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**UTAH AREAS INTERIM MISSION PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 2015**

**1:00 – 5:00 P.M.**

**JOSEPH SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING - RELIEF SOCIETY ROOM**

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**Presiding  
Conducting**

**President L. Whitney Clayton  
President L. Whitney Clayton**

**Opening Hymn  
Music Director  
Pianist**

*#249 Called to Serve*  
Sister Robin Chambers  
Brother Scott T. Seamons

**Invocation**

**President Earl S. Swain**

**Instruction/Discussion**

**President L. Whitney Clayton**

***Begin with the End in Mind - Elder Russell M. Nelson***

**(Read the Power Point Presentation “Begin with the End in Mind” with these additional thoughts.)**

1. Utah now has 585 stakes. More than 1 million members attend sacrament meeting each week. 850,000 less actives don't attend and another 850,000 nonmembers.
2. Moses 1:37-39 – His work is our work. His ends are our ends (see also John 17:3).
3. Missionary work should begin and end with our minds focused on the blessing of the Temple for new and reactivated members.
4. Missionary work is about gathering people out of the world, ennobling them and enabling them eventually to dwell with God forever.
5. How does this apply to you? PMG. page 137. Missionaries will be the greatest converts of their (your) service when they come to understand their divine heritage. That they really are sons and daughters of God with the goal to return to live with our Heavenly Father.
6. We are to leave behind the world (PMG. page 137 and missionary call letter). When we do these things, and are converted, we are gathered out of the world, ennobled, and will become effective in leading others to do the same. New members need to leave the world.
7. The vision is to see investigators and less actives dressed in white (baptismal and temple candidates).
8. Teaching and helping to keep commitments prepares people to keep covenants.
9. D&C. 1:31-32 – The plan includes repentance for all people. We need personal repentance. Missionaries need personal repentance, as do investigators, and reactivated members.
10. Sins are washed away only after we repent of them, are baptized, and receive the Holy Ghost. The cleansing comes because of the Atonement.
11. When we repent of our sins we become free to act (2 Ne. 2:26). We become agents not objects.
12. Investigators need to understand what they are doing when they are baptized. They should not be just getting wet. They need to be taught the vision (opportunities of eternal life). Baptism is only one of many steps. Help them look at the destination not the pebble in front of them. New and reactivated members are like children. They need help to continue growing.
13. Missionaries need to look beyond baptism focusing on preparing investigators to enter into and keeping the covenants that await them in the temple.
14. Let missionaries see those they baptize endowed and sealed in the temple, if possible.
15. Team work is required in investigator conversion and less active reactivation.
16. Nobody should care or quibble over who saved the life of a patient. Nor should we quibble over who gets credit for a baptism.
17. Example of the doctors who would not assist a patient who ultimately died from appendicitis while they disputed over how they would get paid.
18. All Heavenly Father wants is all of His children to return to Him.

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19. Four adjustments to the Teaching Process (Elder Nelson talk pages 6-8). When reteaching the lessons, do so in different way. Use senior couples to teach again.
20. Mission presidents should personally instruct district leaders on how to interview an investigator for baptism.
21. Members hanging on to new members is the key.
22. New members should have a list of what they should do within the first month, six months, etc.
23. Missionaries can go with new members to do baptisms for the dead.
24. Other relevant references: Alma 26:5, D&C. 101:64-65.

### Instruction/Discussion

Elder Don R. Clarke

#### *Teaching*

(Read the Power Point Presentation “Work of Salvation” with these additional thoughts.)

1. The work of Salvation includes: member missionary work, retention, activation, temple & family history, and teaching the Gospel.
2. Teaching and learning is what keeps us grounded and growing.
3. See PMG. page 182; Alma 23:5-6, 17-18; Alma 31:5; Handbook 2, 5.5
4. Teaching requires that we prepare, edify and act.
5. We are still losing more than we are keeping. Unless we change, everything will remain the same.
6. Alma 23:5-6 – How were the Lamanites converted? 1. They were brought to a knowledge of the truth. 2. Taught according to the spirit of revelation and prophecy. 3. The power of god working miracles in them. 4. Taught from the records (scriptures).
7. We need to ingrain the traditions of the righteous Mormons in them.
8. We need to change how missionaries take investigators on this journey.
9. Good people that have the Spirit of Christ want something better.
10. Missionaries need to teach with spiritual power (PMG. page 4).
11. First comes the baptism of water than the baptism of fire (PMG. page 9)
12. It is sad when we teach without the father present.
13. How to Begin (PMG. page 176): Teach preparation. The Spirit is the teacher. Know the doctrines. Invite everyone to listen. Remove distractions. Start and end with prayer.
14. “Let me say an opening prayer so you can see how to say the closing prayer.”
15. What do you (investigator) expect to get out of this lesson? Why did you let us come?
16. They can be like Joseph Smith by receiving answers to their prayers.
17. Teach the Atonement so they can get closer to Him. They need to know Him. We teach about Him, not about stuff.
18. We don’t need to get through the whole lesson in one sitting.
19. Missionaries are there to teach investigators what they need to do to allow the Savior to save them.
20. Companionship preparation. Keep good eye contact. Teach simple concepts. Bear strong testimony. Ask inspiring questions. Listen carefully. Teach in unity. Teach doctrine.
21. Ask the question, then be quiet and listen to their answers. Learn to listen and identify their concerns.
22. Restate their question to be sure it is understood.
23. The whole process of teaching must change in order to improve teaching.
24. Love those you teach. Learn to teach by practicing. Teach in unity with companion. Have a positive attitude.
25. Prepare fellowships to teach, when to speak, answer questions and to testify.
26. Open and use the (their) scriptures.
27. Use proper iPad etiquette. iPads can be distracting.
28. Leave a pamphlet behind and ask investigators to study it before you come again so you can discuss it with them.
29. Practice, and perfect, how we invite and help them keep commitments. Commitment to act.

