

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message:

We Thank Thee, Oh God, for a Prophet

Watching General Conference caused me to pause and consider just how very thankful I am to have living prophets and apostles on the earth today. Where else could we receive such truth and light? In a world that is often filled with chaos, misinformation, distortion, and deception; where evil is called good and good is called evil; it is such a blessing to have the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ and to be guided by the counsel and examples prophets and apostles.

As I look back, I realize that the guidance and examples from our prophets have been life-changing for me.

I would like to share just a few examples.

President Ezra Taft Benson – The Power of Book of Mormon

In 1986 and 1988, President Benson gave two seminal talks on the Book of Mormon. He called upon the members of the church to read from the Book of Mormon daily.

For me, the most impactful statement in his talk was the following: “It is not just that the Book of Mormon teaches us truth, though it indeed does that. It is not just that the Book of Mormon bears testimony of Christ, though it indeed does that, too. But there is something more. There is a power in the book which will begin to flow into your lives the moment you begin a serious study of the book.”

Since that time, the Book of Mormon, with its teachings and testimony of Jesus Christ, has indeed been a foremost source of strength and power in my life. I testify of its power.

President Gordon B. Hinckley – Forget yourself and go to work

As a new missionary serving in Preston, England, Elder Hinckley was sick, discouraged, and frustrated.

He wrote a letter to his father that he felt he was wasting his time and his father’s money. A little while later, Elder Hinckley received a reply from his dad.

It said, “Dear Gordon, I have your recent letter. I have only one suggestion: forget yourself and go to work.”

Earlier that morning during scripture study, Elder Hinckley had read in the Bible, “Whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it” (Mark 8:35). He said, “With my father’s letter in hand, I went into our bedroom in the house at 15 Wadham Road, where we lived, and got on my knees and made a pledge with the Lord. I covenanted that I would try to forget myself and lose myself in his service.”

What a wonderful example of losing oneself in the service of the Lord.

President Thomas S. Monson – On the Lord’s Errand

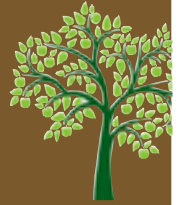
President Monson, ordained an apostle at the age of 36 and serving until he passed away at 90 years old, has literally spent his life “on the Lord’s Errand.” My favorite quote from President Monson is this: “The sweetest experience I know in life is to feel a prompting and act upon it and later find out that it was the fulfillment of someone’s prayer or someone’s need.



President Coburn

Family History Corner

by Sister Jeanne Peugh, Director



TRUST

*Trust in what you love
and continue to do it,
and it will take you
where you need to go.*

(Natalie Goldberg)

We are living during a time that probably none of us expected. The definition of trust is to “rely on the truthfulness or accuracy of.” There are many things in which we can place our trust, and where do we go to confirm that trust?

We need to be so careful, especially with the media, to know whether the information we are reading or hearing is accurate or truthful. We will shortly be making a decision on choosing a President to lead this great country that we have been so blessed to be here through the sacrifice of our ancestors.

We read in Proverbs 3:5-6, “Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Our love and trust are our Savior, Jesus Christ, and we need to continue to follow Him, and He will take us where we need to go.

We are led by a Prophet of God and have blessed to hear his words during General Conference and those that serve with him.

He spoke of the “gathering of Israel” on both sides of the veil. We love doing our family history work, and if we continue to do it, it will take us where we need to go.

continued on next page

Stake Presidency Message *continued*

And I always want the Lord to know that if He needs an errand run, Tom Monson will run that errand for Him.”

I marvel at the countless experiences President Monson has shared about following a prompting and finding someone in need. He seemed to never doubt those promptings. He, and others, were so blessed for it.

President Russell M. Nelson – An Example of Humility

Having just read President Nelson’s biography, I am quite in awe of how talented he is. Yet, what I have been most impressed with is his humility.

I was very moved by the experience he shared about the two girls in the same family that died after he was unable to fix their hearts, and how grieved he was by this. And later, after many years of the family harboring resentment towards him and the church, he knelt in front of the father to implore the family to return to activity and be sealed to those girls.

Though he was unable to fix the hearts of those little girls, his later efforts healed the hearts of many. I have been inspired to be humble and to strive to repent daily as he has counseled.

I humbly share my testimony of and gratitude for living apostles and prophets on the earth today.

What a blessing! Indeed, we thank thee, oh God, for a prophet.

MISSIONARY UPDATE



**ROY T & BILLIE JOSEPHINE
HENRETTY**

Returning November 2020

**Oregon Eugene
Mission**

Self-Reliance Corner

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

Community and Church Resources

Here are some great links provided by our regional Welfare and Self-Reliance Manager:

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES

- NEW! freelearninglist.org -- an initiative of schoolofthought.org -- is an online aggregate list of interesting and FUN learning resources.

