

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message

If I were to ask you what scripture you would pick as your favorite regarding the love that God has for you, which one would first come to mind? If you don't immediately think of one, I encourage you to contemplate and select one that stands out to you, one that you could bring into your mind often to remind you of Heavenly Father's great love for you.

One that might not come readily to mind is a scripture that assures us that God answers our prayers, a wonderful way of showing His love for us: "Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold, it shall be done unto you." (Moroni 7:26)

Elder J Devyn Cornish, who presided at our recent Stake Conference, told his own story of answered prayer. It might be my all-time favorite on this topic. I'm going to ask you to please read that one on your own or with your family.

<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-conference/2011/10/the-privilege-of-prayer?lang=eng>

I would like to tell you of a testimony-building answer to one of my own prayers. My wife and I had just been married a few years. We had a family goal to allow Barb to stay at home with our growing family, but I would need a considerable raise to allow that to happen. I had been praying for a few years that the door might be opened for Barb, who was employed part-time, to be able to stay at home to raise our children.

This desire was based on a message from President Ezra Taft Benson, the prophet at that time. I had done

some phone interviews in locations such as Milwaukee and Seattle but neither of us had family near those areas and they did not work out. Then a trip to visit Barb's parents in Avon Lake fell into our laps and I asked my recruiter to check around the Cleveland area, thinking I would maybe win some points for effort

with Barb's family. Sure enough, a company in Westfield Center, Ohio, was interested in meeting with me. To make a long story short, the interviews went well, the job was offered and I began to pray to God to see if this was the right step for us to take. Shortly after beginning my prayer in earnest, wondering if this is something that we should do, I had this thought come into my mind as if a voice was talking to me. It simply said in a loving manner, "How could I have answered your prayers any better than I just did?" I was initially taken aback but immediately acknowledged that those prayers over the previous few years could not have been answered any better. Thirty-one years later I am still grateful for that answered prayer and for the testimony I gained that God listens to us and answers our heartfelt prayers.

Why does God answer our prayers? Maybe the main reason is simply because He loves us and wants to bless us. If it's important to us, it's important to him because He loves us. I have a personal testimony of this truth and I encourage us all to continue in prayer to our Father in Heaven with faith that He will bless us because of His love for us.



President Jensen



Family History Corner

by Jeanne Peugh, Director



America and Blessings of 1831

In 1831, Joseph Smith Jr. was receiving revelation for the restoration of the Church of Jesus Christ.

As we are studying and pondering the Doctrine and Covenants this year, we recognize what a blessing these early Saints were to sacrifice so much for this work to come forth. The Lord gave each of them specific instructions of what they were to do and how to do it. They were humble and teachable, and the Lord knew who he could count on. The Doctrine and Covenants teach us that the Lord needs us to hasten His work on both sides of the veil as we have been instructed by prophets in the past and prophets now. I find that it is also interesting that the Lord wanted us to realize the blessing of being in this great country in that same year.

Also, in 1831, Samuel Francis Smith, a Baptist minister, wrote the lyrics of "America."

*My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From ev'ry mountainside
Let freedom ring!*

*Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.*

*My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.*

*Our fathers' God, to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing,
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God, our King!*

The song was first performed on July 4, 1831, at a children's Independence Day celebration at Park Street Church in Boston. The first publication of "America" was in 1832. We need to be instruments in the Lord's hand, as were those early Saints. Isn't it interesting that both of their names are "Smith?"

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

JustServe Spotlight

by Cindy Dahl, Akron Stake Just Serve Specialist

Every month we will be spotlighting a Just Serve opportunity in various areas of our Stake. This month is Habitat for Humanity of Summit County ReStore, 2301 Romig Road Akron, Ohio 44320, 330-745-7734 habitat@hfhsummitcounty.org

Habitat for Humanity of Summit County was organized as an affiliate in 1986. They have been building homes with families in Summit County for over 30 years. Families partner with Habitat to achieve the strength, stability, and self-reliance they need to build a better future. To date, Habitat for Humanity of Summit County has built over 200 homes and has housed more than 300 adults and 500 children.

Their mission: Seeking to put God's love into action.

Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope.

As a ReStore volunteer, you will

- Work with ReStore staff and volunteers.
- Unload donations from the ReStore trucks.
- Create displays and organize the sales floor.
- **Individuals** – Volunteer positions are flexible and work with your busy schedule.
- **Groups** – Fun group workdays can be arranged that tackle a ReStore 'special project.'
- **Corporate** – Register as a corporate group or as individual employees for your company's community service program.
- **School Service** – With Saturday and after-school hours, the ReStore is an excellent place to complete service-learning requirements.
- The ReStore accepts volunteers Tuesdays – Saturdays.

You must be at least 14 years old to volunteer.

As a Build Site Volunteer, you will

Work with Construction Site Supervisors and loyal volunteers who will guide you through the building process. **No construction experience is necessary!**

Complete tasks such as raising walls, painting, landscaping, siding, installing cabinets and countertops, and so much more!

Build Site Volunteer Guidelines

- Proper attire must be worn.
- The ideal group size is 5-7 individuals.
- Bring lunch, a water bottle, and sunscreen.

The regular building schedule is **Wednesday-Saturday from 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.** (subject to change in inclement weather).

Construction volunteers must be 18 years of age or older.

Contact 330-745-7734 for volunteer opportunities.

Self-Reliance Corner

My Foundation Principle – Become One, Serve Together

Ask yourself, “How does losing myself in the service of others actually save me?”

Watch the video: [In The Lord's Way](#)

Some feel that they deserve what others already have, which can cause resentment. Others feel entitled to things they have not earned. These two traps blind people from seeing an essential truth: all things belong to God. Resentment and entitlement can be overcome by focusing on the needs of others.

When ye are in the service of your fellow beings ye are only in the service of your God.

Mosiah 2:17

And now, for the sake of . . . retaining a remission of your sins from day to day, . . . I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants.

Mosiah 4:26

The purpose of both temporal and spiritual self-reliance is to get ourselves on higher ground so that we can lift others in need.

Robert D. Hales, “Coming to Ourselves: The Sacrament, the Temple, and Sacrifice in Service,” *Ensign* or *Liahona*, May 2012, 36

Perhaps you can share these ideas, and practice these steps, with your spouse, family, or friends.

For more information, go to page 20 of the My Foundations manual - <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/manual/my-foundation-for-self-reliance/become-one-serve-together?lang=eng>

Self-Reliance Groups

New virtual groups will be starting in September! Email me or register on our stake website - <https://akronohiostakenews.com>.

You can also submit your interest in attending a group, with the regional representative. Use the following link: Virtual Self-Reliance Groups (google.com)

These are the available groups. They will be provided as need dictates. To view a copy of the manuals, go to <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/self-reliance/manuals-and-videos>.

- Emotional Resilience
- Personal Finances
- Starting and Growing My Business
- Find a Better Job
- Education for Better Work

Pathway

PathwayConnect is an excellent opportunity to further your education! For more information, go to <https://www.byupathway.org/pathwayconnect>

Contact your ward Self-Reliance Specialist, or myself, for more information. 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).

Diane Burgoon
Stake Self-Reliance Group Coordinator
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MISSIONARY UPDATES



SPENCER CRITCHLOW

Leaving July 2021

Colorado Fort
Collins Mission



STANLEY BINGHAM

Leaving July 2021

Panamá Panamá
City Mission