

CARIBBEAN LOCAL PAGES

MESSAGE FROM A MEMBER OF THE SEVENTY

Preach My Gospel

By Elder Hubermann Bien-Aimé

Area Seventy

When Jesus was on earth, He called His disciples and taught them His gospel, His good tidings for the whole world. Additionally, He showed them what it took to share these good tidings with everyone. While He was with them, He gave them a very specific mission. Here is the record as reported in Matthew:

“These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not:

“But go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

“And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand” (Matthew 10:5–7).

He sent them, of course, but He also warned them of the difficulties they would face. The details of the many difficulties, as well as the solutions were described by the Savior:

“He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

“And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

“He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it” (Matthew 10:37–39).

Therefore, they were prepared and comforted by the Lord Himself in what

awaited them. My dear brothers and sisters, Jesus Christ does not ask for anything half-heartedly; He requires everything. It is a truth that was understood and confirmed by Elder Richard G. Scott (1928–2015), of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles:

“Anchor your life in Jesus Christ, your Redeemer. Make your Eternal Father and his Beloved Son the most important priority in your life—more important than life itself, more important than a beloved companion or children or anyone on earth. Make their will your central desire. Then all that you need for happiness will come to you.” (Richard G. Scott, “The Power of Correct Principles,” *Ensign*, May 1993).

I can sincerely testify that one of the ways to apply these prophetic guidelines in your life is to invite people to come unto Christ, be it through your words or through your lifestyle.

Elder Hubermann
Bien-Aimé



After His Resurrection, Jesus Christ reiterated to the Apostles the same instructions, but this time He was not referring only to the lost sheep of Israel, but to the whole earth with these words:

“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

“Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matthew 28:19–20).

After receiving the Holy Spirit, the faithful Apostles of Jesus Christ received the power and authority to teach faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, repentance, baptism and the gift of the Holy Ghost, and endurance to the end.

At that time, people were so affected by the teachings of the



Apostles of the Church that they began to multiply both in Jerusalem and in the surrounding areas. This brought a great and brief joy to the true disciples of the Lord, but then the people began to persecute and even kill the Apostles. Thus, the whole earth was disconnected from the heavens for several centuries. This long period that was predicted by the holy prophets is known as *apostasy* (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3).

Thanks to the prayer of Joseph Smith, Jr., a fourteen-year-old teenager, our Heavenly Father and His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to him to restore the Church to the entire earth. And this same mandate, that of preaching the gospel, was given to young Joseph. Through him, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-days Saints was organized by God to accomplish His work, which is to achieve salvation and exaltation for His children. Additionally, the Church invites everyone to come to Christ and be perfected in Him. The invitation to come unto Christ concerns all those who have lived or will live on earth. Therefore, we preach the gospel, for the salvation of the dead and the living.¹

In this last dispensation, our Redeemer reminds us of the sacred importance of every soul in His eyes as expressed in modern revelation:

“Remember the worth of souls is great in the sight of God; . . .

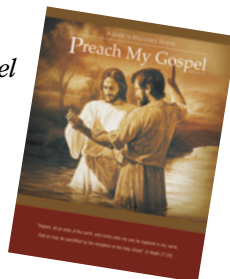
“And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall

be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!

“And now, if your joy will be great with one soul that you have brought unto me into the kingdom of my Father, how great will be your joy if you should bring many souls unto me!” (Doctrine and Covenants 18:10, 15–16).

Today, members of the Church and full-time missionaries share this same responsibility and have many tools to help others understand the gospel of Jesus Christ, including:

1. The scriptures
2. *Preach My Gospel*
3. Brochures that contain the missionary lessons



However, the most important thing is to live in such a way that the Holy Ghost can always inspire us and guide us toward those who are willing to receive the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ’s gospel of love.

I remember an experience when I was a young missionary. We met a gentleman during the blessing of a child in church. After the meeting, we exchanged contact information to go to his house and give him the missionary lessons. After teaching him the first lesson, the Spirit was very strong, and the gentleman was very moved by what he had learned. That’s when he asked for our address.

Surprised by that question, my companion and I asked him the reason for such a question. He told us that this message was so important that it

would be better for him to come and take the lessons with us. Knowing that the gospel message is based on families, we kindly insisted that we keep going to his house to have the opportunity to teach the other members of his family as well.

Thanks to such an experience, this family is now baptized, sealed in the temple, and live the gospel in great joy. This story teaches and confirms to me that the field is white already to harvest. It also teaches me that if we are worthy, the Holy Ghost will guide us to people that are prepared and will also guide them to us to help them find the path to eternal life.

The challenges faced by the first Apostles of Jesus Christ resurface today in other forms. Nonetheless, as members of His Church, we are equally entitled to His help, because our Lord very clearly tells us:

“And whoso receiveth you, there I will be also, for I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up” (Doctrine and Covenants 84:88).

