

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Festival of Trees

by Sister Jennifer Randell and Rachel Garner

At the request of President Talley, Sister Jennifer Randell, a ward missionary in the Canton Ward designed a tree for the stake to donate and display at the Akron Children's Hospital's 36th annual Holiday Tree Festival.

The tree, entitled "The Living Christ" was on display, along with 165 others from Nov. 18-26, 2017 at the John S. Knight Center. Approximately 150,000 visitors attended the festival. This was the first year the Akron Stake decorated a tree for the event.



As directed by President Talley, the purpose of the tree was two-fold, to demonstrate that members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints are Christian and to testify that Jesus Christ lives. Although battling both breast and uterine cancer, Sister Randell accepted the challenge to design a Christ-centered tree, based on the Bible's portrayal of His life and miracles. The inspired design depicted scenes from the life of Christ using ornaments featuring artwork from Ids.org and explanatory and scriptural banners, and was topped with a small Christus statue. The finished tree, decorated by Sisters Margie Morrison and Kim Roncaglione (Massillon Ward), was elegant and radiated light.

Sister Randell wanted the tree to testify that "[Jesus Christ] lives! He governs and directs His church and the affairs of this world. He is our exemplar, Elder Brother, Master healer, miracle worker and the way to eternal life."

"It was an incredibly spiritual journey for me because I went through every picture posted on LDS.org. When I got to the end, especially when I

Stake Presidency Message



President Dayton

<https://youtu.be/20FesvQMWuU>

viewed the pictures of this innocent, perfect man's torture, pain, atonement, then His triumphant glory, I found myself sobbing, both with sympathy and with gratitude. I felt so close to our Savior. I wanted this to be evident in our tree."

Hopefully, the tree's beauty and message "will be an inspiration to other decorators to include The Master in the future! In the meantime, may all who come across our tree know that we believe Jesus is the Christ, that we look to Him, love Him, believe Him and in Him, and that our church is headed and governed by Him."



REFLECTIONS ON CONFERENCE FROM AROUND THE STAKE

My favorite part of stake conference is being with my fellow saints. It is good to be together as a stake body. We are a diverse group of saints from all walks of life and we are one. I am honored to be numbered among them.

Brother Phillip Evans, Wooster

I'm so grateful for the reminders I received during Stake Conference: that I need to read the Book of Mormon daily so that I can receive those MANY promised blessings that are available to those who are willing to be obedient, that God has a plan for each of us, that opportunities will come if we are prepared, and that I have the responsibility to light my own light brightly so that I may share it with those around me.

Sister Ali Lee, Akron

Sister Selden's talk on leaving the sophistication of the world behind when entering the Temple got me thinking of specific ways that I could seek to do the same on some level with regards to our own home--how to help myself and my family to be more focused on eternal matters in the place that we have been instructed should most closely resemble the Temple.

Brother David Tefteller, Wadsworth

As we truly study the scriptures, it strengthens our ability to live our baptismal and temple covenants, and brings greater peace and awareness of the Savior's plan for each of us while on earth and in heaven as we participate in the sacred temple ordinances.

Brother Greg Gorrell, Ashland

I have pondered over the incident told by President Selden, where his counselor looked out the temple one stormy day and saw a line of persons that extended from the temple doors down to the parking lot. These persons were waiting for the privilege of entering the temple to witness their vicarious ordinances being performed. We are not alone in the performance of this work. Our participation in these ordinances allows them to receive the privilege of entering a temple of our Lord. Would I let a busy schedule or the threat of a stormy sky keep me away and thus deny them the privilege of attending the temple that day? I do not wish for them to miss out because of me.

Brother Cordell Jones, Tallmadge

**“Behold,
the scriptures
are before you;
how readest
them?”**

Alma 23 & Luke 10

The messages inspire me to try a little harder to improve myself. I was particularly touched by the talk given by Emma Semus. You could feel her excitement about family history through her testimony. Emma has been able to discover things about her ancestors that she has never met and learned to love them through the process.

Sister Heather Most, Canton

I'm grateful that the talks focused on using scripture study to support change. It was a very hopeful approach, as well as practical.

Sister Kelly McCoy,
Easthill

President Talley's talk was very inspirational. I liked his personal experience regarding finding answers in the scriptures. I appreciated his experience with his bishop and how he felt better after talking to him. His testimony gave me greater confidence that I can find answers to my questions in the scriptures and hear the voice of the Lord.

Benjamin Bullock, New Portage youth

I was inspired to read and study the Book of Mormon with more intent. That it can become our "vaccine" to the world. I learned that I can begin this study with a "plan" and ponder more of what I study.

Sister Shalissa Tomkinson, Massillon

The entire conference was spiritually uplifting. The leadership training was well planned and constructive for all involved. I left the conference feeling the speakers had sought diligently to find the will of The Lord, and I was touched by all the talks and the music.

Brother Ed Benninghoff,
New Philadelphia

As a family history buff, I loved the fact that family history was a thread that ran through many talks, even those not devoted specifically to that topic. President Brown's talk connected family history and missionary work, which I thought was very enlightening.

Sister Becky Semus, Medina

Area Plan
Akron Ohio Stake



Vision

Become, and help others to become, true followers of Jesus Christ and enjoy the blessings of the holy temple.

