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UTAH AREAS ANNUAL MISSION PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 9 – 12, 2015

Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort - Cliff Lodge

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2015

Presiding
Conducting

Elder Ronald A. Rasband
Elder L. Whitney Clayton

Opening Hymn # 85 *How Firm a Foundation*
Music Director Sister Suzanne Palmer (SLC West)
Pianist Sister Amy A. Jaggi (Ogden)

Invocation

Sister Chriss Allred (Logan)

INTRODUCTIONS, WELCOME, COMMENTS

Elder L. Whitney Clayton reviewed:

D&C 100:5-6.

Elder Ronald A. Rasband:

1. More stakes are being created in Utah than anywhere else in the world.
2. Utah is and needs to be the great bastion of faith.
3. To be a Seventy is to be a missionary. Jesus sent out the Seventy (Matt. 10). D&C 107:24 indicates the duty of the Seventy is to preach the Gospel. Nauvoo Hall was the first missionary training center. The Seventies duties is to proclaim the Gospel.
4. The Temple Square mission, Provo Mission Training Center and all the rest in Utah ought to be the very best example to the world.
5. Elder Rasband was the Area President of the Salt Lake City Area until it was dissolved. He was previously the supervisor of the three Utah Areas.
6. The Seventy are your fellow servants and we are here to “pour gas in your tanks”.

We will start with these questions: 1. “What are you hoping for from this Seminar?” 2. “What are you worried about?” or “What is hard for you?”

1. Cross ideas of what other missions are doing. Glean from others.
2. Frustration over IMOS and we want to be able to use it better.
3. Challenges with missionary health issues. How to use a nurse. When to tell the missionaries to “buck up” vs. sympathy?
4. What will be helpful in our personal work? Looking for and recognizing spiritual impressions, inspiration or promptings?
5. We want to learn how to be better at what we do. How can we be more effective and efficient?
6. We came to be taught.
7. Presiding authority protocol? How does it work? We have multiple stake conferences on the same day and sometimes more than one visiting authorities insists that we attend. Answer:
 - a. Always follow the most senior brother’s request. Always go with the Twelve, then the Presidency of Seventy, then General Authority Seventy, then Area Seventy.
 - b. In the Hierarchy of the Church we should be a student and attend to be taught. That is the order of the Church.

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8. We want to leave here more ahead than behind. Suggestions: Be sure to pace yourself. This is a marathon not a sprint. Do you take your preparation day?
9. What is our role in coordinating councils?
10. Worry about convert baptisms? What do we need to do to move this needle? Answers:
 - a. We need to do better working with members.
 - b. If your missionaries take your eyes off the ball, they will go sideways. Teach and remind them of their missionary purpose.
 - c. Missionaries should always be asking and inviting and engaged with members.
 - d. Missionaries need to attend and work with ward councils.
 - e. Missionaries can focus on more than one objective at a time, such as missionary work, retention and reactivation.
 - f. The Twelve Week program gives you a chance to set the standard right from the beginning to get missionaries to ask investigators to be baptized.
 - g. We sometimes have a two house syndrome, one for missionaries and one for members of the Church. We are all one church (house).
 - h. Mission presidents should go to as many baptisms as possible.
 - i. Be careful what you ask your missionaries to do as they will do it. They will give their heart and soul to do what you ask them to do.
 - j. Go out and work with your missionaries.
11. Sisters come into the mission, find out it is hard, or don't know why they are there. How do we get them back on track? Answers:
 - a. Mission president and wife can hold specialized training that cover this.
 - b. No separate sister zone conferences.
 - c. Have a breakout session for sisters as part of zone conference.
 - d. Consider having breakout session as part of a mission tour.
12. Observation that there is a marked difference with the new missionaries and they are more prepared.
13. How to handle those who are causing problems. Suggestions:
 - a. Don't let your discussions with missionaries get into whining session.
 - b. Love, inspire, bless and be a good example (see also Handbook 3, Section 3).
 - c. You have the keys to fix it. See that it gets done.
14. Open your mouth to correct the problems. Be bold.

What is the Church currently focusing on? Sabbath Day observance.

1. Relevant scriptures include: Isa. 58:13-14; D&C 59:9-20; Ex. 31:13, 16-17; 3 Ne. 18:24-34; 2 Ne. 5:10; Alma 6:6.
2. Focus on the blessings. Liken these scriptures unto the missionaries.
3. The preamble to "Keeping the Sabbath Day Holy" is "Building faith in God the Father, and in Jesus Christ and his Atonement by..."
4. Elder Ballard has suggested that we link Sabbath Day observance to missionary work.
5. Our sacrament meetings should allow investigators to come and see the Savior (John 1:39).
6. We should turn Sabbath Day observance into a missionary invitation, "come and see."
7. Sacrament meeting should be the premier meeting of the week.
8. We meet on the Lord's Day in the Lord's house.

Elder L. Whitney Clayton – Epistles of the Lord:

1. Remember Elder Nelson's interview in Tampa Bay newspaper?
2. We can become epistles of Christ written with the Spirit of the living God (2 Corinthians 3:2-3).
3. President Russell M. Nelson's talk *Epistles of the Lord* is the common subject for mission presidents' seminars around the world.

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4. What does the word epistles mean? 1. Credentials; 2. A letter; or 3. A formal teaching instrument (see Bible Dictionary definition).
5. Observations from *Epistles of the Lord*:
 - a. There is something really special about him...I want to meet his mother (pg. 3).
 - b. The Savior is never discouraged.
 - c. The three overarching objectives for us (pg. 1): gather scattered Israel, seal gathered Israel's families; and 3. prepare the world for the second coming.
 - d. Missionaries who strive for the Lord's law to be inscribed upon their hearts become true messengers (pg. 3).
 - e. "A mission at its best is an exercise in obedience training" (pg. 4).
 - f. "He (God) will help us" (pg. 2).
 - g. The cost of reducing missionary age was carefully considered, but it was revealed that the age adjustment should be made (pg. 2).
 - h. More baptisms were not the reason for the age adjustment. It provided the opportunity for more of our youth to serve.
 - i. Think about this from our Heavenly Father's perspective, the long term perspective.
 - j. You (missionaries) are the message and messenger.
 - k. Investigators commonly say after the missionaries have left, "We don't understand what they taught but what we felt we will always remember."
 - l. Members' lives reflect the teachings of the Gospel.
 - m. Missionaries can be preserved in their hardships (pg. 5).
 - n. Mission presidents and wives need to be great examples of a married couple and parents, as Helaman was to the stripling warriors (Alma 56:46).
 - o. Replace pornography with family history.
 - p. How effective you are with your missionaries will be seen in their children and grandchildren (pg. 6).
 - q. Being wounded is OK as were all the stripling warriors (Alma 57:25) and the Savior. The Savior can heal all wounds. Missionaries can be preserved even as the 200 stripling warriors that fainted because of the loss of blood were preserved. They can still be rescued.
 - r. The 'one' has a thousand behind them. The sister who was baptized found that her great great grandfather was a member of the church. Because of inactivity of parents, grandparents, etc. she was not baptized until later. She counted all the descendants of her great great grandfather who were not members of the Church and there were over a thousand.
 - s. After Christ appeared and taught in America, converts and their children remained faithful for over two hundred years (4 Ne).
 - t. We don't need new doctrine but what we have needs to be understood and applied better.
 - u. Writing on the fleshy parts of our hearts is like the Lord writing on the stone tablets.
 - v. Learn from flight attendants, "Put on your mask first before helping others".
 - w. The Lord can heal us not only from serious sin such as pornography, but other challenges missionaries face such as home sickness, etc.
 - x. Mission presidents and wives need to protect themselves from sin.
 - y. We embarked in His service to become like the Lord.
 - z. Missionaries need to focus on the entire message, goals, and objectives of the Lord (pg. 5)
 - aa. Missionaries should understand the doctrine of Christ (pg. 5; 3 Ne 11:32).
 - bb. Teach missionaries to walk in the middle of the path with the Iron rod where there is safety, not on the edge where it is risky.
 - cc. Promise to mission presidents and wives that through Him you can do all things as He will strengthen you (pg. 6, Luke 1:37; Philippians 4:13).
 - dd. "If the missionary has only one convert during the mission, I hope it would be himself or herself" (pg. 5).

