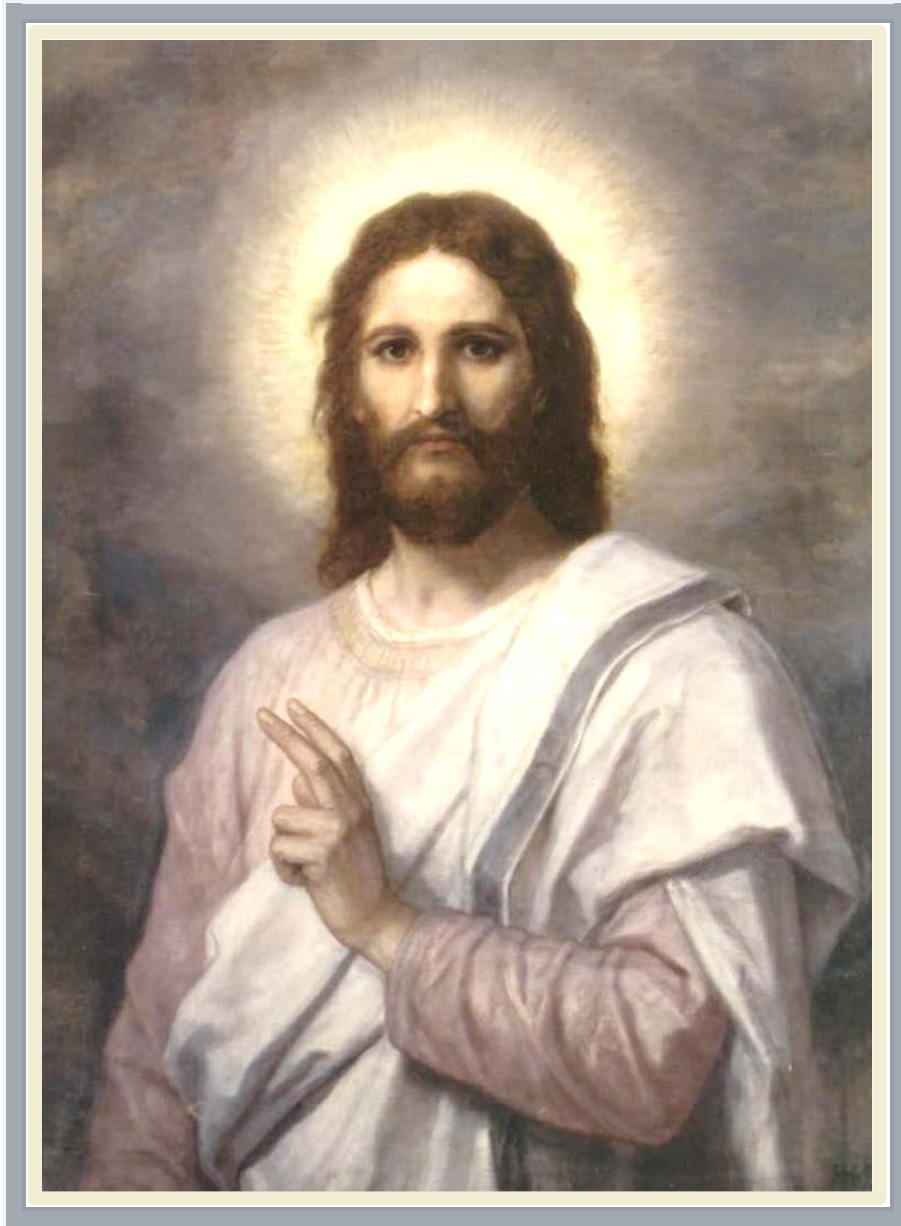


UTAH NORTH, UTAH SALT LAKE CITY,  
AND UTAH SOUTH AREAS  
**INTERIM MISSION PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR**

*April 16 - 18, 2015*



**UTAH NORTH, UTAH SALT LAKE CITY, AND UTAH SOUTH AREAS  
INTERIM MISSION PRESIDENTS’ SEMINAR AND  
AREA COUNCIL MEETING  
APRIL 16 – 18, 2015**

**JOSEPH SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING  
15 South Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84150**

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**ATTENDING**

President and Sister L. Whitney Clayton (Kathy)	Presidency of the Seventy
Elder and Sister Mervyn B. Arnold (Devonna)	Of the Seventy
Elder and Sister Don R. Clarke (Mary Anne)	Of the Seventy

**UTAH NORTH AREA**

2012 President and Sister Maurice D. Hiers (Charlene)	Utah Ogden Mission
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**UTAH SALT LAKE CITY AREA**

2013 President and Sister H. Ross Workman (Kaye)	Family and Church History Headquarters Mission
2015 President and Sister G. Scott Spendlove (Kariane)	Utah Salt Lake City Mission
2012 President and Sister Richard W. Moffat (Amy)	Utah Salt Lake City Central Mission
2013 President and Sister John C. Eberhardt (Sandra Jo)	Utah Salt Lake City East Mission
2013 President and Sister Robert E. Chambers (Robin)	Utah Salt Lake City South Mission
2014 President and Sister David E. Poulsen (Adrienne)	Utah Salt Lake City Temple Square Mission
2012 President and Sister Earl S. Swain (Kathy)	Utah Salt Lake City West Mission

**UTAH SOUTH AREA**

2015 President and Sister Dean R. Burgess (Annette)	Provo Missionary Training Center
2012 President and Sister John A. McCune (Debbra)	Utah Provo Mission
2013 President and Sister John Center (Kristin)	Utah St. George Mission

**UTAH NORTH AREA**

Elder Steven O. Laing	Area Seventy
Elder Bryan R. Larsen	Area Seventy
Elder Steven M. Petersen	Area Seventy
Elder Gary B. Porter	Area Seventy

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**ATTENDING**  
*(Continued)*

**UTAH SALT LAKE CITY AREA**

Elder Stephen B. Allen ( <i>Excused</i> )	Area Seventy
Elder Jorge E. T. Becerra	Area Seventy
Elder Michael H. Bourne	Area Seventy
Elder Gene R. Chidester	Area Seventy
Elder Ralph L. Dewsnup ( <i>Excused</i> )	Area Seventy
Elder Gary B. Doxey	Area Seventy
Elder Mark P. Durham	Area Seventy
Elder Peter F. Evans	Area Seventy
Elder Kyle S. McKay	Area Seventy
Elder John C. Pingree, Jr.	Area Seventy
Elder Evan A. Schmutz	Area Seventy
Elder Lynn L. Summerhays	Area Seventy
Elder David T. Warner	Area Seventy

**UTAH SOUTH AREA**

Elder J. Kevin Ence	Area Seventy
Elder Michael R. Jensen	Area Seventy
Elder Dane O. Leavitt	Area Seventy
Elder Dale H. Munk	Area Seventy
Elder Norman R. Nemrow	Area Seventy
Elder Steven K. Randall	Area Seventy
Elder R. Scott Runia	Area Seventy
Elder Craig B. Terry	Area Seventy
Elder Terry L. Wade	Area Seventy
Elder Kevin J. Worthen	Area Seventy

F. Wayne Elggren (Deanna)	Area Executive Secretary
Scott T. Seamons (Susan)	Area Executive Secretary
M. Scott Newbold (Jeri)	Director for Temporal Affairs
David G. Wade (Debbie)	Director of Operations for Missionary Department

**UTAH NORTH, UTAH SALT LAKE CITY, AND UTAH SOUTH AREAS  
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**AGENDA  
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015**

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm	<b><i>Jade Room</i></b> Lunch	Welcome Blessing on the Food	President L. Whitney Clayton President Robert E. Chambers
1:00 pm - 1:15 pm	<b><i>Relief Society Room</i></b> Presiding Conducting Welcome	Opening Hymn #249 Music Director Pianist Invocation	President L. Whitney Clayton President L. Whitney Clayton President L. Whitney Clayton  <i>Called to Serve</i> Sister Robin Chambers Scott T. Seamons President Earl S. Swain
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	Instruction/Discussion		President L. Whitney Clayton • <i>Begin with the End in Mind</i> <i>(Elder Russell M. Nelson)</i>
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	Instruction/Discussion		Elder Don R. Clarke • <i>Teaching</i>
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Break		
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Instruction/Discussion		Elder Mervyn B. Arnold/David G. Wade • <i>Retention</i>
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Instruction/Discussion		President L. Whitney Clayton • <i>Activation</i>
		Closing Hymn #98 Benediction – Blessing on the food	<i>I Need Thee Every Hour</i> Sister Sandra Jo Eberhardt
5:30 pm - 5:45 pm	<b><i>Joseph Smith Memorial Building Lobby</i></b> Group Picture		
5:45 pm - 7:00 pm	<b><i>Jade Room</i></b> Dinner		
7:00 pm	Personal Time		

