

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message

Hello Brothers and Sisters. I hope that you enjoyed our April General Conference as much as I did. When discussing the conference with my wife, we both chose the same talk as the one we felt most benefited us. That talk is the one by Elder Dale G. Renlund titled, "Consider the Goodness and Greatness of God."

Elder Renlund says that it is "striking" how often the prophets have pleaded that we reflect on the goodness of God. After listening to the talk again and studying it, I feel like I have a better understanding of why scriptures such as Moroni 10:3 encourage us to remember the goodness of God before praying to find out if the Book of Mormon is true. As Elder Renlund states, "Our Heavenly Father wants us to recall His and His Beloved Son's goodness, not for Their own gratification but for the influence such remembrance has on us. By considering Their kindness, our perspective and understanding are enlarged. By reflecting on Their compassion, we become more humble, prayerful, and steadfast."

In reflecting on the goodness and greatness of God in my life, I'm reminded of an experience with my mother. In my mother's later years after my father passed away, with her living in Utah and me in Ohio, I had the fortunate opportunity of staying with her for a week or more on a few occasions. It was just the two of us each morning and evening, which gave us a lot of time to talk together. We talked a lot about spiritual things. Although she struggled with poor health and frailness, she was very blessed in the ten years she lived after my father passed away. She told me of some experiences when she felt the goodness of God. At one time, her health left her unable to pull the blanket over herself as she got into bed on a chilly evening. She lived alone, so she

could not ask anyone for help. She said a prayer as the blanket laid down by her feet, but then exhausted, she drifted off to sleep. When she awoke in the morning, the blanket was neatly tucked up around her, and she experienced an abiding feeling of love in her home. I'm so grateful to a kind and loving Father and Son that would show so much kindness to my mother.



President Jensen

Contemplating the goodness and greatness of God is a great form of gratitude. It makes wonderful sense that God would ask us to do this often. What God has always known is now being understood by neuroscientists. For example, in a recently published book about meditation, it stated, "There is some fascinating neuroscience research coming out about gratitude. Scientists are finding that even on the days when you don't feel like you have anything to be thankful for, just asking the question 'What am I grateful for?' is enough to change the chemistry of your brain."

Elder Renlund mentions eight "remarkable fruits" that we are blessed with as we consistently ponder on the goodness of God. Three, in particular, stand out to me. First, we will have courage when confronted with seemingly impossible tasks and circumstances (1 Samuel 17:37, 1 Nephi 4:2). Next, we will be filled with the love of God, and third, we will always rejoice (Mosiah 4:11-12). These great blessings motivate me to make the effort to consistently remember and think on the goodness and greatness of God.

I invite us all to ponder on God the Father and His Son Jesus Christ's goodness and greatness every day. Express gratitude to Heavenly Father for all your blessings in your daily prayers. I know God will bless us more abundantly as we make this a pattern in our lives.



Gather scattered Israel on both sides of the veil.

- 1. Pray daily with greater faith to have personal missionary experiences.**

We have a Facebook page if you are interested in joining in. 
 Our page name is **Akron Ohio Stake for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.**
 Our content will provide stake news, Come Follow Me insights, ideas for home church, etc.
 If Instagram is more your social media go-to, you can join us there as well. 
 Follow along @akronhiostake.

PRIMARY HAPPENINGS

By Brittany Kucnick, Stake Primary President

Utilizing the Small Moments

With the demands on my time increasing since COVID-19 began, I struggled to find quiet moments where I could spend time focusing on uplifting myself mentally and spiritually. In the morning, it seemed I could barely get out of bed after a short exhausting night, during the day I was busy helping the kids with schoolwork and keeping them occupied. Once the kids were in bed, I was exhausted from a long day in social isolation with five kids and a baby. I imagine that some of you parents with young children can relate. As I pondered what I could do about my dilemma, I started utilizing the new Gospel Living app. Unlike the Gospel Library app with full chapters, articles, and conference talks, the Gospel Living app has short articles followed by “Strive to be” boxes that encourage action, service, or further contemplation. These and other treasures such as inspirational posters quoting general conference, excerpts from bigger articles referenced at the end of a few paragraphs, or bigger articles split into segments can be accessed on the discover tab. These were the small drops I needed to fill my lamp and feed my soul.

Another uplifting treasure that can be found on the discover tab is music. My children and I really enjoy the different playlists and will play (and sometimes sing with) the music while doing dishes together or other household responsibilities. I have found that when I am feeling particularly weighed down, the music helps lift me up without me even realizing it and brings peace to our home. Doctrine and Covenants 25:12 says, “For my soul delighteth in the song of the heart; yea, the song of the righteous is a prayer unto me, and it shall be answered with a blessing upon their heads.” Recently, a new update has now made it easier to share things from the Gospel Living app with others, even if they do not have the Gospel Living app. In just a few clicks, you can share using your favorite social media platform, e-mail, or text message. You never know when the Lord will use you to show His love, care, and concern to

another of His children.

I invite you to download and check out the Gospel Living app on your smartphone; there’s something there for everyone. I hope that like it did for me, it will bless your life in unexpected ways.



NEPALI MEMBERS OF THE TALLMADGE WARD

by Sister Trisha Adams

As a stake, we are so blessed to be full of so much diversity! We have so many wonderful individuals from different backgrounds and cultures. All of us are coming together as one to worship God as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The gospel is for everyone! Our Heavenly Father loves each of us so much and wants us to know it! The gospel is being translated into different languages all around the world, and we have the chance to see His love being shared in a few languages here in our stake as well!