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- ee. When the woman was taken in adultery, Jesus wrote on the ground with His finger (John 8:4-11) just as He wrote the commandments with His finger (Ex 31:18).
- ff. We have to do our part to provide the tablets (our heart) to the Lord so He can write on them.
- gg. Each agent (power to act), disciple (pupil) and missionary (teacher) of the Lord can become a living epistle of Christ (pg. 1).
- hh. The opening prayer. “Help us to have what we need when we need it.”
- ii. We are to form friendships within the circle of our influence (pg. 3) and still stand independent (pg.4).
- jj. We need a more kind and generous outreach in Utah.
- kk. Your challenge is to teach and re-teach the importance of listening to the Spirit, and teach and re-teach the principles of obedience (pg. 4).

Elder Michael T. Ringwood – Full Purpose Missionaries:

1. Your missionaries are right where the Lord wants them and where they are needed.
2. Oscar McConkie 3rd story of missionary whose mother prayed him there and found his lost uncle who had refused contact with the Church.
3. Review your missionary purpose often!
4. A mission is a laboratory of how to endure to the end.
5. Returned missionaries too frequently lose the “endure to the end” feeling.
6. Teach Lesson 5 in Preach My Gospel both before and after baptism.
7. Mission presidents should teach and re-teach the Lord’s standard for baptism (D&C 20:37, 68-69).
8. It is not enough to just answer the baptismal questions. Investigators need to believe they can live the standards.
9. Missionaries should work with new members three to four years and remain very close for first year.
10. First month after baptism, make sure the bishop has interviewed the converts and talked about their commitment to live the commandments, including tithing.
11. New members receive a calling or responsibility within the first 6 weeks.
12. There is a new member checklist available to assist in this process. Let Elder Ringwood know if you need a copy.
13. Focus on getting new members to the temple. This is very powerful.
14. Help new members set short-term goals.
15. Returning missionaries need goals.
16. How will missionaries, who begin with the end in mind, assist ward and stake leaders in the Work of Salvation?
 - a. A smooth hand-off of investigators from missionaries to members.
 - b. Assign new member to home or visit teach with a member.
 - c. Assign members to teach lessons to new members.
 - d. Missionaries need to earn trust from the members.
 - e. The ward council is critical.
17. We need baptisms, retention and reactivation, not just one.
18. Mission presidents can allow missionaries to attend the temple when their new members are ready.
19. Love investigators like your brother or sister, not as a project.
20. We teach people not lessons. It makes all the difference.
21. Happiness is only found in righteousness (Alma 41:10).

Closing Hymn # 263 *Go Forth with Faith*

Benediction

President Robert E. Chambers (SLC South)

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UTAH AREAS ANNUAL MISSION PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 9 – 12, 2015

Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort - Cliff Lodge

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Presiding
Conducting

Elder Ronald A. Rasband
Elder Michael T. Ringwood

Opening Hymn # 25 *Now We'll Sing with One Accord*
Music Director Sister Victoria K. Hodgman (Provo)
Pianist Scott T. Seamons

Invocation

Sister Kariane C. Spendlove

Elder Michael T. Ringwood reviewed:

2 Peter 1:13

Elder Ronald A. Rasband:

1. The Quorum of the Twelve met last Saturday all day in the temple.
2. Convert baptisms have decreased all around the world as well as baptisms per missionary.
 - a. Is it from the wave of new missionaries?
 - b. Is the world a more difficult place?
3. Elder Dallin H. Oaks is the new chairman of the Missionary Department.
4. We need to focus on the attitude of missionaries. Who and what they are. They should always carry a positive attitude and understand what they can achieve.
5. Task of the mission president is to define specifically and positively what missionary work is for their missionaries.
6. Missionaries should have ownership in the work in their mission and their own goals.
7. Missionaries coming to the field are better prepared now.
8. Our goal and objective is to invite and help others to come unto Christ.
9. Missionaries should become experts in the principles contained in Chapter 8 of *Preach My Gospel*.
10. Encourage missionaries to set realistic goals and plan how they will achieve them. They need to set their own goals.
11. Give them examples of good missionary goals. Help them identify milestones to get them there.
12. Help them learn and live up to the principles of accountability found in *Preach My Gospel*, page 150.
13. Hope, confidence and optimism are important qualities for missionaries to develop early in life.
14. They too often falter in considering the realistic possibilities of their goals.
15. Missionaries sometimes believe they will not make a difference.
16. Their view of the world tends to diminish their view of what they can do.
17. We need to teach them to be bright and optimistic and filled with confidence.
18. Help them understand their missionary purpose.
19. Missionaries need to always “open their mouths” to find new investigators.
20. They will get to yes one no at a time:
 - a. Don't ever accept no for an answer.
 - b. Help them build faith beyond the first no.
 - c. Ask three or four times in different ways.
 - d. Do something positively different (e.g. after the last no, ask if “we can sing you a song” or “show you a picture of their family”) after the third or fourth no.

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e. Alternate asking questions between companions.

21. Follow the Spirit (see D&C 46:2; Moroni 6:9).

Elder Stephen B. Allen:

1. Can you imagine what you would have without the restoration? What would you give up that has been restored?
2. What are your current thoughts on baptism? Has it become a gray and unfocused area for you?
3. If you don't believe in baptisms your missionaries won't either.
4. Learn, understand and teach the Doctrine of Christ (3 Ne. 11:31-41 and 2 Ne. 31).
5. The Doctrine of Christ is: faith in Jesus Christ and the Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.
6. Are missionaries and companions united? Are we completely united with them?
7. The sequence of 3 Ne. 11: introduction by the Father, testimony and witness of Jesus Christ, authority to baptize is given, ordinances (baptize) are taught, and the doctrine of Christ is declared.
8. Baptize is used 13 times in 3 Ne. 11 and 6 more times in 3 Ne. 12.
9. It starts with baptism! It takes the whole community of saints to assist an investigator to get home.
10. We need more focused sacrament meetings.
11. Elder M. Russel Ballard: "We should create an environment in our sacrament meetings where the congregation comes and sits at the feet of the Savior of the world."
12. President Russell M. Nelson: "Every Bishop should ask himself as he plans sacrament meeting every week, 'Would the Lord Jesus Christ recognize this meeting as a celebration of His Atonement?'"
13. When sacrament meetings become more focused on the Savior it will enable investigators to "come and see" who He is (John 1:39).
14. Are we united with the Father, Son and Holy Ghost and their purposes?
15. Ask your missionaries the following, "In the Utah ___ Mission our purpose is...?" It will tell you a lot what missionaries are thinking and focused.
16. The Mission Leadership Council sets the tone, standards and culture of the mission. They will be the ones that will cause it to change. Assistants and sister trainer leaders own the culture.
17. Repetition is key to teaching and learning.
18. More baptisms = lower quality? False. Quality has nothing to do with quantity.
19. The Savior is displeased when we focus on numbers and not converts.
20. Have a goal and a plan to achieve it.
21. Elder Allen's mission president changed the goal for baptisms to 2, then 5, then 10, then 15, then 1,000. It became possible as the older elders went home. We need to remove any limitations on their thinking.
22. Your missionaries will reflect your vision.
23. If there is "gray" in your service your missionaries will wander off (1 Cor. 14:8).
24. You are the one they want to please and follow.
25. Missionaries teach investigators according to their needs as directed by the Spirit.
26. Each new missionary will perform at or above his trainer.
27. Discussion on filming of "The District" #1 and #2.
28. Review and use the eight "Fundamentals for *Preach My Gospel*" handout.
29. The conversion strategy is: teach them to pray (less effective missionaries bail on this), read the Book of Mormon (Moroni 10:4-5), come to church, keep commitments, accept ordinances, and keep covenants.
30. 50% of success is who the missionaries are, and 50% from the skills they develop.
31. Note that the commitment pattern is not in Preach My Gospel.
32. Agency is the right and responsibility to choose.
33. Teach and reteach, invite, commitment, and follow-up.
34. When an investigator says no, then ask why not? Then you will learn their needs.
35. Missionaries don't know how to follow up or are poor at doing so.
36. Area books are full of investigators that are waiting to be baptized.

