



California

Young Single Adult
Conference 2009

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*Thank you to all those who donated their photography talent and
personal experiences to record this unprecedented event.*

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*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners,
but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God*

EPHESIANS 2:19



NO
STRAN



MORE
SINGERS



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WELCOME TO THE TEMPLE • THE HOUSE ON THE HILL



ORGANIZATION

STATEWIDE STEERING COMMITTEE AND CALIFORNIA AREA SEVENTY

On February 27, 2009 Elder L. Whitney Clayton (Presidency of the Seventy) sent a memorandum to the Area Seventy for the North America West Area advising them of the decision to hold a simultaneous, statewide California YSA Conference on August 8-9, 2009. He assigned Elder Donald P. Tenney, Area Seventy, to chair the conference's Statewide Steering Committee, a group that included Elder Larry R. Lawrence, Elder William F. Reynolds and Bishop Larry L. Eastland of the Santa Monica 3rd YSA Ward. All North America West Area Seventy were assigned to supervise and preside over one of the state's seven temple districts.

The Statewide Steering Committee immediately began collaborating, designing the conference and planning its implementation. This collaboration soon evolved into weekly conference calls involving all of the North America West Area Seventy and Bishop Eastland. They spent the time reviewing progress, gathering input for refining the mission, and making decisions that required immediate implementation. Through this process, the Conference Plan and 12-Week Program were developed, refined and approved.

Responsibilities were generally assigned in three areas: (1) Elders Tenney, Lawrence and Reynolds developed the conference curriculum; (2) each Area Seventy oversaw the implementation of the entire plan in his assigned area; and (3) Bishop Eastland acted as the operational director of conference logistical, financial

and administrative tasks and created a Statewide Organizing Committee comprised of young single adults in order to execute conference plans under his direction. All decisions in each area were discussed and approved under Elder Tenney's direction.

In a few short weeks, goals were established, a theme was approved, the pre-conference activities and tracking system were put in place, and the organization – down to the local units – was designed and implemented. Literally hundreds of faithful Saints became involved very early, which led to the high level of success that was eventually achieved. It quickly became apparent to the Statewide Steering Committee, and priesthood leadership throughout California, that this was not just a YSA conference – rather, it was a 12-week effort by the entire Church in California on behalf of the young single adults.

STATEWIDE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

At the direction of Elder Tenney, Bishop Eastland formed a Statewide Organizing Committee comprised primarily of YSAs from the Santa Monica 3rd Ward, the Westdale 2nd Ward and the Los Angeles 1st Ward. Fortunately, these three wards were home to a plethora of successful professionals who were ready and willing to contribute their expertise to every aspect of the conference and conference planning, including logistics, conference and event management, finance and budgeting, marketing and advertising, data management, website design, registration, food services and much more. The Statewide Organizing Committee was tasked with designing the

ANAHEIM EAST STAK

NO MORE
STRANGERS

Ephesians 2:19

Contact YSA
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and
Recorder
6/21/09



operation of the conference, developing timelines for implementation, presenting and following a budget, collecting registration fees, managing the registration process, utilizing social media for advertisement and message delivery, coordinating the various conferences and locations, and setting the tone for YSAs statewide. Utilizing grassroot efforts, the Statewide Organizing Committee recruited YSAs from every stake in the state, asking them to lead their own wards in efforts for the conference, the temple ordinance work, and the reach and rescue mission for less actives.

The Statewide Organizing Committee met weekly to set goals and timetables for their performance, which led to the development of three plans that formed the core of the conferences themselves:

1. The Conference Plan. The Conference Plan was a minute-by-minute program of the two-day conference. Developed based upon the Statewide Steering Committee's ideas, it was fleshed out by the Statewide Organizing Committee and made into a detailed plan ready for implementation.
2. The Logistics Plan. The Logistics Plan detailed how every aspect of the conference itself should unfold at each site: security, speakers, facility use, audio-visual

needs each hour, PowerPoint Presentations, programs, first aid, parking, registration, social activities, food services, etc.

3. The Doctrinal Plan. Developed by Elder Tenney and his committee, the Doctrinal Plan required the Statewide Organizing Committee to understand and logically prepare to meet the needs of the speakers and presenters (audio visual, handouts, facilities, etc.) for each of the ten sites selected for the conference.

The Statewide Organizing Committee set up a calling tree system to personally contact every YSA ward representative every week. These calls were used to answer question, address concerns, and gather statewide information regarding temple ordinances, less active visits, and recommends. This system then assisted the leadership in understanding what was being done in each area, and was of tremendous value in estimating the number of YSAs who would attend the conference at each location.





SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD

ELDER L. WHITNEY CLAYTON
PRESIDENCY OF THE SEVENTY
CALIFORNIA YOUNG SINGLE ADULT FIRESIDE BROADCAST
MAY 17, 2009

Dear brothers and sisters, friends, I am very grateful for this opportunity to be

with you tonight. I was raised in Southern California. Kathy and I lived in Sacramento for four years. We raised our family in Irvine. I practiced law in Newport Beach for 20 years. We consider California home, and love it whenever we have the opportunity to be there.

Welcome to this fireside. This kick-off meeting is the beginning of a great summer Young Single Adult activity for 2009. This is the first time ever that a statewide Young Single Adult activity has been planned for California. We pray that this conference will be a great blessing for you. We pray that it will be a blessing for the work of the Lord as well. We are confident that the Lord will bless all those who join together to participate.

My purpose tonight is to help you understand and believe in the great blessings that await you. I hope to help fill you with hope, to help you feel and know that your lives can be full of promise, full of opportunity, full of richness, full of happy experience. I hope that **you** will know that **your** lives can be rewarding, satisfying, and overflowing with blessing. I know that this kind of life can and will be yours, if you live for it. I pray that the Spirit of the Lord will fill your souls and confirm this message in your hearts.

Speaking to his disciples in earlier years, both in the old world and in the new, the Savior said, "... seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

This notion of putting the Kingdom first is the general subject I wish to address. When we understand this concept properly, and see the great potential this principle has for providing order and context for our lives, then we are much more likely to obey the commandments. When we put the Kingdom first, then the blessings of abundant life, of rich, happy experience, and joy become ours. Again, I promise that these blessings can be yours, all of them, each and every one of them.

In characterizing the Savior's life following his journey to the temple in Jerusalem with Mary and Joseph when he was 12, Luke wrote, "And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man." These are the only words we have been given that describe His life between that day in the temple in Jerusalem and the beginning of his ministry. I suggest that that description of the Savior's increase or growth defines what we should be doing. It fits your lives today, whether you're 20, 29, or 59. Those words have much to do, everything to do, with seeking first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness.

By definition you are here because you are single. Most of you will not be single for long, relatively speaking. You might even meet your future eternal companion at this young single adult conference. Some of you may pass through a few more years, or perhaps may live for many years before you marry. A few of you will not marry in this life. This verse about increasing in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man applies to you, regardless of when you marry. It will apply to you even after you marry. Marriage is more about who you are and what you bring to it than you may think. I promise you

that if you are faithful and patient, you will receive and enjoy every blessing and every opportunity. I promise that in the long run you will not be disappointed. You demonstrate your faithfulness and patience by increasing in wisdom and stature and in favour with God and man. As you do so, you will be seeking first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. The Lord delights to bless those who honor Him, and He will bless you.

INCREASING IN WISDOM

Wherever you have been and whatever you have accomplished thus far in your life, increasing in wisdom applies to you. Some of you are scholars. Some of you aren't. That's not what increasing in wisdom is necessarily about. There are many learned people in this world who are anything but wise. Wisdom is good sense, it is good judgment, it is insight, it is light and truth. In part it can come from experience, although there are many who do not profit from experience but make the same mistakes repetitively. Wrote Paul, "If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God."

True wisdom is doing our best to follow the counsel and correct patterns of life taught or exemplified by wise men and women who lived before us. It is becoming observant and disciplining ourselves so that we take advantage of examples of correct patterns of living. It is understanding that having the gift of agency doesn't mean that we need to experience every error personally. We can learn much wisdom by simply hearkening to those who have been around a little longer than we have been and who have lived lives truly worthy of our emulation. Wisdom comes from accumulated good choices and the blessings of Heavenly Father. The wisest among us are those who have consistently made righteous choices.

INCREASING IN STATURE

Certainly increasing in stature means that we grow and develop physically and do what we reasonably can do to protect and strengthen our bodies. But it should mean much more than that for us. It should mean taking reasonable steps to be attractive and well-groomed. It means learning to be modest and moderate in our dress and appearance. It obviously has something to do with the word of wisdom and avoiding physical excess and addiction of any kind. It is how we take care of our bodies and present ourselves to others, recognizing that our bodies are indeed temples. Can we imagine the Savior dressed any way other than modestly and appropriately?

Paul wrote, "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and *that* the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which *temple* ye are." Thus, increasing in stature has much to do with moral purity.

Increasing in stature also has something to do with work and with the other sound practices set forth in this commandment, "Cease to be idle; cease to be unclean . . . cease to sleep longer than is needful; retire

to thy bed early, that ye may not be weary; arise early, that your bodies and your minds may be invigorated.

I suggest to you that increasing in stature, much more than simply maturing physically, means taking care of our bodies and our lives in such a way that we can truly, "bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; Yea, and . . . mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort, and . . . stand as witnesses of God at all times and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in."

INCREASING IN FAVOUR WITH GOD

One of the sweetest verses in the New Testament confirms the simpleness of finding favour with God. The Savior told his disciples, "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you." This is, of course, the quest of our lives. It is this spirit that suffuses the hymn, "How Gentle God's Commands":

How gentle God's commands!
How kind his precepts are!
Come, cast your burdens on the Lord
And trust his constant care.

God's commands are gentle, they are sweet, they are kind. When we obey them, we find the sweetest friendship possible – friendship with the Son of God, who offers to be our friend.

A story from the Savior's ministry paints a picture of the problem that most of us encounter in keeping the commandments. This exchange between the Savior and a would-be disciple is recounted three times in the New Testament. It is the story of the Savior and the rich young ruler or the rich young man. In Matthew, the story is told as follows:

And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there is* none good but one, *that is*, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.

He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness,

Honour thy father and *thy* mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

The young man saith unto him, All these things have I kept from my youth up: what lack I yet?

Jesus said unto him, If thou wilt be perfect, go *and* sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come *and* follow me.

But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful: for he had great possessions."

This story calls to us all. Every one of us has something or some things that have been hard to give up, hard

to leave behind when the Savior calls. For the wealthy young ruler, it was riches. **Our** sins, excesses, and failings can be hard possessions for us to give up. For some, this could be not giving away pornography or improper physical relationships. It could be misplaced faith in the philosophies of men instead of in the teachings of the prophets of God, who speak for the Savior and the Father. Similarly, being too comfortable with delaying growing up, with getting going with real dating and marriage and bearing children, maybe a possession we do not want to give up. It may be too keen a desire to play around, to hang out, or conversely, too great a desire to be “seen of men” as a success in this world, so that secular concerns begin to edge out or even conquer our spiritual duties. It might even be that it is our own view of **how** things are supposed to be, **how** things are supposed to turn out, and **when** things are supposed to happen, that we can’t give

up. We want what we want when we want it, and that’s the very problem. Our wanting things our way can be a very difficult possession to give up, because it is rooted in pride, in our wanting to do things our way, not His way.

Elder Maxwell reminded us: “I am going to preach a hard doctrine to you now. The submission of one’s will is really the only uniquely personal thing we have to place on God’s altar. It is a hard doctrine, but it is true. The many other things we give to God, however nice that may be of us, are actually things He has already given us, and He has loaned them to us. But when we begin to submit ourselves by letting our wills be swallowed up in God’s will, then we are really giving something to Him. And that hard doctrine lies at the center of discipleship. There is a part of us that is ultimately sovereign, the mind and heart, where we really do decide which way to





go and what to do. And when we submit to His will, then we've really given Him the one thing He asks of us. . . . It is the only possession we have that we can give . . . ”

The wonder of having the story of the rich young ruler retold three times is that we can discover a great insight if we study it more carefully. Consider Mark's account of the same story, which adds a terrific insight:

“And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? *there* is none good but one, *that is*, God.

Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up the cross, and follow me.

And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.”

“Then Jesus **beholding him loved him**, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest.” We are assured that the Savior **beholds** us perfectly, and **loves** us, each of us, perfectly. His condescension in coming from the eternal realms to this earth to save us is an act of love unsurpassed **anywhere**. “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” And Jesus so loved the world, and loved us, you and me, that he was willing to come to earth to provide the atoning sacrifice on which **absolutely everything** depends. Because of His perfect love, we can trust Him **perfectly**. When He beholds us, He does so not as a critic but as a friend, a perfect and loving friend who will pour out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. Surely whatever wealth the rich young ruler had, it was but pottage compared to the blessings available to a youth of the noble birthright. We find access to His love when we keep His gentle commandments, His kind precepts, and we cast our burdens on the Lord, and thus **grow in favour with God**.

INCREASING IN FAVOUR WITH MAN

This is the part about constantly preparing ourselves, about refining and improving and becoming something. We don't all need to be doctors or rocket scientists, but we should all be overcoming the tendency toward mediocrity that is part of our fallen natures. Because of our covenants, because of the gift of the Holy Ghost, because of the blessings available to us, we should be loyal, hardworking and dependable, exemplary in everything we do. We don't need to be **the** best, but we ought to be **our** best. Knowing what we know and

blessed as we are, it simply won't do for us to be second rate. We have taken the Savior's name upon us by covenant. We have promised to remember Him, “at all times, and in all things, and in all places that [we] may be in.” Because of that, everything we do is a reflection of how we feel about Him. We are commanded:

“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid.

Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

21

When we consider what He has commanded us to be and to do, there is no room for us to be less than our best as we increase in favour with man.

Millennia ago the prophet Joshua spoke to the children of Israel shortly before his death. He challenged them to decide whom **they** would serve. His words resound across the centuries to us today, “choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

The names of the false gods may have changed from thousands of years ago, but the allure of the world haven't really changed much over time. So choose today whom you will serve and on whose terms you will do so, His or yours. If you choose to give Him your agency, and to make the most of yourselves, not a moment will be wasted and not one effort will be for naught. You will reap every blessing and have every opportunity. Perhaps those blessings will mean even more to you because of your effort to prepare to receive them. And if the opportunities and blessings come later than you would have chosen, your decision to seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness along the way will enable you to do immense good while you patiently await God's timing.

In this dispensation, President John Taylor made a declaration like Joshua's, of his decision to do it the Lord's way when he said that for him it was “the kingdom of God or nothing.” Elder Dallin H. Oaks has observed, “ . . . if we do not choose the kingdom of God first, it will make little difference in the long run what we have chosen instead of it.”

Every one of you can eventually enjoy every blessing that Heaven offers. Your time to experience those blessings may be soon or may seem to you to be late, but if you hold out faithful you will be blessed, immensely, completely, with all that the Father has. Trust God. Keep the faith. Focus on the things that **you** can do to increase in wisdom and stature, and favour with God and with man. The promises made to you will **all** be fulfilled so long as you **live** for them.

CALIFORNIA YOUNG SINGLE ADULT CONFERENCE SAN DIEGO

AUGUST 8-9, 2009



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ELDER DONALD P. TENNEY AREA SEVENTY

What a wonderful and a marvelous activity and event this is. Imagine, all YSAs in California (or nearly all) have been contacted and invited to return to the table of the Lord. With us today are many YSAs who have taken it into their hearts to return to the Lord and His Church. We have with us many who are not yet members, who today will learn and feel powerful promptings about the message of the reality of God and the Restoration of the Lord's true church upon the earth. You have prepared yourselves spiritually by great service in the temple. It is not just this weekend, it is not just the weeks of work leading up to this weekend, it will be the weeks that follow this weekend. Every soul is important to our Heavenly Father. He loves every son and daughter on earth, those who have been, those who are, and those who are yet to come. It is His desire that all of His children learn of Him and feel of the powerful witness of the Holy Ghost who witnesses of Him -- not only a witness of Him, our Father, but of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and our Redeemer. The witness of the Holy Ghost is more powerful, deeper and more convincing than sight.

This weekend, among other things, we will have had the opportunity to learn how to make and tie quilts. This will bless each of you, male and female, all of your lives, as well as those who will be the recipients of your service. This will be a useful and a lasting talent in your own family. We will have enjoyed powerful and meaningful doctrinal discussions. We will have searched the scriptures. We will have felt and learned things we have never felt so powerfully and deeply before. Sunday afternoon we will have heard counsel from an apostle of the Lord, Elder L. Tom Perry. He will have addressed each YSA in California. Can you see the significance of this conference? For never has such an event been attempted before.

I bear witness to each of you that this activity was inspired of the Lord. He wants YSAs to work and serve together and prepare themselves for the full and complete life He intends for each of you. Can you sense more than ever before how important each of you are, how critical you are to the success of the Kingdom in these latter days, and how powerfully your faith, put in action, can hold a strong line of defense in our schools, work place and communities? God is real. He is our Father. Jesus Christ is His Son, the Redeemer and the Savior of the world. I know this to be true, without doubt. He, through the Holy Ghost, has whispered these truths to my soul numberless times.

It is a joy and a privilege to serve Him.

CALIFORNIA YOUNG SINGLE ADULT CONFERENCE OAKLAND

AUGUST 8-9, 2009



Photograph © 2007 Richard Hoff



ELDER LARRY R. LAWRENCE AREA SEVENTY

My dear, young brothers and sisters,

The young-adult phase of life is a favorite one for me. The most important decisions of my life were made during those years. At age 21 I decided on a career path. I became an investigator and convert to the church at age 23 and at age 24 I chose an eternal companion. At age 28, I set down my roots in a business and a city that would be my home for the next 34 years. I am so thankful that I was able to have the guidance and direction of the Spirit during those eventful and critical times. I sometimes wonder what my life would have been like had I not found the restored gospel when I did. This is the Kingdom of God upon the earth, the only church that can offer the gift of the Holy Ghost. We are led by prophets, seers, and revelators, and each of us is led also by the amazing gift of the Holy Ghost.

Jesus Christ stands at the head of the Church. He understands us and every challenge we face. With his atoning sacrifice, he took upon himself our sins, sorrows, disappointments, pains, and sicknesses. He opened to us the resurrection and showed us the way to find happiness in this life and eternal salvation in the life to come.

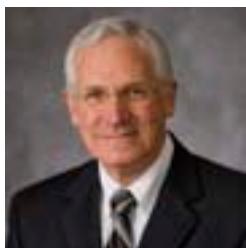
The Doctrine and Covenants teaches us that only the “valiant” will live in the Celestial Kingdom with Jesus and our Heavenly Father. I once heard Elder Neal A. Maxwell answer the question, “What does it mean to be valiant?” His reply: “The valiant will love the Savior enough that they will be serious about becoming more like Him.” Let’s all go from this conference with a resolve to become like the Savior. He knows us, loves us, and will assist us in this eternal quest. Of these things I testify, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CALIFORNIA YOUNG SINGLE ADULT CONFERENCE REDLANDS

AUGUST 8-9, 2009



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ELDER WILLIAM F. REYNOLDS AREA SEVENTY

Who is someone you know who is at the top of our Father in Heaven's agenda, who is among his very highest priorities? YOU! Now the next question that needs to be asked every day is, "Does Heavenly Father have a position of the highest priority on my agenda?"

I must be honest and say that keeping him at that level is a constant struggle in my life as I know it must be in yours. Every decision we make and everything we accept into our private world pleases one of two eternal beings: our Father in Heaven or one who would destroy us.

I have found that every time I attend church or serve in a calling, I get a little better at putting the Lord first. Great experiences like general conference or stake conference help me in that struggle. I hope THIS conference has that benefit for you.

I feel a great love and respect for you. I sense the love the Lord has for you and the positive anticipation He has for your success. He desires that you be willing to do the very best you can at everything you commit to do. I also sense His concern that you keep the spiritually deadening clutter-noise of this world at bay so that simple serenity might be a constant part of your life.

No matter what happens in this life, Heavenly Father receives you, upon your return, as His Beloved Son or Daughter.

You have chosen to come to this conference. It was a choice to move closer to the Lord. This year you will have many choices. I pray, that like this one, they will be made with the ever increasing desire to please Him. As you do, He will have an ever increasing opportunity to bless you. That is how it works. Our blessings are not at His whim but at ours. He is always present. He is always willing to bless us with just what we need to get from here ... to Him. We must trust Him and do everything in our power to make it possible for Him to deliver that blessing to us.

Know that you are loved by your local leaders and fellow singles as well as by President Monson and all the priesthood leaders of California.

CALIFORNIA YOUNG SINGLE ADULT CONFERENCE LOS ANGELES

AUGUST 8-9, 2009



Photograph © 2007 Shawn Murdock



ELDER NELSON D. CORDOVA AREA SEVENTY

My dear brothers and sisters, as I have seen your excitement and preparation for this conference, I could not stop from thinking about what a great and wonderful generation you are. It is an honor for me to be part of this conference; some of you have traveled far to come together as a group to learn, get closer to the Lord, and be "no more strangers."

You have your life in front of you, and the decisions you are making right now will determine not only the future of the world, but the future of the Kingdom of God. The "marvelous work about to come forth among the children of men" is in your hands.

Choose the right... you will be blessed for it; think about the future and the impact that your decisions will bring to your children.

Elder Neal A Maxwell once wrote, "Make no mistake about it, brothers and sisters, in the months and years ahead, events are likely to require each member to decide whether or not he will follow the First Presidency. Members will find it more difficult to halt longer between two opinions. President Marion G. Romney said, many years ago, that he had 'never hesitated to follow the counsel of the Authorities of the Church even though it crossed my social, professional or political life.'"

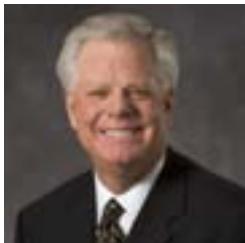
I pray that we may develop our spiritual capacity as we continue together building the Kingdom of God; I know the Lord is with us as we follow the living prophet, even Thomas S. Monson. He is the Lord's anointed. I am grateful for a living and loving Father in Heaven, for His Only Begotten Son—and for the peace and joy this knowledge brings. I bear witness that the gospel is true and say God bless you, brothers and sisters who are part of this conference; bless you for what you do, and bless you for what you are! May I say how much I love you, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

CALIFORNIA YOUNG SINGLE ADULT CONFERENCE NEWPORT BEACH

AUGUST 8-9, 2009



Photograph © 2006 Rick Satterfield



ELDER JOHN C. DALTON

AREA SEVENTY

Recently, my wife, Louise, and I were on a large ship which would weigh anchor in very small ports under heavy winds and seas. I found it fascinating to watch the ship drop the anchor, which was attached to incredibly heavy metal links. I recognized how important it was to place the anchor exactly for the giant ship to be held, especially in the rough seas.

Just as ships need anchors to keep them from drifting away into open seas, people need spiritual anchors in their lives if they are to remain steadfast, firm and immovable and not drift into a sea of temptation and sin. I am reminded of father Lehi admonishing his son Lemuel to be "firm and steadfast, and immovable..." (1 Nephi 2:10).

I testify that the main anchor in my life is faith in a loving, kind, all-knowing Father in Heaven, and his beloved Son, Jesus Christ, who is our personal Saviour and Redeemer. Our Father and His Son have always been the main anchor in my life to hold me fast during challenging times.

Another anchor in my life is that I know that the boy prophet, Joseph Smith, knelt in the presence of God, the Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, "on the morning of a beautiful, clear day, early in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty" (Joseph Smith History 1:14). Nothing is more remarkable or important in my life than to know that God, our Eternal Father, and His Son, Jesus Christ, have spoken from the heavens and have called prophets and apostles to teach the fullness of the gospel upon the earth. This is a glorious thing for me to know. This knowledge has affected my whole life. It has influenced every major decision that I have made. It has changed the course of my life and provided an anchor that has helped me hold fast to the Gospel despite all odds.

Another important anchor is that the gospel has been restored in these latter days through the restoration of the Aaronic Priesthood (through John the Baptist) and the Melchizedek Priesthood (through Peter, James, and John).

The Book of Mormon is an anchor as it is the word of God and is another testament of Jesus Christ. I have been blessed as I've applied its principles and teachings in my life.

Thomas S. Monson provides anchor for me because I know he is a modern-day prophet of God in every sense and in every way.

I have always felt my testimony is as simple as this. I have always felt that if I knew these things to be true, there shouldn't be any question as to how I should live my life and what I should do with my life. I know that I should be anchored to "the only true and living church upon the face of the whole earth" (D&C 1:30). My course is clear and what a marvelous blessing this has been for my family and me.

My understanding and testimony of the gospel has given me guidance as to the kind of father and now grandfather I should be. My testimony, gained as a youth and young single adult, has helped me as a businessman and has also helped me respond to every call in the Church. My testimony, obtained a long time ago as a missionary on the streets of southern Germany, has grown "line upon line and precept upon precept" (D&C 128:21). My life has never been the same since I anchored it to the truths of the restored gospel of Jesus Christ.

I bear witness to each of you that your testimony of Jesus Christ is the most important anchor that you can have to hold you steadfast, immovable and firm to principles of righteousness when challenges come now and in your future. I also witness that if you'll become firmly grounded in these simple truths and focus your attention on the lessons of eternity, your life will move in the right direction at all times and in all situations, regardless of which way the winds of the world may be blowing. May the Lord bless each of you. I testify to these truths with my love and witness that Jesus is the Christ. Amen.

CALIFORNIA YOUNG SINGLE ADULT CONFERENCE SACRAMENTO

AUGUST 8-9, 2009



Photograph © 2007 Aaron Nuffer



ELDER FRANK V. TRYTHALL AREA SEVENTY

For as long as I can remember, my testimony has centered on the experience of Joseph Smith. I do not remember a time when I did not believe his account of visiting the Sacred Grove, of what led up to his asking for divine guidance, or of the events subsequent to the First Vision.

I have found from personal experience that if we follow the example of Joseph Smith and ask with a sincere heart and real intent, we will receive answers to our questions and concerns. Most of the lessons I have learned and answers I have received have come by trying to follow the “general rule” and not by looking for ways to be an exception to prophetic guidance or counsel. I have learned that following the “unwritten order of things” and the quiet example of prophets, seers, and revelators brings great strength, increased understanding, protection, and blessings. If followed, the counsel from Elder Scott to “seek to learn by what [you] hear, see, and feel” will increase our knowledge, wisdom and understanding.

Even though I have known of the Joseph Smith story for a long time, I know now in a special, unspoken way that Joseph did go into that grove of trees. He did see a light over his head that descended gradually until it rested upon him. The greatest aspect of this testimony is that our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ, appeared and spoke to Joseph. They taught him and answered his questions. Because of this, I know our Father in Heaven and His Son know us, love us, and have given us a plan whereby we may return to live with them eternally if we pattern our lives after the plan and are obedient in our outward actions as well as our inward motivations.

It is essential that we know who we are, where we came from, why we are here and where we are going. I have learned for myself that the answers to these questions are found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, restored in its fullness in these the latter days.

CALIFORNIA YOUNG SINGLE ADULT CONFERENCE **FRESNO**

AUGUST 8-9, 2009



Photograph © 2006 Mark Gudmundsen



ELDER SCOTT D. WHITING

AREA SEVENTY

As we convene this historic conference of Young Single Adults in California, I reflect upon other great gatherings held in the name of Jesus Christ. While there have been many such gatherings in the history of the Church, it is upon that great assembly at the temple in ancient Bountiful when the Savior descended in fulfillment of prophesies given that I would like you to focus. In 3 Nephi 17:25, we learn that there were some 2,500 souls who witnessed and participated in this great, first conference with the resurrected Christ.

We also know from chapter 19 that there were many within the surrounding area that did not gather at the temple until the Lord's coming was later "noised abroad" by those present. Once all had gathered the following morning, the called Twelve taught "nothing varying" the words of the Savior, instilling within those gathered what "they desired most"—the gift of the Holy Ghost.

I have thought upon those who witnessed the first day's descension, wondering if they were blessed solely because of random proximity to the temple or because they were drawn to the temple as expressions of great hope and faith after witnessing the terrible calamities following the Savior's crucifixion. The fact that the Twelve who were given power and authority to baptize, minister and serve the people were present in this first gathering leads me to believe the latter.

I see parallels between this YSA conference and that conference. First, we learn that there is great value in our own proximity to the temple and that we, just as those 2,500 in Bountiful, should be drawn to the temple in faith and hope, seeking the appurtenant blessings. Second, that the blessings available to those who hear and act upon the words and teachings of those called to teach and preside can be equally instrumental in leading us toward exaltation. Finally, that our greatest desire should be the constant companionship of the Holy Ghost.

It is our prayer that, in addition to the sociality offered by this conference, these parallels may also be remembered in the days to come.





TESTIMONY OF BISHOP LARRY L. EASTLAND

BISHOP, SANTA MONICA 3RD WARD

My so very dear YSA brothers and sisters,

Jesus was 30 years old when He began His mortal mission to the world. Thus, He was a young single adult at the

time. Joseph Smith was a young single adult when he began translating the Book of Mormon. Moses was a young single adult when Jehovah drove the young prince out of Egypt into the wilderness. Ruth, the great-grandmother of King David, was a young single adult widow when she vowed to accompany her mother-in-law back to Israel by pleading with Naomi "Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God." [Ruth 1:16]

Yours is a choice generation, an eternal royal blood, with Priesthood lines of authority connecting you directly back to Peter, James and John under the hand of the Savior Himself. You have been empowered by our Heavenly Father with all of the rights, powers and privileges to work a mighty miracle by turning the hearts of your generation in California and across the world to the Savior by your testimony, your example, and your lives of service to Him.

We live in a great time in the history of the world. We have been blessed with the technological innovations that make possible the spread of the Gospel across the globe. The just concluded historic California YSA Conference has been an example of the power of testimony, dedication, sacrifice, talent and innovation by young single adults across our state. It has brought back into activity hundreds of young Latter-day Saints, introduced others to the Gospel, performed temple ordinances for tens of thousands, and assembled together more than 10,000 YSAs in person and connected by technology in ten locations across our state.

But, this must be only the beginning. You have the opportunity to unleash the power that has been demonstrated this summer by your united effort to begin an era of reaching out and rescuing the less active YSAs, rededicating your missionary efforts by influencing your friends of other faiths and persuasions, and renewing and utilizing your recommend for temple service.

And so, I testify. Jesus is the Christ. Our Christ. He is our redeemer. His Gospel is in our hands under the direction of His Prophet, His Apostles and His Priesthood leadership here in California. We cannot rest while even one of our brothers or sisters is waiting for us to befriend them, welcome them, and show them His love through our encouragement and activity.

I believe in you. My faith is in your goodness, your determination to do right, and your desire to open your hearts, your time and your talents so that there are, indeed, "no more strangers and foreigners, but [only] fellowcitizens with [you] the saints, and of the household of God" [Ephesians 2:19] among the 72,000 YSAs in California.

In His holy name, Jesus Christ, Amen.









timeline

Elder L. Whitney Clayton of the Presidency of the Seventy creates a steering committee comprised of **California Area Seventy** Elders Donald Tenney, William Reynolds, and Larry Lawrence; and Bishop Larry Eastland of the Santa Monica 3rd YSA Ward **to organize the first California YSA Conference.**

FEBRUARY 2009

The theme “No More Strangers” is chosen and **two major goals** are established to prepare YSAs for the conference experience: reach out to less active members, and become both temple worthy and temple active.

MARCH 2009

Under the direction of Elder Tenney, Bishop Eastland forms a **YSA statewide organizing committee** to track state goals, design marketing and financial plans, and organize the logistics of the conference.

APRIL 2009

Kickoff firesides are held simultaneously throughout the 157 stakes in California to inform YSAs about the conference and the goals set by the Area Seventy. California YSAs are challenged to personally invite 5,000 less actives to the conference and to perform 10,000 temple ordinances in the twelve weeks leading up to the conference.

californiaysa.org launches

Doctrinal plan developed by the Area Seventies for conference are finalized.

First Area Seventy blog is posted to www.californiaysa.org.

15,000 conference brochures for less actives are mailed to stakes across the state.

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Count-down meetings are held with each of the seven conference **Area Committees** to finalize logistical information for each of the ten locations.

Preparations are finalized for the 1,000 quilt **Humanitarian Project**.