**UTAH NORTH, UTAH SALT LAKE CITY, AND UTAH SOUTH AREAS  
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**JOSEPH SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING  
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**AGENDA  
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015**

7:00 am	-	8:30 am	Breakfast in hotel	
9:00 am	-	9:15 am	<b><i>Relief Society Room</i></b>	
			Presiding	President L. Whitney Clayton
			Conducting	Elder Mervyn B. Arnold
			Welcome	Elder Mervyn B. Arnold
			Opening Hymn #264	<i>Hark, All Ye Nations!</i>
			Music Director	Sister Robin Chambers
			Pianist	Scott T. Seamons
			Invocation	President John A. McCune
9:15 am	-	9:45 am	Reflections on yesterday's meetings	President L. Whitney Clayton
9:45 am	-	10:45 am	Instruction/Discussion	Elder Mervyn B. Arnold
				• <i>Family History/Temple</i>
10:45 am	-	11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am	-	12:00 noon	Instruction/Discussion	Elder Don R. Clarke
				• <i>Update of Disciples of the Lord In the Digital Age</i>
			Closing Hymn #131	<i>More Holiness Give Me</i>
			Benediction – Blessing on the food	President G. Scott Spendlove
12:15 pm	-	1:15 pm	<b><i>Jade Room</i></b>	
			Lunch –	
			<b><i>General Authorities</i></b>	
			<b><i>Mission Presidents and Wives</i></b>	
			<b><i>Area Seventies</i></b>	
			▪ Welcome and introduction of President and Sister Spendlove	
			▪ Welcome and introduction of new Area Seventies:	
			– Elder Steven M. Petersen	
			– Elder Mark P. Durham	
			– Elder Kyle S. McKay	
			– Elder John C. Pingree, Jr.	
			– Elder Evan A. Schmutz	
			– Elder David. T. Warner	
			– Elder Norman R. Nemrow	
			▪ Boundary Changes in Utah Mission	

**UTAH NORTH, UTAH SALT LAKE CITY, AND UTAH SOUTH AREAS  
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**AGENDA  
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015  
(Continued)**

**BREAKOUT SESSIONS**

- 1:30 pm - 5:15 pm **Gold Room**  
**Wives Breakout Session**  
(See Wives Agenda, pg. 4 – 5)
- 1:30 pm - 5:15 pm **Relief Society Room**  
**Mission Presidents' and Area Seventies Breakout Session**  
(See Mission Presidents and Area Seventies Agenda, pg. 6)

**UTAH NORTH, UTAH SALT LAKE CITY, AND UTAH SOUTH AREAS**  
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**AGENDA**  
**WIVES BREAKOUT SESSION**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015**

*“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a **LIVELY HOPE** by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.” 1 Peter 1:3*

1:30 pm - 1:45 pm	<b>Gold Room</b>	
	Conducting	Sister Kathy Clayton
	Welcome	Sister Kathy Clayton
	Opening Hymn #81	<i>Press Forward, Saints</i>
	Music Director	Sister Robin Chambers
	Pianist	
	Invocation	_____
		Sister Kristin Center
1:45 pm - 2:15 pm	Instruction/Discussion	Sister Charlene Heirs
		Sister Kathy Swain
		Sister Amy Moffat
		Sister Debra McCune
		• <i>The Things of My Soul</i>
		2 Nephi 4:15
		(Messages and testimonies from departing sisters)
2:15 pm - 3:00 pm	Instruction/Discussion	Sister Mary Anne Clarke
		• <i>“Earth’s crammed with heaven and every common bush aflame with god...” – Elizabeth Barrett Browning</i>
		<i>Seeing and rejoicing in daily miracles and evidences of the love of heaven.</i>
		(Discussion of small miracles sisters have witnessed and relevant impressions from assigned General Conference talks: Bishop Gérald Causse and Elder Neil L. Anderson)
3:00 pm - 3:15 pm	Break	



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**AGENDA**  
**WIVES BREAKOUT SESSION**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015**  
*(Continued)*

- |                   |   |  |
|-------------------|---|--|
| 3:15 pm - 4:00 pm | Instruction/Discussion                              | Sister Devonna Arnold <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Perfect Love Casteth Out Fear</i><br/>1 John 4:18<br/>(Discussion concerning the perpetual quest to strengthen relationships among missionaries, both Companions with each other, and Elders and Sister with each other, referring to General Conference talk by Sister Linda K. Burton)</li></ul>                                      |
| 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm | Instruction/Discussion                              | Sister Kathy Clayton <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>A Love of God and of All Men</i><br/>2 Nephi 31:20<br/><i>Why do we/they do what we/they do?</i><br/>(Discussion about growing toward every more godly motivations for right behaviors referring to General Conference talks by Elder Wilford Anderson, Elder Michael Ringwood, Elder Jeffrey Holland, and President Uchtdort)</li></ul> |
| 5:00 pm - 5:15 pm | Closing Hymn #198<br>Benediction — Blessing on food | <i>That Easter Morn</i><br>Sister Adrienne Poulsen   |
| 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm | Dinner  |  |

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**AGENDA**  
**MISSION PRESIDENTS' AND AREA SEVENTIES**  
**BREAKOUT SESSION**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015**

1:30 pm	-	1:45 pm	<b><i>Relief Society Room</i></b>	
			Presiding	President L. Whitney Clayton
			Conducting	Elder Mervyn B. Arnold
			Welcome	Elder Mervyn B. Arnold
			Opening Hymn #5	<i>High on the Mountain Top</i>
			Music Director	Elder Craig Terry
			Pianist	Scott T. Seamons
			Invocation	President John R. Center
1:45 pm	-	2:45 pm	Instruction/Discussion	President L. Whitney Clayton
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Bringing Souls unto Christ Through Baptismal Covenants</i></li></ul>
2:45 pm	-	3:45 pm	Instruction/Discussion	Elder Don R. Clarke/David G. Wade
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Member Missionary Work</i></li></ul>
3:45 pm	-	4:00 pm	Break	
4:00 pm	-	5:00 pm	Instruction/Discussion	Elder Mervyn B. Arnold
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>Utah Area Objectives</i></li></ul>
5:00 pm	-	5:15 pm	Closing Hymn #165	<i>Abide with Me: 'Tis Eventide</i>
			Benediction — Blessing on Food	President Dean R. Burgess
5:30 pm	-	7:30 pm	Dinner	

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AGENDA  
FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015  
(Continued)

DINNER / PROGRAM / AREA COUNCIL MEETING

MISSION PRESIDENTS AND WIVES –

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm *Presidents' Room*  
Dinner  
*Speaker* — Richard E. Turley, Jr.  
*Assistant Church Historian & Recorder*

7:30 pm Personal Time

AREA SEVENTIES AND GENERAL AUTHORITIES –

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm *Jade Room*  
Dinner

6:30 pm - 9:30 pm *Relief Society Room*  
Area Council Meeting

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**AGENDA  
SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015**

7:00 am	- 8:30 am	Breakfast in hotel	
9:00 am	- 9:15 am	<b>Relief Society Room</b> Presiding Conducting Welcome  Opening Hymn #116 Music Director Pianist Invocation	President L. Whitney Clayton Elder Don R. Clarke Elder Don R. Clarke  <i>Come, Follow Me</i> Sister Robin Chambers Scott T. Seamons President Richard W. Moffat
9:15 am	- 9:45 am	Questions and Answer Session	President L. Whitney Clayton
9:45 am	- 10:15 am	Therefore What?	President L. Whitney Clayton
10:15 am	- 10:30 am	Break	
10:30 am	- 11:15 am	Testimonies	
11:15 am	- 12:00 noon	Closing Remarks Under the Direction of	President L. Whitney Clayton
12:00 noon		Closing Hymn #135 Benediction – Blessing on the food	<i>My Redeemer Lives</i> President Maurice D. Hiers
12:00 noon	- 1:00 pm	<b>Jade Room</b> Lunch	
1:00 pm		Depart for Missions	

