

President's Message

"OUR GREATEST GIFT"

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:16

Dear Elders & Sisters:

The Christmas Season is a wonderful time of the year. What a special calling it is to be a personal representative of Jesus Christ, to have the authority to preach His gospel. There is no greater time to be in the Mission Field than Christmas. It's a time for giving and we all know it is better to give than to receive and far more lasting. There can be no greater gift to share with others than the pure light of Christ. Without Christ there can be no spirit of Christmas. President Hinckley has said:

"Christmas means giving. The Father gave his Son, and the Son gave his life. Without giving there is no true Christmas, and without sacrifice there is no true worship. There is more to Christmas than neckties, earrings, toys, and all the tinsel stuff of which we make so much.

Christmas means giving—and "the gift without the giver is bare." Giving of self; giving of substance; giving heart and mind and strength in assisting those in need and in spreading the cause of His eternal truth—these are of the very essence of the true spirit of Christmas.

Give from your heart this Christmas season, to your companion, your families and everyone everywhere. May your message to one and all be one of peace; may your heart be filled with love and gratitude for our Savior, Christ the Lord.

Merry Christmas, We love you
President & Sister Jones

DEAR ELDERS AND SISTERS,

Christmas time is here again. What a wonderful blessing it is to be a personal representative of Him whose birth we remember this month. During this joyful season, many hearts are turned to remember the birth of our Savior, but many people have nothing to look forward to during the Holidays. We carry the greatest message in the world, and what better time to share it than now!

The greatest of all gifts was given on Christmas morning. "How silently, how silently The wondrous gift is giv'n! So God imparts to human hearts The blessing of his heav'n. No ear may hear his coming; But in this world of sin, here meek souls will receive him, still The dear Christ enters in." (Hymn No. 208.)

As the angelic messengers said, "...Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord." (Luke 2:10-11). We, like those angelic messenger, have the opportunity to share "good tidings of great joy."

The importance of the promised Messiah's birth, is found in His death. It is through His death and resurrection, that we may be able to return to our Father In Heaven. Let us share the blessings of the Atonement, as we stir others hearts in remembrance of Christ's birth.

Love
Elder Hall & Elder Jensen

ARRIVALS
DECEMBER 1997



Sister Alisa Adams	Andover, MA
Elder Reid Byington	Oklahoma City, OK
Elder Jonathan Denninghoff	Paris, KY
Elder Brandon Fletcher	Lethbridge, AB
Elder Bart Hillier 11	Yuma, AZ
Elder Jason Massey	Gresham, OR
Elder William Mathews 111	Tampa, FL
Sister Michelle Minns	Petaluma, CA
Sister Violani Sekona	Inglewood, CA
Elder Craig Torrie	Grassy Lake, AB
Elder Andrew von Harten	Greenwood, IN

TRAINERS
THIS MONTH

Sister Sarah Daniels
Elder Euclides Jasso
Elder Shane White
Elder Thomas Wolsey
Elder Jarom Stradling
Elder Daniel Crotchett
Elder Daniel Washburn
Sister Alicia Cooper
Sister Leute Poloai
Elder Jerel Bartholomew
Elder Robert Fultz IV

DEPARTURES
DECEMBER 1997



Elder Edward Conwell, Jr.	Atlantic, IA
Elder Joseph Ennis	Detroit, AL
Elder Anthony George	Geelong, VI Australia
Elder Robert Horne	North Vancouver, BC
Elder Michael Huston	Waterford, PA
Sister Tiffanie Mar	Lincoln, NE
Elder John McCartney	Baton Rouge, LA
Elder Christopher Nelson	Mountain View, AB
Sister Holly Williams	West Monroe, LA
Elder John Woodman	Longview, TX

January Birthdays

Elder Frederick Dunn	1, Jan.	Sister Martha Gil	11, Jan.	Elder Jason Massey	23, Jan.
Sister Holly Williams	4, Jan.	Elder Galen Knight	13, Jan.	Sister Leute Poloai	26, Jan.
Elder Vaughn Clayton	9, Jan.	Elder Joseph Ennis	16, Jan.	Elder Kyle Livingston	26, Jan.
Elder Stephen Williams	10, Jan.	Elder Travis Whiting	16, Jan.	Elder Barnabas Brown	26, Jan.
Elder Robert Bohanan	10, Jan.	Elder Matthew Bradley	22, Jan.	Elder Daniel Heyworth	27, Jan.

