

AFRICA WEST AREA LOCAL PAGES

AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

The Kingdom of God Rolls Forth in West Africa

Elder LeGrand R. Curtis Jr.

President of the Africa West Area

In giving an inspired interpretation of the dream of King Nebuchadnezzar, Daniel set forth “what shall be in the latter days” (Daniel 2:28). The culmination of that dream was “a stone . . . cut out without hands” that “filled the whole earth” (Daniel 2:34–35). Daniel explained that the stone represented a kingdom that “the God of heaven [shall] set up . . . which shall never be destroyed” (Daniel 2:44). In our day, the latter day, God has confirmed that the keys of this latter-day kingdom of God have been “committed unto man on the earth, and from thence shall the gospel roll forth unto the ends of the earth, as the stone which is cut out of the mountain without hands shall roll forth, until it has filled the whole earth” (D&C 65:2). That kingdom is The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, which is rolling forth throughout the world. This is happening in fulfillment of God’s revelation to Enoch:

“And righteousness will I send down out of heaven; and truth will I send forth out of the

earth, to bear testimony of mine Only Begotten; his resurrection from the dead; yea, and also the resurrection of all men; and righteousness and truth will I cause to sweep the earth as with a flood, to gather out mine elect from the four quarters of the earth” (Moses 7:62).

Nowhere is the work of God rolling forth faster than it is in Africa. We marvel as we see the large number of converts joining the Church. We rejoice as we see the faith they express. We are very pleased as we see the existing members of the Church reach out to these new converts and welcome them warmly into the kingdom of God. We then rejoice even more as we see the new converts receive callings, the men receive the priesthood and, after a year, the converts go to the temple for endowment and sealing ordinances. This process not only helps the Church grow large, it helps the Church grow strong.

This is what is meant by real growth. People not only join the Church, but they also attend meetings faithfully, they keep the

commandments, the brethren receive the priesthood, the adults are endowed, and families are sealed. Throughout that process, all members seek to follow the Saviour’s example of obedience, grow closer and closer to God, and feel the joy that comes from living the life of Latter-day Saints.

Thank you for all that you do to help the kingdom of God roll forth here in West Africa. As an Area Presidency, we deeply appreciate all you do to build The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. We are honoured to labour at your side. The scriptures contain a special blessing for you:

“And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost; and if they endure unto the end they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall be saved in the everlasting kingdom of the Lamb; and whoso shall publish peace, yea, tidings of great joy, how beautiful upon the mountains shall they be (1 Nephi 13:37). ■



**Elder
LeGrand R.
Curtis, Jr.**

New Mission Presidents



President & Sister Morin

Benin Cotonou Mission

Pierre-Paul Morin, 61, and Colette R. Morin, nine children, Sainte-Foy Branch, Longueuil Québec Stake, succeeding President Robert F. Weed and Sister Rebecca H. Weed.



President & Sister Heid

Ghana Accra Mission

David Louis Heid, 63, and Delynn Susan Parry Heid, three children, Fallbrook 2nd Ward, Vista California Stake, succeeding President Daniel K Judd and Sister Kaye Judd. ■



President & Sister Sahy

Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan Mission

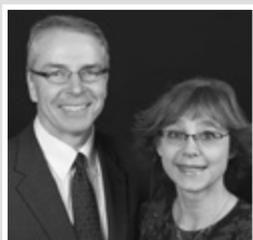
Marc Sahy, 55, and Akassiba Marie Sahy, seven children, Jean Folly Ward, Port-Bouet Cote d'Ivoire Stake, succeeding President Z. Dominique Dekaye and Sister Nathalie B. Dekaye.



President & Sister Kaku

Nigeria Port Harcourt Mission

Anthony Mua Kaku, 52, and Doe Akua Afriyie Kaku, five children, Abura Ward, Cape Coast Ghana Stake. Succeeding President Philip K. Xaxagbe and Sister Agnes Y. Xaxagbe.



President & Sister Stevenson

Ghana Cape Coast Mission

R. Scott Stevenson, 57, and Marion Penelope Speir Stevenson, five children, Lake Oswego Ward, Lake Oswego Oregon Stake, succeeding President Jeffrey L. Shulz and Sister Lynnette Shulz.



President & Sister Gueï

Cote d'Ivoire Abidjan West Mission

Marcel Gueï, 39, and Rosine Marthe Dahigo Gueï, four children, Niangon 3rd Ward, Abidjan, Abidjan Cote d'Ivoire Niangon Stake.

YOUTH

Stand for Truth and Righteousness

Gertrude C-T.

Korle Bu Ward, Kaneshie Stake

“Let no man despise thy youth but be thou an example of the believers in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (1 Timothy 4:12).

As young women, we are urged to stand for truth and righteousness. In school, some of my friends gather together to insult and make fun of the teachers. I try to stop them, but I always end up being insulted. I always make sure I do not take part in their act. They always make fun of me when I say no to them. I have come to understand that I should be able to be courageous and stand firm in all we do. Elder Russell M. Nelson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles said that the truth is the gospel of Jesus Christ.¹ This is the truth we must defend. Righteousness is abstaining from sin, being pure, and obeying the commandments of Jesus Christ.

