

# CARIBBEAN LOCAL PAGES

## AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

### Ministering in the Savior's Way

By Elder Walter F. Gonzalez

President, Caribbean Area



Elder Walter F. Gonzalez

To increase our faith in our Heavenly Father and in His Son, Jesus Christ, requires that we learn about Them. The Son taught the things that His Father taught Him, and the Son did the things that He saw His Father do. We are to learn from the Savior's teachings, from His behavior, and from His attributes.

When we observe the Savior ministering to others, we learn ways in which we can improve our ministering skills little by little. For instance, focusing on the needs of others helps us to increase our ability to love or to

feel compassion for others, which is a Christlike attribute.

May I share two examples from the scriptures. One of them occurred in the ancient Americas. Many blessings came to those that were suffering, especially to young children, when the Savior ministered to them as shown in chapter 17 of 3 Nephi. These blessings came because the Savior ministered to them according to their needs.

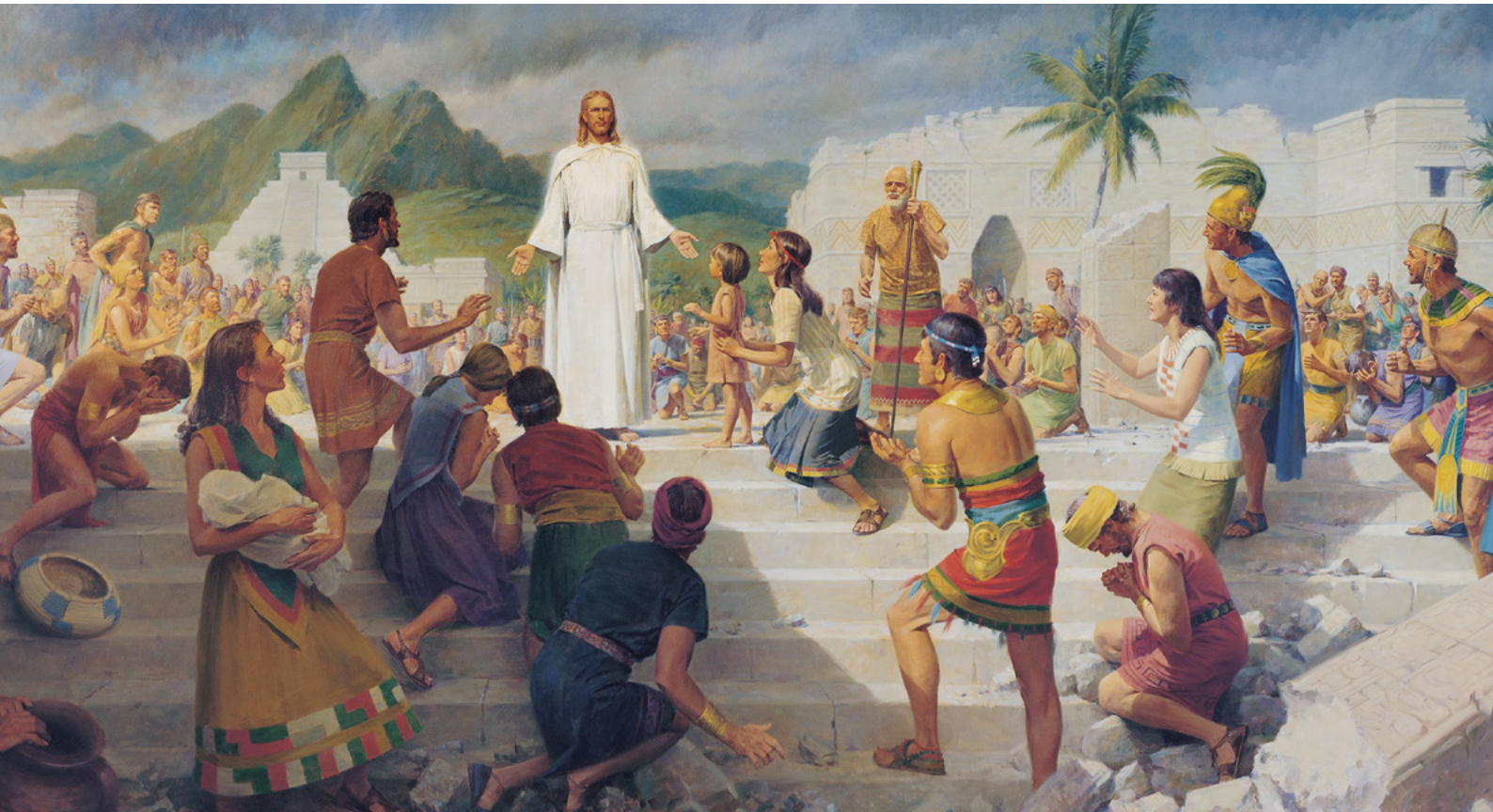
The Savior perceived their weaknesses and gave them an assignment. He invited them to go home and

prepare their minds by pondering upon the things which He had taught them. He also asked them to pray to the Father so that their minds might be opened. The Savior focused on the needs of those that were listening to Him.

