

AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Increase Baptisms and Retain Converts —Share the Gospel with Others

By Elder Jeffrey D. Cummings
Area Seventy

Elder Jeffrey D.
Cummings



On the front cover of *Preach My Gospel*, the Lord gives the following injunction: “Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost.”¹

We then read a message from the First Presidency: “We challenge you to rise to a new sense of commitment

to assist our Father in Heaven in His glorious work. Every missionary [member] has an important role in helping ‘to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man’ (Moses 1:39).”²

One of the objectives of the 2016 Pacific Area Plan is to “Hasten the Work of Salvation”, of which baptizing new converts is an integral

part. The word *hasten* is interesting. When we reference the scripture carefully that refers to this hastening, we see that the Lord says, “Behold, I [the Lord] will hasten my work in its time.”³

We see much evidence of the Lord hastening His work of bringing the message of the gospel to the world, including:



We can make our homes available for the missionaries to teach investigators.

- An increase in the number of full-time missionaries.
- The opening of many new missions, including some in countries previously closed to missionary work.
- The rapid development of technology.

The opportunity is there for each of us, member and missionary alike, to partner together with the Lord in this work and to “be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of [our] own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness.”⁴

We can participate in missionary work in the following ways:

- Being living examples of the gospel by keeping the commandments.
- Share with people the blessings that come from being a member of the Church. Invite them to learn how they can receive the same blessings.
- “Open thy mouth at all times, declaring my gospel with the sound of rejoicing.”⁵
- Make our homes available for the missionaries to teach investigators.
- Fulfill our home teaching and visiting teaching responsibilities, particularly to part-member and less-active families. Invite any non-member spouses and children to hear the missionary discussions.
- Welcome any new members and those investigating the Church



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and help them to adjust to Church membership.

A prophet of the Church, and himself a great missionary, President Ezra Taft Benson (1899–1994) made the following statements:

“It is my conviction that the world needs, as it needs no other thing, the gospel of Jesus Christ, and the people of the world want what the gospel will give, but they do not realize it. They want the anchor which the gospel provides, which gives them the answers to the problems that face them; that brings them a feeling of security and a feeling of inner peace.

The gospel is the only answer to the problems of the world. . . .

“Only the gospel will save the world from the calamity of its own self-destruction. Only the gospel will unite men of all races and nationalities in peace. Only the gospel will bring joy, happiness, and salvation to the human family.

“The world is hungry for true religion, and we have it.

“This is the glorious message we desire to share with the world, that through God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ, the kingdom of God has been restored. It is the greatest message since the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”⁶

I bear witness that the doctrine of missionary work is an essential part of the Lord’s eternal plan and that as members we have a sacred responsibility to take any and every opportunity to share the gospel with others—to invite them to receive the blessings of the gospel through true conversion, repentance, baptism, and receiving the Holy Ghost.

As we do this we will draw ever closer to our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, blessing the lives of those with whom we share the gospel. ■

NOTES

1. 3 Nephi 27:20.
2. *Preach My Gospel* (2004), v.
3. Doctrine and Covenants 88:73.
4. Doctrine and Covenants 58:27.
5. Doctrine and Covenants 28:16.
6. *Teachings of Presidents of the Church: Ezra Taft Benson* (2014), 278.

LOCAL PAGES

Warming Homes and Warming Hearts

By Anouck Van Dyck

Michelle and Graham Dunlop have seen firsthand the challenges that people face when they live a life on the streets of Perth. They have been helping the homeless for eight years. The Dunlops are members of the Perth Australia Dianella Stake. Volunteering their time to aid those in need, they also see the joy the simple things in life can bring and the great difference it can make. They are known as “street friends” and assist with meals and work with “street doctors,” who provide free medical care.

In a city that is famous for its abundance of sunshine, many can be ill prepared when it comes to the colder months—and none more so than those who have no shelter from the elements. Michelle was pondering

how to overcome the problem of rain-soaked blankets when she came across a video of a woman who makes sleeping bags out of insulated foil, which repels the elements.

Within a few days, Michelle had researched and connected with both local company CSR Bradford, who kindly donated rolls of the foil, and the young single adult programme, who volunteered their time to assemble the sleeping bags.