Just like the two thousand stripling warriors Helaman led to defend what was true and right (see Alma 53:20), who were ready to defend their families, their home, and their lands, we, as youth, should be able to defend ourselves, our families,

our homes, and our country. We should always remember we are sons and daughters of Heavenly Father, and that a portion of His divinity is within us. Our influence as young women and young men of the Church, like a sleeping giant, should awaken, arise, and inspire the inhabitants of the earth as a mighty force for righteousness.

We should be unshaken in our faith and must always choose the right. A young woman was working with a non-member who once took the Book of Mormon and classified it as a book of evil. This young woman was ready to stand for what she knows to be true and was never weak or afraid to defend it. We should never let the world teach us the truth, but we should always stand for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Elder Neal A. Maxwell (1926–2004) of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles stated, “You have been . . . placed by God, in this time and circumstance. And He knows you better than you know yourself, knows what you have the capacity to do. . . . He knows what you have the power to become!”²

One day, I went to a naming ceremony of my teacher’s newborn baby with some friends in school. After the ceremony ended, we went to get some food and drinks. Our teacher asked us to order anything we wanted. My friends started ordering alcoholic beverages. When it was my turn, I ordered a non-alcoholic beverage. The other students started to make fun, but I still stood still and never changed my mind. Sister Ardeth G. Kapp, former Young Women general president, said, “Who will stand for truth and righteousness? Who will speak out for morality? Who will join with righteous young women and young men all over the world . . . in defense of purity of spirit and body?”³ She is urging us as youth to respond as the Savior in the premortal Council in Heaven, “Here am I, send me” (Abraham 3:27). Sometimes we feel the problems we face are so great that we cannot bear them, but that is not true. Jesus Christ has paved the way for us. All we have to



Getrude

do is stand for truth and righteousness in all our endeavours.

Due to my behavior, I became the best student in class and one of the teacher’s favorite students in school. We should fear not, for the Lord has conquered the world and He would not put His children in situations which are more than they can handle. He loves us and He will always be there for us to guide us through all our trials and tribulations. As youth in this century, we are going to face many problems, but through Jesus Christ we are safe and we can be conquerors.

I bear my testimony that standing for truth and righteousness is not embracing yourself but rather building up Zion. It is spreading the word of God and making the world a better place. There are so many blessings we will get when we stand for truth and righteousness. I know that the gospel and principles we have in this Church are true. I know the Book of Mormon to be another testament of Jesus Christ. I know that the Prophet Joseph Smith saw God and His Son Jesus Christ. I strongly believe all these things are true and I leave this with you in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen. ■

NOTES

1. See Russell M. Nelson, “Let Your Faith Show,” *Liahona*, May 2014, 30.
2. Neal A. Maxwell, “These Are Your Days,” *New Era*, Jan. 1985, 6.
3. “Young Women Counseled to Stand for Truth and Righteousness,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1986, 76.

Power in the Priesthood

Otuekong Shedrack Okon
Uyo Branch Uyo Stake, Nigeria



Otuekong Shedrack Okon

Growing up in Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria, I have been a member of the Church since birth. I always knew that the Church is true but I never had a strong testimony of the priesthood power until my first year at the university.

In September 2013 I started having pains in the chest region. I thought it was just stress, but as it became more serious, I was taken to a hospital. There I was diagnosed as having a serious infection. I had no idea how it had come about and the doctor didn't answer that question. He

advised that I should stay in the hospital for a few days. How was I supposed to do that when I had lectures to attend and it was approaching examination time?

With severe pains, I managed to attend my meetings on Sunday. After sacrament meeting I asked my branch president for a priesthood blessing and was given one. The following day, I went to the hospital for an x-ray. As the results came, the doctor approached me and said, "I don't know what to say but there is nothing wrong with you." The look on his face was one of disbelief. He ran some further tests which provided the same result.

I knew deep down that it was the priesthood power which had healed me. I know with all my heart that the priesthood power is indeed the power given to man by God to act on His behalf for the benefit of His children. ■

My Favorite Scripture Passage

Evangeline B. (Age 11)
Christiansborg Ward, Christiansborg Stake, Accra Ghana

My favorite scripture passage is found in Hebrews 11:1, which reads, "Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen."

The reason why I like this scripture is because when I get annoyed, I just remember this scripture about faith. I read this scripture and I feel calm. I love sharing this scripture with some of my friends near home, at school, and in other places. We talk about it in family home evenings. ■



Evangeline

UPCOMING AREA EVENTS

August 1–2, 2014

Accra West YSA Summit
Aba/Port Harcourt YSA Summit

August 29–30, 2014

Calabar YSA Summit

August 8–9, 2014

Benin City # 1 YSA Summit

October 4–5, 2014

General Conference

August 12–13, 2014

New Mission President Training

October 21–24, 2014

Mission Presidents Seminar

August 14–15, 2014

Abidjan YSA Summit

November 4, 2014

General Conference
Rebroadcast

August 22–23, 2014

Lagos YSA Summit
Benin City #2 YSA Summit

STAKE/DISTRICT CREATION/REORGANIZATION

May 17–18, 2014

Umuahia Nigeria Stake Created
Asaga Ohafia Nigeria District Created

May 31–June 1, 2014

Niangon North Cote D'Ivoire Stake (Renamed)
Niangon South Cote D'Ivoire Stake Created

June 28, 2014

Enugu Nigeria Stake Created