The California **YSA Conference** occurs simultaneously in ten locations across California's seven temple districts: Los Angeles, Oakland, San Diego, Redlands, Fresno, Newport Beach, and Sacramento. All conferences are personally presided over by an Area Seventy.

MAY 17, 2009

JUNE 2009

JUNE 23, 2009

JUNE 28, 2009

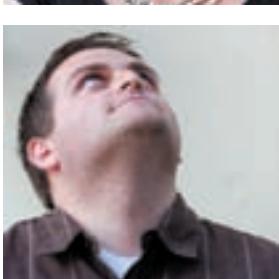
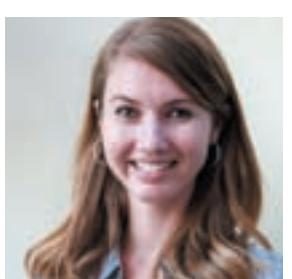
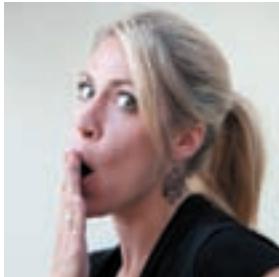
JULY 2009

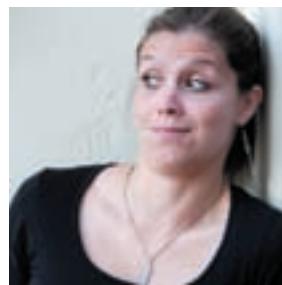
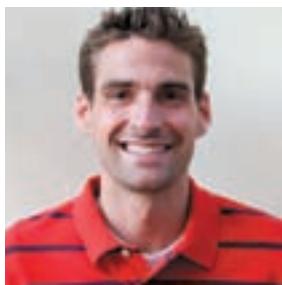
AUGUST 8–9, 2009





statewide organizing committee





statewide organizing committee testimonies



AMY FISLER
DIRECTOR OF STATE OPERATIONS

I knew planning something statewide was big, but not that big! It is bit striking when you think of the reality of ordering food for 12,000 people. Even with the immensity of the project, I am thankful for the peace that I was given through the process. It brought great joy to see it all come together.

One night, after planning some of the content of the printed materials for the conference, Rachel and I got into some great conversation really late at night, which lead to YouTube video sharing online. She showed me a video that explored visually the nation's budget and the current spending, borrowing, and cuts by showing piles and piles of pennies on a kitchen table, with each penny representing five billion dollars. Personally I was struck by this concept of how many pennies were on the table and the way they visually moved them around, or cut the individual pennies to teach certain points. Immediately after watching this short clip, I had the very clear thought--you have to make a video for the YSA Conference with this concept. I was beaming with excitement as I told Rachel, and we immediately called Kenny, who was over media for the conference. The impression was clear; show the state just how many YSAs are active and less active, and do it visually.

Five days later we had a video in hand and complete for viewing. It was a miracle seeing the whole vision come together and helping create what became a powerful visual piece to show the number of YSAs who are active in church as well as the high percentage of those missing from church activity. Through working on and completing the video, my personal testimony of the importance of the conference grew and served as a motivator to finish the huge undertaking. This conference to me became a mission: a mission to assist in creating a unified summer for YSAs statewide, to truly strengthen our commitment to God in holy temples, and to reach out to the thousands who are missing the opportunity to come and worship God.

I know that God loves all his children and understands the great potential of each child individually. My heart is full of gratitude for the opportunity to sacrifice to help in the efforts of helping my brothers and sisters come closer to God. In addition, I am grateful for how this experience changed me. I have a greater love for my leaders. I have a stronger desire to better know and love the Master whom I serve and covenant with. I hope to have many more opportunities to assist in helping God's children feel the powerful peace and joy of the gospel of Jesus Christ.



KENNY MCNETT

DIRECTOR OF MEDIA AND REGISTRATION

Conversations like these were typical in planning the conference:

"We want you to make a video to show how many less-active YSAs there are in California," said a familiar voice from the planning committee. "We'd like to send it out to all the YSAs in California."

"Okay, what's the timeframe?" I asked.

"Thursday," she replied. "But don't worry, I can help."

All of the media—logo, colors, fonts, website, videos, flyers, emails, check-in systems and more—needed to be created as quickly as possible and approved by the Area Seventies. Often we would stay up all night working on the various designs and versions. Many on my team slept only a few hours before heading to their day jobs, only to return again at night to work on the conference materials. They gave the same effort to produce what you are reading right now. Every contributing artist was a professional in their industry who consecrated their best time and talents to the cause of building up Zion's Young Single Adults.

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From day to day, God's power was in the work. I felt a boosted energy from the Holy Ghost that sustained me as I labored. I also felt and saw the power of the priesthood in action on many occasions. For example, the logo that we used for the conference—the map of California divided into temple districts—was not the original logo design. Even though we had poured many hours into a logo design and it had been approved by the Area Seventies, they returned a short time later to request that we come up with an entirely different logo. As a result, the map logo was born and everyone immediately recognized how perfect it was for our conference theme. Though the first logo was wonderfully designed, our priesthood leaders were able to receive inspiration and guide us to the solution the Lord wanted at the time.

I have no doubt this conference was inspired from heaven. My team consistently felt the guiding hand of the Holy Ghost as we labored to match the quality of our work to the importance of the message. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve with my whole heart, might, mind and strength. The experience I garnered, the friends I made, and the blessings I received far outweigh my contributions.

BRYNN BURKE

MUSIC COORDINATOR



My faith and commitment to the Lord has been strengthened through the 12-week program and the California YSA conference. I was able to witness the great sacrifices of friends and fellow ward members in an effort to plan the conference and achieve the pre-conference goals. Through reaching out to others and participating in temple work, we have been able to bless the lives of others in service and re-commit ourselves to the gospel. I know this conference was inspired of the Lord, and the efforts we all put in were accepted of the Lord. The Lord is aware of each of us, and I know that if we are true to the principles we have been taught, we will be blessed.



CAMERON SAWYER

DIRECTOR OF CONFERENCE VIDEO DOCUMENTARY

To be honest, when I was first asked to work on the California YSA documentary, I had doubts that the final product would be worthy of screening—especially at a conference geared toward uplifting and inspiring young adults in California. My doubts were based on the fact that we were limited in time (we only had a couple months to put it together), and we were randomly asking mostly amateur videographers all over California to basically just send us footage, which is usually a recipe for disaster. Miraculously, however, the spirit of the Lord moved upon just enough people, and we received just enough quality footage, to put together what I feel was a spiritually uplifting documentary. I have once again been reminded, and it is my testimony, that the Lord always provides a way to accomplish his righteous purposes.

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DANIELLE BOINAY

HUMANITARIAN PROJECT COORDINATOR



After experiencing this Conference and working with the Humanitarian Project, I have no doubt in my mind this event was inspired and led by the Spirit of the Lord. The Conference was based off of service: service to each other, to strangers, through the temple to those who have passed on, to ourselves and to the Lord. It was perfect to have a physical act of service be a part of the Conference, which was the creation of 1,000 quilts to be given to the communities of California. As this project was developed I witnessed miracles and blessings one after another. My mind was clear and my resolve was strengthened by the Spirit as I moved forward to head up this project. During the development, some things went smoothly while others were more difficult, but somehow things always worked out in the end. It taught me to have great faith. I felt the hand of the Lord strengthening and guiding me, my fellow committee members, and the local Humanitarian Reps who worked tirelessly with me to make the project a success.

While it is astounding to think we accomplished the creation of 1,000 quilts to give to the bishops storehouses, in all this I am mostly touched by the unfailing willingness to serve shown by both the YSA's and those involved on the local committees. My Humanitarian Reps tackled a large and daunting task (each had to oversee the completion of 142 quilts in just two weeks) with great faith and determination. And they enjoyed it! While they were serving this generation of YSA's and bringing us together, they were also serving the Lord in the effort to move His work forward. I am so impressed by the selflessness and big hearts of others, who readily agreed to take on any task they were asked of while sacrificing much and asking nothing in return. In a world filled with noncommittal agreements and broken promises, our church stands out like a pure jewel against a black sky. I feel safe and strong knowing that members of the church, whom I've never even met, will go above and beyond what is asked of them in order to complete the work of the Lord. When combining all the testimonies of those in the Church, a unmovable power is there that protects us all. That is one quality in the Lord's Church that I have come to love, especially after working on the Humanitarian Project.

My testimony of the truth of this Church is strengthened by degrees because of this project. Not only did it provide physical relief to those who received the quilts (or will receive them in time), but it also confirmed just how hard the Lord's Saints will work to bring unity to his beloved children. It has been an honor to be a part of this. I know the Lord is pleased with the work we all, as a state, have done, and pleased to know that we do stand by Him. I also know this is a taste of great things to come as we live our lives by the Spirit and always strive our hardest to do His work.



DEE DEE KOTTER

FACILITIES COORDINATOR

I remember the meeting when Bishop Eastland announced this project that we were to work on. I had no idea that I would be asked to head up the logistics. When I found out, I was extremely nervous and didn't understand why I was chosen for such an important role. When I prayed about it, I knew that there was nothing more important for me to do at that time than to work on this project. My life is filled to the brim with activities for work, the community, fitness, etc. I didn't see how it would be possible to find the time to do the conference planning responsibilities on top of everything else. I had the privilege of working with Amy Fisler, who is a total inspiration of magnifying your calling. We had planned on making a road trip to view the facilities around the state where the conferences would be held. The day of the trip, I began to get extremely ill: fever, chills, bad sore

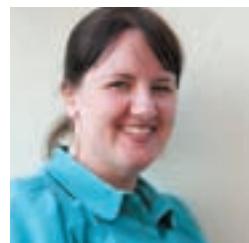
throat. By the time we were scheduled to leave, I wasn't doing well and didn't think I could make the 7 hour drive. I knew that if I didn't go, no one else would go with Amy on such short notice. This trip needed to happen and it was a critical piece in the conference planning. I prayed about it and received a strong inspiration about the pioneers and the work they were asked to do under strenuous conditions. I then felt that the Lord was asking me to do the same. I called Amy and told her I would go, but I would need to receive a blessing before we left. My home teachers came over and blessed me that I would be in good health. I managed to make it through the road trip and learned many important things critical in order to run the conference. I felt the Lord's blessings once we returned and I healed quickly.

Throughout the rest of the conference planning, I struggled with balancing my conference responsibilities with everything else in my life. The day of the conference, I saw the impact of my efforts on everyone else. At the conference I was able to make a new dear friend, someone who has been inactive for 12 years. She was a blessing and a reminder of the purpose of the conference. She is now more active in the church and someone I consider a great friend and sister. For once we were strangers, we are strangers no more. It changed my life. I have such a testimony of the gospel and the work we are sent to do. Often times it requires sacrifice, moving forward in sickness, and doing things that we don't understand why we are being asked to do them. In the end, lives are changed and souls are saved... including my own.

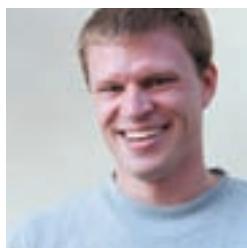
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ERIN FOX DIRECTOR OF LEAD-UP VIDEO DOCUMENTARY

I worked with Jeff Dickson and Cameron Sawyer on making a film about the 12 weeks leading up to the Conference. We asked wards and branches throughout the state to document their temple trips, ward activities and stories from members of their congregations. We didn't know if people would fulfill our request. We kept our fingers crossed we would have video entries to show at the conference. By the July 25th deadline we received more than enough footage. Members of the Church showed us they have film and video talents. We had almost all of the documentary assignments covered. A young single adult from Berkeley delivered wonderful interviews he shot. A group of Film teachers from a community college in Fresno send us amazing nature footage, aerial shots and documentary footage of their ward activities. A sister wrote music specifically for the No More Strangers theme. A young single adult from Long Beach used her talents and education to film beautiful shots of the Newport Beach Temple and people in her ward. She spent many hours planning and shooting and editing. We saw videos of many hours of service given to make blankets and to prepare for the conference. The videos people sent in were a testament to the great joy that comes out of the Young Single Adult program. It made me so happy to see people all over the state joining together and performing acts of service. My heart was softened and my perspective has changed in the process of working on this film project. I feel the love and gifts of heaven showering down upon us as we serve. I am grateful for the opportunity to be a part of the committee during this memorable and special summer.



JEFF DICKSON DOCUMENTARY EDITOR AND ASSISTANT PRODUCER



A few small miracles occurred during the production of the YSA welcome video. First off, we sent out a call for all YSA wards around the state to send in footage of themselves for use in the video. Time passed and our deadline for finishing the video was approaching and we didn't have enough footage for the video. Our team prayed together that we would receive more footage in the mail and that's what happened. Every day for one week there was a new package containing footage in my mailbox. It was an answer to a prayer.

Secondly, during the editing of the video, we ran into a technical snag which would add an extra 30+ hours to the time it takes to process the video. I realized that if we waited the 30+ hours, it would seriously derail our timeline to finish this video. I prayed that I would be able to find a solution to speed up this process. The next day, the other members of the video team came over to continue working on the video. I explained the problem to them, and one of the team members suggested something that might work. He made the suggestion and I understood what he said differently than how he intended it and the answer was made clear to me. It was interesting to note that the solution was revealed to me not directly from the suggestion given, but from the interpretation that I had of it. I realized that the Lord had inspired my mind and answered my prayer through my teammate. I am grateful for the inspiration He gives us.







JEFF RICHARDSON

DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS AND INTERNAL OPERATIONS

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We had had several meetings to discuss what should be accomplished from the conference, what should be its purpose. We discussed themes, emphases, and purposes for the conference. The task was daunting: there was so much that could be taught and emphasized! After coming up with some recommendations and ideas which we submitted to the Area Seventies, the Area Seventies decided on the inspired, central themes of the conference: outreach to non-participatory members and temple worship.

However, these themes would be meaningless unless some actions were coupled with them. We needed goals: things to do and get done which would make these themes become real, both for us and for others.

Elder Joseph B Wirthlin once said, "Create inspiring, noble, and righteous goals that fire your imagination and create excitement in your heart. And then keep your eye on them. Work consistently towards achieving them" ("Life's Lessons Learned," Ensign, May 2007, 45–47).

And Alma taught his son, "by small and simple things are great things brought to pass" (Alma 37:6).

Under the direction of the Area Seventies, we set the following goals for the collectivity of YSA's in California:

- 10,000 YSA conference participants
- 7,000 less active visits
- 50,000 temple ordinances
- Help others prepare to receive the blessings of the temple

As we focused our energies around the simple things of reaching out to less actives and temple worship (preparing, attending, and promoting), we found great blessings and saw miracles. Each week, a representative from every Stake was asked to submit a report in regard to these goals detailing the activities of their Stake. Additionally, the statewide committee called the representatives from each of the 150+ Stakes in California to follow-up on these reports and offer support and encouragement.

With concerted, consistent effort the work was accomplished. Little by little, report by report, our goals were achieved. In fact, many of them were exceeded:

- Registered YSA's: 12,147
- Less active visits: 7,697
- Temple ordinances performed: 75,075
- Ordinances performed with family file names (of/by YSA's): 4,936
- Renewed temple recommends: 588
- Reissued temple recommends (to those who had previously lost their recommend): 204
- First-time recommends issued: 324

"Now behold, we can look forth and see the fruits of our labors; and are they few? I say unto you, Nay, they are many; yea, and we can witness of their sincerity, because of their love towards their brethren and also towards us."(Alma 26:31)

What a miracle! Think of the impact of the more than 7,000 less active visits! If only 10% permanently return to full church activity that would be the equivalent of 3-4 large YSA Wards. Think of the great good that they can accomplish.

Think of the blessings which were received by the more than 75,000 temple ordinances which were accomplished. Think of the great rejoicing of these souls in heaven!

Additionally, think of the blessings that we received by reaching outside of ourselves, to lift others. In life, and especially a gospel-oriented life, as we lift others, we lift ourselves and find great happiness.

It is my firm conviction that when we set goals, pray, work hard, and keep ourselves accountable to them, we accomplish great things, even mighty miracles. For truly, this is what happened in California.

"Thus God has provided a means that man, through faith, might work mighty miracles; therefore he becometh a great benefit to his fellow beings" (Mosiah 8:18).

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

JESSICA BEAN

ART DIRECTOR



The recent months leading up to the California YSA Conference have only reaffirmed my conviction of a Heavenly Father who knows, loves and inspires me personally. As the art director and designer for the conference, I have repeatedly felt the inspiration of the Holy Ghost in all the many projects I worked on. After the first branding system for the conference was rejected, I was asked and required to design an entirely new branding system for the conference and have the Area Seventy approve it within 48 hours.

How do I represent all the Young Singles Adults across the state of California in a meaningful way—encompassing the importance of temple worship, while keeping in mind that it needed to be modern, fun, and enticing for our age group? The stress and time constraints amidst working 12+ hour days made this a very difficult task.

After a number of unsatisfying logos (and a few tears), I knelt down at my computer in the middle of my living room and said a fervent prayer. I knew Heavenly Father would inspire me according to his will; it was the only way to meet the deadline. I was immediately reminded of some artwork I had seen of city maps and knew what must be done. After the logo had been designed, I added a quick, fun border to the bottom of the layout and sent it off for approval. The next morning, I realized that not only had I accomplished all the goals of creating this difficult logo, but the little accent border reminded me of ocean waves and mountains... prominent features of our beautiful state. I was humbled, truly humbled. Countless miracles occurred while working on the state organizing committee. Although this was a small and simple example, it is a testament of the love God has for each of his children... even graphic designers.

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JULIE HINTON

CONFERENCE MATERIALS COORDINATOR

My reaction in hearing what my assignment for this was, "Whew! Finally, something I can do!" Not that I've ever done anything like this on such a grand scale, but I deal with shipping at work and at least had an idea of how I would be able to accomplish some of my goals. I knew from past experience that I would be tested and tried, but that way would be opened up before me, because this is the Lord's work, and it will go forward.

My best example of this may seem simple and even trite, but it is my little shipping miracle. Our first printing job was for a small "Palm Card" that was shipped in bulk to locations around the state. Due to some errors in communication on various levels, many areas did not receive these cards and were desperate for the blessings they would bring. I did a second printing of the cards, but instead of shipping them by the thousands, I was shipping them by hundreds, and oftentimes even less. I had saved quite a few shoeboxes and such to use for presents and started using them instead to ship the cards, though I quickly ran out. As I mentioned before, I work in a shipping department, and my boss was very kind in letting me take many of their odd-sized boxes. I soon ran out of those as well. I was getting worried since we had just started a new project that needed to be shipped and I was still getting more requests for the old cards, and I didn't know how I was going to be able to ship them all. For the smaller quantities I was able to use some envelopes a friend had given to me years ago because his company had changed addresses. As I was worrying about the rest, I walked to my car. I park next to a dumpster, and sitting next to it was a pile half my size of discarded shoeboxes. They were just what I needed. After some creative dumpster-diving, I was able to ship all the requested cards and brochures to the units who needed them.

Again, these may seem like small things, but because the Lord paved the way for me—both years ago with the envelopes and my shipping job, and recently with the discarded shoeboxes—materials were distributed that enabled contact with less-active members and reminders to those already strong in the faith. It confirmed my testimony that truly by small and simple things are great things come to pass. The Lord watches out for all of us in our assignments, from those of us who are able to channel His Spirit and create these wonderful tools to those of us who make them available to those of us who take the tools and use them. Every soul is precious in His sight and no work is too great nor too small if it saves a soul.

I was honored to be a part of this project. I know that the lessons and experiences I've had will stay with me and have made me a better person. I thank the Lord for these blessings.



MATT THUESON

SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

My role in the conference was to manage the Twitter account and to produce videos for YouTube. While taking part in the planning process, I was impressed by the willingness of the single adults in the Los Angeles and Santa Monica Stakes to contribute their talents to the conference. From puppet makers and photographers to actors and friends called on short notice, everyone I served with was eager to participate. In spite of other demands on their time, the members of the planning committee—and the friends who lent their voices to the videos—made time in their already-full schedules to plan and promote the conference. The diverse talents possessed by these individuals, given to them by the Lord, converged as they used those many talents in the progression of the Lord's work. I am grateful to have taken part in planning the conference and gratified by its success in reaching out to and uniting California's young single adults.

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MIKE HAMMARI

MEDIA SPECIALIST



This is not unique to me, but I didn't go to bed that Thursday night before the conference. I essentially worked on PowerPoint presentations for 24 hours straight. This was after several days of working into the morning and getting a few hours of sleep before rushing off to my full time job. It happened to be that I didn't have an internet connection at my apartment that week. A few times each night I would sit at a bus stop down the street where I could connect to our neighborhood wifi service and e-mail drafts of the presentations to the various locations.

During that week I had a very personal experience that was so profoundly simple it almost won't seem miraculous to anybody but me: I wasn't grumpy. I don't do well without sleep and yet that week I was fine. I didn't receive any blessings that made the process easier or more efficient. It was a big job and it took all the time it required. I received the blessing that I needed most. When I normally would have been cranky, discouraged and pessimistic I was calm. I know I was sustained beyond my normal capacity.



RACHEL VINCENT

DIRECTOR OF MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS

About midway through the summer, as I was pondering on the conference, I had 4 Nephi come sharply to my mind. The one and only chapter in 4 Nephi summarizes the amazing time after Christ when, for about 200 years, the Nephites and Lamanites were joined together in one peaceful group that diligently followed the teachings of Christ through his one and only true church upon the earth. The strength of these members is an inspiration to me and reminds me of the dedication and diligence of the generations that have come before us—who have fought with their lives, social acceptability, finances, and more to bring, keep, and expand the true teachings of Christ upon the earth. This story vividly came to my mind as I remembered that in a little over one generation, this was lost. First people broke away from the church to establish and follow teachings that did not encompass the full and true gospel, and then those that had remained strong for a few decades also succumbed to sin and the true church was shortly thereafter lost upon the earth.

My fellow brothers and sisters, we are that generation. As I write this my heart aches for our generation and the consequences of our decisions. We are the generation that is losing the church and the gospel in our lives and, consequently, in the generations that will follow us.

I know that this conference was inspired by a loving and concerned Heavenly Father. I know that the Area Seventy were led by him and by Jesus Christ in planning the content of this conference. Yes, this conference was about meeting and socializing with other YSAs. But even more importantly, this conference and the goals that we have been given going forward are about spiritually strengthening a generation that is getting lost. It is about trying to recover those who have known the truth, yet have fallen into darkness. Having served a mission, and as we have been taught, I know the importance of missionary work and bringing the gospel to the world. But in the last weeks and months, I have had the spirit personally testify to me the urgent importance of reaching out to our fellow saints. The worth of

just one of those souls is so great! The number of people they influence and interact with, their children, and children's children are all at risk if these less-active members remain less-active.

I know that this conference has strengthened us in ways we can't imagine as the Lord prepares us for the spiritual battles in our future. I am grateful for the inspiration given to the brethren of the church to plan this conference. And I am particularly grateful to have witnessed the dedication and faith of my fellow state committee members on such an inspiring and amazing project. Their dedication has changed my life and my perception of what it means to magnify my callings. I pray that each YSA who attended the conference will feel the magnificent love of our Savior Jesus Christ and that this will change lives forever as we each strive to rededicate ourselves to His teachings. I bear my testimony that He lives. That He loves us. And that His arms are open and waiting for each one of us. I say this in the name of our beloved Savior and King, Jesus Christ, Amen.

RUSSEL LLOYD AUDIO/VISUAL COORDINATOR

For many years now I've known the temple to be a place of healing, and more often than not that was the driving force behind my temple attendance: to feel the healing of my soul by the Savior and our Heavenly Father in the only place where our communion with Them may be perfect. In the process of participating in the 12-week mission of this conference my temple attendance found permanence and consistency and I found a closer, more personal, more direct, more intimate relationship with Heavenly Father and the Savior and a perfect testimony of the remission of my former sins.



But those were the least of all the miracles and tender mercies I experienced in relation to this conference. I sat through many of the state committee planning meetings listening to others testify that this conference was inspired and that the members of the Seventy organizing the conference were directed of the Lord. It was odd for me to be on the receiving end of these testimonies, when I so often in my life have been the one testifying and to that point had not experienced a single moment of spirituality regarding the conference. You see, for me as the AV director it was just business as usual. I've helped plan, prepare, set up, run, and strike so many events in the past 5 years since being trained as an audio technician that I couldn't see the conference as anything more than hundreds of cables and thousands of dollars of equipment at an unknown number of locations being set and run by an unknown number of people of unknown experience and training all logically setup to enable all conference participants a pleasant experience.

But, as others have often pointed out, our God is a last watch God, and the time for my testimony came during and after the conference itself.

Saturday night, as I was preparing for bed, the Spirit told me I would bear my testimony the next day. Well, I knew the schedule and thought, "What meeting are we going to run out of speakers during?" Every minute was planned out. Where was there going to be time for me to speak?

But then we had transmission problems with the Sunday afternoon broadcast, and there was literally nothing that could be done. We turned off the broadcast and gave the opportunity to the congregation to share their testimonies instead. When I was standing there, holding the microphone that I was supposed to take to everyone else in the congregation, I knew that this was the moment the Spirit informed me of. And, recognizing that the message I was to deliver was given to me while I was troubleshooting the transmission problems, I did not hesitate to take the opportunity to speak. It was clear to all of us, because of the testimonies borne by investigators and formerly less active YSA's, that this testimony meeting was indeed part of the plan.

As I look back on the preparations for this conference I am keenly aware of one thing: I did very little that actually made this conference possible. I was a spectator watching the Lord do His work. It took so long to get locations and local committees and people registered, etc, because just as in days of old, the Savior was showing to us His great power. But whereas the showing forth of His power to His people took place in the form of winning battles and conquering peoples with small groups of warriors in former times, it was shown to us on this occasion in terms of the things that govern our world today: time, money, and resources. It is now clear to me that He can accomplish far more with far less than we are able to.

I have seen with my spiritual eyes that the Savior directed and orchestrated this entire conference. It was according to His will and was necessary for us at this time. It was setup entirely to bring glory to the Father by assisting a few more of His children in their journey to find the path to immortality and eternal life. He lives and I know He is actively engaged in and directing this work.



TRINA TALBOT SOCIAL MEDIA SPECIALIST

82% LESS ACTIVES... TOO MANY TO HELP?

In D&C 18:10, the Lord reminds us that "The worth of souls is great in the sight of God". But what about the worth of one soul? If this conference were to make a difference to only one person, one soul, one child of our Father in Heaven, would all the work be worth it?

As the extra or "plus" as the bishop called me, my role was to help in almost every area of the planning committee. I witnessed countless miracles happen throughout all the planning and preparation that come from putting together a conference of this magnitude; and as the conference unfolded, I felt the spirit confirm to me over and over again why we began this endeavor. Not just for one soul—but for MANY souls, for each and every soul surrounding me at the conference. And each soul was worth every moment spent preparing for this event.

58 In the weeks leading up to the conference, I was given the opportunity to witness firsthand the Lord working through each one of us—giving us the ability to work beyond our means at almost every turn. I saw and felt in every member of the committee a selfless desire to do all they could to make this conference a success, YSA's who understood the importance of even just one soul and truly saw the vision of this conference. I was blessed to work side by side with some of the most amazing individuals who acted in the time of need and worked as a team with all the various talents and personalities necessary to make the conference the absolute best it could be. And with the Lord helping us reach higher than we ever thought we could, we truly were able to forget ourselves so that we could help almost everyone in attendance feel as a stranger no more.

I have a testimony that the worth of EVERY soul truly IS great in the sight of God. I love this gospel and I will be forever grateful for the positive and rescuing effect this conference had on the lives of so many...including my own. I am grateful for all the amazing differences found in each child of our Father in Heaven and the incredible experience it was to not only witness the joy that comes from these differences, but to know that the work will continue to go forward as we remember the friendships that were created and the spirit felt through preparing for and attending this conference.

WENDY CROMPTON PUBLIC RELATIONS COORDINATOR



The opportunity to act as the infodesk for this YSA conference proved more instructive to me than I'd expected. A couple months into the duties, my exasperation rising commensurate with the numbers of emails I received that surely could have been answered by reading information readily available on the website, I caught a glimpse of how patient our God really is. God provides us comfort, answers, clarity as often as we ask, irrespective of how trivial or repetitive our petitions may seem to others. He does not weary of answering; rather, He delivers unfailingly on His promise that if we ask, we shall receive. And I saw this as the conference was planned and executed across the state; small miracles were needed to make this conference happen, and so small miracles were requested in faith, after all that could be done was done, and small miracles were granted. I believe that God is actively engaged in and concerned with our lives, both individually and collectively as YSAs across the state. His attention to the small details, to our smallest and most personal petitions, is still remarkable to me, and I am humbled both to worship such a God and to call him Father.

I would also emphasize the efforts of members across the state in making this conference a reality. Living with Amy Fisler, the coordinator of logistics for the conference statewide, afforded me a very realistic picture of how much work it took to make the conference happen. But the sacrifices of the statewide leadership would have availed little if individual YSA wards - and individual YSAs - hadn't run with the ideas as they did. There's no question that God had a hand in the success of the conference - but it was important and inspiring to see the kind of active faith among the leadership and the YSAs that led to a lot of sincere and intense brainstorming, problem-solving, and action. The labor of so many YSAs toward temple work, toward brothers and sisters in need, was magnified by a loving God, as many of the stories in this book attest. I am grateful to have been a part of the conference, and to see God's kindness and magnanimity work in cooperation with the faith of those involved.



WHITNEY ALEXANDER

ACTIVITIES COORDINATOR

My testimony is short and simple. I know Jesus Christ lives and that He died and atoned for our sins so we might return to a loving Heavenly Father. I know Joseph Smith was called of God to restore the gospel upon the earth and to bring forth The Book of Mormon to lead and direct us in our lives. I know that by following the teachings of the gospel we can have the spirit as a constant source of light, support, guidance and comfort at all times. I also know that we have a modern day prophet who is in direct communication with the Lord and is truly inspired to lead his people in truth and righteousness.

With that said, a few months ago I was asked to volunteer my time and energy as the state activity leader for the Young Single Adult Conference in California. I quickly accepted—knowing the area authorities felt it was an inspired event that was needed to bring back a number of lost young single adults in California. At first I felt somewhat overwhelmed and concerned about how I would be able to balance this new task with the rest of my responsibilities and duties in life. However, I trusted in the Lord and prayed that I would have the necessary amount of time, direction and energy to accomplish this huge assignment.

Although I saw small blessings along the way such as an increased amount of time to work on the conference and devoted church members who were truly dedicated to the cause—No More Strangers—I found myself questioning whether the amount of time and energy being put into the conference would make a significant difference.

My testimony of the conference came, but not until the final hours of the conference. I am reminded of Ether 12:6 “...ye receive no witness until after the trial of your faith.” Ironically, our leaders decided to have a testimony meeting in place of the planned broadcast due to a bad connection. Towards the end of the testimony meeting one young single adult stood up and with a humble heart said that he had only been to church a few times in three years and that “someone knew what they were doing when they put the conference together.” He continued with a commitment to try and get his life in order. As he bore his testimony goose bumps covered my entire body, tears came to my eyes and it finally hit me...the unrelentless amount of meetings, stress, frustration, time and energy were all worth it because at least one person was ready to come back to the church. It all made sense, and I finally understood Luke 15:4 & 5:

“What man of you, having an hundred sheep, if he lose one of them, doth not leave the ninety and nine in the wilderness, and go after that which is lost, until he find it?

“And when he hath found it, he layeth it on his shoulder, rejoicing.”

I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.





area committees

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An Area Seventy presided over each of the seven temple areas and each conference location had an assigned Agent Stake President (a few areas needed two locations to accommodate all attendees). Each Area Committee was responsible for implementing the statewide plan in their area – no small feat. This effort involved reaching out to individual wards for hundreds of volunteers, volunteers who not only worked with the YSAs before the conference, but also volunteered to manage every aspect of the conference and conference site during the two-day conference. This was necessary so all YSAs could be duty free during the conference, allowing them to experience the spirit, teaching and camaraderie of the conference along with other YSA attendees.