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**AGENDA OVERVIEW**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015**

12:00 noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch	<i>Jade Room</i>
1:00 pm - 1:15 pm	Welcome	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
1:15 pm - 2:15 pm	Instruction/Discussion	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
2:15 pm - 3:15 pm	Instruction/Discussion	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
3:15 pm - 3:30 pm	Break	
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Instruction/Discussion	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Instruction/Discussion	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
5:30 pm - 5:45 pm	Group Photo	<i>JSMB (Lobby)</i>
5:45 pm - 7:00 pm	Dinner	<i>Jade Room</i>
7:00 pm	Personal Time	

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015**

7:00 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast in hotel	
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Welcome	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
9:15 am - 9:45 am	Reflections on yesterday's meetings	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
9:45 am - 10:45 am	Instruction/Discussion	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
10:45 am - 11:00 am	Break	
11:00 am - 12:00 noon	Instruction/Discussion	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
12:15 pm - 1:15 pm	Lunch	<i>Jade Room</i>
	<b>General Authorities</b>	
	<b>Mission Presidents and Wives</b>	
	<b>Area Seventies</b>	
1:30 pm - 5:15 pm	Wives Breakout Session <i>(See Wives' Agenda)</i>	<i>Gold Room</i>
	<i>and</i>	
	Mission Presidents and Area Seventies Breakout Session <i>(See Presidents' Agenda)</i>	<i>Relief Society Room</i>

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**AGENDA OVERVIEW**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015**

**(Continued)**

**MISSION PRESIDENTS AND WIVES –**

5:30 pm - 7:30 pm	Dinner	<i>Presidents' Room</i>
7:30 pm	Personal Time	

**AREA SEVENTIES AND GENERAL AUTHORITIES –**

5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	Dinner	<i>Jade Room</i>
6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	Area Council Meeting	<i>Relief Society Room</i>

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015**

7:00 am - 8:30 am	Breakfast in hotel	
9:00 am - 9:15 am	Welcome	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
9:15 am - 10:15 am	Question and Answer Session	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
9:45 am - 10:15 am	Therefore What?	
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Break	
10:30 am - 11:15 am	Testimonies	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
11:15 am - 12:00 noon	Closing Remarks	<i>Relief Society Room</i>
12:00 noon - 1:00 pm	Lunch	<i>Jade Room</i>
1:00 pm	Depart for home	

*Begin with the End in Mind*

**Elder Russell M. Nelson**

Quorum of the Twelve Apostles

Sunday, June 22, 2014

What an inspiring experience to see each one of you! We have studied your pictures, and we have studied your backgrounds, and we know much about you. But you just look so much better in the flesh. Thank you for being here, and thanks to Elder Allen for his marvelous ability to know you and to love you. You can just feel it with his effort.

We welcome you to this seminar. My words are inadequate to express our feelings of deep admiration and gratitude for each one of you. Thank you for your faith and your devotion. Thank you for your worthiness and willingness to serve the Lord and these wonderful missionaries.

President Eyring whispered to me as those missionaries sang, “One of them is my granddaughter.” That’s a blood relationship, but you will feel the same way about your missionaries.

Two of you are taking the places of daughters of mine who will be coming home. Thanks to you for letting a daddy get his girls back.

You are special souls. You have been reserved for this point in time to serve as the Lord’s representatives. Together, you will “catch the wave” of His righteousness that is sweeping across the world.

I would like you to meet my wife, Wendy. Wendy, would you please stand for a moment? She and I add our own personal words of welcome to this seminar for new mission presidents and their wives. Thank you, Wendy. We hope and pray that each of you will have a marvelous experience here.

The title I have chosen for my message is “Begin with the End in Mind.” Missionary work should begin and end with our minds focused on the blessings of the holy temple.

Missionary work is all about gathering people out of the world, ennobling them, and enabling them eventually to dwell with God forever. This is His divine desire. Simply summarized, God, our loving Heavenly Father, wants His children to return home to Him. How logical is that? What else would you expect from a loving Father?

Missionaries have a solemn responsibility to act on God’s fondest hope—that His children will return home to Him, and if we will help Him, He will help us.

Missionaries memorize their statement of purpose. It is written on page 1 of *Preach My Gospel*. The sequential steps of that statement refer to faith, repentance, baptism, the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end. As

missionaries recite that, I wonder what they are thinking of when they say those last four words, “enduring to the end.” Does that just mean inhaling and exhaling until we can’t anymore? No.

This statement becomes even more meaningful when considered in light of God’s statement of *His* purpose. His purpose undergirds *everything* we do in this Church. It should be foremost in the mind of each and every missionary. You know it; it is recorded in Moses 1:39: “For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man.”

These two objectives—immortality and eternal life—are both enabled by the Atonement of His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ. Through the Atonement, immortality (or resurrection) comes to all who will ever live. It is a free gift—an unconditional gift.

And through the Atonement, eternal life becomes a possibility for all who qualify for it. It is a conditional gift. We qualify for it step by step, first by gaining faith in Jesus Christ, followed by repenting of our sins, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end, which means the endowment and sealing ordinances of the holy temple. Missionaries open the door to these supernal blessings of eternal life.

Missionary labors should begin with this glorious end in mind. Perhaps I can illustrate that by recounting an experience that began 34 years ago during my professional days as a cardiac surgeon. In the year 1980, I was invited to be a visiting professor of surgery in the People’s Republic of China. Upon my arrival there, I met my host, Dr. Zhang—a distinguished, tall, stately, and scholarly Chinese professor and surgeon. As I met him,

I thought to myself, “How good would he look in white baptismal clothing!” And then, when I met his wife, I thought how really good they would both look in the white clothing of the temple! But I realized that those thoughts were improbable, if not totally impossible, in a communist country.

Professor Zhang and I worked together, not only in China but also in reciprocal visits when he came to my institution in Utah. We became very dear friends. A decade later, after my call to the Twelve, I received a letter from Doctor Zhang. In it he stated that he had lived under various kinds of ideologies. The only system that made any sense to him was the way of my religion. He asked if I would be able to find someone who could teach him and his wife about The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints if they were to move to their daughter’s home in Toronto. Of course I replied that this could be done.

When I received the necessary information, I telephoned the mission president in Toronto, President Sidney A. Smith. I asked him if he could send his best missionaries to teach my friends from China. He chuckled and said, “Everyone wants me to send my best missionaries. They are all my best; they are all good.” Then, of course, he acquiesced to my request and said, “I’ll be glad to send them.”

A few weeks later, the mission president phoned me to state that my friends from China had been taught by the missionaries and were ready for baptism.

I went to my quorum president, President Howard W. Hunter, and said, “Do you think I could get an assignment somewhere near Toronto on about this day?” He quickly arranged for that so that I could be there at the baptismal service for Brother and Sister



Zhang, and one year after their baptism, I had the privilege of sealing these dear friends in the Toronto Temple. They really did look good in their white temple clothing!

We still maintain contact by telephone, email, and personal visits when possible. They are now in their 90s. They are still very grateful for my missionary and temple service to them.

So shall it be with you, dear presidents and sisters. Begin with the end in mind. Help your missionaries envision how good their contacts would look in white baptismal clothing and how very good they will look when clothed in white temple clothing.

God wants His children to return to Him. But the amazing thing is, He allows them to *choose* that course; He doesn't force them. He sends His children to earth, causing a veil of forgetfulness to come upon them. They are here to gain a body, to be tested, and to make choices. The greatest of all choices they may make is to *choose* to return to their Father. First, they learn of Him. Then they learn of His Beloved Son. They learn of His Church and of His plan of happiness that allows them to return to Him, via the holy temple, qualified to dwell with Him, His Son, and their families forever.

That glorious end we know as "eternal life." It is God's greatest gift to a human being.<sup>1</sup> Scripture teaches that "God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."<sup>2</sup>

The work of Almighty God and His great plan of happiness are opposed by the adversary and his minions. Satan wants us to be miserable like he is.<sup>3</sup> First he attacked the prophets. When that didn't work, he attacked

the scriptures. When that didn't work, he now attacks at the very heart of the Church, which is the family. You are all painfully aware of this war for the hearts and souls of our fellow human beings, even some members of our own families.

