

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message

Hello friends. Let's start right off with a quick quiz. I'll give you the first half of President Nelson's statement and see if you can guess or remember the second half. At the close of last October's conference, in a talk titled *A New Normal*, President Nelson said, "May we go forward together to fulfill our divine mandate ____." What is that mandate? If you don't remember, just think what it might be. The answer will be a few paragraphs down.

With the wonderful Easter season just around the corner and our studies in the Doctrine and Covenants touching on the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, I've been reminded of an experience I had 25 years ago. It was a time in my

life when the Spirit testified to me very strongly of specific truths.

This happened as I was flying home to Idaho to attend my father's funeral. My father was a great example to me of kindness, humility, and gratitude. I would be speaking at the funeral, and so I was contemplating our earthly life and beyond. I clearly recall the feeling from the Spirit that life marches on, and future events that seem so distant that they might not really happen eventually do occur.



President Jensen

I'm not sure if other people's minds work like mine, but as a young boy, my father's eventual death seemed so far into the future that I allowed myself to think that it might not really happen. Or maybe I just didn't want to think about it at all. Now that I contemplated his passing, the general theme of my thoughts turned to gospel teachings. The Spirit strongly testified to me that other events that I viewed as being so far in the future that they might not really happen truly would eventually occur.

Specifically, the Spirit testified to me of the actuality and truth regarding the Second Coming of Jesus Christ and the Day of Judgment. If your mind works like mine, those two prophesied events may seem so far in the future that they might not really happen at all, or perhaps we just do not want to think about them. The Spirit made clear that avoiding preparation for those events with full diligence and commitment of heart would be robbing ourselves of current and future blessings and happiness.

The importance of preparing for the Second Coming was emphasized by President Nelson when he said, "May we go forward together to fulfill our divine mandate—that of preparing ourselves and the world for the Second Coming of the Lord." (Hint, you just read the answer to the quiz above.)

I would like to add my witness, gained at a tender time for me 25 years ago, that Jesus Christ will come again in great glory as the scriptures teach. I also testify that we will stand to be judged of Jesus Christ according to our works and the desires of our hearts. These will be happy times for us if we prepare by studying and applying the scriptures and following our living prophet.

JustServe Spotlight

by Cindy Dahl, Akron Stake Just Serve Specialist

Every month we will be spotlighting a JustServe opportunity in various areas of our Stake. This month is The Giving Doll.

The Giving Doll, in Wadsworth and provides an excellent opportunity to serve. Many of the members of the Wadsworth Ward have enjoyed volunteering there.

The Giving Doll was founded by Jan Householder when a friend's daughter was hospitalized with an inoperable brain tumor. At this point, they have given over 59,000 dolls to children around the world.

The Giving Doll's Mission is to give faith, love, joy, hope, and comfort to children worldwide, at times of special need through the construction and distribution of handmade cloth dolls.

To volunteer, visit their website, <http://www.thegivingdoll.org/home.aspx>.

Ward Window



submitted by Sister Sheryl Weaver

There are certain hymns that remind me of my childhood. When the music would start, and I realized it was one of my favorites, I would sit up a bit taller and sing a bit louder. I know now, looking back, that I didn't always understand their meaning and didn't always get the message. One of my favorite hymns was *Scatter Sunshine*. Now that I'm older and can understand the message, I still sit taller and sing louder when we sing this song.

Listen to these wonderful words:

*In a world where sorrow
Ever will be known,
Where are found the needy
And the sad and lone,
How much joy and comfort
You can all bestow,
If you scatter sunshine
Everywhere you go.*

Scatter sunshine all along your way.

Cheer and bless and brighten every passing day"

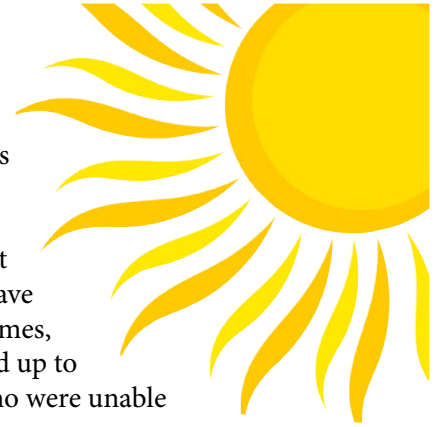
I love that the words in this song go on to say that little kindly deeds will help remove sorrow. Our Heavenly Father knows our sorrows and wants to help us. We have many scriptures where Christ has shown us by example that we should serve others and that by doing so, we serve God.

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

In the New Philadelphia Ward, we have had people Scattering Sunshine with little kindly deeds that have meant so much to those they serve. During this past year, when so many have been stuck in their homes, members have stepped up to help some of those who were unable to get out.



We have a sister who loves to read. She is in a care facility, so members have dropped off books to help her have new material. The primary children have sent pictures and little kind thoughts to those in the care facilities. One of our sweet Young Women has become Pen Pals with one of our sisters who doesn't get out much. They have come to really enjoy hearing from each other.

Cookies and treats have flown all over the ward boundaries as members have tried to scatter their little kindly deeds. We have a brother who is an excellent baker. He has won awards at the fairs with his yummy pies. He has been known to show up at members' homes with pies and apple dumplings. When he caught wind of a sister that has returned to school and has a large family, he delivered a delicious chicken dinner and dessert to help out her busy schedule.

We have members volunteering at food banks and then participating in making a meal for those in need in their community. Sisters have helped each other out babysitting when crazy school schedules are a struggle. Brothers have helped to install kitchen floors.

