

# AUSTRALIA LOCAL PAGES

## AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

### Ride Their Bike

By Elder Carl Maurer

Area Seventy

Sometimes we want to help others but don't really understand what is happening in their lives enough to make a difference. When we care for, love and understand someone and are led by the Spirit, we can more successfully reach out and help with their individual needs.

What are some ways we can more effectively minister to people we care for?

President Russell M. Nelson teaches us that as we minister in the Saviour's way, "doors will open and people will be blessed. Hearts will be healed and burdens lifted."<sup>1</sup>

I remember an experience that a sister missionary shared in a letter she wrote to me. It has had an impact on me ever since.

This sister had served with her companion for four and a half months. Sister Madsen was a dedicated, obedient and enthusiastic sister missionary. She worked with energy and enjoyed riding her bike speedily to appointments.

Sister Madsen's companion was kind, laid back and came from a tiny island in the Pacific.

Before her mission, life was slow and more relaxed. So becoming companions with Sister Madsen, with their early mornings, busy missionary lives

and biking over large areas, took some getting used to.

One day while they were riding to an appointment, her companion was going slower than usual and Sister Madsen began to feel a little impatient. As she became more frustrated, she started singing as she rode—waiting for her companion to keep up. "I'm trying to be like Jesus; I'm following in His ways. I'm trying to love my companion, in all that I do and say."<sup>2</sup>

After hearing more complaining about riding, Sister Madsen thought to herself, "She just doesn't want to do the work my way." After they had gone almost a kilometre, her companion finally stopped and cried out, "Sister Madsen . . . I DIE!"

Sister Madsen turned around and with great frustration grumbled, "Okay, give me your bike, and ride mine for a while!" Almost instantly she was completely humbled. The back brake was locked onto her

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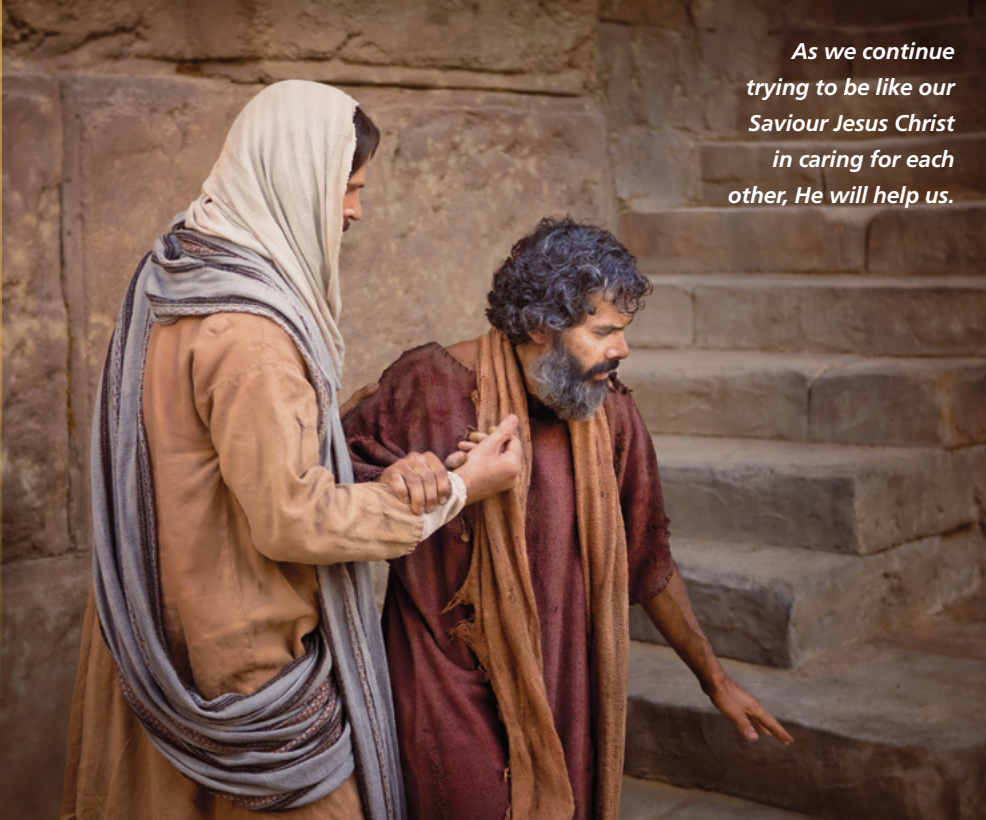
Elder Carl Maurer

tyre and wouldn't loosen. "I couldn't even ride 100 meters on her bike!" she admitted. "And here I had dragged her almost a full kilometre. I am in awe that she made it as far as she had".