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30. Extend a direct invitation, pausing and waiting for a response.
31. Don't be afraid of quiet. That is the time investigators think and the Holy Ghost will come to them.
32. The Holy Ghost did in 4 minutes what we hadn't been able to do in 4 months.
33. In 3 Nephi Jesus taught directly the doctrines, not in parables as He did in the Gospels.
34. What you teach about the Sabbath day will be the way to change who they are.
35. Missionaries need to know and have the confidence that they can make a real difference in investigators lives.
36. What would you do differently to get a better result?
37. Take advantage one on one opportunities to encourage and teach missionaries.
38. Prepare district leaders better to teach so they can teach their missionaries (small meetings are best).
39. Counsel with your leaders on how teaching can be improved in your mission. What do we do well? What do we need to do better? What do they need to know?
40. The Savior is the master teacher. Follow Him.

### Instruction/Discussion

**Elder Mervyn B. Arnold**  
**Brother David G. Wade**

### *Retention*

(Read the Power Point Presentation "Retention" with these additional thoughts.)

1. 1 Ne. 16:10-16, 28-29 – How did the Liahona work? According to faith, diligence, and heed.
2. What was the new writing? Line upon line instructions and revelations.
3. "And thus we see that by small means the Lord can bring about great things." (v.29)
4. Remember the three things a new member or reactivated member needs: a friend, a responsibility, and being nourished by the good word of God.
5. If we stop working with new or reactivated member, they will stop progressing. Missionaries need to stick with them.
6. Mor. 6:4 – New members were identified, nourished by the good work of God, and ministered to continually.
7. Continue extending commitments after baptism. Teach some of the deeper points of the lessons the second (third, etc.) time you teach them.
8. The four adjustments to teaching outlined by Elder Nelson are to assist in retaining new members.
9. Every lesson the friendship/fellowship was there.
10. Schedule lessons around the friend's schedule, not just the investigators' or missionaries' schedule.
11. The De Ridder Family video – The missionaries never gave up. The Spirit was present when missionaries taught. They liked the plan of salvation and the eternal nature of the family. They had a great friendship connection. The friend had a great heart. Member friend felt a divine feeling of love and couldn't wait to come back. Lessons were given when the member friend was able to attend. There were no "stupid questions".
12. Really get to know the members so the right friend can be found and assigned.
13. Are the missionaries using the new and returning member form?
14. Talk about and work with converts as much after baptism as before.
15. Alma 36:24 – After baptism (activation) we should labor without ceasing.
16. New (activated) members are prime sources for referrals.
17. Introduce new (activated) members to the ward Family History consultant.
18. Have them find family names and do baptisms for the dead. This needs to improve.
19. There is a new after baptism pamphlet.
20. Track the progress of new or activated members.

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### Therefor What?

1. Change what missionaries are doing by changing what they are thinking.
2. Teach what Elder Nelson taught.
3. Talk about them at ward council meetings. Plan how to help. Do it.
4. Involve the bishop (councils) earlier in the process
5. Retain weekly contact or more after baptism or reactivation.
6. Track retention in wards and stakes.
7. Have friends for them and schedule teaching so friend will be there.
8. New and reactivated members find family names and take to the temple.

### What can we do to retain our missionaries?

1. Stay in contact with them after their missions. Find the time to do it. Reunions are helpful and important.
2. Items in Elder Ballard's talk in 2014.
3. Use senior missionary couples to help make a plan for departing missionaries and follow-up.
5. Send an email every 6 to 10 weeks.
6. Mission presidents and their wives are in it for the long term.
7. Show your love for them in creative ways.
8. Continue to teach your returned missionaries.
9. Mission presidents and their wives can have a huge influence on their returned missionaries when they return home.

Stick with your converts and your missionaries.

### Instruction/Discussion

President L. Whitney Clayton

#### *Activation*

1. Luke 15:3-7 – **Parable of the Lost Sheep.** It was lost by accident. The man had to go into the wilderness (a hard place). He left the 99 to go find the one. He did whatever was necessary to find the sheep. He did not stop until the job was done. When he brought it back he call all the neighbors together to rejoice.
2. Luke 15:8-10 – **Parable of the Lost Coin.** It was lost by neglect. The object (a coin) is inanimate compared to the animate object of lost sheep. Talking about the sinner that repents, not the coin. Rejoicing in heaven over one sinner that repenteth. She didn't wait to start looking. She swept her house (everywhere). She desired to find it because of its value.
3. Luke 15:11-32 – **Parable of the Prodigal Son.** The loss was a willful choice. The father did not run after him to stop him (agency). We don't know what effort the father used to find and recover his son. The father must have been looking for the son because he saw him a great way off. The son remembered who he was, so he returned. His circumstances forced him to repent. I hope the Savior will come to me like the father did to his son. We sometimes thing that our mistakes make us no more worthy to be called His son. The inheritance was never restored. The second son was like the Pharisees (angry, jealous and lacking charity).
4. How do these parables apply to us? We are all sinners. We are all beggars. Judge not others unrighteously. We need to forgive. This is teaching us about mercy and justice. 3 Ne. 18:32.

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5. What helped in the recovery? – Unconditional love. Never giving up. Knowing that they have a place to return home. Members who reached out. The examples of friends. Home teachers. Reading the Book of Mormon. Fasting and prayers. Patience. Being willing to minister when we are on our “cross”. Even in His agony, Jesus ministered to the thief on His cross. Activation is just as important as baptisms.
6. What hinders the recovery? – No one willing to sweep the room. It is someone else’s job.
7. What can we do? – The principles of teaching are the same in baptisms and activation. Put less active member’s progress on missionary reports. People are the value not the object. We need to be Christ like. Seeking for the one is taught three times three different ways to emphasis its importance. We need full service missionaries. We are in a supporting role and should not supplant those assigned, but we can be of great assistance. Our duties and their duties align themselves. Missionaries can and need to focus on more than one thing at a time. Planters will get as much rewards as harvesters. Begin with the end in mind. It is as important to be understood and not misunderstood. Use your time wisely and do all you can.