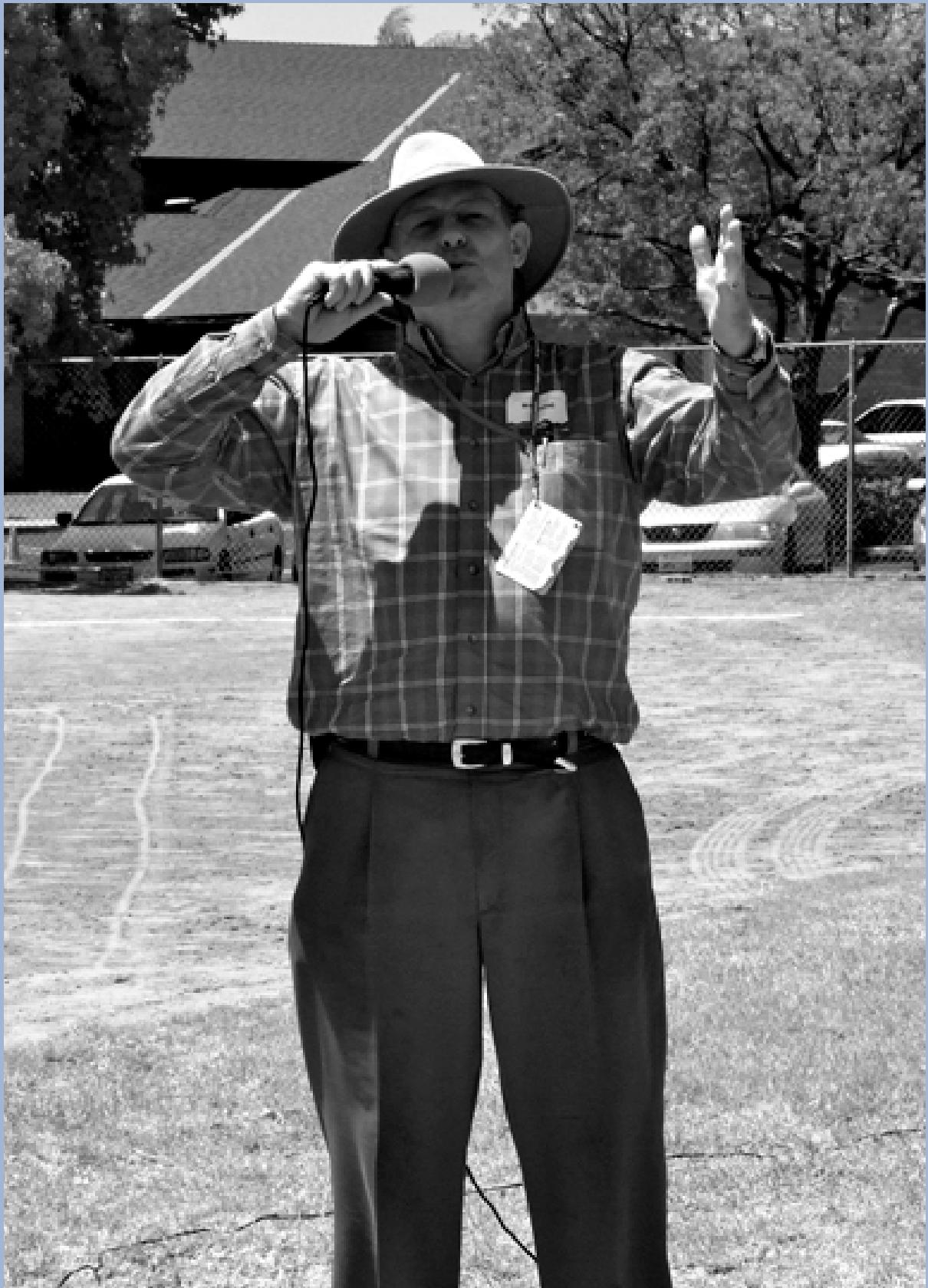
Of particular importance were parking, on-site registration and food service. These areas required training or extended advance preparation. Food service volunteers, for example, were required to purchase and prepare food in advance as part of the overall food service (most of which was provided by catering companies.)

The Agent Stake President and his people also paid most of the expenses for the conference at each location, before eventually being reimbursed from the funds the Statewide Committee gathered from individual participants and leaders.

July 10, 2009

We, the Area Seventy, cannot fully and adequately thank you for your tireless and continuous service in this great summer YSA activity. While we cannot thank you adequately, the Lord already has. You have felt the glow, the light and the satisfaction in your hearts and in your minds as you have magnified your calling to bring this great event to fruition. We have only a month to go, so much has been done, yet there is much to do. We, the Seventy, extend to you our love and a blessing that each of you will be found with increased faith, increased capacity, increased love and increased devotion to the great cause of the Master. What a joy to work with the “rising generation,” about which Peter described so well: “But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness unto his marvelous light.” - 1 Peter 2:9.

- Elder Donald P. Tenney
- Elder Larry R. Lawrence
- Elder William F. Reynolds
- Elder Nelson Cordova
- Elder John Dalton
- Elder Frank Trythall
- Elder Scott Whiting







area committee testimonies

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ALAN FISHER SACRAMENTO CONFERENCE

The weekend was a tremendous blessing for our stake team members and the 50+ volunteers who participated. We felt the strength and spirit of the YSAs whom we served and benefited from the excitement of the event. Many of my team members commented on the character of the YSAs – we received many expressions of thanks from them. They were patient, courteous and cheerful – in spite of occasional long lines and warm weather.

One of the volunteer participants shared the following experience: “As we discussed the other day, after Saturday lunch during the YSA Conference at the Mormon Center building in Ranch Cordova, there were pizzas left over. I volunteered to take a load of them down to the homeless shelter in downtown Sacramento. As it was a Saturday, it turned out that there really were not a lot of meals being served to the homeless as the Loaves and Fishes facility was closed. So I decided to just pass them out to those that were sitting and sometimes even sleeping on the sidewalk near the Loaves and Fishes facility. My role model on this was my YSA daughter Jessica, who has brought sandwiches and hygiene items, sweatshirts, etc. on several occasions to those that are living on the streets and just passed them out to those that she felt had a need.

My experience was 100% positive and one of the most fun things that I have ever done. The joy that it brought to me to be able to provide those that were hungry with a small pizza was equal in measure to those that received these pizzas. Sometimes I woke people up that were curled up sleeping in the shade; never did I receive a cross word. Often those that received one wanted to make sure that their friends were also able to have a pizza as well. I did not see any squabbling over these pizzas and saw these recipients, many of them mentally ill by my guess, happy to share with a friend. The one thing that I wish I had brought were waters as I was often asked for a bottle of water by those that I gave

the piazzas to. I... felt blessed for the opportunity.” Once again, we appreciate the blessing of being able to participate in such a meaningful, unifying conference.

ANTHONY KUO NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

Having been baptized a member of the Church just two short years ago, I found myself a little overwhelmed in directing the efforts of this conference as Co-Chair of the Newport Beach Temple Area Committee. That overwhelming sensation quickly turned into a wonderful friend-making, faith-building and testimony-increasing experience. What a blessing it has been to be able to serve the young single adult Saints of our 21-Stake region in helping them draw nearer unto each other and, consequently, nearer unto the Savior.

In Orange County, we are so fortunate to have a temple so close. I've often said, though, "What sort of blessing is the House of the Lord if we don't serve in it?" The 12-week mission process leading up to the conference has been a remarkable reminder to the young single adults to attend the temple and to attend often! Young single adults from all over this area have been reminded of the importance of regular temple worship. I am grateful for that renewed sense of service that has been brought forward by the challenge to participate in these beautiful and sacred ordinances.

ARIANE BAIR SACRAMENTO CONFERENCE

I asked to be the female YSA representative on my Area Committee for this conference. Watching the Area Authorities, Stake Presidents, Bishops, and leaders work on this conference was unlike anything I have ever seen. People put in so many countless hours to put on a conference for my peers to truly benefit my friends. I will ever be in gratitude for the selfless service so many people put into making this conference successful. Watching the plans come into reality was incredible. During sacrament meeting on

Sunday, I was overcome with the spirit as we sang the opening hymn. We were united singing together here in Sacramento, but also throughout the entire state of California. Over 11,000 YSAs were singing the same hymns. When the sacrament was administered, I was again overcome by the spirit. I felt an incredible power as we all renewed our baptismal covenants and participated in that amazing ordinance. Tears just flowed as I sat in gratitude thinking of the inspired opportunity we all have been a part of.

I am grateful for the opportunity to socialize in many different settings. I was filled spiritually by well prepared presenters teaching me doctrines of the gospel. The food was impressive and well organized. I was able to serve and bless the lives of others as we worked on the humanitarian project. I left feeling nourished in every way. I feel confident in myself as I go forth in the world. I left the conference knowing we accomplished our goal of No More Strangers.

DAN FIFE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

One evening at our stake center we (the local stake committees for the conference) met with Elder Cordova and Bishop Eastland, Amy Fisler, and Kenny McNett from the YSA State Committee. After plowing through a tremendous amount of logistical information, the members of the state committee spoke to us about the emphasis on using the conference as a tool for missionary work and for reactivation. Elder Cordova then gave an inspiring message about the importance of the young single adults to the Church. During their remarks I began thinking about friends of mine who had fallen away from the church during their twenties.

My responsibility in the conference involved recruiting a large number of volunteers for the weekend of the conference. I felt overwhelmed by the number of people that we were going to need to pull it off. As the weekend approached, I wasn't sure whether we were going to have enough volunteers. Suddenly the names of a few less active members of our stake began flooding into my mind. For some reason I hadn't thought to apply the goals of the conference to help reactivate some of the actual volunteers. I picked up the phone and began calling less active members, as well as one of the investigators in our ward. I was amazed at the response that we got, and some of them came and spent several hours of service at the conference. The investigator spent the entire weekend serving at the conference, and she was baptized a few weeks later. It was great to be able to catch the vision and the spirit of the conference by using it as a great tool to spiritually nourish not just the YSA attendees, but also the volunteers at the event.

DOUG AND MELANIE VAUGHN

FRESNO CONFERENCE

My husband, Doug, and I were on the housing committee for the Fresno Stake. My husband and I were assigned four wards in our stake. He and I took turns going to the

Relief Society and asking for homes. It was going kind of slow... so we prayed to the Lord and asked for help.

About one or two weeks after our prayer, one sister called and donated twenty "spots" in her home.

Another sister called in with twenty-five vacancies in her home. Coupled with the homes we had signed up in the four Relief Societies, my husband and I were able to get 200 spots, just from four wards. Literally the windows of heaven were opened to us.

JEREMY BLANK

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Since we didn't know how many people to expect at the sacrament meeting, we prepared for 2,400 people, which entailed finding about 70 sets of sacrament trays that weren't going to be used on that Sunday by other wards. I was able to find about 30 sets in my area, and with the help of other wards throughout the Bay Area, we were able to meet the need and actually have many more trays than we needed.

Besides finding all of the materials, the two main challenges were finding brothers to pass and figuring out how to efficiently pass the sacrament so that it wouldn't take a half hour. Finding people was somewhat difficult, as people weren't sure if they were attending up until the last minute; however, on the morning of the sacrament meeting, about an hour before, we were able to recruit brethren from the congregation that was assembling. I had several maps drawn up, but it wasn't until very late in the game that I could actually see if the plans would work. A few others from my ward and I instructed the passers (there were 60) and the blessers (there were 12) on how to proceed, and things were pretty confusing just because of the number of people involved and the fact that there was a balcony and an overflow gymnasium.

Another hurdle that came our way was when, twenty minutes before the meeting started, a brother alerted me that we needed to have a gluten-free sacrament option, something for which we hadn't planned. We were able to create a special section of the congregation for those wishing to have this non-gluten bread, and the person conducting the meeting announced this over the pulpit.

Once the sacrament was actually happening, things went smoothly. Surprisingly, passing the bread seemed to take no more than seven or eight minutes; the water took a little longer since one tray up in the balcony ran out and the passer had to come back down, but overall it went well. I must say that I was pretty happy when the whole thing was done because it was a lot more work than it would seem on the surface! The funny thing is that a few months later, I was contacted to consult on how to best pass the sacrament in the Oakland Interstake Center. It was as if I was the only person to have ever coordinated a passing that large in the Oakland area, which actually might be true – if so, that's pretty cool!

LARRY BIRD

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

Towards the end of the day on Saturday, as we were completing the humanitarian quilt project and everyone had tied at least one quilt, it was brought to my attention that we had several more quilts that still needed to be tied. Everyone on the floor was busy tying; however, there were pockets of YSAs standing around talking, just enjoying themselves.

As it was important for us to complete the task at hand, I thought that I could approach a couple of these groups to see if they would offer a lending hand so that we would be able to finish the project. As I approached the first group and asked them if they would be willing to tie one more quilt, I was so pleased to hear each of them say, without hesitation, "Sure, we would be happy to help." I pointed to where they were needed and off they went. With that success under my belt, I approached the next group and, again, I was met with the same enthusiastic, "Yes," even though some of them had already tied two and a couple had tied three quilts.

With each group I approached, I was met with the same enthusiasm. In total there were seven groups that I was able to talk with and each of them was more than happy to help. They impressed me so much with their overall spirit of cooperation and willingness to make sure that the entire project was completed even though they were tired. What great YSAs we have and how great was the opportunity that I had to be with you.

The entire weekend strengthened my testimony of the wonderful YSA program that the Lord has set up. There are many more experiences that I was able to be a part of and I will be forever grateful for the opportunity to have been a small part of the conference.

MARLON SMITH

SACRAMENTO CONFERENCE

I was an assistant to President Taylor of the Carmichael Stake, and I served as vice-chairman of the two committees. It was an incredible experience for me personally, as I was charged by Elder Trythall to assign and oversee all of the workshop teaching and the Sunday talks and other presentations. I felt divine assistance to locate all of our speakers, music personnel and those who offered prayers. Although there was much work to do in short order, I was amazed how it all came together with the Lord's help. Our steering committee was full of great YSA leaders who understand who they are and what their mission entails! I have learned better than ever before that the hands into which the leadership of the Church will one-day fall is a chosen and powerful generation!

PAUL WATKINS

SACRAMENTO CONFERENCE

I thought a statement that a girl wrote on the "writing board" was very descriptive and a lot of fun and probably described the speed dating experience earlier in the day. She wrote: "I had a boyfriend for 5 minute at the California YSA Conference!" Cute.

RON AND ANNIE MAHKORN

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

Our comments come from speaking with our YSA kids we serve with at the El Camino Branch as we were as busy as a "pack of monkeys in a banana tree" facilitating during the two days that we didn't have much one-on-one with the kids to get their comments. It was a great experience for us to be with the young folks for the two days.

We felt their spirit as they expressed their feelings about being together with such a large group of their peers and commented on the "great" content of the meetings as well as the activities they participated in. They ate well, which made them both happy and somewhat surprised.













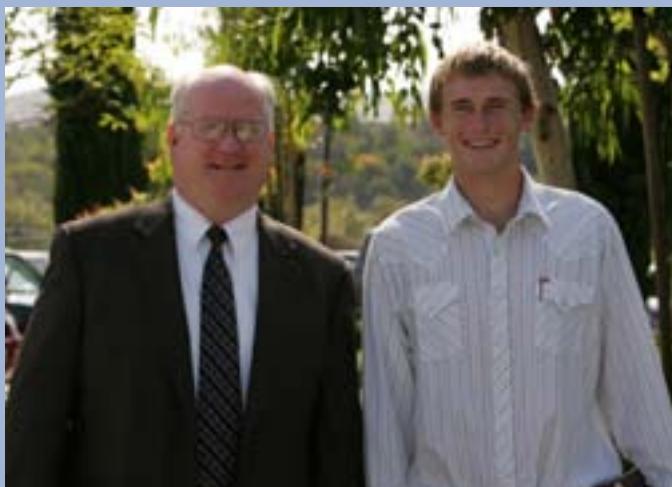
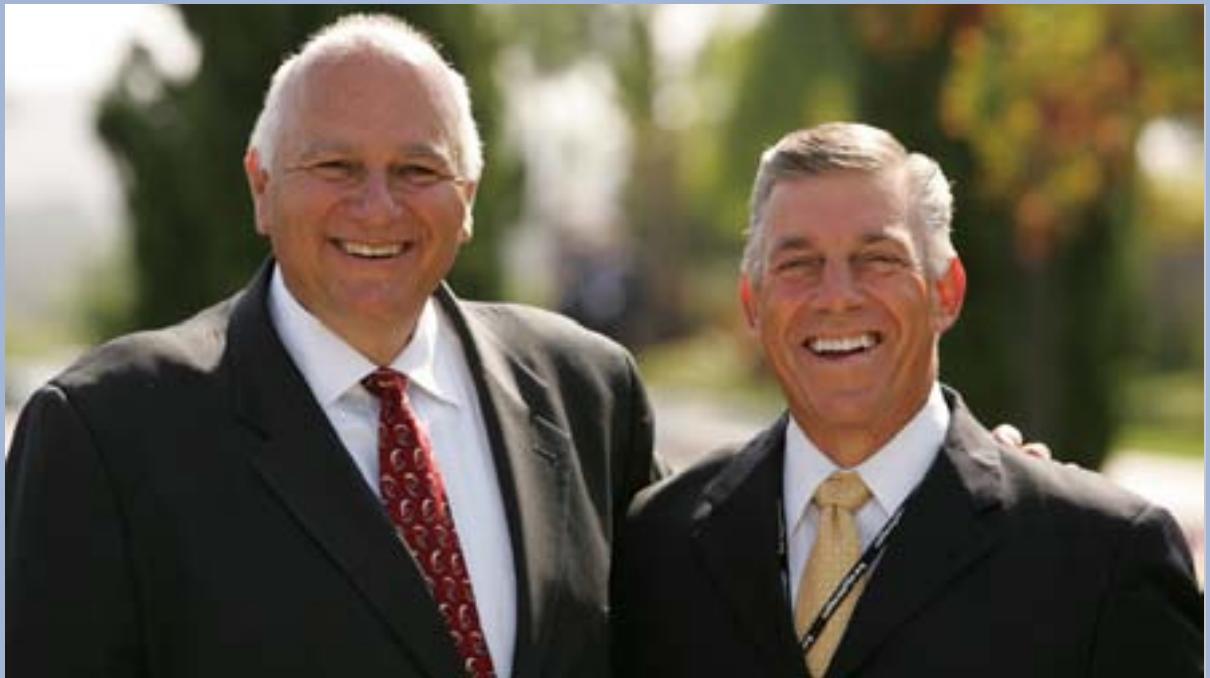














12-WEEK MISSION



NO MORE
STRANGERS

Ephesians 2:19

In an unprecedented move, the priesthood leadership of California—under the direction of the Area Seventy of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints—called the young single adults of the state to come together in an effort to become more spiritually strengthened and unified.

Gathering every Young Single Adult in the state of California to one conference was the dream, one that would require hundreds of man-hours volunteered by members statewide. There were 72,000 young single adults in the state of California, but only about 13,000 were active. Summer 2009 became, for California YSAs, the summer of “No More Strangers,” a theme chosen to highlight YSA efforts to strengthen themselves through temple worship and reach out to others by individually inviting less active YSAs back to church.

Led by the Area Seventy of California, the 12-week mission for the YSAs launched with a kick-off fireside on May 17th. At the fireside, a challenge was

issued: YSAs were encouraged to perform 10,000 temple ordinances and personally invite 5,000 less actives to the conference before the conference began on August 8th. Whether or not the YSAs would rise to the challenge remained to be seen.

Communication and reporting systems were created to track the statewide goals. Every stake in the state had a YSA Conference recorder and a representative called to encourage their stake YSAs to register for the conference, do temple ordinances, and reach out to less active members. The recorders sent weekly reports via an online tracking system to the YSA Statewide Committee to track goal efforts. The representatives planned outreach efforts, temple trips, personal visits to less actives, and so much more.

Across the state, YSAs joined forces and encouraged each other to reach the goals, collaborating through social media, on the official conference website and in church meetings. Their efforts bore fruit. In less than three months, Californian YSAs completed 78,000 temple ordinances and personally reached out to 7,800 less active members!

Kick-off firesides held simultaneously throughout the 157 stakes in California are held to inform YSAs about the conference and the goals set by the Area Seventy. California YSAs were challenged to personally invite 5,000 less actives to the conference and to perform 10,000 temple ordinances in the twelve weeks leading up to the conference.

californiaysa.org launches

MAY 17, 2009

no more strangers

On May 17th, kickoff firesides were held simultaneously throughout the 157 stakes across the state of California. Young single adults listened to an inspired message from [Elder L. Whitney Clayton of the Presidency of the Seventy](#) before watching a brief video and PowerPoint presentation summarizing the California YSA Conference and the 12-week goals leading up to the conference. Online registration for the conference would begin immediately, while payment would be made through the local wards via donation slips. At the end of the fireside, each young single adult was given a palm card with the goals on one side and an invitation to attend the conference on the other. As members across the state took the idea of "[No More Strangers](#)" and the pre-conference goals to heart, miracles occurred.





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REACH RESCUE RECOMMEND







publicity



Eager to reach out to the **72,000 YSAs in California**, the YSA Statewide Organizing Committee formed a diverse marketing campaign including the Area Seventies to become directly involved in the efforts to connect with the YSAs across the state. This technology-minded committee asked the Area Seventies to post **blogs** every few days on the official conference website californiaysa.org. The Area Seventies responded with enthusiasm, and their 19 pre-conference blogs were then linked to the California YSA **Facebook** page (facebook.com/californiaysa), where over 4,000 fans read, commented on the blogs, or posted them on their personal walls. The website provided video updates linked directly to the California YSA **YouTube** page (youtube.com/californiaysa.org); and 374 people followed conference progress through **Twitter** (twitter.com/californiaYSA). The committee's marketing plan also included **22,500 palm cards, 72,000 Sunday program fliers, and 15,000 brochures** to be distributed to less actives and visitors.

FACEBOOK FANS

MAY 25	2,317
JUNE 3	2,933
JUNE 9	3,154
JULY 1	3,590
JULY 17	3,837
JULY 21	3,920
FINAL	4,526

TWITTER FOLLOWERS

MAY 9	2
MAY 25	108
JUNE 3	127
JUNE 9	148
JULY 1	231
JULY 17	298
JULY 21	315
FINAL	376

**7 TEMPLES
157 STAKES
250 PRIESTHOOD
TO PASS THE SACRAMENT
1000 QUILTS
7000 LBS OF
POTATOES
21000 SLICES
OF PIZZA
30000 MEALS
55000 NAPKINS
60000 WATER BOTTLES
10000 YSAs**

californiaYSA.org

JOIN US FOR THE ALL-CALIFORNIA SUMMER YSA CONFERENCE

AUGUST 8-9, 2009



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Join us for the All-California Summer YSA Conference August 8-9, 2009

And of the household of God...

HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR TEMPLE?

Can you match each of the temples to the facts on the right? Let's see what you got! Answers can be found at californiaYSA.org... Oh, and while you're there, register for the conference.

NO MORE STRANGERS Ephesians 2:19

DOCTRINAL WORKSHOPS, SPORTS ACT

NO MORE STRANGERS Ephesians 2:19

Fresno California Temple
Los Angeles California Temple
Newport Beach California Temple
Oakland California Temple
Redlands California Temple
Sacramento California Temple
San Diego California Temple

Exterior lighting is always turned off by 11pm
One of only two LDS temples in the world featuring an angel Moroni statue holding the gold plates
The back side of the temple has a frieze depicting Christ descending from heaven to the people of America
Guests attending the groundbreaking ceremony were served orange juice made from the orange groves that once occupied the area
Serves 8 stakes, the smallest number of all the California temples
Largest temple site in California at 46 acres
The dedication of the temple lasted 6 days

Register online and pay \$33 through your local ward or branch
Log onto californiaYSA.org to be linked to these official conference sites

Register online and pay \$33
Log onto californiaYSA.org to be linked to these official conference sites

How many YSAs are there in California?





The screenshot shows the homepage of the California YSA website. The header includes the title "California YSA - Windows Internet Explorer" and the URL "http://www.californiaysa.org". The top navigation bar has links for Home, Register!, Pay Online, How to Pay, Blog, and FAQ. On the left, there's a large graphic of California with cities like Sacramento, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and Redding labeled inside. Below it is a "NO MORE STRANGERS" section with a link to "youthmatters.org". A "What's On" link points to "youthmatters.org". The main banner features the text "2009 YSA Conference Aug 8-9" with a "Click here for details" link. Below the banner is a photo of two people looking at flowers. A "Reach Out" section follows, with a "Read more" link. The "Be Prepared" section includes a "What's in Store" link and five small thumbnail images. The right sidebar contains links for "My Account", "Goal 1: Reach Out", "Goal 2: Design Web Site", "Conference Overview", "Conference Locations", "Conference Schedule", "Conference Dress Code", "Videos", "Help Make Our Document", "FAQ", "YSA Spotlights", "Reader Quiz Answers", and an email address "info@californiaysa.org".

A screenshot of a Facebook page for "California YSA". The page header features the word "facebook" in its signature blue font. Below the header, there's a green "Sign Up" button and the text "California YSA is on Facebook. Sign up for Facebook to connect with California YSA". The main visual is a large, stylized map of California where each city's name is written in a different color. At the bottom of the map, the text "NO MORE STRANGERS" is overlaid. Below the map, there's a banner with the text "youthworks 2010". On the right side of the page, there's a sidebar with the "California YSA" logo, a "Wall" tab, a "Info" tab, a "Photos" tab, and a "California YSA - 1 Photo" link. A blue sidebar on the right also displays the "California YSA" logo and some recent posts.





California YSA News Reports





REACH & RESCUE

ysa testimonies

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ALENI RASMUSSEN

FRESNO CALIFORNIA NORTH STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

On July 11, 2009, the Heritage Ward of the Fresno California North Stake had a sacrament meeting focused on "reaching out". At its conclusion, members gathered in the cultural hall to receive the names of people to whom brochures would be distributed. The results of that day: 153 less actives were visited and extended an invitation to the conference. The number registered from the Heritage Ward at the beginning of July: 113; at the end of registration: 234. As I stood on the morning of August 8 and watched nearly 1,300 YSAs enter the doors of the Fresno Conference, I felt that I had witnessed a miracle. I know that our efforts were both seen and augmented by our Father in Heaven. This is His Church. He knows and loves His children. Assuredly, it was His hand in this conference that brought us all together.

ALYSON SULLIVAN

MENIFEE STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I was able to feel included because someone reached out to me.

AMANDA GILLETTE

TORRANCE STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

At first I felt uncomfortable contacting people I haven't spoken to in years. I felt as if we wouldn't be able to carry on a conversation. Through reaching out and taking the time to call those less actives, I was reminded that we are all children of God; brothers and sisters in the Lord's wonderful family. We don't need any other excuse to call family other than to see how they are doing.

ANDREA RIGGS

MISSION VIEJO STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

It made me realize that it is the duty of the Saints in the Church to befriend, and show love to those other

members, especially to those who are less active. Sometimes all it takes is to know someone cares about you to know which church truly stems from Jesus Christ. I've realized it's important to have a charitable heart in striving to find those who might be forgetting the Spirit they once felt and the testimony that is very much still inside them, but just needs some nourishing.

BETHZARA LAULU

CERRITOS STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

Reaching out to less actives was a great opportunity to meet new faces, and help them slowly but surely return back to the fold. Some of them were not able to attend the YSA conference, but will be attending our activities later this month. My life is more blessed because it gave me the opportunity to make new friends.

BONNIE HERNANDEZ

RANCHO CUCAMONGA STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I have always been a shy person, and to be asked to reach out and visit less actives was scary at first. Once we showed up to people's homes and they welcomed us, things went great. I found myself getting to know so many new faces; I opened up more quickly to them. I found myself really wanting them to attend the conference, and not miss out on such a wonderful opportunity. I wanted to tell everyone I knew to come, even those that I did not have to. I really cared!

CAMIE SOLOMON

ROCKLIN STAKE
SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

Reaching out to less actives and using the conference as a way to fellowship them, helped our Relief Society and ward missionary efforts focus on those that we love and hadn't seen in a while. As a result of calling, visiting and fellowshipping them, we saw several of our less active ward members at the conference! It was exciting to see them make new friendships, and hear



them say they had a great time. I know this is the start of getting them to be regular participants in the ward. Reaching out to less actives helped build my testimony of Christ-like love and my desire to gather in all His sheep.

CELINDA MOLEN

HUNTINGTON BEACH STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

I never realized how much of a difference it made to reach out to others, but it is so important. Sometimes all anyone really needs to start coming back to church is to have a friend. Having even just one friend at church makes all the difference. We need to be like the Lord, and leave the 99 to seek for the one that is lost. Realizing that reaching out to even one person really does make a difference, reminds me of the scripture in Doctrine and Covenants 18:15, which says "And if it so be that you should labor all your days in crying repentance unto this people, and bring, save it be one soul unto me, how great shall be your joy with him in the kingdom of my Father!" How amazing it is to know how much the Lord loves us, and that He wants all His children to return to Him one day.

CORDELL SMITH

CHICO STAKE
SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

It really helped give me an added emphasis on not just inviting less actives, but also fellowshipping friends other people invite. I feel it echoes Jesus' example of reaching out and never giving up on a lost soul.

DANIELLE BOINAY

SANTA MONICA STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

It wasn't hard at all, and it really put into perspective that I need to put aside my own pride. I don't think I'll ever be quite as afraid of walking up to a complete stranger and inviting them to church. You can't be concerned about stepping on toes when this could be their chance to get light into their lives again.

DIANA PULOTU

FREMONT STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Reaching out to less actives helped me grow stronger spiritually. It helped me bring out the best in myself, and my ability to guide others to Christ as the missionaries do. Christ's light shined brighter within me because I shared my own light with someone whose light is dimmer; it created a sense of happiness and gratitude.

ELAINE TIMOTEO

ANAHEIM STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

It takes great faith and courage to reach out to those who need the gospel most. I am grateful for my activity in the Church, and the joy the gospel brings to my life. Knowing the blessings that come from living the gospel and having its influence in my life motivates me to reach out to those who are less active. To think of others as children of God helps me be a better servant.

EMILY THOMAS

NEWPORT BEACH STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

I enjoyed getting to fellowship a less active member, and it strengthened my testimony to see them come back to church to partake in the gospel and the joy that can only come from the Lord's Church.

ERIC M. REESE

FRESNO NORTH STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

Reaching out to less-actives really showed me how many people have lost their way from the Church; it brought a wonderful blessing to those who we were able to reach out to and invite. Even if they were not able to make it, the blessings are still with them. They know people care deeply about them.

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GARRET LAUGENOUR

SAN JOSE SOUTH STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

It was great. I am preparing for a mission, so it helped me practice and become more comfortable with spreading the gospel and interacting with people in certain situations of missionary work.

GAZELEM MUÑOZ

HUNTINGTON BEACH NORTH STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

It gave me a remembrance of my duty as a member missionary, and the opportunity to feel enthusiasm for this work again that I felt on my mission.

HEIDI THOMPSON

SACRAMENTO CORDOVA STAKE
SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

Reaching out to less actives was a meaningful experience for me that did not end at the conclusion of the conference. Inviting our fellow brothers and sisters to partake in the blessings that our Savior offers us is a sacred responsibility; I've come to realize that we truly are "no more strangers and foreigners". We are "fellow citizens with the saints and of the household of God", and we can bless the lives of many brothers and sisters through simple acts of love.

HILLARY RICHARDS

SAN LUIS OBISPO STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

I am too shy when it comes to sharing the gospel, so having a goal set for me really forced me out of my comfort zone to invite friends. Even though none were able to attend, it was good practice and not as hard as I thought it would be.

J. MICK EPPERSON

SAN DIEGO SWEETWATER STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

Going out two nights a week, for seven weeks prior to the conference, on visits with the YSA conference handout and our ward newsletter in hand, was life changing. Three less actives from one family ward were



visited two weeks prior to the conference. The Spirit really directed us to these three homes. They all said yes, but had no money; we told them not to worry. We have heard the voice, and they are being rescued.

JACCI TAHAURI
HESPERIA STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I was able to invite a friend of mine to this conference. She had been inactive from the singles ward for a few years, but she decided to come this conference and really enjoyed it. I am so grateful for the opportunity to invite friends to this conference, and reach out to those that would not have known about it.

JASON KHAU
HUNTINGTON BEACH STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

Meeting someone who was a "less active" at the conference helped me with my conversion process. I offered them a ride to church on Sunday because they didn't have one, which may be one of the reasons why they are "less active." Hearing about their conversion story and actually helping them get to church strengthens my desire to learn more about the Mormon faith.

