

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

### Senior Missionaries

#### What kinds of missions are there?

| Leadership  | Temple              | Family History   | Other   |
|---|---------------------|--|---|
| Proselyting (see below)<br>Mission Office<br>Visitors' Centers<br>Medical | Ordinance<br>Worker | Family History Library (SLC)<br>Microfilming<br>Document Preparation<br>Family History Centers | Church Education System<br>Public Affairs<br>Welfare Services<br>Humanitarian<br>Farms<br>Facilities Management |

#### Can I serve wherever I want to?

Members of the Quorum of Twelve, acting under the influence of the Spirit, make mission assignments. They extend every effort to make a meaningful match between the Lord's needs and the qualifications of the candidates. While a couple's preferences are taken into consideration, it is the Brethren's constant prayer that members would be willing to serve wherever they are needed.

#### What personal factors influence where I serve?

- Length of time available. (18 or 23 months to leave your country.)
- Date of availability (The earliest starting date for your missionary assignment.)
- Personal health / insurance.
- Finances available to support yourselves on the mission. (You will list on your recommendation forms how much you can afford per month. You will not be assigned beyond your means.)
- Background and experience, particularly in some specialized fields.
- Language skills.

#### How long will I serve?

Couples have more flexibility than younger missionaries in how long they serve. Most couples serve 12, 18, or 23 months, although a few six-month missions are available (March-October). Assignment possibilities vary for each term of service:

- 12 months: Resident country only.
- 18 or 23 months: Foreign and resident-country missions.
- Six months: Some historic sites in the United States.

#### How much do missions cost?

Costs for housing (including utilities), food and transportation range from about \$400 per month in some Central America and Brazilian locations to \$3000-\$4000 per month in Boston, New York, San Francisco, England and DR Congo. The average cost of a mission in the United States is approximately \$1,500(US) per month per couple.

Couples are not eligible for the equalization program used by younger missionaries. Single senior sisters in proselyting assignments, which includes offices and visitor centers, however, are eligible for the equalization program. Thus their costs are \$400 per month. Costs for senior sisters in non-proselyting missions would be about two-thirds the cost of couples.

**Are mission costs tax deductible?**

Couples living away from home and with duplicate housing costs may, in some instances, deduct costs for housing, food, etc. You should consult a tax adviser before making such a deduction. You should not channel your funds through your bishops, but should pay mission costs directly in the field. Senior sisters on the equalization program should send their funds to their home ward.

**What do you need to know about my health?**

You should make sure that every question is answered in the personal health history and the physician's health evaluation portion of the missionary recommendation form. If additional questions need to be answered, you will be contacted for that information.

**What about health insurance?**

Couples must have medical or health insurance. If you do not have adequate insurance for your assignment, policies are available through the Church insurance provider. For information, please call 1-800-777-1647, ext. 5728. Costs are \$120 per person per month. Couples serving in the United States should keep their Medicare, and those going out of the country are encouraged to keep their own retirement insurance where applicable.

**What are the age limits?**

The minimum age for both couples and senior sisters is 40. There is no maximum age limit as long as both husband and wife are in good health. Many missionaries over 70 years of age are serving vigorously.

**Can single men over 26 years of age serve missions?**

Single men over 26 years of age may not serve full-time missions away from home. They may, however, serve full-time missions in their local areas while living at home.

**May we take dependent children, aging parents, or pets with us?**

Couples with dependent children still at home are not allowed to serve a mission. Couples cannot take aging parents into the mission field, and pets are not allowed.

**What do leadership missionary couples do?**

Senior missionaries do not proselyte as young full-time missionaries do. Couples in proselyting assignments typically are involved in some combination of five areas of activity: shadow leadership, member reactivation, referral follow-up, (both media referrals and the friends and family members of the less active with whom they are laboring), community service and helping new members get to a temple to do baptisms for their ancestors within two months of their baptism. Also, many investigators found by younger missionaries prefer to be taught by more mature missionaries. Couple missions are spiritually rewarding and truly joyous experiences for the couple, their families and those with whom they share the gospel.