

**Dana Ward
Family Newsletter
- January 2012 -**

**Please note that Meeting Times
change on Sunday, January 1,
2012. Sacrament Meeting will
begin at 11 AM each Sunday.**

Dana Ward Bishopric

<i>Bishop</i>	<i>Darren Eyring</i>	<i>835-1799</i>
<i>1 Counselor</i>	<i>Kyle Hassell</i>	<i>969-4276</i>
<i>2 Counselor</i>	<i>Wes Filhart</i>	<i>832-0391</i>
<i>Exec Secretary</i>	<i>Tanner Layton</i>	<i>292-4556</i>



Back: Kevin Hunt and Tanner Layton
Front: Kyle Hassell, Darren Eyring, Wes Filhart.

Dear Dana Ward Family -

Our theme for January is Missionary work. Timing is such that I wish to share a personal experience.

A phone call came in late Nov 2011: the voice on the other end said, "I don't know if you remember me but back in Mar of 2010, you stopped on I-17 and helped us." I did

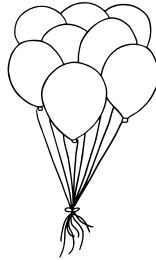
remember that day clearly, but the beginning of this story started in Jan 2010 when I set a goal to give out 6 copies of the Book of Mormon that year. That morning in March, I was headed to Camp Verde to pick up a trailer. I prayed that I would find someone I could help along the way and also be able to present them with a Book of Mormon. The Lord did answer my prayer that day and I was able to assist a man and a woman, which involved more than just changing a tire. We were together for 6 or 7 hours and we got to know each other pretty well during our time together. Brian, from Colorado, was visiting his friend Rita, from Buckeye. They both were astonished that someone would take the time to help them, but I felt blessed for the opportunity to assist. As they gave their final "Thanks" I told them that they were an answer to my prayer from that morning, and I asked Brian if he would like a copy of the Book of Mormon. He said he already had one from his son who is a member. But Rita spoke up and said she would take it. Brian called that day in Nov, to thank me again and tell me what joy the gospel has brought him. His son traveled to Colorado and baptized him in Sept of this year and his daughter (also a member) came from Washington to give the talk on baptism. I relate this experience to share the joy I felt as a result of a seemingly coincidental meeting. I know it actually started with an inner urging to testify that God does hear and answer our prayers and to encourage each of us, in this New

Year, to do our part, to help the missionary effort go forward.

We love you

Kyle Hassell

HAPPY
BIRTHDAY



January 2012

01 Elizabeth Crandell
01 Cole Montgomery
04 Jessica Hale
06 Emma Southwick
06 Isaac Standage
07 Oliver Smith
08 Efrain Rodriguez
08 Savannah Rodriguez
10 Jessica Hawks
12 Sofia Hines
12 April Hogue
12 Samantha Montgomery
12 Shellie Stark
13 Jacqueline Rogers
15 Betty Curtis
18 Amalynn Merkley
19 Danielle Driggs
20 Steele Crandell
21 Chad Gardiner
21 Kyle Packer
21 Tyler Stradling
25 Amy Calhoun
28 Johnnie Dickson
29 Dawn Nichols
31 John Pace

FEB 2012

01 Melissa Standage
02 Ed Provence

NOTE: Mesa South Stake Conference will be at 10AM, Jan. 22, 2012. The Dana Ward is asked to attend at the Spur Bldg. across from Mesa High at 1415 E. Southern.

Missionary Mailbox

Sister Marinda Hunt
South Dakota Rapid City Mission
2525 W. Main, Suite 311
Rapid City, So. Dakota 57702



Christmas zone conference was Dec 12 & 13. Our mission is so large, they meet in two different groups. The east side got together and visited the Bismark Temple for Christmas and the west side (my side) got together and went to Casper and we got to visit Martin's Cove, (the Church Handcart Pioneer historic site). I also got to visit a mall!!! I'd almost forgotten what it's like to shop at a Target and Ross!!! Oh man! REAL stores! They served us a pizza dinner at a stake center and as a present to us, we got to watch the handcart pioneer movie called "17 Miracles." It was such a neat movie. It helps us remember the strength and faith of those pioneer members. I can't even fathom trudging thru the cold and having nothing warm and no food. It made me so grateful for

my pioneer ancestors who had so much faith and knew the gospel was true.

Our mission president said: "Just as they were rescued, we are the rescuers today. We have challenges in missionary work everyday but if we trudge thru those hard times, we'll see the miracles happen as we rescue others and bring them to Christ." Isn't faith such an amazing thing?

Then after the movie, we had a Christmas sing-a-long and the missionaries acted out the manger scene. I love Christmas so much. Then we were all given the Christmas letters that our families had sent. I received about 25 letters and it was such a treat!

