



Elder Taniela B. Wakolo of the Seventy ask questions of the audience during the Saturday night Adult Session of Stake Conference

Willow Creek Stake Presidency
J. Kimo Esplin-Stake President
Kevin Ludlow-1st Counselor
Joseph Staples-2nd Counselor

We look forward to being with you on March 17th and 18th for a special Stake Conference. We will be blessed with the attendance of two members of the Seventy Elder Taniela B. Wakolo and Elder Todd B. Hansen, who will call a new Stake Presidency. Stake Conference is a unique opportunity to be the recipient of revelations provided with the particular circumstances and needs of those in our stake in mind. It is truly a gift for those who attend and come seeking answers, comfort, and knowledge. In addition, we hope you will attend and be present to show your support for, and formally sustain your new Stake Presidency. We invite all of you to pray for the new Stake Presidency and for Elder Wakolo and Elder Hansen who will be here extending the callings. Below is a schedule of meetings:

Saturday Priesthood Leadership Session

Date: Saturday, March 17th

Time: 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

The following are invited and encouraged to attend the Priesthood Leadership meeting: High Council, Bishoprics, Ward Clerks, Assistant Clerks, Ward Executive Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries, High Priest Group Leadership, Elders Quorum Presidencies, Ward Mission Leaders and Assistants, Adult Young Men Presidencies, and Sunday School Presidencies. Click to see [Program](#)

Saturday Evening Adult Session Sunday General Session Notes

Date: Saturday, March 17th Date: Sunday, March 18th

Time 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. For all adults age 18 and older

President Ludlow: “Welcome to March Madness!” He recognized those sitting on the stand including J. Christopher & Lynn Lansing, of the Salt Lake South Mission; Elder Todd B. and Sister Hansen, Elder Taniela B. Wakolo of the Seventy, and stake leaders including: Joe Staples, Kimo Esplin and David Sperry. There were 500 in attendance.

Opening Song - 264: “Hark All Ye Nations”.

Opening Prayer. Dennis Evanson, 6th ward

Draper Singles – Choir directed by Janna Emmer sang “Beautiful Savior”

Joseph Staples – Reviewed subject of 10 Ward conferences which were just concluded. This included 8 wards and 2 branches—the 150 members of Westridge Branch and 30 members of the Wentworth Branch. Our Theme was Christlike attributes and how to obtain them.”

- A. I discovered I can come to really know the Savior through a personal curriculum of pondering, study and prayer. We need to follow the directions of our 93-year-old Prophet, who after serving as an apostle for 33 years, said, “I am a different man because I did this.” Christ said, “Learn of me and listen to my words.”
- B. Serve him. Love one another. Raise a family. Build the kingdom. Prepare for life in the Celestial Kingdom.

Sister Lynn Lansing - St. Mark is her favorite New Testament book because it demonstrates that Christ was a man of action. She suggested that we teach others to “Put people in front of the Savior” as did friends of a sick man who broke through the roof to lower their friend before Jesus. “Take up your bed and be healed.” Missionary work in the Salt Lake South mission is progressing. “We had 22 baptisms last week. This week we had 16 baptisms.”

President J. Christopher Lansing - Our mission slogan is “We are on Fire.” When doors are slammed in the face of our missionaries I tell them to think, “How Sweet it is!” Young missionaries from missions all over this area are participating in the Jordan River Open House. The church will extend if necessary. Take non-members. Think of the photo of Christ holding the lamb. Have investigators describe that lamb. How does it feel? We think of those being taught as the lamb in the Savior’s arms.

Elder Todd B. and Sister Hansen spoke together. (You are getting two for one.) “We tread a path covered with diamonds but we often discern them as pebbles.” Sister Hansen described taking her 18-month-old grandson to the aquarium and to lunch. Bring up your children in light and truth. Be an example. Ask yourself: “How am I doing as a mother, a Father or a grand-parent?” Families matter more than anything.

Elder Hansen reported that he interviewed 35 men to determine who they thought should be the next president of Willow Creek Stake. He asked these leaders to provide the names of three and then to rank them. During interviews he asked each: "If your kids or grand-kids were being raised in Willow Creek Stake who could best help them to stay on the covenant path?" Who would be great teachers? Leaders provide strength and refuge from the storm. "We are a collection of progressing Saints not a museum of perfect Saints. We should strive to be Christian soldiers not week-end warriors."

