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the

CARIBBEAN Connection

THE WEST INDIES MISSION COUPLES' NEWSLETTER

**Welcome to the Owens, the Hattons,
and the Bullocks
.....
Farewell to the Stauffers**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Elders and Sisters,

We bid a sad farewell to the Stauffers this past week. They were the first couple that we recruited to complete their mission other than the Dunns who started about two weeks before we did. During the rest of this year, we will have to go through this several more times as we say goodbye to the Naegles, Lockharts, McGhies, Whites, Leavitts, Sherwoods, and Far-rers.

The other difficult thing about saying goodbye is wondering who will replace these wonderful couples. You will see that the West Indies Mission Website has been enhanced and a slide show featuring couples has been posted.

<http://web.mac.com/diane.robison/Site/Welcome.html>

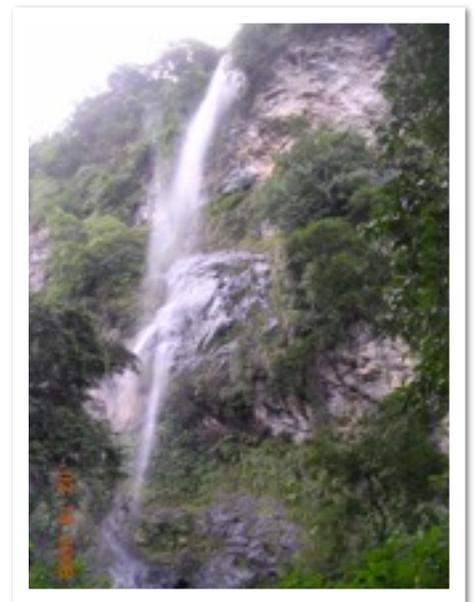
Please use this website to show your friends the slideshows we present at zone conference and this new addition featuring you all. Hopefully, we can find a replacement for each of these couples in order that apartments, vehicles, and the overall mission momentum will be maintained.

We love and appreciate each one of you. You are doing a mighty work and this mission would not nearly be the mission it is without you.

With love, *President and Sister Robison*



Maracas Falls, Trinidad



**PLEA FOR HELP! WE NEED PICTURES, STORIES, ANYTHING YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE
CARIBBEAN CONNECTION. JUST EMAIL ANY IDEAS AND SUGGESTIONS TO
wimmcghie@gmail.com**



ELDER AND SISTER OWENS,

Elder Orr Lavell Owens was born in a small community in northeastern Arizona back in the days when the lifestyle was very similar to Guyana today such as cows roaming in the streets and not very much food in the grocery stores. He had a Tom Sawyer like life as he grew up. His father left to serve a mission in Oregon when he was nine years old and his mother took care of their three sons while he was away. This definitely had an impact upon the family and gave them a desire to serve missions also. Elder Owens grew up loving the outdoors with its fishing, hunting, and camping. He was called to serve a mission in the West Central States in 1958. He has since served as a teacher in the auxiliaries, scoutmaster and boys' leader, as a bishop twice, high counselor, and as a stake patriarch.

Sister Lorna Owens was raised in Taylor, Arizona. She enjoyed school, music, drama, and running track. She met Elder Owens after his mission and it was love at first sight. They were married in the Mesa Arizona Temple. Sister Owens has had many opportunities to give service through music, genealogy, and through being a scribe for patriarchal blessings. She has played the violin in a community symphony for over twenty years.

Brother and Sister Owens have raised ten children of their own, the youngest son serves in the West Indies mission at this time. All seven sons are eagle scouts and all have served in the mission field.

“We started our mission in the West Indies just fifty years to the day after Elder Owens began his first mission. We look forward to serving in this great mission.”



Dave and Evonne Hatton

The Hattons come from President Robisons Ward: Sherwood Hills in Provo.

When I phoned for their story, I reached them (after a few tries) on their cell phone hiking the volcano in St. Vincent only days after they arrived on the island.

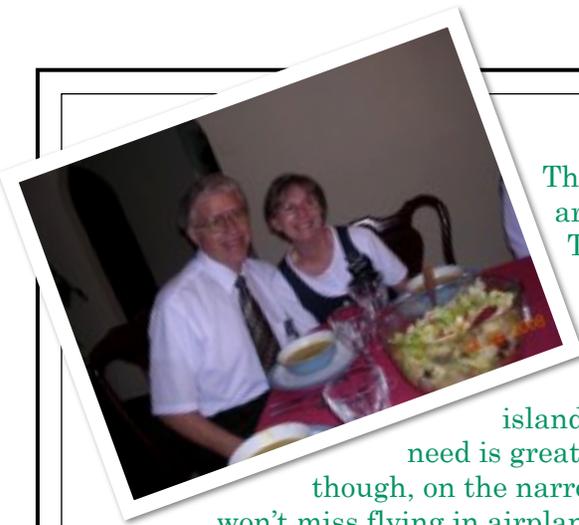


The next issue of The Caibbean Connection will feature the Hattons and the Bullocks. The Bullocks will replace the Platts, who move to St. Maarten to replace the Colemans, who move to the office to replace the Lockharts. The the Greens will come to replace the Naegles in March. Lots of changes

