pick a hymn that focuses on the Savior. In the primary room we sing a primary song, either 'I am a Child of God' or 'Teach Me to Walk in the Light.' In front of the baptismal font we sing the primary song 'I like to look for Rainbows.' In the Chapel we sing a sacrament hymn prior to talking about the sacrament.

"Music is a powerful tool and often music can be a more powerful teacher than words alone. We find that singing is one of the best ways to bring the Spirit to the lesson we give on the Spiritual Tour."

Victoria 3rd Ward Mission Leader Martin Hall Develops Book of Mormon Reading Program for Investigators and Members, By Elders Adam Hassell (and Nathan Purser)

“I really love the Victoria 3rd Ward! It’s a great ward with great leadership, especially our Ward Mission Leader, Brother Martin Hall. Just recently he has come up with an excellent Book of Mormon reading program to help investigators and less-actives alike to strengthen their testimony of the Book of Mormon. It is a compilation of queries from General Authorities about the importance of the Book of Mormon, partnered with a list of doctrinal chapters and verses of the Book of Mormon. He has given it the title, ‘Experiment upon the Word.’ I feel that it’s a great way to help people establish their own personal habit of reading the Book of Mormon and then praying about it. This is key for building a testimony for those who do not already have one, and rekindling a testimony for those who once had one but have now lost it. I surely do love this work.”

PEARL OF GREAT PRICE READING ASSIGNMENT

Having completed our “Doctrine and Covenants Dash,” we are going to ask each companionship to begin reading the “Pearl of Great Price Ponder.” Start reading on March 12, 2007. Read each day aloud in companionship study, taking turns, but resting on Sunday. Read for spiritual uplift and gospel knowledge, but have fun and enjoy the reading!

From the above we learn again that hard work lies at the heart of all missionary success. By combining hard, focused, smart work with the ideas presented in this Vancouver Star by our missionaries, all

of our missionaries and members can enjoy the blessings of Church growth promised by the Lord. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

“For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee.” Isaiah 41:13

MARCH 13, 2007

A WONDERFUL TOUR WITH ELDER AND SISTER NASH

We have received wonderful, inspired counsel and teaching by Elder Marcus B. Nash and his wife, Sister Shelley Nash, this past week. In a whirlwind Mission Tour, they met and spoke with each of our missionaries in their March 4-9th Tour, and gave four Zone Conferences in four days. What a marvelous, inspiring and uplifting week it was!!

The Lord sent Elder and Sister Nash with His perfect timing, in our view. Our missionaries had achieved a plateau in which we were with rare exception exactly obedient in the morning, with wake-up by 6:15, 30 minutes of vigorous exercise, and two hours (or three hours for language missionaries) of focused, meaningful personal and companion study. Our average full lessons given have been well over 15 per week for many weeks now. Eighty-seven percent of our companionships attend their entire ward or branch PEC meetings and 81% are present through all of ward council; all who do find attendance very useful for a number of reasons. However, our baptisms seemed to have reached a plateau at a level of a little over 200 per year projecting forward, while we feel that five times that number can and should be reached. As we pleaded with the Lord for guidance on how to grow the Church in BC more rapidly, He sent the Nashes in answer to our prayer. They have given us inspired counsel as to where the Lord would have us go, which we will review in this and subsequent Vancouver Stars.

ELDER NASH’S INSPIRED DIRECTIVES

The first point Elder Nash made and repeated many times, was that we have come far and must continue to achieve our current goals: to remain anxiously engaged, managing the day well as outlined above, making many phone calls every evening to assure that the next day is filled, spending no more than one hour in any given lesson, aiming toward 15 or more full lessons each week. All are essential for Elder Nash’s added initiatives to work.

IN EACH PERSONAL ENCOUNTER WITH ANYONE, BE SURE THAT OUR PURPOSE IS EVIDENT IN OUR MESSAGE

Elder Nash powerfully taught us that every encounter we have with anyone must reflect Our Purpose, as stated on Page 1 of PMG: “I invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.” He taught us that every encounter must be guided by Our Purpose, and each of us must strive to have the person with whom we speak see and feel the power and urgency of our message, and they must feel the warmth and love of the commitment(s) we seek. That person with whom we speak must become inspired, instructed and lifted so that our initiative to them to commit to act will be gladly accepted and will be accomplished.

BETTER PREPARE TO TEACH BY PREPARING AND PRACTICING SEVERAL VERSIONS OF EACH LESSON

Elder Nash noted that as we repeatedly give the lesson of the Restoration, which presents the heart and soul of our religion, we have become a little stale, with each missionary having developed their own lesson plan from PMG and then giving their lesson the same each time. His training leads us to realize that we must each outline at least four or more different versions of each lesson, each reciting a different set of scriptures, each given somewhat differently.



ELDERS HEINZEN AND BOWLES AT GARY POINT

We are asking each missionary to outline at least four versions of each lesson, then practice each version in companion study and with members and investigators. Of course every Restoration Lesson must include the First Vision in Joseph Smith's words, given in the "Elder Kikuchi style." But we should develop new and compelling ways to explain the Atonement and to explain the apostasy so that each investigator understands clearly the need for a Restoration instead of a reformation. Continue to plan each lesson such that the Spirit is invited as you give it, that at a specific part of each lesson the Spirit is clearly and powerfully felt by all. Practice giving each version of your lesson in at least three Spiritual Tours of your Chapel weekly.

DEVELOP EIGHT "ELEVATOR SPEECHES"

Elder Nash challenged us to each develop eight different approaches we might use with a potential investigator which can be delivered in 30 seconds or less, "in the time it takes for the elevator to reach the 30th floor." We then would have "eight arrows in our quiver," and could use whichever one that we are inspired would work best for a given individual. A commitment for a Spiritual Tour should become our most frequently sought objective from this short approach, and commitments from members, part-member families, and investigators should be obtained by these short approaches.. We will test every missionary in our next round of zone conferences to be sure each of you has at least eight. Once the eight are learned, we will ask you to practice them often to keep them fresh, and practice giving all eight during the hour or more of personal finding each day.

BETTER PLANNING FOR SPECIFIC LESSONS

Elder Nash shared an inspiring DVD which was taken as missionaries in the field prepared to teach a Word of Wisdom lesson to their actual investigators. It demonstrated the power of prayerfully planning the lesson in Companionship Study, then giving that lesson with power and love. Each of us must plan specifically for specific investigators, tailoring the lesson we give to their specific needs. We learned that as your companion is speaking in any lesson or encounter, you must be offering up a silent prayer for him or her that they will speak inspired words from their heart. By so doing it allows us to clearly link each lesson with Our Purpose stated in PMG, and brings compellingly great Spiritual power to the lesson.

We ask that every missionary adopt and incorporate these inspired directions from Elder and Sister Nash. They have brought to us, from the Lord, the means by which we will take Church growth in British Columbia to that higher level prophesied by Elder Henry B. Eyring. We love each of you!

President and Sister Middleton

*"For I the Lord thy God will hold
thy right hand, saying unto
thee, Fear not; I will help thee."
Isaiah 41:13*

MARCH 21, 2007

TO BE ANXIOUSLY ENGAGED

As we bask in the afterglow of Elder and Sister Nash's tour of our mission, we need to focus again and again on their uplifting admonitions on how we might achieve success. Their visit was truly inspirational, but also very practical in that they brought us inspired guidance from the Lord on how we each can become more effective missionaries.

REVIEW ELDER NASH'S TEACHING POINTS DAILY & THROUGHOUT THE DAY

The central theme of all of Elder Nash's counsel was that we must learn to link all that we do, everything, all day, everyday, with Our Purpose. We seem to have fallen into the trap of just going through the motions. For example, do you understand the point of achieving 15 or more full lessons weekly, as Elder Kikuchi urged? Do you know that the number of full lessons is no more than just a number unless each full lesson is a means to an end? Do we each understand that the full lesson is designed to achieve two objectives: 1) Communicate our message through the Spirit, to whisper the truthfulness of our message to the souls of everyone who listens to our lesson, and 2) obtain a commitment or commitments? If we fail to achieve both

objectives in a full lesson, we are just going through the motions and the full lesson becomes no more than a number, and the lesson becomes little more than a lesson given in Church history.

CONCENTRATE ON FINDING BY ANY AND ALL MEANS

Elder Nash gave wonderful counsel regarding our role as full-time missionaries in finding. Of course, members and member referrals are vital, but we are held accountable by Our Purpose to



ELDER AND NASH WITH THE MIDDLETONS AT THE VICTORIA STAKE

use other means as well. At least one hour of personal finding daily must become part of every day. Tracting must be done each day, where we can develop and use each of the eight “elevator speeches” Elder Nash asked us to develop to meet and greet people on their doorsteps and elsewhere.

Elder Kikuchi challenged each companionship to achieve six to eight investigators in its teaching pool at all times. We can’t reach that objective unless we are actively finding all day, everyday. To reach that level we must use members wisely, of course, but must use personal finding every day. The eight reminders at the bottom of this and every Vancouver Star must all be used in order that we might fulfill Our Purpose.

REWRITE EACH LESSON PLAN IN PMG AND VARY EACH LESSON

To be able to teach each PMG lesson in at least four ways gives us the ability to be moved by the Spirit during the middle of each lesson, to use those points or scriptures which will best meet the needs of the specific investigator or member we are teaching. All four versions of the Restoration Lesson, for example, must explain boldly and clearly the Atonement, the Apostasy and the need for a Restoration, not just a reformation. Each version must allow the recitation of the First Vision in Joseph Smith’s words, given with the “Elder Kikuchi style” of slowed speech and power, to invite the Spirit. Each Restoration Lesson should include an invitation to baptism as mentioned in PMG, page 40, to obtain either a “hard” or “soft” commitment.

SEEK FOR THE SPIRIT IN EVERY ENCOUNTER

It is absolutely correct that people are converted by the Spirit. An understanding of the facts of the Restoration is known by many people who don’t join the Church, because the facts alone don’t produce a testimony; the Spirit alone can do that. In every encounter with member or non-member alike, silently pray for your companion while he or she speaks. While you speak, speak with sincerity and boldness, testifying often to bring the Spirit to the meeting. Only then will we convert.

USE ALL THE ARROWS IN YOUR QUIVER

Elder Nash urged that we “fill our quiver” with more arrows to become better armed, that we might use every means at our disposal to find, teach and baptize, to be prepared well enough with options so that we have no down time. We ask that in each companionship as well as district and zone meetings the week’s Vancouver Star be discussed and fully understood, then implemented as we go through each day. The eight goals at the bottom of each Star are from PMG and the Brethren—we urge that you check them off weekly as a companionship to be sure they were achieved, and district leaders focus on them at district meetings. Learn to “use all the arrows in your quiver.”

That we might not only work hard but work smart is our prayer. We love each of you.

MARCH 27, 2007

CHURCH SURVEY RESULTS WILL HELP MEMBERS BECOME EFFECTIVE MEMBER MISSIONARIES

Brother Martin Hall, the very capable and excellent Victoria 3rd Ward Mission Leader, shared with us just before the Victoria Stake Conference on March 18th a most revealing survey of members done by the Church regarding members' role in becoming effective member missionaries. The survey was run a few years ago, during the time that President Spencer W. Kimball was the Church President, but the startling findings are pertinent to all of us today. It found that member missionary efforts were limited to just 25% of the members surveyed, instead of the 100% of members becoming missionaries that our Prophets have urged.

EACH MEMBER KNOWS MANY NON- MEMBER ACQUAINTANCES

The survey found that each member surveyed knew 112 non-member acquaintances on average. (That figure is likely far larger for each member in British Columbia.) Of the 112 non-member acquaintances of each member, only 30% had been approached

by anyone about learning more about the Church, leaving 80 non-member acquaintances known by each member whom they had never yet approached. The members in the survey estimated that "about 30% of those 80 non-members would react with increased interest if they were approached." Think of that! On average each of the Church members in that survey felt that 24 of their friends would respond with increased interest if the member approached them about the Gospel. While we know of no similar member survey done in BC, we suspect that if one were done the results would be much the same in finding that every member here knows many (likely several more than the 80 found in the survey above) non-member friends to whom they have never mentioned the Church.

One of our important goals in working in wards and branches must be one of teaching members how to ask. It isn't nearly as hard as they imagine, and when asking weekly or daily becomes an integral part of being a faithful Church member in the mind of every member, the growth of the Church in BC will accelerate dramatically.

TEACH BISHOP NEIL MCKENZIE'S METHOD OF ASKING

Recently we shared in a STAR Bishop Neil McKenzie's (Langley Ward bishop) inspired approach which he uses personally to invite his acquaintances to learn of the Church. We call it his "No-Sweat-Member-Missionary Technique," (our name for it, not his) because it is so simple and easy to do. Bishop McKenzie aims toward starting a conversation during the day with one of his non-member acquaintances (remember that each of us has 112 non-members



THE MIDDLETONS, NASHES, AND ELDERS ZUNIGA AND LASALLE

acquaintances according to the survey). The conversation is started on a non-Gospel topic of any kind which would be of interest to the non-member friend—hockey, the weather, etc. Bishop McKenzie then will comment to his friend during the conversation something like this, “Say, you know that I’m a Mormon. Could I take you on a tour of my chapel so that you can learn what it’s about?” Bishop McKenzie will then suggest a date if his friend replies that he would like to come. If the friend declines, it isn’t a problem, as Bishop McKenzie then takes the conversation back to the original topic. He isn’t discouraged at all when he needs to ask five, eight or more friends before he finds the one who would like to come on a Spiritual Tour, and he has never lost a friend through asking. He never becomes discouraged as he realizes that he will need to ask several to find the one. The essence of all missionary work by everyone at any level consists of asking several to find the one. Bishop McKenzie realizes, as we hope the counsel in PMG will help every Church member in BC to realize, that by the act of asking we have completed our member missionary obligation to our Father in Heaven. The answer to our invitation is up to the person we ask as they exercise their agency here on earth, as they answer yes or no. Our role in God’s missionary process is to ask, and then we have accomplished God’s commandment to each of us to become a member missionary. Of course, we complete our missionary duties when we come on a Chapel Tour with our friend and sit by him or her during the subsequent lessons.

EVERY MEMBER KNOWS SOMEONE WHO WILL SAY YES

President Spencer W. Kimball was inspired to note that every single Church member already knows at least one person who is “the elect of the Lord,” Mine elect hear my voice and harden not their hearts (D & C 29:7). They know right now someone who is prepared by the Lord through life’s events and experiences to respond positively to their invitation to learn about the Church. We don’t know which of our 112 non-member friends are “the elect,” yet, but one or several already are the elect even as you read this Star. We must simply set ourselves the goal of asking each of our 112 non-member friends in turn until we find the one who is that elect of the Lord.

That we full-time missionaries might successfully teach and inspire each member in BC to become the member missionary the Lord has asked them to be, that we might help them to successfully incorporate their ward or branch’s Mission Plan into their everyday lives, is our constant prayer. We love each of you.

IMPORTANCE OF MEMBER SERVICE; HELP THE BISHOP

APRIL–MAY 2007

APRIL 3, 2007

MEMBER SERVICE LEADS TO MEMBER REFERRALS

It is clear that for Church growth to accelerate in BC we full-time missionaries must learn to work more effectively with the members of the ward or branch to which we are assigned. Elder Stuart Young, one of our former missionaries who achieved great success working with members while he served here, has been persuaded to share with us some of his “secrets” of how he became such a successful missionary. He was reluctant to have these concepts attributed to him initially, but finally consented. We share some of them with you,

edited for *STAR* space commitments and urge that you incorporate them into your lives as missionaries.

1. Pray for members as well as our investigators often through the day. Bring the Lord’s influence into their lives.
2. Effective member visits—limit time with them to 15-20 minutes in-and-out to check on names, set up appointments, encourage their asking after they have committed to a Set-A-Tour-Date. Longer visits were avoided unless we were teaching the member a full lesson and interacting with them at a ward party or baptism.
3. Don’t eat during the 5—9 pm Prime Time. That was when people



were home to teach, and we aimed towards 3-4 lessons, tracting if need be. Dinner with members could be scheduled for 4 pm, but not during Prime Time unless we taught an investigator who came to dinner with the member family.

4. We always carried a list of names members had given us of non-members. We asked the member at least every other week, plus every time we saw them, about the people on the list, whether



NANAIMO ZONE WITH BISHOP AND SISTER HOUSHOLDER

they had invited them on a Tour or taken them to a Church party yet.

5. We kept a list of every non-member who lived in a member's home, (i.e.: part-member families, un-baptized children, foster kids, relatives or exchange students). We tried to visit every member on the ward list.
6. We sent investigators to the Gospel Essentials class without us, pairing them with a ward member to let the member fellowship them. We then split up so that each of us could attend a different auxiliary or Priesthood Quorum, to get to know more ward members well and obtain commitments from them, and be more visible throughout the ward. We tried to set up as many appointments as possible on Sunday for the rest of the week as well.
7. We attended ward parties with a purpose, not just for the food or to socialize, but to search for and meet non-members and less-actives. If the members felt it was too early or otherwise inadvisable, we wouldn't ask their friend to take lessons, in order to keep the member's trust. If lessons came up in the member's discussion with their non-member friend, then at least the non-member knew us, and we could ask them to learn more in the future.
8. Know the members well. We sat down with a ward member, (usually an ex-bishop), and would learn something about each family as we went through the whole ward list. We kept notes, with nothing too personal, so we could talk about it later.

9. We took a member with us to every teaching appointment. If it wasn't the regular fellowshipping, we always took another member with us.
10. We went on exchanges with members at least once a week, either to help them with home teaching or for them to help us teach investigators or less-actives.
11. We involved the Ward Mission Leader with as many of our activities as he could, and especially with investigators. It gave him a better grasp of what was going on and filled him with enthusiasm.
12. We presented a fully filled out Progress Record weekly to the PEC.
13. We made it a point to give the Bishop a brief, positive report on our activities at least 3 times weekly to assure him that we were working hard and positive things were happening.
14. We always had intense Friday planning sessions, 2-3 hours long, and always based them on Chapter 8 of *PMG*; we tried to do everything suggested in Chapter 8.
15. Tours of the Church were emphasized, and we found many people to teach with the Tour. As we walked through the Chapel, we discussed all the programs and functions of the Church, (i.e.: What is Relief Society? Young Men and Young Women's programs? What is a Bishop? The Primary?) We taught the Restoration Lesson and always committed them to various items as moved

by the Spirit. We taught about the apostasy at the baptismal font because most people were aware of the various baptismal methods and could see from our picture how Christ was baptized. At the end of the Tour we gave them a Book of Mormon with a reading assignment and taught the Restoration, Book of Mormon and Holy Ghost concepts. We gauged the commitments we asked based on how the Tour went, relying heavily on the Spirit to help us make that judgment. The Tour was so successful because it was non-threatening. We gave Tours before or after baptisms, ward parties, Relief Society events, or MIA youth meetings. We gave Tours while events were going on or when the building was empty—either way worked.

16. We maintained an extraordinary relationship with the bishop—he just knew that we were there to work.

Elder Young is in college, well on his way to a degree in Education, and he tells us that he is newly engaged to a marvelous young lady who is a returned missionary. The lessons he learned in the mission, which brought him such great success as a missionary, are bringing him success in his schooling as well. We urge each of our missionaries to strive for excellence personally in all 16 areas mentioned, and surely the Lord will bring you and your companions the missionary success He brought to Elder Young and his companions. Many thanks to Elder Young for taking the time to share his observations with us.

We love each of our missionaries and pray constantly for your welfare and success.

President and Sister Middleton

Check off weekly whether you have achieved each of the eight goals below.

- Ask for a referral name in every conversation with a member or non-member alike... “Will you bring an acquaintance on a Spiritual Tour?”
- Challenge members to Set-A-Date for a Spiritual Tour or a Church event which can be coupled with a Spiritual Tour with their non-member friend at least 3 times yearly.
- Our goal is to find at least one new investigator daily.

• Our goal is to teach 15 or more full lessons weekly...with at least 3 Spiritual Tours weekly.

- Extend at least one baptismal invitation and commitment each week.
- Remember our mission goal: 10 Gospel contacts per day per missionary outside our usual finding and teaching duties. That includes a Gospel message to everyone you see.
- As weekly goals are set for each Key Indicator, pray for inspiration, and set goals that are lofty yet achievable. Our ultimate long-term goal is for at least 3 baptisms per companionship per transfer.



KITCHEN ANGELS LUNCHEON SETTING IN VERNON

*“King Lamoni...learned of the faithfulness of Ammon in preserving his flocks, and...he was astonished exceedingly”
Alma 18: 1-2*

APRIL 10, 2007

BETTER SPIRITUAL CHAPEL TOURS, PERSONAL FINDING WITH POSTERS, PHONE BOOK TRACTING AND OTHER GREAT IDEAS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

We learn from our missionary Weekly Reports of wonderful proselyting ideas developed by our missionaries and members. When coupled with the great teaching methods laid out so beautifully in *PMG*, and coupled with Elder Nash's inspired challenge to us to better link all that we do to Our Purpose as missionaries, these ideas can spur us to greater success. We present them to you:

Using Spiritual Tours Effectively, by Elders Skylar Weeks (and Jacob Earnest)

“I want to inform you of some of our great success with the ‘Set-a-Tour-Date’ system here in Surrey. Elder Earnest and I have set a goal and made a determined effort to not leave a member’s home without first setting a Spiritual Tour Date. Ever since we have incorporated these ideas into our member visits, we have seen great success. We now have seven Tour dates (with more coming) in the short space of 1½ weeks. When we meet with the members, we also make sure they understand the great missionary tool that dynamic Chapel Tours are. We strive to educate them on why they are beneficial and

how they can be used to introduce anyone to the Church. I have found that certain members within any given ward have been on these Tours two, three, even four times without ever having taken a non-member acquaintance with them. My reaction to this is to help them understand the reason behind inviting their friends and acquaintances on these Spiritual Tours. When they understand that these Tours are great tools to introduce their friends in a non-threatening manner, they start inviting, praying all the while that the Lord will help them to be bold in doing so.



VERNON STAKE CENTER



“We have found that some members have concerns with the Tours. By asking them ‘How was your Chapel Tour experience?’ we have been able to pinpoint exactly what their concerns/problems with the Tours are. Then we as a companionship are able to teach them about the purpose and value of Tours, helping them to resolve their concerns. The formerly doubting and concerned members now have a new Spiritual Tour date goal set and this time they will be bringing a friend. We also have the goal of ensuring that all the leadership in the ward understands and embraces Spiritual Tours and their purpose. I know and feel that by getting the leadership to not only ‘talk the Tour talk’ but to ‘walk the Tour walk,’ this ward will unify together and grow from the awesome spiritual experiences that Tours are and will be.”

Surrey First Ward Members Increasingly Going on Spiritual Chapel Tours, by Elders James Brown (and Maclain Miles)

“The members in the Surrey 1st Ward are steadily gaining more interest in missionary work. Spiritual Tours with members have gone up significantly since last transfer. At the end of the Tour we are committing them to bring a non-member friend within three months. We hope to have most of the members committed by the end of the transfer.”

Editor’s Note: We have challenged each companionship to conduct three or more Spiritual Chapel Tours weekly. As Elder M. Russell Ballard has instructed missionaries world wide to teach at least 15 lessons weekly to improve and maintain their lesson-giving skills, so too do we need to conduct at least three Spiritual Chapel Tours weekly if we would give the best Tour we can. Invite members

FJORD NEAR VANCOUVER FROM THE AIR

to help you by coming on Tours so that you might hone your skills; ask them to be prepared to offer constructive criticism as to how you might give a better Tour; and always conclude the Tour with Commitments that are inspired by the Spirit.

Personal Finding Using Church Posters to Attract Investigators, by Elders James Cornwell (and Ben Thompson)

“We found an excellent contacting method. Some of the Chapels have big posters that they use for Spiritual Chapel Tours, which can be used in other settings as well. We got together with the Burnaby English Elders and Sisters, and we took the posters to one of our contacting spots by Metrotown. We had so much success! The posters caught many people’s attention so they would stop and talk to us. Elder Thompson and I taught 30 other lessons in just two hours. We also obtained contact information for about 8 people. It was so much fun and it was worth the effort.”

Phone Book Tracting and Hard Work brings Success, by Elders Russell Nebeker (and Emmanuel Martinez)

“Here in Surrey the work seems a lot harder, but also more rewarding, as the success we have is in direct proportion to the amount of work we put in. We are determined to show the Surrey Spanish Branch that we will do the Lord’s work, and trust that they will see our efforts and then be motivated to become member missionaries. We have recently begun ‘phone book tracting,’ whereby we find only Spanish names in the phone book, then knock on all of

those doors. We have had to put in a lot of work but have found three new investigators by this method, one of which came to Church today. We also took time to call every single name in our area book. It took about 100 phone calls but we found a new investigator that way. We have become convinced that when the going gets rough, you increase your finding efforts, you do whatever you have to do, and the Lord will help you find a way to succeed. We have come to know that the missionary makes the area, the area does not make the missionary.”

Thanks to our great missionaries for their inspired observations and ideas. We pray that every one of our missionaries will constantly work hard, and also work smart, seeking the Lord’s inspiration throughout each day. We love each of you!

President and Sister Middleton

“And whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is right, believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be given unto you.” 3 Nephi 18:20

APRIL 17, 2007

INSPIRING COUNSEL FROM ELDER RASBAND

On April 7, 2006 there was a Mission President’s Seminar in Seattle for all nine of the Area Mission Presidents, which we attended. Elder Ronald Rasband who is one of the seven Presidents of the Seventies, and also is assigned to oversee our Area, presided. Many wonderful ideas were brought forth in that seminar, a few of which we will share with you. A highlight was a conference call in which we heard from Elder M. Russell Ballard and Elder Quentin Cook, both of whom are overseeing the worldwide missionary efforts of the Church.

Some excellent ideas brought forth are the following:

1. Full time missionaries should meet with the bishop or branch president weekly, in a relatively brief meeting to which they should take their Daily Planner as well as Area Book for review with the bishop or branch president. At the meeting they should find specific ward or branch issues that they need to address and also to co-ordinate their efforts to match members to the investigators for fellowshipping purposes, to assure that the investigators who are invited to Sacrament Meeting are either picked up or are joined by a member to lead them over to Sacrament Meeting, to assure that fellowshipping needs are being addressed properly.
2. Zone Leaders should meet with the stake or district president monthly. The issues discussed should be similar to those mentioned above with ward or branch leaders.
3. Work vigorously to see that stake, district, ward and branch members write a dynamic Mission Plan, which has the characteristics outlined by our stake presidents—simple and short, involve every member, and with measurable goals.
4. Have the bishop or branch president give second interviews of investigators when required according to the PMG criteria so that they can better know them prior to baptism. In the Handbook it suggests that the mission president or counselor in the mission presidency give the second interview which, in many instances, is not physically possible here in B.C. because of the distance involved. A better idea in every instance is to have the interview done by the local Church leader for the reasons mentioned above.
5. Go over Chapter 13 of *Preach My Gospel* in ward council and missionary correlation meetings, to be sure that all ward and branch leaders understand their role in making missionary efforts successful.
6. Welcome strangers to each ward or branch meeting. Reports are repeatedly heard of individuals unknown to ward or branch members attending a Church service and never being welcomed or greeted by anybody. Continually remind in PEC, ward council and other meetings of the critical importance of proper welcome.
7. Be sure that each ward or branch has a dynamic insightful Mission Leader. It was shared with us the solution that Elder Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve suggested to insure that the Mission Leader be the proper individual - that each bishop

or branch president release the First Counselor and then make him the ward or branch Mission Leader. While that probably isn't necessary in most cases, it underlines the importance the Brethren place on having the most capable individuals to head the ward or branch missionary efforts.

8. Comply with the directions of *Preach My Gospel* in order to keep the missionary work simple. Elder Ballard made a strong point that when local leaders write intricate, lengthy and complex missionary suggestions or Plans that all they do is confuse the members; then the basic and simple work doesn't get done. He urged also that we use the short well-done lesson pamphlets, which tie into each of the lessons in PMG to reinforce the basic message we bear to investigators.
9. Elder Ballard urged that the "wall" that seems to have crept in between members and full time missionaries through the years is a creation of Satan, and must be broken down at all costs. He urged that missionaries and members must be seamlessly integrated into a single effective missionary effort.
10. As PMG urges, missionary companionships should aim toward a minimum of 15 lessons per week, and should include all 4 of the first lessons among that number. There is no better method for giving compelling inviting lessons than to simply be giving them repeatedly, according to Elder Ballard, something we strongly urge all companionships to accomplish.
11. When missionaries have the investigators pray, it would be helpful to ask the investigator to "pray for the missionaries as



FALCON CARVED FROM A TREE ON KELOWNA WATERFRONT

well as to know that the lesson we've learned is true." By inviting the investigator to pray for each missionary companionship it invites them to understand that they and their referrals are part of the important finding and conversion process.

12. Elder Ballard urged that the model for training outlined in PMG be used, and used repeatedly. That model should be used by Zone Leaders every time they do exchanges, by District Leaders every time they have district meetings. It consists of explaining what a lesson should look like, then demonstrating the lesson, then



ALEX FRASIER BRIDGE, FRASER RIVER

having the missionary companionships practice giving the lesson, and then evaluate how they did, looking toward improvement. All Zone Leaders and District Leaders should do exchanges for no less than 24 hours, so that all aspects of the missionaries' habits and obedience are properly evaluated.

13. Elders Ballard and Cook made an important observation that every time a missionary companionship teaches an investigator they should ask for a referral, and should do so with every lesson they give. The dialogue should be something to the effect, "Who else would you like to have here with you in a lesson?"

14. Observe that President Gordon B. Hinckley has called for there to be a doubling of the number of baptisms yearly. When asked how that would occur, he responded that, "When the faith of the leaders and members equals that of the Prophet the baptisms will double." Clearly members and missionaries alike must step forward, and must step forward boldly and together. There is no question that the old statement that "united we stand, divided we fall" is extremely appropriate to successful missionary work.

That we all might heed the inspired sound advice of the General Authority leaders who have given it to us, that we might step forth boldly and with faith to accomplish the goal that our Prophet has given us that we double our baptisms is our constant prayer. We love you and love working with you.

President and Sister Middleton

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS SORENSEN & RHOADS

We would like to thank each of you for your faith and loyalty to the Lord and His Kingdom. Your diligence is an inspiration to all who know you. The Lord has asked that we be a clean and a pure people. He asks that we bring the sacrifice of a broken heart and a contrite spirit that we may be sanctified by the Holy Ghost. If faith truly does precede the miracle, then let us put it into action and turn away from those things that would keep us from being effective missionaries. Then will we see the promise made to Joshua of old come to pass in our own lives, “Sanctify yourselves, for to morrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” Joshua 3:5

WELCOME TO THE NEW MISSIONARIES

- Sister: Dionne Oliver (ON)
- Language Elders: Taryn Collins (UT), Jordan Elmore (MI), Brian Huo (CA), KOREAN

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING**Elder Luke Beachley**

“Go to work or go to hell.” –Brigham Young

Elder Kyle Webster Cluff (Cluffy)

“It is good to have an end to journey towards; but it’s the journey that matters in the end.” --Ursula Leguin I know that my Redeemer lives, for he has walked with me. I know His Gospel is true and that

it changes lives. This has been an unforgettable journey. I am glad to have shared it with you all. Thank you. No dice!

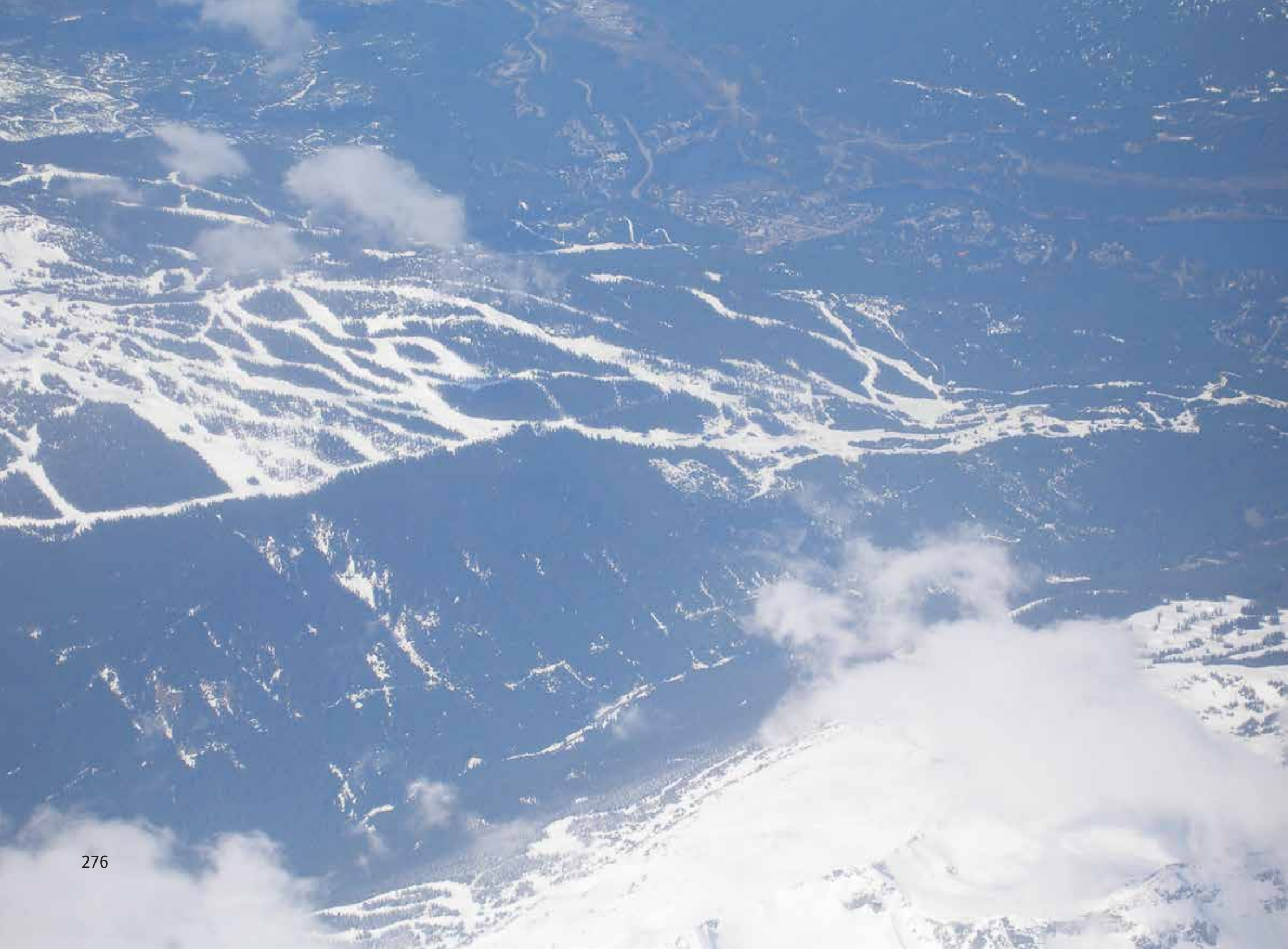
Sister Liem Thanh Doan

“And as surely as Christ liveth, bear testimony of him.”

Moroni 7:26, 31 I love this sentence in these verses because I know that He lives and I want to be Christ like. When you serve one another, you’d better forget yourself. He will always give you



BC MOUNTAINS NORTH OF VANCOUVER FROM THE AIR



confidence in His work. “Ye shall be patient in long-suffering and afflictions, that ye may show forth good examples unto them in me.” Alma 17:11

Elder Luke Edvalson

I may not see any of you again in this life, but I love the Gospel which eliminates good-byes through eternal friendship. Take good care, and work hard at everything you do.

Sister Emily I. Hansen

“Let us labor diligently...for we have a labor to perform whilst in this tabernacle of clay...” Remember that it is the strongest that the Lord gives the most challenges. God loves us. Jesus Christ is our Savior. How blessed I have been to serve in the BEST mission in the world! I will never be the same. “Courage, brethren (and sisters); and on, on to the victory!”

Elder Travis Nemrow

I love being a missionary! I truly believe in Nephi’s testimony given in 2 Nephi 4:20-21: “My God hath been my support: He hath led me through mine afflictions in the wilderness; and he hath preserved me upon the waters of the great deep. He hath filled me with His love!” I only hope and pray that I will continue to be filled with the love of God as I continue in the Lord’s great work!

Sister Michelle M. Ruge

Remember that this work is not yours and mine alone; it is the Lord’s work. When we are on the Lord’s errand, we are entitled to the Lord’s help. Remember that whom the Lord calls, the Lord qualifies. “He who gives money gives much; he who gives time gives more, but he who gives of himself gives all!” –Pres. Thomas S. Monson
Remember to give it your all!

Elder Thomas C. Sorensen

“As we demonstrate our devotion to God by our daily acts of righteousness, He can know where we stand.” –Pres. James E. Faust. I pray that my service here in B.C. has been acceptable in the eyes of the Lord. I hope He knows where I stand.

Elder Eric Transtrum

We have seen many great things through the time we have to serve the Lord. We all have our low times and have seen the worst. (Romans 8:38-39) But we know that through Jesus Christ we can accomplish what He has for us to do. So let the Lord mold us into the men and women we are to become. (2Nephi 33) Much love to all until we meet again.

Elder Jorell Young

“Did you see the sunrise?”—Thomas Sullivan Magnum



BEAUTIFUL BUSHES AT NANAIMO STAKE CENTER

Elder Weldon & Sister Donna Kitchen

It has been a privilege to serve with such high caliber missionaries under the direction of President and Sister Middleton. Many people are being led to us for the purpose of accepting the gospel. We feel that missionary work is on the verge of exploding here. We are grateful to have been part of its beginning. We know without a doubt that this gospel is true!

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR APRIL - MAY

- Apr 27 –Vancouver/Language
- May 4 –Surrey/Abbotsford
- May 11 –Nanaimo/Victoria
- May 17 –Vernon
- May 19 Prince George

“And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!” D&C 18:16

APRIL 24, 2007

LET'S TAKE IT TO THE NEXT LEVEL

The Lord has promised, “I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise” (DC 82:10). In other words, through exact obedience and compliance with all that we have been asked to do as missionaries, the Lord will shower us with blessings. Our understanding of the Lord’s request of us requires that we each work hard—all of us would surely agree that to work hard is what the Lord expects of us. But the Lord requires something more of us—that we work “smart” as we work hard. Our Purpose requires that we bring people unto the Church, that we baptize.

BENCHMARKS ARE GIVEN BY THE BRETHREN TO HELP US WORK SMART

When Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi asked that each companionship in our mission achieve 15 or more Full Lessons each week, he pointed out that when he served as a Mission President and made a similar challenge, each companionship which accomplished the goal weekly was blessed with at least one baptism each month. At his urging we have established a minimal goal of 15 Full Lessons weekly. In practice we are finding that each companionship which manages the day well, consistent with what Chapter 8 in *PMG* teaches us, is easily reaching 15 Full Lessons weekly, and most are exceeding 20

each week. How? When several calls are made each evening to assure that the appointments in the Daily Planner for the next day are filled (and then some with specific backup plans listed in the Planner), it will result in four or more Lessons or Tours the next day. When a goal of striving to make each planned Lesson or Tour a Full Lesson, most companionships will exceed 20 Full Lessons weekly.

REVITALIZE SPIRITUAL CHAPEL TOURS

Elder M. Russell Ballard has requested that our mission use Spiritual Chapel Tours to reach toward the success enjoyed by the Washington Tacoma Mission, which pioneered the use of the Tour.



PRINCE GEORGE ZONE, A SELF PROCLAIMED IDLE FREE ZONE



STANLEY PARK

Understanding that each companionship must give three Tours weekly to retain their Tour-giving skills, we need to step up to the challenge. Few if any active Church members will refuse to be taken on a Spiritual Chapel Tour when we explain to them that we need them to go with us to help improve our skills and when we ask them to come on the Tour prepared to offer suggestions as to how we might make our Tour better. Further, if we can draw the Spirit powerfully to the Lesson we give on the Tour, the members who come with us will be strongly motivated to follow through with the commitment they make with us at the Tour's conclusion to ask as many acquaintances as it takes to find a non-member acquaintance who will return with them for a subsequent Tour or Church activity. We must teach members as we obtain their commitment that all missionary work consists of "asking several to find the one," and teach them that they can and should issue an invitation to 'come and see' in the middle of a conversation with an acquaintance on any subject. They need to understand that the chances are high that several friends will decline their invitation to come on a Tour before they find the one who says, "Yes, I'd like to come see." We need to teach members this concept, and assure them that they will never lose a friend through asking. We also must teach each member the concept noted by President Spencer W. Kimball and more recently by Elder Gene R. Cook that every member of the Church, today as you read this *STAR*, knows someone who has been prepared by life's circumstances to say yes to an invitation from their member friend to come see what the Church is all about. They must be taught and learn to accept the Lord's promise made to each member in D & C 29:7, "Ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect; for mine elect hear my voice." Each member knows now someone among their hundreds of acquaintances who is the Lord's

“elect,” but they will need to learn to embrace the concept that they will need to “invite several until they find the one.”

OUR MORNING MANAGEMENT PREDICTS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE DAY

All of our General Authority visitors have emphasized the importance of managing our mornings well, as outlined in *PMG*. Elder Kikuchi, Elder Richards and Elder Nash all noted that if the morning essentials are not achieved with exact obedience, the rest of the day likely will be non-productive and the Lord will not bless us with success. So each of us must “find our sacred grove” to obtain the Lord’s blessings and guidance each morning, then we must exercise for 30 minutes, then accomplish our personal and companionship studies with intensity and focus, that we might learn and prepare as the Lord has asked of us. Then, and only then, will the rest of the day be productive. It will be productive with this type of preparation—the Lord makes us that promise.

We are Seeking the Spirit in all We Do, by Sisters Kimberly Wilcox (and Crystal Lynn Caribou)

“We have been working hard to incorporate the things that Elder Nash talked about when he was here, and we are slowly seeing results; no, quickly seeing results! We are finding more people to teach. Honestly we have really been striving to have the Spirit with us more often, and to bring the Spirit into every lesson. I feel like the Lord has really been helping me to achieve that goal and I will tell you it is exhausting! Feeling the Spirit more often really is tiring and



STANLEY PARK AND VANCOUVER

I fall into bed exhausted at night and half the time wake up tired as well. But President, it feels so good! And the Lord is giving me more strength. As I have tried to be better at truly inviting people to come to Christ, I have seen a big difference in the people we teach. My study has also changed because I know I need the Spirit and so I study more to feel the Spirit instead of studying to fill up that hour of study time.

“The most amazing thing happened this week. We were driving to the track to go exercise Saturday morning and we saw a man walking on the street. We felt like we should stop and talk to him and did so. He came to Church today and afterwards he said he just wanted to cry the whole time. He couldn’t explain it but he felt an awakening. When we met him he was walking home from the hospital after a heart attack just wondering about life and where he was going. We called him after Church and he said, ‘What do I have to do to get baptized?’ It was so awesome! He is in the process of cleaning up his life. He was previously on cocaine and on alcohol, but has been in programs for both of those the past couple of months. Anyway, we are going to start teaching him and start helping him finish cleaning up his life. It was so awesome. We have also been getting a large number of contacts this week.

“We have been trying to apply the things that Elder Nash said and we are just seeing miracles everywhere.”

That we all might “take it to the next level” with our newly focused and intense efforts is our constant prayer. We love each of you, and love the Lord mightily, as do you.

President and Sister Middleton

“They did wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and the sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of their yielding their hearts unto God” (Helaman 3:35).

MAY 2, 2007

HOLDING THE PRIESTHOOD MAKES US MISSIONARIES

Elder David A. Bednar of the Quorum of the Twelve made the important observation that by virtue of holding the Priesthood of God we are expected by Him to become and remain missionaries, lifelong. Elder Bednar noted, “Our labors as missionaries certainly are not confined to the short period of time devoted to full-time missionary service in our youth or in our mature years. Rather, the obligation to proclaim the restored Gospel of Jesus Christ is inherent in the oath and covenant of the priesthood into which we enter. All of us who hold the priesthood are the Lord’s authorized servants on the earth and are missionaries at all times and in all places—and we always will be” (*Ensign*, “Becoming a Missionary,” Nov. 2005).

HELP MEMBERS BECOME MEMBER MISSIONARIES

Understanding and, more importantly, incorporating into our daily practice this member missionary mind-set as outlined beautifully by Elder Bednar will be the means by which the accelerating growth of our wards and branches which was prophesied by Elder Henry B. Eyring will occur. Most of our members do not yet understand how

to be effective member missionaries, and an important facet of our work as full-time missionaries is to lovingly teach them how. We must share with members as they go with us on a Spiritual Tour of their chapel the Church study which found that on average every member knows 112 non-member acquaintances. We must teach them in faith that at least one, and more likely several, of those 112 non-members they know has been prepared through life’s experiences to say yes to their invitation to come on a Spiritual Tour of the chapel, or to a ward or branch activity. They are the “Lord’s elect” spoken of in D & C 29:7; they simply need an invitation from their member friend.



WILD DUCK ENJOYING FOUNTAIN NEAR PARLIAMENT

TEACH MEMBERS TO ASK SEVERAL TO FIND THE ONE

Lovingly, patiently, we must teach members that they can easily issue a simple invitation to come and see— “Hey, Dorothy (or Sam or John), you know that I am a Mormon. Could you come with me on a Tour of my chapel to see what it’s about?” We must teach members that realistically most of their friends will decline to come just then. However, the friend they ask will remain a friend even if they choose not to come, and no member will lose a friend through inviting them



NANAIMO KITCHEN ANGELS

to come and see. By inviting each of those 112 non-member friends the member will find those who are the “Lord’s elect,” and those elect will come and see. We need to teach each member another concept, which is true in all missionary work, and that is that we must ask several to find the one. Once a member understands and embraces this all-important member missionary concept, the Church growth in BC prophesied by Elder Eyring will come to pass. We must teach each member that they have accomplished all that the Lord has asked of them when they invite. They cannot judge whether or not they are good missionaries by whether a friend they invite goes on to baptism—that is determined by their friend’s own free agency. The members need to understand that all they need to do is issue the invitation to “come and see.”

A GREAT SPIRITUAL TOUR OF THE CHAPEL FOR THE KAMLOOPS 2ND WARD YOUTH, BY ELDERS KYLE FOSTER (AND ADAM HASSELL)

“The Kamloops 2nd Ward recently planned and executed a massive youth Tour. Kamloops 2nd Ward has, on average, about 36 active youth. All of them came to youth night for a Tour, and even brought 7 non-member friends, for a total of 43 youth! That’s not including all of the auxiliary presidencies, parents, and the bishop. The bishop even opened his office and gave a description of what he does! The tour groups were split up to make it possible to fit them in rooms, and it was well received. The high points in all the Tours were

the First Vision in the foyer, the explanation of the youth program in the Young Women's room, and the chapel, where we met all together, recapped our experiences, and blessed the refreshments.

"It was interesting to again note that there were absolutely no apparent feelings that the Church was pushed excessively through our Tour, but rather the tone was one of gratitude for the great lessons of the Gospel, fellowship of the members and the beauty of the building. As if that wasn't enough, a non-member family showed up that night to be with the 11-year-old scouts, and when they saw and heard what we were doing they expressed an interest in going on a Spiritual Tour themselves! A member at the scout meeting promptly introduced us, and we will be arranging a Tour shortly. The blessings of the Lord are truly breaking forth in Kamloops."

**Missionary 'Kit' for each Member Family in Smithers;
Youth Are Becoming Great Member Missionaries, by Elders
Noueru Shibayama (and Spencer Lassetter)**

"In Smithers, President Dana Gorbahn has prepared a missionary kit for every member and member family. We are going to visit them individually and teach them how to be a member missionary.

In the Smithers Branch, we have a time during Church to share missionary moments. Members tell of opportunities they have had at the beginning of Priesthood Meeting. This is really good to stimulate a focus on sharing the Gospel during the week. In Smithers, the youth are becoming good missionaries and are excited to share the Gospel with their friends."

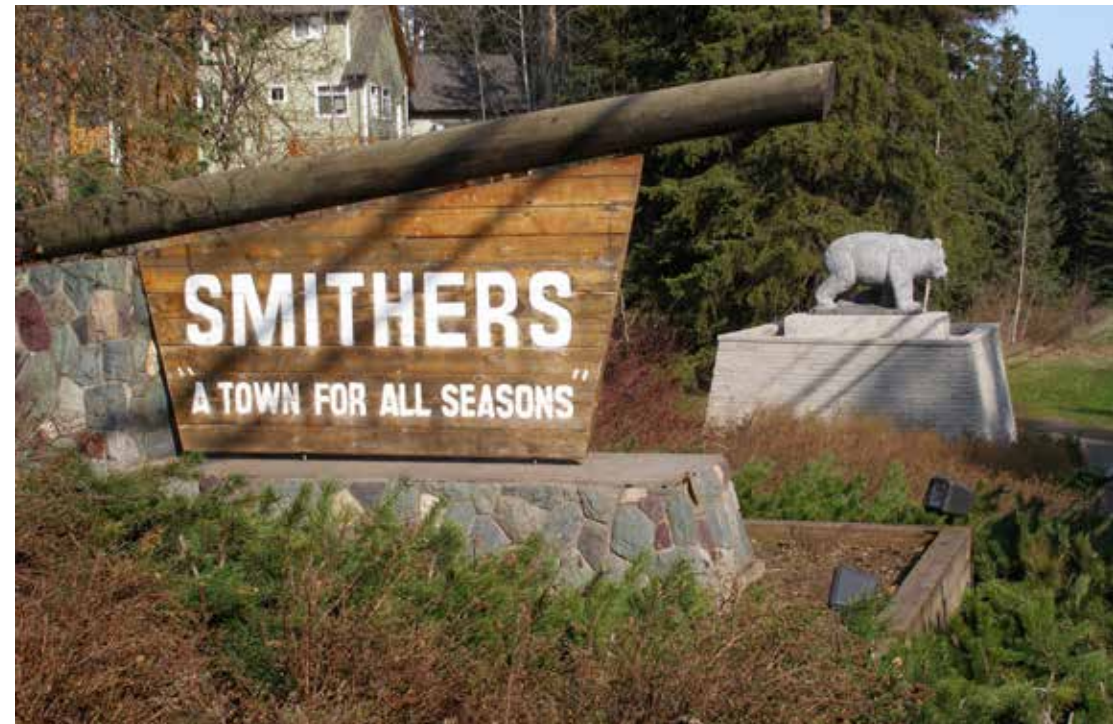
That we might be successful in teaching the members of the wards

and branches in which we serve the simple process of inviting each of their non-member acquaintances to "come and see" is our constant prayer. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Geoffrey David Thompson-SPAN (Idaho Falls, ID); Laric Tolleson-SPAN (St. George, UT); Jeffrey David Curtis-KOR (West Jordan, UT)



ROADSIDE ENTRANCE TO SMITHERS



RICHMOND CITY HALL

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Sister Jill Berrett

I have fought the fight; I have finished my course; I have kept the faith; I have served my time and now it is time for the rest of you to do the same... so do it well.

Sister Patricia Bland

A mission gives us numerous moments to feel the Spirit. These many times have increased my faith and testimony. In an eternal life, I would like to enjoy such feelings all the time. In the meantime, this true church is the Kingdom of God on earth.

Elder Larsen Boyer

We accepted our mission call with real intent to enjoy ourselves and to lighten the load of the bishop. We have grown in Heavenly Father's service, learning better to recognize and to receive the Spirit's confirming guidance. Our joy now exceeds all anticipation! Any good accomplished will hopefully last even into eternity where we may further share our cherished British Columbia friendships.

Sister Maurine Boyer

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." I am so grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Elder Craig Carter

Alma 5:26 “And now behold, I say unto you, my brethren, if ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can ye feel so now?”

Elder Austin Graff

I think Moroni said it best when he said, “I, Moroni, will not deny the Christ...” I cannot deny Him either for I know He lives. This is His Church; He leads, guides, and directs it. Your mission will only be what you make it. Only one person decides if it will be great or terrible and that person is you. God bless.

Elder Jose Guerrero

“For I, the Lord God, created all things...spiritually before they were naturally upon the face of the earth.... Wherefore...all things unto me are spiritual” (Moses 3:5; DC 29:34). We are not humans having a spiritual experience; we are spirits having a human experience. This is a spiritual work. All things must be done in His Spirit. Christ lives! He loves us and I love Him! Thank you. This is only the beginning!

Elder Frederick Masten

As a convert I waited for forty-eight years to serve a mission, but the Lord took this time to teach me. May I always be teachable. I am ever in His debt. Mosiah 2:17

Sister Kristina Masten

To assist our Heavenly Father in His work and His glory, to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man (Moses 1:39) has been the most wonderful experience in my life. My testimony of my Savior and the scriptures has grown much stronger, and I am grateful to have had this opportunity to serve.

Sister Coleen Murray

Because you have been enlightened, you owe it to those who follow to be the best example you can be. We have been blessed with the light of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our lives. It is up to us to diligently continue to light the way for others. Remember who you are and how much you are loved!

Sister Maria Slack

Ezra Taft Benson said, “Men and women who turn their lives over to God will discover that he can make a lot more out of their lives than they can.” The Lord truly magnifies us within our callings, especially as missionaries. We work like God will always make up the difference for us, “but if not” we keep working and trusting anyway. Keep it tight! (Daniel 3:15-18)

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Pearl Kelly, Laura Pederson, Jordan Slater, Madeleine Slater
- Prince George: Cassia Gauthier, Telise Gauthier, Dorothy Hockett
- Nanaimo: Scott Snyder
- Surrey: John Meier, Tanya Zand
- Vernon: Josh Noble
- Victoria: Donna Smith, Kyle Jesney

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS LASALLE & PUGSLEY

We have a lot of work ahead of us in this vineyard of the Lord's, and with our increased efforts we will see many miracles. As we go from Spring to Summer we hope we can all heat things up in this beautiful Canada Vancouver Mission. We have been given the tools to increase the work, but must utilize them effectively. We want to remind everybody to use our sling and Maquahuitls with power and accuracy. Focus ourselves on the Lord's work by remembering who we are and what we have committed ourselves to do. "The harvest is the Lord's; our job is to thrust in the sickle."

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR MAY-JUNE

- May 10—Van/Van Lang
- May 17—Surrey/Sur Lang/Abbots (Surrey Stk Cntr)
- May 24—Nanaimo/Victoria
- May 30—Vernon
- Jun 1—Prince George

"Then Jesus saith unto them, what seek ye? They said unto him, where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, come and see" (John 1:38-39).

MAY 8, 2007

HELP THE BISHOP, HELP THE LORD

*P*reach My Gospel places the success of missionary efforts within a ward or branch in the hands of the bishop or branch president. "The bishop [or branch president] is responsible for missionary, retention, and activation efforts in the ward [or branch]. His personal participation and leadership are essential" (PMG, pg. 218). We are extremely grateful to our BC bishops and branch presidents for all they are doing on behalf of missionary work, as busy as their lives are with their multiple responsibilities. To better determine how we full-time missionaries might help the bishop grow his ward, over the past six weeks we have been polling each of our missionary

companionships about their integration into their assigned ward or branch. Of the 54 companionships polled, we find that 89% are invited to the full PEC Meeting, and 89% are part of the full Ward (or Branch) Council. One companionship is invited into PEC and Ward Council just long enough to give a brief report, and then is asked to leave. Eleven percent of our companionships are not invited to attend either PEC or Ward Council.

MOST FIND PEC AND WARD COUNCIL ATTENDANCE WHOLLY POSITIVE

When polled we found that of those companionships who do attend PEC and Ward Council, 67% found the time spent to be wholly positive. They reported that they were dialoguing and interfacing with ward or branch leaders about missionary-related matters frequently throughout the meeting, or gaining excellent leadership training as they observed how leadership principles are applied to matters not strictly missionary related. Thirty-five % of missionaries who attend the full PEC and Ward Council Meetings report that it is mostly a productive use of their time, but it could be better. When asked how it could be better, an illustration was cited in the difference missionaries noted in two wards meeting in the same building—in the one ward missionary links were made to the discussions about each of the priesthood and auxiliary organizations, while in the other ward a “missionary report” was the last agenda item and was usually a five-minute monologue by the ward mission leader or missionaries with no discussion. The contrast was stark.

The full-time missionaries who are not invited to PEC or Ward

Council Meetings or who attend just to give a report and then are dismissed tell us the reason used by ward or branch leaders to excuse them is the idea that “sensitive issues may be discussed.” In our view, learning how to be a Church leader, which mission presidents are charged to teach all full-time missionaries, entails learning to keep confidences. Bishop Darcy Dyck of the Quesnel Ward includes full-time missionaries in his PEC and Ward Council Meetings and discussions, and has been known to counsel his full-time missionaries when a sensitive issue was to be discussed that the comments in those meetings are not to go beyond the room. The missionaries so counseled have learned an important facet of Church leadership,



PRESIDENT MIDDLETON INSTRUCTS THE VACOUVER ZONE

and the confidences have remained secret. All of our bishops/branch presidents who have full-time missionaries present and engaged in the discussions throughout their PEC and Ward Council Meetings are teaching the value of keeping confidences, as best as we can tell.

DISCUSS THE WEEKLY KEY INDICATORS WITH THE BISHOP AND WARD MISSIONARIES

We e-mail the week's Key Indicators to each bishop and branch president, and will soon send them to each Ward Mission Leader. To help them know how to interpret these Key Indicators, we would ask that you teach them how, if they don't already know, from *PMG*, pages 138 and 139. Our survey found that just 42% of our missionaries review the Key Indicators weekly with the bishop; we can be far more successful and helpful to the bishop if we strive for 100%. We can review them with each bishop or branch president in only 5-10 minutes at most. They serve as a snapshot of ward/branch missionary activity for the week, and are very helpful in planning and directing. Similarly, we suggest that Zone Leaders discuss Key Indicators for all wards and branches in the stake during your regular meeting with stake presidents.

Weekly Missionary Correlation Meeting is being held in 84% of our wards and branches

covered by missionaries, and the Key Indicators will be helpful in that meeting, helping to guide the assignments made for exchanges with the ward missionaries, Aaronic Priesthood or Young Women youth, and with member leaders. Mention the importance of having a representative from the leadership of the priesthood quorums and auxiliaries



ZONE LEADER ELDER WARD PRESENTS THE FIRST OFF-THE-HOOK COMPANIONSHIP AWARD TO ELDERS SHUMWAY AND PECK

present at the Correlation Meeting as well, as each of those organizations can and should play an important missionary role (*PMG*, pg. 219).

Currently only 30% of wards/branches have a weekly exchange with members—let's try to approach 100% of wards having weekly member exchanges because they are so valuable. In addition to the Ward Mission Leader, our survey found that various wards have up to 10 members called as ward or branch missionaries, some without clear instructions of what to do with their calling. We need to help involve them in exchanges with the full-time missionaries or with each other weekly. We can assist in helping the bishop and Ward Mission Leader deploy ward missionaries usefully; they will prove to be a valuable ward resource when fully integrated into the ward/branch missionary efforts.

CONCENTRATE ON THE BISHOP'S FIVE NAMES

Most wards and branches have adopted the memorandum sent last August from Elder Earl C. Tingey of the Missionary Executive Council, which called for the bishop and ward council to prayerfully select 5 people who are less-active for the full-time missionaries to activate. We are to include them in our Area Book and on the Progress Record we pass out to all in attendance at PEC and Ward Council Meetings. These five should be taught regularly, should be asked for referrals, and should be linked to active ward fellowshippers by having them visit the five during the regular weekly exchanges

we do with members. This approach has been very successful world wide, and we need to help our ward or branch leaders implement the approach.

Our prayer is that we full-time missionaries might continuously strive to strengthen our bond with members and become an indispensable resource for the bishops and branch presidents. We love each of you, and love serving with you in His service.

President and Sister Middleton



IDEAS FROM SPOKANE AND OUR MEMBERS

MAY-JUNE 2007

MAY 15, 2007

INVITE EVERY NON-MEMBER ACQUAINTANCE TO COME AND SEE

Early in the Savior's ministry in the Old World He taught us the simple language we must use to become an effective member missionary. In John 1:39 we read, "He saith unto them, come and see." For us to invite each of our many non-member acquaintances to "come and see" is extraordinarily easy to do, and is the profoundly simple yet extremely effective method by which we can accomplish the Lord's admonition to each of us to become an excellent, faithful

member missionary. Recently the Forin family in the Courtney Ward embraced this concept, as reported by Elders Johnson and Perkins:

Forin Family Invites Their Friends using Bishop McKenzie's Invitation Technique (by Elders Austin Johnson and Brian Perkins)

"The Forin Family in the Courtney Ward has recently embraced the concept of how to become effective member missionaries. They heard of Bishop Neil McKenzie's 'no-sweat member missionary technique' at the recent Nanaimo Stake Conference, in which a

member starts a conversation with a non-member acquaintance on any topic of interest. Midway through the conversation they state, ‘Hey Joe, (or whomever), you know that I’m a Mormon. Could I invite you to come on a Tour of my chapel with me to learn about it?’ They have also grasped the ‘ask several to find the one’ concept. The Forins were nervous as they asked the first couple of friends, but found that it was very easy to invite this way, and even when their friends chose not to go on a Tour, they remained as friendly as before the question was asked—they did not lose a friend. The Forins resolved after the Stake Conference that they would ask their friends, neighbors and co-workers, and of the 13 they have invited so far 5 have gone on a Tour!”



ELDERS ZUFELT AND TAVERNINI GIVE THE
FIRST LESSON TO ELDERS DAVIS AND ZUNIGA

Editor’s Note: Congratulations to the Forin Family! The simple invitation they make to their non-member friends is simple to do, and does not risk losing a friendship. This asking concept has proven very effective for Bishop Neil McKenzie, bishop of the Willoughby Ward; Bishop Frank Hitchmough of the Victoria 2nd Ward has been inviting his friends using a similar question, and Sister Lena Ma of the Wah Yan Chinese Ward has been inviting essentially all of her non-member acquaintances for the past 10 years and has been responsible for 20 baptisms during that time! We must patiently teach all BC Church members this concept. We must teach members that their success is not measured by how many of their friends become baptized, but rather how many of their non-member friends they have invited—every non-member acquaintance needs to be invited. Spotlighting the invitations made is where the emphasis must lie. Members must be lovingly taught that most of those they ask will decline to come, as that is the nature of missionary efforts at any level. But the invitation must be made to effectively sift through member’s friends to find those who are the elect of the Lord (D&C 29:7). Ask several to find the one is the philosophy members should embrace. It works!

The Power of Chapel Tours and Hard Work (by Sisters Kristiana Bardardottir and Colleen Murray)

“This week has been amazing! We took the challenge to ‘have 20 Full Lessons both this week and next.’ We managed to reach that goal through a lot of prayer and dedication to the work. It was amazing how many appointments we got in every planning session at the end of the day.

“One of the blessings that we gained as we took this challenge was an amazing Tour, one of the best Tours that I have had on my mission, given to a girl named Katie. Katie is 20 years old, and a member invited her to come on a Tour. That member used to baby sit Katie when she was a little girl, and she used to bring her to Church when she was about 5 years old. As she took the Tour she told us how much peace she felt in the Church building. She recognized that her feelings were the same feelings that she had had when she used to come to Church when she was only 5! We asked her after the Tour and after giving her a *Book of Mormon* what stood out the most as we gave her the Tour. She said that it was when we told her about Joseph Smith—I know that it was definitely the First Vision that made it so special. ‘One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other, this is my beloved Son, hear Him.’ The Spirit was so strong when these words were spoken! As a result of us working really hard Bishop Housholder now trusts us completely and supports us.”

Editor’s Note: Sisters Bardardottir and Murray mention the challenge to have 20 Full Lessons two weeks in a row at the start of each transfer. The advantage to every companionship of aiming toward 20 or more Full Lessons in each of the first two weeks at the start of each Transfer is clear—through those 20 or more Full Lessons we can connect with most of the ward or branch leadership, lifting them spiritually, gaining their respect for each of us as excellent teachers of the Gospel, and receiving commitments from them. If a missionary is new to the ward or branch, it will introduce him or her to the members—better than any other method might. Make three or more of these 20 plus Full Lessons be Spiritual Chapel Tours that your Tour-giving skills might improve!



