

# Community of Christ

May 11, 2011

Dear Friends in the Western USA Mission Field,

It is my hope and prayer that this letter finds each of you doing well and blessed in God's presence of love in your lives.

Over the past week, I have found myself reflecting on my first year of serving as an Apostle with you in the Western USA Mission Field. My reflections have taken me back to experiences with many of you during reunions, mission center conferences, weekend retreats and congregational celebrations. You invited me into your homes and extended your generous hospitality. You opened your lives and allowed me to serve with you. With each trip I made into the field to offer ministry, I returned home as one who had been profoundly ministered to. And still, there are many I have not met yet and many congregations I look forward to being with.

As I reflect on our journey together, I recognize how important you have been in shaping and enriching my life that deepens my capacity to bear witness of the living Christ and the mission of Community of Christ. I hold this time with you as a wonderful testimony in my life, which makes it difficult to share with you a change in my assignment with the Council of Twelve.

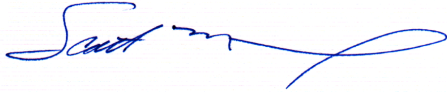
Many of you are aware that Apostle Jim Slauter has requested to be released from the Council of Twelve to take early retirement so he can care for his family. This past week, the First Presidency indicated their desire for me to fill Jim's role as Director of Field Ministries. This is an assignment to assist the entire Council of Twelve in giving attention to mission throughout the world. After several days of struggling in prayerful consideration, in addition to receiving words of affirmation from colleagues on the Council, I sensed the presence of God's peace in my call to this new assignment. I informed the First Presidency of my willingness to serve in this new role even though it is a tremendous sacrifice for me to leave the Western USA Field. My new assignment will be effective August 1, 2011.

I am humbled to be asked to serve in this special way with the church and with the Council of Twelve who I deeply respect and look up to. But I also want you to know that I feel a deep sense of loss in knowing that I will not be the apostle assigned to the Western USA Field. However, you can be assured that I will be making time to be with you as I join with the new apostle as we give greater attention to furthering the mission in the Western USA Field. So, please know that I am open to being invited to your congregations and mission centers to share in ministry.

To fill my vacancy, the First Presidency has asked Apostle Ron Harmon to serve the Western USA Field. I am extremely pleased that Ron will have the privilege of serving with you. He is a gifted leader who is passionate about mission. It is my hope and prayer that you will receive him in the gracious and loving way you received me. I know you will be blessed through his leadership and ministry.

I cannot thank you enough for the profound blessings I've experienced in being your field apostle. I carry with me our time of togetherness, but also anticipate new opportunities of working and serving with you. Please know that you will continue to be in my thoughts and prayers as you seek to respond to where God is at work and invites you to join in Christ's mission in the places where you live.

In the spirit of peace,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Scott Murphy". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping tail that extends to the right.

K. Scott Murphy, Apostle  
Western USA Mission Field