Sister Madsen recently reflected, "I haven't been perfect the last 10 years (since returning from the mission field), but ever since that moment I've tried to make it part of who I am to 'ride another person's bike' when I am looking to understand the needs of others".

What does this experience highlight for us and how can we minister in the Saviour's way?

- Look for ways to increase our Christlike care for others. This means knowing and understanding their needs both spiritually and temporally. As we pray for Christlike attributes and develop faith, diligence, patience and long-suffering (see Alma 32:41–43), we are more able to minister as the Saviour would.
- We can pray for inspiration. Strive to understand and see the needs of those to whom you minister. Pray for ways to bless His children to help them live the gospel and become more self-reliant. These promptings may not come all at



As we continue trying to be like our Saviour Jesus Christ in caring for each other, He will help us.



once but will come as we continue to pray, ponder and follow the thoughts and ideas that come to us.

- We can ask, observe and listen. Caring enough to ask inspired questions, asking how they are feeling and stopping to watch, observe and listen might allow us to meet real needs earlier. We must be “willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort” (Mosiah 18:9).
- Act to meet needs. As we minister, we “determine through

communication and inspiration the frequency and type of contact [we] have with those to whom [we] give care.”<sup>3</sup>

As we continue trying to be like our Saviour Jesus Christ in caring for each other, He will help us. He invites us to become as He is (see 3 Nephi 12:48). He provides constant watch-care over all His covenant children, often through us. The Atonement of Jesus Christ provides the power we need to bless us as we reach out to bless others. The Saviour wants us to know how to truly love one another.

I pray that we will do more to earnestly understand all of God’s children, to “ride their bike” as we minister to meet needs. As we do this we will see increased faith in Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ and His Atonement, where individuals and families are strengthened through ordinances and covenants (see Doctrine and Covenants 20:47, 53).<sup>4</sup> ■

#### NOTES

1. Russell M. Nelson, general conference leadership meeting, Mar. 2018.
2. See “I’m Trying to Be like Jesus,” *Children’s Songbook*, 78–79.
3. “Frequently Asked Questions,” [ministering.lds.org](http://ministering.lds.org).
4. See also *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 9.1.1.

## LOCAL PAGES

## Sealed for Eternity

By Andrew O’Riordan

Wayne and Julie Dean’s lives were changed when they joined the Church in 2005.

Wayne’s work colleague Steve McDermott introduced the couple to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Shortly after their baptism, Wayne and Julie’s three children—Troy, Corey and Kimberly—and Corey’s wife, Rachel, were baptized.

Wayne struggled with a number of illnesses and was diagnosed with cancer. As a result, Wayne and Julie were only able to attend church occasionally when Wayne was feeling well enough. However, they were in constant contact with ward members and were visited regularly by Church leaders.

Regardless of how he was feeling physically, Wayne would attend every fast and testimony meeting. He would march to the stand and declare his belief in the restored gospel with great spirit and energy, uplifting all.

Over the years, Troy, Corey, Kimberly and Rachel fell away from the Church.

In April 2016, as Corey and Rachel’s home teacher at that time, I invited them to attend the Sunday morning general conference broadcast at our chapel together with my family. They had not been to church in ten years.

*Three generations of the Dean family were sealed for time and all eternity in the Melbourne Australia Temple.*

We were delighted to sit with them on the Sabbath day and listen to the messages of our prophets.

I observed that Corey, who was sitting next to me, was spiritually touched. After the session, I asked him how he felt. Corey shared that he loved it but that as he listened to Elder D. Todd Christofferson’s talk titled “Fathers,” he felt like a bad father.

I asked him what the Spirit had prompted him to change as he listened to Elder Christofferson. He then shared that he felt that he needed to bring his family back to church and baptize his daughter Teah, who was now over the age of eight. She was only a baby when Corey and Rachel were baptized. Now they had two other children, Ruby and Max.

Corey came back to church and he baptised his daughter. Teah was confirmed a member by her grandfather Wayne Dean.

This new beginning has transformed the Dean family’s lives. Corey’s sister Kimberly and her husband, Devitt, and brand-new baby,

Harper, attended Teah’s baptism and confirmation. Kimberly was a young adult at the time she was baptized and now as a mother expressed a desire to one day soon return to Church activity.

Over subsequent months Kimberly observed Corey and Rachel’s return to the gospel, overcoming challenges related to the Word of Wisdom and Corey standing at stake conference to be sustained to receive the Melchizedek Priesthood. She observed the positive changes in their lives and commented, “Since Corey and Rachel have returned to church, they are so happy.”