SISTER MIDDLETON AND THE LEES AT THE NEW WESTBANK CHAPEL

**A Good Area Book Leads to Many New Investigators,
(by Elders Carlton Taylor and James Corey)**

“This has been one of the best weeks of my mission. Elder Corey and I are working extremely hard. I also believe that we are working really smart. We have thoroughly gone through our Area Books for Penticton, Oliver and Osoyoos. Past missionaries have kept very good records, and we have benefited from looking up the people that they were teaching. We couldn’t contact everyone just yet, but the people that we did contact were great! We have been able to find many new investigators from these two area books. It was also very cool that Elder Corey and I had the opportunity to see two less-active members that we have been working with come to Church on Sunday in addition to six of our investigators!”

Elders Taylor and Corey have perfectly illustrated how important it is to keep each Area Book current. As we visit with members please share with them the story of the Forin family learning to invite with the ‘Bishop Neil McKenzie No-Sweat Member Missionary Technique,’ and challenge them to become the good member missionaries they are capable of becoming. Thanks for all you do. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“And thou must open thy mouth at all times, declaring my gospel with the sound of rejoicing.” D&C 28:16

MAY 22, 2007

**HOW THE SPOKANE 1ST WARD
ACHIEVED 20 BAPTISMS IN 2006**

We learned from President David Clarke of the Washington Spokane Mission at the Mission Presidents’ Seminar in Seattle in April, 2007, of the spectacular success of a ward in Spokane, the Spokane 1st Ward. Bishop David Kulisch had seen limited missionary success in his Spokane 1st Ward, with no baptisms in 2002 and none in 2003. In September of 2004 he called a dynamic, bold Ward Mission Leader, Matt Borders, and in 2004 they saw one baptism. Thinking boldly and with faith, together they then set the goal of 12 baptisms in 2005 and achieved 6. With *Preach My Gospel* becoming





A FEW OF THE TERRACE DISTRICT MEMBERS AT CONFERENCE IN FRONT OF THE SMITHERS CHAPEL

better understood and assimilated, and with faith, Bishop Kulish and Brother Borders set a goal of 20 baptisms for 2006, twenty fold what they had seen in 2004! Long story short, they achieved that goal.

One Ward, Same Members, Same Geographic Area, Plus Fired-up Enthusiasm on the Part of Every Member Equals Twenty Times the Number of Baptisms

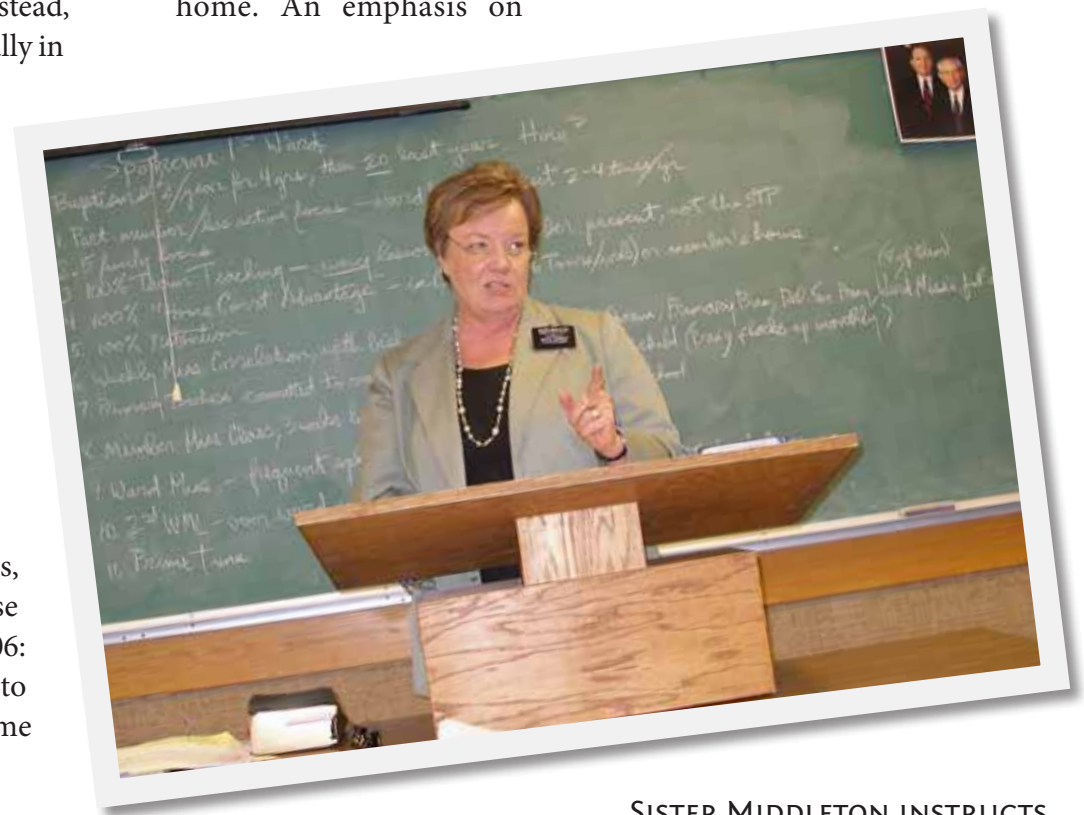
The 20 baptisms in 2006 would have been impossible for Bishop Kulisch and Brother Borders to have achieved by themselves. Instead, through organizing the ward along principles outlined beautifully in *Preach My Gospel*, and most importantly by infusing within each member a vision and fire that the ward could and would achieve, they succeeded in reaching that goal. It was necessary that every member capture the vision and be taught the skills to become a member missionary, and even more importantly, it was necessary for those members to embrace their important role.

AREAS OF FOCUS IN THE SPOKANE 1ST WARD MISSIONARY SUCCESS IN 2006

Brother Border, Bishop Kulisch, and the ward missionaries, plus all those who meet in the Ward Council established these areas of focus by which they could reach twenty baptisms in 2006:

- Part-member and Less-Actives—inaugurate a ward blitz to visit each of them two to four times per year, plus have home teachers in the homes of each who would accept them.

- Five Less-Active-Family focus of the ward, prayerfully chosen by the bishop, as outlined by Elder Earl Tingey for all the wards in the Church, and vigorously and repeatedly pursued.
- 100% “Team Teaching.” By this they meant that no lesson should be given by the full-time missionaries without a member present, and all ward members rallied around to come, even on very short notice, to be present at each lesson.
- 100% “Home-Court Advantage.” The goal was to teach each investigator either at the ward Chapel or in a member’s home. An emphasis on



SISTER MIDDLETON INSTRUCTS AT VANCOUVER ZONE CONFERENCE

Spiritual Chapel Tours was made, which they nicknamed “Nickel Tours,” with the missionaries achieving five to six Tours weekly, all with a member present.

- 100% retention of newly-baptized members.
- Every active member finds a family to teach.

To achieve these important objectives required that every member play their important part. Initially, they called fourteen ward missionaries, and each ward missionary was given three part-member and less-active families to visit monthly as past of their ward missionary duties. The number of ward missionaries later was reduced to eight, with one couple out of that eight assigned to visit ward members once or twice monthly to follow through on commitments they had made to teach non-members and to follow their performance on other commitments.

Missionary Correlation Meeting was held weekly, with the full-time missionaries, with all of the ward missionaries present along with the Ward Mission Leader. It became necessary to call a second ward mission leader, who was assigned to speak with the full-time missionaries frequently, averaging two to four times weekly, but often more frequently, correlating the full-time missionaries’ and the members’ schedules to achieve the goals of 100% “team teaching” and 100% “home court advantage.” A competition was set up between the ward missionaries and the full-time missionaries to see who could set up the most Tours of the Chapel, and who could achieve other objectives they had determined.

A MEMBER MISSIONARY CLASS WAS INAUGURATED

A Member Missionary Class was started in which two to three couples were called to attend a three-week course to be given during Sunday School. Each member attending is committed to find and bring one of their non-member acquaintances and is taught how to become a member missionary, using role plays to teach them appropriate simple methods such as the “Bishop Neil McKenzie invitation” technique. Along with this effort a unified ward effort was begun on everybody’s part to ponder, pray and fast regularly to grow the ward through missionary activity.

ACCOUNTABILITY AND CONSISTENCY OF THE WARD MISSIONARIES BECAME CENTRAL

Frequent follow up by one of the ward missionaries was necessary for all ward members to be certain that everybody was accomplishing their respective goals effectively. Daily contact was usually necessary between the ward mission leader and the full-time missionaries to achieve the goal.



SISTERS MEETING AT VANCOUVER ZONE CONFERENCE, WITH SISTERS WHITING AND CARIBOU

SISTERS OVERLOCK AND WHITING FEATURED IN A SQUAMISH NEWSPAPER

COMMUNITY

Missionaries on snowboards

Latter-Day Saints missionaries land in Squamish

SUSAN HOLLES
SHOLLES@SQUAMISHCHIEF.COM

A missionary on a snowboard isn't exactly what most people have in mind when they think of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (CJCLDS).

However, that is just what you'd see if you ran into Sisters Whiting and Overlock (who prefer not to give their first names) during their recreational time.

The CJCLDS's newest transplants arrived in Squamish three weeks ago to fulfill their mission through community service and educating locals about the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

"We're so excited to be here, we love Squamish it's so beautiful here," said Overlock. "I'm a big snowboarder, so it's a dream to be here."

Overlock and Whiting, who come from Hawaii and Utah, respectively, are part of a network of 53,000 missionaries working all over the world.

"We teach people about our church if they want to know about it and if they don't that's fine," said Whiting.

They will serve in British Columbia for 18 months, which is customary for young female missionaries, who start their missions at 21. Males complete a two-year mission, beginning at 19 years of age.

Along with working with seniors and providing yard work, the women are trying to set up an English as a second language class.

"There are so many people from different countries in Canada, especially in B.C.," said Whiting. "I think people assume we have the same core beliefs. I think people would be surprised at the differences."

There are 120 active CJCLDS missionaries in B.C.

They are part of the Canada-Vancouver Mission and have been selected at random to serve the area by church headquarters in Salt Lake City, Utah. The young missionaries fund their journeys themselves though they have a little help from the church. Some receive help from their parents; others save up through their teen years.

More than 50 per cent of the church's 13 million members are first generation, meaning they chose, and were not born into the religion.

We teach people about our church if they want to know about it...

-Sister Whiting

SUSAN HOLLES/THE CHIEF

Sisters Overlock (left) and Whiting of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints are working in Squamish as part of their 18-month missionary work for the church.



THE PRIMARY BECOMES CENTRAL TO ACHIEVING THE WARD GROWTH GOALS

The ward Primary presidency committed to challenging every teacher in the Primary to reactivate or fellowship at least one child, and the Primary presidency checked up monthly with every teacher to see if they had accomplished that goal. Interestingly, 50% of the baptisms in 2006 in the Spokane 1st Ward came from part-member families with children ages 9 through 11 years of age.

The important achievements of the Spokane 1st Ward were accomplished simply using the principles already outlined in *Preach My Gospel*. There is no reason why similar goals would not succeed in any ward or branch in British Columbia where a bishop or branch president in concert with a *bold* and *visionary* Ward Mission Leader could set a goal and establish that essentially every ward member step forth and become the member missionary that our Father in Heaven has asked us to become. If what was achieved in the Spokane 1st Ward would work for you, prayerfully and faithfully adopt it, altering where necessary, but embracing the principles which have brought such blessed success.

May the Lord bless us as we go forth to achieve what our Father in Heaven would have us achieve. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

BEAR STATUE AT ENTRANCE TO SMITHERS

“I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise.” D&C 82:10

MAY 29, 2007

GREAT OBSERVATIONS BY OUR EXCELLENT MISSIONARIES

This letter is devoted completely to comments from our missionaries. As they have great success or observe successful activities within their areas, we are anxious to share their experiences throughout the mission. We feel that doing so allows all of our missionaries as well as members to gain new insights and ideas as to how we might grow the Church better, as many of the ideas found successful in one area find application in another. We are so appreciative and grateful to our full-time missionaries who are “anxiously engaged” and are not only working hard, but are learning to work smart. We are also most indebted to our wonderful members who have captured the *Preach My Gospel* vision of how to proclaim our Father in Heaven’s gospel

here in British Columbia, that their wards and branches might grow rapidly.

A Pledge to Ward Members to Work Hard Builds Their Trust, by Elders Taylor Zmoos (and Scott Allen)

“As I’m getting oriented here in Victoria, and as I understand the work that has been going on here, I can see the *huge* potential that the Victoria 2nd Ward has. The ward here is *so* on board. I’ve made



OKANAGAN LAKE, GOLF COUNTRY CLUB,
FROM MOUNTAIN EAST OF KELOWNA CHAPEL

STATUE OF FISHERMAN ON EDGE OF TOWN, SMITHERS



lots of calls, and this upcoming week looks great. It's awesome. All is well in Zion. I'm doing my language study when it's convenient. We're keeping detailed records of member visits and their Tour dates.

“One thing we're doing that has seemed effective is that when we meet with members the first time we commit ourselves to them and tell them we're here to work. We promise them that we will do all within our power to build their ward. We find that this pledge has helped us quickly gain the trust of the members.”

**Investigator Found Through OYM,
by Elders Carlton Taylor (and James Corey)**

“On Monday the Vernon and Kelowna Zones got together for some paintball for our preparation-day activity. We all had a great time and strengthened friendships one with another. While there we brought one of the investigators that we are teaching. He had a great time and was able to meet several missionaries. Also, one of the less-actives that we are working with came. Another person who came was not a member, nor did he know anybody in the Church. He just showed up for paintball.

“We introduced ourselves and told him a little more about what we do. We then invited him to learn more about the Church for himself. We had our first lesson on Wednesday, and we had a second appointment two days later. Finding and meeting this investigator strengthened my testimony of how important it is to open our mouths and to be an example at all times.”



SISTER MIDDLETON PRESENTS
BELL AND BELL-LAP STORY TO ELDER BITTING

**Two Bold “Elevator Speech” Approaches Work Well,
by Sister Julianna Little (and Lisa Falk)**

“This week we were visiting with some of our members, Brother Kyle and Sister Amber McAdam, and we began talking about his



SURREY STAKE CENTER

mission. Having served in Southern California, he told us of a tracting technique that an Apostle told them to use in the field. It went something like this: ‘Hi, we are representatives of Jesus Christ, and He has sent us here to prepare you and your family to be baptized. Will you let us come in and start preparing you for that?’ Or, as an alternative, we might say, ‘Hi, we are representatives of Jesus Christ and we have been sent here to leave a blessing on your home. Will you allow us to come in and do that?’ We would then go in, drop to our knees, and in the name of Jesus Christ (Elders would also say, ‘and by the Holy Melchizedek Priesthood which we hold’), we leave a blessing on their home... etc.

“It seemed bold but I wanted to try it. We left the McAdam’s home promising to report back. We tried it as moved by the Spirit. We used the approach not every time, but of those we asked in this way we received eight follow-up appointments. One of those appointments was from a family with whom I finally got the courage to use the ‘blessing-on-your-home approach.’ He let us in. We did not drop to our knees right away, but we went in the living room and asked him to turn off his television. The gentleman’s wife was in the kitchen and his mom was on the couch. As soon as I said the prayer, the house was completely silent. The Spirit was so strong! After the prayer I looked at the head of household, Ike, and the look on his face was priceless. You could tell he felt the Spirit and was close to tears. We thanked them and gave them contact information and left.

“The Lord is so good to us. I love this work. We are going to use this approach more often!”

Success through Focusing Lessons on Bringing People to Christ, by Elders James Corey (and Carlton Taylor)

“Things are going so well. Our baptismal dates are moving along smoothly. We also are having a good time when we go to the branch and ward for Church. We have been particularly attentive to the purpose of why we are teaching them. We can feel in our lessons that every point is focused on bringing them closer to Christ, rather than whetting their appetite with ‘another religion.’ Usually we do this by first asking them how religion has played a key role in their life. Odds are they answer in one of two ways—that they have very little concept, or were studying/practicing another religion. We then tell them that we are not called here to reason with opinions, but to show them what God wants us to do here on earth. Then we explain that we will push all of our previous knowledge of religion aside, including the Church, and proceed to give the first lesson more as a history lesson, which in fact it is. Then after Joseph Smith’s experience is recounted, they are able to see more simply that we’re not here for any reason other than to grow their relationship with God. This format has given the commitments we extend to read and pray much more meaning because they now feel they are on a quest for truth rather than a quest for religion.”

We love receiving your Weekly Reports and love sharing your great proselyting ideas throughout the Mission through the *Star*.

President and Sister Middleton

*“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth....”
Romans 1:16*



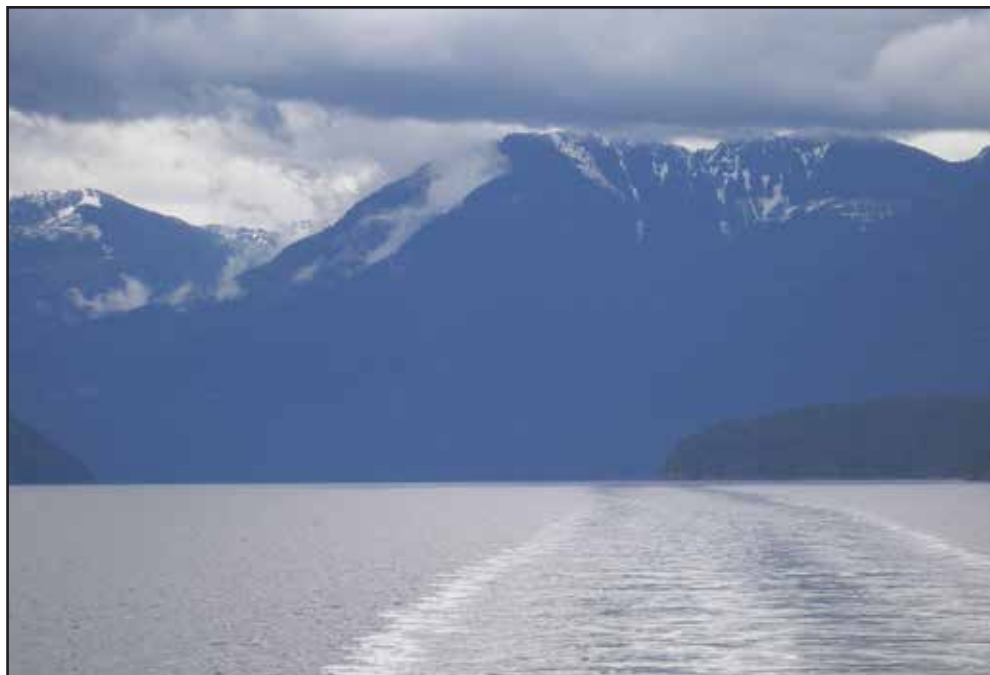




JUNE 5, 2007

THE BISHOP IS RESPONSIBLE FOR MISSIONARY EFFORTS

In *Preach My Gospel* we read, “The bishop (or branch president) is responsible for missionary, retention and activation efforts in the ward (or branch). His personal participation and leadership are essential” (*PMG*, pg. 218). The understanding and implementation



FJORD NEAR POWELL RIVER, LOOKING BACK TOWARDS SECHELT

of this concept lies at the heart and soul of how President Gordon B. Hinckley has asked us to accomplish missionary work. It calls for a major change in thinking on the part of our member leaders and all members as well as our full-time missionaries when compared to how missionary work was done prior to *PMG*, and truly represents the mind and will of our Father in Heaven.

THE BISHOP OR BRANCH PRESIDENT IS IN CHARGE OF THE MISSIONARY WORK IN HIS WARD OR BRANCH

Last week we shared in the *Star* how effective this *PMG*-outlined, bishop-led ward missionary effort can be when we noted that the Spokane 1st Ward went from no baptisms in 2002 and 2003, to one baptism in 2004, to six baptisms in 2005, to 20 baptisms in 2006! It happened because Bishop David Kulisch took his missionary oversight duties as described in *PMG* seriously. He called a bold, dynamic Ward Mission leader, Matt Borders. The two of them instilled a missionary fire and passion in all ward members. They taught them how to simply become inviting member missionaries. They taught them how to invite all of their non-member acquaintances, and through a three-week training course taught during Sunday School they patiently, lovingly taught members how to invite all without losing any friendships.

The success in the Spokane 1st Ward was not related to full-time missionary super-stars, as good (but not spectacular) missionaries rotated through the ward during 2006. Their success was related to Bishop Kulisch developing a system of organizational oversight and



accountability that involved and linked both members and full-time missionaries. It works! There is no reason we can think of why this *PMG* concept will not work in any ward or branch in BC.



PREPARATION DAY, NANAIMO ZONE

ASK THE BISHOPS/BRANCH PRESIDENTS HOW YOU CAN HELP

Because the success of this new *PMG* concept depends so heavily upon enlightened, bold, and vibrant bishop/branch president oversight, we are asking each companionship to meet with the bishop or branch president often to help him accomplish in his ward or branch what Bishop Kulisch did in the Spokane 1st Ward. We must offer to help our bishop and branch president in any and all ways. Accept his righteous oversight and guidance. Ask him often for his guidance. Share with him the weekly Key Indicators, which give an important measure of the week's missionary success or lack thereof, and together with him determine how you and he can grow the ward or branch best. We urge that you speak with your bishop or branch president at least three times each week either in person or by phone, to advise him of your progress in the assignments he has given, to ask if he has additional assignments or insights, and most of all to develop the trust and bond between the three of you that is essential for success.

ELDER JEFFREY R. HOLLAND UNDERLINES THE URGENCY OF OUR MISSIONARY WORK

Brother Matt Borders shared with us the words of Elder Holland which he gave to a conference of mission presidents in Paris, France in 1995:



“Brethren, the spirit of the work is urgent and we must imbue our missionaries and members with the spirit of now. NOW! We are not just waiting for natural slow growth. We must move more rapidly. We must take things up a notch. If we have to call down miracles or angels, then call them down....I feel an incredible burden of urgency, I feel a sense of urgency in my chest. I can hardly breathe! The gifts of heaven are there. That we should have miracles, revelations, help from the Lord is known intellectually, but it is not enough practiced and remembered.”



The urgency voiced then by Elder Holland applies equally to British Columbia here and now.

Broadcasting Our Message over a Local Radio Station, by Elders Austin Johnson (and Brian Perkins)

“We were able to speak on a local island radio station and explain the Restoration and our Church. Hopefully hearing of the Church this way will lead to interested investigators. We are also making ‘missionary packets’ to help the members become more missionary-minded. Each packet has several missionary supplies bundled

together, such as pass along cards, Book of Mormons and other items, which we leave with member families as we obtain a commitment from them in invite their non-member friends.”

Editor’s note: If you can speak about the Church on a local radio station, do so, giving your phone number and Chapel address. Congratulations to Elders Johnson and Perkins for taking the initiative.

Use the Vancouver Temple as a Screensaver, as reported by Blair Parowski, the Abbotsford 1st Ward Mission Leader

“Liana Rudolph in the Abbotsford 1st Ward has found a creative way to initiate gospel discussions. She placed a picture of the new temple on her work computer as a screen saver. Many co-workers have already shown interest in asking what building it is and provided her the opportunity to explain a little about her faith and why the temple is such an important place. The clever thing is that they are the ones initiating the conversation.”

That we each might be inspired to grasp the vision of how our Bishop or Branch President is leading the missionary efforts in his ward or branch and then step forth to help him boldly and with vision is our constant prayer. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton



THE PLASTERMAN NEAR VICTORIA BAY

JUNE 13, 2007

GREAT IDEAS FROM OUR MEMBERS AND MISSIONARIES

Using Service to Present the Gospel in the Surrey 1st Ward, by Sister Jacquie Martin

“We had an awesome service project for our neighbors on Saturday. We had six elders and two sisters here helping pull out some hedges. My husband and the missionaries used hatchets/axes and took those hedges out the hard way. We (and our neighbors) were so impressed with their effort and were pleased to have our neighbor’s son come to Church at the Surrey 1st Ward with us on Sunday! It really opened a door for us and I took the opportunity to talk to his mom about the Church after the missionaries left. It was so natural to talk about the Church because she had just witnessed young people hard at work on her lawn who represent Jesus, and she is recovering from an accident and couldn’t do much to help. Other people on our block noticed the young people out on our neighbors’ lawn and asked about them afterward. The neighbor’s son, Jeremy Blow, is excited to come to Mutual this Thursday and has committed to help with a fundraiser on Saturday for Girls’ Camp and go on a hike with the Young Men. Today his mom came over to thank us for bringing him to Church with us and said she had gone out to get

him new slacks and dress shoes because he wants to come again next Sunday. We are thrilled! We are looking forward to inviting them to our Ward’s Missionary Sunday on the 10th of June. We want to tell you how pleased we are with the hard work the missionaries put forth.”

Victoria 2nd Ward Members Are Becoming Great Missionaries; Thank You Notes to Investigators, by Elders Kyle Shaw (and Scott Allen)

“The Victoria 2nd Ward is the greatest! Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve here and with Elder Allen—truly a blessing! Sass Anderson has been so close to baptism for so long; Elder Allen and I consulted with the Lord and He has truly blessed us, giving us the words to say. Much of our time and energy has been spent helping and supporting her this week, and we were able to overcome obstacles and concerns of hers and she now has a baptismal date for June! Serving with Elder Allen, I’ve come more fully, more deeply to feel of the great love our Father in Heaven has for His children such as Sass. How glorious it is!

“Elder Allen and I have been blessed to see a nice upsurge in member work. We’ve planned a series of lessons based on Elder Nash’s counsel at Zone Conference and in the Fireside as well which, when coupled with Elder Henry B. Eyring’s prophecy, helps the members to see that grand and specific blessings are promised to those in this area who, whether full-time or member missionary, are committed to the purpose of missionary work. We’ve planned to follow that lesson up with one based on Elder Perkins’ and your remarks at Stake Conference here in Victoria, helping to excite them to help others receive and invite others to come unto Christ. Of course, every



THE EMPRESS

Visitor Information Centre
Bastion Square

lesson is tied together with our testimonies of Joseph Smith and the Restoration, and Christ who stands as our Savior at the head and helm of this work.

“At our Ward Mission Leader Brother Mike Mulholland’s request, we’ve even written thank-you notes to those we teach, encouraging them to keep inviting, encouraging them to rely on the Lord as they

prayerfully approach the dates that some of them set. We always drop these off a few days later, and plan to drop them off in geographically close clusters instead of bouncing all over town so that we don’t waste any travel time. The members’ response to this has been great—they say it brightens their days and helps to remind them of the important things, the peaceable things of the kingdom, which so often gets crowded out of busy lives.”

A Mennonite Pastor in Vanderhoof Learns About Mormonism by Watching How We Live Our Lives, by Elders Matthew Klekas (and Andrew Johnson)

“Recently we attended a Mennonite/Mormon funeral in Vanderhoof. It was really interesting to see how both of the religions interacted. We started talking to one of the Mennonites who happened to be the Pastor. We asked him about his religion, and he was very nice to explain their beliefs to us. We started talking about our religion and I invited him to come on a Church Tour. He told me no, and that he was reading a book about the Church. I asked him what the book was called (concerned because there is so much anti-Mormon literature), but he wouldn’t tell me. I was somewhat nervous about what book he was reading, but we kept on talking about our religions and toward the end of our conversation he told me that he wasn’t actually reading a book but he was watching the members, and that they served as his book to see how members of the Church were living their lives and learn thereby what our teachings were. It certainly underlines how important it is that we live as Christ would have us live.”



THE LEGISLATIVE CHAMBER IN PARLIAMENT, VICTORIA

Exchanges with Members Are Awesome; Vigorous Street Contacting Works, by Elders Noueru Shibayama (and Joel Asay)

“Last week Elder Asay and I had an exchange with the Elder’s Quorum President and 2nd Councilor. The exchange was Thursday night, which is usually a sports night in this ward. They sacrificed their basketball evening and instead went on the exchange. It was great! We had a great missionary conversation with one family, and we got to know each other well. One less-active member agreed to have us come over again.

“Last week we exchanged with our Zone Leaders and the North Vancouver Elders. Elder Brian Fisher has a strong faith to find people, and he has developed many ‘arrows’ to use. We found two potential investigators during our exchange. Since then, I have tried to find investigators like he does. I ask a question and then teach immediately, and our ‘other lessons’ number has increased considerably by this bold approach. More people have received pass-along cards, and we have obtained many phone numbers too.”

Many of our most productive missionary tools have been pioneered by inspired members and faithful, innovative, full-time missionaries. Continue to seek for inspiration in all you do, working hard and working smart. We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Jeffrey Curtis-KOR (West Jordan, UT); Benjamin White-SPAN (Murray, UT)
- Couple: Elder Daniel & Betty Stevens (Smithfield, UT)

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder Alex Bitting

“Here then brethren, is a work to engage worthy of archangels—a work which will cast into the shade the things which kings and prophets and righteous men in former ages have sought, expected, and earnestly desired to see, but died without the sight; and well will it be for those who shall aid in carrying into effect the mighty operations of Jehova” (HC 4:187 Joseph Smith). I love this work! There is so much more than young 19-year-old men in white shirts and ties. We are bringing to pass the gathering of the elect of God! (D&C 29:4—7)

Sister Golda Janes

Missions are hard, but they are supposed to be hard. If they were easy we wouldn’t learn and grow. Enjoy your time here. It will pass too fast. Work hard, be obedient and love and serve these people and you will be a successful missionary

Elder Sean Tavernini

Warriors of light, defenders of truth, servants of God, remember the promise: In life what you are and do is all that matters. “I am out like a light!”

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Blair McDaniel, Linda Reiter
- Nanaimo: Roderiqe Gagnon, Jordan Oleksiuk, Malcolm Oleksiuk, Laura Potts
- Prince George: Tom Dolvin, Katherine Dolvin
- Surrey: Karla Figueroa Barba, Jorge Barba Gutierrez, Matthew Doyle, Heather Gibney, Sandra Gomes, John Plett
- Surrey Lang: Antonia Tong
- Vancouver: TJ Brule, Nina Elita, Rajendra Mani
- Van Lang: Wan Hyuk Bhang, Jong Heon Kim, Candy Liang
- Vernon: Savannah Blackstock, Ronda Chard, Carly Marchand, Mervyn Stacey

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS PUGSLEY & ANDERSON

Thank you all for a great round of Zone Conferences. We hope that you can all remember the feelings to work hard and to do the things that you are supposed to do as missionaries and representatives of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We hope that you all remember the six points that we discussed in our training. If not, we will review them: 1) Mighty prayer two times a day, 2) Two hours of focused, meaningful study, 3) Use the time set aside for planning to PLAN, 4) Personal finding at least one hour each day, 5) Get rid of the things that keep the Spirit away, 6) Forget yourself and serve. We promised you great things. Put our words to the test. We love and appreciate each of you. Thank you for your decision to serve the Lord. Now let's serve Him. Remember to be missionaries to match our glorious message.

REMEMBER:

When traveling to an area, don't be in such a hurry that you overlook the hundreds of people you pass along the way.

How you act on P-day is a direct reflection of how you will act when you are a returned missionary.*

Members won't be transferred on Thursday, but you might be. Make sure investigators get attached to members rather than you.

If you don't approach the stranger on the street, the answer is already no.

On the last page of your copy of the Book of Mormon, record the dates that you finish reading it. This will help you keep track of the number of times you read it during your mission.*

When a big dog chases you, remember you only have to outrun your companion, not the dog.

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR JUNE-JULY

- June 21—Van/Van Lang
- June 28—Surrey/Sur Lang/Abbots (Abbots Stk Cntr)
- July 5—Nanaimo/Victoria
- July 11—Vernon/Kelowna (new Westbank Chapel)
- July 13—Prince George

“Blessed are they that hear the word of God” (Luke 11:28).

WARD MISSION PLANS ARE KEY

JUNE-JULY 2007

JUNE 19, 2007

WOULD YOU LIKE TO COME TO OURS?

President Peter Jillings Shares Observations on Becoming a Member Missionary

Our First Counselor in the Mission Presidency, Peter Jillings, has kindly written his insightful observations on what it takes to become a member missionary. Most members have agreed that becoming a member missionary is a good idea, as essentially all of our modern-day Prophets have asked us to do so. But most members

have had the idea that to become a member missionary is hard to do, is too complex, requires a certain personality which they don't have or is too intimidating. President Jillings, however, shares with us how he has become a member missionary and teaches us how to do it painlessly and effectively:

“President Gordon B. Hinckley, like President David O. McKay, has challenged us, ‘every member a missionary.’ To many of us that’s quite daunting, feeling that we have to be scriptorians, and that we must know people really well before we can broach the subject.

“Several years ago, I learned from a great example set by our then Ward Mission Leader, Steve Reifenstein. In his job selling cars he




CANADA PLACE

OVERLOOKING
STANLEY PARK

talked with a potential customer at his car lot who had with him a young son. The gentleman was from Mexico, newly arrived in Canada. Steve simply asked him, ‘Which Church do you take your son to?’ The man replied that they did not go to any, to which Steve replied, ‘Would you like to bring him to ours?’ Dr. Manuel Gomez and his son Manalito are now good members of the Church.

“A few months ago, I set a personal goal of introducing 10 people each year to the Church by just inviting people to come. The result has been one baptism to date and a second person attending regularly, who has had the discussions and is enjoying the meetings and the members. The latter is someone we met in an elevator on a Sunday, and learned in our conversation that she had just attended another church. I asked her which church she had attended, and she said she had tried one nearby. I followed Steve’s example and simply asked, ‘Would you like to come to ours?’ This good sister accepted that simple invitation and is now enjoying attending and mingling with the members. I tell this not to impress, but at the invitation of President Middleton, and with a desire to help move the work forward.

“If we keep our missionary efforts warm and uncomplicated, the missionaries stand waiting and set apart to do the teaching with the Spirit, and answering all the questions that may arise. Our opportunity is one of simply extending an invitation. Great blessings await those to whom we introduce the Gospel, and the scriptures are also replete with the promised blessings of the Lord if we will but invite and bring souls unto Him. Great will be our joy also, of which I testify.”

President Jillings is leading forth in his member missionary duties magnificently. We must teach all of our members to do the same in order to grow the Church here in BC as the Lord would have us do.

Being a member missionary simply requires that we offer a simple invitation to all our non-member acquaintances, understanding that most will decline to come. Each member must come to realize that now, as this *Star* is being read, every single member knows at least one person who will say yes to an invitation he or she offers, who is the “elect of the Lord” (D&C 29:7). All missionary work throughout history at all levels consists of “asking several to find the one,” and



A CRUISE SHIP SEEN FROM GASTOWN

so it will be for each of us.

President Bennie Soll Leads the Surrey Stake to Higher Planes of Missionary Success, by Elders Andrew Bristow (and Ryan Glass)

“Our Stake President, President Bennie Soll, has really taken the Surrey Stake to a higher plane in missionary work. Both Elder Glass and I meet with President Soll every Tuesday, along with the Language Zone Leaders, Elders Benjamin Thompson and Stephen Beins. President Soll has asked us to bring a Progress Record from each area within the zone to the meeting, and then name by name, area by area, President Soll discusses each person and his/her needs. By doing this, he becomes knowledgeable about the people with whom we are working. If calls from him to bishops or other member leaders are needed, President Soll makes them to teach and lead them to become more effective leaders of the missionary work in their ward or branch. We can really see the love and concern he has for both members and non-members alike within his stake.

“We meet with President Soll for 60 minutes once a week, and that small sacrifice of time and energy has brought the Surrey Zone from the bottom of our mission to the top.”

Editor’s Note: Our Surrey Zone is seeing a wonderful increase in baptisms this year as a result of President Soll’s loving, inspired leadership. In a year when some stakes have actually seen a drop in baptisms this year versus last, the Surrey Stake is up 82% overall with 20 baptisms so far this year (up 86% in English-speaking and up 75% in language-speaking). A few months ago Bishop Frank Hitchmough of the Victoria 2nd Ward noted that member missionary success all

starts at the top. President Bennie Soll has certainly demonstrated the truth of Bishop Hitchmough’s observation as the Surrey Stake member leaders and members have responded magnificently to his inspired leadership!

We want you to know of our love for each of our full-time missionaries as well as our wonderful BC members.

President and Sister Middleton

“For it is expedient that I, the Lord, should make every man accountable.” D&C 104:13

J U N E 2 6 , 2 0 0 7

**WARD MISSION PLANS EVOLVE TO BETTER
ACHIEVE MEMBER ACCOUNTABILITY**

We are excited to see the member missionary activities throughout British Columbia accelerating. When we analyzed the success of the Spokane First Ward in going from zero baptisms in 2002 and

2003 to 20 baptisms in 2006, it became clear that much of their success lay in developing a system of accountability in which members held other members accountable for accomplishing missionary objectives. They began having auxiliary and priesthood leaders obtain specific commitments from each of the members under their charge, then followed through repeatedly to lovingly teach each member how to accomplish their commitment simply but with diligence, and then followed up lovingly with repeated phone calls/chats in Church, etc. until the member was successful in completing their commitment. At the heart of their success were members organizing all the ward members, and then following through with repeated calls to the members until their commitments were completed. Members working with members seems to be the key. Full-time missionaries play a pivotal role in the process, of course, as teachers and finders.

SURREY THIRD WARD DEVELOPS A PLAN SIMILAR TO SPOKANE FIRST WARD

Brother J. P. Tremblay, the dynamic and bold Surrey Third Ward Mission Leader, is working with Bishop Lorne Olson to implement their Ward Mission Plan. Presented to ward members through a combined Priesthood and Relief Society Meeting, the Plan looks toward a commitment pattern for the bishop, his counselors, auxiliary leaders (including priesthood leaders), their counselors, and all active ward members. Through “prayer, efforts and faith,” the Plan will achieve accountability for every person attending Ward Council by expecting each to report on how their personal commitments are coming and report on the commitment pattern achieved by each

of their quorum/class members. Each Ward Council member will report regularly on:

- Number of referrals given to full-time missionaries.
- Number of non-members taken on a Spiritual Tour of the Chapel.
- Number of non-members taken to Church on Sundays or to a Church activity.
- Number of non-members taken to a baptism.
- Number of non-members who participate in a Family Home Evening.

The Surrey Third Ward Plan is unique to the ward, but bears many



4 AM SKY, NORTH-NORTHEAST



of the same features that lead to the great success enjoyed by the Spokane First Ward. The common thread which likely will produce increasing success is that of members organizing and overseeing members with members charged with oversight and accountability. It seems that it has been easy in the past for members to ignore or say no to our young full-time missionaries, but the impact of members working with members to help them achieve accountability looks to be huge.

Streamlining the Campbell River Ward Mission Plan to Achieve Accountability of the Members, by Elders Justin McAllister (and Jared Fullmer)

“Here in Campbell River we have met with our Ward Mission Leader, Brother Andrew Marr, and have been discussing the Ward Mission Plan with an eye towards inspiring the members to invite their acquaintances to learn more about the Church. We have developed a plan to increase the accountability of each member. It begins by streamlining the Ward Mission Plan to include specific goals and a specific way to accomplish those goals. It is necessary to make the members aware of the Mission Plan. There will then be a minimum of four ward missionaries called, with emphasis on the young men preparing for missions. Their responsibilities will include setting the example for the ward in inviting, with each setting a date. They would also go on exchanges and to appointments with the full-time missionaries weekly or more often at times. The ward list would be split between all ward missionaries, and they would be required to follow up with all ward members on the members’ missionary responsibilities. This will make the ward members accountable to

the other ward members rather than to the full-time missionaries.

“We believe that as the ward members inspire one another to do missionary work the number of baptisms will rise tremendously.”

Editor’s Note: The Campbell River Ward is organizing to put in place the elements that brought great success to the Spokane First Ward, and will likely bring success to the Surrey Third Ward and others here in BC who are capturing that vision.

Playing Gospel-Related Games With Part-Member Families, by Sisters Tracy Whiting (and Crystal Caribou)

“One thing we have been doing with part-member families with kids is playing ‘Vine & Trenches.’ This is a game Sister Caribou and I made up. We made a playing board comparable to ‘Shoots and Ladders,’ then we make up questions from a story in the *Book of Mormon* and the kids have to answer the questions. This way they are really attentive and want to listen to the lesson, and they have fun with it! We call it ‘Vine and Trenches’ because it gives the game a more *Book of Mormon* related name.

“Things are going really well in Squamish. Church attendance has really gone up and we have set-a-date with two couples.”

What a wonderful time to be a missionary in beautiful British Columbia when the Lord is blessing us with such great tools to grow His Church. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“Consider...the blessed and happy state of those that keep the commandments of God. For behold, they are blessed in all things, both temporal and spiritual” Mosiah 2:41

J U L Y 3 , 2 0 0 7

FOCUS ON OUR PURPOSE: BAPTISMS

When Elder Marcus B. Nash and his wife, Shelley, toured our mission in March, one point was consistently and repeatedly made: to be successful we must link Our Purpose (baptisms) with all that we do. To baptize is ultimately why we are here! To lose focus on that objective is to lose the opportunity to grow the Church as the Lord has sent us here to do.

Our Key Indicators in the past several months show that we are working hard, with excellence in most areas the exceptions being in

3 Spiritual Tours per week by each companionship (and that must be achieved to realize Our Purpose), and declining baptisms in some zones. We feel that our hard work is not yet fully linked to what must be our ultimate goal, baptisms. Several of our zones have realized fewer baptisms this year than last; some zones are down significantly despite working very hard. To correct that trend we must not only work hard, but must learn to work smart. Working smart requires

that we link all that we do as missionaries to our final objective, baptisms. Everything we do throughout the day, everything, must be thought of as another tool to help us achieve baptisms. The Lord expects and will accept no less from each of us. Elder and Sister Nash were absolutely correct in noting that Church growth in BC will not accelerate until we learn to link all that we do to Our Purpose. A single word summary of Our Purpose is clear: baptisms. We are here to bring people unto Christ.



BROOKLYN WITH PRESIDENT AND SISTER MIDDLETON

SURREY STAKE PRESIDENT BENNIE SOLL LEADS HIS MEMBERS TO MORE THAN DOUBLE THEIR BAPTISMS

The Surrey English Zone so far this year has doubled last year's baptisms; The Surrey Language Zone's baptisms are up 125% over last year! We have analyzed the reasons for their success. While all missionaries are working hard in both zones, several other zones have equivalent or better Key Indicators, but their baptismal numbers have fallen. President Bennie Soll's steady, inspired leadership of both his members and our missionaries seems to be the key. President Soll meets for one hour every Tuesday with the four English and Language Zone Leaders. They bring Progress Records for every ward and branch in the Surrey Stake, and they review the progress of every name on their list. They review the effectiveness of the weekly Missionary Coordination Meeting with the ward or branch Mission Leader, and review the effectiveness of the bishop and priesthood and auxiliary leaders in their pivotal role in leading all members to become member missionaries. Our zone leaders who attend the

weekly meetings with President Soll report that if any ward or branch leader needs urging or clarification of what they should be doing, President Soll doesn't hesitate to call them to give loving guidance. Ward and branch leaders are responding magnificently, and the accelerating baptisms are the direct result of his active, hands-on, inspired leadership.

The Surrey Stake is accomplishing what the Spokane First Ward did when they went from zero baptisms multiple years running to 20 baptisms in 2006. At the heart of the Spokane First Ward and the Surrey Stake success was members leading members, and members expecting and demanding full accountability of other members. The assignments are made, they are explained clearly, and then members are expected to return and report when their assignment is completed. It truly is the Lord's way; it works!

A great New Missionary Focus in the Maple Ridge Ward, by Sisters Brigitte D'Amours (and Linda Pelchat)

“We are finding that the members in Maple Ridge are wonderful! We had a

Correlation Meeting this morning with our Ward Mission Leader, Josh Linden, and it was very good. Brother Linden talked about the *Vancouver Star* which outlined the Spokane First Ward Mission Plan. He was so excited about what was accomplished in Spokane that he has



ELDERS GLASS, KLEKAS, TAYLOR, STEVENSON, MORRILL, AND MOUSSEAU WITH SURREY SIKH LANDLORD

presented it to Bishop Barry Bennett, and they both want to do it. In PEC they discussed how they can implement this program:

- Identify less-actives, part member families and inactives.
- Five less-active focus.
- 100% Team Teaching (a ward member present at every lesson given to a non-member).
- 100% Retention of converts.
- Each member finds someone to teach in the next three months.
- Match referrals.

“Bishop Bennett, Brother Linden, and the other leaders seem to be very missionary-minded, and they want to see their Mission Plan succeed. I am really excited about this transfer.”

Editor’s Note: The inspired vision of members leading and holding accountable other members is spreading. Congratulations to Bishop Bennett and Maple Ridge Ward Mission Leader Josh Linden. We are confident that all wards and branches that adopt this key *PMG* principle will succeed.

As you check off the important reminders at the bottom of the *Vancouver Star* each week, discuss with your companion how you have linked each reminder to a potential baptism.

We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise” D&C82:10

JULY 10, 2007

NOW IS THE TIME TO RE-FOCUS

A Zone Leader’s Conference was convened on Monday July 2, 2007, to assess what we have achieved so far in 2007, and to determine where the Lord would have us go during the next six months. An important motivator for the meeting was the fact that mission baptisms overall are down this year 25% over last year to this point, the wrong direction clearly from what the Lord would have for His Church in British Columbia. Our Zone Leader’s Conference was called to find out why and to determine what specific steps are needed to accelerate our growth.





PRESIDENTS JILLINGS, MIDDLETON, AND
ANDERSON AT HOLE 1 ON FURRY CREEK GOLF COURSE

FOUR OF OUR TEN ZONES ARE DOING BETTER THIS YEAR

The Surrey Stake has more than doubled their baptisms, up 100% in the Surrey English Zone, and up 125% in the Surrey Language Zone. The Abbotsford Zone is up 22% over last year, while the Nanaimo Zone is up 16%. All other zones have fewer baptisms than last year, some down dramatically. The focus of our Zone Conference was to determine why—why four Zones are ahead, why six Zones are falling behind. The Conference was extremely helpful and we share herein a condensed version of the conclusions reached.

SURREY STAKE CONJOINS FOCUSED MISSIONARY EFFORTS WITH DETERMINED, FOCUSED MEMBER LEADERSHIP

The Surrey Stake success is seen in both the English and Language Zones. Clearly all full-time missionaries are working hard, with all Key Indicators consistently above the weekly mission benchmark goals. Additionally, it is clear that the focused, determined oversight of member missionary activities by President Bennie Soll is key to the success obtained. President Soll meets with both sets of Zone Leaders for one hour each week. In that meeting he reviews the Progress Sheet for every investigator in every ward and branch, name by name. He inquires about the effectiveness of each Ward Mission Leader and Bishop (or Branch President) and he has a High Council Member overseeing the member missionary efforts as well as a Priesthood

Quorum Presidency member in every quorum assigned to member missionary work. Feedback as to their effectiveness is discussed in his weekly meeting with the Zone Leaders. If any of his member leaders need further instruction or exhortation, President Soll doesn't hesitate to call them.

In regard to our full-time missionaries, our Surrey Zone Leaders expect and require the high level of work output needed from each companionship to achieve the success we see in the Surrey Stake. Their success can be summarized by the observation that “growth of



PRINCE GEORGE KITCHEN ANGELS
TOWERS, PENNY AND PRIEST WITH BROOKLYN



THE BETTINGERS IN FRONT OF A STEAM CLOCK
THAT SOUNDS THE HOUR IN GASTOWN, VANCOUVER

baptisms is attributable to members and full-time missionaries alike responding well to the excellent leadership of President Soll, with all working hard.”

FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES NEED TO RE-FOCUS ON OUR PURPOSE

An important observation coming from our Zone Leader’s Conference was that several of our full-time missionaries have lost sight of what is to be achieved by our Key Indicator goals, and that our purpose in one word is to baptize. To achieve 15 or more Full Lessons each week, some companionships we learned are revisiting a handful of willing members to whom they give Full Lessons repeatedly. While we are grateful to those members who listen repeatedly to our Full Lessons, we must focus on giving the majority of our Full Lessons to non-members. It was noted that Elders Choi and Hea (in the Surrey Language Zone) in the week ending June 24th taught 38 Full Lessons, 87 other lessons and only 2 out of all those lessons were taught to members only. When Elder Kikuchi noted in his Tour of our mission that companionships under his direction as Mission President who had taught 15 or more Full Lessons weekly were baptizing every transfer, it was clear that his missionaries were teaching most of their Full Lessons to investigators. We will ask from now on that at least 50%, or preferably a higher percentage, of our Full Lessons be taught to an investigator (hopefully with a member present as well). Our benchmark goal will remain 15 or more Full Lessons weekly for each companionship, at the least.

We are asking that at least one hour of every day be devoted to Personal Finding (tracting), noting that many of the Full Lessons achieved by Elders Choi and Hea came from tracting contacts, where interested people were taught a Full Restoration Lesson at their first meeting.

MANAGE THE DAY WELL

The Lord will not bless us with success unless we are doing our part with exact obedience. To succeed it is imperative that we are—

- Up by 6:15 a.m.
- Exercising vigorously 30 minutes daily.
- Having focused and intense personal and companionship study daily.
- Out of apartment by 10 a.m. (11 a.m. for language missionaries) and don't return until 4 p.m. for dinner. Eat lunch between appointments.
- Personal Finding for at least one hour daily, focused and effective.
- Prime-Time Teaching 5-9 p.m. with investigator present if we have dinner with a member.
- Giving 3 Spiritual Chapel Tours weekly.
- Giving 15 or more Full Lessons weekly (50% or more to non-members).
- In apartment by 9 p.m. daily (8:30 on most days) to then make as many calls as needed to fill the next day's schedule.
- Checking off the completion of the 8 goals at the bottom of the *Vancouver Star* each week and reporting results each Sunday.
- Striving for a loving companionship by having a goal of growing our companion during each transfer.

- Setting specific baptismal goals for the transfer, for at least one baptism this transfer.

We love each of you. It is our deepest, most heart-felt desire to see you happy through being successful.

President and Sister Middleton

“I say unto you that it is my will that you should go forth and not tarry, neither be idol but labor with your might—... if ye are faithful ye shall be... crowned with honor, and glory...” D&C 75:3, 5

JULY 17, 2007

USE CHURCH ACTIVITIES TO FIND

Our wonderful stakes, wards and branches have been having creative and well organized activities which are great fun for our members as well as being attractive events for our non-member neighbors. It is easy for a member to invite a non-member acquaintance to an activity, which can readily be coupled with a Spiritual Tour of the Chapel for those non-members (or less actives) who come. The Brethren have suggested, in fact, that each ward and branch aim towards at least one activity monthly, both for member camaraderie as well as a Set-A-Date activity to which members can commit to bring their friends. *PMG* speaks of the important role of activities in attracting investigators (pg 220). Realizing that there have been far more than the three activities we spotlight here, we congratulate all member leaders who are stepping forth so wonderfully with excellent and frequent activities.

PORT ALBERNI WARD HAS A CHOIR FESTIVAL

The Port Alberni Ward had its 6th Annual Choir Festival on Friday, April 6th. Organized by Philip and Bonnie Wallbank, the Festival featured 8 choirs plus separate string groups. Five of the choirs were from non-LDS Churches two were Community Choirs

not associated with a Church, plus the Port Alberni Ward Choir. The music was chosen by each choir director to be spiritual and uplifting, and was reviewed by Bishop Thomas Housholder and his bishopric beforehand to be sure the music was appropriate.

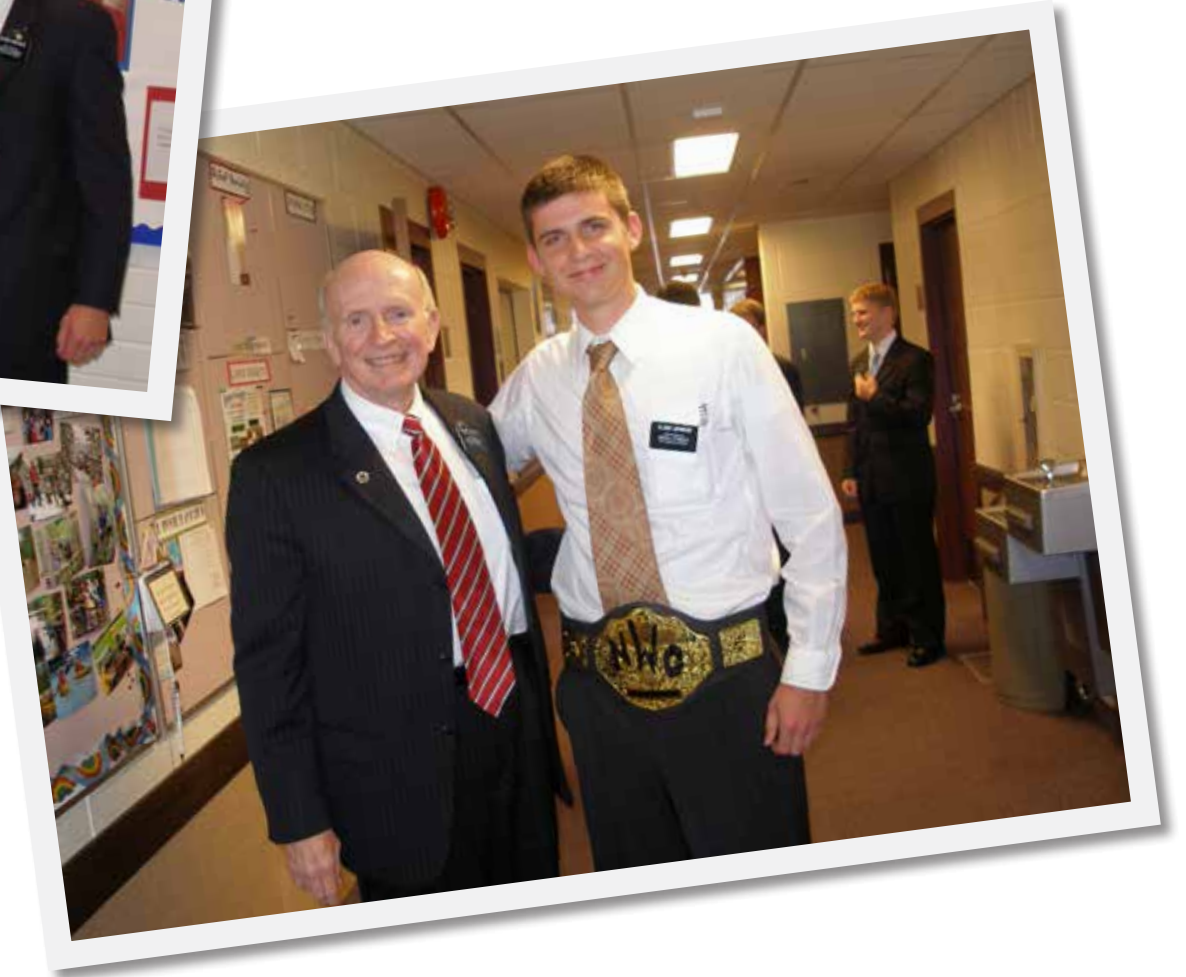
On the night of the performance, the weather was “terrible,” but there were still 275 people filling the Chapel and cultural hall, with an estimated 75% being non-members. The music was beautiful and 6 Spiritual Chapel Tours resulted that day! The many non-members in attendance had a very positive interface with the Church, and hopefully will become investigators.

PRINCE GEORGE SAINTS PRODUCE “ONE FOLD, ONE SHEPHERD”

On June 15, 2007, “One Fold, One Shepherd” was presented by the Saints in Prince George. Organized by Bishop Frank Penny and Sister Shirley Penny of the Fraser Ward, performers from both the Nechako and Fraser Wards contributed. They had produced a “Book of Mormon Pageant” three years ago as well. “One Fold, One Shepherd” consisted of music by the choir, narration and scripture reading by President John Young, to tell of Christ’s mission and accomplishments in both the Old and New World, and video segments were interspersed, with segments from the Church-produced “Joy to the World” video depicting Christ’s interactions with His disciples in the Americas and in Jerusalem. The performance concluded with “Our Savior’s Love” followed by the video “My Joy is Full”, then a child began singing “I know My Redeemer Lives” with the full choir joining in.



THE OFF-THE-HOOK HORN GOES TO TERRACE ELDERS ASHTON AND JENKINS FROM ELDER CARLISLE



ELDER AUSTIN JOHNSON SPORTS THE SCRIPTURE MEMORIZATION WINNER BELT, OF THE VICTORIA ZONE



MIDDLETONS IN BROTHER KELBERT'S BACKYARD,
TSSWASSEN FERRY PORT IN BACKGROUND

All who attended enjoyed a wonderful evening, including 3 less-active families and 10 non-members, with 6 Spiritual Chapel Tours being given!

LOWER MAINLAND STAKES MULTICULTURAL MUSICAL

The Abbotsford, Surrey and Vancouver Stakes conjoined this spring to produce a musical, “Every Nation ...Every People”. Using a cast of hundreds including many of our full-time missionaries, it told the story of Vancouver as seen through the eyes of the children whose families had migrated here looking for a new life, opportunity and security. It focused on the nations from whence immigrants came—First Nations, British Isles, China, India, Japan, Europe, Philippines, Korea and Latin America. Ruth Yates was the Creative Director, while Shelley Murley was the Composer,

Alice Davies was the Orchestrator, Gabrielle Tambre was the Associate Director/Stage Manager and John McCulloch was the Music Director/Sound Designer, plus dozens more in many capacities. Performed in the Massey Theatre in New Westminster on both May 11 and 12th, many non-members attended from all 3 stakes, and a great missionary outreach was accomplished. The event was wonderful!

Editor’s Note: We express our heartfelt thanks to all the members and member leaders who create and execute marvelous stake, ward and branch activities, such as the 3 we mention above plus many others not mentioned. These well-done activities are a pivotal part of our missionary labors, and are a central part of attracting and fellowshiping investigators as well as producing important social bonds between members. Thank you!

THE AUGUST LIAHONA SPOTLIGHTS BRITISH COLUMBIA MEMBER MISSIONARIES

In the August edition of the Church magazine *The Liahona* appears an article entitled, “How to Be a Great Member Missionary.” Found on page 38, it features British Columbia member missionaries and describes the great missionary efforts of our stakes, wards and members. Please share copies of it in each Ward Council and Ward Missionary Coordination Meeting, that it might spotlight our great member missionaries and spur us all on to greater missionary efforts. Congratulations to our wonderful, dedicated, missionary-minded saints throughout British Columbia!

We love our members as well as our missionaries!

President and Sister Middleton

*“When ye are in the service of
your fellow beings ye are only
in the service of your God.”
(Mosiah 2:17).*





JULY 24, 2007

THIS IS THE PLACE

History tells us that on July 24, 1847, Brigham Young first set eyes on the Salt Lake Valley. Ill with mountain fever, Brigham



DENSE GROWTH IN CATHEDRAL GROVE

Young was riding in the covered wagon of Wilford Woodruff, who turned his wagon so that President Young might see the whole valley. Woodruff wrote that President Young “was enraptured in vision for several minutes” before he said, “This is the right place. Drive on.” The subsequent settlement of the Great Basin and the West is part of our glorious history.

Today we know that British Columbia is “The Place.” Through revelation we know that now the Lord wants his saints to sink roots wherever they are living, to succeed there as families, to succeed in their chosen professions and to become integral members of the community in every way, and thereby help the Church flourish. Our role as missionaries is to assist in that process, to integrate ourselves into each ward or branch in which we serve, to do all within our power to help the bishop or branch president grow the Church.

SET A BAPTISMAL GOAL

In the July 3rd, 2007 *Vancouver Star* we noted that our purpose distilled down to one word is to baptize. We urge that each companionship prayerfully set a goal for number of baptisms. Note that *PMG* asks each companionship to set goals, and that goals are not a quota. *PMG* also notes, “Your purpose is to help others come unto Him through baptism and confirmation” (pg. 137, underlining added). For your Daily Planner the page on which you plan for and list your “Weekly Goals” has a box calling for each missionary to enter their goal for baptisms in the week (*PMG*, pg 144). Our instructions from the head of our Church, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, are also clear as we read the last instruction He gave His disciples in the Holy Land before ascending into heaven, “Go ye therefore, and teach

all nations, baptizing them...” (Matt. 28:19). We have therefore given all missionaries as one of their weekly check off boxes at the bottom of the *STAR* this: As weekly goals are set for each Key Indicator, pray for inspiration, and set goals that are lofty yet achievable. Our ultimate long-term goal is for at least 3 baptisms per companionship per transfer.”

**The Mission Ward Leadership is With Us,
by Elders Andrew Bristow (and Nicholas Ramirez)**

“I am very impressed with the Leadership and dedication of our bishop here in Mission, Bishop Pat Croonan. As we sat down with him and his councilors in PEC he explained that the first Sunday of the month (in PEC) is dedicated to missionary work. He then turned the majority of the time, almost thirty minutes, to us missionaries. I took this opportunity to explain to the PEC our past Zone Conference, and the goals which were set. Such goals as: fifteen or more full lessons, 1 hour or more personal finding a day, and 3 Spiritual Tours per week. I then discussed our companionship goals which were: twenty Full Lessons per week, 2 hours personal finding daily, and 7 Spiritual Tours per week. I explained that our goals were very high, yet achievable with the ward’s help. I asked the Bishop for his approval to invite all the active members on a Tour within the next 2 months. His reply: ‘You have our support and we will help you.’ He continued later in the meeting, ‘You are called to teach, we are to provide for you...’

“We also explained the importance of Spiritual Tours and how even if the member can’t bring a non-member friend that the member should still come. This would enable them to feel the Spirit and gain a

testimony of its power as a missionary tool. The 1st Councilor of the Bishopric, Brother Michal Ursaki, explained, ‘We have no excuse. I put up a fence with my neighbor a while back, and he needs to know what goes on on our side of the fence.’

“The PEC is truly on board. With their help the ward will be on board and Mission will be on FIRE!”



WALKWAY BY THE BAY IN VICTORIA



MEMBER MISSIONARY WORK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA FEATURED IN ENSIGN AND LIAHONA

The August edition of both the *Ensign* and *Liahona* feature the article, “How to Be a Great Member Missionary.” On page 50 in the *Ensign* and page 38 in the *Liahona*, it focuses on the great member missionary work being done throughout British Columbia. Congratulations to our inspired, diligent members whose dedicated member-missionary efforts have been and will increasingly be essential to our missionary success.

We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Matthew Barton (Sandy, UT); Spencer Hall (Kaysville, UT); Ian Seitz (SE Calgary, AB).
- Couples: Elder Darrel & Sister Rita Crawford (Raymond, AB); Elder Stan & Sister Barbara Hayden (Lehi, UT); Elder Everett & Sister Florence Ovard (Henefer, UT); Elder Nicholas & Sister Janet Welch (American Fork, UT).
- Sisters: Marie Bates (Soldotna, AK); Blair Bryan (Lovell, WY); Ashley Dalling (Hyrum, UT); Dimitrana Gardner (Littleton, CO).

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Sister Julianna Little

“Therefore, let us glory, yea, I will glory in the Lord; yea, I will rejoice, for my joy is full; yea, I will praise my God forever, behold, who can glory too much in the Lord? Yea, who can say too much of His great power, and of His mercy, and of His long-suffering towards the children of men? Behold, I say unto you, I can not say the smallest part which I feel” (Alma 26:16). Till we meet again...



EAGLE SOARS OVER FERRY NEAR NANAIMO

Elder Logan Rasmussen

“It is not enough just to be good, we must be good for something. We must contribute good to the world” (Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley). Party at USU—all invited; free food and place to stay.

Sister Kathy Molyneux

True faith and courage are like a kite—an opposing wind raises it higher. This experience has given me the opportunity to grow in ways that I never thought I could. Remember: People don’t care how much you know until they know how much you care. I love the Lord; I love His Church and I love all of you. Please come see us.

Elder Max Molyneux

If a task is once begun, never leave it ‘til it’s done. Be the labor great or small, do it well or not at all. John 17:4 says, “I have glorified thee on the earth, I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do.” I hope we can all say that we have finished the work that we have been called to do.

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Jeffrey Hughes; Dante Pio; Leonard Pio; Todd Pio; Sepideh Samzadeh
- Kelowna: Dana Dyck
- Nanaimo: Courtney Starratt
- Surrey: Amanda Yip

- Surrey Lang: Edith Eufrazio; Jorge Eufrazio; Hilda Peralta
- Van Lang: Amanda Gomes; Antonio Gomes
- Victoria: Lorien Hammond; Dayne Wright
- Still waiting for records for: Maria Salains (SL), Jackie Rosk (VE), Willard Chou (VL), Dustin Hiles (AB), Jen Styles (VA), & Cassie Harwood (SU)

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS PUGSLEY & ANDERSON

Thank you all for a great round of Zone Conferences. We feel that many great things were brought up and discussed in our meetings. We are excited for the upcoming transfer. As we apply the things that we learned and were taught in our meetings great blessings await us. Keep working hard, keep finding and don’t forget to pray, pray, pray. “Tomorrow is the most important thing in life. It comes into us at midnight very clean. It’s perfect when it arrives and it puts itself in our hands. It hopes we’ve learned something from yesterday” (John Wayne). We love you all so very much.

