



**AREA PRESIDENCY MESSAGE**

## “Philippines Area 2014 Broadcast – Hastening the Lord’s Work.”

**A**s we begin our area broadcast, we want to be sure that we acknowledge over this past year the tragedy that has taken place in Tacloban and in Bohol that has affected the islands of Cebu and Panay and also Negros. We want those of you who live in those areas to know that we love you. We have been concerned about you. We have come to visit you. We look forward to continuing to assist you as we work together to overcome the difficult times that you’ve had there. We hope that you know of our great love and appreciation for all of you. As I have mentioned, I am grateful for my two counselors, Elder Ardern and Elder Echohawk. These are great men and they are helping us in this work. We are especially grateful for our 10 Area Seventies. We appreciate their good work and you meet them all the time

as you see them come and visit your stakes and districts.

I want you to know that I can see all of you in my mind’s eye. As we travel throughout the Philippines, we go from the top in Laoag to the bottom in Mindanao. We go from the east coast in Samar and Naga and Legaspi Mission, over to Palawan. As we do that we meet all the wonderful saints of the Philippines. What a great group of people we have here. We are so grateful for you and for the work that you do. We are going to review the progress that we made over the past year and we will review what we need to do in the coming year. We hope that as we do that you will see the great success that has come as a result of your efforts, as a result of the great work that has been happening in each of your wards and branches. We are grateful for the



By Elder  
Brent H. Nielson  
Philippines Area  
President

	2012	2013
Missionaries – Worldwide	53,000	83,000
Missionaries – Philippines	1,793	2,480
Missions	17	21

miracles that have come to us in the Philippines this year.

Since we met last year the Lord has hastened His work in a way that we couldn't have imagined. You might remember that last year, at this time President Monson had just announced the change in the age of missionaries. Young men are now able to serve at 18 and young women at age 19. At the time President Monson made that announcement, we had 53,000 missionaries serving worldwide, today we have 83,000. Can you imagine an increase of 30,000 missionaries that has taken place just in this past year?

Interestingly, the same thing has happened here in the Philippines. Last year at this time, we had 2,600 missionaries serving with us here in the Philippines. Today, that number is 4,300. That's an increase of 1,700 missionaries serving now. You've seen them in your wards and in your branches where you used to have just 2 missionaries

serving. Now, some of you have 4 or 8 missionaries serving in your wards and branches. The Lord is hastening His work. Last year at this time, we had 17 missions in the Philippines, today we have 21. You can see it happening all around us. We cannot conduct business as usual. The Lord is hastening His work, and you and I need to do the same thing as we move forward in our wards and branches. As we review what has happened in the past, we will begin to see the hand of the Lord as we prepare for the future. We hope that you will be attentive, that you will ask yourself "What can I do this year to participate in the work of salvation? What can I do to help hasten the work of the Lord in my ward or in my branch?". As we do that, we will see miracles take place in the Philippines.

We hope that you learn that we love you. We are so grateful for all that you do, we are grateful for your good work. We look forward to another wonderful year as we begin the year 2014. ■

**The Lord is hastening His work, and you and I need to do the same thing as we move forward in our wards and branches.**

# Area Broadcast – 2014

## A Review of the 2013 Area Goals

By Elder Larry J. Echo Hawk  
Philippines Area Presidency

Setting goals helps all of us define our vision for moving forward in the work of salvation here in the Philippines.

Last year at this time, we introduced goals we would all focus on in the year 2013. Posters showing these goals have been displayed in our meeting houses throughout the Philippines.

The centerpiece of our goals is found in 2 Nephi 32:3: “Feast upon the words of Christ, for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.”

When we read, ponder and search the words of God as found in the scriptures, and in the words of prophets, we receive the gift of personal revelation for ourselves and our families.

We have a goal to **“Strengthen Families.”** The words of Jesus Christ, and His prophets, teach us that we should have daily family prayer and scripture study, and a weekly Family Home Evening. Each member of the family is strengthened when they have their own scriptures so they can have personal scripture study.

