

# AKRON OHIO STAKE

## Stake Presidency Message

### Consecrate Thy Performance

President Coburn well taught us the importance of centering our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ in his last newsletter message. If I may hitch a ride and sail downstream to the next dock, I'd like to share some thoughts on work, which follows faith (James 2:18).

Indeed, faith being a principle of action, true faith in Christ cannot help itself but yield good works and efforts and performances.

But like faith, work can be centered in ourselves and in our own strength and wisdom (Helaman 16:15). Nephi counseled...no, enjoined that a disciple's works should also be grounded in the Lord: "...ye must not perform any thing unto the Lord save in the first place ye shall pray unto the Father in the name of Christ, that he will consecrate thy performance unto thee, that thy performance may be for the welfare of thy soul" (2 Nephi 32:9).

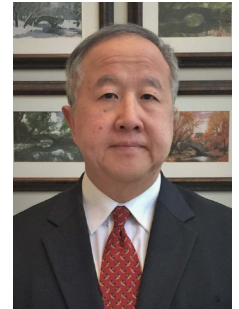
In the Bible, depending on which Hebrew form of the word is used, to consecrate means to dedicate, separate, set apart, make holy, make perfect, make new.

Curiously, for a performance to receive the distinguished designation of consecrated, Nephi posed no requirement that it be precious to God or significant to men. He didn't even ask us to pray for the success of the undertaking. He only told us to pray that God would consecrate it.

Perhaps God is more interested in our calling on Him to consecrate than what we call on Him to consecrate, in our pleading Him to be part of our doings than the doings, in our desire to have our endeavors made holy than the endeavors?

Having our performance consecrated invokes some ready effects. For one, it negates our vanity (from "all glory be mine" or "me performing against others" to "I do my best unto the Lord") and nullifies our acting in vain (for nothing is in vain after the Lord has touched it). It also heightens our sensitivity to not the worth of the venture but the worthiness of the venture (worthy to be touched by the Lord). Contrast the man who accumulated great "net worth," who "layeth up treasure for himself..." (Luke 12:21).

As the Lord God Omnipotent stoops to bless a petty performance of ours, the importance of the success or failure of our project also fades. Because, on one hand, God can make even failures work for the welfare of our soul; on the other, it wasn't, for example, the successful performance of turning stones into shining objects that took the Brother of Jared's breath away, it was the finger of the Lord that touched the stones. Truly, while performances are an object of worship for some, consecrated performances are an instrument of worship for us.



President Wen

No doubt the Consecrator would sanctify such efforts as our temple work, missionary labor, ministering, search for an eternal companion, but how about our daily toil to provide for ourselves and our family, our helping a customer or boss, our cleaning the house, our painting a work of beauty, our attempting a good deed that would likely fail? He who would consecrate our prayers (2 Nephi 33:4) and afflictions (2 Nephi 2:2) and accept our crying over our flock and crops (Alma 34:20,24) would probably indulge.

Perhaps Nephi called us to consecrate our life's manifold performances to help us consecrate our one life. How else do we consecrate our life if we leave out our work, career, or what occupies the bulk of our waking hours? Consecration, after all, is not keeping back a part (Acts 5:2) from God but setting apart all to God.

Even more profoundly, "con" meaning together, and "secrete" meaning sacred, and God being the Holy One, consecrating one's performance is really joining one's work with God. Now, if expressions like that sound anything familiar, it's because we've heard the divine sentiment behind such joining, even "...that they may be one in us," as Christ prayed to the Father (John 17:23). Hence, the meaning and nature and, for that matter, the joy of an act of consecration may just be "at-one-ment."

And performance-consecrating, as Nephi taught us, would serve well as a schoolmaster (Galatians 3:24) to our coming to know the atoning (as in, again, at-one) law of consecration, which is still in effect (Teachings of Gordon B. Hinckley, p.639) and part of our Temple covenants. For it is the law that is lived in the exalted, celestial society where all we have and do are the Lord's. And, through the unfathomable grace of God, vice versa.

**Stake Conference**

**May 14-15**

**Saturday Adult Session 7-8:30 pm**

**Sunday General Session 10 am-noon**

# TEACHING IN THE SAVIOR'S WAY IN THE MONTH OF MAY

by Brother Edmund Priddis, 1st Counselor in the Stake Sunday School Presidency

The Stake Sunday School Presidency invites everyone in the Akron Ohio Stake to join with us in focusing on Teaching in the Savior's Way during the month of May. We have been preparing for this month and hope you have noticed some of the things that have been happening. Each of the Sunday School presidents in the wards in the stake has been leading discussions in their respective ward councils on this topic, and in March, the members of the High Council spoke on this subject when they visited our wards. Now we are extending the invitation to every member of the stake as individuals, as part of quorums and classes, and as ward members to join with us in improving our teaching by focusing on the Savior and teaching in the Savior's way.

