

# Salt Lake City Chapter

## The Sons of Utah Pioneers

Newsletter - January 2016

### It is 11 days into a New Year, and summer is not yet here.

We enjoyed an excellent presentation at our monthly meeting on Thursday, January 7th.

Chris continues to do a superb job at finding speakers who present to us some very fascinating information. It is a marvel how much compassionate work the church does throughout the world, and even more so that they are able to carry out these efforts. We all recognize it is because the latter-day saints have the spirit of service, and it is reflected in their generous donations.

**Nathan Leishman** was our speaker. He is the Manager of Humanitarian Disaster Response, or was in that position for about ten years until a few days ago when he was assigned to oversee the Bishop's Storehouses worldwide, of which the church has 140 of them.

His personal story is fascinating. In the years he has worked in the Humanitarian Services group he has visited 35 countries, gathered as a side hobby of his, thousands of photographs and used a small sampling of them to present to us his story this evening. We learned of many of the victims, volunteers who responded, and the many partners (charitable organizations) throughout the world with whom the church is involved and cooperates to bring vital relief to the victims of natural disasters.

Out of the thousands of projects where help was given these are the few that Brother Leishman mentioned:

- Pakistan where 100,000 were killed
- A boy who makes his living in a Manila dump
- Haiti earthquake where 20 doctors and 5 nurses were taken to help medically, but who also jumped in to unload supplies
- Hurricane Sandy in New York making friends of a Jewish Rabbi
- Togo where the crippling effect of measles was shown
- A Pakistani official who became a "christian" in spirit after we helped after their floods
- Hurricane Trina
- A woman in Haiti who lost 4 of her six children



He said he could go on and shown many more photos and their story, the Sunami in Japan, other experiences in Haiti, Ethiopia, Syria, and so on.

In 2014 the church was involved in 103 projects in 54 countries. Humanitarian Services is also involved in several major projects around the world. Neonatal Resuciation Training, Vision Care, Food Initiatives, Immunizations, Clean Water, Wheel Chairs, and many others.

## **Coming up! February Program on February 4th, 7:15 p.m. at the 10th Ward Chapel**

Chris,

I have owed you some information for some time so you will know about what I will be presenting in February 2016 to our friends at the SUP.

For the last two and a half years, I have been working in the South Salt Lake Stake in the Columbus Branch. It is a branch that is solely devoted to refugees from Myanmar (formerly Burma) from the ethnic Karen and Karenni peoples. I serve as the Young Men's President of close to 100 young men as well as their Venture Scout leader. They came with their families as UN-recognized political refugees from the long-running civil war in Myanmar. In August of 2015, we took 18 of the older scouts to the International Jamboree in Yamaguchi Japan. From there, we took the young men back to Thailand to the border refugee camps where they were born and grew up. Finally, we received permission to take them to Myanmar, their ethnic homeland.

It has been an incredible journey to witness how the Lord takes people from a place where the gospel is unavailable to them and brings them to a place where they can prepare to save their people. This is what is happening with the Karen and the Karenni people. Very recent political changes in Myanmar present new hope for missionary efforts in that land.

Steve Sorensen

## Other News

We note the passing of Winona Simonsen Jensen, wife of Dr. Jack Jensen, on December 16, 2015

We would like input of ideas for a Chapter Trek for 2016

Beginning in February, we will be asking one of the members each month to share a pioneer "vignette" from their ancestry. Start thinking!

On Saturday, February 20, 2016 there will be an Ogden Regional History Symposium featuring Dr. Richard W. Sadler speaking on the Railroad and its impact on Northern Utah, Audrey Godfrey on Prominent women of the Church in early Utah, Kenneth Alford on the U.S. Civil war impacts in the Utah Territory, Dr. Gene A. Sessions, and Elder Marlin K. Jensen as keynote speaker at a cost of \$25 per person if you register by January 15, 2016.

The National Symposium is on Saturday, May 7, 2016. No details available as of now.

SUP Day at This is The Place Heritage Park is on Monday, July 18, 2016

SUP National Convention is Thursday, Septem 22, 2016 to Saturday, September 24, 2016 in Hurricane, Utah.

More information on these items at the [National Web Site](#)

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January 11, 2016 ~ Alonzo Cook, editor

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