

# Africa Southeast Area Local Pages

## AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

### Keep Yourselves Clean, Pure and Worthy to Represent the Lord

**Elder Ulisses Soares of the Seventy**

First Counsellor in the Area Presidency

**D**uring the general conference of October 2010, President Thomas S. Monson made an appeal to the entire Church in his opening message: “To young men of the Aaronic Priesthood and to you young men who are becoming elders: I repeat what prophets have long taught—that every worthy, able young man should prepare to serve a mission. Missionary service is a priesthood duty—an obligation that the Lord expects of us who have been given so very much. Young men, I admonish you to prepare for service as missionaries. Keep yourselves clean and pure and worthy to represent the Lord. Maintain your health and strength. Study the scriptures. Where such is available, participate in seminary or institute. Familiarize yourself with the missionary handbook *Preach My Gospel*” (“As We Meet Together Again,” *Liahona*, Nov. 2010, 5–6).

The Lord expects every young man to prepare himself spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, and financially for missionary service. But in his words, President Monson referred to the candidates for missionary service, initially mentioning the greatest of the qualifications for service, “worthiness” (“every *worthy* young man . . .”).

In order for a young man to be qualified with respect to worthiness, he needs to have clean hands and a pure heart. This means that he needs to be morally clean from every aspect and fully worthy to represent the Lord Jesus Christ. The Lord warned the Prophet Joseph Smith about those who serve in His kingdom when he said, “Go ye out from among the wicked. Save yourselves. Be ye clean that bear

the vessels of the Lord” (D&C 38:42).

To attain that level of worthiness, candidates for missionary service need to lead an exemplary life. In the *Missionary Handbook*, page 3, we read the following: “You were recommended as a person worthy to represent the Lord as a minister of the restored gospel. You will be an official representative of the Church. As such, it will be your duty to maintain the highest standards of conduct and appearance, keeping the commandments, obeying the mission rules, and following the counsel of the president of the mission. . . .” For you to represent the Savior worthily, it will be necessary to attain that level of worthiness. Parents, leaders, as well as the candidates for missionary service themselves, have the sacred responsibility of working on that preparation and of making every effort for every young man to reach that elevated standard in order to be a true representative of the Savior. If it is necessary to make some corrections, this should happen well before the person is recommended for missionary service. Genuine repentance can take some time, and perhaps the missionary will be required to take more time in preparation. But repentance is necessary so that we may be clean and pure, as President Monson taught us.

The invitation of the Savior to repentance is an invitation from a loving Father and His Only Begotten Son to be more than we are, to seek a more elevated way of life, and to feel the happiness of keeping the commandments. What a marvelous privilege we have of abandoning sin and



**Elder Ulisses Soares**

becoming close to Christ. Divine forgiveness is one of the sweetest fruits of the gospel, removing guilt and pain from our hearts and replacing them with joy and peace of conscience (see Neil L. Andersen, “Repent . . . That I May Heal You,” *Ensign* and *Liahona*, Nov. 2009, 40).

There is much that can be done to adequately prepare yourself to serve the Lord. I would like to summarize some recommendations based upon the teachings of the prophets through the years that have helped some of the best missionaries whom I know to serve with the highest standard of worthiness, as recommended by President Monson.

- Pray every day. Ask Heavenly Father to help you to be worthy.
- Keep the commandments daily.
- Attend and pay attention in classes of seminary and institute.
- Study the scriptures every day, especially the Book of Mormon. Apply the promise of Moroni described in chapter 10 verses 3–5.
- Learn to be responsible, magnifying any calling or assignment you receive.
- Be worthy of a temple recommend and perform vicarious baptisms whenever possible.
- Receive your patriarchal blessing and read it regularly.
- Go to church every Sunday and feel the Spirit during the meetings.
- Go out with the full-time missionaries and observe their conduct.
- Bear your testimony whenever possible.
- Study the guide for missionary service *Preach My Gospel*.
- Attend the courses Teaching the Gospel and Missionary Preparation.
- Study the *Missionary Handbook* in order to understand the directives contained in it and commit yourself to following them.
- Have regular interviews with the bishop in order to assure yourself of your worthiness.

