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the **CARIBBEAN** *Connection*



THE WEST INDIES MISSION COUPLES' NEWSLETTER

Message from the Mission President

Dear Couples,

Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers on behalf of Sister Robison. She is steadily improving and should be able to return to the West Indies Mission this week.

It is wonderful to attend zone conferences and have 3 couples at each rather than one at the North and South Island conferences. I love the influence the couple missionaries are having on this mission and the great Spirit they bring to this work.

We have all been blessed last month to witness miracles as 111 souls came unto Christ and were baptized. Through the faith and prayers of the missionaries and yourselves miracles happened and await us in January.

May the Lord bless each of you for your wonderful service.

With love and appreciation,

President Robison



Monthly Spotlight

ELDER & SISTER BIEHN IN BARBADOS



Hi from sunny and breezy Barbados.



Barbados is one of few coral islands in the Caribbean. It is the most easterly of the Islands. The trade winds blow most all the time. The day time temperatures range from 80 to 97F, July thru November and in the mid 80's in the winter and spring months. It is only too hot when the wind does not blow. It is 166 Sq miles. (14x23) There are beautiful white sand beaches all around the Island. There are cliff areas on the East and northeast coasts and some mountainous areas also. The elevation reaches about 1000 feet. The Atlantic side is more rough and the Caribbean side relatively calm.

The Island of Barbados was an English colony for over three hundred years. Their influence is still widely felt. They gained their independence in 1966. They have the third oldest Parliament in the world. There has been very little political unrest here and it is a safe place to live and visit. The population is 270,000, with 93% African, 3% European, 1% Indian / Asian and 3% mixed. They have a 95% literacy rate and education is available through high school. There are colleges and University level education available. Sugar cane, molasses and Rum were the historic economic base, but now it is mainly tourism, business and agriculture. The standard of living is higher than most Caribbean Islands. It is a very expensive place to live. The price of land and real estate is high and the cost of food and clothes, etc, is very high. For example: a gallon of milk is \$8.43 a gallon, pineapple is nine dollars a piece min, chicken \$9 per pound.. Members, who have reason to travel to England each year, buy clothing there because it is cheaper. They tell us that it cost them a lot less to live in England.



The house built upon a rock



Road cut through coral

Driving is on the left (wrong) side of the road and though we have tried at times to be good examples of driving on the right side of the road, they have persisted in driving on the wrong side of the road.

The people here are quite religious. The predominantly religion is Anglican. But all faiths are represented that you can imagine. Most churches are packed on Sunday, very little activity during the week.

Our Church has been here for 28 years now. There are three small Branches and a District, with one more Branch to be formed this month. The Church was brought to the Island by a friend of a local family. They joined the Church and asked for missionaries to be sent. Missionaries

came and the headquarters of the Mission was on the Island for some time and moved to Trinidad in 1994. We heard that at one point, there were up to 24 missionaries on the Island. We now have between 6 and 8. Hopefully there will be more for the new Branch in the future. Obviously they do not cover the whole Island. The Branches struggle and are working hard to solve the problems of too few members, inactivity and commitment the normal problems in the missions of the world. The niche we have found for ourselves, as Proselyting/Leadership missionaries, is: shadow leadership in the form of



**Humanitarian wheel
chair project**

Sister Biehn teaching Primary and YW Auxiliary leaders in a monthly training meeting, (the RS decided they did not want to participate.), She also handles getting water filters into the countries of the Mission, helps with medical as a nurse and Immigration. Elder Biehn teaches from 15 to 34 piano students each week, handles all financial matters, business and transportation. We both support and strengthen the young missionaries and consider that our primary job.

Our experiences have been wonderful here. The people are at first reserved, their English heritage, but soon are warm and friendly. We have made many life long friends. We love going with the Missionaries to teach, as they as us to come. Bearing testimony is the greatest part of being a missionary. Sharing our past experiences is also of great value. We have only been married ten and a half years. Elder Biehn's first wife died of cancer and Sister Biehn was divorced after twenty-five years of marriage. When others know that you really do understand the hardships of their lives, they accept your help much more readily. It is amazing how often our experiences help us have more empathy and understanding for situations and therefore be of more help. We become "just people", more like them. Sharing ourselves is really what it is all about anyway. We love being missionaries and this is not our first and will not be our last mission.



Panorama off our balcony in Barbados



Welcome to President and Sister Farrer.

They have just arrived in the mission and will be serving in St. Lucia. They are from Springville, Utah, with a family of 6 children and 14 grandchildren. President Farrer was just called as the 2nd Counselor in the Mission Presidency.