**Closing Hymn**  
**Music Director**  
**Pianist**

*#89 I Need Thee Every Hour*  
Sister Robin Chambers  
Brother Scott T. Seamons

**Benediction**

**Sister Sandra Jo Eberhardt**

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**UTAH AREAS INTERIM MISSION PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR**

**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015**

**9:00 A.M. – 12:15 P.M.**

**JOSEPH SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING – RELIEF SOCIETY ROOM**

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**Presiding  
Conducting**

**President L. Whitney Clayton  
Elder Mervyn B. Arnold**

**Opening Hymn  
Music Director  
Pianist**

*#264 Hark, All Ye Nations!*  
Sister Robin Chambers  
Scott T. Seamons

**Invocation**

**President John A. McCune**

**Reflections on yesterday's meetings**

**Elder Don R. Clarke  
Elder Mervyn B. Arnold**

(See Thursday, April 16, 2015 Minutes)

**Instruction/Discussion**

**Elder Mervyn B. Arnold**

***Family History/Temple***

**(Read the Power Point Presentation "Family History and Temple Work" with these additional thoughts.)**

1. D&C. 2:1-2 is written for our day. Compare it to how the Old Testament ends with Malachi 4:5-6.
2. Our righteous ancestors have a right to assist us (as ministering angels). Their strength of vision and clarity of their insight is powerful.
3. The Discovery Center – How did you feel about your ancestors? Do we feel bonded to them? Do I have the same personality? Do I look like them?
4. It is so important to get new and newly activated members to the temple for their own ancestors.
5. Introduce new and activated members to a Family History consultant.
6. PMG. 163-165. Use senior couples to help.

**Therefor what?**

1. Get them ready for the temple right after they are baptized or activated.
2. Include a Family History consultant as a fellowship.
3. Stimulate the missionaries to start the process. Missionaries need to be sold on Family History work. They should have their own pedigree chart. Their personal experiences will motivate them and others.
4. The Sabbath Day is a great day to do Family History work.
5. Family History work helps members recognize their own personal worth.
6. A good spiritual experience involving Family History and the internet will give a good impression of technology.
7. This is a good way to immunize against evil.
8. The father we listened to who recently joined the Church. What the missionaries couldn't do his departed mother and sister did.

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**Instruction/Discussion**

**Elder Don R. Clarke**

### *Update of Disciples of the Lord in the Digital Age*

(Read the Power Point Presentation “Disciples of the Lord – Agency and Accountability”  
with these additional thoughts)

1. Ask missionaries to send you a letter explaining how tech is effective and not distracting.
2. Talk about the purposes and use of the devices.
3. It used to be about the device. Now about Him (screen saver).
4. Some missionaries who did not have tech devices at home were taught by those who did.
5. This is about fixing their hearts, their desires, not build fences around them.
6. What doctrines are engraved in their hearts?
7. You run with your heart, then with your mind, then with your feet.
8. King Benjamin worked beside his people, not from a far.
9. This is a forever journey for missionaries and you.
10. Missionaries who become converted will change their marriages, children, and grandchildren.
11. Create an environment where they will ask for help and expect them to ask for help.
12. You can restrict some of their access.
13. They are all carrying white missionary handbook and should be teaching each other from it.
14. Missionaries ought to write each week and tell you about miracles.
15. Remind them to not do dumb things.
16. “How can I become the most obedient missionary in the world?” (Chinese sister at Temple Square).
17. We teach these principles to immunize and inoculate missionaries against evil.
18. Your responsibility has increased tenfold to create righteous missionaries for eternity.
19. Take missionaries to their call letters often and remind them what they agreed to (PMG. page 137).
20. When they accept their mission call they accept a commitment to honor the call with righteous living forever.
21. We won’t need checklists or lists of dos and don’ts, if they will change their hearts.
22. Key things to remember:
  - a. We are not dealing with just young men anymore.
  - b. They can’t live on others conversion or testimony. They have to have their own.
  - c. To get better results we need to change the way we are teaching.
  - d. Missionaries don’t understand the dangers we are describing and have been prophesized.
  - e. Build more then find fault.
  - f. Where are they at? Set expectations based on doable improvement.
  - g. Don’t spend time on the wrong stuff. Remember good, better, best.
  - h. Push off the little things and focus on the big things.

**Closing Hymn**  
**Music Director**  
**Pianist**

*#131 More Holiness Give Me*  
Sister Robin Chambers  
Scott T. Seamons

**Benediction**

**President G. Scott Spendlove**



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**UTAH AREAS AREA COUNCIL MEETING**  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015**  
**1:15 – 5:15 P.M.**  
**JOSEPH SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING – RELIEF SOCIETY ROOM**

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**Area Seventy and Mission Presidents**

**Presiding  
Conducting**

**President L. Whitney Clayton  
Elder Mervyn B. Arnold**

**Opening Hymn  
Music Director  
Pianist**

*#5 High on the Mountain Top*  
Sister Robin Chambers  
Brother Scott T. Seamons

**Invocation**

**President John R. Center**

**Discussion**

**Elder Don R. Clarke**

1. New assignments have been made to Area Seventy.
2. Every mission's boundary will change at the end of June.
3. Three benefits include: 1. Fewer stakes per Area Seventy. 2. Fewer stakes per mission.  
3. Opportunity for better relationships between mission presidents and stake presidents.
4. When will be the best time to let stake presidents, priesthood leaders and members know the change of mission boundaries?
  - a. It is better to notify stake presidents sooner rather than later.
  - b. Notify missionaries as close to the effective date as possible.
  - c. Maps have been leaked already.
  - d. Be sensitive to missionaries being moved to another mission.
  - e. Sometimes it is good to notify missionaries early and teach them to accept change.
5. Area leadership will counsel together and notify leaders of the date.

**Instruction/Discussion**

**President L. Whitney Clayton**

***Bringing Souls unto Christ through Baptismal Covenants***

1. Utah should be the leaders in bringing people unto Christ.
2. Area Seventy should raise this expectation with each stake president.
3. 3 Ne. 27:13-22 was read with the following observations:
  - a. Baptism is an act of receiving Christ.
  - b. v.14 – Everything ties back to the Atonement.
  - c. v.13 – He came because His Father sent Him and He does His Father's will.
  - d. v.19 – There is a clarity of the condition to enter into His kingdom...no unclean thing!
  - e. v.13 – His gospel is defined.
  - f. His doctrine is found in 3 Ne 11:31-40 and is simply taught in ten verses.
  - g. The "Father" and being "lifted up" are spoken of many times in these verses.
  - h. v.13-15 – The power of the Father comes by doing the will of the Father.
  - i. v.21 – Do the works you have seen me do.
  - j. v.20 – Be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost.
  - k. D&C. 59:9-10 – Keep unspotted from the world by going to church, praying and partaking of the sacraments on Sunday.
  - l. v.14-15. – His purpose is to draw, not drag, men to Him.
  - m. We are sent in the same way He was sent by His Father.



