

**PACIFIC AREA
PRESIDENCY
BROADCAST**

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Elder James J. Hamula

Elder Kevin W. Pearson

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Elder James J. Hamula

Introduction

Good evening, my brothers and sisters. On behalf of the entire Area Presidency, I greet you from Auckland, New Zealand. I am Elder James J. Hamula, President of the Pacific Area. Accompanying me this evening are my beloved associates, Elder Kevin W. Pearson, First Counsellor in the Pacific Area Presidency, and Elder F. Michael Watson, Second Counsellor in the Pacific Area Presidency.

In our minds, we can see you all in your various locations around the Pacific Area – in the Marshall Islands and Kiribati in the northern part of the Area, in French Polynesia and the Cook Islands in the eastern part of the Area, in Tonga, Samoa, and Fiji in the central part of the Area, in the great cities and towns of Australia on the western side of the Area, and throughout New Zealand in the southern part of the Area. We also see you who are in Papua New Guinea, New Caledonia, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu. Brothers and sisters, we are all part of one large Church family in the Pacific. We love you all. We pray for you all. We rejoice when we are with you. We thank you for your consecrated service, both in the Church and in your homes.

We are broadcasting this meeting to you in your many locations from the Auckland New Zealand Harbour Stake, whose president, Michael A. Higgins, is also seated with us on the stand. We thank President Higgins for hosting us this evening in his stake centre.

We will begin our meeting tonight by singing Hymn # 5, “High on the Mountain Top.” Brother Nilo Penales will direct the singing, and Sister Rossanna Palmer will accompany us on the organ. Following the hymn, the invocation will be provided by Brother Guy Perrett, Stake Executive Secretary in the Auckland New Zealand Harbour Stake.

Our Purpose and Message Tonight

I love that hymn. Thank you for singing it with such feeling. The Lord has indeed unfurled his banner on the mountain top. Here his house is being reared, his glory to display. And here we will learn his word, and obey his truth.

Brothers and sisters, thank you too for meeting with us this evening. Your attendance is evidence of your willingness and readiness to learn the word of the Lord and obey his truth. You are leaders of priesthood quorums and auxiliaries, and members of ward and stake councils. You -- with us -- are the leaders of the Lord's Church in this part of His vineyard. You - - with us - - have been delegated authority from the Lord to do His work in the world. IF we act according to the authority He gives us and follow the instructions He provides us, we receive power to accomplish the work. This means that we do not have the right to pursue our own agenda. We are obligated to do what the Lord wants done, as he instructs us through His servants. It also means that we will succeed in our Church work to the degree that we act according to the authority and instructions given to us, and we will fail to the degree we do not.

What is the Lord's work that He has delegated to us to do in His behalf? Said he: "... [T]he Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost" (Luke 19:10). This simple statement captures the essence of the Lord's work (see also Moses 1:39; John 6:38-40). His work is to rescue us all from our lost and fallen condition and return us to the presence of our Heavenly Father. If this is His work, it must be our work as well. Like the Lord, we must seek out all who are lost, and work to return them to our Heavenly Father.

Significantly, this is exactly what our beloved prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, has been teaching us to do. The theme of his ministry, and his prophetic charge to all of us, is “go to the rescue.” “Who will man the lifeboats,” he has asked, “leaving behind the comforts of home and family and go to the rescue?” Like the Savior, the scope of President Monson’s concern for rescue is universal. He has asked that we work so as to not lose “one precious soul.”

In response to this prophetic charge, the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve have instructed that the “rescue” is accomplished through the delivery and receipt of priesthood ordinances and covenants and through the spiritual conversion that accompanies such actions. When increasing numbers of people receive priesthood ordinances and covenants and are converted thereby, we achieve what the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve call “real growth.” “Real growth” is essentially growth unto exaltation (D&C 109:14-15).

The Area Presidency is called by the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve to pursue the prophetic priorities of “rescue” and “real growth” in the Pacific Area. To that end, the Area Presidency has developed Area Goals that, if adopted and pursued by stakes and wards, quorums and auxiliaries, will result in “rescue” and “real growth.” The Area Goals have been essentially the same for several years now. Every year, the Area Presidency communicates the Area Goals to every stake president in the Pacific Area. The stake president is to then discuss these goals with every bishop and branch president, who then is to discuss these goals with every ward or branch council and make them the focus of priesthood and auxiliary efforts in every ward or branch for the coming year.

Brothers and sisters, do you know what the Area Goals are, and do you use them in your Church work? Let's review them together for a moment.

1. Strengthen the Priesthood by –

- a. Increasing the number of adult men ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood, and
- b. Increasing the number of young men ordained to the appropriate Aaronic Priesthood office

2. Strengthen Families by –

- c. Increasing the number of adults sealed to a spouse, and
- d. Increasing the number of endowed adults with current temple recommends

3. Save the Rising Generation by –

- e. Increasing the number of young men and women serving full-time missions, and
- f. Increasing the number of young single adults attending Church

4. Increase and Sustain Conversions by –

- g. Increasing the number of convert baptisms, and
- h. Increasing the total number of people attending sacrament meeting.

To help you remember and use these goals in your Church work, they are being provided to you on a handout – like this one here. This handout will be distributed in your meeting place tonight by the stake president, or one of his assistants. The numeric values on this handout are the targets the Area Presidency has set for the entire Area. You should have your own numeric targets for your stake or ward, and should be working to achieve these targets in your stake and ward councils in the course of the year.

Many of you know the Area Goals very well and use them to guide your Church work throughout the year. Where the Area Goals are known and used, we see the Lord's power extended to help leaders "rescue" and achieve "real growth" in the lives of Church members. Where the Area Goals are not known or used, however, we see leaders struggle and little accomplished in the way of "rescue" or "real growth."

Brothers and sisters, we invite you all to embrace the Area Goals and to use them to guide the work of your stake and ward councils in the coming year. If you have done so in the past, continue to do so. If you have not done so in the past, do so now.

