

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Is it enough to see the light, or do you desire to step in it?

by Phillip Evans, Stake Sunday School President

Have you seen pictures of the Grand Canyon? My family and I visited the Grand Canyon when my kids were still teenagers. I had seen pictures of it, viewed beautiful art that was inspired by it, and spoke to many people who had been there. All these images and words inspired me to go and see it for myself.

I remember coming through the trees and walking to the edge of the Grand Canyon. It took my breath away. Words, photos, and art could not describe what I saw and felt as I looked over at what seemed to be the edge of the world. You simply had to see it for yourself.



We are truly blessed to be here on earth when the fulness of the gospel is all around us. With a click of a mouse, we can access talks, videos, manuals, music, and more. We listen to modern prophets almost daily. We can hear the voices of Prophets and inspired leaders at General Conference, Stake Conference, and local meetings.

Although we may listen, read, or even teach wonderful principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ until we truly “experience them,” it is as though we are looking at postcards of eternity.

I am reminded of the Brother of Jared, who was presented with a struggle to provide light inside the barges for the long trip across the ocean. When he sought the Lord for instruction, the Lord replied, “What will ye that I should prepare for you?” The brother of Jared came up with a plan. He molten 16 clear stones, gathered them together, took them to the Lord, and asked the Lord to touch them to give them light. The Lord touched the stones. The brother of Jared saw the finger of the Lord



and could not be kept back from the veil (Ether 3).

Those stones provided light in the barges that enabled all to see, but for the brother of Jared, he saw more than glowing stones; he saw the hand of the Lord.

I find it interesting that the brother of Jared’s name is not revealed in the book of Ether. His experience was “one by one,” much like those of the Nephites at Christ’s appearance following his death and resurrection.

With all the knowledge the Nephites had of Christ, as the days of destruction had settled, as they were gathered about the temple “conversing about this Jesus Christ” as he descended,” they thought it was “an angel that had appeared unto them.” His invitation to “Arise and come forth” brought them to him “one by one,” and then they knew, they knew it was he, Jesus Christ, the promised Messiah (3 Nephi 11). It was very personal.

So my fellow disciples, we too come “one by one” to the Savior. How will we be able to “one by one” apply the principles and teachings of Jesus Christ? Like the brother of Jared, we come up with a plan, a personal plan, and act upon it and ask the Lord “to touch it.”

Nothing can truly replace being there, to see it for yourself, to feel the prints of nails in his hands and feet, to place your hand in his side, to kneel before him.

Is it enough to see the light, or do you desire to step in it?

I know that there is only one Savior, Jesus Christ. To know the Father is to know the Son. He has established his kingdom once again on the earth, “the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.” I bear humble witness of these things in his Holy Name, Jesus Christ, Amen.

100th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Akron Branch

All current and former members (and families) of the Akron Branch/Ward are invited to

CELEBRATE WITH US!

Saturday, November 13, at 9 a.m. in the Akron Ward cultural hall

Potluck Breakfast ♦♦♦♦ Comments ♦♦♦♦ Conversation ♦♦♦♦ Historical Displays

Feel free to bring old photos, stories, or artifacts to share.

Direct questions to Bonnie Perkins (330-429-7490), Elizabeth Nielson (480-540-1081)



He Reaches My Reaching



Stake Relief Society Fall Devotional

Speakers are John and Kristin Center

November 7, 2021

7:00pm - 8:30pm

North Canton Chapel

735 Easthill Street Southeast, North Canton

Refreshments provided

PRIMARY CORNER

Stake Primary Activity

Children ages 8 - 11 participated in a Stake Primary Activity focused on missionary work. They heard a special message on working in the mission field and how to approach others with gospel topics. We sang songs about missionary work and practiced the inspiring song “My Own Sacred Grove,” which the children of our stake sang at the October Stake Conference. They participated in a role-play activity where each of them practiced asking each other questions about the church. Then the children participated in a service project to decorate pillowcases for future missionaries serving from our stake and made greeting cards to brighten someone’s day. We appreciate all who attended and especially enjoyed interacting with children in our stake and for the opportunity it provided them to get to know one another and build relationships.



Blessed by the Light From Our Children

Compiled by Sister Annette Alboreo

The following is taken from a talk by President Thomas S. Monson titled “Precious Children.”

From the book of Matthew, we learn that after Jesus and His disciples descended from the Mount of Transfiguration, they paused at Galilee, then came to Capernaum. The disciples said unto Jesus, “Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?”

