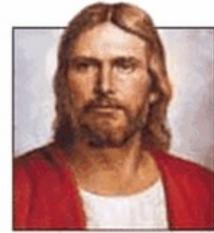


March 2009

A newsletter to all Priesthood Leaders within the Pacific Area (Distribution to: Area Seventies Stake Presidents Mission Presidents District Presidents Temple Presidents) from the Pacific Area Office, to update, inform and instruct leaders on new initiatives and Area policy.



Come Follow Me

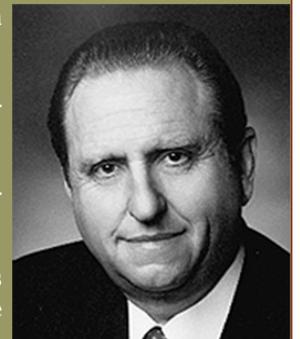
General Conference Broadcasts

We have recently notified stake presidents of the satellite broadcast schedule for April General Conference. For Tahiti, Samoa and American Samoa the sessions can all be viewed on the same weekend as in Salt Lake. For every other country, re-broadcasts have been scheduled so that every session can be viewed at reasonable times on the following weekend. As you will know from other communications, our temples will now all be closed on the Saturday of our scheduled broadcasts in each country. This is the common practice elsewhere in the world, but it has not been the case in the Pacific Area. The Temple Department has now authorised the change for this year, and it will be implemented in future years.

Every stake or district that has access to the Church satellite system will organise to show all of the sessions on the designated weekends – and not to continue with other local arrangements that have been made in the past, such as spreading the sessions over subsequent weeks.

Showing all of the sessions over the single weekend of General Conference, or at the latest the weekend following, provides a number of benefits:

- All of our members have the opportunity to receive the counsel from General Conference as soon as possible, in a timely and orderly manner
- The sessions are presented as intended by the First Presidency and the Twelve, over a single weekend
- We avoid multiple disruption of normal Sunday curriculum and meetings on subsequent weeks
- Our temples can follow a consistent closure pattern as approved by the Temple Department which leaves the weekend clear for General Conference attendance



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Member information Update on MLS

We would like to use the electronic technology that we have available to us to more efficiently bless the lives of the members within our area. We can be more effective in our communication and contact if we have current contact details. Please request ward and stake members to update their information with their ward clerks. The information required would be: the home phone number, the cell phone number, and the email address, of the head of the house.

This information will also make it easier to update members records if they change address, or move out of their ward/stake boundary's, and will result in less names moving in to the address unknown files.

As the travel and time costs for members and leaders increase, webcast technology provides significant ways to reduce or limit these costs.

NEW TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENTS FOR STAKES

Two new exciting improvements in technology will soon be available for stake presidencies to choose if they see a need for their stakes:



1. MEETINGHOUSE INTERNET

How It Works: Many of our chapels currently have Church supplied and supported Internet connections for purposes such as Family History Centres, Facility Management Offices, Employment Centres and S&I Offices etc. These sites are referred to as 'Type 3' sites. Approval has now been given to stake presidencies to have secured and filtered Internet connections in those buildings that presently don't have them. Potential uses of the Internet include MLS connectivity and family history work etc. Such new installations will be under the direction of the Area Presidency and requested by local stake presidencies.

2. MEETINGHOUSE WEBCAST

The meetinghouse webcast solution provides local Church units with the information and tools needed to broadcast local meetings over the Internet to other locations. Webcast technology provides a potential alternative to travel for stake conferences, other meetings and firesides.



How It Works: The audio and video of a meeting is broadcast from a central location to one or many other locations. Webcasts are transmitted over the Internet via a webcast 'black box transmitter' that publishes the meeting. Receiving locations connect over the Internet to the 'black box receiver' that can then be connected to a projector in the chapel. Alternatively the receiving end can also view the broadcast on a PC connected to the Internet.