REMEMBER:

“Happiness and peace are found when we are in harmony with ourselves, with God, and with our fellowmen” (Barbara Winder).

“We are like children walking a path in the rain. We can walk in or around the mud of life as we desire, but with our choices come the consequences. And we are rapidly becoming what we are choosing to be for all eternity” (Elaine Cannon).

“As you define your goals and plan for their achievement, ponder the thought: The past is behind—learn from it; the future



TREES KILLED BY THE PINE BEETLE, ON ROAD TO PRINCE GEORGE

is ahead—prepare for it; the present is here—live in it” (Pres. Thomas S. Monson).

“Spare yourselves from the indulgence of self-pity. It is always self-defeating. Subdue the negative and emphasize the positive. Count your blessings and not your problems” (Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley).

*“Be steadfast and immovable,
always abounding in good
works” Mosiah 5:15*

JULY 31, 2007

PEARLS OF WISDOM
FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

**She admired her Mormon friend, Elders Brian Fisher
(and Isaac Pack)**

“Today at Church at the Burnaby Ward we had a really awesome experience. A girl named Jasmine had been talking to her



friends about their churches and found out that her ‘Mormon’ friend was the only one that followed his religion. So she decided to check it out. She is a really solid investigator that we really look forward to teaching. It is true that the power of example does have an effect on others.”

Editor’s Note: This experience, whereby Jasmine was attracted to our Church by knowing an LDS friend whom she admired, is the means by which nearly 80% of converts begin their investigation of the Church. The *Ensign* article entitled, “What are Non-Members Interested In?” (Oct. 1977) analyzed a large number of recent converts. The authors, Gordon C. Whiting and M. Richard Maxfield, found that prior to becoming investigators 79% of new converts reported knowing an LDS friend, neighbor or colleague whom they respected. Only 9% of the converts first learned of the Church through the full-time missionaries.

This observation underlines the fact that the vast predominance of our Church growth in BC will come from members inviting their non-member acquaintances to “come and see.” (John 1:39) Patiently, lovingly, persistently teach all members to actively embrace their ward or branch Mission Plan, every one of which has as its central core the concept that every member must issue a simple invitation to all of their non-member acquaintances to come with them on a Spiritual Chapel Tour or to an activity at the Church. Teach all members that an invitation is easy to extend, that every member knows someone who has been prepared by the Lord to say yes and will come into the Church once invited, and that they will never lose a friend through an invitation, even if that friend currently declines to learn more. Teach all members that they will become the member missionary that the Lord asks each of us to become when they embrace in word and deed the concept of “asking several to find the one.”

Seek to have a member present at every investigator lesson, by Elders Cory Douglas (and Jeffery Johnson)

“Today in Church our Elders Quorum President, Trevor Hofmann of the North Shore Ward, stopped us and asked if we strive to have a member present in lessons given to investigators. He went on to say how important they are (he is a convert), and said he would be more than willing to have the Elder’s Quorum help by providing a member to come with us.”

Editor’s Note: *PMG* emphasizes how important it is to have a member present during each lesson given to an investigator, not only to bear their testimony of the truths presented, but also to start the



ORCHARD IN THE OKANAGAN

critically important job of fellowshipping. It became an important part of the success of the Spokane 1st Ward in going from no baptisms for several years to the 20 baptisms they experienced in 2006, and an important goal they set was to have a member present for every lesson taught to an investigator.

Weekly Exchanges with the Elders Quorum in North Vancouver, by Elders Cory Douglas (and Youngho Choi)

“We went on exchanges with the Elders Quorum and had great results with less active families. One family even came to Church after our visit. We are going out again this week with them, and the Elders Quorum wants to continue these weekly exchanges. One of the presidency said to the ward, ‘We are very grateful for the Elders in helping us, but we need to help them with missionary work!’ It was really good!”

Editor’s Note: Elder Douglas and Elder Choi note how valuable it is to do exchanges with members. On an exchange evening two missionaries become 4, and can cover twice the ground and give twice the number of lessons. We urge every companionship to establish a goal of exchanges at least weekly, and preferably two or three times weekly. Elders do regular exchanges with all Melchizedek Priesthood holders in the ward or branch, Sisters with all Relief Society members, with or without their spouses. Please aim toward exchanges with the youth at least every transfer, the Elders with the Aaronic Priesthood boys, the Sisters with the Young Women 12 and older.

The time spent with a member during an exchange allows us to get to know them well, and they get to know us and see firsthand our abilities as Gospel teachers. During the course of the evening we can also teach them how easy it is to invite their non-member acquaintances to “come and see,” and can commit them to find someone to bring to an upcoming ward activity or to a Spiritual Chapel Tour.



PAINTING IN CHEMAINUS

MISSION WIDE READING ASSIGNMENT

We are enjoying the “Book of Mormon Blitz,” reading our daily assignment along with all missionaries throughout the mission. We expect to finish the assignment by August 4th, and would ask that all missionaries begin the “Doctrine and Covenants Dash” reading of the Doctrine and Covenants on Weds., August 8th. Enjoy!

EACH COMPANIONSHIP NEEDS TO ACCOMPLISH THREE TOURS WEEKLY

May we reiterate the importance of each missionary giving at least three Spiritual Chapel Tours weekly; less than three will not allow you to maintain excellence in giving a Tour. A Tour became an integral part of the baptismal success of the Spokane 1st Ward in achieving 20 baptisms in 2006—their Tour goal was and is five Tours or more weekly! Members will go with you on a Tour if only you ask, and explain to them the reasons why you give Tours. So OYM!

Elders and Sisters, we love you and deem it a great honor to serve with you.

President and Sister Middleton

“Use boldness, but not overbearance...see that ye refrain from idleness.” Alma 38:12



JINGLE POT ROAD, IN NANAIMO

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

- (Week-ending July 29, 2007) In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Surrey English Zone (17 Baptisms)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language Zone (9 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Prince George Zone (15 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (20 Lessons with a Member Present)

Progressing Investigators:

- Prince George Zone (15 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Surrey Language Zone (18 New Investigators)

Member Referrals:

- Surrey Language Zone (8 member referrals)

Full Lessons:

- Vancouver Zone (Average of 16.2 Full Lessons)

Full Lessons to non-member:

- Surrey Language Zone (16 non-member Fulls)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elder Collins & Elder Hea: 30 full, 30 to non-member, 51 other lessons, 2 new investigators, 3 progressing investigators
- Elder Lassetter & Elder Fullmer: 20 Full, 39 Other, 10 non-member full, 8 Lessons taught with Member Present, 2 with a Baptismal Date, 3 investigators at sacrament meeting
- Elder Loong & Elder Harrison: 24 full, 22 other lessons, 3 new investigators
- Elder Brown & Elder A. Johnson: 26 full, 13 to non-member, 30 other lessons, 3 progressing investigators
Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!



VANCOUVER TEMPLE GROUNDBREAKING

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2007

AUGUST 7, 2007

VANCOUVER TEMPLE GROUNDBREAKING!

The Vancouver Temple ground breaking occurred on Saturday, Aug. 4, 2007! With grateful hearts we humbly thank the Lord for this great blessing of a Temple coming to British Columbia. It represents an answer to the prayers of thousands of faithful Church members offered in recent years, who have prayed earnestly that they might receive the blessings of a nearby Temple. Once completed, the Vancouver Temple will allow BC members to complete and renew ordinances much more frequently and easily than has been true in the past. No longer will they need to make the expensive and lengthy

journey to one of the Alberta Temples, or to cross the border to go to a Seattle Temple session (a process not possible in the past for many of our faithful members due to visa or passport restrictions).

GROUND BREAKING SERVICE WAS MAGNIFICENT

As the appointed time for the ground breaking at the Langley Temple site arrived, invited Church and community leaders took their seats on folding chairs under an overcast sky. Due to space

and parking restrictions our full time missionaries and thousands of faithful Church members could not be accommodated, but a video recording of the services was made and will be shared with all BC stakes and districts, we understand. As if on queue the clouds dissipated as the service began and the sun shown brightly down as if it was rejoicing with us.

Elder Ronald S. Rasband of the Presidency of the Quorum of the Seventy presided, assisted by Elder William R. Walker of the 2nd Quorum of the Seventy. A beautiful and talented choir performed made up of saints from the Lower Mainland. Elder Walker spoke of the great blessings the Vancouver Temple will bring, as did Sister Melanie Rasband and Elder Rasband. President Paul D. Christensen, the Abbotsford Stake President, spoke as well, relating the inspiring story of how the site was chosen through inspiration imparted to our prophet President Gordon B. Hinckley. While driving with President Thomas S. Monson, President Christensen, and a few others on Dec. 28, 2005, President Hinckley chose this site while his car drove by it. It was not one of the sites identified preliminarily by President Christensen and others, and the inspired choice of the site was made almost literally “site unseen” as it lay hidden behind a bank of shrubs along the road.

THE VANCOUVER TEMPLE WILL ACCELERATE CHURCH GROWTH IN BC

After Elder Rasband made his remarks at the ground breaking, he then dedicated the grounds. He observed that as a result of the publicity attendant to the building of our temple, and the subsequent



Open House which will bring thousands of citizens in BC to “come and see” (John 1:39), Church growth will accelerate. As full time missionaries it will be our privilege to play a significant role in that promised acceleration, as we redouble our proselyting efforts to share the Gospel. Humbly, gratefully, we will stride forth, determined to do all in our power to honor our Lord’s blessing of granting us a new Temple as a finding tool!

The Chilliwack Ward is Missionary Minded, and the Penticton Ward had a Wonderful Baptism, by Elders Carlton Taylor (and Daniel Walton and James Corey)

“This week has gone well! I am still trying to get acquainted with



VICTORIA, PARLIAMENT LIT AT NIGHT

the area and its members, but I see a lot of potential in this ward. Right now they are revamping the Ward Mission Plan. The Bishop and Ward Mission Leader are working hard to get some kind of a plan set up that includes families. I feel like the efforts they are making are in the right direction.”

“The highlight of our week in Penticton was Dana Dyck’s baptism. It ran so smoothly from the beginning that I really want this to be the model for our future baptisms. Because we had plenty of time between the interview and the baptism, we could announce the time of the baptism in several meetings. Because of this, over 60 people attended, including nine non-members! After the baptismal service we had refreshments and this gave us a chance to talk to a few of the people who came who aren’t members of the Penticton Ward. We really hope that good things come from those conversations. Her confirmation today also went really well. All in all it was a great week. I hope to have many more like it.”

Editor’s Note: To have an excellent baptismal service at which many ward members and non-members are in attendance is a very important missionary tool. A well-attended service allows excellent fellowshiping of the person being baptized, but also allows non-members to be met and fellowshiped, and allows all to feel the Spirit.

The Nechako Ward “Double Oreo Action Plan,” by Sisters Dionne Oliver (and Kim Wilcox)

“Members here in the Fraser Ward are so awesome! When they had the combined ward activity with the Nechako Ward called ‘One Fold and One Shepherd,’ it was a great missionary tool. It was in essence an open house for the Church where each organization made their own display and explained what it was all about. All of us

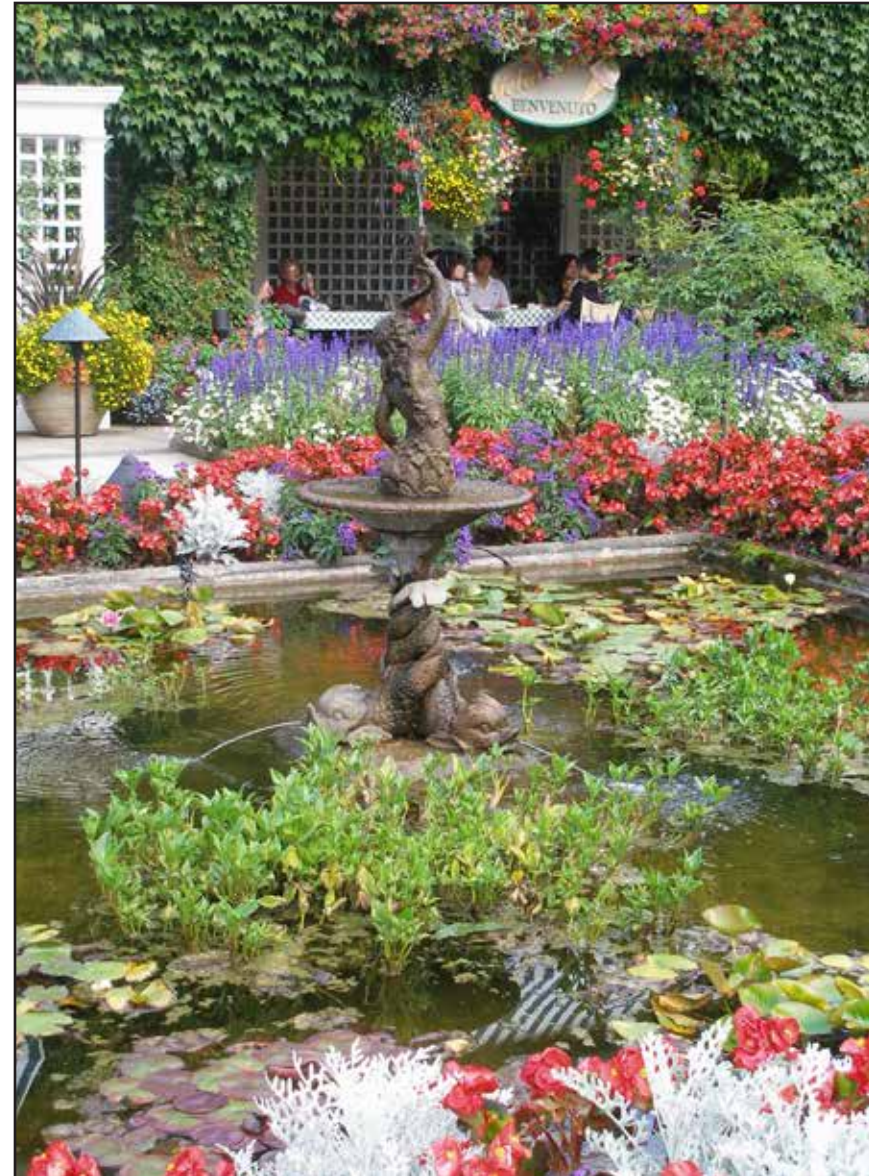
missionaries took our designated group on a Spiritual Tour through the Church. The members did a great job in that activity.”

“Our PEC meeting is amazing! Our leaders are always looking for missionary activities to set up so they can invite their friends to come and meet the missionaries. We’ve also discussed with them our ‘Double Oreo’ action plan, whereby we give at least an hour of service to members and in return the members let us practice lessons, give us a referral, or go on a Spiritual Tour with us. ‘Double Oreo’, because both parties are benefitted and blessed!”

We love each and every full-time missionary and member here in British Columbia!

President and Sister Middleton

“Therefore let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in heaven.” 3 Nephi 12:16



FLOATING GARDEN AT BUTCHART



VANCOUVER TEMPLE GROUND BREAKING



ELDER AND SISTER RASBAND WITH THE MIDDLETONS AT THE VANCOUVER GROUND BREAKING

LOWER MAINLAND CHOIR SINGS AT
THE TEMPLE GROUND BREAKING



DIGNITARIES AT TEMPLE GROUND BREAKING

The Coveted “Off-the-Hook” Award:

(Week-ending August 5, 2007)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Surrey English Zone (17 Baptisms)
- Abbotsford Zone (17 Baptisms)

Baptisms this week:

- Abbotsford Zone (1 Baptism)
- Vancouver Language Zone (1 Baptism)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language Zone (9 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Vancouver Language Zone (17 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Vancouver Language Zone (22 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons:

- Vancouver Language (278)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver Zone (16 Progressing Investigators)
- Vancouver Language Zone (16 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Surrey Language Zone (12 New Investigators)
- Abbotsford Zone (6 Non-member Tours)

Full Lessons:

- Vancouver Zone (Average of 19.3 Full Lessons)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Collins & Hea: 30 Full Lesson, 38 Other, 2 progressing, 1 baptism date
- Elders Ward & Mariano: 26 Full Lessons, 13 Other Lessons, 1 Referral, 1 progressing, 1 Baptismal Date, 7 Baptisms Year to Date.
- Elders Nebeker & DeHerrera: 45 Other Lessons, 3 New investigators, 2 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting, 2 Lessons with Member Present.
- Elders Zmoos & Liu: 19 Full Lessons, 47 Other, 3 new investigators, 3 Progressing, 6 Referrals received, 10 Lessons with Member Present, 6 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting.
- Elders Choi & Strum: 36 Full Lessons, 75 Other, 2 New investigators, 2 Lessons with Member Present, 3 Referrals Received.
- Elders Elmore & Curtis: 108 Other Lessons, 3 New Investigators, 3

Progressing, 1 with a Baptismal Date, 1 investigator at sacrament Meeting.

- Elders Magnusson & Seitz: 19 Full Lesson, 35 Other, 2 Lessons with Member Present, 1 attending Sacrament Meeting, 3 Referrals Received.
- Elders Bakow & Klekas: 21 Full Lessons, 101 Other, 3 Investigators attending Sacrament Meeting, 1 Baptismal Date, 10 full to Non-Members.
- Elders Glass & Johnson: 19 Full Lessons, 53 Other, 3 Progressing, 2 Lessons with member Present, 3 referrals Received
Congratulations on your accomplishments this week

AUGUST 14, 2007

PRESIDENT JAMES E. FAUST PASSES

We have been saddened to learn of the death of President James Faust on August 10, 2007. While all Church members mourn his passing, we are particularly saddened as he was not only our great spiritual leader, but he and his wonderful wife, Sister Ruth Faust, had become long standing and cherished personal friends through the years. Our call to be a mission president was issued by President Faust, so his passing is very sad for us. Our heart-felt condolences go out to Sister Faust and the entire Faust family.

President Faust was a capable and highly regarded attorney in

Salt Lake City before being called as a General Authority in 1972. A graduate of the University of Utah with a B.A. and juris doctorate, he had been an athlete while there, running for the track team. He later served as a Utah State Senator, and served as an adviser to the American Bar Journal and was president of the Utah Bar Association. He served as a Brazilian missionary while a young man from 1939–1942, at a time when there were no more than a handful of Church members in that country, and he played a major role in leading the Church growth subsequently in Brazil to one million members, with



DORA AND CHILDREN WITH ELDERS BEINS AND THOMPSON AT BAPTISM



Brazil now enjoying 26 missions, 5 temples, an MTC and 193 stakes! President Faust was made an honorary citizen of Sao Paulo in 1998, in recognition of his life long ties to that city and to Brazil.

President Faust will be remembered for his warm personality, inviting and welcoming to all who knew him. He also will be remembered for his extraordinary wisdom and wit. He had a great gift for understanding people and events, and his counsel and insights were often sought by many. Serving as a bishop, stake president and regional representative, called upon to be a “judge in Israel” often, his judgments were always tempered with the mercy that Christ brought to the world such that spiritual rehabilitation of the individual was his main goal, and was usually achieved. While mourning his loss, our lives have been immeasurably enriched by having known him. Those on the other side of the veil must be rejoicing as he joins them. All we can say is God speed to a great and noble man. Our report to him on the discharge of our duties as mission president will be postponed to a future year when we again meet in worlds to come.

We love each of you as we loved President Faust!

President and Sister Middleton

“I Saw the hosts of the dead... and there were gathered together in one place an innumerable company of the spirits of the just, who had been faithful in the testimony of Jesus while they lived in mortality.” D&C 138:11,12

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending August 12, 2007)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Surrey English Zone (17 Baptisms)
- Abbotsford Zone (17 Baptisms)

Baptisms this week:

- Vancouver Zone (1 Baptism)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language Zone (9 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Surrey Language Zone (16 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)



TUGBOAT NEAR LONSDALE

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Vancouver Zone (25 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons:

- Vancouver Language Zone (270)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver Zone (20 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Surrey Language Zone (22 New Investigators)

TOURS:

- Surrey Language Zone (11 Total tours 9 non-member)

Full Lessons:

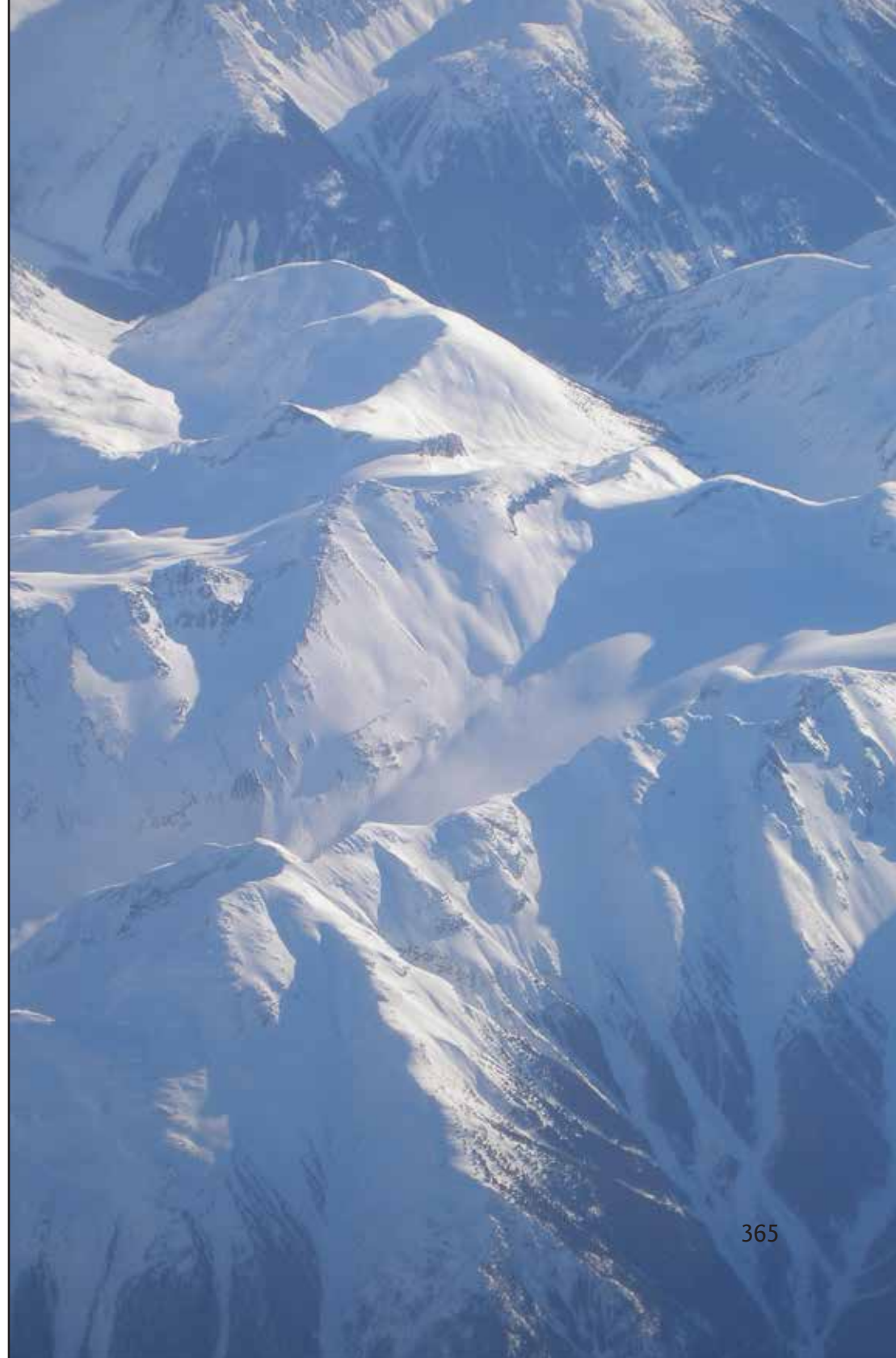
- Vancouver Zone (Average of 22.2 Full Lessons)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Collins & Hea: 28 Full Lesson (24 to non members), 46 Other, 6 with member present, 2 at sacrament meeting, 2 baptism date

- Elders Lassetter & Fullmer: 20 Full Lessons, 27 Other Lessons, 13 Full lessons to non members, 4 progressing, 2Baptismal Date
- Elders Weeks & Barton: 16 Full lessons, 22 others, 5 member present, 3 at sacrament, 2 progressing
- Elders Pugsley & Carlisle: 20 Full Lessons, 19 Other, 2 new investigators, 2 Progressing, 3 Lessons with Member Present, 2 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting.
- Elders Morrill & Fisher: 15 Full Lessons, 45 Other, 2 new investigators, 1 investigator at sacrament
- Elders Hea & Collins: 28 full lessons, 46 Other Lessons, 1New Investigators, 2 Progressing, 1 with a Baptismal Date, 1 investigator at sacrament Meeting, 24 full lessons to non members.
- Elders Johnson & Foster19 Full Lesson, 24 Other, 6 Lessons with Member Present, 2 attending Sacrament Meeting, 11Referrals Received, 2 progressing
- Elders Zmoos & Liu: 19 Full Lessons, 64 Other,6 Investigators attending Sacrament Meeting, 1 Baptismal Date, 18 full to Non-Members, 7 new investigators, 3 referrals, 6 with a member present
- Elders Glass & Johnson: 19 Full Lessons, 53 Other, 3 Progressing, 2 Lessons with member Present, 3 referrals Received
- Elders Barker & Hatton: 17 full lessons, 21 other, 3 with member present, 2 at sacrament, 5 referrals
- Elders Bakow & Klekas: 17 full lessons, 3 progressing, 2 with member present, 4 at sacrament, 1 with a date, 33 other 1
Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

AIRPLANE VIEW OF MOUNTAINS
BETWEEN PRINCE GEORGE AND VANCOUVER



AUGUST 21, 2007

COUNSEL FROM ELDER KIKUCHI

We are delighted to have received an E-Mail from Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi sent in commentary to an E-Mail we had sent to our BC member leaders in July. Elder and Sister Kikuchi toured our Mission in November 2005, and we still are stressing



TWO KILLER WHALES IN THE JUAN DE FUCA STRAIT

the wonderful points of advice we received then by which we might be more successful missionaries. Elder Kikuchi has maintained an interest in the Canada Vancouver Mission, and remains on our internet listserve to receive outgoing Vancouver Stars, Off-The-Hook Awards and general communications with our wonderful member leaders. His e-mail to us on August 2, 2007, reads as follows:

“I am so happy to know that some of the zones in your Mission are increasing convert baptisms. Your temple ground-breaking will be held soon (it occurred on August 4, 2007). The coming of the temple will be a powerful force for increasing productivity in the missionary work in your area.

“I hope and pray that each missionary Area Book will have a current list of Part Member Families, and also a current list of un-baptized children who are living in a part member family. I also urge that you work with your ‘eternal investigators’. May the Lord bless you and your missionaries. Love and respect, Elder Y. Kikuchi”

Elder Kikuchi Focuses us on Important Missionary Tools

While we have been using the finding tools mentioned by Elder Kikuchi, we need to diligently refocus on each of the three he mentions: an updated list of part-member families, another list of unbaptized children who live in part-member families, and a list of those who are “eternal investigators.” In regard to the latter, let us never forget that it took Brigham Young 2 years of investigation before he joined the Church, so if we have investigators who are slow to set a baptismal date, but who have a testimony and are slowly progressing let us continue to work with them. Accordingly, as we come for Zone Conferences we are asking each missionary companionship to bring

their Area books, and we shall observe together your progress in each of the areas mentioned by Elder Kikuchi. Coming from one as wise in missionary work as Elder Kikuchi, and from one of the Lord's anointed who is privy to the Lord's inspiration as he is, we will follow the counsel of Elder Kikuchi gratefully and eagerly.

Brookwood Ward Establishes Member Exchange Schedule, Is Filled with Great Member Missionaries, by Elders Hunter Heaton (and Gavin Ramsey)

“Bishop Eden Engen is the best Bishop I have dealt with on my mission. He meets with us every week and lets us know how much he appreciates us. Last week we approached him about the Set-a-Date program and he fully accepted it. As a leader and exemplar he took our calendar right then and there and signed up three times himself! We then took it before the PEC, then the Ward Council, and this week we presented it to the whole Ward. We have already seen the success, as this week we have had 2 Spiritual Tours, one with members and some non-members they invited. We now have 11 more dates. The members in this Ward are very missionary minded and supportive. We are also working with the Ward Mission Leader, Martin Lutz, and have initiated an exchange program in which we made a calendar that includes all the Priesthood and auxiliaries. The calendar goes as follows:

- 1st Tuesday Elders Quorum 1st Wednesday High Priests
- 2nd Tuesday Young Men 2nd Wednesday Bishopric
- 3rd Tuesday Ward Missionaries 3rd Wednesday High Priests 5th Week TBA
- 4th Tuesday Elders Quorum 4th Wednesday High Priests

“We have had much success with this program, and I am very pleased with the response of the members in this Ward.”

Exchanges Allow Double the Lessons; Family Mission Plans Help Members Become Better Missionaries, by Elders Scott Marianno (and Logan Rasmussen)

“We had an excellent week last week. We used mini missions to help accelerate the work over the weekend and they worked out great. We were able to do just about twice the work of what we would



LONSDALE QUAY, FERRY, AND VANCOUVER IN THE BACKGROUND



normally do. We had an excellent baptism on Sunday. It was well attended by the Ward, and the Pio family who were baptized seemed to feel the Spirit and it was a special occasion for them. I was very pleased with the efforts of the Ward in fellowshipping them. They are now looking forward to entering the Temple a year from now.

“We are also seeing much success with the Family Mission Plans. The members are become increasingly more aware of their friends who they can bring on a Spiritual Tour; also, we are seeing an increase in the number of Tours we are presenting.”

“There are some exciting things happening here in Abbotsford and with the member’s support I think even greater things are going to continue to take place.”

Editor’s Note: exchanges as described herein for the Brookwood and Abbotsford First Wards, and as are being done in several other BC wards and branches, make tremendous sense. In addition to effectively making 2 missionaries 4 on the night of the exchange, it allows us to often meet and give a lesson to non-member acquaintances of the member on the exchange. The member also gets to know us well during the exchange, and gains confidence in our abilities to give an inviting and compellingly well done lesson. The member will then feel confident in our skills and will feel obligated to establish a date for themselves by which they will have invited a sufficient number of their friends that they will have found an individual or family to return with them for a Spiritual Tour of the chapel, or to some other activity at the Church. Let us aim toward member exchanges one or two nights in every week.

We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

MISSING FISHERMAN NEEDLE, GARRY POINT, AT SUNSET

“What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?” Luke 15:4

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending August 19, 2007)
In Recognition of the following:

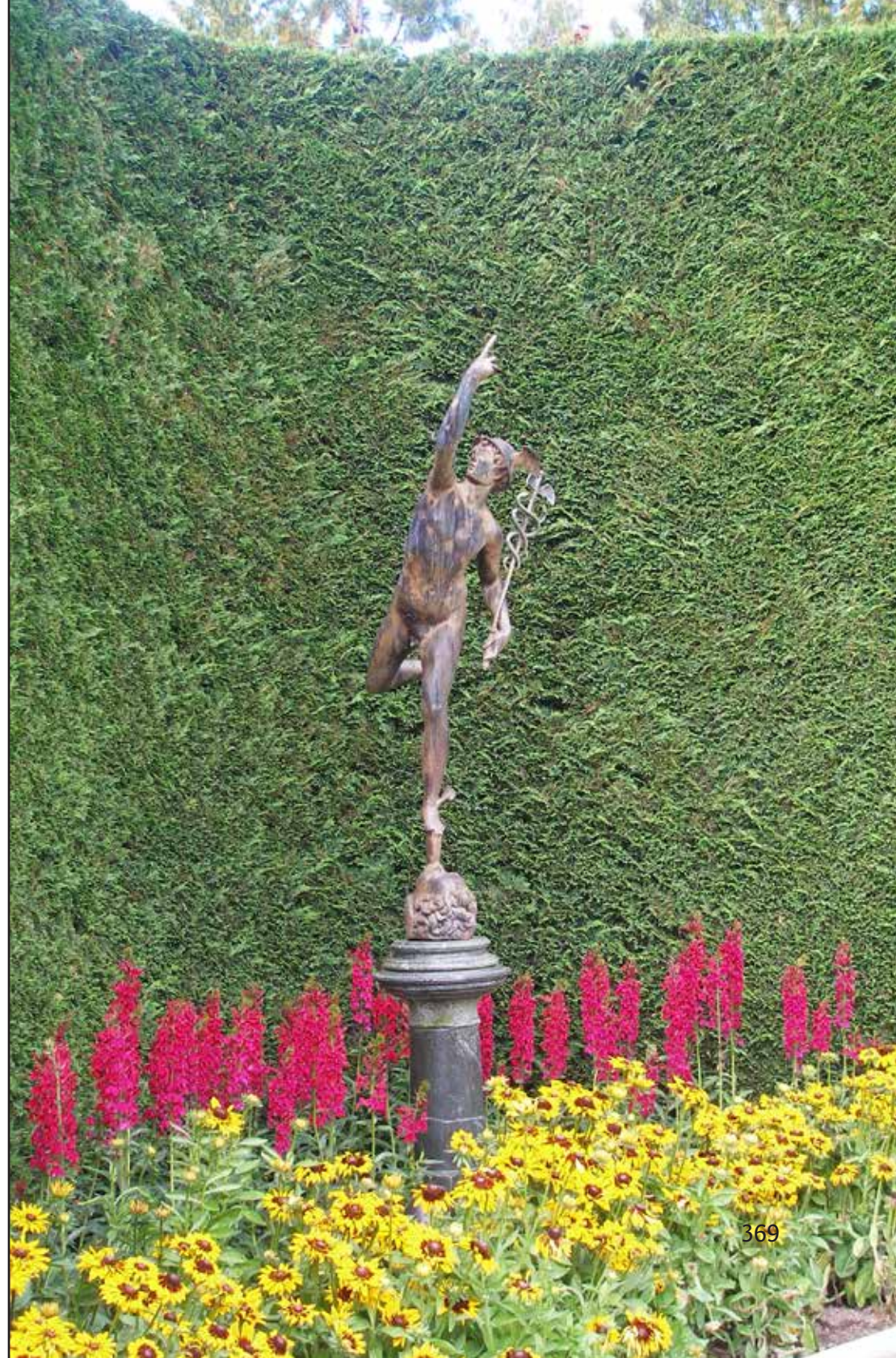
Baptisms Year to Date:

- Surrey English Zone (17 Baptisms)
- Abbotsford (17 Baptisms)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language Zone (10 Baptismal Dates)

STATUE AT BUTCHART



Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Vancouver (18 Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (27 Lessons with a Member Present)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver (20 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Vancouver Language Zone (19 New Investigators)

Member Referrals:

- Surrey Language Zone (15 member referrals)

Full Lessons:

- Vancouver Zone (Average of 20.2 Full Lessons)

Full Lessons to non-member:

- Vancouver Language Zone (14.3 non-member Fulls)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Lassatter & Fullmer: 24 full, 34 other lessons, 5 lessons with member present, 2 investigators attending Sacrament Meeting, 2 with baptism dates
- Elders Weeks & Barton: 20 full, 13 other, 4 lessons with member

- present, 2 progressing, 2 new investigators, 2 referrals received, 1 investigator at Sacrament Meeting
 - Sisters Oliver & Wilcox: 15 full, 68 other, 1 lesson with member present, 1 investigator at Sacrament Meeting, 1 referral
 - Elders Fisher & Morrill: 16 full (8 to non members), 50 others, 2 new investigators, 2 progressing
 - Elders Collins & Hea: 32 Full (29 to non members), 57 other, 3 lessons with member present, 2 attending Sac. Meeting, 2 progressing, 1 with baptism Date
 - Elders Pack and Feinga: 21 Full (13 to non-members), 58 others, 5 progressing, 4 with baptism date, 3 new investigators, 4 lessons with member present, 5 investigators at Sacrament Meeting, 4 referrals received
 - Elders Strum & Choi: 33 Full (31 to non-members), 76 other, 8 new investigators, 2 Tours with non-members, 1 investigator at Sacrament Meeting
 - Elders Barker & Hatton: 16 Full (9 to non-members), 38 other, 3 lessons with member present, 6 referrals received, 1 with baptism date
 - Elders Rian Wilhite & Shaw: 15 Full, 47 others, 2 lessons with member present, 1 new investigator
 - Elders Bakow & Klekas: 15 Full (10 to non-members), 28 other, 3 lessons with member present, 2 progressing, 2 investigators at Sacrament Meeting, 1 with baptism date, 2 progressing, 2 Tours with non-members
- Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!





AUGUST 28, 2007

EMPHASIZING WHAT WORKS

We are excited to see great ideas developing in wards and branches throughout BC that will lead to accelerating Church growth. In this Star we share observations of our missionaries of ideas that work. We urge each missionary companionship, each ward or branch leader, to adopt these ideas, tailored appropriately to their ward or branch resources.

Learning to Seek a Baptismal Commitment in Every First Lesson, by Elders Isaac Pack (and Listate Feinga)

“Things here in Burnaby are good and we are seeing a lot of success. We have been teaching mostly investigators. Elder Feinga and I have been having great success extending soft commitments for baptism in all our Restoration lessons (the first lesson). It works every time! We taught our investigator, Ana, the first lesson and we extended a soft baptismal commitment at the end of the lesson. She said, ‘Baptism is very serious.’ She further said, ‘I don’t like those people that are always getting baptized in different churches.’ Now Ana didn’t say no; she just said that it is serious. All of the other baptismal commitments that we have extended have said yes. We are stressing this issue with the zone, and the North Vancouver Elders subsequently obtained a baptismal date. It is so exciting! Another

thing is if we can learn to extend baptismal commitments with every First lesson it makes us better missionaries. It makes us become BOLD and this is what we want in missionary work-More Boldness, as the Brethren have asked of us.

“The most exciting thing about the week was the baptism of Jessica Maussion. She invited all of her family to come, who are all non-members. We probably had ten non-members at the baptism. Another one of our investigators who has a baptismal date for October 27th brought a non-member with her, and she accepted the Book of Mormon afterwards. The baptismal service was great! There were great lessons given. The Spirit was so strong. The confirmation was on Sunday. I was able to give her the Holy Ghost. It was such a great time. I love being an instrument in the hands of the Lord. Jessica is going to be a great member, President. I love this work. The Canada Vancouver Mission is awesome.”

Editor’s Note: on page 40 in *Preach My Gospel* we learn how to obtain either a “soft” or “hard” baptismal commitment. This commitment advice appears in Lesson One, the Restoration lesson. *PMG* notes, “During this or any other lesson, do not hesitate to invite people to be baptized and confirmed.” May we urge each missionary to boldly ask for a hard or soft baptismal commitment in the First Lesson. There may be a rare exception, but it should be rare. Be bold as Alma 38:21 asks. We are counseled there by the Lord to be bold, but not overbearing.



STANLEY PARK

The Surrey Third Ward Develops a Great Member Missionary Plan, By Sisters Julianna Little (and Lisa Falk)

“Things here in Surrey 3rd Ward are looking better and better! Brother J.P. Tremblay, our Ward Mission Leader, has helped revise our Ward Mission Plan. He has the right idea that the Bishopric and priesthood quorums, and auxiliary leaders need to be ‘On Board’ first before we can expect other ward members to do anything, so our Ward Mission Plan calls for our leaders to commit to specific member missionary goals.



THE NORTHWIND, CHURCHILL'S YACHT, VICTORIA HARBOR

“I want to tell you about a really cool experience we had this week. We were at our investigator’s place teaching a 3rd lesson to a less active/part member family. After explaining and teaching the 3rd lesson, I asked her if she thought these would be important steps in her life and the life of her family. She said ‘Yes, I think they are.’ So I turned to her husband and asked ‘Stephen, will you prepare yourself to baptize your wife and kids when they are of age?’ He said, ‘I don’t think I am worthy of that honor.’ I then said, ‘I didn’t ask you if you were worthy. I asked you if you would prepare yourself.’ Everyone laughed and he said, ‘Yes I will. I guess that means I would have to give up smoking.’ (I didn’t even know he smoked). I replied, ‘Yes, we can help you do that.’ He told us he could do it. He was sure, so I said ‘OK, I want a date.’ He said ‘What’s today?’ I answered, ‘The 12th.’ His reply, ‘OK, I’ll quit on the 13th.’ Wow! I was expecting the end of the month type thing. So I told him I wanted the rest of his smokes, and he gave them willingly.

“I love this family: I love this work, and I love my Savior, Jesus Christ. I am grateful to be here, and I hope that I can feel that ‘Peace that surpasses understanding’ that you often talk about.”

Editor’s Note: The commitment pattern which the inspired Surrey 3rd Ward Mission leader, J.P. Tremblay, is asking of all Surrey 3rd leaders is similar to the pattern of members leading members, and members holding other members accountable for their commitments which lead to the marvelous growth of the Spokane First Ward. It is also being adopted in the Sidney Ward and elsewhere. It Works! The Lord blesses all who implement this *PMG* principle.

Challenging White Rock Ward Members To Invite Reaps Dividends, by Elders Peter Stevenson (and Kyle Taylor)

“Things are going very well here in White Rock. We’ve been finding people to teach through our efforts, and through member work. We’ve selected six active families to start the work moving along with the input of Bishop John Harvey. We are committing them to prayerfully select 3-5 of their non-member friends and invite them by a certain date to come to church, come on a Spiritual Tour of the Chapel, or listen to the message we have to share at the member’s home. It has been well received! We support them in their efforts and frequently drop in and teach them how to best approach inviting their friends. We’re hoping that wonderful things will happen, and that it will spread like wildfire to the other members in the ward.”

We also have ready people who we are teaching right now that are close to baptism. “Whiterock is great!”

That we might become and continue to be anxiously engaged, working boldly and diligently in this the Lord’s vineyard, is our constant prayer.

We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton



“Men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness.” D&C 58:27

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending August 26, 2007)
In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Abbotsford Zone (18 Baptisms)

Baptisms this week:

- Victoria Zone (1)
- Abbotsford Zone (1)
- Surrey Lang. Zone (1)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language Zone (12 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Surrey Language Zone (21 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (31 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons:

- Vancouver Language Zone (227)

Progressing Investigators:

- Surrey Language Zone (21 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Surrey Language Zone (20 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Vancouver Zone (Average of 22.8 Full Lessons)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

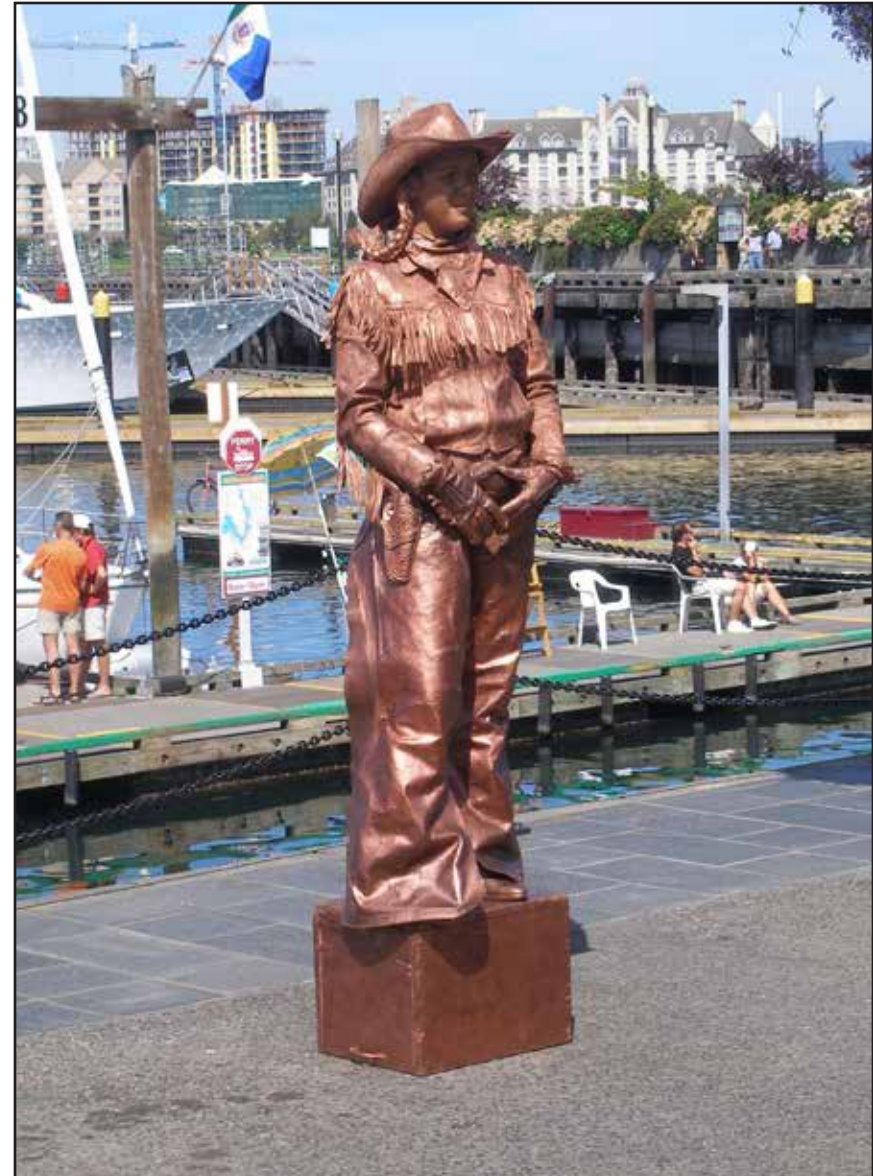
- Elders Collins & Hea: 1 baptized, 4 at sacrament, 54 others, 4 progressing, 3 new investigators, 1 member tour, 27 full lessons, 24 fulls to non-members
- Elders Weeks & Barton: 2 at sacrament, 5 member present, 15 others, 2 progressing, 3 new investigators, 18 full lessons, 10 fulls to non-members
- Elders Zmoos & Liu: 2 with a date, 12 at sacrament, 78 others, 5 progressing, 4 referrals, 8 new investigators, 21 full lessons, 20 fulls to non-members
- Elders Glass & Johnson: 6 at sacrament, 4 member present lessons, 31 others, 3 progressing, 1 new investigator, 17 full lessons, 9 fulls to non-members

- Elders Mariano & Ward: 1 baptized, 1 confirmed, 1 at sacrament, 18 others, 1 progressing, 2 member tours, 2 non-member tours, 25 full lessons, 11 fulls to non-members
 - Sisters Oliver & Wilcox: 17 full lessons, 16 others, 2 progressing, 1 non-member tour
 - Elders Hassel & Stevenson: 4 at sacrament, 3 member present lessons, 4 progressing, 2 new investigators, 1 non-member tour, 19 full lessons, 24 others
 - Elders Pack & Feinga: 5 with a date, 3 at sacrament, 42 others, 4 progressing, 4 new investigators, 27 full lessons, 19 fulls to non-members
 - Elders Harrison & Loong: 5 at sacrament, 7 member present lessons, 30 others, 3 progressing, 4 new investigators, 2 non-member tours, 16 full lessons, 10 fulls to non-members
 - Elders Jensen & Godfrey: 3 at sacrament, 22 others, 2 progressing, 4 referrals, 16 full lessons
- Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

SEPTEMBER 4, 2007

PERSONALLY INVITE ALL

In Alma 38:12 we read fundamentally and critically important counsel from the Lord on what we should do to become His best full-time and member missionaries. There the Lord tells us how to



BRONZED COWGIRL MIME AT VICTORIA HARBOR

invite when he admonishes, “Use boldness, but not overbearance.” It isn’t complicated advice on how to be a missionary. The Lord simply states that we must open our mouths and lovingly invite. It is as simple as that.

DON’T PASS-ALONG AND RUN

Some of our full-time and member missionaries have developed the false idea that we are effective missionaries if we give away many Pass-Along-Cards and /or many copies of the Book of Mormon. Some accomplish this by a method we have nicknamed the “drop



BUTCHART FAMILY DOCK

and run” approach, where a well-meaning missionary will drop a Pass-Along-Card or Book of Mormon on a counter of a business or give it to an acquaintance with little or no explanation or invitation. There are rare, anecdotal reports in previous *Ensign* magazines or elsewhere about this approach working, but they are rare. A Pass-Along-Card, Book of Mormon, pamphlet about the Church, etc. is an effective tool if it is accompanied by a simple invitation to “come and see” (John 1:39) which is sincerely offered by a member to an acquaintance. Then it works, and works well. Where an invitation to “come and see with me” is offered, to a Spiritual Chapel Tour, Church event, Family Home Evening, Church sports event, etc. the invitation is effective. Obviously not all will accept, but “the elect of the Lord” (D & C 29:7), some of whom are known by every Church member in BC, will accept their personal invitation to come and see. The Lord has promised us so!

Delta Members Challenge Full -Time Missionaries to See Who Can Bring More People on Spiritual Tours, by Elders Brian Fisher (and Collin Morrill)

“There is great potential here in Delta that hopefully is just ready to be unleashed. Today in Ward Council and in Sacrament Meeting there was a challenge issued by us to the members. We are going to have a contest between the full time missionaries vs. Delta Ward members on who can bring more people on Tours by the end of the year. We are going to set a goal and also challenge the ward to do the same. Bishop Davis accepted our challenge and we announced it in Sacrament Meeting. It was reiterated in Priesthood as well. So I think the members (led by the leadership) are beginning to catch the vision of missionary work.”

“Scripture Rings,” An Investigator Haircut, and a Japanese Sunday School Class, by Nouero Shibayama (and Brian Huo)

“Mike McDonald is our investigator who is working on Sunday, at least for now. As we couldn’t meet with him for one week we devised a special teaching gift for him we call ‘scripture rings.’ We wrote some select scriptures on paper, then folded them up into a rectangle and connected several into rings. Every day he cuts one ring and the reads one scripture, so that he can read the word of God at least every day. This week we are going to see him and set a date.

“One of our investigators needed a hair cut. A member of the Church has talent in cutting hair, so last week we arranged to have the member cut his hair. It went well.

“In Vancouver 1st ward we have a new Mission Leader, and through the Ward Missionary Correlation Committee Meeting, in conjunction with Bishop Steve Ward, we will be revising the Ward Mission Plan to make it more effective. We are going to start a Japanese Language Sunday School class in Vancouver 1st Ward to which we will bring Japanese investigators.”

We love each of our full-time missionaries, and love equally each of our members, who are stepping forth to invite as many acquaintances as it takes to find the one who comes, members and full-time missionaries who understand that all missionary work consists of “asking several to find the one.”

We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“Therefore let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.” 3 Nephi 12:16

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Spencer Mun, Riverside CA, Yoshiaki Saito, Tokyo Japan, Aaron Terry, Newton KS, Austyn Whittenburg, Sandy UT,
- Sisters: Heather Nibley, Sandy UT, Rochelle Chevalier, Tooele UT
- Couple: Elder Chan Tae and SisterJung AE Kim Kwong, Korea

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Sister Dionne Oliver

“When you cry be sure to dry your eyes cause better days are sure to come. And when you see, see the beauty all around & in yourself & it will help. You feel ok. And when you pray, pray for strength to help you carry on; when you dream, dream big!” Shupe Ryan. Dare to be remarkable. God be with you till we meet again. I love this work!

Elder Jonathan Dial

“Thus God has provided a means that man, through faith, might work mighty miracles; Therefore he becometh a great benefit to his fellow beings.” Mosiah 8:18. “If my life is of no value to my friends, it is of none to me.”—Joseph Smith. Understand, as the prophets did, the importance of service. Serve your missions. Serve your fellow man. Serve your God! Brothers...I love you. I love this work, and I love this mission. Now on to the next one. Proverbs 31:10.

Elder Jordan Elmore

“And now as I said concerning faith, faith is not to have a perfect knowledge of things; therefore if ye have faith ye hope for things which are not seen, which are true.” Alma 32:31. I know that God lives and is in control of this work. “Pray like everything depends on God. Then go out and work like everything depends on you.” President Hinckley. I love this work. There is nothing better than this!

Sister Cathy Knight

D&C 123:17 “Therefore, dearly beloved brethren (and sisters), let us cheerfully do all things that lie in our power; and may we stand still, with the utmost assurance, to see the salvation of God, and for his arm to be revealed.” This scripture has defined my labors to serve faithfully in the Canada Vancouver Mission...and beyond.

Elder Craig Knight

“O THAT I were an angel, and could have the wish of mine heart, that I might go forth and speak with the trump of God, with a voice to shake the earth, and cry repentance unto every people!” I know that each of you are giving it your all. Keep it up.

Elder Donnie Fewkes

My brothers and friends, you have no idea how much you have meant to me. Remember, that obedience is key. It saved me in this mission. Even after the mission, sticking to the White Hand Book is a good idea. Let’s see what it has to say... “go directly to your new area where you are transferred and meet your new companion without delay. “ P.33 Can do, white hand book. Can do! I won’t forget you all.

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Lloyd Lee; Ena Marina Lopez; Samuel Nyuol;
- Kelowna: Jordan Allen
- Prince George: Shawn Blair
- Surrey: Justin Naheray;
- Surrey Lang: Dora Fu
- Vancouver: Jessica Maussion; Peter Garnett; Peter Garnett
- Van Lang: Jing Gege, Colum
- Still waiting on records for: Cody McNeil (AB), Soo Ji Park (SU)

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS BEINS & ANDERSON

Sisters and Elders. We want to remind you of how much we love you! We are so grateful to be in this missionary effort with you. We hope that this transfer we can grow our companions and strive to make each area the best area. Let's take our investigators to the end zone by applying the principles we learned this Zone Conference. In the first two weeks of this transfer, remember to strive to obtain 20 or more full lessons. God speed to all of you!

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

- Sep 18—Van/Van Lang
- Sep 20—Surrey/Sur Lang/Abbots (AbbotsStake Center)
- Sep 27—Nanaimo/Victoria
- Oct 3—Vernon/Kelowna (Vernon Chapel)
- Oct 5—Prince George

*“Be steadfast and immovable,
always abounding in good
works” (Mosiah 5:15).*



TOTEM POLES AT STANLEY PARK



SUN SETTING OVER VANCOUVER BEACH

SOW BOUNTIFULLY; WARD MEMBER MISSIONARIES

SEPTEMBER–OCTOBER 2007

SEPTEMBER 11, 2007

SOW BOUNTIFULLY TO REAP BOUNTIFULLY

Elder M. Russell Ballard has recently observed that only 3 to 5 percent of active LDS members in North America are regularly involved in missionary work. Another recently done study found that “just 26% of Latter-day Saints report engaging in a gospel conversation with a non-member within the past year.” The essential role of members becoming missionaries was underlined by Elder Dallin H. Oaks, who noted, “of investigators found through media campaigns, about 1 to 2 percent are baptized, of investigators found through the missionaries’ efforts, about 2 to 3 percent are baptized. Of investigators found through the members, 20 to 30 percent are baptized.”

That pattern of few members being true member missionaries in BC was true before the publication of *Preach My Gospel* two years ago, but since then our members are committing to and learning to “simply invite” in steadily increasing numbers. The conversion of members into true member missionaries is slower than we would like, but it is happening. Elder Oaks’ observation about the effectiveness of member missionaries throughout the Church is very true here in BC, where we have found that 1 out of every 7 people brought by a member on a Spiritual Chapel Tour, or to some other ward or branch activity which is coupled with a Tour and Lessons, goes on to baptism.

HOW FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES CAN BECOME MORE SUCCESSFUL

We have just read an interesting book written by Brother David G. Stewart, who is a Ward Mission Leader in Nevada, entitled, “The law of the Harvest.” Brother Stewart cites surveys made in several missions around the world which found that daily contacting rates of the full-time missionaries were far below the “50 to 200 contacts a day” that he found were necessary to be an optimally productive missionary. He noted that many or most full time missionaries found personal finding (tracting, GQ’ing, etc.) less desirable, opting instead to have dinner during Prime Time (5-9) with member families, or spending disproportionate time with friendly but non-progressing investigators or with friendly member families. He noted that time so spent produced in the minds of members as well as full-time missionaries a false sense of contributing to the missionary effort without requiring the courage or effort needed to approach non-members about the gospel, and it takes the full-time missionaries away from meaningful finding and teaching during the hours when most families are home and can be taught.

GREAT SUCCESS NOTED IN OTHER FAITHS WITH COMMITTED MEMBER MISSIONARIES

To show the importance of all members becoming effective member missionaries, Brother Stewart noted that the Seventh Day

Adventist Church baptizes “between 700,000 and 1 million new converts each year” due to high member missionary participation, and the Jehovah’s Witnesses have achieved a higher growth rate than the LDS Church because all active members proselyte for 16 or more hours each month. The point he makes is that when our active



VICTORIA, EMPRESS HOTEL AT NIGHT

members, armed with the truths of the Restoration, learn to become effective member missionaries, with most active members in a ward or branch doing so, our growth will rapidly accelerate.

TEACH MEMBERS TO BECOME TRUE MEMBER MISSIONARIES

In 2 Corinthians 9: 6 Paul noted, “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly, and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” At the heart of Paul’s observation lies the secret of becoming a good missionary. When a member embraces the concept that he or she will look to invite all of their non-member acquaintances, and sets personal goals such as extending an invitation at least once every week, they will “reap bountifully.” An invitation given only once a year, or less often, as many of our members have done, invites the meager harvest of which Paul spoke. Similarly, when our full-time missionaries realize that they are expected “to knock on every door,” and present the gospel to all the people of British Columbia they will “reap bountifully.” The Lord admonished us missionaries to “Go ye and preach my gospel, whether to the north or to the south, to the east or to the west, it mattereth not, for ye cannot go amiss.” (D&C 80:3). In summation, when our full-time missionaries become completely “anxiously engaged” (D&C 58:27) they will achieve that bountiful harvest promised by Paul. When our full-time missionaries achieve 50 to 200 contacts in their Personal Finding part of the day, and when all active members learn to embrace the idea of seeking to extend at least one invitation to a non-member acquaintance weekly to “come and see,” the bountiful harvest promised by Paul will be realized.

PREACH MY GOSPEL SHOWS US HOW

The success of the Spokane 1st Ward in attaining 20 new converts in 2006 was achieved by members and full-time missionaries linking arms, then together working hard and working smart. They employed *PMG* principles to achieve the goals outlined above. We rejoice that the same phenomenon is occurring in the Surrey 3rd Ward, the Surrey Stake, and the Abbotsford Stake, all of them seeing an acceleration of Church growth with a doubling of baptisms this year by applying the *PMG* principles mentioned above. We are excited to see these successful approaches being applied in the Victoria Stake, in the Vancouver Stake, in the Quesnel Ward and Prince George Stake, in Penticton and the Vernon Stake, in Campbell River and the Nanaimo Stake, and in the Terrace District. We feel the Lord’s assurance that similar blessings will be showered on every ward or branch who applies and embraces these principles by both members and full-time missionaries. May the Lord bless us each with an abiding desire to do His work, and with the wisdom to step forward boldly to invite as He would have us do.

We Love you,

President and Sister Middleton

“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending September 9, 2007)
In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Abbotsford Zone (19 Baptisms)

Baptisms this week:

- Prince George (3)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language Zone (6 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Vancouver Language Zone (24 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Nanaimo Zone (20 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons:

- Vancouver Language Zone (238)

Progressing Investigators:

- Surrey Language Zone (20 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Nanaimo & Prince George Zone (8 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Surrey Language Zone (Average of 17.3 Full Lessons)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Hea & Mun: 4 at sacrament, 4 with a member, 89 others, 4 progressing, 2 member tours, 28 fulls, 20 fulls to non-members
- Elders Shumway & Taylor: 2 baptized, 2 confirmed, 3 at sacrament, 2 progressing, 15 fulls
- Elders Barker & Hatton: 1 baptismal date, 7 at sacrament, 5 with a member present, 78 others, 2 progressing, 15 fulls, 10 fulls to non-members
- Elders Jensen & Godfrey: 4 at sacrament, 5 with a member, 23 others, 2 progressing, 17 fulls
- Elders Anderson & Klekas: 1 baptismal date, 3 at sacrament, 17 others, 2 progressing, 17 fulls, 10 fulls to non-members
- Elders Pack & Feinga: 1 baptized & confirmed, 3 at sacrament, 76 others, 3 progressing, 4 new investigators, 18 fulls, 3 non-member tours

Honorable Mentions:

- Elders Lassetter & Fisher: 1 baptized & 1 confirmed/ Elders McAllister & Allen: 10 fulls to non-members/ Elders Zuniga & DeHerrera: 51 others/ Elders Perkins & Ramsey: 1 baptized & confirmed
- Elders Pugsley & Carlisle: 21 Fulls

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

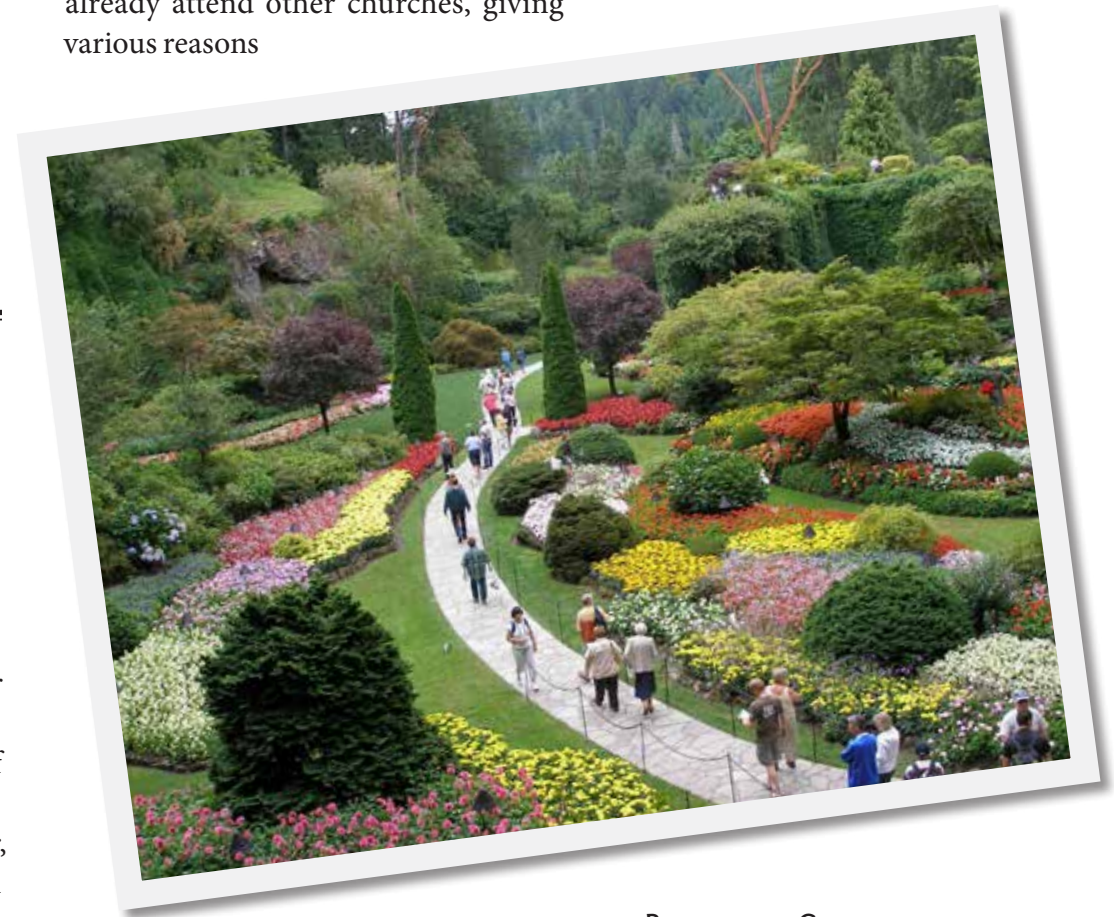
SEPTEMBER 18, 2007

WONDERFUL MISSIONARY IDEAS

Finding Success Through Well-Planned, Spiritual Personal Finding; Following the Star Reminders, by Elders Young Ho Hea (and Woong Hyun Choi)

“The Korean work is going great in Port Coquitlam. This transfer my companion, Elder Choi, and I made some additional goals based upon our zone theme for this transfer: ‘Go extra miles,’ One of the goals we set up in our companionship is to strive to find the Lord’s elect through daily personal finding. At the beginning of the transfer, we tried to come up with ideas for how to work effectively in the Korean

work. It was hard to brainstorm ideas because the missionaries have to take creative approaches to Korean missionary work for Koreans due to the unique characteristics of the Korean community in Vancouver. Even though the number of Korean people immigrating from Korea is increasing, the percentage of Korean people in the Lower Mainland is still small. Moreover, most of the Korean people in our area already attend other churches, giving various reasons



BUTCHART GARDENS TOUR



why they do; however, they say the main reason why they go to church is to socialize with other Koreans, or to gather information about jobs and immigration processes in Canada.