Families are also strengthened

when they fast and pay a generous fast offering and a full tithing.

Elder Richard J. Maynes, a former Philippines Area President, taught that:

“Learning, teaching, and practicing the principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ in our homes helps create a culture where the Spirit can dwell. Through establishing these celestial traditions in our homes, we will be able to overcome the false traditions of the world.”

The next goal has been to **“Establish the Church.”** When Jesus Christ visited the people of the Book of Mormon He taught them that:

“if they will repent and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant and be numbered among this remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land . . .” 3 Nephi 21:22

In order to truly establish and strengthen the church in the Philippines a part of our goal has been to increase the

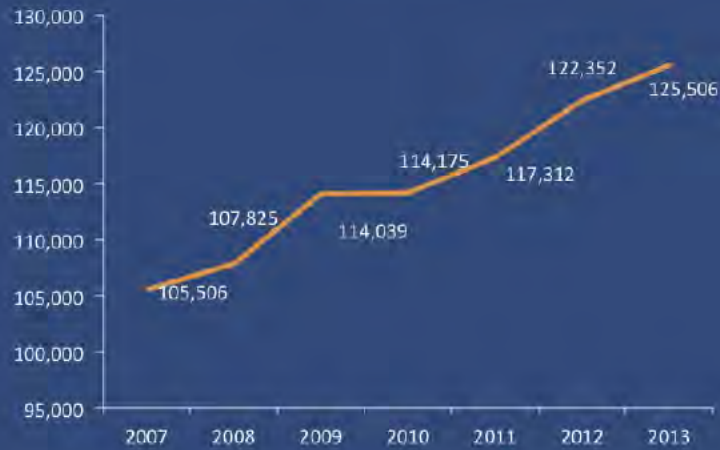


number of Melchizedek Priesthood holders; increase attendance in our sacrament meetings; and bless individuals and families by increasing the number of temple recommend holders.

With our goal to **“Save the Rising Generation,”** we sought to increase the number of young men serving missions; increase attendance of Young Single Adults; and increase temple marriages among young adult men and women.

In our final goal we have sought to **“Rescue the One.”** Tad R. Callister, one of the Seven Presidents of the Seventy, is assigned to oversee the work of salvation in the Philippines. In the April 2013 General Conference Elder Callister said: “The Lord declared His central mission in these terms; ‘For the Son of man is come to save that which was lost.’ (Matthew 18:11) If it is a priority of the Savior to rescue the lost, if it is a priority of President Thomas S. Monson to do so, as demonstrated by his entire life, should it not be a priority of every leader and

## Sacrament Meeting Attendance



every member in this church to do likewise? . . . a central part of our ministry should be a burning, driving, and unrelenting resolve to go get the lost and bring them back.”

Our specific goals to “Rescue” included asking each member to rescue one other member, and each ward council to prepare and maintain 15 names for activation by members for the missionaries to teach.

The work we have accomplished this past year as we pursued these goals has been wonderful to see!

Let’s now look together at what has been accomplished by the members and missionaries here in the Philippines:

As we have worked to establish the church, our sacrament meeting attendance has increased by over 11,000 since 2010. In the first 3 quarters of 2013, it has increased by over 3,300 as we have worked together to share the gospel and bring back our less active members.

We are also pleased with the progress we are making among our active Melchizedek Priesthood holders. Over the past 3 years and 9 months attendance has increased by almost 4,000 and in the first 3

quarters of 2013 the increase has been almost 1,000.

As we set a goal to increase the number of full tithe payers in the Philippines, our endowed adults with a recommend increased in the past 3 years by nearly 4,000 and in the first 3 quarters of 2013 by more than 2,000. The success of your hard work is remarkable.

In pursuit of our goal to Save the Rising Generation, you can see that in the first 3 quarters of 2013 alone, we increased the number of young men serving missions by over 400 to 1,750.

When we combine young men and young women, the number of Filipino missionaries has increased by over 600 in 2013. The total number of Filipino missionaries is now 2,425.