Kimberly and Devitt began receiving lessons with the missionaries and attending church with their family. During this period of time Wayne’s battle with cancer came to an end and he passed away in October 2017. Wayne led his family into the gospel, and the dream of one day being a forever family had been established with the goal of entering the temple having been set.

On January 13, 2018, Devitt Lith, Kimberly’s husband, was baptised by Corey Dean.

On May 26, 2018, three generations of the Dean family were sealed for time and all eternity in the Melbourne Australia Temple. The spiritual outpouring as these sacred ordinances were performed will be remembered by all who were present. ■



# Indigenous Saints Embrace the Gospel in Darwin

By Mormon Newsroom

With joy and conviction, Elyssa Djurududuku Cameron sings “I Am a Child of God.”<sup>1</sup> He was baptized in Darwin, Northern Territory, earlier this year in May.

Missionaries from the Australia Adelaide Mission taught Elyssa and his family about the love that the Saviour has for them. Whenever they were

with the Cameron family, they felt a deep spiritual influence.

Though habits are difficult to change, Elyssa determined to quit smoking and received a priesthood blessing to help him. Through his faith, the cravings for these things has entirely ceased.

Reliable transportation and enough petrol to meet his family

responsibilities during the week and drive to church each Sunday were challenges for Elyssa. He knew, however, that this was where he could partake of the sacrament and feel the love his Father in Heaven and Jesus Christ have for him and his family.

He was helped to “find the way” to church each Sunday through his faith

*Elyssa Djurududuku and his family have learned about the love that the Saviour has for them.*



and action, the kindness of others and tender miracles. Because of his mechanical skills, Elyssa was able to rebuild a car that the family now uses to travel to church each week.

The Book of Mormon has also played a powerful role in Elyssa's conversion. He remarks, "I love to read the Book of Mormon each day. We also watch the Book of Mormon videos as a family."

As the Cameron family grew in their understanding of the important gospel principle of baptism, they were invited to be baptised. The words "Teach me all that I must do" from "I Am a Child of God" beckoned the family forward.

President Matthew Chick, local leader of the Darwin Branch, indicated how inspired he felt watching the family embrace the gospel, even when small roadblocks continued to test the faith of Elyssa.

Obtaining the dates and names for necessary records proved to be difficult in the week before the scheduled baptism. After much thought, fasting, and prayer, the elders were able to obtain the important information the day before, and the baptism took place as planned.

The baptism of Elyssa's children, Narelle and Duron, and of his niece Jaylin was a landmark experience in the journey of the Cameron family.

According to Elder Syme, "Their baptism had a massive effect on

everyone and brought so many members closer to the Aboriginal culture. The love was immense and unified as three of our Heavenly Father's children were able to enter His fold."

Elyssa expressed his joy at the baptism of his children and niece and waited faithfully for his own. After his marriage to Irene on the 11th of May, Elyssa and his wife were finally baptised on 12th of May along with another son, Jaseph. Feeling profoundly of the Spirit after his confirmation, Elyssa testified, "It felt like fire in my whole body."

Elyssa has since received the priesthood and recently baptised his daughter Karly. When asked how he felt, he said, "It was a joy to baptise her, and happy for the blessings that have come to my family. By exercising my priesthood in baptising Karly, I know my family will be blessed."

"I felt joy to see my husband baptise my daughter," shares Irene.

Being able to use the priesthood to bless others is important to the Cameron family.

"I enjoyed passing the sacrament today. It brought me joy and happiness to be able to use the priesthood to bless others," reflects Elyssa.

Being active member missionaries, the Camerons also love to share the gospel with their community. They have referred their entire family to the missionaries and teach together,

with Elyssa speaking in his language for his family's clarification. There are three members of his family that are currently being taught.

Elder Syme says, "Elyssa is a remarkable member missionary and goes out into the bush to spread the true gospel to his family in Maningrida."

"The Church has been a great blessing to our family," testifies Elyssa. "The missionaries came to our home and shared the Book of Mormon, sharing stories and teachings."

He adds, "Coming to church has brought much happiness to our family. We love following Jesus Christ."

President Dallin H. Oaks, First Counselor in the First Presidency, states, "The only *single* quality that should characterize us is that we are a son or daughter of God."<sup>2</sup>

The understanding of this principle is clearly evidenced by how Elyssa and his family have embraced the teachings of Christ.