Ryan Steel, state manager for CSR Bradford, said: “I have been inspired by Michelle’s drive to help homeless people in Perth. It is rare to find someone that will see a problem and decide to do something about it, without thought of personal gain. This is exactly what Michelle and her volunteers are doing,

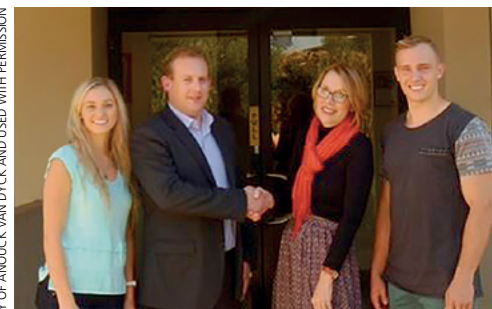


IMAGE COURTESY OF ANOUCK VAN DYCK AND USED WITH PERMISSION

Hannah Mutton; Ryan Steel (CSR Bradford state manager), shaking hands with Michelle Dunlop; and Jonathan Dunlop

and that’s why I jumped at the chance for our business to contribute.”

With an abundance of foil available, volunteers were able to excitedly assemble 150 sleeping bags, and also use the time to reflect on the abundance of blessings they can at times take for granted.

Emily stated: “Assembling this sleeping bag, it dawned on me that



Carl Bosch tries out one of the foil sleeping bags.



Young single adults and volunteers from Perth at the regional YSA conference

IMAGES COURTESY OF MICHELLE FERSTER AND USED WITH PERMISSION

this was not only someone's bedding but their home. It has made me really appreciate what I have, and put extra care into my efforts."

People involved in this project were truly uplifted, and many commented that it was extremely rewarding to see their efforts benefiting their community in such a positive way.

The Perth Australia North Coast Stake also runs an annual gift-box program at Christmas, which works with local charities to assist Perth's homeless. ■

New Australian Family History Records Now Available Online

By Mormon Newsroom

Family history organisation FamilySearch announced in April the loading of around 190,000 Australian passenger ship records onto its website.

The Australia Victoria Coastal Passenger Lists, 1852–1924, are now available at FamilySearch.org for people to search for information about their ancestors. Passenger records are a valuable source of family history information and typically are arranged

T. A. REYNOLDS & CO.
PASSENGERS' LIST,
REFERRED TO IN THE 16TH SECTION OF THE PASSENGERS' ACT, 1855.

Ship's Name	Master's Name	Tons per Register	Aggregate Number of superficial Feet in the several compartments apart for Passengers (exclusive of Cabin Passengers)	Total Number of Adults, exclusive of Master, Crew, and Cabin Passengers, which the ship can legally carry	Where bound
S. S. BELLINGER	A. Lloyd	184			Melbourne

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the Provisions actually laden on board this Ship are sufficient, according to the requirements of the Passengers' Act, for _____ State Adults, for a voyage of _____ Days.

Date: May 20th 1875 (Signature) A. Lloyd Master.

NAMES AND DESCRIPTIONS OF PASSENGERS.

Ports of Embarkation	Names of Passengers	Age of each Adult of 12 years and upwards				Children between 1 & 12 years		Infants		Profession, Occupation, or Calling of Passengers	State whether English/Scottish, or Irish	Port at which Passengers have contracted to land
		Married	Single	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female			
Stratton	<u>W. Baloo</u>										Melbourne	
	<u>M^r. Vealigan</u>			50								
	<u>M^r. Croxlan</u>			32								
	<u>M^r. Baldwin</u>			29								
	<u>M^r. Richards</u>			36								
	<u>" Stuart</u>			45								
	<u>" Duff</u>			49								
				8	2							
Steering	<u>M^r. Regan</u>			44								
	<u>" Fink</u>			70								
	<u>" Connell</u>			41								
	<u>" Tolman</u>			34								
	<u>" Dooey</u>			57								
	<u>" Downes</u>			24								
	<u>" Cushman</u>			40								
	<u>" Bots</u>			27								
	<u>" Miller</u>			25								
	<u>" Blacklock</u>			35								
	<u>" Olson</u>			51								
	<u>" Reardon</u>			34								
	<u>" Coghlan</u>			29								
<u>" Smythies</u>			37									
<u>" Seelam</u>			39									
<u>" Delahoy</u>			28									
<u>" Smith</u>			34									
	<u>forward</u>											

The Australia Victoria Coastal Passenger Lists, 1852–1924, are now available at FamilySearch.org for people to search for information about their ancestors.

by the date, the name of the ship, and the port of arrival or departure.