JESSICA DUNCAN
LODI STAKE
SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

As a future missionary, it has helped me to realize that those are the ones that really need us. They are the lost sheep who need to be brought back into the fold, and it's up to us to do it.

JESSICA MEJIA
SAN DIEGO SWEETWATER STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

It helped me realize that it really isn't that hard to reach out to someone. It doesn't take a long time, and it's good for both me and the less active. It also showed me how many inactive YSAs there are out there, and all the work that can get done by just a couple of us getting together and inviting them to come to our activities.

KALUB SPENDLOVE
MONTEREY STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

It is always a joy to my heart and soul when a lost sheep is brought back to the fold. Even though it may take some time for them to come back, it's good to fellowship those you care and wish the best for.

KATHERINE SWIHART
SANTA BARBARA STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

We were able to talk to those members we hadn't talked to in a while, and make them feel more part of the process. We also invited a non-member; during her time there she spoke to the missionaries. When we got back to Santa Barbara, she wanted to know where the Church building was so she could attend on Sunday.

KELLY YU
HACIENDA HEIGHTS STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

Reaching out to less actives meant that it is not only about me. There are many people out there waiting for us to communicate and help them. I use to be a shy person, and I did not like to talk with strangers. This time, I really put myself out there with other young single adults in my ward, and delivered cookies to those YSA less actives. I was a little bit weary of knocking on people's doors at night, but when I saw smiling faces, I knew that we had done the right thing and it was worth it. I believe that if we are out there helping more people, more often, they would not look at us as strangers. I know that it is not easy to reach out to others, but I also know that the Holy Ghost is there with me to give me strength. I am not doing it by myself.

KENNETH WITHAM
BAKERSFIELD STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

I was not sure how well I was doing at reaching out to less actives until I arrived in Fresno. When I got there, I was surprised to see that many of the same people that had told me that they probably wouldn't be able to make it to the conference were there. I kept hearing how they realized that their other plans were not nearly as good as the conference, or, for one reason or another, their other plans fell through. Each time I heard these stories, I said a silent prayer, thanking the Lord for helping these people be where they should be.

KIMBERLY CREEL
LANCASTER STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

It affected my life because I am usually pretty shy. I was able to reach out to those who weren't so interested or who were less active in the Church. I became more friendly, less judgmental, and eager to get to know others.

KRISTIN LONG
SANTEE STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

I think this may have been the most important part of this conference because it caused those strong and active members to go beyond being active, to reach to those who were struggling and in need of help. I know that the efforts of all of the YSAs throughout the state to invite less active individuals were successful. For some less active people, this conference was exactly what they needed to become strong and beautiful members of this gospel.

LISA HARRIS
LIVERMORE STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

What a challenge! It was a shocking to see the lists of less active members in our stake. It never seemed like we were missing so many pieces of our ward before. It was great to work together and reach out to those we hadn't seen in a while. It was also an awesome opportunity to work together and get to know those



in our ward who are active, but who we didn't know that well. One week our ward had a combined Relief Society and priesthood meeting, where we each took a few names/addresses and went in groups to personally invite members to the conference and fireside that night. It was amazing to see what we can do when we work together; when we stop just talking and get to work.

MARY LOCKE

WOODLAND STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

It just helped me realize that with the happiness the gospel of Jesus Christ brings me, comes the responsibility to spread that happiness; scatter that sunshine! Some people have lost that sunshine somehow, and some people never found it in the first place. Leaving the conference, I desperately wanted to be a sunbeam to those around me and warm people's skin with Christ's radiant love.

MELE 'ALATINI

OAKLAND EAST (TONGAN) STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

It has reminded me of the covenant I made with my Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ in helping to build up their kingdom. The gospel has blessed my life tremendously, and it is my responsibility to share those blessings with my brothers and sisters by reaching out and helping them. Attending this conference has reminded me of how much joy I felt when I was serving a mission, and how I felt when we saw the happiness that the gospel brought to people's lives. Now after returning, I have been reminded that my work has to continue. President Hinckley said that all members needed three things: a friend, a responsibility, and to be nurtured in the good word of God. The key is enduring to the end, and we can't do it alone, we must reach out. The conference has influenced me to continue to do missionary work, and has strengthened my testimony of the gospel.

MINDY LINDSAY

HAYWARD STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Reaching out to less actives at first seemed like a daunting task because there are so many! I know that as the members of our ward pulled together and made sacrifices of our time and hesitation, we were able to contact people and help bring them closer to the light of the gospel.

MOEATA UNGA

SAN FRANCISCO EAST (TONGAN) STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

This summer, reaching out to less active members, has been such a blessing. It has been a blessing to work with others, and help them come back to church. Seeing the before and after of people coming to activities and church made me think of how we are all brothers and sisters, and that there are many more out there, both members and non-members. There is so much more work we need to do to help our other brothers and

sisters come unto Christ. Helping each other has brought many of us together, not only as a ward, but as a stake.

RACHEL ANGILAU

GRANADA HILLS STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

It was difficult, but it forced my friends and me to not fear sharing the gospel with others. It has made me confident, and helped me to keep a missionary spirit wherever I go.

RACHEL MAGNUSSON

LA CRESCENTA STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

It was a blessing for me to personally be involved in the efforts leading up to the conference. About a month into the outreach effort, I felt very discouraged. The goal of reaching out to every single less active person in our area seemed impossible. I attended a baptism that night, and a fellow ward member gave a talk about the plan of salvation and the Restoration. As I listened, the Spirit spoke to my heart. I realized that I needed to raise my sights above logistics and numbers, and see that this effort was about God's eternal plan for those who currently didn't enjoy the blessings of the gospel. I left that night renewed to roll up my sleeves and get to work. I believe that YSAs are a largely underutilized resource for good. When we are given goals to reach and direction from our inspired leaders, miracles can happen with the help of the Lord. I saw it in my own life, in my own ward, and at the conference itself.

RAMON C. RANOCO

EUREKA STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Those who are less active remind me of myself when I was in their shoes. Now I understand how much other LDS members cared about me. I look at these less active members as individuals, who may consider themselves unworthy or are struggling to maintain what is expected to be disciples of the true Church; reaching out to them reassures them that they are important beings in the Lord's eyes.

ROSIE TAKAPU

OAKLAND EAST (TONGAN) STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

The emphasis that was put on reaching out to the less actives has reminded me of the importance of this form of missionary work. I feel compelled to do something more, to act on my faith, and share my testimony more often. I want to set an example for the world to see just what this wonderful gospel is really about: modesty, humility, and most importantly, love.

ROY KINGSBURY

GRANADA HILLS STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

It has brought me back to the fold. This will truly change my life.



RUSHELL MARQUEZ

YUCCA VALLEY STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

Reaching to less actives is hard, but when you actually get to them and convince them to come, it makes you feel happy and joyful. Seeing how happy the less actives are when they know they're still remembered and not forgotten is the greatest sight to see.

SAMANTHA WOODS

CITRUS HEIGHTS STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

This summer I tried, more than I ever have before, to reach out to less active and even non-members. I did this because I wanted them to feel the love and happiness I feel when I am participating in church related activities. It's that feeling you get when you know you are where you're supposed be and doing what you should be. That is a wonderful feeling.

SARAH PATTEN

MODESTO NORTH STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

Everyone is important. By encouraging others to come, I realized that Heavenly Father wants all of His children to be a part of things.

SIA ALUSA

SAN FRANCISCO EAST (TONGAN) STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Reaching out to those less actives was an eye-opener. It has motivated me to be more hands-on with those I visit regularly. This actually is a great reminder to me to keep my promise of doing my part as a member of this Church. This is the time to sow, so that there will be plenty to harvest!

STEPHANIE LUDDEN

MISSION VIEJO STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

I was unaware of the number of less actives there are in the state of California alone. The thing that impressed me more is that most of those who are less active have testimonies, but just don't have anyone to hang on to or who reaches out to them. Just the simple act of showing them that we care and inviting them makes such a huge difference. It's comforting to know that the Lord knows and cares about each one of them, and that our part in helping them isn't always dramatic. It can be as simple as a phone call. The Lord takes care of the rest.

TIFFANY

PLACENTIA STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

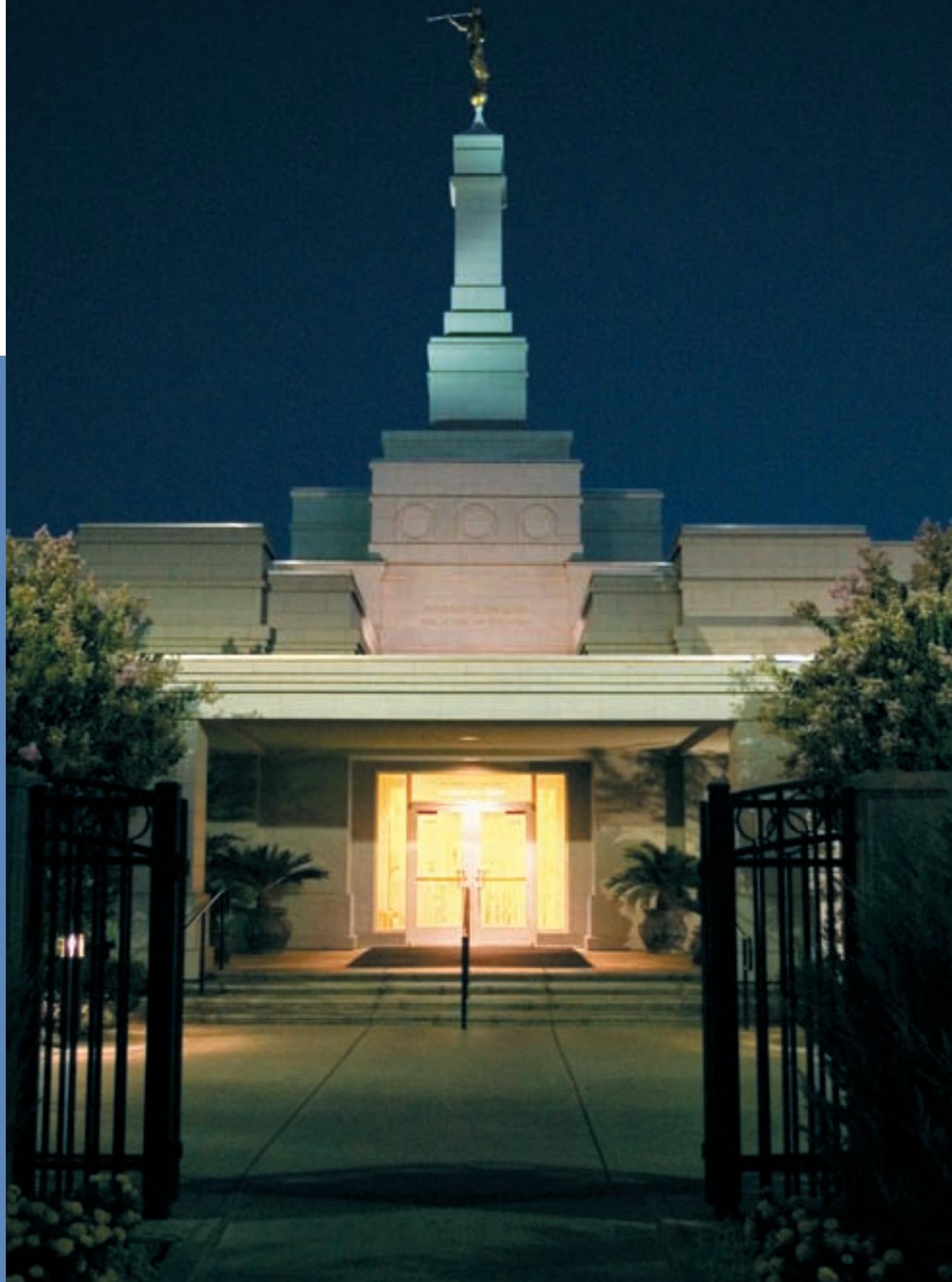
I used to be extremely shy! I never made the first move to introduce myself; because of the priesthood blessing we were all given, and my faith in the Lord and Savior, it became very easy for me to say hello to strangers and become personable. Also, I have become very aware of my testimony, and having the opportunity to share it so many times, with those who are not familiar with our Church, has been an amazing experience!











TEMPLE ORDINANCES & RECOMMENDS

ysa testimonies

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AARON STEBBING

VISTA STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

The timing of this conference was perfect for me. As I was approaching my 19th birthday and the day that I would open my call to serve a full time mission, I had been preparing to get a temple recommend to go through the San Diego Temple for the first time to receive my endowment. The pre-conference goals were announced at the kickoff fireside, which included a goal to be worthy of a temple recommend and to perform three ordinance sessions before the conference. At first I didn't think very much about it, but after getting my recommend and receiving my endowment, I really felt like I should accomplish that goal. It took me a while to make it back to the temple, but returning both times was a great blessing to me this summer. As I focused on remaining worthy to attend and perform those sacred ordinances, I found it easier to be dedicated to keeping the covenants I had made. Every time I went to the temple over the summer, I had the Spirit pour over me and make me state in awe, "my God, how great thou art!" I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that I've had to fulfill this California YSA conference goal. It has and will continue to bless my life forever, by strengthening my desire to be obedient and to live worthily.

AMANDA GILLETTE

TORRANCE STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

I have been pushed in a good way to strive to stay worthy to enter into the temple, not only for those who have passed on who haven't had the opportunity to hear the gospel as I have, but also for the salvation of my own soul.

AMANDA TARNUTZER

BAKERSFIELD EAST STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

With the focus on temple worthiness and attendance, my summer goals were lifted to greater heights. My focus

and plans changed from what I could do for myself, to what I could do for those who have gone before me. I couldn't have done anything better with my time over the summer than to grow spiritually through temple service.

AMBER BLAKE

HUNTINGTON BEACH STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

This is the one thing that has dramatically changed my life. I really wanted to push myself, so I went twice a week. What a difference it made in my day, week, and month! By going so often I was able to become more familiar with the promised blessings that we are able to have if we are obedient to the covenants that we have made. The temple makes you want to be better. The temple makes you feel at peace. The temple is a sanctuary, a fortress from all of the outside chaos. Just knowing the temple blessings makes me want to be the best person I can be. I learned at the Sunday session of the conference that, "You should go to the temple as much as it's a sacrifice." That has continued to stick with me. I have also realized that when I am going through a hard time or dealing with "difficult" people, I repeat the temple ordinances in my mind that I have memorized. It calms me down and forces me to have an eternal perspective.

ANDREA RIGGS

MISSION VIEJO STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

To be worthy of the temple is one of the greatest things I can have in my life. It's an individual matter. The temple is one of the most sacred places on earth, and my temple recommend is very important to me. It's something I can control. I know if I am worthy to attend the temple, I am doing something right in my life; I am living worthily to have the companionship of the Holy Ghost. When I attended the temple to perform baptisms, it felt wonderful to know I was in a place where the Savior himself has visited. It is truly the house of the Lord. There are many people in heaven waiting for us to perform baptisms for them. There are many glad hearts



when ordinances are being performed. I love feeling the joy and happiness that those who I perform ordinances for are feeling. What a gift the temple is. When I am there, I am home. I feel peace and a quietness that is humbling, and a silent voice of serenity. It is the Lord's heaven on earth. I hope I am always worthy to attend the temple, for it gives me determination to follow in the path of our Savior and become a true disciple of Christ.

ANDREW CARSON

SAN DIEGO STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

I was able to go to the temple and receive my endowment a few weeks before the conference. It is a blessing to know that by being worthy to have a temple recommend, I am able to enter the Lord's house and be as close to Him as possible while here on earth.

ANDREW STRATFORD

LOS ANGELES STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

The temple is a place I can go when I need to feel closer to my Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ. By having the specific goal to attend the temple at least three times before the conference, I have been rededicated to worshiping at the temple more often, and my relationship with Heavenly Father and the Savior has been strengthened. Also, I could really feel the positive effect it had on us as a ward, since it brought us together often, and we had so many great discussions at church about how the temple benefits our lives. My appreciation for temple worship has increased profoundly because of this conference.

ARIANE BAIR

SACRAMENTO CORDOVA STAKE
SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

With the blessing of a temple so close to many YSAs in the Sacramento area, the renewed dedication of performing temple ordinances was one of the greatest results of this conference. We were blessed to have our temple president decide to open the baptistry Tuesday-Friday for the YSAs to perform ordinances from 8:15-9:15pm. Our temple president, spoke to the YSAs in a fireside a few weeks before the conference. He explained how grateful he was for the outpouring of work the YSAs were doing. For the first time in many YSA lives, regular weekly temple attendance became a reality. Endowed YSAs rededicated themselves to attending the temple weekly. Lives were blessed as the work was done for thousands of people beyond the veil. For many YSAs, their lives were blessed with an increase of the Spirit and power that only temple attendance can give. As the latest temple ordinance statistics were given at the conference, a gasp went through the chapel as the YSAs saw and felt the realization of a goal successfully accomplished. We will never forget our role in completing such an amazing goal.

ASHLEY BURNETT

PLACENTIA STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

The focus on being temple worthy this summer

really strengthened my testimony. Being able to walk in to the temple doors and feel the sweet spirit, brings about peace. My love for the Savior grows stronger each time I attend the temple.

ASHLEY TUFT

SANTA ROSA STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Our ward was really happy to have been assigned two temple times this year instead of only one, especially because one of these dates was during the twelve weeks leading up to the conference. Most of our ward went to the temple that evening and did the work they could, whether it meant being proxies or performing the ordinances. We were able to get almost 850 ordinances done that night with the help of some other YSAs from our area that had come. We were also excited when the Sunday before the conference our bishop announced that he had been able to arrange another ward temple trip for the next Wednesday. Although we only had three days notice, I was impressed how many people were able to make it. I am not sure how many ordinances were done that evening, but I could see the impact that those two ward temple trips had on us. We gained a sense of camaraderie and increased selflessness through those two evenings of service. I personally know of several that renewed their recommends particularly for these trips. Also many, including myself, did not know that the temple has a particular time set apart for YSAs to do baptisms and confirmations. The conference goal of temple attendance really helped disseminate this information, and made many realize that even if they didn't have their endowments they could still enjoy the blessings of the temple.

BETHZARA LAULU

CERRITOS STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

It has truly blessed me to be more humble, kind, and understanding toward others. I turn into another person when I'm in the temple, and as soon as I exit, I try my best to still be in that mode. The temple just gives you this indescribable feeling of peace and comfort. I feel closer to my Heavenly Father and Savior, Jesus Christ. My life is made easier, less stressful, and I feel happier after attending the temple.

BONNIE HERNANDEZ

RANCHO CUCAMONGA STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I have been truly blessed with the challenge placed upon us to attend the temple as much as possible. The serenity that the temple brings to my life is unbelievable. I found myself having more and more revelations on my personal questions. I found myself taking home with me the peace that the temple brings. I found myself being more forgiving, and more helpful to those around me. The love that our Heavenly Father gives to all His children is amazing.



BROOKE CROSLAND

MENLO PARK STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I made a goal when I was 19 that I'd go to the temple every month. Doing that has changed my life, and my love of the temple has grown exponentially over the last 4 years. What was cool about the conference was that it helped me focus on getting others to the temple as well. My desire to prepare myself to make more covenants in the temple has grown as I've listened to others talk about their love for the temple and their preparations.

BRYCE ROWLAND

ROCKLIN STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

The emphasis on temple worthiness and attendance has helped remind me of the covenants that I have made with the Lord, and reconsider what I can do to achieve a stronger worthiness and higher attendance in my life.

CELINDA MOLEN

HUNTINGTON BEACH STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

This affected me so much. It helped strengthen my testimony of the importance of going to the temple, and how the temple can be a refuge from the storms of life. The spirit I felt while in the temple helped me gain a greater understanding of who I really am, and that I am loved by my Heavenly Father and Savior. It reminded me how much I love my Heavenly Father and my Savior, Jesus Christ.

CHRISTINA HOGEWONING

SAN DIEGO EAST STAKE

SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

I have always had the desire and felt the need to attend the temple and be worthy, but I realized that it's not just about getting me to the temple. It's about getting everyone to enter the house of the Lord to receive the great blessings that the Lord wants to give them.

CONTRERAS

COVINA (SPANISH) STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

I have learned how important temple attendance is. Due to the challenge that was set of 10,000 ordinances, I was invited to attend the temple to do baptisms and confirmations; this was the first time I had gone to the temple since I was in the Young Women organization. It was an amazing experience seeing the number of YSAs in the priesthood room, all dressed in white ready to do this service for our past generations. The Spirit was so strong, it definitely strengthened my testimony; now I can't wait to go back. I look forward to keeping my personal goal of attending the temple at least once a month.

CRAIG FOSTER

NAPA STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

It made me realize that together we can accomplish many different and important things. Only when we are worthy do we fully enjoy the benefits and blessings available to us as young Latter-Day Saints.

DAVID KLAPECK

CITRUS HEIGHTS STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

I renewed my goal to become temple worthy and I accomplished it. I entered the temple of God for the first time. I will never forget the peace and honor I felt.

DEREK GLENN LARSON

REDLANDS STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

It has reinvigorated my goal of going to the temple at least once a week. I have now started to go once a week and I love it! I feel more peace and clarity in my life as I go to the temple regularly.

DIANA PULOTU

FREMONT STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Temple worthiness and attendance has affected my life greatly. I feel the Spirit in the highest and deepest places. Being in the house of the Lord makes me feel peaceful and harmonious; it is a perfect place to get away from the world and all its problems.

ELAINE TIMOTEO

ANAHEIM STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

The emphasis on temple worthiness and attendance reminds me of my ultimate goal to achieve exaltation. The lessons and messages taught at the conference have motivated me to prepare to go to the temple to receive the ordinances and blessings that await me. My testimony of the temple has been strengthened. The temple has always been my favorite place, and its importance in my life will always be a priority. In the temple is where I feel closest to my Heavenly Father; it is the only place I feel the greatest peace in my life.

EMILY STINNETT

BAKERSFIELD SOUTH STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

I've always loved the temple, but I just wasn't able to attend this summer until June 28th. While I was there the Spirit whispered to me to go three more times before the conference. I made the promise that I would. I asked my parents, but they said no because I needed a new transmission costing \$2000. I could drive it around town, just not out of town; meaning going to the temple was out of the question. I cried all by myself in my bedroom, I felt helpless, but I knew that if it was what the Lord wanted me to do, He would provide a way. I was told by the Spirit to go back to my parents and ask them to pray about it. I've never gotten an answer like that before, so I decided to follow it. I went back to my parents and asked them to pray, and after a few moments my mom offered her car and she also offered to pay for gas. I've always felt the peace that the temple offered, but I've never witnessed the power. Those sacred trips to the temple provided strength that I never knew I could feel. Each time I went to the temple I felt an amazing peace and comfort. I noticed every time I attended the temple, I had a wonderful experience, but the next week







would be trial after trial, then I would be blessed. When the third time to go came, I came down with terrible food poisoning; I've never felt that sick before. The next Thursday I had to go out of town, and the very last Thursday again I could not go. I sat there at the counter and cried to my mom, "How can I keep my promise if every time I want to go something gets in the way?" She answered, "Don't you think Heavenly Father knows the intent of your heart? He knows you want to go." He knew my yearning to obey Him, but He understood that I just could not attend. I told Heavenly Father that I would go for the third time to the temple the week right after the conference. I completed that promise when opportunity came up for me to attend. Powerful experiences occurred, and my life has changed dramatically. Before I was just obedient, now I strive. The temple has become my real strength, and I've never felt so close to my Savior and my Heavenly Father. I've made a new goal; I plan on doing 580 temple ordinances before the end of the year 2010. I cannot express my gratitude and awe of the temple's power. It gave me strength that I did not have before.

EMILY THOMAS

NEWPORT BEACH STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

As an endowed member who tries to visit frequently, it was fun getting to go with friends and focusing our attention to help those who cannot help themselves to progress. I love the feeling of progressing towards my goals, and I love that I get to help people on the other side progress. Going to the temple keeps me strong and less likely to give in to temptation. I find the words of the endowment going through my mind all the time through weekly attendance; I love that more than anything. I loved meeting other young adults focused on their spirituality at the temple, and the unity created through service in the Lord's house.

ERIC BILLINGS

SANTA MARGARITA STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

One of the highlights of the conference was to see a Bishop help a young single adult sister, who had never been to the temple, receive her recommend, and then see her in the temple baptism session with the Bishop's counselor to perform ordinances. The young sister and those who participated were all touched by the Spirit. Another was when a young single adult in the Saddleback YSA ward worked in the temple preparation class to find the necessary paper work to be able to perform baptisms and confirmations for her family members in the temple. The spirit of love was strong as this sister performed the ordinances in the temple for her female family members, and the brethren, for her male family members.

GAZELEM MUÑOZ

HUNTINGTON BEACH NORTH STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I felt the desire to change and be better each time I left the temple. Furthermore, I desire to keep going more often, not only because of the importance to meet my temple goal, but I felt the importance of fellowshiping with friends and those from the other side.

GERALDO ALTAMIRANO

HUNTINGTON PARK WEST (SPANISH) STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

It taught me the importance of going to the temple as much as possible. As a youth, I never knew how important it was to go to the temple to do baptisms for the dead, but it taught me the blessings and happiness temple attendance will bring to those who I am baptized for, for my family, and for me.

GISSELLE MENDOZA

TURLOCK STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

I was extremely enlightened that it is so important to attend the temple at a minimum of once per month. I was filled with joy to think that the house of the Lord is where you could be closest to Him.

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HEIDI THOMPSON

SACRAMENTO CORDOVA STAKE

SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

Focusing on temple worthiness and regular, frequent temple attendance has helped me appreciate and understand my role and responsibility in Heavenly Father's plan of salvation. It has helped me to personally take part in His work and glory, and learn of the Savior as I perform sacred ordinances for those that cannot do it for themselves. Coming to the temple has helped me come closer to the Lord and to Heavenly Father.

J. MICK EPPERSON

SAN DIEGO SWEETWATER STAKE

SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

As a member of the Bishopric of the Sweetwater Stake Heliz YSA Ward, it has been phenomenal. First of all, when we asked for three people to go work at the San Diego Temple grounds, we had eight YSAs go. When we went for ward baptisms we had 15 YSA men and women. We have had six new temple recommend holders and two renew. My life is on a high as I see these kids serve in the temple. It is a pleasure to perform service at the veil and have the young men come through. We now have more recommend holders for callings that require this.

JACCI TAHAURI

HESPERIA STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

This opportunity to focus on attending the temple, and being worthy to do so, has really helped me grow spiritually. I have been able to grow a stronger relationship with my Heavenly Father through reading my scriptures and saying my prayers, which have helped me, be more in tune with the Spirit. I have found that I am a better person when I am focusing on living a temple worthy life. My testimony has grown tremendously, along with my gratitude for my Heavenly Father and all He has done for me. I know He is my loving Heavenly Father. I love my Savior, Jesus Christ, and I know He is there for me and He atoned for my sins that I might return to live with Him again. This focus on the temple has given me a greater understanding of the love my Elder Brother has



for me. I love my Savior, and I know that He and my Heavenly Father love me and want me to succeed.

JANNA MCFERSON

PLACENTIA STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

My testimony of temple attendance and service has been strengthened tremendously over these past few months. With this conference in mind, I strived to attend the temple more than just my usual monthly goal. There was a notable difference in my relationships with family and friends, my outlook on life, making decisions, and being more in tune with the Spirit. By making more time for the temple, I found more time and energy to dedicate to my other responsibilities (3 Nephi 13:33). Having grown up in Orange County, the Los Angeles Temple is where most of my family has completed their living ordinances. I didn't think I could ever adopt another temple as my own, but now I have an even closer connection to the Newport Beach Temple. It was announced and constructed during my YSA years. During the summer of 2005, my YSA ward got to tour the inside of the temple while it was still under construction. While walking the halls on tarps, passing by scaffolding, and seeing the unfinished inside, I knew it was to be a house of the Lord. I know the work performed within the temple walls is eternal. I know the temple plays a significant role in Heavenly Father's plan to have His children return to Him. Not only can we serve those who have already passed on, but we can also find strength and peace there for our own lives.

JILLIAN STAFFORD

CORONA STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I never realized how much of an effect going to the temple had on my life as a whole. Ever since March of this year, I have been going to the Redlands temple with my ward once a month to perform baptisms for the dead. When I go to the temple, I always feel the Spirit so strong, and I feel rewarded to be worthy enough to be baptized on behalf of somebody who is no longer able to do it for themselves. It's truly a blessing to be temple worthy and to live so close to the temple.

JONATHAN MANN

NEWBURY PARK STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

Temple worthiness is more important than one may realize. To be able to be temple worthy is one of the greatest blessings one can ever have; attending the temple is an incredible blessing as well. Whenever you attend the temple, the Spirit is there, and you are filled with joy, especially when you go with someone you love. The temple brings us closer to our ancestors and to each other in a way that nothing else can. I love the temple. Go as often as possible, it is a great blessing in this life.

JOVANA LEDESMA

ONTARIO STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

It has given me a better understanding of why I need to be prepared and always find myself worthy to enter the

Lord's house. A general authority once said that to be truly converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ, we must be more than just card carrying members. We must live the gospel and keep true to the covenants we made with Heavenly Father. The YSA conference was a blessing in my life, reminding me that I'm not alone. I am no longer a stranger, rather a fellow daughter of God.

JOYCE VAZQUEZ

MERCED STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

The emphasis on being a more temple attending people gave me the strength to prepare to go through the temple for the first time as I prepare to serve a mission soon. My study, knowledge, love, and testimony have been fortified through the goals of this amazing YSA conference and the experience of it all!

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JUDY HERNANDEZ

FRESNO STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

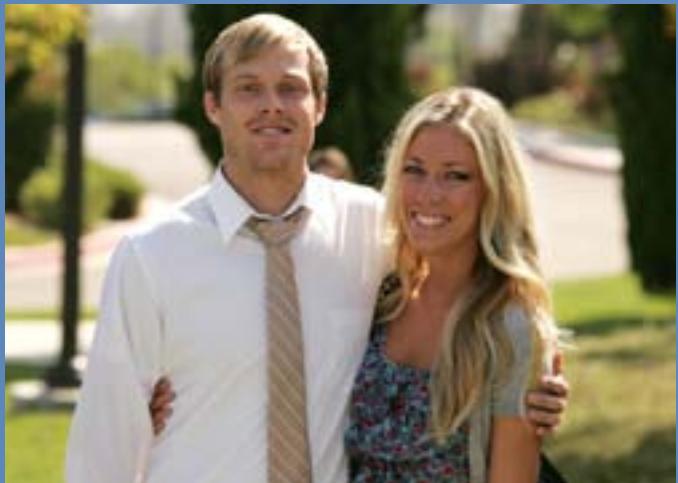
The emphasis of temple worthiness has affected my life tremendously! I have been a member of the Church for five years. In the past five years, I have gone inactive and came back to church a few times, and have never had a temple recommend. I came back to the Church (again) at the beginning of this year and have made major changes in my life. This conference, and the emphasis on always being temple worthy, has inspired me to continue on the path of repentance so that I too may go to the temple someday. I am the only member of the Church in my family. It is my responsibility (and great privilege) to do the work for my ancestors. I know they are waiting for someone to do their work, and it would be a great honor to do it myself. I know, as I know the sun will rise every morning, that this is the only true Church of Jesus Christ on the earth today. I know that the temple is the house of the Lord, and that great blessings come to those who are temple worthy and visit the temple regularly. I cannot wait for the day when I am able to go to the temple and do the work for my ancestors.

KELLENE COOK

ANAHEIM STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

When I was first asked to be a YSA representative for the conference, I did not know where to start; I turned to the Lord for help. As I started to ask others to help visit less actives, I was able to feel the spirit and love of missionary work. I continued to turn to the Lord so that I would be able to direct the right people to visit certain less actives, in order for connections to be made. One night we made the family home evening activity to contact those members on our list. Another member of my stake and I went to visit a less active, and parked the car right in front of an active family's home. After visiting the less active's home and not having much success, we decided to go and visit the active family's home who has a YSA son who attends the family ward. The son was not home, but we were able to visit with the parents and give them a flier for the conference. The next day I got an email from the father. He was grateful that we went







to visit his son, and wished that his son could have been there. The father also said that he hoped his son would go to the conference, and do more things with other YSAs.

