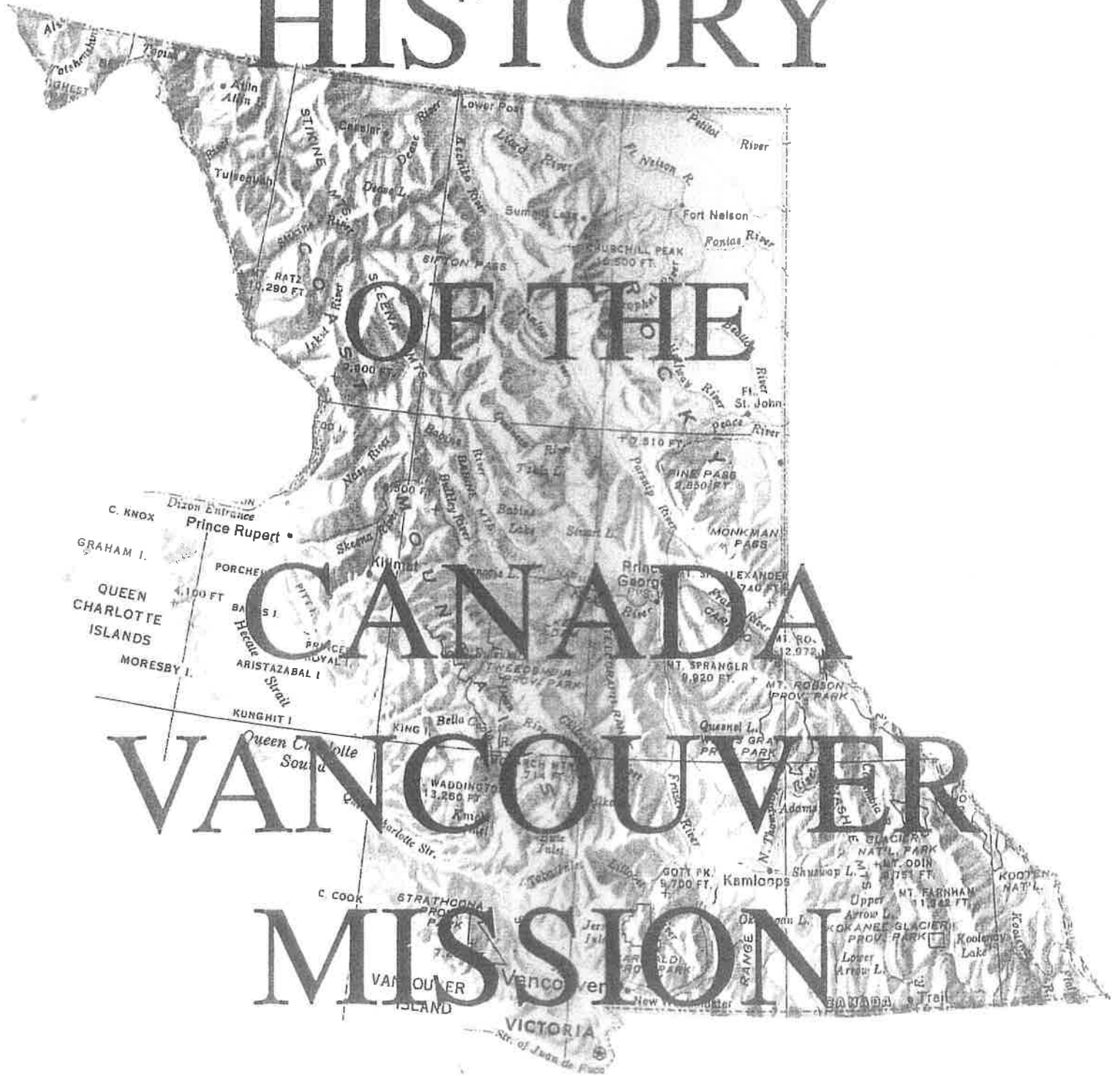


# HISTORY



**THE CANADA VANCOUVER MISSION:**

a place of size and shape and color and diversity  
which has come into its own. Herewith a brief  
history, as requested by Elder Yoshihiko Kikuchi,  
First Counselor in the Area Presidency.

Jean Bennion Hill - 1992

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## THE PROVINCE OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

"More than 366,000 square miles of forest slopes, rocky summits, glaciers, alpine meadows, deserts, rain forests, ranchlands, orchards, northern prairie wheatfields, rivers, lakes, sleeping volcanoes, hot springs and an island-studded coastline where mountain cliffs plunge into fiords overlooked by snowy peaks: this is British Columbia."

"But there are cities, too, and few in the world could rival Vancouver for majesty of setting...[or] genteel, neighboring Victoria--a town that has managed to retain a Britishness of character..." and let's not forget the fast-growing cities of Kelowna and Vernon in the Okanagan or Prince George in the North.

Canada's third largest province is bigger than France and Britain or California, Oregon and Washington. A Canadian journalist is quoted as saying: "British Columbians like to think of their province as a large body of land entirely surrounded by envy."

Some phrases which have been used to describe the province: sea of mountains, surging rivers, towering gorges and lush, verdant valleys. And with all this, Canada's mildest climate!

Is it any wonder, then, that British Columbia's motto is **SPLENDOR SINE OCCASU**--Splendor without Diminishment?

## BRIEF HISTORY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

The history of British Columbia is a relatively recent happening. As interesting as it is, we will here take just a brief look.

The first inhabitants came as a result, the books say, of Asiatic migrations. Traces of Polynesian culture and even bits of Hebraic ceremonies have been found among them. Long ago the Inuit and North American Indians were hunters and fisherman, but they made their "hesitant" way inland. Over the years they evolved into distinct peoples in distinct places: the Tlingit, Haida, Kwakiutl, Tsimshian, Bella Coola, Nootka, Salish, etc.

It was the Golden Hind, in 1579, which brought Sir Francis Drake to the first European sighting of British Columbia, and he claimed the land for Queen Elizabeth I.

For 200 years it remained a far-off strange land until Captain James Cook sailed into Nootka Sound and became the first white man to step on British Columbia soil. He received sea otter furs from the Indians, and later sold them in China for a high, high price--the beginning of the most important fur trade.

Some 14 years later Captain George Vancouver, a young officer serving with Cook on that voyage, returned. He sailed around and charted Vancouver Island and named it Quadra's and Vancouver's Island, sharing the honor with his friend and Spanish Commander, the name finally shortened to Vancouver Island. (In 1774 the Spanish had sighted the Queen Charlotte Islands but storm forced them back. The next year they saw the mountains of Vancouver Island. However, it was the British who actually set foot on the Island while the Spanish merely sailed along the coast.) There had always been an interest in discovering a new seaway to the Far East, so Vancouver combined a diplomatic and scientific voyage to obtain information about foreign nation establishments and to make an accurate survey of the Pacific coastline to complete Captain Cook's work and settle once and for all the location of a northwest passage.

Insatiable demand for fur and the continued search for new areas and the fur-bearing animals spurred the exploration west of the Rockies. Voyagers and fur-hunters searching for the "River of the West" came to that "immense chain of mountains." Past the continental divide the rivers formed a maze of waterways difficult to untangle, but in 1789 Sir Alexander Mackenzie, a young Scot, partner in the North West Company (a competitor of the Hudson's Bay Company), sought a route to the sea. Instead he found a river which would be named the Fraser for the explorer who eventually travelled the treacherous river. Mackenzie found the river impassable in places and had to turn back.