FamilySearch is a genealogical research organisation maintained by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It gathers, preserves, and shares genealogical records worldwide and

offers free access to its resources and services online at FamilySearch.org, one of the most heavily used genealogy sites on the Internet. FamilySearch also offers personal assistance at more than 4,500 centres around the world, 145 of which are in Australia. ■

Family History Treasure Hunt Challenge

By Connie Costanzo

The Footscray Ward, Melbourne Australia Heidelberg Stake, created a family history treasure hunt activity and invited all ward members to participate in the fun family history challenge.

The challenges were to:

- Individually find 4 family names to submit for temple ordinance work.
- Submit a total of 200 names to the temple as a ward.
- Individually submit 250 names through indexing.
- Submit a total of 10,000 names as a ward.

The treasure hunt challenge was completed over a three-month period. To make it more interesting, the Bendigo Ward, Melbourne Australia Craigieburn Stake, was invited to also participate in the challenge, to see which ward could submit the most names for the temple and who could index the most names online.

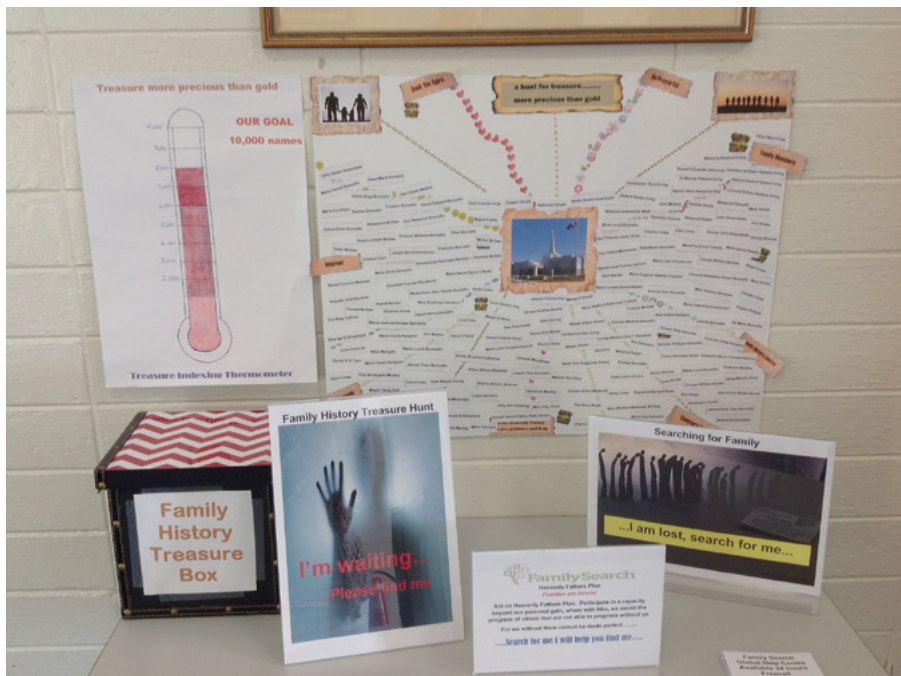
Family history consultant Deb Ireland accepted the challenge on behalf of the Bendigo Ward. Game on!

Connie Costanzo, family history consultant for the Footscray Ward, and



IMAGES COURTESY OF CONNIE COSTANZO AND USED WITH PERMISSION

◆ **Footscray Ward members Connie Costanzo and Betty Frew submitting names to the treasure box**
◆ **The treasure map, indexing barometer, and treasure box**



Deb Ireland kept track of the progress. To add to the challenge, it was decided that the losing ward would make the winners a chocolate cake.

Information was provided to members regarding tools and resources available and the support available from the family history centre.

During the challenge a treasure map was developed listing each name on the map. An indexing barometer kept track of how many names were indexed. Treasure boxes and treasure

cards with ancestors' names were kept up to date.

It was a fun and friendly competition. Members felt the Spirit and developed the enthusiasm to discover and connect with their ancestors. They learned that family is a treasure and is not complete without our heritage.

When the three months were up, Footscray Ward was the winner, with members submitting a total of 216 names for the temple and indexing a total of 10,397 names.

The salvation of our ancestors is necessary and essential to our salvation: “they without us cannot be made perfect—neither can we without our dead be made perfect” (D&C 128:15).

