

# AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message

Hello, friends of the Akron Ohio Stake. Scriptures are a wonderful blessing prepared and given to us by God for our present and everlasting benefit. We all tend to have our favorite scriptures that bring us peace and comfort and also point us in the right direction. I would like to share six scriptures that do exactly that for me.

Each morning, I sit down with a few minutes carved out as a quiet, contemplative time. I remind myself of the quote from God telling us what His all-consuming focus is: **For behold, this is my work and my glory—to bring to pass the immortality and eternal life of man** (Moses1:39).

That is a wonderful and comforting truth about how much importance God places on us coming back to live with Him. I think it is wise to let that settle into my mind each morning. I think of Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ’s great sacrifice to provide the gift of immortality as well as making eternal life possible. This next scripture is a clear manifestation of what needed to be done to make His “work and glory”

available to us. **For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life** (John 3:16).

Thinking of God’s “work” and the sacrifice He made, I focus on what God has taught about what our “work” should be: **Behold, this is your work, to keep my commandments, yea, with all your might, mind and strength** (D&C11:20, italic added).

One truth, of which the Holy Spirit has overwhelmingly convinced me, is that God has given us commandments because He loves us and knows that we will be happier if we keep them.

If my “work” is to keep the commandments, what is the most important one to focus on? It is the first and great commandment, namely to **...love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself** (Matthew 22:37, 39).

If I truly love God as the scriptures suggest, I now ask myself, “What will I do differently today?” Next, I remind myself of scriptures that tell us that **...the love of God ... is the most desirable of all things ... and the most joyous to the soul** (1 Nephi 11:22-23).

After establishing the wonderful effect God’s love has on us, I turn to the scripture that exhorts us to **...pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love, which He hath bestowed upon all who are true followers of his Son, Jesus Christ** (Moroni 7:48).

Those six scriptures refresh my mind with important truths for a wonderful foundation for my thoughts, and hopefully, actions, throughout the day.

I invite you to use these scriptures, or your own favorites, to start each day by filling your mind with comforting peaceful truths about God, His love for you, and for the need for us to love Him.



President Jensen

## Family History Corner

by Jeanne Peugh, Director



### Pondering Our Treasures

We have heard the word “pondering” as we read and study scriptures, but I would like to suggest that we ponder about our family history. Over the last several months, my thoughts have been focused on my family history. My sister is six years older than I and has battled cancer for the last four years. I have asked her to go into our family history and put stories about some of our relatives because she knew them better.

Well, she passed away in July, and so those personal stories have been lost forever. My father was one of 16, and my mother was one of 10, so I have many first cousins. All of my parent’s siblings and spouses are deceased. When she passed, I decided to get a hold of some of them that we were fairly close to and let them know. I was sad to know that one of them passed in 2018, and when I did a little more research by contacting the cemetery, I found out that his wife passed away six months later. The spirit prompted me that I should go through each of my parent’s siblings to make sure that I had all their children. On one of my father’s sisters, I found she had two sons that I did not have recorded, and when I did their research, one passed away in 2019, and one passed

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## BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER

The center continues to 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

Hard Red Wheat - 25 lb. bag \$12.25;

Hard White Wheat - can \$3.50.

For questions or to make an appointment on Wednesday or Saturday, please leave a message at 440-526-4057.

Messages will be returned on Wednesdays.

# RELIEF SOCIETY MESSAGE

by Sister Kris Center, Stake Relief Society President

September. Already. Where did summer go? We have made it through months of COVID, quarantine, masks, and church at home. Life is quiet as we mostly remain home.

I would like to share with you three unrelated observations:

1. Gates - we have a number of gates on our farm, gates that open to pastures, valleys, and barn. When we open a gate and pass through, we are embarking on a path or "way" that broadens before us - a new adventure each time even though those paths have been walked before. In July and August, we participated in the baptisms of two of our grandchildren. They had the gate of eternal life opened to them and are now on the covenant path. Each additional ordinance they receive is another gate along the path to exaltation. Talk about an adventure with limitless possibilities! And the keeper of that gate is Jesus Christ. "Come unto the Lord, the Holy One. Remember that his paths are righteous. Behold, the way



for man is narrow, but it lieth in a straight course before him, and the keeper of the gate is the Holy One of Israel; and he employeth no servant there; and there is none other way save it be by the gate..." (2 Nephi 9:41).