Embracing and using the Area Goals is more important in 2013 than ever before. As the adversary of man accelerates his work, the Lord is hastening His, extending His almighty hand of salvation to all. As the Lord hastens His work, He invites more of us to engage in it. As evidence of this, consider President Monson's announcement at October General Conference lowering the age of eligibility for full-time missionary service to 18 years of age for young men and 19 years of age for young women. The response from the young men and young women of the Church has been extraordinary! They sense the Lord hastening His work, and they want to be part of it. As a result missionary applications have more than doubled since President Monson's announcement. In the coming weeks, you will begin to see many, many more young missionaries serving in your areas. They will be tangible evidence to you of the Lord hastening His work. When you see them, will you be able to say that you, likewise, are hastening your contribution to the Lord's work?

To help you hasten your contribution to the Lord's work of "rescue" and "real growth," the Area Presidency would like to suggest that in 2013 you focus your stake and ward councils on achieving three outcomes. The three outcomes that we ask to focus on are –

1. Increase the number of adult men ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood in your unit;
2. Increase the number of young men ordained to the appropriate Aaronic Priesthood office in your unit; and
3. Increase the number of young men and young women serving full-time missions from your unit.

You will notice that these three priority outcomes are three of the eight Area Goals. While all eight Area Goals are important and deserve your best efforts, we ask that you give particular time and attention to achieving these three. Achieving these three priority Goals will help you achieve all the other Area Goals.

Now, you may be saying to yourself, we understand WHAT we are to accomplish, but HOW can we do it? That question - how can you accomplish these goals - is what we wish to answer tonight. We suggest that you regularly and consistently do three things –

1. Hold your priesthood or auxiliary presidency meetings, and your ward council meetings, at least twice a month, focusing on the delivery of priesthood ordinances and covenants to those who lack them;

2. As a priesthood or auxiliary leader, devote one night a week to visiting member homes, where you extend inspired invitations to receive, keep, or renew a priesthood ordinance and covenant; and
3. As a priesthood leader, devote one night a week to conducting interviews with youth, young single adults, prospective elders and missionaries, and adults needing temple recommends.

Our message to you tonight is this - - if you will focus on the three priority goals, and regularly and consistently take these three actions, you will succeed in hastening the Lord's work of rescue and real growth in your ward or stake.

Elder Watson, 2nd Counsellor in the Area Presidency, will now speak, addressing the topic of mobilizing stake and ward councils. Following Elder Watson, Elder Pearson, 1st Counsellor in the Area Presidency, will speak, addressing the topic of personal priesthood and auxiliary leader visits to member homes. I will then conclude the meeting, addressing the topic of inspired priesthood interviews. Following my remarks, we will sing Hymn No. 19, “We Thank Thee, O God, for a Prophet” and the benediction will be provided by Sister Kirsti Lyes, Stake Young Women’s President in the Auckland New Zealand Harbour Stake.



Elder F. Michael Watson

Mobilizing Stake and Ward Councils

Brothers and Sisters – Thank you for your devotion and the kindness you have shown us as we have travelled throughout the beautiful Isles of the Pacific – we pray for you and extend our blessings to you and your families.

My assignment is to invite Priesthood Leaders to delegate and direct the work of salvation through Priesthood Quorums and Auxiliaries and to inspire Stake and Ward leaders to act to increase the rate of real growth through Stake and Ward Councils.

The day has come when we must continue to build the Church, and to bring the hearts and souls of our members to Christ, by using every resource the Lord has given us to take advantage of our opportunities and address the challenges standing in our way.

The First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve have been concerned for years about the heavy load our Bishops and Branch Presidents carry. The Brethren found the very best way to assist is to use the Ward and Branch council.

Responsibilities upon our Bishops and Branch Presidents are great. There are certain priesthood keys that they and they alone hold, and certain roles in the ward that only they can fulfill. But they can't do everything. Effective Stake and Ward Councils are essential and need to meet regularly. At least twice each month.

Bishops and Branch Presidents of the Church however, can organize their collective resources to strengthen members and stop the loss of so many of our Heavenly Father's children. Through delegated authority Ward Council members can utilize Priesthood Quorums and Auxiliaries to strengthen faith and encourage members to make and keep sacred covenants. But Ward Council members cannot effectively use Priesthood Quorums and Auxiliaries unless the presidencies of these Quorums and Auxiliaries meet and counsel regularly. We therefore invite Quorum and Auxiliary Presidencies to meet and counsel together, at least twice a month.

Parents and their families will be greatly blessed if they will counsel with one another. Stake and Ward leaders will be more effective if they will learn to harness the combined wisdom, experience, faith, and testimony of all the members of church councils, especially the sisters.

General church councils work much the same as local church and family councils. Under the direction of the priesthood and the influence of the Holy Spirit, these councils feature free and open discussion and transparent communication.

Our mutual goals and objective should always be clearly understood. Everything we do, everything we teach, every plan we make should be focused on helping Father in Heaven's children enjoy the full blessings of the gospel.

Our council meetings are about people, duties and responsibilities. They provide an opportunity for the Stake Presidency, Bishopric or Branch Presidency, priesthood quorums and auxiliary organizations of the Church to come together in a spirit of loving cooperation to assist Heavenly Father in accomplishing His very work and glory: "to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man" (Moses 1:39).

It was never intended that God's children stand alone in important decisions and responsibilities. During our premortal existence, He himself called for a grand council to present His plan for our eternal welfare.

The Apostle Paul taught that the organization of the Church, complete with Prophets and Apostles, and other officers and teachers, was given by the Savior, “For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith,” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

President Ezra Taft Benson stated: “There is a principle cited in the Doctrine and Covenants which, though directed specifically to the leading quorums of the Church, applies to all councils in Church government. Quoting from the Doctrine and Covenants section 107, President Benson said: “The decisions of these quorums [or councils]...are to be made in righteousness, in holiness, and lowliness of heart, meekness and long suffering, and in faith, and virtue, and knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness and charity” This seems to be the pattern by which the Lord would have us operate through councils at all levels of Church government. We must be one in all aspects of this work...for all things are spiritual to Him whom we acknowledge as Master” *Church Government through Councils* 88-89.

An important way to increase the unity and effectiveness of our Stake, Ward and Branch Councils, is to remember that all council members have a dual responsibility: not only do they represent the needs and perspectives of the individual organizations they have been called to lead, but each one also serves as a member of the council, sharing equally with the others a sense of stewardship for

the success of the Lord's work in that area. Using the Bishop's Interview and Action List and the New and Returning Member Progress Form, Ward Councils can become accountable for the spiritual growth and well-being of all Ward members.