Full-time missionary service is a privilege; it is a service offered to God and His Church. Missionaries will be called by prophecy and the laying on of hands by those who have the authority (see Articles of Faith 1:5) to invite people to come unto Christ, helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, through repentance, through baptism, through receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and through persevering until the end. Only those who are worthy of fulfilling it [a mission] will be able to perform it in the Lord’s way, and it will demand faith, desire, and consecration.

I invite parents, leaders, and the young men to work together in helping in the preparation of the candidates for missionary service to become worthy representatives of the Savior Jesus Christ and help them develop “faith, hope, charity, and love, with an eye single to the glory of God” (D&C 4:5), so that they will be qualified to represent Jesus Christ and His Church.

I bear testimony that by applying these principles in their spiritual preparation, the missionaries will become valiant messengers of the truth and will have the power to convert those “who are only kept from the truth because they know not where to find it” (D&C 123:12). ■

## AREA SEVENTY MESSAGE

# He Heard Me Talking and He Came Closer

Elder Alfred Kyungu, Area Seventy

One evening I was at a hotel restaurant overseas. It was about 21:00 (9:00 p.m.) when I received a phone call from home, and I began to converse in one of

the national languages of my country.

After that telephone conversation, I suddenly saw a gentleman approaching me, and he greeted me in that language. He

introduced himself as a doctor from my country and said that he was residing in that foreign country for professional training purposes. He decided to move from his table and came to sit at the same table as me in order to share dinner with me.

Our conversation continued and I had the opportunity to tell him about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and the restored gospel.

I understood that our language, our expression and what we say every day has an impact on those who hear us, and it may cause us to come closer to others, or possibly move away from others. He heard me talking, and because I spoke the language that caught his attention he knew he could come near me and trust me, since he knew where I came from and who I could be—certainly a brother.

When speaking to the Ephesians, Paul the Apostle taught, “Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Ephesians 4:29).

Our language in any place whatsoever must be one that inspires confidence, which edifies, and must bring us closer to those who hear us.

During his earthly ministry, the Lord Jesus Christ taught that “every idle word that men shall



**Elder Alfred Kyungu**

properly only when we are in front of people we know. As Christians, Latter-day Saints and in Christ’s way, we have the obligation to speak without rudeness, insults and insanity wherever we may be and whatever the circumstances may be. Our religion does not encourage us to use coarse language. We have an identity to defend, and our language also defines our identity.

speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment. For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned” (Matthew 12:36–37).

President Gordon B. Hinckley (1910–2008) taught the following: “Conversation is the substance of friendly social activity. It can be happy. It can be light. It can be earnest. It can be funny. But it must not be salty, or uncouth, or foul if one is in sincerity a believer in Christ. . . .

“[Anyone] who must resort to such language immediately says that he is poverty-ridden in his vocabulary. He does not enjoy sufficient richness of expression to be able to speak effectively without swearing or using foul words” (“Take Not the Name of God in Vain,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1987, 47–48).

We do not need to talk

properly only when we are in front of people we know. As Christians, Latter-day Saints and in Christ’s way, we have the obligation to speak without rudeness, insults and insanity wherever we may be and whatever the circumstances may be. Our religion does not encourage us to use coarse language. We have an identity to defend, and our language also defines our identity.

Speaking of the fateful hours when Peter denied that he was with the Savior, Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said: “As a passport photo, a signature, or thumbprint can identify individuals, Peter’s speech revealed who he was and where he had been reared. Just as surely are *you* classified and put in a special category by those who hear the words you speak. Our speech reflects the kind of person we are, exposing our background and our way of life. It describes our thinking as well as our inner feelings” (“Thy Speech Reveals Thee,” *New Era*, July 2007, 4).

Our language also defiles us as stated in the Bible: “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man” (Matthew 15:11).

The world today is trying to disguise the vulgar, unfit or unhealthy words by expressions of substitution. Be careful with the

use of such words and expressions compared to our identity as Latter-day Saints. We can improve our language. Let us have the courage to banish from our vocabulary unhealthy words even if we hear them all day long, and let us keep a clean, pure and not harmful language.