I started reading them. But as I was doing so, I realized that my previous companion, Sister Jensen, whom I love dearly, didn't get anything from her family. It was soooo sad! I felt so bad. Several of us went looking for her and found her crying in the bathroom. We must have made a funny sight ... 4 sister missionaries sitting on the bathroom floor.

The mission president's wife had seen us leave and she came to see if we were okay. We visited a bit and got to laughing, and that made Sister Jensen feel better. We went outside and danced around in the snow and sang some funny songs while walking around the church. It made me even more grateful for the wonderful family I have been blessed with.

The next day ... We got to wear jeans all day and visited Martin's Cove. It was such a special place. It made the "Pioneer Experience" more real to me. We hiked about 2 miles of the trail. We reached a chapel at the top and got to sit for awhile, in silence, and just meditate. That was so powerful... just feeling the heritage of my own ancestors – and



knowing that so many died and struggled getting through their journey. It was especially meaningful being there in the winter, with snow on the ground, somewhat like the conditions experienced there by the handcart pioneers



themselves.

I'm so glad my mission president let us have this experience as a Christmas present.

It was so fun to be with half of the missionaries in the mission. It is weird to now be considered one of the "older" sister missionaries. It seems like just yesterday that I was the "Newbie".



Well, we had a great month. We taught a total of 27 lessons this week - which is awesome for this area. Sister McCormick's Mom made a bunch of cute birthday cards. We have been giving them out to the ward members. We are trying to help strengthen and unify the ward. There have been a lot of hard feelings and different things over the years that have split this little ward. People seem kinder and we are trying to help them forgive. I think the cards are making a difference.

We have been teaching our investigator, Travis, about the Word of Wisdom. He said he would stop smoking and drinking. He is so awesome and so willing to change. In the Baker Family, the mom is a member, but the kids have never been baptized. They have been taught for years but the dad wasn't too interested. But he recently sat in on a lesson and later he told his wife that he needs to buy some slacks so he can come to church. We are so excited about the prospects for this family! I love them!

Christmas week-end, we went down to Gillette for district meeting. We went out on splits with Sister Jensen and Sister Kemp. Saturday morning, the Stake President had all 12 of us missionaries to their house for breakfast. We had a mini-

morning fireside and then we got into jeans and went to the Ringers' house and played games and cooked lots of food. We had Lobster and Steak. They are such an amazing family! I made cinnamon rolls for all the missionaries and it was a little like a 'taste of home'. I must say however, that I missed the Bosch! It was interesting rolling out the dough with a little can of beans, but they turned out WAAAY GOOD!

Sunday morning we opened our stockings and then headed back to New Castle for church. After the meeting, an older couple had invited us for lunch. We roasted hot dogs in their fireplace and they were yummy. Then we drove a half hour to the middle of nowhere, actually across the state line into South Dakota, and went to one of our investigator's homes where they gave us funny little hats and let us use Skype to visit with our families at home. That was definitely the very best part of Christmas for us. Then we drove to the Stewart home and had a marshmallow war and then drove to the Larsen home and finished Skyping the other half of our families. We got home late and opened our presents. Each house we visited sent us home with a bag of goodies. We have waaay too much sugar in our house - enough for each of us to gain 50 pounds! We spent Monday recovering from all the fun and food we had on Christmas Day. It was so GREAT to get to see family faces!

Christmas is my favorite time of the year. As hard as it has been for me to be away from family, I know Jesus is the Christ and that He is my Savior. I have grown to love Him so much. I know that He can help with ANYTHING. I've felt His hand pick me up so many times while I have been on my mission. He loves us so much and suffered just for me and just for you. He brings meaning to this life and through Him, all can be made right. In turn, we are able to receive eternal life. He is always there willing and loving. We

just need to reach and grab his hand. I feel so honored that I get to wear His name [on my missionary badge] every day and that I have been set apart to represent Him. There is no greater honor. Love, Sister Hunt



Elder Joseph Stark
Mexico Monterrey East Mission
Cerralvo #134
Col. Libertad
67130 Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon
Mexico

(Blog) www.elderjosephstark.blogspot.com



I am still in a city called Reynosa. It's in the state of Tamaulipas and just across the border from McAllen, Texas.

We did a service project where we painted a home on our P-Day. Of course, I had to paint "Mesa" on first, but it turned out to be a pretty neat job when we finished. We had a little fun along the way. The Viking helmet was laying with some children's toys in the yard, so I added it to the photo-op!