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- n. In all we do we are helping people make and keep commitments.
4. 1 Pet. 1:18-21 – But with the precious blood of Christ we are redeemed.
  5. 1 Cor. 6:20 – Ye are bought with a price.
  6. 2 Ne. 9:5 – The great Creator suffereth himself to die for all men.
  7. The love of God and love of the Saints is powerful.
  8. 3 Ne. 27:16 – He holds guiltless rather than the sinner being guiltless.
  9. This portion of the Book of Mormon may have been translated May 15 1820 and moved Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery to pray and be baptized.
  10. The light of Christ draws men unto Him.
  11. His path is strait (rigorous or strict).
  12. v.13 – He has no agenda. He is his Father agent or representative.
  13. Missionaries need to be willing to do the will of the Father (be obedient).
  14. *How Great the Wisdom and the Love* (Hymn 195) – Where justice, love and mercy meet.
  15. His Father sent Him and even though They knew everything that would befall Him.
  16. “When I stand before Him I will feel comfortable.” or  
“When I stand before Him will I feel comfortable?”
  17. He paid the price and we have to pay the price.
  18. The Savior was lifted up in order to draw all men unto Him. Men are lifted up by the Father.
  19. The Atonement is a purchasing D&C 101:56 & 57 “redeem my vineyard”.
  20. The word judge implies justice. In the world that may sound harsh. The Savior represents mercy.  
He will be as generous with mercy as He can be and as light handed with justice as He has to be.
  21. 2 Ne. 9:5 – He purchased us with His blood and our destiny rests with Him.
  22. 3 Ne. 27:16 – Reminds me of the 4<sup>th</sup> Article of Faith.
  23. Enduring to the end should be with enduring love vs. just hanging on.
  24. D&C. 45:3-5 – He is our Advocate with the father. He is pleading our cause.
  25. 3 Ne. 27:16-17 – Because there is justice, mercy is provided to those who follow His commandments.
  26. Enduring to the end is not a self-help process (do it yourself project).
  27. Enduring means we seek and accept the next ordinance.
  28. While long term, enduring to the end is applied daily.
  29. Enduring in the remission of sins.
  30. Our members sometimes misunderstand, thinking that because the Lord loves them they will be fine.
  31. Renewing our covenants is not in the scriptures.
  32. v.19 – We wash our garments in his blood so they become clean and white.
  33. Entering into his rest is very inviting and can occur in mortality.
  34. v.18 – He fulfills all his words (promises). Members should not lose confidence in Him (Them).
  35. Our purpose is His purpose, we invite all to come unto Him and receive His covenants, even to the worst of mankind. Though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow.
  36. Is the richness of His purpose replicated in stake or ward council meetings?
  37. v.10 – The Father will show forth His works in us.
  38. Remember that we are not just managing the Church (stake, ward, etc.).
  39. Sabbath Day observance is like the box that highlights the Pearl of Great Price (the Gospel).

### What can we do?

1. Have the same kind of training experience we have just had with stake presidents who will then have it with stake councils and bishops who will then have it with ward councils.
2. Participants should come prepared to these meetings having read and studied suggested materials. They should not come “cold” to the meeting.
3. Spend time in the scriptures.
4. Demonstrate this meeting process with stake presidents at coordinating council meetings so they can model it for bishops.
5. Coordinating councils can get lost in things of lesser importance.

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6. Build up the Church to fulfill the works of the Father not of men.
7. The Gospel should be so deeply imbedded in the hearts of the people that they seek to draw people unto Him.

What is the Church supposed to look like? The Gospel so deeply imbedded in the hearts of the people that all who see them are drawn towards Him. The Gospel ought to shine best in Utah.

### Instruction/Discussion

**Elder Don R. Clarke/  
David G. Wade**

### *Member Missionary Work*

(Read the Power Point Presentation “Working with Members” with these additional thoughts.)

The work of salvation includes: member mission work, retention, activation, temple and family history, and teaching the Gospel.

1. We should council together with the members. It is about us and them.
2. A new member commented that she was “drawn to the Mormons”.
3. We need to believe that there are potential new members everywhere.
4. Principles for working with members:
  - a. Missionaries need to be patient with ward members.
  - b. Working together we can do much more and be more successful than alone.
  - c. Be compassionate with ward members.
  - d. We have a shared stewardship.
  - e. Focus families and individuals on the temple.
  - f. Be guided by the Spirit.
  - g. Love is needed.
5. Alma 48:7 – Prepared the minds of the people to be faithful.
6. PMG. page 160-163.
7. Member friends of investigators are strengthened from conversion process (D&C 50:22).
8. If you get missionary work right in the ward everything else works out.
9. When you taste of the miracles of conversion you will never be the same.
10. If they have member friends before baptism, they don’t have to change friends after.
11. Take members back to their missions to rekindle the missionary spirit.
12. Members can be more forthright or bold.
13. Teach Church leaders and members the message of the restoration.
14. Missionaries should seek to lift and build members.
15. Tell inspiring and personal stories, and let the story do the work.
16. Members will become like Enos (1:9). When I had (or participated in) the conversion process with investigators and the missionaries, I began to feel a desire to share the Gospel with others.
17. Excitement is contagious.
18. Give them an assignment to participate in teaching. Have them testify and teach.
19. Invite a wide-variety of members to help missionaries teach.
20. Involve missionary families in the work.
21. Share conversion stories.
22. Respect the time of members.
23. Plan member experiences. Set appointments and kneel and pray with them.
24. Be sure to select the right friend.
25. Let members see spiritual experiences on exchanges.
26. Help them avoid teaching “landmines”.
27. Invite members to share their experiences in Fast and Testimony or Sacrament meetings.
28. Alma 48:19 – Missionaries should be serviceable to the people.

