

# AUSTRALIA LOCAL PAGES

## AREA LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

### Bound for Eternal Blessings through Our Covenants with the Lord

By Elder Benjamin Sinjoux

Area Seventy

*“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).*

I am so grateful to our Heavenly Father for the perfect love He has for all His children.

Many of us go through some heavy challenges in this life. One of the greatest of these is when we lose our loved ones after so many years of cherished moments together. This can feel like an injustice from God, but in reality, it is a sacred life test from a loving Heavenly Father who wants us to grow in faith so that we can become like him.

Our Lord Jesus Christ revealed His will to the Prophet Joseph Smith, who was

feeling despair in his heavy troubles as he sat imprisoned in Liberty jail:

“And if thou shouldst be cast into the pit, or into the hands of murderers, and the sentence of death passed upon thee; if thou be cast into the deep; if the billowing surge conspire against thee; if fierce winds become thine enemy; if the heavens gather blackness, and all the elements combine to hedge up the way; and above all, if the very jaws of hell shall gape open the mouth wide after thee, know thou, my son, that all these things shall give thee experience, and shall be for thy good.

“The Son of Man hath descended below them all. Art thou greater than he?



Elder Benjamin Sinjoux

“Therefore, hold on thy way, and the priesthood shall remain with thee; . . . fear not what man can do, for God shall be with you forever and ever” (Doctrine and Covenants 122:7–9).

In a recent ministering visit, we went into a home where the husband had passed away; he had served faithfully as a Church leader. His dear wife had been emotionally tested to an extent that she had gradually lost her faith and the desire to attend Church; the children had followed their mother into inactivity. As we gathered with this family the morning of our visit, daughters and grandchildren included, we expressed the love our Heavenly

*The covenants we make at baptism, when we receive the holy priesthood, and those ordinances accomplished in the temple, are tied to the greatest blessings the Lord has prepared for us. Through our faithful obedience to those covenants as we endure to the end, we will receive all of the Lord’s promised blessings.*



Father and Jesus Christ had for each of them.

We reminded our dear sister of the sacred covenants she and her husband had made some years before in the holy temple of the Lord. Our words of comfort, sustained by the sweet presence of the Holy Ghost and our genuine love for her as her brothers in the gospel, softened her heart and she rejoiced as the sweet memories of her temple sealing filled her mind and heart.

Our temple ordinances and covenants are deeply sacred and are the very expression of our Heavenly Father's love for us. The glorious blessings promised to us through these sacred covenants will only come to pass as we remain faithful until the end.

I shared with the family that I had lost my dear wife recently, and that I missed her greatly every day. This great loss is a cross I will have to bear until I pass into the next life but I shared with them my determination to continue serving my Saviour with all my heart until the end, knowing that one day, I will meet my dear wife again and we will live together with joy and happiness forever.

As we continued ministering with this wonderful family, we testified of the Saviour's outstretched arms of mercy, and his invitation to them to come back to church and enjoy the blessings of the gospel. I turned to

each member of the family, starting with the mother, and said:

"Do you accept this invitation from our Saviour? Will you attend sacrament meeting on Sundays?"

Each one of them accepted the invitation. As humble servants of the Lord, our hearts were filled with joy as we witnessed these repentant souls taking steps to come unto their Saviour! I felt the heavens rejoice with us as we bonded with each other, both in trial and in faith.

It is not just the making of sacred covenants, but the continued obedience to them that bind us to our loved ones. The powerful effects of the Atonement of our Saviour and the constant nourishment of our faith through prayer, scripture study and service will give us the strength we need to face all of life's challenges.

Our Saviour Jesus Christ is mindful of all who are suffering. He is constantly extending to us His hand of mercy and love. I invite all who are facing difficult challenges in their life, whatever they may be, to come unto the Saviour and enjoy a feast at the His table as you partake of the sacrament each Sunday and make and keep sacred covenants in His holy temple. As you do this, the following promise is yours:

"Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.

Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days" (Doctrine and Covenants 64:33–34).

I testify that the covenants we make at baptism, when we receive the holy priesthood, and those ordinances accomplished in the temple, are tied to the greatest blessings the Lord has prepared for us. Through our faithful obedience to those covenants as we endure to the end, we will receive all of the Lord's promised blessings. ■

## LOCAL PAGES

# Latter-day Saint Speaks at Brisbane Interfaith Gathering

## Newsroom

Each year, the Logan branch of Lajna Ima'illah, or women's auxiliary of the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community, holds a symposium focused on promoting peace in our communities.

Women of different faith and cultural communities gather to speak about how they can make a positive impact on the community.

This year's event was held in June where approximately 200 women



*Brisbane Latter-day Saint Tahnee Bresil speaks to guests at a community event at the Baitul Masroor Mosque in Jimboomba, Queensland.*

## Refugee Stories Strengthen Melton Community

Newsroom

Stories of escape, survival, and determination were shared at a Refugee Week celebration hosted by Melton City Council in partnership with Melton Interfaith Network on Wednesday, June 19.