## **Brief History of British Columbia, Cont:**

He turned northward, canoed down the river which would bear his name to an arm of the ocean at Bella Coola. Thus in 1793 he became the first European to cross the American Continent--a difficult route which could never be used for fur trade. There was no navigable inland sea passage--a bitter disappointment for Mackenzie.

Later the North West Company assigned Simon Fraser to explore the river Mackenzie had abandoned. Fraser completed his brave descent down the turbulent river to Pt. Grey, near present-day Vancouver. His river was not suitable, either, as a supply and transport route for fur-trade canoes. (Seventy-five years later the Canadian Pacific Railroad would follow the river canyon to the Pacific, unifying Canada from sea to sea.) Fraser discovered a river which flowed into the Fraser, and named it the Thompson after a friend who explored the upper reaches of the Columbia River, and traveled down to its mouth only to find that the Americans had established Fort Astoria there.

As a result of fur-trade competition between the North West Company and Hudson's Bay Company, by early 19th century all major Canadian rivers west of the continental divide had been traveled and forts established all the way to the coast. The North West Company, though, in 1821, declared bankruptcy and merged with their more successful competitor. After the boundary treaty of 1847 between Britain and the United States the 49th parallel became the new frontier, with the slight diversion at the western end which gave Vancouver Island to the British. The Hudson's Bay Company moved its headquarters from Vancouver on the Columbia River to the Island at Fort Victoria, and Britain made Vancouver Island a crown colony. James Douglas (the Father of British Columbia) was a senior officer of the Company and was appointed the Island's administrator. Gradually the basic industries of coal mining, lumbering, fishing and farming were established.

In 1848 the lumber industry began, with some exports going to San Francisco. Coal was discovered on the northern part of the Island and miners were brought over from England to work the seams trade at Nanaimo. The profitable fur-trade had brought the trappers and the merchants necessary for that industry. Lumber became important with the developing trading posts. (Much later the pulp and paper mills would abound.) Fishing and canning took hold as adjuncts to the lumber and fur industries.

And then "gold lured hardy fortune-hunters...to the bleak recesses of Canada..."

## **Brief History of British Columbia, Cont:**

In 1858, 450 passengers disembarked at Victoria on their way to the gold fields. From that time on, Hudson's Bay Company supremacy waned as San Francisco newcomers made fortunes in Victoria, now a bustling frontier-town supplying the 25,000 men who passed through the town on their way to the mainland and the Cariboo gold fields on the Thompson River. The Victoria population which had been almost entirely British, now became a cosmopolitan mix of Americans, Italians, Germans, French, Chinese.

Administrator Douglas finally required a license from everyone before they could cross the Georgia Strait to the Mainland. This was to prevent the lawlessness of the 1849 California gold rush, but, most of all, they feared the takeover by Americans of the Mainland. In 1858 the Mainland became a second Crown Colony, with the name British Columbia chosen by Queen Victoria. Douglas was appointed governor of the new colony and had to resign his position with Hudson's Bay.

In 1860, 40,000 gold miners (the majority from California, Oregon and the rest from eastern Canada, Britain, Europe and China, Spain, Mexico and Australia) traveled further eastward into the Thompson, Lillooet and Cariboo regions.

In the mid 1860s came the gold rush slump, and many left. British Columbia was rich in many natural resources, but transportation costs were so high that there was no large-scale exploitation. Vancouver Island sent coal to San Francisco, and there were beginnings in lumber and fishing as exports. Mining was still most important, but in decline. Some farming had begun: wheat in the upper Fraser areas and dairy and market gardening were underway on the Island. Russians, Greeks, East Indians and Japanese all had a part in settling British Columbia.

The declining gold production over the next few years caused the British government to unite the two colonies (the Island and the Mainland) and Victoria was chosen to be the Capitol because more comforts were offered the officials there.

But what of the first Canadians? Some Indians who survived disease epidemics brought by the immigrants converted to Christianity. Missionaries tried to "replace that which was Indian with that which was European" and so there was culture disruption. Those Indians living near settlements began to adjust by trying their hand at farming, becoming loggers, seamen, hunters, or crewmen on European sailing ships. Some owned schooners which they built themselves. From the 1870s on they entered the commercial fishing and canning industry. Under difficult circumstances, many Indians adjusted to the new conditions.

"The first recorded instance of a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints visiting the section of Interior British Columbia in which Kamloops is located occurred in 1886. Ora C. Card was directed by President John Taylor to "explore the British possessions and to report the feasibility of establishing a colony on British soil." Brother Card and his party entered British Columbia at Osoyoos and made their way north through the Okanagan Valley to Kamloops..."

#### **EXCERPTS FROM THE JOURNAL OF CHARLES ORA CARD:**

Wednesday, September 29, 1886

We broke camp about 7:30 A.M. and 25 minutes to 10:00 A.M., crossed the British line and for the first time in my life, placed my foot upon the sod of British Columbia... As we passed the stone monument that designates the line I took off my hat, swung it around and shouted, "In Columbia we are free."...

Sunday, October 3, 1886

Today we remained where we camped last night to rest ourselves and horses. Our prayer is constantly, "Father, direct us by revelation that we may find the right place."...We concluded we would hold a meeting today...I said that our mission here would open the door of the Gospel to the seed of Joseph in these parts and yet, before our mission was completed here, some of these Lamanites would know us by vision or dream and give us a hearty welcome. ... This was the first meeting under the authority of the Melchizedek Priesthood in the District of British Columbia in the latter days. I trust yet these rugged mountains will echo from the sound of the voices of the servants of God, for truly He reigneth and holds the destiny of all men and nations. ... This is a country of lakes and rivers, which abound in most excellent fish, and mountains abound in deer and antelope.

Monday, October 4, 1886

Some good pasture land, but water scarce in the small streams. In fact, we have not passed any in the last ten miles, and the main river lies so low it would cost a great deal to take it out for irrigation, and you cannot farm here without, successfully. The worst feature I see here or learn is that men can enter such large tracts. We will travel nearly all day on I. C. Haynes' land, for he owns all the land for fifteen or sixteen miles up the river, which is not very encouraging for parties seeking homes. There is considerable land here and some rich, alluvial soil. The climate is much like Salt Lake Valley in Utah.



Charles Ora Card Excerpts, Cont.

Wednesday, October 6, 1886

This date causes one's mind to revert back to the many conferences he has attended and think of the valuable instruction the Saints receive at these gatherings of the Saints. ... At noon today, we met an old mountaineer from Montana, who gave up some information in regard to the country east of the Rockies. ... This information comes as we need and we all feel to acknowledge the hand of the Lord in it.

Thursday, October 7, 1886

Mission is a small valley buried in by mountains and Okanagan Lake. We saw apple trees loaded with fruit here and most excellent land, but monopolized by but few, which is the general complaint with British Columbia.

Monday, October 11, 1886

This morning, we broke camp about 7:30 A.M. and rode to the River Thompson and here, we came to a stage station eighteen miles east of Kamloops. Here, I took stage for Kamloops where I arrived... During the afternoon, I engaged in seeking information regarding the country northwest and east and concluded to sell our horses and take the train for Calgary, Alberta, N. W. Territories.

## A LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF THE MORMON CHURCH IN CANADA

### VANCOUVER

The Mormon Church in Vancouver began early in the century--as it does everywhere, and always--with a small group of people with the courage and faith to persevere in their endeavors to gain a place in a rather large city of busy, sometimes unfriendly, people.