Our temple was going to be closed the week before the conference, so they allowed YSAs to do baptisms Tuesday through Friday nights at 8pm. The first night we had the assignment to go for baptisms, we did not know if we would have enough priesthood holders to fulfill the assignment. I come from a small branch and it can be difficult to have enough priesthood holders there; that night we had more than enough. One of the members of my branch also had family names who needed temple work done on their behalf. He was able to do most of the baptisms himself, but he needed a sister to be baptized for his grandmother. I was lucky enough to be able to be baptized for his grandmother, and help my friend start the temple work for her.

During the sacrament meeting on the Sunday of the conference, I was able to start reflecting on the entire conference experience. It was pointed out to us that the entire conference was focused on the temple: being temple worthy and going to the temple. Then it was pointed out that our conference location was directly across from and facing the Newport Beach Temple. During every workshop and sacrament meeting we were facing the temple.

I am grateful for the opportunity to be a representative for the conference. It has helped me grow and feel the Spirit. I know that this conference is what the Lord wanted for the YSAs of California at this time.

KELLY SPENCER

SIMI VALLEY STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

The temple has become an amazingly peaceful refuge from the dreariness of the world. When the world gets tough, I just need to think of my experiences in the temple every week, and remember that God lives and I find peace in my life.

KELLY YU

HACIENDA HEIGHTS STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

As a new convert member in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, it was my first time to go to the temple and be baptized for the dead. It was an unforgettable experience for me. When I entered into the building, I saw everyone wearing white clothing. They all looked like angels to me. It was so quiet inside, and I started feeling peace in my mind. I felt like I was in heaven at that moment. I was so exciting that I had such a great chance to be inside of this holy building. I knew how close I was with our Heavenly Father. It was such a joyful moment to be with so many young single adults together. Walking outside, I could clearly see the temple's beauty and power. It really helps me find the peace, safety, and direction in my life. I wish one day I will get married in the temple and have children, and I that I will be able to always have the beauty and peace of the temple in my life. I knew my life was no longer the same the moment that I decided to step into the Lord's house. "And now, may the peace of God rest upon

you, and upon your houses and lands, and upon your flocks and herds, and all that you possess, your women and your children, according to your faith and good works, from this time forth and forever." (Alma 7:27)

KENNETH WITHAM

BAKERSFIELD STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

Sitting in the chapel during the Sunday evening kickoff fireside in May, I immediately felt drawn to this goal. I knew that I could and would complete the other, but I felt that the three temple sessions was where I would draw my strength to complete the rest of the goals. Six days later, on the following Saturday, a couple of friends and I made sure to go the Los Angeles Temple to do an endowment session. The next day, I was asked to be my stake's YSA Representative. I felt that with this calling, I should do my best to go on every temple trip that my stake scheduled, so, I did just that. I also added a couple more trips of my own. These regular trips to the temple for baptisms and endowments, especially the ones with my stake, strengthened my camaraderie with the other members of my stake. Some of my favorite memories of the whole conference actually stem from the experiences while making the effort to go to the Friday evening endowment sessions at the Los Angeles Temple. It was wonderful to travel nearly two hours from Bakersfield to Los Angeles to find that almost a hundred other endowed young single adults would rather be at the temple than anywhere else on a Friday night. All these experiences have served to strengthen my testimony of the temple even more.

KIRSTEN PEDERSEN

SARATOGA STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I have put more time into going to the temple which has caused my whole life to become more centered on Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father. I am able to focus on what they want for me instead of just what I want for myself.

KRISTIN LONG

SANTEE STAKE

SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

I've loved being able to go, to do family work, and just feel the peace that comes with being in the Lord's house. Focusing on temple worthiness has also changed me as an individual; I have set new goals for myself of who I am and what I want to become. Through attending the temple, I will meet those goals, which is beautiful.

LAUREN COLLIER

NEWPORT BEACH STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

Before the YSA conference, I was attending the temple regularly. However, the emphasis on bringing family file names to the temple changed the way I worshiped there. During the months that led up to the conference, I had the opportunity to do many different ordinances for many different members of my extended family. It was a great experience to take the names of those related to me and do their work.



LISA WILKERSON

SIMI VALLEY STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

I have grown closer to my Heavenly Father than ever before by attending the temple more often. The temple has truly been a blessing in my life, and I have seen it bless others' lives as well. The late endowment sessions allowed me to meet other YSAs and share a wonderful temple experience alongside them. There was truly a special spirit there. When I helped out in the baptistry on Thursday nights and saw the explosion of attendees, it was amazing. Seeing so many people focus on the temple was one of the best experiences of my life. I love the temple and have seen others come to love it as well. The temple is truly the house of the Lord. It is my hope and prayer that people continue to strive to attend the temple as often as they are able. We need to stay strong in these latter-days.

MEGAN MCGRATH

ROCKLIN STAKE

SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

This summer I made an effort to take my own family names to the temple and do their work. I found my fourth great-grandparents, and have been able to find out a lot about their lives. I was able to take their names and be there for their baptisms. My best friend was able to finish the rest of the temple work for them. It was such an amazing feeling knowing that now, if they accept the work that has been done for them, they are a part of my family forever. We really do become saviors on Mount Zion when we spend a little of our time and effort at the temple. Every time I go, I know that there is not anything better I could do with my time. I gained such a stronger testimony of temple work and that the people we are doing the work for are real. The gospel is real. The atonement of Christ is real.

MELISSA COBABE

CITRUS HEIGHTS STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

Being around the temple and hearing lessons about being worthy, has really made an impact on me. I know that the temple is where I need to be, and I need be striving to be worthy to go inside. It brings such peace and comfort, and I know I will be blessed by going to the temple often. What a blessing temples are, and what a blessing to have them close to us.

MELISSA FRANSEN

LANCASTER EAST STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

This summer has really been an eye-opener to me about the importance of being temple worthy, and the importance of going to the temple to perform baptisms. One of the speakers in the area I attended expressed the importance of not only being a receiver of the atonement, but also a provider. I can be a provider of Christ's atonement by keeping myself temple worthy, and giving those who have passed on the opportunity to receive the gospel and its blessings.

MELODY FAIRCHILD

SARATOGA STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

With the three general conference talks on temples and the YSA conference emphasis on temples, I really started thinking seriously about receiving my endowment. While I had considered it before, I found that this summer was the right time. I think that the significant emphasis on temples has helped a lot of people see how temples aren't just a nice aspect of our religion, but they are essential to our salvation.

MINDY LINDSAY

HAYWARD STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I set the goal this summer to go to the temple once a week and have been diligent in actually attending. It has helped me focus more on who I want to be, and where I want to be in life. I love serving there, and I can't wait to receive my endowment to make more sacred covenants with the Lord!

NANCY MERIDA GUZMAN

PALOS VERDES STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

Que es una bendicion poder servir y realizar la obra en el templo por nuestros antepasados.

RACHAEL THOMPSON

LANCASTER STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

It has really reaffirmed my faith in being a woman of virtue. I want the blessing of the temple, not only in a temple marriage, but for my ancestors and members of my family that have yet to claim the gospel for themselves. It was an eye-opener and made me realize the little things I do that drive me away from the Spirit. Not only do I feel closer to my Lord, I want to be closer to Him in His holy temple.

RACHEL ANGILAU

GRANADA HILLS STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

It has made my testimony grow so much. I learned in depth the things I thought I already knew growing up about this true gospel. It has affected my decisions in many great ways that will affect my future. I have grown spiritually and feel great joy.

ROSIE TAKAPU

OAKLAND EAST (TONGAN) STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Emphasis on temple worthiness and attendance this summer has strengthened my desire to serve the Lord to the fullest of my abilities. I look forward to the day that I will enter His holy house and make my temple covenants. The emphasis has also made me want to stay worthy of the temple, and receive those wonderful blessings that come from obedience.



SAMANTHA WOODS

CITRUS HEIGHTS STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

Before this summer, I never realized how important it is to be temple worthy. Not only does it allow you to do the Lord's work, but it helps you to be the kind of person you should be. When you find that person you are meant to be with for all eternity, you will be prepared to be sealed. I believe that those who are able, willing, and more importantly, wanting to go to the temple, are closer to their Heavenly Father.

SARAH ELLIOTT

LANCASTER EAST STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

This summer has truly been a growing experience for me. In making the decision whether I should move to California for the summer or not, the Lord revealed to me that there were specific reasons I needed to be here. I have since learned that the YSA conference was one of them. In learning of the YSA conference and the goals that were proposed, my soon to be fiancée, Jeff, and I made a goal to attend the temple as frequently as possible. It has been an uplifting and unique experience for us. When we first started attending the temple, the numbers were few and we fit into the small chapel in the baptistry. As the weeks progressed, so did the numbers. We were soon moved into the priesthood room, which was often filled to capacity. The Spirit was strong and so were our testimonies. We organized many temple trips with the local YSAs and bonded together in van rides singing at the top of our lungs. It created unity and friendship.

Attending the temple together as a couple, we have found that the love we share has grown increasingly stronger. We came closer to our Heavenly Father and to each other, continuing to develop the three-way triangle that must exist in all relationships. In one of the chapel sessions a temple worker stated that "a person is never more attractive than when they are dressed in white and in the temple." I know for a fact that this is true. There is never a time that you can be truly closer to a person than when you are in the temple with them. You can see deeper into their soul and feel more strongly the love they have for you; it develops an even closer bond between the two of you. You begin to know more and more the pure love that Heavenly Father has for us. I am so grateful for the many opportunities we had to attend the temple this summer, and for the blessings that it has brought to my life.

SHANNON SIMMONS

SACRAMENTO EAST STAKE

SACRAMENTO CONFERENCE

I have always had a firm testimony of the temple and the power within its walls. This testimony was deepened as I worked, and helped others work, towards achieving the statewide goal. My heart got so excited each time our goal was increased, and my joy was great as I heard on Sunday that we, as a collective statewide group, again exceeded the goal by twenty thousand. What a force for good! What joy our ancestors must have had as we did such a large amount of saving work for them.

On a personal note, about 2 months ago I was encouraged by my bishop to attend the temple once a week. As I have attended the temple each week, I have seen great changes and great strength added to my life. I have felt the Spirit strongly and received answers more clearly. When faced with a huge decision in the recent weeks, I took that question to the temple. As I pondered and prayed, I received a distinct, undeniable answer. I know that through the power of the temple, I was able to receive that gift. I feel so blessed to have temples on the earth and such immediate access. The promises of the Lord are real, and he demonstrates His great love for us through temple ordinances. As I have increased my temple attendance, I see and feel that abundant love and power.

STEPHANIE LUDDEN

MISSION VIEJO STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

I renewed the love I have for the temple. Being within its walls, I was reminded of the difference temple attendance makes in my daily life, and how the covenants I've made there are manifest everyday. Now I have a goal to go to the temple at least once a week, so that I can have that constant spiritual re-boot and refuge from the world.

TIFFANY

PLACENTIA STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

I have been constantly thinking about how I am living my life, and if it is in accordance with my Savior. My perspective on things has gone from short term to eternal. I have more love for others, and my testimony has grown so much! I realized the importance of temple work, and how lucky and grateful I am to have the knowledge of the plan of salvation. I feel like a totally different person, a better different person! Because of my worthiness, I know that I am blessed and will continually be blessed.

ANONYMOUS

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

I plan to go to the temple frequently "enough for it to be a sacrifice." Hearing about the works of the temple and walking the grounds, has provided inspiration for me to become a better person so I would be able to enter these holy places someday soon.

ANONYMOUS

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

Focusing on being temple worthy this summer has helped me concentrate more on becoming a person worthy of entering the temple. I haven't been able to attend the temple recently; not being able to aid in the effort, to achieve the temple ordinance goals set by the area Seventy of California, made me realize that I need to better myself in order to fulfill God's commandments of performing ordinances.

ANONYMOUS

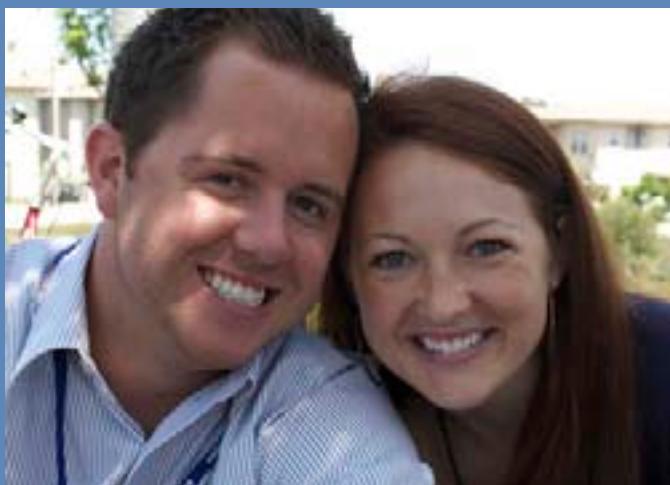
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

I haven't been to the temple in 5 years. After attending the conference, I want to do all I can to return to the temple.









final accomplishments

ORDINANCES PERFORMED

JUNE 27	10,818
JULY 6	23,873
JULY 13	32,155
JULY 23	40,583
JULY 28	41,407
AUG 3	54,311
AUG 5	55,739
AUG 6	57,685
AUG 8 (MORNING)	69,614
FINAL TEMPLE ORDINANCES.....	78,002

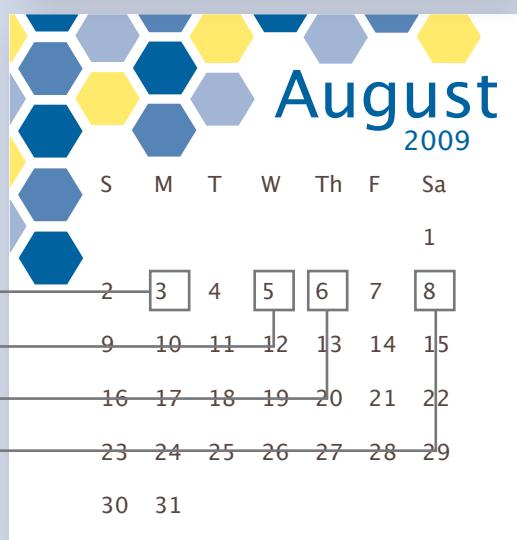
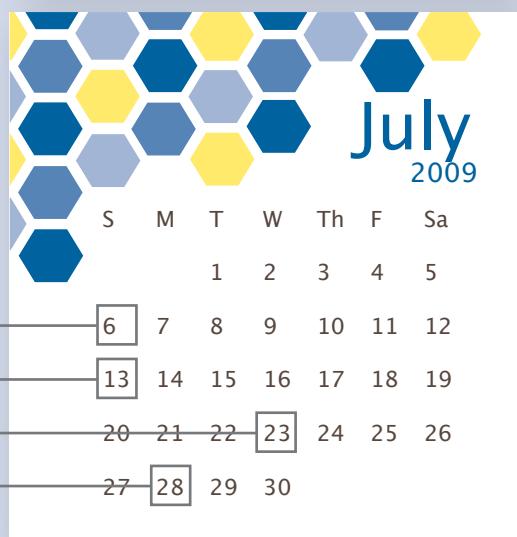
REACH & RESCUE

JUNE 27	233
JULY 6	1,053
JULY 13	1,750
JULY 23	2,971
JULY 28	3,057
AUG 3	4,632
AUG 5	4,668
AUG 6	4,675
AUG 8 (MORNING)	6,306
FINAL LESS ACTIVE VISITS.....	7,850

TEMPLE RECOMMENDS

- 588 YSAs renewed their temple recommends
- 204 Temple recommends were reissued
- 324 YSAs received first-time recommends





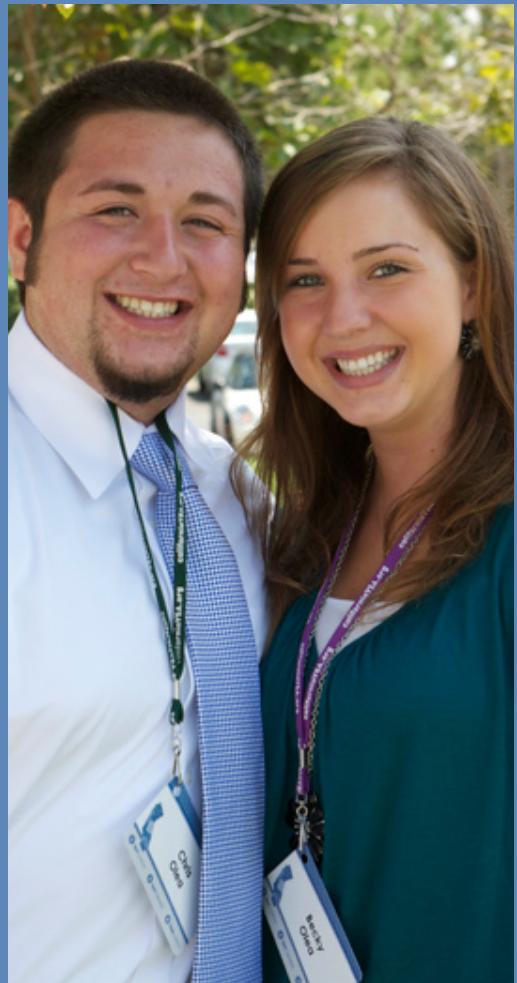




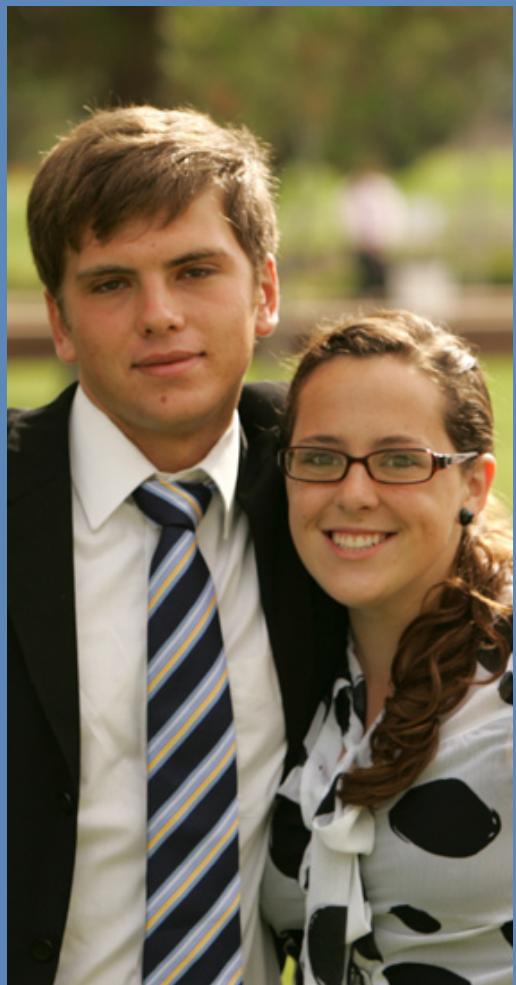












area seventy blogs

DEAR YOUNG SINGLE ADULTS OF CALIFORNIA ELDER NELSON D. CORDOVA, AREA SEVENTY THURSDAY, 25 JUNE 2009

Dear Young Single Adults of California, what a privilege it is to have the opportunity to interact with all of you through this blog. I am Elder Nelson D. Cordova, baptized in El Salvador, Central America, in 1978 when I was 20 years old. Since my early days in the Gospel, I have received many blessings from the Lord and have learned to trust and depend on him. As a new YSA in the Church, I remember always being told that "eternal couples resemble each other." I took this in a literal sense, finding it funny considering I was six feet two inches tall, and most of the women in El Salvador are very short. Pondering about this, I stumbled upon the following scripture:

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. (Gen.2:24)

Was I going to be able to follow this commandment and teaching of the Lord? These words said to Helaman inspired me to be diligent and have faith:

Therefore I command you, my son Helaman, that ye be diligent in fulfilling all my words, and that ye be diligent in keeping the commandments of God as they are written. (Alma 37:20)

My search took me to this lovely young sister, and I started to see if we resembled each other in any way. The more I looked, the more disappointed I became. She was short (5ft) I was (6.2ft), she had straight hair, mine was curly, she was studying Business Administration, I was studying Engineering, she was quite, I was... well we were both good looking, that was the only thing that we did have in common.

I needed the spirit of the Lord to help me and guide me on how to proceed. I know the Spirit of the Lord comes

as a "still small voice." (1 Kings 19:11-12) It comes as a burning in the bosom. (D&C 9:8). It comes as a feeling. (D&C 9:8). It comes as peace to our minds. (D&C 6:23). It comes as a "small voice" that pierces us "to the center." (3 Nephi 11:3) It comes as a feeling that will "swell within {our} breasts." (Alma 32:28)

We need to be in the right place with the right heart to feel these whisperings of the Spirit. The Spirit can speak to us in any environment... but we extend an invitation to the Spirit if we create the right environment. If we make our dating times sacred... they become the right environment. As I created such an environment, I was able to listen and understand the direction I needed to go. That young lady is now my wife and we will be celebrating our 25th Anniversary this November.

...cry unto God for all thy support; yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest let it be in the Lord; yea, let all thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord forever.

Counsel with the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good; yea, when thou liest down at night lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou risest in the morning let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.
(Alma 37:36-37)

My YSA friends, be faithful and be strong. The Lord trusts you and so do I.

I look forward to meeting with you this summer, please register as soon as possible, can't wait to spending the weekend of August with you and seeing you at the Temple.

TODAY IS A VERY SPECIAL DAY

ELDER LARRY R. LAWRENCE, AREA SEVENTY

WEDNESDAY, 01 JULY 2009

This post goes online July 1st and that is a very important day to the Young Single Adults of California. During the Kick-off Firesides for the Statewide Young Single Adult Conferences held in May, YSA's throughout the state were urged to register for the statewide conferences by July 1st. The reason for this early registration date was to give both statewide and local organizing committees an indication of how many would be attending in each given location. The pre-planning and logistical tasks involved in a conference of this size are monumental. Assuring adequate building spaces, workshop locations and speakers, housing arrangements for those traveling to the conference, and food provisions are just the tip of the iceberg. The committees need an accurate count as soon as possible.

We were warned that early commitment and setting of personal plans and schedules by the YSA's in California went against human nature, Latter-day Saint tradition, and the personal style of most young single adults. We moved forward with our July 1st goal with faith and hope that for this special occasion this could be overcome. Please decide today to be a part of this unprecedented event, register online on this very web site, and pay your registration fee through your ward or branch. I promise

this will be an important and defining event in your life. This conference will provide valuable and very personal insight for each of you. It will help expand your network of YSA contacts and friends. It will make you feel an integral part of the great body of Latter-day Saint YSA's in this state. It will allow you to reach out and lift others. It will help strengthen and fortify your personal testimony.

I would just like to take a moment to thank so many who are working feverishly on this conference. Myriads of Young Single Adults have become part of statewide committees, Local Steering and Hosting committees, and ward/branch/stake committees to pursue the reactivation and temple goals that have been set. There is still time for all who wish to register to sign up for the conference. No one will be turned away. But, the sooner an accurate count can be obtained, the sooner the committees can fine tune their plans to assure a successful event. Please become an ambassador for this conference. Invite your friends and encourage them to register soon. I look forward to being at the Oakland Conference on August 8th and 9th, and participating with the great YSA's of that area. Each Area Seventy is excited about their areas and role. See you in August!

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AREA SEVENTY TRAINING

ELDER DONALD P. TENNEY, AREA SEVENTY

TUESDAY, 23 JUNE 2009

Each year in April at General Authority and Area Seventy Training the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve train the Seventy. This is done on the two days before General Conference.

You can imagine the powerful Spirit, and the vision and the inspiration of such a setting, hours and hours sitting at the feet of Prophets, Seers and Revelators, as they teach and give direction. It is very similar to what is recorded in the Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 15: 15-17, when Nephi records,

And when he (Jesus) had said these words, he himself also knelt upon the earth; and behold he prayed unto the Father, and the things which he prayed cannot be written, and the multitude did bear record who heard him, and after this manner do they bear record: The eye hath never seen, neither hath the ear heard, before, so great and marvelous things as we saw and heard Jesus speak unto the Father; And no tongue can speak, neither can there be written by any man, neither can the hearts of men conceive so great and marvelous things as we both saw and heard Jesus speak; and no one can conceive of the joy which filled our souls at the time we heard him pray for us unto the Father.

The Seventy come away from such training feeling much the same way. These are incredible men, the greatest, most inspired, most intelligent, most humble men on earth. It is occasionally commented by some (regarding the First Presidency and Twelve), "They are old men, they have no idea what is going on." To this, one of the Brethren, wisely said, "We not only know what is going on, we know what is coming."

In this training much time is spent with the Seventy instructing them about the power, influence, talent and responsibility of the "rising generation." They speak of our Young Single Adults, and what they see in their future as they continue to serve missions, return to the universities, to their chosen trades or professions, marry and begin their families. The Young Single Adults are the future of the Kingdom. From the ranks of the YSA will come our future Primary Presidents, Young Women Presidents, and our Relief Society Presidents. YSA are our future Scout Masters, Priest Quorum Advisors, our Bishops, and our Stake Presidents. It takes great wives to support great priesthood leaders, and it takes great husbands to support great leaders of women in the Kingdom.



The duty of today's Church Leaders, and the duty of today's Young Single Adults, is to be certain we are on the path doing all that Jesus Christ has asked us to do.

Prophets, Seers and Revelators seeing our day have said the following about YSA of our present day:

You have been born at this time for a sacred and glorious purpose. It is not by chance that you have been reserved to come to earth in this last dispensation of the fullness of times. Your birth at this particular time was foreordained in the eternities. You are to be the royal army of the Lord in the last days. You are the youth of the noble birthright. – President Ezra Taft Benson

How does what President Benson said relate to Alma 13:1-12? What are our responsibilities? Why would Satan try to thwart such a talented, capable army? How would he do it? What would we do to safeguard ourselves from any Satanic influence in our lives? Will our Heavenly Father take us, the valiant "rising generation," by the hand and assist us in achieving our foreordained destiny?
(D&C 112:10)

We, the Area Seventy in California, look forward to meeting with you this summer. Thank you for all that you do, all that you are doing, and all that you will yet do.

SIMPLE

ELDER WILLIAM F. REYNOLDS, AREA SEVENTY
MONDAY, 29 JUNE 2009

It has been said that the genius of Einstein was not his ability to grasp the complex, but to grasp the simplicity where others could only see complexity. About Mozart's music Einstein said, "like all great beauty, his music was pure simplicity."

It has been said of the primitive church that it was founded on one event: The Resurrection. And it was founded on one doctrine: The Atonement. In the face of persecution and "witnessing" (which for the members of that incredible group of spiritual pilgrims meant to give one's life for their testimony of those two facts) the first Christians only response to the Roman queries on what held them together was "love." "Love" of the Savior, "love" of Eternal Life and "love" of each other. As I live in the community of the saints I find the same simplicity at the heart of the Church. All of the philosophical discussions and sociological dissections about what makes the church so amazingly united in such a fragmented world tend to often miss the point of the simple facts of the Resurrection and the Atonement.

When Joseph walked out of the grove, he had restored to him the reality of the most penetrating truth of all Christianity: Jesus was alive with a resurrected body! Knowing that reality, Joseph would never fear death or "the face of man" again. It is the knowledge of that reality that is the "rock" upon which the doctrine of true Christianity is built. His glorious eternal life becomes our eternal promise. In his penetrating introduction to the upcoming YSA conference, President Whitney Clayton focused on two points: Hope and Promise. He recited those promises, given to every faithful saint, that will be fulfilled in this life or its continuation beyond the veil. When we have a firm testimony that life goes on past death, the despair and hopelessness of the world evaporate and excitement of building that which is

Eternal fills our heart. President Hinckley never spoke that I did not hear him declare that death was swallowed up in the resurrection of Christ and he loved to quote, "so death, where is thy victory?"

The priesthood leadership in California want one thing to come out of this planned conference: YOU. We want the Young single Adult saints, many who have had marvelous experiences in the mission field, in service in their wards and branches and in the quiet battle within their own souls, to come together. To come to share their faith, their excitement for this life and its eternal nature, and their excitement about their personal relationship with our "wonderful Jesus." We want them to increase in faith and determination to lay hold of those "simple" treasures of "love." Love of each other, love of the goal of Eternal Manhood and Womanhood. Eternal Fatherhood and Motherhood. of Eternal Son-hood and daughter-hood.

We have asked you to prepare in three ways: (1) to reach out to one of God's foreordained children who is less active or in-active or not a member that His love might flow through you to that "other", (2) to go to the house of revelation and do the ordinances for those passed on and receive a renewing of your spirit and (3) register to vote as a sign of taking up the challenge to be a fully participatory and contributing member of our community in life both residential and spiritual (church). And thus our theme, "ye are no more strangers and foreigners but fellow citizens with the saints."

We have a great love for each other and for each of you. We look forward to seeing you at the Conference. Each and every person who attends will make this conference better!



STAND FIRM

ELDER JOHN C. DALTON, AREA SEVENTY

MONDAY, 06 JULY 2009

In the most difficult and discouraging days of World War II, Prime Minister Winston Churchill said to the people of England: "To every man there comes...that special moment when he is figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered the chance to do a special thing unique to him and fitted to his talent. What a tragedy if that moment finds him unprepared or unqualified for the work which would be his finest hour."

In an even more serious kind of spiritual warfare, my dear friends, the day may come—indeed, I am certain will come—when in an unexpected circumstance or time of critical need, lightning will strike, so to speak, and the future will be in your hands. I am convinced if you are strong and valiant you will be ready when that day comes.

I have always had a great and compelling sense of, gratitude, confidence and optimism about the Young Single Adults of today.

I regard you as the finest generation in the history of the Church. You have been called "the rising generation" (Alma 5:49). You have been called a "royal generation" a "chosen generation" as noted by the Apostle Peter of old (1 Peter 2:9). I compliment you and have in my heart a great love, respect and appreciation for you.

President Hinckley said in speaking to the youth and Young Single Adults of the Church:

For nearly 6000 years, God has held you in reserve to make your appearance in the final days before the Lord's second coming. Every precious gospel dispensation has drifted away into apostacy, but yours will not...God has saved you for these last days for you are the generation that must be prepared to meet the

Saviour—make no mistake about it—you are a marked generation. There has never been more expected of you in such a short period time as there is now. What remains to be seen is where each of you personally, now and in the future, will stand in this fight—and how tall you will stand.

Aligned with President Hinckley's remarks, I am reminded of a critical moment in the historic battle of Waterloo, when everything depended on the steadiness of the soldiers. An anxious courier dashed into the presence of the Duke of Wellington, who led the British forces, announcing that unless the troops were immediately relieved or withdrawn, they must yield before the impending assault of the French army led by Napoleon. The Duke simply replied, "STAND FIRM." "But we shall perish" announced the courier. "STAND FIRM," again was the answer of the iron hearted Duke. "You'll find us there," answered the courier, as he galloped away. And, of course, the British were victorious that day as a result of such loyalty and determination.

You and I have been figuratively tapped on the shoulder and offered a chance to do a special thing unique to you in attending the first ever Statewide Young Single Adult conference on August 8-9, 2009. As a marked, royal and chosen generation, you are being asked to "stand tall" and "stand firm" in your personal witness that Jesus is the Christ, the Gospel is true and President Thomas S. Monson is the Lord's prophet on the earth today. I know that you will prayerfully and spiritually prepare for this outstanding conference.

I can't wait to be with you and to feel of your marvelous spirits. I testify that Jesus is the Christ and that His atonement is real in each of our lives.

HOW BLESSED WE ARE TO HAVE A PROPHET

ELDER SCOTT D. WHITING, AREA SEVENTY

SATURDAY, 11 JULY 2009

How blessed we are to have a prophet, seer and revelator at the head of the Church in these tumultuous times. I know that if we fix our gaze upon him with eyes to see and ears to hear we will find great safety and peace in a world of growing trouble and despair.