EMOTIONAL & MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES

- NEW! [Mental Health in the Workforce publication](#): Be sure to check out Appendix B for a WONDERFUL, comprehensive list of emotional and mental health resources for individuals and families.

DISASTER PLANNING / EMERGENCY PREP

(Note – the stake and wards are working on emergency planning, so these can be used for families and individuals.)

- [ACCSES](#) has compiled several disaster planning links:
 - FEMA has a number of resources including [grants](#) for private nonprofit and [planning guides](#).
 - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention offers extensive [emergency preparedness](#), including disaster planning for individuals with disabilities, seniors, children, and [other discrete populations](#) as well as disaster planning in light of [the pandemic](#).
 - [Ready.gov](#) has gathered considerable information and advice for planning ahead for a wide variety of emergencies and also includes creating a plan for [individuals with disabilities](#).
 - [OSHA](#) disaster planning link.

EMPLOYMENT RESOURCES

- [Microsoft launches initiative to help 25 million people with digital skills](#).
- [LinkedIn provides free training](#) called a “learning path”.
- [Active Job Search Program](#)

DISABILITY RESOURCES

- [Disability Services in the Gospel Library under Life Helps](#)


Contact your ward Self-Reliance Specialist, or myself (contact information in header above), 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




AKRON STAKE SOCIAL MEDIA



Hi! I'm Jordan Bigler, and I'm the new stake social media specialist, which is really just a fancy way of saying I'm in charge of our stake's Facebook and Instagram pages.



While I wouldn't say I'm necessarily an expert, I have learned a lot about how social media works over the past couple of years as I've used it to build and market my small business. I'm excited to share a few tips on



how we, as a stake, can help share the gospel more effectively through our social media use. Like most of you- I'm on social media daily (multiple times a day, if we're being honest) so, why not make a difference while we're at it??

Only 15 years ago, social media was an up and coming novelty, one that you checked periodically on your desktop computer. Now, with current technology and the availability of smartphones, we all have easy access to multiple social media platforms at the touch of an app, any time of the day or night. It's a great way to share and connect with friends, family, and other people around the world, but it can also be a place where we waste our valuable time and energy if we aren't careful with what we consume online.

Elder Richard G. Scott said, "Technology, when understood and used for righteous purposes, need not be a threat but rather an enhancement to spiritual communication."

President Nelson and other leaders of the Church have encouraged us to use social media to help share the gospel, and like many of us, they all have a Facebook page, Instagram and/or Twitter account (or in some cases- all three!). So how do we, as a stake, use social media to enhance our spiritual communication and share the gospel with others?


The first step is simple: if you're not already - follow us on our Facebook page at [Latter-day Saints in Northeast Ohio](#) and on Instagram [@akronohiostake](#)

One of the biggest things you can do to help share the gospel on social media is to interact with new posts on either our FB or Instagram pages. The more likes, comments, and saves a post gets on FB and IG tells the algorithm that this post is "good" content, thus causing these platforms to show the post to more people. Commenting with four words or more on any post is also really helpful because comments with just emojis or less than four words can be flagged by the algorithm as a bot, or spam, which in turn makes your post less visible in people's newsfeeds.

Another thing you can do is share our Akron Stake posts that you find inspiring in your stories or re-

post them. Sharing a post also tells the algorithm that a post is "good" content and helps our account get more exposure to others on the app, including exposure to those who may not be following us already. Missionaries all over the world are using social media to share the gospel, while they have to social distance at the moment. We can help them share the gospel and connect with more people by utilizing these social media "hacks" too. I mean - let's face it, we're all on social media daily anyways, so we might as well take a few minutes out of our scrolling to share an uplifting quote or video, comment on our stake's most recent post, and help share the gospel. You never know who might see it or want to learn more.

The goals of our stake's social media accounts include connecting members of our stake and surrounding communities through social media, informing people about upcoming events, opportunities to serve, and to spread the gospel by sharing uplifting messages. Who couldn't use more love and positivity in their newsfeed right now?!? We have some exciting content planned for our social media that will hopefully get you and others excited to connect and share the gospel! One of those is a new series that we call "Missionary Monday Moments!" Every other Monday, we highlight a missionary serving from our stake and share one of their posts/picture and/or videos that they have made to share the gospel. This is a fun way for everyone in the stake to get to know the missionaries serving from the different wards, and it also allows us to share that missionary's picture/video post and get them more exposure on social media and hopefully help them to reach more people to teach. And with the Church's "Light the World" campaign beginning in December, we will be posting the daily challenges and hoping that you will be willing to share your experiences with us about sharing the gospel and serving through this Christmas season.