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37. President Packer's feedback on Preach My Gospel includes a revelation on how to begin teaching.
38. How do we begin teaching? This is one of the missionaries' weakest skills.
39. If you will define specifically and positively their purpose, missionaries will follow and their vision will be lifted.
40. Mission Leadership Council is a secret weapon. Focus here.

President Ronald A. Rasband:

Reviewed Moroni 6:9 (D&C 46:2) and discussed the changes to the meetings schedule this morning.

Elder Larry Y. Wilson – The Book of Mormon: Our Most Powerful Tool for Conversion

1. Chapter 5 of *Preach My Gospel*.
2. This has great possibilities to move the needle on convert baptisms and retentions.
3. The Book of Mormon is the keystone of our religion. Combined with the Spirit, it is the most powerful resource in conversion.
4. Investigators either don't read or understand what they read in the Book of Mormon.
5. See PowerPoint presentation slides.
6. A reading mentor can really make a difference.
7. Senior missionary couples, ward missionaries, prospective missionaries, a member of the ward or a fellowshipping family can make a great reading mentor.
8. The missionaries invite the investigator to read the Book of Mormon.
9. One in twenty investigators actually read the Book of Mormon.
10. Missionaries should note in the investigator progress record that a reading mentor is needed.
11. The missionary can learn a lot about the investigator's ability to read by having the investigator read out loud during the lessons.
12. Read with less actives to reactivate.
13. Have missionaries read to you so you can assess their literacy.
14. Missionary companions should be reading out loud together during companionship study. This will help missionaries with reading disabilities.
15. Read and stop occasionally to discuss what you read. Missionaries don't do this enough.
16. Explain the background and context of a passage along with words and phrases that may be new to investigators before the scripture is read.
17. 1 Ne. 1 starts out by giving the background of the Book of Mormon story. Missionaries should read this with their investigators. Point out that the Book of Mormon is about a family, compares with the Bible, talks about Christ, speaks specifically about our day, begins in Jerusalem although and most of it takes place in the Americas. Identify the, who, what, where and why of the verses being read. Liken the passages read to the investigator. The Book of Mormon is not an historical study but a quest towards discipleship.
18. Acts 8:30-31 shows the example of a reading mentor.
19. People don't remember things until they have heard it 17 times. Repetition is important for revelation and understanding.
20. Assess what investigators understand and modify teaching to accommodate what needs to be taught.
21. Use "trailers" or "cliff hangers" to incentivize further reading.
22. We can either find more investigators or be more effective with those we already have.

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Sister's Breakout Session – Thursday, September 10, 2015

Sister Clayton welcomed all to the Sister's Breakout Session

Opening Hymn – *All Creatures of Our God & King*

Music Director – Sister Shelby W. Killpack

Invocation – Sister Sandra D. Eberhardt

Elder Ronald A. Rasband – Opening Remarks

He offered his appreciation to all the wives who serve at the sides of their husbands in saving souls, those of their missionaries and converts

D&C 25: Speaking to the sisters as the Lord spoke to Emma Smith

Verse 5: to be a comfort and a blessing to him

Verse 7: to expound scriptures and to preach the gospel

Verse 9: your husband's mission keys to preside over your mission

Verse 10: to seek for things of a better world

Verse 13: lift up thy heart and rejoice and keep your covenants

Verse 15: thou shalt receive a crown of righteousness as we keep the commandments

You need to be a comfort and a soulmate to your husbands, ask him how you can help him in his challenges

Be their lover, their helpmate, their romantic partner, their constant support

Thank you for being the Lord's consecrated servants

Pres. Monson would say to each of you that he loves you and thank you for your service, your willingness to serve

May the Lord bless your children and grandchildren as you tend to the affairs of His children. May He bless you with power at the pulpit. May the spirit of the Lord be with you this afternoon.

Introduction of new sisters and tell one thing you are proud of.

Sister Ringwood – loves to enjoy life, the outside, people, everything

Sister Wilson – satisfaction in the study of the scriptures, has a website, Sistersatthewell.org

Sister Stanfill – grateful that she was prepared to hear & accept the gospel, it is her greatest and deepest passion

Sister Jaggi – thankful to be a mother and learn so much from her kids

Sister Spendlove – grateful to be here and to learn so much from all the sisters

Sister Killpack – loves learning, went back to school to finish degree just before their call

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Sister Hodgman – good at lots of things, not a master at one, loves to try new things and learning about all things

Sister Allred – honored to be a member of the church, proud of her family

Sister Palmer – proud of her family, grateful to have seen the hand of the Lord in her life

Sister Burgess – strong testimony of the gospel, grateful for roots that run deep

Last Lap Sisters – Tips and Testimonies

Sister Eberhardt

Don't be afraid to teach doctrine at zone conference

Go out with your sisters

Make Family Services your best friend, talk to the therapists

D&C 68:6 – Be of good cheer

6 Wherefore, be of good cheer, and do not fear, for I the Lord am with you, and will stand by you; and ye shall bear record of me, even Jesus Christ, that I am the Son of the living God, that I was, that I am, and that I am to come.

Sister Chambers

She has three nurses (divided alphabetically for the missionaries) for the mission and a card with their names and numbers listed on it for each missionary, it frees up her time to support her husband and to work with the missionaries

Visit with the missionaries while our husbands interview the missionaries

Encourage missionaries to show gratitude and write thank you notes (making a tie out of a napkin and write a thank you note)

Go to lunch with a stake president and his wife each week

Knows she needs the Lord to do the hard things required

Sister Poulson – 220 sisters

Help our young women to know they are daughters of God

Love the sisters, put your arm around them, testify of the love our Heavenly Father has of them

Don't be afraid to teach the doctrine

Have your missionaries bring their investigators to temple square

Grateful for the atonement, grateful to be a part of this mission

Sister Center –

Grateful for the scriptures and how applicable they are to us in any situation we find ourselves in

Mosiah 24:12 -14

12 And Alma and his people did not raise their voices to the Lord their God, but did pour out their hearts to him; and he did know the thoughts of their hearts.

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13 And it came to pass that the voice of the Lord came to them in their afflictions, saying: Lift up your heads and be of good comfort, for I know of the covenant which ye have made unto me; and I will covenant with my people and deliver them out of bondage.

