

# Senior Missionary News

South Weber Stake

December 2019

## A Message from the Stake Presidency

### “Faith and Sacrifice”

*Thanks to all those who have served and are serving as full-time missionaries, part-time missionaries, temple workers or in some other way. You are an example of the principle Jesus taught his disciples:*

*“If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: and whosoever will lose his life for my sake shall find it.” (Matt. 16:24–25.)*

*The word “deny” here implies sacrifice and giving up your personal desires for the benefit of others. Serving a senior mission requires faith and sacrifice – faith that the gospel and its promises are true, and the sacrifice to leave our familiar and comfortable circumstances. President Uchtdorf said,*

*“There are times when we have to step into the darkness in faith, confident that God will place solid ground beneath our feet once we do.”*

*As a stake presidency, we support and love all those willing to step forward into the unknown of missionary and ministering service. He saves his greatest blessings for those willing to trust and follow Him. May the Lord lift your hands, magnify your efforts and watch over your families as you do so.*

*Sincerely,*

*President Joel Workman*

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## Urgent Needs and Stake Assignments

There are urgent Church Service Missionary (CSM) needs right here at home. Please consider your availability to serve in one of these part-time CSM positions assigned to our stake.

Worker - **Ogden Transient Services (00389652)**,  
8-15 hours per week

Priesthood leaders and members may refer transient and homeless individuals (including refugees and those exiting correctional facilities) to come to our office for possible help with food, clothing, transportation, temporary lodging and other necessities where appropriate. We also provide work and service opportunities to build character and foster self-reliance. We maintain an ongoing database and whenever possible verify the information provided before help is given. We

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provide information about community agencies and refer individuals to them as appropriate.

Supervisor - Harrisville Cannery (# 00324420),

16 hours per week

The Harrisville UT Cannery is an amazing place to be! We are blessed with great employees, missionaries, and volunteers who work and serve faithfully every day. The cannery exists to provide needed goods to the Bishop's Storehouses in our area and throughout North America. Each missionary works a daily 4-hour shift and is assigned a specific area of responsibility which they will be trained in. Our most important goal at the Cannery is to help all who enter to feel the Spirit and to progress while they are here. As you give of your time you will feel the joy of service, and both you and your families will be blessed.

Worker - Layton Home Storage Ctr (# 00365030),

8 hours per week

This Church-service missionary will assist patrons to apply the principles of preparedness by assisting them in the important area of food storage.

- \* Greet volunteers and patrons
- \* Provide orientation, assistance, and information
- \* Operate the cash register
- \* Complete daily written reports
- \* Make bank deposits
- \* Stock and display inventory to assure order and access to products
- \* Perform cleaning and sanitation duties

## Other Missionary Opportunities

For more information about senior missionary service, visit the web site:

<https://seniormissionary.lds.org>

Under “search opportunities”, you can browse through the hundreds of current openings – around the world or close to home. Please contact Brent Stauffer (801-589-6273) or Joel Workman (801-510-1567) for a group or individual help.

## Craig & Jackie Poll

Auckland New Zealand Seminary & Institute

“Kia ora” from New Zealand!



We’ve been missionaries for just the past five months, although it seems longer. The first month alone seemed more like six or seven. This is our new normal and we love it. Can’t say we loved it at first,

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which we've learned is typical for most couples... and young missionaries.

The Church has 15 schools spread between four beautiful Pacific Islands – Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, and Tonga. Many of the teachers at the schools do not have teaching degrees, so the Church has partnered with BYU Hawaii to call couple missionaries - retired educator(s) - to teach university courses to help the teachers receive a teaching certificate: ITEP – International Teacher Education Program.

Our responsibility is to recruit and provide support through the missionary application process. We work closely with the couple and Church Missionary Department to get senior missionaries called to the appropriate assignment. We provide support from the time they express an interest and receive their call until they are released from their missions.



Most often the Church schools provide better learning opportunities than the other schools on the islands. Each employee must be temple worthy. Each student must receive an endorsement from his/her bishop. All schools are taught in English, although English is most often the second language

of both teachers and students. Each school day begins with a song, prayer, and spiritual thought. Besides academics, the goal is all students will serve missions and receive and keep temple covenants.

It's been a blessing for us to visit each of the islands and see the work the missionaries are providing. We have a better understanding this is a world-wide Church. We now better appreciate Jacob 5, about the nethermost parts of the vineyard. (Look up Kiribati on the map).

Following is from the Full-Time Missionary Portal which tells about these opportunities. There is a need for qualified retired educators.

*International Teacher Education Program Missionaries are well suited for career educators who are in excellent health. The assignment serves Church elementary and middle school / high schools in one of four countries—Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, or Tonga. This is an English-speaking mission. One in the couple needs to have an advanced degree in secular education; i.e. reading, math, curriculum, or a specialty in teaching and learning. One with experience in conducting professional development, CES credit, certification courses or with an administrative experience is favored. The ITEP missionaries will serve as BYU–Hawaii School of Education adjunct instructors and will be teaching education courses towards a teaching certificate. The missionaries may also facilitate distance education courses which lead to a bachelor's degree. In their role, ITEP missionaries will help the school administration in building the capacity of teachers in best-practice teaching methods and other*

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*appropriate professional development as requested by the school principal.*

This is Sister Poll: We are enjoying the beautiful country of New Zealand. We feel very blessed to be at the area office in Takapuna. We serve with 16 other senior couples that oversee legal, medical, welfare, public relations, mental health, family history, etc. We are especially excited to serve with the ITEP program. We have the Area Presidency and Steve Peterson on the floor above us. I love that each Monday we start the week with a devotional and prayer. We are adjusting. During our last trip to the islands, we said, "It will be good to get home." ...NZ.