There were other difficulties: missionary work brought forth few converts; in addition, this young, bustling land attracted many people from many countries, so it was extremely difficult to find the members and when the members were found there often was a lack of priesthood leadership and experience among them. Finally, an appropriate building had to be found for the rent they could afford to pay, and as centrally located as possible so that the maximum number of members could attend, transportation being a real problem.

It was the strong member who could keep a growing testimony in the midst of so many uninterested people and with so few opportunities to gain strength from each other in church meetings.

This is a run-down:

1904: Nephi Pratt, President of the Northwestern States Mission headquartered in Baker, Oregon, visited the City of Vancouver, part of the mission. He organized a Sunday School in the home of the one member family he found here: the Edward Neill family of four.

1909: The succeeding president of the mission, Melvin J. Ballard, visited Vancouver and rented a hall where he held a conference with 12 members of the Church at 560 East Cordova Street.

1911: President Ballard organized a branch, and a year later there were 80 people at conference.

1925: The next president of the mission, Brigham S. Young, helped the members buy a small church on East 14th Avenue. (It would serve the members for the next 29 years.) Through the years the building was remodeled a number of times as the need arose and when money was available. There was even a font in the floor under trap doors so that baptisms no longer took place in English Bay or in the Crystal swimming pool.

1933: Another group of Church members, living a great distance from Vancouver on Lasqueti Island, began holding meetings and a Sunday School was organized on the island in the home of Merion Copley. There were 14 members.

## **History of the Mormon Church in Canada, Cont:**

1938: The Seattle Stake was formed from part of the Northwestern States Mission and Vancouver became a ward of that stake.

1945: President Samuel J. Brighurst of the Northwestern States Mission came to Vancouver for the purpose of transferring the Vancouver Ward back to the Mission and Vancouver became a Branch of the Mission.

1948: The Vancouver area was made part of the Western Canadian Mission with headquarters in Edmonton, Alberta, Glen G. Fisher, President. Shortly afterward the Vancouver District was formed to include Vancouver, New Westminster and Vancouver Island.

1952: There were six branches functioning in the Vancouver District: Vancouver Branch, North Vancouver, New Westminster, Victoria, White Rock and Nanaimo.

1954: While President R. Scott Zimmerman was presiding over the Western Canadian Mission, the beautiful Vancouver chapel--construction having begun earlier--was dedicated by the Prophet of the Church, David O. McKay.

1959: The Vancouver Branch was divided and the Vancouver First and Second Branches were formed. Many of the members of the Vancouver First Branch were living in the Richmond area, so in late 1959 an Independent Branch was organized there.

1960: Elder Hugh B. Brown, a member of the Quorum of the Twelve, with Elders Franklin D. Richards and Nathan E. Tanner, Assistants, presided over a meeting of the membership of the Vancouver District of the Western Canadian Mission for the dual purpose of dividing the Mission and organizing the Vancouver Stake. The new Mission was given the name of the Alcan Mission, later to be known as the Alaskan-Canadian Mission, and Elder Milton W. Weilenmann of Salt Lake City was sustained as the Mission President. The Vancouver Stake comprised the following wards: Vancouver First, Vancouver Second, North Shore, New Westminster, Fleetwood (Surrey), Richmond, White Rock, Langley and Chilliwack. Approval was given for the purchase of property for a stake center located near Kincaid and the Grandview Highway in Burnaby.

1962: The Abbotsford Branch, dependent branch of the Chilliwack Ward, was formed. Approval was received from the Church Building Committee for the erection of a stake center in Vancouver. The Port Coquitlam Branch was organized with a membership of 92. The population of the Vancouver Stake at the end of the year was 2479 (957 families.) Earlier in the year a sod-turning ceremony was held for a new chapel in Surrey, and another one in Chilliwack.

## **History of the Mormon Church in Canada, Cont:**

1964: Official opening of the White Rock Chapel.

1966: The Stake was advised at conference that the \$70,000.00 "starting fund" required for the new stake center had been sent to the Church Building Committee. The sod-turning ceremony was held in November. One of those in attendance was President Arza Hinckley of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission.

1967: The dedication of the White Rock Chapel was held in February. There were 326 members and friends present.

### OKANAGAN DISTRICT

1959: The Okanagan District was organized, and included four branches: Penticton, Kelowna, Vernon and Kamloops.

1966: The boundaries of the district encompassed the Kelowna, Vernon and Kamloops Branches with dependent Sunday Schools at Revelstoke, Merritt, Lytton and Pemberton.

### Vernon

1947: A home Sunday School was established in Vernon.

1961: A building site was selected.

1963: The members voted to build as soon as Church permission could be obtained.

1966: The Vernon Chapel was dedicated by Elder William J. Critchlow, Jr., an Assistant to the Council of the Twelve. The Vernon Branch has grown from three families to about 300 members.

### Kelowna

1947: A Sunday School was organized with two families. Meetings were first held in the Elks Hall, and then for two dollars per Sunday a room was rented at the Willow Inn Hotel.

1950: Increased membership necessitated a larger meeting place and the group began to meet in Orange Hall.

1952: The Kelowna Branch was organized.

1961: A building site for a Chapel on Glenmore Drive was purchased.

## **History of the Mormon Church In Canada, Cont:**

1967: The chapel was dedicated by William J. Critchlow, Jr., Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve.

### **Kamloops**

1955: A few members were organized into a Sunday School and regular meetings were held.

1958: The Sunday School became a branch dependent upon Vernon Branch.

1967: Kamloops had dependent Sunday Schools in Merritt, Lytton, Pemberton, Clinton, 100 Mile House and Clearwater. The membership has grown from four to 432 and covers an area 250 miles wide and 400 miles long.

### **Penticton**

1951: A branch of 25 members was organized, with first meetings held in the IOOF Hall.

1961: Elder Theodore M. Burton dedicated the first phase of the Chapel in Penticton. The membership stood at 179.

## **CARIBOO DISTRICT**

1961: The Cariboo District was organized under the direction of President Milton R. Weilenmann of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission. The seven branches were: Bella Coola, Kitimat, Fort St. James, Prince George, Prince Rupert, Quesnel and Vanderhoof. This district is one of the largest in area in the Church. The number of members is approximately 130.

1967: The membership now stood at 832.

### **Bella Coola**

1958: A branch of the Church was organized by President Parley Arave of the Western Canadian Mission.

1964: Ground-breaking ceremonies for anew chapel were held under the direction of President Stewart A. Durrant of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission.

1965: The \$83,000.00 building was completed this year.

## **History of the Mormon Church In Canada, Cont:**

1966: Elder William J. Critchlow, Jr., Assistant to the Quorum of the Twelve, dedicated the chapel, built in a wooded section on a six acre lot, fourteen miles east of Bella Coola near North Benedict Arm, an inlet of the ocean.

### **Kitimat**

1956: The Church held its first meeting in the new town of Kitimat.

1959: Kitimat was made an independent branch.

### **Prince George**

1950: Missionaries conducted Primary meetings--the first L.D.S. meetings to be held here.

1961: Membership consisted of 15 members.

1964: Prince George became an independent branch in October.

1967: Membership had increased to 189. Two and one-half acres of land at Fifth Avenue and Voyaguer Boulevard had been purchased for the building of a chapel.

### **Williams Lake**

1959: Sunday School began under the direction of missionaries. Meetings have been held in homes, Masonic Hall, and now Elks Hall.

