

# Strengthening Your SR Initiative

*"I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10*

*Edition #2 February 2019*



## For Self-Reliance Committees

You may want to lead your SR Committee through a discussion of this lesson. **When we understand the doctrine and know our purpose, we can better serve our brothers and sisters.** You may also want to use this to teach Elders Quorums and Relief Societies.

Please read: Luke 4:18 & Isaiah 61:1-3

### Our Purpose

These two very similar scriptures provide a focused summary of the purpose of the Self-Reliance Initiative and our purpose as a Self-Reliance Committee.

#### **KEY EVENTS & DATES**

**MARCH 14<sup>th</sup>** 6:00 Pacific time.  
ZOOM training for all  
Southwest Area SR Specialists.

### Who do we serve?

- The Brokenhearted / The Captives / The Blind / Them that are bruised / The Meek / Them that are bound / All that mourn
- **Who are these children of God in our stake?** Who are the hard to reach groups and individuals? (*Single sisters? YSA? Elderly? Young married? Youth? Poverty or tragedy stricken? Disabled? Native American? Hispanic? Contented by prosperity?*) How do we target these individuals and allow them the blessings of greater spiritual and temporal Self-Reliance?

### How do we serve?

- We help them experience: beauty for ashes / oil of joy for mourning / garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness / the gospel of good tidings
- **We build the capacity** of Bishoprics, Ward Councils, Elders Quorums and Relief Societies to serve, heal, liberate and revive these spirits? By:
  - Teaching them the doctrines of Self-Reliance
  - Teaching them, working with them, demonstrating for them how to use the tools and concepts of Self-Reliance
  - Developing and making available the mentors and resources they need to be better ministers.

### What should we do?

- Heal / Preach deliverance / Recover sight / Proclaim and set at liberty / Bind up / Comfort / Open the prison / Revive the spirit
- **Use and help others understand and use** the tools of Self-Reliance (groups, courses, mentors, resources) to deliver, recover, set at liberty, bind up, comfort, open the prison and revive the Spirit?

### Our task:

- To help all members become more temporally and spiritually Self-Reliant
- To help the Stake become a **"Refuge from the Storm"** where all can become more spiritually and temporally Self-Reliant no matter what their situation or need.
- To keep in the forefront the mission statement of the new Welfare and Self-Reliance Department:  
*"We strive to follow Jesus Christ by embracing the two great commandments to love God and love our neighbor as we minister to those in need, build temporal and spiritual self-reliance, and bless both givers and receivers."*

# Strengthening Your SR Initiative

*"I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10*



## For Mentors and Resource Builders

### What are Mentors?

Before you ask: "What kinds of mentors do you need?" You need to explain what mentors are. A mentor you may be familiar with is the Ward or Stake Employment specialist. These specialists (mentors) help people in need of a new or better job. Sometimes they coach one-on-one. Sometimes they facilitate *Find A Better Job* groups. They gather and disseminate information on employment trends and opportunities to quorums and Relief Societies. They build relationships with local organizations who can also assist.

Ministers may not have the time or skills to research areas they are not familiar with, but they can quickly turn to a mentor in the stake who specializes in the area where they need help.

Example: If a minister discovers that a family is struggling to care for a family member with Alzheimer's and the Stake has an Alzheimer's Mentor the minister could ask the mentor for information and resources or even put the person in touch with the Alzheimer's mentor. If ministers and presidencies understand the concept of mentors, they can quickly tell you where mentors would be helpful.

### Discovering What Mentors Are Needed

You find out the needs of organizations by, **getting as close to the individuals in need as possible**. Bishops are closer than Stake Presidencies and Elders Quorum and Relief Society presidencies are closer yet. Meet with the people who understand the real needs.

Get specific with your questions. Rather than asking "What kinds of problems and needs do you see?" ask questions like:

- "What resources are you always trying to find?"
- "What kinds of struggles (spiritual and temporal) to the people you serve have?"
- "What kind of support would most help the people you serve?"

Examples:

- One stake facing economic hardships developed an education mentor knowledgeable about future job needs and local educational opportunities.
- A stake with many elderly members with no cars developed a transportation mentor.
- Several stakes have mentors to help people understand community welfare offerings and medical support resources such as Alzheimer's/ dementia.
- Some stakes have mentors to help youth apply for college and seek scholarship funding

The key is understanding the unique needs of the people you serve where mentors and access to resources could be of use, and then finding, developing and making accessible those mentors and resource

### Finding and Developing Mentors

**Anyone can be a mentor.** Perhaps you already have people in the stake who are knowledgeable in given area who can be mentors. In some cases, you may need to call someone to become knowledgeable. Most mentors will need to do some research to find the most up-to-date resources in the area and your Self-Reliance manager and SR Specialists can help them do that.

