

September 15, 2007

Dearest Sisters and Friends of the Ladies' Circle,

A question has arisen recently regarding the Native American Funds and I thought this was a great forum to clear up the question. A few years ago, The Church of Jesus Christ changed the way Domestic Native American works were handled. Each region took on the responsibility of supporting the Native American works within its region. When this occurred, the General Circle no longer had an avenue to provide funds for Domestic (including Canada) Native American works. All monies that we raised therefore were donated to Native American works in Mexico, Central and South America. This was very necessary since these works needed the funding with the change in policy.

In addition, Regions could make special requests, but those requests had to be approved by the General Church. You may recall that we helped with a few Domestic Works in the past few years.

I write you today to tell you about changes in the system. With the development of the Native American Operating Committee (NAOC), the money you donate now can be donated to any Native American work, including the new NAO expansion plan to reach all Seed of Joseph throughout North America, Alaska, and Canada. The General Circle will be receiving requests from the NAOC in the same manner we receive requests from the IMOC. If a particular work has an extraordinary need or the NAOC needs funding for a specific project, they can now request financial support for General Ladies' Uplift Circle consideration. At the next General Circle Conference, our membership will have the opportunity to address that need and donate if the membership so desires.

I hope this clears the matter up and also hope that your Circle will strive to raise funds for these projects as it is the Church's Commission to present the Gospel to the Tribe of Joseph. Finally, I want to thank each of you for the marvelous work you do to continually raise funds necessary to support the spread of the Gospel.

All my love,