One Stake Relief Society President was brave enough to point out a valid concern. Said she: "Will the brethren of the Church ever understand that the sisters want to make a contribution to real issues facing the Church and its members?"

"Sometimes I feel like the hired help at the council table, that I'm there only to serve, but not to contribute. When they talk about ways to accomplish the mission of the Church, my opinion is never sought, and when they refer to the decisions of Stake leaders, they never acknowledge me as a leader who can make a contribution to the spiritual growth and development of Stake members. Sometimes they even talk about ways to meet the needs of the sisters in our Stake without inviting me to participate." Please seek and encourage participation by all members of the stake and ward councils.

One of the great strengths of the council system is the flexibility it provides to develop and implement local solutions to local problems. As the circumstances of individuals, families, and communities change over time, Ward, Branch and Stake Councils, operating under priesthood direction and established Church guidelines, can focus their collective wisdom and the inspiration of heaven on such needs, thus blessing and lifting all who come within their influence.

One great challenge facing the Church today is the need to fellowship and retain the ever-growing number of new converts. In some parts of the world, where the

equivalent of a new Ward is baptized every year, this is a truly daunting task. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for a Bishop or Branch President to even consider accomplishing this critical assignment without the on-going efforts of hard-working councils, in which the members are equally yoked together for the benefit of all of God's children in their Ward or Branch.

In a very real sense, the Ward and Branch council is the "receiving arm" of the Church. If such councils are functioning as they should, every new convert will be fellowshipped, will have home teachers and visiting teachers, and will receive an appropriate calling following their baptism. Also, less-active members should be given opportunity to receive callings to assure them that they are needed and loved by ward and branch members.

By listening to each other and to the Spirit, council members can advance the work of the Lord in meaningful ways. As we support one another and participate in church councils, we begin to understand how God can take ordinary men and women and make them extraordinary leaders.

In this dispensation The Lord admonished: "Let us reason together, that ye may understand" (D&C 50:10).

One of the key lessons Heavenly Father taught us in that "world of spirits" was the important role of councils and counseling together in gospel governance. From the very beginning, God has done His work through a system of organized councils. Today the following guidelines for effective leaders will be helpful.

1. An Effective Leader has a Sense of Vision

The vision does not necessarily have to include every detail of what we want to do. But if the council is to arrive at a meaningful decision, the leaders need to know where we want to go, what we want to have happen, how it is to be accomplished, and who is to help.

As Solomon explained, “Where there is no vision, the people perish” (Proverbs 29:18).

2. An Effective Leader Encourages Free Expression

Our councils should always allow time for discussion and consideration of differing points of view. We may not always agree with everything others say, but we will all grow from having the opportunity to express ourselves and to consider opinions or approaches to a problem that may vary greatly from our own. When a decision has been reached, everyone should be in unity.

3. An Effective Leader Respects the Gift of Agency

Open expression coupled with visionary leadership generally encourages good decision making. It brings real power to those who choose to exercise it wisely, and it gives all a degree of ownership for council decisions.

4. An Effective Leader Gives Clear, Precise Instruction

The creation story offers three great leadership keys for accomplishment through councils.

First, Heavenly Father issued clear, precise instruction: “By mine Only Begotten...I created the heaven, and earth.” Among the words He spoke were: “Let there be light”, “Let there be a firmament” “Let us make man in our image,” (Genesis chapter 1; see also Moses chapter 2).

5. An Effective Leader Works Step-By-Step

The second leadership lesson of the creation has to do with the order of instruction. It is the order in which each day’s creation was accomplished. The first day, second, third through the sixth, “And on the seventh day I, God, ended my work, and all things which I had made; and I rested on the seventh day” (Moses 3:2).

6. An Effective Leader Delegates

The third lesson is that Heavenly Father didn’t do all of the work Himself, even though He certainly could have. He chose to delegate responsibilities, always asking for a follow-up report to make sure that the work had been done properly.

The biblical Jethro gave wise council to his over-burdened son-in-law, Moses: “The thing that thou doest is not good,” Jethro said. “Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee: for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone” (Exodus 18:17).

7. An Effective Leader Sets an Example of Hard Work

There are also lessons...for those who serve as counselors – lessons on the importance of listening, of carefully following instructions, and of “returning and reporting.” But perhaps the most basic principle is the principle of: “Let us go and do.”

When Jehovah was instructed by God to perform certain creative tasks, He did not respond by saying, “Let us see” or “Let us try” or “Let us look for time in our busy schedule.” Rather, He simply and powerfully said: “Let us go...” (Abraham 4:1).

Our latter-day prophets are well known for such phrases as “Let’s get going”, “Do it”, “Do it now.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley indicated the only way he knew to get things done was to first get on his knees and pray, then to get on his feet and go do the work.

8. An Effective Leader Teaches by Precept and Example

That Jesus is committed to the council concept cannot be questioned. He personally organized His Church while on the earth. He established it with governing councils. He taught...by precept and by example. He instructed them how to pray, and then He prayed with them and for them. He taught them how to administer the sacrament....He told them how to use their priesthood authority to bless the lives of others.

Today, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is organized in the same manner.

9. An Effective Leader Serves with Love

From the very beginning, “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).

With the love of Christ reflecting from all church councils and radiating throughout the entire Stake, Ward or Branch, Quorum or Auxiliary, a significant difference can be made in our lives, in the lives of our family members, as well as all of our Heavenly Father’s children. And, making a difference in people’s lives is, after all, the great mission of church councils. The following have such a mandate:

1. The Relief Society President is involved and acquainted with every woman in the Ward over the age of eighteen.
2. The Primary President brings a very specific focus to the council. Her every thought and prayer is on behalf of the children in the Ward or Branch.
3. The Young Women President concentrates prayerful attention on the young women ages twelve through eighteen.
4. The Young Men President is focused on the Ward and Branch young men ages twelve through eighteen.