14 And I will also ease the burdens which are put upon your shoulders, that even you cannot feel them upon your backs, even while you are in bondage; and this will I do that ye may stand as witnesses for me hereafter, and that ye may know of a surety that I, the Lord God, do visit my people in their afflictions. pour out your soul to Heavenly Father so he know your heart, lift up your heads that you may be of good comfort, the Lord will lift your burdens and make them light, submit cheerfully to all the will of the Lord

Sometimes it is hard to keep up the enthusiasm through all three years of service

This is the Lord's plan for us and we need to trust in Him

Love it and enjoy it! The best part is being with the missionaries, they are absolutely magnificent, their desires are so pure and they will do anything to accomplish what the Lord has asked them to do

Introduction of Theme – Sister Kathy K Clayton

Sister Clayton introduced the session's theme by inviting the sisters to participate in an activity. All completed a worksheet entitled, "Who Am I?" The sheet listed ten categories of possible identity pieces: gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, calling, health, occupation, hobby, family I came from, family I am raising. After each sister filled in the blanks next to each category, each chose the three top personal identifiers, i.e., the three categories that are the most notable identity pieces for them personally. Remembering that there are no right answers, sisters discussed the reasons for their choices and the implications of the choices. They considered questions such as, "Do the numbers ever change? Why does how I see myself matter? How does how our missionaries and family members see themselves impact the strength of their service or enthusiastic embrace of their parents' callings? Why is it helpful to constantly see ourselves as Children of God above all else? How do your missionaries to see themselves? What impact will seeing themselves as ambassadors of heaven have on the energy and confidence of our missionaries as they serve? Which identity pieces could get in the way of single-minded missionary service?"

After a thoughtful discussion by the sisters, Sisters Rosalie Ringwood, Lynda Wilson, and Alicia Stanfill led discussions considering common realities that have the potential to interrupt our confident sense of our divine identity.

Turning Weariness to Strength – Sister Rosalie N. Ringwood

Physical weariness – exhilaration in exhaustion – nothing wrong with this kind of tiredness

The best cure for weariness is to help someone even more tired – Pres. Kimball

Quotes from Elder Neal A. Maxwell

"We may be ready to give our all, but it is usually not required in one lump sum"

"... given our weaknesses, paced progress is essential, much as God used six measured and orderly creative periods (followed by respite) in preparing man and this earth. There is a difference, therefore, between being steadily and effectively or 'anxiously' engaged, on the one hand, and on the other hand, being frantically engaged one moment and being passive and detached the next"

"Quiet, sustained goodness is the order of heaven, not conspicuous but episodic business"

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"When our pace exceeds our strength and means, the result is prostration instead of sustained dedication"

"A few little flowers will spring up briefly in the dry gully through which torrents of water pass occasionally. But it is steady streams that bring thick and needed crops. In the agriculture of the soul that has to do with nurturing attributes, flash floods are no substitute for regular irrigation.

"Without balance and pace, therefore, our weaknesses become even more pronounced, causing some of us who would not chastise a neighbor for his frailties to have a field day with our own. Pace is so essential to personal progress lest we magnify our weaknesses instead of our callings"

"It is vital for us to realize that if we are keeping the commandments and doing our basic duties, we are to that extent succeeding in that thing. Our sincere striving and seeking to keep the commandments counts for more than we know"

Elder Maxwell – the Lord has given us counsel on how to not be tired, go to bed early, arise early

Elder Maxwell – the Savior has ever been mindful of his flock, the pressure had been so great on Him that there was no leisure so he took his disciples by ship to a desert location where they could rest and get renewal

Use the Sabbath Day as a day of renewal

Take your P-day and just be together with your husband

We need to be diligent and do things in order, but not overdo

Weariness can also cause impatience and dissatisfaction

D&C 64:33-34

33 Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great.

34 Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; and the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days.

Be smart about our talents, our health, and how we use them.

Our knowledge of our divine nature can help us to not be weary and to know with Heavenly Father's help, we can do it

I'm sure many of you believe that you are not good enough. I want to assure you that you are enough, you know enough, and the Lord will magnify it. – Elder Holland

Turning Self-Doubt to Divine Confidence – Sister Lynda M. Wilson

It is a path that we come to feel confidence in God and to be dependent on Him

Step out on your faith. He will be there to catch us.

We must listen to the spirit to know what we need to say and if we will ponder and listen, He will guide our thoughts and inspire our thinking

D&C 100:5-6

5 Therefore, verily I say unto you, lift up your voices unto this people; speak the thoughts that I shall put into your hearts, and you shall not be confounded before men;

6 For it shall be given you in the very hour, yea, in the very moment, what ye shall say.

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Moroni 8: 26

26 And the remission of sins bringeth meekness, and lowliness of heart; and because of meekness and lowliness of heart cometh the visitation of the Holy Ghost, which Comforter filleth with hope and perfect love, which love endureth by diligence unto prayer, until the end shall come, when all the saints shall dwell with God.

The law of promotion and demotion, those who promote themselves will be demoted, those that demote themselves will be promoted in the Lord's strength

We have two heritages, our divine heritage as daughters of God, and our natural heritage, our family tree, where we receive the natural man or natural woman

Nothingness scriptures – scriptures that say we are nothing

Alma 26:12

12 Yea, I know that I am nothing; as to my strength I am weak; therefore I will not boast of myself, but I will boast of my God, for in his strength I can do all things; yea, behold, many mighty miracles we have wrought in this land, for which we will praise his name forever.

Mark 10:27

27 And Jesus looking upon them saith, With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.

1. Be meek and lowly in heart
2. Keep a remission of our sins – ask Him to show us our weaknesses – we are in constant need of repentance
3. Serve wholeheartedly – be full-purpose missionaries
4. Be filled with knowledge of the scriptures – open your scriptures and ask “What do you want me to learn today” Put His words in and He will bring them out.

Open Your Mouth and He will fill it

Turning Discouragement to Optimism – Sister Alicia C. Stanfill

Glass half-full gal (Attitude)

Positive, happy, optimistic, Pollyanna

Qualities of attitude

The blessings will be better than the current affliction (Alma the older rejoices at his son's collapse)

Think of a current challenge in your service

Obedience

Time management

Health issues

Strengths and Resources to help you deal with these problems

Adjusting to Missionary Life booklet

Safeguards for Technology booklet

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Ether 12:4

4 Wherefore, whoso believeth in God might with surety hope for a better world, yea, even a place at the right hand of God, which hope cometh of faith, maketh an anchor to the souls of men, which would make them sure and steadfast, always abounding in good works, being led to glorify God.

Making lemonade out of lemons lady (Actions)

Elder Oaks, "Where do we find our greatest joy? I suggest that it is in creativity—the process and feeling of creating something...The greatest joy is found in the eternal gospel of Jesus Christ. It is in the gospel that individuals understand their purpose and potential."

The Lord has asked us to build a life just as Nephi was asked to build a boat

We are building a mission experience and a gospel experience for ourselves and our missionaries

Silver-lining sister (Hope, Service)

We need to be a silver-lining sister

Scatter sunshine everywhere we go

Trials of Joseph of Old always resulted in a blessing for others (excepting the chief baker!) because of his faithfulness and obedience despite overwhelming difficulties.

We can be the silver lining in someone else's dark cloud

Don't be afraid to stop what you think you should be doing to bless the lives of others in need

Divine Identity – Sister Kathy K. Clayton

Sister Clayton shared a personal experience that served as a parable. She told about a zoo she had visited in Argentina where visitors were invited to enter pens and actually pet full grown lions. After a visit, she was intrigued and she asked the trainers how they had managed to convince those wild animals not to eat the visitors. The trainers called her attention to several small dogs that inhabited the pens with the large lions. They explained that those dogs had lived with the lions since the lions were very small cubs. When the dogs were larger than the tiny cubs, they nipped at the lions' heels and chased them mercilessly. The lions cowered in the corners and ran from the tyrannical little dogs. When the lions grew, they continued to believe that they were beholden to the pesky dogs, when in reality any one of those mighty beasts could have sent the annoying little dogs flying clear out of the enclosures. They didn't see themselves as they really were as regal Kings of Beasts.

Sister Clayton reminded us that we are all regal as "sons and daughters of God" and "joint heirs with Christ." She suggested that our missionaries likewise neglect to constantly rise to the level of their regal identity. We all see ourselves too often as much smaller and less capable than we really are. A strong and persistent sense of our divine identity can be a powerful source of confidence and motivator to elevate the level of our behavior.

The sisters discussed possible personal "yappy little dogs" (such as lack of confidence, fatigue, bad habits, discouragement, fear) that nip at the figurative heels of us and of our missionaries and what we and they can do to swat each away.