We have had a few families to teach through December. One little lady is so sweet but for some reason, her teeth keep falling out. One time they fell completely out of her mouth but she managed to catch them. It is hard to concentrate on the lesson we are teaching when we keep getting distracted, worrying about her teeth. It would be rude to laugh, but it takes every ounce of restraint to not at least grin. She is so humble and is such a sweetheart!

Jose and Virginia have been interesting to teach. We had invited them to attend church and Virginia called to ask if she could bring her sister. We arrived early and were saving 3 seats for them, but they arrived with 8 additional family members. It was great but caused a lot of shuffling to find enough seats for all of them in our small chapel. In one of our lessons with this couple, Virginia burned incense and insisted on a period of "meditation" before we started our lesson. She also incorporated a "rain stick" in her ritual and then made a gift of the rain stick to me when we were ready to leave. It was a very strange experience and I'm not sure how things will go as we proceed to teach them.

We have also been teaching an amazing investigator. He is single and part Mexican and part Black. He attended church with us and no one showed up for the meeting that could play the piano. So, he volunteered to play for us. He sat down at the piano and opened the hymn book and began to play. But he adlibbed a kind of jazz remix to the hymns. It was beautiful but the Mexican

members were so confused, they had a little trouble following along. He had a great time and enjoyed the meeting.

With the Christmas Season upon us, we got to observe a local Christmas tradition. Their fiesta involves the local residents gathering together and then walking down the street carrying candles and singing songs about the Virgin and Joseph seeking shelter for the night. When they arrive at a designated house, they all go inside and have a little program of music and food. The next night, they do it again, but visit a different house. This goes on for a week and the final day of "The Virgin" the people are all wearing bells and many are beating drums and loudly yelling, singing and making noise as they conclude their celebration at the final house. All of the local Catholic homes have shrines outside and inside, decorated with candles, flowers, beads and crosses.

Our Ward Christmas party was sweet! We had a lot of less actives and even some of our investigators attended. We had a really good turn out. The Elders Quorum and my companion and myself sang 'Noche de Luz'. It was pretty terrible, but everyone was good natured about our efforts!

It has rained here a lot lately and walking



in muddy, wet streets has resulted in three days of wet, cold socks and shoes full of water. We have had to resort to extreme measures to try to dry out.

It was so special to get to visit with my family on Christmas Day. It was nice to get to see everyone on Skype and to hear about Becca's wedding and reception. Peter's brother is currently serving a mission in Korea and it was fun to learn that he and I made an appearance' at the reception in life-sized cutout figures. I appreciated the 'proxy dances' done in my name considering my absence! Thanks for including me! For the few moments we got to visit on the phone and enjoy seeing your faces via Skype, it was like being back home in Arizona and speaking English. As soon as I hung up, I found myself back in Mexico again, but it was fun while it lasted. Modern technology is so amazing!

I have learned a lot here on my mission and grown so much. I have also gained a stronger testimony of the Gospel. The Lord loves us all and if we all serve and bring others unto him we will be blessed and feel closer to him. I know this church is true and it is my hope and prayer that everyone will serve a mission, especially the Young Men.

Choose the Right and remember the special meanings of the Gift of the Christ Child during the Christmas Season! The Church is True.

Love, Elder Joseph Stark

Elder Trevor Schnepf
Ecuador Guayaquil North Mission
POB 30150
Salt Lake City, Ut. 84130-0150

Hello everyone in the United States! I miss the good old USA! I love Ecuador, but it has also made me appreciate everything that I took for granted at home.

I have a new companion. His name is Elder Castellanos and he is from Guatemala. We are really getting along good. On the Dec 21st, we



had our Zone Conference. We got to go to the temple and go through a session with President Amaya. It was so good. He is so awesome and funny. Afterwards, they had prepared turkey sandwiches and potato salad and we had banana splits - American style. It was so good! We really enjoyed it. I love my district, my zone, and my mission!

The work is going well here. We have had 3 baptisms this month that I have been able to be a part of. It has been humbling and sweet. We had a baptism last week, and then after the baptism, we held a testimony meeting. A sister that is a new convert got up and she just cried and cried and cried. She never said a word at all. Then she sat down. I was next. I stood and said that I had never heard a sweeter testimony than we had just heard from her, because it is the spirit that testifies of truth and the spirit bore testimony to all of us that she knew that the gospel is true. It was a really powerful and spiritual experience for all of us.