"God loves his children and he wants them to have joy," exclaims President Russell M. Nelson.<sup>3</sup>

One can feel the joy that Elyssa has in his new-found knowledge of the gospel and of his divine parentage when he sings. ■

#### NOTES

1. "I Am a Child of God," *Hymns*, no. 301.
2. Dallin H. Oaks, "How to Define Yourself," *New Era*, June 2013, 48.
3. Russell M. Nelson, in Tad Walch, "President Russell M. Nelson Introduced as 17th LDS President," *Deseret News*, Jan. 15, 2018, [deseretnews.com](http://deseretnews.com).

# Temple Marriage Worth the Sacrifice

By Shilo Kino

Some would call it a match made in heaven.

Tracey Fei and Zhang Li, both converts to the Church, met in the Chinese branch in Auckland, almost two years ago. Tracey was a new convert and Zhang Li was an investigator.

“I gave him rides to activities and we got to know each other more,” Tracey said. “I didn’t know I would marry him . . . but I knew he was reliable and a nice guy.”

The couple fell in love, but their journey towards a temple marriage has been anything but easy.

“When I went back to China in November last year for three months, I let my parents know I wanted to marry Zhang Li in the temple,” Tracey said. “My dad told me, ‘If you get married, you are no longer my daughter.’”

Tracey said her family repeatedly told her not to get married and that the Church was “not real”.

“Of course, I felt really sad,” she said, “because I know what I believe is true, but my family is also important to me. It was a huge conflict and mostly because my family just didn’t

understand. I couldn’t explain eternal marriage to them. They couldn’t understand and weren’t interested in understanding. Every day I was in this fight.”

Five years ago, Tracey moved to New Zealand from Beijing, China, at the age of 16.

“Back home [growing up], people told me there was no God,” she said. “So, when I first met the missionaries on the street, I was scared because I didn’t know anything about religion. I wanted to run away from them.”

Incredibly, Tracey kept bumping into missionaries wherever she went.

“One day I was walking, and I remember suddenly having this feeling. I’ve heard people talk about a ‘Father’ before, and I thought, ‘No one can understand me . . . maybe I could talk to this “Father”’. At the time, I didn’t know about Heavenly Father, but I wanted to try.

“I had a bit of faith and thought, ‘What would happen if I just joined?’”

Tracey embraced the gospel and was baptised in November 2015.

She says that before, when she had difficulties, she would think, “Why me?” But “now there is always hope to [help] conquer difficulties.”

Zhang Li met the missionaries on his first day in New Zealand as he was checking into his hotel.

“Back then, I didn’t know if there was a God, but I had watched sci-fi movies and I had wondered if

something [had] created us, and why. I also thought, ‘If there is a Creator, why would He leave me alone?’

“Many people in China seem to chase fame and fortune. They want a big house and money. But after they get all those things, they still feel empty. I didn’t know what I wanted—but I knew I didn’t care about those things.”

Zhang Li was baptised a year after Tracey, in November 2016.

“It’s like I was reborn,” Zhang said. “Knowing who God is makes me feel confident. I’m not worried [about challenges] because I know I’m doing the right thing. I just know everything will work out and now I know I’m not alone,” he said.

He knew a temple marriage was their only option.

“Temple marriage is what I promised Heavenly Father when I was baptised, and I want to fulfil my covenants,” Zhang Li said. “Without the blessings of the temple, we cannot have an eternal family.”

Tracey believes it’s important for members to have temple marriage as one of their goals.

“You are bound for eternity when you are married in the temple, and that is something I’ve always wanted since I heard about it,” she said. “It’s all part of the work of God. You can’t believe in prayer and then not believe in the temple. You need to believe in the whole plan.”



**Converts Tracey Fei and Zhang Li were sealed in the Hamilton New Zealand Temple.**

helped me during those three months [in China]. I prayed every night that the Lord would soften hearts . . . and I saw my family slowly started to change.”

When Tracey was about to fly back to New Zealand, her parents sat her down and gave her their blessing.

“It was a miracle, because I can look back and see how much my parents’ hearts changed. I feel so grateful,” she said.

“I’ve never once doubted, because I’ve seen God in my life. All these things I have experienced are a witness. I have no reason to doubt.

“Alma 32 talks about using God’s word as an experiment, but you have to act. It’s all about faith. If you don’t try to believe it, it won’t work. I know the Church is true. I know we have everything in the gospel that can, and will, bless every aspect of our lives.”

The couple were married on July 13, 2018. ■

Through persistent prayer and scripture reading, the couple experienced their biggest miracle yet.

