

Bring Our New Members Unto Christ

Yours is a great responsibility and we are deeply grateful for your on-going determination to serve the members of our ward, especially the new members. In an address titled *Converts and Young Men* in the April 1997 Priesthood Session of General Conference, President Hinckley said that every new member “needs three things: a friend, a responsibility, and nurturing with ‘the good word of God’ (Moroni 6:4).” These are the very things that will ensure that the seed falls on good ground, is free from weeds, properly watered and protected from the scorching rays of the sun (Matthew 13:4-8, 18-23, 24-30). Careful nurturing by the sower will provide the best opportunity for the successful growth of the seed, that of the budding testimony of the new member. It also allows us to be co-participants in the Atonement (John 21:15-18), even ultimately providing for our own forgiveness and redemption (3 Nephi 13:14-15).

Continuing with this parable, President Oaks noted in the October 1989 General Conference that the pioneers, both modern and old, “do as the Savior taught: They deny themselves; they take up their crosses daily; they follow Him. (See Luke 9:23.) These are those the Savior likened to the seed that fell on good ground: ‘in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, [they] keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.’ (Luke 8:15.)

Being part of the Latter Day Dispensation brings a special blessing as well as duty. President Kimball reminded us that, “[t]here is an urgency about this work that I feel some have not sensed, but it is an urgency that is real nonetheless. The Spirit will renew this sense of urgency in the soul of each person who asks God for help in these matters.” (Spencer W. Kimball, “Are We Doing All We Can?” Ensign, Feb. 1983, 3)

President Olsen encouraged us to be a Coach, taking each new member by the hand along the path of their progression (and ultimately ours as well). A coach does more than encourage or tell of the path they have crossed. They walk the path with the new member.

In an effort to support the Lord’s plan as revealed through His Prophet down through the Stake President, we have compiled a list of meaningful experiences that will enable you, as a home or visiting teacher, to bring our new members unto Christ and share together in the joy of your mutual salvation (Doctrine and Covenants 18:5-17). We pray that you will be blessed as you act in faith implementing the instructions which follow.

Your Brethren in Christ,

Bishop Storm

Brother Nielsen

Brother Valente



The Coaching Commitment

Lead your new members from baptism to receiving their temple endowments by strengthening them every step of the way, including:

Note: the timeline in parentheses indicates the completion timeline for each milestone from the date of baptism

Milestones for All New Members

- ❖ Help them to study the Book of Mormon from beginning to end starting on the day of their baptism (*99 days*)
- ❖ Sit with them during Sacrament, Sunday School, and/or Priesthood (especially Prospective Elders) or Relief Society meetings. Whenever any of your new members does not attend church, call that individual. Encourage and answer their questions. Take time to find and help them discover the answers. (*On-going, Weekly*)
- ❖ Help the new member complete a 4 Generation Family Group Sheet. Aid them to prepare at least one name of an ancestor (same sex) to take to the temple and then perform the baptism(s) and confirmation(s) for their kindred dead. (*1 month*)
- ❖ Invite your new member family to your home for a Family Home Evening that's geared toward their family's needs. Give them a Family Home Evening manual (*3-6 weeks*)
- ❖ Perform service projects with the new member (*1-2 month*)
- ❖ Go on missionary exchanges with the new member (*2-4 weeks*)
- ❖ Help the new member prepare to receive their Patriarchal Blessing (*1-3 months*)
- ❖ See the Joseph Smith movie at a Visitor’s Center (*1-2 months*)
- ❖ Take and attend Temple Preparation class with the new member (*3-6 months*)

Additional Milestones for All New Brethren

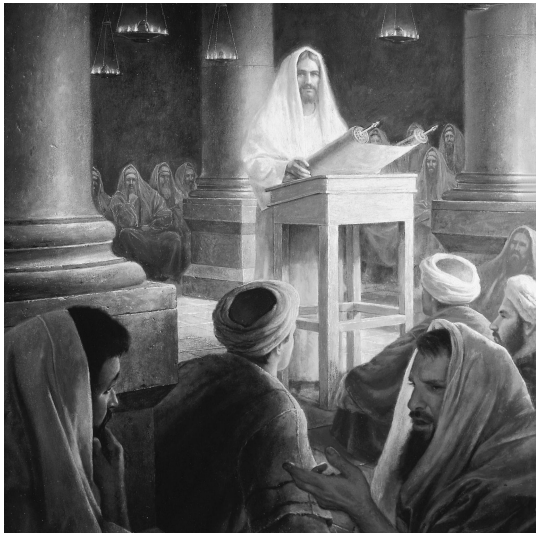
- ❖ Prepare, pass and bless the Sacrament with the new member (*2-4 weeks*)
- ❖ Help the new member ordain another brother to the Aaronic Priesthood (*1-2 months*)
- ❖ Help the new member to use the Melchizedek Priesthood to perform confirmations and to anoint and pronounce blessings (*3-6 months*)