1965: Williams Lake was made a dependent branch. Membership varies from ten to forty.

### **Prince Rupert**

1956: Sunday School was started in the McDonald home. After some years Saints met here and there: Ferguson Funeral Parlor, Moose Lodge, Valhalla Lodge. The latter was later purchased and renovated for a permanent gathering place.

1963: Organized as a branch dependent on Kitimat by President Stewart A. Durrant of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission.

1966: Membership at Prince Rupert was about 50.

## History of the Mormon Church in Canada, Cont:

### Quesnel

1952: Home Sunday School began.

1954: The Elks Hall was the first rented meeting place.

1967: Records showed 92 members.

### Vanderhoof

1962: Three members of the Church resided here.

1963: President Stewart A. Durrant of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission organized Vanderhoof as a dependent branch. Previously there had been a Sunday School dependent on the North Interior, Fort St. James. Meetings were first held in the Kinsman Hall.

1964: With donated lumber members built their own chapel.

1967: Branch membership was 115. A Sunday School at Burns Lake is dependent on the Vanderhoof Branch.

### VANCOUVER ISLAND

Brigham Young, in urging Latter Day Saints in Europe to come to Nauvoo to join the Westward migration, is quoted in the November 1845 issue of Times and Seasons: "There were said to be many good locations for settlement on the Pacific, especially Vancouver's Island..." A petition for a land grant and financial help was presented to Queen Victoria but there was no action taken. In fact, the Hudson's Bay Company, now in charge of the Island, issued instructions that the Mormons were to be denied occupation rights, but by then the Mormons were busily settling in Utah.

1875: William Francis Copley and his wife, Maria Judson, and their 3 children arrived on Vancouver Island, but the reason for their immigration is not known. One son thought it was a search for gold; another thought it was because of the interest in the Island once expressed by Brigham Young. They were the first Saints on the Island--perhaps in British Columbia--and they remained so for some time.

1890: A niece, Sarah Jackson, joined the family of (now) 9 for a visit. She married John Raymond and spend the rest of her life on the Island. It was in her home that the first Sunday School would be held.

## History of the Mormon Church in Canada, Cont:

1904: The Copley's daughter, Clara, and their son, Merian, were baptized--the first on the Island.

1910 - 1917: Missionaries were now serving on the Island, sent by President Melvin J. Ballard of the Northwestern States Mission, but there was little progress and no baptisms until 1917.

1918: Five families (21 members) were organized into a Sunday School, George Copley, Superintendent.

1937: During the previous years there was little progress among the members and many moved. Missionaries were withdrawn, assigned again, withdrawn. Finally the Sunday School was organized again with 10 adults, 7 children and 2 missionaries. Because the priesthood leadership changed so often, a sister, Una K. Hillier was called as Second Counselor in the Sunday School Superintendency. It was she who kept the Sunday School viable as she served in that capacity for 8 years and--in rare circumstance--as the Superintendent for 2 years.

1942: World War II brought more members to the Island, and a dependent branch was formed.

1946: The dependent branch became an independent branch.

### VICTORIA DISTRICT

1959: The Victoria District was formed as part of the Western Canadian Mission.

1960: A first-stage building was now in use. (The fully-completed building would be dedicated by President N. Eldon Tanner in 1969.) The Victoria District was now part of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission.

1961: A Victoria District Conference was held in the chapel at 2990 Quadra Street with President Milton L. Weilenmann in attendance.

1964: President Stewart A. Durrant of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission divided the Victoria Branch and Victoria First and Second Branches were formed.

1967: L.D.S. membership in the Victoria District stood at 1400. All of Victoria Island is included in the district and there were six branches: Comox, Duncan, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Victoria First and Victoria Second. (Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Council of the Twelve would organize Victoria Stake in 1975.)



## **History of the Mormon Church in Canada, Cont:**

### **Comox**

1961: The branch had begun as a home Sunday School dependent on the Nanaimo Branch and then became a dependent branch. Composed now of 45 families and a membership of 139.

### **Duncan**

1959: The Duncan Branch was organized. Early on a dependent Sunday School had been organized and held at the home of Watson Street for a year, after which the group moved to the Credit Union Building. The growing branch has purchased a chapel from the Catholic Church with a recreation hall also on the property.

### **Nanaimo**

1946: Elder J. Keeler and Elder Lund arrived in Nanaimo to search out members of the Church and organize a home Sunday School.

1948: Nanaimo organized as a branch.

1950: In the early 1950s the Nanaimo Branch began meeting in a lovely little chapel, the first L.D.S. building on the Island.

1953: Elder John Longden, Assistant to the Council of the Twelve dedicated the Nanaimo chapel.

1967: Membership at this time had grown from 4 families in 1946 to 284 members.

### **Port Alberni**

1962: The grounds for a chapel were dedicated. The branch purchased the property on a hill of Compton Road where there was a background of beautiful evergreens, maples and dogwoods. Members worked hard to cut the trees, blast the stumps and burn and clear four and a half acres of land.

1963: Construction on the new building began.

1966: The chapel was completed and dedicated by Elder William J. Critchlow, Jr.

1967: Branch membership was 287 members.

## History of the Mormon Church in Canada, Cont:

### Victoria

1967: Membership of Victoria First Branch was 364; Victoria Second had 310 members. Elder William J. Critchlow, Jr., Assistant to the Quorum of the twelve, took part in the ground-breaking for a new chapel to house the two branches.

EXCERPTS FROM HISTORICAL REPORT, VERNON

1962

July 11: District Conference was held in the Vernon Branch. President M. R. Weilenmann, President of the Alaska-Canadian Mission was present and presided at the service.

1964

May 4: The long awaited ground-breaking ceremony for the new Vernon Branch Chapel took place at the site on Mission Hill. Those taking part were Mission President Stewart A. Durrant. ...

1965

May 2: The first services were held in the Vernon new chapel. Brother and Sister Durrant, the Mission President, presided over two sessions. ... Many missionaries were present. In the morning session one hundred and fifty-six were present.

1966

July 24: A dedicatory service was held for the new chapel which was completed one year ago at a cost of \$85,000.00. Elder William J. Critchlow, Assistant to the Council of Twelve, was present and offered the dedicatory address and prayer. Among the 205 in attendance were Mission President Arza Hinckley and his wife and Mayor Lionel Mercer of Vernon.

1970

May 25: Mission President Bowers stopped in Vernon and signed over 40 Temple Recommends.

1972

July 23: District conference held in Vernon with the new Mission President Killpack present. Attendance was 525.

## HISTORY OF THE CANADA VANCOUVER MISSION

Our history perhaps begins with our neighbors immediately south of us: on 26 July 1897, the Northwestern States Mission was organized with George C. Parkinson as President, one of 18 missions to which the 943 missionaries set apart that year would be sent. Six missionaries were called to labor with President Parkinson.

In the next five years Montana was added to the Mission, Nephi Pratt became president, then the headquarters of the mission moved to Portland, Oregon.

In 1909 Melvin J. Ballard was named the new president of the Northwestern States Mission, and it was during his tenure that British Columbia and Alaska were added to the mission.

Many more presidents followed: Heber C. Iverson, 1919-23; Brigham S. Young, 1923-27; William R. Sloan, 1927-34; Joseph Quinney, Jr., 1934-37; Preston Nibley, 1937-40; Nicholas G. Smith, 1940-42; Desla Bennion, 1942-44; Samuel E. Bringhurst, 1944-47; Joel Richards, 1947.