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We concluded by reading scriptures about our heavenly identity. Clearly Heaven knows and loves us and our missionaries as His regal daughters and sons

Closing Remarks – Sister Melanie T. Rasband

Closing Remarks – Sister Melanie T. Rasband

"What you would be, be really!" Just be who you can be, who you have the power to be.

Take the things that have once held us back with tools discussed here, and be what we want to be.

Idea: Have one notebook to record what the Lord would want your missionaries to know.

It is a straight path to the temple and we need to help them get there by knowing who they are

(Business card:)

Because I am (a child of God), I CAN...

Pray, hear the spirit, be obedient, understand
scriptures, hear & heed the spirit, reach my
potential, know who I am

Along with Elder Nelson's "Epistle" theme we began with--

You are writing a gospel each day

By the things that you do,

By the things that you say,

Men will read what you write,

Whether faithless or true.

Say, what is the gospel according to you?

We are writing our life story according to who we believe that we are:

President Hinckley:

"Live up to the great and magnificent inheritance which the Lord God, your Father in Heaven, has provided for you. Rise above the dust of the world. Know that you are daughters (and sons) of God, children with a divine birthright. Walk in the sun with your heads high, knowing that you are loved and honored, that you are a part of his kingdom, and that there is for you a great work to be done which cannot be left to others."

President Packer said, "You were not called for who you are, but for who you will become."

President Packer looked for PATTERNS that can help us not be deceived

D&C 52:14

14 And again, I will give unto you a pattern in all things, that ye may not be deceived; for Satan is abroad in the land, and he goeth forth deceiving the nations

The pattern of PRAYER is important to help us know who we are & know our Father in Heaven and His Son & serve them.

COMMANDED to pray

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D&C 46:7

7 But ye are COMMANDED in all things to ask of God, who giveth liberally; and that which the Spirit testifies unto you even so I would that ye should do in all holiness of heart, walking uprightly before me, considering the end of your salvation, doing all things with prayer and thanksgiving, that ye may not be seduced by evil spirits, or doctrines of devils, or the commandments of men; for some are of men, and others of devils.

Ether 2:14 – brother of Jared chastised for not praying

14 And it came to pass at the end of four years that the Lord came again unto the brother of Jared, and stood in a cloud and talked with him. And for the space of three hours did the Lord talk with the brother of Jared, and chastened him because he remembered not to call upon the name of the Lord.

Joseph Smith sought the Lord through prayer after reading that answers would be given

Promise and Admonition to missionaries – ASK and you shall receive...

D&C 4:7

7 Ask, and ye shall receive; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Pray to receive revelation, learn truth, understanding, find comfort, peace, for divine help seeing beyond our limited vision.

By a sacred personal experience learned following death of mother: "Kneel to honor Him. You will get so much out of it and so will He. He deserves to be honored."

- QUALITIES to have more meaningful prayers:

Be HUMBLE - D&C 136:32

32 Let him that is ignorant learn wisdom by humbling himself and calling upon the Lord his God, that his eyes may be opened that he may see, and his ears opened that he may hear;

TRUST– Proverbs 3:5,6

5 Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not unto thine own understanding.6 In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.

FAITH – D&C 8:10

10 Remember that without faith you can do nothing; therefore ask in faith. Trifle not with these things; do not ask for that which you ought not**.

Pray SPECIFICALLY for what you need and why you need His help (praying for Elder Montgomery story).

"Where was my faith?" Lift your faith.

- Do we remember to THANK, even PRAISE – pattern in the scriptures of praising God may not be just old language- but a pattern of how we should be speaking to our God

Acknowledge who He is, recognize our relationship to Him, How Great Thou Art

D&C 136:28 –

28 If thou art merry, praise the Lord with singing, with music, with dancing, and with a prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

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We may feel closer to our Heavenly Father because we pray to Him

Elder Oaks told me: "When you love one, you love them both, when you know one, you know them both"

Create your OWN PSALM to praise the Lord (designed by Susan Gong after pattern of the Psalms):

Praise ye the Lord for he is ... and he has ... The Lord, he is my ... and I will

Ammon proclaimed, "Who can glory too much in the Lord?"

Alma 26:16

16 Therefore, let us glory, yea, we will glory in the Lord; yea, we will rejoice, for our joy is full; yea, we will praise our God forever. Behold, who can glory too much in the Lord? Yea, who can say too much of his great power, and of his mercy, and of his long-suffering towards the children of men? Behold, I say unto you, I cannot say the smallest part which I feel.

- Pray WITHOUT CEASING – THINK about what you want to pray for, what is important before you actually pray o Him

3 Nephi 19:24

24 And it came to pass that when Jesus had thus prayed unto the Father, he came unto his disciples, and behold, they did still continue, without ceasing, to pray unto him; and they did not multiply many words, for it was given unto them what they should pray, and they were filled with desire.

The more we pray the more DESIRE we have to talk with him, like feasting on the word.

- Need to LOOK UNTO HIM in every thought, thereby grow close to Him, He will remember and grow closer to each of us. We need to come to know Christ and our Father in Heaven through prayer

D&C 6: 34

34 Therefore, fear not, little flock; do good; let earth and hell combine against you, for if ye are built upon my rock, they cannot prevail.

36 Look unto me in every thought; doubt not, fear not.

37 Behold the wounds which pierced my side, and also the prints of the nails in my hands and feet; be faithful, keep my commandments, and ye shall inherit the kingdom of heaven. Amen.

- (Closet experience while packing for a MP Seminar): "Haven't I taught you better than that?" Reminded of who I am- a daughter of God, taught & prepared for what he would have me do (& **not ask for what I shouldn't).

When we pray, we don't know if our impact will be for maybe just one person who needs it

- LOVE- Pray with all energy of heart to ask for His love and spirit to be with us

47 But charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth forever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with him.

48 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which he hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ;

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that ye may become the sons of God; that when he shall appear we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is; that we may have this hope; that we may be purified even as he is pure. Amen.

- When we are discouraged remember HE PRAYED FOR US, & those who would listen to our words

I like to read in this order: John 17:18, 15, 20, 26, then 23 – His Intercessory Prayer

18 No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.

15 As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep.

20 And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?

26 And I have declared unto them thy name, and will declare it: that the love wherewith thou hast loved me may be in them, and I in them.

23 I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me.

Missionaries can find out who they are, that they are loved through fervent prayer and righteous obedience

My testimony of these things, of who we are, why we're here, how to do His work, His way

D&C 68:5-6

5 Behold, this is the promise of the Lord unto you, O ye my servants.

6 Wherefore, be of good cheer, and do not fear, for I the Lord am with you, and will stand by you; and ye shall bear record of me, even Jesus Christ, that I am the Son of the living God, that I was, that I am, and that I am to come.

Benediction – Sister Annette Burgess

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UTAH AREAS ANNUAL MISSION PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 9 – 12, 2015 *Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort - Cliff Lodge*

PRESIDENTS' BREAKOUT SESSION

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015

Presiding
Conducting and Welcome

Elder Ronald A. Rasband
Elder Michael T. Ringwood

Opening Hymn # 332 *Come, O Thou King of Kings*
Music Director President John R. Center (St. George)
Pianist Scott T. Seamons

Invocation

President L. Scott Palmer (SLC West)

Elder Michael T. Ringwood – Mission Leadership Council (“MLC”):

1. Assistants and sister trainer leaders need to lead.
2. Sometimes mission presidents take it all on their shoulders.
3. Missionaries who dress poorly should be corrected by companion, district leaders, zone leaders and assistants. Mission presidents should not ever go down to that level.
4. MLC is where the difference can be made. It is here that leadership that will make the difference.
5. Members of the MLC define “who we are” as a mission.
6. Mission presidents set the vision. The MLC leads.