“We tried to do daily tracting but we knew that some residential areas where many Korean people live have been tracted over and over, and it is not easy to find the Korean population by randomly tracting an area. Since the last transfer, I have personally been praying to Heavenly Father to ask how we can work smart and hard at the same time, and the answer was daily personal finding. It was surprising that the answer was on the reminders that we see at the bottom of the Vancouver Star. Because it was hard to find Korean people that we can actually stop and talk to about the gospel, daily personal finding was an amazing idea.

“Elder Choi and I decided to do personal finding for 1 to 2½ hours at least, every day. Accomplishing this goal was not easy since we had to keep up with teaching all the investigators and teaching English class every Tuesday and Thursday. Honestly speaking when we first decided to do this I had a small doubt in my mind that we could really do it. I prayed to Heavenly Father to give me strength to accomplish our goals. Heavenly Father answered my prayer, and we could do it with focusing on our most promising investigators. Since we teach the 50:50 program (30 minutes teaching English and 30 minutes gospel lessons) some investigators tried to take advantage of us for learning English, and we boldly told them that our job as missionaries is to share the message of the restored gospel, NOT to just teach English to people all the time. Some of them threatened us by saying they will not meet with us anymore, but we said it is their agency to drop us and we know that the message of the gospel to gain eternal salvation is more important than it is to learn conversational

English. We know that they will come back when they are interested in the welfare of souls, and we are getting new names and phone numbers through focusing daily on personal finding. I had no doubt that we could effectively succeed.

“There are a few things we focused on to do this:

1. Start to share the unique message of the restored gospel as soon as the person stops to listen to us. If the person doesn't show any interest, give him/her a Pass Along Card and quickly move on to the next person. If the person wants to learn more, depending on what the Spirit tells us, share the first Vision, give a brief overview of a Restoration lesson or get a number and invite them to Church.
2. Try to set up an appointment after we get a phone number.
3. Be home by 8:30 p.m. and have an intense planning session every day. We found that scheduling 1–2½ hours for proselyting before setting up appointments with investigators helped us. Also, Heavenly Father helped us meet investigators at other times than the times we scheduled for proselyting.”

Editor's Note: We see no reason why the 1-2 ½ hours of focused, hard driving Personal Finding won't work as well for the English, Spanish, or Chinese missionaries as it has for Elders Hea and Choi. For all of us: become like Abish in Alma 19, who ran from house to house with the message of the gospel, who was used as a role model for us all by Elder Marcus Nash during his tour of our mission earlier this year.

Bishop Frank Penny of the Fraser Ward leads by Personal Example, by Sisters Dionne Oliver (and Kimberly Wilcox)

“Bishop Frank Penny of Fraser Ward is awesome! He instituted a program in our ward designed to encourage the members to each do missionary work. First of all, Bishop Penny has asked all members to give an invitation to ‘come and see’ to everyone they meet. Then, Bishop Penny will follow-up with the appropriate auxiliary and



FOUNTAIN AT BUTCHART

priesthood leaders, who in turn will involve their group. Follow-ups in quorums or auxiliary classes are being done by passing a sheet on which all invitations given out will be written, and then sharing the giving of the invitation as a missionary moment in the class. Our ward has a goal of having fifty invitations given out by our members by the end of this month. Bishop Penny expects to lead by example and he expects that the leadership will urge all ward leaders and members to invite their friends and acquaintances as Bishop Penny does. Every PEC meeting Bishop Penny will tell of the invitations he gave. Also, our Ward Mission Leader, Darryl Anderson, has made it a goal to give 3 invitations a week!

“Bishop Penny also called several ward missionaries with whom we can start to do exchanges. We are planning to give a *PMG* to each of our ward missionaries to help them be more effective in their calling. Seeing how the leadership works together to help the ward, and noting their willingness to go the extra mile, is truly inspiring us and will inspire all ward members to do the same. I know that the Lord will bless us, that all our hard work will bear fruit.”

New Mission Reading Schedule

We will complete reading the Doctrine and Covenants by September 23, 2007. Let us all start the Pearl of Great Price read together on Monday, September 24th. Read with your companion for knowledge, inspiration and fun, then let’s complete the read and begin the *PMG* reading schedule on Monday, Oct. 15, 2007. Enjoy!

Our most heartfelt thanks go to all our full-time missionaries, and to the hundreds of members in BC who are stepping forth boldly to become the inviting member missionaries asked for by the Lord. We love you! *President and Sister Middleton*

*“Bear one another’s burdens,
...mourn with those that
mourn,...comfort those that
stand in need of comfort, and
...stand as witnesses of God at
all times and in all things, and
in all places that ye may be in,
...that ye may have eternal life.”
Mosiah 18:8-9*

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending September 16, 2007)
In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Abbotsford Zone (19 Baptisms)

Baptisms this week:

- Prince George (2)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

Vancouver Language Zone (6Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Abbotsford Zone (21 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)



SEA LIONS SUNNING ON ROCK 10 MILES SOUTH OF VICTORIA

Lessons with a Member Present:

Abbotsford Zone (30 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons:

- Vancouver Language Zone (356)

Progressing Investigators:

- Surrey Language Zone (20 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Abbotsford Zone (19 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Surrey Language Zone (Average of 22 Full Lessons)

Full lessons to Non-Member:

- Vancouver Language Zone (18.6 NM Full)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders LaSalle and Terry: 3 investigators at sacrament, 4 with a member present, 32 other, 6 referrals received, 18 full

- Elders Hea and Mun: 2 with a baptismal date, 5 investigators at sacrament, 140 other, 5 progressing, 3 spiritual tours, 34 full
- Elders Pugsley and Carlisle: 3 at sacrament, 23 other, 23 full, 10 full to non-members
- Elders Wilhite and Brown: 4 at sacrament, 7 with a member present, 28 other, 5 progressing, 23 full, 11 full to non-members
- Elders Bristow and Banks: 6 at sacrament, 10 with a member present, 40 other, 4 non-member tours, 19 full
- Elders Fisher and Lassetter: 3 at sacrament, 9 with a member present, 35 other, 5 progressing, 7 new investigators, 22 full
- Elders Godfrey and Jenkins: 2 at sacrament, 3 with a member present, 30 other, 18 full
- Elders Anderson and Klekas: 1 baptized, 1 confirmed, 1 with a date, 17 other, 3 progressing, 19 full, 10 full to non-members
- Elders Johnson and Peck: 119 other, 5 progressing, 33 full, 22 to non-members
- Elders Strum and Choi: 171 other, 27 full, 27 full to non-members

Honorable Mentions:

- Elders Glass and Stevenson: 5 at sacrament, 18 full Sisters Whiting and Dalling: 30 other, 18 full Elders Harrison and Shaw: 7 at sacrament, 5 progressing Elders Feinga and Pack: 4 with a date, 52 other Elders Collin and Curtis: 70 other, 30 full, 26 to non-member Elders Zmoos and Liu: 6 at sacrament, 72 other, 23 full Sisters Wilcox and Nibley: 91 other
- Elders Beins and Marianno: 42 other, 19 full, 3 new investigators Elders Thompson, Bowles, Cornwell: 1 baptized, 1 confirmed, 4 at sacrament, 17 full Elders Ward and Taylor: 34 other, 20 full

SEPTEMBER 25, 2007

FOR SUCCESS: INCREASE THE BOND BETWEEN FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES AND MEMBERS

As Preach My Gospel so eloquently and beautifully explains, increasing membership growth is dependent upon an increasing bond between faithful members and our full-time missionaries. In fact, *PMG* pointedly observes that solid convert baptisms will only increase substantially when missionaries and members become one, “*as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us....that they may be one, even as we are one.*” John 17:21, 22. The unity Christ calls for in His Church is beginning to develop, as bishops and branch presidents are increasingly taking ownership over all the missionary efforts in their wards and branches, including hands-on oversight over all their assigned full-time missionaries, as well as teaching all ward and branch members to invite regularly (weekly or more often) to achieve optimal success.

We share in this issue reports from our missionaries to illustrate progress in our province:





SISTER DALLING, ELDERS SEITZ, HALL, AND
BARTON WITH THE MIDDLETONS ON ARRIVAL

**Bishop Joel Nofle leads the Missionary Work in Chilliwack,
by Elders Jared Fullmer (and Spencer Lassetter)**

“The Lord is truly blessing us for our efforts and our diligence in the work here in Chilliwack. I feel that a large part of the success that we are seeing comes from our relationship with the ward leaders and especially with our Bishop, Bishop Joel Nofle. Bishop Nofle is one of the most missionary-minded leaders that I have had the opportunity to serve around. Today in Ward Council almost the entire meeting was dedicated to missionary efforts. All of the auxiliaries were asked to bring a list of all the people that they were going to invite to an upcoming activity. Then assignments were made as to who would be responsible to invite them. He encouraged all the leaders to hold a presidency meeting in the next month to which they will invite us full-time missionaries to help them become focused on missionary work. We meet with Bishop Nofle at least once a week, either formally or informally. He is always willing to give us advice on how he wants the work done under his stewardship. He is an incredible asset, and it is wonderful to see the difference it makes when we have support and leadership from member leaders.”

**Unity Through Working Hard with Members, by Elders
Young Hea (and Spencer Mun)**

“We have learned that the best way to improve the relationship either within the companionship or between the members and missionaries is through communication. There are various ways of communicating with others; verbally, through service, and through vigorous time management. If we communicate with each other effectively it leads to unity. Just like President Paul Christensen of the Abbotsford Stake said at the last Zone Conference, missionaries and members need to



SEAPORT IN FRONT OF EMPRESS HOTEL, VICTORIA

unite together to work toward one goal, which is to bring souls into the Church of Jesus Christ. I believe it's crucial to build unity, not only as a companionship, district, and zone, but also with the members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. As we become ever more strongly united with members of our specific Ward or

Branch, members will learn to trust us completely. Then they will shower us with member referrals. The focus of our companionship this transfer is to enlarge our teaching pool through daily street contacting and working with part member families; our goal is to find at least 4 people to baptize!"

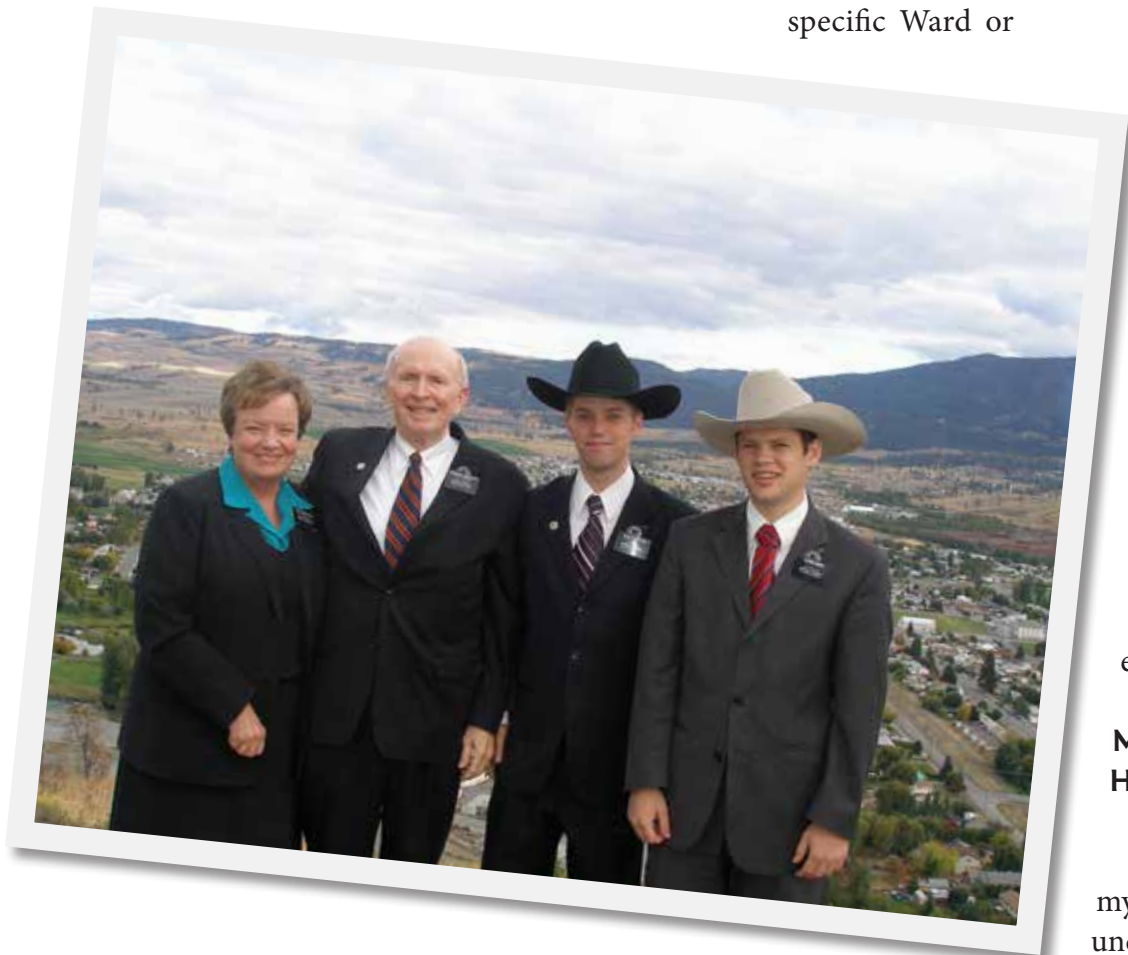
Abbotsford 1st Ward Members are Missionary Minded, by Elders Devin Ward (and Scott Marianno)

"We have an awesome Ward Mission leader, Brother Blair Poroski.. He is very proactive and enthusiastic. He does his best to think 'outside the box' in terms of ways to share the Gospel. Having helped call an active team of Ward Missionaries, he is constantly challenging the members to find people for us missionaries to teach. He is in contact with us on a regular basis to discuss the work in the area and what he can do to help. He has also set goals of things he wants to see happen with the support and help of the Bishop and Ward members. They have had 7 baptisms year to date and I'm grateful to be a part of their Ward success.

"We will be having a baptism this Saturday, and I'm really excited for that."

My First Days in the Mission are Amazing, by Sister Heather Nibley (companion of Sister Kimberley Wilcox)

"Well, I arrived safely in Prince George, where strangely enough my heart feels at home. The members are warm and inviting, and under the inspired guidance of Bishop Frank Penny they have a



ELDERS MARCUM AND BINKS STAND WITH THE MIDDLETONS ON LOOKOUT POINT, MERRITT IN THE BACKGROUND

great desire to share the Gospel with their non-member friends.

“We taught my first official lesson to Nicole, who is curious about our religion. She has a beautiful spirit which helped us teach her about the Restoration. My nervousness subsided, and the Spirit was able to touch our hearts and minds in order to answer her questions. Nicole wants us to come back!

“I feel so blessed to be a representative of my Savior. This work amazes me every minute, and my love for His children is growing every day. Tracting is fun and I enjoy the challenge of finding new people to teach. I love Sister Wilcox, and we are learning so much from each other. Prince George is becoming my home through the Spirit of God we feel here.”

**We Must Dig Harder to Find Our Gold,
by Elders Woong Hyun Choi (and Matt Strum)**

“We are doing well in North Vancouver! We’ve been ‘mining’ harder and harder, and we have mined two big lumps of gold (2 baptismal dates last week). It reminded me of President Paul Christensen’s talk, ‘Missionary work is like mining.’ We need to mine over and over with patience, persistence and diligence, and then we will find the ‘gold.’

“If we sit down and stop digging (not working), we are not going to get anything! We are not going to receive any blessings without showing our desire through diligence in this work.”

“One thing that I have learned about missionary work is this: as we work harder and harder, and spend more and more time digging, our percentage success will be the same, but we’ll achieve more success and will find more total gold out of all the dirt and rocks. Switching to a farming analogy, we must sow bountifully if we hope to reap bountifully.”

That members and full-time missionaries may become one is our constant prayer. We Love you!

President and Sister Middleton

*“Let virtue garnish thy thoughts
unceasingly; then shall thy
confidence wax strong in
the presence of God; and the
doctrine of the priesthood shall
distil upon thy soul as the dews
from heaven.” D&C 121:45*

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending September 23, 2007)
In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Abbotsford Zone (19 Baptisms)

Baptisms this week:

- Victoria Zone (1)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Zone (6 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Prince George Zone (18 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Prince George Zone (22 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons:

- Vancouver Language Zone (244)

Progressing Investigators:

- Kelowna Zone (20 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Vancouver Language Zone (14 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Surrey Language Zone (Average of 19.3 Full Lessons)

Full lessons to Non-Member:

- Vancouver Language Zone (16.2NM Full)

COMPANIONSHIPS:



NEW RICHMOND SPEED SKATING OVAL

- Elders Anderson & Klekas: 1 baptized, 1 confirmed, 2 at Sacramento, 27 others, 2 progressing, 18 full, 10 non-member full
- Elders Ward & Taylor: 30 others, 1 new investigator, 26 full, 10 to non-member full
- Elders Allen & McAllister: 1 date, 3 at Sacramento, 6 lessons w/ member, 3 progressing, 4 new investigators, 14 full
- Elders Johnson & Miles: 6 at Sacramento, 5 lessons w/ member, 4 progressing, 18 full
- Elders Morrill & Loong: 1 at Sacramento, 25 other, 2 progressing, 3 new investigators, 16 full, 9 non-member full
- Elders Hea & Mun: 2 dates, 4 at Sacramento, 106 other, 4 progressing, 2 new investigators, 32 full, 28 non-member full
- Elders Shibayama & Whittenburg: 2 dates, 2 at Sacramento, 44 other, 18 full, 14 non-member full
- Elders Strum & Choi: 1 date, 2 at Sacramento, 45 other, 3 progressing, 20 full, 20 non-member full
- Elders Marcum & Binks: 5 at Sacramento, 21 other, 2 new investigators, 17 full, 2 progressing
- Elders Godfrey & Jensen: 4 w/ member, 43 other, 4 progressing, 7 new investigators, 18 full, 8 non-member full

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Pack & Feinga: 4 baptismal dates / Elders Cornwell, Bowles, & Thompson: 8 at Sacramento / Sisters Wilcox & Nibley: 64 other lessons / Elders Glass & Stevenson: 7 at Sacramento!

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

OCTOBER 2, 2007

ADVANTAGES OF A DUAL CALLING AS A WARD OR BRANCH MISSIONARY FOR PRIESTHOOD AND AUXILIARY COUNSELORS

Preach MY Gospel suggests that the weekly ward or branch Missionary Coordination Meeting should include “an assistant from the high priests group leadership, a counselor from the elder’s quorum presidency, and a counselor from the Relief Society presidency.” President Bernie Soll, President of the Surrey Stake, has a high priest group leader assistant and an elder’s quorum presidency counselor in each ward and branch assigned specifically to oversee and accomplish missionary work in their respective priesthood organizations.

SURREY THIRD WARD CALLS PRIESTHOOD AND AUXILIARY PRESIDENCY COUNSELORS AS WARD MISSIONARIES

Brother J.P. Tremblay, the inspired and bold Surrey Third Ward Mission Leader, along with Bishop Olson, has better refined the *PMG* mandate to involve ward leaders in missionary oversight and work by calling a counselor in each priesthood and auxiliary organization to

also be a ward Missionary. A list of dual callings in the Surrey Third Ward, both callings to one member, follows:

- Ward Missionary and 2nd Assistant to the HP Leader
- Ward Missionary and 2nd Counselor of the EQ Presidency
- Ward Missionary and 2nd Counselor of the RS Presidency
- Ward Missionary and Single Adult Rep., male
- Ward Missionary and Single Adult Rep., female
- Ward Missionary and Ward Activity Committee
- Ward Missionary and Assistant Ward Clerk (Membership)

Also serving as Ward Missionaries are a recent convert plus 4 other Ward Missionaries who hold no other leadership calling, and J.P. Tremblay also has an Assistant Ward Missionary, Scott Cresine, who also teaches the Gospel Principles Class. All of the Ward Missionaries meet weekly with our two full-time missionaries to establish plans for involving every member of their respective quorum or organization in becoming functional and effective member missionaries, to commit everyone to invite their non-member friends, and most importantly to hold each member accountable for their commitment to invite. The Surrey Third Ward initiative calls for members to organize members, and most importantly for members to hold other members accountable for their commitments.

SURREY BAPTISMS UP SIGNIFICANTLY IN 2007

Of note is the fact that the Surrey Stake emphasis on organizing member leaders and all members to truly become the member missionaries called for by Preach My Gospel has resulted in convert

baptisms in Surrey Stake increasing by 112% so far in 2007. As more and more Surrey Stake members embrace this *PMG* concept, we anticipate an even more rapid climb in convert baptisms in Surrey. Congratulations to President Soll for his bold and steady leadership and to all other Surrey Stake Leaders who follow his lead.

Editor's Note: We can think of no reason why a similar stake, ward and branch organizational initiative won't work in any stake, district, ward or branch in BC. As full-time missionaries, we must all stand ready and willing to help similar ward and branch Mission Plans become embraced by all members, and with the Lord's help we will succeed.

The Parable of the Sower, by Elder Scott Marianno (and Stephen Beins)

“I've been studying the parable taught by our Savior in Matthew Chapter Thirteen about a man who went to sow seeds in a field. As he did so, many seeds ‘fell by the wayside,’ some in ‘stony places,’ and others ‘among tares.’ Those that were sown in good ground ‘brought forth fruit.’ The Lord uses this parable to demonstrate that the condition of the heart of the listener will impact whether or not they accept the gospel. I have reflected often on the baptisms that I have seen on my mission so far, and have drawn the conclusion that every person that was baptized came from a member referral. Though tracting and street contacting have their merits, the members of the Church already know many who are the elect of the Lord. They often attract people with similar family values and standards that are conducive to the standards the Lord has set in His Church. Many of their friends' hearts are already prepared or are being prepared for



the Restored Gospel to be planted in their hearts.

“About two months ago, a sister named Ena was baptized in the Abbotsford 1st Ward. She was a member referral who was truly ready for the Restored Gospel. We taught her the First Lesson and immediately after the First Vision we committed her to baptism and she accepted. Through the example of her member husband she was prepared to accept the invitation to be baptized. She is now sharing the Gospel with everyone she sees and even took a special trip down to Boston to visit her family and take them to Church. They are now meeting with the missionaries. As the members search to find the elect with us, they will find those among their associates whose hearts are prepared for the messages of the restoration and the work truly will bring forth much fruit.”

Other Missions Also Having Success with Spiritual Chapel Tours, by Elder Stephen Beins (and Scott Marianno)

“Recently I received a letter from one of my good friends, Elder Hooper, who is serving in the Texas Houston South Mission. Their Mission has just adopted the Spiritual Chapel Tour Program similar to ours and they have been amazed by the power of the Tours. Elder Hooper says, ‘my companion and I absolutely love to give Tours to the members and non-members. The Tours have been very successful, especially with the non-members.’

“We just want to remind you that the Tour is a very powerful tool. Take someone in the Ward on a Tour, and then commit them to stand up in Priesthood or Relief Society and bear testimony of how spiritual an experience it was! Afterwards, have that member see by a raise of hands how many members would also like to have the same spiritual experience. This should help the Tours in each of our areas.”

Editor's Note: Spiritual tours work wonderfully. They remain the best single method to present the Church for the first time to an investigator. To maintain teaching skills, we urge every companionship to give at least 3 tours each week.

President and Sister Middleton

*For there are many yet
on the earth ...who are
only kept from the truth
because they know not
where to find it.” D&C
123:12*



ELDER FEINGA PERFORMS THE HAKA

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending September 30, 2007)
In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Abbotsford Zone (19 Baptisms)

Baptisms this week:

- Vancouver Language Zone (1)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Zone (5 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Abbotsford Zone (28 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (26 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons:

- Prince George Zone (277)

Progressing Investigators:

- Surrey Language Zone (19 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Abbotsford/Vancouver Language Zone (21 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Surrey Language Zone (Average of 22 Full Lessons)

Full lessons to Non-Member:

- Vancouver Language Zone (15.6 NM Full)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Wilhite & Huo: 14 at Sacrament, 25 others, 12 new investigators, 18 full
- Elders Pugsley & Carlisle: 3 at Sacrament, 28 others, 2 progressing, 2 new investigators, 22 full, 10 non-member full
- Elders Hassell & Ramirez: 3 at Sacrament, 30 others, 5 progressing, 20 full
- Elders Hea & Mun: 2 with a date, 6 at Sacrament, 63 others, 6 progressing, 4 new investigators, 37 full, 31 nm full
- Elders Pack & Feinga: 3 with a date, 2 at Sacrament, 35 other, 3 progressing, 3 new investigators, 2 tours, 20 full, 10 nm full
- Elders Liu & Zmoos: 1 baptized & confirmed, 6 at Sacrament, 56 other, 5 new investigators, 18 full, 19 nm full
- Elders Fisher & Lassetter: 3 at Sacrament, 20 other, 5 progressing, 2 new investigators, 21 full
- Elders Godfrey & Jensen: 1 at Sacrament, 20 other, 5 progressing, 2 new investigators, 18 full
- Elders Glass & Stevenson: 1 with a date, 5 at Sacrament, 19 other, 2 progressing, 18 full, 12 nm full

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Shibayama & Whittenburg: 2 baptismal dates, 74 other, 15 full 12 nm full/ Sisters D'Amours & Chevalier: 1 with a date, 2 at

Sacrament, 31 other, 2 progressing, 18 full/ Sisters Wilcox & Nibley: 92 other lessons, 17 full / Elders Ruesch & Jenkins: 31 other, 5 progressing, 3 at sacrament, 17 full

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

ELDERS PURCHASE BUS TICKETS



SIMPLICITY AND HARD WORKS

OCTOBER–NOVEMBER 2007

OCTOBER 16, 2007

THANKS TO ELDER G. PERRIN WALKER AND SISTER CHARLOTTE WALKER

We have just completed a wonderful mini-Tour of our mission by Elder G.Perrin Walker of the Fifth Quorum of the Seventy, and his wife, Sister Charlotte Walker. Blessed with an encyclopedic knowledge of the scriptures, Elder Walker spoke at a Lower Mainland Fireside on Thursday, October 11th to a filled chapel. A Zone Conference was held the next day for all Lower Mainland missionaries and member leaders, then a Zone Conference was held the next day in Victoria for the Vancouver Island zones. Due to the size of our mission the Kelowna, Vernon and Prince George zones

were unable to hear the wise counsel of Elder Walker. A few points he taught us follow.

OBEDIENCE NECESSARY TO EXPECT BLESSINGS

Elder Walker touched on too many points to cover in this Star, but one point repeatedly made was the link between obedience and blessings. Citing Hebrews 5:8,9, in which Paul notes that the Savior himself “learned obedience” and thereby became the source of our salvation, Elder Walker exhorted all of us missionaries to strive toward



exact obedience to receive the Lord's blessings. Sister Walker noted that she has never seen a happy missionary who was not working hard to achieve the goals of being continually "anxiously engaged."

MASTER PMG AND THE SCRIPTURES

When asked how we might teach with greater power, Elder Walker quoted D&C 88:118, then pointed out that we must study hard to know the Gospel well, and the Lord will help us use that knowledge to teach with wisdom and power. Without that knowledge we will struggle, so he exhorted us to study hard.

HOW TO COUNTER ANTI-LDS LITERATURE

Elder Walker urged that we caution all progressing investigators that they will likely hear anti-LDS objections, and he pointed to 1Nephi Chapter 8 wherein Lehi describes the Tree of Life and iron rod. In verses 26-28 Lehi was shown the "great and spacious building" wherein lay many people of the world, who pointed toward and mocked those who followed the iron rod. It was a description of those in our world who espouse anti-LDS doctrine, and who would maliciously seek to destroy the growing testimonies of investigators. Elder Walker suggested that we share that scripture early with our investigators and warn them that their growing testimonies would be challenged..

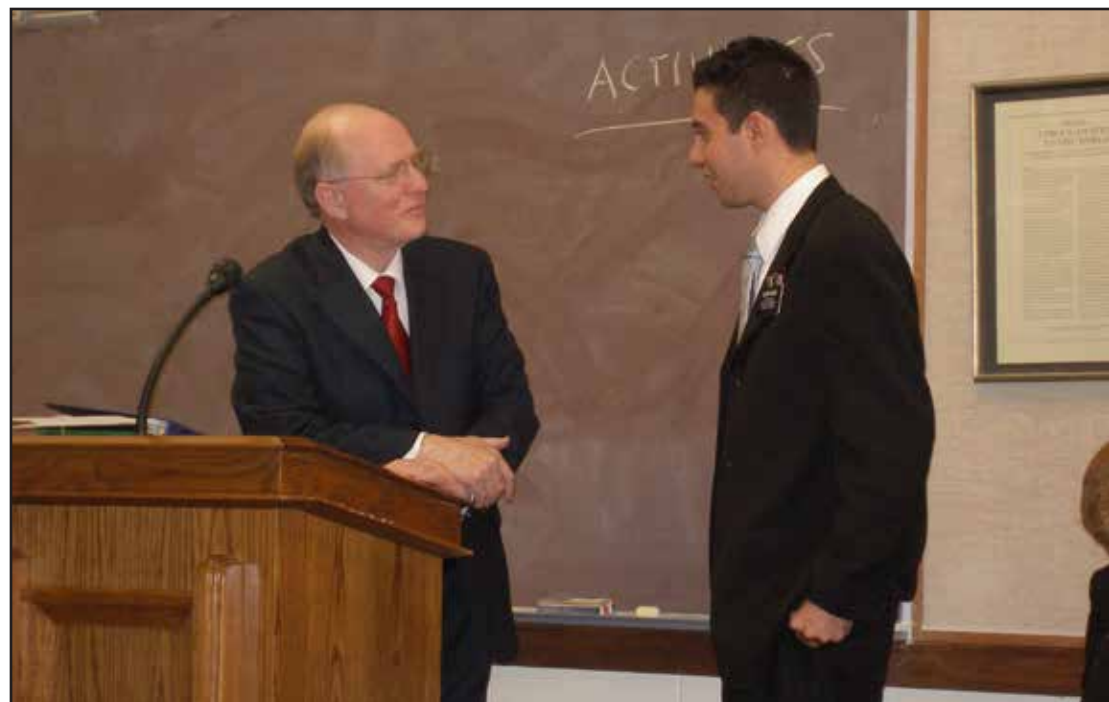
These and many other wonderful points were taught us by the Walkers. We are deeply indebted to them for a wonderful Mission Tour!

NOV. 2007-LATE AFTERNOON SUN FROM CYPRESS POINT,
TIP OF VANCOUVER BEHIND PINE TREE

Campbell River Ward Rewards Members for Each Invitation, by Elders Scott Allen and Justin McAllister

"The Campbell River Ward is progressing quite well, in large part due to our hard working and inspired new Ward Mission Leader, Andrew Marr. He loves his ward and is continually thinking about ways to make it grow. Bishop Leonard Aspden is also making missionary work a priority and all the ward leaders are following their example.

"We have wanted to do the member missionary class that has been done in the Spokane 1st Ward and has begun in Victoria 2nd Ward, but our ward here is just too small to have multiple Sunday School



ELDER WALKER TRAINS WITH ELDER GLASS

classes. So what we are going to do is pass around a sign-up sheet in Gospel Doctrine class for us to come to teach the about member missionary work individually in their homes.

“Brother Marr and Bishop Aspden have been inspired to create a poster for each quorum and Auxiliary Group (Relief Society, Primary, YM/YW) which has an architectural rendering of the Vancouver

Temple surrounded by a black background. Each Sunday in each quorum and group the class starts with a 3–5 minute missionary focus during which each class member who has given an invitation to a non-member acquaintance during the week will tell of the experience and will place a gold star to represent the invitation on the black background. The idea is to shed increasing light on the Temple, and it effectively honors each member publicly for each invitation they offer. Named the ‘Bring the Light to Campbell River’ poster, this approach is enthusiastically embraced by the members and they very much enjoy it.

“Also, Brother Marr and the bishop have been inspired to start a new ward newsletter, the Campbell River Star. Its first printing, with input from the ward missionaries who are contacting members to gain more details about the missionary moments they are sharing, will shortly occur.”

Editor’s note: Brother Marr and Bishop Aspden have truly been inspired as the “Bring the Light to Campbell River” program has developed. In our view it represents a huge departure from how we have publicly honored members for becoming true and effective member missionaries. Before, wards and branches only honored and paid tribute to members when they brought a non-member on a Spiritual Tour or to a Church event, ignoring the fact that each member typically asked 10 acquaintances before they found the one who came. Brilliantly, the Campbell River Ward now gives honor and recognition for each invitation. As we know, what the non-member acquaintance does with the invitation is up to their free agency and we can’t control it. We can control whether or not we issue an invitation weekly, and we must all capture the vision of honoring each invitation issued by a member. Focusing on invitations offered



MISSIONARIES AT BUS STATION

each week in each Quorum or Group is also an inspired idea, in our opinion, Congratulations to the Campbell River leaders and members for showing us the way!

Striving for 50 Contacts Daily Brings Blessings, by Sisters Brigitte D'Amours (and Rochelle Chevalier)

“Sister Chevalier and I are working hard, striving to have a least 50 contacts a day, and we are constantly talking to people. We are already receiving the blessings from talking to everyone! Last night we were tracting and the very last person that we talked to let us in. Her name is Garmithe. Her husband passed away in June and she said that she doesn't know what happens to people after they die. So we taught the Plan of Salvation and prayed with her. The Spirit was so strong. She has 2 children. We are meeting with her again next week on Sunday.

“We have had a lot of people listen to us this week, as a result of striving for 50 contacts or more and it's great! I love Surrey!”

We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders Tyler Mather, Bracebridge ON; Alan Weinert, Aurora IL; Scott Michaelis, West Jordan UT; Jordan Parson, Rexburg ID; Shane Scofield, Tremonton, UT; Roberto Gonzalez Rosell, Longueuil, QC. Welcome back to Elder James Hunsaker, who is back off medical /surgical leave

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder Christopher Anderson (Andy Boy)

Words can't describe the most important 2 years of my life. Nothing has brought me greater joy than to teach people about the Gospel and bring them to Christ! The friends I have made will last forever, especially my friendship with the Savior. He truly has made me who I am today and shown me the true happiness. I know that my Redeemer lives! I love you all. “Nuff said. Be easy” 2 Nephi 4:34-35

Elder Ryan J. Glass

During these two years, I have been the clay in the “Potter's Hand”. He has sculpted me into who I am today. I have had so many awesome experiences and memories that will never be forgotten. You only get two years to serve, and the rest of eternity to think about it. So work hard, have fun and never forget the good times. 1 Cor. 15:10. If you're not first, your last.

Elder Benjamin Zufelt

Be Obedient; Work Hard; Have Fun; and Expect Miracles!

Elder Joel T Asay (AC-UNIT)

“I prayed unto the Lord that He would give the Gentiles grace, that they may have charity. And...the Lord said unto me: If they have not charity, it mattereth not unto thee, THOU hast been faithful.” Ether

12:36-37. OUR Salvation is dependant on OUR agency—not others. I love you, and I love the work you’re doing.

Elder Matt Aaron Strum

I’m so thankful for my time to serve. I wouldn’t trade it for anything. The Lord gives and the Lord takes. All we can do is try our best and rely on the Lord. When that happens, miracles occur. Just like all the other servants of Christ, my last testimony is this—That Christ Lives!

Elder James Corey

Words cannot describe the Up’s and Down’s you feel on your mission. I believe an imaginary word should be used... Scrumtrilescent. We will meet again to share stories so ‘scrumtrilescent’ I can barely move. I look forward to that day. I thank my Savior for giving me this time to grow.

Elder Kyle Foster

As I look back at both my mission and those I’ve had the honor of serving beside, or otherwise gaining a relationship with, I cannot help but exclaim even as Paul did to the Philippians, “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.” Continue to strive to be the best you can be. Just remember to live and work so that you’ll bring honor to both names on your badge.

Elder Ben. N. Zúñiga

Truth never changes. I know this is the work of God. “For behold, the field is white already to harvest; and it is the eleventh hour, and the last time that I shall call laborers into my vineyard,” (D&C 33:3) Stay true to the faith. “Be faithful, praying always, having your lamps trimmed and burning, and oil with you, that you may be ready at the coming of the bridegroom.” (D&C 33:17)

Elder Taylor LaSalle

A special thank you to all the wonderful people of BC & to my brothers and sisters who served the Lord with me. With all my heart I know this Gospel is true. I know my Savior lives and His Church has been restored to the earth through the Prophet Joseph Smith. Hallelujah!

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Joseph Harwood
- Prince George: Allen W. Thomson, Taryn L. Thomson, Ivanna K. Morie
- Surrey Lang: Sop Ji Kim, Sung Hsuan Dorian Huang, Gwo-An Anson Huang, Yin Lynn Long
- Vancouver: Keith D. Moran
- Van Lang: Li Hung
- Victoria: Reuben Pepin, Carole Morin, Sass Anderson



THE WALKERS AND MIDDLETONS
WITH AP'S MARIANNO AND BEINS

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR OCT/NOV

- Oct 25—Van/Lang ZC
- Nov 1—Sur/Lan/Abbots (Surrey SC)
- Nov 8 - Nanaimo/Victoria
- Nov 14—Vernon/Kelowna (Vernon Chapel)
- Nov 16—Prince George

For there are many yet on the earth ...who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it.” D&C 123:12

OCTOBER 30, 2007

ALL THE LORD ASKS OF US: HARD, SMART WORK

President Ezra Taft Benson stated, “I have often said one of the greatest secrets of missionary work is work! If a missionary works, he will get the spirit; he will teach by the spirit; and if he teaches by the spirit, he will touch the hearts of the people and he will be happy. There will be no homesickness, no worrying about families, for all time and talents and interests are centered on the work of the ministry. Work, work, work—there is no satisfactory substitute, especially in missionary work” (PMG, 121). Preach My Gospel notes further, “The Lord expects you to work diligently—persistently and with great effort and care...Diligence in missionary work is an expression of your love for the Lord and his work....Don’t wait for your leaders to tell you what to do....Continue until you have done all you can even when you are tired. Pray for guidance and strength.” (PMG 121)

STRIVE FOR 50 OR MORE CONTACTS DAILY

In the Doctrine and Covenants 24:12, the Lord gives all members important counsel about their missionary obligations when He stated, “At all times, and in all places, he shall open his mouth and declare my gospel as with the voice of a trumpet, both day and night.” Our obligation to our Father in Heaven could not be stated any clearer,

and that is why he exhorts us further to be, “anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will.” (D&C 58:27)

In the book “Law of the Harvest”, written by a recently returned missionary, David G Stewart Jr., the observation is made that we must “sow bountifully to reap bountifully”. He noted that early in his mission he and his companion did their personal finding at a leisurely pace, assuming that in answer to their prayers they would automatically be lead to the “elect of the Lord” (D&C 29:7). Very few baptisms resulted. Only when he and his companion stepped up their pace dramatically did the Lord bless them with baptisms, and then he saw the direct connection between the number of contacts made daily (defined as a 30 second introduction of the missionaries and the Church coupled with asking for a commitment for a return appointment) and the number who went on to baptism. He and his companion found that achieving a goal of 50 to 200 contacts daily produced baptisms regularly and abundantly; it was a case of sowing bountifully to reap bountifully. (2 Cor. 9:6)

We have asked each companionship to achieve a level of work output that will result in 50 or more contacts daily, on average. It will require 1 to 2 hours of intense, well-planned personal finding daily. We promise you that not only can it be done, but that accomplishing it will bring great blessings. We urge you each to experiment upon this promise. Expect the blessings to follow when you do!

A FEW GREAT MISSIONARY OBSERVATIONS:

The Vernon Ward “Lost Sheep” Program, by Elders Brian Fisher (and Spencer Lassetter)

“In the Vernon Ward we are doing a program called, ‘The Lost Sheep.’ During each Ward Council meeting, the leaders choose 3 individuals or families who they feel have potential to be reactivated. We as missionaries make the first contact and evaluate the situation,



ABDUL (PRESIDENT CHRISTENSON) TEACHES AT ZONE CONFERENCE

and determine which organization would be best to work with them, Primary, Relief Society, ward missionaries, etc. So far it has helped us missionaries develop a contact with many part-member families that we wouldn't have had the opportunity to work with. It also fosters unity between the members and missionaries.”

A Non-Threatening Contact Approach, by Elders Jacob Earnest (and Richard Ashton)

“There is a tracting approach we have used that has had some success in its objective. During our approach the person we have contacted might say something such as, ‘Well we are already Christians,’ or ‘We already have a church,’ etc. Then in response we would say something along the lines of ‘We are not here to force you. We just want to share our message, which takes only about 30 minutes, and then we leave it up to you.’ I have found that some are more willing than to have us back. I think it relieves some pressure they might have felt, and makes us seem more non-threatening.”

Giving Spiritual Chapel Tours Earns Member's Trust by Elders Dan Banks (and Andrew Bristow)

“Our ward recently finished revising our Ward Mission Plan. Bishop Henricus Croonen set an excellent example for the ward. He brought 4 non-members on a Spiritual Tour. The Spirit was strongly felt throughout the Tour. Bishop Croonen was sufficiently impressed with our teaching skills that he felt prompted to tell the ward in Sacrament Meeting subsequently about his experience on the Tour. As he was speaking to the ward he bore his testimony of the Spiritual

Chapel Tour program. He closed by saying, ‘You can trust these elders with your most cherished family members and friends. They have the Spirit with them, and they won't let you down.’ As we spoke with members after that Sacrament Meeting, it was obvious that there was a renewed enthusiasm towards missionary work. We have come to realize that earning the leadership and the ward member's trust is crucial in motivating members to do missionary work.”

Editor's Note: Please give Spiritual Chapel Tours often, at least 3 per week, if at all possible. Every missionary must practice giving them regularly or skills will erode. If needed, use District Meetings to practice Tours, giving them to each other. A Spiritual Chapel Tour remains the best single method to initially present the gospel to a non-member who has known little about the Church before.

Know that you are in our prayers always. Know that we love you.

President and Sister Middleton

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending October 28th, 2007)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Abbotsford Zone (20 Baptisms)

Baptisms this week:

- Vancouver/ Kelowna Zones (1 baptism)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Surrey/ Vancouver/ Vancouver Lang. Zones (5 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting

- Abbotsford/ Vancouver Lang. (16 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (24 Lessons with a Member Present)

Contacts

- Kelowna Zone (28.46 contacts per day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Victoria Zone (16 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Vancouver Lang. Zone (16 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Victoria Zone (Average of 17.8 Full Lessons)

Full lessons to Non-Member:

- Vancouver Language Zone (Average of 14.0 NM Full)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Davis & Johnson: 1 at sacrament, 1 with a date, 7 with a member present, 44 other, 121 contacts, 15 full, 9 nm full
- Elders Wilhite & Brown: 1 with a date, 4 at Sacrament, 3

progressing, 72 contacts, 17 full

- Sisters Wilcox & Nibley: 1 with a date, 2 at sacrament, 6 with a member present, 65 other, 143 contacts, 16 full, 10 nm full
- Elders Ramirez & Hunsaker: 2 with a date, 28 other, 6 progressing, 6 new investigators, 23 full, 11 nm full
- Elders Huo & Hea: 1 with a date, 58 other, 4 new investigators, 198 contacts, 33 full, 29 nm full
- Elders Bakow & Saito: 1 with a date, 5 at sacrament, 3 member present, 51 other, 5 progressing, 320 contacts, 15 full, 13 nm
- Elders Wells & Hatton: 4 at sacrament, 4 with a member present, 32 other, 120 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Jensen & Godfrey: 1 with a date, 6 at sacrament, 6 member present, 45 other, 6 progressing, 356 contacts, 22 full
- Elders Klekas & Whittenburg: 4 at sacrament, 3 member present, 47 other, 4 progressing, 187 contacts, 22 full, 12 nm full

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Ward & Magnusson: 1 with a date, 2 at sacrament, 22 full Sisters Dye & Overlock: 4 progressing, 17 full Elders Fillmore & Parson: 4 at sacrament, 31 other, 153 contacts, 15 full Elders Jenkins & Hall: 32 other, 150 contacts Elders Martinez & Shaw: 1 with a date, 2 at sacrament, 48 other, 135 contacts Elders Pack & Barker: 1 baptized, 3 with a date, 3 at sacrament, 40 other, 130 contacts, 16 full Elders Collins & Mun: 1 with a date, 3 at sacrament, 95 other, 187 contacts, 23 full, 21 to nm Elders Binks & Mather: 4 new investigators, 108 contacts, 15 full Sisters Caribou & Falk: 1 baptized, 80 other, 195 contacts, 15 full Elders Walton & Mousseau: 45 other, 105 contacts.

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

NOVEMBER 6, 2007

HARD WORKS BRINGS GREAT BLESSINGS

As all of our missionaries know, we have asked that each companionship increase their Personal Finding portion of each day to achieve 50 or more “contacts” daily on average or 350 contacts per week. To do so requires planning to spend 1 to 2 hours each day in intense, hard-driving tracting, or “GQ’ing,” or preferably a combination of both. We have concluded that there is no other way that we might accomplish the instructions given to us by the Lord to take the gospel to everyone in B.C., when He commanded, “preach the gospel to every creature.....baptizing in the name of the Father and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” (D&C 68:8) We are encouraged by the efforts of our missionaries as they step forth to meet their contacting goals, and share one of their reports below, as well as share reports on other topics from our wonderful missionaries.

The Kelowna Missionaries Strive Towards 350 Plus Contacts Each Week, by Elder Kelby Godfrey (and Solomon Jensen)

“The work here in the Kelowna 2nd Ward is going great! Everyone in the Kelowna District is working towards 350 contacts a week, and we are making great strides toward that goal. We have been going on exchanges with our Ward Missionaries four nights out of each week and we now have 9 non-members planning on coming this Sunday

as a result of our efforts. Last week one of the young men came out tracting with me. After a very successful door contacting approach in which the investigator had just said yes to an invitation to come to Church, we were walking across the lawn when the young man turned to me and said he wanted to give me a high five, then jumped in the air and hit my hand because of how happy he was to have a non-member coming to Church!

He also told his family about the great success, and now they too are helping us with the work, becoming in the process great examples for the rest of the ward”.

Editor’s Comment: Elders Jensen and Godfrey have taken our challenge to achieve 50 or more contacts daily seriously, and for the week ending Oct. 28th they had 356 contacts. Additionally, all companionships except one in the Kelowna Zone had 150 or more contacts during the week! For Elders Godfrey and Jensen, the fruits of their hard work were evident in their other key indicators, as they had 22 full lessons during the week (12 to non-members), they gave 45 “other lessons,” they reported having 6 progressing investigators, they had 6 investigators at Sacrament Meeting, and one has a baptismal date! The Lord has promised us that we will obtain blessings through “obedience to that law upon which (they are) predicated” (D&C 130:21). We urge each companionship to “experiment upon (His) word,” (Alma 32:27), to find out for yourselves the blessings which come through diligent, focused hard work. Strive towards 350 or more contacts weekly. Try it; we predict that you will like it.

LIGHTED SIKH TEMPLE IN ABBOTSFORD,
ACROSS FROM THE STAKE CENTER



**A Salmon Arm Referral from Manitoba,
by Elders William David Hatton (and Jason Barker)**

“I got a referral from back home in Manitoba a little while back. My father sent me an e-mail telling me about a relative that he had just recently discovered who lived here in Salmon Arm. He found her through a genealogy website, and after they exchanged a few e-mails



SEAGULL GRABS A FRITO, FERRY ON WAY TO VICTORIA

she became excited to meet me. We met with her, her son, and her sister-in-law. They asked us many questions about ourselves and the Church. I thought it was an excellent experience, and she said that she would love to have us come back soon. We also invited her to a Family History Seminar that the ward is putting on soon, and she is going to come. So even though she’s my sixth cousin a couple of times removed, it still presented the opportunity for them to learn some things about the Church. And I am thankful for every referral we receive, even when it’s coming all the way from Manitoba.”

Results Come From Perseverance With “Eternal Investigator,” by Elders Scott Allen (and Justin McAllister)

“Kerry Warburton has been investigating the Church for years, and his recent baptism was a fantastic experience! He has come so far, and I am so proud of him. Feeling in the past very fearful of speaking in public, he even got up and bore his testimony----he felt he just had to bear his testimony. To see the growth that took place during the few weeks of preparing for baptism after a few years of attending Sacrament Meeting and Sunday School and taking multiple lessons was marvelous.

“Then on Sunday, Lorna, a Filipino Lady we were teaching, came to Church to view General Conference. It had a HUGE impact on her. In the week between General Conference and this last Sunday she spent much time researching temples on the Church websites ,which I didn’t know until one of the speakers mentioned eternal marriage. As they did so, she whispered to me, ‘I want that. I want to take my husband to the temple.’ She had a lot of questions in the Gospel Principles class when the topic of temples came up. She said,

‘Why are your temples so overwhelming?’ and with emotion she said, ‘I’m shaking.’ Brother Andrew Marr, our Ward mission leader, offered to turn up the heat, to which she replied, ‘No, it’s warm. But why am I shaking? Why am I crying? If this is what it feels like to talk about the temple I can’t imagine what it is like to go there. Why are your temples so overwhelming?’ We told her. Then in Relief Society she was brought to tears again, by a feeling that after much effort she could only describe as ‘coming home.’

“I am also very grateful for Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi’s council to pray fervently for our Eternal Investigators. After seeing Sass Anderson in Victoria and Kerry Warburton here in Campbell River become baptized (both were described by all the missionaries that taught them as the Ultimate ‘Eternal Investigators’), I know that Elder Kikuchi’s counsel was inspired, and I know that miracles happen.”

We love each of you, and are grateful for all that you do.

President and Sister Middleton

“I come to convince thee of the power and authority of God, that the prayers of his servants might be answered according to their faith” Mosiah 27:14

NOVEMBER 13, 2007

MEMBERS LEARN TO INVITE THROUGH ROLE PLAYING

We are so grateful to have both members and our full-time missionaries develop effective and powerful ways to better implement Preach My Gospel. The scaffolding of effective missionary



LONSDALE QUAY FOUNTAIN CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL AND VANCOUVER SKYLINE IN BACKGROUND



THOMAS, MICHAEL, AND ELIZA MIDDLETON WITH TONY AND WAYNE AND ANGIE, ON A BEACH IN VANCOUVER



THE BETTINGERS AND JANE MIDDLETON
WITH VANCOUVER IN BACKGROUND

MICHELLE AND GREG LOWE IN STANLEY PARK.
HANJIN CONTAINERS ON FREIGHTER PASSING IN
BACKGROUND WITH THE MOON ABOVE



work is presented in broad strokes by PMG, leaving it purposely to the inspired initiatives of both members and full-time missionaries to develop the particulars that work for BC. Two amazingly powerful ideas have been developed recently by our members:

1. A Dual calling for the second Counselor in each Priesthood and Auxiliary Organization presidency, with the Counselor to also be called and serve as a Ward Missionary. This dual calling concept was developed by Ward Mission Leader J.P. Tremblay and Bishop Lorne Olson in the Surrey 3rd Ward. They also have called as a Ward Missionary dual call the Ward Activity Leader, the male



BC FERRY ON WAY TO VICTORIA

and female Single Adult Representatives, and the Assistant Ward Clerk over membership. Each of these member missionaries are now recognized as having the mantle and authority of their Ward Missionary call, and each is charged with the responsibility of not only teaching their class or quorum how to invite non-member acquaintances regularly (ideally at least weekly) but to give members who invite during the week public recognition and acclaim in their class or quorum. It allows each member missionary leader to have oversight and accountability for a manageably small group of members, as they teach them to invite, hold them accountable for their inviting, and recognize each of their invitations publically.

2. The idea of giving public recognition to each member who invited someone during the week was developed by the Campbell River Ward Mission Leader Drew Marr and Bishop Leonard Aspden. Done weekly in their class or quorum, this public recognition is received enthusiastically by ward members. This public recognition is essential in bringing success to any endeavor in which people are asked to regularly step outside their comfort zone and do something they are not used to doing. Public recognition is profitably given by virtually all non-profit organizations to any person who helps financially or with services, and the same principle applies in helping members invite their non-member acquaintances to a Church event regularly. Other inspired ideas from our missionaries follow:

Teaching Members to Invite Through Role Playing is Enthusiastically Accepted, by Sisters Brittany Dow (and Marie Bates)

“What a fantastic week. We’ve been going to member’s homes challenging them to invite someone once a week to a Church activity, and the response has been great. We role play inviting with them in their home. We ask the members to think of someone to invite, and an activity to invite them to, then we have them practice the dialogue they will give. Today at Church we had people sharing their experiences and being very excited as they did so. We also had people coming up to us asking when we were going to come to their house because they had heard about what we were doing with our role play exercises in member’s homes and they wanted to do it too! I really think this new Ward Mission Plan is a fantastic idea. Brother Wilwand is also doing very well and we think he’s going to resume his role as Ward Mission Leader this week. Sister Bates has become a favorite of the members and they just love her.”

Contact and Tract Wherever Our Appointments Take Us, by Elders James Cornwell (and Chia Liu)

“We are doing great. We have been able to pick up a lot of new investigators by widening our contacting areas. We have found the Minoru Library to be a good spot for contacting people, meeting them outside of the library. We want to spread the idea that wherever we go if we take 5 extra minutes to contact or tract in that area, it is productive. The Lord sends us to those areas for a reason. As an example, we had an appointment in the Richmond Center Mall Food

Court. Afterwards we decided to take 10 minutes to try to contact people in the Food Court. During that time, we obtained one phone number and taught somebody The Plan of Salvation Lesson. We tried the same thing when we went to the Minoru Library, and we were rewarded with a phone number. We need to be ready to contact wherever we are.”

Editor’s Note: Elders Cornwell and Liu make the excellent observation that we should plan on contacting both before and after every appointment. By doing so, we will be able to achieve the goal of at least 50 contacts daily.

We love each of you!

President and Sister Middleton

“Wherefore, now let every man learn his duty, and to act in the office in which he is appointed, in all diligence,” D&C 107:99

NOVEMBER 20, 2007

GIVE THANKS THROUGH OUR MISSIONARY SERVICE

This week the U.S. Thanksgiving is to be celebrated. The tradition there is one of family gatherings and sumptuous turkey dinners, but importantly the tradition is focused on giving thanks to our Father in Heaven for our many blessings. As missionaries in B.C., we might reflect momentarily on our families, giving thanks for those we love, then honor our families and our Savior by redoubling our missionary efforts. In Alma 34:38 we read how we can give thanks properly: “Worship God, in whatsoever place ye may be in, that ye live in thanksgiving daily, for the many mercies and blessings which he doth bestow upon you.” We have so much to be thankful for.

King Benjamin in his address to his people tells us how we might merit blessings and success. In speaking of the Lord, he noted, “all that he requires of you is to keep his commandments; and he has promised you that if ye would keep his commandments ye should prosper in the land: and he never doth vary from that which he hath said; therefore, if ye do keep his commandments he doth bless you and prosper you.” Mosiah 2:22

Our focused, dedicated work on His behalf leads us to those promised blessings. That we might harbor in our hearts thanks to God for our many, many blessings, really far more than we deserve, is our prayer in this season of thanksgiving.

Design Every Ward Activity To Be A Missionary Tool, by Elders Carlton Taylor (and Brandon Loong)

“One of the highlights of this past week was a great meeting we had with Bishop William Davis, and our ward Mission Leader Grant Hastings, for over an hour. We developed several ideas that we feel are going to help tremendously. In the meeting we decided to align our ward mission structure similar to that of the Surrey 3rd Ward. Additionally, we are going to make an emphasis on our already great ward activities. From now on, every time there is any kind of activity there will be at least some form of missionary emphasis to it. We will now have all of our weekly sports activities begin with a prayer and a short Spiritual lesson. Our potluck dinners are going to feature ways whereby non-members can learn about the Church. We are going to teach our great ward members to invite to these already great activities, and will, thereby, turn them into a great missionary tool.”

“Ichi dan Ketsu”: Our New Victoria Zone Theme, by Elders Noueru Shibayama (and Peter Stevenson)

“We are grateful to be in Victoria, where we are finding that Church members are very supportive. They give us more referrals than in any area in which I have served. We are trying to build upon his support system more and more by gaining the trust of members, and by helping members to become effective member missionaries by role playing with them. We have diligent personal finding, of course, but we will also focus heavily on finding through members.

“We had a zone meeting and decided on a new zone theme: ‘Ichi dan ketsu.’ That comes from a Japanese proverb, which means to

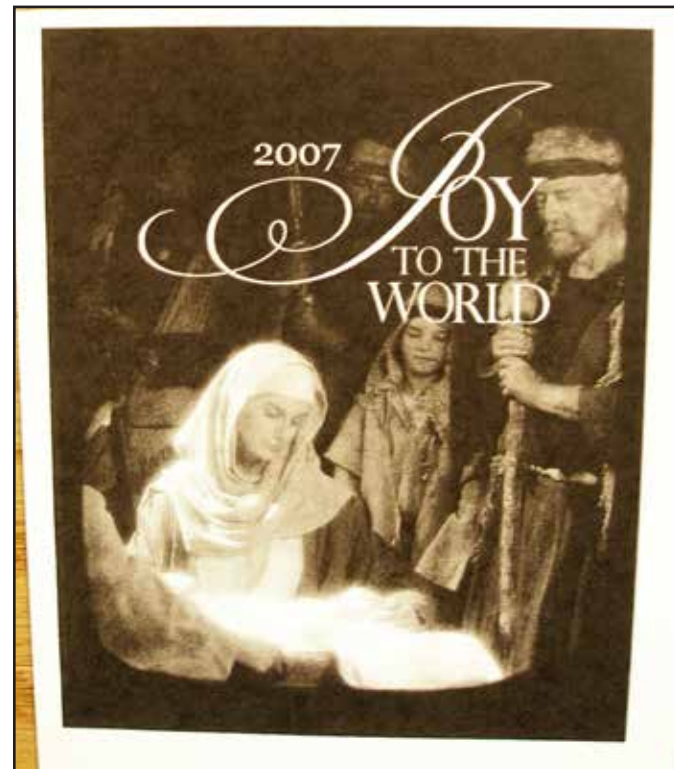
be united, to have harmony with the Spirit in our companionships and with our members. It will help us focus on working with the wonderful members in this zone. We have also been blessed with a baptismal date with a Korean girl. She has been investigating for six months, and luckily she is living with a Korean roommate who is a member of the Church.”

The Value of Exchanges Weekly with Home Teachers, by Elders Ian Seitz (and Logan Magnusson and Justin Wilhite)

“When Elder Magnusson and I served in Kamloops we prayed about ways we could get the members involved in missionary work during the week. An answer to our prayer was to do exchanges with those in the ward that were behind on their home teaching. We started by using Tuesday nights at 6:30 p.m. as the time set aside that the members could come and show us their lists of people they had to visit. We then would split up with whomever came that evening. Sometimes there were several brethren in the ward with whom to exchange, and in that case we used the help of our Ward Missionaries. To some missionaries it seemed like we were wasting valuable time on a Tuesday to go home teaching; however, the people we would visit were all less active or part member families, so when we came to teach they could not only get to know the missionaries but also their home teachers. This establishes a renewal of their faith, with us the missionaries being experienced in teaching lessons, and it also gives a chance for the people to get to know a friend in their ward, their assigned home teacher. We could always be more bold in these meetings because of the home teachers being present and willing to

challenge the family we were visiting to come to Sunday worship and ward activities.

“Elder Justin Wilhite and I are continuing this idea in Langley. We also are using one other idea. We have another day of the week set aside specifically for the bishopric and Ward Missionaries to do exchanges with us and focus on certain families the Bishop has prayed about. I know that these ideas work, and I have been able to teach in more homes with non-members and less-actives than by any other method.”



BEAUTIFUL CARD TO ADVERTISE THE PRINCE GEORGE NATIVITY PRESENTATION

Ward Missionaries in the Kelowna First Ward Will Teach Members to Invite, by Sisters Lisa Falk (and Crystal Caribou)

“Here in the Kelowna First Ward, we have a new dynamic ward Mission Leader, Chris Fisher. We are so excited. He has many great ideas and wants to really see this ward grow. He already has 11 Ward Missionary names submitted to Bishop Andrew Draper . We think that Brother Fisher wants to try the set-a-date inviting program, but instead of the full-time missionaries doing it the ward missionaries

will go out and meet with the members and make the commitments. I see awesome things happening here.”

Editor’s Note: Central to the success of having a Counselor in each priesthood quorum and Auxiliary presidency called also as a Ward Missionary is the concept that each of them can teach the members in their quorum or group how to become effective member missionaries. Each Counselor/Ward Missionary should ideally take 3 to 5 minutes at the first of quorum or class time to honor every member who has extended an invitation to a non-member acquaintance during the previous week, and might role-play with members there in class to demonstrate how simple invitations to “come and see” can be given by all members during the course of a conversation anywhere or anytime.

May we express our deepest most heart-felt thanks to each of our wonderful missionaries. We Love you!

President and Sister Middleton

PRINCE GEORGE CITIZEN - Wed, November 19, 2003

Church creates creche exhibit for Christmas

by CHRISTINE SKOREPA
Citizen staff

A gentle reminder of what the holiday season is really all about is presented as a gift to the residents of Prince George during the Joy to the World creche exhibit at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Nov. 28 to Dec. 1.

The organizers of the 14th annual event invite everyone to enjoy the exhibit of more than 400 nativity scenes from all over the world at no charge.

“This is our gift to the community — to come in and take a look around, relax and enjoy some tea and cookies, and remember how Christmas started,” said Patti Astorino, exhibit designer.

The co-chair of the event puts the purpose of the annual exhibit into perspective. “I like the saying, ‘Jesus is the reason for the season,’” said Linda Gurney with a smile.

This year, along with the extensive exhibit, there will be a hands-on, interactive children’s room, where the younger set can colour, make finger puppets, read a story and just enjoy themselves.

The creche come in all shapes and sizes, heirlooms and homemade scenes depicting the birth of Christ.

“There’s everything from crystal to Styrofoam, expensive to inexpensive,” Gurney explained.

“This has been in the planning stages for months,” said Thelma Meek, chair of the exhibit.

Decorating and setting up the exhibit takes a full week of preparation and a wealth of volunteers from the church, including the youth group, the men’s organizations, and the ladies of the congregation.

The creche exhibit can be seen at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 4180 Fifth Ave., (corner of Fifth and Voyageur,) Nov. 28 to 30 from 1 to 9 p.m. and Dec. 1 from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. free of charge.



Submitted photo

This creche will be on display at the Joy to the World creche exhibit at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, 4180 Fifth Ave., from Nov. 28 to Dec. 1.

FREE PRESS IN THE PRINCE GEORGE CITIZEN



SINGING TO PRINCE GEORGE KITCHEN ANGELS



SISTER GURNEY LEADS THE VERNON ZONE IN CHRISTMAS CAROLS, FOR FREE FLU SHOTS FROM SISTER GURNEY

NOVEMBER 27, 2007

INVITE WEEKLY TO KNOW MISSIONARY SUCCESS

We have just completed our round of Zone Conferences, and presided at a wonderful Terrace District Conference. We observed excellent understanding on the part of members and member leaders wherever we went. The Preach My Gospel principle of conjoining members and full-time missionaries into a seamless missionary force is better understood now than ever before; the mantle of oversight and leadership of every aspect of missionary work within each ward or branch is becoming accepted and implemented by our wonderful B.C. bishops and branch presidents throughout the province, as Preach My Gospel instructs. As full-time missionaries we ask every companionship to frequently offer to their assigned bishop or branch president their whole-hearted support. Ask how you can help; encourage your bishop or branch president to lead the missionary effort boldly; give him your loving loyalty and full support. Together in the Lord's work we will succeed "to build the Church in this area in a powerful way and beyond what you might expect....substantial growth is before us...by my human judgment it will be a miracle." (Elder Henry B Eyring, March 2005 Nanaimo Stake Conference)

FRASER WARD MISSION PLAN ASKS EACH MEMBER TO INVITE WEEKLY

We were excited to obtain a copy of the newly revised Fraser Ward Mission Plan during our Zone Conference and Fireside in Prince George on Nov 16th from Bishop Frank Penny. It calls for every member to "give at least one invitation a week to visit our homes for dinner, a Family Home Evening, etc., to attend Church or a Church activity...to be taught by the missionaries etc." We were thrilled to see this challenge! Once every member of the Fraser Ward embraces this challenge of inviting a non-member weekly, Church growth will explode in Prince George. We are inspired to boldly offer the promise that every member, every family, every branch and every ward that adopts this simple, one sentence Mission Plan, "Extend an invitation to a non-member acquaintance each week," the Lord will bless each of us with heretofore unimagined success.