Since it is from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks, I invite you to fill your heart with the word of God, the teachings of prophets and the acts of kindness, so that when these things abound in your heart, the mouth will be able to express them for the edifying of all who will hear you. If we improve our language and vocabulary, we will be placed among those whom the Lord will choose for

his service in the kingdom.

We will be on God's side if we follow the modern revelations: "He that speaketh, whose spirit is contrite, whose language is meek and edifieth, the same is of God if he obey mine ordinances" (D&C 52:16).

Brothers and sisters, may we watch over our language and correct it if necessary. Let us avoid indecent conversations or coarse and dirty terms. Let us commit ourselves to be Christlike and to maintain a language worthy of edifying the world; a language that encourages and compliments others. May our mouths be a reflection of good things that abound in our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

## What is Your Impression of Conference?

Some individuals in the Africa Southeast Area were interviewed after viewing April 2012 conference sessions. A sample of their impressions of conference are included below.



**Justin Mukuna Kabala,**  
**Upemba Ward, DRC**  
**Katuba Stake**

### Justin Mukuna Kabala

"We prepared for this conference since the day the stake announced it. On Monday, in our family home evening, we talked to our children

about the conference and showed them the photos of General Authorities in the *Liahona* to give them an idea of those who would be speaking. I liked very much the idea that 'our actions speak louder than our words,' and this will govern my actions in the future, especially as a parent."

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELDER  
AND SISTER EVANSON



**Tresor Mabayo,**  
**Mampala Ward, DRC**  
**Katuba Stake**

### Tresor Mabayo

"I prayed before the conference to have the Spirit and to better understand the talks of leaders. I also searched on the Internet to read the themes of the conference talks. I learned that in life one should never get discouraged, whatever the difficulties faced."

PHOTOGRAPH BY ELDER  
AND SISTER EVANSON

### Ilunga Nkulu Mukembe

"My profession as a geologist requires almost all the time for me to be away from the city for prospecting purposes. I prayed a lot that I would

## LOCAL NEWS

# General Conference Broadcast Dates—Africa Southeast Area

- **October 13–14**, Saturday and Sunday, conference will be broadcast within the Johannesburg Mission boundaries.
- **October 20–21**, Saturday and Sunday, conference will be broadcast to the rest of the Africa Southeast Area.

The *Liahona* invites you to share your feelings and

impressions of October 2012 general conference. Please send your comments of 150 words or less and your photograph (optional) to [Editorsa@ldschurch.org](mailto:Editorsa@ldschurch.org). Include your name, ward (or branch), stake (or district), country and return e-mail address. Comments must be received by November 15, 2012. ■

*Limited to those who are 18 years of age or older by November 15, 2012.*

be able to view this conference together with other members of the Church and to sustain Church leaders. This was possible because all programs were changed by my managers to allow me to be here today. It is a matter of faith. Thus I can also testify as Elder Bednar that as priesthood holders, we are here to act and not to be acted upon.”

**Rose Mwilu**

“I have been a widow for only a few months. It is a very difficult situation to live in. I always appreciate the special attention that Church leaders give to widows and orphans. I was very touched and impressed by the brother who spoke about single-parent homes. The exactness with which he spoke about our situation made me understand that our Heavenly Father sees us and takes care of us, because it is only His inspiration that could enlighten the speaker on experiences of these courageous women.”

**Pamela Kyahiba Bila**

“It has only been three weeks since I was baptized. After this conference I can only testify that this Church is true, and once again I regret the time spent before I could find this Church. If I had found it before, my life would have been blessed differently.”



PHOTOGRAPH BY ELDER AND SISTER EVANSON

**Ilunga Nkulu  
Mukembe, Upemba  
Ward, DRC Katuba  
Stake**



PHOTOGRAPH BY ELDER AND SISTER EVANSON

**Rose Mwilu, Kisanga  
Second Ward, DRC  
Katuba Stake**



PHOTOGRAPH BY ELDER AND SISTER EVANSON

**Pamela Kyahiba Bila,  
Kisanga Second Ward,  
DRC Katuba Stake**



PHOTOGRAPH BY ELDER AND SISTER EVANSON

**Mujinga Mwabana,  
Kisanga Second  
Ward, DRC Katuba  
Stake**

**Mujinga Mwabana**

“As a teaching mother we sometimes despair, but when we listen to stories told by our leaders and supported by the scriptures and the Spirit, we have faith and believe that through prayer we can get back our children who went astray.”



