

# NEW ZEALAND LOCAL PAGES

## AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

### The Light of the World

By Elder O. Vincent Haleck

**N**ow when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,

“Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. . . .

“ . . . And, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before

them, till it came and stood over where the young child was” (Matthew 2:1–2, 9).

Just as prophesied, signs preceded the birth of Jesus Christ. In the New World, the prophet Samuel declared: “There shall be great lights in heaven, insomuch that in the night before he cometh there shall be no darkness. . . .

“And behold, there shall a new star arise, such an one as ye never have

beheld; and this also shall be a sign” (Helaman 14:3, 5).

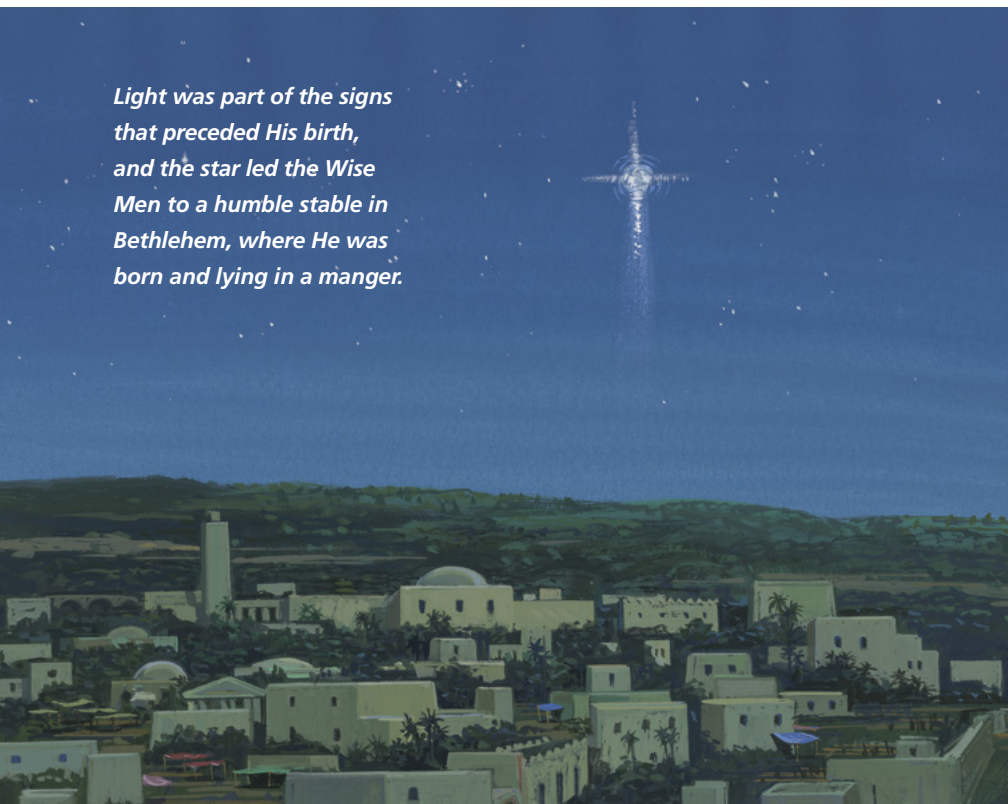
Light was part of the signs that preceded His birth, and the star led the Wise Men to a humble stable in Bethlehem, where He was born and lying in a manger. For generations, the imagery of that scene has illuminated our minds and touched our hearts about the significance of His birth and where He was born. The Son of God and Creator of heaven and earth did not make His entrance into the world in an ornate and royal palace filled with fine furniture and precious things of the world but in a humble stable for livestock. To the Nephites He said, “Behold I am the light; I have set an example for you” (3 Nephi 18:16). Then He spoke about praying unto the Father in His name: “Pray in your families . . . , that your wives and your children may be blessed” (verse 19). He counselled that the Nephites should meet together oft and not forbid anyone from coming unto them when they met (see verse 22). “Therefore, hold up your light that it may shine unto the world. Behold I am the light which ye shall hold up” (verse 24).

More light came as He went about teaching the doctrine of His Father,



Elder O. Vincent  
Haleck

*Light was part of the signs that preceded His birth, and the star led the Wise Men to a humble stable in Bethlehem, where He was born and lying in a manger.*



who sent Him. He went about healing the infirm, gave hope to the hopeless, and restored and strengthened the faith of the downtrodden of His society. Many who heard Him felt His love and followed Him.