5. Melchizedek Priesthood Leaders – the High Priest Group Leader and the Elders’ Quorum President are responsible for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the men over whom they preside.
6. The Ward Mission Leader, concentrates on non-members living within the Ward boundaries, and has the sacred duty to assist Ward and Branch members fulfill their missionary responsibilities.
7. The Sunday School President is responsible for gospel instruction as part of the Sunday meeting schedule.
8. ...and of course, the Ward Clerks and Executive Secretary are absolutely vital to the success of the Council. It is their responsibility to insure that the records are properly and carefully maintained and that matters are brought to the attention of the Council for appropriate action and report, and that the council utilizes the Bishop’s Interview and Action List and the New and Returning Member Progress Form to focus on individuals and families needing ordinances and covenants.
9. Even the youth curriculum of the Church can and ought to be a segment of a Council meeting, as opportunity arises in councils to discuss with others the needs of the youth. Together leaders can create a more powerful learning experience by building on what the youth are learning at home, at church, and at seminary.

Having done all that is asked of us in councils assembled, it was Nephi who taught: "And now, my beloved brethren, after ye have gotten into this strait and narrow path, I would ask if all is done? Behold, I say unto you, Nay; ye must press forward with a steadfastness in Christ...and endure to the end, behold, thus saith the Father: Ye shall have eternal life" (2 Nephi 31:19-20.)

It is a sacred trust that God has given to all who have been called to positions of authority in His Church. It is a responsibility that can be accomplished much more effectively and efficiently by using the council system.

Governance through councils is more than just a good idea; it is God's plan. It is how we share the burdens of gospel responsibilities. It is how we accomplish the mission of the Church, and achieve greater real growth.

Our beloved Prophet, President Thomas S. Monson, indicated to all who go forth in the service of the Master, that it is He who provides this assurance: "I will go before your face. I will be on your right hand and on your left, and my Spirit shall be in your hearts, and mine angels round about you, to bear you up." (D&C 84:88.)

And it is how God receives His glory by bringing to pass "the immortality and eternal life of man." As the Lord said through the Prophet Isaiah, "Come now, and let us reason together" (Isaiah 1:18).

I so testify of these truths, and ask that we continue to counsel with our councils. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Elder Kevin W. Pearson
Personal Priesthood and Auxiliary Leader
Visits To Member Homes



Brothers and Sisters I express my love for each of you, and for all you are doing to grow and establish the Church across the Pacific Area. Thank you for your attendance here tonight.

The great desire of my heart and of the Area Presidency is to change our vision of this divine work and to mobilize the power of the priesthood through Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders in every unit of the Church across the Pacific Area to **Go to the Rescue**. I humbly seek the guidance of the Holy Ghost as we discuss this question. “What can each Priesthood and Auxiliary Leader do to fully ‘**Go to the Rescue**’ of less-active members?”

As Latter-day Saints we believe in the literal gathering of Israel. The Church and Kingdom of God have been “established in the last days for the restoration of his people, as he has spoken by the mouth of his prophets, and for the gathering of his saints” (Doctrine and Covenants 84:2).

The Church contains the essential doctrines, ordinances and priesthood authority to assist all in making and keeping sacred covenants. Receiving the *New and Everlasting Covenant*, including Baptism and the Holy Ghost, the Melchizedek Priesthood, the Temple Endowment and Sealing is how Heavenly Father provides

immortality and eternal life to His children. Through the power of the Atonement, these covenants rescue us from spiritual and physical separation from God. Sacred ordinances remind us of these covenants and help us to renew our commitment to keep them. Making and keeping sacred covenants is a way to measure real spiritual growth in individuals and families.

Renewing sacred covenants through ordinances such as the sacrament is an act of obedience, and faith. Consistent obedience to God's laws results in a level of personal righteousness and spirituality that can entitle us to the near-constant companionship of the Holy Ghost, and real spiritual power.

The Church was organized to direct the gathering of all into "places of defence and refuge" from the storms of life (Doctrine and Covenants 115:6). Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders under the direction of priesthood keys are called, sustained, and set apart to direct, instruct, encourage, inspire, strengthen, lift, counsel and love all members of the Ward or Branch. This inspired pattern of delegating priesthood authority significantly increases the number of leaders who can reach out and rescue those who are struggling or losing their way, in addition to the bishop.

President Thomas S. Monson is the Lord's prophet of our day. His constant plea to the Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders of the Church is to **'go to the rescue'**! He holds the priesthood keys to the gathering of Israel and to rescuing those once among us; to bring all God's children into the safety of the gospel plan. His message is clear. It is passionate and urgent. Yet his message is going unheeded by the Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders of the Church in many places. Why? What is preventing us from following the prophet's council to 'Go to the Rescue?'

I am convinced that there are five primary reasons why we fail to act in faith:

1. We do not fully understand the Saviour's Atonement and its redemptive and enabling power. As our understanding of the Atonement of Jesus Christ grows, our desire to share the gospel and assist in the rescue increases. (*Preach My Gospel* p.

2). We then feel as Lehi did "how great the importance to make these things known unto the inhabitants of the earth" (2 Nephi 2:8).

2. We do not understand and embrace our divine identity and therefore see ourselves as ordinary men and women rather than as disciples of Jesus Christ who are called by prophecy and revelation, sustained and set apart by priesthood authority to serve, to rescue, to act in faith. We expect every missionary to see themselves this way, but lack the faith to do so ourselves. "Behold we are a disciple of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. We have been called of him to declare his word among his people, that they might have everlasting life" (3 Nephi 5:13).

3. We lack faith in priesthood keys and the delegated priesthood authority. Keys authorize the direction of missionary and rescue work and promise us power to receive help and direction from Heaven.

4. We fail to understand the mission and power of the Holy Ghost. The Holy Ghost knows all things; is the great teacher of truth and knows exactly what the needs are, of those we seek to rescue and how to reach them. "Verily I say unto you, he that is ordained of me and sent forth to preach the word of truth by the comforter, in the Spirit of truth, doth he preach it by the Spirit of truth or some other way? And if it is by some other way it is not of God." (Doctrine and Covenants 50:17).

5. We lack faith in ourselves and spiritual confidence in our ability. Faith in one's self comes from confidence, and confidence comes from skill, and skill comes from knowing what to do and how to do it. Everything is hard until it becomes easy—once you know what to do and how to do it. Going to the Rescue is easy

May I offer an outline of simple straightforward principles that will help each of us have greater confidence in our ability to make powerful rescue visits?

