

# CORONA STAKE NEWS

ISSUE 8 • AUGUST 2021



## STAKE PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

BY PRESIDENT WADDOUPS

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Corona California Stake! When the Temples were closed with the onset of a worldwide pandemic I began to ponder about how I would continue to "go to the temple" as often as circumstances would permit. Emily and I, like many of you, worked to make our home as much a temple as we could. Many of our prayers included inviting the Savior

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# STAKE PRESIDENCY MESSAGE

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to our home and to the homes of every house within the boundaries of our Stake so that we could offer our open homes while The House of the Lord was unavailable. Countless prayers were offered throughout the world to have the Temples reopen so that we could attend again! On July 5th President Nelson recorded the following on his social media. "With the re-opening of the Kyiv Ukraine Temple today, every temple in the world has now reopened and resumed some level of operations! We may now serve and worship the Lord in these sacred edifices the world over and participate in precious ordinances. This is cause for celebration!

I will never forget the day near the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic when we had to make the excruciating decision to close the temples. The rapid spread of the virus made this decision inevitable, but it was a painful one.



I couldn't help but wonder how the Prophet Joseph Smith and all of my predecessors would feel about the action we were taking.

But now, with the temples open, our work for those on both sides of the veil can be resumed. To have all our temples reopened, at least to some degree, is a cause for rejoicing.

I am grateful for the many scientists, health care workers, and leaders who have stemmed the tide of this virus such that we can now safely gather in larger numbers. And I thank you, my dear brothers and sisters, for your patience and worthiness to serve.

May we cherish the blessings of the House of the Lord and attend the temple as often as our circumstances permit."

I love this invitation to celebrate with the Prophet and cherish the blessing of the House of the Lord. How would you celebrate the reopening of the House of the Lord? Would you bring a house warming gift with you to His house? What gift of celebration could you bring? How often do circumstances permit for you and your family to attend the House of the Lord?

May God bless you and your families with the love and light of the Savior in your day to day interactions and may the blessing of temple attendance stand as a heavenly bulwark against the adversary.

I bear witness the Savior Jesus Christ lives! I know He is resurrected! I know he performed the sacred act of unfathomable service and sacrifice for me and for you so that we can return and live in resurrected glory with our families. I know that it is by, through, and of Him that such blessings are available and I glory in the ordinances and covenants that make our relationship with the Savior ever more inseparable! In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen!

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## EL CERRITO WARD NEW BISHOPRIC IS CALLED

**BISHOP**  
**DAMON CHAMBERS**  
**FIRST COUNCILOR**  
**CRAIG REES**  
**SECOND COUNCILOR**  
**BRIAN CHRISTENSEN**



# “WE BELIEVE” YOUTH CONFERENCE 2021

## Youth Connect After a Year of Solitude

As youth across the country struggle with both their mental and spiritual health amid the COVID-19 pandemic, Corona Stake chose to hold a weekend full of fun, service, and laughter on July 30th-August 1st.

This year's Youth Conference kicked off on a Friday with a variety of activities that the Stake Youth Council planned starting with a talk by Corona Stake's own celebrity athlete, Tanner McKee, who spoke to the youth about the blessings that come from putting the Lord first. Following the talk, Ellery Pugmire and Jamie Hansen taught them a flash mob dance to Glee's version of “Don't Stop Believin’” by Journey to tie in with the conference theme of “We Believe.” “They had a blast, and by the end of the hour they had it down pat!” said Suzana Avalos a Stake Young Women Board Member.

Rylin Sundberg, a youth from the El Cerrito ward, said “It really made me laugh when Eliana, Lindsey, Ashtin, and I were getting into the air guitar sequence during the flash mob, we had a fun time watching everyone else get into it.” Following the flash mob dance was “Speed-friendshipping” with prepared questions to encourage the youth to mix and make new friends. The rest of the day was spent at Huntington Beach hanging out and playing games in the sand. After pizza and s'mores that evening, the youth enjoyed a fireside round-robin at the fire pits with speakers Carie Skinner, Amanda Niederhauser, and Shaun Frost.

Saturday began with a service project sponsored by the City of Corona at Jameson Park. It was attended by city officials and 130 youth.

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# YOUTH CONFERENCE

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Our youth worked extremely hard in the hot summer sun with shovels and pickaxes to successfully dig holes for and plant 22 large trees that included Oak, Pine, and Pear varieties. They also painted restrooms, trash cans, park benches, and picked up trash. "My favorite activity was probably digging the holes for

the trees at Jameson Park. Although it was very tiring and draining, I felt like I was a part of something bigger than myself and I felt a sense of pride that I was helping make the city I live in a better place," said Gavin Chambers a youth participant. "The entire weekend was very spiritual and I could feel a sense of community among the youth and it was very special to share these experiences digging holes and listening to workshops with my friends".

After a taco truck lunch, the youth returned home for a few hours to shower and rest before returning to the stake center for workshop rotations taught by Christian White, Brooke Porter, and Penny Gunnel. Following the workshops was a devotional by Brother Jake Porter, M.D. on mental health. "Brother Porter's workshop talked about mental health, depression, and anxiety was inspired. It was great to hear about it from a medical perspective. He's a really smart dude," Ryan Lay, one of the youth participants said.

After a group picture outside they were greeted with a formal dinner in the gym decorated with twinkle lights and ribbon garland.



and catered by Café Rio. A dance topped off the night and no one would have guessed they had spent the morning doing hard labor by the way they romped and did the conga all over the gym.

Sunday night was a spiritually charged testimony meeting which began with a talk by President Brashear and followed by testimonies born by the youth expressing feelings of unity, stories of answered prayers, and strengthened faith in the Savior and His Gospel. Suzana Avalos said "It was truly a blessing to be a part of this Youth Conference and witness the love, inclusiveness, leadership, hard work, and faith demonstrated by the youth of the Corona Stake."



*Top Picture: Sandberg ,Lucas Hunt*

*Bottom Picture:*

*Right Picture: John Saunders, Ashtin Edwards, and Avery Skinner*



# CORONA STAKE ATTENDS RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY

by Kim Lay

Corona Stake representatives were invited to celebrate at a grand opening for For The People Task Force's new warehouse on July 17th. Over the past year, members and missionaries from the church have volunteered at FTPTF's food distributions for the needy held every other Saturday morning. FTPTF has been overwhelmingly successful at getting

ongoing donations from grocery stores and distributors and they are now able to expand into becoming a food bank. Their next biggest challenge is finding funds for a refrigerator/freezer to store perishable food items. Currently, the Corona Stake has reached out to FTPTF to see if they would be interested in applying for a grant to help with the cost of the freezer.

*Top Picture: Nayoung Reardon, MaryAnn Sherman, Jacque Casillas, Eloise Gómez Reyes, Fauzia Rizvi, Yousuf Bhaghani, Karen Spiegel*

*Bottom Picture: Yousuf Bhaghani, Kim Lay, Fauzia Rizvi, Jennifer Chapman, Scott Waddell*

