

# A Guide for Senior Missionary Specialists

## *For Stake Presidents*

It is recommended by the Service Mission Office that stakes consider calling senior missionary specialists. This may perhaps be an assignment to a high councilor or a call to a dedicated senior missionary specialist within the stake—someone who can become familiar with service missionary opportunities, promote the blessings of serving a senior or senior service mission and assist those members who have a desire to serve become missionaries.

Many stakes have chosen to call senior missionary specialists, and the fruits of their labors are abundant. The purpose of this document is to suggest roles and responsibilities for senior missionary specialists.

### Candidates

**Option one:** The role of senior missionary specialist may be assigned to a member of the stake presidency, a stake clerk, an executive secretary, or a member of the high council. An advantage of assigning this position to a stake leader is the regular communication with the stake president in monthly meetings. The stake president can delegate viewer and approval permissions in the Service Missionary Management System (SMMS) to follow those already serving as senior service missionaries.

**Option two:** Senior missionary specialists may also be individual members of the stake or couples called by the stake presidency and set apart by a member of the stake presidency or high council. Consideration should be given to those with senior missionary experience away from home or as service missionaries. These members have the advantage of personal experience and are generally eager to share their enthusiasm for missionary service. They can be delegated permissions in SMMS and are wonderful ambassadors for missionary service. They can liaise between senior missionary coordinators (SMCs) and stake leaders.

### Suggested Roles and Responsibilities

Senior missionary specialists serve under the direction of the stake presidency to devise and implement initiatives to achieve the goals and objectives of the stake for senior missionary service.

They should be expected to become experts in using and navigating the Senior Missionary Website (SMW) and demonstrating its value to identify and evaluate full-time and service mission opportunities.

They should be well-versed in the training and promotional materials contained in the SMW. For example, the videos containing descriptions and testimonies of various types of missionary

service, the materials for a fifth Sunday lesson encouraging missionary service, the 15-minute talk outline, and the senior missionary preparation course available on the SMW.

Senior missionary specialists should reasonably be expected to present the training listed above and share their testimonies of the work by speaking in stake conferences and sacrament meetings (including accompanying high councilors in speaking assignments).

Stake senior missionary specialists serve closely with senior missionary coordinators (SMCs) to receive training, share ideas and successes, and implement senior missionary initiatives in their respective stakes under the direction of their stake presidents. They may work with SMCs independently or with other stake members to plan and implement senior missionary conferences and senior member devotionals.

Working with their SMCs, senior missionary specialists should become familiar with the Church operations in their area and the types of service opportunities available in local operations and operations worldwide, as many members serve virtually outside their area. If asked by a bishop, for example, to help members of his ward identify local or out-of-area service mission possibilities for senior members, senior missionary specialists should be able to provide information about the opportunities, qualifications, and responsibilities of each.

Senior missionary specialists may be trained by SMCs—by invitation from the stake president—to understand the Church-wide senior service missionary call and approval process and assist bishops in understanding and using the Missionary Recommendation System (MRS). They may also provide reminders and assistance to stake leaders about pending approvals, date modification and early release requests, etc., in SMMS.

## Summary

Senior missionary specialists fill a vital role in the stake to encourage and support senior missionary service. SMCs work to ensure that senior missionary specialists understand and appreciate the general scope of the senior missionary effort and the doctrine of missionary service as outlined in Chapter 24 of the General Handbook. Together they serve under the direction of priesthood leaders to hasten the work of salvation and bring souls unto Christ in preparation for His glorious Second Coming!