As full-time missionaries we must help members achieve this goal, explaining carefully to members that most of their invitations will be declined (it is in the nature of missionary work throughout time that we must "ask several to find the one"), they will never lose a friend due to an invitation, and we must help all members understand that each of them knows someone, today, who will say yes, who is "the elect of the Lord." (D&C 29:7)

**Exchanges with the Youth and Older Members,
coupled with Weekly Meetings with the Bishop, Works! By
Elders Ryan Mousseau (and Dan Walton)**

“Last week we did not have a car for a few days so we spent our time on foot here in the Victoria 3rd Ward. We tracted for most of our time in our effort to achieve 50 contacts each day. For us there is no easy way to do this. We had to knock on many doors. It took intense focused effort to get our 50. By persevering to achieve our 50, we were richly blessed with new investigators, especially toward the end of our 50 contact day. One young man we met has been prepared by the Lord to hear our message. We plan to commit him to a baptismal date tonight. We extended a commitment during the first lesson and he accepted. Elder Walton and I strive to not teach investigators without members being present. We realize that having a member present is the key to progress by our investigators.

“This past week we went on exchanges with the ward members three times. The youth have grown to love us, and we are grateful to report we plan on having tracting exchanges every Saturday with the Young Men. We have made it a point to go over key indicators with Bishop Randy Smith each week. He loves that. We have his support because we made him a part of our work. “

At the start of this Christmas season we want you to know of our love, and feel the Savior’s love, as we fulfill His call to proclaim His Gospel to the wonderful citizens of British Columbia.

We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“Wherefore, ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ, having a perfect brightness of hope, and a love of God and of all men.” 2 Nephi 31:20



FULL MOON IN FRONT OF THE MISSION HOME

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Sister Brittany Lyn Dow (S. Deezy)

Alma 36:24 Personal testimony, coupled with performance, cannot be refuted...Going on a mission is not only a duty, it is an opportunity. It is a privilege. “GBH” It truly has been a privilege. Peace out.

Elder Rian Wilhite

What can I say that might be helpful...Ah, I know! ”No one wants to listen to a 21 year old kid teach about the purpose of life! “(President Middleton). That’s why he’s asked us to rely on the Spirit. Remember, “The ultimate measure of success is not in achieving goals alone, but in the service you render and the progress of others.”

Elder Brian “The Pieman” Perkins

“Give a man a bullet and he’ll want a gun. (give a man a gun and he’ll be giving away the bullets.” Serious Sam. We’ve been armed with the only weapon Satan fears, the TRUE gospel of Christ. Let us arm the people of B.C. with it and together with our army of saints, riddle Satan’s kingdom with bullets of righteousness! Bust a cap and find yourself in the presence of God! Horrah for Israel!

Elder Solomon Jensen

In the words of the great Larry Bird, “I know the truth and that’s all that matters to me.” You know the truth. Share it! I love all of you. Elders and Sisters, Run the Race with patience , looking to Christ the author and finisher of our faith. Hebrews 12:1-3

Elder Austin (Dice) Johnson

Don’t Blink! The mission goes by faster than you think, so live every day to the fullest, work hard, have fun and get crunk. I’m outtie 5 to the DPG.

Elder Stephen Beins

This is the time to build a strong foundation in the gospel, so it will bless you and your family for the rest of eternity! Be honest with yourself..... Be the example and be the missionary you should be. I love you all! 1 Nephi 3:7

Elder Chia Liu

We help people to know who they are and what role they play in the plan of salvation. I Quote President Wilford Woodruff’s own words. He said, “We have come to this earth upon a mission,--that we may have power to go forth and warn the nations of the earth. As elders of Israel, very few of us fully comprehend our position, our calling, our relationship to God, our responsibility, our work the Lord requires at our hands.”

Sister Trayc Whiting

Fellow missionaries , gangsta's, homies, & chill people: we truly have the best mission in the world. This work is amazingly steezy-so many sweet experiences & tender mercies of the Lord. Smile & let your light so shine. I know my Savior lives! 2 Ne 25:13 I gotta go spread the gospel on the slopes! Love ya'll. Mark 5:36

Sister Kimberly S. Wilcox

“Men are that they might have JOY” . That’s what the gospel is all about and our Savior made it possible. What more can I say?

Elder Jed Pugsley

“Courage is being scared to death and saddling up anyways” – John Wayne

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and love, and of sound mind!” 2Timothy 1:7

Well good heck the last two years have flown by, but no matter our time in the field, I hope we can all remember to live by faith and not by fear and rely on Him who is mighty to save. Our Savior lives; The Book of Mormon is the Word of God, and the church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints is the Lord’s Kingdom Once Again On Earth. I love you all very much. Sit tall in the saddle and keep your head up.

Elder Scott Allen

Misery – Thinking of Yourself

Joy – Thinking of others

“Love the Lord, Trust the Lord, Serve the Lord, and He will make you into something, and you’ll still be like you but you’ll be more like the Master.” (Elder Nash)

Elder Bryan Davis

“Death twitches my ear. Live he says,” “I am coming.” Virgil. Whether it’s life or the mission, the end is just around the corner. Live your life and your mission to the fullest. I love you all! God be with you ‘til we meet again!

Justin Wilhite

As difficult as a mission is, there’s nothing so rewarding. It’s easy to take it for granted and let the challenges overshadow the wonderful success and growth. Make it your goal to have no regrets and you’ll bless lives every day. You are a part of the greatest work ever done. I know it! (D&C 6:7)

Elder Ryan Bakow

I feel immense sadness as I leave this mission. My service in B.C. has been the sweetest thing in my life and everyday I look back, I hope to relive “That joy which is unspeakable and full of glory” (Helaman 5:44). Until we meet again my good brethren and sisters.

Elder Andrew Bristow

Endure hardness with patience, be diligent in your labors, and the Lord will draw nearer to you and you will feel His love as I have. With my love and blessings, I bid my greatest friends farewell. I love you all.

Sister Kristjana Bardardottir

“My eyes burn, I have seen the glory of a brighter sun, My heart aches, It has felt the power of a perfect love.” My testimony of the Savior has strengthened so much out here. He loves us and without Him we are nothing. We need Him. He has been there. He will help us. Don’t get down on yourself – be the best you!. I have learned things that I never could have learned anywhere else, I’m so grateful. Remember who you are – you are a child of God. So many blessings are waiting for you ~2 Nephi 9:18~ Let’s endure to the end! “Eg elska ykkur oll” Love you all – systir Bardardottir

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR DECEMBER

- Dec 6 – Van/Van Lang
- Dec 4 – Surrey/Sur Lang/Abbots (Surrey Stake Center)
- Dec 18 – Nanaimo/Victoria
- Dec 11 – Vernon/Kelowna (Westbank Chapel)
- Dec 13 – Prince George



HONOR CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS

DECEMBER 2007

DECEMBER 4, 2007

INSPIRING ACCOUNTS OF MEMBER MISSIONARIES WHO ARE INVITING

As our full-time missionaries are intensifying their proselyting efforts through focused effective time management to achieve the goal of “no down time,” and as members are regularly inviting their non-member acquaintances to Church-related activities, blessings and baptisms are increasing. This weeks’ STAR relates several accounts of the accelerating missionary work here in British Columbia.

Brother Neil Williams in Courtenay Tells of His Member Missionary Grandson, Timmy Zaugg

“Our grandson, Timmy Zaugg is 8 years old. He lives in Coquitlam. His mother sent us this email:

“On Friday Tim’s friend noticed the pass along card he had in his backpack. Apparently he had it in there to remind him of what he wants to be like. Well, his friend asked what it was a picture of and this is how Timmy told me the rest of the story...

‘I knew I only had a 45 minute lunch hour so I started at the Last Supper and gave her a play by play until he appeared in the Americas.

Then the bell rang and she asked if she could have the picture. I told her sure, and if she wanted I could bring her another one about when he was a baby. I sure hope the missionaries won't be mad that I gave it away, and would be willing to give me another one of Jesus as a baby.

"It was amazing. And even more amazing is that her parents still let him come over the next day to play. He intends to invite her to see the Primary presentation in 2 weeks. Each of the girls has 1 or 2 friends they are inviting as well. They surely are setting a good example to us regarding missionary work. Have a nice day."

Editor's Note regarding Brother Williams and Timmy: having heard this missionary story about Timmy, there is no way we could not have a nice day!

Sister Sherry Marceil is Inviting 3 Non-Member Acquaintances Each Week! By Elders Carlton Taylor (and Brandon Loong)

"Elder Loong and I went over to the Marceil family to talk to them about missionary work. Sister Marceil commented that President and Sister Middleton spoke in the Delta Ward and challenged each member to consider extending an invitation to a non-member acquaintance each week to 'come and see,' and she felt the desire to do so to make our next ward activity a success. She did some quick mathematics in her head and calculated that if each member of the ward invited someone weekly until the 'Walk to Bethlehem' which occurs in December, then at least 1000 invitations would be made! Then she thought that if just 10% of those people came they would have 100 non-members there, just from our ward! She then decided that she would do her part and try to get others to do theirs.

"As she started inviting weekly she felt that because she was willingly asking and was prepared to invite, the Lord was blessing her with people put in her path to invite. Now she finds that she is inviting 3 people a week without any problem! She has seen the blessings in her life and she knows that she is doing her part."

The Joy of Baptizing! The Victoria 1st Ward Focuses on Members Inviting, by Elders Peter Stevenson (and Noueru Shibayama)

"What a wonderful week! We baptized two people on Saturday! What an amazing experience in which to take part. I baptized a young lady named Annie from Mexico. Elder Shibayama baptized a lady from Korea named Susan. It was a memorable moment in my mission!

"Things are going very well in Victoria. The Victoria 1st Ward and the YSA Branch in which we serve are starting to pick up wonderfully. The Victoria 1st Ward has adopted the one line mission plan of each member inviting a non-member acquaintance weekly. We then honor each member who has invited during the previous week by having them place a star by a picture of the Vancouver temple. Our Ward Mission Leader, Brother James Greenwood, wants to start a competition in the program. A competition not only between auxiliaries but possibly with another ward. Then, at the end, we all will celebrate with a big party! There is nothing wrong with a friendly competition!"

The Courtenay Ward Revises Mission Plan to Focus on Having Every Member Invite Regularly, by Sisters Mariah Overlock (and Te’Ama Faye Dye).

“Things are going so well in Courtenay! Our Ward Mission Leader, Brother Jordan Johnson, has just revised the Ward Mission Plan to focus on the members inviting! He plans to visit the members and go over the plan with each family and will follow up with them after 3 weeks to measure their progress. He’s going to make very bright refrigerator magnets so each family and member in the ward will be



SENIOR COUPLES WITH THE MIDDLETONS
EATING DINNER IN NANAIMO

constantly reminded to invite. We are currently brainstorming ideas for rewarding the members to invite as well!”

Abbotsford 2nd Ward and Abbotsford 3rd YSA members are learning to Invite; Stop Smoking Workshop Success by elders Jared Fullmer (and Trenton Amann)

“Things are going really well with our Clearbrook members learning to invite their non-member friends regularly. The ideas from the other wards around B.C. are a large part of the discussions in PEC and Ward Council. They are working on ways to encourage members to invite and also having regular activities to which they can invite their friends. This week we also were able to do the ‘Stop Smoking Workshop’ with two of our formerly less-active branch members, and they have both completely quit, which is awesome. We love being here in Abbotsford!”

A huge thank you is in order to each full-time missionary for the focused, diligent work you bring to your calling. An especial thank you is due to every member who is stepping forth in a member missionary capacity to invite regularly. We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

“Do this thing which I have commanded you, and you shall prosper...Stand fast in the work wherewith I have called you... and you shall be lifted up at the last day.” D&C 9:13,14

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending Dec 2, 2007)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Abbotsford Zone (23 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Prince George (3 baptized)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Lang. (4 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Prince George (14 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (18 Lessons with a Member Present)

Contacts

- Kelowna Zone (18.86 contacts per day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Victoria Zone (15 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Kelowna/ Victoria Zone (6New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Victoria Zone (Average of 16.4 Full Lessons)

Full Lessons to Non-Members:

- Vancouver Lang. Zone (9.7 Full Lessons to NM)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Ward & Magnusson: 27 other, 110 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Ramirez & Barton: 3 baptized, 3 at sacrament
- Elders Loong & Taylor: 2 with a date, 3 at sacrament, 2 progressing
- Elders Bowles & Heinzen: 5 at sacrament, 30 other, 4 progressing, 4 referrals, 68 contacts
- Elders Peck & Spongberg: 24 other, 3 progressing, 119 contacts 22 full, 10 NM full
- Elders Collins & Curtis: 2 with a date, 47 other, 4 progressing, 118 contacts, 15 full

- Elders Wells & Hatton: 8 at sacrament, 22 other, 125 contacts, 18 full
- Elders Godfrey & Knapp: 2 with a date, 6 at sacrament, 7 member present, 30 other, 170 contacts, 21 full, 12 NM
- Elders Purser, Klekas, & Whittenburg: 1 with a date, 7 at sacrament, 39 other, 3 progressing, 187 contacts, 21 full, 12 NM full

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Banks & Evans: 4 member present, 22 other, 3 progressing, 82 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Morrill & Pack: 1 with a date, 24 other, 101 contacts
- Elders Fullmer & Saito: 311 contacts
- Elders Lassetter & Douglas: 2 with a date, 3 at sacrament, 5 member present, 3 new investigators, 15 full
- Sisters Dalling & Burt: 175 contacts
- Elders Stevenson & Shibayama: 3 at sacrament, 5 member present, 44 other, 6 progressing, 3 new, 131 contacts, 21 full, 13 NM full

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

DECEMBER 11, 2007

**TO HONOR CHRIST AT CHRISTMAS...
PROCLAIM HIS GOSPEL**

December in many ways is the best month of the year. It is then that we think of family and focus on children. It is then that we most often express our love to friends and loved ones. It is then that we open our hearts and homes to friends and strangers. It is then when neighbors greet each other with the warm greeting, “Merry Christmas.” It is then when thoughts turn to Jesus and His message.

**EXPECT TO SUCCEED AS
MISSIONARIES AT CHRISTMAS**

Our missionary message is better received at Christmas than it is at any other time of the year. In President Middleton’s first mission he and his companion went tracting on Christmas day in Norwich, England. Whereas at other times in the year we were welcomed into homes occasionally, on Christmas day in Norwich we were invited into every single home. Furthermore, we were offered refreshments in each home, and in each house we gave a First Discussion. On no other day of the year did we have success that was even remotely close to the success we enjoyed on that Christmas day. It stands out in memory as an almost magical missionary experience.

We expect that each of our missionaries will have similar success at Christmas. Urgently, we ask that each companionship redouble their Personal Finding efforts. Plan on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day to knock on as many doors as you possibly can. May we suggest that you dedicate your efforts throughout December to the Savior, that you might honor Him with the greatest gift of all, that you might share His redeeming and saving message with as many people as you possibly can.

GREAT OBSERVATIONS BY OUR MISSIONARIES

Love For the Work Comes Through Giving it Your All, by Elder Spencer Mun (and Elder Woong Hyun Choi)

“I am loving this mission. I love the feeling of being completely worn out at the end of the day as I come back home from serving the Lord completely, having given Him the best of my abilities, and I love all of the companions that I have had. I know that as this mission is united in one mind and one purpose that we will be blessed with things that have not been seen in this mission before. I know this to be true.”

Victoria 2nd Ward Finds Success in Honoring Inviting Members Weekly by Elders Matt Klekas (and Austyn Whittenberg)

“The work here in Victoria is awesome! With our investigators we have been doing our best to bring the Spirit into their homes

with well-planned lessons. Our investigator who is the closest to being baptized is Lindsey Nelson, a single mother with 2 kids whose husband passed away about 2 years ago. Our recent converts are doing great. Carole Morin & Sass Anderson have been coming to Church every week. Brother Greg Marr, our Ward Mission Leader, is leading members into putting a bigger focus on member missionary work and it is starting to work. We have decided to use the Campbell River Ward one sentence Mission Plan which calls for each member



CHRISTMAS DINNER IN THE LEE'S HOME IN WESTBANK

to invite a non-member acquaintance to a Church-related activity or event regularly. The Campbell River Ward has each member who invited during the previous week tell about it and put a gold star by the artist's rendering of the Vancouver Temple. That plan was the inspired creation of our Brother Marr's father, Andrew Marr, who is the Campbell River ward Mission Leader, and Bishop Leonard Aspden.

Editor's Note: The idea of acknowledging each Sunday every member who has invited during the prior week a non-member acquaintance to a Church event is a brilliant, & inspired idea. First



KOREAN MISSIONARIES

developed by the Campbell River Ward leadership, wherever it is tried in BC it seems to be warmly embraced by the members. Those class members who raise their hand to report an invitation(s) they made bask instantly in the recognition and admiration of their fellow class members; those in the class or quorum who did not invite are wordlessly reminded that they should invite someone in the coming week. We have noted repeatedly that the enthusiasm spreads rapidly throughout the class or quorum, then throughout the ward or branch.

50 Contacts per day!

By Elder Brian Perkins (and Elder Gavin Ramsey)

“I have had a good last full week of my mission. I tried to see if I could actually get 50 contacts in a day (which I previously thought was impossible in this area!) After about an hour and a half of straight going I got 67! I accomplished the ‘impossible!’”

CAMPBELL RIVER WARD RENAMES THEIR WARD NEWSLETTER

The Campbell River Ward has started their own one page newsletter the “Campbell River Star”. We republish a part of it:

Bringing the Light to Campbell River

The Beginnings of the Star: As a ward we have come up with a simple mission plan to help members become better member missionaries. These are ideas that have been discussed in the Ward

Missionary Firesides that have been held once every 3 months. The first fireside was to help raise enthusiasm and awareness of missionary work. The ward came up with a plan to pray and fast for opportunities to share the gospel. The second fireside was on turning those opportunities into invitations and how to do that. The third fireside has been on the experience of inviting someone to a ward activity or out to church. This newsletter is part of the plan to help missionary enthusiasm grow in our ward.

Campbell River Missionary Moments:

The following experiences are from members in the ward who have taken the challenge to share the gospel with those around them. These are just a few examples but each invitation that has been shared is now represented by a star on our temple picture of which there are over 30 on the poster.

They give several examples of member's inviting their acquaintances.

Editor's Note: Congratulations to the Campbell River ward leadership on a wonderful way to increase member missionary awareness and activity.

Our hope is that Christmas might be a wondrous missionary experience for each of you. We love every one of our missionaries.

President and Sister Middleton

The Coveted "Off the Hook" Award:

(Week-ending Nov. 11, 2007)

In Recognition of the following

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Abbotsford (20 Baptisms)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Surrey Zone (7 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Abbotsford (31 Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford (24 Lessons with a Member Present)



VANCOUVER ZONE CHRISTMAS SINGERS



VERNON ZONE AT THE LEE'S CHRISTMAS DINNER

Contacts

- Kelowna Zone (18.86 contacts per day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver Language (21 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Abbotsford Zone (20 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Vancouver Language Zone (Average of 18.7 Full Lessons)

Full Lessons to Non-Members:

- Vernon Zone (15.2 Full Lessons to NM)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Fillmore and Parson: 2 at Sacramento, 31 other, 5 new investigators, 133 contacts 13 full lessons taught.
- Elders Spongberg and Peck: 4 member present, 4 progressing, 149 contacts, 28 full lessons, 19 to non- members
- Elders Curtis and Choi: 109 other, 6 new investigators, 183 contacts 24 full lessons, 23 to non-members
- Elders Godfrey and Jensen: 5 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 50 other, 7 progressing, 240 contacts, 18 full
- Elders Klekas and Whittenburg: 3 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 39 other, 238 Contacts, 28 full, 18 to NM
- Elders Hall and Jenkins: 1 at Sacramento, 2 with members, 20 other, 2 progressing, 115 contacts
- Elders Beins and Bowles: 38 other, 3 progressing, 99 contacts

- Elders Davis and Andrew Johnson: 18 other, 115 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Fisher and Lassetter: 1 baptism date, 3 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 33 other, 4 progressing, 4 new, 22 full, 14 with NM

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Ward and Magnusson: 23 other, 73 contacts, 18 full lessons
- Sisters Wilcox and Nibley: 1 baptism date, 3 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 39 other, 3 new, 82 contacts
- Elders Ashton and Earnest: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 31 other, 4 new, 57 contacts
- Elders Loong and Taylor: 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 4 New, 21 Full lessons
- Elders Martinez and Shaw: 2 Baptismal date, 46 other, 4 progressing, 7 new, 75 contacts, 16 full, 13 to NM
- Elders Huo and Hea: 31 other, 82 contacts, 18 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Bakow and Saito: 8 member present, 30 other, 123 contacts, 16 full lessons, 14 to non- members
- Elders Zmoos and Roberts: 3 with baptism dates, 9 at Sacramento, 46 others, 7 progressing, 24 full. 20 to NM Elders Pack and Barker: 3 with baptism date, 39 other lessons, 135 contacts, 17 full lessons, 12 to non-members
- Elders Hatton and Wells: 6 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 19 others, 112 contacts, 17 full lessons
- Elders Shibayama and Stevenson: 2 baptism dates, 8 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 7 progressing, 102 contacts, 26 full, 17 to non-members
- Elders Allen and Hassell: 56 other, 205 contacts
Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

“And we talk of Christ, we rejoice in Christ, we preach of Christ, we prophesy of Christ, and we write according to our prophecies, that our children may know to what source they may look for a remission of their sins.” — 2 Nephi 25:26

DECEMBER 18, 2007

OUR CHRISTMAS GIFT TO JESUS

This Christmas we honor the baby Jesus by giving Him our dedicated missionary service. Perhaps never again in our lives will we have the opportunity as we do now to give 100% of our time and efforts to Him. In this Star we honor each of our wonderful

missionaries, who are laboring diligently and valiantly so far from home and loved ones to give the supernal gift of eternal life to the peoples of British Columbia. Know that as we honor Him with our best missionary efforts through this Christmas season we will feel His peace in our hearts. Let the promise of His peace be our driving force. Through our service this promise will be ours:

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” John 14: 27

FOLLOWING ARE A FEW COMMENTS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES:

Many Investigators at the Sidney Ward Christmas Dinner; Giving a “Living Christmas Card,” by Elders Richard Ashton (and Gavin Ramsey)

“Well, things are going very well here in Sidney. This past Saturday evening, the Sidney Ward sponsored a Christmas dinner in the chapel. There was a fantastic turnout! Many members and non-members made it out to the event. It was estimated that about 40 non-members attended, and one particular member actually brought 10 friends.

“We ate dinner, watched Mr. Kruegar’s Christmas and then Santa came to give the kids presents. We were able to give a Tour and gained an investigator out of the experience. Last night we met with her again with a member family and the discussion went well.”

Hard Work Brings Blessings, by Elders Ryan Mousseau (and Dan Walton)

“This week was a good one. Elder Walton and I tracted like crazy all week. We walked for miles and knocked on many doors. As expected, not too many people let us in, but what was neat was that we were rewarded for our efforts. Last week we received a media referral. This week we met with him and he is very interested.

He said he knew and admired a Mormon that he worked around. It is very likely that he will be joining the Church very shortly. During our first lesson with him, I extended a soft baptismal commitment. He accepted. The drawback is that since he knows so many people in the Victoria 2nd Ward, he will probably be attending church with them and taught by their missionaries. We all do the same work.



MEI WANG BAPTISM

We have a baptism scheduled for Saturday. I think I was sent here to teach her. It's amazing how the Lord sends us where we are needed.

“Brother Martin Hall and the ward are really doing well with getting us referrals for the ‘living Christmas Card.’ So far we have about 50 referrals to visit. The ward loves us and trusts us with their friends. Elder Walton and I have been very busy. We really have a lot going on. No time is wasted.”

**December To Be The Month For
The Port Coquitlam Ward Gift to the Savior,
by Elders Spencer Hall (and Daniel Jenkins)**

“Here in the Port Coquitlam Ward we are working with Bishop Roy Swartzberg, and the Elders Quorum President Didier Donato to re-activate others. We have established December as the Ward's gift to the Savior. We are going to do our very best at everything: home teaching, missionary work, temple attendance, family home evenings. The home teachers are giving a picture of the temple to each family they teach. In order for the family to receive one it has to be from the home teachers. We are trying to have each activity have an emphasis on missionary work. We feel this ward is poised to really grow.”

*“And she brought forth her
firstborn son, and wrapped
him in swaddling clothes, and
laid him in a manger; because*

*there was no room for them
in the inn. And the angel said
unto him, Fear not: for, behold,
I bring you good tidings of
great joy, which shall be to all
people...” Luke 2: 7,10*

**Our Increased Work Efforts (350 Plus Contacts Each Week)
Leads to Six Non-Members in Church, by Elders Kelby
Godfrey (and Soloman Jensen)**

“After our Zone Conference last week, we went on exchanges with the ward missionaries to make up for lost time. At the start of the week we had no contacts all the way up to Saturday. On Saturday we contacted all day and most of Sunday. We had a goal of surpassing our old contact number of 356 contacts in a week. It was getting late on Sunday and we only had 330, but by the end of the night, at about 9:15 p.m., we were finally able to talk to contact number 357 and call it a night.

“We have found that as we work harder to reach our goal for contacts, it moves all of our points up to where they are asked to be.. So far the work has been going great. Six non-members have been

out to Church for the past few Sundays, just one of the blessings we are seeing as a result of our increased work effort.”

Our wish is for each of our missionaries to have a productive, wonderful and merry Christmas.

We love each of you, and are grateful for all that you do.

President and Sister Middleton

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending Dec 16, 2007)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Abbotsford Zone (23 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Vancouver/Kelowna Zone (1 baptized)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Abbotsford Zone (8 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Vernon Zone (20 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Victoria Zone (25 Lessons with a Member Present)

Contacts

- Vancouver Zone (23.5 contacts per day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Victoria Zone (22 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Surrey Lang. Zone (21 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Vancouver Zone (Average of 16.6 Full Lessons)

Full Lessons to Non-Members:

- Victoria Zone (10.8 Full Lessons to NM)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Tolleson & DeHerrera: 5 with a date, 2 at Sacrament, 2 member present, 7 progressing
- Elders Loong & Taylor: 2 with a date, 4 member present, 2 progressing, 20 others, 70 contacts
- Elders Barton & Ramirez: 3 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 30 contacts,
- Elders Hassell & Curiel: 1 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 23 others, 88 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Godfrey & Knapp: 1 baptized, 1 confirmed, 1 with a date, 3 at Sacrament, 311 contacts, 3 progressing
- Elders Lassetter & Douglas: 4 with a date, 6 at Sacrament, 5 progressing, 8 member present, 29 others, 53 contacts
- Elders Godfrey & Knapp: 2 with a date, 6 at sacrament, 7 member

present, 30 other, 170 contacts, 21 full, 12 NM

- Elders Saito & Fullmer: 2 with a date, 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 317 contacts

Honorable Mention:

- Sisters Nibley & Lee: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 17 Full lessons
- Elders Taylor & Weinert: 2 at Sacramento, 8 others, 50 contacts,
- Elders Ruesch & McAllister: 2 at Sacramento, 30 others, 1 progressing, 103 contacts
- Elders Lassetter & Douglas: 2 with a date, 3 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 3 new investigators, 15 full
- Elders Miles & Brunt: 4 member present, 18 others, 2 progressing, 220 contacts,
- Elders Klekas, Whittenburg, & Purser: 4 at Sacramento, 15 member present, 85 others, 327 contacts, 29 full, 21 NM Full

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!



THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

JANUARY 2, 2008

REPORTS FROM OUR MISSIONARIES

As a new year dawns, we want to wish all of our wonderful full-time missionaries and members a very Happy New Year! We pray that 2008 will bring you all of your righteous desires, and that the Lord will bless us all.

MAKE NEW YEARS RESOLUTIONS

As we look forward to 2008, we urge that you set lofty but achievable personal and companionship goals. May we suggest that the 9 goals

at the bottom of this and every *Vancouver Star* be included in your New Year's resolutions. Especially the last goal listed, that of aiming toward 3 baptisms per transfer, should be achievable increasingly more often with faith and the Lord's help, as our new temple is being built. Our resolutions, coupled with determined diligent effort, will allow the Lord to build His Church with the increasing number of convert baptisms He wishes and wants us to achieve.

We share wonderful reports from our missionaries:

POINT ROBERTS HARBOR



Non-Members Come to Powell River Christmas Dinner, by Elder Nicholas and Sister Janet Welch

“We are pleased with the success of two Christmas activities in the Powell River Branch. We assisted in handing out invitations for both activities. The Branch has been having a crèche exhibit for fourteen years. This year’s display was held on December 7 and 8 in our meetinghouse. The display included more than 220 nativity displays, including a live presentation. There were five ‘friends of other faiths’ who participated in the live nativity. There were more ‘friends of other faiths’ who came to see the exhibit than the members who came! Among them was a Grade 6 Class from Assumption Catholic School.

“The Branch Christmas Party and Dinner was held on Friday, December 14. Of the 75 people who attended, 23 were ‘friends of other faiths’ and 6 were less-active members. The members of Powell River Branch are starting to enjoy the excitement of being involved in missionary work.

“The missionary committee will be speaking in Sacrament Meeting on December 30, and we have a member missionary fireside scheduled for January 13, 2008.”

Covering Multiple Wards/Branches in Abbotsford Helps the Spanish Work, By Elders James DeHerrera (and Laric Tolleson)

“We have such great investigators and the work here is going so well! The reality of having a Spanish Branch is getting closer and closer. We now have a weekly Sunday School in Spanish, and for Sacrament Meeting we have translation. We’re using the translating devices of a

member in the Mission Ward until we can have our own, and we will be calling President Christensen soon so that we can discuss the idea of a Spanish Branch. All the Spanish members are so excited to get the ball rolling in the Spanish work. It took a couple of transfers but within the past few weeks it has really been speeding up. One reason I think it has been slow until now is because we were focusing on meeting just in one ward, the Abbotsford first Ward, which excluded the others. Once we started spreading ourselves out between all of the wards, by going to their PEC’s and Church meetings, we saw a big change in the pace of the work. Going to all their PEC’s and talking with all the leaders from each ward helped immensely.

“It is going really well. Our investigator pool is large and we have a potential investigator list which, when combined with our investigators, gives us enough people to have a Spanish Ward! Unfortunately we just started seeing progressing investigators, so I guess it’s taken time for this list to show progression, but now that we have a time for a Spanish speaking Sunday School we’ll be seeing great growth.”

Achieving 350 Plus Contacts Each Week Helps All Phases of the Work, by Elders Solomon Jensen (and Kelby Godfrey)

“The missionary work here in the Kelowna 2nd Ward is really starting to pick up. Ever since we have been focusing our efforts on talking to and contacting everybody we have been able to have much success in our Missionary work. When Elder Godfrey and I first decided that we were going to meet the goal of at least 350 contacts a week we made it our first priority. When we decided to split up on both sides of the street, we found that this makes 50 contacts a day

easily achievable. Through this method we have easily been able to get close to or surpass 350 contacts a week!

“Also, we have seen great blessings in other areas of our work. Our teaching pool has doubled! Also our Full Lessons, Other Lessons, etc. have skyrocketed. Through meeting what the Lord has asked us to do we have seen many wonderful things happen. I hope each of us will try to work hard and put our best efforts in to show the Lord we are here to work and share the gospel with everyone.”

The Primary Children in Willoughby Ward Give Missionary Pledge, by Elders Dan Jenkins (and Ian Seitz)

“I love Langley and I hope to die here (as a missionary). We went to the Primary today at Church. They gave us a gift—the gift was that every Primary student wrote us a card that they would be reverent in Sacrament Meeting (so our investigators could feel the Spirit), and that they would invite their friends to Primary activities. What a wonderful present! We will be ‘tapping’ the Primary from here on out.”

That our New Year’s resolutions might be bold, and that we might achieve them with the Lord’s help, is our constant prayer.

We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” 1 Corinthians 2:9

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending Dec 30, 2007)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date:

- Surrey Zone (24 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Vernon and Surrey Language Zones (1 baptism each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Abbotsford (8 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Abbotsford Zone (19 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Surrey Zone (22 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver Language (216)

Contacts

- Vancouver Zone (24.05 contacts per day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Abbotsford Zone (21 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Prince George Zone (13 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Victoria Zone (Average of 17.4 Full Lessons)

Full Lessons to Non-Members:

- Surrey Lang. Zone (10.3 Full Lessons to NM)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Ward and Magnusson: 1 member present, 20 other lessons, 165 contacts, 18 full lessons
- Elders J. Johnson and Michaelis: 8 with member present, 39 other, 21 full
- Elders Morrill and Pack: 2 member present, 16 other lessons, 2 progressing, 15 full lessons, 9 to non-members
- Sisters Nibley and Lee: 1 with baptism date, 1 at Sacrament, 6 member present, 39 other, 134 contacts, 15 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Heinzen: 1 with baptism date, 1 at Sacrament, 7 member present, 21 other, 110 contacts, 16 full, 16 to non-members
- Elders Marcum and Peck: 2 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 23 other, 5 progressing, 3 new, 243 contacts, 26 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Nebeker and Gonzalez: 2 at Sacrament, 24 other, 2 progressing, 2 new, 185 contacts
- Elders Lassetter and Douglas: 2 with baptism, 5 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 33 other, 4 progressing, 98 contacts, 20 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Godfrey and Knapp: 1 with baptism date, 7 at Sacrament, 2 member present, 81 other, 5 progressing, 377 contacts
- Elders Shibayama and Stevenson: 1 with baptism date, 7 at Sacrament, 8 member present, 33 other, 7 progressing, 168 contacts, 17 full, 13 to non-members

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Carlisle and Parson: 2 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 4 progressing, 156 contacts 17 full
- Sisters Overlock and Anderson: 3 at Sacramento, 5 progressing, 3 new referrals, 17 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Scoffield and Fisher: 2 at Sacramento, 5 member present 9 new investigators
- Elders Terry and Shumway: 6 at Sacramento, 8 member present, 5 other, 2 progressing, 110 contacts, 18 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Miles and Brunt: 2 member present, 2 progressing, 315 contacts
- Elders Thompson and White: 5 at Sacramento, 29 other, 5 progressing, 165 contacts
- Elders Purser, Klekas and Whittenburg: 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 27 other, 4 progressing, 362 contacts, 19 full lessons

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

JANUARY 8, 2008

TAKE MY YOKE UPON YOU

As 2008 is underway we wish to remind you of the love the Savior offers each of us. As full-time missionaries we are asked to accomplish much to demonstrate to the Lord that we are “anxiously engaged” (D&C 58: 27) Our goals are listed at the end of each Star , as you see below, and are purposely lofty yet achievable through hard, focused work every day. Similarly, member missionary goals require that every faithful member take an active role in missionary work, with most newly revised Ward or Branch Mission Plans calling on each member to invite a non-member acquaintance to “come and see” (John 1: 39) regularly (a weekly invitation goal seems to work best, though some members try to invite more often). The Lord expects much of us, though the blessings promised are extraordinary and eternal when we comply.

The joy and happiness we feel as we accomplish what the Lord would have us do brings peace of mind and contentment to most members and full-time missionaries, but a few are reacting to their being anxiously engaged by becoming anxious. For some, the rejection initially of our invitation to come and see by most whom we invite weighs heavily on their soul, even though they know that throughout time it is in the nature of being a missionary that we “ask several to find the one.”

SEEK THE LORD'S LOVE

We share with you magnificent counsel and advice which appeared in an Ensign (Nov. 2006, pg. 112) article Written by Sister Kathleen H. Hughes, then First Counselor in the Relief Society General Presidency. Entitled “Remembering the Lord’s Love,” excerpts follow:

“The Savior’s invitation is clear and direct, and importantly for us, it is constant: ‘Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden.... Take my yoke upon you, ... for....my burden is light’ (Matthew 11:28-30). This is the Lord’s promise to me and to you.

“My prayer for each of us is that we will remember when the Lord has spoken His peace to us and has encircled us in the arms of His love. And just as important, will you, if you haven’t felt that love for a while, seek to see it and feel it as you go about the ordinary tasks of your life. As you do this, over the days and months and years of your life, the memories of those interactions with the Lord will become sweet gifts to open a second time—or many times—to bolster you when life is difficult.

“Peace I give unto you,’ the Lord promises, ‘not as the world giveth, give I unto you’ (John 14:27). Peace. Strength. It is what we long for and what is possible. . We only need to turn toward His reaching arms.”

Pass Along Cards Left With Businesses In Westbank For Customers To Pick Up, by Elders Brandon Ruesch (and Justin McAllister)

“Westbank does not really have a downtown, so we have had to get creative. Elder McAllister and I have been going to different



THE PEACE ARCH

businesses and explaining that we are handing out cards for the Christmas season and asking if we could leave some on their counters or displays. I would estimate that 80% of the businesses we have asked have agreed, and we placed a stack of pass along cards on their desks for people to take. The most common ones taken are ‘Joy to the World’ cards.

“We were amazed at the positive reception, and found that our asking to place pass along cards often leads to a Gospel conversation. I know this has been tried before, but I would encourage the missionaries to go out now during this Christmas season and beyond to offer them to businesses. Take advantage of spreading the Gospel to everyone by getting businesses involved!”

Editor’s Note: congratulations to Elders Ruesch and McAllister for implementing this idea. They have found a wonderful way to use one of the great ideas mentioned in PMG Chapter 9, “Finding People.” We suspect that it may work in many areas of the province at other times of the year as well. Give it a try and then report back.

Hearts Are Softened During Christmas, by Elders Andrew Johnson (and Spencer Hall)

“Everything is just amazing here in the Brookwood Ward. Our bishop, Eden Engen, has caught the vision of missionary work! He had us speak on missionary work and Christmas in the ward. In my talk I made a list of things to which the members could invite their acquaintances, and told them that the key was to invite them weekly!!!

“We love tracting during this time of the year when hearts are softened and their joy is in the Savior and in the true meaning of

Christmas! We have found that Christmas time is great to meet with less actives as well.”

We pray that each of you will come to know that the Lord’s peace is ours for the asking, and that He knows each of us and encircles us in the arms of His love if we reach out to Him.

We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Quincy Jung Kwon Cheng—Ambarvale; NSW, Shawn Karl Homer—Riverton, Ut; Cameron Michael Kirby—Pleasant Grove; Ut, Reid Wilson Mc Dowell—Gridley, Ca, Hunter Scott Reynolds—Mesa, Az, Brent Jay Wilson—Hooper, Ut
- Couple: Paul Dean Montgomery, Shana Foster Montgomery—Salt Lake City, Ut

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder Taryn Collins

3 Nephi 12:16 - “Let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father who is in Heaven.” Never forget who you are as a child of God. Never doubt your or anyone else’s potential to become like God. Let people see who they can be in you! Work Hard! I love you all!!

Elder Nathan Purser

Thank you to all of you who have helped make this the most memorable experience of my life. I love you all, remember, “Do your best this hour, and you’ll do better the next.” David O. McKay

Elder Devin Ward (Wardzy)

It has been said that the gate of history turns on small hinges, and so do people’s lives. The choices we make determine our destiny. I’m grateful to have served a mission, and met such amazing people. “I cannot say the smallest part which I feel.” (Alma 26:16) And if you’re reading this, I’m already home.

Elder Richard Ashton

I’m grateful for the opportunity the Lord has given me to be His ambassador. He lives, and this is His work. His Gospel is true, I’ve seen it change others while experiencing it change myself. God Bless!

Elder Huo

I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Work hard and be 100% obedient.

NEW CONVERTS

- Abbotsford: Robert Newton Selby, Hugh Murray Chesley,
- Prince George: Rylan Dakota Weselowski, Samantha Marie

Weselowski, Trintiy Lee Weselowski

- Vancouver Language: Tommy Li
- Vancouver: Megan MacLeod
- Victoria: Lindsay Marie Nelson
- Kelowna: Noe Garcia
- Vernon: Dustin Crookshank
- Still waiting on records for: Patricia White, Mike McDonald, Shelby Doulette, Ella Vannen, plus one in Vancouver on April 30th.

FROM THE ASSISTANTS—ELDERS MARIANNO & FEINGA

This past transfer was a great one. Way to work hard and finish the year strong. With another year in the service of our Savior in sight, we hope that you will prayerfully consider what you want to accomplish. We know that miracles can happen according to our faith and obedience. We want to double our efforts this year so that we can witness a doubling in baptisms as President Hinckley has asked for. Keep the fire burning for the new year. May you seek for the Lord’s guidance and witness miracles this year. “God Speed!”

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending Jan 6, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms this Week:

- Prince George (2 Baptisms)
- Surrey, Vancouver, Kelowna (1 Baptism each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Abbotsford (8 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Van. Language (18 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Victoria Zone (45 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver Language (218)

Contacts

- Vancouver Lang. Zone (32.1 contacts per day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Abbotsford Zone (19 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Victoria and Surrey Zone (9 New Investigators each)

Full Lessons:

- Victoria Zone (Average of 23.2 Full Lessons)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Carlisle and Parson: 2 with baptism date, 2 at sacrament, 3 with member present, 14 other, 3 progressing, 126 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Brown and Hea: 3 with baptism dates, 4 attending sacrament, 6 member present, 62 other, 3 progressing, 2 new, 24 full, 13 to non members
- Sisters Nibley and Lee: 1 baptized, 2 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 34 other, 133 contacts, 14 full
- Elders Mun and Kim: 57 other, 1 new investigator, 181 contacts, 16 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Fillmore and Seebeck: 1 baptismal date, 2 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 30 other, 18 full
- Elders Fullmer and Saito: 2 baptismal date, 1 at Sacrament, 6 progressing, 508 contacts
- Elders Thompson and Smith: 2 at Sacrament, 57 other, 2 progressing, 1 new, 357 contacts, 14 full, 12 to non- members
- Elders Lassetter and Douglas: 2 with baptism, 4 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 29 other, 5 progressing, 92 contacts, 19 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Godfrey and Knapp: 1 with baptism date, 6 at Sacrament, 6 member present, 58 other, 4 progressing, 357 contacts, 25 full,
- Elders Purser, Klekas and Whittenburg: 3 at Sacrament, 27

member present, 90 other, 3 progressing, 532 contacts, 52 full, 43 to non-members

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Shibayama and Stevenson: 2 baptism date, 5 at Sacramento, 12 member present, 41 other, 5 progressing, 350 contacts, 18 full, 9 to non-members
- Sisters Dalling and van den Bosch: 1 baptism date, 2 at Sacramento, 4 progressing, 5 new referrals, 130 contacts
- Elders Hatton and Wells: 1 baptism date, 6 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 1 progressing, 17 full,
- Elders Nebeker and Gonzalez: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 39 other, 1 progressing, 268 contacts, 16 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Marcum and Peck: 3 at Sacramento, 24 member present, 219 contacts, 26 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Morrill and Pack: 1 baptism, 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 4 progressing, 15 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Heinzen: 2 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 5 progressing, 149 contacts
- Elders Terry and Shumway: 5 at Sacramento, 4 member present 5 other, 2 progressing 21 full
- Sisters Overlock and Anderson: 4 at Sacramento, 15 other, 9 progressing, 13 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Johnson and Hall: 3 at Sacramento, 15 other, 115 contacts

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

JANUARY 15, 2008

WE TESTIFY OF A DYNAMIC GROWING CHURCH

Members across British Columbia are more and more inviting their non-member acquaintances to come with them to a Church event, to “come and see,” as the Savior had said to His first disciples (John 1:39). Furthermore, members are embracing a personal Mission Plan in which they invite regularly and often, with many adopting a personal goal of inviting weekly.

PROMPT PUBLIC RECOGNITION IS THE KEY TO CONTINUED INVITING

Through inspiration, member leaders have recognized that the positive personal feedback a member receives by being invited to raise their hand in class or quorum on Sunday if they invited someone during the prior week is needed to keep them inviting regularly. A few members have objected to recognizing inviting members publicly, fearing that any investigators present might object that “all we want to do is grow the Church.”

We have carefully inquired around the province about this fear, and find that overwhelmingly investigators view this public acknowledgement of those who invited as evidence that we are a



BETTINGER FAMILY BY A MOOSE IN VICTORIA

dynamic growing Church, which we are. The Church is finding world wide that investigators and recent converts are very excited about inviting their non-member friends, often more so than members who have been Church members for many years.

PRESIDENT HINCKLEY NOTES THE DYNAMIC GROWTH OF THE CHURCH

In a talk given at the October 2007 General Conference, President Gordon B. Hinckley commented on the stunning growth of the Church (“The Stone Cut Out of the Mountain,” Nov. 2007, 83-86). He noted that “when the Church was organized in 1830 there were but 6 members, only a handful of believers, all residing in a largely unknown village. Today, we have become the fourth or fifth largest church in North America, with congregations in every city of any consequence. Stakes of Zion today flourish in every state of the United States, in every province of Canada...” He goes on to observe there are now over 13 million of us in 176 nations and territories. He noted that we are seeing the fulfillment of Daniel’s prophecy that “His gospel shall be as the stone cut out of the Mountain without hands which would roll forth and fill the whole earth.” (Daniel 2: 31-45) President Hinckley noted that, “a great miracle is taking place right before our eyes.”

As we acknowledge these truths by having ward or branch members who have invited someone during the week raise their hand for recognition each Sunday we are not turning off investigators who are present, but are proudly demonstrating that we are a vibrant, dynamic, growing Church in which every member is a missionary.

Proudly, boldly, we acknowledge that fact, and it is proving to be a very attractive attribute of our Church for nearly all investigators.

Prayers Answered, Rains Stopped While Concrete Poured at Temple Site, by Elder and Sister Erickson

Editor’s Note: the Vancouver Temple foundation concrete was scheduled to be poured on Friday, Jan. 11, 2008, but the weather forecast for that day was for rain. Rain would have been a major problem as it could have ruined the concrete or caused a considerable delay in the temple if we had to reschedule the concrete pouring. Upon learning of the weather forecast all of our full-time missionaries were asked to join in prayer that the weather would moderate to allow the construction to proceed; many members similarly joined in prayer. The miracle that transpired is described below by Elder and Sister Erickson:

“We thank the Lord for His mighty miracle. We appreciate the prayers of the missionaries united with the members that withheld the pending rain so that the 350 cubic meters of concrete for the foundation of the temple could be poured on schedule. It was raining when we left home on Friday morning; however, there was no rain at the temple site when we arrived there. It was raining two miles away but the rain was withheld at the temple site until later in the day when it sprinkled lightly. By then most of the concrete was completed. We feel grateful for this blessing and tender mercy of the Lord in answering the prayers of the faithful.”

**Many New Contacts At a Christmas Dinner,
by Elders Dan Jenkins (and Ian Seitz)**

“Christmas is always a fun time of the year, especially as a missionary in BC. For Christmas dinner alone, we had about 30 non-member contacts! For us missionaries it was an awesome experience; they were so fascinated as to why we dedicated 2 years to being missionaries. It was the best thing to bring the Church good will I have ever done on my mission. I pray that those we met will go on to learn more.”

**Abbotsford 3rd YSA Reaches Out to Less Actives
Successfully, by Elders Jared Fullmer (and Trent Amann)**

“We were part of a phone call blitz within the Abbotsford 3rd YSA Branch which was extremely successful. We joined together with the branch presidency and other branch leaders and went through the branch membership list. We then called almost all of the less and in-active members to invite them to various activities, to Church, or to meet with us. The response was incredible! To see the members of the branch show their love to their brothers and sisters through those calls was wonderful. We were not able to contact all of them; we are meeting again this week to call the rest of them. The next Sunday we had 5 or 6 less actives come who usually don’t.”

That we might see our full-time missionaries and members link arms together to be effective missionary teams throughout BC is our constant prayer. We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

*“What we desperately need is for member-missionary work to become a way of life—for the Savior’s mandate to share the gospel to become part of who we are.” Elder Quentin L. Cook
BYU Devotional 13 March 2007*

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending Jan 13, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Kelowna (2 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Vernon and Kelowna (1 Baptism Each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Abbotsford (7 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Van. Language (22 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Prince George and Kelowna Zone (16 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver Language (155)

Contacts

- Vancouver Zone (23.6 contacts per day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Abbotsford Zone (20 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Prince George Zone (7 New Investigators each)

Full Lessons:

- Vernon Zone (Average of 17.5 Full Lessons)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Whittenburg and McDowell: 2 at Sacrament, 1 member present, 25 other, 1 progressing, 2 new investigators, 200 contacts, 19 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Lassetter and Douglas: 2 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacrament, 5 member present, 5 progressing, 101 contacts, 18 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Earnest and Knapp: 2 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 31 other, 2 progressing, 130 contacts, 18 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Miles and Brunt: 2 member present, 2 progressing, 238 contacts, 15 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Martinez and White: 6 at Sacrament, 6 progressing, 175 contacts
- Elders Scoffield and Fisher: 5 at Sacrament, 6 member present, 2 progressing, 4 new investigators
- Sisters Nibley and Lee: 2 member present, 26 other, 103 contacts
- Elders Bowles and Heinzen: 2 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacrament, 5 progressing, 201 contacts
- Elders Godfrey and Hea: 1 with baptismal date, 2 member present, 44 other, 150 contacts, 19 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Carlisle and Parson: 3 member present, 4 progressing, 162 contacts, 16 full

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Banks and Evans: 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 26 other, 111 contacts, 16 full
- Sisters D'Amours and Anderson: 8 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 9 progressing, 14 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Binks and Shumway: 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 15 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Cornwell and Green: 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 4 new, 183 contacts
- Elders Pace and Marianno: 4 member present, 2 progressing, 1 new, 17 full lessons
- Elders Marcum and Homer: 2 member present, 3 progressing, 167 contacts, 26 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Roberts and Smith: 1 Baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 49 other, 4 progressing, 171 contacts
- Elders Brown and Mather: 1 baptism this week, 3 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 2 progressing, 5 referrals, 1 new investigator, 17 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Heaton and Weeks: 1 baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 4 progressing, 3 new, 15 full
- Elders Wells and Terry: 1 baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 96 contacts, 20 full
- Elders Ruesch and McAllister: 1 baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 32 other, 115 contacts, 19 full
- Elders Loong and J. Johnson: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 2 progressing, 3 new, 18 full
- Elders Seitz and Elder Mousseau: 60 contacts

JANUARY 22, 2008

FAITH COUPLED WITH WORKS FOR MISSIONARY SUCCESS

We are truly blessed to be missionaries in British Columbia in this day and age. We give thanks every day that we have been provided with inspired guidance from President Gordon B. Hinckley and the Brethren in how to become effective missionaries. *Preach My Gospel* has provided wonderful insights into how to be successful; the inspired and innovative ideas of our provincial member leaders have given us the methods by which *PMG* principles can best be deployed in each ward and branch in BC to optimally grow the Church. The idea of organizing each ward and branch for success by having a member of the presidency of each auxiliary and priesthood quorum be given the missionary oversight responsibility of all members within his or her group or quorum is brilliant and effective. Linking that with the inspired idea of giving weekly public recognition to each member who has invited a non-member acquaintance to “come and see,” so they will continue to invite, and teaching each member how simple it is to become an excellent member missionary through inviting regularly (ideally weekly), has equipped us with the components to become successful as never before.

WE MUST NOW ADD FAITH

We feel strongly that the Lord has given us the powerful infrastructure outlined above which is rapidly being deployed in every ward and branch in BC. However, without our faith it won't succeed. We all, each of us, must go to our knees in humble supplication to the Lord, asking that He will allow us to succeed as He would have us do. President Hinckley noted, "In the on-working of this great cause, increased faith is what we most need. Without it, the work would stagnate. With it, no one can stop its progress" ("The Faith to Move Mountains," *Ensign*, Nov. 2006, 85.)

PMG similarly tells us to "Pray for guidance and strength." (*PMG*, 121) We are then instructed on how to best implement the Lord's missionary plans when *PMG* notes, "The Lord expects you to work diligently—persistently and with great effort and care. A diligent missionary works effectively and efficiently." (*PMG*, 121) Once again the Lord reminds us that "faith, if it hath not works, is dead." (James 2:17) Note that both faith and works is necessary. Neither one stands alone. The order of things is to pray mightily, then work diligently. If we diligently apply both, success beyond anything yet seen in BC will be ours.

Members Find by Inviting Weekly, Full-Time Missionaries Teach, by Elders Ian Seitz (and Daniel Jenkins)

"Zone Conference inspired us to start a recognition activity in the Willoughby Ward. We found that many members have been doing a lot of missionary work, but we had no idea about it until just recently. The Young Men and Young Women have been discussing

missionary moments for years, but we missionaries were never part of the recognition until now. To focus on rewarding and inspiring members who do invite, we modified an idea from another BC ward and built a flat paper model of the temple. The temple must be put together brick by brick, adding a 'brick' every time a member invites an acquaintance. Even if their friend doesn't come, the member will still be recognized for their effort. The member's name is written on a brick every time they invite, and the brick is placed on the temple model. So far the ward has responded very well to the idea.

"We also have asked to have 5 minutes before each class or quorum begins to share our love and encouragement for the members. Members do missionary work better with full-time missionaries leading the way and assisting in every way possible. Members of the Church all over the world have been asked to be missionaries by our prophet. That represents revelation given to him and I know it is true. We as Elders and Sisters in the Canada Vancouver Mission are the teachers, while the members are the best at finding those for us to teach."

A Powerful Testimony of the Importance of Tracting, by Elders Adam Hassell (and Hyrum Curiel)

"We have been trying to achieve at least 100 contacts each week here in Campbell River. We were moved to visit with an investigator that Elder Scott Allen and I had tracted into several weeks earlier, on a night when we had a bit of spare time before an appointment. We decided that we would knock on a few doors. Elder Allen had picked a neighborhood on the map and we drove there. At the first house we visited there was a man outside who was not in a good

mood. He told us that he probably wasn't interested because he was angry with God. He had just lost his job and was going through a hard time. We asked if there was anything we could do, and he told us to call and arrange a time to come over. We finished tracting down the street and ran into the same man again, who was out for a walk. He told us that he had studied about Joseph Smith and the pioneers previously and really liked them. He also told us that he thought if anyone worshipped correctly and had the right belief in Christ it would be the Mormons. He informed us again about how he had lost his job and was angry with God because he had been quite charitable with his money. He told us that up until the point that we came to his house he was planning to commit suicide, and he thanked us for causing him to think about life.

He is now one of our progressing investigators in Campbell River! He tells us that he now knows that Joseph Smith was a true prophet of God, and his testimony of the Book of Mormon is growing as he reads it and ponders it. He plans to attend Church as well.

“Having this experience has confirmed my testimony that there are prepared people through life's circumstances who need the gospel of Jesus Christ in their lives. Although tracting may not be as effective as teaching member referrals, it is necessary in proclaiming the gospel. After this experience, I have come to realize how important tracting can be, and I don't want to be held responsible for missing the opportunity of saving someone's life and bringing salvation to their soul. I love the gospel of Jesus Christ and the blessings it brings to people's lives.”

We pray that each of us might strive for that faith through our fervent prayers that will bring the Church growth to British Columbia which the Lord would have. We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

“I will go and do the things which the Lord hath commanded, for I know the Lord giveth no commandments unto the children of men, save he shall prepare a way for them that they may accomplish the thing which he commandeth them.” 1 Nephi 3:7

JANUARY 28, 2008

THE PASSING OF PRESIDENT GORDON B. HINCKLEY

We were saddened to learn of the passing of our beloved Prophet and President, Gordon B. Hinckley, on January 27, 2008, at age 97. He has been so important in the leadership of our church for so long that it seems hard to imagine that he is gone. We take solace in the fact that President Hinckley's clear vision and bold, inspired leadership will live on in his General Conference addresses and the many articles and books he wrote. During the 13 years he was our Prophet and President, the Church saw unparalleled growth. The number of temples worldwide grew from 49 to more than 120, and it was President Hinckley who was inspired to announce the building of our Vancouver Temple. The Church grew from 9 million to almost 13 million during his presidency as well, and under his leadership the Church has gone from relative obscurity to a place of prominence among the world's religions. It was President Hinckley who called each of us to serve as missionaries in the Canada Vancouver Mission. We feel sure that he now is rejoicing with his wife and parents, and our prophets Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and the great leaders and prophets of the ages. We shall miss him.

INVITING PEOPLE TO ANY AND ALL CHURCH EVENTS

The chapter in *Preach My Gospel* entitled "Finding People," chapter 9, points out that "*you need to do all you can to be placed in the path of those who are being prepared.*" (PMG pg. 167) It then gives a list of 17 "*honorable ways to find people to teach,*" but points out that the list serves as a starting point to develop other honorable ways to find people to teach.

A FUNERAL SERVES TO INTRODUCE NON-MEMBERS TO THE CHURCH

Brother Robert Burrows, a wonderful man stricken with terminal cancer, chose to be taught and enter the waters of baptism and then be confirmed about 2 months ago to accomplish those important ordinances while on earth. He passed away 2 weeks ago. His funeral tribute in the White Rock Ward was attended by several full-time missionaries who had known and loved him and his family and also many of his non-member friends and admirers. The account of his funeral follows:

A Recent Convert Funeral, With 110 Investigators Attending, by Elders Listate Feinga (and Logan Magnusson)

"This past week Elder Magnusson and I were able to attend the funeral of Robert Burrows. A recent convert just 2 months ago, Brother

Burrows had been taught by Elder Magnusson when he served in the White Rock area. He and his daughter were the only members of their immediate family. It was amazing to see how many non-members came to the chapel to pay their respects for this wonderful man. The ward members and the full time missionaries, Elder Hunsaker and Elder Amman, were expecting about 30 people in total. It turned out that there were 130 in attendance; while 20 or so were members of the Church, the rest were non-members. The funeral memorial was very spiritual, especially for those who didn't know much about our beliefs. It particularly focused on our knowledge of the restored gospel. It was also nice to see the Surrey Zone missionaries there to support Brother Burrow's family, and to answer any questions that people had. The missionaries also performed 'Be still my soul,' Hymn 124. After the memorial there were refreshments and the missionaries were able to converse with most of the people who came. So remember the opportunity a Church funeral offers to bring truth and knowledge to non-members in B.C."

Brookwood Ward Focuses on Youth; 5 Name Program is Very Successful, by Elders Spencer Hall (and Andrew Johnson)

"Here in the Brookwood Ward the members are a gold mine for investigators. The Young Men's President, Mark Vance, has many non-member friends and acquaintances that he refers to us. We have made several good initial contacts, so hopefully we can teach them in the Vance's home. Other members have friends they are inviting, and hopefully they will 'come and see' as well. We follow-up with members as often as we can to remind them to be missionary

minded. We are starting a game day for the youth to bring non-member friends. The youth are really excited about it.

"The five name less-active program is also great. We have found quite a few people to visit and re-activate through it. Exchanges will be getting back to normal now that the holidays are through. We will do exchanges one day of the week with the bishopric, and another day we will focus on less-active work as well as work with our investigators."

Bishop Swartzberg Sets Missionary Goals for Port Coquitlam, by Elders Dan Jenkins (and Spencer Hall)

"We had a meeting with Bishop Roy Swartzberg when we went to his home for breakfast on a Saturday. As we talked we mentioned the 5th Sunday coming up in December, and asked if we could use that time to set goals with the ward. He was all for it. In PEC subsequently he told all the Priesthood leaders about the plan, and asked each quorum to prepare some specific goals to talk about. Everyone seemed enthusiastic and excited, and it looks like the Port Coquitlam Ward will end the year with a bang and start the next one on fire!"

Editor's Note: We pray that all members will adopt and embrace the practice of inviting their non-member acquaintances regularly (ideally at least weekly) to "come and see," to any family or Church-related activity or event. As full-time missionaries we must become the facilitators in this process, encouraging all members to invite, helping each class and quorum presidency to give each inviting member public recognition for doing so each Sunday with a raise of the hand by those who have invited. We full-time missionaries are the "professional teachers" (Sister Ma's description of us) who will

meet and teach the investigator acquaintances of members anywhere, anytime, under any circumstance, on long or short notice.

That we might link arms with members to achieve President Gordon B. Hinckley's challenge to double our baptisms is our constant prayer. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

“Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.” Matthew 7:7

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending Jan 27, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Kelowna (3 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Vernon and Victoria (1 Baptism Each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Abbotsford (9 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Van. Language (19 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford & Vancouver 18, Victoria 17

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (24 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver Language (215)

Contacts

- Victoria (30.6 contacts per day)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey Language (21)

Progressing Investigators:

- Abbotsford Zone (25 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Vancouver Language (16 New Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (14)

Full Lessons:

- Surey Language (Average of 18.5)

Tours

- Surey Language (7)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Whittenburg and McDowell: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 25 other, 400 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Shibayama and Fullmer: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 43 other, 3 progressing, 398 contacts
- Elders Carlisle and Parson: 4 member present, 3 progressing, 156 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Godfrey and Hea: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 90 other, 4 progressing, 196 contacts, 21 full
- Elders Seitz and Mousseau: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 24 other, 2 new, 104 contacts
- Sisters Nibley and Lee: 40 other, 3 new, 110 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Choi, Mun and Huh: 122 other, 3 new, 239 contacts, 26 full, 22 to non-members

- Elders Barker and Klekas: 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 25 other, 5 progressing, 1 new, 136 contacts, 18 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Roberts and Smith: 2 with baptismal date, 7 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 36 other, 3 progressing, 7 new, 119 contacts, 21 full, 18 to non-members
- Elders Wells and Terry: 1 with baptismal date, 1 member present, 26 other, 173 contacts
- Elders Earnest and Knapp: 2 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 54 other, 2 progressing, 15 full, 9 to non-members

Honorable Mention:

- Elders A. Johnson and Ramsey: 10 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 38 other, 5 progressing, 140 contacts, 17 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Lassetter and Douglas: 1 baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 5 progressing, 18 full, 9 to non-members
- Sisters Dalling and van den Bosch: 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 4 progressing, 7 new, 17 full, 6 to non-members
- Elders Ruesch and McAllister: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 22 full
- Elders Marcum and Homer: 6 member present, 18 other, 20 full
- Elders Peck and Cheng: 26 other, 183 contacts
- Elders Thompson and Zmoos: 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 53 other, 179 contacts
- Elders Martinez and White: 4 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 4 progressing, 136 contacts
- Elders Bowles and Heinzen: 2 with baptismal date, 10 at Sacramento,

165 contacts, 17 full, 14 to non-members

- Elders Fillmore and Seebeck: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 100 contacts
- Elders Hatton and Weinert: 2 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 17 full
- Sisters D'Amours and Anderson: 7 at Sacramento, 8 progressing, 16 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Harrison and Reynolds: 5 with baptismal date, 9 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 26 other, 16 full
- Elders DeHerrera and Tolleson: 4 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento
- Elders Hall and Kirby: 140 contacts

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!



THOSE BRUISES WON'T KILL YOU

FEBRUARY 2008

FEBRUARY 5, 2008

THOSE BRUISES WON'T KILL YOU

One of our excellent missionaries, Elder T.J. Carlisle, grew up in Star Valley, Wyoming, in a ranching family. While still a boy, Elder Carlisle's father had him start branding cattle one day. He found quickly that the cattle objected to being branded, and soon his legs were covered with bruises from being kicked repeatedly. Elder Carlisle pointed out to his father the beating his legs were taking, perhaps looking for sympathy. After a moment's inspection, and reflection, his wise father noted, "*Those bruises won't kill you, they are a long way from your heart. You'll be alright.*"

THERE IS NO TIME FOR DISCOURAGEMENT OR REST

The observations made to young T. J. Carlisle by his insightful father apply to him then and now in the mission. They apply equally to each of us, on many levels. While it is rare for us missionaries to receive bodily harm, as those cattle gave to young T. J. Carlisle's legs, we all experience set-backs throughout each week, from potential investigators declining to hear our message, from turning challenging companionships into loving and harmonious ones, from

personal finding through inclement weather, from members not fully embracing the *PMG* concept of regularly inviting their non-member acquaintances to “*come and see*,” objecting that it’s too hard and they “*have never done it this way*,” and an array of other challenges. If we let them do so any or all of our challenges can take us out of the work through discouragement. However, like the bruises from the cattle kicks to the legs of young T. J. Carlisle, none of our challenges and obstacles will kill us; none is anywhere near our heart. As missionaries and disciples of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, and with His help, we must boldly and gladly carry on and must succeed in meeting, matching and conquering each and every challenge which confronts us.