We are also very pleased to report that more of our young men and women are being sealed in the temple. In the first 3 quarters of 2013 our number of couples sealed in the temple has increased by nearly 1,200.

You can see that over the past 7 years, it has increased by over 9,000 couples.

Our Young Single Adults attending meetings over the past three years has increased by more than 2600.

When we are all united, working together, and focused on the same goals, what we can accomplish can be truly miraculous!

D&C 6:6: The Lord commands us to “seek to bring forth and establish the cause of Zion.” Zion refers to the Lord’s people who are of one heart and one mind and dwell together in righteousness. We can establish Zion by building unity and spiritual strength in our homes, wards, branches and communities.

Mosiah 18:21 says: “And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism, having their hearts knit

together in unity and in love one towards another.”

President Gordon B. Hinckley said: “As we listen to one another, seek the guidance of the Spirit, and work in unity, we receive inspiration to know how to meet the needs of individuals and families.”

In conclusion, I thank you all for what you have done to accomplish our goals in 2013. May the Lord continue to inspire us to set goals for 2014 and renew our efforts to accomplish “The Work of Salvation” in the Philippines.

I bear my witness, that Our Father in Heaven has blessed us with a great Plan of Salvation. He has sent His only begotten Son to create a pathway to eternal life and happiness with our families. The gospel of Jesus Christ has been restored upon the earth in these latter-days. Jesus Christ stands at the head of the church that bears His name: The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The Lord’s living prophet, Thomas S. Monson, guides this Church today, along with 14 other Apostles.

I bear this witness in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen. ■

Area Broadcast – 2014

# The Philippines Area Goals 2014

By Elder Ian S. Ardern  
Philippines Area Presidency

Sister Ardern and I have been from the top of the Philippines to the bottom...though I note that circumstances have kept us from Zambonga...and we have enjoyed being



with you in your chapels and in a few cases in your homes. This is the third time I have spoken with you in a nation wide address which means you will be getting used to my New Zealand accent.

Elder Echo Hawk shared with you what has been achieved and I join with the other members of the Area Presidency in thanking you for what has been done to date but let us not rest on the path of progress; there is much more to be done.

To this end we have refined our Area Goals for 2014. The heading now reads “The Work of Salvation.” We cannot think that what the Church does to bring all unto Christ and to support the family is divided into separate components with a cupboard for missionary work, another for Temple and Family

History work and yet another cupboard for strengthening families. All that the Church is involved in falls under the broad heading of the work of salvation.

The next line notes that these are the

goals for the Philippines Area. They are not the goals for the Pacific or Asia areas, they are our goals, and they belong to us and because we own them we care about them. You will be interested in knowing how the Area Presidency settled on these goals. It is our doctrine that after sincere prayer we can be guided in all things by the Holy Ghost and we truly believe we have been guided in setting the goals. We received input from our 10 Area Seventy and then discussed them with a member of the Twelve Apostles who assisted us to further refine them. Each and every word on the goal sheet has been carefully considered for maximum impact.

As with all good goals there is a start date and finish date. You will notice that the goals

are for 2014 and so the effort for this year will conclude in what Manny Pacquiao would call the end of 12th round and what we would call the end of December. And yes, to win this bout is going to take a Pacquiao like effort from every one of us and not for just a few rounds but for every single month of the year.

Let us now examine the central binding core and then each of the four goals.

**Scripture Reading:** This is the third time you have seen what I have called the central binding core. Having it remain unchanged for three years shows the importance of this goal. Central to all we do in our families and the Church is Christ and his mission and message and that is the reason it is placed in the center of our goal poster. His words and deeds define the path we must follow and we read of them in the scriptures. Please feast upon them and you will find you are spiritually prepared to rise above your challenges. There are numerous personal advantages to daily scripture reading. It increases our spirituality, strengthens our testimonies, gives solutions to our concerns, defines our doctrine and you know from your experience that it does much

more. Once more we invite you to join with us in feasting upon the words of Christ. Read and study the word of God according to your schedule but please don't rob yourselves of this precious opportunity.

