

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message

Thoughts on Tent Pegs

“The prophets likened latter-day Zion to a great tent encompassing the earth. That tent was supported by cords fastened to stakes.” (Ezra Taft Benson, “Strengthen Thy Stakes,” *Ensign*, Jan. 1991).

That the great Church, which is to receive the return of our Savior, is likened to a mere tent instead of some grand structure, is interesting. To me, the imagery reminds us that we’re only sojourners on the earth who are yet to get home; that we should be able to pick up and go on short notice wherever the Lord commands us to go.

That the units that comprise Zion are likened to something we get from a hardware store may speak to the down-to-earth (pun intended) nature of stakes. The very pragmatic self-reliance work that stakes have been commanded to establish, for example, would be an expression of that symbol. And as the Church is built one stake at a time and each stake is driven into the ground inch by inch, indeed no magic is involved, only hard work and perseverance.

Of course, being “self-contained with all that is needed for the salvation and exaltation of those who would come within its influence...” (Boyd K. Packer, “A Defense and a Refuge,” *Ensign*, Nov. 2006, 87), and holding those priesthood keys (in the person of the stake president), stakes are preeminently spiritual and are endowed with the power to secure and hold down spiritually.

Not all stakes are the same, however. When we first moved here, not knowing the fierceness of the Ohio wind, we set up a storage tent in our backyard using some straight pegs. It wasn’t a pretty sight when the pegs started to pull up one by one. Quickly we replaced them with some spiral pegs, and never had a problem since.

I wonder if the different strengths of each ward within

the stake, and for that matter, each member in the stake, may be seen as the divergences in a spiral stake that would render the implement much stronger as a whole.

While a stake deeply driven into the ground presents a picture of security, a ward by its very title also bears the image of protection, guard, and safety. A stake and the wards in the stake fulfill hand-in-hand the mandate in D&C 115:6 to serve as a defense and a refuge. (By the reverse token, no one is secure absent a ward and stake.)

And how much we have to defend: our families, values, faith, and the doctrines of Christ amidst the subtle worldliness of the world and the direct fiery darts of the adversary. And what a refuge we need from the chaos and evils surrounding us—so we may not just keep our sanity and cope but enjoy the peace and joy of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Indeed, Zion and its stakes have much to do, as they’re commanded to teach their children to understand the first principles of the Gospel (D&C 68); increase in beauty and holiness and enlarge and put on her beautiful garments (D&C 82); to be awake and put on her strength (Isaiah 52); gather the righteous (D&C 109); and arise and shine forth (D&C 115).

Here again, the stake and its wards work unitedly to achieve those injunctions. In that collaboration, and perhaps in the wisdom of God, the stake and the wards are designed to arrive at a balance between the big picture and the day-to-day, the programs and the people, the ideal and the realities, the strategies and their echoes, the doctrines and their applications.

Let each of us do our part and pound away deep into the foundation that is Jesus Christ (Helaman 5:12), facing our own tent like King Benjamin’s people toward the Temple (Mosiah 2:6), and help the Akron Ohio Stake become a true, firm Stake of Zion.



President Wen

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Upcoming Dates

- Sunday, September 8 - Wooster Ward Conference
LDS Child Loss Group/Stark’s home, 230 Cherry Hill Dr, Wadsworth 7 p.m.
- Sunday, September 15 - Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults Broadcast 8-9 p.m.
- Tuesday, September 17 - Temple Recommend Interviews with Stake Presidency member/Tallmadge High Council Room 6-7 p.m. No appointments needed.
- Saturday, September 21 - Quad Stake Dance/Tallmadge 7-10 p.m. for Mia Maids, Laurels, teachers & priests.
- Sunday, September 22 - New Philadelphia Ward Conference
- Thursday, September 26 - BYU Admissions and Recruiting Event/Tallmadge 7-8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, September 29 - Fast Sunday
- October 5-6 General Conference

RELIEF SOCIETY HAPPENINGS

by President Kristin Center

*Have I done any good in the world today?
Have I helped anyone in need?
Have I cheered up the sad and made someone feel glad?
If not, I have failed indeed.
Has anyone's burden been lighter today
because I was willing to share?
Have the sick and the weary been helped on their way?
When they needed my help was I there?
There are chances for work all around just now,
Opportunities right in our way.
Do not let them pass by, saying, "Sometime I'll try,"
But go and do something today.
'Tis noble of man to work and to give;
Love's labor has merit alone.
Only he who does something helps others to live.
To God each good work will be known.*

"Have I Done Any Good?" Hymns, no. 223

This hymn has been in my heart ever since I listened to it traveling to a ward conference recently. It asks some powerful questions — questions about our ministries.

We have been called by the Lord through His prophet, Russell M. Nelson, to minister to our brothers and sisters. On churchofjesuschrist.org, ministering is defined as "... learning of and attending to others' needs. It is doing the Lord's work." Elder Holland counsels, "May we labor

side by side with the Lord of the vineyard giving the God and Father of us all a helping hand with His staggering task of answering prayers, providing comfort, drying tears, and strengthening feeble knees."

I believe one of the best ways to minister is simply to be a friend; be the kind of friend your brothers/sisters need. Friendship does not always come easily and quickly. It can take an investment of time and energy and sacrifice. But who wouldn't want a new friend? I have sisters to whom I minister that I have absolutely nothing in common with, but I have come to love them as I have accepted the privilege of ministering to them, learning to know them, and discovering who they are. We have become friends.

