

# Stake Newsletter

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Issue No. 9 | September 2021

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Photo: 13 flags and empty chairs representing the 13 lives lost in Afghanistan that were honored at the Corona Historic Civic Center along with the 9/11 victims

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## Church Members & Missionaries Show Up To Support 9/11 Patriot Day

On the morning of Saturday, September 11, 2021, Corona stake members came to support the Chamber of Commerce at the 9/11 Patriot Day event.

Before the event began church members and missionaries helped to place almost 3,000 flags in the ground representing each 9/11 victim.

During the event audience members were pleased to hear from community leaders and a Corona resident that lost her cousin in the twin towers. During city treasurer and stake member

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# Church Members & Missionaries Show Up To Support 9/11 Patriot Day

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Chad Willardson's speech he quoted Harry Truman, "America was not built on fear, America was built on courage on imagination and an unbeatable determination to do the job at hand." Don Williamson a Corona City Historian and Corona City Councilmember and stake member Tom Richins both spoke about Corona residents Wilson Falor "Bud" Flagg and Darlene E. Flagg who died on American Flight 77.

Also, during the program, the audience enjoyed patriotic songs sung by members from Corona Arts Theatre -CAT. They sang the National Anthem, This Land is Your Land, and the audience joined in to sing God Bless the USA.

One of the more memorable parts of the event was at 8:46 am and 9:03 am the ceremony was stopped and a bell was rung to signify the time when a twin tower was hit. For 20 seconds a moment of silence was held. The 20 seconds of silence represented the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

Jennifer Ward from the El Cerrito Ward said "I love coming to support things like this in the community, I'm so glad we were able to come."

Photo Top: Chad Willardson

Photo Middle: Elder Karr and Elder Ekker

Photo Bottom Right: Wendy and Noah Isobe, Noah Lay, Diane, Ben and Keith Gamache

Photo Bottom Left: Tucker Family



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# Corona Stake Missionaries

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Photo: Provo, Utah Missionary Training Center

## Waiting on Calls

- Wood, Victoria

## Waiting to Begin Service

- Hill, Katelyn- North Carolina Raleigh Mission
- Gelatka III, Timothy- Dominican Republic Santiago Mission
- Roa Maldonado, Kimberly- Mormon Battalion Historic Site Georgia Atlanta North Mission
- Christiansen, Conner- South Africa Durban Mission
- O'Reilly, Shane - Vanuatu Port Vila Mission

## Missionaries in the MTC

- Richins, Liam- Mongolia Ulaanbaatar Mission
- Young, Eli- North Carolina Charlotte Mission
- Giles, Tate- Norway Oslo Mission

## Missionaries Serving in Assignment Mission

- Amata, Ethan- Kentucky Louisville Mission
- Holmes, Dallin- Washington Everett Mission
- Jones, Jeffery- New Mexico Farmington Mission
- Keller, Kraig- Alaska Anchorage Mission
- Olalere, Lola- Georgia Atlanta Mission
- Kersey, Merrill- Florida Fort Lauderdale Mission
- Lowe, Braden- Portugal Lisbon Mission
- Lowe, Brianna- Texas McAllen Mission
- Niederhauser, Ryan- Utah Layton Mission
- O'Reilly, Michael- California Fresno Mission
- O'Reilly, Porter- Texas Houston East Mission
- Skinner, Harrison- Mexico Mexico City Southeast Mission
- Smith, Austin- Florida Fort Lauderdale Mission
- Thompson, Hayden- England Birmingham Mission
- Flexman, Brandon- Utah Salt Lake City South Mission
- Anderson, Hannah- Arizona Temple Mission
- Hernaez, Lynette- Utah Salt Lake City South Mission
- Rees, Zachary- Florida Tampa Mission
- Smith, Wyatt- Utah Ogden Mission
- Waite, Jacob- Utah Provo Mission



Photo Source: ChurchofJesusChrist.org

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# Corona Stake Presidency Celebrates Circle City Ward's Indexing Championship

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On Saturday, August 28th the Corona Stake Presidency served ice cream to the members of the Circle City Ward in attendance to celebrate their indexing efforts during the pandemic at an ice cream social as a result of their amazing indexing results.

Last year at the beginning of the pandemic President Larry Aragon sent a challenge to all wards to participate in The One Million Index Challenge. It was to be a one-year challenge for the Stake to reach one million records indexed/reviewed from April 2020 to April 2021. The Circle City ward took this challenge very seriously wanting to do their part in gathering Israel on both sides of the veil. They dedicated a zoom sacrament meeting to Indexing and made it a topic in their monthly newsletter. They updated the ward weekly on how many records were completed. Many individuals and families joined in the effort and recently sustained family history consultants jumped in with both feet. There was buzz and excitement. At one point the Circle City Ward had 95 members engaged in indexing. "It was a tremendous blessing when a blessing was needed" said Bishop Colby Packer.

At the ice cream social Gary and Carolyn Larsen shared their story about being able to find Gary's biological father a few years ago. Carolyn tells the story "For years we had been searching for Gary's father with no luck. In 2017 he did another DNA test, there were no close family matches but there were distant cousin matches. On Christmas night in 2017 using Family Trees for the matches we were able to identify 2 family names. Using Census records, Military records and a little help from the other side of the veil we were able to identify who his father was. We found newspaper records, Military photos and yearbook photos also. Thanks to the indexing of other people, we found all of this within just a few hours. Two weeks later we were able to take our grand kids and start doing the baptisms for some of Gary's ancestors."

Carolyn also said "Our family didn't have much experience with indexing, but when the Stake Presidency issued the Indexing Challenge, we decided



Photo: President Preciado, Brashear, and Waddoups

it was time to learn how to index and help other families. We started with a goal of indexing just 10 names a day. Indexing was not as challenging as we thought and we were able to do more than our goal."