In line with this year's Refugee Week theme, "A World of Stories," guests heard inspiring stories from local refugees and mingled with people from diverse cultural backgrounds while enjoying multicultural food and entertainment.

"Storytelling teaches us to love, forgive others and strive for better," said Fran Grossi, Intercultural Project Officer for Melton City Council.

"Today's event was an opportunity for people from all walks of life to come together, share their stories and celebrate what a wonderful community we are all a part of."

Vice-chairperson of the Melton Interfaith Network, David Cowan also spoke at the event, which was held at Lakeside College, Caroline Springs and attended by over 180 students and community members.

A member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, David spoke on the theme of "true

gathered at the Baitul Masroor Mosque, Jimboomba.

Tahnee Bresil, a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, was invited to join with members of the Australian Senate, local government officials, religious representatives and members of community organisations as one of the guest speakers

Speakers shared their perspectives with shared recognition that without the amazing work that women undertake in their daily routine, society would not function the way it does.

Tahnee observed how unifying it was to see how each organisation had similar priorities in ensuring they made a positive impact on the community.

In speaking about positive impacts in the community, Tahnee remarked:

"Think about the things you do every day and how they change the world in small ways. All it takes is a small act of service to make a difference."

Tahnee noted, "This event was an amazing way to gather the community and work together to build nations."

A respect for the diverse beliefs and unique contributions of all the world's faiths is one of the hallmarks of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

From the earliest days of the Church, Joseph Smith elevated the principle of religious liberty and tolerance: "We claim the privilege of worshiping Almighty God according to the dictates of our own conscience, and allow all men the same privilege, let them worship how, where, or what they may" (Articles of Faith 1:11). ■



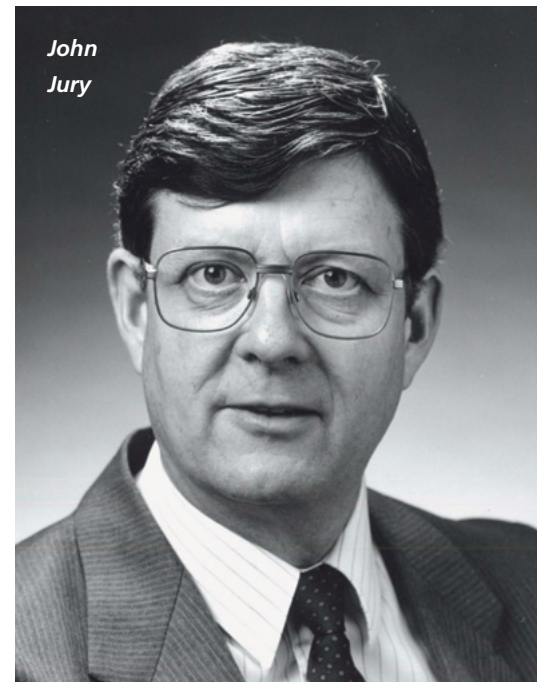
religion,” and the need to serve the vulnerable as a core tenant of all major religions.

“True religion requires us to serve others, particularly those who are in need,” said David.

In 2016, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints launched the “I Was A Stranger” initiative, a call to lift and serve resettled refugees throughout the world. ■

Margaret Leitch who has always been a stalwart supporter for John and their five children.

John served in many different callings, including early morning seminary teacher, when seminary was introduced into Australia in 1970. John served as branch president of the Glenorchy Branch from 27 July 1975 to 13 March 1977.



## A Life of Service Celebrated for Tasmanian Church Pioneer John Jury

Newsroom

The death of John Jury on 25 June 2019 in Hobart, Tasmania has left a void in the lives of many people: family, members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and members of the broader community. John was the first stake president in Tasmania and leaves a legacy that will live on for decades.

John was born in Hobart, Tasmania, one of two sons of Ernest Athol Jury and Doreen May Jury. During the late 1950's and early 1960's missionaries were often welcome visitors at the Jury home in Glenorchy. In the early 1960's the church began the construction of what is now the Hobart Stake centre, not far from where John lived. At this time, as a 19-year-old he began to have

the formal missionary discussions as he worked alongside many volunteer builders who were Church members. He described his experience, “there was nothing like it for us nonmembers as we soaked up the spirit, felt the fellowship and became part of the great adventure of building an excellent structure with unskilled labour.”

John could identify some courses of bricks he laid in the building. Now that building he helped build and served in for more than 50 years was the venue for his funeral.