In 1948 the Vancouver area was made part of the Western Canadian Mission with headquarters in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, Glen G. Fisher, President. He was followed by President R. Scott Zimmerman and later by President Parley A. Arave.

As the work grew and the missionary force increased, so the changes came: The Alaskan-Canadian Mission, the 58th mission of the church, was instituted 21 November 1960, with Milton L. Weilenmann, President. The number of missionaries called to serve that year reached 4,706.

With 7,590 missionaries being sent out into the world in 1970, on the 10th of June that year the mission was further defined as the Alaska-British Columbia Mission, Raymond C. Bowers, President.

In four years there were 2,000 more missionaries, and we became the Canada Vancouver Mission on 10 June, 1974, Weston F. Killpack, President.

Mission Presidents in our recent past include: Milton L. Weilenmann, 1961-63; Stewart A. Durrant, 1963-66; Arza A. Hinckley, 1966-69; Raymond C. Bowers, 1969-72; Weston F. Killpack, 1972-74; E. Bruce Preece, 1973-77; Steven Scott, 1977-80; John F. Taylor, 1980-83; Ralph Pulman, 1983-86; Donald E. Hoskin, 1986-89; Robert W. Hill, 1989-92; and newly-assigned Heber B. Kapp 1992-.

### LETTER FROM J. GAYLE YORGASON:

My Mission was from Feb. 1939 to March 1941. Preston Nibley was my President for eighteen months and Nicholas G. Smith for the remaining seven months. At that time the Mission covered the northern part of California, all of Oregon and Washington, the panhandle of Idaho, the western half of Montana, the western part of British Columbia and Alaska. You can be sure the President didn't get to all the missionaries every month. In fact, if my memory is correct, President Smith visited us once while I was serving as District President of the British Columbia District. We were, however, in quite close contact with telephone, telegram and the mail, and all were used. ...

Prior to October 1939...Elder Grant Pugh was serving as President of the Puget Sound District which at that time not only included the Seattle area but British Columbia as well. Also at that time I was transferred from Southern Oregon to Vancouver with instructions to organize the British Columbia District. There were then two Elders laboring in Alaska and two in a rather remote spot up from the coast called Bella Coola. These two areas were not included in the District, but instead reported direct to the Mission President.

Though the U.S. was not yet involved, Canada and much of the rest of the world was at war, so the Church was calling the Missionaries home from the foreign lands. In Vancouver we received two from Australia and two from South Africa. I recall that with their arrival we then had seventeen Elders and Sisters serving in Victoria, Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Vancouver, North Vancouver, New Westminster and Chilliwack. This seemed like a great number at that time but in view of today's numbers, then it is rather insignificant.

In the fall of 1940 with Canada at war it was becoming increasingly difficult at the border crossings. President Smith and I decided it would be expedient to have a good supply of pamphlets and tracts on hand, so several boxes were ordered. (Several thousand tracts and pamphlets) The Canadian Government confiscated the shipment as it entered the country. While this did present some problems, it also presented me with some marvelous missionary opportunities. During the course of the fall and winter I spent many days and countless hours in the Marine Building, being shuffled from one office to another trying to prove there was nothing subversive but was instead something they should be reading. I had MANY gospel conversations and distributed many of the tracts and a few copies of the Book of Mormon. Of course I had no idea how many were read or how much was actually accomplished, but there were many seeds planted in the Government offices that winter.

The family to family Book of Mormon program would have been welcome then, as I recall I had to pay 50 cents for each copy I gave away. And speaking of expenses, the average monthly expenditure for the mission was about \$35.00...

#### LETTER FROM B. GRANT PUGH

...I was being sent to the Northwestern States Mission with headquarters in Portland, Oregon. ... I learned that the mission's boundaries included Oregon, Washington, many beautiful portions of Idaho and Montana, British Columbia, Alberta, Yukon Territory and Alaska...

I have always referred to the northwest as "God's" Country. It must have been just that! As we tracted in the various communities we had very limited success in securing baptisms. However, we had great success in making friends and loaning copies of the Book of Mormon. In the districts in which I worked, some missionaries regularly loaned as many as 50 and 60 copies per month. Such successes must have been unbelievable in those days. Our successes were reported in the Liahona (world-wide missionary magazine published by the L.D.S. Church). Almost every week we would receive letters from missionaries and mission presidents throughout the world inquiring as to how we did it.

Today I understand how it was done. The Lord must have been performing one of His miracles. Where we struggled in 1939, 1940 and 1941 to establish even Sunday Schools, there are now L.D.S. Stakes.

...for 15 months I served as District President in Seattle. This Puget Sound District included Victoria and Vancouver, B.C.-- both of which I visited once or twice a month. Most of the elders were in those two cities, though we did have missionaries working in Nanaimo and New Westminster as well. (I served under two great mission presidents: Preston Nibley and Nicholas G. Smith.)

**EXCERPTS FROM NORTHWESTERN STATES MISSION REVIEW:**  
**(Courtesy of B. Grant Pugh)**

On Monday, September 19, 1938, Elders Max Wilson and Willie Hall sailed out to Lasqueti Island to show the Book of Mormon Lecture. [Lasqueti Island is in the Strait of Georgia, midway between the mainland and Vancouver Island. It lies off Bowser and is directly north of Nanaimo.] Broth Copley, the Sunday School Superintendent, had previously advertised the meeting and so on the following Wednesday night in the False Bay Hall the Elders gave the lecture to about sixty people who had come from all parts of the Island...

-Elder Marvin Perry, Vancouver, B.C.  
October, 1938

After being a part of the Puget Sound District (Northwestern States Mission) for the past two years, British Columbia is again a separate district. In surroundings that have in the past had a reputation of being hard to work, the ten missionaries of this district feel that they have been very successful during the past month. Working among people whose chief concern is the war, many and varied are our experiences...[Canada entered World War II long before Pearl Harbor.]

Elders Stanford Larson and Ray G. Hess are "pioneering" in Nanaimo on Vancouver Island. As the first missionaries to labor there they are truly having some choice experiences with the people they meet while tracting, although they report that an "anchor" and "rudder" are almost necessary equipment.

It is our prayer, that while laboring here in Canada we will be able to leave our message, and the joy and peace it contains, in the hearts of these fine people who are experiencing the sorrows of war.

-Elder J. Gayle Yorgason, Dist. Pres.  
November, 1940

Elders Robert Fisher and Arthur Record were assigned to labor in Chilliwack. Being the first missionaries to ever labor there, they are truly having some wonderful experiences and are being received quite cordially by the people there. They also report tracting a neighboring Indian settlement at which they left several copies of the Book of Mormon.

## Northwestern States Mission Review Excerpts, Cont.:

Elders Stanford Larson and Ray G. Hess laboring in Nanaimo report that in the near future they plan to start holding Sunday School at the home of some Saints living in Bowser. [43 miles northwest of Nanaimo] These elders are truly doing a fine work and are to be commended for it.

-Elder J. Gayle Yorgason, Dist. Pres.  
December 1940

On January 4, the first conference of this district was held...Introducing bicycles into this district, Elders Quayle Waddell and Glenn F. Cook are commencing a work from which we are expecting much. Many people in the smaller towns out of New Westminster have undoubtedly never had the privilege of hearing the Gospel. With this mode of travel these elders hope to contact many of these people.