- Prepare spiritually.
- Prayerfully seek the Spirit.
- Be motivated by pure love and concern.
- Have faith the Holy Ghost will help you know what to do and say.
- Remind them that Heavenly Father deeply loves and cares for them.
- Let them know they are missed, needed and wanted.
- Ask them what is preventing them from living the gospel more fully.
- Listen carefully and lovingly. You will know what to say and do.
- Invite them to come back; to pray, to read the Book of Mormon; to attend church.
- Offer heartfelt personal testimony.
- Promise them blessings as they obey Heavenly Father's commandments.
- Ask them "who else do you know who would benefit from hearing the gospel?"
- Leave a blessing on their home and family.
- Be your best self as you are guided by the Holy Ghost.

Brothers and Sisters, it is time to fully engage the keys of the priesthood. The keys of the priesthood authorize the holder to “direct” the work of salvation in a particular area. In English, the word “direct” has several meanings, including “to take charge,” “to cause to move toward a goal,” and “to show or indicate the way forward.” Thus, to direct the work of the salvation in a particular area means to take charge of the work in that area, to show people the way towards achieving salvation, and to move them towards that outcome. Put another way, priesthood keys authorize and obligate the holder to act, to take initiative, to make things happen regarding the work of salvation. Brothers and sisters, it is time for key holders to act, to take initiative, to make things happen regarding the rescue and real growth. And it is time for the leadership of priesthood quorums and auxiliaries, under the authority delegated to them, to do likewise and go to the rescue.

The Lord has said: “I will hasten my work in its time” (Doctrine and Covenants 88:73). It is time we hasten His work as leaders in His Church.

President Monson’s prophetic announcement at the October General Conference to reduce the age of eligibility of full time missionary service for young men and young women is unmistakable evidence for those listening, that the Lord is hastening His work at this time. Can you see what is unfolding?

After nearly five years of teaching and encouraging priesthood and auxiliary leaders to learn our duty and to get up and get out of the chapel and go to the rescue—the Lord is now, through President Monson, calling the largest missionary force in recorded history. An army of Elders, Sisters, and Senior Couples are responding to that call, even now, in an epic surge of missionaries from across the

world. The number of full-time missionaries may well surge to nearly 100,000 by the end of 2013. Can you see what is unfolding?

This surge in missionaries will impact every mission and unit of the Church here in the Pacific and across the world. It will help hasten the work of gathering many new converts to be sure. This surge in missionaries will require us, as members, to prayerfully and enthusiastically engage in *real* missionary work and not just missionary maintenance. Not *feeding* more missionaries, but *finding* more people for them to teach. Not just praying for the missionaries to be directed to those who are prepared, but praying for ourselves to be inspired and directed as well. Not just praying that members will arrive at Church safely, but pleading in all of our prayers that *we can be the means* to bring many more people into the spiritual safety of the gospel.

There are tens of thousands of individuals and families across the Pacific, in every area where the Church is established, who are prepared to receive the gospel. We simply need the faith to find them, and invite them to come and see and feel Heavenly Father's love.

It's time for Priesthood Quorums and Auxiliaries to engage with full-time missionaries in growing and establishing the Church. *Finding* is an act of faith for members as well as missionaries. Heavenly Father is just as willing to inspire members as missionaries. But we won't find what we aren't looking for, by just praying for it. The lost and wandering sheep were found because a shepherd recognized they were missing and went out looking for them. Lost sheep rarely, if ever, find their ways back safely without a shepherd. The lost coins were recovered because someone recognized they were missing and were of great value. But

finding them takes great effort, and ‘seeking diligently till they are found’. The wilful and often belligerent prodigal sons and daughters were never forgotten, lovingly forgiven, and embraced at the first sign of return even when “they were yet a great way off” (Luke 15:4-20). In every case their absence was recognized, and someone was prayerfully looking for them and willing to reclaim them. We cannot patiently wait in the chapel for the lost sheep, precious coins and prodigal members to return on their own.

President Monson expects each of us to **go out** and find the lost, then bring them back.

Is it a coincidence that this same prophet who has been leading the rescue is also leading this great surge in missionaries? Is the surge in missionaries related to the prophetic call to rescue the less-active and the lost and struggling? Can you see what is unfolding?

Beginning in March of this year, Priesthood Leaders will begin to receive the names of individuals and families whose addresses are lost or unknown. These members in many instances are still living in the same general area, or have family and friends who know their current address. They still have testimonies, and need the blessings of the gospel in their lives. These members, along with the less-active and struggling among us need our love and a personal invitation to return. It’s time to mobilize the priesthood, the auxiliaries and the missionaries in this great effort.

We are calling upon Priesthood Leaders across the Pacific to use their priesthood keys to direct an unprecedented effort to **go to the rescue**. By combining the keys

of the Stake Presidents and Bishops with the Mission Presidents great things will happen.

Brethren we are asking you to direct the work of the rescue and the gathering in your respective units. How will this happen?

First, we invite all priesthood and auxiliary leaders to devote one night or afternoon each week to go and visit individuals and families in their homes. Make this a weekly commitment. Leave the administrative matters and go and minister. This includes Stake Presidencies, Bishoprics, High Priest Group Leadership, Elder's Quorum Presidencies, Young Men's and Young Women's Presidencies, Primary and Relief Society Presidencies, Stake High Council and Auxiliary Leaders.

The rescue is the primary responsibility of Stake and Ward Councils. The driving questions will be: "Who needs an ordinance or ordination?" "Who needs our love and concern?" The source of this information will be the Bishop's Action and Interview List made available by the Ward Clerk. These names will be prayerfully discussed in regular quorum and auxiliary presidency meetings. Then under the added guidance and direction of the Bishop in Ward Council Meetings, plans and assignments will be made. Stake President's and Bishop's offices are places to prayerfully plan, organize, counsel and interview. But the rescue must be taken out to the people, by Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders. You now know what to do and how to do it.

Brethren and Sisters when was the last time you personally made a visit to rescue someone?

As Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders devote themselves to this sacred work, the Lord will pour out His spirit in great abundance upon them. Their faith will be rewarded and their own lives and families will be blessed. The leadership of the Church will be strengthened and thousands of lives will be blessed.