I have learned that when prophets speak I must not only listen closely to their words but that I must also ponder upon the message received to find full application of the prophetic message taught. I believe this to be particularly true of counsel received from President Monson. As we all know, he is a master story teller and draws from a wealth of experiences gathered over a lifetime of dedicated service to his fellow men and the Lord. While

I personally enjoy listening to his experiences and find them edifying in and of themselves, I find even greater meaning as I work to pull the doctrinal threads from each story he tells. To me, President Monson goes beyond the pronouncement of great theoretical principles and actually shows us the practical application of these principles through the shared story and experience. When I hear him speak of the widows whom he watched over as a loving bishop and friend and hear of his stories of going to hospitals to provide priesthood blessings, what I am truly hearing is that we must be engaged in a personal ministry of our own. These stories are great sermons of exemplary Christian living. Jesus Christ's teachings come alive as we hear of others actually living



those sweet and basic doctrines He taught and exemplified.

In my own life, I have come to realize that developing a personal ministry in the pattern of President Monson and the Savior takes conscious thought and effort. I see in President Monson a developed Christ-like ability to instinctively know how, when and to whom his care and attention is needed and the willingness to act upon those impressions. Ministering has become part of his very nature—it is the manner of man that he has become and I recognize that it is the manner of man that I, too, must become. I am learning that in order for my personal ministry to become more instinctive that I must first start with a more contemplative effort. I need to consciously plan and prepare for opportunities to personally minister. On occasion, someone may seek me out for help (and I pray that I will always be glad to give it) but rather than sit back and wait for such opportunities, I

am learning that I must actively seek out opportunities to minister. How grateful I am for my assignment as a Hometeacher—an assignment that gives me the opportunity on a regular basis to seek out and minister to my fellowman. As I plan, prepare and seek out opportunities to minister, I am finding that additional more instinctive opportunities to minister are given. How grateful I am for the example of President Monson and for his stories of personal ministry! He is helping me to become the man that I know I need to be.

This state-wide YSA Conference is a great “contemplative” opportunity to minister as we all engage in temple and temporal service. As you come with willing hearts and hands, you will find other opportunities to minister to your fellowmen. This ministering can begin with a simple invitation to others to attend what will prove to be a wonderfully fulfilling experience.

COMING AND BECOMING

ELDER FRANK V. TRYTHALL, AREA SEVENTY

MONDAY, 03 AUGUST 2009

Are you ready? A few more days and we will all be together in this wonderful conference! We surely have been impressed and inspired with the work and effort of so many to make this conference a success. We hope and pray that all who are able will COME and attend the conference.

We have also been extremely grateful for the service that has been rendered in the temples. Tens of thousands have been blessed by your efforts.

As you make all of the preparations that are necessary in order to attend the conference I would ask you to think again about why this conference is being held and ask yourself “Why am I coming?” To help make a point let me share a favorite quote from Elder Dallin H. Oaks,

“The gospel of Jesus Christ is a plan that shows us how to become what our Heavenly Father desires us to become.” [Dallin H. Oaks, “The Challenge to Become,” Ensign, Nov 2000, 32–34]

May I suggest that as we approach this upcoming weekend we take time to ponder and plan how we as individuals might BECOME a little better; to be more like “what our Heavenly Father desires us to become” because of our attendance at this conference? Let us all look for ways to improve ourselves.

Elder Oaks added,

“In contrast to the institutions of the world, which teach us to know something, the gospel of Jesus Christ challenges us to become something.”

“The gospel of Jesus Christ is the plan by which we can become what children of God are supposed to become. This spotless and perfected state will result from a steady succession of covenants, ordinances, and actions, an accumulation of right choices, and from continuing repentance. ‘This life is the time for men to prepare to meet God’” (Alma 34:32).

Herein is our challenge, even for this very weekend. We need to add actions, make more right choices, and continue to repent (change in righteous ways) to become all that our Heavenly Father sees in us and knows that we can become. I trust that when we all come together we can use this experience to learn how to be a better disciple of Jesus Christ. Consider the question the Savior asked as he addressed those after his resurrection, recorded in 3 Nephi 27: 27, “what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am.

I testify that as we concentrate on what we can give to others, using our Savior, Jesus Christ, as our example, we will find our own lives blessed and enriched. We will then be on the road to BECOMING all that Our Heavenly Father desires us to become.



LOS ANGELES CALIFORNIA TEMPLE

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

AREA SEVENTY BLOGS

ysa testimonies

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ANDREA RIGGS

MISSION VIEJO STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

Listening to Elder Clayton's talk helped me put my life in perspective. One thing that stood out to me the most was the idea of putting the kingdom of God first, and those steps that we need to take in order to do that. He gave such great insights. I loved when he said that when we obey the commandments of God, we create a friendship with the Savior. We need to learn to align our will with His; that is becoming a part of the kingdom of God. This is something I strive to do in my life; it's something I want to do in my life. Submitting your will to that of the Savior's is an act of humility, and something that can give you comfort and confidence in His plan for you. It also draws you closer to Him as your Savior and as your friend.

BETHZARA LAULU

CERRITOS STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

The blogs helped me get through a tough day at work. I never look forward to going to work, but when I would log on and read the blogs, I really felt the Spirit. The blogs were little spiritual thoughts every morning that helped me get through the day.

BONNIE HERNANDEZ

RANCHO CUCAMONGA STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

So many inspiring words were written. Their testimonies really strengthened my testimony.

CHRISTINA HOGEWONING

SAN DIEGO EAST STAKE

SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

What I did see and read made me excited for this historical event. I know that Elder Tenney, as well as the other Area Seventies, loves the YSAs, and because of that, I know that Heavenly Father loves us. At this

age, we are instrumental in the Lord's hands in so many ways. It is important for us to stay close to the Lord, that we may be able to be the best instruments we can be.

DANIELLE BOINAY

SANTA MONICA STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

It was nice to have the leadership of the Church reach out to us on a regular basis. I particularly loved a blog by Elder Dalton where he talked about this generation. I think we need to realize what a force we are. We hold a lot of strength.

ERIC M. REESE

FRESNO NORTH STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

The blogs helped me prepare for the conference. Every time I read them, I seemed to get more insight into what this conference was all about.

GEORGE PAHULU

SAN FRANCISCO EAST (TONGAN) STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Elder Lawrence kept it simple for us by going back to the basics of what we seek for in terms of the future. It is a reality check to re-evaluate myself and what I'm doing to stay on the straight and narrow path. It is up to me to make it happen, through beginning to study the scriptures and strengthening my knowledge of the gospel.

GERALDO ALTAMIRANO

HUNTINGTON PARK WEST (SPANISH) STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

The blogs made me ready for the conference. Before the conference, I wasn't planning to go because I had to work, and I was nervous to ask for the day off. By reading the blogs, I realized the importance of attending the conference. I got the confidence to ask for the day off, and thankfully, was able to attend.



HEIDI THOMPSON

SACRAMENTO CORDOVA STAKE

SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

I loved hearing from the Area Seventies through their blog messages. They helped me get to know them better, and to be closer to them by reading about their personal experiences and struggles. I thought the blogs were a wonderful way to connect with "fellow saints."

JAMES ARJEE M. CABANATAN

HANFORD STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

Reading their messages was highly motivational and encouraging. They taught us valuable lessons of Christ, scriptures, family, and the kingdom of our Heavenly Father.

JUSTINE MCMANIS

SAN LUIS OBISPO STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

Elder Whiting is a wonderful man who truly cares for and loves the YSA of the Church. His messages were wonderful, and his words filled the room with a thick spirit. It was great to meet him and feel of his humble love for the Lord.

KALUB SPENDLOVE

MONTEREY STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

The Area Seventy blogs really showed me what we can do to change our lives for the better and do good continually. I have a stronger desire to be like Jesus.

KELLY SPENCER

SIMI VALLEY STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

It was awesome to have inspirational material to read, on a regular basis, other than Ensign articles. The more I read and heard the Area Seventies speak, the more I appreciated them being there. I recognized the time and significant roles they contribute to the Church for our benefit. They are awesome men of God.

KENNETH WITHAM

BAKERSFIELD STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

I loved reading the blogs. I want the Area Seventies to keep writing them! It was nice to see that these men went through the same things that we're going through now. One entry that stood out to me was Elder Scott Whiting's blog entry on pioneers. I see myself as a pioneer for my family, and it spoke to me.

KIMBERLY CREEL

LANCASTER STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

I know that what was said is true, and I felt the Spirit. I gained a stronger testimony. I know that life is but a short time. I need to do my best to follow the counsel given: stay on the right path, endure to the end, and someday return to live with my Father in Heaven.

MINDY LINDSAY

HAYWARD STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I loved reading what they wrote, knowing that it was just for me! I have truly felt the love the leaders of this Church have for the young single adults of California.

MOEATA UNGA

SAN FRANCISCO EAST (TONGAN) STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I think it was just awesome to hear from them because it was aimed toward us, as young single adults in California. It feels good to know that we are targeted and not forgotten in the Church.

RUSHELL MARQUEZ

YUCCA VALLEY STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

The Area Seventy blogs helped me be more interested in this event, and made me feel relaxed and excited. I was really happy that our area got to meet our Area Seventy.



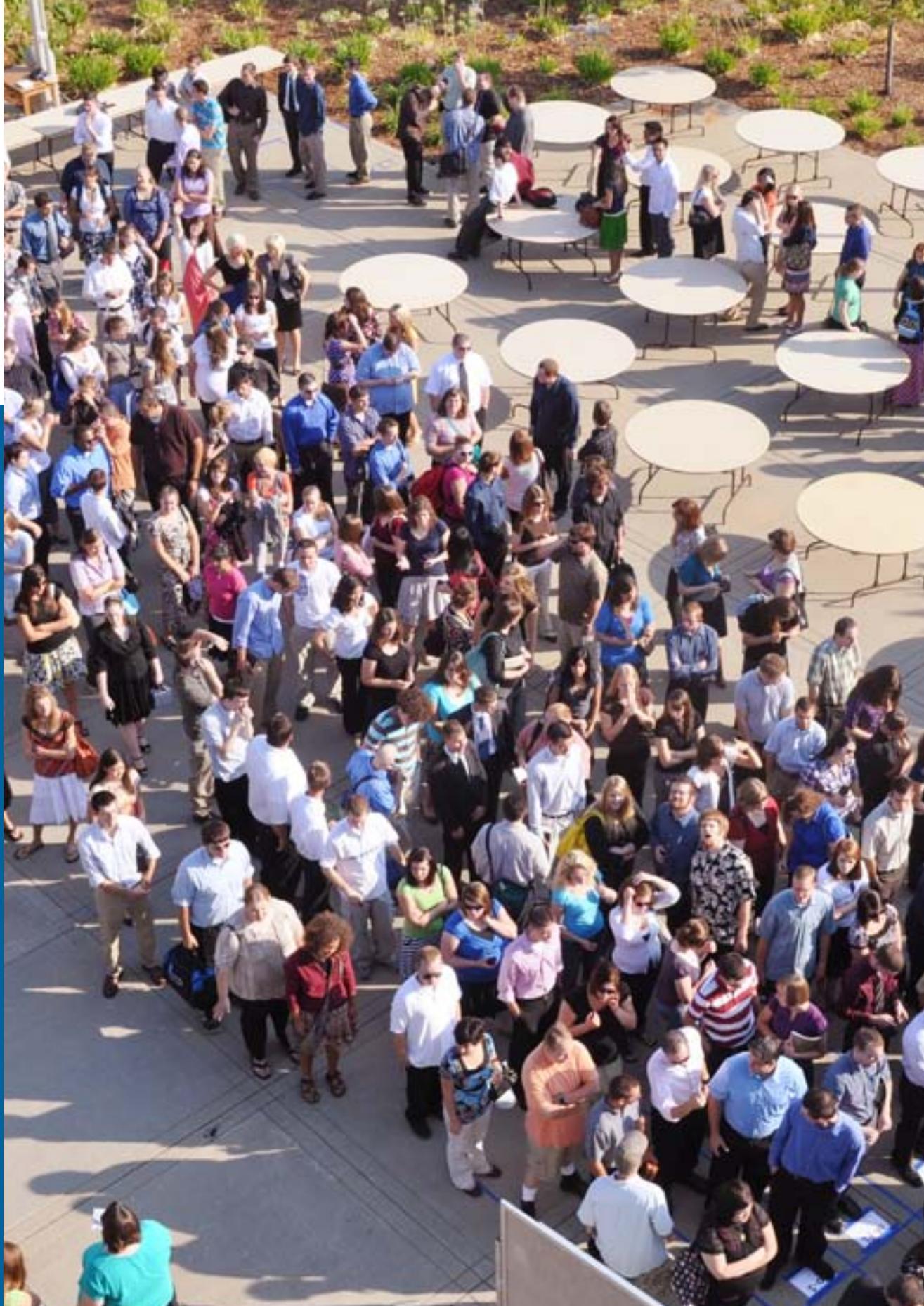












CALIFORNIA YSA CONFERENCE

July 24, 2009

Dear Young Single Adult,

Congratulations on registering for the exciting California statewide 2009 YSA Conference scheduled for August 8-9, 2009. Thousands of you will attend. This conference can be a tremendous blessing in your life and the lives of your friends who will be attending.



We have chosen as the theme of the conference Ephesians 2:19, "*Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God.*" Please reach out to those around you so everyone feels this sense of common brotherhood and sisterhood in the gospel: "*No more strangers.*" We want everyone to understand we are all '*fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God.*"

We hope this experience will be a rich and rewarding one for you. As you become part of the doctrinal discussions, humanitarian project, and social activities, your experience will strengthen your commitment to reach out with charity to others, increase your devotion to temple service, and help you pattern your life after the example of the Savior.

Sincerely,

L. Whitney Clayton
Presidency of the Seventy

NUMBER REGISTERED

MAY 25	730
JUNE 3	937
JUNE 9	1,153
JULY 1	4,672
JULY 17	6,308
JULY 21	6,890
FINAL	10,452





THE SANTA MONICA CITY CHARTERED 1917
CITY OF SANTA MONICA

SATURDAY, AUGUST 8, 2009

MORNING SCHEDULE

8:30 a.m. Registration and orientation

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

9:45 a.m. Assemble
9:45 a.m. Presentation of the DVD highlighting YSA activity in California
10:00 a.m. Morning Session begins

PRESIDING Elder Donald P. Tenney of the Area Seventy
CONDUCTING President Paul Spring
ORGANIST Brianne Atkinson
CHORISTER TBA
OPENING HYMN "High on a Mountain Top," Hymn #5
INVOCATION Adam Young
POWERPOINT DVD

DISCUSSION

Elder L. Whitney Clayton, Presidency of the Seventy:
"An Invitation and a Charge to All California Young Single Adults"
Elder Tenney "What Have We Learned from Elder
Clayton's Message?"

CLOSING HYMN "I Know that My Redeemer Lives," Hymn #136
BENEDICTION

11:00 a.m. Morning Session dismisses to Workshop #1
11:15 a.m. Workshop No. 1 "Promises of the Atonement to Me"
Bishop Bostwick
Discussion: "The Atonement and How It Relates to Me"

LUNCHE TIME ACTIVITIES

12:00 noon Pizza and pasta lunch
1:00 p.m. Speed Dating

AFTERNOON WORKSHOPS AND DISCUSSION

2:15 p.m. Workshop No. 2 "The Watchman on the Tower"
Elmer Heap
Discussion: "What Does Having a Prophet Today Mean to Me?"
3:15 p.m. Workshop No. 3 "Keeping Covenants: The Way to Avoid
Problems and Find Happiness"
Alicia Endicott
Discussion: "How is This Done?"
4:15 p.m. Workshop No. 4 "The Right to Choose -The Blessing of Agency"
Marc and Karen Davis
Discussion: "How Does This Doctrine Affect My Life?"

EVENING ACTIVITIES

5:15 p.m. Mexican dinner
6:30 p.m. Humanitarian Project and other Activities
9:30 p.m. Dance
11:30 p.m. Close for the evening



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NO MORE
STRANGERS
Ephesians 2:19

SACRAMENT MEETING 10:00 am

PRESIDING Elder Nelson D. Cordova of the Area Seventy
CONDUCTING President Robert B. Keeler
ORGANIST Julie Hinton
CHORISTER Shana Waye

OPENING HYMN
INVOCATION
SACRAMENT HYMN
ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENT

SPEAKER
CHOIR NUMBER
SPEAKER
CLOSING HYMN
BENEDICTION

High on a Mountain Top, #5
Maggie Hoyt
Jesus of Nazareth, Savior and King, #181

Paige Carabello "The Sacrament"
Onward Christian Soldiers
Elder Nelson D. Cordova
How Firm a Foundation, #85
Eric Chen

RELIEF SOCIETY 11:50 am

OPENING HYMN
INVOCATION
SPEAKER
SPEAKER
CLOSING HYMN
BENEDICTION

As Sisters in Zion, #309
Casey McDonald
Wynette Searle "Provident Living and Financial Management for the Latter-day Saint Woman"
Debbie Broberg "Maintaining Virtue in a Modern World"
Nearer, My God to Thee, #100
Jayme Lutz

PRIESTHOOD MEETING 11:50 am

OPENING HYMN
INVOCATION
SPEAKER
SPEAKER
CLOSING HYMN
BENEDICTION

Ye Elders of Israel, #319
Jonathan Welch
Michael Pulsipher "Provident Living and Financial Management for the Latter-day Saint Man"
Edward Gholdston "The Priesthood Holders' Treatment of Women"
Paul S. White "Avoiding and Overcoming Pornography"
Nearer, My God to Thee, #100
Adam Lawson

LUNCH 1:00 pm

Potato bar and salads

CLOSING FIRESIDE 2:30 pm

PRESIDING Elder Nelson D. Cordova of the Area Seventy
CONDUCTING President Robert B. Keeler
ORGANIST Shaun Rushforth
CHORISTER TBA

OPENING HYMN
INVOCATION
WELCOME
LIVE BROADCAST

We Thank Thee, Oh God, for a Prophet, #19
Brandon Woodbury
Elder Nelson D. Cordova of the Area Seventy
Introduction and Remarks by
Elder L. Whitney Clayton of the Presidency of the Seventy
Remarks by Elder L. Tom Perry of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles and Sister Barbara Perry

CLOSING HYMN
BENEDICTION

Let Us All Press On, #243
Victoria Kajo



HOLINESS TO THE LORD IS THE HONOR OF THE LORD

CALIFORNIA YSA CONFERENCE

ysa testimonies

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AARON STEBBING

VISTA STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

The conference was a wonderful blessing, and I loved every minute of it! I loved meeting so many other YSAs, and feeling the spirit that was brought by having so many people together who are committed to being obedient and improving themselves. It was a fantastic opportunity to be taught by so many wonderful speakers, and to hear their testimonies. It was also a great blessing to feel the powerful spirit brought into the cultural hall as we tied quilts to give to families in need, and to recognize just how much joy we can receive by giving service to others.

ADAM TEKURIO

CYPRESS STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

As a YSA representative, these past twelve weeks have been an exhausting, yet amazing experience working on the conference. There were two things that really impressed me about this experience. The first was definitely the work that was done in the temple. I am so proud of the members of the Cypress Park Ward, for the diligence and effort they put forth in making it to the temple often, and doing thousands of ordinances for our brothers and sisters that have passed on. We, as a ward, were attending the temple on a weekly basis, and it was amazing to see other YSAs at the temple as well. The other thing that amazed me was the participation of ward members in reaching out to the less-active members within our stake. In addition to our weekly fellowshipping visits, we took two Sundays prior to the conference, and dedicated them to ministering to our brothers and sisters. We went out in small groups and fellowshipped; what amazing visits we had! Some of these visits led to re-activation and others to registering people for the conference. All in all, this was a great experience, and one that I was so grateful to have been a part of.

ADRIAN ALVARADO

FRESNO EAST STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

It helped me to have faith in the Lord. I belong in a family ward, and I do not drive; I have no way to get to the YSA ward in my stake. This helped me see that the Lord will find a way to help me go to the YSA ward.

ALLIE YOST

IRVINE STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

This has definitely been a life-changing experience. I have never worked so hard, been so busy, so tired, laughed so much, and met so many people. Although it has been a trying twelve weeks preparing, visiting, and planning, it has been filled with rich blessings. Those blessings came from temple work, missionary efforts, and making new and great friends. I feel greatly blessed with the opportunity I had, not only in preparing, but also participating in the YSA conference. The two day conference was filled with wisdom, fun, and memories which I will cherish from this time forward. I will forever be grateful for this conference, and the impact it has had on my life.

ALISHA CHUGG

CHINO STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

It was a lot of fun! I had fun making new friends, playing sports, and making quilts. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn more about the gospel while having fun at the same time. Not only that, but I was also deeply touched by the countless volunteers who so humbly helped serve us and made the conference amazing.

AMANDA GILLETTE

TORRANCE STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

Every Sunday, I say I'm spiritually fed for the upcoming week. This conference was like a wonderful buffet. I feel as if I'm ready to conquer anything in my path, like the



upcoming semester. I hope we'll have something just as good next year to recharge my spiritual batteries.

AMANDA TARNUTZER

BAKERSFIELD EAST STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

The conference talks were wonderful. They both inspired and uplifted me. Being together with young single adults who were close to my age and have similar struggles as Latter-day Saints was strengthening as well.

AMBER JOHNSON

MENIFEE STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I am a recent convert to The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; I started investigating the Church in early February. After three months of studying intensely with the missionaries and many members of the Church, I was baptized into a family ward near my home on April 26th of this year. I had originally intended to continue attending the family ward, as I was happy there and had developed friendships with some of the younger mothers my age. However, in early July I moved, and it was suggested that I relocate to a singles ward. I was a little uneasy about transferring, leaving familiar faces behind and entering a new ward, where I was sure I would be judged or auctioned off like a fresh slab of Mormon rib-eye on the open meat market!

I am here to say that all the fears I had were quickly squashed as I became acquainted with members of my new ward. I had only been there a few weeks when the opportunity to attend the California YSA Conference presented itself; I had, however, not intended to go. At first it seemed a little too far beyond my new-found spiritual comfort level and I didn't have the funds, nor was I comfortable enough in my new ward to ask my bishop for financial help. Heavenly Father was, as always, looking out for me and presented assistance, while stripping me of any remaining excuses. A friend and mentor of mine and his wife insisted on registering me for the conference. I could not reject their gracious charity, and now, looking back on the conference weekend, I am so grateful for their help.

I entered the conference the same way I have entered my entire spiritual journey, with an open mind. I was a little weary of the sorts of new people I would meet. Would they judge me? Do I have a brazen scarlet "C" for convert on my forehead? Would it all just be too much of a "spiritual overload" for me? I felt my hesitations were justified, as I am very new to the Church and singles ward; I was like Alice falling down the rabbit hole alone. Saturday we met up at our church building to carpool to the conference together, and some new friends offered me a ride right away. The ride was quiet but not uncomfortable, and I was glad to know that I now had four new faces to seek out at the conference if I got overwhelmed and couldn't make new friends. The first few hours I clung to one of my friends, but as he broke away at lunch to chat with some of his other friends, I found myself amidst a group of hundreds without anyone from my own ward around. I grabbed a burger

and chips, and wandered off to find shade where I also found other members of my ward. I was nervous and shy for a few minutes without friends paying direct attention to me, but as I looked around I realized I was not alone. There were hundreds of singles gathered together for the exact same reason, to meet new people and make new friends. If I was going to make the best out of my weekend, I would have to shed my fears and speak up.

I am very proud to say that I did just that; I made comments and answered questions in all of the four workshops. I had not been the type to speak up in church discussions or bear my testimony, but when asked by a presenter to say the prayer after lunch, I could not deny him; I knew the Spirit sat me down in the chair in front for that very specific reason! I had started the day as a frightened convert, and a mere five hours into the weekend I found myself standing in front of a room, microphone in hand, eyes closed, head bowed saying my graces to the Lord for all to hear. From that point on, I was not a scared little "convey" (as my kid brother refers to me). I had grown quickly to accept myself as a member of the Church; no longer an outsider looking in. As the weekend progressed, I shocked myself by stepping so far out of my comfort zone, even doing activities with complete strangers. I found myself no longer looking hopefully around each corner for those four familiar faces, but excited to embrace new ones. Speed dating a row of boys I had never seen before, quilting with other YSAs, and participating dramatically in improvisation games with someone I had not met until that day are just some of the activities I enjoyed. The dance, sacrament meeting and closing fireside were equally enjoyable. It still boggles my mind how a speaker can be speaking to a room of over a thousand, yet it seems as though she is speaking directly to me. I heard so many things I needed to hear in those talks.

I feel that through this conference I have grown much closer to my Heavenly Father; through Him I have grown closer to my ward. I made new friends outside of my ward, and more importantly, I made new friends within my ward. The drive home was not nearly as quiet as the drive up. We were all like excited little kindergartners being picked up after the first day of school, eager and anxious to share stories of the day's events with one another. I cannot express how much this weekend meant to me. It was more than a "weekend," a "conference," or a "gathering"; it was an experience; a great one at that!

ANDREA RIGGS

MISSION VIEJO STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

Attending the conference was a great experience. It reminded me of what is really important in my life. The gospel is what truly brings me joy; it gives me hope and purpose. Life might be difficult, but in the eyes of Christ, there are no strangers. He loves each one of us. We are His friends. He suffered so we could have eternal life, and we can have comfort in knowing that all the trials and afflictions we have to endure in this life were felt and endured by Him. He will always be by our side; we will never be left alone. If we put the



Savior first, we can do all things, we can become our best selves, we can reach out to those who need Him, and our testimonies will soar to greater heights.

ANDREW CARSON

SAN DIEGO STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

Attending the conference helped me see the great number and diversity of young adults that are active in stakes throughout California. Being surrounded by people with similar challenges and the same spiritual goals increased my testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel and the power of the Spirit.

ANDREW STRATFORD

LOS ANGELES STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

I recently moved to California from Utah, and I had felt very spiritually isolated and alone since arriving. However, my attendance at the conference provided me with many opportunities to make friends with other people, many of whom were in my own ward. Now I have friends that I can relate to religiously and who are spiritually supportive, which is something that I have needed very much lately.

ARIANE BAIR

SACRAMENTO CORDOVA STAKE
SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

I was asked to be the female YSA representative on the steering committee for this conference on Sacramento. Watching the Area Seventies, stake presidents, bishops, and leaders work on this conference was unlike anything I have ever seen. People put in countless hours to put on a conference that would truly benefit me and my peers. I will ever be grateful for the selfless service so many people put into making this conference successful. Watching the plans become reality was incredible. During sacrament meeting on Sunday, I was overcome with the Spirit as we sang the opening hymn. We were united as YSAs singing together, not only in Sacramento, but also throughout the entire state of California. Over 11,000 YSAs were singing the same hymns at the same time. When the sacrament was administered, I was again overcome by the Spirit. I felt an incredible power as we all renewed our baptismal covenants and participated in that amazing ordinance. Tears just flowed as I sat in gratitude, thinking of the inspired opportunity we all have been a part of.

The conference provided ample opportunities to hear and feel doctrines of the gospel. We were taught by stake presidents, bishops, leaders, and our Area Seventy. The Spirit was incredibly strong as we discussed and were taught truths that are relevant to our lives. Watching the men pass the sacrament to each member of the congregation was unlike any other experience. Being able to associate with so many YSAs who strive to live the commandments and

follow the teachings of a prophet is impressive. The Spirit was strong throughout the entire conference. The greatest part was seeing so many people happy. Really, there was no time to think of worldly things; we were too busy enjoying this precious opportunity.

ASHLEY BURNETT

PLACENTIA STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

It was awesome, I loved the conference! Being able to meet new faces and catch up with old ones was a great experience. Sitting there and listening to the speakers made me want to work harder and focus more on attaining goals I have set for the future. The spirit I felt at the conference was overwhelming and comforting, one I hope to continue to have throughout my life.

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BETHZARA LAULU

CERRITOS STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

I really enjoyed the conference; I didn't want to leave on Sunday after the fireside. I felt like I was in another world, and as soon as it finished I would go back to reality. It truly was an amazing spiritual experience for me. My testimony has been strengthened by the speakers and the other YSAs who shared their experiences. I hope there will be another one.

BONNIE HERNANDEZ

RANCHO CUCAMONGA STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

It was great! I met so many people I did not know. I saw many YSAs who were like me, who have a testimony and want to do what is right. They all showed so much faith, which gave me more strength to be who I am. I was very proud to be united with all the YSAs of California. It has given me more strength to continue in the path that was given to return to our Heavenly Father.

BROOKE BECKSTROM

MURRIETA STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

Attending the conference was great; it made me so happy to be around people that I love and those I had never met before. I was so excited to meet new friends and hear the messages that were prepared for me. I have learned to open my mouth to people I don't know and become their friend.

CAMBRIA

SAN DIEGO SWEETWATER STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

This conference was the one thing I was really looking forward to this summer. It was one of the best experiences I've had at any church activity. Everything during this conference built up my testimony. The Spirit was so strong the whole weekend, and it has carried over in the days to follow. The theme really brought me closer to some of the people in my ward, along with the other people in my stake.







CAMIE SOLOMON

ROCKLIN STAKE

SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

Attending the conference helped me remember that there is strength in numbers. We worked together on mutual goals and gathered at the same time, while focusing on temple worship and Christ-like service. These are things that I want to continue to have as important aspects in my life.

CARRIE GOSS

HAYWARD STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

After the first conference call in June following the kick-off fireside, I was overwhelmed. Our ward had a huge undertaking because our YSA ward covers 3 stakes; just the logistics of getting emails, phone numbers, and names of contacts was a daunting task. Our ward did an outstanding job reaching out to less actives. We coordinated efforts with family wards, ward missionaries, ward members, and our full-time missionaries, and took time out of our busy schedules to find and invite less actives to the conference. We made up packets that were passed out to those we visited; they included pamphlets for the conference, our ward calendar, a letter from our wonderful bishop, and an institute schedule. We tried to use all of our resources.

As for temple ordinances, the Oakland Temple was closed during two weeks in July for maintenance. Our ward rallied together to have a special YSA temple night before and after the closure, where we performed baptisms for the dead and endowment sessions. Our temple president, President Hunter, and his wife came to talk to our group during the second trip; it was an honor to have them speak to us.

After the dance on Saturday night in Oakland, my friends and I were driving out of the parking lot when one friend rolled down her window. She waved goodbye to other YSAs and yelled, "We are no longer strangers! Have a good night!" People responded with laughs and smiles as they waved back. I think this was the whole point of the conference, to bring the YSAs closer together; to no longer be strangers, but be united in these latter-days as we strive to build up the kingdom of God.

CELINDA MOLEN

HUNTINGTON BEACH STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

This conference was one of the most spiritual conferences I have ever been to. I loved the unity that I felt at this conference, and how welcomed I felt, even by those people I didn't know. I made new friends and had fun. The workshops were the best ever, and I finally feel like I know who I am. I'm so grateful for this conference. I truly learned what I want to do in life, and I was able to feel how much the Lord loves me and is aware of whatever I may be going through, good or bad. My testimony was strengthened in knowing that my Heavenly Father and my Savior, Jesus Christ, love me, that the atonement is for me, and that Jesus Christ suffered for our sins. He did this so that we can have

the healing power of the atonement in our lives.

CONTRERAS

COVINA (SPANISH) STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

Attending this conference has changed my life in so many ways. It increased my testimony and knowledge of the Savior, the atonement, and of Church leaders. I felt how much Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ actually love me. I understand better what the atonement can do in my life and how to better apply it. I could feel my Savior's love as our speaker described how much Christ went through to complete the heavy task of the atonement, and it was all for me, just as much as for my neighbor and everyone I know. As I felt His love, I started to feel how much I really love Him too; because of this love I want to better obey Him, serve Him, and become who He wants me to be. My testimony of our Church leaders greatly increased as Elder Cordova talked about how to know Christ better to not be a stranger to Him, and how He is never a stranger to us. As he was speaking the Spirit testified in my heart and mind that what he was saying was pure truth. I knew he was a man chosen by God. My testimony is so much stronger, I can't wait to keep living the gospel every day, and I will always remember Him in all that I do.

COURTNEY MASTERS

FOLSOM STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

I originally wasn't going to attend the conference until prayer, persuading from my boyfriend and friends, and a prompting from the Holy Ghost all encouraged me to attend. I am very grateful that so many who cared about me were willing to help me follow the path I needed to follow. Just the decision to attend helped strengthen my knowledge of God's love and concern for me and my spiritual well being. It witnessed to me that He works in many ways to inspire those that need to hear the truth of His gospel.

