

THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

January 1, 2019

Dear Klein Stake Members,

It has been exciting this last year to witness the Lord Jesus Christ guiding His church through His chosen prophet, President Russell M. Nelson. The inspired adjustments to our ministering efforts, combining the Melchizedek priesthood quorums, and the recent focus on a home-centered church all indicate that the Lord is hastening His work. He is inviting all of us to be involved actively in this great work of salvation.

We encourage all members of the stake to continue to study and ponder the messages we received from the First Presidency, the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, and our other church leaders. Specifically, we ask you to review the *2018 Worldwide Devotional for Youth with President and Sister Nelson* (www.lds.org/broadcasts/face-to-face/nelson). The Prophet's message about the Gathering of Israel is relevant to each of us. As we work to understand the messages from living prophets and seek to be guided by the Holy Spirit, we will be better able to prioritize our time properly and find great joy in the service of our Father in Heaven.

Last year, the First Presidency also announced changes to the way the Church is administered in North America. This resulted in the creation of an Area Presidency for the North America Southwest Area with Elder Lynn G. Robbins called as President. Our new Area Presidency worked closely with the Quorum of the Twelve to provide us with a new Area Plan. A copy of the plan is attached to this letter. As a stake presidency, we enthusiastically support the Area Plan and are delighted to see that the priorities mentioned are not new to the Klein Stake.

With this plan in mind, we invite all of our members to commit to the following actions this year:

- 1) Prayerfully study the attached Area Plan and think about the next step along the covenant path for yourself, your family, and those to whom you minister.
- 2) Set individual and family goals related to the five bullet points listed in the Area Plan. Use these simple priorities to focus your efforts to progress along the covenant path that leads us back to our Father in Heaven and eternal life.

We testify that as you follow and are actively involved in serving the Lord and helping others to do the same you will find lasting joy. As President Nelson encouraged: "...anytime you do anything that helps anyone—on either side of the veil—take a step toward making covenants with God...you are helping to gather Israel." The restored Church of Jesus Christ is moving forward to prepare the world for His Second Coming. There is nothing more important in all the world.

We are grateful to be able to work with you in this great effort. May God continue to bless you and your families with His promised peace.



Robert K. Ellis



Richard J. Hogan



Marshall S. Blackham