He was the light as He taught His gospel, and He has beckoned us to follow His light by living the principles of faith, repentance, baptism, and receiving

the gift of the Holy Ghost. His teachings should be reflected in our lives, as He has counselled: “Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 5:16). He wants us to reflect His light in our examples to those around us.

Brothers and sisters, as we consider this Christmas season, let us look

outward and consider our brothers and sisters who may need our concern, support, and love. Let us reflect the light of the Saviour’s example and love, not just during the Christmas season but throughout our lives, to honour His great gift, His Atonement, which He gave freely for all to receive. As we reflect His light through our example, His Spirit will always be with us. ■

## LOCAL PAGES

# British Family Carries Faith and Values to New Life in Auckland

By Mormon Newsroom

Like many other immigrants, Keith and Lindsay Chapman left much behind when they moved from the UK to New Zealand in 2012.

Such a move necessitated their leaving behind possessions and many valued relationships, but what was most important—their three children, their life experiences, their education, and what was held dear in their hearts and minds—travelled with them.

So the Chapmans, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, brought with them their children, their cherished religious beliefs, their faith and trust in God,

and their desire to centre their lives on their young family.

“We left our home, family and friends on the other side of the world and came to New Zealand without work, trusting that this is where God wanted us to be,” said Keith. “If it wasn’t for our faith—knowing that everything would work out—I am not sure we would still be here.”

Now happily settled in New Zealand, their family remains their most important focus. And the teachings outlined in “The Family: A Proclamation to the World” help guide them in their family life.

One portion reads: “Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ. Successful marriages and families are established and maintained on principles of faith, prayer, repentance, forgiveness, respect, love, compassion, work, and wholesome recreational activities” (*Ensign*, Nov. 2010, 129).

Lindsay Chapman believes that “each of the principles taught through the proclamation contributes to having a successful family. For us, some of them came naturally and were very easy to achieve. Others took, and still do take, much more work and effort and can lapse, if we aren’t diligent.”

She continued, “It has provided our family with another opportunity

*The Chapmans are members of the Torbay Ward in the Auckland New Zealand Harbour Stake.*



## Knowing We Are Not Alone

By Catherine Vaughan

It is difficult to explain how the most traumatic moments of our lives can also be the most sacred.

The tragedies that resulted in our having to bury two of our children ultimately enabled me to develop increased trust in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ, and to more fully accept the Saviour's Atonement, to relieve our suffering.

In 1998, our happy, energetic, full-of-life 21-month-old daughter, Brittany, tragically drowned. Throughout the dark months that followed, our devastated family and our aching hearts were comforted by family, friends, and those in the community around us, who truly lived the teachings of Alma, who admonished the Saints to be "willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; . . . mourn with those that mourn; . . . and comfort those that stand in need of comfort" (Mosiah 18:8, 9).

One day, a couple of years after Brittany passed away, I lost my cell phone. I felt certain it was still in the house and looked in all the usual places but couldn't find it. After a week I decided to call my service

of seeing how being obedient to the Lord's messengers brings blessings into our lives.

"Just as Noah warned the people in his day and the consequences that followed to those who did not listen, we can see—two decades on—the consequences to society from the

institution of the family being attacked from all sides."

"It breaks your heart," said Keith. "We are grateful for the guidance in the proclamation. Its teachings are needed in the world today. Anyone who desires greater joy in life would benefit from its teachings." ■

## Vision

To strengthen families and individuals by increasing faith and trust in Heavenly Father and in Jesus Christ and His Atonement

### Objectives

Honour the Sabbath Day at Home and at Church

Increase Spiritual and Temporal Self-Reliance

Hasten the Work of Salvation

Seek the Blessings of the Temple

### Goals

- Make the Sabbath a delight
- Make the sacrament a
- Increase sacrament
- Pay a full tithe
- Seek learning
- Complete "The Res
- Increase baptisms and re
- Increase Aaronic and Melchizedek priesthood ordination
- Make "The Res
- Invite youth ar
- Complete "My Family 15" and take a name to the tem



*Heavenly Father knows each of us individually. He is aware of our needs and the desires of our hearts.*

probably still somewhere in my home. During the course of the conversation, she asked me if we had children and said that one of them may have knocked it under the couch or armchair. I replied that we did indeed have seven children, and she asked me their ages. As I ran through their ages from oldest to youngest, I hesitated slightly before saying that our youngest child would have been four years old now but had died two years previously. There was a moment of silence on the other end of the phone; then she quietly replied, "Please tell me about it."