Uses and Benefits: As the travel and time costs for members and leaders increase, webcast technology provides significant opportunities to reduce or limit these costs. For example, it can allow a stake to hold one Sunday session of stake conference and webcast the meeting to other locations within the stake.

Requirements: Several elements are required for the successful delivery of a meetinghouse webcast. This includes having a quality Internet connection (Type 3 or Meetinghouse Internet *see above*) as well as a webcast kit of approved equipment.

Webcast Coordinators. A stake technology specialist who has an understanding of the Internet and basic computer technologies should coordinate the preparation for and management of meetinghouse webcast events. In addition, others will be needed to manage the technology used at each location that receives the event.

NEXT STEPS:

Further details on Meetinghouse Internet and Meetinghouse Webcast including how to request, installation details and costs will soon be provided via a communication from the Service Centres.

Visas for Missionaries Assigned to the United States

Visas for missionaries assigned to the US are becoming increasingly more difficult and time consuming to obtain.

As of 17 February 2009, once a missionary receives an assignment to the US, the Church must then submit a copy of the missionary's passport with other information to the US government for processing. This process may take two months or more. The Church will then send the "approval" from the US government (known as 1-797 Notice of Action) with a Petition Packet to the Area Office Travel Supervisor, who will then give this information to the missionary. The missionary (if in Australia or New Zealand) or the Travel Coordinator (for all other missionaries) will schedule an R-1 visa interview with the local US Embassy/Consulate office.

In order to prevent delays in missionary calls it will be necessary for prospective missionaries to submit a clear copy of their current passport with their missionary application (this is already done in the islands). Obviously this will require some prospective missionaries who do not have passports to obtain them before submitting their application. All passports should have at least three years remaining before their expiration date. Accordingly some existing passports may need to be extended before a missionary application is submitted.

We recognise that some missionary applications may be ready to submit and we do not want you to delay them (i.e. because they do not currently have a passport). We would request however, that you fully implement the foregoing as soon as possible, but in no event later than 1 May 2009. From that date we will not be able to accept and process missionary applications that do not include a clear copy of a passport that is valid for at least a further three years.

Section 2

Australia and New Zealand only

Stake/District and Ward/Branch Council Training – Saturday 9th May 2009

A two-hour training session will be held in all Stake/District meetinghouses throughout New Zealand and Australia, on Saturday 9 May. This will be at 6.00pm (NZ time) And at 4.00pm (AEST) or the equivalent time for other states in Australia.

The first hour will include training via satellite from the Area Presidency located in Auckland. The second hour will be continued training from your Stake/District President.

The following leaders are invited to be in attendance:

Stake/District/Mission Presidencies, Executive Secretaries and Clerks

Stake High Councilors

Stake/District Auxiliary Presidencies (Relief Society, Young Men, Young Women, Primary)

Bishoprics and Branch Presidencies, Executive Secretaries and Clerks

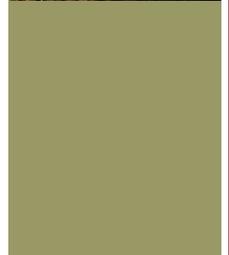
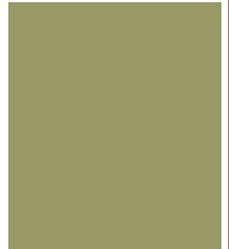
High Priest Group Leaders, Elders Quorum Presidencies, Ward Mission Leaders

Ward/Branch Auxiliary Presidencies (Relief Society, Young Men, Young Women, Primary)

The Area Presidency will be giving instruction to leaders on how to find and reactivate ‘lost members’.

Stake/District Presidents should receive, prior to the broadcast, a couriered set of documents for use in this meeting with instructions on how to conduct the second hour of training.

Please ask attendees to be seated 10 minutes before the broadcast begins. We look forward to being with you in this historic training meeting.