PHOTOGRAPH BY SISTER SHARLENE HENINGER

**Jilian Rieckhoff with her  
husband, Bishop Robert C.  
Rieckhoff, Pinetown Ward,  
South Africa Durban Hillcrest  
Stake.**

**Jilian and Robert C. Rieckhoff**

“Going to conference is the ultimate. We used to wait so long to get messages and direction from our prophets and leaders. Now it is almost immediate. It is such a blessing.”

“The conference theme was very

family-oriented and had a strong emphasis on responsibility to the family. I have listened to conference, and now I will go and reread the talks and take specific points and apply them to my life.”

**Sheila Sabela**

“I came to conference to listen to the prophet and apostles. President Monson and Elder Christofferson spoke directly to me. President Monson talked about evaluating what is really important in our lives, saying that we need to slow down and take the time to evaluate. We need to focus our



PHOTOGRAPH BY SISTER SHARLENE HENINGER

**Sheila Sabela,  
Pinetown Ward,  
South Africa Durban  
Hillcrest Stake**



thoughts and determine what is important and what is trivial. By following this, I will make less mistakes and know more strength.”

**Eliazer Ikela**

Eliazer Ikela, originally from Ongwediva, Namibia, said the missionaries taught him that he would “get direction from messages in conference.”

He has found that advice to be true. “There is always a talk, even just a few sentences in a talk, that relate to me,” he said. “It is like a message will be directed to your own concerns and challenges.”

Brother Ikela was able to view at least one conference talk on the Internet, then again with his ward. He appreciated being able to learn even more after seeing the talk a second time.

“You can find answers to your questions at conference!” That is Brother Ikela’s counsel to encourage others to attend conference.



PHOTOGRAPH BY SISTER EDITH HOWES

**Eliazer Ikela**

**Akua Danso**

Akua Danso, originally from Ghana, will complete her university studies in medicine next year. She serves in her ward as chorister and as female YSA representative.



PHOTOGRAPH BY SISTER LESLIE PETERSON

**Akua Danso**

Sister Danso looks forward to conference and feels the Lord’s Spirit during the sessions. As she participates, Sister Danso “writes a number of impressions in a notebook.” She finds that conference is a time when the desires of her heart “have been reaffirmed to be right.”

Counsel in conference sessions encourages making “new goals walking toward Heavenly Father.” Sister Danso would tell someone that conference is “uplifting, and leaves you with a new

determination to draw closer to Heavenly Father and improve yourself.”

**Chanda Kabwe**

Chanda attended conference as an investigator of the Church. He was impressed by Elder Holland, who encouraged even those who are not yet baptized to continue on. He felt the conference contained the fulness of the gospel, touching on every aspect.

(Chanda Kabwe was baptized on May 27, 2012.)



PHOTOGRAPH BY SISTER VONDA LOUTHAN

**Chanda Kabwe, Munali Branch, Zambia**

**Reuben Kalumba**

“Conference was great, very inspiring. To prepare for conference I prayed to have the Spirit; that I would be inspired to learn what I needed to do. It’s a great privilege to have inspired leaders to help us as youth know how to live.”

(Reuben’s brother is serving a mission in Uganda. Reuben is preparing to serve a mission when his brother is released.)



PHOTOGRAPH BY SISTER VONDA LOUTHAN

**Reuben Kalumba**

**Maureen and Harrison Lumbama**

The Lumbamas prepared for conference by more faithfully reading the scriptures as a family. They were reminded by their 15-year-old daughter, who made a schedule for the

family. They also reflected on the coming conference and arranged their schedule to be on time and even offered to give others a ride to



PHOTOGRAPH BY SISTER VONDA LOUTHAN

**Maureen and Harrison Lumbama, district president, Zambia Lusaka District**

the meetings. President Lumbama, president of the Zambia Lusaka District, enjoyed the chance to sit with his wife instead of on the stand at these meetings.

