

Missionaries for Compassion toward Immigrants

We, the undersigned, espouse these views, stand for these principles, and endorse these actions.

As friends and family, and in many cases, Gospel teachers of people who are immigrants, documented and undocumented alike, we feel a need to treat them with dignity, respect, and compassion. In a tide of anti-immigrant sentiment, many federal, state, and local government institutions have passed legal measures to marginalize these people through various and subtle means. While we recognize the importance of the rule of law, especially as we are taught through our religion, we also recognize, by the same means, that a level of temperance and compassion is due to all of God's children, regardless of their migratory status. The aforementioned legal measures undermine both principles, subverting the underlying meaning of the rule of law, and tossing the most core of human values aside.

Our goal as a grouping of like-minded people, members of the LDS Church, is to change how many people perceive the immigrant demographic to a perception more in line with the program of proclaiming the Gospel and more in line with how God perceives His children. Given the difficulties and spiritual challenges we all face, we cannot afford to give way to fear and misunderstanding. Immigrants, whether in the country legally or not, have as much claim to saving ordinances, and in general, freedom of religion, as anyone else. We hold antagonism toward immigrants in general and adherence to Gospel principles to be intrinsically conflicted. We do not compromise on our beliefs, accepting this conflict or any conflict, in favor of any particular political ideology.

We may have been full-time missionaries, or even member missionaries, as was the general call from President David O. McKay. This our missionary identity is essential in influencing us to do things that are right so that missionary work can go forward. We invite others to come under the same influence. We do not represent the LDS Church, but we represent ourselves, and what we have learned as members of the LDS Church. We seek that it may be declared of all people, as once declared Paul (Ephesians 2:19), "Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God." To that end we begin our work.

As we believe that people in general are good, and can make right decisions when properly informed, we seek through persuasion, using all ethical means, to do away with excessively punitive laws that threaten the integrity of the U. S. Constitution, and which certainly impinge upon the rights of a decent group of people, a people we have grown not only to sympathize with, but also to love as fellow sisters and brothers.

We now engage the world in a dialogue, and especially our fellow Latter-day Saints. We hope to see you soon.