I know that as we are more mindful and deliberate in how we use our social media and the things we choose to share and say to others online- that we can be a light in a dark place. "Ye are the light of the world...Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." Matthew 5: 14-16



Canton Ward Youth Stay Engaged During Covid-19 Pandemic

by Bishop Matt Oetli

As the Canton Ward youth planned their activities through the summer and into September, they focused on the key areas of their growth:

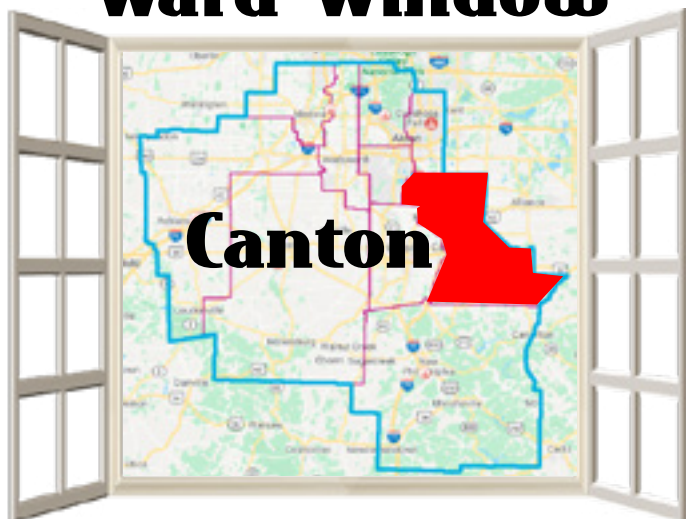
- Spiritual
- Social
- Physical
- Intellectual

The Canton ward youth, like everyone, have some fatigue from Zoom meetings and the like. So, they really enjoyed some interaction and fun. They had some physical exercise by taking advantage of the bike trails in the area. They also went on a couple of hikes. The youth were also service-minded as they helped with some yard work by cleaning gutters, weeding, and lawn mowing. It was great to have some long days and nice weather for these activities.

Not everything was too physical. They took some social fun indoors with a couple of movie watching events. In another indoor activity, they were able to reach out and serve the members of the ward by making cards for various members.

They also improved themselves spiritually by learning about indexing and doing some of that work. They also had

Ward Window



a General Conference “jeopardy competition” to see how well they listened to General Conference.

Most recently, the youth participated in getting a beginning guitar lesson. Three guitarists in the ward, Brothers Priddis, Muller, and Hulet, taught the youth about the guitar and started them off playing some chords.

While these times are characterized by some frustration and challenges, the youth are proving we can still develop our talents, serve, and have some fun.

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER

by Sister Mary Jeffery

Sales for the Month of November

White Flour \$4.00 (regular price \$4.50)

Potato Flakes \$6.00 (regular price \$6.50)

Address: 6900 Southpointe Parkway, Unit C
Brecksville, Ohio 44141 Phone: 440-526- 4057

Hours are Thursday 11-2 with appointments on Wednesday. Saturday availability for appointments are not guaranteed. Please feel free to call with any questions (calls answered on Wednesday and Thursdays). If you need to reach us outside those days my personal number is 419-606-8434.

You will find price lists on Providentliving.org make sure you copy the 2020 list. As you know the Church sometimes discontinues products; these products include refried beans (we still have some in stock), berry drink mix, granola, honey, potatoes instant complete (pouch or known as potato pearls), we still have potato flakes, filter for the water bottle, but we still have the water bottles with filter.

Some great quotes from General Conference to enjoy.

There Was Bread by Bishop W. Christopher Waddell,
First Counselor in the Presiding Bishopric

From the beginning of time, the Lord has provided direction to help His people prepare spiritually and temporally against the calamities and trials that He knows will come as part of this mortal experience. These calamities may be personal or general in nature, but the Lord's guidance will provide protection and

support to the extent that we heed and act upon His counsel.

The Lord does not expect us to do more than we can do, but He does expect us to do what we can do, when we can do it. As President Nelson reminded us in our last general conference, “The Lord loves effort.”

Being temporally prepared and self-reliant means “believing that through the grace, or enabling power, of Jesus Christ and our own effort, we are able to obtain all the spiritual and temporal necessities of life we require for ourselves and our families.”

Additional aspects of a spiritual foundation for temporal preparedness include acting “in wisdom and order,” which implies a gradual buildup of food storage and savings over time, as well as embracing “small and simple” means, which is a demonstration of faith that the Lord will magnify our small but consistent efforts.

With a spiritual foundation in place, we can then successfully apply two important elements of temporal preparedness—managing finances and home storage.

Key home storage principles include the storage of food, the storage of water, and the storage of other necessities based on individual and family needs, all because “the best storehouse” is the home, which becomes the “most accessible reserve in times of need.”

As we embrace spiritual principles and seek inspiration from the Lord, we will be guided to know the Lord's will for us, individually and as families, and how best to apply the important principles of temporal preparedness. The most important step of all is to begin.