

Our Family Links

Church Service throughout the World

Joe and Jeanne Groberg

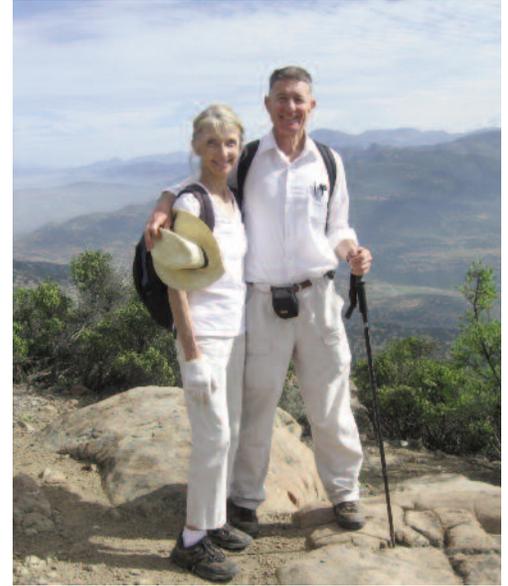
Our mission to Chile was a short but powerful experience. We served in the Chile area office. I was assigned as associate general legal counsel and Jeanne as my assistant. We worked with Church employees who handled real estate, finance, employment, visas, etc., within the eight missions in Chile, the area presidency, the temple, and the various lawyers who were hired to represent the Church in Chile. We were supervised by a Church attorney who lived in Buenos Aires and helped us in every way. There was also another Church attorney in Lima. The three of us were the only members of the Church's office of general counsel in Spanish speaking South America.

Of course, none of us was licensed to practice law in any of the countries where

we worked. Local lawyers drafted documents, represented the Church in court, and advised on local law.

Needless to say, I learned a lot of new vocabulary, was involved in many interesting cases, and hopefully did some good. Jeanne did a lot of good. She read through and organized all the legal files generated by the Church over its fifty years in Chile and reviewed hundreds of real estate files to be sure they contained deeds and title work for Church owned property in Chile.

Among the many important things we learned is the plight of missionary couples who often are left on their own to find a place to live, figure out how to get around, and sometimes, even to figure out what to do. We are grateful for the learning and serving experience we had in Chile.



Joe and Jeanne Groberg atop Cerro Maquehue, Chile



Beth and Barry Stratton at the Great Wall of China

Beth and Barry Stratton

We are enjoying the variety and challenges of living and serving in a foreign country. We are teaching freshman students English at the Xi'an International Studies University with the BYU Kennedy Program. Our students are all so young and ready to learn. Their English ranges from poor to quite good.

We have been challenged by some sickness and the traffic, yet enlightened by all there is to see and learn in China.

Lewis Groberg

I really loved my last calling in my Ontario, Oregon ward. I was the ward orchard specialist. A few years ago, the church purchased the Caldwell Orchard Company, a 540-acre fruit ranch just south of Caldwell, Idaho on what is called the Sunnyslope. The Church bought this property while their orchards near St. George, Utah were being encroached by massive construction projects.

The Sunnyslope has the perfect climate for peaches, pears, apples, and apricots. I learned much about all sorts of peaches, apples and the trees themselves. I learned techniques for picking the fruit and protecting your face as you climb high in the tree to harvest the fruit. I loved learning how to thin the peaches, harvest the crop and care for the trees. I learned much about Fuji, Golden Delicious, Red Delicious and Gavestein apples that are good for canning and eating.

My first assignment was thinning the peach trees so only a certain number of peaches would grow. I was new in the calling and was concerned about the turnout. I got there a little late and was happy to see a full crew of members singing and talking together. I thought, these are some of the happiest people in

the world. There was a feeling of optimism and joy that permeated our area of the orchard and even extended to the other wards.

This has been one of my favorite Church callings I have had. It has been wonderful learning all about fruit trees and how to maintain orchards. It has given me the opportunity to learn valuable skills and help the Church's humanitarian efforts.



Lewis Groberg, Orchard Specialist

George and Bonnie Groberg

I think it was Elder Bednar who said that our work in Indonesia might be one of the most important in the world. It is a “toe-hold” in the Muslim world, a test if our church can exist here. We have about 6,000 members in a nation of 240 million, less than a drop in a bucket. We do have a few baptisms and are growing, but slowly. As I have considered the various measurements of our impact here, some are a little discouraging. Yet, there is one impact that I think will have a long-term benefit to the church here: The experience, faith, and dedication that the young local missionaries are developing. From their families will come the future members and leaders of the Church.