Elder Larry Y. Wilson – Zone Conferences:

1. Zone conferences best if held each month.
2. Utilize specialized training for missionaries.
3. Use the eight *Fundamentals from Preach My Gospel* (8) lessons, one or two each month.
4. Zone conferences should be participatory, with role playing opportunities, and interactive experiences.
5. Do not over plan the time for the zone conference.
6. Have missionaries come 15 minutes early to read an article you have for them or have them read an article before they come.
7. Focus on one or two major topics not many.
8. Time to practice their skills. Have good models for them.
9. Everybody prepares a talk and hands it in, then one or two are selected to give their talk. Save their talks and keep them in a folder to take home at the end of their missions.
10. Have spiritual and revelatory experiences and end with a testimony meeting.
11. The last 15 minutes companions should sit and talk about what they will do.
12. Include music in the program.
13. Let them share the miracles in their finding of investigators.
14. Group roll play. Mission president is the investigator. Define situation. 90 seconds to present. Next team cannot repeat what has already been taught.
15. What happens after zone conference is the most important. Missionaries can't wait to get out and use what they learned.

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16. If you have an activity after (zone or district conferences), or missionaries linger, you undo what was taught and missionaries will forget what they learned. Have them return straight to their missionary work.
17. You will get immediate feedback after conferences as missionaries will implement what is taught and things change in the mission. Do you see extraordinary experience right after zone conference?
18. Hold zone conferences with each zone rather than with multiple zones.
19. Put an objection on the board. List a bunch of good responses. Let them practice responding.
20. Practice not taking “no” for an answer three times.
21. Practice going back and forth between companions in teaching, contacting, and responding to questions.
22. Cover administrative material during lunch or 30 minutes before meeting. End on a spiritual high.
23. Mission presidents need to be out observing.
24. Let zone and district leaders have time to preside over their responsibilities. Trust them enough to never show up. If assistants always show up, they take away opportunities for zone and district leaders to preside.
25. Have MLS missionaries come to zone conferences.
26. Consider monthly MLS conferences. Need to be cautious as it creates the appearance of two separate missions.
27. What do you do after lunch to make it fun?
 - a. Etiquette game
 - b. Family feud with answers from the scriptures
28. They know what a sporting game plan is. Use the idea to teach planning for their work.
29. A great mission tour will produce increased effectiveness for two or three weeks after.
30. Zone conference training needs to be relevant to the reality the missionaries are facing.
31. Invite stake presidents to zone conference

Elder Vern P. Stanfill – Mission Tours:

1. What are your expectations for mission tours?
 - a. Will improve mission performance.
 - b. Motivational and inspiring for missionaries and leaders.
 - c. Extremely instructional to everyone.
 - d. Stake presidents to be involved in some way.
 - e. Instructed to become better.
 - f. Improve what you have been focused on and build on it.
 - g. A model for how the mission president can teach missionaries.
 - h. A fresh set of eyes that see what I am not seeing.
 - i. Interview sampling of missionaries for feedback.
 - j. A second witness of what the mission president is trying to accomplish.
 - k. Encourage my wife up through the tour.
2. Missionary Department expectation:
 - a. Primary focus is on mission president and wife.
 - b. Mission leadership training.
 - c. Interview a sampling of missionaries.
 - d. Two separate days of training.
 - e. Visit some apartments to understand safety issues.
 - f. Obtain usable information for training.
3. You and your wives are in the prayers and constant thoughts of the Brethren.

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Elder Michael T. Ringwood – Final Interviews:

1. Review slides from “Your Sacred Companionship” PowerPoint.
2. Show missionaries how you treat your wife throughout the mission.
3. You will be held in sacred remembrance (Alma 5:26).
4. Commit departing missionaries to live the Gospel for the rest of your life.
5. Consider the *Mission President’s Handbook* reference to this topic.
6. Write a letter to them.
7. Share your letter with their stake president.
8. Do not counsel to marry within a given time.

Assistants and Sister Trainer Leaders to the Mission President:

1. What do you expect of them?
 - a. Set the example.
 - b. Lead out in convert baptisms.
2. Do not give them an office or a computer.
3. Don’t have them run reports or statistics.
4. Don’t take away preparation day from assistants.
5. Don’t get them involved in IMOS.
6. Assistants attending every zone conference is optional.
7. Don’t make them errand boys.

Elder L. Whitney Clayton – Mission President Messages (Stake Conferences, etc.):

1. Don’t talk about doing more missionary work or getting more names or referrals from members.
2. Share the miracles, build their faith, or inspire them with examples.
3. One member of the Twelve assigned the temple president to talk about missionary work and the mission president to talk about temple work.
4. Point out that Utah is a great place to be a missionary.
5. Tell them how good the missionaries are.
6. Two missionaries who are fully obedient, faithful and give their all will create miracles.
7. Share the miracles your missionaries share.
8. Tell about the miracles in the lives of the missionaries.

Elder Michael T. Ringwood – Q&A Session:

1. What is our role with church service missionaries? All missionaries answer to either a mission, temple or area president. When you get an inquiry talk with your first contact in the Area leadership about it. The Stake president calls and sets these missionaries apart.
2. How do we work our mission goals with ward and stake goals? You hold keys for the teaching and baptisms of investigators and the missionaries. Bishops and stake presidents hold keys for missionary work in their area. Area Seventies preside over mission presidents. The Seventy work by delegation of authority from the Twelve (D&C 107:25-26). There should be a blending of goals between missionaries and their stakes. Missionary goals can be higher than the stake goals. Set goals that are meaningful, not ones that are unobtainable. Standards of excellence reflect a leaders vision of what can be accomplished in a given area. Individuals set their own goals (Preach My Gospel, pg. 146).
3. We need better coordination with Area Seventies in coordinating council meetings. Communicate beforehand (lunch, call, email, letter, etc.) with Area Seventies to help you accomplish your objectives.

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Hispanic open houses on a pilot basis have been successful in Utah and are now being expanded to other Utah areas. Send a note to the Area Seventy indicating what you would like to cover during coordinating council meeting three weeks before hand and discuss it with him in advance.

4. Anti-Mormon internet sites have been turning off some investigators. Suggest to missionaries as they follow the Spirit they may want to tell investigators, “Now you may hear issues from nonmembers about the Church. Can we ask you to talk to us about them? Not everything you read or see on the internet about the Church is correct?” Missionaries can read Lehi’s dream together with investigators and discuss the mist of darkness and the rod of iron and how some fall away into forbidden paths and then mock and point at those who are on the path or are partaking of the fruit.
5. Have reasonable communications with parents about their missionaries.
6. Sister missionaries are better used in providing training, not conducting zone conferences.
7. How long do you work with missionaries that do not get along? Suggest to missionaries that they are together for a specific purpose and they need to figure out why the Lord put them together.
8. Sending missionaries with disabilities home. If missionaries are stable and functional and not being a threat to others, we should work with them. Are they capable of protecting their companion? Missionaries’ capacities are different and we need to remember this in our evaluation of them and how to help them. Make sure the Spirit confirms your decisions.
9. When elders and sister missionaries are attracted to each other, don’t be bashful about an immediate transfer in your mission or further if necessary. Prevention is always better than a cure. Any doubt, transfer them. Remind missionary companions of their responsibilities to protect each other. This may require discussions with the mission president about concerns.
10. Can President Kimball’s *Lock Your Heart* talk be updated? Consider Elder David F. Evans talk at the New Mission President’s seminar.