Thanks for the family Christmas package. It arrived just in time for Christmas. You have no idea the joy I had when I finally got to open it. Not because of the gifts, but because it was filled with love and little things that meant a lot to me because you all took so much time to think of the

perfect things to send me. I gave Elder Castellanos the presents that you sent for my companion and he loved them. He said that it was the first Christmas gifts that he had ever received. Christmas is celebrated differently here. There are very few families that have a tree and very few families that exchange gifts because no one has any money. So it was nice to get a little bit of home here for the holiday. Through Skype, it was super nice to get to see and talk to all of the family at home on Christmas Day. I wish it could have lasted longer. It was also nice to see my 'second family' the Eyring's. Everyone looked good and happy. Brandon, you are going to love your mission and I am so glad that you were able to tell me yourself. Richmond Virginia! Of course the hardest part was hanging up but there were no tears or sadness, just happiness. Thanks for giving me everything that I wanted for Christmas.

I LOVE THIS MISSION! I love these people and I want to lose myself in the work to become the missionary God intends me to be. Merry Christmas everyone and Happy New Year. Love, Elder Trevor Schnepf

(As you can all see from the picture, Trevor is happy and well and having an amazing time as he serves the Lord. He is standing in front of the Guayaquil, Ecuador temple which sits on a 6.2 acre site on a peaceful hillside in northern Guayaquil. The temple was announced in March of 1982 and after a 14 year wait, ground was finally broken in August of 1996. It is labeled "the most beautiful building in Ecuador" by both members and non-members. President Gordon B. Hinckley shared the story that he visited an earlier site being considered for the temple, but as he stood there, trucks coming up the hill had to gun their engines to make it up the steep grade and the noise was terrible. He then drove down a little two track road to the present site. There was a guard there, cooking his dinner over a little fire. Pres. Hinckley said that as he stood there and looked out over the city, he had a clear feeling that this was the site for the temple. The Church was able to purchase the site and construction eventually began. During the Open House, attendance averaged over 1,800 each day. Attendance dramatically increased on Saturdays with

5,400 attending one Saturday and 15,200 the next. A group of 50 faithful Otavalian members from the poorest area of Guayaquil came to clean the temple in preparation for the dedication. They arrived at 11 pm and worked through the night to complete the necessary cleaning chores. The temple was dedicated by Pres. Hinckley 1-2 August, 1999.)

Elder Matthew Eyring returned home from his mission in Boise, Idaho and reported in Sacrament Meeting Sunday, Dec 18th. Elder Eyring shared some of his mission and pre-mission experiences and was enthusiastic about the blessings the mission experience was for his own life. He expressed appreciation for gaining a better understanding of the atonement of the Savior. The ward has enjoyed learning of his experiences while he was gone and it's so nice to have him home again.

Elder Brandon Eyring has received his mission call to the **Virginia Richmond Mission** (English speaking). Brandon enters the MTC in Provo 15 Feb, 2012. He enjoyed getting to go out on splits with his older brother, Elder Matthew Eyring, in the Boise, Idaho Mission a day or so before Matthew was released. This has been a Merry 'Missionary' Christmas season for the Eyring family.

Elder Johnny Ray Pace has returned home from his Idaho Pocatello mission with a medical release. He is living with the McNeil family in another ward. After a little recuperation time, Elder Pace plans to enroll at BYU-Idaho, where he has been notified that his admission has been approved for either the summer or fall sessions. He has served an honorable mission and the Dana Ward Family is proud of his labors in the mission field.

Tate Brinton (452-5783) Ward Mission Leader. The ward missionary committee has set a goal of having 6 convert baptisms during 2012. All ward members are also encouraged to complete their profile on the Church website of mormon.org

FYI: Full-time Missionaries; **Elder Bowerman** (from Colorado) and **Elder Rindlisbacher** (from Washington state) 495-8138.

Notes on Dana Ward Folks

Kris and Susette Tiffany spent 2 weeks over Christmas, visiting Paris, France and Venice, Italy. They were able to use their 'Skymiles' and a super thrifty budget plan to go on their 'delayed' honeymoon. Susette's ancestry is French so they enjoyed the sites of Paris also they got to attend a sac. meeting in Paris where 4 converts were confirmed. The Christmas music of the meeting was done in French. They enjoyed "The 1st Noel" sung in French, the original language in which it was written. Kris served his mission in Italy and being an artist, they thoroughly enjoyed spending hours in the museums of Venice. Kris' Italian language skills helped in getting around and socializing with the locals. Susette grew up in Georgia, so an added bonus was getting to have a 24 hour layover in Georgia and spending the time with old friends. Both agreed this was one of their 'rewards' for being faithful 'singles' for so many years before they found each other and were married! Merry Christmas you two!

Eddie Rodriguez, son of **Rosa and Efrain Rodriguez** was married to **Sydney Latimer** on Dec 17th. They will be living in the Dobson area in an apartment. Eddie and Sydney both work for Little Ceasar Pizza. Eddie is working towards earning a nursing degree and Sydney will be certified in March as a Physician's Assistant.

