

2 0 0 7 M A Y E D I T I O N

the

# CARIBBEAN Connection

THE WEST INDIES MISSION COUPLES' NEWSLETTER

Ceiling - entrance of Hindu temple



## Message from the Mission President

*Dear Couple Missionaries,*

*We continue to delight in our association with each of you, the unsung heroes of the West Indies Mission. It was said of the prophet Joseph Smith, that the creation of Zion was foremost on his mind. Like the days of the early Church, you are establishing the Church in the countries and islands to which you have been called. Attendance at meetings is steadily increasing as members flock to our meeting houses. Your love and fellowship is being felt and one by one less active members are carefully returning. These too are the days that will be remembered by the members of the Church in the West Indies and by you, long after your missions.*

*One of the challenges that we face in maintaining this Nauvoo-like environment (means beautiful situation) is what to do when you leave. Would you please help us find a replacement couple for you that will time their missions to coincide exactly with your release date? If you would let us know their name, their stake president's name, and e-mail address, we would be most grateful.*

*May the Lord continue to bless you and your families as you are engaged in this mighty work. Hurrah For Israel!*

*With Love, President and Sister Robison*

## Ginger Snaps *Jerilyn White*

3/4 c. shortening  
1 c. sugar  
Cream shortening and sugar together

1 egg  
1/4 c. molasses  
Add to creamed mixture, then add dry ingredients:  
2 c. flour  
1 tsp salt  
2 tsp. soda  
1 tsp. ginger

1 tsp. cinnamon  
1 tsp. cloves

Roll in balls and dip top side in sugar.  
Bake on greased pan. Bake 350 7 min.





Welcome  
to Elder  
and  
Sis-

ter  
Sherwood!

They arrived earlier this month in St. Lucia. They are from sunny, Gilbert, Arizona. They lived in Chandler, the city right next to Gilbert, for 30 years and have been in Gilbert for the last 5 years. They were both born and raised in Eagar, Arizona, a small "Mayberry type" town in the White Mountains. They never dated until Sister

Welcome Elder and Sister Wood.! They arrived just this week (May 28) to serve in Grenada. Rex and Colette Wood were both were born in Cardston, Alberta, Canada but raised in Glenwood, the town named for Rex's uncle. Rex is the third generation to farm the family ranch, and the Woods worked the land for 40 years. When they were ready to retire, they decided to sell the ranch because their children were doing different things with their lives and did not want to continue with the ranch. After the sale, the Woods moved to Calgary, where their two sons live with 8 of their grandchildren. The Woods' two daughters live in Utah with 6 more of the grandchildren. Elder Wood has been active in local politics and agricultural boards throughout his years at their ranch. He has served as Bishop and in most all Stake callings. This is the third mission for the Woods. They first went to Australia. For their second mission, they were called to Indonesia to be the first proselyting couple in that country along with some handpicked Elders. However, 2½ hours into the MTC experience, Elder Wood had his second heart attack, the first occurring at age 46 and the

Sherwood returned home after her first year of college, and Elder Sherwood won her over with his sense of humor and beautiful singing voice! Elder Sherwood is a business man, and has been self-employed for 35 years. He owns a family operated Turf farm, which is being run by their sons in his absence. Elder Sherwood has served as Bishop and as Y.M. President several different times. His love for the Youth is well known and his claim to fame! He has also served in many positions, teaching in Primary one of his favorite! Sister Sherwood has served as Relief Society President, Y.W. President, counselor in Primary Presidency as well as Stake Relief Society and Stake Y.W. . But the calling that she loves most is that of Mother and Grandmother. With 6 children, 5 children by marriage and 15 grandchildren, her life is wonderfully full of joy and happiness!

second at age 66. The Woods were not released as missionaries but were sent to New Zealand after he recovered from quadruple bypass surgery. So it was New Zealand where they actually served their second mission. In fact, proselyting in Indonesia lasted only about four months at that time, but it may have resumed again recently. And now a third mission! The Lord truly blesses those who serve in spite of difficulties, and we are v e r y



grate-  
ful for  
t h e  
Woods be-  
ing in Gre-  
nada, West  
Indies Mission.  
What a great  
example!

