

Do I Need the Circle and Does the Circle Need Me?

By Sister Karen L. Progar, General Circle President

Nearly 90 years ago the leadership of The Church of Jesus Christ deemed it important for the sisters of the Church and the Church in general to support the idea of an organization in which the women of the Church could join together for their own benefit and for the benefit of the Church. Women have a need to be together and The Ladies' Uplift Circle met that need.

They found that they were able to study the scripture in an atmosphere where they were comfortable to ask questions and discuss their questions. They formed friendships that lasted their entire lives and became a marvelous benefit to the missionary work of The Church of Jesus Christ.

We are anxious to increase the membership of our organization which has existed since 1920. Circle is even more relevant today because of the expanded missionary endeavors of the Church. If we reflect on how the money raised by the Ladies' Uplift Circle is used, it seems very clear to me that participation in the Circle is essential to support the numerous and important missionary works of the Church.

If you have ever attended a Fellowship Weekend or taken part in a Ladies' Circle Seminar, you know how much this little band of Sisters has contributed to your spiritual growth and provided a place for you to develop your talents. Think about the Sisters who have taken leadership roles in the Circle and their contribution to your branch and the various areas and the Church. There would be few opportunities for sisters to teach adult classes or act in these leadership roles were it not for the Ladies' Uplift Circle.

In reality what the Ladies' Circle does is:

- Enables sisters to participate in the an organization developed for them and driven by them
- Allows them to study and discuss scripture in a failure free atmosphere
- Contributes to the missionary commission of the Church
- Provides the spiritual needs of women in our branches and missions
- And develops its members strengths

I am often amazed as to how much money is raised on a semi-annual basis, by less than 700 people, for the numerous missionary works of The Church of Jesus Christ. I am further amazed that not every sister and young women is a member of the Circle. I think sometimes how much we could do with the talents and efforts of all our women combined.

Now to answer those questions I posed in my title:

Do I need the Circle? The answer is clearly yes if you wish to develop your talents and increase your knowledge of the scriptures, while make wonderful life-long friendships.

Does the Circle need me? The answer is, yes the Circle needs us in order to continue its marvelous work and remain a support to The Church of Jesus Christ.

If you are wondering what you can do to participate in the Great and Divine Commissions of The Church of Jesus Christ, the answer is get involved with your local Ladies' Uplift Circle and help in any way you can. The Church will benefit from your efforts.