-Elder J. Gayle Yorgason, Dist. Pres.  
February, 1941

We picked the strong and husky elders to convert the outlying borders of our district. And Elders Quayle Waddell and Ewart T. Lee with their books strapped on their backs and their hands gripping the handle bars of their bicycles pedaled up and down the Fraser River. [Note: These elders were stationed in New Westminster and were tracting the whole Fraser River Valley on bicycles.]

From across the "pond" [meaning Victoria] comes distressing yet encouraging words of Elders James B. Skidmore and Glenn F. Cook. They have found that the people of Victoria are very nice to them, but are not receiving the Gospel fast enough. So the Elders thought they would take the matter up with the local police department. It all started like this: The elders left a book with the maid of a rich Victorian resident. Two weeks later they called for their book, but instead of the maid coming to the door, the Master appeared. The elders introduced themselves, but were stopped short by phrases not becoming to a gentleman and then he told them that he had given their book the Victorian "Bobbies" to read. So now the elders are going to officially call upon the police in the capitol of British Columbia.

-Elder Arlie G. Masters, Dist. Pres.  
April, 1941

Elders Quayle Waddell and Ewart T. Lee (pedaling up and down the Fraser River Valley) now feel that seventy miles a day on their bicycles is nothing, and that where they can't find a church for Sunday School, they go out and rent a vacant house. (We hope they can fill it.)



## Northwestern States Mission Review Excerpts, Cont.:

As fast as Elders Stanford Larson and Ray G. Hess (laboring in Nanaimo) can find Saints and investigators to visit they move away, so now they have turned to working with the Canadian Army.

While on the other end of the island [meaning Victoria] Elders James B. Skidmore and Glen F. Cook are building up their little Sunday School by a new baptism last week.

-Elder Arlie G. Masters, Dist. Pres  
May, 1941

August 17, 1941, British Columbia District was again thrilled with another district conference. In fact, some of the elders became so excited that they forgot to use good judgment. Elders Quayle Waddell and Ewart T. Lee started down from Kamloops (to Vancouver), and in their great haste to arrive they decided to (hitchhike) walk all night, and before they caught a ride the next morning they had walked fifty miles. (Elder Lee had to purchase a new pair of shoes before attending the conference.)

-Elder Arlie G. Masters, Dist Pres  
September, 1941

From one of the small islands up North came a mother and her small son. She had made the trip in order that her son might be baptized. There were no other Latter-Day Saints living near her, yet each Sunday morning she and her little son have sung the different L.D.S. hymns and held a small Sunday School of their own. One did not need to question the mother or her son as to whether they had been living the Gospel, but one look at the beautiful peace-loving spirit that shone in their faces told us the story that words could never tell...

-Elder Arlie G. Masters, Dist. Pres.  
October, 1941

Elders Ray G. Hess and Ewart T. Lee several months ago went north to Kamloops where elders had never been. They were received coldly, and made no progress. They persisted, and today they write: "This week we were given two quarts of fruit, one tin of cocoa, ten pounds of potatoes, one head of cabbage, and some parsnips."

-Elder Arlie G. Masters, Dist. Pres.  
November 1941

## Northwestern States Mission Review Excerpts, Cont.:

From the northern part of the District comes word from Brother J. Brubacker that the missionary work he has been doing, along with his regular job which covers a very scattered area, is being curtailed because of government restrictions. The following is an experience sent in by Brother Brubacker:

While canvassing at the Pioneer Mine [northwest of Lillooet] I took a town site where I had never had much luck before. I started in on a row of houses but without success and was about to turn around when I had the feeling that I should go on, but it wasn't a success until I came to the last house. I knocked and told the lady, who answered the door, my business, whereon she stated that she and her husband were alone and didn't need much. In a very few minutes the conversation changed to where Mormonism fitted in and I took advantage of it. We had not talked more than fifteen minutes until she told me she had long been looking for the Truth and felt that she was now on the right track. She invited me to come back when her husband would be home so he could hear the message, too. Upon calling in the evening, he, too, said that he was certainly looking for the Truth. The conversation lasted until 12:00 p.m. Before I left, he paid me in advance for a Book of Mormon and he is now anxiously waiting to receive it. He said that prayer was in order and when we were through they both said it seemed like I had been sent to them. I told them that I hoped the day would come when I could greet them as Brother and Sister in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, to which they both replied, "We hope so too."

-H. Lavern Reynolds, Dist. Pres  
November, 1942

**EXCERPTS FROM MISSION HISTORICAL REPORTS:**  
**President Milton L. Weilenmann**

January 1, 1961

January 1st marked the official beginning of the ALASKAN-CANADIAN MISSION. President Milton Lyman Weilenmann and family arrived in Vancouver, B.C. during December and negotiated for the purchase of a new Mission Home.

March 31, 1961 - SUMMARY

During this first quarter in the new mission a marked change was noted particularly with respect to the spirit and system of missionary work. A new presentation plan was initiated as well as an added emphasis on sharing the gospel with others, this latter program being particularly applicable to the members... The Saints and the missionaries are enjoying a rich outpouring of the spirit. ... Elder Hugh B. Brown of the Council of the Twelve... stated with particular emphasis that "the work isn't going forth with such rapidity simply because someone thought of a new method. It is happening because the Lord is pouring out His Spirit upon the people."

June 30, 1961 - SUMMARY

The second quarter of 1961 has been successfully concluded. ... Elders Mark E. Peterson and Theodore M. Burton came to Vancouver and all the missionaries in the Vancouver and Victoria Districts met and received instruction in the "Share The Gospel" program.

September 30, 1961 - SUMMARY

At the end of nine months the mission is showing steady growth with promises of greater things to come. Different programs are being instituted to stimulate both the missionaries and the member to follow the admonition of President McKay of "every member a missionary".

August 10, 1962

All the missionaries of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission gathered in Vancouver to hold a conference with President Brown. Only the Alaska missionaries were not able to attend because of the costs involved. In all there were in attendance 156 missionaries. President Brown spoke to the Elders on the importance of taking a firm stand in the work, warned that with the blessings of a new era of success opening in this mission that there would also be greater pressure from temptation of the adversary.

**Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont.**

**President Stewart A. Durrant**

September 27, 1963

President Milton L. Weilenmann is released as president of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission and he and Sister Weilenmann fly to their home in Park City, Utah.

September 26, 1963

President Stewart A. Durrant officially takes over leadership of the Alaskan-Canadian Mission.

March 27, 1964

President and Sister Durrant flew to Juneau, Alaska in preparation for conference to be held the following day. When they received news of the Alaska Earthquake, they canceled all appointments and made arrangements to travel to Anchorage.

March 28, 1964

President Durrant flew to Anchorage and found all the missionaries fine.

March 31, 1964

After receiving a telephone call from Bishop Vandenberg and President Tanner, requesting him to come to Salt Lake immediately to make a report on the Alaska Disaster to the First Presidency, President Durrant left for Salt Lake City.

March 27, 1964 - SUMMARY

A terrifying earthquake shook Alaska! President Durrant flew to Alaska to view the damage and check on the missionaries. All of the missionaries serving in Alaska were safe and well; cablegrams were sent immediately to their parents informing them of the missionaries well-being. In a tidal wave at Valdez, Alaska, six of the saints lost their lives. All of this served as a dramatic reminder of our duty to serve the Lord and build His kingdom in all haste.

