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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS  
THE SEVENTY  
47 EAST SOUTH TEMPLE STREET, SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH 84150-1700

December 4, 2000

To: President [REDACTED]  
Salt Lake Bonneville Stake

Dear President [REDACTED]:

Increased Emphasis on the Calling of Young Elders and Missionary Couples

As you are aware, President Gordon B. Hinckley has placed much emphasis on the immediate need to call more full-time missionaries. He has indicated –

“I offer a challenge to every young man and to the many able couples in our midst. Plan now to serve the Lord as a full-time missionary.... Consecrate a portion of your lives to this sacred service. Think of all that you have that is good.... I promise you that the time you spend in the mission field, if those years are spent in dedicated service, will yield a greater return on investment than any other time of your lives. You will come to know what dedication and consecration mean.... You will bless the lives of those you serve, and their posterity after them. You will bless your own life. You will bless the lives of your family, who will sustain you and pray for you.... And so, my dear friends, resolve within your hearts today to include in the program of your lives, service in the harvest field of the Lord as a missionary of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.”

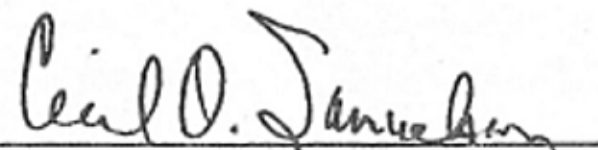
According to our records, there are 35 full-time young elders serving from your stake, and 5 senior full-time couple missionaries serving from your stake. Would you be so kind as to discuss this matter with your counselors, the high council, your bishoprics, and the quorum leaders, putting a renewed emphasis on this important matter. As you know, it will necessitate a number of interviews with young men, and couples as well. Instead of asking them whether or not they want to serve a mission, the bishop should have already had a confirmation in prayer so that he can issue a call to them in the name of the Lord to prepare to be worthy to serve a mission by a given date.

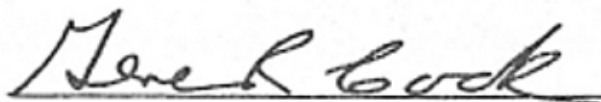
We will be providing a report to the Brethren at April conference 2001. If you feel to do so, we would appreciate your sharing any successes you experience as you extend mission calls between now and March 15, 2001.

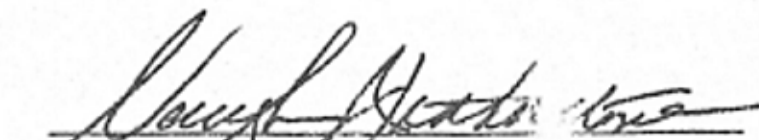
May the Lord always bless you.

Sincerely,

UTAH NORTH AREA PRESIDENCY

  
Cecil O. Samuelson

  
Gene R. Cook

  
Vaughn J. Featherstone