Rebecca Stark and Peter Madsen were married in the Mesa Temple December 22, 2011. Rebecca is the daughter of Joe and Elizabeth Stark. They are BYU students and will be living in Provo, Ut.

Lisa Wagenman and Martin Rodriguez were married in the Mesa Temple on Friday, the 30th of December, 2011. Lisa is the daughter of Anne Berryman and Larry Wagenman, and Martin is the brother of Efrain Rodriguez.

Congratulations are in order for **Kylie Hassell Pond** who graduated from NAU with her teaching degree, and to **Mary Filhart** who graduated from Mesa Community College with her RN degree. **Julie Eyring** is now a certified teacher, having earned her teaching degree from ASU in December. **Anjuli Hale Norris** also graduated from ASU in Dec, from the Mary Lou Fulton Teacher's College. Her degree is in Physical Education. **Amber Merkley** completed her Associates Degree thru the University of Phoenix in Oct. Amber is majoring in education. These are major accomplishments for these special ladies in our Ward Family, past and present!

Mason Redd has turned 12, graduated from Primary and been ordained a Deacon by his father. Mason also gave his first talk in Sac. Meeting Jan 1st and he did an extraordinary job speaking on Missionary Work.

We are so proud to be able to 'rub shoulders' with **Brother Jess Root, (father of Linette Morris)** in our ward family. Brother Root celebrated his 105th birthday on Dec 13th! Several local TV channels interviewed Bro. Root

on camera and the Root family celebrated the special occasion with a light dinner, cake and ice cream and a little program to honor their father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Apparently our state governor was also impressed with the accumulation of so many birthdays. She sent him this certificate of recognition for achieving his 105th birthday. Bro. Root has been invited to attend a Centenarian Brunch to be held Feb. 14th, to commemorate the 100th birthday of Arizona. Surprisingly, Brother Root will be one of 100 Arizonians who are 100 or more years old, who have committed to attend the affair. Brother Root however, is the oldest, native born resident still living in Arizona. Congratulations Brother Root and Happy Birthday! May you have many more!



Kyle O'Bryant was ordained a Teacher by his father, in his father's ward, on Jan 1st. Neat way to start the New Year!

Ray Lorenzen, an early member of the 19th ward, passed away Tues, Jan 3, 2012 at the Banner Heart Hospital, from complications of a heart attack. Funeral: Sat, Jan 7, 10am, Kimball Bldg on E side of 32nd, N of Southern.

Gwen Leiser is to be congratulated. She was able to do her own temple ordinances the last week of December. Gwen has been working towards this goal all year.

Good for you Gwen!

Dec 23, 2011, **Elsa and Jim Kitchen** were sealed in the Mesa Temple. They were married a year ago on Dec 18th. Elsa was involved in a serious traffic accident December 5th. We are grateful she and her passengers only had minor injuries but their car was totaled.

Laura Rosenkrans and Tammie Burklund have set a goal to knit 600 caps to donate to Veterans. They are funding the project themselves and could use the donation of any kind or color of yarn. You may contact them at 649-3006.

Dec 20, **Nancy Lalliss** had carpal tunnel hand surgery. She is making a good recovery and still managed to participate in and help with the wedding reception of her granddaughter, Becca Stark. She also had her car wrecked 'twice' during the month and hurt her back. We are hoping the New Year will be a little 'less eventful' for her!

Ray Southwick has been declared fit to begin physical therapy for his injury to his collar bone

in his mountain bike accident back on Oct 15th. Hopefully, 2012 will see a full recovery for Brother Southwick. He and his family have been blessed considering what 'might have been'!

Lavonne Perkins enjoyed a trip to Disneyland to celebrate her 80th birthday. She was the 'guest' of her daughter Lisa and Lisa's husband. Lavonne's personal chaperone was her grandson. Lavonne said the weather was beautiful (no rain or wind) and she got to ride on all the rides and attractions. The park was decorated for Christmas and there were smaller crowds. She didn't always meet the 'height' requirements for some of the attractions, but she said she did meet the 'age' requirements! Happy Birthday Lavonne!

Patricia Watts is a 'Great Grandmother' for the first time! Congratulations Patricia!

Amber Blau completed all of her requirements and received her Young Womanhood Recognition Award. **Sister Kim Hale**, recently released as the ward YW President, also received her YW Recognition Award.

Both **Danielle and Mark Driggs** are headed for BYU-Idaho for the spring semester of school. Exciting times for them!

Kevin Hale, a senior at Mesa High, recently competed in the ASU Blackford Dual Wrestling Tournament. Of the 32 teams (schools) competing, Mesa High finished in 13th place and Kevin was undefeated in his weight class, with 3 pins and 3 other wins. WAHOO for Kevin!