Whether we are formally called as a teacher in our ward or not, all of us are teachers. The *Teaching in the Savior's Way* manual tells us, "You are a disciple of Jesus Christ. This means that you are a teacher because discipleship includes teaching, blessing, and lifting others. You may, for a time, be given a formal calling to teach, but the responsibility to teach will always be with you, especially if you are a parent." This means that we all have a challenge and a responsibility to become better teachers. Luckily we have the perfect example in our Savior Jesus Christ to look to as we learn and grow as teachers. "As you ponder His life and



your own opportunities to teach, you will find that the way to become an effective teacher is to become more like the Savior... The key to teaching as the Savior taught is to live as the Savior lived."

The church has produced a manual titled *Teaching in the Savior's Way*. There are four themes in the manual that can guide our progress.

1. Love those you teach
2. Teach by the Spirit
3. Teach the doctrine
4. Invite diligent learning.

We encourage each of you to use this resource as you consider what you can personally do to become more like the Savior in your teaching.

We do not have any specific guidelines or special programs that we are implementing this month, but instead, we are asking each member to counsel with the Lord, as did the Brother of Jared, to be inspired to know how the Lord would have you improve as a teacher. It may be as simple as reading and studying the *Teaching in the Savior's Way* manual during this month. It may involve teaching in your home, such as during Family Home Evening, or maybe the way that you interact with your ministering families. Perhaps it will involve sharing the gospel through words or examples to those that have not yet joined the church or sharing messages and experiences in classes and quorums during Sunday meetings.

No matter what you decide to do, we know that as we turn to the Lord to improve our teaching, we will be blessed individually, as wards, and as a stake and will feel the Spirit more abundantly in our lives. We look forward to joining with you and hearing your experiences as we focus on Teaching in the Savior's Way in the month of May.

## BRECKSVILLE HOME STORAGE CENTER

6900 Southpointe Pkwy, Unit C  
Brecksville, OH 44141  
440-526-4057

HOURS: Wednesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

A food storage list is available at  
[www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org).

# Emergency Preparedness Moment

by Brother Paul McPherson

Welcome to the Emergency Preparedness (EP) Moment in the stake newsletter. We are excited to provide insights and gentle reminders about preparing for and responding to the unexpected. We will spotlight one of the many suggestions from the Church's website/PDF in each newsletter: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/shared/english/life-help/Personal-and-Family-Emergency-Preparedness-Planning-Guide.pdf> or from other experienced organizations. We hope you find the information valuable.

## Tips to Help You Stay Safe During a Disaster

No one expects to be caught in a potentially dangerous and extreme situation. Frequently, we prepare for the aftermath. However, knowing what to do during a disaster could make a difference for you and your family. The following suggestions can help you stay safe during an emergency:

1. If you have not been ordered to evacuate, stay in a safe area or shelter during a natural disaster. A safe area may be a ground-floor interior room, closet, or bathroom in your

Elder L. Tom Perry taught, *The need for preparation is abundantly clear. The great blessing of being prepared gives us freedom from fear.*

"If Ye Are Prepared Ye Shall Not Fear,"  
Ensign, Nov. 1995, 36.

home. Ensure your emergency kit is accessible if the incident and recovery last several days.

2. Listen to a portable radio for important local updates and guidance from local leaders. Prepare your emergency kit with a battery-powered radio. Some models have alternate power sources such as solar panels or a hand crank.

3. Use generators with caution. Operate them outside, away from windows, doors, or vents. Follow all manufacturer's instructions.

4. Stay in your safe area and do not drive or travel until the danger has passed. It may be tempting to check on people or property during the situation, but be sure the threat has passed before doing so.

5. Reach out to your ministering brothers or sisters or Relief Society/priesthood leaders and let them know of your safety, health status, and any immediate needs.

Adapted from the website <https://www.travelers.com/resources/weather/emergency-preparedness>

## Cleveland Ohio Temple Announced



Cleveland is located along the southern shore of Lake Erie and is located about 20 miles from the Church's first temple in Kirtland. The temple in Kirtland was dedicated in 1836, and the property is owned by the Community of Christ. This will be the state's second temple. The Columbus Ohio Temple was dedicated in September 1999. There are more than 62,000 Latter-day Saints in approximately 125 congregations in Ohio.

Walt Flory, a 70-year-old member from Canton, Ohio, fights emotion when sharing his feelings about a future temple in nearby Cleveland. President Nelson's announcement was an answer to many prayers.

Following the news, Flory asked his 97-year-old mother if she ever thought the day would come when a temple would be built in Cleveland. "She said no. It was something that did not seem possible. We are excited beyond words."

The Cleveland-area youth, he added, will be strengthened by having a temple so close to their homes.