I briefly related how Brittany had drowned, and I heard a gasp at the other end of the line, followed by quiet sobbing. The phone operator then softly told me that her two-year-old son had also drowned a few years previously. He had wandered off at a park and fallen over, landing in a puddle. He knocked himself out when his head hit the ground and he had drowned in one inch of water. The day we spoke was the day before the anniversary of his death, and she was not coping well and feeling miserable.

We talked for another 45 minutes about our precious children and the way it was affecting our families. Complete strangers, from different cities, with different lives, but both

provider to see if my phone had been used at all, in case someone had found it elsewhere. I was randomly connected with an operator in a city far from where I lived. I explained

the situation and asked if the phone had been used. The lady I was talking to established that no one had been using it since it was lost, and we both concluded that the phone was

mothers with aching hearts, grieving the untimely loss of our children. We both wept. We both offered words of comfort. And we both laughed together at the absurdity of our common tragedies. We had both tried unsuccessfully to resuscitate our children and had similar questions and concerns, with both of us wondering, if we had done something differently, would it have made a difference?

By the end of the call we both felt grateful to have been able to talk and to strengthen one another. Of all the telephone operators in the country, I had been connected with the one person who needed to hear my story and share her sadness. We were both blessed by the experience.

In a world where we were quietly going about our day, God knew of the heartache we carried within and touched us both with a small miracle.

I found my phone the next day, right where I had previously been looking for it, but I know it was no coincidence that I hadn't found it earlier, and as a result my call was connected to the one person whose heart was aching and who needed to talk to another mother who understood.

And in the process of comforting and supporting the stranger on the other end of the line, I too was strengthened and comforted—not just by her words and encouragement, but

by the knowledge that our Heavenly Father knows each of us individually. He is aware of our needs and the desires of our hearts. I learnt that in

the darkest moments of my life, I am not alone. I can trust Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ to be there with me every step of the way. ■

## Serving with My Husband in the House of the Lord

By Jean MacBeachen

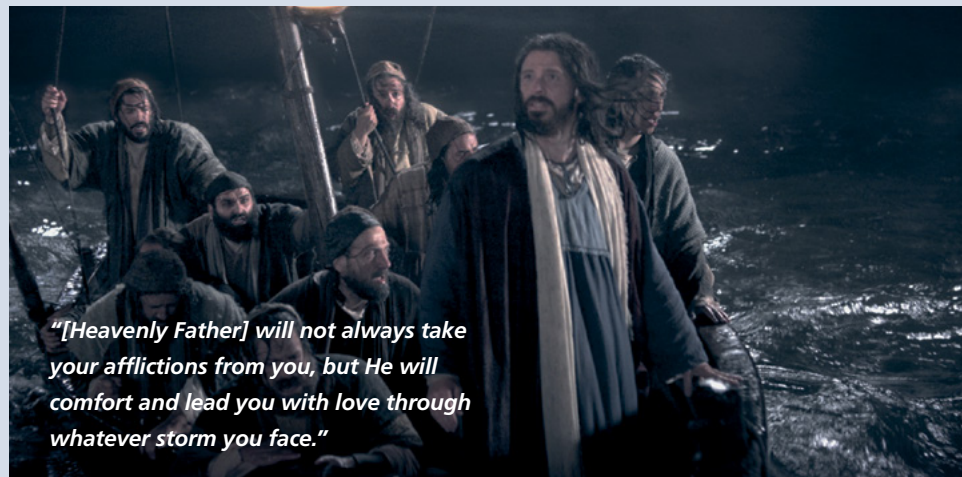
The Psalms are prayers; they are supplications; they are hymns; they are cries for help. Our psalm is an expression of gratitude and joy:

“We have thought of thy loving-kindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple” (Psalm 48:9).

In quiet moments in the temple, I think of the Lord's loving-kindness to me, because I am truly happy and

loved by a husband who is a righteous priesthood holder—and what a great blessing it is to serve with him.

My journey as an adult hasn't always been a happy one. Like many others, I have been through heartache and trials. I've had health and financial problems and have lost loved ones. We all learn from our trials.



*“[Heavenly Father] will not always take your afflictions from you, but He will comfort and lead you with love through whatever storm you face.”*

Hamilton New Zealand Temple



Like the pioneers of old, in my deepest sorrow and in my darkest hours on bended knees, I came to know God.

President Monson gives us this reassurance: “[Heavenly Father] will not always take your afflictions from you, but He will comfort and lead you with love through whatever storm you face” (“Looking Back and Moving Forward,” *Ensign*, May 2008, 90).

During the many storms I went through, my testimony of the Saviour Jesus Christ never wavered. I knew I was a daughter of God and that He loved me.