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29. Are missionaries recognized as men of God? Missionaries can be a little stiff. They should be sensitive, mature, and knowledgeable.
30. Missionaries should practice their teaching. They should be motivated, act like family, are faithful and persistent, full of energy and life, caring, calm and reverent, positive, pleasant, happy, enthusiastic, and make you feel welcome and important.
31. Teach short powerful messages to members with an invitation to act. Be sure to always follow-up?
32. Area Seventy, think of simple ways to help missionaries help members.

### Instruction/Discussion

**Elder Mervyn B. Arnold**

### *Utah Area Objectives*

1. See discuss on standards of excellence in PMG. page 146.
2. Determine a process of improvement.
3. Start where you are at and raise the bar in increments that are doable.
4. Standards of excellence are established at the Area level to raise your vision and increase your faith. They will help you stretch, work effectively, and reach higher levels of performance.
5. Goals are set by stakes and wards to reflect improvements from their current performance. They may be higher or lower than the Area standards of excellence.
6. Establish the fact that the standards/goals are reachable by showing that some have achieved them.
7. Goals should be set by the council method with input from all participants who are responsible.
8. Goals should have some element of “stretch” when being set.
9. Goals have to be measurable. Progress on the goals needs to be reviewed frequently.
10. Goals not reported on monthly progress reports may need to have their own tracking system.
11. Area Seventy, mission presidents, stake presidents and bishops counsel together on setting goals, how to achieve them, and monitor progress.
12. We are all in this together.
13. Missionaries (mission presidents) visit with stake president to see how they could help.
14. Set goals and monitor on a monthly basis.
15. As an Area, we believe the items below are worthy of goals and standards of excellence and would expect stakes and wards to set goals in these areas by the end of May:
  - a. Convert baptisms
  - b. Sacrament Meeting attendance
  - c. Converts ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood
  - d. Prospective Elders ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood
  - e. Converts endowed in the temple
  - f. Endowed members with a current temple recommend
16. The Area leadership will be considering your comments about standards of excellence and will set and notify you of the standards in the very near future.

**Closing Hymn**  
**Music Director**  
**Pianist**

*#165 Abide with Me: 'Tis Eventide*  
Sister Robin Chambers  
Brother Scott T. Seamons

### Benediction

**President Dean R. Burgess**

## ATTENDEES AT AREA COUNCIL

### **AREA LEADERSHIP**

President L. Whitney Clayton

Elder Mervyn B. Arnold

Elder Don R. Clarke

Presidency of the Seventy  
and Area Supervisor  
Of the Seventy  
Of the Seventy

### **UTAH NORTH AREA**

President Maurice D. Hiers

Utah Ogden Mission

### **UTAH SALT LAKE CITY AREA**

President H. Ross Workman

President G. Scott Spendlove

President Richard W. Moffat

President John C. Eberhardt

President Robert E. Chambers

President David E. Poulsen

President Earl S. Swain

Family and Church History  
Headquarters Mission  
Utah Salt Lake City Mission  
Utah Salt Lake City Central Mission  
Utah Salt Lake City East Mission  
Utah Salt Lake City South Mission  
Utah Salt Lake City  
Temple Square Mission  
Utah Salt Lake City West Mission

### **UTAH SOUTH AREA**

President Dean R. Burgess

President John A. McCune

President John Center

Provo Missionary Training Center  
Utah Provo Mission  
Utah St. George Mission

### **UTAH NORTH AREA**

Elder Steven O. Laing

Elder Bryan R. Larsen

Elder Steven M. Petersen

Elder Gary B. Porter

Area Seventy  
Area Seventy  
Area Seventy  
Area Seventy

### **UTAH SALT LAKE CITY AREA**

Elder Stephen B. Allen

Elder Jorge E. T. Becerra

Elder Michael H. Bourne

Elder Gene R. Chidester

Elder Ralph L. Dewsnap

Elder Gary B. Doxey

Elder Mark P. Durham

Elder Peter F. Evans

Elder Kyle S. McKay

Elder John C. Pingree, Jr.

Elder Evan A. Schmutz

Elder Lynn L. Summerhays

Elder David T. Warner

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Elder Michael R. Jensen  
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Elder Dale H. Munk  
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Elder R. Scott Runia  
Elder Craig B. Terry  
Elder Terry L. Wade  
Elder Kevin J. Worthen

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David G. Wade

Area Executive Secretary  
Area Executive Secretary  
Director for Temporal Affairs  
Director of Operations for  
Missionary Department

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## UTAH AREAS AREA COUNCIL MEETING

FRIDAY, APRIL 17, 2015

6:30 – 9:30 P.M.

JOSEPH SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING - RELIEF SOCIETY ROOM

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**Presiding  
Conducting**

**President L. Whitney Clayton  
Elder Don R. Clarke**

**Opening Hymn  
Music Director  
Pianist**

#259 *Hope of Israel*  
Elder Craig B. Terry  
Brother Scott T. Seamons

**Invocation**

**Elder Dane O. Leavitt**

**General Authority Training Discussion**

**Elder Kevin J. Worthen**

*President Thomas S. Monson*

1. The Lord will hear our pleas and answer our prayers.
2. Pray to know who the Lord would have you visit.
3. True leadership requires character.
4. It is good to rotate assignments.
5. Priesthood leaders need to be men of God (1 Sam. 9:6).
6. What the Lord takes into His heart to do, he will do (Abr. 3:17).
7. Temples and temple worship has been on President Monson's mind.
8. Story related to name calling by children and visiting the home to apologize, one twelve times.
9. Give those who are less active the opportunity to serve so they can feel the Spirit.
10. It is easier to ask (get) someone to serve than come to sacrament meeting.
11. Answers came as answers to prayer. The Lord will answer your prayers.
12. Leave a prayer or blessing with those you visit.
13. Stake presidents (bishops) cut meetings short and visit someone on their way home. Members can do the same. Maybe even the Saturday evening session of stake conference.
14. We should express to less actives that we need them rather than they need us.
15. We many times work for the Lord in hidden gardens.

