The Blessings of Paying Faithful Tithing

By Elder ‘Aisake K. Tukuafu

“There is a law, irrevocably decreed in heaven before the foundations of this world, upon which all blessings are predicated—

“And when we obtain any blessing from God, it is by obedience to that law upon which it is predicated” (D&C 130:20–21).

“For all who will have a blessing at my hands shall abide the law which was appointed for that blessing” (D&C 132:5).

Tithing is paying one-tenth of the increase we receive. The first account recorded of paying tithing was that of Abraham to Melchizedek, a righteous king, a king of peace and a priest unto the Most High.

While I was growing up, there was not much trade that involved money. It was mostly done using the barter system. Faithful members of the Church paid tithing using their crops and animals. They planted their best seeds and took special care of them until the harvest. They did likewise raising their best animals until the day that they gave them to the branch president, as their tithing unto the Lord. These members often talked about the blessings that the prophet Malachi wrote of when he said, “[The devourer] shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the Lord of hosts” (Malachi 3:11). Although the faithful members today pay tithing with cash from selling their crops and animals, they still witness the physical and spiritual blessings that they receive as they keep the law of tithing.

Because this commandment was very important, the resurrected Lord often taught this to the Nephites (see 3 Nephi 24). When we bring our tithing to the bishop’s storehouse, we are testing the Lord at the same time to see if He will open the doors of heaven or not...

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Invercargill Communities Take Part in Global Family Reunion

By Mormon Newsroom

A common desire to connect families together brought over 200 people to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints meetinghouse in Invercargill, New Zealand, in June to participate in a “Global Family Reunion.”

The event was organised by Douglas and Linda Harding, missionaries for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

They became interested in the idea after hearing A. J. Jacobs present his goal to have a global family reunion in cities throughout the world.

“When we heard about the idea of a global family reunion,” Elder Harding says, “we decided we ought to see if we could do that in New Zealand.

“A global family is something that most of us can relate to, and for us to be a part of a global family reunion is a real honour.”

The festivities began with a welcome address by Invercargill deputy mayor Darren Ludlow. After his remarks Mr. Ludlow was able to trace back ten generations of his family tree, helped by Latter-day Saint family history volunteers at the event.

“The concept behind the global family reunion is that we are all cousins,” he said.

Henderson, Auckland, Mormons Help Families Stay Warm This Winter

By Mormon Newsroom

Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Henderson, Auckland, recently donated blankets to local families in need.

Hulufe Palemene, who works for an educational programme for parents and children in the community, recognized that many families were in need of warm blankets to help them during the cold winter.

She contacted her mother, Marilyn Manukia, who invited others to donate any spare blankets they were not using. Many members of the Henderson Latter-day Saint congregations accepted the invitation by not only donating used blankets but also purchasing and donating new ones.

Young women from the Church also donated the blankets they had recently made as part of their youth activities.

“It’s important to make the most of these opportunities to serve others and truly make a difference in someone’s life,” Marilyn Manukia said.

The Henderson Latter-day Saints’ goal, Mrs Manukia says, “is to lend a helping hand, whenever needed, all year round.”
Thirteenth Stake Created in Auckland

Auckland, New Zealand

Elder O. Vincent Haleck of the Pacific Area Presidency of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints presided over the creation of the Auckland New Zealand Penrose Stake in May.

Approximately 1,000 members and guests of the Church attended a special conference on the weekend when the new stake and its leadership were announced.

New Zealand Area Seventy Elder Paul R. Coward accompanied Elder Haleck at the conference.

Faaleaga Young Yen, David A. Lawrence and Etimoni Uele were announced as the new stake's presidency. They, along with other lay leaders, will teach the gospel of Jesus Christ as well as provide counselling and other support to the members of the stake.

Elder Haleck counselled those at the conference to increase their faith in Heavenly Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. “Put your trust in God and Christ,” he said. “If you will centre your lives on Heavenly Father and our Saviour, Jesus Christ, and keep the commandments, you will prosper in this land.”

Elder Haleck reminded the many who were there from the Pacific Islands to reflect on why they moved to this country. “You moved to provide a better future for families,” he said. “To build a better future for your families, you must make getting an education for your children a priority to ensure a bright future for them and the future generations of your families.”

He also encouraged members of the Penrose stake to support their new leaders. “They have been called of God,” he said.

Elder Coward invited those attending the conference to “look forward with faith, unity and service.”

Elder S. Gifford Nielsen Tells New Zealand Youth, “You Are Noble and Great”

By Mormon Newsroom

Auckland, New Zealand

Sixteen-year-old Renee P. said she learnt from the evening “that even putting yourself in bad circumstances can lead to bad things, and you need to be aware of what the consequences of your choices may be.” Keira M. added, “If I tell my friends about my
standards, they can be really supportive, but I have to open my mouth."

Renee and Keira’s friend Ryan H. said, “I really loved tonight. I can always set an example to others.”

A leader of youth in the Albany Ward, Derek Good, said, “These nights are really important for young people because it gives them a chance to come out and hear some specific counsel that they need right now. They can walk away with some useful counsel and promises they can apply right away.”