And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, and said, “Verily I say unto you, except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

Our children are indeed precious, and many times they teach us far more than we could ever teach them. Here’s one missionary’s story of how children made a difference while he was on his mission:

I now understand more why the Savior commands us to be as a little child. While in Mexico, I was walking the streets with my companion when we heard a young voice shout,



“Hola Elderes!” We turned around just in time to see a young boy run off in the other direction. Needless to say, we were a little surprised that a little boy who we didn’t recognize knew that we were Elders. My companion made the wise decision to turn around and try to talk with him.

When we found him, we met his older brother, older sister, and mom, who told us how they had met with missionaries three or four years ago in another part of Tijuana. They all had loved meeting with the missionaries, but when they moved on short notice, they didn’t have a chance to tell the missionaries where they were going and lost contact with the missionaries; however, none of them ever forgot the missionaries and what they felt when they were meeting with them (even the youngest boy who was just four years old at that time).

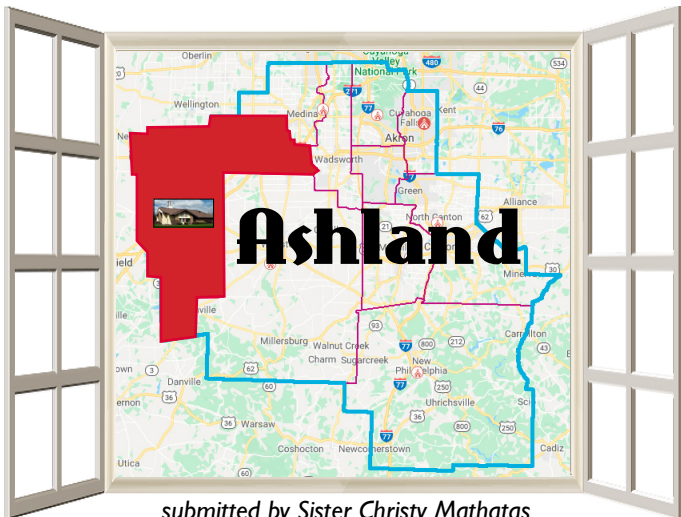
As we started meeting with them, things were going amazing! One morning, when we went for a lesson, mom couldn’t be there, so we sat outside to teach her kids. We felt very strongly to teach about the Word of Wisdom. I was doubtful at first, thinking that we would almost assuredly have to reteach it when mom was there so that they would actually live it. They all said they would live it and even not drink coffee when their mom prepared it. We left hopeful, but I had doubts as to if they would actually do what they said they would.

When we returned two days later for our next lesson, we were shocked to find out how the youngest boy had consistently stood up to his mom and would not drink the coffee that she had made for breakfast for the past two days. Mom was a little surprised and wanted to know why her son wouldn’t drink coffee. She listened to our message, accepted it, and began to live the Word of Wisdom in her life as well. All because of the example of her son and his willingness to keep the commandments.

Children are very receptive to the Spirit, especially when the home is an environment where the Spirit can dwell. They often follow counsel and guidance without too much questioning. As we follow their example of following the Spirit and standing up for what we know and believe to be true, we will enjoy the companionship of the Holy Ghost more fully and will be able to “let [our] light so shine” for others to see!

-Thomas Biggs, Tallmadge Ward

Ward Window



submitted by Sister Christy Mathatas

A Divine Mandate to Care for the Poor

For more than 18 years, members of the Ashland Ward have partnered with Associated Charities of Ashland County in collecting food and gifts for people in need at Christmas time.

Associated Charities is a local organization whose mission is to provide short-term emergency assistance to the people of Ashland County. They do this by helping with utilities, shelter, medication, doctor visits, and food. Primarily funded through United Way of Ashland County, they also receive money from area churches, organizations, and generous individuals.

The Ashland Ward has provided assistance to this great organization with food and gift donations from individual ward members throughout the year.

For more than 18 years, Ashland Ward members have rallied at Christmas time to collect gifts for adults who may live alone and who may not receive any other gift for Christmas than the one we provide. We try to give gifts that we would like to receive. There are a lot of places that will give people socks, gloves, and toiletries, but we want them to receive a gift that excites them.

BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER

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

HOURS: Wednesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Saturday, November 13 from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A food storage list is available at
www.providentliving.org.