Section 3

Australia only

Members Carrying Out Cleaning Duties at Chapels



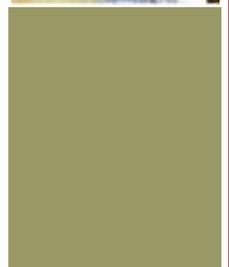
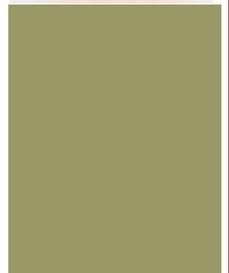
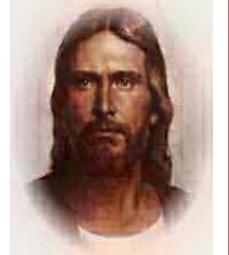
Because concerns have been expressed by some priesthood leaders that they may be personally liable in negligence law suits or occupational health and safety prosecutions if members are injured whilst cleaning chapels, the Office of General Counsel has obtained advice from local legal counsel in Australia to assess those risks. The advice is summarized below.

Because church members are not employees of the Church’s legal entities which own and manage our chapels, they do not come within the scope of the occupational health and safety legislation. However, this does not exonerate the Church, its employees and priesthood officers from the need to take care

that assigned volunteer cleaning work does not involve dangers which would be unacceptable in a work environment.

Since most of the cleaning tasks assigned to members are tasks that they regularly perform around their own homes, it can be reasonably expected that they will know how to perform the assigned tasks in a safe manner. However, where unfamiliar tasks are assigned or where members are inexperienced in assigned cleaning tasks, priesthood leaders and Physical Facilities Department supervisors should take extra care to make sure that the members are shown how to perform the relevant tasks and how to avoid dangers, even though these might be more obvious to more experienced members.

If cleaning products used by members are the same or similar to those they use at home, once again, it is most unlikely that any risk of litigation involving the church or its officers will arise.



Section 4

New Zealand only

Stake and Ward Website Participation

The Church is making available within New Zealand the ability for Stakes and Wards to participate in having Stake and Ward websites that are housed in the USA as part of www.lds.org. The format and style of the site is predefined and Stakes and Wards are able to enter their own content for certain features.

The site allows stake and ward members to view:

- News and information
- Lesson Schedules
- Stake and Ward Calendars
- Membership directory (which is updated via MLS)
- Leadership directory
- Information on missionaries
- Resource Bookings, and many more features

At this point in time if you would like your stake to participate, please choose a web administrator (someone with the technical ability to train a ward administrator and to maintain the site),

Within the next few weeks you will be sent the registration form to complete in order to participate.



OSH Health and Safety Guidelines for Church Activities

Plan Activities That Are Safe and Appropriate

Leaders should plan activities that have minimal risk of injury or illness. During the activity, safety precautions should be observed at all times.

If a stake president or a bishop has a question about an activity's safety or liability, he may contact Wati Smiler at the New Zealand Service Centre in Hamilton Ph: (07) 834 9028 or smilerwa@ldschurch.org.

Leaders should be prepared for emergencies that may occur. This includes knowing in advance how to contact emergency services.

Activities should be wholesome. They also should be appropriate for the participant's ages and maturity.

Accidents and Other Serious Situations

The Bishop and Stake President should be notified promptly of:

1. An accident, injury, or illness that occurs on Church property, or is a result of an occurrence during a Church-sponsored activity.
2. A missing person who was participating in a Church-sponsored activity.
3. Serious damage to private, public, or Church property that occurs during a Church-sponsored activity.

In these situations, leaders should observe the applicable guidelines listed below:

1. Render first aid. If a person needs medical care beyond simple first aid, contact emergency medical services, the bishop or stake president, and the parent, guardian, or other next of kin. In case of a missing person or fatality, immediately notify local law enforcement authorities, and cooperate fully with them.
2. Provide emotional support and show empathy and concern.
3. Do not make commitments on behalf of the Church.

If a person has been seriously injured, or if private or public property has been seriously damaged, the stake president (or the bishop under his direction) promptly notifies Wati Smiler at the New Zealand Service centre in Hamilton Ph: (07) 834 9028 or smilerwa@ldschurch.org.

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

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