The Book of Mormon was banned in Tracey’s home in China, so she had

to “hide the scriptures from my family because they thought the scriptures were useless and a waste of time.”

“The scriptures saved me,” she said. “I couldn’t believe how much they

## Called to Serve

*Taken from a Mormon Newsroom Australia blog post published on June 21, 2018.*

**T**ony and Beverley Dell are leaving their home in Melbourne to embark on an 18-month mission to the Marshall Islands.

Tony Dell currently serves as the patriarch for the Gippsland region of

the Church. However, his new calling will take him and his wife, Beverley, across the Pacific to a nation of just over 53,000 people, significantly less than that of Gippsland.

While Tony jokes that Beverley has already served a mission by being married to him, they will be on their first official 18-month Church mission when they celebrate their 40th wedding anniversary later this year. They

depart on 19 July for Majuro, Marshall Islands, where they will serve the Latter-day Saints there and teach the gospel to everyone they meet.

Among the Dells’ current challenges are learning Marshallese, the dos and don’ts of Marshallese culture, and the thought of leaving their beloved family and dogs in Australia. However, their faith in Jesus Christ generates their spirit of optimism.



**Tony and Beverley Dell are leaving their home in Melbourne to embark on an 18-month mission to the Marshall Islands.**



“God is in command and always fulfils His promises,” says the couple.

Tony recalls that Beverley’s favourite scripture, Proverbs 3:5–6, was painted across the scroll behind the pulpit at the Salvation Army church he used to attend. They both agree that this scripture is what their Marshall Islands mission means to them; these words will see them through any tough times:

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding.

“In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.”

Born in England, Tony and Beverley met in Auckland in 1975 after migrating to New Zealand in 1967 and 1973, respectively.

Previously a trumpeter in the Salvation Army and Household Cavalry, Tony recounts that notwithstanding the fact that he lived next door to exemplary Church members, what really attracted him to the Church was Beverley, who had converted earlier from Methodism.

Their marriage formed a blended family of four children, to which they added three more, including two adopted. They currently have 13 grandchildren and one great-grandchild on the way. How could moving to Australia in 1989 and raising multiple children together leave any time for Church voluntary service? Yet, apart from being stake patriarch for the past five years, Tony has served in a number of

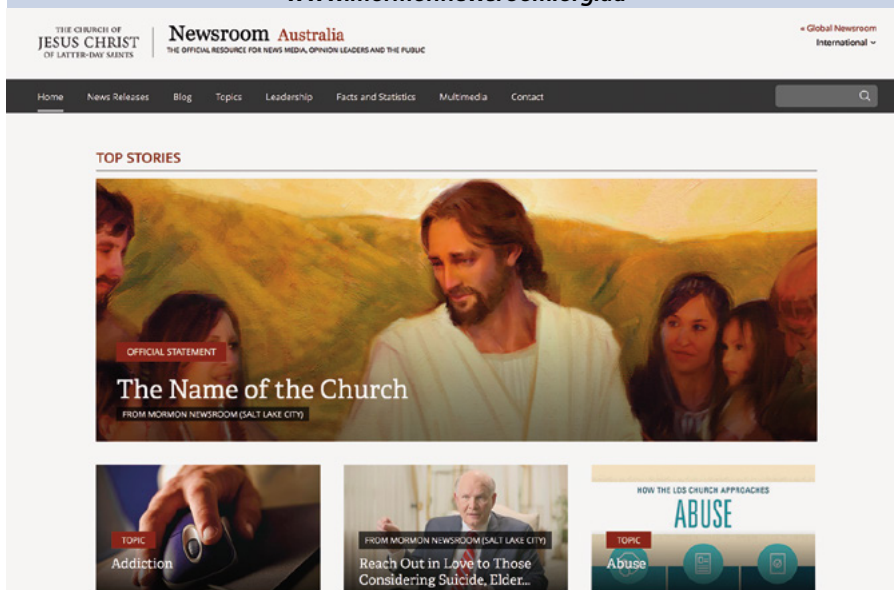
callings, including bishop (twice) and stake presidency member, and Beverley has served as Gospel Doctrine teacher, seminary and institute teacher, and Young Women president, to name a few. Beverley also makes time to volunteer for 4Cs Food Bank and for

Living and Learning Pakenham, working with migrants and refugees.

Following this pattern of service, the Dells are looking forward to serving the Marshallese people, an experience they know will change them and bless their family back in Australia. ■

### AREA WEBSITES

[www.mormonnewsroom.org.au](http://www.mormonnewsroom.org.au)



[pacific.lds.org/au](http://pacific.lds.org/au)  
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