We as the Lord's missionaries teach the truth that "men are, that they might have joy."<sup>4</sup> Joy comes as each individual receives the initial ordinances of salvation. And great joy comes to families as they receive the ordinances of exaltation. The most precious things of life relate to our families.<sup>5</sup> Conversations about the family are wonderful door openers.

The little booklet *My Family: Stories That Bring Us Together* is very useful in conversations with neighbors and friends who would like to know more about their ancestors, and it is also a very useful tool in reactivating perspective elders, an army of which is out there in the world waiting for you. It is a wonderful way to attract and teach investigators. Bishops and branch presidents can also use this booklet as a resource new converts. They are all to have a calling in the Church. Why not have them fill out their own family information as their first assignment? To extend a call to converts immediately focusing on their families will be very happy for them. It can become a steppingstone toward temple work for relatives of these new members. The retention rates will be infinitely greater if they will do temple work for their ancestors. Even in the first year, they can be baptized for deceased relatives.

Joy is found in family relationships because they are central to God's eternal plan. Wise missionaries capitalize on that reality.

Missionaries invite people to come unto Jesus Christ. They talk of Christ. They rejoice in

Christ. They preach of Christ.<sup>6</sup> They teach that the Atonement of the Lord enables both of God's objectives, immortality and eternal life, to become a reality.

Eternal life is a conditional gift—conditioned upon obedience to that law upon which it is predicated.<sup>7</sup> This truth is a topic for missionaries. They can help by teaching God's plan and the doctrine of personal progression. They can teach the truth about the divine potential of every human being to literally become more like their Father in Heaven. That potential starts by developing an unshakable faith in God, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and faith in Their plan for God's children.

Their plan includes repentance. We are to call *all* people to repent. Yes, even as law-abiding, conscientious citizens, we—who are striving our best to do what is right—are still invited to repent. Repentance really means conversion—true conversion—to the Lord and His ways. Total conversion is total repentance!

Commitment keeping prepares a person for covenant keeping. The gospel of Jesus Christ includes the making and keeping of sacred covenants, the first of which is the covenant of baptism. The act of baptism itself does not wash sin away. Thanks to the Atonement, the effects of sin depart when one faithfully keeps the baptismal covenant to follow the Lord Jesus Christ.

Next, comes the gift of the Holy Ghost. What a blessing that is! Like all gifts, it needs to be unwrapped and used. Then we come to those final four words in our purpose statement: “[endure] to the end.” That end includes the endowment and sealing ordinances of the temple.

“Whenever the Lord has had a people on the earth who will obey His word, they have been commanded to build temples.”<sup>8</sup> Temple patterns are as old as human life on earth. Actually, the plan for temples was established even *before* the foundation of the world, when provision was made for the redemption of those who might die without a knowledge of the gospel.<sup>9</sup>

Adam and Eve were instructed by the Lord to build an altar and offer sacrifices.<sup>10</sup> The tabernacle of Moses was a portable precursor.<sup>11</sup> Then came that temple built in the days of Solomon. It was destroyed in 600 B.C. and restored by Zerubbabel about a hundred years later. It was burned in 37 B.C. and rebuilt by King Herod.

This was the temple that Jesus knew and loved. But He did not love the way the people defiled the temple. At the first cleansing, Jesus reverently referred to the temple as “my Father's house.”<sup>12</sup> At the time of the second cleansing of the temple, He called it “my house.”<sup>13</sup> Later, when He foresaw the temple being further desecrated, Jesus called it “your house . . . left unto you desolate.”<sup>14</sup> That prophecy was fulfilled when the temple was destroyed by the Romans in A.D. 70.

Several years ago, I was in Jerusalem being guided through excavations tunneled to the left of the present so-called “Wailing Wall.” There, in that tunnel, Jewish rabbis were praying for the day when the third temple would be built in Jerusalem. I was told that one of them had asked Israel's famous archeologist, Yigael Yadin, what they would do with a new temple if it were built in Jerusalem. He replied, “I don't know. Ask the Mormons. They'll know!”

Indeed we do know! Temples are an essential component of the Restoration of the gospel in its fulness.

After decades of spiritual darkness came the beginning of the Restoration. In 1820, God the Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared to the Prophet Joseph Smith. Later, They directed him to build the first temple of this new and final dispensation of the fulness of times. It was built in Kirtland, Ohio. It was a preparatory temple, where important keys of the priesthood were conferred upon human beings. The next temple, the Nauvoo Temple, had a baptismal font provided so that Saints could be baptized vicariously for their deceased ancestors.<sup>15</sup>

You know that President Brigham Young, shortly after he arrived in the valley of the Great Salt Lake, touched his cane to the desert soil and proclaimed, “Here we will build a temple to our God.”<sup>16</sup>

Year by year and step by step, revelation has come to successive prophets. President Wilford Woodruff taught this concept when addressing general conference in April 1894, he said: “[Joseph Smith and Brigham Young] did not receive all the revelations that belong to [temple] work; neither did President Taylor, nor has Wilford Woodruff. There will be no end to this work until it is perfected.”<sup>17</sup>

At the dedication of the St. George Temple on January 1, 1877, the very year that President Young passed away, he said: “What do you suppose the fathers would say if they could speak from the dead? Would they not say, ‘We have lain here thousands of years, here in this prison house, waiting for this dispensation to come?’ . . . What would they whisper in our ears? Why, if they had the power the very thunders of heaven would be

in our ears, if we could but realize the importance of the work we are engaged in. All the angels in heaven are looking at this little handful of people, and stimulating them to the salvation of the human family. . . . When I think upon this subject, I want the tongues of seven thunders to wake up the people.”<sup>18</sup>

President Howard W. Hunter added this statement: “I invite the Latter-day Saints to look to the temple of the Lord as the great symbol of [their] membership. It is the deepest desire of my heart to have every member of the Church worthy to enter the temple. It would please the Lord if every adult member would be worthy of—and carry—a current temple recommend.”<sup>19</sup>

Now we have 143 functioning temples, and more are coming.<sup>20</sup>

Why do we have temples? Why do we have missionaries? Why should anyone join this Church? To make life more pleasant, satisfying, or uplifting? Yes, but other organizations can also do some of that. In fact, we join this Church to make and keep sacred covenants that will qualify us for eternal life! We join this Church so that our families can be together forever! Only the Lord’s Church can offer these enduring blessings!

Without sealing ordinances performed for families in the temple, the whole earth would be utterly wasted!<sup>21</sup> The purposes of the Creation, the Fall, and the Atonement would all be frustrated.

I repeat: God simply wants His children to return to Him. For this to happen, each of us needs to make and keep sacred covenants, receive the ordinances of salvation and exaltation, and be linked to both our ancestors

and our posterity. Only then are we qualified to dwell with Deity and our families forever.

These hopes we harbor for every new member of the Church. Practically speaking, however, we realize that too many of our new members fall away from the Church and never enjoy these blessings.

President Gordon B. Hinckley once said: “There is absolutely no point in doing missionary work unless we hold on to the fruits of that effort. The two must be inseparable. These converts are precious. Every convert is a son or daughter of God. Every convert is a great and serious responsibility. It is an absolute imperative that we look after those who have become a part of us. To paraphrase the Savior, what shall it profit a missionary if he baptize the whole world unless those baptized remain in the Church? (see Mark 8:36).”<sup>22</sup>

Indeed, what shall it profit any of us?

As you dear presidents and sisters embark on your new assignments, remember the important qualities of leadership, stewardship, and the power of partnership. Let me explain by an analogy.

When a heart surgeon performs an operation, he does not act alone. He works with an assistant, an anesthesiologist, nurses, and others. Each member of the team plays a vital role in safeguarding the life of the patient.

A successful operation is immediately followed by a period of intensive care in the hospital. Later, when the patient’s condition is stable, he or she is referred to a step-down unit, where he or she receives continuous but less intense hospital care, and then ultimately the patient is released to the tender and loving

care of family at home. A successful outcome depends upon good communication, cooperation, and commitment by each member of the team at all levels. If a complication should ensue, immediate steps are taken to rescue the patient, and nobody quibbles about whose job it is to save the patient’s life.

In missionary work, a successful outcome with either a new or returning member reflects complete cooperation among the bishop, ward council, ward missionary leader, and full-time missionaries. They work as partners. They sense their combined responsibility to care for the spiritual life of each precious son or daughter of God.