*In next month's issue we will focus on how to help your mentors and resources become more accessible to members, ministers, and leaders.*

# Strengthening Your SR Initiative

*"I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10*



## For Quorums and Relief Society

### Self-Reliance and Ministering

The Self-Reliance tools (courses, groups, mentors and Church and Community resources) are not just part of a stake program. They are tools you that can help your ministers better serve. Here are two examples:

1. **Using SR Groups to improve ministering.** Think about what participants learn in a Self-Reliance group:

- How to ponder
- How to help others
- How to apply teaching of the scriptures and prophets to daily problems
- How to commit
- How to love people you don't know
- How to act with faith
- How to talk about difficult things
- How to build hope
- To return & report

Not only are these great skills for a parent, spouse, or friend, they are the same skills and attributes needed to be a great minister. As an EQ or RS presidency you can work with the Stake SR Committee to organize these groups as you feel they would benefit your members. Ministers may also want to attend a course with someone to whom they are ministering. You could schedule an SR course as a means to bring your quorum or Relief Society closer together and strengthen everyone's ministering skills. Think of the strength attending such a course together would bring.

2. **Using Mentors and Resources to improve ministering.** As we strive to help those we minister to become more temporally and spiritually Self-Reliant we sometimes find their needs go beyond our knowledge or skill set. This is where mentors and resources can make a difference. Perhaps in your stake you have Mentors in some of the following areas:

- Alzheimer's/ Dementia
- Transportation
- Disability
- Welfare system
- Starting a Business
- Applying for college
- Finding school scholarship funding
- Healthy eating
- Finding a Better job
- Housing
- Elderly care

As an EQ or RS presidency member or as a minister you can simply contact one of these mentors and ask for assistance. They might be able to provide you with some resources or even meet with the person or family who needs assistance in one of these areas. We encourage you to let your stake SR Committee know where mentors would be useful and work with them to find and develop these mentors and teach your members how to use them.

*Use the SR tools to help your stake, quorum, Relief Society become a "Refuge from the Storm" where members are helping members become more temporally and spiritually Self-Reliant no matter what the situation.*

# Strengthening Your SR Initiative

*"I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." John 10:10*



## For Employment Specialists

### Your Role as a Facilitator

As part of your Employment Specialist calling, many of you are the facilitators for your "Find A Better Job" groups. Here are some key points to remember.

- Make time to talk with your EQ and RS presidencies to find those who could benefit from Find A Better Job. Sometimes they just don't know you are available.
- You can start *Find A Better Job* whenever you see the need. Just organize a class, find a time and place to meet, and get started. Don't forget to register your class and follow the attributes of a good facilitator.
- *Find A Better Job* has lots of options. On page vi, four different options are outlined. Choose the option that best meets the needs of your group.
- You may find that some of your participants will need one-on-one coaching because they need a job now. You can do this outside of the group or possibly enlist the group's assistance.
- Since you are the Employment Specialist for your stake you probably know lots of local resources. Feel free to bring these resources into the class.
- Be familiar with the offerings of Deseret Industries and the Development counselors. They can be helpful for those who may have some employment challenges and those who may need some assistance to get the skills and licenses needed for employment.

### Building Your Employment Took Kit

One of our colleagues, Julie Poole in Dallas has been tremendously successful as an employment coach for many years. She has put together an amazing set of tools. We are going to start including these tools in the next three or four editions of the Newsletter. This week we will start with ***Building or Maintaining Job Search Skills***.



This simple handout is filled with references, tools, ideas, and self-checks that will help you become even better in this calling.

Building or  
Maintaining Job Search

### Finding a BETTER Job

In this nearly "full-employment" economy much of your calling is not just to help people find a job when they need one but to help people find better jobs. You can do this by:

- Keeping abreast of changes in the economy. Just go to your browser and type in "Jobs of the future", or "the job revolution," or "our changing economy". Any of these will lead you to hundreds of articles describing our changing workplace.
- Getting information about the changing workplace and the need to upgrade skills to EQ and RS
- Talking in EQ and RS about preparing for a changing workplace.
- Holding special Find A Better Job courses for those looking to improve their work situation.