This work is true and vital. We need to act on Heavenly Father’s plan and participate in a capacity beyond our personal gain, where with Him we assist the progress of others who are not able to progress without us, as we without them cannot be made perfect. ■



IMAGE COURTESY OF CONNIE COSTANZO AND USED WITH PERMISSION

Deb Ireland, family history consultant from Bendigo Ward (left), presenting the chocolate cake to Connie Costanzo, family history consultant from Footscray Ward

Disability Not a Handicap

By John Millar

When Elder Millar retired after nearly 32 years working in Seminaries and Institutes, he and his wife submitted their mission papers hoping that though Sister Millar was in a wheelchair, it would not limit their opportunity to serve as senior missionaries.

Sister Millar had blood clots in the lungs over 22 years ago, which had the same effect as a stroke—with oxygen not getting to the brain. She died twice and was resuscitated. After recovering, she then developed dystonia, which causes muscle spasms in the legs—like a permanent cramp in the muscle. She has quarterly Botox injections to ease the spasms. They wondered if these conditions would limit their ability to serve a full-time mission.

Early in 2016 they received their call inviting them to serve a full-time self-reliance mission in the Australia Perth Mission.

They were excited to receive the call to Perth because it was where Sister Millar was diagnosed and started the treatment to ease the pain in her legs. Elder Millar had also served as president of the Dianella stake. They had left Perth 15 years previously, thinking they would never return to that special



Serving as a self-reliance missionary, Sister Millar talks to Sister Eugenio (from the Philippines) and Sister Henrie (from American Fork, Utah) about their post-mission education plans.

part of Australia. They commenced their mission in February 2016.

When they were young, the Church in Australia was very small. There were no stakes, and there were only two missions in all of Australia. Serving a full-time mission was not encouraged as much as it is today, and so neither served a full-time mission. Many years later, their parents served as senior missionaries. Sister Millar's parents served in the Singapore Mission, spending most of their time in India. Elder Millar's mother (his father passed away when Elder Millar was 15 years of age) served in the Sydney Australia Temple when

it first opened in 1984. Many of the Millars' children have served missions, and so the opportunity to complete the link in the chain was a great blessing to them.

Serving a mission has provided an opportunity for the Millars to use the knowledge and skills acquired during a lifetime of service in the Church. "We have received guidance and direction as we have served", said Elder Millar. "Sister Millar has been a great influence on sister missionaries as she has worked to help them with their post-mission education plans. Being in a wheelchair has not hindered her service", said Elder Millar. ■

IMAGE COURTESY OF JOHN MILLAR AND USED WITH PERMISSION

TIP OF THE MONTH

Calling on God's Grace

By LDS Family Services

President Thomas S. Monson said of self-reliance that “it is an essential element in our spiritual as well as our temporal well-being,” and he quoted President Marion G. Romney as saying, “Salvation can be obtained on no other principle.”¹

Although Nephi did not use the modern term *self-reliance*, the implication is the same when he wrote, “For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do.”² Self-reliance is more than just relying on individual abilities, or “after all we can do”, but salvation comes when we also yoke ourselves to God's grace.

Threatened by King Nebuchadnezzar with death, Daniel and his friends sought God's grace. Under the same condemnation if they failed, the king's wise men were justifiably aggrieved at the difficulty of the king's request to guess what he had dreamed and interpret it. To interpret a dream, albeit very possible, was one thing, but to also guess what he dreamed was quite another.³ Like the wise



Daniel before King Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2:25–28), by Simon Vedder

men, Daniel and his friends similarly could do no more, except call upon God's grace. They had shown their spiritual mettle early on when they refused to eat Babylonian food, forbidden by God's law, even though they were captives in a foreign land. This obedience did not go unrewarded.⁴ However, in spite of their righteousness, the king's request was simply beyond their ability. But because of their obedience to God's law, and after all they could do (reliance on their abilities), they were

entitled to make claim upon God's saving grace, as can we all.⁵

Self-reliance involves developing and using all God-given talents. Then, even after all we can do, there is still a deficit to our journey ahead. God's grace will be the difference in saving the day and the person. ■

NOTES

1. See Thomas S. Monson, “Guiding Principles of Personal and Family Welfare,” *Ensign*, Sept. 1986, 3.
2. 2 Nephi 25:23.
3. See Daniel 2:3–12.
4. See Daniel 1:8–20.
5. See Daniel 2:16–19, 27–28, 47–48.