

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message: **The Superlative Sacramental Prayer**

In these and other extraordinary times, when physically gathering for the Sacrament is restricted, when Priesthood authority is not proximate to administer the ordinance, or when whatever pestilence keeps us from partaking The Lord's Supper, we each would still always have the sacred Sacramental Prayer to partake in mind and spirit.

As we parse and ponder the Sacramental Prayer (D&C 20:77, 79/Moroni 4:3, 5:2), we may come to evermore appreciate that it is divinely-crafted, verbatim-recited, and weekly-repeated to us throughout our mortal life.

The Eternal Father is addressed four times in the prayer while thy Son is referred to five times and his Spirit promised twice. The prayer, ascendant, directs and re-directs us to the Godhead. Descendant, on the other hand, the prayer is offered for and points us to our souls—oft starved and parched souls in a world that ceaselessly and ironically calls us to look out for me, myself, and I.

If the best prayers are given by God to us and then uttered by us back to God, the Sacramental Prayer is the prayer of best prayers. And if a prayer takes the sacrifice of the Son of God to come to be, it is the prayer of most precious (and may we add, most costly) prayers. Besides, the Sacramental Prayer, as part of the ordinance, is not only a prayer of words but of emblematic acts that physically make inward that which is heavenward. Of course, when external circumstances thwart our eating and drinking of the bread and water, our heart may still freely internalize the emblems. As such, the Sacramental Prayer seems ought to be not only a Sunday prayer but a morning prayer.

But it is not an easy prayer. For if it achieves the communion that prayers aspire to achieve, we will see beyond the subdued references in the prayer the excruciatingly broken body and violently spilt blood of Christ as they were. Our heart breaks for the suffering of our Savior, and our spirit becomes contrite for our sins that caused the suffering. Quietly but commonly, that is the point when the Lord draws nigh (Psalms 34:18). Our spiritual sensibilities quickened, between the horror of Gethsemane and Calvary and the comfort of the blessed bread and sanctified water, amidst the conflict of broken laws and mercy, we feel a full array and many opposites

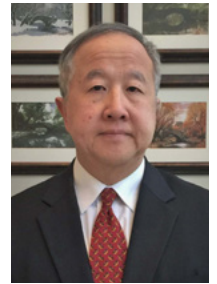
of emotions, from exclamation of wretchedness and exquisite sorrow to gratitude for ransom and exquisite joy, out of which a desire to change is hopefully kindled, followed by a trembling to promise and even a determination to keep the promise.

And how great is His wisdom, for of all the good promises we can make, our tutoring God proffers these three: First and foremost, to be a bearer of His name. Then, most importantly—if repetition (four times) denotes importance—be in remembrance of and always remember Him. Then, most consequentially, keep His commandments. (Might we say consequently too, for if we truly take upon His name and always remember Him, we will consequently keep His commandments?)

But wait, are we so great with even promises? Hence, a most graceful word in the prayer is “willing,” for God accepts our mere willingness, tolerates our weaknesses, and allows time for our sincerity to take effect. And we understate His grace if we don't notice that the only past tense employed in the prayer is “was shed,” and the only references to the past were about the Lord's body and blood. No dwelling upon our old deeds or harrowing of our bygone crimes. All else in the prayer is present or forward-looking. The only past we're pointed to is the atonement of Christ.

Then, God provides the assurance. Not any assured outcome or end results, to be sure, as some lesser gods or populist religions may present. For God blesses our labor that brings the harvest, not the other way around. And so a helper in the field He grants, who is the enabling agent of transformation and new births—even the Holy Spirit of promise (D&C 88:3).

O, our Sacramental Prayer, even more superlative when all its parts come together: a celebratory synopsis of the first principles of the Gospel, a script for Christian living, a filling for those who hunger and thirst, an atoning for saints and sinners, a worthy adjunct of the Holy Sacrament and a manifestation of the power of Godliness (D&C 84:20)!



President Wen



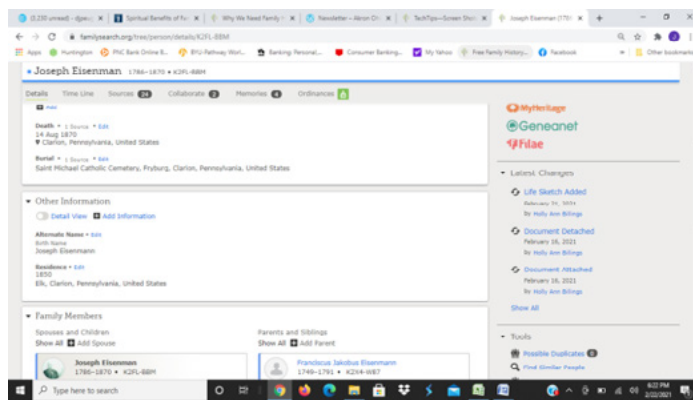
Connections

Are we using FamilySearch to increase our connection with other relatives? We need to make sure we are getting all that FamilySearch has to offer us in connecting with others. FamilySearch gives us the ability to connect with others to not only expand our knowledge of our ancestors, but also find relatives on this side of the veil.

