

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message

Finding Joy in Simplicity

Recently our grandson visited our home for two days. He is seven years old and so active that he can wear us out in a couple of hours. This time was different. Upon arriving, he noticed the birds enjoying their visits to the bird feeder just outside the back of our home - cardinals, bluebirds, goldfinches, and others. He also noticed the chipmunks and young squirrels below the bird feeder enjoying the spoils of what fell from above. He was enthralled. After a while, Denna showed him a small box trap and taught him how to set it to catch a chipmunk or squirrel. He was beyond excited to catch his first squirrel and see it close-up. He briefly fed it and treated it lovingly and then quickly released it. He then set the trap again and took his post at the window to watch for the next catch. Again and again, he repeated the process. He was completely smitten by the young animals, and they seemed to be far too cooperative with him. This scene repeated itself over and over all day long, and all of the next day. I believe every chipmunk and squirrel on our property took turns getting to know our grandson.

This experience caused me to marvel a bit about the joy our grandson found in God’s creations. Since that time, I have also found myself increasingly appreciative of the beauty of God’s creations – the birds, animals, trees, and leaves.

For many, this pandemic has been an opportunity to slow the hectic pace, focus on blessings, focus on loved ones, and find joy in simplicity. To get out of the “thick of thin things.”

More specifically, it has been an opportunity to find joy in the simplicity of the gospel. What exactly produces joy? What are the eternal principles and laws that govern joy? What is a fullness of joy?

Ammon is a great example of achieving joy. His focus in life was quite singular, to help his brethren find truth and happiness. After 14 years of dedicated, heartfelt effort, he exclaimed, “behold my joy is full, my heart is brim with joy, and I will rejoice in my God.”

The joy of Ammon was so great, “yea, even to the exhausting of his strength.”

“Behold, this is joy which none receiveth save it be the truly penitent and humble seeker of happiness.” (Alma chapters 26 & 27).

This joy came from helping and loving others. That is the irony of joy. If we seek it only for ourselves, we will very likely not find it. But, if we seek it for others, we are filled with joy ourselves.

Small, thoughtful acts of kindness bring joy and happiness and peace. Thank you to all the members of the Akron Stake who bring such great joy, peace, and happiness to others. It is a wonderful blessing to be able to work with and associate with so many wonderful people. Caring for one another, praying for one another, loving one another. Finding joy in the simplicity of the gospel.



President Coburn

Family History Corner

by Jeanne Peugh, Director



MOTIVATION

What motivates you to do your Family History Research?

Do you do it for the fun of the research?

Do you do it hoping to find a relative that is famous or important?

Do you do it just to add names to your tree?

Do you do it because of expectations?

Do you do it so you know how?

LOVE is the motivation for Family History Research.

LOVE is the motivation to research to find that family.

LOVE is the motivation to know that it doesn’t matter whether they were famous or not.

LOVE is the motivation to continue to add names and records to our Family Tree.

LOVE is the motivation knowing this is the Lord’s work, and I have the privilege of helping those on the other side.

LOVE is the motivation knowing that as I continue to research, I will be blessed with knowledge and understanding to know where I need to search.

YES

LOVE IS THE MOTIVATION

TO DO FAMILY HISTORY RESEARCH

Akron Ohio Stake for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, our Facebook page provides stake news, Come Follow Me insights, ideas for



home church, etc. Or look for us on Instagram @akronohiostake.



Self-Reliance Corner

by Sister Diane Burgoon, Stake Self-Reliance Specialist
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Virtual Groups

We are looking to start a virtual Personal Finance self-reliance group soon. You will need access to a computer and the internet.

There are 12 sessions where you will interact with others as you practice the principles of self-reliance by learning how to eliminate debt, protect against financial hardship, and invest in the future. You will create a financial plan and follow a budget. Spouses are encouraged to attend together.

Open enrollment for the 2020-2021 BYU-Pathway Worldwide educational experience is now open for all members and non-members (friends of the Church) to dig deep and consider the changing times. This open enrollment period is from May 1 – August 25. The link below will give you the details of the program and how to enroll.

<https://www.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)

MISSIONARY UPDATE



MATTHEW HERRON

Leaving July 2020

México Torreón
Mission



BENJAMIN BULLOCK

Leaving July 2020

Mozambique Maputo
Mission



Connect with EFY Online! Free Video Sessions

EFY is going virtual for 2020. Every Tuesday for the rest of the summer, new videos will be released on EFY's YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook accounts. For the first time ever, anyone and everyone can join you at EFY for free, right from the comfort of their own home.

Follow along and together we'll make the most of this most unusual time.

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER

Starting next week, the center will be open on Thursdays from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Masks must be worn and only accepting credit card payments. Sale items this month are Macaroni \$4.50; Pinto Beans \$5.75. For questions or to make an appointment on Wednesday or Saturday, please leave a message at 440-526-4057.



Gather scattered Israel on both sides of the veil.

2. Invite and help others to “come and see” our sacrament meetings, baptismal services, and family and church activities.



2020 Music Conference officially canceled. Next year's Conference will be on 11 September 2021.