THE LORD REWARDS US IN RESPONSE TO HARD, EFFECTIVE WORK

President Gordon B. Hinckley has challenged us to double the number of baptisms we have had. With faith and hard work we can. We challenge each missionary to carefully review the number of baptisms per transfer that he or she has been a part of so far, then determine what can be done to double that number. How can we do it? We would suggest there is no other way than through hard, smart work, executed with great faith.

President Ezra Taft Benson said it best when he noted, “*Work, work, work—there is no satisfactory substitute, especially in missionary work.*” (*PMG*, page 121) The Christlike attribute of diligence must become our normal pattern. We must learn to work both hard and smart. We should establish the personal goal of “no down time

during the day, ever,” and must strive to couple our working hard with working smart. We promise you that the Lord will bless you with His richest blessings if you do.

Seeking Many Contacts Each Day Brings Blessings in Many Ways, by Elders Hiram Knapp (and Kelby Godfrey.)

“The Kelowna 2nd Ward has been doing very well in missionary work. We have seven ward missionaries with whom we go on exchanges once a week, and they help considerably because they have a lot of non-member friends and they know a lot of people whom we don’t. We think that working for a high number of contacts each day has been paying off, not only in meeting many people, but in other areas of our work as well. The members have started giving us many more referrals the last couple of weeks, and most of all they have helped us with fellowshipping a couple of less active members who have been going through some challenges. They both were at Church on Sunday, and we think they felt very welcomed. The ward missionaries are leading the rest of the ward and helping to motivate the members to do missionary work.”

Hard Work Brings Baptisms and Blessings in Victoria, by Elders Noueru Shibayama (and Jared Fullmer)

“Elder Fullmer and I are doing great! We are working hard, and as a result are blessed with one baptism this coming week and another one the following. My personal goal is to see 9 baptisms by the end of my mission.

“One of our investigators, Matt, is going to be baptized this week.

All of the YSA Victoria 4th Branch members are working with him. I'm so grateful for the branch members, because they have come to understand missionary work and the value of team play. We also have a branch activity almost weekly, and usually two or three non-members come to each activity. There is huge potential in Victoria and we are going to see an explosion of missionary work in the YSA 4th Branch as well as the Victoria First Ward. Last week, two districts of the Victoria Zone achieved over 350 contacts each, and we feel the Lord is blessing us for our hard work."

**“Do Things You’ve Never Done Before”—Our Zone Goal,
by Elders Spencer Mun (and Woong Choi and Junjune Huh)**

“To do things you’ve never done before, you have to do things you’ve never done before!” I love this as our basic zone goal. While language work is different from English work, this goal serves not only for us, but for all the areas in BC. Because each area in this mission differs from other areas, in order for us to do something that hasn’t been done before in our respective areas (ex: baptisms, contacts, other goals, etc) then we have to do things we have never done before. Consistent with this goal we are doing our best to increase our key indicators, and I can see that we can increase our key indicators by doing things that we’ve never done before. I can see many baptisms coming from PoCo fairly soon.

“Our companionship is doing amazingly well right now, because we all are doing our best to be united in one heart and one mind, and surely many blessings will come from our unity.”

That we all might redouble our efforts to “do things we’ve never done before” is our constant prayer. We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

“For with God nothing shall be impossible.” Luke 1:37

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending Feb 3, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Kelowna and Prince George (3 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Victoria (1 Baptism)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Abbotsford (12 with Baptismal Dates)
- Honorable Mention: Vernon (8)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Abbotsford (25 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (19 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver Language (142)

Contacts

- Victoria (23 contacts per day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Abbotsford Zone (27 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Vancouver (13 New Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey Language(11)

Full Lessons:

- Vancouver (15.5 Average per companionship)
- Surrey Language (15 Average per companionship)

Full Lessons to Non-Members

- Surrey Language (13 Average per companionship)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Choi, Mun and Huh: 3 at Sacrament, 38 other, 3 progressing, 4 new, 230 contacts, 22 full, 20 to non-members
- Elders Shibayama and Fullmer: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacrament, 6 member present, 21 other, 3 progressing, 169 contacts, 2 new, 15 full lessons
- Elders Brown and Mather: 1 with baptismal date, 1 member present, 62 other, 2 progressing, 100 contacts, 18 full
- Elders Earnest and Knapp: 2 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacrament, 9 member present, 37 other, 2 progressing, 163 contacts, 15 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Barker and Klekas: 4 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 27 other, 6 progressing, 2 new, 133 contacts, 18 full
- Elders Roberts and Smith: 2 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 30 other, 4 progressing, 20 full, 18 to non-members
- Elders Hatton and Weinert: 3 at Sacrament, 5 member present, 20 full
- Sisters Falk and Burt: 1 with baptismal date, 1 at Sacrament, 47 other, 4 progressing, 103 contacts, 17 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Roberts and Smith: 2 with baptismal date, 7 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 36 other, 3 progressing, 7 new, 119 contacts, 21 full, 18 to non-members
- Elders Godfrey and Hea: 42 other, 160 contacts
- Elders Harrison and Reynolds: 6 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 22 other, 6 progressing, 132 contacts, 16 full



ANTONIA LEADS RICHMOND CHINESE NEW YEAR DANCE

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Bowles and Heinzen: 2 with baptismal date, 8 at Sacramento, 6 progressing, 169 contacts, 15 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders DeHerrera and Tolleson: 5 with baptismal date, 7 at Sacramento, 20 other, 7 progressing
- Elders Johnson and Ramsey: 4 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 15 other, 4 progressing, 103 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Spongberg and Walton: 7 member present, 27 other, 2 progressing, 141 contacts, 16 full
- Sisters D'Amours and Anderson: 7 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 15 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Cornwell and Green: 5 at Sacramento, 148 contacts,
- Elders Scoffield and Fisher: 4 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 3 progressing, 2 new
- Elders Thompson and Zmoos: 3 at Sacramento, 25 other, 172 contacts
- Elders Thompson and Gonzalez: 26 other, 137 contacts
- Elders Marcum and Homer: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 3 progressing, 17 full
- Sisters Overlock and Chevalier: 45 other, 146 contacts
- Elders Lassetter and Douglas: 2 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 26 other, 4 progressing, 19 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Heaton and Weeks: 4 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 5 progressing
- Sisters Caribou and Dye: 1 baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 24 other, 3 progressing, 15 full
- Elders Ruesch and McAllister: 2 at Sacramento, 34 other, 113 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Whittenburg and McDowell: 2 at Sacramento, 18 other, 2 progressing, 188 contacts, 15 full

FEBRUARY 12, 2008

THOMAS S. MONSON BECOMES OUR PROPHET AND PRESIDENT

On February 3rd, 2008, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles sustained and set apart Thomas S. Monson as our new Prophet, President and Seer. While saddened by the passing of President Gordon B. Hinckley, his funeral on Saturday, February 2nd, 2008, was a magnificent celebration of his life and accomplishments. We rejoice that the Lord has prepared and raised up someone of the stature of President Monson to now lead the Church. We sustain and pledge support to him with all our hearts, and pray that the Lord will continue to guide us through him, as he has guided us through President Hinckley and the other prophets in this dispensation starting with Joseph Smith.

Bishop Terry Smith Organizes the Salmon Arm Ward for Success, by Elders William Hatton (and Jason Wells)

“Bishop Terry Smith is awesome. He is quite missionary minded (he has two children serving on missions right now). At our last PEC we decided we are going to call and utilize ward missionaries. The plan is to have a member missionary from each auxiliary and quorum. That person will be essentially ‘in charge’ of all the missionary work within their respective auxiliaries or quorums. A large part of their responsibilities will include fellowshipping either by themselves or with another within the group or quorum. In addition, there will be another four stand-alone member missionaries who will have no other calling. Their entire focus and responsibility will lie in missionary work. There will be two sisters and two brothers called, and they will be used for all aspects of missionary work including active proselyting. The men who are called will have many opportunities to go on exchanges with us, for finding, teaching or anything else. In addition, when they are not with us, they will be used in missionary companionships within the ward, and will be able to do tracting, teaching or whatever other assignments may come their way. I’m excited to see where this leads. Having six missionaries here can only help the work. The future looks bright in Salmon Arm.”

Teaching a Branch “Missionary Workshop” To Show Members How to Become Effective Member Missionaries, by Elders Kyle Shaw (and Russell Nebeker)

“With each passing day we gain a greater and greater love for the Latino Canadians! We give thanks daily to be able to serve among them. Even with Latinos being the significant minority of the

population here in Surrey, our teaching pool of serious investigators is just as big, if not bigger, than any I’ve had in any English area. The Lord is truly blessing our efforts and we are currently teaching 3 progressing families—two are member referrals, and one that we tracted into.

“Elder Nebeker and I recently taught a ‘Missionary Workshop’ to some of the youth of our branch, illustrating practical ways we can strengthen testimony and harness faith by opening up opportunities to share the gospel in a comfortable, non-threatening manner, instead of idly waiting and hoping for opportunities to present themselves.

“I love serving here! It is truly a joy. Gracias ¡Qué Dios lo bendiga!”

MAKE YOUR PERSONAL STUDY EFFECTIVE

Preach My Gospel outlines an approved missionary library for personal study. It includes the standard works (which can be enhanced by a Church published study guide), *Jesus the Christ*, *Our Heritage*, *Our Search for Happiness*, and *True to the Faith*. We feel that a proper mastery of the gospel requires that you limit your studies to these, with a particular emphasis on the standard works. Please let us know and approve of any exceptions. Our goal is to have each missionary become a well-versed gospel scholar by the end of his or her mission.

Lofty but Doable Goals Set For Merritt, by Elders James Brown (and Tyler Mather)

“Here are some of the goals that we have set for Merritt this coming transfer:

- 2-3 full lessons/day (15-21/week), half to non-members
- 25 + contacts/day (+150-175/week)
- Weekly exchanges with the members—Young Men and Elders Quorum
- 3 Baptisms and 3 Confirmations—(Side note: Merritt had 1 baptism last year. We had one baptism this week, so we're halfway there! But don't worry we won't stop at just 2.)
- Focus on getting members excited about missionary work
We feel that these goals will keep us fully busy with no down time.”
Editor's Note: Elders Brown and Mather have prayerfully set goals for Merritt that are appropriate for the Branch and area. While goals in other areas will likely be far different, we ask each companionship to prayerfully set lofty but doable goals for their respective areas, then work consistently to achieve them.



CHINESE NEW YEAR AT RICHMOND WARD, DANCERS

Bishop Don Gurr Meets Weekly with Missionaries; 500,000 Skip Ropes, by Elders Carlton Taylor (and Peter Stevenson)

“We are really excited right now for all of the possibilities in this area. In the last week we have taught a few great people, which I believe have quite a bit of promise. The cool thing is that they are both families of four. Our new Bishop, Bishop Don Gurr, of the Abbotsford 1st Ward, expects a progress report from us weekly. It has proven to be a great tool that we have used to coordinate the work here.”

“Also, on more of a personal note, this last week I reached my mission goal of skipping rope 500,000 times. I liked this goal because it gave me extra motivation to exercise in the morning. I don't know what my next goal will be but I will let you know—maybe it will be to do 20,000 crunches or something similar.”

Thanks for all you do! We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“I say unto you, be one; and if ye are not one ye are not mine.”
D&C 38:37*

FEBRUARY 19, 2008

WELCOME BRIAN LEAVITT TO THE MISSION PRESIDENCY

With thanks for an extraordinary job well done, we have released President Peter Jillings from the mission presidency. Having completed 8 excellent years as a Counselor, having served with President Robert Haight, President Steven Stewart, and then with us, we release President Jillings with a note of thanks for a wonderful job well done!

Called to serve as our First Counselor is Donald W. Anderson, who had previously been our Second Counselor. Called as the Second Counselor is Brian Leavitt of Langley, who had served as the Abbotsford Stake President prior to President Paul Christensen. President Anderson is an ENT specialist M.D., a member of the UBC Medical College faculty, who specializes in cancer surgery of the ear, nose and throat. President Leavitt is the CFO of Leavitt Machinery, a multi-national company created and run by President Leavitt and his brother, Thomas Leavitt. In Presidents Anderson and Leavitt we have been blessed with extraordinarily talented and spiritual individuals who know and deeply love the gospel. We are most grateful for their enthusiasm and willingness to serve.

Surrey Stake (Missionary) Goals for 2008, shared by Brother Lloyd Cook of the High Council:

1. Reactivate at least one member per auxiliary or Priesthood quorum per Ward over the coming year.
2. Increase the number of members who hold current temple recommends.
3. Use every activity that we have in our Ward as a missionary opportunity. Not only does it mean our Sunday meetings, but also our YM/YW activities during the week and dances on weekends, Primary activity days, Relief Society, Priesthood and Ward socials, just to name a few.

“President Soll has also set up a reporting system in the priesthood quorums that happens each week in the opening exercises. Also, in order to create more unity amongst the quorums, we have been asked to sit in the first three rows of the chapel. All quorum leaders sit with the Bishopric on the stand and give the following report:

- Priesthood Office
- Members in Quorum
- Number Attending that week
- Members assigned to Home Teach
- Your last activity had how many less actives in attendance?
- Your last activity had how many non-members in attendance?
- How many families are assigned to your quorum to visit through Home Teaching?
- Report on number of families visited during the last month.”

Editor's Note: congratulations to President Bennie Soll, the Surrey Stake president, and his other stake leaders, who have been inspired to boldly establish this "organization for success." It focuses beautifully on the *PMG* principle of having members invite to "come and see."

Campbell River Ward Members are Inviting Repeatedly and Regularly, by Elders Adam Hassell (and Hyrum Curiel)

"Things are going great up here in Campbell River. We are enjoying working with the members here very much. Today in Church one of the young women was so excited to put 6 gold stars on the Star Chart we have (each star represents one non-member who was invited)."

Exchanges Helpful; Many "Stars" for Members Inviting; Primary Children in Duncan Taught How to Invite, by Sisters Marie Bates (and Linda Pelchat)

"Sister Pelchat and I are getting a chance to meet with the members here in Duncan and become acquainted.

On transfer day I had the chance to do some really serious tracting on an exchange with Sister Tarina Anderson. It had snowed in Nanaimo, the really wet stuff. It came over the top of our shoes, but it didn't stop us. What an energetic young girl. She is amazing. 'Oh to be young again.'

"Our ward is really getting on board. The Vancouver Temple background is really getting lit up with each star being placed by a member who invited someone. Sister Pelchat and I have been asked to do Sharing Time in Primary, and we will be using the first few minutes to encourage the children to do missionary work. Then we

will get back to them the following month to see how they have done. We will be doing this the first Sunday of each month. I think that it will be a very promising program because little children are very effective tools in helping to find new investigators."

Fellowshippers and Activities are Key to Spanish work in Abbotsford, by Elders Bradley DeHerrera (and Laric Tolleson)

"This week we are really striving to introduce our spread out Spanish members to various investigators, depending on who fits them best. In regards to our family with the baptismal date, we want to push all the members to meet them and build a relationship with them. Their biggest problem of not going to church often is because they don't know anyone, or everyone is English speaking. So to help them overcome their fears, we aim toward building relationships with the Spanish speaking Saints within the Stake. It's usually quite easy to get members started with them, because once they talk to them (face-to-face or via telephone), they'll take it from there, swap phone numbers with them, and set dinners up.

"Another thing we're planning to do is holding a Latin family party night at the Church. We found a lot of success in bringing our investigators to Church during the Christmas parties held in each ward. We went to all three Abbotsford/Mission ward parties and had more than 20 investigators go. That was a first to have that many investigators in the Chapel. Parties work, and therefore we plan on having another soon. We told this to one of the Spanish members and he instantly started helping us.

"A vital tool in Missionary work that I've found is simply doing

things with investigators that they like doing. We find a righteous interest of our investigators and then do it with them. Spanish people love their parties, so we're going to party!"

We are so privileged to watch both members and full-time missionaries come together in their missionary efforts to grow the Church. BC is ablaze with missionary zeal and enthusiasm! The Lord is blessing our efforts. Thank you!

DOCTRINE AND COVENANTS DASH READING STARTS FEB 25TH

By now most of our missionaries have completed or nearly completed their companionship reading of the *New Testament*. We are asking that each companionship complete that read by Feb. 23, then start reading together the "*Doctrine and Covenants Dash*" on Monday, Feb. 25, 2008. Read it together for spiritual knowledge and for fun.

President and Sister Middleton

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Rajan Copeland, Layton Utah; Joshua Dietz, Murray UT; Samuel Taylor, Chubbuck ID; Kevin Anderson, Herriman UT.
- Sisters Kathleen Weber, Highland UT

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

- Sister Linda Pelchat: In Times of Turmoil my motto became Proverbs 3:5-6. It applies not only to missionary work but to life. I will really miss the truly great people that I have met on my mission.
- Elder Brian Fisher: "I say unto you that the thing which will be of the most worth unto you will be to declare repentance unto this



RICHMOND MISSIONARIES AT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

people, that you may bring souls to me, that you may rest with them in the kingdom of my Father.” (D & C 15:6). It is a privilege to serve the Lord! Make the best of the time we’ve been given, because it goes by quick! Thanks for the memories!

- Sister Heidi Wu: Smile! The most successful missionary is the happiest missionary. This is the glad-tidings message. Let all BC know that we have the BEST message to share with them. I know the gospel is true. I know that Heavenly Father loves us and it has been such a great honor to serve my Lord. Charity never faileth—keep loving the people!
- Elder Brandon Loong: Dear President: Quick question...I came across these words while studying the handbook. “Support your companion...do not criticize him or HER...” (p.30) Well...I’ve had plenty of “him” companions so far. From now on, and (with permission), I’d like to stick with the other combination. After all, it took 12 ‘hims’ to get me through 2 years, but I suspect it will only require 1 ‘her’ to take me through eternity (cute, I know). Keep it ‘rill’ elders and sisters. Love you—adieu and Amen.
- Elder S. Janssen Weeks: “A religion that does not require the sacrifice of all things, never has power sufficient to produce the faith necessary unto life and salvation.” Joseph Smith Jr., The Prophet. I love this, the work of the Lord. I love you my dear friends. Remember, what we do in life echoes in eternity. Continue on...Keep the FAITH! I leave my blessing with you. Mosiah 2:41—Alma 36:3
- Elder Choi: “Say nothing but repentance unto this generation; keep my commandments, and assist to bring forth my work, according to my commandments, and you shall be blessed.” (D & C 6:9) This mission is not easy, but something that I know

for sure is that this is our duty as a part of the Plan of Salvation. The temple is progressing, this mission is growing also. “No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing.” Work hard—Be diligent, and give all you have to build this kingdom. I promise you that you will be blessed. I love this mission! Canada Vancouver Mission is the BEST!

New Converts

- Kelowna: Jacob Kuyvenhoven, Sydney McCarty
- Prince George: Marianne Walker
- Surrey: Elle Van Nen, Patricia White, Riley Giles, Laura Fortin, Saman Ebrahimi
- Surrey Language: Haimei Wang
- Vancouver: Gary Johnson, Mori Ayumi
- Vernon: Samantha Davis, Teresa Penning, Amalia Penning, Tracy Mason, Heather Peterson
- Victoria: Mathew Going, Miykael Thur, Alison Gosling

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR MARCH

- Mission Tour by Elder Dennis Neuenschwander. Lower Mainland,
- March 10, at Burnaby; Vernon/Kelowna
- March 11, in Kelowna; Prince George
- March 12; Victoria/Nanaimo
- March 13th in Victoria.

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord.” 2 Timothy 1: 7,8

F E B R U A R Y 2 6 , 2 0 0 8

**ELDER L. TOM PERRY RECOMMENDS
A WARD AND BRANCH AREA BOOK**

We received at the quarterly Coordinating Council meeting in Burnaby on Feb. 17, 2008, a Power Point training on missionary methods by Elder L. Tom Perry. The assembled stake presidents, Seattle Temple president and our mission presidency under the direction of Elder Melvin Perkins were taught ideas on how best to implement *Preach My Gospel*. Many of the points mentioned have

already been incorporated into ward and branch missionary efforts by BC member leaders. One point brought out has been developed independently by some BC leaders, but has not been shared yet through the Star or other communications:

**A WARD OR BRANCH AREA BOOK
PRODUCED AND UPDATED BY EACH WARD/
BRANCH IS HELPFUL.**

Elder Perry recommended that an Area Book be produced and updated regularly by each ward and branch. The Area Book is to be very similar to the full-time missionary Area Books, listing every member and member family, with a system to identify which families are all members and active, less active, part-member family, etc. It also should have a ward/branch map with dots placed to show the location of member houses. In the weekly ward or branch Missionary Coordination (some call it ‘Correlation’) meeting the Area Books can be used to make assignments, ask for follow-up from ward missionaries on their prior assignments, etc. We are aware of 2 wards in BC which already do this, the Kelowna 2nd Ward and the Nanaimo Ward. The Surrey 3rd Ward also has a similar organizational make up. The Kelowna 2nd Ward has called 7 stand alone ward missionaries, all of whom are Priests and all hope to serve full-time missions one day. Under the direction of the ward mission leader, Brad Ranger, and the bishop, David S. Burgess, the ward Area Book has a map which divides the ward into 7 roughly equal geographic areas. Each of the 7 stand-alone ward missionaries is assigned to one of the seven areas, and all of his missionary oversight lies within his assigned area.



RICHMOND CHINESE NEW YEAR VIOLINISTS

Brother Ranger calls his seven missionaries the “magnificent seven.” They do exchanges with the full-time missionaries and with each other, and the full-time missionaries have 3 or 4 nights of every week spent in exchanges with the ward missionaries and with the bishopric and priesthood quorums. Careful records are kept in the ward Area Book to coordinate the missionary efforts, and the excitement and enthusiasm generated is outstanding! We would urge each ward and branch to strongly consider this Area Book concept—it works!

Ecumenical Outreach in Powell River Brings Mutual Understanding, by Elder Nicholas and Sister Janet Welch

“It has been exciting for us to be involved in some activities with people of other religions. We participated in worship service for World Religion Day on January 20, 2008, in the Sikh Temple. It was organized by a friend from our apartment building who belongs to the Baha’i community. Janet Hull from the Powell River Branch asked Sister Welch to participate with her on a planning committee for the World Day of Prayer worship service that will be held on March 7. There are seven churches represented on that committee. A Catholic friend invited us to attend a Pro-Life meeting held in the new Roman Catholic Church of the Assumption Conference Center. The president of the local organization is from the Foursquare Gospel Church. The members of the Powell River LDS Branch can take credit for the acceptance they have by members of other churches because of their righteous examples and community involvement.”

Two New Investigators Found Through Contacting, by Sisters Tarina Anderson (and Brigitte D’Amours)

“The work here in Courtenay is going amazingly well! We have so much to do that we could seriously use another set of missionaries, and neither of us would ever be bored. When we’re not teaching we’re tracting trying to get in 100+ contacts a week. From our tracting we’ve seen some very positive experiences. We have found two new investigators who are very interested in learning. One of them, Bruce, upon knocking on his door came outside the house, shut the door behind him and asked who we were. After introducing ourselves he said, ‘you know I’ve been watching you two go from house to house the past half hour and I was hoping and praying you’d come to my door.’ We extended an invitation to come on a Tour. He came, the spirit was way strong, and we have a return appointment to teach him.”

An Invitation for a Spiritual Church Tour Works Best in Salmon Arm, by Elders Jason Wells (and Aaron Terry)

“Here in Salmon Arm we don’t really have a place to go GQing so most of our finding is done by tracting. At first it consisted of most doors being shut. Thinking that there had to be a less threatening approach, we were inspired to try inviting people to come on a Church Tour. We named the approach ‘Tour Tracting.’ As people we meet at their door answer, we invite them to come on a Tour of the Church. We don’t try to give them a lesson right then when we first meet them. We just say something like, we are missionaries for the church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, and we are here to personally

invite you to come on a Tour of our Church to see exactly what we believe and how we worship on Sunday. When would be a good time for you to come and see just exactly what we believe! People don't say no right away. They are more approachable. I think that this is not as threatening to the people. I really like the Church Tour idea. If people have heard that we have 'Secret Rooms' or whatever misconception they might have, we can set the record straight for them. Importantly, they will learn of Christ's restored doctrine while being touched by the spirit in our beautiful ward building."

An Excellent Technique for Memorizing Core Scriptures, by Elders Scott Michaelis (and Callin Morrill)

"We have been working on memorizing our core scriptures and to find the best way to keep them fresh. Elder Morrill came up with the idea of a 'scripture wall.' We divided the scriptures into 3 groups: easy, medium, and hard. We then taped a flash card with the reference up on the wall for each scripture in these different groups. By organizing them in rows and columns we have been able to then roll 2 dice, 1 for the row, and 1 for the column to determine what scripture we will recite and work on knowing better. It has been a really good way to keep the scriptures on our minds so we can use them as we teach."

We pray that each ward and branch might organize for success, as the Lord would have us do. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

"And I give unto you...a commandment that you assemble yourselves together, and organize yourselves" -- D&C 88:74

The Coveted "Off the Hook" Award:

(Week-ending Feb 24, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford and Vernon (6 Baptisms each)

Baptisms this Week:

- Victoria, Vernon and Vancouver (1 Baptisms each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Abbotsford (6 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

Abbotsford (20 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (20 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver (261)

Contacts

- Victoria (22 contacts per day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver Zone (23 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Vancouver (22)

New Investigators:

- Vancouver (8 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Kelowna (20.3 Average per companionship)

Full Lessons to Non-Members

- Vancouver (9.2 Average per companionship)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Ramsey and Brunt: 87 other, 2 progressing, 340 Contacts, 21, full, 17 to non-members
- Elders Martinez and Shaw: 7 at Sacramento, 21 other, 8 progressing, 101 contacts
- Elders Stevenson and Wells: 4 member present, 107 contacts, 19 full
- Elders Godfrey and Hea: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 54 other, 2 progressing, 3 new, 205 contacts, 22 full
- Elders J. Johnson and McAllister: 2 member present, 37 other, 123 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Mun, Kim and Huh: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 46 other, 20 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Marianno and Hassell: 4 member present, 1 new, 19 full
- Elders Hunsaker and Terry: 1 baptismal date, 2 member present, 21 other, 126 contacts, 17 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Johnson and Barker: 7 at Sacramento, 8 member present, 21 other, 9 progressing, 109 contacts, 20 full, 15 to non-members
- Elders Earnest and Knapp: 1 baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 55 other, 1 progressing, 205 contacts, 15 full

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Shibayama and Fullmer: 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 20 other, 252 contacts
- Elders Carlisle and McDowell: 3 at Sacramento, 225 contacts
- Elders Ruesch and Fillmore: 4 member present, 24 other, 1 progressing, 102 contacts, 28 full
- Elders Brown and Mather: 1 baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 49 other, 100 contacts
- Elders Binks and Seebeck: 31 other, 2 progressing, 75 contacts
- Elders Ramirez and Copeland: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing
- Elders Nebeker and White: 6 at Sacramento, 23 other, 6 progressing, 138 contacts
- Sisters Falk and Weber: 2 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 48 other, 15 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Morrill and Jenkins: 3 at Sacramento, 3 progressing
- Sisters D'Amours and Anderson: 2 at Sacramento, 3 progressing, 91 contacts
- Elders Hatton and Evans: 3 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 4 progressing
- Elders Barton and Howard: 6 at Sacramento meeting
- Elders Klekas and K. Taylor: 2 baptismal date, 6 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 9 progressing, 242 contacts, 17 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders Saito and Leavitt: 77 other, 2 progressing, 259 contacts, 15 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Smith: 2 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 6 progressing

ELDER NEUENSCHWANDER MISSION TOUR

MARCH 2008

MARCH 4, 2008

ELDER DENNIS B. NEUENSCHWANDER TO TOUR THE MISSION

We are excited to welcome Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander, a member of the First Quorum of the Seventy, to British Columbia. He will tour our mission from March 9—14, 2008, with a Zone Conference at the Vancouver stake center on Monday, March 10; at the Kelowna Chapel on Tuesday, March 11; at the Prince George stake center on Wednesday, March 12; and at the Victoria stake center on Thursday, March 13. All missionaries should be in the chapel by 7:40 a.m., sitting next to their companion and with their zone.

Additionally, a fireside will be held in the Victoria stake center at 7 p.m. on Thursday, March 13, for all ward and branch members and investigators, featuring Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander. We are thrilled to welcome him to beautiful British Columbia!

Proselyting Through Ping Pong, by Elders Spencer Mun, (with Elders Choi and Huh)

“The Coquitlam Ward Mission Leader, Brother David Zuskind, is amazing! We had a talk about how to get everyone involved in missionary work without forcing people to do it. As we mentioned

SCENE ON ROAD TO MERRITT FROM KELOWNA



the Korean sports night, and how the Koreans love ping pong, brother Zuskind suggested with great enthusiasm that we organize a huge ping pong tournament, with a missionary theme of course. It will have both a men's and women's bracket and will be organized by age and skill level. All participants will receive a free 5x7 'Action Photo.' Brother Zuskind also is thinking that if this goes well, then maybe we can do one at a stake level."

Merritt Branch Members Are Finding Investigators; Tracting works, by Elders James Brown (and Tyler Mather)

"It has been another epic week here in Merritt. Elder Mather and I found 3 more new investigators this week to add to our already growing and ever increasing teaching pool! It's been great! Two are from the results of tracting around town in the past week. They seem genuine in their interest and excited about the Book of Mormon. The other investigator we have picked up this week, Connie, is a referral from a member here in Merritt. We are eager to get the member involved with the teaching process. Her testimony of the gospel will greatly magnify the Spirit during our lessons and help Connie in the conversion process.

"This week I was asked to speak in Sacrament Meeting. I spoke on my mission so far and how it has changed me. Near the end of my talk I was able to gently plead with the members and tell them that the full-time missionaries cannot do the work alone effectively without help from the members. There seemed to be a positive response. After my talk, President Robert Jensen also urged the congregation to assist in the work by helping us in whatever way they can."

Exchanges with Young Men and Adults is a Great Tool, by Elders Youngho Hea (and Kelby Godfrey)

"The work in Nanaimo is going really well! Last Sunday, Bishop Russell, in Nanaimo Ward, set apart all the ward missionaries, and we had an orientation on the youth exchange program with the youth and the Ward Mission Leader, Leigh Sheppard. We explained how an exchange program between missionaries and members works, and discussed the great amount of potential that this program has. After the orientation, all the young men were very excited, and one of them asked us if we can find him a youth-version of the White Handbook of missionary rules based upon the original one that full-time missionaries read.

"The beauty of this program is that it increases the effectiveness of the work through regular exchanges. We have already set up four exchanges for this weekend, and we are also going on exchanges with other adult members of the ward. For example, we went on exchanges twice today with members in both Nanaimo and Mt Benson Wards. Through this we are now able to fill each day with appointments and personal finding effectively. There is no downtime for us now, and both my companion and I are getting more and more excited to work in this area!"

Hard Work Leads to Baptisms, by Elder Jungjune Huh (and Elders Spencer Mun and Woong Hyun Choi)

"This week we had a baptism! It was on Sunday night and was the climax of this transfer. The Spirit was so strong and I think it was the biggest baptism attendance I've ever seen. Eric, our investigator, was very happy and so were we.

“We had a good week! I talked to a record 50 people in one day and it just felt so good to bear my testimony of this great Gospel of Jesus Christ.”

With eager anticipation we look forward to the mission tour of Elder Neuenschwander next week. It will be a week of inspiration and uplift. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord.” 2 Timothy 1:7,8

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending March 2, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford (7 Baptisms)
- Honorable Mention: Vernon (6 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Abbotsford (1 Baptism)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Abbotsford (6 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Surrey Language (25 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (17), Van. Lang. (16), Victoria (17)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone and Prince George (19 Lessons with a Member Present)
- Honorable Mention: Nanaimo (16 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver (268)

Contacts

- Vancouver (31.7 contacts per day)
- Honorable Mention: Kelowna (22.1 Contacts/day) and Victoria (21.8 contacts/day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Surrey Language Zone (23 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Surrey (11 New Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey Language (10 new Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Kelowna (17 Average per companionship)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Peck and Cheng: 1 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 112 other, 483 contacts, 24 full, 23 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Smith: 3 with baptismal date, 12 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 22 other, 8 progressing, 1 new, 129 contacts, 18 full, 17 to non members
- Elders Godfrey and Hea: 5 member present, 41 other, 4 new, 143 contacts, 21 full
- Elders Magnusson and Taylor: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 30 other, 1 progressing, 1 new, 292 contacts
- Elders Mun, Kim and Huh: 9 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 51 other, 9 progressing, 4 new, 158 contacts, 19 full
- Elders Binks and Seebeck: 50 other, 2 progressing, 3 new, 90 contacts

- Elders Hunsaker and Terry: 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 112 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Earnest and Knapp: 1 with baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 98 other, 353 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Shibayama and Fullmer: 1 with baptismal date, 8 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 24 other, 3 progressing, 247 contacts



SPECTACULAR VIEW NEAR HOPE, COQUAHALLA HIGHWAY

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Johnson and Barker: 7 at Sacramento, 8 member present, 10 progressing, 153 contacts, 19 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders Carlisle and McDowell: 191 contacts
- Elders Heaton and Anderson: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 4 progressing, 137 contacts, 15 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Mousseau and Douglas: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 3 progressing
- Elders Brown and Mather: 1 with baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 33 other, 2 progressing
- Sisters Caribou and Dye: 1 with baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 2 progressing, 104 contacts, 21 full
- Sisters Dalling and Lee: 3 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 3 progressing, 16 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Marianno and Hassell: 4 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 4 progressing
- Elders Curtis and Wilson: 20 other, 21 Full
- Elders Heinzen and Roberts: 9 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 31 other, 5 progressing, 171 contacts
- Elders Cornwell and Green, 2 at Sacramento, 16 other, 4 progressing, 300 contacts
- Elders Nebeker and White: 5 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 22 other, 5 progressing, 5 new, 172 contacts
- Sisters D'Amours and Anderson: 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 39 other, 109 contacts, 16 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders Klekas and K. Taylor: 3 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacramento, 55 other, 5 progressing, 385 contacts, 16 full, 13 to non-members
- Sisters Overlock and van den Bosch: 4 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 3 new,
- Elders Martinez and Shaw: 1 at Sacramento, 36 other, 6 progressing, 111 contacts
- Elders Saito and Leavitt: 51 other, 3 new, 250 contacts, 15 full, 12 to non-members

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

MARCH 11, 2008

MEMBERS: KEEP INVITING TO FIND THE ELECT YOU ALREADY KNOW

In a Revelation given by the Lord to the church members in September 1830 we learn of the following commandment, which applies to each of us now as it did to those early members of the church: *“And ye are called to bring to pass the gathering of mine elect; for mine elect hear my voice and harden not their heart.”* (Doctrine & Covenants 29:7) Elder Gene Cook of the First Quorum of Seventy has noted that every Church member knows someone who is that “elect” of the Lord, someone prepared by life’s circumstances and by the Lord to say yes when that member invites them to “come and see.” (John 1:39) The problem every member faces, however, is that they don’t know which of their several non-member acquaintances that elect is. In our experience it is impossible to pre-judge which of your acquaintances is that elect who will say yes, and often it turns out to be the acquaintances you as a member had pre-judged to not likely have an interest. So how does a member assure that they are fulfilling the commandment given through all of our prophets, *“every member a missionary?”*

PLAN TO METHODICALLY INVITE EVERY NON-MEMBER ACQUAINTANCE

The only way to fulfill our missionary obligation is to plan to invite every non-member acquaintance to some Church-related event. For years members have been praying to meet someone who is the “elect,” yet have not done any inviting to make it happen. It seems like many members, through asking that prayer, expect the Lord to suddenly turn a searchlight on the person they should invite. We need to lovingly but very clearly teach members that the “elect of the Lord,” whom they already know, will likely only be found after we invite 8 or 10 or more non-member acquaintances first who decline our invitation. Members cannot become discouraged. They must come to know that missionary work now and forever consists of asking several to find the one. The prayer each member should utter, often, is to give them the boldness to invite and the organizational skill to invite regularly and often (one invitation each week takes no more than 5 minutes). They need to accept that most people they invite will decline to come just then and they need to be assured that they will never lose a friend even if the friend declines to come. Furthermore, they need to realize that to become the member missionary the Lord would have them be they will need to make it a gospel habit to invite their non-member acquaintances regularly (an invitation weekly is the simplest commitment a member can make).

HOW MANY MUST BE ASKED TO FIND THE ONE?

Brother J. P. Tremblay, the excellent Surrey First Ward Mission Leader, has recently shared with us and his ward missionaries his personal experience inviting. He notes that in recent months he and his wife have extended 22 invitations. Of those, 10 were accepted, 5



COQUIHALLA MOUNTAINS SEEM TO RISE STRAIGHT UP

of the 10 failed to come to the event to which they were invited, 3 did come, and for 2 more the events had not yet occurred. So of 22 invited, 3 had come to a Church-related event, or 1 in 7.

Sister Rosemarie Schiemann, the Burnaby Relief Society President, has a “Tree of Life” hanging on the Relief Society wall to track invitations her sisters have given to their non-member friends. Sewn beautifully, she honors every sister’s missionary event by ironing on another leaf onto the branches of the tree; for each invitation which results in a conversion/baptism, she sews on a small gold bell, which represents a fruit on the tree. In the past year 67 leaves have been placed on the Burnaby tree, each representing either an invitation to a Church-related event or some other missionary related activity such as giving out a *Book of Mormon*. The tree has 5 golden fruits appended for the 5 baptisms which resulted. So their experience was 5 baptisms from 67 missionary events, or roughly 1 baptism for every 13 invitations.

MEMBER INVITATIONS ARE PHENOMENALLY MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN TRACTING

We see then that a personal invitation from a member to a non-member acquaintance in BC results in anywhere from 1 in 7 to 1 in 13 subsequently joining the church. By comparison, we estimate that Personal Finding by our full-time missionaries (tracting, GQ’ing) results in 1 baptism for every 1000 or more contacts. While we full-time missionaries must constantly strive to achieve 50 or more contacts each day to follow the Savior’s commandment to “*preach*

the gospel to every creature” (Mark 16:15), and realizing that we do obtain baptisms from our Personal Finding, clearly the rapid Church growth in BC which we seek and need will occur when every active member begins inviting regularly. We urge that our missionaries help organize each ward and branch so that a class or quorum member (preferably a presidency member) takes 3 minutes at the start of each quorum or class to honor those who have invited during the week by at the least having them raise their hand (both for the essential positive feedback for the members who have invited during the week and the creation of subtle peer pressure to motivate those who have not invited to do so).

**Richmond Ward Chinese New Year Attracts Many,
by Elders James Cornwell, Seth Green, Austin Bowles,
and Paul Heinzen**

On February 22, 2008, the Richmond Ward was the site of a great Chinese New Year celebration. A marvelous program of music and dance featured our own Mandarin missionaries performing inside the traditional white and black lion costumes, and several non-members joined with our members in song, dance and musical instrument numbers. At least 30 Chinese non-members were present, and so many people came that it was standing room only in our cultural hall. After the program, areas were set up to sample Chinese dishes, create posters with Chinese characters, and other fun activities. The evening was under the direction of Sisters Cathy Ou and Betty Wang, and it was a huge success.

Editor’s Note: The Brethren in Salt Lake have urged that each ward and branch have at least one activity each month, to which

non-members can invite their non-member acquaintances, such as the Richmond Chinese New Year. The activity doesn’t need to be elaborate or expensive, but it should be well done so that an investigator who comes is positively impressed.

We love you all.

President and Sister Middleton

“And speak freely to all.”
D&C 19:37

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending March 9, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford (7 Baptisms)
- Honorable Mention: Vernon (6 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Surrey and Vernon (1 Baptism each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language (6 with Baptismal Dates)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (5 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Abbotsford and Vancouver Language (19 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)
- Honorable Mention: Victoria (16)

Lessons with a Member Present:

- Abbotsford Zone (27 Lessons with a Member Present)
- Honorable Mention: Vernon (20 Lessons with a Member Present)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver (20)

Contacts

- Vancouver (29 contacts per day)
- Honorable Mention: Victoria (24 contacts/day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver Language Zone (22 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators:

- Vancouver Language and Nanaimo: (8 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Kelowna (17.5 Average per companionship)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 4 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 54 other, 8 progressing, 402 contacts, 19 full
- Elders Bowles and Smith: 6 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 23 other, 8 progressing, 73 contacts, 20 full, 17 to non-members
- Elders Shibayama and Fullmer: 1 baptismal date, 4 at Sacrament, 6 member present, 27 other, 1 progressing, 356 contacts, 16 full, 10 to non-members
- Sisters Falk and Weber: 1 Baptismal date, 1 at Sacrament, 56 other, 3 progressing, 112 contacts, 15 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Mun and Jung: 6 at Sacrament, 44 other, 3 member present, 6 progressing, 167 contacts, 14 full, 7 to non-members
- Elders Banks and Walton: 1 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 31 other, 185 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Earnest and Knapp: 1 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 77 other, 273 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Godfrey and Hea: 5 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 35 progressing, 124 contacts, 24 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Binks and Seebeck: 1 at Sacrament, 1 member present, 27 other, 3 progressing, 99 contacts
- Elders Stevenson and Wells: 2 at Sacrament, 5 member present, 22 other, 109 contacts, 14 full



Honorable Mention:

- Elders Saito and Leavitt: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 50 other, 3 progressing, 318 contacts, 11 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Kim and Huh: 4 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 35 other, 4 progressing, 61 contacts
- Elders Spongberg and Taylor: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 27 other, 1 progressing, 162 contacts
- Sisters Nibley and Burt: 1 at Sacramento, 58 other, 171 contacts
- Elders Heinzen and Roberts: 6 at Sacramento, 24 other, 6 progressing, 154 contacts, 17 full, 16 to non-members
- Elders Mousseau and Douglas: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 23 other, 4 progressing
- Elders Carlisle and McDowell: 191 contacts
- Elders Heaton and Anderson: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 4 progressing, 137 contacts, 15 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Mousseau and Douglas: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 3 progressing
- Sisters Dalling and Lee: 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 29 other, 4 progressing, 110 contacts, 16 full
- Sisters D'Amours and Anderson: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 50 other, 3 progressing, 124 contacts, 12 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Scoffield and Deitz: 6 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 20 other, 4 progressing,
- Elders Curtis and Wilson: 4 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 17 other, 2 progressing, 94 contacts, 13 full, 9 to non-members
Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

MARCH 18, 2008

WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR THE WISE COUNSEL OF ELDER NEUENSCHWANDER

From March 9—14, 2008, we were privileged to be participants in a mission tour by Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander, of the First Quorum of the Seventy. Elder Neuenschwander indicated several weeks earlier that he wanted to meet every one of our missionaries. To do so required 4 zone conferences in 4 days—the Lower Mainland 5 zones the first day, then the 2 zones in Kelowna the second, then Prince George the third, and finally the Vancouver Island zones in Victoria the final day. We estimate that we covered 2614 kilometers (1620 miles) during the tour, by plane, car and ferry. Tiring but exhilarating for all, it proved to be uplifting, faith building and inspirational.

THE MESSAGE OF EACH ZONE CONFERENCE DIFFERED TO MEET THE NEEDS OF MISSIONARIES AND MEMBERS

At each Zone Conference Elder Neuenschwander met each missionary and member leader, then after hearing remarks from our stake presidents and a Zone Leader from each zone he spoke inspired words to meet the needs of those present. The message varied from

site to site, but a common theme at all 4 Zone Conferences was that of carefully aligning the work of the members with that of the full-time missionaries. The *Preach My Gospel* model was frequently cited, noting that bishops and branch presidents had the full priesthood responsibility and obligation to direct all missionary work in his ward or branch. The power and necessity of using the priesthood keys to accomplish goals was stressed. Specific full time missionary goals for baptisms each transfer were emphasized and asked for, and the need for a seamless combined work effort of the members and full-time missionaries was pointed out. Elder Neuenschwander demonstrated beautifully how the goals of members and missionaries had to become identical for success.

DISPLAY BAPTISMAL GOALS IN APARTMENT

Lofty but achievable baptismal goals should be prayerfully set by each companionship, Elder Neuenschwander counseled, and the goals should be then prominently displayed on missionaries' refrigerators, bathroom mirrors and elsewhere. He urged that every companionship go through 3 steps at the start of each transfer:

1. Write down the baptismal goal, lofty but achievable
2. Place goal prominently somewhere in the apartment, to be seen frequently
3. Make a plan to achieve the goal

He pointed out there is a cost to achieving that baptismal goal—vigorous efforts in finding, through members, personal finding, contacting names in the Area Book, progressing investigators, and other means. The question then must be asked by every missionary, “Will I pay the cost?” Elder Neuenschwander pointedly observed that the success of each missionary’s mission lies completely in his or her hands.

CONSISTENCY NEEDED TO AVOID CYCLES

While Elder Neuenschwander covered many points which space doesn’t permit us to enumerate, one other important observation he made was that every missionary can avoid cycles of feast (several progressing investigators/baptisms) and famine by striving toward a consistently high level of work intensity. He urged district and zone leaders to repeatedly emphasize this point.

VICTORIA FIRESIDE ON THE FINAL NIGHT OF THE TOUR

A wonderful Fireside on the last night of the Tour was held in the Victoria Stake Center. With the chapel filled to overflowing, with several investigators, new members and less actives in attendance along with long-standing members and their leaders, Elder Neuenschwander delivered a wonderful address. Taking the parable in Matthew 20 of the workers in the vineyard, he masterfully taught that some join early, some later, but each individual who joins and is

active is promised to receive all that the Father hath—His justice and mercy will be served. A spiritual feast was had by all in attendance.

We are extremely grateful to Elder Neuenschwander for sharing his inspired wisdom with us. We pray the Lord's richest blessings upon him.

**Missionary Exchanges with Ward Young Men
Motivate the Whole Nanaimo Ward, by Elder
Youngho Hea (and Kelby Godfrey)**

“The new exchange program with the youth in our Nanaimo Ward has been quite successful. In total we have 5 ward missionaries in the Nanaimo Ward, and have gone on exchanges with four of them twice so far. They are totally enjoying it, and this program has been helping the work in this area immensely. For example, through going on exchanges, it became easier for us to gain trust from the members since active interaction with ward members in different positions in the ward naturally take place as we closely work with them.

“Today at church, our ward mission leader, Brother Leigh Sheppard, and we took the first 5 minutes of the Young Men's class and asked the ward missionaries to report on what they have done. They all seemed quite eager to share their success stories of fulfilling their new exciting responsibilities as ward missionaries. It was also very good because there were bishopric members and the Young Men's President present during the report. We have no doubt that this short 5 minute report by the ward missionaries motivated the members in the room to get on board and put more efforts into their missionary inviting work and we hope this report is given weekly.

We are proud of our ward missionaries and most importantly we are happy to see them actually enjoying exchanges with us!”

That we might each redouble our efforts after the wonderful Tour of Elder Neuenschwander is our prayer. We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

*“Ye know the things that ye
must do in my church; for the
works which ye have seen me
do that shall ye also do.” 3
Nephi 27:21*

MARCH 25, 2008

KENT AND JANNILYN NELSON NAMED AS NEW MISSION PRESIDENT

We are delighted to share with you the news that Kent and Jannilyn Nelson of Kaysville, Utah, have been called to be the Canada Vancouver Mission President starting July 1, 2008. While we haven't had the pleasure of meeting them yet, we have corresponded by E-Mail and phone and are thoroughly impressed that they will be excellent in their calling. The parents of 4 children, they come to BC with a wealth of Church leadership experience. President Nelson has served as a bishop twice, a stake Mission President, stake Young Men's President and on a High Council for several years. Sister Nelson has served as a Young Women's President, in a Primary Presidency, Relief Society teacher and Gospel Doctrine teacher. Following is a biographical introduction from the Church:

"Kent Nelson grew up on a dairy farm in Cache County, UT and was one of eight children where he was taught to work long hard days. Enjoyed high school athletics and was a three-year letterman in football, basketball and track. Worked for Marion Olsen, a large farmer in Cache County for six years before serving a mission to Canada. While attending Utah State University Kent went through ROTC and received his commission in 1971 as an infantry officer and thereafter served in United States Army Reserve as an infantry Officer, and artillery officer and personnel officer and left this service in 1977 as a Captain.



A VIEW FROM THE COQUAHALLA HIGHWAY

“Kent married Jannilyn Dickey in 1972 and after graduating with an MPA from BYU began his career in Nephi, Utah as the Six County Economic Development Director and Law Enforcement Planner. Moved to LaGrande, Oregon in 1978 and began his career in real estate finance and brokerage. Moved to Salt Lake City, UT in 1981 and continued his career in real estate brokerage with several different companies to his present work with Hendricks & Partners.

“One of the highlights of Kent’s life was coaching basketball at West High School (Freshman) with his son Tyler just before Tyler left for his mission to Tennessee. Kent also coached Little League baseball,

Pony League Baseball (ages 13 to 15) and competitive basketball ages 11 through 14 in the Salt Lake Valley.

“Of all his Church callings, his favorite is to teach the Gospel, especially the older teenagers and adults. He would drop anything or adjust any item on his schedule in order to teach someone or some class the Gospel. He loves his current calling of teaching the older youth of his ward where over 20 youth attend his class. Jannilyn, his wife, is constantly encouraging him to not get so excited and animated when he teaches. To be with, teach, and supervise full time missionaries for three years to help build their testimonies as they learn to live together as companionships and teach the Gospel to investigators will be without question the greatest event of his life.

“Jannilyn Dickey Nelson is one of a family of six. Her father’s career took her to Texas and California before settling in Brigham City. She attended BYU and Utah State University and received her teaching certificate from BYU. She met her husband, Kent Nelson through a blind date that was set up by Kent’s brother Thomas Nelson.

“Jannilyn became a diabetic when pregnant with her first child, Rebecca. Even though she has diabetes, she was able to have four children; these children, along with her husband and grandchildren are the highlight of her life.

“She gained a significant testimony of the Book of Mormon during college. After completely reading the Book of Mormon she took the challenge given by Moroni 10:4-5. She fasted and knelt in prayer to inquire of Heavenly Father as to the truthfulness of this sacred record. Her prayer was answered when the Holy Ghost bore witness to her soul for over three hours of the divinity of the Book of Mormon. Joseph Smith was an instrument in God’s hands to deliver this wonderful book to us.



A RAILROAD TRACK NEAR THE QUOCAHALLA HIGHWAY

“Her favorite pass time or rather her passion is to study and discuss the scriptures, especially the life and teachings of Jesus Christ. Her study desk is always covered with open reference books, scriptures with countless notations and bookmarks. She loves to teach the Gospel and has been a youth Sunday School Teacher and Young Women’s President. She has taught the Gospel Doctrine in two wards totaling over seven years. She is looking forward to sharing her testimony of the Savior and His Gospel with others.”

Please join with us in welcoming President and Sister Nelson to the greatest mission in the Church, the Canada Vancouver Mission!
We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

“O be wise; what can I say more?” Jacob 6:12

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending March 23, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Vernon (9 Baptisms)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (8 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Kelowna, Vancouver, Vernon, Abbotsford, Nanaimo and Prince George (1 Baptism each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language (9 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Abbotsford and Vancouver Language (26 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with member Present

- Victoria: (18 lessons)

Other Lessons

- Surrey: (210 Other Lessons)

Contacts

- Vancouver (32.1 contacts per day)
- Honorable Mention: Victoria (26.3 contacts/day)

Progressing Investigators:

- Surrey Language (21 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Vancouver Language (20)

New Investigators:

- Vancouver Language: (17 New Investigators each)

Full Lessons:

- Vancouver (16.8 Average per companionship)

Tours

- Vernon (8 Tours)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey and Victoria (6 Tours each)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Peck and Cheng: 63 Other lessons, 507 Contacts
- Elders Bowles and Smith: 4 with baptismal date, 11 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 27 other, 8 progressing, 10 new, 162 contacts, 18 full, 17 to non-members
- Elders Shibayama and Fullmer: 6 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 50 other, 2 new, 345 contacts, 17 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Pack and Curiel: 146 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Heaton and Anderson: 2 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 2 progressing, 115 contacts, 14 full
- Sisters Caribou and Dye: 3 member present, 56 other, 128 contacts, 18 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Curtis and Wilson: 4 member present, 2 progressing, 16 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Shumway and Lassetter: 5 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 160 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Nebeker and White: 5 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 273 contacts
- Elders Miles and Weinert: 1 baptismal date, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 120 contacts, 18 full

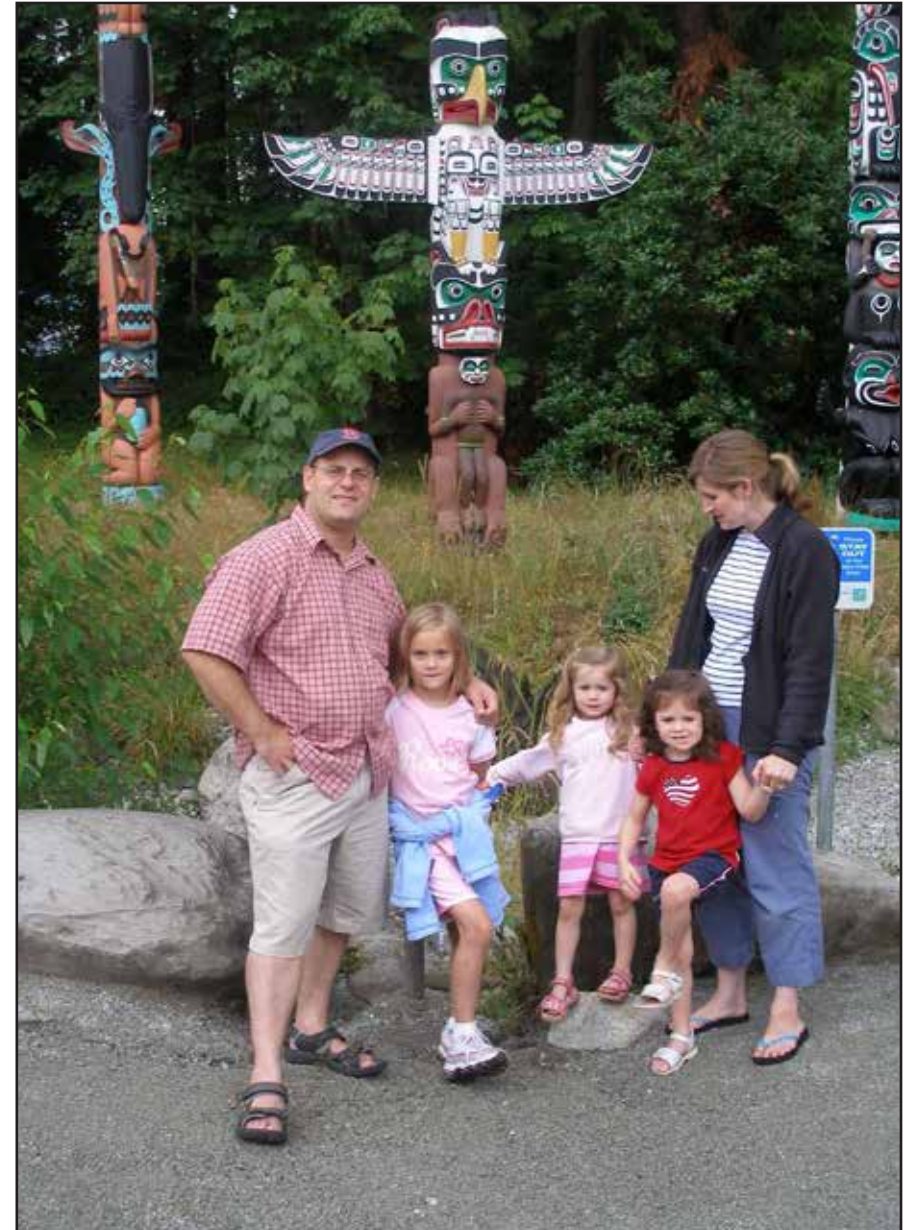
Honorable Mention:

- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 2 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 7 progressing, 3 new, 375 contacts
- Elders Marcum and Homer: 2 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 3 progressing, 19 full, 10 to non-members
- Sisters Overlock and van den Bosch: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing
- Elders Saito and Leavitt: 3 at Sacramento, 27 other, 181 contacts, 19 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Brunt and Ramsey: 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 3 progressing, 23 full
- Elders Martinez and Shaw: 2 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 110 contacts,
- Elders DeHerrera and Thompson: 3 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 3 progressing
- Elders Carlisle and McDowell: 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 2 progressing, 267 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Johnson and Barker: 4 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 2 progressing, 120 contacts, 15 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Godfrey and Hea: 3 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 69 other, 4 progressing, 123 contacts, 15 full
- Sisters D'Amours and Anderson: 5 at Sacramento, 6 progressing, 13 full,
- Elders Morrill and Jenkins: 1 baptism, 2 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 2 progressing
- Elders Mather and Brown: 4 at Sacramento, 2 progressing, 20 full
- Elders Elders Ruesch and Fillmore: 2 progressing, 101 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Earnest and Knapp: 5 member present, 223 contacts, 15 full, 13 to non-members

- Sisters Dalling and Lee: 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 3 progressing,
- Elders Harrison and Reynolds: 1 baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing
- Elders Hatton and Evans: 7 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 4 progressing
- Elders Johnson and McAllister: 1 At Sacramento, 5 member present, 135 contacts, 19 full, 11 to non-members
- Sisters Falk and Weber: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 4 progressing, 20 full, 15 to non-members
- Elders Mun and Jung: 8 at Sacramento, 50 other, 8 progressing, 6 new, 226 contacts
- Elders Heinzen and Roberts: 8 at Sacramento, 6 progressing, 145 contacts, 16 full, 15 to non-members
- Elders Marianno and Hassell: 6 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 3 progressing, 17 full

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

BETTINGER FAMILY IN FRONT OF TOTEM POLE IN VANCOUVER



MEMBERS ARE THE FINDERS

APRIL 2008

APRIL 2, 2008

A SPECTACULARLY SUCCESSFUL WARD DINNER

The Richmond Ward had a wonderful ward dinner on March 15, 2008, themed as a luau. The ward members stepped forward to invite their non-member acquaintances to attend, and over 50 did so! The account of that fabulously successful missionary effort appears below.

Richmond Ward had a Spectacular Luau to Which Over 50 Investigators Came, by Elders Logan Magnusson (and Carlton Taylor)

“This last weekend we were part of an amazing Ward Luau! The planning was started a few weeks in advance, and the luau was announced in church starting 3 weeks in advance. Invitations were given to the ward members to give out to their non-member acquaintances and we visited members’ homes to challenge them to come and bring their non-member friends. As an example, when

APPROACHING HORSESHOE BAY



we visited with Elder Martin and Sister Dorothy Gurney, who live in Point Roberts, we suggested that they invite the border guards at the Point Roberts border crossing because they knew them. That following Sunday at testimony meeting Sister Gurney shared how grateful she was to us for challenging her to become excited and invite, and her testimony in turn got the whole ward excited.

“The luau was especially made possible by the several Polynesian families that we have living in the ward, who stepped forward to help plan to make it authentic and lead in the entertainment. The



RICHMOND INTERNATIONAL DINNER, SWINGING AT THE PINATA

cooking was done by our excellent ward mission leader, Woody Williams and Johnny Ainu’u. We missionaries were assigned to work with a part member family, Barbara and Tim Tukutau, on the decorations, and with Tim’s Tongan background, they were well done. We ended up having around 250 people come, and as we didn’t have enough seats it became a standing room only event. There were at least 50 non-members, likely more in attendance. To give everyone an understanding of the Church they were were invited into the chapel while dessert was being prepared where Bishop Travis Wolsey spoke about the organization of the Church, Joseph Smith and the Restoration. We had many comments on what a wonderful evening it was, and members stated they had never seen anything like it before. President Frank Deyell was one of many to comment that they had never seen the parking lot so full that a member had to park down the street! It was a great success and we had Brother Williams’ non-member friends with her 2 kids come to Church the next day because of the wonderful experience they had at the luau.

“The missionaries did the Haka during the program, led by Elders Lisiate Feinga and Frank Brunt, and of course that was the highlight of the night! Brother Johnny Ainu’u explained Polynesian customs and practices as MC of the program, and it was exceptionally good.”

Editor’s Note: congratulations to the Richmond Ward! Their luau was likely as successful as the luau was in San Antonio which was featured in the MTC training DVD, and certainly we had a goodly number of investigators there. The Brethren have instructed that all wards and branches are encouraged to have an activity at least monthly to which members can invite their non-member acquaintances. The monthly activity can be a luau or any other activity the members can devise. It doesn’t need to be expensive or elaborate, but should be

well planned such that any member will feel comfortable bringing a non-member friend.

Hard Work by Missionaries and Members Brings Blessings, by Elders Jacob Earnest (and Hiram Knapp)

“We had a pretty good week this week, but I wanted more. We have a goal of 400 contacts a week for our area. We settled for 353, but that’s still good.

“I am trying to do the best I can –these last 6 months of my mission are going to be dynamite! I remember when Elder Rasband spoke to us here he said we should work so hard they have to carry us home in an ambulance. Well they might have to do that for me!

“The Kelowna 2nd Ward is doing well. I have talked with many members who are working with non-member friends who might be soon ready for us to teach—I know of 3 off the top of my head. We also have found some good potential investigators from contacting and tracting.”

Qualicum Develops a Poster with Stars Placed Each Time a Member Invites, by Elder Everett and Sister Florence Ovard

“In the Qualicum Branch Ary Sala is the new Mission Leader. He meets weekly with the Branch Missionary Committee and is stressing the importance of inviting. We

now have a poster with a new star placed upon it each time a member invites, and it is displayed in the foyer as a continual reminder and recognition for all Branch members who have invited. The dark blue poster has a picture of a family standing in front of a temple, and the words, ‘Let your light so shine...that they may see your good works...’ There has been a good response and we are adding new stars every week.



ELDERS MORRILL, HUNSAKER, AND JENKINS
DISPLAY THE "CLEAN CAR TROPHY"



“President Ronald Warren has been very supportive and is working with the Missionary Committee to have one or more monthly activities for Branch members to ‘invite’ friends to attend. With mostly retired and/or older members in the congregation this is challenging, but several functions are scheduled for the next 3 months.”

**Finding in the Richmond Library,
by Elders Austin Bowles (and Paul Heinzen)**

“One good idea we had this week is that we are going to experiment with holding our language study in the Richmond Library. It will give us an opportunity to ask questions with the native speakers there, and hopefully we’ll be able to find some new investigators this way. We’ve noticed the library is full of families of Chinese people.”

**Merritt Members are Present During Missionary
Lessons; New Chapel Sparks Interest,
by Elders James Brown (and Tyler Mather)**

“We were able to have members present at most of our lessons with investigators this week. We are also trying to get investigators on a Tour as early on in the teaching period as possible. Even despite the fact that Merritt doesn’t yet have a church, we can still talk about the programs of the Church and teach a First Lesson.

“The new chapel is well under construction and is starting to take on that familiar look and feel that LDS chapels always do. We inform the public when we are out tracting and GQing on the progress being made. I am quite sure that when it is opened, many non-members

BUTCHART IN SPRING

will be drawn by the Spirit and want to learn more about the Church.”

Our thanks go out to members and full-time missionaries alike. We love each of you.

President and Sister Middleton

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: Bartlomiej Szyrkowski, East Selkirk, Manitoba; Paul Park, Sandy, Utah; Dallas Gist, Lincoln, Nebraska; Gyubum Jung; Busan, S. Korea
- Sisters: Meng Jiao Wu, Kunming China; Judy Fairless, Holland Michigan; Marcy Beth Anderson, Heber City UT.

Reminder: Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander of the First Quorum of the Seventy, who gave us such a memorable and inspiring Mission Tour, is scheduled to speak in the Sunday afternoon session of General Conference.

