

2 0 0 8 J U N E E D I T I O N

# the CARIBBEAN Connection

THE WEST INDIES MISSION COUPLES' NEWSLETTER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Couples,

Again we welcome you to yet another issue of the Caribbean Connection. The big news right now is that the application for creating the first stake in the West Indies was submitted to the Church. Although it was temporarily turned down, plans are in play to resubmit the application the end June when the numbers will be up. We are delighted with this news and all the more anxious to keep the full complement of couples serving in the West Indies. As you know many couples will be having their 18 or 23 month missions come to a close this year. If you are aware of those friends back home who may be interested in serving in the West Indies, we would appreciate any lead you have. This work simply can not move forward in the rapid manner which we are observing without couples. Our missionaries are more mature, dependable, and obedient because

of the influence of couples within their lives.

Thank you again for the mighty work you are doing. We love you and appreciate this opportunity to serve with you in the West Indies. May the Lord bless you and your families. Hurrah for Israel!

*President and Sister Robison*

### THE TANNERS' VISIT

The Tanners are the humanitarian couple serving in the West Indies Mission and based in Guyana. They serve other islands and countries as well, and in May they came to Trinidad for a couple of days to attend a wheelchair ceremony they arranged for and to see where else they could help in Trinidad. The couples got together for dinner and games in the mission home,

and we learned a lot from the Tanners about their work, which differs from what the rest of us do. The Church's humanitarian work is for non-members of the Church and is normally done in partnership with other non-governmental organizations.



Elder & Sister Tanner with the Robi-

### WELCOME, ELDER AND SISTER ROSS

*George and Eva Ross arrive in Trinidad on Friday, May 23, 2008. They will work in the mission office and take the places of Elder and Sister Conk. The Conks are headed for the beautiful island of Tobago to assist the new branch there. Here is the Rosses' story:*



Ross (cont.)

Both Elder George Ross and Sister Eva Ross are converts to the Church. Sister Ross was born in Alhambra, California and Elder Ross was born in Detroit, Michigan. Sealed in the Los Angeles Temple in 1965, the Rosses currently make their home in South Jordan, Utah (since July of '07). They spent the prior 20 years in Page, Arizona.

Elder Ross is a graduate of Arizona State University and has worked as a director of training in the hospitality industry for over 30 years – 10 years with Best Western International, six years with Leadership Forum Company, 12 years with Aramark Corporation, and five years with Forever Resorts. He has trained managers and team members in all areas of management, leadership, customer service, and safety.

A member of the Church for about 40 years, Elder Ross has served in three bishoprics, and five high councils. In addition, he has served as a Sunday School teacher, a teacher development director, a ward mission leader, and in several other callings.

Sister Ross is a graduate of Brigham Young University as well as the University of Phoenix. For the past several years she has been the Educational Services Director for the Page Unified School District.

Sister Ross has served as a counselor and president of the Primary and Young Women, on both the ward and stake level. She has been a ward Relief Society President as well as a teacher in each of the auxiliaries.

The Rosses have six children (two boys and four girls) and 20 grandchildren. The first five have married in the temple (the sixth just graduated from Arizona State University and is still single). Both sons and one daughter have served full-time missions.

Going on a mission together has been a goal since becoming members. They are excited that it is going to be in the West Indies.

### AN EXPERIENCE! by Elder Earl Larsen (the other Elder Larsen) - 5/7/08

I had an experience last week that Sister Robison said that I should record and send to you. In preface to this, I should tell you that Sister Larsen and myself have been in Guyana a little more than 8 months and one of our greatest anxieties is driving here as the drivers, especially the mini buses and taxis drive at excessive speeds, run red lights, pass on the wrong side of the road and basically disregard any traffic laws. In all of this we have yet to see anyone stopped for a traffic violation, at least until last Wednesday.

Wednesday was transfer day and Sister Larsen and myself had been moving Elders all day and one of our last assignments was to drive to the airport in the afternoon and pick up Elder Sarager who was the last Elder to arrive. We picked up the Elder and were returning to Georgetown at what we felt was a slow and safe rate of speed when as we came around a slight curve in the road we saw a policeman standing in the road ahead with his hand held up for us to stop. We have routine stops like this often when the police are looking for someone and they have always just slowed us down and then waved us on. This time was different. The officer waved me to the side of the road and ask to see my drivers license.

