



# CHOOSE THE HARDER RIGHT

Newsletter of the Marshall Islands Majuro Mission

December 2016



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## Message from President Larkin –

Sister Larkin and I express our heart-felt thanks and gratitude to each of you for your commitment to our Father in Heaven and our Savior, Jesus Christ, as you serve a full-time mission here in the Marshall Islands Majuro Mission.

We appreciate and love each one of you!

This Christmas you are away from family and friends at home but please know you are loved and appreciated by your "mission family".

We encourage you to read the wonderful article in the December **New Era** written by our beloved prophet, Thomas S. Monson titled '**Four Gifts that Endure**'. President Monson discusses the "gifts" of birth, peace, love and eternal life and how each of these gifts epitomises the true meaning of Christmas.

What gift will you and I give to our Father in Heaven and our Savior this Christmas? In his New Era article, President Monson quotes President Harold B. Lee who said *"Life is God's gift to man. What we do with our life is our gift to God"*.

As full-time missionaries, this could be re-phrased *"Our **mission** is God's gift to us. What we do with our **mission** is our gift to God"*

May the Lord bless each of you this Christmas for your faith and your desire to serve Him.

President and Sister Larkin



### **~Tarawa Kiribati North District Conference~**



On Sunday 19 November there was a large attendance as President Larkin re-organised the Tarawa Kiribati North District presidency by releasing Peter Itibita as president and his counsellors - and by calling the new District Presidency as follows:

Tongoi Eneri, President

Tamana Natanera, 1st Counselor

Ribauoko Victor Itaea, 2nd Counselor

On the preceeding day the Priesthood session was held at 7.00am at the Temaiku chapel and the faithful brethren arrived early and filled the chapel. President Larkin spoke to the brethren about what was needed to qualify as a stake and the critical role of the Priesthood in achieving that goal.

On Saturday afternoon a cultural dance festival was held in which all six branches performed a number of colourful and exciting Kiribati dances.

### **~Christmas Island Zone Conference~**



President and Sister Larkin recently visited Christmas Island and on 24 November a Zone Conference was held at the Tabwakea chapel. The missionary Elders serving on Fanning and Washington Islands were flown to Christmas Island for the Zone Conference. A variety of topics were covered including the blessings of Obedience (Elder Ellis), Adjusting to Missionary Life (Sister Maavae), the importance of Area Books (Sister Larkin) and communication skills and mission update (President Larkin).

### **~Christmas Island District Conference~**



President Larkin presided at the Christmas Island District Conference which was held on 26 & 27 November at the Tabwakea chapel. The Saturday Priesthood session was well-attended and included a discussion on moving the district towards qualifying as a stake. The local leaders were excited about the prospect and it was agreed that two key factors will be increasing the number of full tithe-paying Melchizedek Priesthood and increasing the activity level within the five branches.

The Sunday session filled the chapel and overflowed to the outside of the chapel. The theme of the conference was Alma 5:7 - "A mighty Change of Heart". Speakers included President Naisinwa, District President, Elder and Sister Pilkington and President and Sister Larkin.

### **~Elder and Sister Pilkington~**

We are very grateful to have Elder and Sister Pilkington serving as a senior missionary couple based on Christmas Island. Originally from South Australia they are providing wonderful support for our 14 missionaries on Christmas Island - and importantly they are now focusing on their Member Leader Support I(MLS) role. This involves the training of priesthood and auxiliary leaders in how to function effectively in their various leadership roles, including interviewing skills, extending callings, conducting sacrament and other meetings.



**Our Senior Humanitarian Missionaries have been exceptionally busy the past several weeks. Both Elder & Sister Preston in Majuro and Elder & Sister Reese in Kiribati proposed and/or completed several community projects recently. Elder Preston, a hospital administrator by profession, was invited to represent the LDS Church at a health summit held recently in Majuro. Elder and Sister Reese traveled to Christmas Island to work with the Pilkington's on projects there. Enroute, they spent a few days in Fiji and were able to attend the Temple.**

**~Returning with Honor  
to Serve~**

**~Arriving**



On December 7, Elder Bradley (above) returned home to his family in Utah – perhaps the best Christmas gift they could imagine. Then on December 8, two of our wonderful new missionaries arrived - Elder McAlister and Sister Marie who will both be serving in Ebeye. Sister Rauluitoga arrived two days later and will serve in Majuro.

Although we certainly miss our departing missionaries, the Lord is very generous is sending some of his finest young servants to bless the people of the Marshall Islands and Kiribati with the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

Kiribati also received several marvelous new missionaries who are eagerly working through their 12-week program. Here with President and Sister Larkin are Elder Weenig, Elder Sagapolu, Elder Barker, Elder Jubeck, Elder Bollin, Elder Anderson, and Elder Seffker .

In the front row with the Larkins are Sister Sillito and Sister Tautunu.

## Birthdays



Dec 1 Sister Preston

2 Elder Sien

3 Elder McFall

5 Elder Tingey

7 Elder Tomlinson

8 Sister Faamaile

Jan 1 Elder Goodsell

3 Sister Vuvute

10 Elder Parrish

8 Elder Bollin

11 Elder Carulla

11 Sister Nilsson

14 Sister Mounगतonga- Fow

19 Elder Turnbow

20 Elder Osborne

11 Sister Tu'ifua

12 Sister Ramsin

12 Elder McCarthy

26 Sister Ausage

26 Elder Bonney

29 Elder Morphonios

30 Sister Boss

15 Elder Timoteo

16 Elder Curran



## Cudoz Corner



There are some “elves” that love our young missionaries and appreciate them VERY much. They have other “elves” in many places that love you, too, and have helped prepare gifts from the heart so that each young MIMM missionary will have a gift at Christmas.

However, the greatest gift is one you have already received from the Giver of all good gifts, for as James writes **"Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights."** (James 1:17)

### **~Tips for Meaningful Conversations with Family at Christmas~**

1. Share what makes you and your companion laugh together
2. Describe what President and Sister Larkin have been doing to inspire the mission and tell what you love about your mission president
3. Tell about the last miracle you witnessed...When was the last time you saw an answer to prayer
4. Tell how you find new investigators
5. Describe your favorite Marshallese/Kiribati meal
6. What has been your favorite P-day activity so far
7. Tell about service projects have you done
8. Describe your retention/re-activation efforts
9. Walk them through a typical P-day, including cleaning your apartment and doing laundry
10. Describe the joy of Marshallese/Kiribati singing and music
11. Tell about Christmas traditions, including Biit.
10. If you can, try to translate and explain some of the local sayings and interesting things people say in your area
11. Share with your family how has your testimony grown since leaving home - in your mission language if you want
12. If you have ideas for what your family could to be better missionaries at home while you are gone, share those ideas
13. Thank your family

## **MERRY CHRISTMAS**



Special thanks to our newsletter contributors:  
President & Sister Larkin  
Sister Olson  
Elder & Sister Reese  
Elder & Sister Preston