Stake Priorities

1. Live the gospel of Jesus Christ
2. Gather Israel through missionary work
3. Care for the poor and needy
4. Enable the salvation of the dead by identifying ancestors and performing vicarious temple ordinances for them

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER SPECIALS

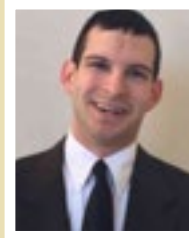
The Brecksville Home Storage sales for the month of December are **Sugar** (30 year shelf life) in a 5.8 lb. can for \$4.75 or a case of 6 cans at \$28.50, and **Brigham Creek Hot Cocoa Mix** (2 year shelf life), a 2 lb. pouch for \$3.50, or a case of 12 pouches for \$42.

This is a great time to update or add some new items to the your home storage. The Hot Cocoa mix is one of the most popular items at the storage center. Hot Cocoa mix is a great gift to give to friends, family, and neighbors with a plate of cookies. Hope you have an opportunity to come and visit the Brecksville Home Storage Center. We will be happy to help and answer questions you may have.

Elder and Sister Juhasz • 440-526-4057

6900 Southpointe Parkway, Suite C • Brecksville, Ohio 44141-3284
Wednesday-Thursday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. • Saturday 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. by appt

MISSIONARY RETURNING



BRANDON JAMES RENNINGER

13 DECEMBER 2017

FROM

NEVADA RENO MISSION

Family History

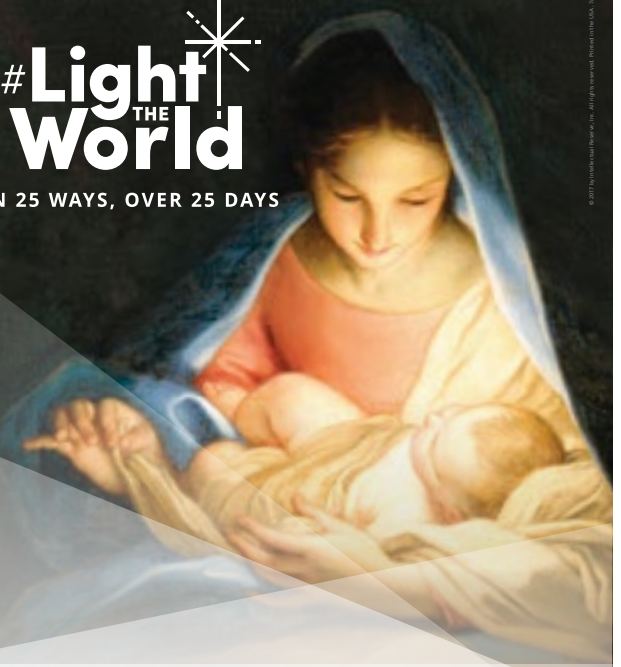


Heaven Will Cooperate

“The Lord will help open doors as we do genealogy. I have a conviction born of a little experience to which I bear testimony that there are forces beyond this life that are working with us. I have the simple faith that when you do everything you can, researching to the last of your opportunity, the Lord will help you to open doors to go further with your genealogies, and heaven will cooperate. I am sure.” (Harold B. Lee, 4 Aug 1972) I would like to add my testimony also, that as we have the desire to find our ancestors, opportunities will present itself to us that will help us acquire the information we need to complete their work.

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World

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THE CHURCH OF
JESUS CHRIST
OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

STAKE CALENDAR EVENTS

December 2017

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 25

Christmas Day

Sunday, December 31

New Year's Eve

January 2018

Sunday, January 14

Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults 8-9 p.m.

Saturday, January 20

Stake Women's Conference/Tallmadge 10 a.m. -2 p.m.

Sunday, January 21

Standards Night/Tallmadge 7-9 p.m.

Saturday, January 27

Quad Stake Youth Dance/Youngstown 7-10 p.m.

February 2018

Saturday, February 10

Stake Youth Ice Skating/Alice Noble Ice Arena in Wooster
2:30 - 4:30 p.m.



HISTORIC KIRTLAND NATIVITY EXHIBIT "YE ARE THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD"

Through Jan 2, 2018

Mon - Sat : 9 AM to 8 PM

Sun: 1 PM to 8 PM

Join us this Christmas season for our annual nativity exhibit. With nearly 1,000 nativities from all over the world on display, you won't want to miss it! We will be closed Christmas and New Year's Day.

Historic Kirtland Visitors' Center
7800 Kirtland-Chardon Road
Kirtland, OH 44094

facebook.com/HistoricKirtland

Self-Reliance Spotlight

Stake Update

We continue to have great momentum. The first round of self-reliance groups are now past the halfway point of the respective courses. The feedback shared thus far reinforces the "power of the group" to enrich the learning as well as to

provide mutual encouragement and support along the journey. We are tentatively planning to start the next round in February. More to come...

Principle – Exercise Faith in Jesus Christ

"Taking action is the exercise of faith. The children of Israel are carrying the

ark of the covenant. They come to the River Jordan. The promise is they will cross over on dry land. When does the water part? When their feet are wet. They walk into the river—act. Power follows—the water parts."

Elder David A. Bednar,
"Seek Learning by Faith,"
CES address, Feb. 3, 2006

Invitation

Ponder: *How does my faith in Jesus Christ affect my self-reliance? What can I do to show increased faith?*

Looking for the perfect Christmas gift?
Do your shopping at
JustServe.org