Ed Goodwin has been called to take care of **scheduling the ward building for any activities**. If you need the ward building for any reason, please schedule with Brother Goodwin. 275-6597.

Brother Goodwin also takes care of the Ward Calendar scheduling.

Floy Johnson set up her 124 nativities in Dec. and again invited ward members to come by her home and enjoy them. Sister Johnson didn't set out to be a collector of nativities, but when she started buying them as she visited different foreign lands, her children and grandchildren decided to help her add to her collection...thus, she ended up with 124, but her collection is still growing!

Dan and Yolanda Zepeda have learned that they will be grandparents for the first time, this coming summer! Daughter Clarissa, is expecting in July but they don't know yet if it will be a boy or a girl.

Jennifer Carter worked so hard on the wonderful RS dinner on Dec 6, and then, two days later, had gall bladder surgery. She made special personal sacrifices to be sure the dinner was wonderful (...and it was!) before attending to her own needs. She's starting to feel pretty good now.

Thanks Jen – We Love You!

Johnnie Dickson's sweet sons and daughters are frantically helping her empty out the required rooms of her house to enable the City of Mesa to send in their crew to do a much needed plumbing repair to her house. They have to jackhammer out the floor of her hallway and several rooms to gain access to the pipes that have to be replaced. Originally, plans included a more extensive repair, but

federal grant money was not renewed to allow for those repairs. Johnnie is happy to get her plumbing problems resolved.



Relief Society

Pres Lou Hunt	833-4867
1 Couns Julie Eyring	835-1792
Couns Linette Morris	962-8221
Sec Nancy Tiffany	834-8494

All Women of the Mesa South Stake are invited to attend a Women's Conference on Saturday, March 3rd, 2012. It will be held from 8 am to 2 pm. Lunch will be served. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this very special event.

In conjunction with a Mesa South Stake Women's Conference, the Stake will be holding a special women's Temple Day on March 1, 2012. They are encouraging each sister to plan to be able to do the temple ordinances for one of their own female ancestors that day. If you need help finding an ancestor's name for this purpose, Sister Christine Martin is offering to help. If you start now, we can get one of the ward youth to do the baptism for your ancestor so the name will be ready for you to do an ordinance for this individual from your family tree. Watch for details.

January RS Lesson Schedule

Jan 8: #1 - "Living What we Believe" by Anna O'Bryant
Jan 15: #2 - "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself" by Lonnette Millican
Jan 22: Stake Conference-10am-Spur Bldg.
Jan 29: RS sisters meet with the Priesthood

Young Women

Pres Lindsey Layton 292-4556
 1st Couns Jill Schnepf 890-8934
 2nd Couns MaryAnn Kaberry
 993-3351
 Sec Dawna Bury 529-6112



The **YW and the YM** will kick off the new year by beginning practices for a multi-stake **DANCE FESTIVAL** planned for April 21, 2012 at the Mesa High Football Stadium. Practices will be held twice a month on regular MIA activity nights.

Primary

Pres Cheeri Redd 834-7788
 1st Couns: Karlie Stradling
 323-0611
 2nd Couns: Dawn Nichols 610-1223
 Sec: Marie Montgomery 834-2093



Parents, please be aware that class changes were made Jan 1st, for our new year. If you were out of town and don't know which classes your child (ren) are in, you may call a member of the Primary Presidency.

Mercedes Silva Martinez was baptized Dec. 10th by her brother, **Christopher Martinez** (Chris' first baptism) and she was confirmed by **Kyle Hassell**. You looked beautiful Mercedes! Congratulations!

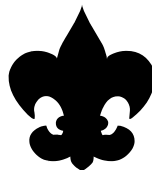


Girls Activity Day Jan 18th 4:30-5:30

January Theme:

"Agency is the Gift to Choose for Ourselves".

YOUNG MEN



Pres. Richard Hale 834-3041
 1st Couns. Dallas Petersen 219-1432
 2nd Couns. Pat Rogers 695-7616
 Sec. Conley Martin 313-7194

See the Scout Flag Service flyer on page 13.

The Venture Scouts will hold their annual **Christmas Light Campout** the week-end of Jan 6 & 7, much to the delight of the Young Men! Let's just say that the activity involves old Christmas Lights and ornaments and BB Guns! Use your imagination - the boys will!

A Stake Youth **Pioneer Trek Reinactment** will also be held this coming year, October 15 - 19 during the School Break. Watch for Details and get your Pioneer 'walking shoes' ready! This is an outstanding activity designed to inspire and strengthen the youth and leaders of our wards. Much appreciation is in order for the time and work by the leaders to pull this off!