Regardless of their age, new members are like children in the Church. We cannot fail to provide them with spiritual nurturing and strength whenever needed. Let us remember the lesson so often taught by President Gordon B. Hinckley: Every convert needs a friend, a responsibility, and to be nurtured by the word of God. That advice is as good now as it was when it came from his own lips.

Now, in order to accomplish this team effort more effectively, and as directed by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, we announce four adjustments to the teaching process, designed to offer more help for our new members. Remember, we want them to remain so that they can attain all the blessings the Lord has in store for His faithful children.

The following four adjustments are to be implemented immediately:

1. Missionaries will teach “Lesson 5: Laws and Ordinances” in chapter 3 of *Preach My Gospel* both *before* and *after*

baptism. Formerly, the lesson was taught only after baptism.

2. Mission presidents will actively teach and reteach the Lord's standard for baptism, as recorded in Doctrine and Covenants section 20, verse 37, and repeated in *Preach My Gospel*, chapter 12. Two phrases are particularly important in preparing the investigator for the covenant of baptism: "having a determination to serve him to the end, and truly manifest by their works that they have received of the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of their sins."

These first two adjustments will strengthen the investigator before baptism and ensure that he or she is spiritually prepared to live according to the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ, enduring to the end, which includes receiving the endowment and sealing ordinances of the temple.

3. When possible, missionaries will work closely with each new member for at least three to four months after baptism and continue to keep close to them for at least a year, and hopefully for many years and even generations.

This is not a major adjustment; it is a practical step. Think of it just as a doctor looks at a medical record to assess a patient's progress in follow-up visits. Good missionaries are like good doctors. With the passage of time, they want their patients (new members) to enjoy excellent results. Missionaries work with the ward mission leader and the ward council using the New and Returning Member Progress Form to monitor the spiritual progress of each new member.

Within one month of a new member's baptism, missionaries will work with ward leaders to ensure that:

- The bishop has interviewed the member and reviewed the principle of tithing and other worthiness matters to assist in preparation for temple worship.
- Eligible males have been interviewed for and have received the Aaronic Priesthood.
- The member is enrolled in the Gospel Principles course.
- Ward and full-time missionaries are reteaching missionary lessons.

Within six months after a new member's baptism, missionaries help ensure that the member:

- Has been interviewed for and received a responsibility or calling in the Church, such as entering information in their own *My Family* booklet and filling out their own family group sheet.
- Is regularly attending sacrament meeting.
- Is preparing to perform vicarious baptismal ordinances for ancestors.

4. Missionaries will take the lead in reteaching all five of the lessons in *Preach My Gospel* after baptism.

Missionaries will look to their ward mission leader as their personal partner so that a friend in the ward may be identified to help teach the lessons. The missionaries should be the active force in scheduling and teaching the lessons, helping each new member to make and keep sacred covenants.

This fourth adjustment will require a bit of wisdom and tact. At the same time missionaries are teaching the convert, they may also be teaching ward members how to teach the lessons. Missionaries will need to be as patient and compassionate with a ward member as they would be with a new missionary companion. Together, members and missionaries work as partners to ensure the spiritual health of new members.

The magic of a true partnership is this: More can be accomplished by partners than could be done by each acting alone. With true partners, one plus one is more than two. Dr. Will Mayo and Dr. Charles Mayo formed the Mayo Clinic. A wife and a husband can form a family. As partners, missionaries and members can grow a ward and build up the Church.<sup>23</sup>

As equal partners, missionaries and ward members understand their shared stewardship for new members. They act in love as guided by the Spirit. They love new members and help them progress toward their own sacred ordinances and covenants of the holy temple.

Some of you may wonder, “How will we know if we have been successful as a mission president and companion?” The answer: Love and care for your missionaries. That love will result in conversions!

Every missionary can have at least one convert on a mission: himself or herself! Not just a baptism, not just an attender, not just a name to be remembered—but a rock-solid, true-blue, through-and-through disciple of the Lord who will be an exemplary member and spouse long after the mission is over. We want your missionaries to develop faith so steadfast that their children and their grandchildren will qualify for the blessings of the temple.

How will we measure your success as mission presidents?

Yes, we want both converted missionaries and plenty of baptisms. But most of all, we want the grandchildren of your missionaries and the grandchildren of those whom your missionaries baptize to be endowed and sealed in the temple. We want multi-generational families of faith. God wants His children to return to Him, converted, endowed, and sealed as families!

God bless you beloved presidents and companions. We will be praying for you and your missionaries every day. We honor you, we love you, and we bless you, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, amen.

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<sup>1</sup> See Doctrine and Covenants 14:7.

<sup>2</sup> John 3:16.

<sup>3</sup> See 2 Nephi 2:27.

<sup>4</sup> 2 Nephi 2:25.

<sup>5</sup> See 1 Nephi 8:12.

<sup>6</sup> See 2 Nephi 25:26.

<sup>7</sup> See Doctrine and Covenants 130:21.

<sup>8</sup> Bible Dictionary, “Temple.”

<sup>9</sup> See Doctrine and Covenants 124:33, 41; 128:5.

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- <sup>10</sup> See Moses 5:5. The Old Testament has many references to temple activity and clothing (for example, see these chapters: Exodus 28, 29; Leviticus 8).
- <sup>11</sup> See Exodus 38:21.
- <sup>12</sup> See John 2:13–16.
- <sup>13</sup> See Matthew 21:13; Mark 11:17.
- <sup>14</sup> Matthew 23:38; Luke 13:35.
- <sup>15</sup> There, some 6,000 ordinances were performed before the temple had to be abandoned. Rebuilt and rededicated in the year 2002, it now stands in full splendor and majesty.
- <sup>16</sup> See Susa Young Gates and Leah D. Widtsoe, *The Life Story of Brigham Young* (1930), 104–5.
- <sup>17</sup> *The Discourses of Wilford Woodruff*, sel. G. Homer Durham (1946), 154.
- <sup>18</sup> *Discourses of Brigham Young*, sel. John A. Widtsoe (1954), 403, 404.
- <sup>19</sup> “Exceeding Great and Precious Promises,” *Ensign*, Nov. 1994, 8.
- <sup>20</sup> All 143 temples are equal in authority and efficacy. The ordinances are the same and the covenants equally binding.
- <sup>21</sup> See Doctrine and Covenants 2:3; 138:48; Joseph Smith—History 1:39.
- <sup>22</sup> “Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep,” *Ensign*, May 1999, 108.
- <sup>23</sup> See Doctrine and Covenants 31:7; 64:33.

## *To Labor for the Salvation of the Souls of Men*

**Elder David F. Evans**

Sunday, June 22, 2014

Thank you, Elder Bednar, for that generous introduction. I am grateful for the blessing of working closely with Elder Bednar, who serves with Elder Nelson on the Missionary Executive Council. We look forward to hearing from him on Wednesday morning and throughout the seminar.

May I also express gratitude to Elder Russell M. Nelson, who is the Chairman of the Missionary Executive Council of the Church, and from whom we have just heard this remarkable message on the need to “Begin with the End in Mind.” We are all grateful to each of you for accepting the call that has been extended to you to work with members and missionaries to “labor for the salvation of the souls of men.”<sup>1</sup> As each of you goes into the field, I pray that you will not only “begin,” but then labor throughout your entire mission, “with the end in mind.”<sup>2</sup>

May I also take this opportunity to express my gratitude to Bishop Gérald Caussé, who also serves on the Missionary Executive Council. We have a remarkable partnership with the Presiding Bishopric and with the Presidency of the Seventy, all of whom are on the stand, in moving forward missionary work. How grateful we are.

Likewise, I express my love and gratitude to the other members of the Seventy whose

primary General Authority assignments are in the Missionary Department, and from whom you will hear often during this seminar: Elder Don R. Clarke, Elder Marcos A. Aidukaitis, Elder Gregory A. Schwitzer, Elder James B. Martino, and Elder Per G. Malm. These wonderful men are great General Authorities and will provide much of the teaching of this seminar. We are mindful of the special assignment that Elder W. Craig Zwick and his wife, Jan, have as he presides over the Puerto Rico San Juan Mission of the Church for a few more days. We look forward to him being back with us soon and are grateful for his service.

Finally, I am grateful to Brother Stephen B. Allen, managing director of the Missionary Department, and his entire staff who have worked tirelessly to prepare this seminar, even while managing the never-ending responsibility of supporting 405<sup>3</sup> missions, more than 85,000 missionaries, and missionary-related activities and facilities around the world.

