



STAKE COMMUNICATION

Sandy Utah Crescent Stake

April 17, 2020

RE: Mobilizing support for missionaries now at home

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

We want to sincerely thank each of you for your kindness, love and thoughtfulness to each other during this unprecedented time. We hope that no one within the stake will be lonely. We reaffirm the Lord is aware of each of you and is involved in your life for good.

In a recent letter to you, we mentioned a Virtual Mission designed for missionaries returning from their mission that were not going to be released. As you know, additional adjustments were announced the next day, and all missionaries now at home have now received either a temporary or a full release. We are so grateful for their dedicated and loving service to the Lord. We feel blessed to have them back in our stake to continue their service and growth.

We continue to invite all stake members to prayerfully consider how we might express appreciation and support to each returned missionary during these unique circumstances.

We have felt impressed to revisit, organize and implement an effort to support missionaries who are waiting for reassignment and others. Similar to what we previously contemplated, we have called a Mission Leadership Council, who have organized these missionaries into groups. They will use video conferencing, FaceTime, and other media options to maximize the opportunity for spiritual growth, service and continued missionary momentum. This effort in the stake will function for as long as it is needed. We have also invited all recently released missionaries and those who have received or are waiting for mission calls to participate (as their schedules may allow).

We have loved the “drive-by” welcomes extended to so many missionaries. In a similar spirit, this is a time for “All Hands-on Deck” in an ongoing way. We want all missionaries actively engaged in sharing experiences and testimony every evening with families and individuals within their home wards. Please invite them into your homes virtually and help embrace this experience in their lives. We want them to share the joy of their missions, experiences they have had as missionaries, and testimony and doctrine.

Every ward has a great tradition of generously feeding missionaries. During a time of quarantine, we won’t have that privilege, but we hope to see an outpouring of opportunities for 20-30-minute videoconference experiences for our released missionaries who will be working in virtual companionships. We specifically invite ward leaders to assist by helping coordinate sign-up and opportunities for missionaries.

Ward Mission Leaders, Elders Quorum and Relief Society Counselors with Missionary Responsibilities: Please develop ways to engage all ward families to sign up and make themselves available for virtual visits with our released missionaries! We would appreciate virtual visits every evening for each companionship assigned to your ward. We also hope to have weekly coordination meetings involving key leaders and the missionaries assigned to your ward.

We invite each leader and member in the stake to prayerfully consider and look for inspired ways to help these wonderful missionaries have opportunities to share their mission experiences and the doctrines of the restored gospel through the use of technology. The options are limitless, but it will require thoughtful consideration to identify opportunities. We are confident these missionaries have returned to our stake to help bless every person in the stake as stated in their missionary purpose:

Invite others to come unto Christ by helping them receive the restored gospel through faith in Jesus Christ and His Atonement, repentance, baptism, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end.

Until more detail is provided through each ward, please call Eric or Pamela Bishop with questions. 801-556-5979 / 801-230-3103.

Thank you again for your loving service to the Lord and to each other.

Sandy Crescent Stake Presidency