I know with all my heart that there is nothing more important than the opportunity that is offered to us, through our calling from the Lord Himself, to preach His gospel. In doing this, we can understand one another, and be edified and rejoice together (see Doctrine and Covenants 50:22). ■

NOTE

1. See *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* (2010), 2.2.

LOCAL PAGES

General Women Leaders Minister in The Caribbean

Mormon Newsroom Puerto Rico

Members of the Young Women and Primary General Presidencies of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints met and visited with members in six countries of the Caribbean in May during an official ten-day visit. They were welcomed by Elder Jose L. Alonso of the Seventy, second counselor in the Caribbean Area Presidency, and Elder Hubermann Bien-Aimé, Area Seventy.

Sister Cristina B. Franco, Second Counselor in the Primary General Presidency, and Sister Becky Craven, Second Counselor in the Young Women General Presidency, arrived in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, on Friday, May 18, 2018. Other countries visited on their tour were Guadeloupe, Barbados, Saint Vincent, Trinidad and Tobago, and Puerto Rico.

“I know that sometimes it is hard to defend our beliefs, to stand up for what we believe when everyone else is not doing the same in the world. But we must stand up for what we believe, even if we stand alone,” encouraged and invited Sister Franco to a group of young men and women during a devotional in Haiti.

Haiti is home to more than 23,000 members of the Church. It will be the second country in the area to have a temple, which is now under



Sister Craven visits two young women at their homes, in a series of ministering visits in Puerto Rico, as part of the tour to the Caribbean Area together with sister Franco.



Guadeloupe

construction. Both sisters had an opportunity to visit the temple site.

“You are going to have a new temple, and I know that probably most of the youth have not had the opportunity to attend a temple yet. But that blessing is coming quickly, and you will have the opportunity to minister in the temple for your ancestors,” said Sister Craven to the youth in Port-Au-Prince.

After three days of meetings, trainings, and visits in Haiti, they traveled to Guadeloupe and Barbados where they held leadership trainings, a young single adult family home evening, and a visit to an early morning seminary class, comprised of 10 students in Abymes, Guadeloupe.

During one of the gatherings with the members, Sister Craven stated:

“The distractions lead us away from our responsibility to minister to each other. So, we always have to be careful about the things that we get involved in. The things that we do can distract us and often the things that we forget to do can be a distraction from our spirituality.”

They arrived in Saint Vincent the morning of May 23rd for a leadership training meeting with Primary, Young Women, Relief Society and priesthood leaders of this small island, home to 683 members of the Church.

The next stop was in Trinidad and Tobago, where both sisters comforted families in their homes and also trained the leaders of that country.

Devrani Barrios, a Church member from Trinidad and Tobago, remarked:



Sisters Craven and Franco play with a baby before a meeting in Haiti, during their visit to the Caribbean Area.

Sister Craven with sisters from Haiti after a devotional.



“It was good, I enjoyed it. Their sense of humor and their interactions with the kids was amazing. The prayer they left with my family is unforgettable.”

Taramatie Kotiah, another sister from Trinidad manifested: “I truly enjoyed the home visits. The sisters were very friendly with us all, as if we knew each other. They have such a welcoming spirit. They taught me what ministering truly is.”

The last destination of this international tour was Puerto Rico, where there are also more than 23,000 members. The interactions with the two general auxiliary leaders was a comforting time for members on the island.



Trinidad and Tobago

“I liked very much that they set the example for us. They taught us how we have to start ministering now, because to minister is teaching the Savior’s way,” said Elizabeth Vasquez from Puerto Rico.

“To see that these leaders took their time to come here and give us these messages, brings me a lot of joy because it shows how much they love each of us, even though they don’t necessarily know our names,” said Erika Ruiz, a young woman from Puerto Rico.

This trip occurred after the last general conference, where President Russell M. Nelson announced a new

emphasis on ministering, a personalized approach to caring for the temporal and spiritual needs of members. It focuses on flexibility in addressing the needs and circumstances of individuals throughout the world.

“Ministering is about love and being a friend and inviting others to participate and is about helping each other. But it also helps us as well become more like our Savior when we love as He does. And so it’s impacted the tour greatly because that’s what we’re talking about,” stated Sister Craven, concluding the visit in the Caribbean. ■

SHARE YOUR STORY

We Would Like You to Share Your Story!

We would like to hear your story:

- Faith-promoting experience
- Conversion story
- Special life lesson
- Missionary story
- Challenge you have overcome
- Other theme

Don’t worry about making it perfect—we will help you get it ready for publication.

EMAIL YOUR STORY OR QUESTIONS TO:

Sister Georgina Rosario, gutierrezgr@ldschurch.org

We are waiting to hear from you! ■