2. Also, in July, we enjoyed a visit with some dear friends from our mission. I want to grow up and be like them. Faithfully they have served all their long lives. And they served with joy and gratitude for the opportunity. Their love for the Lord, the Gospel, their brothers and sisters, and each other is inspiring. They are "enduring to the end" with grace, testimony, and conversion even when life is difficult.

3. We enjoyed the company of our three-year-old grandson for several weeks this summer. What a character and his approach to life is worth emulating. Every day is a joy. Each morning he woke with enthusiasm for whatever the day held. Such optimism. Every morning was a brand new day, a fresh start. No grudges or ill feelings carried over from the previous day. Oh, to have such enthusiasm for life, for every single day.

When we are on the covenant path, regardless of our age, we should find joy in each day. The bounties of life surround us. We can see the hand of the Lord in our lives as we remember to be grateful in all things. We can wake each morning with joyful optimism when we repent and let the Spirit guide us through our day. We are blessed people. Let's remember that.

## MISSIONARY UPDATE



**BRANDON RICHARDS**

Leaving September 2020

México Mexico City West Mission

**MAKAYLA MONTGOMERY**

Returning August 2020

Denmark Copenhagen Mission



North American Northeast Area Plan



**Strengthen the conversion of children and youth.**

**1. Participate in Seminary.**

# Treasures

*continued from page 1*

away in April of 2020. In his obit, a stepson stated that a memorial would be held at a later date and gave his email address for contact. I contacted him and told him how I was related; he sent back and told me that he sent my information to the sister and niece, and she is my 1st cousin once removed. She wanted me to call her, and we chatted for about a half-hour.

She shared with me that my father carved an Indian out of a clothespin and give it to his sister when she was 14, and he was 13. His sister treasured this gift, and it was passed down to her granddaughter. This is that treasure:



*This little treasure is 93 years old.*

Pondering our family history can lead us to treasures beyond anything we can imagine.

I have made another contact with a second cousin; I had a couple pictures of her grandfather when he was an infant and in his Commission Uniform. Her mother is still living and was thrilled to get the picture of her father as an infant. She is a member, and her children have served missions and all sealed in temple. She asked me who was the first member of the church, and I told her it was my father, but they are all members now. Because of pondering on my father's line for many years, I made contact with distant relatives, and they had pictures of my great-great-grandparents that they shared with me.

There are many treasures in pondering our family history.

## Self-Reliance Corner

*by Sister Diane Burgoon, Stake Self-Reliance Group Coordinator*

*330-430-9912, [diane.burgoon@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.burgoon@yahoo.com)*

### Self-Reliance Groups

We had a fantastic response to the new Self-Reliance class, Emotional Resilience. We have around 49 participating in four groups. We also have 12 people in our Personal Finance group. These classes will end in October, so we will probably wait to start up another round until after the first of the year. If you are interested, let me know, and I will add your name to the waiting list. If you are interested in any of the other groups – Find a Better Job, Starting and Growing My Business, or Education for Better Work, let me know, and we will try to get a group started.

### How Can I Minister to Others During a Crisis?

During difficult situations, it's important for us to support and strengthen each other.

**Consider:** How can you be a support to others during a crisis? Start with a prayer. Ask for the Spirit to inspire you and your family or support system and to guide you in ministering to and helping others.

### Tips for Ministering to Others in a Crisis:

- It can be helpful to just be there for someone. This can mean making a phone or video call or sending a text message, so people know you are thinking of them. Your presence can be calming and comforting. Offer to talk or spend time together as much as is needed.
- Listen actively. Focus on the person and listen with your heart. Don't be distracted by thinking about how you'll respond to what she or he is saying.
- Remember, everyone is different and will respond to crisis differently. Allow others to go through their own experiences.
- Encourage and allow others to express how they feel, but avoid forcing them to talk about feelings or subjects that aren't freely shared.
- Ask questions about how others are feeling and what they are experiencing. Avoid assuming you already know how they feel.
- Pray together. Prayer invites the Spirit and can bring peace and comfort.
- Be cautious about sharing stories from your past. It's important to focus on each person and his or her experience.
- Find additional resources you can provide if needed, including credible sources of information, scriptures or talks, or other ways to find support. If someone wants professional support, connect with a bishop, your local Family Services office, or other sources.
- Continue to be present with those who are struggling, even when you are not sure what to say.

*Extracted from Discussion Guide – How Can I Minister to Others During a Crisis?*

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.*