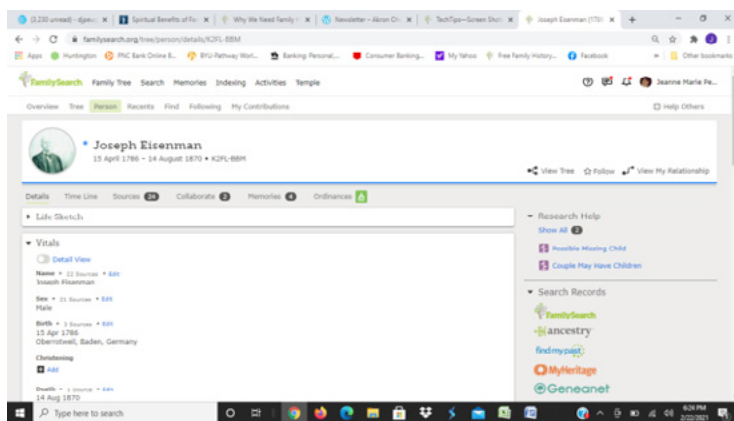
When we notice changes in our tree, do we know who is making those changes and why? Are we keeping track of who is adding sources to members of our family? Are we checking the message board for others reaching out to us? Do we know how to contact those who have added or deleted information on one of our ancestors? Are we familiar enough with our ancestors that we can recognize when a change has been made?

Changes

Over to the right in the middle is listed Recent Changes – It lists those who have made changes for this individual. You can also view all and see every change that has been made on this individual. If you don't recognize the name, click on it, and it will give you the person's email address. You can then send them a message and ask why that change was made or how they are related. You may find they have stories and pictures of your ancestors. If there is not an email address, you can still send a message, FamilySearch will contact them, and FamilySearch will contact you when they respond.



Messages



On the top right in front of your name are three icons. The middle one is messages. This is where you see if they have responded to your questions. You may even find

a new relative you didn't know about. I have found some great connections and great stories. A sister recently shared with me someone had contacted her and they had a picture of her grandfather when he was a young boy. Blessings await us when we make connections with others.

Akron Stake Nepali Group Organized

On Sunday, 28 February, the stake organized a Nepali speaking group, which is only the third such group in the church in the United States; the others being located in Columbus, Ohio, and Salt Lake City, Utah. Brother Shane Strate was sustained as the new group leader for the group of about 25 members. The group's church services will be held each week in the Nepali language at the Tallmadge building at a time to be determined.

Beginning in the 1980s, Nepalese people began fleeing Bhutan to escape the ethnic violence and suppression there. An estimated 85,000 to 120,000 Nepali-Bhutanese people live in refugee camps today, mostly located in Nepal and India. Before 2009 there were approximately 34,000 Nepali speakers in the United States. In a three-year period between 2009 and 2011, over 40,000 Nepali refugees resettled to the USA, and Ohio continues to receive refugees each year.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has actively worked to support refugees from around the globe, and an interesting article written by Matt Martinich entitled [“Recent LDS Growth among Nepali-Bhutanese in the United States”](#) outlines some interesting facts about efforts in Salt Lake City to support Nepali-Bhutanese refugees.

We are excited to support our Nepali-speaking brothers and sisters in the Akron Stake and look forward to working together to further the work of the Lord among these very special people who are making Ohio their new home.

Facebook page
[Latter-day Saints in Northeast Ohio](#)
Instagram
[@akronhiostake](#)

Self-Reliance Corner

by Sister Diane Burgoon,
Stake Self-Reliance Group Coordinator
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My Foundation Principle – Solve Problems

Ponder the following question:

Why does Heavenly Father allow us to face problems and challenges?

“Behold, you have not understood; you have supposed that I would give it unto you, when you took no thought save it was to ask me.

“But, behold, I say unto you, that you must study it out in your mind; then you must ask me if it be right, and if it is right I will cause that your bosom shall burn within you; therefore, you shall feel that it is right.

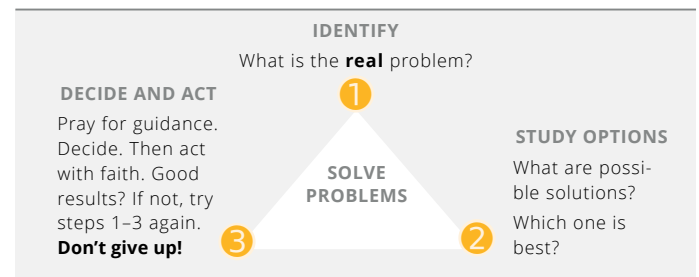
“But if it be not right you shall have no such feelings, but you shall have a stupor of thought that shall cause you to forget the thing which is wrong (Doctrine and Covenants 9:7–9).