Brothers and Sisters will you please accept this invitation?

Second, we invite each Bishop to direct the Ward Council and Ward Mission Leader to organize one night each week for full-time missionaries to go with members, approved by the Bishop, to find those who are listed as lost and address unknown, less-active or part-member families. These missionary splits with members will effectively utilize the increasing number of missionaries assigned to the Pacific to reactivate and strengthen the Wards and Branches. Each missionary will go with a member – creating two companionships. They will use the New and Returning Member Progress Form to record and update information regarding members assigned by the Bishop. This updated information will be returned to the Ward Clerk.

In each home visit, missionary-member companions will:

1. Emphasize and teach of Heavenly Father's love
2. Encourage a return to activity
3. Extend an invitation to pray, read the Book of Mormon, and attend church
4. Offer to give a blessing on the individual or family and their home
5. Ask who they know who might be interested in hearing more about the gospel.

The missionaries are prepared and ready. Stake President's and Bishop's will you please direct and organize this effort?

Brothers and Sisters just imagine the power of the priesthood mobilizing across the Pacific Area. Can you see the vision of what is unfolding?

It's Monday night, and families across the Pacific are gathering to teach their children and one another to understand and live Heavenly Father's Plan of Happiness. Families are preparing young men and women to serve as missionaries in our great missionary force. Marriages, and families are strengthened. Tonight there is truly love at home.

It's Tuesday night. Tuesday is rescue day. Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders are returning home from work and other activities. As they dress in their Sunday clothing their minds and hearts turn to the Savior. They are not just men and women, fathers and mothers, teachers, electricians, farmers, business people and artisans; they are Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders on a rescue of love under priesthood direction, inviting others to come unto Christ. They leave home and families and gather together in Wards and Branches across the Pacific and go to the rescue. Combined they are a formidable army of priesthood and auxiliary leaders. Tonight they will visit 28,000 individuals and families. Their impact will be almost immeasurable. And this same impact happens once a night, every week. They carry the companionship of the Holy Ghost. They are disciples of Jesus Christ, who have been called by prophecy and revelation, sustained and set apart. They have delegated authority and access to inspiration and spiritual power. They bring healing in their wings, to those they will minister to tonight.

And tonight the power of the priesthood, and the love of God will be manifest in thousands of homes. Thousands of individual lives and families will feel Heavenly Father's love again and the influence of the Holy Ghost "will show them all things what they should do" (2 Nephi 32:5). They will be reminded of sacred covenants, and invited to come back and move forward spiritually with the help of loving friends and leaders. They will hear, and feel, promised blessings as they exercise faith. Miracles will happen tonight.

It's Wednesday night. Stake Presidents, District Presidents, Bishops and Branch Presidents are in their offices devoting one evening to priesthood interviews with youth, young single adults and adults. And while they interview, nearly 2,000 full-time missionaries are leaving the chapel with member-companions for the evening. Its missionary-member splits night. Members are experiencing the power of missionaries and together they are on a mission to find the lost, and to find new investigators to teach. Two thousand companionships will spend the evening going to the rescue of 5,000 to 10,000 homes in search of the lost sheep, and the precious coins, and the prodigal sons and daughters. As they do, they will find hundreds of new investigators; spouses, partners, children, family and friends who accept invitations to hear more about the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Testimonies are shared. Friendship and fellowship are extended. Spiritual feelings are rekindled. Invitations to return are accepted. Homes and families are blessed, and the power of the priesthood is felt across the Pacific. Miracles have happened again tonight. An army of priesthood holders head home with a deeper sense of gratitude and commitment. Their faith has been strengthened as they have witnessed the hand of the Lord and the influence of the Holy Ghost.

Thursday comes and goes. Friday is date night, and Saturday is a family day. Sunday comes around and again Priesthood leaders return and report their rescue efforts from the prior week. Presidencies meet and discuss progress. The Ward Council meets. Assignments are reported on and new assignments are given. Council is given and received. The stage is set for another week of rescue visits. And the work of salvation goes on under the keys of the priesthood and the inspired leadership of priesthood and auxiliary leaders all across the Pacific. Can you see what is unfolding?

The Church is being established and strengthened through the efforts of faithful Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders. The gathering of Israel is the greatest force on the earth today.

Brothers and Sisters, the Lord is hastening His work in *this* time. Now is the time to follow President Monson's call in an unprecedented rescue of the lost and less-active members as the Lord sends his labourers into the vineyard for the last time. May we all see that we serve Him with all of our heart, might, mind and strength, that we too may stand blameless before God at the last day. It's time to hasten the Lord's work.

I bear my personal witness of this magnificent work. It is true. I bear witness it is true. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

Elder James J. Hamula
Inspired Priesthood Interviews



Brothers and sisters, we have been well taught by Elder Watson and Elder Pearson. I love and respect these associates of mine in the Area Presidency.

My assignment is to encourage inspired priesthood interviews, which if regularly undertaken in 2013 will help us achieve the 3 priority goals of (1) increasing Melchizedek Priesthood ordinations of adult men, (2) increasing Aaronic Priesthood ordinations of young men, and (3) increasing the number of young men and women serving full-time missions. In addressing this topic, I will be addressing primarily stake presidents, bishops, and their counsellors. However, what I have to say to them should be understood and supported by all.

A priesthood interview is a private meeting between a Church member and his or her bishop or stake president, where the member is prepared to receive a priesthood ordinance and covenant. In this meeting, the worthiness and readiness of the Church member to receive ordinances and covenants is judged by the member's bishop or stake president. That the bishop or stake president judges worthiness and readiness to receive priesthood ordinances is appropriate, because only the bishop of a ward or the president of a stake holds the keys to the performance of priesthood ordinances in a ward or stake. Not any priesthood holder can authorize the performance of baptism, confirmation, Aaronic or

Melchizedek priesthood ordination, endowment, sealing, or sacrament. Only the bishop of a ward, or the president of a stake, has such authority because he, and he alone, has been delegated the keys of the priesthood for the performance of these ordinances.