Baptismal Recommends Received Through December 5, 1997

George Adams	Terry Davis	Casey Hindberg	Shirley McCauley	Crystal Scott
Luis Aguirre	Kurtis Derrick	Mary Hobbs	Jordan Nelson	Racheal Shaw
Lindsay Alarcon	John Dexter	Stephen Hobbs	Raquel Newmeyer	Erika Shepherd
Joshua Anderson	James Dexter	Cameron Hokanson	Jayne Noel	Rustin Shupe
Spencer Anehn	R. Dikwa-nkrumah	Camron Horanson	Anthony Norton	Jesse Shupe
Jason Anehn	June Dillree	Christopher Houchins	Stephanie Parker	Micheal Skinner
Jason Anehn	Tyler Douglas	Johnathon Houchins	George Parker 111	Amanda Steele
Mathew Anglesey	Lavatai Drake	Justin Huether	Joseph Parker	Carolyn Stokes
Elizabeth Arollano	Kayla Earley	Lanae Hunt	Jaime Parra	Steven Strain
Kimberly Barnett	Donald Eilander	Tawni Jenson	Camille Payne	Trent Tuthill
Danielle Blakeman	Earl Eyce	Andrea Jones	Ashley Pickett	Andrea Tuthill
Danielle Blakeman	Michael Faver	Brianna Jordan	Lawrence Pritchard	Casey Utz
Kyle Bluemel	Josue Flores	Helen Jordan	Efrain Reyes	Marquita Valdez
Waylon Bond	Paul French	Roy Kelsey	Bobbie Rilie	Aron Wall
Cameron Bond	Michael Garver	Todd Kurowski	Michelle Ross	Kristine Walters
Jesse Bowen	Manual Gonzales	Emily Laloli	Brian Rossevelt	Donald Weeks
Jake Bowen	Samuel Gonzalez	Emily Laolo	Jaclyn Russell	Virginia Wentz
Sheena Bowen	Dawn Gunter	Sarah Lloyd	Oland Saint	Jeffrey Wilson
Eric Brook	Jason Hall	Miguel Lopez	Sonia Saldana	Michelle Woolsay
Robert Caviedo	Tyler Hamilton	Kathleen Loveless	Justin Salsman	Andrew Yocomk
James Chevalier	Roy Harris	Seth Malone	Justin Salsman	
Francisco Cubvas	Kenneth Hefflefinger	Lauri Martini	Kelly Saunders	
Charlie Daley	Kacee Hendricks	Alexander Mayberry	Shauna Saxton	
Jon Dalton	Tyson Heslington	Maribeth McCauley	Christopher Schaffer	

**12 DAYS SINCE THE LAST
PREVENTABLE ACCIDENT**

STUDY
SCHEDULE

Week 1	Dec. 28 - Nature of God
Week 2	Jan. 4 - Jesus - Son Of God
Week 3	Jan. 11 - Prophets
Week 4	Jan. 18 - Joseph Smith

STAKE YOUTH MISSIONARY FIRESIDE

A BRIEF OVERVIEW

Our Purpose-

1. To help the youth understand their important role as missionaries
2. To teach them how to approach a friend (using the commitment pattern)
3. To find through them and obtain referrals

What Did We Do?

We called the stake young men's (Don Bassett) and stake young women's (Lori Morris) president and set up an appointment to meet with them. In this meeting, we explained to them what we would like to do and why. They explained that for this fireside to have good attendance, they would need 6-8 weeks from the time of this first meeting before the day of the actual event. We agreed that plenty of notice would be necessary. We told them that we would also need about ten returned missionaries to be at the fireside for assistance. We decided tentatively on the day of September 21, a Sunday. They needed to present this message to the stake to make sure it was going to be OK. We told them we would get back with them in one week. Bro. Bassett and Sis. Morris were excited about the idea.

We called Bro. Bassett and he said that September 21 would work out great. We asked them at this point to help us to locate some returned missionaries so that they would have enough notice to work this fireside into their schedule.

About three weeks before the fireside, we began to make arrangements for the speakers. We wanted the stake president and the stake mission president to speak. We asked the stake president to speak about why we do missionary work and we asked the stake mission president to speak on how we do missionary work. We notified them of the day and time and they were happy to participate.

Two weeks before the fireside, we met with Brother Bassett to put together a flyer that the youth would receive as a reminder one week before the event. We included the necessary information (day, time, age group, etc.) Throughout this whole process, we announced the fireside in the various wards that we attended. At this point, we confirmed with the returned missionaries that they would be attending.

The Fireside

6:00 pm- We met with the returned missionaries and explained to them what we wanted them to do. We had typed up a handout for each of them. On the handout was four different situations that the youth could practice in their individual groups. The youth were mainly practicing the prepare and invite aspects of the commitment pattern.

6:45pm- The youth began to arrive. We had assigned youth leaders to hand out a blank 3x5 card with a sticker on it. Each youth received a card.