September 14, 1964

Last minute preparation was made for the Mission President's Seminar to be held in our Mission. Mission Presidents and wives from the Western American Missions are meeting with President and Sister Monson for two days. President and Sister Durrant met each Mission President and wife as they came by plane during the day. President and Sister Monson arrived and stayed in the mission home. Six Presidents and their wives stayed at the Ramada Inn in Vancouver.

## **Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont.**

September 15, 1964

The seminar was conducted by President Monson in the mission home during the day. Each Mission President led out in a discussion on various phases of missionary work. Lunch was served at the mission home. After the afternoon session of the seminar, they had dinner at the Ramada Inn. Returned to the mission home and held another session, with the wives meeting separately to discuss their specific phase of the work.

September 16, 1964

Remained in meetings at the mission home until 1:00 p.m. President and Sister Monson left at 4:00 p.m. President and Sister Durrant felt it was a wonderful experience and a great privilege to have hosted the first of what is hoped to be a series of like seminars. President Monson plans on holding one each six months, the next one to be in Oakland in the Northern California Mission.

December 25, 1964

From December 15, to the end of the month an open house was held at the mission home. The home and grounds were beautifully decorated with the appropriate decorations of the season. Several times each night, the film, Man's Search For Happiness--which is being shown at the Church pavilion at the New York Worlds Fair, was shown to investigators and church members. The entire open house was a worthwhile project.

April 26, 27, & 28, 1965

President and Sister Durrant attended the Western American Missions Seminar in Oakland, California. President and Sister Monson were there, along with President and Sister Paul Dunn, to counsel and lead the seven mission presidents and their wives who attended the most inspirational seminar.

July 8, 1965

President Thomas S. Monson, supervisor of the Western American Missions, arrived on July 8 and met in a conference with all missionaries of British Columbia, at the Vancouver chapel. ...the meeting...featured the different phases and methods of missionary work.

October 20, 1965

Brother William J. Critchlow, Jr. and Sister Critchlow arrived in Vancouver to begin a mission tour with President and Sister Durrant.

## **Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont:**

June 30, 1966

The final week of President and Sister Durrant's mission was full of winding-up activities, and all preparations were made for the arrival of President Hinckley and family on July 7.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PAST THREE YEARS: (taken from report prepared by request of the Deseret News).

The Alaskan-Canadian Mission covers a vast area, 1,100,00 square miles, comprising Alaska, British Columbia and the Yukon Territory. Half of the 160 missionaries labor in and around the two organized stakes, areas of which are in Anchorage, Alaska, and Vancouver, B.C. ... Growth is steady. ... Within the bounds of the mission there are over 100,000 native people (Indian and Eskimo), divided equally between Alaska and British Columbia, and scattered into dozens of tribes.

### **President Arza A. Hinckley**

July 7, 1966

President and Sister Arza A. Hinckley and their three daughters arrived in the Mission Field.

December 30, 1966

The year 1966 ends with all missionaries happy and in good health--the actual baptisms below the year 1965 but above November and December of 1965. We are looking forward to 1967 with faith that it will be a much more successful year.

December 31, 1967

As this year closes we are very grateful for the choice, devoted missionaries we have here in this mission. ... We look forward to a very successful new year. Our baptisms increased this year over the past year. Some very choice, outstanding people have come into the Church. The Branches and Districts are working and improving and much success and growth is planned for the coming year. We pray that our Heavenly Father will continue to bless the wonderful people of this area and that their hearts will be enlightened concerning the gospel. We pray that our Missionaries shall be more devoted, more determined, more energetic in their callings; that they will be very happy and safe and well.

## **Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont:**

December 31, 1968

Missionary spirit of love and companionship and devotion to the work continues to grow and we are impressed with the quality and manhood of the elders who are coming into the field. The Sisters are wonderful.

It has been a rewarding and eventful year and we eagerly look forward to an even more wonderful 1969.

July 10, 1969

Elders Gordon B. Hinckley and Spencer W. Kimball visited with President Hinckley by telephone. They said that President Bowers would not be able to come for at least two weeks and suggested that the Hinckleys go ahead with their plans to travel with their visiting relatives.

## **President Raymond C. Bowers**

July 15, 1969

We drove along tree-lined streets, homes well-cared for and landscapes well-manicured to a large house which we knew must be the mission home for there was a large poster reading "Welcome Bowers Family". We were pleased to see many young men lined on either side of the sidewalk leading to the front door with ready smiles and hearty hand shakes. ... President Hinckley was notified that we had arrived and returned for brief orientation well into the night before resuming his trip with his relatives.

December 31, 1969

It has been an eventful year for us, one of new experiences and one of many great blessings, the best one being given the opportunity to serve our Heavenly Father. We hope that our efforts are pleasing to all we are here to serve and that we can do our share in building up the Kingdom of Heaven here upon the earth.

December 31, 1970

This has been an interesting year. We feel that we know a little more of what we are doing. We feel that the Branches and Districts are functioning very well and that the Districts are accepting their responsibility to the branches better than ever before. ... The general feeling of the mission is good.

### **Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont:**

We are disappointed in the baptisms, we feel they should have been greater, but we accept the challenge to make 1971 a bigger and better year than 1970. We have dedicated ourselves anew to the work and realize that we cannot do the work alone that we must have the help of our Heavenly Father.

December 31, 1971

As we reflect back on the past year, we realize that the Lord has blessed us abundantly with many new members of the Church and the very choicest saints anywhere in the world. ... We are thankful to our Heavenly Father...and thankful for the missionaries who have worked so diligently. ...

June 30, 1972

President Bowers returned to Vancouver and made final preparations to leave Vancouver. Thankful in his heart for the great privilege and honor it has been for the last three years to serve the Lord in this great Alaska British Columbia Mission. Grateful also for the opportunity of serving with the choice sons and daughters of our Heavenly Father.

**President Weston F. Killpack**

July 2, 1972

President Killpack and President Bowers met together for further orientation. ... At 3:00 p.m. an Open House took place with members of the Stake invited to meet the new Mission President and family. The Bowers family left during the Open House.

April 1, 1973

Vancouver Stake Conference was held today with a special missionary meeting conducted by Elder Cullimore preceding the general session. President Killpack had an opportunity to speak in both meetings.



**Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont:**

July 8, 1974

We received word today that the name of the Mission has been changed to Canada Vancouver Mission.

August 27, 1974

President and Sister Killpack travelled to Spokane, Washington to attend the mission presidents seminar to be held there.

August 28, 1974

The day was spent with other mission presidents at the seminar. We were interviewed in the evening by Elder Pinegar.

September 4, 1974

We received word today that the mission is to be divided.

**President E. Bruce Preece**

October 15, 1974

The affairs of the Canada Vancouver Mission were officially turned over to President E. Bruce Preece today. The Killpacks left for the Alaska Anchorage Mission.

December 28, 1974

About 300 people including church members and nonmembers, investigators and local neighbors came to an open house at the mission home today from 10:00 A.M. to 9:00 P.M.. Elders conducted tours through the home while wards presented demonstration family home evenings in the living room and entertainment in the ballroom. Each ward provided and served refreshments for their allotted two hour period of the day. We received compliments about the overall organization, the decorations and furnishings, the tours, and all the presentations. We distributed missionary pamphlets and brochures telling about the house; we sold a number of Books of Mormon. We felt the day was a success!

