

THE CHURCH OF  
JESUS CHRIST  
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

SALEM UTAH STAKE

January 2018

Dear Salem Utah Stake Family,

We love you! Thank you for your beautiful expression of love, service and ministering across the stake. Thank you for your quiet acts of service. Thank you for striving to reflect the love of Jesus Christ in your lives and your homes. We are so humble to serve with you as we strive to establish Zion together in our hearts, in our homes, and in our stake.

As a stake presidency, we have prayerfully sought the Lord for His direction for our Stake at this time. These are the impressions we have received.

We feel first drawn to this quote from President Henry B. Eyring;

*“The Lord is anxious to lead us to the safety of higher ground, away from the path of physical and spiritual danger. His upward path will require us to climb. And as the world becomes darker and more dangerous, we must keep climbing. It will be our choice whether or not to move up or to stay where we are. The mists of spiritual darkness will become more dense as we climb. But the word of God will guide those who develop the capacity to receive it through the ministrations of the Holy Ghost. A clear light piercing the darkness will show the way to those who have taken the Holy Ghost as a trusted and constant traveling companion.*

*“And others will he pacify, [again speaking of Satan] and lull them away into carnal security, that they will say: All is well in Zion; yea, Zion prospereth, all is well—and thus the devil cheateth their souls, and leadeth them away carefully down to hell” (2 Nephi 28:21).*

*We are promised that the scriptures and the Holy Ghost will tell us all things that we should do. As the challenges around us increase, we must commit to do more to qualify for the companionship of the Holy Ghost. Casual prayer won't be enough. Reading a few verses of the scripture won't be enough. Doing the minimum of what the Lord asks of us won't be enough. Hoping that we will have the Atonement work in our lives and that we will perhaps sometimes feel the influence of the Holy Ghost won't be enough. And one great burst of effort won't be enough. Only a steady, ever-increasing effort will allow the Lord to take us to higher ground.*      ” Raise the Bar” – President Henry B. Eyring – BYU-I Devotional – January 2005

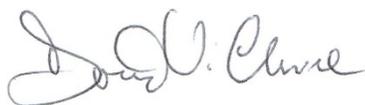
As we share the following impressions, we pray that the Holy Ghost will whisper thoughts and impressions to your mind and heart. We invite you to prayerful seek and receive revelation for yourself and your family in this critical season and time of preparing for the Lord's coming.

- First, we reaffirm the blessings and invitations associated within our Stake Vision: Establishing Zion. Increasing our personal revelation through reading the Book of Mormon, establishing homes of Zion through temple attendance and attending to the work of salvation for those who have gone before us, and loving one another as neighbors and friends as been our central focus as a stake. To establish Zion, we must live the two great commandments, *1) Love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. 2) Love thy neighbor as thyself.* (Matt 22:37-39) President Monson recently testified of “the critical need we have as members of this Church to study, ponder, and apply its (Book of Mormon) teachings in our lives”, with this promise - “we will be in a position to hear the voice of the Spirit, to resist temptation, to overcome doubt and fear, and to receive heaven's help in our lives”. ***We testify of these promises and invite each member of our stake to prayerfully read the Stake Vision again and seek personal revelation in what you are to do at this time to prepare for the days ahead.***

- Second, we affirm the blessings, safety, and protection of following the Lord’s anointed servants. “Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets” (Amos 3:7). If we heed their words and “receive them, as if from His own mouth, in all patience and faith”, the promises that the “Lord God will disperse the powers of darkness”, “cause the heavens to shake” for our good, and He will bless us “with a mighty blessing” are sure (D&C 21). ***We invite each individual and family to bring the words from General Conference and the Lord’s anointed more into our lives.*** Reading or listening to a general conference talk each day will invoke the spirit of revelation more in our lives. The new curriculum for Relief Society and Melchizedek Priesthood quorums beginning in 2018 is a reflection of this protection – to draw upon the Holy Ghost in our counsel to meet the needs of our ward families, and then to draw upon the words of the Lord Jesus Christ’s servants to guide us. We testify that this inspired direction is specifically for us to prepare for the days ahead.
- Third, we express deep gratitude for the efforts of every family to keep the Sabbath day holy – to bring the spirit of reverence and revelation into our sacrament meetings and to receive the promised blessings of honoring the Lord on His holy day. The Lord God of Israel has promised, “for them that honour me I will honour” (1 Samuel 2:30) and “they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary, and they shall walk and not faint” (Isaiah 40:5). The opportunity to “call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord” brings immeasurable blessings of protection, health, peace, and assurances from our Father in Heaven. It is our “sign unto Him” of where our hearts are. ***We invite each individual and family to enhance our reverence and worship of the Lord on His day – to draw upon the power, beauty, and protection of the sacrament and the Atonement of Jesus Christ.***
- Finally, we have felt to ask these questions to our stake family: What is our sacrifice unto the Lord God of Israel? Have we sufficiently placed the work of salvation in the House of God as one of our highest priorities and offerings to Him? Do we understand the protection and the power that flows from the Temple? Are our children being blessed and protected by attending and turning their hearts to the House of the Lord?” As you ponder these questions, we know the Lord will give you impressions and invitations. Write them down, act upon them. We promise that the blessings of protection, power, peace, and light (revelation) will come into your lives to help you navigate through a darkening world. Satan strives to distract and cheat our souls by making us too busy to attend the Temple because he knows it will give us power over him. It will require sacrifice and adjustments, but could we not as Nephi heed the words, “Arise and get thee into the mountain (of the Lord House)” (1 Nephi 17), so that we too can hear the voice of the Lord teach us how to build our ships to save our homes and families? ***As we begin 2018, we invite each individual and family to prayerfully look at our offerings unto the Lord in attending His Holy House. To attend with greater earnest and devotion the work of salvation for our kindred dead and draw upon power, protection, and blessings of the temple in our homes and family.***

We testify that Jesus Christ is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, the Great Jehovah and the Messiah, the Prince and Giver of Peace, the Way, the Truth, and the Light of the world. He is our Savior and our Redeemer – the Holy One of Israel. He was born so that we could be born, He lived so that we could live, He suffered so that we might not suffer, He died so that we could overcome death, He rose so that we can rise again. Of Him we love and testify, and leave our witness of these impressions and invitations, in the sacred name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

With our love - The Salem Utah Stake Presidency



David V. Clare  
President



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1<sup>st</sup> Counselor



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