7:00 pm- The fireside began. Bro. Bassett introduced us and we welcomed them and outlined our program. We began with a hymn and a prayer. Pres. Andrus, the stake president, spoke. Pres. Pettingill, the stake mission president, followed. We then briefly explained to the youth the four points of the commitment pattern and demonstrated a less effective and an effective way to invite a friend to hear the discussions. We then asked them to look at their cards and to see what color sticker they had. They split off into different groups in assigned rooms in the church with a returned missionary as a leader of each group. In the group we practiced for about twenty minutes.

7:50 pm- We gathered again in the cultural hall for a brief summary and feedback on their experience. We asked them to take out the cards they each received and gave out pens and pencils. We explained to that we wanted them to write down their name, their phone number, the ward they are in, and all nonmember and less active friends that they knew. This part was a little chaotic, but it was fun. We collected all the cards. We ended with a hymn and prayer and there was refreshments. We had several youth come up and talk to us afterward about their friends and what we thought would be a good step to take with them. It was awesome to see their enthusiasm and desire to share the gospel.

Follow-Up

We collected all the cards and divided them according to wards. We listed all the people that were at the fireside with their corresponding referrals. We then wrote down all the addresses of the youth that were there and began to follow-up. We went to them and asked them which of their friends that they wrote down were most prepared and how we could help them. We also asked their parents for referrals. A few of them told us the address of their friends and we told them that we didn't care. **THE YOUTH NEED TO DO THE INVITING!!** This is the only way you will be effective. They will do it if you encourage them and resolve their concerns. The follow-up aspect of this fireside is where all of our work was. We have contacted and are still contacting the youth that are inviting their friends at least once or twice a week. This way they don't forget. It takes a little organization and work, but it's worth it.

Summary

The feedback we got on this fireside was very positive. The youth leaders that were there and the youth said it was helpful and fun. It increased the awareness of missionary work in the entire stake. A few facts that may be of interest....

1. We had 140 youth attend this fireside. This shows that the youth are excited about being member-missionaries
2. We received a total of 148 nonmember referrals and 43 less active referrals. This was all in the course of one hour. We have yet to have that kind of success tracting.

The key to the success of this event was proper planning, good advertisement throughout the stake, and a commitment to follow-up with these youth. Follow-up is essential!! We hope that you might present this idea to your different stakes. It is a great way to find people and to educate the youth about missionary work.

Elder Kingrey
Elder Hendrichs
Elder Allen

NEW ZONE LEADERS

ELDER BRENT FOUTZ



ELDER JEREMY RICE



NEW DISTRICT LEADERS

ELDER JARED NORTON



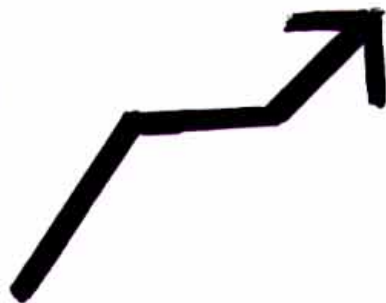
ELDER AARON SMITH



CONTINUED

PRESIDENTS REMINDERS

ONWARD & UPWARD



ACTION OF THE MONTH

PROSELYTING FOR THE ELECT! -- USE IT TO BRING MANY MORE SOULS UNTO CHRIST!

REMINDERS:

- IT'S WINTER-- BE VERY CAREFUL DRIVING --SLOW DOWN --ALSO BE CAREFUL ON BICYCLES AND WALKING.
- Send in your special conversion story for the News Letter.
- No Monday night use of Church Buildings or Monday Baptisms.
- Send in your ideas for the NEW NAME of our Mission Newsletter -- Also your ideas for a New Utah Ogden Mission Logo.
- **BE BOLD**
- **SMILE**



LET'S GET SPECIFIC:

- Do listen to Classic Christmas Carols during the month.
- Do study & memorize new approaches.
- Do work on District and Zone unity.
- **DO** READ THE JOSEPH SMITH STORY EACH MONTH.
- Don't call your President after 10:30 P.M. unless you have a real emergency. -----
You are suppose to BE IN BED!!!!
- LOCK YOUR HEART!!!

ATTABOYS -ATTAGIRLS:

- Had a Terrific District Leader Training Conference.
- Many great experiences using new approaches.
- Big rebound in total baptisms for last month - but still less than 1996.

STATS:

Mission discussions for Nov. "97"	2,122	Nov. "96"	= 2370	Last Mo.=	2184
Mission baptisms for Nov. "97"	128	Nov. "96"	= 143	Last Mo.=	103
Mission baptisms Year To Date 1997	=1,450			Year To Date 1996	=1,499

WHAT WILL YOU ADD THIS MONTH???

MEMORIZATION: MISSION STATEMENT