

NEW ZEALAND LOCAL PAGES

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

The Blessings of Paying Faithful Tithing

By Elder 'Aisake K. Tukuafu



Elder
'Aisake K.
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“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, and pour out blessings

for us where there won’t be enough room to receive them.

A few years after we got married, we felt that we needed to change the way we paid our tithing. When we got paid each week, we would deposit our tithing into a bank account and pay all of it together at once when we had our tithing settlement with the bishop. At that time we had to move out of our apartment, and we had no money to pay rent—except the money that we had put aside for our tithing. Because of our lack of faith, we paid our rent instead of our tithing. Days of worry followed, and we felt that we were stealing from God. We felt inadequate at times and felt that nothing was working out for us. After praying sincerely for forgiveness, we paid back our full tithing, and we felt peace at last in our minds as well as in our spirits. This experience increased our faith and trust in the Lord, and we made promises just like Jacob did, that we would pay tithing on everything that He provides for us in the future.

I bear witness of this divine principle, together with those who have witnessed the spiritual and physical blessings from God as they keep the law of tithing, in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

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LOCAL NEWS



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

Henderson, Auckland, Mormons Help Families Stay Warm This Winter

By Mormon Newsroom

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.” ■

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. ■



Members participating in the family reunion in Invercargill

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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



Elder Haleck with the new leadership of the Penrose stake

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.” ■



Elder Nielsen greets youth after the fireside.

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Elder Nielsen with Harbour stake president Doug Martin and youth from the stake



Hamilton New Zealand Temple

NEW ZEALAND