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Elder James Cornwell:

“The only time you see obstacles is when you take your eye off your goal!” *(Bruce Lee)* Remember the reason why you came here, and never lose sight of that! 521 Guys!

BUTCHART GARDEN FOUNTAIN



Elder Ben Thompson:

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart” (Proverbs 3: 5-6) and don’t worry! This mission is dope so work hard, have fun and be yourself. You must be the change you wish to see in the world—*Gandhi*. Be easy.

Elder Noeru Shibayama:

I realize how powerful we (missionaries) are. We are given knowledge of the gospel, testimony, various talents and power and authority to preach. As we exercise those humbly, patiently and diligently to build the kingdom, Heavenly Father gives us success. Thank you for your kindness and example. I’ll miss you. I’d love to be a good member missionary from now on. The message we carry is true. How great are our callings!

Elder Russell George Nebeker:

“Here then is eternal life to know the only wise and true God; and you have got to learn to be Gods yourselves, and to be Kings and Priests to God, the same as all Gods have done before you namely from going from one small degree to another, and from a small capacity to a great one.” *Joseph Smith Jr.*

New Converts

- Abbotsford: Nallely and Maritza Torres Balcazar, Maria Aguilera Torres and David Torres; Sara Leib
- Nanaimo: Cassandra Brake

- Prince George: Russell Judd
- Surrey: Lee,HyungDo, Ranjit Singh
- Terrace Dist.: Shelby Doucet
- Vancouver: Mark Rancourt
- Vernon: Kiko Carrise; Alexandra MacLeod, Ashley Dillman, Patricia Thompson, John Thompson, Vernon Hills
- Victoria: Nathaniel Groves

FROM ELDER HAYDEN - CELL PHONES

During the recent Zone Leader Conference Call it was indicated that a number of you were having problems losing calls. Apparently the screen goes white and then the call is lost and the phone restarts. I am told by Rogers that a good general maintenance procedure is to turn your phone off every couple of days for five minutes. Why this should make any difference, I don’t know, but let’s try it first.

If you are still having problems after doing this, keep track of how many times it occurs in a day and let me know as soon as possible. Also, record where and when it happened. It is important to know if you were talking with one of the other missionaries that is in the group plan or an outside line. Hopefully we can solve the problem by keeping track of where and when it occurred and change out the phones if necessary.

Mission Scripture Reading Schedule:

Plan on completing your reading of the “Doctrine and Covenants Dash” by April 5th. Start the “Pearl of Great Price Ponder” on April

7th. We shall then start the “Book of Mormon Blitz” reading on Monday April 28th. Enjoy!

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR APRIL/MAY

- Vancouver/Vancouver Language: April 10 -
- Burnaby; Surrey/Surrey Lang/ Abbotsford: April 17th-
- Surrey Stake Center; Nanaimo/Victoria, April 24th—
- Nanaimo; Vernon/Kelowna April 30th—
- Vernon; Prince George—May 2nd.

“Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.” Matthew 25:21

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending March 30, 2008)
In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

Vernon (10 Baptisms)
Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (8 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Vancouver Language (2 Baptisms)
- Honorable Mention: Nanaimo, Prince George, Surrey, and Vernon (1 baptism each)



DUCKS AT LADNER BIRD REFUGE

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language (8 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Surrey Language (26 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)
- Honorable Mention: Vancouver Language (23 at Sacrament)

Lessons with member Present

- Abbotsford: (22 lessons)

Contacts

- Vancouver (26 contacts per day average)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver Language (22 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey Language (21)

New Investigators:

- Surrey: (8 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Surrey (16.8 Average per companionship)

Tours

- Surrey Language (5 Tours)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Whittenburg and Parson: 2 at Sacrament, 8 member present, 18 full, 10 to non-members
- Sisters D'Amours and Anderson: 4 at Sacrament, 5 member present, 63 other, 4 progressing, 2 referrals, 110 contacts, 16 full, 10 to non-members
- Sisters Nibley and Burt: 2 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 63 other, 155 contacts, 15 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Mun and Jung: 9 at Sacrament, 2 member present, 26 other, 9 progressing, 4 new, 225 contacts, 3 Tours
- Elders Binks and Seebeck: 1 at Sacrament, 35 other, 3 progressing, 105 contacts
- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 2 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacrament, 2 member present, 48 other, 8 progressing, 426 contacts, 15 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Thompson and Zmoos: 2 at Sacrament, 2 member present, 52 other, 2 progressing, 3 new, 212 contacts, 17 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Heaton and Anderson: 1 baptized, 2 at Sacrament, 5 member present, 2 progressing, 125 contacts, 16 full

- Elders Earnest and Knapp: 1 with baptismal date, 6 member present, 80 other, 2 progressing, 2 new, 281 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Shibayama and Fullmer: 3 at Sacramento, 59 other, 374 contacts

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Spongberg and Tylor: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 164 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Johnson and Barker: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 15 full, 8 to non-members
- Sisters Dalling and Lee: 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 100 contacts
- Elders Ruesch and Fillmore: 3 member present, 17 full
- Elders Hunsaker and Terry: 104 contacts, 18 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Saito and Leavitt: 225 contacts, 18 full, 10 to non-members,
- Elders Peck and Cheng: 204 contacts, 17 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Smith: 3 w/ baptismal date, 11 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 7 progressing, 19 full, 19 to non-members
- Elders Kim and Huh: 2 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 5 progressing, 4 new, 19 full, 15 to non-members
- Elders Hassell and Marianno: 1 baptized, 8 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 5 progressing
- Elders Scoffield and Dietz: 7 at Sacramento,
- Elders Michaelis and Seitz: 3 member present, 19 full
- Elders Shumway and Lassetter: 5 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 152 contacts, 15 full, 9 to non-members
- Sisters Falk and Weber: 2 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 136 contacts, 20 full, 15 to non-members

- Elders Heinzen and Roberts: 9 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 26 other, 9 progressing, 4 new, 139 contacts, 3 Tours
- Elders Cornwell and Green: 5 at Sacramento, 19 other, 163 contacts, 9 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Nebeker and White: 6 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 4 progressing, 140 contacts,
- Elders Godfrey and Hea: 1 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 46 other, 95 contacts, 18 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Curtis and Wilson: 1 with baptismal date, 4 member present, 20 other
- Elders Mousseau and Douglas: 3 at Sacramento, 2 progressing, 2 new, 103 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Martinez and Shaw: 6 at Sacramento, 5 progressing
- Elders Hatton and Evans: 4 Progressing

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week



APRIL 8, 2008

WHY EVERY MEMBER NEEDS TO INVITE OFTEN

In a letter from the First Presidency sent Feb. 6, 2008, to all Church leaders worldwide, captioned, “Reissued Statements on Missionary Work,” President Monson and his counselors wrote, “Members and missionaries will be blessed by sharing the gospel with *as many people as possible*.” It further states, to underline the urgency of how every member must become anxiously engaged, “It is important to meet and talk with people *at every opportunity*.” The letter then emphasizes the new *PMG* focus on who must lead members and missionaries alike in this missionary effort, “*Stake presidents and bishops have responsibility and accountability for the finding of investigators within their stakes and wards.*” (emphasis added).

SURREY 3RD WARD TRAINING SESSION FOR WARD MEMBERS VERY SUCCESSFUL

On March 30th we were privileged to teach a Fifth Sunday combined priesthood and Relief Society on member missionary work by invitation in the Surrey 3rd Ward. The Surrey 3rd Ward has been inspired to organize for success along *PMG* guidelines for several months, with the Second Counselor of each Auxiliary

organization and priesthood quorum called to be a member of the ward missionary coordinating committee as well. The ward activity chairman, membership clerk and the singles leaders are also members of the coordinating committee. Weekly Missionary Coordination efforts have been chaired by J. P. Tremblay, the excellent Ward Mission leader, with fabulous assignment-specific minutes being distributed by e-mail to all ward leaders each week.

Despite their inspired *PMG* organizational infrastructure, Bishop Lorne Olson and Brother Tremblay felt that something was missing as the excellent full time missionaries, Sisters Falk and Weber, were not seemingly being supplied with many new investigators. Bishop Olson and Brother Tremblay then approached us about presenting a missionary lesson for their Fifth Sunday lesson, which we were pleased to do.

ASK SEVERAL TO FIND THE ONE

Bishop Olson is a realtor, in the business of selling homes. We asked him to calculate the average number of people who must be approached before a home is sold. His number: 450. We had him share that with the class. We noted that missionary work is far different than selling houses, but there is an important parallel in that in missionary work we must ask several before we find the one who is the elect of the Lord, who will “come and see” in response to our invitation.

Brother and Sister Kyle McAdam are excellent Surrey 3rd Ward member missionaries who have invited often. We had them share with the class that they had invited 22 non-members in recent months of which 3 came to a Church-related event, or 1 out of every

7 they invited. We then shared the observation of Sister Rosemarie Schieman, the Burnaby Relief Society President, that her sisters had invited 67 non-member acquaintances in 2007, of which 5 were baptized, or 1 in 13.

SURREY 3RD WARD WAS PROMISED 18 BAPTISMS IN THE NEXT SIX MONTHS

We started our meeting in the Surrey 3rd Ward by promising the assembled saints that they would see at least 18 baptisms in the next 6 months if they each adopted the simple precepts we would present, all totally consistent with *PMG*. Realizing that every member will have to invite 7 acquaintances before one of them comes to a Church activity or other Church event, and realizing that 1 of 7 who comes to a Church activity goes on to baptism, the 18 baptisms in the next 6 months will be realized if as few as 40 ward members adopt a Personal Mission Plan of inviting at least one acquaintance each week. If each of the 40 members invites just 22 acquaintances, as did Brother and Sister McAdam, 880 will have been invited. One in 7 will “come and see” (126 people—our Sister missionaries will be very busy), and 1 in 7 of those who “come and see” will be baptized—18 baptisms. We feel with great certainty that our promise will come true.



ELDERS SZYPKOWSKI AND PARK ARRIVE

DON'T PRAY TO KNOW WHOM TO ASK, PRAY FOR BOLDNESS TO ASK A DIFFERENT ACQUAINTANCE WEEKLY

In his marvelous missionary book, *Law of the Harvest*, David Stewart notes that the practice of members praying to know “which of my neighbors is ready to receive the gospel” has become the standard. He points out that there is no scriptural basis to support the idea that members will be inspired to know whom they should invite. This said, the scriptures are filled with admonitions that each member should invite everyone they know – “*And at all times, and in all places, he shall open his mouth and declare my gospel*” Doctrine and Covenants 24:12 (see also Matt 28:19; Mark 16:15; D & C 18:41; D & C 19:37; D & C 28:16; D & C 80:3; etc., etc.) We know of many faithful members who have been praying for years to be guided to the one, and have yet to invite a non-member acquaintance to come and see. Furthermore, as Elder Gene Cook has noted, every member knows someone who is “the elect of the Lord” (D & C 29:7), who will say yes to an invitation to come and see, and who will go into the waters of baptism. Members cannot know or pre-judge whom that elect might be—they must methodically invite them all.

GIVE MEMBERS WHO INVITE RECOGNITION WEEKLY

In the past, members have become discouraged when they have invited 2 or 3 or 4 of their acquaintances who have declined to come.

We can turn that rejection into a positive event by having those who have invited raise their hands weekly in their class or quorum to receive the recognition and positive feedback from class members needed in order to be motivated to continue to invite weekly until they find the elect person they know. Most acquaintances they invite will decline (6 of 7 on average will decline to come), but no one will lose a friend if they choose not to come. We pointed out as emphatically as we could to the Surrey 3rd Ward the absolute necessity of weekly recognition; that recognition can nicely be achieved in each class or quorum by the Second Counselor, who is also called as a ward missionary coordinating committee member. Repeatedly we must emphasize to every member that 5 minutes of their time weekly, the time it takes to invite an acquaintance to a Church activity or event, will make them an excellent member missionary. Importantly, it will accelerate the growth of the Church beyond anything seen in our lifetime.

President Henry B. Eyring has counseled each member to become an excellent member missionary in his article in the March 2008 *Ensign*, “Come Unto Christ.” He notes, “Every member of the church...has promised to stand as a witness of Jesus Christ at all times...to invite people to come unto Him. We know from experience that some will not respond. By helping others come unto Him, you will find that you have come unto Him yourself.”

That we might redouble our efforts in His service, that we might help every member come to embrace the concept of inviting someone weekly, is our prayer. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

“He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” 2 Cor 9:6

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending April 6, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Vernon: (10 Baptisms)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (8 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Vancouver Language: (2 Baptisms)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language and Vancouver: (5 Baptismal Dates each)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford:(4 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Vancouver Language (20 at Sacrament Meeting)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (19) and Surrey Language (18) at Sacrament Meeting

Other Lessons

- Kelowna: (141 other lessons)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey (136 Other lessons)

Lessons with member Present

- Abbotsford: (23 lessons)

Contacts

- Surrey Language (34.3 contacts per day average)

Progressing Investigators:

- Surrey and Vancouver (19 Progressing Investigators each)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey Language (16)

New Investigators:

- Vancouver Language: (6 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Surrey Language (17.3 Average per companionship)

Tours

- Abbotsford (6 Tours)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Mousseau and Douglas: 2 with Baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 4 progressing, 1 new, 107 contacts
- Elders Earnest and Peck: 1 Baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 58 other, 4 progressing, 191 contacts, 16 full
- Sisters Nibley and Anderson: 5 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 41 other, 3 progressing, 113 contacts
- Elders Mun, Gist and Jung: 7 at Sacramento, 43 other, 7 progressing, 474 contacts, 21 full
- Elders Fullmer and Hea: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 63 other, 1 new, 231 contacts
- Elders Mather and Cheng: 6 member present, 23 other, 2 progressing, 2 new, 224 contacts, 18 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Roberts and Bowles: 3 Baptismal dates, 10 at Sacramento, 10 member present, 9 progressing, 21 full, 18 to non-members
- Elders Miles and Banks: 1 with baptismal date, 114 contacts, 19 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Godfrey and Hall: 2 member present, 20 other, 4 progressing, 2 new, 80 contacts, 16 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Whittenburg and Parson: 2 at Sacramento, 3 progressing, 17 full

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Spongberg and Kirby: 4 at Sacramento, 85 contacts
- Elders Curtis and Wilson: 4 at Sacramento, 2 New
- Elders Stevenson and Wells: 4 at Sacramento meeting
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 5 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 4 progressing
- Elders Ruesch and Fillmore: 4 at Sacramento, 2 progressing, 103 contacts, 17 full



FLOATING VILLAGE NEAR LADNER

- Sisters Caribou and Wu: 2 progressing, 118 contacts
- Elders Terry and Hunsaker: 5 at Sacramento, 6 member present
- Sisters D'Amours and Falk: 4 at Sacramento, 22 other
- Elders Marianno and Hassell: 1 with Baptismal date, 18 full
- Elders Deitz and Carlisle: 3 at Sacramento, 7 progressing
- Elders Howard and Ramirez: 3 at Sacramento
- Elders Johnson and McAllister: 2 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 36 other, 1 progressing, 125 contacts
- Elders Heinzen and Green: 9 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 21 other, 6 progressing, 140 contacts, 21 full, 18 to non-members,
- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 3 with Baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 8 progressing



HUGE HOCKEY STICK IN DUNCAN

- Elders Marcum and Homer: 93 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Zmoos and Smith: 45 other, 210 contacts
- Elders Kim and Huh: 42 other, 3 new, 19 full, 16 to non-members
- Elders DeHerrera and Martinez: 2 Baptized this week, 2 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacramento
- Elders Shaw and Taylor: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 130 contacts
- Elders Park and Barker: 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 40 other, 2 progressing, 115 contacts, 18 full, 10 to non-members

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week!

APRIL 15, 2008

MEMBERS ARE THE FINDERS—FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES ARE THE TEACHERS

We are all basking in the afterglow of the wonderful General Conference we just witnessed. Each of us had the opportunity to take part in the Solemn Assembly, wherever we were, as we witnessed Conference proceedings. We each stood when asked and raised our hand in support of our new living prophet, President Thomas S. Monson. Gratefully we heard the inspiring words of our new prophet, and the uplifting counsel of his Counselors and the other General Authorities who spoke.

ELDER BEDNAR CALLS FOR A NEW FOCUS ON MEMBER MISSIONARY WORK

The Sunday afternoon address by Elder David A. Bednar called very boldly for Church members to become effective member missionaries. Unambiguously he summarized beautifully how Preach My Gospel calls upon full-time missionaries and all members to reorganize our proselyting outreach to the world's citizens when he stated that, "ultimately it is my responsibility and your responsibility to find people for the missionaries to teach. Missionaries are full-time teachers; you and I are full-time finders. And you and I as lifelong missionaries should not be praying for the full time missionaries to do our work!" His injunction was completely consistent with the simple missionary plans which inspired member leaders here in BC have developed, which call for each member to invite a non-member acquaintance regularly and often. We look forward to the day when every member is inviting regularly, as the number of new investigators thereby developed in each ward and branch will allow us to petition the Church Missionary Committee to give us more missionaries in BC to handle the teaching load! We envision that day coming in the not too distant future!



MACHINE WHICH STRIPS LIMBS FROM TREES IN BC FOREST



ELDER NEUENSCHWANDER'S CONFERENCE ADDRESS INSPIRES

Elder Dennis B. Neuenschwander's Sunday afternoon Conference address was wonderful. We are still inspired by the counsel and uplift he gave us on his recent mission tour, and his Conference talk focusing on the woman who fought through the crowd to touch the hem of Jesus' garment and thereby be healed was wonderful. That event was then brought home to each of us as Elder Neuenschwander challenged us to fight through the beckoning crowds in the "great and spacious building" that we too might find Christ.

On a fun side-note, during Elder Neuenschwander's mission tour he had a discussion with one of our Assistants, Elder Carlton Taylor, about ties. After good-natured banter, Elder Taylor gave Elder Neuenschwander 3 of his ties and asked if he might wear one during Conference. To Elder Taylor's delight, Elder Neuenschwander wore Elder Taylor's blue tie as he spoke at Conference. We shared subsequently in an e-mail to Elder Neuenschwander that his wearing of Elder Taylor's tie has assured that his already memorable BC mission tour will become a matter of legend!

Richmond Ward Members are Inviting!, Which led to a Very Successful Luau, by Elders Paul Heinzen (and Jacob Roberts)

"The Richmond Ward Luau was a huge success! We had originally planned to take all non-members who came to the luau on a tour, but we had too many people come (a wonderful problem to have). Instead, we took everyone to the Chapel (it was jam packed,

every seat full) and Bishop Travis Wolsey gave the message of the Restoration. There were so many non-members, and we met many new Chinese people. The Richmond Ward members, especially the Chinese members, are doing an amazing job of fellowshipping. We had a baptism this week in which a couple of members brought their non-member acquaintances. Halfway into the baptism, everyone was given a paper to write down their feelings and thoughts to give to the 8 year old boy being baptized. This is an Excellent missionary approach as it did 'force' non-members to pay attention and analyze what they were feeling. It was very successful. The work is going great.”

Hard Work by Full-Time and Member Missionaries Brings Happiness and Success in the Kelowna 2nd Ward, by Elders Jacob Earnest (and Hiram Knapp).

“Things in the Kelowna 2nd Ward are going fantastically well. We picked up several potential investigators last week, and we shall be getting some additional investigators this week. I love this area! We are going on frequent exchanges now, more than ever, 3 to 4 nights each week! The attendance in Sacrament Meeting in the Kelowna 2nd Ward has gone from an estimated 180 six months ago to over 200 now. We had a baptism on Feb. 16th that went very well; the parents who came from Kamloops seemed to really enjoy it.

“My personal goal is to be the best missionary I can be—I want to end my mission like a rocket igniting to go into space. I heard a quote which was used by Bishop Eden R. Engen in the Brookwood Ward when I was there, and it is, ‘Set yourself on fire and people will come to watch you burn.’ You can trust Elder Knapp and me to work hard.”



**We are Blessed as Missionaries in Merritt,
by Elders Tyler Mather (and James Brown).**

“We are meeting regularly with our 3 progressing investigators here in Merritt. One will be baptized soon and when we extended invitations to be baptized to our two other progressing investigators they both accepted, which is wonderful! It is so exciting to watch people embrace the restored Gospel and develop a strong testimony.

“We have also been working with one of our newly called branch missionaries, showing him how to teach the lessons. He had a non-member friend over a couple of times when we were there, and he is going to read the Book of Mormon. There are many great things happening here.”

Thank you for your noble efforts. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“Behold my soul delighteth in
the things of the Lord; and my
heart pondereth continually
upon the things which I have
seen and heard.” 2 Nephi 4:16*

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending April 13, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Vernon (10 Baptisms)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (8 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Vancouver Language (1 Baptism)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver Language (7 with Baptismal Dates)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford and Van. (5 baptismal dates each)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Surrey Language (24 Investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with member Present

- Abbotsford: (32 lessons)



FAREWELL DINNER WITH PRESIDENT BRIAN LEAVITT

Other Lessons

- Surrey: (421 Other Lessons Taught)

Contacts

- Surrey and Vancouver (35 contacts per day average)
- Honorable mention: Victoria (31 contacts per day average)

Progressing Investigators:

- Surrey Language (22 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Vancouver (19), Surrey (18), Van Lang. (16)

New Investigators:

- Surrey: (22 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Kelowna (17.5 Average per companionship)
- Honorable Mention: Vernon (17), Surrey Lang. (16.7), Surrey (16.2)
- Kelowna Zone: All companionships over 100 contacts during the week!

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Fullmer and Hea: 2 at Sacrament meeting, 2 member present, 125 other, 1 new, 497 Contacts
- Elders Terry and Hunsaker: 103 contacts, 21 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Earnest and Peck: 2 at Sacrament, 5 member present, 60 other, 4 progressing, 221 contacts, 16 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Mather and Cheng: 98 other, 2 progressing, 414 contacts, 19 full, 11 to non-members, 2 Tours
- Elders Roberts and Bowles: 3 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacrament, 60 other, 7 progressing, 4 new, 335 contacts, 17 full, 16 to non-members
- Elders Miles and Banks: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacrament, 6 member present, 32 other, 2 progressing, 5 new, 118 contacts, 16 full
- Sisters Dye and Weber: 1 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 120 other, 5 progressing, 7 new, 312 contacts, 24 full, 18 to non-members,
- Elders Mun, Gist and Jung: 10 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 38 other, 10 progressing, 2 new, 275 contacts, 18 full, 16 to non-members, 10 Tours
- Sisters D'Amours and Falk: 5 at Sacrament, 46 other, 4 progressing, 124 contacts
- Elders Johnson and Hatton: 3 progressing, 147 contacts, 15 full



Honorable Mention:

- Elders Barton and Copeland: 1 with baptism date, 2 at Sacramento, 19 other, 1 new
- Elders Whittenburg and Parson: 1 with baptism date, 2 at Sacramento, 4 progressing, 15 full
- Elders Curtis and Wilson: 1 with baptismal date, 8 member present, 15 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Godfrey and Hall: 1 with baptismal date, 3 progressing, 240 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Spongberg and Kirby: 1 with baptismal date, 2 progressing, 14 full
- Elders Morrill and Shumway: 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 2 progressing, 13 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Johnson and McAllister: 1 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 135 other, 1 progressing, 2 new, 425 contacts, 19 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Brunt and Feinga: 2 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 3 new, 271 contacts, 19 full, 11 to non-members
- Sisters Nibley and Anderson: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 4 progressing, 4 new, 206 contacts,
- Elders Curiel and Lassetter: 4 at Sacramento, 5 progressing, 3 new, 130 contacts
- Elders Heinzen and Green: 10 at Sacramento, 29 other, 9



TUG PUSHING A BARGE IN NANAIMO

- progressing, 4 new, 206 contacts, 23 full, 21 to non-members
- Elders Thompson and White: 4 at Sacramento, 30 other, 3 progressing, 3 new, 180 contacts
- Elders Dietz and Carlisle: 4 at Sacramento, 21 other, 7 progressing
- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 4 with baptismal date, 7 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 88 other, 7 progressing, 3 new, 417 contacts, 15 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Leavitt and Seebeck: 116 other, 2 new, 400 contacts, 12 full, 12 to non-members
- Sisters van den Bosch and Anderson: 1 baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 2 progressing, 14 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Kim and Huh: 4 at Sacramento, 3 progressing, 102 contacts, 13 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Zmoos and Taylor: 3 at Sacramento, 3 progressing, 111 contacts, 15 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders Mousseau and Douglas: 2 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 5 progressing, 2 Tours
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 5 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 33 other, 4 progressing, 124 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Barker and Park: 2 at Sacramento, 75 other, 3 new, 181 contacts, 18 full, 9 to non-members

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week

APRIL 22, 2008

ASK FOR COURAGE AND BOLDNESS TO OPEN OUR MOUTHS

As we write this Star we are uplifted and reinvigorated, having just returned from the Area Mission President's Seminar in Portland Oregon. Elder Steven Snow, of the seven Presidents of the Seventy, had replaced Elder Todd Christofferson, who had received conflicting assignments since being called to the Quorum of the Twelve. Meeting on April 11-13 with the Area Seventies including our own Elder Melvin H. Perkins, and other Area mission presidents, we return enriched spiritually and determined to help the Lord grow His Church in B.C.

ROLE OF MEMBERS AS THE PRINCIPLE FINDERS IS EMPHASIZED

The central and crucial role of members as the most effective finders cannot be overemphasized. Knowing of the Church study of recent converts, in which a full 79% of recent converts stated that the main reason they were attracted to the Church in the first place was because they knew and admired a Mormon, and that member they knew invited them to "come and see," the role of members in inviting and finding becomes very clear. ("What Are Non-Members

Interested In,” Ensign, Oct., 1977) In that same study just 9 % of new converts were first drawn to the church through the personal finding (tracting, etc.) of the full-time missionaries. Coupling those earlier observations with the exhortation by Elder Bednar in the recent General Conference that, “Missionaries are full-time teachers; you and I are full-time finders,” we understand clearly that in the Lord’s plan members must invite their non-member acquaintances, lovingly but boldly and frequently. Elder Bednar explained further in his Conference address that all members should “pray with the expectation to act and not just to express.” He clarified further that each member’s prayers should include “Asking for courage and boldness to open our mouths and share the gospel with our family and friends.” Once every faithful Church member in BC embraces that simple concept and sets a personal goal of inviting regularly (weekly is the easiest goal to set and keep), the church growth in BC will astound.

SURREY THIRD WARD IS RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

Brother J. P. Tremblay, the excellent Surrey 3rd Ward Mission Leader, has sent a copy of his weekly Missionary Coordination Report to us by e-mail. He prefaces his April 14th Report by noting, “During the past 2 weeks, 50 INVITATIONS (sic) to non-members were made by Surrey 3rd Ward members, and 5 REFERRALS (sic) were given to our full-time missionaries by Surrey 3rd Ward members.” Knowing that on average 1 in 7 who are invited come to a Church event, and knowing that on average 1 in 7 who comes to a Church event goes on

to baptism, we fully expect that if the members maintain this same level of inviting intensity (easily done, we might add) the growth of the Surrey 3rd Ward will soon dramatically escalate! Congratulations to the Surrey 3rd Ward members!

Our hope and prayer is that every ward and branch in BC will do likewise.

A Successful President’s Fireside in Richmond Right After ESL, by Elders Austin Bowles (and Paul Heinzen)

“Things are going great here in Richmond. While we haven’t seen the number of baptisms we would hope yet, we have seen a substantial increase in the number of investigators, and the number of people attending Sacrament Meeting. Hopefully that increase will translate into some future baptisms.

“We were excited to see a very successful Mission President’s Fireside. We tried holding it on a Wednesday night, our ESL night. We normally teach ESL from 6:30-8:30, but we ended at 7:30 and invited everybody to join us in the Fireside. Most were willing to participate. We had about 20 non-members present, and the audience of ESL students even included several of our progressing investigators. The Fireside was definitely a success. The ESL students saw it as a good opportunity to practice their English and we are sure they were interested in the doctrine as well. I would encourage those that teach an ESL class, or those that don’t, to find a way to get more people involved in the Mission President’s Firesides. With a little creativity more non-members would have the opportunity to hear of the Restoration from somebody besides the missionaries teaching them.”

Editor’s Note: As your mission president, we urge that all ward

leaders be invited to each Fireside. I invite them to bring neighbors, less-actives, family, friends, and anyone and everyone! While the message we give is basic, designed for those without much knowledge of the church, we strive to build a testimony in all who come, and we reach to uplift all who come spiritually.

**Referrals Come as Blessings For Diligently Tracting,
by Elders Spencer Mun (and Gyubum Jung and Dallas Gist)**

“We are being blessed tremendously because of our efforts. We make sure that we have no down time. If we end up having no appointments then we automatically go out to tract. There is no other option for us. And because we are going out there with all our heart, might, mind and strength we are being blessed for it. It was once an idea here in the Korean work that ‘tracting was useless’ for Korean work, but that is just plain stupid! No matter the language, tracting works. As long as we have faith and put all of our efforts into it (works), then we will be blessed. And one of the blessings that we see is referrals. We have never received so many before. We do know that these are truly blessings from the Lord, blessings given us because of our hard work. Our companionship is doing great as we are all willing to go out there and ‘just forget ourselves and work.’”

**A Great Way to Teach Principles in Companion Study,
by Sister Camilla Van den Bosch (and Mariah Overlock)**

“In companion study we draw 3 pieces of paper from a bowl, each having a principle from the lessons in Preach My Gospel written thereon. Then we each take a turn at doing a 30 minute lesson about

whichever principle we drew. We go back and forth doing all 6 of them alternatively whilst trying to tie them all together. The last person then gives a short summary of all of them, and brings them all together. We find that it helps us to be quicker on our feet and to practice giving a 30 minute lesson on a randomly drawn principle. Having to find a way to tie them all into each other is pretty hard, but it is a good skill to learn as we could be placed in similar situations when talking to investigators or contacts.”

Editor’s Note: Sisters Van den Bosch and Overlock have devised a novel and helpful way to improve the quality of their lessons. We urge every companionship to use this or similar methods daily, that your lessons might all become compellingly well done.

**Abbotsford Zone Goals Set High, With Faith,
by Elders Peter Stevenson (and Carlton Taylor)**

“Everything is going very well here in Abbotsford! We’ve seen a mighty miracle begin to occur here. At the beginning of the transfer we set a goal for baptismal dates overall for the zone of 30. We sit currently at 15. How beautiful a blessing it is.

“Elder Taylor and I have been able to set one baptismal date, which is a great blessing in itself because things were somewhat bleak for as recently as 4 weeks ago. Because we stayed the course we’ve found new people to teach with many baptisms on the way.”

That we might each become anxiously engaged in inviting and remain so is our constant prayer.

We love you!

President and Sister Middleton



“Speak freely to all.” D&C 19:37

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending April 20, 2008)
In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford and Vernon: (10 Baptisms each)

Baptisms this Week:

- Abbotsford and Vancouver : (2 Baptisms each)
- Honorable mention: Nanaimo (1 Baptism)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver: (4 with Baptismal Dates)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford:(3 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Surrey Language and Vancouver Language (25 at Sacrament Meeting)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (20)

Other Lessons

- Vancouver: (80 other lessons)

Lessons with member Present

- Abbotsford: (25 lessons)

Contacts

- Vancouver (36.3 contacts per day average)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver (20 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey Language (18), Vancouver Language (19)

New Investigators:

- Surrey: (14 New Investigators)
- Honorable mention: Vancouver Language (12 New Investigators)

Full Lessons:

- Surrey Language (14.7 Average per companionship)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Sisters Anderson and van den Bosch: 533 contacts, 5 member present, 80 other, 4 progressing, 1 new, 32 full, 24 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Roberts: 2 with baptismal date, 12 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 52 other, 8 progressing, 5 new, 238 contacts, 16 full, 15 to non-members, 1 Tour
- Elders Spongberg and Kirby: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 6 other, 90 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Godfrey and Hall: 62 other, 2 progressing, 212 contacts, 17 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Brunt and Feinga: 2 member present, 28 other, 3 progressing, 115 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Heinzen and Green: 13 at Sacramento, 32 other, 8 progressing, 174 contacts, 32 full, 29 to non-members
- Elders Miles and Banks: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 19 other, 2 progressing, 1 new, 98 contacts, 15 full, 4 Tours
- Elders Mousseau and Douglas: 4 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 15 other, 4 progressing, 1 new, 120 contacts
- Elders Earnest and Peck: 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 46 other, 4 progressing, 161 contacts, 16 full, 1 Tour
- Elders Fullmer and Hea: 54 other, 1 new, 285 contacts, 2 Tours

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Shaw and S. Taylor: 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 1 progressing, 3 new, 156 contacts

- Elders Barker and Park: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 4 member present,
- Sisters Dalling and Chevalier: 1 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 16 full
- Elders Ruesch and Fillmore: 7 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 17 full
- Sisters Caribou and WU: 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 56 other, 143 contacts, 15 full, 12 to non-members, 1 Tour
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 3 at Sacramento, 3 progressing, 102 contacts, 14 full
- Elders Heaton and Anderson: 3 member present, 27 other, 2 progressing, 1 new, 16 full
- Elders Brown and Szyrkowski: 3 member present, 2 progressing, 111 contacts, 12 full
- Elders Walton and Evans: 2 at Sacramento, 117 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Marianno and Hassell: 1 with baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 19 full
- Elders Seitz and Michaelis: 2 member present, 21 other, 1 new, 80 contacts, 17 full, 1 Tour
- Elders Johnson and McAllister: 3 new, 100 contacts, 16 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Curiel and Lassetter: 5 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 37 other, 4 progressing, 110 contacts, 16 full
- Sisters Nibley and Anderson: 1 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 1 progressing, 5 new, 17 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Mun, Gist and Jung: 7 at Sacramento, 27 other, 7 progressing, 180 contacts, 15 full, 10 to non-members, 3 Tours
- Elders Thompson and White: 5 at Sacramento, 26 other, 3 progressing, 120 contacts

- Elders Morrill and Shumway: 2 at Sacramento, 8 member present, 2 progressing, 16 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders DeHerrera and Martinez: 2 Baptized this week, 2 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacramento
- Elders Knapp and Jenkins: 55 other, 1 progressing, 158 contacts
- Elders Curtis and Wilson: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 25 other, 3 progressing, 95 contacts
- Elders Whittenburg and Parson: 1 baptized, 3 progressing, 1 new, 15 full
- Elders Barton and Copeland: 1 baptized, 2 at Sacramento, 1 progressing
- Elders Klekas and K.Taylor: 2 Baptized this week, 9 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 60 other, 7 progressing 417 contacts, 20 full
- Elders Leavitt and Seebeck: 1 with baptismal date, 2 progressing, 3 new, 301 contacts
- Elders Mather and Cheng: 1 with baptismal date, 140 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Zmoos and Smith: 9 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 48 other, 2 progressing, 179 contacts, 2 Tours
- Elders Kim and Huh: 1 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 6 progressing, 18 full, 17 to non-members

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week

APRIL 29, 2008

I AM LEONARD CALVERT AND I'M A MORMON. WHAT IS YOUR NAME?

One of our most missionary minded wards in BC is the Quesnel Ward. Following is a report on their excellent work:

Quesnel Ward Members Are Great Missionaries, by Elders William Hatton (and Alan Weinert)

“The members of the Quesnel Ward are awesome! The whole ward seems to be breathing missionary work, and the leadership is certainly setting the example for everyone else. Bishop Darcy Dyck is very missionary minded, and looks for opportunities to share the Gospel everywhere. The Bishop has even taken it upon himself to help our investigators commit to being baptized.

“During P.E.C. each week, which we full-time missionaries attend, missionary efforts are discussed thoroughly. The last week’s progress is talked about, and we quite often will receive a list of referrals for us from the ward leadership in attendance. A large emphasis is placed on the missionary effort, displayed by the fact that anywhere up to 75% of the meeting is spent in discussing missionary work.

“We also have a tremendous member missionary in the ward by the name of Leonard Calvert. He’s like having a second companionship here in Quesnel. He’s finding more people on the

street and everywhere for us to teach than we can do ourselves! He introduces the Gospel to everyone he meets, including those he meets for the first time. We've been meeting with one lady for about a month now whom brother Calvert just met on the bus one day. The next thing we knew, we were sitting in her home teaching her about the restoration. There are other similar examples.

“Brother Calvert is a man who is definitely not ashamed of his beliefs. He introduces himself to random strangers on the street by shaking their hand and saying, *My name is Leonard Calvert, and I'm*



BUTCHART GARDEN

a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. What is your name? No hesitation of any kind, but just a desire to help the Lord. He sets a marvelous example, to us missionaries as well as the Ward. So as a whole, I would say that this ward is more missionary minded than any other one I've seen.”

Victoria 3rd Ward Members Are developing New Ways to Focus on Inviting, by Elders Kyle Shaw (and Samuel Taylor)

“Brother Martin Hall, as you know, is a legendary Ward Mission Leader. He has shown us his latest tool—cards that ward missionaries can hand out to other members with a list of all the things one can invite non-member friends to: Tours, upcoming Church events, Family Home Evening, service activities, Relief Society Activities, baptismal services, etc. Then there is a list of blank spaces for members to put names of friends they should invite. The card can then be placed on the refrigerator where it can be seen often.

“The mentality here in the 3rd Ward is so great—we met briefly with Bishop Randy Smith after Conference just to introduce ourselves. His whole family was excited to start telling us about all of the families they were inviting to the upcoming Ward Carnival. They have an ‘Invite, Invite, Invite’ mentality.”

How Should We Deal With Mission Dry Spells? by Elder Jared Fullmer

(Written in response to the question of how to help the Elder who sees little or no baptismal success on his mission)

“As I began my mission I was very energetic and enthusiastic about

the Lord's work. I was so excited to work and to help people change their lives and become better people. I couldn't wait to watch people accept the gospel and become members of the true Church, but I learned that I was going to have to.

"It was about a year before I was able to see someone who I taught get baptized. Frustration and discouragement often crept into my mind because I did not know why I wasn't seeing success. I felt that I was doing all that I could, but I still wasn't seeing very much success. 'What am I doing wrong?' and 'Why is that Elder seeing success when he isn't obedient and doesn't work hard?' were thoughts I sometimes had. But, I just continued to do what I knew was right. I can look back and realize how much that period of time strengthened me. It is easy to work hard and do what you are supposed to when you can see the immediate blessings. It is much harder to continue to endure and be obedient when you don't see the immediate blessings. I believe that it takes a very strong person to continue to endure, and that may be why some missionaries see the success and others don't. Many of us need to see the blessings or we will slack off, become discouraged, or even give up.

"Just as in life we all face different trials and challenges, the mission is just the same. It may have been a real test for the Elder who did not see any baptisms. Is it because he is a bad person or a bad missionary? No, it may be that the Lord needed him to prove himself and endure. By doing so, he has been prepared for the future events which will occur in his life.

"We must also remember the harvest as well. The glory comes as we reap, but without the planting and sowing there cannot be a harvest. I am truly grateful for the time I had to work and prove to the Lord I was His, and that I would be diligent in His work. That was a

time where my faith grew and I grew very close to my Savior. Thank you for posing this question to me and I hope this helps."

How to Deal with Periods Without Baptisms, by Elder Noueru Shibayama

"I had the opportunity to think about an issue you brought up recently. Some missionaries see several baptisms and others see none, even through both of them work hard and do what they are supposed to do. To me seeing someone's baptism is to see the harvest of our labors. I think sometimes it's hard to continue to work without seeing the harvest of our work or reward.

"In my first transfer, I saw one baptism, which was because of other missionaries' hard work and prayer. But I hadn't seen any baptism after that until I had been out 16 months. During that period of time, I had struggled and tried to change myself for the better. At one point I was a little bit discouraged but, at the same time thanks to personal study time, I made up my mind to work hard even if I didn't see any baptisms. I had peace of mind through that period of time even if I didn't see any baptisms, as I learned to understand that the Lord judges our missionary work by how hard we work and whether our heart is in the work. Elder Boyd K. Packer gave a talk four or five years ago in which he noted that sometimes our efforts don't openly appear, but our Heavenly Father gives us His reward. He quoted D & C 117: 12,13; D & C 124: 49. '*...I remember my servant Oliver Granger;...for his sacrifice shall be more sacred unto me than his increase, saith the Lord...*' *...and those sons of men go with all their might and with all they have to perform their work, and cease not their diligence,...behold it behooveth me to require that (missionary) work no more at the hands*

of those sons of men, but to accept of their offerings.

“I learned that our sacrifice is the most important thing in the sight of God. Satan tries to discourage us. He may whisper to us, ‘You are not enough, because you didn’t see any baptisms’ or ‘you saw lots of baptisms, and therefore you don’t need to work much anymore.’ I know that that is Satan’s lie and I am determined to work hard both in my mission and after my mission. I love to help other missionaries if they become discouraged.”

Editor’s Note: Elders Fullmer and Shibayama have noted a most important point about missionary work—whether you as a missionary see several baptisms or no baptisms during your mission your missionary service will be judged by the Lord on your sacrifice and determined effort, not by the number of baptisms you produced. We feel certain that the main measurement the Lord will use for each of us is whether we were truly ‘anxiously engaged “for our full 2 years (or 18 months for the Sisters). That we each might become anxiously engaged and remain so and might feel the Lord’s loving approval for doing so, is our constant prayer. We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

“And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.” D&C 14:7

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending April 27, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford and Vernon: (10 Baptisms each)

Baptisms this Week:

- Prince George, Kelowna and Vancouver : (1 Baptism each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Vancouver and Abbotsford: (each with 3 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Abbotsford: (39 at Sacrament Meeting)
- Honorable Mention: Vancouver Language (31 at Sacrament Meeting), Surrey Language (26 at Sacrament Meeting)

Other Lesson:

- Surrey: (247 other lessons)
- Honorable Mention: Victoria (242 other lessons), Vancouver (241 other lessons)

Lessons with member Present

- Abbotsford: (26 lessons)

Contacts

- Kelowna: all companionships over 100 contacts
- Surrey Language: (31.4 contacts per day average)
- Honorable Mention: Victoria (31.28 contacts per day average)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver: (21 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (20 progressing Investigators)

Tours:

- Surrey: (5 Tours)
- Honorable Mention: Prince George and Vancouver Language (4 Tours each)

A NEW FERRY AT NANAIMO WITH PICTURE OF A CURLER ON THE SIDE



COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Fullmer and Hea: 434 contacts, 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 138 other, 1 progressing, 3 new
- Elders Terry and Hunsaker: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 31 other, 1 new, 127 contacts, 20 full, 11 to non-members
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 3 progressing, 114 contacts, 20 full, 11 to non-members



A TURBOPROP BOMBARDIER,
THE PLANE WE TOOK MOST FREQUENTLY

- Sisters Anderson and van den Bosch: 114 other, 4 progressing, 6 new, 363 contacts, 33 full, 28 to non-members
- Elders Kim and Huh: 4 at Sacramento, 76 other, 3 progressing, 217 contacts, 21 full, 16 to non-members
- Elders Miles and Banks: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 20 other, 1 new, 120 contacts, 16 full, 4 Tours
- Sisters Dye and Weber: 1 at Sacramento, 79 other, 1 new, 175 contacts, 27 full, 16 to non-members
- Elders Heinzen and Green: 21 at Sacramento, 9 progressing, 175 contacts, 17 full, 16 to non-members, 2 Tours
- Sisters D'Amours and Falk: 4 at Sacramento, 4 progressing, 15 full
- Elders A. Johnson and Hatton: 11 at Sacramento, 4 progressing, 16 full

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Weinert and Reynolds: 1 with baptismal date, 5 member present, 20 other
- Elders Barker and Park: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 4 member present,
- Elders Spongberg and Kirby: 1 with baptismal date, 5 member present, 2 progressing, 16 full
- Elders Curtis and Wilson: 1 with baptismal date, 6 member present, 4 progressing,
- Elders Knapp and Jenkins: 5 member present, 61 other, 155 contacts, 2 Tours
- Elders Hall and Godfrey: 3 progressing, 145 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Curiel and Lassetter: 5 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 40 other, 4 progressing, 17 full

- Sisters Nibley and Anderson: 3 at Sacramento, 66 other, 152 contacts, 19 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders Brunt and Feinga: 3 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 5 progressing, 19 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Mun, Gist and Jung: 2 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 63 other, 2 progressing, 1 new, 393 contacts, 17 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Thompson and White: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 6 new
- Elders Dietz and Carlisle: 1 baptized, 6 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 19 other, 15 full
- Elders Howard and Ramirez: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 2 progressing, 1 new, 15 full
- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 2 with baptismal date, 8 at Sacramento, 7 progressing, 100 contacts
- Elders Mather and Cheng: 1 with baptismal date, 2 progressing, 16 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Leavitt and Seebeck: 1 baptized, 1 at Sacramento, 2 progressing, 258 contacts,
- Elders Roberts and Bowles: 1 with baptismal date, 8 at Sacramento, 7 progressing, 215 contacts, 19 full, 17 to non-members
- Elders Zmoos and Smith: 10 at Sacramento, 3 progressing, 162 contacts, 14 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Ruesch and Fillmore: 3 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 1 progressing, 108 contacts 17 full
- Sisters Caribou and Wu: 2 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 4 progressing, 125 contacts, 19 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Earnest and Peck: 1 baptized, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 2 new, 121 contacts, 18 full
- Elders Barker and Park: 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 1 progressing, 301 contacts
- Sisters Dalling and Chevalier: 3 at Sacramento, 4 progressing, 15 full
- Elders Heaton and Anderson: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing,
- Elders Brown and Szyrkowski: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 38 other, 99 contacts, 14 full
- Elders Walton and Evans: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 99 contacts, 16 full

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week



FAMILY HISTORY IN THE MALLS

MAY 2008

MAY 6, 2008

TAKING FAMILY HISTORY TO THE MALLS

Elder Darrel and Sister Rita Crawford are a senior couple serving as full-time missionaries assigned currently to the Surrey First Ward. While their primary assignment is service as proselyting missionaries, they also give significant service in the mission Employment Center and Bishop's Storehouse. They have refined a technique for displaying our Family History Program in malls in BC, which is proving to be a very useful missionary tool. Their report follows:

“We created display boards to be placed in a preferably high pedestrian traffic part of the mall. Attractive posters were placed on

each display board, with titles such as ‘Make Connections,’ ‘Piece Your History Together,’ and ‘Start with Family Search.’ We used the missionaries of the area to stand at the display in shifts, to answer questions and encourage potential investigators to fill out the 3 generation pedigree information on a card with the phone numbers of the missionaries contained thereon. It was necessary to talk to someone in the mall administration or Customer Service, read over their requirements, find and agree to an acceptable date, then have Elder Stanley Hayden of the mission office obtain proper insurance from Church Headquarters.

BRENT AND JAN SCHARMAN, SHARON AND CECIL SAMUELSON,
KENT AND LISE SAMUELSON, WAYNE AND MARIANNE SAMUELSON,
WITH CAROL AND TONY IN VICTORIA

or 4 negative responses in a row to an invitation to their non-member acquaintances unless they receive regular positive feedbacks, each week, in their quorum or class by raising their hand in response to the question “who has invited someone this week—please raise your hand.” This weekly member missionary recognition makes the program sustainable; without it every ward or branch will quickly regress.



CHINESE MISSIONARIES SING AT THE MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAM

**Attendance by Many Make a Baptism More Successful,
by Elders Wong Hyun Choi (and Spencer Munn and
Jungjune Huh)**

“In the past 2 weeks, we decided to focus on our investigator, Eric. Eric wanted to be baptized, and all we needed was to focus on working with him. We taught all the lessons until Saturday and Elder Curtis came over and interviewed him. Everything was settled and ready. Eric’s baptism was held at the Maple Ridge Ward. With great help from the other missionaries, Elders Curtis, Kim, Harrison and Reynolds and Sisters Nibley and Lee, the baptism was a huge success. It was very spiritual and more than 70 people came to the baptism with many of them being Koreans!

“I love this work, and I am so happy that I’m seeing this miracle! ‘No unhallowed hand can stop the work from progressing.’ I love this great Canada Vancouver Mission.”

Thank you for your bold efforts and hard work. Our prayers are constantly with each of you. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

“Ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people.” 1 Peter 2:9

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending April May 4, 2008)
 In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford: (11 Baptisms)
- Honorable Mention: Vernon (10 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Vancouver : (2 Baptisms)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (1 Baptism)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Prince George and Abbotsford: (each with 5 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Vancouver Language: (23 at Sacrament Meeting)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (20 at Sacrament Meeting),
 Surrey Language (18), Prince George (17)

Other Lesson:

- Vancouver: (382 other lessons)

Lessons with member Present

- Abbotsford: (36 lessons)

Contacts

- Victoria and Kelowna: all companionships over 100 contacts
- Surrey Language: (22.9 contacts per day average)
- Honorable Mention: Victoria (22 contacts per day average)

Progressing Investigators:

- Abbotsford: (22 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Vancouver Language (21 progressing Investigators)

New Investigators

- Surrey: (13 New Investigators)

Tours:

- Surrey: (5 Tours)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Mather and Cheng: 2 member present, 175 other, 375 contacts, 20 full, 16 to non-members

VANCOUVER MISSION MEMORIES, 2005–2008

- Elders Roberts and Bowles: 1 with baptismal date, 9 at Sacramento, 40 other, 7 progressing, 136 contacts, 19 full, 16 to non-members
- Elders Curtis and Wilson: 1 Baptized, 3 at Sacramento, 10 member present, 3 progressing, 15 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Godfrey and Hall: 30 other, 1 progressing, 120 contacts, 18 full, 9 to non-members
- Curiel and Lassetter: 3 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 121 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Heinzen and Green: 9 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 24 other, 9 progressing, 192 contacts, 15 full, 15 to non-members
- Elders Marianno and Hassell: 4 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 17 full
- Elders Walton and Evans: 2 at Sacramento, 1 progressing, 144 contacts, 16 full
- Sisters Caribou and Wu: 3 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 47 other, 4 progressing, 152 contacts, 14 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Fullmer and Hea: 1 with baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 46 other, 1 progressing, 5 new, 272 contacts



ARRIVING NEW MISSIONARIES AT AIRPORT

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Shaw and Taylor: 3 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 3 progressing, 130 contacts
- Elders Barker and Park: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 2 progressing, 105 contacts,
- Sisters Dalling and Chevalier: 2 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 3 progressing, 111 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Earnest and Peck: 3 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 4 progressing, 145 contacts,
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 4 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 4 progressing, 103 contacts, 16 full
- Elders Dietz and Carlisle: 4 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacramento, 23 other, 7 progressing
- Elders Thompson and White: 6 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 6 progressing, 4 new, 15 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders Mun, Gist and Jung: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 222 contacts
- Elders Harrison and Taylor: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 17 full
- Elders Brunt and Feinga: 4 member present, 1 progressing, 4 new, 23 full, 12 to non-members, 3 Tours
- Sisters Nibley and Anderson: 1 at Sacramento, 61 other, 170 contacts, 18 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Johnson and McAllister: 1 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 1 progressing, 17 Full, 12 to non-members
- Sisters D'Amours and Falk: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 4 progressing, 14 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Morrill and Shumway: 7 member present, 1 progressing,

15 full, 8 to non-members

- Elders Whittenburg and Parson: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 4 progressing, 15 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Johnson and Hatton: 3 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 5 progressing,
- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 1 baptized, 7 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 5 progressing, 14 new, 127 contacts, 16 full, 15 to non-members
- Elders Leavitt and Seebeck: 1 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 235 contacts, 18 full, 11 to non-members



CRUISE SHIP TERMINAL, VANCOUVER



MONTGOMERIES AT STANLEY PARK

- Sisters Anderson and Van den Bosch: 1 baptized, 1 at Sacrament, 6 member present, 1 progressing, 20 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Kim and Huh: 1 at Sacrament, 5 progressing, 5 new, 20 full, 18 to non-members
- Elders Zmoos and Smith: 6 at Sacrament, 2 progressing, 144 contacts, 13 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders De Herrera and Martinez: 7 at Sacrament, 7 progressing,
- Elders Ruesch and Fillmore: 1 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 15 full
- Elders Amann and Pack: 1 with baptismal date, 3 member present, 15 full, 8 to non-members,
- Elders Weinert and Reynolds: 1 baptismal date, 4 at Sacrament, 2 progressing

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week

MAY 13, 2008

MAY I INVITE YOU?

Recently we were invited to speak at a Christian high school in Richmond. The school headmaster asked us to describe why the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints differed from other Christian churches. Eagerly we accepted the invitation, and our experience is described below:

Teaching the Restoration to a Richmond Christian School, by Elders Carlton Taylor (and Spencer Harrison)

“On Monday May 5, 2008, President Middleton, Elder Harrison and I had a unique opportunity. We were invited to go to the Richmond Christian Secondary School to teach a lesson about our Church. It was a very exciting offer because we were going to be able to teach many students at one time. When we got to the school our hopes for a great lesson were only heightened because we were led into a classroom of 40 students who were eagerly awaiting our lesson.

“We taught them the Restoration Lesson for about 35 minutes, each of us teaching part of the lesson, and then opened the floor for questions. The reaction of the students was extremely good. They all had listened to the Joseph Smith First Vision story very attentively. Following the lesson the students asked many sincere questions which made the whole presentation very interactive.

“At the end of the presentation we extended the offer to come and see more if they would like by coming on a Tour of the Church, or by reading the Book of Mormon. If this lesson doesn’t yield immediate fruit, I know that it will yield long term fruit. All of the students seemed genuine about wanting to do what’s right and they learned eagerly. We feel many of them will eventually search out the Church to learn more, and this lesson gave them a great start.”

Editor’s Note: Please inquire in your city or town as to whether there is a Christian secondary school, or indeed a public secondary school with a class to which you could speak. Reach out boldly and with faith, being prepared to present the lesson of the restoration. You will likely have a wonderful experience, as we did.

REACH FOR “GREENIE FIRE” EVERY DAY OF YOUR MISSION!

One of our recently arrived missionaries shared with us her disappointment in a few comments she heard older missionaries make who have been in the field awhile, who seemed to put down the enthusiasm and energy of newly arrived missionaries. She noted very correctly that “the fire that is noted in ‘green’ missionaries should be able to stay burning strongly.” She went on to mention how sad she felt “when older missionaries are sarcastic about the ‘new greenie fire,’ and I wanted to teach them about how to re-kindle that fire... Anyway, I think greenie fire is Great!”

Indeed it is! Without that drive and enthusiasm demonstrated by newly arrived missionaries our success in growing the Church in BC is significantly reduced. May we plead with each one of our missionaries that he or she reach deep inside themselves every day

to seek for and demonstrate the energy and enthusiasm they need to be optimally successful, to transform that somewhat undisciplined and inexperienced “greenie fire” into a “seasoned missionary fire” that will take you to the height of success. Bring fire and passion to your works every day, and then you will know of the Lord’s approval of your work output as you will feel of His “peace that surpasseth understanding” (Phil. 4:7)

Use “District Accounting” to Help Missionaries Succeed, by Elders Brandon Ruesch (and Justin Fillmore)

“Elder Justin Fillmore and I implemented a program known as ‘District Accounting’ when we were the Kelowna Zone Leaders. The idea came from the Preach my Gospel DVD’s, and consists of having at every District Meeting a couple of companionships go up to the board and report on investigators and less-actives with whom they are working. They outline and explain their progress in the Gospel, explain any concerns or problems that are slowing their progression, and then they open up a discussion with the rest of the District missionaries. Then the other companionships offer suggestions, advice or approaches that worked for them in similar situations in the past. We found that many missionaries had experienced the same or similar problems, and had found workable solutions they could share. The thing that worked so well with District Accounting is that it put us all together as a Zone or District so that we came to understand more fully what is going on in the other companionships. We then could pray for specific investigators in others’ areas of the Zone instead of only our own. It was also great because often there was some solution or idea brought up that the companionship having

the problems had not thought about. So instead of two minds trying to resolve concerns it was a half a dozen or so, and so everyone had different insights that helped considerably. It also really helped to bring the District/Zone together in unity. It has worked extremely well in the Kelowna Zone, and I believe that any District or Zone can benefit from this practice!”

We Love Teaching Diverse Nationalities in Canada, by Elders Jung June Huh (and Hee Jun Kim)

“Things are going well here in Downtown Vancouver. We went out and proselyted vigorously this week, and were blessed to meet up with many new investigators. I feel I have been prepared for this mission. While I was living at home just prior to the Mission in 2007, I was attending University in Otago (Dunedin), a city in New Zealand. While there I made many friends. Most of them were from other parts of the world, places such as India, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Korea. It just so happens the majority of the immigrants to New Zealand are from those lands. I learned to love my friends, who had come from many countries. That is why I love ALL people here in Vancouver, with so many immigrants. Even though I’m a Korean Missionary, I’m grateful for the opportunity to be amongst the many ethnic groups of Vancouver.

“We found one really cool Chinese girl from the Island of Fiji. My previous home teacher was from Fiji and he was the National Basketball Coach. One new Fijian investigator came to Church with us today and even stayed for the CES fireside. She really enjoyed the Testimony meeting and I know she will be blessed with membership in our Church one day.

VIEW OF LION'S HEAD PEAK WITH VANCOUVER IN THE BACKGROUND





“The awesome thing about the Canada Vancouver Mission is that we are not only building Zion in British Columbia, but helping build Zion for the entire world.”

President and Sister Middleton

WELCOME NEW MISSIONARIES

- Elders: MA: Samuel Porter, Mesa AZ; MA: David Fajardo, Las Vegas, NV; SP: Skyler Sudweeks, Henderson, NV;
- English: Joshua Cooper, Stafford, VA; David Berger, Medina, OH; Justin Bingham, Weston ID; Shane Foster, Orem, UT;
- Brad Blazzard, Kamas UT; Christopher Nelson, Sugar City, ID

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Sister Brigitte D’Amours:

“Brethren, shall we not go on in so great a cause?...Courage, brethren; and on, on to the victory! Let your hearts rejoice, and be exceedingly glad.” D & C 128:22 I love you all!

Sister Te’ama Dye:

Now when our hearts were depressed, and we were about to turn back, behold, the Lord comforted us, and said: “Go amongst they brethren, the Lamanites, and bear with patience thine afflictions, and I will give unto you success.” *Alma 26:27* This is truly the Lord’s work, we are just the tools to meet peoples’ needs. “And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also, for I will go before your face.” *D & C 84:88*

MONTGOMERIES BY GASTOWN STEAM CLOCK

Elder Kelby Chad Godfrey:

Here is something that inspired and motivated me; Moroni 7:33: And Christ hath said: “If ye will have faith in me ye shall have power to do whatsoever thing is expedient in me.” So get it done!

Elder Hunter Heaton:

Well “Brotha’s,” It’s been good. If there’s anything to remember it comes from Proverbs 3:5-6. Always put your faith and trust in the Lord and things will always work out. Keep the Faith, work hard!

Elder Daniel Jenkins:

“The price of success is hard work, dedication to the job at hand and the determination that whether we win or lose, we have applied the best of ourselves to the task at hand” — *Vince Lombardi*. Remember the mission is what you make of it. So make it sick.

Elder Callin Morrill:

“Sometimes we let our thoughts of tomorrow take up too much of today, daydreaming of the past and longing for the future may provide comfort but will not take the place of living in the present” President Thomas S. Monson. The mission is short, make it count!

Elder Trenton Amann:

People come and go in our lives. What we learn from them and

do with that is up to us. I would hope that we naturally remember all the good times. I hope that is how I’ll be remembered because I will reflect on our sweetest memories. Friends, companions, I wish you well, sweet is the work. “grandpa” Keep in touch!

Elder Maclain Miles:

Dear Elders and Sisters: I have loved my time serving with and around all of you. I know that this is the Lord’s work. The Book of



ELDERS RAMSEY AND SCHOFIELD WITH PRESIDENT MIDDLETON



Mormon is the word of God. The Church of Jesus Christ is the true Church restored to the earth once again. Our Savior lives. 2Nephi 25:13. I have got to go roping now but I love you all. Keep working hard and having fun.

Elder Emmanuel Martinez:

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught “when you climb up a ladder you must start at the bottom and ascend step by step until you arrive at the top, and so it is with the principles of the gospel—you must begin with the first, and go on until you learn all the principles of exaltation.” So don’t get discouraged about the fact that you might not know everything, just trust in the Lord and pray to our Heavenly Father and then you will see Him guiding you if we do what He has asked of you!

Elder Taylor Zmoos:

Head for higher ground. I love you guys but it’s not what you think...

Elder Jacob Roberts:

I love this land, work it to the ground. Peace Out!

New Converts

- Abbotsford: JinHo Kim, Peter Gatluk, Peter Manyang, Robert Greer

- Kelowna: Terra Redwood, Linda Nguyen
- Nanaimo: Lavralee Gieni, Kalissa Montgomery, Tammy Felsman,
- Prince George: Jessica Marshall, Lisa Hope, Patricia Crosby,
- Surrey: Oluwaseun Fasanya, Ranjit Singh, Roxana Alfaro-Funes
- Vancouver: Marc Rancourt, Lydia Pettigrew, Ashneel Raj, Nalini Raj, Payam Hajian,
- Van. Lang: Betsy Sanchez, Rodrigo Lazaro, Pei (Shirley) Sheng
- Vernon: Santaya Stander, Laura Cleasby, Andrea Craven, Sarah Weatherall

UPCOMING ZONE CONFERENCES FOR MAY/JUNE

- Vancouver/Van Language--May 22nd,
- Surrey/Surrey Lang./ Abbotsford-- May 29th (Abbotsford),
- Nanaimo/Victoria--June 5th,
- Vernon/Kelowna--June 11th (Kelowna),
- Prince George—June 13th.

*“And speak freely to all;
(emphasis added) yea, preach,
exhort, declare the truth, even
with a loud voice, with a sound
of rejoicing.” D&C 19:37*

MAY 20, 2008

WELL DONE WARD ACTIVITIES IN PRINCE GEORGE AND BURNABY TO WHICH MEMBERS INVITED

To help members invite their non-member acquaintances to “come and see,” many wards and branches across our mission are having excellent activities often. Knowing that the Brethren have urged that each ward and branch aim towards at least one ward-wide activity monthly (information relayed to us by Elder Melvin R. Perkins), the activities being produced are both excellent and creative, and are being planned to be of very reasonable cost. A good example is the “One Fold, One Shepherd” production in Prince George on May 2nd, described below:

A Great Inviting Activity in Prince George, by Elders Scott Marianno (and Adam Hassell)

“This past week the two wards combined in Prince George to put on an activity entitled ‘One Fold, One Shepherd.’ The activity was designed to allow those not of our faith to take a Tour, guided by ward missionaries, of the building as members of each quorum and auxiliary taught visitors about their programs. During the evening a multimedia production of Christ’s appearance in the New World was presented. It was designed to bear testimony through video and musical performances that Jesus Christ is the Savior of all mankind, and that the Book of Mormon is truly another testament of Jesus Christ. The Fraser Ward Bishop, Frank Penny, and his wife, Shirley Penny, who is the Relief Society President, organized the activity. Both are very missionary-minded and put much hard work into making sure the activity was a success. During the presentation a powerful DVD was shown in which Christ’s visit to the New World was enacted. The DVD was shown in several segments interspersed with songs and hymns sung by the ward choir, and passages from 3rd Nephi relating the events were read by President and Sister Middleton. At least 6 non-members came, along with many less actives, and every one had a very spiritual evening.

“Our testimony meeting on Sunday was filled with comments about how the activity impacted both members and non-members alike in helping them to feel the love of their Savior. The activity was a huge success, and provided members with opportunities to invite their non-member friends. Both wards have goals to help members to invite weekly, and the Nechako Ward members were able to put more stars on their ‘Invite Board’ (inspired by the Campbell River Temple



DEPARTING MISSIONARIES WITH THE MIDDLETONS

board). We are grateful for the wonderful effort of Bishop and Sister Penny and the others who assisted in the activity. They are inspired, dedicated examples of member missionaries and the Prince George saints are working to invite their friends weekly!”

A Great Wah Yan Ward Activity for Mother’s Day, by Elders Austin Bowles (and Jacob Roberts and Samuel Porter)

“We had a Mother’s Day dinner and program at the Wah Yan Ward the night before Mother’s Day, and members did a good job of getting their friends there. Our ward mission leader, Brother David Chan,



SPECTACULAR FRASER RIVER GORGE

organized it magnificently, and geared it toward investigators invited by the members. The dress was ‘semi formal,’ and the ward youth plus our missionaries served as waiters. Most of the people there in fact were non-members. Members were in the minority. Though finding it difficult for the full-time missionaries to dialogue with the investigators during the dinner, we’re expecting that as we deliver the pictures that were taken we can find those that want to learn more. Also, there were comment sheets at each table, so we expect we can use those too. It was a hugely successful activity! After Church the next day we had a baptism, and that made Mother’s Day even more special!”

