

June 15, 2006

My Dear Sisters,

It is nearly summer and I am sure many of you are enjoying more time with your children and family. This is a great time to work on building our local circles. The weather is better in most parts of the country and it should be a time when it is easier to get together to study the Word of God and spend time with your Circle sisters. It is also a great time to begin anew and think of ways to increase the attendance in your home circle. Perhaps local presidents and their officers could get together and think of ways to increase attendance and interest in the Ladies' Uplift Circle.

Most of you know by now that only 697 national members of the circle raised over \$19,000.00 for use in the Missionary endeavors of The Church of Jesus Christ. Just imagine what we could do if we doubled the number of women and young women who worked toward the goal of providing necessary funding for the numerous approved projects that provide funding for the Tribe of Joseph works and the IMOC (International Missionary Operating Committee) providing missionary outreach to nations outside the United States.

It has been on the hearts of many of us that the future of the Ladies' Uplift Circle is not looking bright without support of younger women. Young women need to feel that there is something in the circle for them. The spiritual growth through our organization is invaluable. Think how many times you have had your spiritual questions answered in a circle meeting where there is a spirit of unity and less fear of failure. You might say, "We have reached out to the young women and they don't seem interested in meeting with us.". If that is the case, we need to brainstorm and find out what might attract the strength and enthusiasm these young women would bring. I suggest talking to them personally and individually. I also suggest that Branches and Missions in which there are girls between the ages of 10 and 15 consider the creation of a Junior Circle. Our first circle leaders were visionaries in that they knew that these young girls have needs of their own and like all women have the desire to meet together. Provide that opportunity for them. Try having a Junior Circle and allow the girls to create their own lessons and get together in a circle atmosphere. An adult advisor can help these girls establish the habit of meeting together. Friendships will develop that will carry through their entire lives. Your circle will give them the encouragement for spiritual development. Be open to ideas that involve overnight activities. Encourage the girls to assist with fundraising projects. Make them know how important they are to us and we to them.

I don't have the answers, but I know that God wants us to cultivate these young women spiritually. Not only will we help them become the servants the Church needs, but we will also be blessed because they will have a pattern of participating in Ladies' Circle and very shortly our circles will increase in number.

There is a saying that comes to my mind quite frequently of late. "If you always do what you always did, you will always get what you always got." Maybe we need to learn the

lesson of flexibility. There is work involved in this endeavor, but I know the sisters are up to the challenge.

Think about this opportunity to work on growing our circles and share your ideas with me via email (president@generalladiescircle.org).

May God inspire you,

Sis. Karen