*Father what shall I do today?  
And my love grew warm and free.  
He point out a tiny spot  
and said tend that for me.*

*I quickly answered, oh no not that,  
not that little place for me.  
No matter how well my work was done,  
why no one will ever see.*

*The words he spake, they were not harsh.  
He answered me tenderly.  
Art thou working for them or me?  
Nazareth was a tiny spot and so was Galilee." (Citation)????*

**Elder Steven O. Laing**

***President Henry B. Eyring***

1. If you receive only that which I deliver to you today, then we have failed (Elder Bednar).
2. The Lord aches for the lost sheep. The one sheep, the one prodigal son. Go get the one.
3. The gathering is only complete when temple covenants are received and kept.
4. The temple will secure the happiness we all seek.
5. Rescue those whose hearts have grown cold. Reach out to those in need.
6. Live in the present and keep our view on eternity.
7. Power of the Atonement makes possible the transforming of lives.
8. His priorities are our priorities.
9. Our personal ministry is very important. Has our ministry made possible someone's redemption?
10. Even to the thief on the cross He was reaching out in His last minutes.
11. Rescue the less actives and missionaries.
12. The Lord labors with us.
13. You will feel Heavenly Father's gratitude as you serve others.
14. A witness of the Savior in the servant's heart gives the servant a desire to do the work.
15. He gave expressions of love, confidence and the divinity of your call to serve.
16. The Lord called you, He knows you and He will labor with you.

**Elder Terry L. Wade**

***President Dieter F. Uchtdorf***

1. Retention and unity in leadership.
2. Returning members, like new converts, need a friend, a responsibility and being nourished by the good word of God.
3. It takes consistent dedicated efforts to make retention work.
4. Reach out to new members. Invite them to serve. The Church organization is there to assist them.
5. Joining the Church is not the end, but the beginning.
6. Issuing a call to a new member requires study, prayer and confirmation.
7. Sometimes the call is not given the right way. Follow the handbook.
8. Include the spouse in the calling.
9. Handbooks are the key to revelation. Look at the handbooks with a spiritual eye and you will find the hand of God.
10. Move forward with an optimistic clear voice.
11. General Conference is a key way to witness the unity of the Church leadership.

## **Discussion**

**Elder Mervyn B. Arnold**

***Fast Offerings and Self Reliance***

**(Read the Power Point Presentation "Law of Fast and Self-Reliance" with these additional thoughts.)**

1. These are long-term principles for us to draw closer to the Savior.
2. Focus on the blessings of the Fast rather than increasing donations.
3. Isaiah 58, Malachi 3, D&C. 59, Handbook 2, 6.1.2.
4. Payment of a Fast Offering consecrates our fast.
5. Isaiah points out that fasting helps overcome addictions.
6. Salvation can be obtained on no other principle.
7. These topics are part of the prophetic priorities.
8. Fasting helps the body be mastered by the spirit.
9. Self-reliance means getting the most out of your resources.



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10. When we have difficulties we keep moving forward.
11. Self-reliance is an essential element of our spiritual wellbeing.
12. Teach these topics specifically.
13. Have members who have used these principles share their experiences and testimonies.
14. We should fast in times of great joy.
15. We should fast for great power in doing our callings.
16. Focus our people on the resources that are available.
17. It is deeply tied to agency. We can become more than we are.
18. There is a social wave in society that claims entitlements.
19. Teach empowerment and independence.
20. The Savior is a great example of fasting with a purpose.
21. Take about 20 minutes in your coordinating councils to discuss these topics.

**Discussion**

**President L. Whitney Clayton**

*Strengthening Faith in Our Heavenly Father and in Jesus Christ and His Atonement  
by Keeping the Sabbath Day Holy at Church and at Home*

**(Reference the Power Point Presentation “2015 Sabbath Day-Segment 1-At Church”.)**

This was a different general conference with a narrow range of training. The materials you received concerning Church discipline are for you and you should not use these materials in your training. Reference Handbook 1, 6.

Don't let your agendas get crowded out with lesser items. You need to learn to say “no”. Move the two topics forward in your training. See General Authority Resources for additional help. Take into your coordinating councils the training on the Sabbath Day and Fast Offerings/Self-Reliance. Make sure stake presidents take it to bishops and ward councils. You are going to be asked to report back that training was received by each ward by the end of June.

Stake Relief society presidents can be invited for this part of your coordinating councils. We are looking for a change of heart on these topics. The First Presidency and Twelve expect the Seventy to get this done! We will now go through a simulation with the Power Point Presentation.

**Video Clips - What did you learn?**

1. Helped us to understand that the sacrament truly is an ordinance.
2. There were very specific promises extended to members of the Church when they focus on the sacrament.
3. Teaching these principles is a sacred responsibility.
4. We could avoid many of the challenges we face if we keep this ordinance.
5. We should think more deeply about the Sacrament.
6. Focus on prevention of problems by observing the Sabbath Day.
7. We should have a repentant heart.
8. Taking His name upon us is no small effort and more than just a label.
9. We should encourage wards to have Sacrament Meeting at the first of the block plan.
10. The Sabbath Day takes us all the way back to the days of Moses.
11. Handbook 2, 2.1.2 – Ordinances help members remember the Father's love, the Son's Atonement, and the Holy Ghost's influence.