Rhett Hird turned 8 on the 29th of Dec and had a very special birthday experience. Rhett, along with two of his cousins, were all baptized in the Dana Ward Baptismal font on Rhett's birthday. Rhett was baptized by his father, **Nick Hird**.

Primary Theme for 2012 is "Choose the Right"

The Scripture for January is: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve; .. but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" Joshua 24:15

BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA TROOP 359
U. S. FLAG HOLIDAY SERVICE FUNDRAISER
SHOW YOUR PATRIOTISM AND SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL BOY SCOUT TROOP

For \$35 dollars, Boy Scouts from Troop 359 will display a beautiful United States flag in front of your home for the following holidays of 2012:

*January 16 - Civil Rights Day
Feb 20 - Presidents Day
May 28 - Memorial Day*

*June 14 - Flag Day
July 4 - Independence Day
September 3 - Labor Day*

*September 11 - Patriots Day
October 8 - Columbus Day
November 11 - Veterans Day*

The Boy Scouts will set flags up in the morning and take them down in the evening. All you need to do is enjoy the effect of the flags waving festively up and down your neighborhood streets. Boy Scouts will provide, display and store these flags for you and your neighbors. Also, please speak to your neighbors about joining in this fundraising event. The more families that participate, the more dramatic the effect will be.

Sign up now to be included in your neighborhood's celebration!! To subscribe or renew please fill out the bottom portion of this flyer and return it along with your check to: Gary Tiffany - 2254 E Capri Cr. Mesa, Arizona 85204. All proceeds from this service will support the Dana Ward Boy Scout Troop 359!!

For any questions please contact Gary Tiffany at gtiff@hotmail.com or 480-834-8494. Please include your contact information in your email or phone message. Thank you for your support!!!

Troop 359 Flag Service Fundraiser

Please Circle: New / Renewal

Name _____ Phone _____ Amount Paid _____

Address _____ (Please make checks payable to the Dana Ward.)

January 19, 2012
Pinewood Derby for the Boys
and their Dads. The boys have
been waiting all year for this
special event!
Cub Scout Pack Meeting

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The January Stake
Temple Day-Friday,
January 20, 2012



Ward Calendar Activities

Jan 6/7: Christmas Light Campout for Venture Scouts
Jan 8: Dance Festival Fireside for YM/YW
Jan 20/21: Scouts Campout
Jan 20: Stake Temple Day
Jan 22: Stake Conference 10am, Dana Ward asked to attend meeting at the Spur Bldg. at 1415 E. Southern Ave., across from MHS
Jan 22: Seminary/Institute 100 years broadcast 6 pm
Mar 1: Stake Women's Temple Day
Mar 3: Stake Women's Conference, 8am to 2pm

2012 Canning Schedule for the Home Storage Center



Our Stake Canning day will always be the 4th Tuesday and our time will always be 10:30 am. Beginning Jan 1st,

you no longer have to sign up ahead of time for the items you wish to can during our assigned times. Just arrive 15 min. early and let them know what

you want to can from that month's scheduled items. You may also purchase extra of those items at the end of the canning session.

Jan 2012: Milk, refried beans, fruit drink mix, dry carrots, apple slices. (Canning Jan 24) **Feb:** Potato Flakes, macaroni, Sugar, hot cocoa mix, White Beans. (Canning 28 Feb.) **Mar:** black beans, reg oats, onions, potato flakes, sugar. (Canning 27 Mar). For information, call Sally Goodwin 444-8740.

Gilbert Temple construction progress during December.

Photo taken of the Gilbert, Az. temple Dec 12, 2011. The outer stone surface panels are being installed on the upper-most levels of the temple exterior.



Exterior stone panels on trailers awaiting installation on top levels of the temple exterior.



Exterior panels in place on top levels of temple exterior.



Artist's rendering of the completed Gilbert, Az Temple.

Phoenix Temple Construction Progress in December.



Arial Photo of Phoenix Temple construction site
7 Dec, 2011



Artist's drawing of the completed Phoenix, Az.
Temple located at 5220 W. Pinnacle Peak Rd.

Meridian, Idaho Temple Update

The Meridian Temple was announced at a General Conference of the Church in April, 2011. The Church now has 166 temples in operation, announced or under construction across the globe. The Meridian Idaho Temple is the fifth in Idaho, with other temples in Boise, Twin Falls, Idaho Falls and Rexburg.

The site for the Meridian Idaho Temple of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been selected. The new temple will be constructed at 7345 North Linder Road, a few blocks north of the intersection of North Linder Road and Chinden Blvd.