The purpose of a priesthood interview distinguishes it from priesthood counseling. Priesthood counseling is where a member seeks out the bishop or stake president for spiritual guidance on personal problems, doctrinal issues, or serious transgressions. While priesthood counseling can be initiated by a bishop or stake president, it is more commonly initiated by the Church member. By contrast, priesthood interviews are initiated by the bishop or stake president. Although they can be initiated by a member, priesthood interviews are to be initiated by bishops and stake presidents because they, and they alone, by virtue of the priesthood keys delegated to them, are authorized to deliver the saving priesthood ordinances and covenants to the people of their ward or stake, and because the salvation of their people depend on their receiving such ordinances and covenants. Bishops and stake presidents, let me be as clear as I can be on this point – The priesthood keys delegated to you place upon you a divine mandate to initiate priesthood interviews. Waiting for members to initiate a priesthood interview with you is fundamentally inconsistent with your calling. As a servant of the Lord whose work it is to seek and save, you must go to your people who need priesthood ordinances and covenants and provide them the priesthood interviews that open the door to priesthood ordinances and covenants.

Now, in every ward there is only one bishop, and in every stake there is only one stake president, yet in every ward and stake there are many who need priesthood

interviews. Let us consider who needs a priesthood interview and how people needing such interviews can be identified and scheduled.

First, children of record who are turning 8 year of age need a priesthood interview for baptism. It appears, however, that many such children in the Pacific Area do not receive such an interview. Only two-thirds of all 8-year-old children of record are baptized in our Area. A ward Primary president who is focused on “rescue” and “real growth” will make sure this does not happen in her ward. She will identify for the bishop in ward council all Primary-aged children who are eligible for baptism, help prepare these children for baptism, and arrange for their baptismal interview. A ward clerk who understands his responsibility for “rescue” and “real growth” will also take the initiative to inform the bishop of children in the ward needing baptismal interviews, using the Bishop’s Interview and Action List. Once children of record needing baptismal interviews are identified, the executive secretary can contact these children’s families and arrange for interviews to be conducted by either the bishop, or one of his counselors.

Who else needs an interview?

Children who are turning 12 years of age and are advancing from the Primary to Young Men or Young Women need a priesthood interview. If the young person is a girl, the bishop encourages her to participate in Young Women and to start the Personal Progress program. If the young person is a boy, the bishop interviews him for the Aaronic Priesthood, commits him to serve a mission, and encourages his participation in the Duty to God program. It appears, however, that many such young people do not receive these interviews. At present, less than half of all 12-year-old boys in the Pacific Area are ordained deacons. Bishops, do not let this

happen in your ward. Who can help you? The Primary President, the Young Men's President, the Young Women's President, and the Ward Clerk using the Bishop's Interview and Action List, can help you by identifying for you in ward council, the young people who need baptismal interviews. Who will schedule these interviews? The Executive Secretary will do so, for either you or one of your counselors.

Who else needs an interview?

Young men and women turning 14 and 16 years of age need priesthood interviews. In the case of a young woman, she needs an interview to graduate into another young woman's class and to assess her progress in the Young Women's Personal Progress program. In the case of a young man, he needs an interview to advance in the Aaronic Priesthood to the office of teacher or priest, and to encourage his continued preparation for a mission. Again, however, it appears that very few such interviews are taking place. At present, less than one-third of all 14 and 16 year-old boys in the Pacific Area are ordained to the office of teacher or priest. Bishops, do not let this happen in your ward. Who can help you? Young Men and Young Women Presidents should identify in ward council the young men and young women in the ward who need priesthood interviews on their birthdays, who need priesthood interviews at the 6-month mark between birthdays, and who need priesthood interviews for other reasons such as callings for class or quorum presidencies. The Ward Clerk, again using the Bishop's Interview and Action List, should also identify for you those needing birthday interviews and the interviews between birthdays. And the Executive Secretary will schedule these interviews for you, or one of your counsellors.

Who else needs an interview?

Young men and young women turning 18 years of age need priesthood interviews.

In the case of a young woman, she needs a priesthood interview for her graduation from Young Women's and her entry into Relief Society, as well as her completion of the Personal Progress Program. In the case of a young man, he needs an interview regarding his worthiness and readiness for Melchizedek Priesthood ordination and full-time mission service. Again, however, it appears that very few such interviews are taking place. At present, less than 20% of all 18-to-20 year old young men in our Area are ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood and only 11% are serving full-time missions. Bishops and stake presidents, you can change this by exercising your priesthood keys to meet with these young men and young women and interviewing them -- early and often. Young Men and Young Women leaders can identify them for you when they turn 18. Ward and stake clerks can identify them from Membership Reports. Executive secretaries can schedule the interviews for you, or as appropriate your counselors.

Others needing priesthood interviews include (a) young single adults (especially those who have served missions), (b) prospective elders, (c) members needing renewal of temple recommends, (d) members needing temple recommends for their own endowments and sealings. In each of these cases, stake and ward clerks using membership reports, as well as Relief Society Presidents, Elder Quorum Presidents, and High Priest Group Leaders knowing the members in their auxiliary,

quorum or group, should identify and recommend priesthood interviews for such members.

If the number of priesthood interviews needed in your ward or stake seems overwhelming, let me tell you, I understand. When I was called to be a bishop, I was 28 years old. I had been married for only two years, and Sister Hamula and I were the parents of a four-month old baby girl. I had finished my university studies only a year earlier, and I had a very demanding job. The ward I was called to lead had 430 members, but was growing. Within two years, the ward grew to more than 1,000 members. The ward was also very active. We had 70% activity. That meant that 700 people were attending sacrament meeting, many of whom needed priesthood interviews. On top of all of that, the stake president had committed all of the wards in our stake to work from 3:00am to 6:00 am most mornings of the week to provide the basic labor needed for the construction of three new Church buildings in our stake. In short, I know about being busy, and I know about having many priesthood interviews to conduct.

Can I tell you how to get it all done?

- Devote one night a week to conducting priesthood interviews,
- Charge your ward clerk and your ward council to identify the members needing priesthood interviews for priesthood ordinances, and
- Charge your executive secretary to schedule the interviews for these people on the night you and your counselors are available for interviews.

Elder Robert D. Hales of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles has given similar counsel to bishops. He said, devote one night a week to priesthood interviews, and one night a week to member visits in their homes. The other nights of the week

belong to you and your family. Do this, he said, and you will be a better father and bishop. That is our counsel to you priesthood leaders.