Later, He explained the things He wanted to do; but as He focused on their needs, He noticed that "they were in tears, and did look steadfastly upon him as if they would ask him to tarry a little longer with them." (3 Nephi 17:5).



*Blessings will flow as we focus on the needs of others, also helping us to develop Christlike attributes. This is the very root of our becoming; or our conversion process, as we minister in the Savior's way.*



What followed shows the blessings that are produced by the activation of a Christlike attribute. The Savior felt compassion. As a result, blessings came to the people as never before.

From this we learn that focusing on the needs of others will help us to develop Christlike attributes.

This is an exercise we participate in as we minister to those around us and to those that have been assigned to us. Little by little we become more

like Him as we focus on the needs of those we minister to.

Another example is found in the New Testament. We learn that when Christ was near the gate of the city of Nain:

“Behold, there was a dead man carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow: and much people of the city was with her.

“And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

“And he came and touched the bier: and they that bare him stood still. And he said, Young man, I say unto thee, Arise.

“And he that was dead sat up, and began to speak. And he delivered him to his mother.” (Luke 7:12–15)

Blessings will flow as we focus on the needs of others, also helping us to develop Christlike attributes. This is the very root of our becoming; or our conversion process, as we minister in the Savior’s way. ■



LOCAL PAGES

# Elder Ulisses Soares Visits Curaçao

Prepared by Sharelis Browne

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On February 19, 2019, Elder Ulisses Soares of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and his wife, Rosana Fernandes, arrived on the island of Curaçao. He was also accompanied by Elder Walter F. Gonzalez of the Quorum of the Seventy. Elder Soares used the opportunity to meet with the

missionaries serving in Aruba, Bonaire and Curaçao.

Meeting with missionaries on February 20, Elder Soares took the opportunity to remind them of their purpose as missionaries and about the importance of their service to the people. This meeting was also

broadcast to the missionaries serving in Guyana and Suriname.

Later, Elder Soares presided over a meeting with 109 members in Curaçao. This meeting took place at the chapel in Mahaai, where the only branch is located. This was a historic event for most of the members, being the first time that a member of the Quorum of the Twelve has visited this island.

During this meeting, two pioneer members shared their testimonies.



*Elder Ulisses Soares and Sister Rosana Fernandes Soares*

Sister Ingeborg Zielinski Reni, who was the first member of the church on the island, shared her story about her involvement in the missionary efforts on the island. Sister Yvonne Antersijn

also shared her experiences as the first native woman to be baptized on the island.

Elder Gonzalez told the members to consider using The Book of Mormon

not only for their own life purpose, but also for the lives of others.

Elder Soares recounted Sister Zielinski's dream where a temple was constructed on the island of Curaçao.



◀ *Members in Curaçao*

*Elder Soares reminded missionaries of their purpose as missionaries.* ▶



*Sister Yvonne Antersijn also shared her experiences as the first native woman to be baptized on the island.*

He said: “The way President Nelson is announcing new temples makes me think that this may not be a dream. There will be a day where the Lord shall tell President Nelson to construct a temple on the island

of Curacao, but you need to do your part and be faithful. The door will open, and the message will penetrate the hearts of the inhabitants of Curaçao. A miracle will happen in front of your eyes.” ■

on how they prepare for and receive revelation.

### **Vira Vashchenko, Kyiv, Ukraine**

We live in a world of many opportunities. We have the freedom to choose our own career, school, spouse, where we want to live, and so much more. It’s truly a blessing of our generation. But on the other hand, it makes all these choices more difficult because it’s hard to make decisions when there are so many paths and opportunities that will lead to good things. How do we choose the right when there are so many opportunities that are good? When you feel lost and confused in this storm of decisions, know that Heavenly Father wants to guide you. You can choose the right path and get the answers you’re seeking if you follow His voice. Recognize how He speaks to you, trust Him, follow the prophet, be patient, be more optimistic, and have faith, and ultimately you will be led in the right direction.

### **Indhira Mejia, Dominican Republic**

Throughout my life I have seen how the Lord has guided me, and I recognize that all I have achieved is thanks to Him and to His guidance. Even in the moments when I think I walk alone, at the end, He lets me know and feel that He has always

## Want to Receive Personal Revelation from God?

**P**ersonal revelation is one of the greatest gifts we receive during our time on earth. Revelation is how we know God exists, how we begin to comprehend His incredible love for us, and how we better understand His plan of salvation. Coming to know that God is aware of our needs, desires, and circumstances helps us to be closer to Him. Revelation specifically for you is personal because God’s direction may be different for everyone.