As Elder Nelson so beautifully taught, “Missionary work should begin and end with our minds focused on the blessings of the holy temple.”<sup>4</sup> This may be different from what you remember from your own mission. It is certainly different from what I remember as a young missionary. At that time,



missionaries focused on finding, teaching, and baptizing, and that was it.

If you learn nothing else in this seminar, please learn and come to understand that missionary work today includes the entire missionary purpose, and is much broader and more wonderful than what you may recall as a young missionary. In the Church today, missionaries, working with members, labor for the salvation of the souls of men both before and after baptism. Today, we work with members in member missionary work. We work to retain new members and reactivate less-active members. We work to connect temple and family history work to our efforts in finding, retaining, reactivating, and enduring. And we labor diligently to increase our ability to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ in a manner that it can be understood in the hearts of those we teach. Throughout this seminar, you will feel many things about missionary work in the Church today. We pray that you will put aside what you thought you knew and be open to the teachings of the prophets and apostles and other General Authorities today.

The missionary purpose is to “invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.”<sup>5</sup>

As you begin more fully to understand this missionary purpose statement found on page 1 of *Preach My Gospel*, you will come to understand that in the Church today, we, as missionaries, work with and help all of our Father’s children. All of our Father’s children need to be invited to come unto Christ. All of them need faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Atonement. We help them and teach

them. All need repentance. We help them repent, and we seek the blessings of the Atonement and sanctification in our own lives.

Baptism is the gate by which one enters the Church, but it is not the end.<sup>6</sup> We seek the blessings of baptism for every son and daughter of God who has faith in His Son and who repents, and who meets the standards for baptism found in the Doctrine and Covenants, section 20, verse 37, and in the teachings of the First Presidency and the Twelve.

Section 20, verse 37 states: “*And again, by way of commandment to the church concerning the manner of baptism—All those who humble themselves before God, and desire to be baptized, and come forth with broken hearts and contrite spirits, and witness before the church that they have truly repented of all their sins, and are willing to take upon them the name of Jesus Christ, having a determination to serve him to the end, and truly manifest by their works that they have received of the Spirit of Christ unto the remission of their sins, shall be received by baptism into his church.*” Think of these qualifying terms: humble, desire, broken hearts, contrite spirits, truly repented, willing, determination to serve Him to the end, manifest by their works.

You will find the standards for baptism clearly set forth in Chapter 12 of *Preach My Gospel*. You should study and understand this chapter before you arrive in your field of labor, and you should regularly teach the standards for baptism to your missionaries. Please understand that we do not have authority to baptize those who do not meet the qualifications for baptism found in the scriptures and *Preach My Gospel*. Likewise, we are under commandment to perform this

sacred, saving ordinance for those who do meet the Lord's standard for baptism. We seek to increase the number of worthy, qualified convert baptisms.

New and returning members need help to retain and deepen their faith and to keep living His gospel so that they receive the gift of the Holy Ghost in their lives and the remission of their sins.<sup>7</sup> Some who once had the gospel need to be rescued, and almost always their families and friends need to be taught the gospel and be baptized. We teach and help all of them, and as Elder Nelson taught, we stay with them long after their baptism or reactivation to help sustain them.

Finally, all need help to endure to the end, including receiving their own endowments and being sealed as families. We help them because an important part of our very purpose is to invite "others to come unto Christ" by helping them endure to the end.

Our entire labor is to help our Father's children return safely to Him as sealed eternal families. As the Lord's missionaries, we must feel the same urgency to help retain new converts and reactivate those who have fallen away as we do to bring into the waters of baptism those who have never had the gospel. We must remember that our work is not done until all of them—and all of us—are safely "gathered into" the temples as families "that they are not wasted."<sup>8</sup>

Presidents and sisters, many missions are excellent at focusing on one part of our purpose, such as baptism or retention or reactivation. All of us who are called to assist the Twelve in building up the Lord's Church must do better. We must increase the number of qualified convert baptisms while also retaining and rescuing those who have already

received this ordinance. You and your missionaries must be focused on all of it, not just on a part of our purpose or a part of the work of salvation.

As you go through this seminar and leave for the field, I hope that you are forever grateful for the blessing of being led by prophets and apostles.

I am so grateful for the lifelong example of missionary service by President Thomas S. Monson. I am grateful to have heard, again today, his witness of this great work and of your call.

Presidents and sisters, there has never been a better time to be engaged in this work as members and missionaries throughout the world labor together for the salvation of the souls of men. I want you to take a minute and think back on where the Lord has taken this work over the past couple of years. Then let me give you a glimpse at where He is taking the work today and where it will go during your service.

On October 6, 2012, President Thomas S. Monson made the historic announcement that missionary ages would be lowered to 18 for qualified young men and to 19 for worthy young women who have a desire to serve. During that message, he affirmed that "missionary work is a priesthood duty" while noting that "many young women also serve, but they are not under the same mandate to serve as are the young men." He then said, "We assure the young sisters of the Church, however, that they make a valuable contribution as missionaries, and we welcome their service."<sup>9</sup>

Shortly after that morning session of general conference, Elder Nelson and Elder Holland

spoke at a press conference to discuss the changes that had been announced. During his remarks, Elder Holland said something that has become part of the language and understanding of the Church. Speaking directly to those who would go into the field in response to President Monson’s invitation, Elder Holland asked, “What does this mean for you?” He answered, “First of all, it means that God is hastening His work, and He needs more and more willing and worthy missionaries to spread the light and the truth and the hope and the salvation of the gospel of Jesus Christ to an often dark and fearful world.”<sup>10</sup> The Lord is hastening His work, and it has become the walk and talk of the Church ever since.

The rising generation of the Church responded unlike anything I have ever experienced. Overwhelmingly, this generation said simply, “Yes, I will serve.” As you know, missionaries must formally accept their call to serve. Perhaps I can show you my favorite acceptance letter.

This letter expresses the feelings of thousands of missionaries who have gone into the field since that day, and who are currently serving.

On that day in October 2012, there were 58,500 missionaries. As of June 20, there are 85,843 missionaries, and the numbers continue to grow. Beginning this fall, those numbers will begin to decline somewhat, but the drop will not be anything like returning to prior numbers. Because of President Monson’s announcement, the Church has fundamentally changed, and as far as we can see, there will always be more missionaries than there were before the age change. Last year at this time, 58 new missions were created. These missions were not created to handle the surge of missionaries. Rather, they were created to handle the number of missionaries who would be serving after the initial wave of missionaries comes home.

Because the missions of the Church were growing rapidly after President Monson’s announcement, a large number of missionaries who are currently serving have had many and early leadership opportunities. Please listen carefully and try to remember what I am about to teach you as you face transfers in the coming months. Missionaries who have had leadership opportunities do not need to continue in leadership roles until the ends of their missions. You will love those who are in leadership roles in your missions when you arrive, but we ask that you resist the temptation to keep them longer than you should. We must give missionaries who came after them, and younger missionaries who have more recently arrived, leadership opportunities and the blessings of trust and growth that come with these assignments.

As you know, and as we have been taught throughout our lives: “In the service of the

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Missionary Call Acceptance


Please write your acceptance below and have it countersigned by your bishop. Mail the completed form to the address at right.

The First Presidency  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints  
Missionary Department, 2nd Floor, West Wing,  
50 E. North Temple St.,  
Salt Lake City UT 84149-8400, USA

Name: Elisabeth Ruth Baird  
Address: 4372 Crosby Ave, Garden Grove, CA 92644  
Date: March 27, 2013

Dear Brethren:

**YES!!!**



Thank you,  
Elisabeth Baird

Lord, it is not where you serve but how. In The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, one takes the place to which one is duly called, which place one neither seeks nor declines.”<sup>11</sup> The Lord’s plan contemplates that leadership opportunities will be rotated. Younger missionaries need to be given the blessing of growth and responsibility—and the assurance of your trust. If you don’t do this, the older missionary leaders will leave as rapidly as they came, leaving the mission weaker and with many leaders who may not be as prepared as they could have been had you acted sooner.