COURTNEY POUNDS

MISSION VIEJO STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

Attending the conference has reminded me that I believe in Christ and how real He is in my life. I can become like Him if I do what He asks and follow the prophet's counsel. I too can overcome the world.

DANIELLE BOINAY

SANTA MONICA STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

It was incredible to see essentially an army of YSAs in one building. The workshops and talks were amazing, and the projects and activities were fun. What I loved most was the unity and solid spirit that I felt. I really can't think of another time where so much light was just everywhere. It was one of the most strong, pure and light experiences I've ever been a part of.



DAVID KLPACHEK

CITRUS HEIGHTS STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

Saturday evening a group of YSAs, unbidden, gathered around a piano and sang the songs of Zion. While singing with these Saints, I no longer felt alone; I felt united.

DEANNA MACIAS

SAN JOSE STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I had a good time this past weekend. I didn't really want to go, but I figured that I had already paid, so why not. I participated in as many activities as I could: all of the workshops, the dancing, video games, and my favorite, the humanitarian project. It really felt like Christmas while I was stitching the quilts; my only regret is that I didn't work on more quilts, I only worked on two. The workshops were helpful to me, and I definitely had some prayers answered.

DENISE DEHART

ONTARIO STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

It really uplifted me, something that I really needed. It was good to hear all the talks; I loved that they were aimed toward us as young single adults of California.

DEREK GLENN LARSON

REDLANDS STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I loved the conference! I met so many new friends and now feel more connected to the YSAs in my temple district. It fortifies me to know that there are so many other YSAs here, and as we move forward, we can all strengthen and edify one another. I also loved seeing people come together, interact, connect, and feel the Spirit together. I loved the unity!

ELAINE TIMOTEO

ANAHEIM STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

In many ways the conference has helped me remember some of the most basic truths that I forgot when immersed in the daily tasks of life. It is easy to lose sight of the eternal realm of things when we are not constantly reminded of who we are, where we come from, and where we are going. Attending the conference has reinforced my desire to become temple worthy and work toward my goal of achieving exaltation. It has reminded me how much my Heavenly Father loves me. His love shows through all those, past and present, who have sacrificed so much so that I may enjoy the fruits of their labor.

EMILY STINNETT

BAKERSFIELD SOUTH STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

The conference was one of the happiest and most powerful life-changing experiences for me. Being "no more strangers" was felt strongly as I met so many friendly YSAs at the conference. Looking out and seeing hundreds of YSAs surrounding me gave me great

comfort. Every workshop was inspired and amazing to listen to and learn from. Being right there near the temple made the conference that much more powerful for me. The Spirit was so strong, and I came away with the desire to change. It's been two weeks and the spirit that I've been able to feel is incredible. The conference has prepared me to begin taking a big step in my life, and I'm looking forward to it. So many positive changes have occurred in my life, and I am so grateful that I was able to attend because I know I'd still be struggling were it not for the conference. It sparked a real desire in me to change, and that the change has occurred so fast that it lets me know that Heavenly Father is guiding me. I have a peace that I know only comes from living the gospel in its fullness. I can truly say that this conference has affected my life in such a way that I've finally found my strength in Christ; I've set my mind to see Heavenly Father again and give Him the biggest hug in the world. They are my light, my strength and my joy.

EMILY THOMAS

NEWPORT BEACH STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

It blessed me to feel the Spirit in greater abundance, and I have incorporated a stronger desire to do things that will keep the Spirit with me always.

ERIC M. REESE

FRESNO NORTH STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

This conference has prepared me for the life ahead. Each workshop I attended had something for me. It was a blessing for me because I knew the Lord was helping me and giving me the guideposts I needed in my life.

EVAN GRADY

SANTA CLARITA STAKE

LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

I loved being at the conference; at the beginning of the 12-week program I knew that God wanted me to be there. There were many people from my ward who went to the kick-off fireside, and I felt the Spirit testify to me that this was what I needed to do. I know that God lives and sent me to that fireside; because of it, I saw great things happen. I have a very sure knowledge that the temple is the house of God, and the people who go there are performing work for those who have passed on. They need and want their temple work done. The temple is a sacred place, and it brings peace and reverence into my life. I have been inviting a friend to go with me since the first fireside. He finally came, and I am so thankful he did. I was profoundly grateful for the discussions during the priesthood meeting on Sunday, the workshops on Saturday, and the testimonies born by Priesthood leaders and powerful women. I know that the Spirit was there. I took some notes, and I want to review them so that I can remember. It is not everyday that over 500 Latter-day Saints, about my age, meet together in the same room with a common cause, and share personal testimony and love for each other. I have a testimony that the goals set for the conference were inspired because of the Spirit I felt every time I looked at



them. It was awesome to see everyone become involved in signing up and preparing for the conference. It was a powerful experience, and I know the talks were divinely inspired; I have no doubt that the priesthood talks on Sunday were particularly inspired. Attending the conference has put the quest to attend the temple more prominently in my mind. I do want to put the things of God first, and I hope to share what I learned with others.

FARAIMO FUIFUI JR.

YUCCA VALLEY STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I was greatly blessed to have gone to the conference. I was able to reconnect with old friends from back home, and I was able to have great lessons that touched my heart. One of my favorite parts of the conference was Sunday. I loved seeing the massive amounts of priesthood brethren passing the sacrament. I also loved listening to the wonderful talks; they were truly lessons that touched my spirit. Overall, I enjoyed being around so many different people who share my faith. It gave me a glimpse of the diversity within our wonderful and true Church.

GABRIEL NAYLOR

LOS ANGELES STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

I have been an investigator of the Church for two years. Attending this conference has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my life. At the end of the conference, we were encouraged to bear testimony to everyone in the packed room; I did so even before I realized it myself. I received an astounding outpouring of support and thanks for the testimony I bore. I had the presence of mind to write it down, and what I said is very close to the following:

"My name is Gabriel Naylor. I am an investigator in the LA 1st Ward. I've been investigating for two years. In that time, I can assure you that I have put this Church though its paces. My fiancé was born in the covenant, and I was asked to investigate this Church. I did so to prove this Church wrong; I assure you I tried. I am intense and thorough, and I read and go to church. I know this Church is true. I've often wished that I had been born into this Church, but I know that the experiences I've received before coming here helped me bring something to all of you. I see each of us as a puzzle piece; each of us is different, but together we form a bigger picture. I hope to one day stand shoulder to shoulder with you in the battle for Zion. I say these things in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen."

I concluded my day by visiting the temple grounds for the better part of an hour. It is worth noting that this was my first testimony, and it also happened to be the best birthday I've ever had.

GAZELEM MUÑOZ

HUNTINGTON BEACH NORTH STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Being around hundreds of YSAs near the temple grounds on Sunday made me feel empowered to do what is required of me. I realized that there are more

YSAs in my area than I thought, not just those in my stake whom I know. They feel the desire to be better too. To be around others who want to feel the Spirit and learn the teachings of the Lord was amazing.

GISSELLE MENDOZA

TURLOCK STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

I felt extremely happy being surrounded by many young single adults who share my morals and standards. It made me feel more in tune with our Heavenly Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost.

HALEY PINKSTON

SIMI VALLEY STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

I really enjoyed the experience of attending the YSA conference because it was a chance to get together with people whom I share a common background with and receive strength from them. It was a chance to spend the weekend doing something meaningful and uplifting. It was a chance to remove ourselves from the hectic life we live in; to be somewhere where we could just relax, feel the Spirit, not feel judged, and make new friends who share the same high standards.

HEATHER McMULLIN

CHINO STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

I got chills during the sacrament seeing so many priesthood holders preparing and passing the sacrament. It was great singing together with so many YSAs. It was also inspiring and empowering to gather with so many Saints my age who have the same goals. The speakers were all great, and my testimony was strengthened. It was definitely very inspiring and motivating to "hold to the rod."

HEIDI THOMPSON

SACRAMENTO CORDOVA STAKE
SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

I loved the feeling of being gathered together near the temple as one. In a time when there are so many dissenting voices in California, it brought peace and joy to me as we spent time listening, learning and serving together. This conference has helped me feel that we truly are citizens of the household of God; we truly are God's children.

JESSICA MEJIA

SAN DIEGO SWEETWATER STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

I loved this conference; it was the best experience of my life. I remember leaving Sunday after the last session, and feeling my heart swell. I've only experienced that a couple of times, and every time it happens I feel so great. All the spiritual knowledge that was shared with us was just what we need for these trying times. I loved learning about the Atonement; it doesn't just cover my sins, but it also covers all the other experiences that I go through in this life. It made me see how great and understanding Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ



are. It was great to be gathered with all the YSAs of the area for the same reason. I feel that my testimony has really grown because I know that Heavenly Father gives us what we need at the right time. The conference was definitely something we needed.

JILLIAN STAFFORD

CORONA STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

Attending the conference was really a unique and memorable experience. I thought it was a great idea to bring together people from all different regions of California with one common goal. It was such a cool feeling to walk into the cultural hall and see hundreds of YSAs there to learn with an open heart, perform service, and meet new people of all ages. I especially loved seeing how many worthy priesthood holders were able to pass the sacrament during Sunday's sacrament meeting. The Spirit was so strong during all the meetings, and it undoubtedly strengthened my testimony of this Church, especially of how important the temples are. Everything in our religion relates to the temple, and we should never lose sight of that ultimate goal.

JONATHAN MANN

NEWBURY PARK STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

I had a good time at the conference. I liked the workshops that were given. Participating in the priesthood meeting and passing the sacrament had a big impact on me. I learned a lot in the priesthood meeting, and felt the Spirit very strongly when I passed the sacrament.

KATHRYN LOUBET

NEWBURY PARK STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

My life was on the wrong path for a while, and I hadn't felt the Spirit in a long time. The conference changed my life because I actually felt the Spirit so strong there; I am so glad that I went. Since feeling that, I don't want my life to go off the path anymore; I want my life to be better.

KELLY SPENCER

SIMI VALLEY STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

The conference was filled with many spiritual discussions that I can think about and focus on in my life. It was a great way to get closer to my ward and step outside my comfort zone to meet people. I actually enjoyed simply talking to other people and knowing they believed the same things I did.

KENNETH WITHAM

BAKERSFIELD STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

I left the conference with a desire to keep the same spirit with me that I had felt while I was there. The conference served a great purpose in helping many of us to dedicate, rededicate, refine, or improve our own lives for the better. I believe this conference was truly inspired.

KRISTIN LONG

SANTEE STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

The sense of unity throughout the entire state was remarkable and left an impression on me. This gospel really is for all of the Lord's children, and He wants us to be united as one heart and one mind. Knowing that all of the YSAs in California were seeing what I was seeing, doing what I was doing, and moving forward, as I was, toward the Lord was such an incredible experience; an experience I will never forget.

LISA HARRIS

LIVERMORE STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

For me the conference was two days of peaceful, spiritual inspiration. It was a tremendous feeling to see so many of my peers in one room, and to feel the Spirit presiding over the talks and meetings. I was so grateful that I was able to attend the conference at the Oakland Temple. There is something so special about being on the temple grounds, and it's not often that we have the opportunity to spend two full days there. It was an amazing experience I will never forget.

LISA WILKERSON

SIMI VALLEY STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

The conference was a lot of fun. I am glad that I had the opportunity to attend and meet a lot of new people. Personally, I appreciate that many of the workshops deal with becoming a better person. I also love the fact that the conference was focused around the temple. I think it drew people closer and was a focus of righteousness.

MARIE COPE

NAPA STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I learned so much about the reality of our Savior's Atonement. I was able to meet other young single adults from around the area and realize that I am not alone in my beliefs and standards.

MARISA FLOREZ

RANCHO CUCAMONGA STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

The conference helped influence my decision to be baptized. The talks were amazing, and the Spirit was strong at the YSA conference. What really stood out the most was the large population of young adults that truly believed in the gospel. I remember asking a friend before hand if he truly believed, without a doubt, that this was the true gospel, and if everything that the Church taught was true. Without even blinking and with a strong tone in his voice, he answered yes. Without having to ask anyone at the conference, I could see that same testimony in young adult after young adult. Their wordless testimonies helped me create one of my own. The Sunday session with the Relief Society also hit me hard; it was a large room full of women that were all daughters of God. They were smiling, dressed conservatively (and still glowing with beauty), and had morals that I only







pretended to have. There was something they had that I didn't. There was something everyone had at the conference that I didn't; but I do now. I have a testimony that Heavenly Father loves us, that He sent His Only Begotten Son to atone for our sufferings. I know that Joseph Smith was a prophet and was visited by Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ. I know the Book of Mormon is true and that this is the restored Church and gospel. I have been baptized and have received the gift of the Holy Ghost. In answer to the question of if the YSA conference influenced my decision to join the Church, most definitely. Thank you for that amazing opportunity.

MARK HANSON

CANOGA PARK STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

The conference was amazing. I really felt the Spirit there during the workshops on Saturday. Sacrament meeting really gave me a spiritual boost like nothing I have ever felt in my life before. It was really special to be able to help pass the sacrament; it was a very uplifting experience. This conference really increased my testimony.

MATTHEW HUDRLIK

RANCHO CUCAMONGA STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

The conference was a blast. We were asked by our leaders to help not only hold a statewide conference, but to use it as a missionary opportunity. Our ward made a big effort to contact all of those graduating seniors and inactive YSAs on our rolls. We found that many had moved or had gotten married. For those who were inactive, it was a great opportunity to invite them to attend a conference where they could feel comfortable and meet new people. I believe that the theme for the conference was definitely inspired. "No more strangers" helped us get out of our shell, and look for people who we didn't know. With the emphasis on the temple, we were also able to help people get focused on the things that are truly important; focusing on the temple helped us get that eternal perspective that we always need, but don't always recognize. All in all the conference was amazing, and I think that we truly helped others draw closer to the Savior.

MEGAN BYERS

MERCED STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

I felt the Spirit so strongly, testifying to me of the need to "stand a little taller and be a little better;" to become more virtuous, more holy and more worthy. I had a great time socializing with people from my branch, along with new friends we met throughout the conference. One of my favorite parts looking back, was standing in line waiting for meals because at first I'd be thinking about how hot it was outside, but then I would get caught up in a conversation with a new person and the time seemed to pass by too fast. You could tell the speakers had prayed and pondered over what to say to us, and that they loved us so much. As I drove home Sunday evening, I said a tearful prayer of gratitude to my Heavenly Father for the wonderful experiences I had, for

the volunteers who gave of their time, talents and energy to make the conference such a success, and for the chance I have to repent and come closer to Christ each day.

MELISSA COBABE

CITRUS HEIGHTS STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

Just preparing for the conference has changed my life greatly. I made sure I paid a full tithe, and that I was temple worthy. It made me form new habits that I had struggled with in the past, and I have already witnessed blessings from being obedient.

MELISSA PEARCE

FRESNO NORTH STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

The opportunity I have had over the last twelve weeks is one that will have a lasting impact on my life. It has made me a stronger person, and I have been able to see growth and change take place in other people's lives and my own. It was through acts of service by the area and state committees for the conference that I was able to see these great changes take place. I was able to experience the conference in a different way than most of the people who attended; I was a part of the planning from day one. This experience has allowed me to see my Savior's love in a way that I hadn't seen before. I was given the inspiration to do things as I magnified my calling. The more sincere time I gave to the Lord in planning the conference, the more clearly I was able to see what needed to be done and how it needed to be accomplished. There is one story in particular that I would love to share:

My ward calling is the female co-chair of the activities committee; in addition to that I was called as the female YSA co-chair for the hosting area. Even though I had a huge conference to help plan, I had to continue the regular duties of my ward calling of planning monthly activities. As July came and we were deep in the planning, I just felt so overwhelmed with responsibilities that I asked my bishop if we could forgo the activity that month; we would have the conference and one other activity in August which would be sufficient. He smiled and said, "Melissa whatever you feel is right is what we will do."

Later that week at work, I felt strongly impressed to invite one of my co-workers and his wife to come to the conference. He is 23 years old and extremely religious, and I felt that it would be alright for him to attend even though he was married. He had been asking about the activities we do as a church and had shown interest in several of our previous activities, so I felt safe in asking him to attend the conference. That night at work talked to him about the conference. The more I talked about it, the more we both got very excited and he really wanted to come. I was so happy and told him we would get him and his wife registered so they would be able to attend. It was at that moment that I remembered it was going to cost \$66 dollars for the both of them to attend, and I knew I would not be able to pay that for them. With a sad face he told me he would love to come, but could not spare the money. I wished I could have been in a position to pay for them.



It was not long after that I started looking at the conference details for a loop hole; I felt inspired as to what our ward activity should be in July. The next day I called and talked to my bishop and a few people on my committee; we decided we were going to have a spaghetti dinner fundraiser to raise enough money for less actives and non-members to attend without paying for themselves. All the members of the stake were personally invited to attend the "Date Night Dinner," where they could enjoy a table for two or a table with their closest friends, and be treated to a wonderful Italian dinner with live music. That following Friday we had 90 YSAs from the Heritage Ward show up to serve a dinner for over 250 couples from the stake. We allowed the payment for the dinner to be a donation as large or small as the couple could afford. That evening was one of my fondest memories in preparing for the conference; the cultural hall was beautiful, the twinkling lights set the mood and the food was amazing. There were people laughing, talking, singing and just having a great time. The Spirit was so strong as every person in attendance was in the service of their fellow man.

That night we raised enough money to invite and pay for 80 people to attend the conference. I know that it was because of the Savior and His love for all of the young single adults that this was able to happen. It was because of a stake full of wonderful members who listened to their leaders and knew how important this would be in the lives of those who were paid for.

During the speed dating activity at the conference, I talked to a young man who told me that he was a non-member and that his cousin, who lived in my stake, had invited him to come. I asked him what he thought about the conference, and he said it was one of the most amazing things he had ever seen. He had never felt so loved and accepted in a church. He told me that he had never before experienced the feelings he felt while at the conference, and if this is how it feels to be a part of our Church, he wanted to be baptized. Yesterday he had his third discussion in my home, and he is preparing to be baptized.

I know that this conference was inspired from on high; God favors the young people. He loves us and wants us to be close to Him, so that we can have a life full of happiness and righteous desires. I have no doubt in my mind that all of the little things that came together in preparation were because our Heavenly Father knew the potential of the conference and how many lives it would touch.

It was amazing to see this conference from start to finish, and to be able to be a part of the planning and organizing. It gave me life experiences that I would never have received at my job or at school. I have built eternal friendships and have gained a stronger testimony of my Savior. I know that it was through these acts of charity and service that I was able to experience the pure love of Christ. I was able to gain a deeper love of Christ, I was able to feel loved by Christ in a way I had never before felt; I was able to give love like Christ would if He were here today.

I am so grateful for this gospel and the change it is has brought into my life. I am so grateful for those wonderful people that were put in my life to help me understand the great plan of happiness. I am so honored to have been called to serve in this conference.

MICHAEL NAA

INGLEWOOD STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

By attending the conference this summer, I came to realize how important the gospel is and how much I need it in my life. I need to seek the kingdom of God first.

NICOLE PRIEST

MISSION VIEJO STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

I was blessed with the opportunity to be our multi-stake representative for the California YSA in South Orange County. When I received this calling, after being a convert of less than a year, I thought there was no way I would be able to help plan and execute such a large vision; how amazing the Lord is as He refines our abilities and allows everything to come together. Although I loved the conference, the preparation leading up to the conference was the most influential and served as a testimony builder in my life. I was able to work with many Church leaders on different levels, people I would have perhaps never had the opportunity to meet had I not been in this position.

Having the temple so close was another large blessing. I found myself attending the temple every single week, not because I was focused on attaining a certain number of ordinances, but because I loved the Spirit which was felt in the temple and the difference it made in my life. I was able to do 89 family names. One time, after finishing the baptisms, I was in the foyer waiting for my name cards to be returned. A temple worker approached me and asked if she could share something with me. As tears filled her eyes, she proceeded to tell me that she gave me my towel when I got out of the font. All of the sudden she felt this overwhelming feeling that the room was crowded. She looked up and no one was there. She turned to me and said, "I just want to let you know that your family was there today. It may not have been all of them, but a lot of your family was there in that room." Doing family work really personalizes the work we do in the temple. They are not just a name on a card; they are individuals who have waited a very long time for these saving ordinances.

I am honored and blessed to be a member of this Church. Although this calling was not always easy and there were times I thought there was no way everything was going to work out; that the food would not make it, another DJ would drop out, and there would not be enough volunteers. I was amazed to learn that when the Lord's hand is in something, as it was for this conference, it is in it for the long haul and everything down to the last detail will be provided.

The conference surpassed my expectations. There was not one specific thing that every person found as the highlight of their conference weekend. Something



unique appealed to each attendee, which represents to me that the purpose of the conference, to unite and bring everyone together, was accomplished.

ROBERT NELSON

SANTA MARIA STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

The Spirit was felt extremely strong during the Sunday sacrament meeting. The two parts of the whole conference that I felt really edified me was when we sang "I Know That My Redeemer Lives" on Saturday, and then again when the choir sang it on Sunday. My testimony of our living Savior has been strengthened and will never fail.

ROSE VANCE

LA VERNE STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

I had a wonderful time. I am a convert of about a year and a half, and have chosen to attend family wards. This was my first young single adult event. I had lots of fun and met many wonderful people. To be honest, I was a little freaked out by the speed dating when I saw it on the schedule, but I was pleasantly surprised at how much fun I had talking to about 20 people in that hour. I was able to make some new friends from different parts of the temple district, which was nice. I was extremely excited to hear that the YSA night at the Los Angeles Temple will now be Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday nights. I was given answers to some things that were bothersome to me, even though they were not addressed in any talks or activities directly. Now I have peace about them, a direction to work in, and a goal to attain. I think that I will start to attend the YSA events offered in my stake and ward. I hope that there will be a conference for us next year.

RUSHELL MARQUEZ

YUCCA VALLEY STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

Attending the conference actually changed my life. When I got there I was really shy, and I didn't want to interact with anyone unless they were from my stake. When they talked about "branching out," I was scared and thought that branching out wasn't for me. When we hit the speed dating I became really nervous. All of a sudden there was a guy who helped me break out of my "comfort zone". With his help I made new friends and learned not to be shy.

SAMANTHA WOODS

CITRUS HEIGHTS STAKE
SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

Attending this conference has changed my life because of the people I met and lessons that were taught to me. Both are unforgettable.

SARAH ELLIOTT

LANCASTER EAST STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

The conference itself was wonderful! My favorite part was the testimony meeting. Although it was completely impromptu, it was needed. It was so wonderful to

listen to the experiences of others, and to share in their testimony. Furthermore, it brought everything together in a greater way. I feel that it really opened things up for me, and it made me realize more fully what we accomplished this summer and the magnitude of it all. It's been an amazing experience watching as this conference has grown out of a simple idea to a state-wide effort of missionary and temple work. The Spirit has been so strong, and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.

SCOTT SPRAGUE

CYPRESS STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

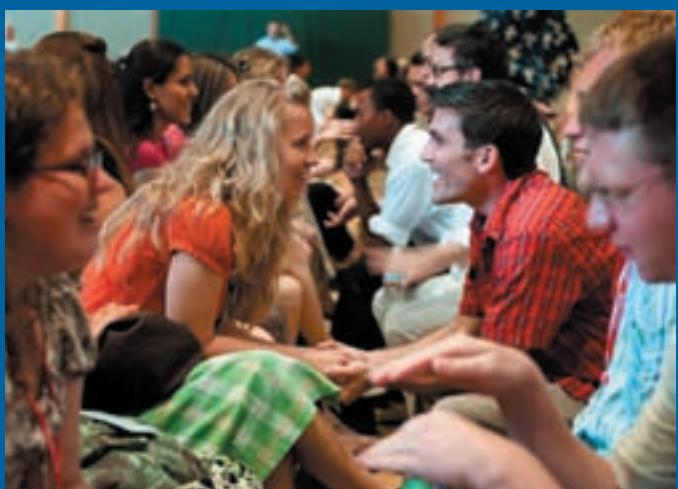
I was the recorder for the Cypress Stake, and I very much enjoyed the conference. I think most of the young single adults were very involved with the goals of the conference starting May 17th. We focused our ward goals towards activating those young single adults in the stake, as well as increasing regular temple attendance. We worked with all of the bishops in the stake to get names of the people who should have been attending the singles ward, and invited them to our ward, the YSA conference, and other ward activities. Making time to attend the temple for stake temple days and scheduled ward visits helped us to receive the blessings of attending the temple. The workers at the temple were always glad to see us. We also put many hours into preparing the quilts to be tied during the conference. There has been a noticeable difference in the number of people attending our ward, and I believe it is because of the prayers and selfless service shown by our bishop, YSA leaders, and all of those who contributed their time and efforts for the conference.

SHIKA ASHLEY

REDLANDS STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

It was my privilege and honor to be part of this conference experience. As I look back on it, I can see the Lord's influence every step of the way. I can see His hand in building my conference experience into something more than just a short-lived experience; it became something that would change me for the better. My experiences during the past few months can be summed up in three points: the Church is true and is based on revelation, the Savior lives and He knows what we need, and temples are the key to the gospel. These are things that I have known, but my testimony has increased with the events surrounding the conference.

When I first was made aware of the conference and my role as a YSA representative, I was less than thrilled because of the seemingly daunting task before me. My first thought was that I could not do what was asked of me. This conference gave us twelve weeks to contact approximately 1,000 YSAs in the two stakes of which my ward is comprised. Although I wasn't happy, I did what my priesthood leaders asked of me, going by the principle of faith. Ultimately, we decided to delegate the task so the burden was placed on the shoulders of existing organizations (Relief Society, priesthood quorums, home teachers, visiting teachers, ward missionaries, etc). During our stake meetings and ward







council, my bishop revealed a very important insight and shared his testimony with us. He said we were not creating a special organization for the conference because we already had all of the organizations and tools in place, and that the purpose of this conference was to get existing organizations to do what they're supposed to do. Reaching out to less actives was something we should continue to do long after the conference, or the conference would be meaningless. For a long time he has focused on getting the ward prepared to attend the temple and encouraging us to attend as often as possible. Earlier this year, he informed the ward council that we needed to take charge of the administration of the ward, so that he can focus more on ministering. At some point, I went from just doing what my priesthood leaders asked, to having a testimony of the conference and its effects. We may not know why our priesthood leaders ask us to do something, but if we do it in faith, eventually we will have an answer and receive our reward.

I know without a doubt that the many changes in my ward and stake have been in accordance with the conference goals and the expectations of the Lord. Without continual revelation, none of the subtle changes over the past few years and months would have occurred. The Savior lives, He knows what we need and how to mold us into who we are to be. Prior to this conference I never really thought of myself as a leader of men; even with all the experiences I've had, I just thought I was a person who tried to do what was right and follow my leaders. Various experiences in the weeks leading up to the conference caused a shift in my perception; I had a boss refer to me as a leader, and at institute we had a discussion about how we are born and raised to be leaders. Through example, we learn to speak to large groups and to lead with love. There were also others along the way who told me I was a leader. It was only then that I began to understand D&C 138:53-56, and its application to me. We, me included, are among those "rulers", the "noble and great ones" who were sent at this time to labor in the Lord's vineyard. The reason we were to find the less actives is because the Lord is no respecter of persons. He loves us whether we remained active and faithful from beginning, or if we stumble along the way. I needed to know that I am a leader and have to always behave in a manner becoming one of His servants; I must become like Him. This is something I needed to know in order to better accomplish my particular mission in life.

Since receiving my endowment, my goal has been to attend the temple as often as possible. In the 2-3 months prior to the conference, my attendance had declined. During that time my life was more stressful; things had not gone as well as I would have liked. This conference reminded me that it was my privilege to attend the temple, and I needed to take full advantage of it. I am from the tribe of Ephraim, as many of us are. I was recently reminded that part of Ephraim's responsibility was to carry the gospel forth to those in spiritual darkness. There are many applications, but I suggest frequent temple attendance is one of them. We are providing a means for those who died without the opportunity to accept the gospel and progress in

the light. Every ordinance we perform allows further progression in the gospel. The temple ordinances allow families to be sealed for time and all eternity, and it provides us with a spiritual reserve that we need to thrive in this world. As we leave the temple, we take a part of it with us and are able to share with those around us. We dispel the darkness by flooding the world with light. I am eternally grateful for the opportunity to take part in this conference. My small act of faith was rewarded more than a hundredfold. I know the gospel is true. I know President Monson is the current prophet of the Lord. I know the scriptures are true. I know the Lord guides this Church, and if we will listen and obey, we will be protected. If we attend the temple often and live up to our covenants to the best of our ability, we will have His Spirit with us; we will receive the revelation we need in order to return to Him.

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STEPHANIE LUDDEN

MISSION VIEJO STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

It was a great way to meet fellow YSAs, and see so many people united in the same great cause. It's so easy in the world to get lost in the shuffle of things, and to feel that you're alone in standing up for what's right. It was a real testimony builder and a boost of strength to have the reminder that we are not alone in the fight for right, and that we can be "no more strangers."

TIFFANY

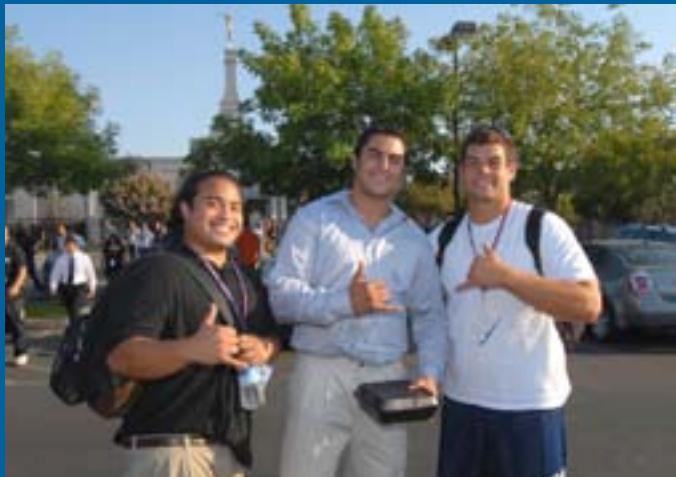
PLACENTIA STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

I am so glad that I chose to attend the conference! We were told by our leaders that if we choose to let the conference change us, we would not be sorry; they were absolutely right. I made friends with people I would have never guessed, I became closer to those whom I already knew, and the workshops were just amazing. It also helped me to realize that when we go from strangers to friends with the Savior's help, we can do amazing things.

WHITNEY YOUNG

SAN BERNARDINO STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I had so much anticipation and excitement leading up to the YSA conference, and what I came away with was a very spiritually satisfying experience. It was such a wonderful thing to put aside the stresses of school and work for a weekend to spend more time developing good friendships and a stronger testimony. The YSA conference was the highlight of my summer.



















humanitarian project

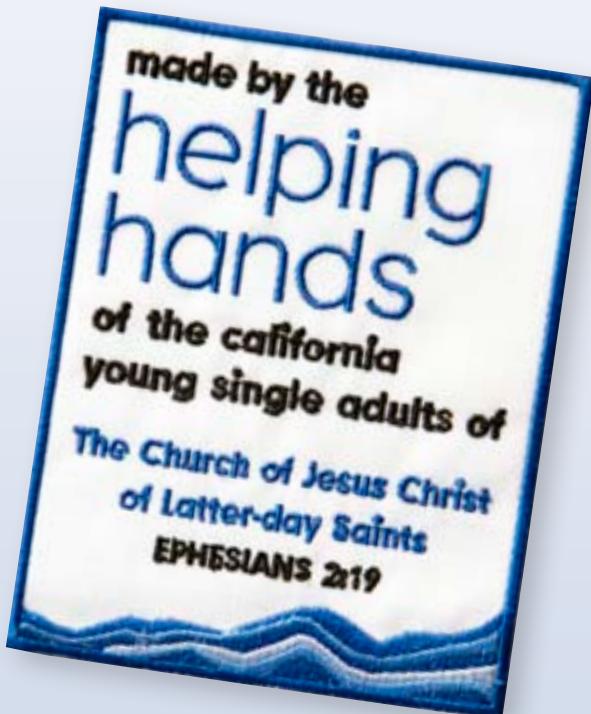
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Our service project was to make 1,000 quilts during the Conference to give to the local communities. Many hours and volunteers went into the project in the weeks leading up to the Conference. The starting point was putting together a supply spreadsheet with a budget that estimated what items were needed, the quantity of each, and at what cost. With the budget at hand, the materials were purchased online through retailers and manufacturers, and the smaller goods such as needles and pins were bought in downtown Los Angeles in the Fashion District.