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12. Moses failed to get members to change through the formal rituals of his day. We can't afford to let that happen.
13. The Sacrament should help us gain greater love for the Savior.
14. The saints will become holy people by internalizing the principles taught in the sacrament.
15. Bishoprics should have better planning for Sacrament meetings. Plan a month in advance.
16. Bishopric bring a proposal for Sacrament meetings to be refined by ward council.
17. Councils should not just nod to bishop's proposal, but have meaningful input.
18. All ward council members should have the freedom to present their thoughts.
19. Let ward council members offer opinion first and the Bishopric last.
20. Council on how you can improve the focus on reverence during Sacrament meetings?
21. Council together in advance to identify how the ward can increase spirituality, service, teaching, etc.
22. What do you want us to accomplish in Sacrament meeting?
23. His Name stands for the substance of His Gospel.
24. We witness to the Father our love for Him and His Son.
25. We agree to take upon us the work and mission of the Father and to do our part.
26. Council members should have paper and pencil to take notes during the videos segments.
27. Maybe more effective if they come prepared having reviewing the material.
28. Each time you view the video you learn new things.
29. The sacrament is more than just renewing baptismal covenants.
30. Stake presidents and others will follow what you do.
31. Taking the sacrament should not be a "check-off".
32. You may want to pause after each speaker and ask what participants learned rather than after listening to 3 or 4 of them.
33. Ask, what did you hear? What did you learn? What are you learning right now?
34. Training may be too long to accomplish within a normal ward council block of time. A special meeting time may be appropriate.
35. Copy the Power Point presentation from the thumb drive as it works best.
36. The training needs to be an "electric" experience not a plodding one.
37. You can work on implementing these principles for an extended period of time? The change may take some time to fully be embraced and implemented.
38. Thumb drive can be copied for members.
39. We are unusual people. One college institution remains unwilling to participate in sports on the Sabbath Day – BYU.
40. Bishops seldom call attention to importance of the sacrament.
41. If bishops will look at the needs of the ward, names of speakers will come to his attention.
42. Would Jesus Christ recognize Sacrament Meeting a celebration of his Atonement?
43. Blessing and passing of the sacrament should not be a distraction.
44. Priests should practice the Sacrament prayers so they will not need to be repeated. Develop a non-distracting way of correcting errors in the Sacrament prayers.
45. Teach the priests, teachers and deacons the spiritual significance of the sacrament.
46. Teach the Aaronic Priesthood the underlying doctrines and let them teach ward members.
47. The sacramental hymns bring the Spirit of the Atonement into the meeting. Give them the dignity they deserve.
48. Stop technology use (texting, iPad use, etc.) during Sacrament meeting.
49. Reverence is best exemplified by the bishopric.

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50. Families of small children should be seated by aisle. Discuss how best to do this with the sisters in ward council meetings.
51. Arrive 7 minutes early to sacrament meeting, sit quietly, read scriptures and think of the Savior.
52. Delivering tithing to the bishop should occur after the bishopric members are off the stand.
53. Reverence is more than quietly sitting.
54. Work with ward councils to determine and implement a plan to achieve reverence in their meetings.
55. Call and training ushers.
56. Ward councils should address families without enough adults to help children.
57. Allow deacons and teacher quorum presidents and priest assistants to think and discuss what they can do, or how, reverence can be improved.
58. Discuss how to teach members the proper etiquette concerning walking in and out of meetings, food and toys during Sacrament meetings.
59. Create a vision by describing what we are striving to do in the ward during Sacrament meetings.
60. All of this starts with ward councils.
61. Reverence is a family matter with support from others. Young children need to be taught.
62. We need to give the sacrament back to the Savior.
63. Give the information to stake presidents in advance of the training meetings.
64. Read scriptures in advance of training meetings.
65. Try focusing on this for three months.
66. This is not just a program. We need to keep vision of this shining bright.
67. If we understand the sacredness of the sacrament we will be motivated to do many things differently.
68. Area Seventy presentations ought to start with scriptures.
69. Young men should be called upon to teach about the sacrament.
70. Download the thumb drive information to stake presidents, stake and ward council participants.
71. Give out in advance so they can study and come prepared.
72. How are we going to help members change how they feel about this?
73. Mail some scriptures to read beforehand.
74. Sister leaders are appropriate in this part of coordinating council meetings.
75. Be sure everyone stays with you as you go through the training.
76. Tell them to take notes and study them after the training.
77. The Twelve have ponder this for some time and know it will lift the Church.
78. Fasting may be appropriate to prepare for the training.

**Testimonies**

**Benediction**

**Elder David T. Warner**

## ATTENDEES AT AREA COUNCIL

### AREA LEADERSHIP

President L. Whitney Clayton

Presidency of the Seventy  
and Area Supervisor  
Of the Seventy  
Of the Seventy

Elder Mervyn B. Arnold  
Elder Don R. Clarke

### UTAH NORTH AREA

Elder Craig G. Fisher  
Elder Steven O. Laing  
Elder Bryan R. Larsen  
Elder Steven M. Petersen  
Elder Gary B. Porter

Area Seventy  
Area Seventy  
Area Seventy  
Area Seventy  
Area Seventy

### UTAH SALT LAKE CITY AREA

Elder Stephen B. Allen (excused)  
Elder Jorge E. T. Becerra  
Elder Michael H. Bourne  
Elder Gene R. Chidester  
Elder Samuel W. Clark, Jr.  
Elder Ralph L. Dewsnap (excused)  
Elder Gary B. Doxey  
Elder Mark P. Durham  
Elder Peter F. Evans  
Elder Kyle S. McKay  
Elder John C. Pingree, Jr.  
Elder Evan A. Schmutz  
Elder Lynn L. Summerhays  
Elder David T. Warner

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### UTAH SOUTH AREA

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Elder Michael R. Jensen  
Elder Dane O. Leavitt  
Elder Dale H. Munk  
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Area Executive Secretary  
Director for Temporal Affairs  
Director of Operations for  
Missionary Department

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**UTAH AREAS INTERIM MISSION PRESIDENTS' SEMINAR**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 2015**

**9:00 A.M. - NOON**

**JOSEPH SMITH MEMORIAL BUILDING – RELIEF SOCIETY ROOM**

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**Presiding**  
**Conducting** Elder Don R. Clarke