The Americans may not be converting as many people as they may hope but their influence in converting and setting an example to the local missionaries will be more important than converting many

other non members. We have 35 Indonesians serving right now and I will say that they are mostly great. The current group is dedicated and by-and-large sincerely trying to do their job. There are 12 Elders who went to the MTC together about 15 months ago and they are now the senior missionaries. I have dubbed them the “Twelve Apostles.”

As I see the future of the Church here, I can see the church built upon the foundation of “Apostles.” They are in the leadership positions and they work well together. They are a generation and a team of Elders who would be ashamed to let each other down. I am amazed and surprised at their work. They are not perfect and some of the Americans



George and Bonnie Groberg with their missionaries

complain about them but the more I observe them, the more I am convinced that they understand what it takes.

We wish you the best in this New Year season.

Love, George and Bonnie

Dear Family,

After much study, research and talking to others, we have decided to work with Universal Genealogy Center to help us organize and expand our genealogy research. So far we have been pleased with their work.

They have 'cleaned up' many of our records and have extended the Groberg Swedish line in several areas. To date we have the names of 25 females and 25 males ready for their temple work, plus 17 couple sealings and 17 child to parent sealings.

One:

[We ask for your support in these three areas:](#)

We invite you to make tax-deductible contributions to the Groberg-Holbrook Genealogy Association. We need the money to pay for this research – which is not cheap. Delbert and Jennie originally ‘gifted’ the Association its beginning funds, which now need to be replenished so we can continue research which was part of their vision.

Many of you helped our Brunt cousins in New Zealand who were affected by the earthquakes last year. We were able to raise \$3,200 to help them. When John talked to them by phone in December 2011, they expressed their deep gratitude for this help, which saw them through a very rough time. They seem to be okay now.

For our Genealogy Association, we would like to set a goal of raising \$5,000 this year for research. If each child of Delbert and Jennie gave \$100 or more and each grandchild \$50 or more, we would be well on our way. Many of you can give more, some perhaps less, but it would be wonderful if everyone contributed something.

Please send your contributions to:

Groberg-Holbrook Genealogy Organization (or GHGO)
1605 S. Woodruff Ave.
Idaho Falls, ID 83404

Two:

We ask for your input on how to divide up the names as they become available for temple work. Baptisms, Confirmations, Initiatory and Sealings can be done quite quickly, but the endowments require more time.

We could have one family do all the baptisms and confirmations; another do all of the initiatory; and then divide the endowments between various families. Or we could have several families be responsible for all of the ordinances on a particular group of names. Give us your thoughts.

Three:

We would like your input on what you might personally be able to do to help in the research. The people we are working with are more than happy to accommodate and co-ordinate any personal family research we can provide. Let us know your willingness, availability and skills (such as experience with NewFamily Search or other genealogical research programs, etc.) and we will try to have everyone help who can.

Thanks for your interest and help. Address all correspondence to: 1605 S. Woodruff Ave., Idaho Falls, ID 83404 or by e-mail to: dvgroberg@hotmail.com

John and Richard Groberg

P.S. If you would like to use the Universal Genealogy Center group to do research on other lines (spouse's, etc.) at your own expense, we would be happy to work with you through GHGO, or you could work directly with them at www.universal-genealogy.com

Missionary Addresses

Elder Adam Blair

Czech Republic Prague Mission
Milady Horakove 85-95
170-00 Prague 7 Holesovice
CZECH REPUBLIC
(Return March, 2012)

Elder Matthew Sabey

4/F, #24, Lane 183
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(Return August, 2013)

Elder Justin Blair

Calle Maria Izaga #690
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Chiclayo, Lambayeque, PERU
(Return August, 2013)

President & Sister George and Bonnie Groberg

Indonesia Jakarta Mission
Jalan Senopati 115
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(Return July, 2013)

President and Matron Joseph and Jeanne Groberg

Calle 6ta y Avenida Rodrigo Chávez
González
Principado de las Lomas
Urdesa Norte, Guayaquil, ECUADOR
(Return November, 2014)

Beth and Barry Stratton are serving by teaching English at Universities in Xi'an CHINA

barry-stratton@msn.com
(Return Summer, 2012)