Currently, the Larsen's new goal is to index as many batches from Ireland (where Gary's ancestors are from) "We continue to index so that one day we will be able to have these records also." Carolyn said.

In his April 2020 Conference talk titled *Hear Him*, President Nelson said, "While worshipping in the temple is presently not possible, I invite you to increase your participation in family history, including family history research and indexing. I promise that as you increase your time in temple and family history work, you will increase and improve your ability to hear Him."

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# Corona Stake Presidency Celebrates Circle City Ward's Indexing Championship

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As of August 2021, here are the Corona Stake and Circle City Indexing Challenge Stats:

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## Circle City Ward

*Prior to the challenge-*

2020 Jan - March Avg per Month: 389  
2019 Year Total: 1,752

*Challenge-*

First Month April 2020: 24,387  
Per Month: 20,782  
April 2020 to April 2021: 249,387  
Largest month during challenge: 35,357  
Year to Date 2021: 105,580  
August so far: 11,357

87 people participating currently - as many  
as 95 during the challenge

## Corona Stake

*Prior to the challenge-*

2020 Jan - March Avg per Month: 9,033  
2019 Year Total: 85,724

*Challenge-*

First Month April 2020: 51,592  
Per Month: 50,342  
April 2020 to April 2021: 604,113  
Largest month during challenge: 88,197  
Year to Date 2021: 282,243  
August so far: 27,691

475 people participating currently



Photo: Cassie Edwards and Stake Presidency

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# Corona Stake Receives Half a Semi Truckload of Food to Donate

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On Thursday, August 26, 2021, the Corona Stake was able to donate thousands of pounds of food to various local food pantries that came from Desert Industries in Salt Lake City. Corona/Noro YMCA, For the People Task Force, Starting Over Inc., Inland Vineyard Church, St. Edwards, Corona Friend's Church, Settlement House, Giving 365, and MaryAnn Sherman were able to fill their cars, vans, and trucks full of food to take back to their families in need.



In addition to the food pantries, Holly Waite- Stake Relief Society President and Heather Flexman- Stake Humanitarian Specialist were also able to receive a portion of the food and put together food kits to be donated to current and future refugees. Members from the Citrus Hills Ward gathered together that day to organize and put the food boxes together. Many thanks to the missionaries and church members who participated in this process.



*Top Photo: Jennifer Chapman, Fauzia Rizvi, Kim Lay, and Yousuf Bhaghani*

*Middle Photo: Francisco from Settlement House, Kim Lay*

*Bottom Left Photo: Holly Waite, Kim Lay, Elder Garrison Herzog, Ingrid Mirander (Corona Friends Church), Elder Siliva Toelupe*

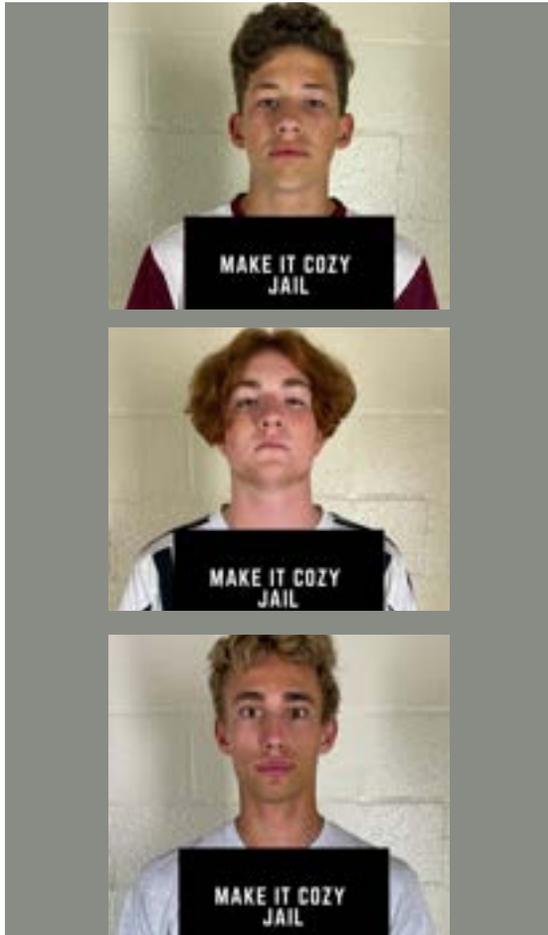
*Bottom Right Photo: Citrus Hills Relief Society Volunteers*



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# Non-Profit Gets help from Missionaries and Stake Youth, some Youth get “Booked” into Jail

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Pictured from top: Jace Lay, Landon Kersey, Ryan Lay

Karen Alexander the director from Make It Cozy a non-profit that helps furnish homes and apartments for homeless Riverside County residents reached out to the #JustServe folks in the stake looking for help with loading, and unloading donated furniture. Riverside, CA missionaries were able to help on the morning of September 2nd and load furniture into a moving truck from a local resident in Corona. Later that evening, a group of youth from the El Cerrito Ward and Citrus Hills ward was organized to unload the furniture from the truck and into the storage warehouse located at the old Corona Police

Department. At the end of the evening, the young men and their parents were able to get a tour of the old jail and go inside some of the jail cells. As a result of their service, some of the boys were rewarded by getting “booked into jail.”



Middle Picture from top: Donny Avalos, Eli Rees, Karen Alexander, Craig Rees, Cole Christensen, Carson Chambers, Spencer Rees, Jace Lay, Matthew Rees, Ryan Lay, Landon Kersey, Matt Kersey, Brian Christensen