Now, from time to time we receive reports from members, particularly youth and young adults, who say they fear meeting with their bishop or stake president for a priesthood interview. They fear how they will be treated, or they fear that their interview will not be kept confidential. When Church members fear being interviewed by their bishop or stake president for these or other reasons, the work of salvation is severely arrested in that ward or stake. Few Church members will be interviewed, and thus few Church members will receive saving ordinances and covenants.

Brethren, when you conduct your priesthood interviews, remember that you represent the Lord. Create an atmosphere of peace and love. Be dignified in your conduct. There should be no pride or arrogance in your demeanor. Rather, gentleness, meekness, and kindness should mark your conduct. Your interviews should not be hurried or rushed. In every respect, the member should be made to feel loved. You show love by listening to the member and respecting his or her expressions. You also show love by holding sacred what you hear, never divulging the content of the interview to others, not even to your wife. When transgressions are disclosed, do not show anger, contempt, or condemnation. Rather, express sorrow and compassion, and promise mercy and grace that come from the Lord through sincere repentance. Yes, instruction and correction are appropriate elements of priesthood interviews, when the Holy Ghost so prompts you. But sincere love should quickly follow, accompanied by expressions of forgiveness and confidence in the member's ability to change. When you conduct interviews in these ways, no member, young or old, will fear you. On the contrary,

they will want to come to you. This is what is meant, in part, by your dominion “flowing unto you without compulsory means” (see D&C 121:45).

Now brothers and sisters, let me summarize and conclude. We ask you tonight to adopt and use the Area Goals in your Church work. Of these eight goals, we ask that you give priority effort and attention to three of them. In your ward or stake,

1. Increase the number of adult men ordained to the Melchizedek Priesthood;
2. Increase the number of young men ordained to the appropriate Aaronic Priesthood office; and
3. Increase the number of young men and young women serving full-time missions. In this regard, we continue to ask that stake presidents present 25 adult men for sustaining to the Melchizedek Priesthood at every stake conference. This means 50 adult men ordained per year.

To help you achieve all of the Area Goals, but particularly the three priority Goals, we ask that in 2013 you regularly and consistently do the following three things –

1. Hold your priesthood or auxiliary presidency meetings, and your ward council meetings, at least twice a month, focusing on the delivery of priesthood ordinances and covenants to those who lack them;
2. As a priesthood or auxiliary leader, devote one night a week to visiting member homes, where you extend inspired invitations to receive, keep, or renew a priesthood ordinance and covenant; and
3. As a priesthood leader, devote one night a week to conducting inspired priesthood interviews with youth, young single adults, prospective elders and missionaries, and adults needing temple recommends.

Brothers and sisters, if, throughout the Pacific, we will unite ourselves on these principles and actions, we will succeed in the work of rescue and real growth. “Verily, verily, I say unto you,” said the Lord, “... where two or three are gathered together in my name, as touching one thing, behold, there will I be in the midst of them ...” (Matt. 18:20; D&C 6:32). Having the Lord in our midst, because of our unity, qualifies us to have Him be our “advocate with the Father” and assist us in overcoming all the powers of earth and hell (D&C 32:3). Having the Lord with us also will allow us to overcome the world as He has overcome the world (John 16:33).

May we unite ourselves on the principles and actions identified tonight so that we may claim these blessings of the Lord, I pray, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, of whom I solemnly bear witness. Amen.

PACIFIC AREA GOALS 2013

Establish the Church



SAVE THE RISING GENERATION

- Increase the number of young men /young women serving missions from 1,850 to 2,500
- Increase the number of YSA attending Church from 20,600 to 25,000



STRENGTHEN THE PRIESTHOOD

- Increase the number of ordained Melchizedek Priesthood holders from 51,000 to 55,000
- Increase the number of young men ordained to the proper Aaronic Priesthood office from 4,700 to 6,000



STRENGTHEN FAMILIES

- Increase the number of endowed, temple recommend holding adults from 48,000 to 53,000
- Increase the number of adults sealed to a spouse from 46,500 to 48,000



INCREASE AND SUSTAIN CONVERSIONS

- Increase number of annual convert baptisms from 10,500 to 12,000
- Increase the number of members attending sacrament meeting from 146,000 to 150,000

Hastening Real Growth in the Pacific Area

Key Area of Emphasis:

- Increase Aaronic Priesthood holders ordained at the appropriate age
 - Increase Melchizedek Priesthood holders
 - Increase Full-Time missionaries serving
- Expectations:**
- All Young Men ordained to appropriate Aaronic Priesthood Office
 - Active pool of prospective missionaries (Elders, Sisters and Senior Couples) for 2013
 - At least 25 Melchizedek Priesthood ordained at each Stake Conference

Inspired Priesthood Interviews

Purpose: Instruct, encourage, inspire, strengthen, counsel, express love and listen

Expectations:

- Priesthood Leaders devote one night weekly to interviews
- Every YSA interviewed by Bishop annually
- Every YM/YW interviewed by Bishop annually (Birthday), semi-annually by Bishop Counselor
- Prospective Elders and Full-Time Missionaries
- Endowed Members – Temple Recommends
- Executive Secretary arranges interview schedule

Mobilize Stake and Ward Councils

Purpose: Delegate and direct Work of Salvation through Priesthood Quorums and Auxiliaries, and inspire Ward and Stake leadership to act

Expectations:

- Priesthood and Auxiliary Presidencies meet regularly (at least twice per month)
- Ward Council meets regularly (at least twice per month)
- Focus on individuals and families needing ordinances and covenants (Baptism, Priesthood, Endowment, Sealing, Sacrament) and concern for their well-being
- Use Bishop's Interview and Action List, and New and Returning Member Progress Report, prepared by Clerk

Personal Priesthood and Auxiliary Leader Visits

Purpose: Spiritual Rescue of Individuals and Families under the direction of Priesthood Key, encouraging, loving and inviting to make and keep sacred covenants

Expectations:

- Priesthood and Auxiliary Leaders devote one night each week to visit member homes and extend inspired invitations
- Arrange weekly 'splits' with full-time missionaries to visit less active, part member and address unknown members
- Record visits on New and Returning Member Form
- Coordination through the Ward Council and Ward Mission Leader