Draper Singles Ward Choir - "Our Savior's Love"

Elder Taniela B. Wakolo of the Seventy, former mission president in Little Rock Arkansas. Elder Wakolo is a convert who had been active in various Christian churches in Fiji. An outstanding scriptorium, he described man's condition before the Fall and after the Atonement. He focused on understanding God, Life, knowledge and families. Elder Wakolo provided 10 quotes from President Russell M. Nelson's conference talks and asked members of the audience to describe what they learned from these quotes.

Closing Song - "Choose the Right"

Closing prayer - Gail Bulloch (2nd Ward)

Sunday, March 18. Time: 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. - Notes

The General Session was streamed to the Alta Canyon Chapel, the Small Chapel on Creek Road, and Wentworth facility. The Stake Presidency encourage all to attend, including those with young families. "You are welcome to take advantage of the sound systems in the other rooms in the building if necessary." Over 1,000 people attended the meeting at the Stake Building on Creek Road.

Opening Song - "Hope of Israel"

Opening Prayer - Lee Wilkinson (3rd Ward)

A new stake presidency was announced and sustained: **Joe Staples, Stake President; Alan Matheson, 1st counselor with Davis M. Smith as 2nd Counselor**. All other general and stake leaders were sustained. It was reported that Willow Creek Stake has 54 full time missionaries and 63 church service missionaries. Click [Officers Sustained](#).

Draper SA Ward Choir - "Guide us Oh Thou Great Jehovah."

Testimonies

Kimo Esplin – There are 33,000 stakes in the church that stand as a tent supporting the members. I have loved serving as your stake president for 2 ½ years. I've been reading the story of Kaye's father who fought in World War 11. He recalled falling asleep while guarding a fox hole and waking to see a man with a gun standing over him. It was actually a shadow. We need to be diligent in our assignments. It is our sacred duty to lift and support one another.

Kaye Esplin – When Kimo was called I did not know how he would be able to be stake president as he travels all over the world for his job. He only missed interviewing three missionaries. I don't know how things will go when in Japan but I do know the Lord will bless us. Some of our children will be going with us. Some of them are not, but all of them are supporting us in this calling.



Kimo and Kaye Esplin

Kevin Ludlow – These men I have served with are like my brothers. All three of us are only sons. I love each one as a brother. For those who have questions about Joseph Smith I'd like to share this story. In 1832 Joseph was in New York tending a friend who had broken his leg. While watching over him there he wrote a letter to Emma, "God is my friend. I have given my life to him. My only desire is to serve him."

Joe Staples - When Kevin and I heard that President Esplin was called to be a mission president, we both felt sorry for the person who would follow him. Thank you for sustaining me. My mother is not a member of this church. She is here today. I wonder if she raised her hand to sustained me? Forty years ago I asked the Lord if the church was true and received a strong testimony of Joseph Smith. We will go on this journey together.

Robin Staples – Who the Lord calls, he qualifies. My husband is a convert. We met when we were just 17. We have always loved and supported one another. I love the Lord. He atoned for our sins and our sorrows.

Alan Matheson – I know that President Staples is the man the Lord has chosen to lead this stake. Serving as bishop of the 6th Ward has been the highlight of my church service. The tragic death of a member of our ward and her son was an opportunity for our ward to together to support that family and those in need. We read in Mosiah 18: "we share one another's burdens." The church helps us address real human needs. God is involved in the details of our lives.

Davis M. Smith – Seven years ago I was called to be a high councilman in Brazil but I did not speak Portuguese. I was shocked. Then had a dream during which I felt peace and comfort. "Faith, hope and charity qualifies you for the work." Later I was impressed that I should bring my family to Utah. When we came wonderful things began to happen. We had the child we had been waiting for. I was shocked again when called into this presidency but know the Lord qualifies one for the work.

Closing Remarks

Elder Todd B. Hansen - When we knelt and prayed to ask the Lord if Joe Staples was to be the stake president, we both received an overwhelming confirmation that he is the man to lead the stake.

Elder Taniela B. Wakolo - Shared the story of 24 sets of missionaries trying to teach a man the gospel. All told, 22 missionaries tried to teach him over a period of eight years. However, none were successful in converting him. The man was a Seventh Day Adventist pastor who had married a Mormon because she had all the qualifications he was looking for in a wife. He forbade her from reading the Book of Mormon and believed Mormons were a cult. However, he supported her attendance at the LDS church and allowed missionaries to visit their home for dinner two or three times each week. Finally, the wife received her patriarchal blessing which stated that she would be sealed to her husband in the temple. When missionaries number 23 and 24 came along they were able to convert him. I was the man.

Closing song - "Less Us All Press On"

Closing prayer - Sara Sever, Draper Single Adult Ward