**President L. Whitney Clayton**

**Opening Hymn**  
**Music Director**  
**Pianist**

*#116 Come Follow Me*  
Sister Robin Chambers  
Scott T. Seamons

**Invocation**

**President Richard W. Moffat**

**Questions and Answer Session**

**President Mervyn B. Arnold**

1. **What can we do to finish strong?** – Delegate to leadership and let them stepped up. There is safety in the pattern/rhythm of the mission. We need a new writing (revelation). Happy always – Content never. Great safety in council with the elders and sisters. The Lord will direct us and guide us and he won't let us wreck it.
2. **How do we best allay the fears of missionaries that are assigned to other missions?** – Immediately let them know you love them. Integrate the cultures of the missions and don't let yours dominate. Get them to work fast! Send some of your best to the other mission. Hug the missionaries and tell them you love them. Spend time with them. Don't lower your expectation.
3. **We don't have missionaries in every stake. How much can we use ward missionaries?** – Most stakes have senior couples. Use them. Area Seventy should help stake presidents get senior missionaries. Talk to stake presidents and help them work out the difficulties with you. Let stake presidents know of pending challenges. Missionaries should go where the work is. Stakes who keep missionaries busy, will get the missionaries.
4. **Statistics show activation up and baptisms down. Is that a problem?** – Need to mediate the two. Missionaries need to get referrals during reactivation discussions. Missionaries need to capture the vision that you can do both by using the same commitments for both activation and reactivation. Twice as many less actives as nonmembers in some missions. Give lessons to the less actives and baptisms will go up.
5. **Is it appropriate for missionaries to use object lessons?** – Valuable when teaching (children). The more senses they experience the more they will learn. Investigators are like children. Do not do objects lessons/visuals that are inappropriate, or don't make sense. Investigators don't remember the message just the object lesson. If we detract from the message with canned presentation we lose the opportunity included in D&C. 100:5-6.
6. **What can we do to help the new mission president?** – Missionaries start to pray for them weeks before they arrive. Keep every conversation focused on the work and the transition. It is the Lord's work and it will be done in His way.
7. **Can you start the transition process too early?** – President Spendlove's situation happened over a short period of time. Don't change a lot of things immediately. Ask about the sick and infirm

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(missionaries with trouble)? Alma 23:6 – Missionaries should not be converted to the mission president or mission president's wife. Turn them to the Lord and not to us. Focus on Christ. Month before and after transition missionaries have the possibility of going haywire. This is about Christ. Sister Hansen's funeral was focused on the Savior.

8. **How can we recognize those that have been reactivated?** – Senior missionaries can be assigned this responsibility and follow-up on milestones (ordinances). Record or count ordinances (taken the sacrament twice, ordination, proxy baptisms, etc.) of less actives.
9. **Should we keep in touch with our missionaries after we leave the mission?** Don't communicate with any missionaries in the mission after you leave. Tell them that after their mission we will communicate. Same with parents.

### The power of councils is effective. Council with your elders and sisters.

#### Therefore What?

President L. Whitney Clayton

1. While baptisms may or may not change, temple marriages will go up.
2. Elder Arnold is constantly finding and reactivating. So should we.
3. We want full purpose missionaries.
4. The digital age makes it harder to get into homes. Secular age with less religious interest. Note the *Profiles in Courage* awarded to those that claim Mitt Romney is not a Christian. (See Acts 28:23-24, 3 Ne. 21: 8; D&C. 101:93-95; and, D&C. 109: 72-73 President Hinckley's oft quoted scripture).
5. Joseph Smith's Wentworth Letter "...the standard of truth has been erected. No unhallowed had can stop the work from progressing..." (See also D&C. 65:1-2).
6. 2 Ne. 27:21 – "I am able to do mine own work." Let us do our assignments the very best we can. Reach each soul. Make it the easiest it can be for them to join or to be activated.
7. Review President Hinckley's closing talks from conferences during his last 6-7 years.

#### What should we be taking home?

1. Remember how much time was spent in the scriptures.
2. Rely on the Lord and follow His pattern.
3. We are in our own conversion process.
4. Focus more on the Atonement with missionaries who should then focus on it with investigators.
5. The sisters should carry conference talks into missions.
6. Family Search – teach this to everyone in the world.
7. Teach the four adjustments to teaching from Elder Nelson.
8. The Lord will hasten His work and nothing will stop it.
9. The work will be hastened by the purity of the hearts of people in the Church.
10. Missionaries represent future families, children, and grandchildren. The real test of our success will be how strong their descendants are?
11. Look up and see what we are really engaged in. It is a miracle.

1 Ne. 15:14 – "And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord; and then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of the Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by him; wherefore, they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer and the very points of his doctrine, that they may know how to come unto him and be saved."

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**Testimonies:** President and Sister Hiers, President and Sister McCune, President and Sister Moffat, President and Sister Swain, Elder and Sister Arnold, Elder and Sister Clarke, and President and Sister Clayton

**Closing Hymn**  
**Music Director**  
**Pianist**

*#135 I Know That My Redeemer Lives*  
Sister Robin Chambers  
Scott T. Seamons

**Benediction**

**President Maurice D. Hiers**

### **ATTENDEES AT INTERIM MISSION PRESIDENTS SEMINAR**

#### **AREA LEADERSHIP**

President and Sister L. Whitney Clayton (Kathy)

Presidency of the Seventy  
and Area Supervisor  
Of the Seventy  
Of the Seventy

Elder and Sister Mervyn B. Arnold (Devonna)

Elder and Sister Don R. Clarke (Mary Anne)

#### **UTAH NORTH AREA**

President and Sister Maurice D. Hiers (Charlene)

Utah Ogden Mission

#### **UTAH SALT LAKE CITY AREA**

President and Sister H. Ross Workman (Kaye)

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Utah Salt Lake City East Mission  
Utah Salt Lake City South Mission  
Utah Salt Lake City  
Temple Square Mission  
Utah Salt Lake City West Mission

President and Sister G. Scott Spendlove (Kariane)

President and Sister Richard W. Moffat (Amy)

President and Sister John C. Eberhardt (Sandra Jo)

President and Sister Robert E. Chambers (Robin)

President and Sister David E. Poulsen (Adrienne)

President and Sister Earl S. Swain (Kathy)

#### **UTAH SOUTH AREA**

President and Sister Dean R. Burgess (Annette)

President and Sister John A. McCune (Debbra)

President and Sister John Center (Kristin)

Provo Missionary Training Center  
Utah Provo Mission  
Utah St. George Mission

#### **UTAH AREA SUPPORT**

F. Wayne Elggren (Deanna)

Scott T. Seamons (Susan)

M. Scott Newbold (Jeri)

David G. Wade (Debbie)

Richard E. Turley, Jr. (Debi)

Area Executive Secretary  
Area Executive Secretary  
Director for Temporal Affairs  
Director of Operations for  
Missionary Department  
Assistant Church Historian