The sister missionaries sent me a great little note I'd like to share with you of someone Scattering Sunshine. "Sometime in December we were at Aldi and we just trusted that our missionary funds would have reloaded but they didn't so we didn't have enough to cover our groceries. It just so happened that a sister from our ward was there and caught us in our plight. While we were calling our mission office, she paid for our groceries! We honestly felt so bad, but so grateful. It was so much sweeter when we discovered later the money was actually from the mother of that sister who is in a care center. She knew that her mom would be so happy to cover us. When the mom in the care center found out she was so happy that she could be of service even from the care center. So we all felt blessed all around."

I love that the sisters realized that all involved in that act of service were blessed. There are so many examples in our ward, and I am sure in each ward of people showing little acts of kindness. I am grateful that the Savior has taught us by example and that we are able to follow His example and serve others.

TALLMADGE NEPALI GROUP

Recently the Tallmadge Ward formed a new Nepali group that will meet in a separate sacrament meeting to hear the gospel and worship on Sunday in their own language. The story of how so many Nepali people ended up here in Ohio started a long time ago when thousands of Nepalis migrated from their home country of Nepal to the neighboring country of Bhutan. The Bhutanese king promised them farming land and they lived there as farmers for many years, but when a new king came to power he wanted the Nepali people to assimilate into their country including learning the native language and



following their religion of Buddhism. The majority of Nepali people's religion is Hindu or Kirat, with some Christians as well. When many did not comply, the king kicked them out of the country, but at that point the country of Nepal recognized them as Bhutanese, so they became refugees.

Since the 90s they have lived in refugee camps in Nepal and been sent all around the world with refugee status. Since then they have come to America and slowly gathered to Ohio because of the great community and job opportunities for them here. There are now four congregations of Nepali speaking members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the world - branches in Kathmandu, Nepal and Salt Lake City, a group in Columbus and now here in Tallmadge, Ohio. It's said that there are over 30,000 Nepali people living in the Akron area concentrated in the North Hill area.

The Nepali culture is unique and beautiful with their language, music, dancing, and food that is wonderful to understand and learn more about and we are happy that the Nepali group can be a part of the Akron Ohio Stake of Jesus Christ's restored church.



Family History Corner

by Jeanne Peugh, Director



Self-Reliance and Family History

There is a strong connection between
Self Reliance and Family History

Self Reliance begins at home with individuals and families
Family History is about individuals and families

Self Reliance is a quality of depending on oneself for things
Family History is the quality of YOU knowing your ancestors

Self Reliance is having a plan of action to help you be successful
Family History is having a plan of action to have sufficient information
on your ancestors that you can do their temple work

Self Reliance – there are vast resources to help us
be self-reliant in our wards and stakes

Family History – there are vast resources to help us be successful
in our Family History research. We have ward and stake Temple
and Family History Consultants and Family History Centers
that provide so much more than we have access at home.

Self Reliance – when we are self-reliant,
we are able to serve others the Lord's way

Family History – when we do temple work for our ancestors,
we are helping others come unto Christ.

There are blessings in being Self Reliant
and doing Family History Work

Self-Reliance Corner

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

Self-Reliance Groups

We are wrapping up another successful round of virtual self-reliance groups. It is expected we will start the next round in September. You can also submit your interest in attending a group with the regional representative. Use the following link: [Virtual Self-Reliance Groups \(google.com\)](https://www.google.com/search?q=Virtual+Self-Reliance+Groups)

My Foundation Principle – Seek Learning: Resolve Where You are Going and How to Get There

Ask yourself, “How does learning create opportunity?”

Watch the video: [Education for a Better Life \(churchofjesuschrist.org\)](https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/education-for-a-better-life)

The following counsel reminds us of our duties to be better citizens in His Kingdom. What thoughts and

impressions have you had from the Holy Ghost about improving your life?

“Seek ye diligently and teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and also by faith. ... Establish a house ... of learning” (Doctrine and Covenants 88:118-19).

“We have a responsibility and a challenge to take our places in the world of business, science, government, medicine, education, and every other worthwhile and constructive vocation. We have an obligation to train our hands and minds to excel in the work of the world for the blessing of all mankind” (Gordon B. Hinckley, “A City upon a Hill,” *Ensign*, July 1990, 5).

The Lord has a plan for you. He has blessed you with special gifts and talents that will allow you to become anything He desires you to become. You can fulfill your mission here on earth if you are diligent in seeking to understand and obey His will for you.

“Plead that the Spirit will show you what the Lord wants you to do. Plan to do it. Promise Him to obey. Act with determination until you have done what He asked. And then pray ... to know what you might do next” (Henry B. Eyring, “Act in All Diligence,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2010, 63).

To create your Life’s Mission, answer the following questions:

1. Where do I want to be in five years?
2. Why?
3. What skills, knowledge, or experience do I need to get there?

The next step is to create goals that will help you achieve your life’s mission. For more information, go to page 27 of the My Foundations manual - click [here](#).

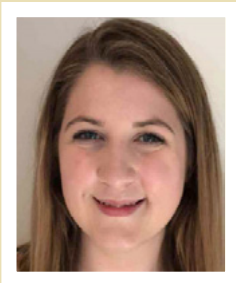
Remember, PathwayConnect is an excellent opportunity to further your education! For more information, go to [PathwayConnect | BYU-Pathway](#).

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



CLAREN HUFFAKER

Returning April 2021

California Riverside Mission



ELIZABETH MCKNIGHT

Returning April 2021

California San Bernardino Mission



HANNAH WEBB

Returning April 2021

Arizona Tucson Mission