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the **CARIBBEAN**  
*Connection*



THE WEST INDIES MISSION COUPLES' NEWSLETTER

*Our new mission logo was created by Elder Parrish, who is talented in graphic design. It's based on a picture of Elder Olaveson and Elder Chadburn (sadly, both are now at home). It seems to promote mission colors - blue (sea) and orange (sunset? Guyana mud?). Kind of fun....*

## Message from the Mission President

Dear Couples,

Yours is an opportunity to serve quite unlike any that exists in the Church. What a joy it is to be able to serve with your eternal companion and focus your efforts entirely on serving the Lord. We are confident your companion scripture study and personal scripture study are among the most insightful experiences you have had during your married life. You represent to the young missionaries how two people who love each other can experience such happiness in this work.

As we think about your assignments, I have been asked to prioritize how I would list the very important responsibilities that you have. In this Caribbean Connection message, I attempt to do so.

**First**, your most important priority is to manage the mission in your corner of the vineyard. There are rents to be paid, other finances to be handled and legality issues to

monitor that just can not be done more efficiently by anyone else.

**Second**, you are the mentors and health advisors to the elders. This was not listed as the top priority because you have much help and other resources with this such as nursing consultation in Trinidad, a doctor in Santo Domingo, specialists in Salt Lake City, and a mission president couple that is constantly trying to stay on top of these needs.

**Third**, you should focus on retention. As President Hinckley taught, "it does us no good to baptize these people, if they are not going to stay active in the Church." Yours is a shadow leadership role. Not that you retain the new members but that you are the people most aware of what the branch members need to do to make sure people stay and that you can tenderly counsel with them on how to do so. This includes helping track Priesthood ordinations for newly baptized



members - the measure of retention for the church.

**Fourth**, you have a big responsibility to reactive people - to find the lost sheep. We have noted a remarkable increase in attendance at Church once a missionary couple begins their ministry in a particular branch. You share this responsibility with branch leaders and the elders. As branch councils focus on this need, one by one families return to Church.

**Fifth**, you should proselyte. Yes, you should find people to teach and hopefully teach them with the members and the elders should you desire. You are most effective in this role and have a great opportunity to grow the Church as you spread the message of the restoration.

**Sixth**, you should use your own talents that you bring to the mission to help serve Heavenly Father's children and bless their lives. Couples have found great joy in teaching key board lessons, running an English class, managing a family history center, or conducting a cooking seminar. They have organized health

fairs, scrapbooking sessions, and taught institute. These acts of service bless the lives of the Saints and do much good in establishing the Church.

You will note that I have been careful to prioritize these responsibilities. We would hope that as counseled to us by Elder Oaks in General Conference, you establish in your companionship planning a priority list of good, better and best. Please make sure that the primary responsibilities outlined above are discharged properly prior to focusing your energies on those talents with which you have been blessed. All the priorities are important and none should be neglected, however there is an order.

May the Lord bless each of you in your efforts to build the kingdom in the West Indies. We love and appreciate you and know that this mission would not nearly be the great mission that it is with out you. Yes, couples make the difference in the West Indies. Hurrah for Israel.

Love, President and Sister Robison

### EARL & SHARON LARSEN

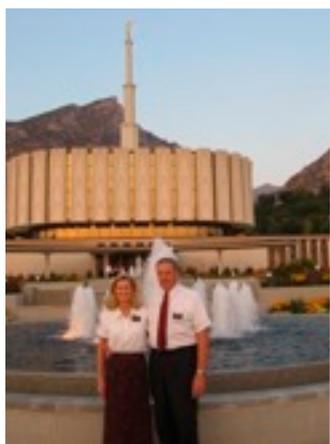
Sister Larsen was born in Salt Lake City and attended schools there. After high school she attended Continental College of Beauty, where she learned her vocation of styling hair. She has operated her own business for over 40 years.

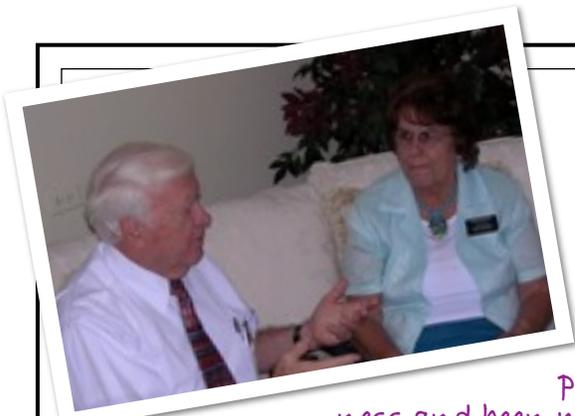
Elder Larsen was born in Moore, Utah and grew up in Ferron, Utah, both very small towns in South Central Utah.

After attending College of Southern Utah, he moved to Salt Lake, where we met at a Church dance.

Elder Larsen recently retired from the Federal government where he worked for 42 years. We have been married for 45 years and have 8 children and 25 grandchildren (with 2 more soon to come).

When we are not following grandchildren's sports, school and church activities we spend most of our time outdoors especially in our yard and garden. We like to travel and experience new cultures which helped in bringing us to the West Indies. We love the people here and are looking forward to the challenges of serving here.





## Farewell from the Phillips

*Oct 2007*

We leave the West Indies Mission and return home [19 Oct] from our Humanitarian Mission. We want to thank each of you for the great support we have had during the past 18 months. All of you have treated us with great kindness and been most helpful to us as we worked through some 56 projects. It has been a wonderful and enriching experience to learn first hand how the Church takes care of so many needy people of the earth in the Lord's way and we could not have accomplished this work without the support each of you have given.

Our replacement senior couple is Elder and Sister Tanner who are anxious to get to work. They can be contacted with the same numbers below and at [hswestindies@gmail.com](mailto:hswestindies@gmail.com).