One of the many ways we can receive revelation is by participating in general conference—concentrating on what we feel as we listen to the speakers and to the music. What message was intended for you?

The Lord promises us that if we ask, we will receive revelation upon revelation, and knowledge upon knowledge (Doctrine and Covenants

46:11). President Russell M. Nelson teaches us one way to learn to receive revelation:

“Pray in the name of Jesus Christ about your concerns, your fears, your weaknesses—yes, the very longings of your heart. And then listen! Write the thoughts that come to your mind. Record your feelings and follow through with actions that you are prompted to take. As you repeat this process day after day, month after month, year after year, you will ‘grow into the principle of revelation.’”<sup>1</sup>

Personal revelation is as unique as a fingerprint—it’s different for everyone. It’s important to learn how to prepare to receive revelation and how Heavenly Father communicates with you specifically.

Below are experiences of members of the Church from around the world



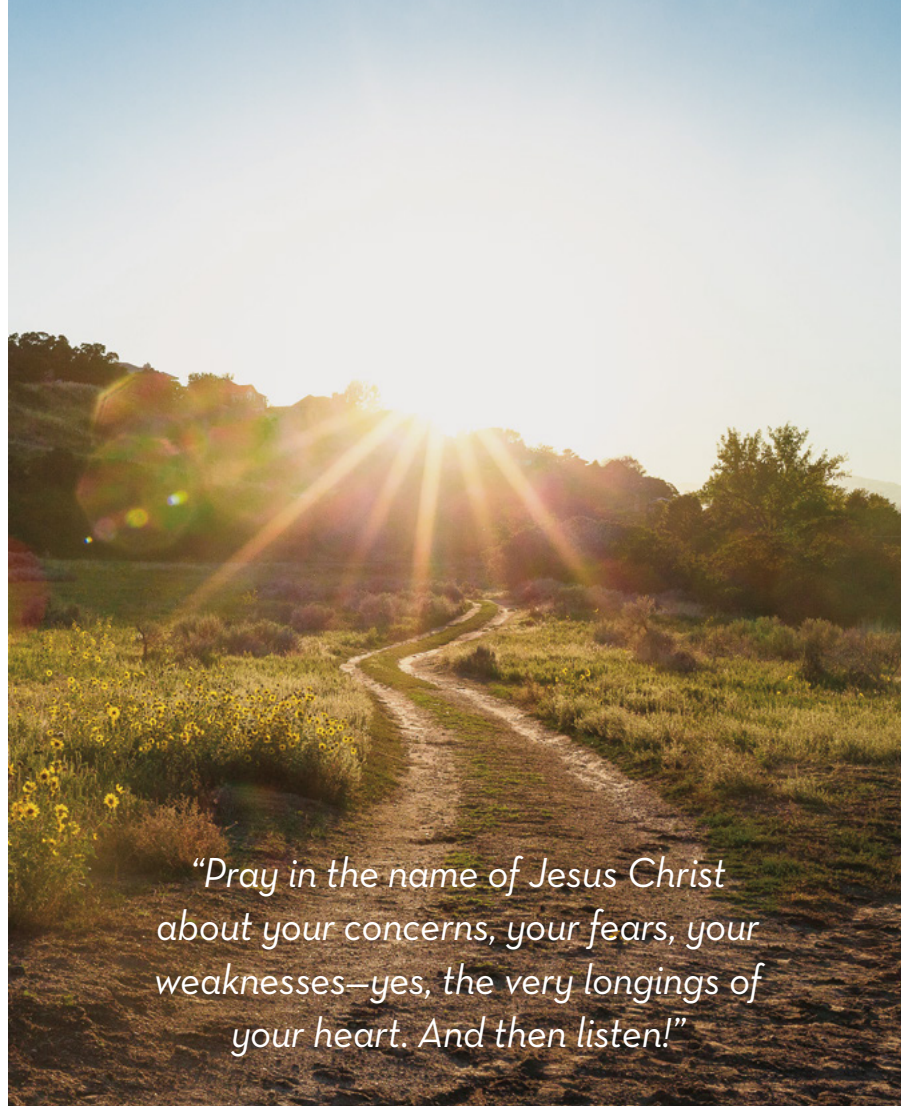
been there with me. That is why I have made the decision to always continue forward with faith, even when I feel that I am on my own. For me, my path is not always clear at times, and I can't always see what awaits me in the future, but I always take steps of faith, and then I begin to see the light and recognize God's hand in my life. I know that our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, love us and that They are willing to guide us, but They also expect us to put our faith in Them and to act when we receive promptings from the Spirit.