## Burke and Darlene Belnap

We hail originally from southeast Idaho where we were classmates at Snake River High School in Moreland, Idaho. We were married in the Idaho Falls Temple after Burke's mission to the Gulf States Mission. Darlene taught elementary school while Burke was on his mission and during the time he was getting his college degree from Idaho State University.

We lived in Rexburg, Idaho, for a couple of years where Burke taught school at Madison High School and Darlene managed a large apartment complex. After obtaining a Masters Degree at BYU in 1968, we moved to St. George, Utah and took a job at Dixie College in the Speech and Theatre Department, which lasted for eleven years. For several years we were in private business working in the swimming pool business. Then Burke returned to teaching, working for the school district. For the last fifteen years up until retirement he has worked as a high school librarian.

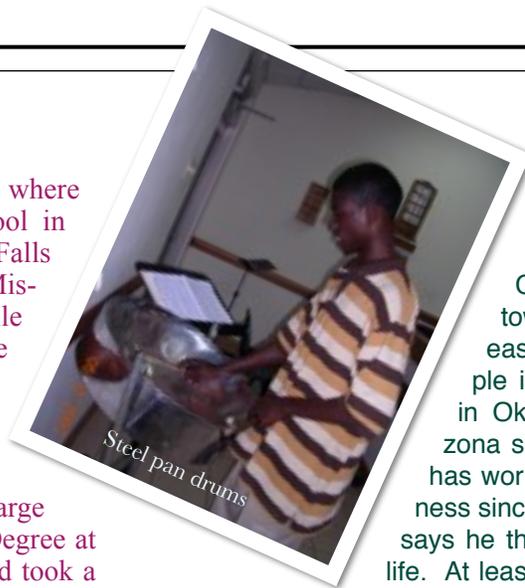
For many years Darlene was a co-owner of a successful preschool that was run out of our home. She and her partner taught bright little three- and four-year-olds the joy of learning.

We have five children, all married and enjoying their own families, and eight grandchildren. At present they have all returned to live in Utah but have ranged as far as Sacramento and New York in their chosen areas of work. Our oldest son, Brock, is the County Attorney for Washington County. He and his wife Chantie have two children. Bronwyn, our oldest daughter, lives in Parowan, Utah, and she and her husband Bryan have two sons. She is a dental hygienist. Rhett, our third, lives in Farmington, Utah. He and his wife Stephanie have three children. He works for a data security firm. Nick, our fourth child, lives in St. George and co-owns a computer service company. He married his sweetheart, Feixia, this last spring and they are expecting their first baby this summer.

Our youngest child Summer and her husband Joel recently returned from New York where she worked as a professional dancer and supported her husband as he completed his schooling at Columbia University. They have a cute little redhead that takes after her grandmother. They will be watching after our home while we are in the mission field.

Church callings have included for Darlene both president and counselor in both the Relief Society and Primary. She also served as chorister in Primary and for the Ward. Burke's callings included being Bishop and Gospel Doctrine teacher. He has also served on the High Counsel and in several Bishoprics.

We are devoted to serving the Lord and are excited to be joining you in the West Indies.



## Allen and Marla White

Elder and Sister White are from Queen Creek, Arizona. It is a small town about 15 miles southeast of Mesa, where the Temple is located. Allen was born in Oklahoma, but raised in Arizona since he was a toddler. He has worked in the automotive business since he was a young man. He says he thinks it has been his whole life. At least it seems like it. He didn't

retire until two weeks before leaving on their mission. He served two years in the armed forces. Elder White is a convert of the Church, so he knows what it is like to be taught by missionaries. Sister White

is a fourth generation Arizonian. Her great great grandfather was sent to Arizona by Brigham Young. Together they have six children, nineteen grandchildren and three on the way.

All of their children live within five miles of the White's Arizona home, so they get the opportunity to spend a good bit of time with their grandkids, which is a great blessing.