And now we turn to the four goals as they appear on our goal sheet. Not only what is written important but so is the order in which they appear.

**Strengthen Families:** The family is ordained of God. It is the most important unit in time and in eternity. Even before we were born on this earth we were part of a family. Each of us is a beloved spiritual son or daughter of heavenly parents. Families were established as part of Heavenly Father's plan to bring us happiness and to help us to prepare for eternal life. I know that not every family in the sound of my voice is happy but I also know that every family that truly accepts Christ and follows His teachings will be happy. Happiness in the family increases as daily family prayer is held, scriptures are studied, family home evenings are held and families are sealed in the temple. We encourage you to look at your own family and ask yourself about the four areas specifically mentioned under the title "Strengthen families." If you

see you are lacking in any one of them determine to do something about it and do something about it right now! Don't let procrastination be the thief of family progress. A change for the better in any one of these areas will bring an increase of happiness in the family.

**Establish the Church:** You may look at this area goal with a questioning mind. Establish the Church...did we not establish ourselves as a Church here 52 years ago with the rededication of this land by President Hinckley and the arrival of four missionaries shortly thereafter? There is a difference between being here and being established and in many areas we are not yet established. To be a truly established Church is to have real growth which means we have an ever increasing level of commitment to covenants by our members. We have felt as an Area Presidency that giving emphasis to increasing the



number of active, full tithe paying Melchizedek Priesthood holders will give us the greatest lift as we establish the Church.

### Think of the advantages of this one area of focus.

1. It will mean more fathers honoring their Priesthood covenants in the home which will mean stronger families
2. The windows of heaven being opened and the Lord pouring out blessings that they will not have room enough to receive
3. An increase in those available to lead and minister in the Church
4. More temple recommend holders will mean more families sealed

We want all to enjoy the blessings of being full tithe payers. Our focus is on having more active Melchizedek Priesthood holders paying their tithing so brethren, if you are not yet included in that group, tonight is the night of change. This is your opportunity to give the knockout blow, to win the fight against the adversary, to get up and stand up as a fully active Melchizedek Priesthood tithing payer. If you need some help look and see who is standing ring side and in your corner. It is your Elders' Quorum President and your bishop. We call upon

every branch and ward to awake and arise so we can more fully establish the Church in the Philippines in the next twelve months.

### Saving the Rising Generation:

On seeing this portion of the Area Goals you will wonder just who the rising generation is?

There are three references to the 'rising generation' in the Book of Mormon and one in the Doctrine and Covenants. It refers in our day, as it did in Book of Mormon times, to the younger age group that is known in the Church as Young Single Adults. Having said that, we cannot ignore the fact that the young men and young women are also a rising generation. The hope is that they are not only rising in age but also rising above the world in their righteousness. The title begs the question what these young people are to be saved from and the answer is scripturally clear. They are to be saved from the fiery darts of the adversary.

The saving begins in the home with strong family support and the Church assisting. We need more of this generation being active participants in the ordinances of the gospel. One of the foundation stones of retaining young men (as an aside, we do much better at retaining young women) is to start early



in their preparation to fulfill their Priesthood obligation to serve full time missions. I love the story of this father and mother and their grandfather, President Cabrito of the Baguio Stake, who made a bamboo bank for his grandson to start saving for his mission. Elijah is just four years old but the bamboo bank has planted in him a desire to serve.

We have had a steady increase in the number of Young Men serving but we can do much more. Those serving are just a small percentage of what we are capable of and so we make the plea brethren for you to get worthy and to remain worthy to serve. This is one of the deciding rounds brethren and you need to be giving your very best effort. Young men, today is the day of commitment to serve an honorable mission. Keep yourselves worthy for this magnificent and rewarding experience. I served my first mission forty years ago and it

set a pattern that has blessed my life and the lives of my family members. Don't rob yourself of this precious opportunity to do your duty.