At the time of my son Jamie’s departure for his mission, I expressed to our bishop how much I would miss my son but that I had been preparing him all his life for this day. As I was leaving the office, the bishop said to me, “I promise you that while your son is on his mission the Lord will bless you beyond your wildest dreams.”

Not long after, I was blessed to be called as an ordinance worker in the Hamilton New Zealand Temple. At the same time, through my work I met a man named Guy. He was not a member of the Church. He asked me to go to the movies; I agreed. We went out a couple of times, and I began to feel very comfortable in his company. Not long after, he asked me to go to Raglan Beach with him on Sunday.

So taking a big breath, I told him we all go to church as a family on Sunday and invited him to come with us. He said, “Okay.” It was as simple as that.

The following week I invited him to the visitors’ centre on the temple grounds, where we met Elder and Sister Bjornn. They were a senior missionary couple from St. George, Utah. Over the next few weeks they taught him the gospel. He had been living in Tasmania, Australia, where he had a strong feeling to come home to New Zealand—not to Auckland, where he was born, but to Hamilton, where I lived. He didn’t know then that the Lord was preparing him for the harvest.

Guy and I became good friends. He was kind, patient, humorous. I prayed and asked Heavenly Father to let me know if this was a man I could trust.

While driving to Rotorua the next weekend, the Spirit said in a very clear voice, “He needs you to love him.” That was the confirmation I needed. I trusted the Lord and opened my heart.

We met in July 2002, and we were engaged in October. Guy was baptised in November; we were married in December. I just knew it was right.

Over the 14 years we have been married, I have helped him learn more about the gospel. I was with him when he first went to do temple

baptisms. I was with him when he received his own endowment. Less than a year before my father was called home, we had the privilege of having my dad perform our temple sealing. I don’t know who was happier, my father or me!

When we had been married three years, to our delight Guy was called as an ordinance worker. I am the happiest that I have ever been. He is the patriarch of our family. My children, now *our* children, all love him, and the grandchildren all adore him. He loves me and has allowed me to be who I really am.

To attend the temple together as husband and wife is a blessing. To serve together as ordinance workers is an honour and a privilege. We don’t always serve in the same areas of the temple, but sometimes our paths cross. We may share a few words; sometimes it is a smile across the room; sometimes our eyes just connect and no words are needed—that is sheer joy!

We have both known sorrow and heartache. We now experience unmeasurable happiness.

I love going to the temple with my eternal companion each week, where we serve the Lord.

We are not perfect, but we are perfect for each other. He is my best friend. He is the love of my life. I



***To attend the temple together as husband and wife is a blessing.***

have been blessed beyond my wildest dreams.

May we all have the strength to remain faithful during adversity, that we may be found worthy of the Father’s greatest blessings. Then we can say, “We have thought of thy lovingkindness, O God, in the midst of thy temple.” ■

## TIP OF THE MONTH

# Effectively Managing Our Money

By LDS Family Services

**M**anaging money responsibly and effectively is both a universal challenge and an individual blessing. It is a challenge because it takes discipline and effort. It is a blessing because we will grow to become more like our Saviour as we become just stewards over that which the Lord blesses us.

It is very important to remember that we will not be judged by the amount of money we have; rather it is what we do with the resources with which we have

been blessed that will determine both our peace and our joy in this life.

There are many principles that can help us effectively manage our finances. Here are three principles that will help us become more effective stewards over all of our resources.

### **Pay our tithes and offerings**

President Gordon B. Hinckley stated: "I do not say that if you pay an honest tithing you will realize your dream

of a fine house, a Rolls Royce, and a condominium in Hawaii. *The Lord will open the windows of heaven according to our need, and not according to our greed.* If we are paying tithing to get rich, we are doing it for the wrong reason. The basic purpose for tithing is to provide the Church with the means needed to carry on the Lord's work. The blessing to the giver is an ancillary return, and that blessing may not be always in the form of financial or material benefit" ("The Sacred Law of Tithing," *Ensign*, Dec. 1989, 4; emphasis in original).

### **Live within our means**

In a world of increasingly easy credit and shiny consumer goods, it is easy to get trapped in unnecessary debt. Budgets can help us avoid debt. A commitment to living within our means is an internal and even spiritual process of delaying gratification and staying focused on what matters most. Also, beware of "get rich quick" schemes, and completely avoid gambling or lotteries as a method of making money.

### **Save and invest for the future**

Even if we can save only a very small percentage of our income, the practice itself will help us develop patterns of healthy financial management, and we will be surprised how quickly it can add up. ■