<https://www.thechurchnews.com>

## MISSIONARY UPDATES



**ZACHARY CRESAP**

Leaving June 2022

Utah Ogden  
Mission



**BEN BULLOCK**

Returning June 2022

Texas Fort Worth  
Mission



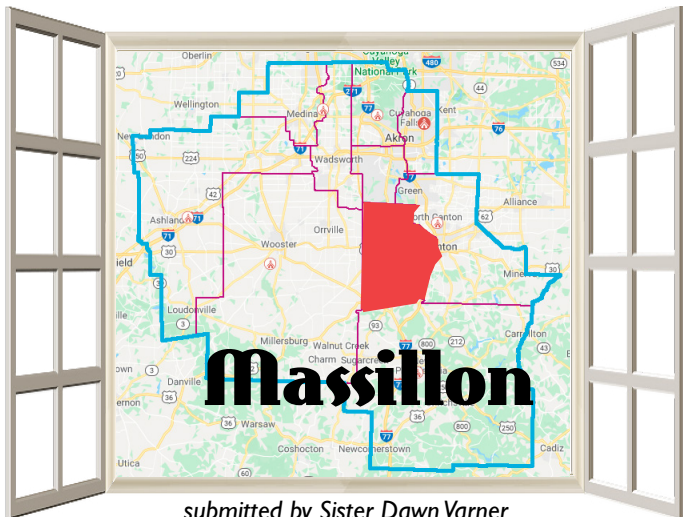
**LOGAN SPITTLE**

Returning June 2022

Dominican Republic  
Santo Domingo East  
Mission



# Ward Window



submitted by Sister Dawn Varner

## Massillon Temple Trip

Under the direction of Bishop Fowler, our ward has committed to “Prepare to get to the temple with S.P.E.E.D.” (Spiritually, Physically, and Emotionally Every Day). The youth of our ward took that challenge seriously and decided to plan a bus trip to the Palmyra Temple. The youth themselves did most of the details and organizing. Before the trip, two YM/YW activity nights were spent helping the youth access and print out temple cards to take to the temple. Adults were also invited to help fill the bus seats, bringing their own names for temple work.

Then, at 7:30 a.m. on the frigid morning of February 26, 25 youth and 27 adults boarded a bus for a five-hour road trip to Palmyra.



Our first stop was the Hill Cumorah Visitors Center, where we learned about the Palmyra area, watched a film, and examined copies of the Book of Mormon in languages we didn't even know existed! From there, we rode a short distance to the Palmyra Temple. Some



of the adults went to an endowment session. The youth and remaining adults were divided into two groups. One group did baptisms while the other group toured

the Joseph Smith Log Cabin. These groups then switched, so all the youth had a chance to do baptisms and visit the



cabin. Afterward, we rode to the nearby Stake Center, where we feasted on pizza! Our time at the temple yielded 135 proxy baptisms and 15 proxy endowments. We arrived back at the Massillon meetinghouse by midnight – tired but wonderfully fulfilled.



## Family History Corner

by Jeanne Peugh, Director



### A Story

Elder Gerrit W. Gong gave a wonderful discourse entitled “We Each Have a Story” during this April General Conference. He showed us how members of our family are blended, the past, present, and future generations, into one great whole. A family of the ages sealed together into an eternal family only to push us forward in our thinking of our families’ place in the great family of God. Is this not a point worth pondering?

We are all a significant part of a great and everlasting whole. He said, “Whatever the total number of individuals who have lived on the earth, it is finite, countable, one person at a time. You and I, we each matter.” Our lives matter, our experiences matter, our trials and tribulations of working through this life matter, and not just to us, but to those who came before and those who will follow us. “Whether you are your first or tenth known generation, connect yesterday for tomorrow.

Connect the roots and branches in your living family tree.” Remember the teachings you have been taught.

Remember the promises fulfilled by the atonement of Jesus Christ. Elder Gong says, “We continue to live on the other side of the veil. Still very much alive, our ancestors deserve to be remembered.

We remember our heritage through oral histories, clan  
*continued on next page*

# The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Donates 38,672 Pounds of Food to Local Food Pantry

by Brother David Foutz

Last month, a semi-truck from Salt Lake City, Utah, made its way across the country headed to Medina, Ohio. Inside was a staggering 38,672 pounds of food, donated to Feeding Medina County from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Feeding Medina County is an organization that provides community-wide food distributions in partnership with the Akron Canton Regional Foodbank, as well as Weekender Bags for elementary-aged children receiving Free and Reduced Lunch in all public schools throughout Medina County. Furthermore, they operate the Staples for Seniors Program, bringing food and produce to seniors in subsidized housing units throughout Medina County. They also operate an emergency, on-site pantry five days a week. FMC serves nearly 3,000 people each month.