As I had never used my license while I have been here, I had to get out and take it out of my backpack in the trunk. I gave it to the officer who informed me that I had been traveling at 62K in a 48K zone and he was going to have to cite me. At this point, a mini van flew by at a high rate of speed and the officer tried to stop him but the driver didn't even slow down. I ask the officer what he does when they don't stop and he said that he will catch him later. The officer then wrote the information from my license onto a plain notebook along with the license number of the car. He then ask me "what speed did I say you were going?" at which I told him that he told me I was going 62K. He then instructed me that I would need to return back down the road toward the airport to receive my ticket. I could not understand where I was to go as I still have difficulty understanding their English so I ask him again and when I was still not certain where he was talking about, he said that it is a police station on the curve just before starting up the hill to the airport. We then drove back and located the station. As I walked into the station, there was an officer who seemed to be in charge sitting on a sofa with 2 police women and a younger officer at a desk. The officer in charge ask if he could help me. I said yes and told him that I had been stopped on the road by a traffic

officer and he instructed me to come there to receive a ticket. He looked at me as if I were from outer space and then turned to one of the other officers and ask "what is the speed here?" The lady officer said that she thought it was 45K. As none of them seemed to know what to do, the officer at the desk made a phone call and as he was talking I could hear him say that there is a white man here that wants a ticket. They talked for a few minutes and then he made 2 more calls after which he told me that I should return back where I had just come from and find another police station. When I ask where it was they said just 3 minutes on the left. I wondered at what speed for 3 minutes but did not ask.

I returned to the car where sister Larsen and the Elder were waiting and we drove a couple of miles back again where we saw a police car in front of a small building with another officer standing in front of the building. As I approached him, before I could say anything, he said "you must be the one looking for a ticket." As I said that I was, he looked at my missionary tag and said "I am not going to give a ticket to a man of God." I then thanked him and told him to have a nice day after which we resumed our trip to Georgetown 45 minutes later. When we told the missionaries about it they ask why I did not give him a Book of Mormon?

## Evonne Hatton's Primary Story

May 2008



This Sunday I was asked to teach Primary to the children for forty minutes. I was happy to and prepared a lot of ideas to make the lesson/singing time interesting and enjoyable for the children. I had also asked one of the Sisters in the Branch to assist giving direction to the children about the songs while I played the keyboard for them.

It started out fine except my assistant had to leave for a few minutes. As soon as I started the children singing I had two little ones hanging on my arm saying, "can I go potty?" I was trying to play the keyboard while the children were singing the first welcome song, so I continued with one hand and patted them with the other hand.

Next I got out the fishing poles Dave and I had made out of Bamboo reeds with magnets on the ends of the strings. I had printed colored fish on the computer, cut them out and had Primary songs written on the back with the page numbers. The children got to take turns "fishing" for a song and then everyone sang.

After a few minutes the children started getting restless. I knew my methods of saying "if you aren't quiet you will have to go in the hall for time out for a while" was NOT going to work

with this little group! They have different methods here of handling children. By then my assistant was back and got control of them by saying, "hands up, hands down, hands up, hands down," a new one to me but I was grateful for anything.

Next we tried the large square dice I had made that the children roll and have a saying on each side like "Boys sing" "Stand on one foot while you sing" "Sing soft" etc. The children liked that for a while. Time to do a new idea.

Next I had one of the moms bring a toy horse. The idea was to hide the horse while one child was outside and when the child came into the room we told him he was to find the toy. When he got close to the toy the children would sing loud, when he went farther from the toy they would sing soft. That went well for two songs then more, "Sister Hatton can I go potty?"

I asked an older lady walking by the room if she would take some of them to the bathroom. Thank goodness she said yes. Next it was back to the fishing pole.

I love being with children but that was the longest forty minutes of teaching time I have ever tried to do with one assistant and twenty wiggly children!



## Challenges and Memories, by Brother Derk Oddens

March 27, 2008



We appreciate sending us the news from the Caribbean, the news of all the couples that go home and enter this sunny mission. It reminds us of all the challenges we had on our mission in Suriname.



On January 26, 2008, we had the privilege to visit Suriname again; we left the mission on the 17 of July 2007.

Miracle: I could not believe my eyes when we visited in Uitkijk—a new church. A few days before we left I designed on a small A4 paper a new church and gave that paper to the District President Lingger, and said to him: "Perhaps this is what the Church needs in Uitkijk."

We spent last January some time with the members and elders, Branch President Kabenda and also President Lingger in Uitkijk again. He only said: " We planned this and the realization was just in time, because we had to leave the local school here!"

My wife and I had thankful feelings about this miracle; 40-50 members have a very nice church of about 200 m<sup>2</sup>, the only capable building 20 miles from Paramaribo.

When we left Suriname we said to the members, "We come bakka (back) again!"

The memories are strong and they must have a place of honour in our hearts and minds!

## The Journey of Jamil Mohammed

by Sister Farrer  
Point Fortin, Trinidad

The journey of Jamil Mohammed into the gospel began five years ago as he stepped into a used bookstore and purchased "The Restored Church" by Barrett. A book used in Seminary years ago for the Church history class.