They received their mission call the last part of November 2006 and were

on the island of Dominica on December 18. That whole thing was a whirlwind. Island life has taken a little bit of getting used to but they love the people of Dominica. They tell us, "We have been richly blessed in our lives so we feel that is a privilege to be able to give back to the Lord just a small amount compared to what he has given us."

Just a bit of information about Dominica, the nature island--that is what the local people call it. It is the most primitive of all the islands and they don't have all the conveniences that some of the islands have--like, for instance, great grocery stores. When Sister White goes to the other islands for Zone Conference, she says, "Show me your grocery store. Then she walks up and down the aisles like a little kid. This is a most beautiful island. Everywhere you look it is lush and green. The people are friendly and nice, the children adorable, and the Elders are working hard to bringing them unto Christ.



### Fred and Laurel Ann Leavitt

*We are enjoying Grenada and meeting lots of nice people. We have had a wedding which the Branch did and as you can see Elder Leavitt was asked by the bride to walk her down the aisle. A baby blessing that the Elders got to participate in, and several visits to the hospital to visit members and give blessing. We spend alot of time trying to find members in the tops of the mountains. We have no wealthy members with big homes, they are all sweet humble people who live in small plywood homes. Most have to carry their water up the hill to their homes. Our Elders are working hard and we are having our first baptism this Saturday since we arrived. A nice lady Celia Alexander. She is a dress maker and has really helped Sister Leavitt taking things in and hemming etc. The Elders had a visitor the other night. They lost it when the zone leaders called and had a hard time going to sleep. they found it the next day and were glad to get rid of it. We enjoyed Zone Conference in Barbados and appreciated all the hard work and kindness showed to us by the Biehn. It was so nice to meet other couples and President and Sister Robison. Grenada Rocks*



Temple in the Sea

### **John & Linda Whiting**

Elder & Sister (John & Linda) Whiting come from Seattle, Washington, where they raised 6 children in the suburb of Kent. Linda is a Seattle native, but John was raised in Minneapolis, served a mission in Norway, and lived in Utah some years before being converted. He retired from work as an electronic engineer when they were called to Mozambique, Africa, as humanitarian missionaries. After a year back home, they have been in St. Kitts and Nevis since the end of February 2007.

They miss their 15 grandchildren, but believe their example of service is the best gift they can leave their posterity. (Besides, this is fun.)



Missionaries with Stauffers on Bequia,

### Val & Karleen Stauffer

Elder & Sister Stauffer are originally from the Cache Valley area of Northern Utah and up in the same ward in the little town of Hyrum. They have known each other and been friends since second grade. In fact, they believe they knew each other in the pre-existence because they were born the same day, the same year. Karleen arrived a few hours before Val because he stopped off at the milky way for a milk shake on the way here. :) They were friends but never dated until after Val returned from his mission in Texas. They both graduated from Utah State University.

Eleven months after they were married they doubled their family size when Karleen gave birth to twin boys. Three years later with the two boys and a 5-month-old son they moved to St. George, Utah, where Val began teaching at Dixie State College. They had another set of twins (a boy and a girl) followed by three single births, giving them a total of 8 children. They are all now married and there are 27 grandchildren. They have been married for 42 years and are still in love.

When Val retired from teaching they were called to serve in the St. George Temple. A year later they were called to serve as full time missionaries as Directors of the St. George Regional Family History Center and asked to turn it into a training center, which they did. They served there over four years and were then called to serve in the West Indies Mission. They have been having a wonderful experience on St. Vincent Island since September 2006.

Serving on St. Vincent Island is an exciting adventure with the mountainous terrain, the narrow winding roads, and one-way streets. We have found the drivers to be most courteous and the people very helpful. Much of our time the first part of our mission here was spent finding a building for the new Calliaqua Branch and getting it ready for the branch to meet. We are now spending more time teaching and visiting with members who have not been attending church. We see the Lord's hand through impressions and helping us find people. Sister Stauffer is trying to help some members and non-members learn to play the keyboard while Elder Stauffer also helps with training of branch leaders.