Study the Following Readings from the General Authorities with Your Companion

(All of these articles can be found on the Church's website at www.lds.org. The articles found in the Liahona are in English & have expanded text beyond their English counter part that is worthy of review.):

Essential Readings:

- Cook, Gene R. "Inviting Others to 'Come unto Christ,'" Ensign, Nov. 1988, 37
Cullimore, James A. "Home Teachers—Watchmen over the Church," Ensign, Jan. 1973, 124
Hinckley, Gordon B. "Converts and Young Men," Ensign, May 1997, 47
Hinckley, Gordon B. "Some Thoughts on Temples, Retention of Converts, and Missionary Service," Ensign, Nov. 1997, 49



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"After baptism, the new member of the Church must learn how to become a fellow citizen with the Saints in the kingdom of God through study, prayer, member example, and nurturing. Each member of the Church is developing daily a deeper personal commitment, testimony, and conversion as they serve in their families and in Church callings."

*Elder Robert D. Hales
Of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles*

Additional Readings:

Book of Mormon:

Benson, Ezra Taft "The Book of Mormon Is the Word of God," Ensign, Jan. 1988, 3

Home Teaching:

Adams, Kellene Ricks "Becoming a Better Home Teacher or Visiting Teacher," Liahona, Sept. 1998, 34
Benson, Ezra Taft "To the Home Teachers of the Church," Ensign, May 1987, 48
Monson, Thomas S. "Home Teaching—a Divine Service," Ensign, Nov. 1997, 46
Perry, L. Tom "Increasing Our Effectiveness in Home Teaching," Ensign, July 1981, 6

Pioneers:

Ballard, M. Russell "Faith in Every Footstep," Ensign, Nov. 1996, 23
Oaks, Dallin H. "Modern Pioneers," Ensign, Nov. 1989, 64

Plan of Salvation:

Packer, Boyd K. "I Will Remember Your Sins No More," Ensign, May 2006, 25
Romney, Marion G. "The Worth of Souls," Ensign, Nov. 1978, 13

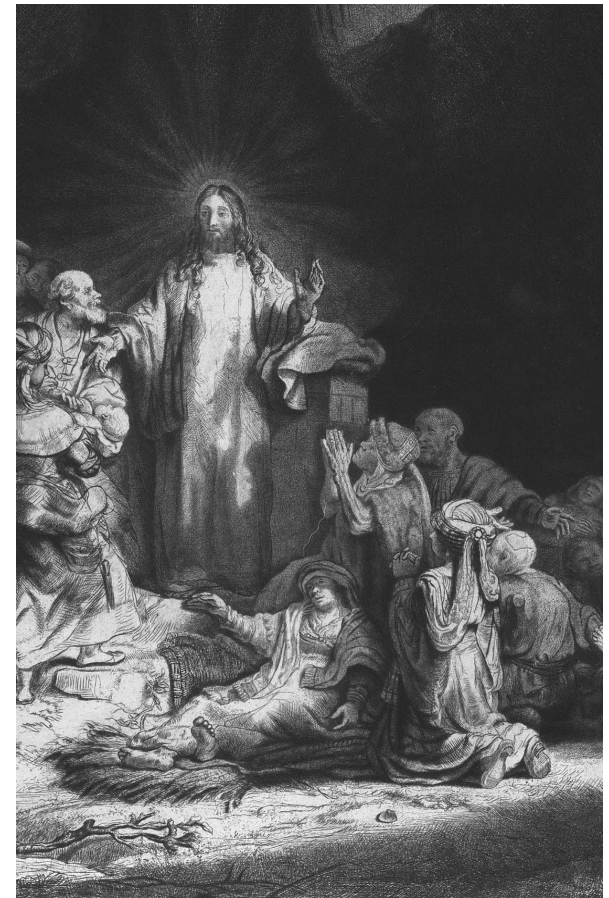
Strengthening New Converts:

Eyring, Henry B. "True Friends," Ensign, May 2002, 26
Hales, Robert D. "When Thou Art Converted, Strengthen Thy Brethren," Ensign, May 1997, 80
Hinckley, Gordon B. "Every Convert Is Precious," Liahona, Feb. 1999, 9
Hinckley Gordon B., "Find the Lambs, Feed the Sheep," Ensign, May 1999, 104
Lee, Harold B. "Strengthen the Stakes of Zion," Ensign, July 1973, 2



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(Doctrine and Covenants 15)



*Christ Ministering, Rembrandt van Rijn
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To the Home Teachers

The Coaching Commitment

"I hope, I pray, I plead with you, every one of you, to embrace every new member of the Church. Make a friend of him or her. Hold onto them."

President Gordon B. Hinckley