And now a word to the sisters. You will see in this goal that our focus is on getting the Young men into the mission field but please don't think that we are ignoring you. Should you have the desire to serve you are called to the work and we would warmly welcome you. My experience as a Mission President taught me the great value of sister missionaries.

**Share the Gospel and Rescue the One:** Today we hear the call of the living Prophets to hasten the work of salvation and in this portion of our goals we give attention to increasing our baptisms and our rescue efforts by missionaries and members working together. There is an individual responsibility for each member to share the gospel with friends and acquaintances. Not every sharing opportunity will result in a baptism but that is no reason to remain silent in your words and actions about your membership in the restored Church of Christ. There is some fear in many of us to share with others the source of our happiness but the Area Presidency joins with the presiding Brethren of the Church to invite you today to rid yourselves of fear and to fill

## Baptisms



the void with faith in Christ and His ability to help you prepare others for the missionaries to teach. Every missionary in the Philippines wants their daily planner full with appointments to teach your friends with you about the great plan of happiness and we invite you to make that happen. The graph shows a decline in baptisms over the last few years and with our rescue effort it was expected. It was a price we were prepared to pay to increase our sacrament meeting attendance but now the downward trend must stop and be turned.

The rescue will continue as there are so many to bring back that have lost their way. To this end we have asked the missionaries to join with you again this year in the rescue effort. Fifty percent of their time will be spent in finding and teaching new investigators and the other fifty percent in the work

of the rescue.

In both of these facets of missionary work the branch and ward councils have a key role to play. These councils are to maintain a minimum of 15 names throughout the year of people they are working with to be baptized and to be rescued. Bishops and Branch Presidents, as you use the New and Returning Member report in your council meetings you have laid out for you the road map for these precious souls to arrive at the temple.

Today you have seen the parts of the goals come together. When you see the goal posters in our chapels I hope that you will have a greater understanding of them and why they were selected. We invite you to join with us to make 2014, from beginning to end, a most enjoyable and rewarding year as we focus on all of the aspects of the work of Salvation in the Philippines. ■





Area Broadcast – 2014

# Moving Forward

**A**s you see what has been happening in the Philippines, we cannot do anything but stop and count our many blessings for the wonderful things that have been taking place here. We again thank you for all that you have done and for the many efforts that have been put forth. (And) We look forward to a wonderful future ahead of us.

As I have been thinking about the path ahead, and I have been thinking about the fact that the Lord is hastening His work in a way that we have never seen before, I thought a lot about my great grandfather. My great grandfather's name is Gordon David Haight. When he was a young man at age 17, he lived in Nauvoo, Illinois and knew the prophet Joseph Smith.



After the martyrdom of the prophet Joseph Smith, he along with his family moved west to Salt Lake City. He became very good at handling horses and oxen. (And) He began to develop his own wagons and have his own teams. In the course of the years the saints coming from Nauvoo, Illinois to Salt Lake City, Utah my great grandfather Haight made 14 trips across the plains. In his journals he records those experiences, and talks about the things that he learned as he made those trips. To me, one of the most interesting parts about those trips across the plains, come when we think about what the trip consisted of. The Mormon trail that stretch from Nauvoo, Illinois to Salt Lake City, Utah. On that Mormon trail, it covered 2,092 kilometers. Most of the time,



By Elder  
Brent H. Nielson  
Philippines Area  
President



## the caravan Moves On

the saints as they were coming across the plains found very calm level trails that allow them to come with ease. It has a flat area that will allow them to move with ease and this encompassed 1,670 kilometers. In fact, almost the entire way to Salt Lake City was a level plain. The saints that were coming for the first time didn't realize that the very last 300 kilometers was going to be the most difficult. As the saints arrived in Wyoming, and got to the point of rocky ridge, they learned that they were going to have to climb a mountain that was 2,560 meters high. At the top of big mountain, that was the elevation. As the pioneers came and had to climb this mountain, it became a very, very difficult task especially for them at the end of this journey.