Editors Note: A well-done monthly ward or branch activity can not only serve as an event to which every member can invite their non-member acquaintances, but it serves all ward or branch members to allow them to get to know each other, and it develops unity and pride in membership among the saints. The monthly activity should be sufficiently well done that all members can expect their non-member invitees to have a positive experience, and it doesn’t need to be overly elaborate or expensive. It works!

Making District Meeting Fun as well as Instructive, by Elders Jacob Earnest (and Stanley Peck)

“Our Kelowna District is doing well. All companionships are getting along great. Something fun we have been doing after our District Meetings is ‘themed lunches.’ So far we have had Italian, Medieval, Asian, and this week’s will be a Native American theme since we have an 8 pound buffalo roast that a part member couple gave us.”

Committing Families to Invite Works in Mission, by Elders Andrew Johnson (and William Hatton)

“We have been using Elder Bednar’s talk at Conference to teach our members how to invite. We start with talking about the importance and power of prayer and then ask them if they saw Elder Bednar’s talk. We then refer to what he said, that ‘the missionaries are the full-time teachers and you and I are the full-time finders.’ After that we extend two commitments: 1. Pray for their own missionary opportunities, and 2. Ask someone to a Church related event (it’s their choice who they invite and what they invite them to). We then let them know that we will give them anything they need.

“We shared this lesson with a family and the next day we got a call from them stating that they did it and that the lady they invited said that she wants her 8 year old son baptized! The members were so happy with this experience that I know they will keep doing it.”

Thank you for working hard, working smart, and working with “anxious engagement.” We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

*“Seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith.”
D&C 88:118*

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending May18, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford: (15 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Abbotsford Language : (3 Baptisms)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Prince George (with 6 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Surrey Language, Kelowna, and Victoria: (all companionships had investigators at Sacrament Meeting)
- Vancouver Language: (23 at Sacrament Meeting)

Other Lesson:

- Vancouver: (277 other lessons)

Lessons with member Present

- Surrey, Surrey Language, Vernon, Kelowna and Victoria Zones (every companionship gave lesson (s) with a member present)
- Abbotsford: (21 lessons)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey (19 lessons)

Contacts

- Surrey Language: (30.9 contacts per day average)

Progressing Investigators:

- Victoria, Nanaimo, Abbotsford, Surrey, Surrey Language, Vernon, Kelowna: (all companionships had progressing investigators)
- Abbotsford: (17 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Vancouver Language (16 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators

- Vancouver Language: (8 New Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (6 New Investigators), Surrey (5 New Investigators)

Full Lessons

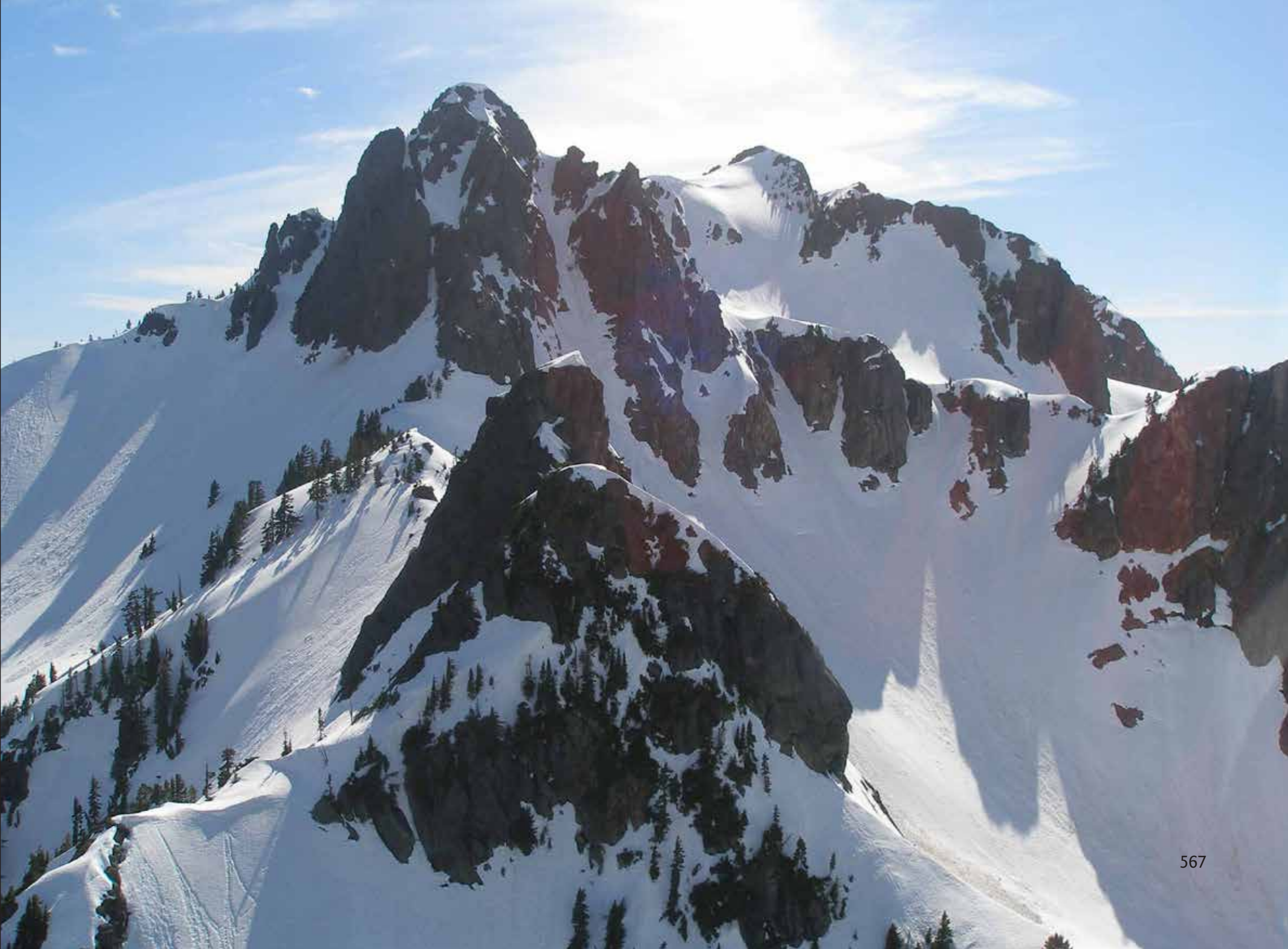
- Kelowna (16 Full Lessons)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Johnson and Johnson: 3 baptized, 5 progressing, 15 full
- Sisters Falk and Nibley: 2 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 38 other, 3 progressing, 17 full, 12 to non-members
- Sisters Anderson and Weber: 3 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 6 progressing, 4 new, 16 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Mun and Jung: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 63 other, 2 progressing, 2 new, 367 contacts
- Elders Banks and Nelson: 2 with baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 22 other, 2 progressing, 104 contacts
- Elders Terry and Berger: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 1 progressing, 1 new, 123 contacts, 21 full, 14 to non-members
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 5 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 30 other, 4 progressing, 110 contacts, 15 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Hunsaker and Seebeck: 2 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 2 progressing, 230 contacts, 13 full
- Elders Mather and Cheng: 117 other, 312 contacts, 15 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Porter: 1 with baptismal date, 13 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 39 other, 7 progressing,
- Elders Barker and Park: 1 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 30 other, 3 progressing, 3 new

Honorable Mention:

- Sisters Dalling and Chevalier: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 22 full



- Elders Fullmer and Binks: 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 29 other, 1 progressing, 197 contacts
- Elders Shaw and Cooper: 2 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 2 progressing,
- Elders Kim and Huh: 3 at Sacramento, 4 progressing, 1 new, 100 contacts, 22 full, 20 to non-members
- Elders Smith and Fajardo: 6 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 5 new, 14 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Hea and Gist: 37 other, 180 contacts
- Elders Seitz and Peck: 2 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 4 progressing, 18 full,
- Sisters Caribou and Wu: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 28 other, 4 progressing, 119 contacts, 16 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders Dietz and Carlisle: 4 with baptismal date, 2 member present, 7 progressing,
- Elders McDowell and Magnusson: 79 contacts, 13 full
- Elders McAllister and Hatton: 3 member present, 110 contacts, 13 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Brunt and Feinga: 5 member present, 2 at Sacramento, 1 progressing, 22 full
- Elders Heinzen and Green: 9 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 6 progressing, 187 contacts, 20 full, 19 to non-members
- Elders Thompson and White: 5 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 16 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Pack and Bingham: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 1 progressing
- Elders Marcum and Hall: 2 member present, 120 contacts,
- Elders Whittenburg and Foster: 27 other, 2 progressing, 110 contacts, 15 full

- Elders Gonzalez and Sudweeks: 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 22 other, 2 progressing,

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week

MAY 27, 2008

A SIMPLE WAY TO ACCELERATE CHURCH GROWTH

The Apostle Paul stated, “He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.” (2Cor 9:6) His observation applies perfectly to both full-time and member missionary work. It gives the simple formula by which we can grow the Church in British Columbia as the Lord through his prophets has asked.

MEMBER MISSIONARIES SUCCEED BY INVITING OFTEN

In his excellent book on missionary work, “The Law of the Harvest,” Brother David Stewart makes the important observation, “If a member only speaks with someone about the gospel once or twice

a year, it is unlikely that he or she will ever bring another person into the Church.” By contrast, he notes that “members who invite often can bring many people into the Church over the course of a lifetime.” His observations are precisely the same as ours, having observed member missionaries in BC now for nearly 3 years. Sister Lena Ma has been responsible for the conversion of 20 people in 10 years simply because she invites often. There is no other explanation to her extraordinary member missionary accomplishments. Her success can be achieved by every faithful member in BC--they simply must embrace the concept of inviting, lovingly and regularly (at least one person weekly is a helpful goal). Our BC experience shows that 1 of 7 invited by a member comes to a Church-related activity, and 1 of 14 invited by a member to “come and see” goes on to baptism! Sister Ma’s success rate is the same as any other BC member missionary; she just invites often.

We ask the question: why is not every faithful Church member in BC inviting at least weekly?

PRESIDENT HENRY B. EYRING IMPLORES MEMBERS TO INVITE OFTEN

President Henry B. Eyring described the effective member missionary in an Ensign article in May 2003: “(They) are like the sons of Mosiah, ‘desirous that salvation should be declared to every creature...’ Those who speak easily and often of the restored gospel, prize what it has meant to them. It is the gift they have received which makes them eager for others to receive it.”

In other words, invite regularly, invite often. Brother David

Stewart observed that what is said in the invite is not nearly as important as is the frequency of the invitations. He writes, “making the effort to share the gospel consistently is far more important than the approach.”



DANCE NUMBER AT MOTHER'S DAY PROGRAM AT WAH YAN WARD

FOR FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES, PRODUCTIVITY IS DETERMINED BY THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE CONTACTED

Brother Stewart notes, regarding the success of full-time missionaries, “low contacting effort is almost always a major cause of poor missionary success.” He reflects on his experience as a missionary in Russia, observing, “a missionary who consistently contacts 100 people per day can reach over 70,000 people over the course of a mission, while one who contacted only 5 per day would reach only 3,600.” He then describes the impact of a high level of contacting in a less productive country or province such as BC—“If an average of 5,000 gospel contacts were needed to achieve one baptism in a highly resistant area, a missionary who approached one hundred contacts each day could bring 14 people into the Church” (from personal finding alone)!! He goes on to describe the mind set and determination exhibited by those missionaries who achieve this objective: “effective contacting requires a driving sense of responsibility to reach the unreached and a high tolerance for rejection.” In contrast, a missionary who has only 5 contacts per day on average, 3600 contacts total in 2 years, likely will see no baptisms from personal finding. To overcome their fears and doubts, to prepare themselves mentally and spiritually for this level of work output throughout their mission, President James E. Faust said this: “Missionaries need to have the right attitude in contacting people. They need to cast aside all fear and be positive about the great message which is here. Fear not and doubt not. We have a leader who fears not and doubts not.”

Brothers and sisters, Elders and Sisters, we love you, and we know that each of you loves the Lord. Our constant prayer is that we might mightily and boldly stride forth together to do His will, to grow His Church in British Columbia. That we might sense the urgency and invite accordingly, achieving 100 or more contacts per day for full-time missionaries, and invite a non-member at least weekly for the members, is our constant prayer. We love you.

President and Sister Middleton

“We have no need to fear. We have no need to worry...Our imperative need is to be found doing our duty.” President Gordon B. Hinckley, Ensign, May, 1983.

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending May 25, 2008)
In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford: (16 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Abbotsford, Surrey and Vancouver: (1 Baptism each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Prince George (with 7 Baptismal Dates)
- Honorable Mention: Victoria (5 Baptismal Dates) and Kelowna (3 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Surrey Language: (20 At Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with member Present

- Surrey: (20 lessons with member present)



SPRING IN RICHMOND

Contacts

- Surrey Language and Vancouver: (31.2 and 31.3 contacts per day average)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver: (419 other lessons)

Progressing Investigators:

- Vancouver Language: (17 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Kelowna (16); Surrey Language (15); Abbotsford (14 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators

- Vancouver Language: (16 New Investigators)**Average Full Lessons per Companionship**
- Kelowna and Vancouver (18.5 Full Lessons); Nanaimo (18.4 Full Lessons)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Mather and Cheng: 3 member present, 177 other, 1 new, 470 Contacts, 30 full, 22 to non-members
- Elders Smith and Fajardo: 6 at Sacramento, 8 member present, 4 progressing, 4 new, 256 contacts, 19 full, 17 to non-members
- Elders Whittenburg and Foster: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present,

3 progressing, 2 new, 145 contacts

- Sisters Falk and Nibley: 1 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 1 progressing, 2 new, 111 contacts, 24 full, 15 to non-members
- Sisters Anderson and Weber: 4 at Sacramento, 10 member present, 6 progressing, 22 full, 20 to non-members
- Elders Heinzen and Green: 12 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 7 progressing, 3 new, 190 contacts, 20 full, 19 to non-members
- Elders Magnusson and McDowell: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 23 other, 124 contacts
- Elders Wilson and Szykowski: 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 23 other, 3 progressing
- Elders Seitz and Peck: 4 member present, 4 progressing, 2 new, 130 contacts, 22 full, 12 to non members
- Elders Barker and Park: 2 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 3 progressing,

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 6 progressing, 212 contacts, 15 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Hunsaker and Seebeck: 2 member present, 100 other, 3 new, 270 contacts, 16 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Saito and Taylor: 246 contacts, 31 full, 7 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Porter: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 81 other, 6 progressing, 195 contacts, 24 full, 21 to non-members
- Elders Kim and Huh: 1 at Sacramento, 4 progressing, 6 new, 24 full, 22 to non-members
- Elders Curtis and Parson: 3 at Sacramento, 3 progressing



MISSION HOME, LEFT OF THE PINK ONE

- Elders Shaw and Cooper: 2 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 3 progressing
- Elders Fullmer and Binks: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 1 progressing, 2 new, 238 contacts
- Sisters Dalling and Chevalier: 3 member present, 3 progressing
- Elders Walton and Evans: 2 member present, 3 progressing
- Elders Terry and Berger: 1 member present, 19 other, 111 contacts, 18 full
- Elders Kirby and Anderson: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present
- Elders Fillmore and Barton: 6 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 16 full



FROZEN LAKE, MOUNTAINS ABOVE THE SEA-TO-SKY HIGHWAY

- Sisters Caribou and Wu: 3 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 5 progressing, 18 full, 9 to non-members
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 4 at Sacramento, 4 progressing, 2 new, 112 contacts, 18 full, 9 to non-members,
- Elders Marianno and Hassell: 1 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 5 progressing, 1 new
- Elders Dietz and Carlisle: 4 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 37 other, 7 progressing
- Elders Banks and Nelson: 2 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 2 progressing, 16 full
- Elders McAllister and Hatton: 2 member present, 1 progressing, 3 new, 202 contacts
- Elders Feinga and Brunt: 1 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 275 contacts, 15 full
- Elders Mun and Jung: 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 168 other, 3 progressing, 331 contacts, 20 full
- Elders Thompson and White: 5 at Sacramento, 5 progressing, 135 contacts,
- Elders Knapp and Ramirez: 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 1 progressing
- Elders Shumway and Homer: 5 member present, 2 progressing, 16 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Johnson and Johnson: 3 member present, 2 progressing, 103 contacts
- Elders Gonzalez and Sudweeks: 4 member present, 3 progressing, 109 contacts,

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week

ISLAND NEAR HORSESHOE FERRY TERMINAL



THANK YOU!

JUNE 2008

JUNE 3, 2008

TAKING THE GOSPEL TO A CHRISTIAN SCHOOL

Recently we were invited to speak at a Christian high school in Richmond. The school headmaster asked us to describe why the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints differed from other Christian churches. Eagerly we accepted the invitation, and our experience is described below:

Teaching the Restoration to a Richmond Christian School, by Elders Carlton Taylor (and Spencer Harrison)

“On Monday May 5, 2008, President Middleton, Elder Harrison and I had a unique opportunity. We were invited to go to the Richmond Christian Secondary School to teach a lesson about our Church. It was a very exciting offer because we were going to be able to teach many students at one time. When we got to the school our hopes for a great lesson were only heightened because we were led into a classroom of 40 students who were eagerly awaiting our lesson.

“We taught them the Restoration Lesson for about 35 minutes,



BICYCLERS AND WAVES AT TOFINO BEACH

each of us teaching part of the lesson, and then opened the floor for questions. The reaction of the students was extremely good. They all had listened to the Joseph Smith First Vision story very attentively. Following the lesson the students asked many sincere questions which made the whole presentation very interactive.

“At the end of the presentation we extended the offer to come and see more if they would like by coming on a Tour of the Church, or by reading the Book of Mormon. If this lesson doesn’t yield immediate fruit, I know that it will yield long term fruit. All of the students seemed genuine about wanting to do what’s right and they learned eagerly. We feel many of them will eventually search out the Church to learn more, and this lesson gave them a great start.”

Editor’s Note: Please inquire in your city or town as to whether there is a Christian secondary school, or indeed a public secondary school with a class to which you could speak. Reach out boldly and with faith, being prepared to present the lesson of the restoration. You will likely have a wonderful experience, as we did.

REACH FOR “GREENIE FIRE” EVERY DAY OF YOUR MISSION!

One of our recently arrived missionaries shared with us her disappointment in a few comments she heard older missionaries make who have been in the field awhile, who seemed to put down the enthusiasm and energy of newly arrived missionaries. She noted very correctly that “the fire that is noted in ‘green’ missionaries should be able to stay burning strongly.” She went on to mention how sad she felt “when older missionaries are sarcastic about the ‘new greenie



BISHOP TOM HOUSHOLDER AND PRESIDENT MIDDLETON



ELDERS BROWN AND HOWARD RECEIVE THE CLEAN CAR TROPHY

fire,' and I wanted to teach them about how to re-ignite that fire... Anyway, I think greenie fire is Great!"

Indeed it is! Without that drive and enthusiasm demonstrated by newly arrived missionaries our success in growing the Church in BC is significantly reduced. May we plead with each one of our missionaries that he or she reach deep inside themselves every day to seek for and demonstrate the energy and enthusiasm they need to be optimally successful, to transform that somewhat undisciplined and inexperienced "greenie fire" into a "seasoned missionary fire" that will take you to the height of success. Bring fire and passion to your works every day, and then you will know of the Lord's approval of your work output as you will feel of His "peace that surpasseth understanding" (Phil. 4:7)

Use "District Accounting" to Help Missionaries Succeed, by Elders Brandon Ruesch (and Justin Fillmore)

"Elder Justin Fillmore and I implemented a program known as "District Accounting" when we were the Kelowna Zone Leaders. The idea came from the Preach my Gospel DVD's, and consists of having at every District Meeting a couple of companionships go up to the board and report on investigators and less-actives with whom they are working. They outline and explain their progress in the Gospel, explain any concerns or problems that are slowing their progression, and then they open up a discussion with the rest of the District missionaries. Then the other companionships offer suggestions, advice or approaches that worked for them in similar situations in the past. We found that many missionaries had experienced the same or similar problems, and had found workable solutions they could



HAYDENS AND MIDDLETONS AT DINNER
HOSTED BY THE RICHMOND CHINESE SISTERS

share. The thing that worked so well with District Accounting is that it put us all together as a Zone or District so that we came to understand more fully what is going on in the other companionships. We then could pray for specific investigators in others' areas of the Zone instead of only our own. It was also great because often there was some solution or idea brought up that the companionship having the problems had not thought about. So instead of two minds trying to resolve concerns it was a half a dozen or so, and so everyone had different insights that helped considerably. It also really helped to bring the District/Zone together in unity. It has worked extremely well in the Kelowna Zone, and I believe that any District or Zone can benefit from this practice!"

**We Love Teaching Diverse Nationalities in Canada,
by Elders Jung June Huh (and Hee Jun Kim)**

"Things are going well here in Downtown Vancouver. We went out and proselyted vigorously this week, and were blessed to meet up with many new investigators. I feel I have been prepared for this mission. While I was living at home just prior to the Mission in 2007, I was attending University in Otago (Dunedin), a city in New Zealand. While there I made many friends. Most of them were from other parts of the world, places such as India, China, Taiwan, Malaysia, and Korea. It just so happens the majority of the immigrants to New Zealand are from those lands. I learned to love my friends, who had come from many countries. That is why I love ALL people here in Vancouver, with so many immigrants. Even though I'm a Korean Missionary, I'm grateful for the opportunity to be amongst the many ethnic groups of Vancouver.

"We found one really cool Chinese girl from the Island of Fiji.

My previous home teacher was from Fiji and he was the National Basketball Coach. One new Fijian investigator came to Church with us today and even stayed for the CES fireside. She really enjoyed the Testimony meeting and I know she will be blessed with membership in our Church one day.

"The awesome thing about the Canada Vancouver Mission is that we are not only building Zion in British Columbia, but helping build Zion for the entire world."

President and Sister Middleton

*"God hath made me to laugh,
so that all that hear will laugh
with me." Genesis 21: 6*

**Farewell in Kaysville, Utah for President and Sister Nelson
on June 8, 2008**

President and Sister Kent and Jannilyn Nelson, the new Canada Vancouver Mission President and his wife, are having their farewell Sacrament Meeting in their Kaysville, Utah home ward on June 8, 2008. Parents living nearby are welcome to attend and meet the Nelsons. The Sacrament Meeting starts at 9:00 AM; the ward is the Kaysville 20th, located at 855 E. Mutton Hollow Road, Kaysville, UT

JUNE 10, 2008

“I WOULD RUN FROM HOUSE TO HOUSE”

Sister Camilla van den Bosch shared with us one of her favorite quotes about the intensity level we need to bring to our missionary labors if we would succeed as our Father-in-Heaven would have.



A BENCH AT THE HOUSHOLDER'S

Given by President Spencer W. Kimball, we agree with Sister van den Bosch that it should apply to every Canada Vancouver missionary:

“If only you could see the vision as I have. I wish I had your bodies to do this work. I would run from house to house telling everyone of the Gospel, and after I lost the strength to run I would begin to walk, and after I collapsed from walking I would begin to crawl...and after my knees were so bloody that I could not use them I would use my arms to drag myself, and once everything in my body was gone I would begin to yell. ‘Oh if only you could see the vision that I have.’”

Hard Work Brings Blessings In Salmon Arm, by Elders David Berger (and Aaron Terry)

“My first few days here in Salmon Arm have been quite the experience for me. My companion and I get along very, very well, and I’ve found I love missionary work already! We’ve already come in contact with three people who are interested in the Gospel, Amber, Karen and Michelle. We took Karen on a Tour of the Church, and she’s already accepted the commitment of baptism! We found all three through tracting.

“Just that morning when we found Karen, we had set a goal to achieve one baptism in the area during our transfer period. The area usually only sees one baptism per year, but we prayed for the Lord’s help. All I can say is, Heavenly Father hears and answers prayers! We first met Amber while we were tracting in our area. Elder Terry decided it was a good idea to try one last house on our street—we knocked and nobody answered. We knew we needed to talk to somebody there, and we could hear voices in the backyard, so we walked to the back, despite feeling a bit odd wandering into

somebody's backyard. We found Amber, a young mother with kids. She wasn't too interested in hearing about the Church, but agreed to let us help her with some gardening. While we worked hard, we also began to discuss principles of the Gospel. We found she was very religious, and she asked many questions. She seemed particularly interested in the Book of Mormon, so she called her friend Karen over so she too could hear about the Book. When she arrived, we taught the First Lesson, and offered to take them on a Tour of the Church. Karen was completely interested, but Amber was still pretty skeptical, despite her saying we were an answer to her prayers by helping her. So we took Karen on the Tour of the building, showing and teaching her how everything worked. When we got to the baptismal font, and explained baptism, she immediately said she needed it. We explained further and asked her to be baptized. She completely agreed. It was a very powerful and moving experience that really showed me the sweetness of sharing the Gospel and missionary work. Michelle was a nice lady we met who agreed to listen to us, but first has to find some time to fit us into her schedule. We're really excited to hear from her!

"Later, while at Church, still another investigator named Denise randomly walked into Church, attended Sacrament Meeting, and wanted to learn more. We were overjoyed! The Lord is really blessing us, and we are truly becoming instruments in His hands! This is a marvelous work and a wonder! I'm glad I was able to go on a mission!!"



**A Member’s Invitation Leads To 5 Baptisms,
by Elders William Hatton (and Andrew Johnson)**

“We’ve had an awesome week in Mission. Elder Andrew Johnson and I were able to baptize a mother and her two oldest daughters, Elizabeth and her daughters Mia and Viviana. They came from Sudan originally. Elizabeth and her daughters were shopping one day in



LANTERN FESTIVAL, WITH DRAGONS

Abbotsford when a man approached them. His name is Samuel Nyuol and he is a recent convert in the Abbotsford Second Ward. He just walked up to them and started telling them about how much he loved his Church, and that they should come to it. From that simple invitation they started having the missionaries over. At the time, she had a relative living with her by the name of Peter Gatluk, and his son Peter was also there. They too were very receptive towards the lessons.

“Peter and Peter moved, but continued meeting with the missionaries and were baptized, and now Elizabeth and her two oldest daughters have also been baptized. So here is a case of almost instant success, where someone just ‘opening their mouth’ leads to 5 baptisms!”

**Service at a Food Bank Brings Blessings; a Baptismal
Commitment is Accepted on a Tour, by Elders James Brown
(and Bart Szyrkowski)**

“This week was great in Merritt. Elder Szyrkowski and I were able to help out the local food bank on Tuesday evening. They were at a Carnival that had stopped in town for the day and people could bring in non-perishable items and get a discounted price on tickets for all the rides. There were many people that came and we were able to talk to quite a few. Naturally, many asked why we were dressed up and wearing name tags but most people in Merritt recognize us and some even stopped to ask how the new chapel is coming along.

“We were able to give a Tour of the office Sunday, which is our temporary meeting place until the new Merritt Chapel is completed, to one of our new investigators, Tyrone. His sister is a recent convert from the Kamloops 1st Ward, and she has been working diligently at

trying to introduce the gospel into the lives of her friends and family. The Tour went well and Tyrone has recently accepted a soft baptismal commitment! We've met with him on three other occasions and feel he is progressing quite nicely."

**The Lord Rewards Diligence,
by Elders Paul Heinzen (and Seth Green)**

"Elder Green and I are working hard. I'm beginning to understand even more how this is the Lord's work and thus our greatest success will come through His efforts, not ours. Elder Green and I tried our best this week to always be out; no down time. This past Sunday we saw the Lord's hand at work. Through none of our own efforts two families walked into Church! We had never seen them before but quickly got acquainted with them. Another family came as well which we had contacted into earlier this week. It was an amazing thing to see! Though one family was through our efforts, 2 others were brought about by the Lord in response to our diligence. We love the work!"

Repeatedly we have seen the Lord reward His diligent servants, as described above. Understand that if each missionary maintains his or her all out work effort, even through those inevitable times of discouragement, the Lord will reward. We love you!

President and Sister Middleton

"Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things." 1 Corinthians 13:7

The Coveted "Off the Hook" Award:

(Week-ending June 8, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford: (16 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Surrey Language: (2 Baptisms)
- Kelowna and Victoria: (1 Baptism each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Prince George (with 8 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Nanaimo, Surrey, Surrey Language, Prince George, Kelowna and



Victoria (all companionships with investigators at Sacrament Meeting)

- Vancouver Language: (39 at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with member Present

- Nanaimo, Surrey, Prince George, Vernon, Kelowna and Victoria (all companionships had lesson(s) with member present)
- Vernon: (17 lessons with member present)

Contacts

- Abbotsford and Vernon: (All companionships over 100 contacts)
- Vancouver Language : (41 contacts per day average)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver: (275 other lessons)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (271 other lessons) and Surrey (268 other lessons)

Progressing Investigators:

- Abbotsford, Surrey, Surrey Language, Kelowna and Victoria (all companionships with progressing investigators)
- Vancouver Language: (25 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (20 Progressing Investigators) and Surrey (19 Progressing Investigators)

SUNSET, PRINCE GEORGE CHAPEL

New Investigators

- Vancouver Language: (13 New Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey: (7 New Investigators)

Total Full Lessons Taught

- Surrey: (18 Total full lessons taught average per companionship)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Gonzalez and Sudweeks: 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 51 other, 6 progressing
- Elders Marcum and Hall: 2 at Sacramento, 39 other, 2 progressing, 175 contacts, 17 full, 13 to non-members, 1 Tour
- Elders Brunt and Feinga: 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 75 other, 4 progressing, 285 contacts, 19 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Mun and Jung: 2 at Sacramento, 66 other, 2 progressing, 1 new, 246 contacts, 18 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Mather and Cheng: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 100 other, 1 progressing, 250 contacts, 16 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Hea and Gist: 2 at Sacramento, 3 progressing, 5 new, 169 contacts, 28 full, 27 to non-members
- Elders Dietz and Carlisle: 5 with baptismal dates, 4 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 27 other, 8 progressing, 1 new
- Elders Douglas and Mousseau: 4 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 20 other, 4 progressing, 2 new, 16 full, 9 to non-members
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 4 at Sacramento, 27 other, 3 progressing, 116 contacts, 15 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Fullmer and Binks: 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 42 other, 3 progressing, 363 contacts, 14 full, 11 to non-members

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Shaw and Cooper: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 1 progressing, 142 contacts
- Elders Barker and Park: 2 with baptismal dates, 5 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing
- Sisters Dalling and Chevalier: 2 at Sacramento, 1 member present,



DRIFTWOOD ON THE TOFINO BEACH

- 3 progressing
- Sisters Caribou and Wu: 2 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacrament, 3 progressing, 17 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Seitz and Peck: 3 at Sacarament, 5 progressing, 16 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders Walton and Evans: 133 contacts, 16 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Banks and Nelson: 2 at Sacrament, 2 member present, 3 progressing, 4 new, 19 full
- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 2 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacrament, 5 member present, 33 other, 6 progressing, 203 contacts, 15 full,

- 13 to non-members
- Elders Hunsaker and Seebeck: 2 member present, 90 other, 230 contacts, 19 full, 17 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Porter: 11 at Sacrament, 49 other, 8 progressing, 2 new, 215 contacts, 15 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Smith and Fajardo: 10 at Sacrament, 36 other, 5 progressing, 2 new, 15 full, 13 to non-members, 3 Tours
- Elders DeHerrera and Tolleson: 16 at Sacrament, 9 progressing, 4 new
- Elders Hea and Gist: 47 other, 400 contacts, 2 Tours
- Elders McAllister and Hatton: 1 at Sacrament, 2 member present, 35 other, 5 new, 203 contacts, 1 Tour
- Sisters Anderson and Weber: 2 at Sacrament, 69 other, 7 progressing, 23 full, 11 to non-members
- Sisters van den Bosch and Anderson: 1 at Sacrament, 4 member present, 3 progressing, 30 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Green and Heinzen: 5 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 6 progressing, 193 contacts, 17 full, 15 to non-members, 1 Tour
- Elders Knapp and Ramirez: 2 at Sacrament, 3 member present, 46 other, 1 progressing, 2 new, 145 contacts

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week



FLOAT PLANE DOCK AT TOFINO

JUNE 17, 2008

VIGOROUS AND IMAGINATIVE MISSIONARY EFFORTS LEAD TO SUCCESS

We have been pleased to have multiple reports sent in by our full-time missionaries reporting on success in their areas. Space doesn't permit us to share all of the great reports we have received, but we share a few in this Star which are representative. The common theme we repeatedly see is that the Lord rewards hard, focused missionary work. A few novel ideas appear in these reports, and if they would work in your area, please adopt them.

Coaching Soccer As A Proselyting Tool, by Elders Adam Hassell (and Scott Mariann)

“We have been keeping quite busy here in Prince George. I want to give you an update on the boy's soccer team we are coaching. The boys had a rough season to start off with. You could say they all looked a bit rusty at first. We've been trying to help them out with fundamentals and improve their skills. While we are doing this, missionary opportunities are arising.”

“We usually look like official big time coaches because of our white shirts and ties, and that brings us questions from many people. One day we were out running around with the kids in the pouring rain. I was soaked from head to toe. I took this opportunity to go stand

under cover with some of the parents. They commented on my dress for such an occasion. I joked with them and said we had a press conference after practice. They continued to fire questions left and right about missionary service here in British Columbia. I had the chance to explain the whole missionary program to them, and a bit about the Church.

“Our team is on the rise, and I think pretty soon we just might need to go to a press conference. Our last game we beat the number one team

3-1! After the game one player's mother commented on our coaching, and said she was missing something in life and perhaps



PRESIDENT AND SISTER MIDDLETON AT BUTCHART GARDENS



the reason we were coaching her son's team was to be able to tell her more about our Church. We set up an appointment to teach the soccer player's family soon."

"Also, this past week we set another baptismal date with one of our investigators! I love this work!"

Reaching The Elect Through Youth Musical Productions and Branding, by Elders' Joshua Dietz (and T.J. Carlisle)

"We are using some creative ways of contacting in Vanderhoof. Tracting here is hard because most people have already been tracted in the last 3 months or so. This makes it hard for us to get them to listen. So this last week we decided to try a different approach.

"The youth put on a musical this week, which Elder Carlisle and I attended. There were 40 or so non-members in attendance, and so Elder Carlisle and I got to talk to a number of people that it would normally take two days to reach in an hour and a half!

"Branding also started up this week. One of the members had about 250 head to brand. This activity was sort of a double-whammie, because not only were we able to talk to about 20 non-members, but we also gained the trust of both the non-members and members. It was a very good day."

The Work in Salmon Arm in Rhyme, by Elder Aaron Terry (whose companion was Elder James Hunsaker)

"We went to contact Fred Ouellette "He had many stories to tell, "Many changes were made "Was Brother Garner's new call

An Investigator of a past day. But was interested as well. At the ward conference today To be Ward Mission Leader

As we arrived at his door 'Drop by anytime' He said, Some Presidencies were changed His reputation precedes him

(In Picadilly Terrace, 2nd floor) As he rubbed his balding head Others still get to stay. As being a compassionate man

He gladly let us come in So we went on our way, But most important of all From sources in Smithers

And gave us chairs in the den And we'll see him on Thursday. for missionaries at least Time to write a new Ward Mission Plan!"

Chapel Tours Lead to Progressing Investigators; Member Missionary Work Emphasized in Clearbrook, by Elders Brandon Ruesch (and Rajan Copeland)

"It has been a great week. Through spiritual chapel Tours we were able to gain wonderful new investigators. We had three non-member Tours, all of which were a great success, and we got commitments and a follow up teaching appointment this week! One who went with us on a Tour came to Church and the others should be coming next week—it is a great thing to see!

"Just to report on our last PEC meeting, we handed out the Vancouver Star for May 27th on member missionary work and it was warmly received. We will be implementing some new missionary programs soon to help us both as members and missionaries to take the gospel to all of BC!"

**Good Member Invitations, Less Active Work,
and a Ward Bowling Activity All Help the Work,
by Elders Spencer Hall (and Alex Marcum)**

“We received some member referrals this week that have turned out to be good. We are also feeling confident about the one from last week, Tara Kent. We have also found a couple of new investigators from our own finding. We have a few less-active families that we are working with. We had some good visits with them that lead to them being at Church this week; it was great.

“We had a ward activity this weekend, bowling. A member brought a non-member friend—it was awesome! We all had a good time.”

**Walking Brings Success; Frequent Exchanges to be
Implemented in PoCo, by Sisters Marcy Anderson
(and Camilla Van den Bosch)**

“I look forward to getting tons of work done with Sister Van den Bosch here in PoCo. Saturday we had a dynamite day—8 full lessons! We were out walking and contacting for the afternoon--that was really successful.

“We’ve been seeing a lot of recent converts and less active members, and have been able to help and strengthen them. In order to have more time for finding and teaching investigators we’ve introduced a plan to our ward Mission Leader. It includes going on exchanges with members to see the less actives and especially to go with the visiting teachers so that we can help the members take over their

role to strengthen and nourish each other ‘by the good word of God.’ (Moroni 6—I love it!) We’re really excited to get this rolling!”

**Teaching All Who Will Listen Pays Off,
by Elders Isaac Pack (and Justin Bingham)**

“We had a great week in Campbell River. We went to see one of our potential investigators because he gave us the wrong phone number and his sister Rebecca answered the door. She informed us that her brother is an atheist and is not interested at all. She even said that he would ‘rip us up in pieces.’ So we started to chat with Rebecca and noticed she had a cross around her neck. We asked if she was Christian. She said ‘definitely.’ We then invited Rebecca on a Tour and she said she would love to come. She says she is searching for a Church. She already had a link with Sister Turner from Quadra Island, and Sister Turner picked her up for Church. She loved Church! She even said she wants to come next week. We will take her on a Tour on Monday. She has so many questions. The Young Women’s President basically helped her with everything she needed and helped answer many of her questions. Rebecca says that she couldn’t have her questions answered at her previous church, so she is very excited about receiving the answers our Church supplies. Things are picking up in Campbell River!”

Thank you for your inspiring, hard work! We love you!

President and Sister Middleton



VERNON ZONE WITH THE MIDDLETONS, WEARING VERNON SHIRTS

“Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only” James 1:22

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending June 15, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford: (16 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Victoria: (2 Baptisms)
- Kelowna, Vancouver and Prince George: (1 Baptism each)

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Prince George (with 5 Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Abbotsford, Nanaimo, Surrey Language, Prince George and Victoria: All companionships with investigator(s) at Sacrament meeting
- Vancouver Language: (30 at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with member Present

- Surrey, Surrey Language, Kelowna and Victoria: All companionships gave lesson(s) with member present
- Abbotsford: (20 lessons with member present)

Contacts

- Nanaimo, Surrey Language and Vancouver Language: all companionships with 100 or more contacts
- Surrey Language : (31.8 contacts per day average)

Other Lessons Taught

- Vancouver: (287 other lessons)

Progressing Investigators:

- Surrey Language: All companionships with progressing investigators
- Vancouver Language: (22 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators

- Vancouver Language and Victoria: All companionships with new investigators
- Vancouver Language: (16 New Investigators)

Total Full Lessons Taught

- Surrey Language: (22.3 Total full lessons taught average per companionship)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Mun and Jung: 3 at Sacramento, 9 member present, 85 other, 3 progressing, 7 new, 400 Contacts, 37 full, 21 to non-members
- Sisters van den Bosch and M. Anderson: 7 member present, 87 other, 3 progressing, 123 contacts, 29 full, 13 to non-members
- Elders Shumway and Homer: 2 at Sacramento, 9 member present, 32 other, 2 progressing, 1 new, 131 contacts, 20 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Smith and Fajardo: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 4 progressing, 3 new, 168 contacts, 24 full, 24 to non-members
- Elders Hunsaker and Seebeck: 2 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 117 other, 2 progressing, 3 new, 350 contacts, 19 full, 16 to non-members
- Elders Kim and Huh: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 4 progressing, 3 new, 168 contacts, 24 full, 24 to non-members
- Elders Dietz and Carlisle: 3 with baptismal date, 2 member present, 6 at Sacramento, 7 progressing
- Elders Wilson and Szykowski: 2 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 20 other, 2 progressing
- Elders Seitz and Peck: 2 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 46 other, 5 progressing, 1 new, 115 contacts, 27 full, 16 to non-members
- Elders Barker and Park: 1 Baptized, 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 1 new

Honorable Mention:

- Elders Fullmer and Binks: 1 Baptized, 3 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 3 progressing, 1 new, 223 contacts
- Elders Shaw and Cooper: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 1 new, 136 contacts
- Sisters Dalling and Chevalier: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 2 progressing, 2 new, 140 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Douglas and Mousseau: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present,



THE ROAD TO TOFINO

- 20 other, 3 progressing
- Elders Walton and Evans: 2 member present, 147 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Kirby and Anderson: 2 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 2 progressing,
- Sisters Caribou and Wu: 1 with Baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 120 contacts, 18 full, 10 to non-members
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 6 at sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 1 new, 14 full, 8 to non-members



SINGING TO KITCHEN ANGELS

- Elders Marianno and Hassell: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 3 progressing, 1 new
- Elders Banks and Nelson: 1 confirmed, 1 with baptismal date, 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 1 progressing, 1 new
- Elders Howard and Brown: 5 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 4 progressing
- Elders Klekas and Taylor: 1 Baptized, 1 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 5 progressing, 3 new, 250 contacts
- Elders Saito and Taylor: 1 member present, 3 new, 194 contacts
- Elders Mather and Cheng: 2 member present, 70 other, 1 new, 230 contacts
- Elders Bowles and Porter: 1 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 8 progressing, 4 new, 212 contacts, 15 full, 15 to non-members
- Elders Smith and Fajardo: 9 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 3 progressing, 1 new, 220 contacts
- Elders DeHerrera and Tolleson: 13 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 7 progressing, 3 new, 117 contacts
- Elders Head and Gist: 55 other, 5 new, 380 contacts, 12 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Knapp and Ramirez: 1 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 68 other, 1 progressing, 2 new, 150 contacts, 15 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Marcum and Hall: 1 at Sacramento, 30 other, 3 progressing, 2 new, 110 contacts, 17 full, 11 to non-members
- Sisters Falk and Nibley: 1 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 52 other, 3 new, 134 contacts
- Elders Pack and Bingham: 2 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 2 progressing, 113 contacts

- Elders Johnson and Johnson: 4 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 16 full, 8 to non-members
- Elders McAllister and Hatton: 1 member present, 48 other, 3 new, 185 contacts, 15 full 11 to non-members
- Elders Curiel and Michaelis: 1 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 135 contacts, 17 full
- Sisters Anderson and Weber: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 17 full, 10 to non-members
- Elders Brunt and Feinga: 2 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 40 other, 2 progressing
- Elders Heinzen and Green: 1 with baptismal date, 9 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 6 progressing, 5 new, 19 full, 19 to non-members
- Elders Thompson and White: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 126 contacts

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week

JUNE 24, 2008

THANK YOU!

Our three year calling as the Canada Vancouver Mission President concludes this week. We stand stunned at how quickly the time has gone. We were honored and humbled by our call to serve, and determined that we would leave our family, friends and medical

practice for three years to work as hard as possible to repay the Lord in small measure for the bountiful, rich blessing He has showered upon us and our family.

We agree totally with the observation of King Benjamin that it is impossible to fully repay the Lord for all our blessings: “if ye should serve Him with all your whole souls yet ye would be unprofitable servants...ye are still indebted unto him, and are, and will be, forever and ever; therefore, of what have ye to boast? And now I ask, can ye say aught of yourselves? I answer you, Nay.” (Mosiah 2:21, 24, 25)

OUR NEW FRIENDS ARE FOREVER

During our three years we have developed many friendships, with our full-time missionaries and with members and non-members alike. We estimate that during our time we worked with 54 single Sisters, 21 Senior Couples, and 245 Elders. We view each now as family, and importantly we know that “families are forever.” Additionally, hundreds of wonderful BC Church members have become eternal friends. We thank each of you for your friendship. It is invaluable; it will be eternal.

Please let us know of events in your lives. We care deeply about your future. Our challenge to you is to set lofty personal goals, in your missions, in your marriages, in your Church service, in your future careers. Aim high, then strive mightily to achieve. Understand that set-backs, trials and tribulations will beset you, but persevere. We expect you to join us in the Celestial Room of the Salt Lake Temple, with your spouse if possible, as part of our Mission Reunion in October, 2025. Don't be deterred along your way.

HOMECOMING SACRAMENT MEETING DATE AND TIME

Our Homecoming Sacrament Meeting will be held on July 13, 2008. Please join us if you can, at the Monument Park Stake Center at 2:30 p.m., located in Salt Lake City at 1300 South and Wasatch Drive. We look forward to seeing all who can come.

First BC Korean Branch Is Formed, by Elder Spencer Mun

The first ever Korean Branch in BC was formed at the Coquitlam chapel on the 22nd of June, 2008. Members of the Branch Presidency are: Branch President: Brother Hur Choong Suk, 1st Counselor: Brother Jung Hee Mo, 2nd Counselor: Brother Choi Hyoung Kwon.

We were so grateful to be able to witness the unfolding of this once in a lifetime event! The chapel was filled with joyful saints, and at one point in the Sacrament meeting the Korean members were asked to stand to sustain the Branch Presidency—When the Korean saints all stood up there were more Korean saints than there were at the Coquitlam Ward! It was a sight to see. The forming of this Branch will help the Korean saints tremendously and will accelerate the missionary efforts in the Korean work here in BC. We know that as long as we are faithful and obedient to His commandments He will bless us!

Practicing Lessons with a “Guitar Investigator,” by Elders David Berger (and Aaron Terry)

“Elder Terry and I were both deciding what we should discuss and practice for Companion Study one morning. We were talking about an investigator we had found earlier, and we decided to practice the 2nd Lesson because we wanted to teach well to our investigator the next time we saw her. We also wanted to work on other things like transitioning and reading scriptures. So, to ‘enhance’ the experience, my companion grabbed his guitar and set it on the couch. We grabbed some chairs and sat in front. Then we gave a 35 minute lesson to our guitar, complete with wonderful scriptures and examples. We felt really good, and started to move on to other things. However, before we completely switched gears, my companion made a particular comment that truly lifted my spirits and the atmosphere! He said, ‘Wow! We taught that lesson so well that the guitar was just over taken by the Spirit, and now wants to be baptized! But it can’t because it’s an inanimate object.’ It was quite the statement, and how true! Maybe there’s an inanimate object heaven...”

Obedience Necessary in Our Mission and Throughout Life, by Elders Spencer Mun (and Gyubum Jung)

“I loved Zone Conference this week and its message of how we need to endure to the end. Not to the end of our mission, but the end of our life, because that is one of the reasons why we came out on a mission. I know that there is a purpose for all of us wherever we are. I would rather go home trying to obey all the rules and have no baptisms, than obey half the rules and have 1 or more baptisms.

Our companionship is going great and the district is doing great as well; we are all striving to do our best.”

WELCOME PRESIDENT AND SISTER NELSON

You can best honor us by warmly welcoming President and Sister Nelson to British Columbia, and by redoubling your missionary efforts. We pray that each of you will stay “anxiously engaged,” and will demonstrate to President and Sister Nelson through your focused intense labors your love for the Lord.

Know that we love you; know that we love the Lord. We rejoice with you that we have been able to boldly proclaim the Gospel to the citizens of British Columbia. How great has been our calling!

President and Sister Middleton

“Teach ye diligently, and my grace shall attend you.” D&C 88:78

New Converts

- Abbotsford: Gomez, Rodolfo; Johnson, Vera Lillian
- Vancouver: Thompson, William R.
- Vancouver Language: Wei Na

FAREWELL TO THE FOLLOWING

Sister Crystal Lynn Caribou

Work hard and have fun. Smile. Treat every day like it’s the last day of your mission, it goes by fast. I like the words of Alma, “I know that which the Lord hath commanded me, and I glory in it. I do not glory of myself, but I glory in that which the Lord hath commanded me; yea, and this is my glory, that perhaps I may be an instrument in the hands of God to bring some soul to repentance; and this is my joy.” *Alma 29:9* I love you. God Bless!



NO. 5 ROAD AND STEVESTON

Elder Spencer Harrison

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and DOETH them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock.” I pray that we can all be “doers of the word, and not hearers only”... so that we will all live in the neighborhood of homes built upon ‘The Rock’. I’ll see you there, but in the mean time - TREAT EVERYDAY LIKE IT’S YOUR LAST!

Elder Lisiate T. Feinga

What it do Elders & Sisters! My last words of advice are to follow the counsel of Alma, “therefore, my son, see that you are merciful unto your brethren; deal justly, judge righteously, and do good continually; and if ye do all these things then shall ye receive your reward. *Alma 41:14* God Speed!!

Elder Andrew Johnson

What we do in life echoes in eternity—so don’t waste time. I love you all and I love my Savior for He truly loves each and every one of us. Let’s show some love to Him and give our brethren a chance to receive this way of life called the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Remember when it comes to the Gospel, the juice is always worth the squeeze.

Elder Logan Magnusson

“Success is not the key to happiness—Happiness is the key to success. If you love what you’re doing, you’ll be successful.” *Anonymous*. I have loved my mission and I love all of you. Till we meet again.

Elder Isaac Pack

The fellowship of the unashamed—“I won’t give up, shut up, or let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, and paid up for the cause of Christ. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till all know, and work till He stops me. And when He returns for His own, He will have no problem recognizing me. My banner will be clear.” *Torrey L. Korab*. Elders and Sisters, let’s strive to do all that we can. I love you all. Take care!

Elder Tyler "The Turtle" Shumway

“The laughter of the world is just loneliness reassuring itself.” *Neal A. Maxwell*. Don’t be ashamed of the gospel. Go forth as the people of Shum and conquer!

Sister Blair Bryan

As I prepare to leave the Canada Vancouver Mission, it is with some regret because of the several new investigators we are currently teaching. Missionary work has always been foremost in my mind since the moment I knew the truthfulness of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. I am a ‘forever missionary.’ Sister Blair Bryan

Elder and Sister Hayden

Whether wearing a badge or not, those who love the Lord are always missionaries. “And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. *Galations 6:9* Stay faithful always—We love you!

Elder Everett C. and Sister Florence LaNae Ovard

“...Choose you this day whom ye will serve; but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” *Joshua 24:15* Many blessings are given when we serve our Father in Heaven faithfully. Thank you Elders and Sisters for your friendships and helping make our time in the Canada Vancouver Mission very memorable. May all of us continue to share the Gospel, keep the commandments and endure to the end.

Elder Nicholas and Sister Janet Welch

We testify that the Lord keeps His promise as found in Doctrine and Covenants 84:88. “And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also, for I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up.” Work hard, be obedient, and trust in the Lord and you will receive these blessings, too.

Elder Ronald Jacobson and Sister Jean Jacobsen, Managers, LDS Employment Resource Services

As Disciples of Christ now and beyond, may we always remember to follow the council of the Savior and remember His promise as found in Doctrine and Covenants 14:7, “And, if you keep my commandments and endure to the end you shall have eternal life, which gift is the greatest of all the gifts of God.”

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- June 28th 9—11 a.m. Burnaby Chapel—Lower Mainland Missionaries Meet President and Sister Nelson
- July 4th 8:45 Nanaimo Stake Center—Victoria and Nanaimo Zone Conference
- July 9th 8:45 Vernon Stake Center - Kelowna Vernon Zone Conference
- July 11th 8:45 Prince George Stake Ctr.- Prince George Zone Conference
- July 17th 8:45 Burnaby Chapel—Vancouver/ Van Language Zone Conference
- July 24th 8:45 Surrey Stake Center—Surrey/ Surrey Language/ Abbotsford Zone Conference

The Coveted “Off the Hook” Award:

(Week-ending June 22, 2008)

In Recognition of the following:

Baptisms Year to Date

- Abbotsford: (16 Baptisms)

Baptisms this Week:

- Prince George: (4 Baptisms)
- Kelowna and Vancouver: (1 Baptism each)
-

Investigators with a Baptismal Date:

- Abbotsford (3 with Baptismal Dates)

Investigators Attending Sacrament Meeting:

- Surrey Language, Prince George, Kelowna and Victoria (all companionships with investigators at Sacrament Meeting)
- Vancouver Language: (25 at Sacrament Meeting)

Lessons with member Present

- Abbotsford: (24 lessons with member present)
- Vancouver Language, Vancouver, Prince George and Victoria: (All companionships gave lesson(s) with member present)

Contacts

- Surrey Language and Kelowna (All companionships with 100 contacts or more in week)
- Surrey Language : (33contacts per day average)

Other Lessons Taught

- Abbotsford: (221 other lessons)



MERRITT CHAPEL UNDER CONSTRUCTION

Progressing Investigators:

- Abbotsford, Surrey Language, Kelowna and Victoria (all companionships with progressing investigators)
- Vancouver Language: (25 Progressing Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Abbotsford (21 Progressing Investigators)

New Investigators

- Vancouver Language: (9 New Investigators)
- Honorable Mention: Surrey and Nanaimo: (7 New Investigators each)

Total Full Lessons Taught

- Kelowna: (18.5 Total full lessons taught average per companionship)

COMPANIONSHIPS:

- Elders Mun and Jung: 4 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 55 other, 4 progressing, 403 Contacts, 25 full, 19 to non-members
- Sister Vand den Bosch and M. Anderson: 3 at Sacramento, 6 member present, 3 progressing, 1 new, 30 full, 14 to non-members
- Elders Gonzalez and Sudweeks: 4 at Sacramento, 46 other, 4 progressing, 4 new, 17 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Pack and Bingham: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 2 progressing, 2 new, 16 full

- Elders Hunsaker and Seebeck: 1 member present, 77 other, 1 progressing, 1 new, 350 contacts, 16 full, 12 to non-members
- Elders Bowles and Porter: 9 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 65 other, 6 progressing, 281 contacts, 17 full, 15 to non-members
- Elders Dietz and Carlisle: 6 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 20 other, 5 progressing,
- Elders Terry and Berger: 3 at Sacramento, 8 member present, 1 new, 143 contacts, 24 full, 14 to non-members
- Sisters Caribou and Wu: 1 with baptismal date, 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 63 other, 3 progressing, 1 new, 276 contacts, 19 full, 11 to non-members
- Elders Fullmer and Binks: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 38 other, 4 progressing, 207 contacts

Honorable Mention:

- Sisters Dalling and Chevalier: 4 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 2 progressing, 2 new
- Elders Barker and Park: 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 35 other, 2 progressing
- Elders Shaw and Cooper: 2 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 3 progressing
- Sisters Dalling and Chevalier: 1 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 43 other, 2 progressing
- Sisters Overlock and Lee: 8 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 3 progressing, 1 new, 123 contacts, 17 full
- Elders Elder Seitz and Peck: 1 with baptismal date, 2 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 4 progressing, 23 full

- Elders Fillmore and Barton: 2 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 1 progressing, 15 full
- Elders Kirby and Anderson: 3 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 2 progressing, 1 new
- Elders Banks and Nelson: 2 with baptismal date, 2 member present, 2 progressing, 1 new
- Elders Howard and Brown: 5 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 2 progressing
- Elders Marianno and Hassell: 1 Baptized, 1 at Sacramento, 3 member present 20 other, 15 full
- Elders DeHerrera and Tolleson: 1 with baptismal date, 11 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 10 progressing, 123 contacts
- Elders Smith and Fajardo: 1 with baptismal date, 5 at Sacramento, 2 member present, 5 progressing, 4 new, 178 contacts, 18 full, 15 to non-members
- Elders Kim and Huh: 2 member present, 4 progressing, 5 new, 27 full, 23 to non-members
- Elders Knapp and Ramirez: 1 member present, 55 other, 3 new, 140 contacts
- Elders Johnson and Johnson: 2 at Sacramento, 7 member present, 18 full, 9 to non-members
- Elders Green and Heinzen: 5 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 6 progressing, 193 contacts, 17 full, 15 to non-members, 1 Tour
- Elders Knapp and Ramirez: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 46 other, 1 progressing, 2 new, 145 contacts
- Elders Green and Thompson: 1 with baptismal date, 6 at Sacramento, 1 member present, 8 progressing, 1 new, 177 contacts
- Elders Heinzen and Solorio: 1 with baptismal date, 4 at Sacramento, 5 member present, 34 other, 240 contacts
- Elders Brunt and Feinga: 3 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 45 other, 2 progressing, 175 contacts, 19 full
- Sisters Anderson and Weber: 2 at Sacramento, 3 member present, 32 other, 7 progressing, 2 new, 15 full
- Elders Curiel and Michaelis: 1 Baptized, 3 at Sacramento, 4 member present, 3 progressing, 3 new, 158 contacts, 18 full

Congratulations on your accomplishments this week.



SUMMARY OF OUR MISSION PRESIDENCY

SEPTEMBER 2008

SEPTEMBER, 2008

OUR FINAL REPORT

To complete our Canada Vancouver Mission Website, covering 2005 to 2008, we write this report. Since our return to Salt Lake City at the end of June, 2008, we have been thrilled to see many of the returned missionaries who served with us.

Our Homecoming Sacrament Meeting report was on July 13, 2008. We were so excited to see over 120 of our missionaries and families of missionaries there. Importantly, they were honored by being asked to stand during the meeting, and our comment to the congregation that this awesome group standing before them represented a modern day re-assembly of Helaman's stripling warriors said it all! Know that

we are confident that one day each of our missionaries will stand before the judgment bar of the Most High and will be praised for their dedicated, selfless service in British Columbia.

EXPECT TO SUCCEED IN LIFE

Please stop to contemplate and be grateful for all you accomplished in Canada for the Lord. And then use those talents developed and honed on your mission as a springboard to success and achievement in all aspects of your life to come. As the poet Robert Frost so insightfully wrote in "The Road Not Taken":

*I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.*

Each of our missionaries has made the decision to take that road less traveled, through coming on a mission, then working as hard as he or she possibly could, through difficult yet ultimately supernally rewarding times. Years, decades, centuries hence, the full value of your decision will be fully understood. And then each of us will know fully how that decision “has made all the difference.”

Thank you! Thank you! May the Lord bless each of our missionaries with His richest blessings. We look forward to seeing you often, reminiscing perhaps about friends and experiences in Canada, and learning of your life’s successes. We know that each of you has learned well that “success is a choice.” *Carpe diem* (seize the day) brothers and sisters as you go forth in life, calling upon the Lord to guide your every step, and achieving all that He would have you do.

With all our love,

President and Sister Middleton



JOY

CHINESE THEME AND DECORATIONS AT THE NANAIMO ZONE CONFERENCE LUNCH, DECEMBER 2005

ZONE CONFERENCES

SHOWN BY MONTH

July 2005



ABBOTSFORD, JULY 2005



NANAIMO, JULY 2005



PRINCE GEORGE, JULY 2005



SURREY AND ABBOTSFORD, JULY 2005



SURREY, JULY 2005



VANCOUVER, JULY 2005



VANCOUVER LANGUAGE, JULY 2005



VERNON, JULY 2005



VICTORIA, JULY 2005

August 2005➤



ABBOTSFORD, AUGUST 2005



SURREY, AUGUST 2005



VANCOUVER ENGLISH, AUGUST 2005



VANCOUVER LANGUAGE, AUGUST 2005

September 2005



ABBOTSFORD, SEPTEMBER 2005



VANCOUVER, SEPTEMBER 2005



SURREY, SEPTEMBER 2005



VICTORIA, SEPTEMBER 2005



VERNON, SEPTEMBER 2005



NANAIMO, SEPTEMBER 2005

October 2005



SURREY, OCTOBER 2005



VANCOUVER, OCTOBER 2005



VANCOUVER LANGUAGE, OCTOBER 2005



ABBOTSFORD, OCTOBER 2005



VICTORIA, OCTOBER 2005



NANAIMO, OCTOBER 2005



PRINCE GEORGE, OCTOBER 2005



VERNON, OCTOBER 2005



ABBOTSFORD, NOVEMBER 2005

November 2005 >



SURREY, NOVEMBER 2005



VANCOUVER LANGUAGE, NOVEMBER 2005



VANCOUVER, NOVEMBER 2005



VICTORIA, NOVEMBER 2005



NANAIMO, NOVEMBER 2005

December 2005



PRINCE GEORGE, DECEMBER 2005



VERNON, DECEMBER 2005



VICTORIA, DECEMBER 2005



ABBOTSFORD, DECEMBER 2005

January 2006



NANAIMO, JANUARY 2006



VICTORIA, JANUARY 2006



PRINCE GEORGE, JANUARY 2006

February 2006 >



VERNON, JANUARY 2006



PRINCE GEORGE, FEBRUARY 2006



NANAIMO, FEBRUARY 2006



VANCOUVER, FEBRUARY 2006



ABBOTSFORD, FEBRUARY 2006



VANCOUVER LANGUAGE, FEBRUARY 2006



SURREY STAKE, FEBRUARY 2006

March 2006 >



VICTORIA, FEBRUARY 2006



VERNON, FEBRUARY 2006



VICTORIA, MARCH 2006



ABBOTSFORD, MARCH 2006



NANAIMO, MARCH 2006



PRINCE GEORGE, MARCH 2006



SURREY, MARCH 2006



VANCOUVER LANGUAGE, MARCH 2006



VANCOUVER, MARCH 2006



VERNON, MARCH 2006

April 2006



VANCOUVER, APRIL 2006



VANCOUVER LANGUAGE, APRIL 2006

May 2006 >



NANAIMO, MAY 2006



ABBOTSFORD, MAY 2006



VICTORIA, MAY 2006



PRINCE GEORGE, MAY 2006



VERNON, MAY 2006



SURREY, MAY 2006



VANCOUVER LANGUAGE, MAY 2006



VANCOUVER, MAY 2006

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NANAIMO, JUNE 2006



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SURREY, JUNE 2006



VANCOUVER LANGUAGE, JUNE 2006



VANCOUVER, JUNE 2006



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September

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NANAIMO, SEPTEMBER 2006



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NANAIMO, OCTOBER 2006



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PRINCE GEORGE, DECEMBER 2006



SURREY, DECEMBER 2006



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SURREY LANGUAGE, DECEMBER 2006



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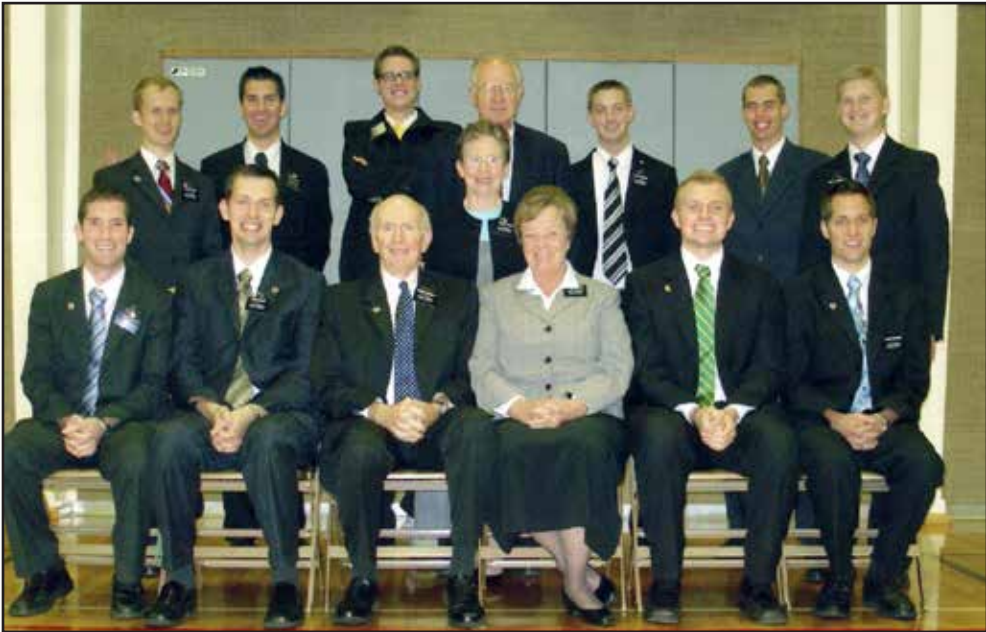
October 2007



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