## **Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont:**

February 8, 1975

Elder Boyd K. Packer of the Council of the Twelve...presided over a leadership meeting for priesthood leaders and their wives featuring a missionary message and a new film on missionary work narrated by President Kimball. February 9, 1975

Elder Packer instructed Melchizedek priesthood holders about the creation of a stake, in an 8:00 o'clock meeting this morning. At the Capitol Theater, only a few blocks from where the first Mormon missionaries preached, Elder Packer organized the Victoria British Columbia Stake of Zion. ...

October 12, 1975

Under the direction of Elder LeGrand Richards, President Preece organized the Vernon British Columbia Stake of Zion this morning at the last meeting of the Vernon British Columbia District in the Vernon Chapel. ... That evening, Elder Richards preached to a group of members and investigators (470) at a fireside meeting in the Vernon Chapel.

December 29, 1975

During this year, President Preece created two additional Missionary zones bringing our total to 10 zones of missionaries. We now have approximately 160 missionaries serving in the Canada Vancouver Mission.

August 12, 1976

President and Sister Preece drove to Bellevue, Washington, to attend the Mission Presidents Seminar at the Holiday Inn. Elder and Sister Franklin D. Richards instructed the group of four presidents with their wives. The presidents also made presentations to the group.

December 30, 1976

A good-sized group of people attended an open house at the mission home tonight.

**President Steven Scott**

June 28, 1977

The Steven Scott family arrived today.

## **Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont:**

July 1, 1977

President and Sister Scott became the leaders of the Canada Vancouver Mission today, residing at 7351 Lismer Avenue in Richmond and with office space at 7031 Westminster Highway in Richmond. The mission home at 5055 Connaught was sold a few days previous.

July 15, 1977

Officially moved out of the old mission home and office. Temporary headquarters on Westminster Highway.

October 19, 1977

Elder Rex D. Pinegar, member of the First Quorum of Seventy, Supervisor of the Canada Zone, arrived for a tour of the mission.

October 24, 1977

President Scott and Sister Scott flew to Quebec City, Quebec for the Mission Presidents Seminar with the mission Presidents of Canada. ... Elder and Sister Haight, ...were there also.

November 21, 1977

BOOK OF MORMON DAY. President Scott declared this day for all the missionaries in the mission to set aside everything else and fast and pray and read the Book of Mormon that whole day. The missionaries were instructed not to leave their apartments, but to spend the whole day to try to finish the book.

January 14, 1978

Elder Pinegar arrived to fly up North with President Scott to dedicate the Prince George Chapel.

October 9, 1978

...it was the first day of the Mission Presidents Seminar that President and Sister Scott were hosting. All the mission Presidents and their wives from Canada flew into Victoria. Elder Pinegar, Elder Hanks, Elder Gosland and their wives were in attendance. Elder LeGrand Richards was the visiting apostle. That night we held a Thanksgiving dinner for everyone in the Empress Hotel. It was Thanksgiving in Canada. Elder LeGrand Richards spoke to us all that night.

## **Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont:**

October 10, 1978

...Meetings were held all day long in the Empress Hotel. ... That night we ate dinner at a French restaurant.

October 11, 1978

The final day of the Mission Presidents Seminar. Meetings were held in the morning and then a testimonial meeting was held. It was a very successful Seminar. Everyone went to Butchart Gardens and had lunch.

October 12, 1978

A mission-wide Conference was held in the Richmond Ward. All the missionaries in the mission traveled down to Richmond for the Conference. Elder and Sister Pinegar and President and Sister Scott were in attendance. Elder Pinegar instructed all the missionaries. ... A box lunch was provided for the missionaries and then everyone started back for their areas.

October 12, 1978

A mission-wide Conference was held in the Richmond Ward. All the missionaries in the mission traveled down to Richmond for the Conference. Elder and Sister Pinegar and President and Sister Scott were in attendance. Elder Pinegar instructed all the missionaries. ... A box lunch was provided for the missionaries and then everyone started back for their areas.

November 18, 1978

The Mission Presidency and the District Presidents and their counselors traveled to Seattle for the Solemn Assembly. President Kimball and the First Presidency, Elder Benson, Elder Fyans and Elder S. Dilworth Young were in attendance and spoke to all the brethren.

December 28, 1978

Book of Mormon Day in the mission. All the missionaries stay in their apartments the whole day to do nothing but read the Book of Mormon.

April 8, 1979

The Sunday morning session of Stake Conference was held. Gordon B. Hinckley presided. The Vancouver British Columbia Stake was divided into two stakes: The Vancouver British Columbia Stake and The Vancouver British Columbia South Stake.

## **Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont:**

May 20, 1979

Dedicatory Prayer offered by Elder Rex D. Pinegar, member of the First Quorum of the Seventy. ...[The Mission Home was dedicated as a teaching place, a place where those who enter may feel the Spirit and may receive instruction in gospel truths; a place for comfort; a place of beauty which will exemplify the Spirit; an example of goodness and kindness; a source of beauty. Elder Pinegar prayed for all the missionaries and for all the people in this mission area and for the President and his wife and family.]

October 13, 1979

President and Sister Scott are in Toronto for the Mission Presidents Seminar...

October 14, 1979

...All of the Mission Presidents and their wives met for dinner with Elder James E. Faust. After the dinner each couple introduced themselves and Elder Faust spoke.

October 15, 1979

All of the Mission Presidents were instructed by Elder Charles A. Didier and Elder Faust.

October 16, 1979

More Seminar workshops were held in the morning. That evening all of the Mission Presidents and their wives took a tour of Niagara Falls. Later, Elder Charles A. Didier had Personal Stewardship interviews with all of the Mission Presidents.

November 13, 1979

Elder Charles A. Didier of the First Quorum of the Seventy arrived for the mission tour.

January 2, 1980

Today was the Book of Mormon Day in the mission. This is a day which is set aside for missionaries to exclusively read and study the Book of Mormon, the witness of our message.

March 31, 1980 - FIRST QUARTER SUMMARY

The first quarter of 1980 has been a successful one in many respects for the Canada Vancouver Mission. The mission has seen great strides in member work as a result of the increased emphasis on working with members within their natural circle of friends.

## **Excerpts from Mission Historical Reports, Cont:**

### June 30, 1980 - SECOND QUARTER SUMMARY

The second quarter of the year 1980 has seen great strides in furthering the Lord's Kingdom here in Beautiful British Columbia of the Canada Vancouver Mission. Northern British Columbia's growth has been so rapid it was split into two Districts. [Prince George District and the Terrace British Columbia District]... The Mission also experienced a change in Presidents. President Scott was released June 30 and President Taylor from Snowflake, Arizona has taken over as President of the Canada Vancouver Mission.

### **President John F. Taylor**

#### July 1, 1980

President Taylor reviewed the mission program with President Scott.

#### December 31, 1980

So ends the year of 1980. This year has seen a steady decline in baptisms. December was a disappointing month, but we are optimistic that with the new weekly report and the use of the planner, ... there will be an increase in the baptisms in 1981.

### December 31, 1980 - FOURTH QUARTER SUMMARY

The Canada Vancouver Mission has seen many great things in the year of 1980. President John F. Taylor...brought into the mission a "New Reporting System" including the weekly planner, and the Weekly reporting system of contacts. Tracting has been reinstated as a major way of finding people. President Taylor has promised the missionaries that if they will Tract and Harvest with a positive attitude and labor under the promptings of the spirit, they will be blessed in all areas of missionary work.

The mission is united to move upward in the number of baptisms with the Member Referral Program, and a firm commitment to serve with all we have.

1981 - No Reports found, unfortunately.

1983 - None found.