Benediction

President John C. Hodgman (Provo)

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UTAH AREAS ANNUAL MISSION PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 9 – 12, 2015

Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort - Cliff Lodge

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2014

Presiding
Conducting

Elder Ronald A. Rasband
Elder Vern P. Stanfill

Opening Hymn # 83 *Guide Us, O Thou Great Jehovah*
Music Director Sister Shelby W. Killpack (Orem)
Pianist Sister Amy A. Jaggi (Ogden)

Invocation

President G. Scott Spendlove (SLC)

Elder Vern P. Stanfill – Uniting with Members:

1. We should not be in two houses (members/missionaries). We are one Church.
2. Who is responsible to bring the two houses together? We are and they are. Missionaries should not let the lack of cooperation from members deter their mission efforts or deter attempts to work with ward councils.
3. Scriptures: 1 Cor. 10:15-17; 1 Cor. 12:12-27; Romans 12:4-5; Ephesians 4:1-7; Mosiah 18:21-26; Preach My Gospel Chapter 13.
4. Start with those that hold priesthood keys and bring them together.
5. Who fixes the ward council? The bishop.
6. Missionaries should: share remarkable experiences, share their testimony of Christ, and ask, “How can we help with your missionary efforts?”
7. See “Uniting Members with Missionaries” PowerPoint presentation.
8. Do your missionaries go to ward council? Investigators should be their first priority.
9. Good planning will allow missionaries to attend ward council for a few minutes.
10. Teach missionaries that the Spirit will direct them which ward council meeting they should attend.
11. Empower missionaries to be more involved with the ward councils.
12. Respect priesthood keys and align them (D&C 41:2-3).
13. Coordinate with Area Seventy to make coordinating council time effective.
14. Meet with each stake president quarterly. Have lunch or dinner with one or two stake presidents and their wives. Let it be the stake president’s meeting. Build a positive relationship with them.
15. Ask, “How do you suggest we do missionary work in your area?” or “What is keeping you up late at night?”
16. Before going into meetings with stake leaders, be sure to know the statistics and missionaries. Council how to succeed in finding, teaching, fellowshiping, conversion, retention, and reactivation.
17. Stake president, bishops, ward mission leader all have access to missionary statistics.
18. Stake president may invite counselor, missionaries, etc. to meetings with stake presidents.
19. Focus on one item.
20. Area Seventies operate differently. Discuss and counsel with them to determine the best approach. You should take time with Area Seventy to plan together.
21. When a new stake president is called and set apart, be there. Invite him to zone conference.
22. Stake presidents look up to you. Not just what you have done, but because of your sacrifice.

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23. Elder Bednar's video re: missionaries earning referrals. "You don't feel like missionaries." If missionaries want referrals they should say something like, "We don't want to stay very long. Can we share a brief spiritual thought? Will you gather your family around? Can we have a prayer with your family?" Make it an important event. Talk with the patriarch of the family.
24. Can members say that when your missionaries walk in the door they feel a difference?
25. Ammon became the servant of the king (Alma 17) as missionaries should become servants of the ward council.
26. No member of the church will give missionaries a referral unless they have confidence in them.
27. Missionaries should not be dependent on members for their support of missionary work (Mosiah 18:26).
28. Get the doctrine of Christ into missionaries, members and those who they teach.
29. It is not my mission, but Christ's mission.
30. Teach missionaries who they are and who they represent.
31. Help them leave it all behind. Give it all to the Savior. We don't ask them to be 80% tithe payers. Remember their temple covenants.
32. Sometimes they get distracted. Help them become consecrated missionaries. When members trust missionaries, they will work together.
33. Members will thank you for inspiring them and not beating them up. There is no such thing as constructive criticism.
34. Use extraordinary missionaries to train and lead. Those who do miracles. Those who make it happen. Natural leaders.
35. Help missionaries understand they can do more. They should run between doors.
36. Most have not been to a ward council. Teach them how a ward council works and how they fit in.
37. Missionaries don't need to attend all of the ward council meeting. Ten minutes is enough.
38. Coordinate attendance at ward council meeting with the bishop.
39. Help members and leaders set reasonable goals. They can always do better than last year.
40. There is only one way for missionaries to get close to the members...Respect. Seek revelation on the way investigators can gain the respect of members.
41. The 35-40% of ward councils that know what they are doing can model it for the rest of the stake.
42. Identify the ring leader in the ward council. Show her/him what we are made of.
43. Pray for ministering experiences, to be where the Lord wants us to be.
44. Missionary work can be as simple as, "Can my kids play with yours?"
45. The Lord will be with us D&C 84:87-88.

Elder Michael T. Ringwood and Elder Stephen B. Allen – Missionary Success:

1. Stay with the fundamentals with your missionaries.
2. *Check Your Progress* handout was reviewed.
3. *Preach My Gospel* is the instruction manual that answers most of our questions. Mission presidents should be in the book every day.
4. Our greatest desires for you and your missionaries are Alma 7:25; 29:17; Hel. 3:30, 3 Ne. 28:40, Rev. 3:12; Hel 5:4; Mosiah 4:6, 1:1, 5:5; and, 3 Ne. 6:20.
5. Act on promptings to meet with missionaries who show problems.
6. What makes a successful mission president and wife? You will feel the Spirit working through you at all times and in all places (*Preach My Gospel*, pg. 10-11)
7. You will feel that the Lord has had your back (D&C 84:88).
8. You will feel the confidence to go forward with faith.
9. Roles of the mission president and his wife are: husband and father, wife and mother, comforters, friends, lovers and romantic partners, constant support for one another, priesthood leader, shepherd (D&C 121:34-46), visionary, strategist, expert, coach, and example.
10. Find a way to see each missionary in the way the Lord sees them.
11. You come with your own unique gifts.

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12. Every missionary wants to please you, needs to feel your vision and expectations, needs to know that you believe in the Doctrine of Christ, and wants to feel united in the work.
13. Our challenge is never the message, but most often the messenger.
14. Help your missionary rise to their potential.
15. See them where they are and who they are.
16. Set an expectation that they are capable of achieving.
17. Use the “pure knowledge” gained to help your missionaries.
18. We should always be looking for material to better ourselves.
19. Beware of the 18th month mark where missionaries become tired and will need revitalization.
20. Remember that we all said “yes” at the very beginning in the pre-existence.
21. Work as hard as you can. The numbers will take care of themselves.
22. *Preach My Gospel*, pg. 10, “A Successful Missionary”. “When you have done your very best, you may still experience disappointments, but you will not be disappointed in yourself. You can feel certain that the Lord is pleased when you feel the Spirit working through you.”
23. Your success is measured in the lives of your missionaries.
24. Scriptures: D&C 42:2; Luke 14:27; D&C 38:40; Alma 31:34-35; D&C 43:8-10.

Benediction

President John C. Eberhardt (SLC East)

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UTAH AREAS ANNUAL MISSION PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR SEPTEMBER 9 – 12, 2015

Snowbird Ski and Summer Resort - Cliff Lodge

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2015

Presiding
Conducting

Elder Ronald A. Rasband
Elder Larry Y. Wilson

Opening Hymn # 81 *Press Forward, Saints*
Music Director Sister Robin Chambers (SLC South)
Pianist Scott T. Seamons

Invocation

President Chris D. Killpack (Orem)

Elder Michael T. Ringwood and Elder Larry Y. Wilson – Question and Answer:

1. Do we emphasize baptisms or reactivation? These two are part of the five objectives of missionaries: find, teach, baptize, retain and activate. All are important.
2. The greatest gold mine for finding is with the less actives.
3. Talk about the miracles of reactivation at stake conferences like you do baptisms.
4. In Utah 1/3rd of the population are active members, 1/3rd less active members, and 1/3rd are nonmembers.
5. The Amalekites and Amulonites were not converted save only one (Alma 23:14). Aminadab was a Nephi by birth who had once belonged to the church of God, who saw through the cloud of darkness to see the faces of Nephi and Lehi and told the people that they must repent (Helaman 5:35-52).
6. Baptisms and reactivation are not two separate works, they are one.
7. Missionaries need to become master finders (*Preach My Gospel*, Chapter 9). Nothing happens until we find someone to teach.
8. At all opportunities with active members, less actives or nonmembers, missionaries should leave with a name and an appointment to teach someone.
9. Missionaries can ask bishops if there are less actives they can visit.
10. Ask less actives to tell you about the missionaries that taught them. What brought them to the Church? Ask less actives who served a mission who their mission president was and to reflect on their missions. Less actives can be asked about the spiritual experiences they have had. Some less actives don't think of themselves as less active.
11. When seeking names of people to teach, missionaries should continue to ask, "Who else do you know?" after receiving a name.
12. Missionaries should always be finding.
13. When role playing, layout the circumstances, write the answers or steps on the board, don't let them flounder, share constructive observations, and have several practice.
14. Even the less active in Utah have hope (Job 14:7-9). The water is the living water (Jer. 2:13; John 4:10). Reactivation is the work of the "repairer" and "restorer" (Isa. 58:12).
15. Missionaries sometimes shy away from Joseph Smith.
16. They should focus on him rather than shying away from or being ashamed of him (1 Ne. 25).
17. Never make the story of the Prophet Joseph Smith common place.
18. List on a white board the "fruits" of the Prophet Joseph Smith".