The materials were then divided into kits that were sent out to each area in order to begin the preparation work of the quilts. Under the direction of a local Area Committee Humanitarian Leader and over a course of about two weeks, church members (both YSA's and those from family wards alike) gathered together multiple times to dedicate many hours of pinning, sewing, trimming and marking the quilts in order to get them all ready for the tying at the Conference.



During the Conference, YSA's all over the state tied the quilts simultaneously during a two-hour block, completing about 75% of the total by the time the Conference was over. The rest of the quilts were finished by the YSA's and volunteers in the two weeks following. Each area completed 142 quilts totaling in 1,000. The quilts were then stored in bags and delivered to a bishop's storehouse in each location, where the storehouses were to individually determine the distribution of the quilts in the communities.





HUMANITARIAN PROJECT

ysa testimonies

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AMANDA GILLETTE

TORRANCE STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

I had the opportunity of helping our stake Relief Society put together the quilts. We sewed, pinned and marked them with chalk. I saw the behind-the-scenes work that not only the YSAs did, but everyone else did in preparing for the conference. It just shows how much work and love went into this amazing conference for everyone to enjoy.

ANDREA RIGGS

MISSION VIEJO STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

I loved the humanitarian project! That sounds cheesy, but it really was awesome. A group of friends and I got to work together doing service. It not only strengthened our friendship with each other, but it drew us closer to our Savior. The Spirit was with us, and having the Spirit with you is always a blessing. I felt joy as I thought of those who would benefit from our work. I was building strength in patience and humility. Service is the best thing to come closer to the Savior. We became closer to each other and our greatest example. It made me realize that I need to find more opportunities to serve my fellowmen, to feel that same spirit and joy.

ANDREW CARSON

SAN DIEGO STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

I was grateful for the opportunity to serve others through the quilting project. The two hours I spent threading, cutting, and tying, and the happiness I felt afterward gave me a hint of the joy I will feel when serving people for two years on my mission.

ANDREW STRATFORD

LOS ANGELES STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

I try to provide service as often as I can because I know it benefits everyone involved, myself included. Having this conference helped a lot because it made me

feel those benefits more than I could have otherwise. Also, it brought me together with many other people that have the same religious beliefs as I do, which is something I greatly needed this summer.

ARIANE BAIR

SACRAMENTO CORDOVA STAKE
SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

For many, the humanitarian project was surprisingly one of their favorite activities of the conference. Many complained, mostly men feeling unqualified to quilt, when they heard the details of the service project. But once the groups began working on quilts, the feelings changed. It was actually quite relaxing and easy. We had many who did not want to rotate out of the quilting area. One YSA, Shannon Simmons, remarked that she finally understood why the pioneer women of the past loved quilting circles. Being able to use your hands to create something to bless other people while working together in a group is an incredible feeling. The quilts were not perfect, but they were made with plenty of hard work and love.

ASHLEY BURNETT

PLACENTIA STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

I love to serve! It was great to be working with young single adults united in a common cause. Being able to serve someone less fortunate than myself was a great experience, and created a spirit of charity and love. It made me want to do more with my life, and be in constant search of those in need.

ASHLEY HUNT

BAKERSFIELD SOUTH STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

I love making quilts, and it just reminded me of the simplicity of serving. I want to serve all my life.



BETHZARA LAULU

CERRITOS STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

I love how the gospel includes serving others in any way we can. It was a great and spiritual opportunity to do the humanitarian project. Watching everyone work together was just magical.

BROOKE BECKSTROM

MURRIETA STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

I loved making those quilts! I helped with two, the first with friends from my branch, and the second with people I didn't know. I didn't think I would meet as many people as I did, and I am extremely grateful for this experience. Thank you to everyone that put the YSA conference together so we could all gather as brothers and sisters and meet new friends in service.

CELINDA MOLEN

HUNTINGTON BEACH STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

I loved doing the humanitarian project. I loved the fact that so many of us worked on tying and sewing one quilt together. I felt such unity in doing that service with others, and grew to love those people I was working with, even those I didn't know very well. The way I felt after each quilt was finished was indescribable. I loved every minute of that project, and I truly enjoyed it.

CHRISTINA HOGEWONING

SAN DIEGO EAST STAKE

SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

It was great to get together with so many of my peers to serve and help others. It makes me remember how blessed I am for everything I have. There are always opportunities to serve, big and small!

COURTNEY MASTERS

FOLSOM STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

I love to sew; it's a great hobby of mine. I got to participate in threading the yarn through the quilts. Just knowing that I had a part in something greater than myself gave me the comfort and hope for a better and warmer future for those who are less fortunate.

DENISE DEHART

ONTARIO STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

It was super cool to see everyone working on the quilts; you don't see that every day. I love giving service like that, especially when I have others who want to do it as well.

DIANA PULOTU

FREMONT STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

The humanitarian project was an experience I enjoyed. Working with others as a family always warms my heart. It's fun, challenging, and unifying. You learn from others and yourself, as well as experiencing it. "Be like Christ" is the goal we are trying to accomplish; that means showing compassion, forgiveness, and light.

ELAINE TIMOTEO

ANAHEIM STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

I am blessed with so much, and it would be truly saddening if I did not give of my time and talents to those who are less fortunate. It is a blessing to serve in my capacity, and to see many single adults laboring for a worthy cause. It makes me feel good. Service is one of the things that I value as being a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Throughout my life I will look for many opportunities to serve.

EMILY THOMAS

NEWPORT BEACH STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

I loved it. Any opportunity to give service is a blessing and highly recommended; thank you for that opportunity. My group cheerfully did two quilts, and had a good time putting them together. Knowing they will go to someone in need makes me happy.

ERIC M. REESE

FRESNO NORTH STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

I loved the humanitarian project; I have never contributed to something so massive. It was truly amazing to see everyone help in this wonderful service.

FARAIMO FUIFUI JR.

YUCCA VALLEY STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

The humanitarian project was great! I enjoyed the friendly environment quilting provided; it was simple enough for us to be able to talk and get to know one another. I met some people that I will definitely not forget. I also was very amazed at the quality of the project. I left the quilting area wanting one for myself. All together, it was something special. We need to do more.

HANNAH KENT-JOHNSTON

CYPRESS STAKE

NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

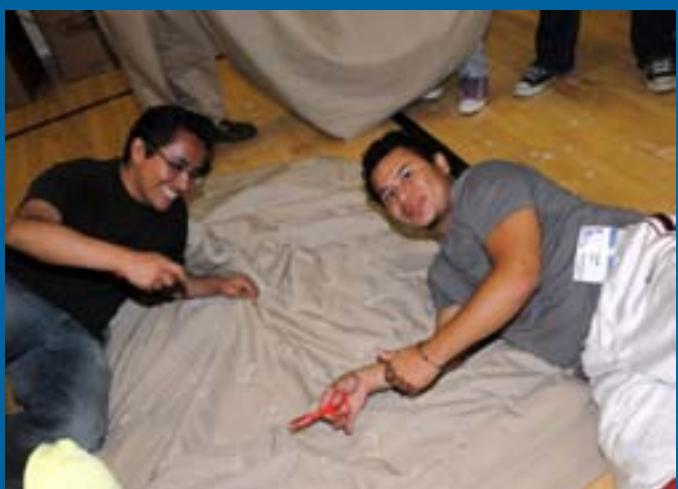
By the time my group had the chance to work on making the quilts for the humanitarian project it had been a very long day. Many of us were very tired, and I heard more than a few grumbles around me. However, once we all began to work, it was as though we had all been rejuvenated! Laughter and conversation began again, and people even began to have friendly competitions to see who could get the most quilts completed. This was truly a testimony to me of how service lifts the spirit, and leaves one feeling happy and bright.

HEIDI THOMPSON

SACRAMENTO CORDOVA STAKE

SACRAMENTO: SCHOLAR WAY CONFERENCE

The Lord does require all things from us, and the humanitarian project was a wonderful way to show our love to Him through service for those in need. I had spent six hours preparing the blankets in Sacramento on the previous Saturday, and I loved spending that time helping people who need these quilts. Working together with other young single adults not only



helped the needy, but it helped those who gave service become "fellow citizens...of the house of God."

JASON KHAU
HUNTINGTON BEACH STAKE
NEWPORT BEACH: IRVINE CONFERENCE

The project itself made me feel like a better person. It feels awesome to know that my labor will help others, and perhaps they will be inspired to help others as well. Meeting a lot of people while working on the project was also helpful.

JESSICA DUNCAN
LODI STAKE
SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

The project was great! I've always loved to serve, so this just added to my testimony. It was fun to do something in groups.

JESSICA MEJIA
SAN DIEGO SWEETWATER STAKE
SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

I really enjoyed making the quilts. I got to meet new friends while doing it, and it was fun to learn a new skill.

JILLIAN STAFFORD
CORONA STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

The humanitarian project was so much fun, and it was a perfect opportunity to go and work with people I didn't know and make great friends. It was a win-win situation; make new friends while doing service together!

JONATHAN MANN
NEWBURY PARK STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

I was grateful to be able to help with the humanitarian project. I felt a sense of happiness when I participated in it. Service is a wonderful thing.

JUSTINE MCMANIS
SAN LUIS OBISPO STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

The humanitarian project was great! It was so wonderful to see so many people working together to finish the quilts. It was a great time for people to get to know each other as they tied and held up the quilts. It was also great to know the large number of quilts that we were putting together; this gave a feeling of really making a difference in needy people's lives.

KELLY SPENCER
SIMI VALLEY STAKE
LOS ANGELES: SANTA MONICA CONFERENCE

One of the best parts of the conference was feeling a part of something, like the service project. Knowing that one small contribution can make a difference in completing a ton of blankets for people in need made me feel good, and it made me want to do more. Once I had a taste of service, it felt really good to give of my time and care, and I know other people felt the same.

KELSEY BURTON
FRESNO STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

The humanitarian project was really fun and way cool for everyone to want to help out and get a lot finished. I also met many people from it.

KIMBERLY CREEL
LANCASTER STAKE
LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

I am so thankful we served those in need. It was nice to work with other young single adults who are trying their best to do what is right as well. It made me realize that I should be more grateful. I've learned to be more positive in life and count my blessings!

KIRSTEN PEDERSEN
SARATOGA STAKE,
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I loved the opportunity to work with other single adults in service because the environment was so positive and upbeat. We enjoyed talking and spending time together, as we worked quickly to see how many knots we could tie.

LINDA COLVIN
SAN JOSE SOUTH STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I'm not really familiar with quilting, so I learned a new skill from this experience. It was very nice getting to help out, and to know it was for a good cause and for people who needed some extra help, which is always a good feeling.

LISA HARRIS
LIVERMORE STAKE
OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I was grateful for the humanitarian project. It was wonderful to see people working together for one common goal of assisting those in need. There were so many things going on that night in Oakland (karaoke, games, people talking, movies playing, refreshment rooms) and yet when I walked through the area of the stake center where the humanitarian project was set up, I was amazed at the number of people who remembered to step away from the social pursuits of the evening to spend their time tying quilts for those in need. What a blessing it was. I met and got to know people better while working on the humanitarian project than during any other activity over the weekend.

LORA AYALA PORTER
BAKERSFIELD STAKE
FRESNO CONFERENCE

I thought it was great to give service with people we didn't know, for people we won't know. It was a great way to meet new people and do something good.

MARIA G. AVILA
MURRIETA STAKE
REDLANDS CONFERENCE

Although we were all tired from being up bright and



early that day it felt good to know that we were doing something for someone less fortunate than ourselves.

MARIE COPE

NAPA STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

Making the quilts was really fun and something that everyone could participate in. I met a cute guy; it was the best part of the conference.

MARK HANSON

CANOGA PARK STAKE

LOS ANGELES: TORRANCE CONFERENCE

The humanitarian project that we did at the conference was absolutely a great idea. It got people who didn't know each other working together as a team. We learned things about each other that we didn't know before, and that was really interesting.

MEGAN BYERS

MERCED STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

I had the best time working on the quilts with my fellow "blues!" I met some great people who were fun-loving and caring. The sweetest act of charity happened to me when I pricked my finger with a quilting needle, and one of the guys from our group went to get me a band-aid. He came back and not only got the band-aid ready for me, but gently placed it on my finger like prince charming would put on Cinderella's slipper. So cute!

MELISSA COBABE

CITRUS HEIGHTS STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

The humanitarian project made me realize how great it is to serve. I hadn't participated in a service project for a while, and it was nice doing something for others. I think we tend to forget about others when we are busy worrying about ourselves.

MINDY LINDSAY

HAYWARD STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

I worked really hard on the humanitarian project, not only at the conference, but assembling the quilts before and helping to tie quits after. I love serving and knowing that these blankets will go to people in California who are in need!

REBEKAH TERRAZAS

SANTA MARIA STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

The humanitarian project made me want to get out and do more for people that do not have as much as I do.

ROBERT NELSON

SANTA MARIA STAKE

FRESNO CONFERENCE

I have always been kind of hesitant in the past to participate in humanitarian projects, but this time I was just willing to serve with friends I already knew and friends I met at the conference. It was entirely awesome.

RUSHELL MARQUEZ

YUCCA VALLEY STAKE

REDLANDS CONFERENCE

At first I thought it was going to be boring, but when I ended up with a group I didn't know, I got more into it. It became so fun and exciting for me; I didn't want to stop. I wanted to keep going, but we had to let the other group come in. Knowing that this was for a good cause helped me feel good about myself. I really hope we can do something like that again.

SAMANTHA WOODS

CITRUS HEIGHTS STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

Watching people, especially other young single adults like me give up their time to do something to benefit others has helped me realize I should be less selfish at times. I need to worry more about the needs of those around me, rather than my own.

SARAH WELLINGTON

VISTA STAKE

SAN DIEGO CONFERENCE

I feel a great sense of joy, excitement, and comfort when I look back on my participation in the project. Knowing that were over a thousand of us at our assigned location, not to mention the YSAs at the other locations, working together on something that would really benefit others was amazing. It helped others that we may never meet here in this life. I love that as a Church, we strive to do so much for people who may be in need. We don't whine or complain; instead we become enthusiastic and understand the importance of what we are doing. Also, it's totally awesome thinking about YSAs all over California doing the same thing at the same time for the same people.

SIA ALUSA

SAN FRANCISCO EAST (TONGAN) STAKE

OAKLAND CONFERENCE

This has increased my love for humanitarian work. I have been involved in volunteer work in my community, so it has motivated me to be involved in other places besides home. Of course I will continue with my own efforts, but will also look for other efforts that I can assist with.

THAO YANG

GRIDLEY STAKE

SACRAMENTO: MORMON CENTER CONFERENCE

I felt the love that I was putting into the project. Every time I tied a piece, it felt like I put one more piece of love in it.

TIFFANY

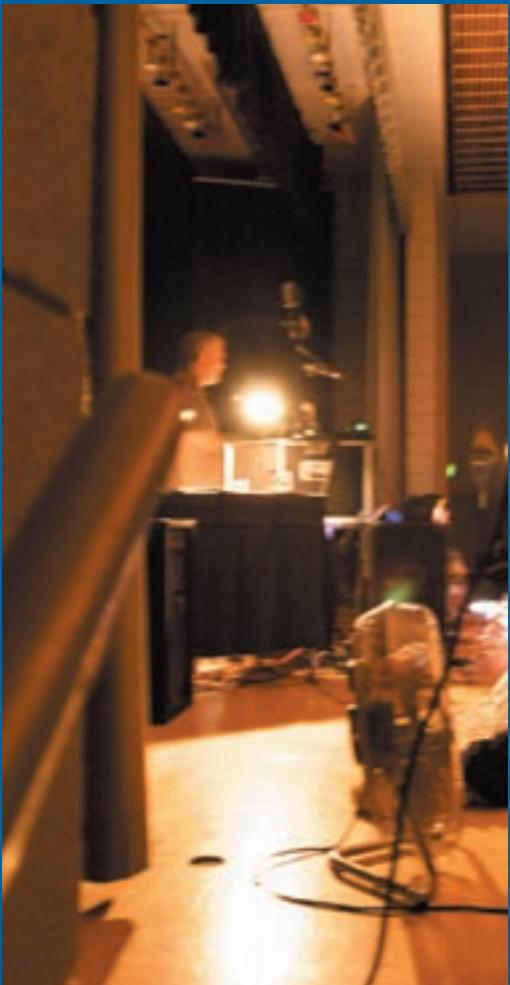
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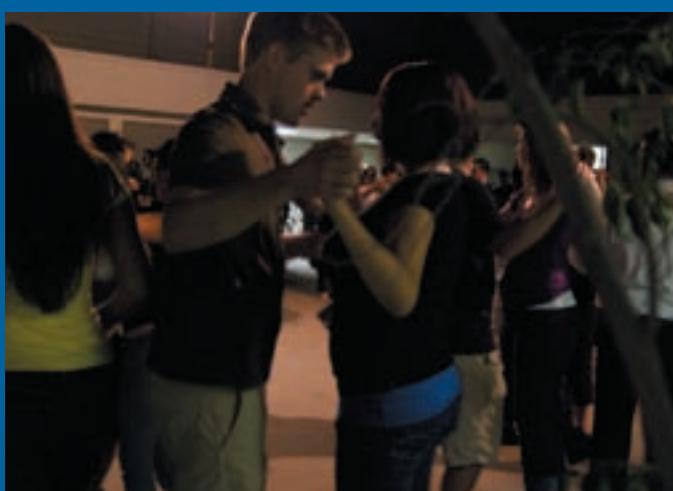
NEWPORT BEACH CONFERENCE

I always love doing service projects; it makes me feel so happy and closer to the Savior. Knowing that the work that we did will make thousands of people feel a little more at peace makes me so happy!

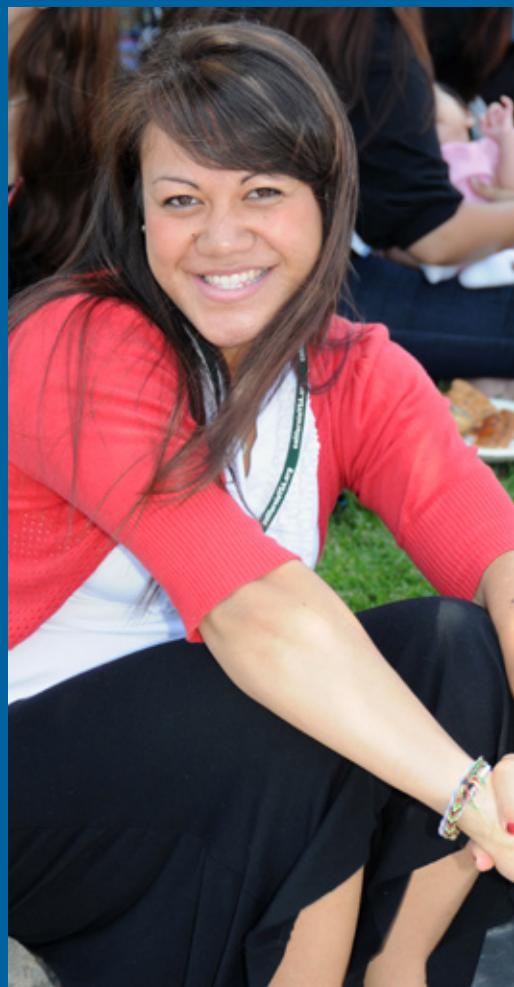
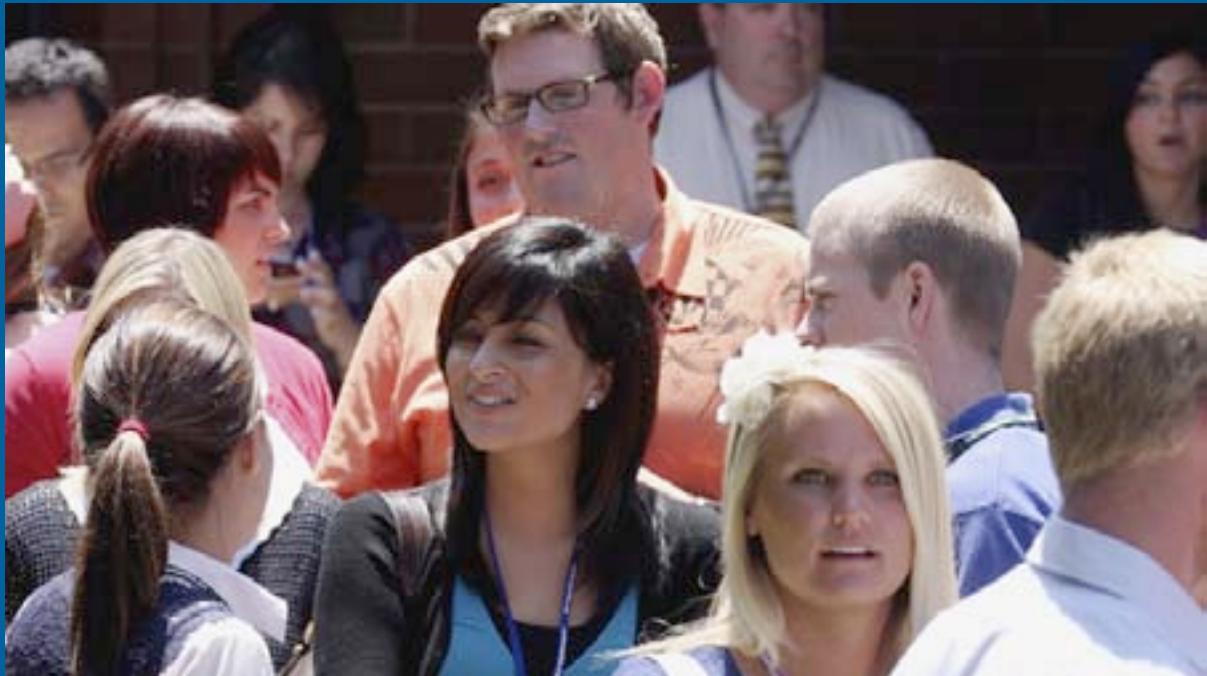














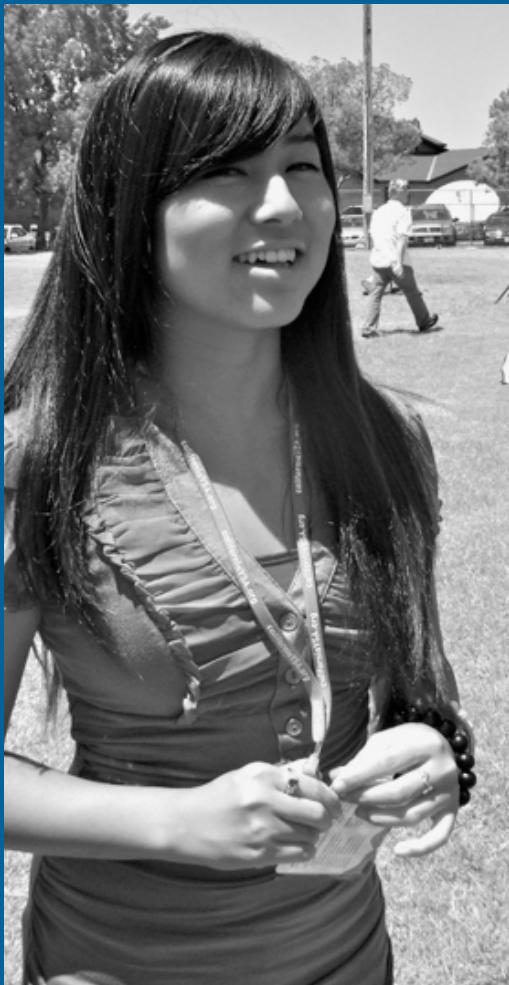




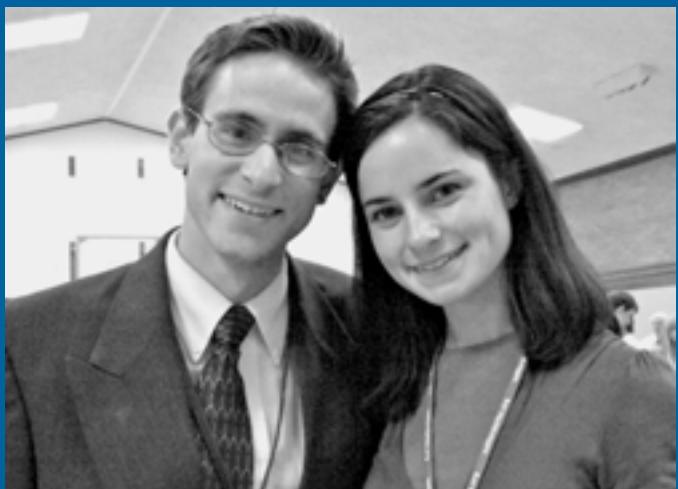


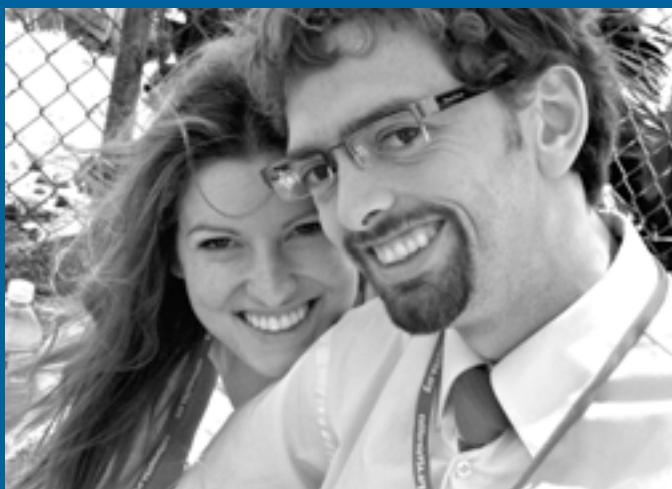












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californiaYSA.org

EPHESIANS 2:19

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners...

REACH & RESCUE

Commit to reach out to one less active member each month—call one you do know, or visit and introduce yourself to one you don't know.

Personally get to know those who have been reached and want further contact—invite them to a church or social event every month.

But fellow citizens with the saints And of the household of God...

RECOMMEND

Be worthy and hold a temple recommend.

Attend a minimum of one temple session each month.

post-conference goals

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At the end of the conference, each YSA was challenged to participate in the Reach, Rescue, and Recommend Program: continue to **REACH** out and **RESCUE** their fellow members and use their **RECOMMEND** to attend the temple regularly. The Area Seventy, the presiding Brethren, desire that the conclusion of the conference not be the end but the beginning of an era of 'reaching out' and, yes, 'rescuing' those who desire to return and may not know how. Elder Tenney expressed the importance of this outreach effort as he reflected on the conference: "In the last three months we have seen the efforts, the determination and the faith of YSAs in California. It has been uplifting and edifying to behold. The outreach and rescue efforts have blessed the lives of thousands and will continue to do so. We need every member of the Church. We need every young single adult. We would desire to not lose even one. They are loved and needed."

YSAs left the conference with renewed determination and a sense of responsibility, a feeling summarized by Bishop Eastland: "We consider this the beginning, not the end."

GRATITUDE & APPRECIATION

AN EMAIL FROM THE AREA SEVENTY TO THE YOUNG SINGLE ADULTS OF CALIFORNIA

AUGUST 17, 2009



We the Area Seventy for California want to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation for your participation in the California YSA Conference. It was a tremendous success. Through your commitment over the past 12 weeks, the results surpassed even our high expectations for attendance at the Conference (approximately 11,000), temple ordinance work (more than 75,000 ordinances) and visits to the less active YSAs (more than 7,500). We are reminded of President Hinckley's recounting in 2006 of President

Brigham Young's call to rescue the saints in the Martin Handcart Company. He told the story as follows:

This is an important anniversary year in the history of the Church, as all of you know. It is the 150th

anniversary of the coming of the Willie and Martin handcart companies and the Hunt and Hodgett wagon companies which accompanied them.

Much has been written concerning this, and I need not go into detail. All of you are familiar with the story. Suffice it to say that those who set out on the long journey from the British Isles to the valley of the Great Salt Lake began their travel in faith. They had little or no knowledge of what they were getting into. But they moved forward. They began their journey with great expectation. That expectation gradually failed them as they moved west. As they commenced the tedious journey following the Platte River and then up the valley of the Sweetwater, the cold hand of death took its fearsome toll. Their food was rationed; their oxen died; their carts broke down; they had inadequate bedding and clothing. Storms raged. They sought shelter, but they found none. The storms beat about them. They literally starved to death. Scores died and were buried in the frozen ground.



Fortunately, they were passed by Franklin D. Richards on his way from England. He had a lightweight conveyance with horses and was able to travel much faster. He came on to this valley. It was this very season of the year. The general conference was in session. When Brigham Young received the news, he immediately stood before the congregation and said:

"I will now give this people the subject and the text for the Elders who may speak to-day and during the conference, it is this, on the 5th day of October, 1856, many of our brethren and sisters are on the plains with hand-carts, and probably many are now 700 miles from this place, and they must be brought here, we must send assistance to them. The text will be, 'to get them here.' I want the brethren who may speak to understand that their text is the people on the plains, and the subject matter for this community is to send for them and bring them in before the winter sets in. . . .

"I shall call upon the Bishops this day, I shall not wait until to-morrow, nor until [the] next day, for 60 good mule teams and 12 or 15 wagons. I do not want to send oxen, I want good horses and mules. They are in this Territory, and we must have them; also 12 tons of flour and 40 good teamsters, . . . 60 or 65 good spans of mules, or horses, with harness. . . .

"I will tell you all," said he, "that your faith, religion, and profession of religion, will never save one soul of you in the celestial kingdom of our God, unless you carry out just such principles as I am now teaching you. Go and bring in those people now on the plains, and attend strictly to those things which we call temporal, or temporal duties, otherwise your faith will be in vain; the preaching you have heard will be in vain to you, and you will sink to hell, unless you attend to the things we tell you" (Deseret News, Oct. 15, 1856, 252).

Immediately horses and mules and strong wagons were offered. Flour in abundance was forthcoming. Warm clothing and bedding were quickly assembled. Within a day or two the loaded wagons were moving eastward through the snow.

When the rescuers reached the beleaguered Saints, they were like angels from heaven. People wept tears of gratitude. The handcart people were transferred into wagons so they could travel more quickly to the Salt Lake community.

Some two hundred died, but a thousand were saved.

You accepted the mission that was set in May, and now it is time to carry this further. Please go out and reach and rescue the thousand -- in this case the 60,000 less actives who are prepared to heed your call. The theme of "No More Strangers" has been just that, and this Conference has been a joy to see unfold, and humbling to witness the exercise of Priesthood power by all of the YSAs.

We gave you a wallet size card with three goals on it: to reach out to the less active, to rescue those who respond, and to be temple worthy with an active recommend being used monthly. We hope that you will be personally committed to this effort on an on-going basis.

Again, many, many thanks for being a part of this great Conference. And may you know of our testimony that this opportunity came to us from the presiding Brethren by inspiration, and the result demonstrates once again that you are a member of a choice generation prepared to accept your mission to your fellow YSAs. It is the Lord's desire, and our desire, to lose not even one.

The YSA Conference Committee,
Elder Donald P. Tenney
Area Seventy
Chairman, YSA Conference Steering Committee

Elder Larry R. Lawrence
Area Seventy
Member, YSA Conference Steering Committee

Elder William F. Reynolds
Area Seventy
Member, YSA Conference Steering Committee

Bishop Larry L. Eastland
Bishop, Santa Monica 3rd Ward
Member, YSA Conference Steering Committee

Other Area Seventy,
Elder John C. Dalton
Elder Nelson D. Cordova
Elder Scott D. Whiting
Elder Frank V. Trythall



NO MORE
STRANGERS

Ephesians 2:19

**7 TEMPLES
157 STAKES
250 PRIESTHOOD
TO PASS THE SACRAMENT
1000 QUILTS
7000 LBS OF
POTATOES
21000 SLICES
OF PIZZA
30000 MEALS
55000 NAPKINS
60000 WATER BOTTLES
10000 YSAs**

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