John was baptised on 24 November 1963. Thus began a life of service in the church that continued until his passing. Approximately four years after his baptism, he married his sweetheart



*The Hobart Stake Presidency with Elder P. Bruce Mitchell and Elder Mark E. Petersen*

He was then called as a counsellor to Phillip G. Mitchell, the district president, and served in that capacity until the creation of the Hobart Australia Stake on 14 September 1977.

The Stake was organised by Elder Mark E. Petersen and consisted of three wards in southern Tasmania, one in Launceston and branches located at Devonport and Burnie. John Douglas Jury was called as the stake president, with Ian Graeme

Oates and Devon William Woolley as councillors.

Travel to units in Northern Tasmania was time consuming for leaders and challenging for all the church members. President Jury oversaw the use of telephone conference hook ups so that other leaders living in Northern Tasmania did not have to undertake journeys that ranged from five to eight hours round trip.

He instituted a program of stake overnights where youth activities were held alternatively in the North and South to foster relations between the widely dispersed membership. Construction of the Devonport chapel was completed while he was president, and on 19 October 1980, Devonport branch become Devonport ward.

Elder Robert Dudfield reflected, "Those were some of the most memorable times of my youth. I will always be indebted to President Jury and his family for the love and open

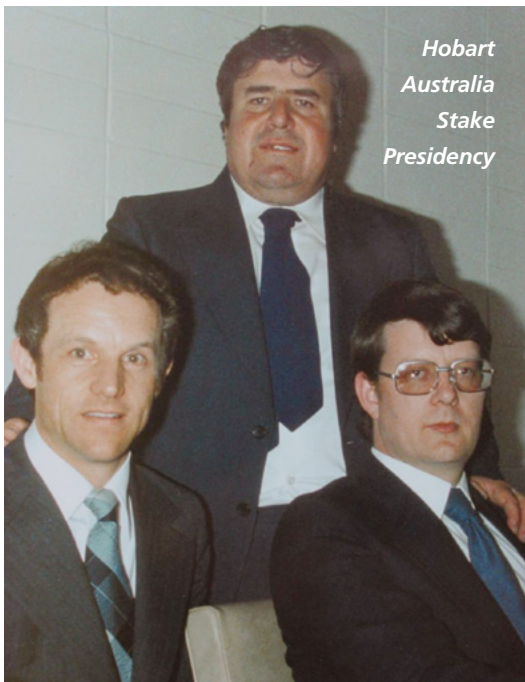
arms they extended to me as a youth in the church."

On 16 November 1986, John D. Jury, Ian G. Oates and Stephen J. Woolley were released. At the time John was the longest serving stake president in Australia.

Ian, reflecting on his association with John, remarked, "I served alongside John every week for nine years, two months and two days . . . the full term of his presidency. In that time, he taught me so much about how to serve. I shall be ever grateful for what he taught me which has enriched my life and flowed on to my family ever since."

When John began his service as stake president, he had three children. When he finished there were five.

John continued to serve in the Church and he and Margaret were called to serve in the Dublin Ireland Mission. John was the mission president of the Dublin Ireland Mission 1995–1998.



*Hobart  
Australia  
Stake  
Presidency*

He was called as bishop of the Glenorchy Ward serving from 1 July 2001 to 29 February 2004.

John was serving as stake patriarch at the time of his death. Current stake president Phil Smith reflected, “John Jury is respected and most loved. He has been a great strength to the Hobart Stake, a true gentleman, a man who lived his testimony, a man of service, a man of God.”

John served in many demanding church callings throughout his life, but he did not confine his help of others to the Church community. He was active

in the community life of his local area, including being the president of the Rosetta High School parents and friends association, concurrent with his service as a stake president.

He served as a member of the Boy Scouts Association and as the chair of the City of Glenorchy Centenary of Federation Committee. He was involved in supporting and organising grassroots sport, including Australian rules football and basketball. This includes being the founder and first president of the School Basketball Association. He

was elected as an alderman of the Glenorchy City Council, serving from 1993–1995.

John was always ready to help people, lend a listening ear, and offer thoughtful advice. Above all, he was a loving husband, father, and grandfather who is loved not only by his family but all those unnamed people he touched in and out of the church. He will be remembered as an intelligent, compassionate man, full of integrity and a faithful servant of our Saviour until the end of his mortal life. ■

## Members and Missionaries Support Blacktown Festival and Parade

Newsroom



Members of the Blacktown Network of Faith Communities (NOFC), Sydney, recently participated in a community and interfaith stall in the annual Blacktown Festival, including marching in the festival parade.

Church members of the Hebersham Stake of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints provided support and assistance, including a number of full-time missionaries serving in the Australia Sydney Mission.

Festival attendees who walked by and stopped at the stall engaged in open dialogue about religion and community support. Many commented positively about the respect that different faiths had for each other, working together in



harmony and support for the community, regardless of any theological differences.

Interfaith network members were able to march with one another in the parade through the streets of Blacktown. Full-time missionaries also participated, singing the hymn “Called to Serve,” which then prompted the whole group to sing hymns throughout the parade.