We watched General Conference a week later here in the Pacific. They were truly inspired and much needed messages.

We appreciate the love, thoughts, and prayers from all at home. We feel very blessed to be serving at this time.

## Val & Diane Petersen

Costa Rica, Church Service, South Weber

The one over-riding lesson we learned from serving as a senior couple in each of our mission experiences, is that while serving, you meet and interact with the very best people. Whether as a full-time missionary (in our case it was in Costa Rica), as Church Service Missionary Coordinators supporting local Stakes and Church Operations, serving as Ordinance workers in the Temple, or on a

Stake Mission in the Mountain View Ward, our experiences were different, & yet so similar. We rubbed shoulders with great people, increased our opportunities to feel the Spirit & and had the joy that comes from serving others.



Another significant thing we've learned is that there is a perfect mission for every senior missionary, The Lord, through His servants will orchestrate a mission that will greatly bless each of our lives, as well as countless others we meet, serve, and love!

In our case, the Lord, through the Spirit, nudged us to consider a full-time mission. Though not an easy decision to leave careers at a young age; our Costa Rica Self-Reliance Mission was the perfect mission for us. Val had the opportunity to serve in the Perpetual Education Fund while Diane helped with mission medical as a nurse in a beautiful setting, among great people. We now have many eternal friends, & though they live far away, they are always in our hearts.

Upon returning home, it was a blessing for us to serve in the Ogden Temple. There was no better way to spend our time, than to be in the temple regularly, serving alongside others who share a passion for gathering Israel on both sides of veil. Again the opportunities to feel the Spirit were

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multiplied as we found ourselves serving in the Temple.



As we began to consider serving full-time again, the Lord knew our concerns and commitments to family and grandkids and called us to serve locally. There are so many local opportunities to give meaningful service. We learned so much and found such joy in serving with so many Service Missionaries, both Senior & younger, in church operations close-by & down at Church Headquarters in Salt Lake. We also got to witness as members of our Stake & other nearby Stakes served at the Ogden Food Pantry, Bishop's Storehouses, Family Search Centers, Employment Centers, Stake Camps, Adapted Needs Seminaries, Deseret Industries, Addiction Recovery, Transient Services, Ogden Inner City Mission & even at the Mountain Green Cemetery. We learned how important it is for volunteers on shifts at the Cannery & the Ogden Food Pantry to show up, after they've signed up. We were greatly blessed in working closely with Stake Presidencies and High Councils in the Stakes of Northern Davis County. President Nelson recently spoke about getting out of our comfort zone. Living that second great

commandment is the key to becoming a true disciple of Jesus Christ.

It is our prayer that each of us, in consultation with the Lord and His servants will consider exploring and finding a senior missionary experience of our own!

## **Tim & Shelly Olsen** Ogden Inner City Mission

June of 2018 was a busy month for our family as our son Tanner married his sweetheart and we worked to finish a basement apartment for them. On the 4th of July, I logged onto the church's website to catch up on news that I had missed during June and I felt a prompting to check out the Senior Missionary site. I don't know what I was looking for - Tim and I both work full time and are 15 years away from retiring but I couldn't shake the feeling that I needed to look at the site.

I looked at the opportunities available and was led to the Ogden Inner-City Mission. Tim and I both felt that serving as Church Service Missionaries for 8 to 12 hours a week was something that we could easily do. By July 24th we were serving in the Ogden Inner-City mission in the Lorin Farr 1st ward. We initially signed up for a 12-month mission but extended an additional six months because we loved it.

Our lives have been undeniably enriched as we have worshipped with, served, learned from, and loved the members of our mission ward. We serve under the direction of our wonderful Bishop and our mission involves helping him with welfare needs,

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self-reliance initiatives, fellowshiping and loving the people in our ward boundaries. We call it "Ministering on Steroids".

We attend Sunday meetings in our assigned ward and are active in all social and service activities with the ward members. Tim and I both have callings in the ward, I play the piano for the Primary and we teach a Primary class together. In addition to Sunday activities, we travel to our ward at least one night per week to serve.



We have made many eternal friends as we have reached out to the lonely, the poor, the overwhelmed. We have learned how to set aside judgement and mentor with love and patience. At first, we were nervous about being able to relate to people with different life experiences from ours, but we put our faith in Jesus Christ and prayed and found that all our fears were taken away.

Our mission experience has been a highlight in our life. We have seen how much good the Church of

Jesus Christ can bring into the lives of members and non-members alike. We have certainly had frustrations and heartbreak as we have worked with individuals, but we have felt God's love for them and have worked to explain that message.

We are so grateful that we listened to the promoting we received to look at the senior mission opportunities. Our mission desperately needs more couples willing to step outside of their comfort zone and serve. The opportunity to change lives is there but you will find in the end that it is your life and heart that is forever changed. We would love to talk to anyone who is wondering if this opportunity may be right for them.

We love this work!

Elder Tim and Sister Shelly Olsen

P.S. We extended again for an additional 3 months because they don't have any new couples signing up. The work and the need is great!!

Note: Please contact President Workman if you would be willing to share your senior missionary experiences and testimony.