Teach the principle that with each call to leadership, there is always a release, and it often comes before the end of missionary service. Trust younger missionaries to rise up to, and even above, the level of those who came before, and watch the Lord qualify those whom He calls through your faith and work.<sup>12</sup>

With the increasing number of missionaries, both elders and sisters, the First Presidency and the Twelve took a number of steps as the Lord hastened His work. It became clear that members and missionaries must work together in His work. *Handbook 2*, chapter 5, “The Work of Salvation,” starts with this remarkable statement: “Members [including missionaries] of the Church of Jesus Christ are sent forth ‘to labor in his vineyard for the salvation of the souls of men’ (D&C 138:56). This work of salvation includes member missionary work, convert retention, activation of less-active members, temple and family history work, and teaching the gospel.”<sup>13</sup> Throughout this seminar, you will hear from prophets and apostles and other General Authorities as they teach us how the Lord is hastening His work in each of these areas, and how missionaries and members labor together

in the work of salvation to build up His Church.

As the number of elders and sisters increased, the First Presidency and the Twelve were inspired to make adjustments in the care and supervision of sister missionaries and in the organization of mission leadership. These changes are now in place.

The Lord’s Church is governed through councils at every level. Full expression from all participants is invited in council settings, unifying the efforts of both male and female council members. Keeping these principles in mind, and recognizing the valuable contribution that sister missionaries make, the First Presidency and the Twelve authorized the creation of a new leadership calling in the missions of the Church. This calling is the sister training leader.

Sister training leaders are called by you to help train and care for other sister missionaries. They serve as a vital part of mission leadership, and they are members of and participate in the mission leadership council. They report directly to the mission president on sisters’ issues. They also exchange with each sister missionary in each transfer period.

Sisters, you are also included as a member of the mission leadership council. Your example and participation is crucial to this generation of rising young women and young men in the Church.

Presidents, as you hold these monthly council meetings, please ensure that your wife, assistants to the president, zone leaders, and sister training leaders all participate, and that the contribution of each is valued and recognized.

As another example of how the Lord is hastening His work, a year ago at this very seminar, during the Work of Salvation broadcast, Elder L. Tom Perry spoke of “Missionary Work in the Digital Age” and announced that missionaries would increasingly use technology and digital devices in their learning and work—in some parts of the world, you have already seen missionaries using, learning, and teaching with a device such as this mini iPad. In that message, he reminded us that the message we share with the world today—“that of the Atonement of Christ, the Book of Mormon, and living prophets—is the same message [he] shared when [he] was a young missionary in the Northern States Mission. However, some of the ways in which [missionaries today] will share that message are vastly different from the way [he] shared it.”

Elder Perry further explained that we would follow a phased approach for missionaries to use the Internet and digital devices in their proselyting efforts to “contact investigators and members, work with local priesthood leaders and mission leaders, receive and contact referrals, follow up on commitments, confirm appointments, and teach principles from *Preach My Gospel* using mormon.org, Facebook, blogs, email, and text messages.”<sup>14</sup>

Since that time, we have had more than 6,500 missionaries in 30 missions in the United States and Japan using specially configured iPad Minis for both learning and teaching the gospel. These devices provide access to area book and missionary planner information, maps, study materials, and videos for teaching and training. In considering where to distribute devices now and in the future, we have been and will continue to be very aware of missionary safety issues.

During our test, we watched closely and tried to observe carefully. Let me report what we have learned during this past year:

- Missionaries effectively use mobile devices to set goals, track investigator progress, and report to mission presidents and local leaders.
- Missionaries effectively use mobile devices to study, prepare for lessons, and teach investigators, converts, and returning members.
- Missionaries appreciate being able to study and communicate using these devices, which many used prior to their missions, and they feel a greater desire to learn when they are able to study using tools with which they are already comfortable.
- Almost all missionaries use these devices worthily and for missionary purposes.
- Appropriate filtering is important in helping missionaries focus on the worthy use of technology and digital devices.

We all have concerns regarding the potential for missionary misuse of mobile devices. As we conducted this test, one of the important things we learned was that we must help this generation of young people learn to use technology for righteous purposes now and throughout their lives.

We believe, and have observed, that young missionaries can learn appropriate use of the Internet and mobile devices in the environment of a full-time mission where correct principles are taught and applied. We also believe that the mission field is the ideal time for learning to use these tools appropriately and for developing lifelong,

righteous digital habits, and even overcoming past unworthy behavior.

Presidents and sisters, I hope you can see that the Lord is doing much more than just bringing our learning and teaching methods into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. As He has called more and younger missionaries into His service, He is providing a way for them to learn how to use technology in righteous ways that will bless their lives forever. We must not be fearful of the Internet or technology. Rather, we must, together, learn how to use these remarkable tools for the purposes for which the Lord provided them.

This transition from proselyting techniques that began in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to those methods that will be more effective in the 21<sup>st</sup> century will not be easy for everyone, and will, occasionally, be accompanied by disappointment in choices that are made by some. There will be a need for patient, loving, mature, faithful leaders, such as yourselves, to both understand what the Lord is doing and have the willingness and wisdom to help young missionaries become the faithful disciples who are so needed by the Lord and the world.

After they return home, your missionaries will be surrounded by technology as it becomes ever more integrated into their lives. The only effective filter is the individual heart and desire of a son or daughter of God. That is why we ask you to help them learn now, while they are in a spiritual environment and under your care, how to choose to act righteously for the Lord and not be acted upon by unworthy influences. If you do so, it will bless their lives and their future families, and they will be grateful to you forever.

After reviewing our experience with the use of mobile devices, the First Presidency and Quorum of the Twelve recently approved mobile device use in missions throughout the United States, Canada, Western Europe, and Japan to begin later this year. By early 2015, we anticipate that more than 32,000 missionaries in 162 missions will be using these devices to learn and teach the gospel.

The current cost of a mobile device, such as this [iPad Mini], is about \$400, similar to the cost of a bicycle, which many missionaries already pay for and use. Missionaries who come from self-supporting countries and who serve in missions where the use of digital devices is authorized will be asked to purchase a properly configured iPad Mini. This device will be used for learning and teaching at the MTC and throughout their missions, and will be their personal property after they complete their service. The Church will provide appropriate assistance to missionaries from non-self-supporting countries who serve where mobile devices are authorized and who need financial support to purchase a mobile device. Other devices and platforms may become available in the future, but for now, every missionary who serves in a mission where digital devices are authorized will need to purchase a properly configured iPad Mini.

During this same period of time, we have tested online proselyting with thousands of missionaries in 35 missions in the United States, Japan, Canada, and England. Online proselyting is the use of the Internet to find, teach, and help investigators, new members, less-active members, and others. Missionaries in these missions used either a mobile device or existing computers in Church buildings, public libraries, or other approved locations

for this important work. In these test missions we learned that:

- Online proselyting is an effective tool for finding and teaching, especially when focused in the missionary's proselyting area.
- We must constantly reinforce to missionaries that people in distant locations are best served by missionaries who are called there—and that missionaries should focus their online efforts on building up the Church within their own assigned proselyting areas.
- Online proselyting helps missionaries teach and maintain daily contact with their investigators and new and returning members.
- Online proselyting helps missionaries maintain long-term contact with investigators, converts, and returning members, both during and after their missions.

Based on the experience we have had in these test missions, the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve have authorized the same areas of United States, Canada, Japan, and Western Europe to implement online proselyting under the direction of the Presidency of the Seventy in North America and Area Presidencies in other parts of the world, and under guidelines that have been approved by the Missionary Department. Instructions for implementing online proselyting—as well as mobile devices—will be made available through your Area Presidency in the international areas and through the Presidency of the Seventy in North America.

As we move forward into the digital age, we must remember that our message of the

Savior, the Restoration, the Book of Mormon, and living prophets remains the same. We will have some new tools to be used to further His work, but we must always remember that traditional proselyting methods should not be set aside, but should continue to be a key part of missionary work.

Presidents and sisters, during the time of your missions, you will see the use of technology and digital devices expanded. You will see the Provo MTC be expanded to accommodate the many who desire to serve. You will see change in how we train missionaries, and how and where missionaries learn. You will see those who are called on missions begin their learning and training online before they ever get to a missionary training center. You will see missionaries using mobile devices to learn a language and the gospel throughout their missions. These missionaries will not only increase their knowledge of the gospel and the language in which they teach the gospel, but they will also increase their ability to teach the message of the restored gospel to the world. You will see missionaries who communicate better with local and mission leaders, and who have the tools needed to maintain daily contact with those they are teaching and long-term contact with those they have come to love, even after their missions. You will see missionaries being able to find and teach those who we could not previously find.