Katy Fuerst, Executive Director of Feeding Medina County, said that she received a call from a representative from the Church in February and learned that they had been nominated for a grant by one of the Church's members. Within a month of that initial conversation, the food was on its way to Medina.

The semi-truck driver faced some hazardous conditions on his way in and ended up arriving at Feeding Medina County on the evening of February 24. President Tony Wen and his wife Winnsa, JustServe Coordinator Bob Mihalko, and Mayor Robin Laubaugh of the City of Wadsworth were on hand to greet the driver and help Feeding Medina County's staff unload 24 pallets of donations. Food items donated included frozen beef and pork, pancake mix, pasta, applesauce, canned fruits, and vegetables.

Mayor Laubaugh, who was critical in helping Feeding Medina County start their community-wide food distributions in Wadsworth, was responsible for nominating the local pantry for the grant. "As a member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, I work with humanitarian efforts in the Northeast Ohio region. In my role as mayor, I became aware of the amazing good that Feeding Medina County does throughout the county and thought they would be a wonderful recipient for this donation."

## A Story

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records, family stories, memorials or places of remembrance, and celebrations with photos, foods, or items which remind us of loved ones.

"We honor our ancestors by opening the heavens through temple and family history work and by becoming a welding link in the chain of our generations. In this age of 'I choose me,' societies benefit when generations connect in meaningful ways. We need roots to have wings – real relationships, meaningful service. Ties with ancestors increase family closeness, gratitude, and miracles. Such ties can bring help from the other side of the veil."

A press release was issued on March 23 to help publicize this event and the good work going on with Feeding Medina County.



As Elder Gong said in a June 26, 2020, video post about [#HearHim](#), "One of the great privileges that the Lord gives us is to reach out to His sons and daughters. And as we try to reach out in service to those around us, I think the Lord gives us an extra measure of His love for them, and therefore for us."

If you have ideas for service projects in your area, please reach out to your JustServe ward representative, or talk to a member of your ward council to get the ball rolling. There is much good we can do!

As spring is now upon us and the trees begin to throw out new branches to the sky and new roots to anchor and supply the needs of the next generation, let us redouble our efforts to link the past to the future. May we commit that we, the present, will not be the weak link in the chain of our eternal family.

In the October 2013 General Conference, Elder Richard J. Maynes of the Presidency of the Seventy stated the following: "Great examples of spiritual stamina come from our family histories. Among the many stories from our ancestors, we will be able to find examples that demonstrate the positive characteristics of endurance."

There is no sacrifice greater than helping others come unto Christ.




## Self-Reliance Resources

I'm sure that most, if not all of us, have reacted with anger to certain situations. It's a natural-man reaction that surfaces when we feel that we or others have been treated unfairly, or for many other reasons. Learning to understand and control our anger is possible. The following is from the Finding Strength in the Lord - Emotional Resilience manual:

Everyone experiences anger. There are countless reasons to feel angry. We can't always control angry feelings, and it is easy to feel justified in our anger. We may even feel better in the moment after expressing anger in aggressive ways. But expressing anger doesn't help us feel better in the long-term, and it can result in strained relationships, physical illness, financial loss, and spiritual or even physical damage to self and others.


The Savior taught the Nephites: "There shall be no disputations among you. . . . For verily, verily I say unto you, he that hath the spirit of contention is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger, one with another. Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger, one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away" (3 Nephi 11:29-30).

The following are actions that can escalate or control anger:



**BEHAVIORS THAT "HEAT" ANGER**

- Making accusations
- Arguing while angry
- Yelling, screaming, shouting
- Dwelling on hurt feelings
- Planning revenge
- Engaging in any form of violence



**SKILLS THAT "COOL" ANGER**

- Counting to 10 or higher
- Noncompetitive exercising
- Meditating, praying, and relaxing
- Going outside
- Choosing helpful thoughts
- Listening to calming music
- Taking deep breaths

To manage your anger, identify the different emotions underlying it. It's often easier to be angry than to deal with your real, underlying feelings. Below is a list of some underlying emotions and experiences that may result in you feeling angry.

UNDERLYING EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS			
o Resentful	o Embarrassed	o Anxious	o Offended
o Disappointed	o Frustrated	o Worried	o Victimized
o Ashamed	o Inferior	o Threatened	o Lonely
o Hopeless	o Grief	o Nervous	o Injustice
o Guilty	o Insensitive	o Rejected	o Hunger
o Over-whelmed	o Heartbroken	o Entitled	o Fatigue
	o Afraid	o Hurt	o Unmet expectations

To read more about this and other topics, here is a link to the manual: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/bc/content/ldsorg/topics/self-reliance/Emotional-Self-Reliance-Manual-new.pdf?lang=eng>

Contact your ward Self-Reliance Specialist, or myself (see contact information below), 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  
330-430-9912 [diane.burgoon@yahoo.com](mailto:diane.burgoon@yahoo.com)