Do you know that we have Elders that have been called to speak the Nepali language and serve our Nepali community in the Tallmadge Ward? Isn't that awesome! We've witnessed our Nepali members being able to go on temple trips and have the sessions translated for them, to see them share the gospel with family and friends and be baptized in their own language! Most recently, right before COVID restrictions had us start doing home church, our Nepali families were able to hear the sacrament be blessed on the stand in Nepali, by our Nepali priesthood holders. They blessed it not just for the Nepali members, but for the whole ward. How awesome is that! It was hands

Ward Window



down was one of my most favorite sacrament meetings that I've been a part of.

I cannot even begin to tell you what an amazing group of individuals they are. Their testimonies are so strong, and their hearts are so big. I know that a picture isn't nearly as awesome as meeting face to face. Still, I want you to see their faces and remember them so that when we all have the opportunity to gather again in person, you will recognize them, say hi, and take the opportunity to get to know these sweet members. You won't regret it.

Nepali



Saints



The blessings of serving with the Nepali members in the Tallmadge Ward

MISSIONARY UPDATES



MADISON CRITCHLOW

Leaving May 2020

Brazil Londrina
Mission



LOGAN SPITTLE

Leaving June 2020

Dominican Republic Santo
Domingo East Mission



THOMAS BIGGS

Re-assigned due to COVID-19

California
Sacramento Mission



SAMUEL RYDEN

Re-assigned due to COVID-19

Texas Lubbock
Mission



JARED PARKE

Returning June 2020

Italy Milan
Mission



TRAVIS DAWSON HUFFAKER

Returning June 2020

California Riverside
Mission



BRADEN WEBB

Returning June 2020

Czech/Slovak
Mission

Members of the Akron Ohio Stake have been invited to share their experiences with Sunday worship at home - here are a couple ...

From Bill Baumgardner Sr., New Philadelphia

I have always tried to keep my testimony strong by reading, listening to or watching our many Church DVDs, CDs and videos that we have bought over the years. We probably have over 500 of them all together. The first thing I do before I get out of bed is listen to 2-3 chapters of the Book of Mormon on CD. Then I get on the computer and listen/read the New Testament Scriptures. On Sunday I watch/listen to Church Services all day on the BYU channel We now have our Sacrament on the Sabbath day. I came into the Church in 1969, my Sweetheart being a fifth generation member of the Church from the Catawba Indian Tribe in South Carolina. I met her in 1960 and we were married in 1964, I joined the Church five years later and we were sealed in the Salt Lake Temple in 1971. My life has been a wonderful life since then. :)

I KNOW the Gospel is true and the most important thing on this earth. Heavenly Father, Heavenly Mother, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost are truly our Family in Heaven and here on earth. I love the Gospel. :)

From Judy Porter, New Portage

From not only Sunday, but most days during this 'lock down' I have been concentrating on expanding family lines and putting the information in FamilySearch.

My 'travels' have taken me to Italy, Lebanon, Syria, and many states in the U.S. Although my husband is a non-member, he is often bombarded with new fan charts, and all information received from the Church via e-mail.

Since I normally teach Gospel Doctrine twice a month, Sundays are spent 'preparing' anyway, by reading lesson material and the Book of Mormon and any related materials. We are so blessed to have followed previous admonishments about food preparation and self-reliance, so that we 'need not fear.'

Self-Reliance Corner

by Sister Diane Burgoon, Stake Self-Reliance Specialist
330-430-9912, diane.burgoon@yahoo.com

Employment Resources

There is a new section on the Church's website regarding employment services. There are articles and links to several new online resources to help members in an active job search or otherwise struggling with employment.

<https://abn.churchofjesuschrist.org/get-help/employment>

Virtual Groups

One hundred ninety-eight people across Indiana, Ohio, and New York signed up several virtual self-reliance groups offered by the regional self-reliance missionaries! If you are interested in joining a group in the future, please let me know. The groups are Personal Finances, Starting and Growing My Business, Find a Better Job,

Education for Better Work, EnglishConnect, and Life Skills (for youth and young single adults).

Considering Pathway?

For information, go to byupathway.org.

Contact your ward Self-Reliance Specialist, or myself, for more information on joining a self-reliance group or Pathway. If you have any other questions or concerns, please let me know.

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

The Lord has declared, "It is my purpose to provide for my saints" (D&C 104:15)

Family History Corner

by Sister Jeanne Peugh, Director



Blessings

We are so blessed to be members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

We are blessed with the understanding that Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ love us, and through the Holy Ghost we may know the truth of all things.

We are blessed to be led by a Prophet of God who has helped us to continue on our journey with as much ease and comfort as possible.

We are blessed with "Come Follow Me" so we better

understand the scriptures, as a family, as couples or as one. None of us have been left out.

We are blessed knowing who we are, why we are here, and where we are going.

We are blessed through the Priesthood that we can partake of the ordinances of the gospel.

Most of all, we are blessed with ancestors who are close by wanting us to have joy. We owe so much to them, and we have opportunities to give blessings to them by fulfilling those ordinances that will bless them with exaltation so they too will have joy.

We are blessed with records at our fingertips to help that work go forth. Family Search provides us with hints and notifications to complete their work.

I encourage you to view and attach those hints to your ancestors, gaining greater knowledge of who they are and what they accomplished in this life. Each hint tells us a little more about their experiences on earth of where they lived, what they did for a living, and their children.

Yes, we are blessed!

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER

Will be open starting in June on Saturdays by appointment only with orders of \$100.00 or more, only accepting credit card payments at this time.

Leave a message at 440-526-4057.