Let me close by returning to our purpose and sharing something about your missionaries. You have already heard the missionary purpose several times today, and you will teach it to your missionaries, in one way or another, almost every day for the next three years. Each part of our purpose is important, and no part should be given diminished emphasis. In our purpose statement, you will see the continuing importance of doing those

things that precede baptism, such as helping others have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and His Atonement, and helping others learn of the commandments and repent of their sins. All of this must be done before baptism, and when it is done well, the baptism of a truly converted son or daughter of God is one of the most joyous events in mortality.

After baptism, as Elder Nelson has so beautifully taught, we must stay with the new or returning members so that we can help them keep not only the commitments that preceded baptism, but also the covenants and commandments that come with and after baptism. After confirmation, this is how they will receive the gift of the Holy Ghost and a remission of their sins.

It is through faith in the Lord and His Atonement, repentance, and the keeping of covenants that they experience the mighty change of heart and a determination to serve God throughout all their lives and become the children of Christ. They then become free and determined and able to be obedient and faithful throughout their lives.<sup>15</sup>

As they come to understand the gospel and the blessings of the temple, they will desire to be in the temple for their own blessings, including the blessing of being sealed as families, and they will come to desire these same blessings for their kindred dead who have waited so long for someone in their posterity to accept the gospel and begin the work that will allow for their salvation and exaltation. And in all of this, we, the Lord's missionaries, will be there to help. This is the vision of missionary work today.

As we work to go from where we have been in missionary service to where the Lord is taking us, we will not only have to work hard,

but we must also have a greater capacity to see these young men and young women who have been called by Him the way He sees them.

Some years ago, while I served as a mission president, I was interviewing missionaries as a winter storm was blowing in off the Sea of Japan. The missionaries came and went throughout the day while the storm changed from icy rain to snow and back again. Some missionaries arrived by train from nearby cities and walked to the church through the storm. Others rode their bicycles. Almost without exception, they were cheerful and happy. They were the Lord's missionaries. They had His Spirit and felt joy in His service regardless of their circumstances.

I will never forget watching them go back out into the storm at the conclusion of their interviews to preach the gospel and do what the Lord had called them to do. I could see their commitment and dedication. I could feel the love they had for the people and for the Lord. As I watched them leave, I felt an overwhelming love for them and for what they were doing.

Later that night, I attended a priesthood meeting in the same city. The storm had continued and was now mostly snow. During the opening song, the branch president from the smallest and farthest branch and his two missionary counselors, Elder Warner and Elder Karpowitz, came into the chapel. As they sat down and got ready to participate in the meeting, these two wonderful missionaries took off their winter hats and gloves. They took off their outer coats. Then they each took off a second winter coat and sat down. Like the missionaries earlier in the day, they felt the Spirit of the Lord in their lives despite the weather. Through service in the Lord's



cause, they felt a certain love and warmth and joy that are difficult to understand.

As I watched these great young missionaries that evening, I had a remarkable experience. In my mind's eye—maybe even in vision—I saw missionaries throughout the mission going out into that winter night. Some were knocking doors and facing rejection as they sought to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ. Some were in homes or apartments teaching individuals and families. In spite of the conditions they faced, they were doing what they could to teach the gospel of Jesus Christ to those who would listen, and they were happy. Into my heart came a feeling that I cannot fully explain.

That night, by a wonderful gift of the Spirit, I felt His pure love—His charity—that He has for faithful missionaries everywhere, and it changed me forever. For the first time, I understood how precious each missionary is to Him. I caught a glimpse of what Elder Ballard would describe as “the greatest generation of missionaries” the world has ever known.<sup>16</sup> I began to understand why it was necessary to raise the bar so that missionaries everywhere would be entitled to the protection, direction, and happiness that accompany the Spirit of the Lord. I also began to understand why we must do everything we can to help these valiant young servants of the Lord become worthy of every blessing He has for them.

Coming to understand how the Lord felt about His young servants changed everything about me as a mission president. I stopped thinking about how to manage them. I began to teach them differently. I sought to uplift and inspire instead of find fault. I began to work differently and more often with individual missionaries. I came to understand

that the key to helping them become who the Lord would have them become was to help increase their desire to become a disciple of the Lord and do His work. I began to trust them more and teach them more after the patterns the Lord had set. I felt an urging to discipline more like our Heavenly Father disciplines, with love, patience, trust, and second, third, and fourth opportunities, after having taught them and taught them again, and after repentance. I began to see how the Lord “cannot look upon sin with the least allowance,”<sup>17</sup> but how He also treats His children in such a way that “as oft as they [repent], and [seek] forgiveness with real intent, they [are] forgiven.”<sup>18</sup> I came to know that I had to forgive them also. My forgiveness had to include the blessings of trust and confidence, coupled with new opportunities for growth and leadership. I came to know that I shouldn't make additional rules, but rather that I should trust them and the Lord enough that I would teach and teach, and teach again correct principles and the approved missionary rules found in the *Missionary Handbook*, and then trust them to govern themselves and follow the Spirit.

And it was wonderful. There were some disappointments, but there was such growth, faith, and testimony in so many. Young elders blossomed into valiant young servants of God, who are now great husbands and fathers and whose children are now growing up in the gospel. The sister missionaries had similar growth and opportunities, and they are now wonderful wives and mothers and faithful disciples. Their children are growing up in the gospel, and in another few years, many of them will have children who will be serving their own missions. These great young missionaries have married in the house of the Lord, have served in responsible positions in the Church, and almost all are moving

forward in their lives, happy, secure, and sealed as families. This is the greatest joy that has come to Mary and me as we reflect on the blessings of our time as mission president and wife.

Presidents and sisters, I pray that you will seek for charity, which is the greatest of all.<sup>19</sup> It will change everything. Your fears will leave, and you will feel hope and comfort.<sup>20</sup> As you do so, you will see these great young disciples as the Lord sees them, and you will love them and seek to help them the way He would. Start with your own faith and hope, and then “Pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love.”<sup>21</sup>

You will know when you begin to have this gift because you will change. Instead of frustration and worry, you will begin to feel your love increase, and it will come as a gift. “Charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no

evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things,”<sup>22</sup> and every other gift that you would know. You will come to feel that you are becoming a true follower of Christ and that you are becoming more like Him, and that you and your missionaries are becoming purified. What a blessing. What a wonderful gift to seek.

Presidents and sisters, I bear my witness that you have been called of God to labor for the salvation of the souls of men, including, and especially, the souls of those wonderful young missionaries who are called to serve with you. This is His work, and we must do His work His way, with His purpose in mind. I pray that during this seminar you will come to understand in your heart what the Lord’s purpose is in this wonderful work, and what our purpose is as His missionaries. I bear my witness that He lives and that you have been called by Him to do His work in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

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1 Doctrine and Covenants 138:56.

2 “Begin with the End in Mind,” June 22, 2014.

3 As of July 1, 2013, the Church had 405 missions. With the consolidation of the Ukraine Donetsk Mission in June 2014, the Church had 404 missions. As of July 1, 2014, with the creation of the Republic of Congo Brazzaville Mission and the creation of the Cote d’Ivoire Abidjan West Mission, the Church has a total of 406 missions.

4 “Begin with the End in Mind,” June 22, 2014.

5 See page 1 of *Preach My Gospel*.

6 2 Nephi 31:17, 20–21.

7 2 Nephi 32:17.

8 Alma 26:5.

9 “Welcome to Conference,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2012.

10 Press Conference for New Missionary Service Age Requirements, October 6, 2012, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Uwe9nz2w8k>.

11 J. Reuben Clark, in Conference Report, April 1951, 154.

12 See Thomas S. Monson, “Duty Calls,” *Ensign*, May 1996.

13 *Handbook 2: Administering the Church* [2010], 5.0.

14 “Missionary Work in the Digital Age,” June 23, 2013.

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- 15 See Mosiah 5:28.  
16 See M. Russell Ballard, “The Greatest Generation of Missionaries,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2002, 47.  
17 Doctrine and Covenants 1:31.  
18 Moroni 6:8. See also Doctrine and Covenants 1:32.  
19 See Moroni 7:46.  
20 See Moroni 8:16, 26.  
21 Moroni 7:48.  
22 Moroni 7:45.