The Blacktown interfaith group, known as the Network of Faith Communities, is comprised of a number of religious and faith groups in the

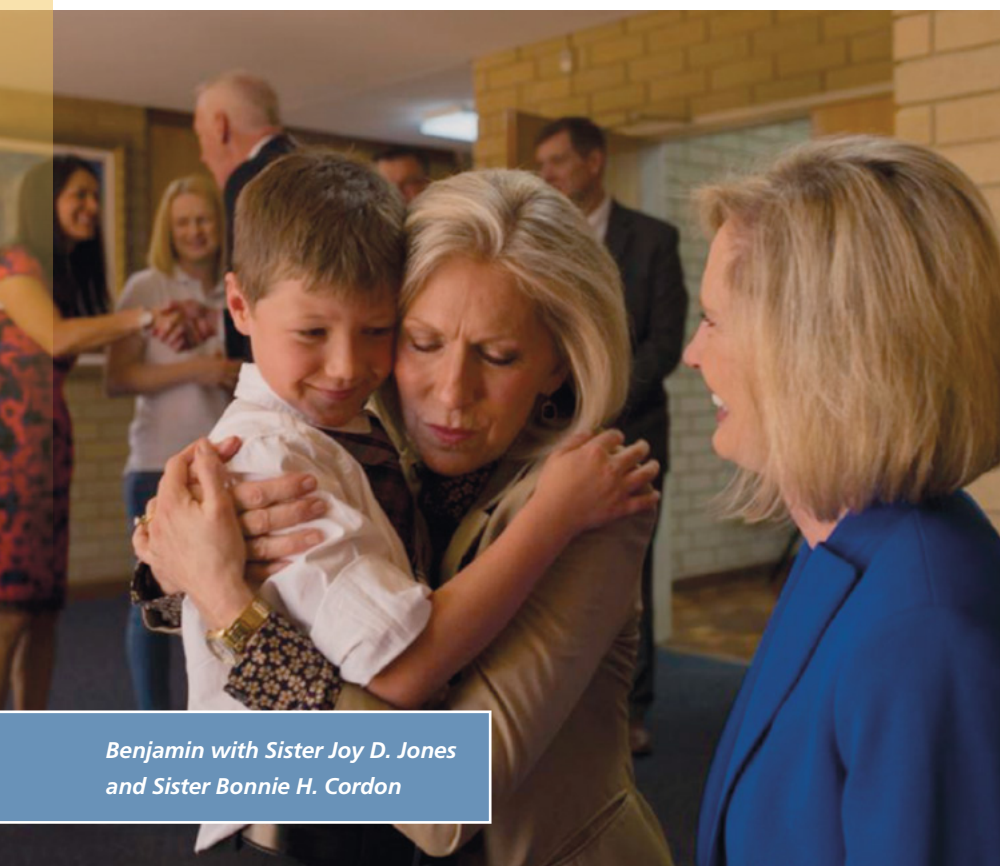


Blacktown Council area. It began over five years ago and has participated in

the Blacktown Festival for at least four of the last five years. ■

# Aussie Boy Sends Heartfelt Thanks to the Prophet

By Samantha Orth



*Benjamin with Sister Joy D. Jones and Sister Bonnie H. Cordon*

Looking at Benjamin, you would think he's a normal 10-year-old. He plays soccer, basketball, catches lizards and snakes, and loves to eat, especially pizza! Ben's life has been extremely full, with love of life and adventure.

However, Benjamin also has a heart condition, hypoplastic left heart syndrome. Basically, he has half a heart.

The three surgeries needed were long, hard, and required his heart to stop beating in order for the surgeons to operate on him so that he could live. This required the use of the heart-lung machine for the surgeries to be successful.

So, when Sister Joy D. Jones and Sister Bonnie H. Cordon visited the Ipswich West Stake for our activity for the drought stricken struggling farmers,

he had a letter ready to give to Sister Jones to give to President Russell M. Nelson, thanking him for his contributions to the heart community.

Part of Ben's letter reads:

"I have HLHS, but I still get to do all the things I love, except rugby. I wanted to say thank you for all your hard work helping people like me. Mum told me that you helped to build a machine to help people like me so we could have the surgeries we need to live. Thank you. When I had my Fontan surgery, I knew I would be OK because Heavenly Father told me I would be. I'm thankful for the gospel and the peace it brings to me."

Sister Jones promised Ben that she would deliver the letter personally to the prophet. Ben felt so blessed to have met and spoken to both Sister Jones and Sister Cordon. ■

**Editor's note:** A world renowned heart surgeon, President Nelson helped develop the first artificial heart-lung machine. He then used it to perform the first open-heart surgery in Utah. He went on to perform open-heart surgeries on many more people, including President Spencer W. Kimball.