"Meridian has a large faith community which plays an important role in keeping a strong focus on our families," said Meridian Mayor Tammy de Weerd. "The announcement from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to build their newest temple in Meridian is welcomed and we will do our part to ensure their needs are met."

The Rome Italy Temple Update

The Rome Italy temple was announced 4 Oct 2008 and ground was broken by Pres. Thomas S. Monson 23 Oct, 2010. Excavation and some foundation work has been completed for the temple and the nearby housing facility. Excavation is also underway for the Stake Center and a Visitor Center on the same property. A Family History Center Library will also be built to provide the public facilities and equipment to conduct family research free of charge. The temple site is located on a 15 acre elevated site in NE Rome near the Grande Raccordo Anulare on the beltway that surrounds the city of Rome. A beautiful stand of Roman Pines leads to the temple site and a grove of olive trees that once grew on the site have been transplanted to crates for preservation. They will be reintegrated into the landscaping once construction is completed.

It is a country site, once adorned by a charming villeta at a freeway interchange. At first, only a small section of the site was approved for construction, but recently, zoning changes now allow the entire parcel of land to be used. Because of the rich historical background of Rome, building sites must be examined for Roman Ruins before construction is permitted. The inspection consists of digging trenches across the property every 10 to 15 feet. No ruins were found on the entire 15 acres but an old Roman Village was discovered just 100 yards beyond the property boundary line. The Church purchased the property in the late 1990s. Since the Rome temple was announced, baptisms of full families rather than single adults, have

been taking place. In the last 5 years, the Church in Italy has gone from 3 to 6 stakes. The Rome Temple will be the 12th in Europe and the first in Italy. The charming Villeta which stood at the highest point of the temple site was used for a time as an apartment for the full time missionaries. It was razed to make room for the construction of the temple. It is expected that construction will be completed in 2014.



Artist's rendering of the location of structures intended to be built on the Rome, Italy temple site.

. December 2011- Footings poured for the Rome Temple





Artist's rendering of the completed Rome, Italy temple.

Philippines Tropical Storm

Seven Church members died during a **catastrophic tropical storm that hit the southern Philippines island of Mindanao** in the early hours of Dec. 17. Cyclone Washi, known in the Philippines as Sendong, dumped large amounts of rain, triggered flooding and landslides, and caused widespread destruction and hundreds of deaths. As of press time, five Latter-day Saints in the Philippines remained missing.

45 member homes were destroyed, with another 90 partially damaged. In the days after the cyclone struck, 79 member families sought refuge in seven Latter-day Saint meetinghouses.

"Rains from Typhoon Sendong overflowed the rivers and brought walls of water as high as 12 to 20 feet in some areas. Many homes of light materials simply were washed away.

The water supply in the impacted cities, including Cagayan De Oro, is not expected to return for a month.

Among the Church members who died in the disaster is the 1-year-old son of President Elmer B. Owayas, first counselor in the Iligan Philippines Stake presidency, and his wife, Narife Morin D. Owayas. President and Sister Owayas were in Cebu on a temple trip when they learned their child had drowned. Still, they were eager to be of assistance to those who were suffering.

LDS Welfare personnel are in the Cagayan De Oro area working with local priesthood and community leaders to provide assistance and seek solutions for continuing relief efforts, he said. Members of the Malaybalay Philippines District and the Butuan Philippines Stake, for example, "have already gathered clothes and other useful items and trucked them to Cagayan De Oro.

(Taken from the Church News)

DAVID ARCHULETA ANNOUNCES INTENTIONS TO SERVE LDS MISSION

Pop-singer **David Archuleta** announced Monday, Dec 19, that he plans to serve a mission for the LDS Church sometime after the beginning of the new year. He did not say where he will be serving.



Archuleta said serving an LDS mission was his choice. "It's not because someone told me that I'm supposed to do it, and not because I no longer want to do music, but because it's the feeling that I've felt I need to do this with my life," he said. Archuleta is well-known for winning runner-up in American Idol in 2007, at age 16. He was one of the youngest contestants on the show. He has since released several albums and In 2010, the singer performed with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir at the LDS conference center for the choir's

Christmas concert. The performance is available on a CD and DVD under the title "*Christmas Tidings*".

My wife is the best thing that happened to me at BYU — not the national championship, not the degree, not even the mission, which wouldn't have happened without BYU, as important as all of those things are.

My deal with my own kids is this: When you find your spouse at BYU, you can go anywhere you want for grad school or even transfer before graduation if you wish, although why would you with tuition so low? But you get my point. Ideally, they'll find a spouse and leave with a degree. If you can't get both, I'd rather they leave with the spouse. I did. I came back 22 years later for the degree. I'm a slow learner.

Quote by Vai Sikahema from Meridian. 12/6/11