#### **Clarissa Mae Taylor, Utah, USA**

As I've gotten older, I've had to learn the language of the Spirit. The Spirit talks to me through simple thoughts. It has taken some practice to get used to, but usually the Spirit comes to me in quiet places, like when I'm driving to work. I know it's not my thoughts because the Spirit will often jump in when I wasn't even thinking of the subject.

#### **Emmanuel Borngreat Dogbey, Accra, Ghana**

I think that one of the most amazing techniques we must master is the ability to recognize the soft whisperings of the Holy Ghost. Diligent scripture study has pushed me further to master it. I have always believed that he who seeks



*“Pray in the name of Jesus Christ about your concerns, your fears, your weaknesses—yes, the very longings of your heart. And then listen!”*

diligently will find; and the mysteries of God will be unfolded before him by the power of the Holy Ghost (see 1 Nephi 10:19). In other words, if I want to recognize the Spirit, I can't let myself be led into useless thoughts or the everyday concerns of life, but instead I must dive into the work and forget myself. That is when I will be better able to recognize the Spirit because I'm ready for it! In the same way a ship cannot easily travel through a storm, we cannot hear the Spirit if we are carried away by the cares of life that are outside of our control.

#### **Maryana Wright, Utah, USA**

In our little family, we recognize the Spirit because of the peace we

feel, especially my husband and I together as a couple. When it's our own thoughts, we never feel that it's definitely the right thing—there's always an underlying doubt or fear. But when it's revelation, we always feel peace, even if we try to rationalize and things don't seem to make very much sense at first. When we follow it and make it through, we always see things falling into place and everything works out. That's when we look at each other and say, “Oh, now it makes sense!” ■

*This article is adapted from a Young Adult Weekly article published in April 2019 Liahona.*

#### **NOTE**

1. Russell M. Nelson, “Revelation for the Church, Revelation for Our Lives”, *Liahona*, May 2018, 95.

## At-Risk Children Served at the Jamaica Red Cross— Handing Over Ceremony

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints painted, made repairs, installed a cosmetology basin, wall fans, and bathroom and kitchen fixtures at the Jamaica Red Cross School of Transformation on Nov. 3, 2018, during the Church’s International Day of Service. The students also received dictionaries and reading books that were donated by Carlong Publishers. On the completion of the project, a handing-over ceremony was held, on Jan. 12, 2019.

Dr. Dennis Edwards, the president of the Jamaica Red Cross spoke of how delighted the organization is to receive

the contribution from the Church to the Jamaica Red Cross and youths in its education program. He said he’s delighted because when it comes to the future of Jamaica, the future of the world, even the future of humanity, it’s going to take small, yet big events such as this to make a difference.

The first counselor in the Kingston Jamaica Stake presidency, Mark Jeffrey Deans, stated, “Caring for the poor and needy is one of the four-fold mission of the church.” The Saviour, while he was on the earth was asked, “Which is the great commandment in the law?” (Matthew 22:36).

Matthew records the Saviour’s response, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. . . .

“The second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself” (Matthew 22:37, 39).

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints holds true to these tenets. We should indeed love our neighbors as we love ourselves. We believe that when we are in the service of our fellow beings we are only in the service of our God.

Member of the central committee of the Jamaica Red Cross and



*Sister Barney with parent and student*



*Mark Jeffrey Deans, first counselor in the Kingston Jamaica Stake presidency*



*Dr. Carole Powell addressing the attendees*



chairman of the steering committee of the School of Transformation, Dr. Carole Powell, mentioned that the minister of health, Dr. Christopher Tufton, commended the Church for its contribution last year of bed nets to help fight the spread of the Zika virus. This time, the Church was looking out for children and their environment, ensuring that they learn not just via books, but through cleanliness.

Sister Barney, a senior missionary, stood up to support the mother of Daniel McDonald who is a student at the school. Sister Barney mentioned looking into Daniel's book and seeing where he scored 100 percent in spelling and congratulated him for his outstanding performance. She concluded by saying that the humanitarian effort is definitely the work of the Lord.

One teacher expressed thanks for the bathroom, the painting of the classroom, the fans and the cosmetology room for boys and girls. Another teacher exuberantly described how grateful she was for the fans. She said that prior to the donation of the fans, students complained about the heat and she tried on numerous occasions to share her fan with her students, but it was still not sufficient for all. Now they ask her to turn off the fans because they are cold. She is grateful to know the students are now comfortable while learning. ■



**Dr. Davis Edwards and Elder Arrington (Humanitarian Missionary in Jamaica) joined the students as they cut the ribbon.**