“The Lord expects us to help solve our own problems. . . . We are thinking, reasoning human beings. We have the ability to identify our needs, to plan, to set goals, and to solve our problems.” Robert D. Hales, “Every Good Gift,” *New Era*, Aug. 1983, 8, 9).

Every day we face choices, each with varying degrees of consequence. If we follow the steps below, we can

have peace and confidence that we are on the best path. Sometimes, there doesn't seem to be any solution to a problem. It's those times that we have to leave it in God's hands, and know that it will be what He knows is best. We know the eternal blessings that lie ahead when we keep the commandments. Each problem and challenge polishes us so that we can be worthy.

Problem solving steps:



“And now, if the Lord has such great power, and has wrought so many miracles among the children of men, how is it that he cannot instruct me, that I should build a ship” (1 Nephi 17:51)?

Watch this video for a great example of a problem that needs a solution.

[A Bigger Truck? \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](http://churchofjesuschrist.org)

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.

*The Lord has declared,
It is my purpose to provide for my saints.*
[D&C 104:15](#)

MISSIONARY UPDATE



ANA JEWEL FOUTZ

Returning March 2021

Washington Yakima
Mission



ELLA FOUTZ

Leaving March 2021

Washington DC
North Mission

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER

6900 Southpointe Pkwy, Brecksville, OH 44141
440-526-4057 (Home Storage Center)

HOURS: Thursday 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Wednesday and Saturday: by appointment

AKRON STAKE DISABILITY SPECIALIST

DEB CARTER

Having a special needs child is an eye-opening experience. Having two special needs children is challenging, but I have learned along my journey with these children how to rely on the Spirit to guide me. I need to be “in tune” with the Spirit so I can magnify their lives so they can be the best at what they want to do.

Every special needs child is different. The same goes for typical children. They didn't come with a handbook though scriptures that I have read helped me focus on finding answers. Life is not easy with no family around to help, rarely do church members offer to help because they don't know how to handle a special needs child. Many typical families are afraid to invite those with disabilities to gatherings. Many do not know how to adapt when helping those with disabilities. You might ask yourself, where do I begin? The best source of information is the parent.

Parents are a wealth of information when it comes to their child. They can tell you what triggers behaviors, what works, and what doesn't work. They can even tell you what foods to avoid. The church website has some great ways to teach inclusion so all may participate.

I often pondered, why did Heavenly Father place these individuals here on Earth? Are we to learn from them? Are we to learn compassion and patience? I believe in Heavenly Father's eyes, these individuals only needed a body. Were these individuals super obedient sent and/or great warriors who had accomplished much prior to this life? Whatever it may be, they only want to be included and feel part of whatever is going on.

I know why my children were given to Dave and me. My mother (who is not a member) told me many times growing up that I forgot to get in the “Patience Line” before coming to Earth. But I knew I had to rely on faith and listening to the Spirit. If I had a chance to help my kids, I would need to rely on my Heavenly Father, and through Jesus Christ, all is possible. The day we brought Sierra home, I knelt in our living room, held her up over my head, and prayed to my Father in Heaven, “Help me be an instrument in her life.” My husband Dave also experienced listening to the Spirit to help our children. To rely on the Spirit, I know I must do my part and read scriptures, listen to the Prophet and practice patience.

You and your ward families can do your part too! Have you heard the saying, “It takes a community to raise a child?” Ministering to families that have a child/children with disabilities can help them feel part of the ward and community. There's a great article in the January 2013

Ensign called “Embracing Ethan.” It is about how a ward came to love Ethan with Autism. It is one of my favorite articles! Another great read/listen is [BYU Maxwell Institute MIPodcast #94](#), a podcast with scholars talking about people with disabilities in religious communities. I leave you with a simple scripture from John 13:34, “A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another.”

In closing, I know there is a Heavenly Father who loves us, and His son Jesus Christ is a great example to us to thrive to love and accept all individuals. In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.



Every month we will be spotlighting a JustServe opportunity in various areas of our stake. This month is Matthew 25 Outreach Center (www.m25oc.org).

In the Wooster and Ashland ward boundaries, we have an excellent opportunity to serve at Matthew 25 Outreach Center.

Every first Saturday in Mansfield, third Saturday in Wooster, and fourth Saturday in Ashland, they have a free produce distribution.

Volunteer work starts at 7:30 a.m. by organizing food boxes for a drive-through delivery for those in need.

Usually, the distribution is over by noon, but volunteers can leave when they need to.

Our missionaries from Wooster, Ashland, and Mansfield have served at each of these food distributions for several months.

I have received glowing reviews from the Matthew 25 leadership about their willingness to help.

If you are looking for a place to put in a couple of hours of service, this would be a great place to start.

You can find more information about this opportunity and others at www.justserve.org.