Associated Charities representative accepting the gifts

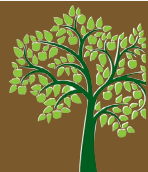
In November, ward members gather to wrap the gifts and label them with “male,” “female,” or “either,” to ensure that an appropriate gift is given to each person. Sometimes, the youth are responsible for wrapping the gifts, and other years, just the Young Women or the Relief Society has done it.

Sister Gayle Gorrell of the Ashland Ward is the originator and our chief motivator who has been a big part of this service tradition since it began. She also is a long-time volunteer with Associated Charities. She shares, “Associated Charities gives Christmas gifts to a lot of children and there’s a lot of joy in those households on Christmas morning. Several clients, though, have no children and are alone on Christmas morning. The first gifts that the director gave those alone were a card with a piece of horehound candy in it and the people were thrilled to get a gift on Christmas. The director asked me all those years ago if we would like to give gifts to those people who will be alone on Christmas. The clients change from year to year but they are thrilled to get to open something themselves.”

Our goal as a ward is to collect 35 gifts to donate to Associated Charities. Last year, in spite of COVID restrictions and with a very generous, last-minute donation, we were able to donate 50 gifts, along with a lot of canned food that was also collected at that time.

We are currently in the process of collecting gifts once again. It’s a Christmas tradition of service for the Ashland Ward. As Sister Sharon Eubank said in the October 2021 General Conference, “The Church of Jesus Christ is under divine mandate to care for the poor.” In her talk, she quoted Elder Jeffrey R. Holland, who said, “Prayers are answered...most of the time... by God using other people. Well, I pray that He’ll use us. I pray that we’ll be the answer to people’s prayers.”

Family History Corner



by Jeanne Peugh, Director

The Mission of Family History Work

First, I want to thank everyone who participated or attended our Family History Fair on October 16th. Our presenters were well organized and gave us great insight into our research.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has missionaries all over the world. Some of you have been missionaries, and some have sons or daughters currently serving a mission. What is their responsibility? To serve, preach the gospel, and invite all to come unto Christ. When we serve a mission, we receive blessings. A mission is a time of great joy and spiritual growth.

Some of us have not served a mission, but each of us is called to a mission of family history work. I would like to share a quote from Boyd K. Packer, “Jesus had not finished his work when his body was slain, neither did he finish it after his resurrection from the dead; although he had accomplished the purpose for which he then came to the earth, he had not fulfilled all his work. And when will he? Not until he has redeemed and saved every son and daughter of our father Adam that have been or ever will be born upon this earth to the end of time, except the sons of perdition. That is his mission. We will not finish our work until we have saved ourselves, and then not until we shall have saved all depending upon us; for we are to become saviors upon Mount Zion, as well as Christ. We are called to this mission” (*The Brilliant Morning of Forgiveness*, October 1995).

So let’s follow the counsel of our leaders and take upon us the Mission of Family History work.

Self-Reliance Corner

Healthy Thinking Patterns

From *Finding Strength in the Lord – Emotional Resilience*

Heavenly Father wants us to value ourselves the way He sees us and not as the world judges. Satan uses discouragement to cause us to doubt God’s love for us and our divine nature.

Review the following and think about why Satan would want us to believe our worth and worthiness are the same. How does thinking poorly about ourselves hold us back?

Worth	Worthiness
Our worth to God never changes.	Our worthiness does change.
Our worth was determined before we ever came to earth. We are everything to God.	Our worthiness is achieved through obedience.
God’s love for you is infinite and eternal. We don’t have to “earn” it.	If we sin, we are less worthy but never worth less to God. We still matter to Him.
God wants us to see ourselves and others as He sees us.	God wants us to continue to repent so we can be worthy of all the blessings He wants to give us.

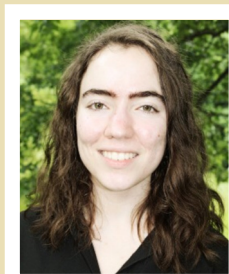
“We cannot gauge the worth of another soul any more than we can measure the span of the universe. Every person we meet is a VIP to our Heavenly Father. Once we understand that, we can begin to understand how we should treat our fellowmen” (Dieter F. Uchtdorf, “You Are My Hands,” *Ensign*, May 2010).

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
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MISSIONARY UPDATE



DANIELLA RYDEN

Leaving 29 November 2021

Taiwan Taichung Mission

Set aside time to work on your family history, and you can always reach out to a Ward/Stake Family History Consultant to help you.

Don’t neglect your mission to save all of your ancestors that are on the other side of the veil. The Savior is depending on us.