Elder and Sister Phillips  
Phone/Fax: 592-223-1603  
Cell: 592-643-0505

### **WAYNE & JOAN LANGFORD,** **CES Couple serving in Guyana**



We are like everybody, just regular folks having the adventure of a lifetime. My husband was born to pioneer lineage, but his parents were inactive. He was raised in an inactive home, married a non-member and had two sons. When his wife died, he had a desire to be married again, only this time, he wanted to marry someone who was active in the church so I lucked out.

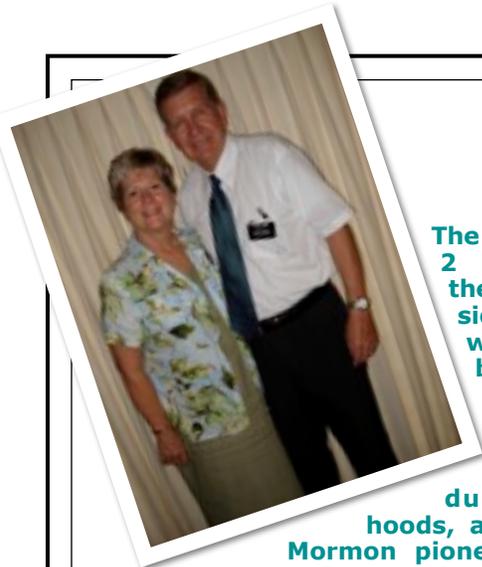
I am a convert at age 18 and was married for 33 years and was "unequally yoked". We divorced after having 4 children. I was single for 10 years before meeting Elder Langford. We have been married for 4 and a half years and are very happy. Between us we have 6 children and 16 grandchildren.

Elder Langford owned a small sales company in the control systems industry.

(Control systems are what plants and factories use to measure their product as they are manufacturing) I am a retired junior high school English teacher/librarian. I got my master's degree in library and information science two years

before I met Elder Langford and worked as a librarian for one year. Elder Langford lived in Walnut Creek, California (San Francisco area) and I lived in Cypress, California (Los Angeles Area) We met on LDS singles.com We would never have found each other if it weren't for the internet.

This is our first mission. We don't know how we ended up in the Caribbean or as CES missionaries, except that the Lord must have thought we could do it. He always has more confidence in us than we do ourselves. It was a total surprise.



## GARRY AND LYNETTE CONK

The Conks arrived Nov. 2 in Trinidad, where they serve in the Mission Office. Lynette was born in Seattle but moved to southern California at age 7. Garry was born in Los Angeles. Both moved a lot during their childhoods, and both come from Mormon pioneer ancestry. They met in Sunday School class in Garden Grove, California.

Garry worked for Disney and Disneyland for 47 years, and they lived in the same Anaheim Ward as the McGhies for less than a year in 1972-73. For the last 22 years he was the president and CEO of Disneyland's Credit Union. Since retirement five years ago, they have lived in Lake Arrowhead, California.

They have one daughter and three sons, all married and sealed, and 11 grandchildren. Lynette is Laurel Leavitt's cousin; their dads were brothers. They have been trying to get out on their mission for five years and finally made it—yes, their first mission! (Some health problems held them up.)

Their oldest granddaughter graduated from BYU last spring and got her MRS in August. One grandson is serving in Saskatoon, Canada, in the Winnipeg Mission. The Conks were in the MTC with another grandson who is going to Culiacan, Mexico.

Garry has served in three Bishoprics, High Council, High Priest Group Leader, and YM President. Lynette has been the Relief Society President, Primary President and had various teaching positions. She has worked part time over the years in office clerical positions.

The Conks are excited to meet all you couples and love Trinidad and the office. They feel so blessed to help spread the gospel here in the West Indies. They love the Lord and love and appreciate the gospel in their lives.



Guyana couples with Elder & Sister Daniel Johnson of the Seventy



These boys all love Sister Leavitt



Sisters McGhie, Dunn, and Naegle at American Women's Christmas Bazaar, Crown Plaza Hotel, Port of Spain.

## Trinidad Zone Conference - Couples' Dinner



Stauffers with the Johnsons



Williamsons



Sherwoods

### FERMENTED EUROPEAN BREAD



Sisters Dunn & Lockhart  
mixing the dough

The bread in the oven



Enjoying the finished product:



Lockharts, President Robison, Sister Dunn

#### Ingredients

3 c flour  
1/4 t instant yeast  
1 1/4 t salt  
cornmeal or wheat bran

#### Directions

Combine flour, yeast, salt. add 1 5/8 c water, stir until blended. Dough will be shaggy/sticky. Cover bowl with plastic wrap. Let rise 12-18 hrs at room temperature (70 degrees).

When surface is dotted with bubbles, dough is ready. Flour your work surface; put dough on it. Sprinkle a little flour on the dough and fold it over itself once or twice. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and let rest 15 minutes.

Gently and quickly shape the dough into a ball. Coat a cotton towel with flour, wheat bran or cornmeal. Put dough seam side down on towel and dust with more flour. Cover with another cotton towel and let rise 2 hrs. when ready, dough will more than double in size and will not readily spring back when poked with finger.

Heat oven to 450 1/2 hr before baking. Put a 6-8 quart heavy covered pot (cast iron, enamel, pyrex or ceramic) in oven as it heats.

Carefully remove pot from oven when dough is ready to be cooked; slide your hand under the towel and turn dough over into pot, seam side up. It may look like a mess but that's okay. Shake pan once or twice if dough is uneven. It will straighten out as it bakes. Cover with lid and bake 30 minutes; then remove lid and bake another 15-30 until loaf is beautifully browned. Cool on rack.