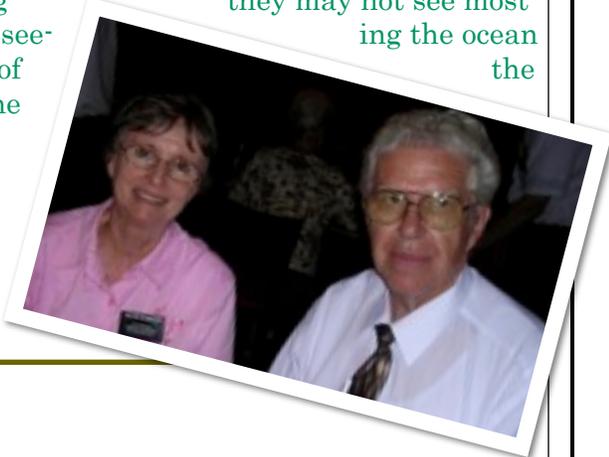


Burt and Robin Bullock

The Bullocks arrive 26 February to serve in Guyana. They come from Lake Oswego Oregon and previously served a CES mission in the Canary Islands.



The **Stauffers** have returned to their St. George home. We are sad to see them leave us but glad for them as well. They have served faithfully on the island of St. Vincent for 18 months. What will they miss most? The people they've grown to love and knowing of them again in this life; seeing every day and the beauty of island; serving the Lord where the need is great. They won't miss driving, though, on the narrow, bad roads, and they won't miss flying in airplanes--in fact, they plan to drive across country to visit two of their ten children and families in Kentucky and Georgia. We appreciate their wonderful service and great example. We love you, Stauffers!



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Grandchildren

What do you do to keep in touch with your grandchildren?

President Robison has a blog for theirs. Check it out at <http://robisonfhe.blogspot.com/> for ideas.

We like to email, talk to them on phone or Skype--better yet we love to video chat, especially with the younger ones--old enough to talk with us but young enough to get excited to see grandma and grandpa on the computer screen. Some of us email. Some send letters and cards through the mail. Some send birthdays cards and even gifts. Some of us write to each grandchild.

And everyone of us misses them--growing up without grandma and grandpa nearby. Some of us send them questions or games or ideas for learning.

What do you do that you can share?

This Caribbean Connection issue features a few of the babies and toddlers. Don't you love their innocent, adorable faces?



Using New Media to Support the Work of the Church

The following is part of a transcript of Elder M. Russell Ballard's speech given at Brigham Young University-Hawaii's graduation ceremony on 15 December 2007. He talks about using words to communicate, how inventions have changed this over the years, and how these tools are used to promote the Lord's Church. Here are some excerpts to think about. This is to encourage us as couples to learn how and use the tools available. (See the next CC issue.) ed.

The emergence of New Media is facilitating a worldwide conversation on almost every subject including religion, and nearly everyone can participate. This modern equivalent of the printing press is not reserved only for the elite.

As you know, the New Media has already profoundly impacted the old world of newspapers and other traditional media. ...

Now, as I am leaving one appointment to go to the next, the report of my visit or interview begins almost immediately to appear on the newspaper's website or on blogs....

In addition, ... stories are left on the media's website where anyone can write in and agree or disagree with what is said.

These tools allow organizations and individuals to completely bypass the news media and publish or broadcast their message in its entirety to the intended audiences.

That word *conversation* is important.

There are conversations going on about the Church constantly. Those conversations will continue whether or not we choose to participate in them. But we cannot stand on the sidelines while others, including our critics, attempt to define what the Church teaches. While some conversations have audiences in the thousands or even millions, most are much, much smaller. But all conversations have an impact on those who participate in them. Perceptions of the Church are established one conversation at a time.

The challenge is that there are too many people participating in conversation about the Church for our Church personnel to converse with and respond to individually. We cannot answer every question, satisfy every inquiry, and respond to every inaccuracy that exists. As I said at General Conference in October, we need to remember that there is a difference between interest and curiosity. Sometimes people just want to know what the Church is. And some who seek answers want them to come directly from a member of the Church, like each one of you. They appreciate

one-on-one conversations.

Now ... faithful members of the Church, may I ask that you join the conversation by participating on the Internet, particularly the New Media, to share the gospel and to explain in simple, clear terms the message of the Restoration. ... if you have access to the Internet you can start a blog in minutes and begin sharing what you know to be true. You can download videos from Church and other appropriate sites, including Newsroom at LDS.org, and send them to your friends. You can write to media sites on the Internet that report on the Church, and voice your views as to the accuracy of the reports.

... we have a major responsibility as Latter-day Saints to define ourselves, instead of letting others define us.

Far too many people have a poor understanding of the Church because most of the information they hear about us is from news media reports that are often driven by controversies. Too much attention to controversy has a negative impact on peoples' perceptions of what the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints really is.

... The audiences for these and other New Media tools may often be small, but the cumulative effect of thousands of such stories can be great. The combined effort is certainly worth the outcome if but a few are influenced by your words of faith and love of God and His

son Jesus Christ.

.. The Apostle Paul has admonished us to not be "ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ: for it is the power of God unto Salvation" (Romans 1:16)...

As you participate in this conversation and utilize the tools of New Media, remember who you are—you are Latter-day Saints. Remember as the Proverb states that "a soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger" (Proverbs 15:1). And remember that "contention is of the devil." Our position is solid; the Church is true. We simply need to have a conversation, as friends in the same room would have, always guided by the promptings of the Spirit and constantly remembering the Atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ which reminds us of how precious are the children of our Father in Heaven.

... the power of words is incredible. Let your voice be heard in this great cause of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

[More on blogging in the next issue.]