We cannot minister, really minister, alone. The Lord is anxious to aid us. Ask Him for help. Ask him for the desire to minister as He would. He will bless you with the answers

you need to bless the lives of your brothers and sisters.



MISSIONARIES RETURNING

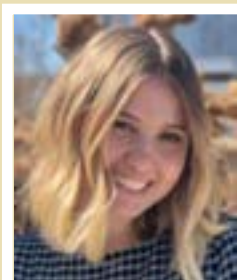


ERIK SANDERS
Sept 2017 – Aug 2019
New Mexico
Farmington Mission



BENJAMIN MORTENSEN
Sept 2017 – Sept 2019
Utah Salt Lake
City South Mission

MISSIONARIES LEAVING



ANA FOUTZ
Sept 2019 – Feb 2021
Washington
Yakima Mission



DANIEL SOMMERS
Sept 2019 – Aug 2021
California Los Angeles
Mission

Family History Corner

by Jeanne Peugh, Director



Family History Fair

It's that favorite time of year again when our ancestors are getting excited knowing that you want to find them and the experts will show you how! October 12, 2019, the Akron Ohio Stake will be hosting its annual Family History Fair. This is one you don't want to miss!

We will have classes on Prussian, German, Czech, Slovak, Italian and Scottish research. There will be classes on Internet Sites, DNA, Latest Technology for Genealogists, Beginner Classes, and more.

*Look for posters
and flyers in all
wards/branches.*

There will also be a couple of classes for those who have struggled with FamilySearch to get the assistance you need. You can sign up through [Eventbrite](#). The syllabus will be available at the cost of \$7.46, and will include all handouts for the classes. If you need assistance, please feel free to contact: Jeanne Peugh (H) 330-630-2161 or (C) 330-631-3225. See you there!

Self-Reliance Corner

by Sister Diane Burgoon,
Stake Self-Reliance Specialist

The following groups will be forming soon. You are welcome to join groups in other wards. Please contact the ward Self-Reliance Specialist or myself for more details.

How to Find a Better Job

- Medina. Starting in September. Contact Michael Ziemer.
- Virtual. Starting in September 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. Contact Diane Burgoon.

Personal Finances

- Tallmadge. Starting first week of September. Contact Raydeen Ryden.

For more information on becoming or helping others become more self-reliant, see: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/self-reliance/blog>

Here you will find an article a month about the Twelve Principles of Self-Reliance, which are:

1. Exercise Faith in Jesus Christ
2. Use Time Wisely
3. Be Obedient
4. Manage Money
5. Work: Take Responsibility
6. Solve Problems
7. Become One, Work Together
8. Communicate: Petition and Listen
9. Persevere
10. Show Integrity
11. Seek Learning and Education
12. Stay on Task, Receive Ordinances.



Strengthen the conversion of children and youth.

1. Participate in seminary.

Upcoming Conference Schedule

General Conference - October 5-6

Saturday General Sessions 12-2 pm and 4-6 pm

General Women's Session 8-9:30 pm

Sunday General Sessions 12-2 pm and 4-6 pm

Stake Conference - October 19-20

Saturday Adult Session 7-9 pm

Sunday General Session 10 am-noon

Multi-Stake Single Adult Conference

Happiness in Conversion

For Single Adults in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and

Louisville areas

September 20 - 22, 2019

Hosted by Columbus Ohio Stake

Age 31 +, Single Adults from anywhere are invited!

More Details and Registration info can be found at

www.ldssaconference.org

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER SPECIALS

August 1 to September 30

Potato Flakes

30-year shelf life

A 1.8 lb. can is \$4.50 or
a case of 6 cans is \$27.00

Hard White Wheat

30-year shelf life

A 5.5 lb. can is \$3.25 or
a case of 6 cans is \$19.50

September 1 to October 31

Honey

30-year shelf life

A 15.5 oz. bottle is \$3.50
a case of 24 bottles is \$84.00

White Rice

White Rice - 30-year shelf life

A 5.4 lb. can is \$4.50 or
a case of 6 cans is \$27.00

Sister Deb Carter

Elder & Sister Carpenter

440-526-4057

6900 Southpointe Pkwy, Suite C

Brecksville, Ohio 44141

Wed-Thurs 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.



UNLOCK THE PAST

Akron Ohio Stake

FAMILY HISTORY FAIR

Saturday, October 12, 2019

9:00 am - 3:00 pm

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints

106 East Howe Road, Tallmadge, OH

Please register through Eventbrite

Attendance and Lunch are FREE

Additional Information at:

[www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Akron_Ohio_Family_History_Center)

[Akron_Ohio_Family_History_Center](http://www.familysearch.org/wiki/en/Akron_Ohio_Family_History_Center)

Congratulations 2019 Pathway Connect Graduates!



Back row: Bob and Diane Burgoon,
Canton; Beth Bailey, Massillon;
Jeanne and David Peugh, Tallmadge.
Front row: Tasha Simmons, Alliance;
Karen Rider, Tallmadge;
Irene Kanouff, New Philadelphia;
and Cindy Gault, Ashland