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19. Don't be surprised that Joseph Smith is under attack. It has been foretold that he would be. His name "...should be both good and evil spoken of among all people. (Joseph Smith History 43).
20. So many early members, close personal acquaintances, knew, loved and sustained him as prophet.
21. Joseph Smith: "I never told you I was perfect, but there is no error in the revelations which I have taught." (Teachings of the Presidents of the Church, pg. 522, Thomas Bullick, May 12, 1844; or Joseph Smith, *History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints*, 7 Vol. 6:366)
22. Talk by Elder Dallin H. Oaks, *Joseph Smith the Man* (General Conference April 1996).
23. Don't ever underestimate the power of a missionary quoting the first vision from memory.
24. Tie the Joseph Smith question back to the Book of Mormon as proof. Share your testimony of Joseph Smith and the Book of Mormon.
25. Joseph Smith's great strengths far outweigh his weaknesses.
26. W. W. Phelps who temporarily left the Church, upon his return he wrote, *Praise to the Man Who Communes with Jehovah*.
27. Oliver Cowdery's testimony at the Kanesville Tabernacle (see <http://dev.mormonhistoricsites.org/USA/iowa/councilBluffs/kanesvilleTabernacle/complete.pdf>)
28. A practice exercise for missionaries to consider, "How did the Savior and the apostles respond to the future apostasy they foretold?"
29. "By their fruits ye shall know them." (Matt. 7:15-16).
30. The seer stone of Joseph Smith's day is like our iPhone of today.
31. This isn't a restored church from 1830 but a restoration from all time.
32. What if there were no Joseph Smith?
33. Do your missionaries need to use the 12-week program? Yes and they should repeat it throughout their mission. Have all the missionaries do it again. Commit trainers to complete the full 12-week program with their new missionaries or they can't be trainers.
34. You should commit each new missionary to do it.

Elder L. Whitney Clayton - Discussion – Therefore, What?

1. We want to make our area stronger. We need to be the light on the hill.
2. Therefore what? What are we going to do better?
3. D&C 41:2-3 and D&C 43:8-10 outline how we are to act.

Important Takeaways by Day:

Wednesday:

1. Missionaries need to know who they are and that they can qualify to be epistles of the Lord.
2. Keep the Sabbath Day holy and make sacrament meeting a place where investigators and members can come and see who the Savior is (John 1:38-39).
3. The two houses need to be brought together.
4. What did you hope to gain from this seminar and what is hard for you?
5. Get past the form to get to the real.
6. Explain the sacrament ordinance.
7. Missionaries need to be personally converted. They don't "adjust" after they go home.
8. Baptize, baptize, baptize (Moses 6:48-52).

Thursday:

1. Elder Oaks email.
2. The Fundamentals from *Preach My Gospel*.
3. We need to be clear in showing our vision, how much missionaries are we capable of, and lifting and encouraging them (1 Cor. 14:8).
4. There is a "yes" hiding behind all those "nos". Don't give up on the first or second no.

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5. The sequence of 3 Ne. 11.
6. Leaders need to be on board to change the mission culture (MLC).
7. The Robles family video is a great example.
8. Use the DVDs containing “The District” videos.
9. The Book of Mormon and reading mentors. The promise is found in the last two paragraphs of the Introduction and Moroni 10:4-5. The problem is not with the promise but with the individual. Read with investigators or less actives.
10. We were taught powerfully about prayer.
11. More baptisms does not equal lower quality.
12. It is alright to not know everything (Elder Anderson, *You Know Enough*).
13. Head of household to offer prayer at end of first lesson.
14. Free assistants to what they should be doing, baptize.
15. People don’t remember until they have heard it 17 times, therefore repetition is key.

Friday:

1. Are you the kind of missionary members can trust? Missionaries need to earn their referrals.
2. Build trusting relationships with members, ward councils and priesthood leaders.
3. Missionaries can meet with families who have sons and daughters out serving and ask their missionaries to tell the family what they can do to advance missionary work at home.
4. I (we) need a miracle.
5. The 80% tithe payer? We need to give our all.
6. If it is broken, fix it!
7. How to work with the ward council.
8. How and what to say at stake conferences.
9. Mission president to attend new stake president’s setting apart. Our arms should be linked together.
10. Working in Utah is a positive.
11. Ward council members are entitled to revelation.

Saturday:

1. There should be no doubt in our missionaries when they go home (make sure missionaries are converted).
2. When visiting members, share brief message, pray and get out.
3. Baptizing, retention and reactivation are all one work.
4. Can’t teach anyone until we find them.
5. Share the miracles.
6. Build on our strengths.
7. Compare the sacrament prayers.
8. Our task D&C 42:6-8.
 - Tomorrow night take ten minutes and go through this list. What are the points we need to change? What should we do specifically to improve?
 - Watch the news so you know what is going on.

Elder Ronald A. Rasband – Closing Remarks:

Comments from the General Authority Seventies’ wives:

Sister Kathy K. Clayton – Living water is universal.

Sister Alicia C. Stanfill – You look like you could use a friend. I have something you need. You need to read this.

Sister Lynda M. Wilson – Mountain top experiences. Life is not a straight line. It has ups and downs. This is a marathon. There are lessons to be learned.

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Sister Rosalie N. Ringwood – Alma 60:22. We should be up and doing! Rejoice!

Sister Melanie T. Rasband – The Holy Ghost can be with us as a constant companion. We have a prophet who directs us. Missionaries should trust the Lord to teach about Joseph Smith and trust Joseph Smith.

Elder Ronald A. Rasband:

1. The spirituality, beauty and witness of our sisters is powerful. Involve your wives as full partners in your service.
2. Women are now serving on the executive councils of the Church and on lesser councils as well.
3. Remember the three great overarching objectives: gathering of scattered Israel, sealing gathered Israel a holy temple and preparing the world for the second coming.
4. The missionary purpose is key in these objectives.
5. We invite others to come unto Christ.
6. To endure to the end is to be endowed.
7. All of us can focus on the temple in your mission. There are 15 temples in Utah. Two new ones under construction.
8. Make the temple an important part of your missions. Elevate the importance of the temple. The missionaries should think, “That is where I want Brother and Sister Brown to be able to go to be endowed and sealed.”
9. Alma 26:4-7 is a perfect chapter to contemplate the blessings we bring to converts. Sheaves (converts) are gathered into garner (temple).
10. The blessings of missionaries are set forth in D&C 109:22-23, 39, 59, 73, and 71 are a wonder to contemplate. Teach them to your missionaries.
11. We prefer missionaries to ask for a name rather than referral.

Closing Hymn # 112 *Savior, Redeemer of My Soul*

Benediction

Sister Adrienne Poulsen (Temple Square)