It was very difficult thing for these pioneer saints to overcome. You and I may feel that we have worked really hard across the

plains. You and I may feel that we have come 1,670 kilometers and that we have given it our very best effort only to learn now that the Lord is hastening His work in a way that we couldn't imagine. Only to learn now that we have to climb a mountain that is 2,560 meters high in order for us to get where we need to be. It's a huge challenge. It will require our very best efforts. It will require us to work harder. It will require us to work smarter. It will require us to give a bigger effort that we have never given before. As we do these, the Lord will bless us in ways that we can't even imagine.

I hope that you will see that our Heavenly Father has set a bar of service that is very high. I have a son who sometimes gets tired of pioneer stories and he says "Mom and Dad, why do you always tell these pioneer stories?". And one day, I thought of a wonderful answer for him.

The reason that we tell these pioneer stories is because these early members of our church set a bar of service that is so high and that is so difficult to reach, that none of us can ever say that when we were asked to do something, "that's way too hard". No one's been ever asked to give that much before, because they have set a bar so high that you and I stretch to reach it.

Now, after we have such great success in the Philippines, it's easy for us to say, "Well, we have given a good effort and that's all the Lord requires.". When in reality there are mountains to climb, there are rivers to cross and you and I have a great work ahead of us. We need now to give our very best effort. We hope that as you begin to study the goals that have been set, and as you can see that the Lord is hastening His work, that you will come and join us. That you will come and join us in this amazing



opportunity to continue to build the church in the Philippines. We look forward to an outstanding year in the year 2014. We look forward to an opportunity for you and I to join together, to continue to do the Lord's work. We look forward to seeing you and I join with the rest of the world as we hasten the work of the Lord throughout the world.

As I was thinking about our work here, and I was thinking about these pioneers who began the church in the early days, I thought of this wonderful talk that was given by Bruce R. McConkie, in October of 1984. As I share with you the very end of his talk, I want you to think about our work here in the Philippines. Elder McConkie likens the work of the Lord to a caravan of pioneers moving across the plains. I want you to think about our work as it relates to those pioneers who began the church in those early days.

These are the words of Elder McConkie.

"The Church is like a great caravan—organized, prepared, following an appointed course, with its captains of tens and captains of hundreds all in place.

What does it matter if a few barking dogs snap at the heels of the weary travelers? Or that predators claim those few who fall by the way? The caravan moves on.

Is there a ravine to cross, a miry mud hole to pull through, a steep grade to climb? So be it. The oxen are strong and the teamsters wise. The caravan moves on.

Are there storms that rage along the way, floods that wash away the bridges, deserts to cross, and rivers to ford? Such is life in this fallen sphere. The caravan moves on.

Ahead is the celestial city, the eternal Zion of our God, where all who maintain their position in

the caravan shall find food and drink and rest. Thank God that the caravan moves on!"

It's my hope and prayer brothers and sisters that as you and I begin to climb up rocky ridge to big mountain, that we will know that the caravan moves on. That we will join together united, to continue to build the work in the Philippines. That we will hasten the work in a way that we have never seen it hastened before. I bear my witness to you that God lives. That His son Jesus Christ is our Savior and our Redeemer. That we are led by a living prophet today by the name Thomas S. Monson whom I sustain with all my heart. I bear my witness to you that it is his call to us that we hasten the work of our Heavenly Father. I share this testimony with you and give our love to all of you saints throughout the Philippines. And I share that with you in the name of Jesus Christ, amen. ■

# “THE WORK OF SALVATION” PHILIPPINES AREA GOALS 2014



## Strengthen Families

Every family to hold daily family prayer, scripture study, home evening and be sealed in the temple.



## Establish the Church

Increase the number of active, full tithe paying Melchizedek Priesthood holders from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.

**FEAST upon the WORDS of CHRIST, for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do.**  
2 Nephi 32:3



## Save the Rising Generation

Increase the number of young men serving full time missions from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.



## Share the Gospel and Rescue the One

Members and missionaries work together through ward and branch councils to maintain 15 names for baptism and activation.