## A Lovely Day Made Perfect

*This is a story of a man baptized on the 14 April who will be sustained as a counselor in our branch presidency Sunday May 20. President & Sister Farrer, St Lucia.*

It was one of those unique moments, in time and place, where everything moves and flows to a certain rhythm of beauty. The sky was an incredible deep summer blue even though it was April in St. Lucia. The morning began early and by 7 am, as we drove past Choc Bay, the Caribbean was dressed in it's showiest best and my husband and I expressed again how lucky we were to be able to enjoy such a beautiful place and serve the Lord at the same time.

As we drove into the gap that leads to the small meeting-house for our branch in Castries, the DeBeauville family had already arrived. Brother DeBeauville looked handsome in his white shirt with pin tucks down the front and his Yul Brenner demeanor. He had shocked us all, even his wife, when after institute class he said he had some questions and then he took us on a scripture chase all having to do with baptism. He then pointed a finger at my husband and said, "I would like this man to baptize me and Elder Heslop to confirm me." My husband and I exchanged looks and had to inform him that Elder Heslop was being transferred next Wednesday. Brother DeBeauville simply said, "Well then, can't we do it this Saturday?" We started making arrangements immediately. So here we are, my husband dressed in white ready to perform this sacred ordinance. Several branch members are here including President and Sister Felix, President and Sister Savaadra and the Nicholas family from Vieux Fort. The Nicholas family had surprised us all Wednesday night by showing up at institute class for the first time, because Vieux Fort is so far away on the other side of the island. When Clayton (Brother De'Beauville) made his announcement, he had said that brother Nicholas' testimony the previous Sunday had touched him and he hoped they would be there for his baptism. The fact that they had come to institute Wednesday was a direct result of brother Nicholas' listening to the spirit, but that's another story.

We couldn't have ordered a better day. Clayton's love for the beauty of his native St. Lucia is abundantly clear; the flowers, the food, the animals, and everything that is native to this beautiful island. He is a great reader and enjoys seeking out the peaceful things of life. He is 68 years old and has had many experiences, I suppose, that have taught him what is truly important in life. By joining the church he is about to experience much more. In his search for truth and knowledge, he has tried to put together the puzzle pieces of life, including Christ's mission and life after death. He had listened to two young men called by the names of Elder Shaat and Elder Heslop. Elder Schatt had been transferred, but on Wednesday night Clayton told us how Elder Heslop had caught hold of his heart and something he couldn't explain happened. He had to invite them to continue to teach him. Now to-



day the fruits of their labors were being realized. Sadly Elder Shaat having been transferred was not here, but Elder Jenkins would enjoy this day.

As our little caravan made its way to Choc Bay where other members waited, brother DeBeauville turned off toward Vigie beach and the airport. We followed wondering aloud what in the world he was doing. We thought maybe he had decided to get baptized at Vigie Beach and immediately worried that the other members waiting for us at Choc Bay would not be there. As soon as that thought passed, brother DeBeauville made a quick right turn into the cemetery located between the airstrip and the beach. The four of us in the car stopped our questioning of "Where is he going?" or "What's he doing?", for at that moment a spirit of reverence entered and silent tears began to gather as we watched brother DeBeauville stop his truck, get out and approach two gravesites. He bowed his head for just a few minutes, and this wonderful morning put on a glorious robe of perfection. We then continued on to Choc Bay in hushed tones. There was a feeling of serenity as Clayton walked into the water prepared in heart and soul to accept this most sacred ordinance called Baptism.

As a handful of Saints we gathered on the beach here in St. Lucia. We savored this time together. Prayers were said, songs were sung, talks were given and testimonies were shared. Elder Heslop took a step forward in the circle, he looked at brother DeBeauville, a man he had learned to love and respect. He then bore testimony of Heavenly Father's plan of happiness, the love our Savior has for us and that the truths of the gospel are eternal. The tears glistened as they rolled down his cheeks.

This day dawned in a glorious array of St. Lucian colors and the Caribbean Sea was calm and clear. Clayton had stopped at the cemetery to let his stepfather and aunt, who helped raise him, know what he was about to do. He wanted to pick them up so they could enjoy, what was to happen. All of this set the stage for the spiritual experience and the event that took place that perfect day at Choc Bay that I shall never forget.