### Lord Mbambu

Brother Mbambu liked Elder Ballard's talk about families. As a new young father, it inspired him to be better and helped him to understand how to be a better father.



**Lord Mbambu,**  
*elders quorum  
president,  
Zambia Lusaka  
Branch*

### Margaret Khumalo

"I came to listen to the prophet. It's like he speaks to me directly, and I find his words constructive and a great lift in my life." ■



**Margaret  
Khumalo,**  
*Pinetown  
Ward, South  
Africa Durban  
Hillcrest Stake*

## How Can I Maximize the Benefit of Conference?

Members of the Africa Southeast Area have suggestions to gain the most from conference:

### Prepare before conference:

- Mark your calendar with the dates of conference.
- Arrange your schedule to be available to view conference.
- Ask for time off work, if necessary.
- Invite others to come with you to conference.
- Read scriptures regularly with your family and individually.
- Use family home evenings to learn to identify members of the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. (May and November *Liahonas* have their pictures.)
- Each of these leaders will speak at conference. Watch for them.
- Write down specific questions about concerns in your life. Listen for answers to those questions in conference.
- Pray for the Spirit of the Lord to be with you during conference.

### Following conference:

- Read and reread the talks and apply them to your life.
- Make goals in harmony with conference teachings. ■

## EXPERIENCES IN THE CHURCH

# Translating General Conference Talks from English into Another Language

By Ziva Lalari Rakotondrasoa

I always look forward to general conference in April and October. In 2003 I started to work as a contractor for the Translation Department of the Church. Part of our work is to translate talks during general conference so "every man shall hear the fulness of the gospel in his own tongue, and in his own

language, through those who are ordained unto this power" (D&C 90:11).

Translators fully comprehend that this is a holy work, which requires being in tune with the Spirit. When a talk is translated into Malagasy, it is not enough that the translation looks like the original text. Look-alikes are not

sufficient. After you take the text "through the veil" that separates one language from another, it must literally mean the same as the original.

Before translating a talk, I start with prayer, then read and reread the full text in English. I ponder the messages and highlight words that are difficult to understand. Through the use of dictionaries, research, and explanations from reliable, appropriate resources, the translation begins.



**Ansa, Aaron,  
Ezra, and Ziva  
Rakotondrasoa**

Translators are required to work hard and fast as a team to provide the best translation. Challenges facing translation into Malagasy include lack of technical terminologies, long words in the Malagasy language, and American humor and idioms which neither exist nor make sense in Malagasy. With the help of the Spirit, I feel guided in the translation.

When the work is finished, the translator proofreads and reviews his own translation, then asks for a confirmation through prayer. If the translation is accurate, it is sent to another person for content review.

After the two days of general conference in the Conference Center, translators continue work on the talks, insert the last

changes, and make corrections. We polish, refine and sharpen all talks to be in the *Liahona* so that the members can read, ponder and study those words from the servants of God.

I am so grateful to be part of the translation team and feel the gift of translation in my life. I have felt so much the Spirit by studying the messages and lessons. I am grateful for the principles I have learned from the talks. It has strengthened my testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel and of the Atonement of Jesus Christ.

God is our Father, and He lives. The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is His Church, and the only true Church upon the earth. Jesus is the Christ. He is our Savior and

Redeemer. He leads this Church and reveals His words through a living prophet and apostles. ■

## New Africa Southeast Area Website Now Online

**Y**ou are invited and encouraged to access the Africa Southeast Area Website, now an integral part of LDS.org. It can be reached on the Internet at [lds.co.za](http://lds.co.za) or [www.lds.co.za](http://www.lds.co.za). The new site includes Africa Southeast Area Presidency messages, news and events from throughout the Area, as well as the vast resources of LDS.org.

Tell what you think of the website or contribute an article at [Editoria@ldschurch.org](mailto:Editoria@ldschurch.org). Please include your name and an e-mail address at which you can be reached. It will be good to hear from you! ■