Then last summer (2007) he found a pass along card lying in the dirt on the side of the road. He called the number on the reverse side and talked to Elder Slade in San Fernando, which is an hour away. The first appointment was held at a KFC and the Elder's jaws dropped when Jamil asked if they now knew where the 116 pages were that Martin Harris had lost. He had been reading his book.

The next visits were with his family, and President Farrer and I were fortunate enough to be involved in teaching and sharing the gospel message.

Then came the missed appointments and the "we're to busy" and transportation to the nearest branch was impossible for them at this time. After many at-



tempts to meet with them and no success the Elder's dropped them.

Eight months later their seventeen year

old daughter, Sharee, told her mom that she didn't feel close to God anymore and could they please have the missionaries that had taught them last summer come again, for she missed having the spirit they had brought into their home. She had been reading the Book of Mormon and knew it was true and wanted to be baptized. Her mom quickly called Jamil and said, "our daughter doesn't feel close to God and you need to do something." He called President Bedasie of the Siparia Branch and got in touch once again with the missionaries but this time the Mohammeds were ready to make the commitments necessary for baptism.



As we reunited with them the first of April, Jamil showed us another book he had bought entitled *Prayer*. It is a compilation of talks on prayer by President Kimball, Elders Faust, Maxwell, Nelson and many other general authorities. This was another one of treasures. They were able to attend the broadcast of General Conference in the San

Fernando Chapel and were thrilled with what they heard and the spirit they felt. They were all desirous of baptism.

However, they hadn't told us last summer that they were not married, even though they had been together for eighteen years.

So there was a lot to be done. The two daughters, Sharee and Melisa, were baptized on the 19th of April and confirmed the next day in the newly established group of the church in Point Fortin. All this just three weeks after contact had been made with Elders Shideler and Worthington.

The 26th of April was set for the Mohammeds to get married and baptized. They met the challenge and did the necessary paper and leg work to have that happen, and they were confirmed in the second sacrament meeting of the Point Fortin Group.

There were three investigators at that second meeting and the hand of the Lord is showing in Point Fortin. Elders Atwood and Mulder were assigned on the 30th of April to open Point Fortin, and in the third sacrament meeting there were 16 in attendance.

Jamil will not travel or take his journey to the gospel by himself. He and his family will bring many to the truth of the gospel by their word and their example.

They have truly been guided on their journey by the hand of the Lord.



Speaking of weddings, **guess who** in these wedding pictures?

These are all couples serving in the West Indies Mission.



***Answers in next issue!***

*See list of couple on last page of this issue.....*

## Roast Pumpkin Soup

[thanks to Sister Coleman]

You will need about 1.5kg of pumpkin to yield 1kg of peeled, deseeded pumpkin.

Makes about 1.25 litres (5 cups) of soup.

- 4 medium cloves garlic, unpeeled
- 1kg peeled, deseeded pumpkin
- 1 tablespoon (20ml) oil
- 1 large (about 160g) onion, finely chopped
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 litre (4 cups) vegetable or chicken stock\*
- Cream, for serving
- Ground nutmeg, for serving



- Preheat oven to 190 degrees Celsius (170 degrees fan-forced).
  - Chop pumpkin into even-sized pieces (larger pieces will require a longer roasting time). Place pumpkin and unpeeled garlic cloves in a baking tray/dish, drizzle with three teaspoons of the oil and toss to coat with oil.
  - Bake for 20 minutes, then remove the garlic so that it doesn't overcook. Continue baking pumpkin until tender and cooked through. Keep an eye on the pumpkin to ensure it doesn't burn.
  - Heat remaining teaspoon of oil in large (at least 2.7 litre capacity) saucepan over medium heat. Add onion, nutmeg, cumin, salt and pepper. Cook, stirring, for one minute.
  - Add pumpkin and stock and bring to the boil. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, until onion is soft and stock has reduced, about 20 minutes. The more the stock reduces, the thicker the soup will be.
  - Peel roasted garlic and add to saucepan. We allow the soup to cool for about half an hour before pureeing in batches in a blender. Be careful if pureeing the soup while it is still very hot.
  - Serve the soup hot. Top with a drizzle of cream and a sprinkle of nutmeg, if desired.
  - Store soup in an airtight container in the refrigerator or freezer.
- \*If using a very strongly flavoured stock, we dilute it 50/50 with water (2 cups stock and 2 cups water).



*Here are the Owens, senior missionaries with son Elder Owens. They did manage to meet up this one time but likely won't be together again until Elder Owens is released in August 2009.*

### Couples in WIM

Bullock	McGhie
Coleman	Mertopwiro
Conk	Owens
Farrer	Platt
Green	Robison
Hatton	Ross
Langford	Sherwood
Laquembe	Tanner
Larson, Earl	Uyleman
Larson, Ron	White
Leavitt	Williamson
Malmrose	Wood