

AKRON OHIO STAKE

Stake Presidency Message



Thank You to the Volunteers from the Akron Ohio Stake

At 1:30 a.m. on Sunday morning, August 14, I received a request from our area leaders for the Akron Stake to assist with a crisis clean-up effort due to the flooding in Eastern Kentucky. At 6:54 a.m. I notified the bishops, elders quorum presidents, and Relief Society presidents in the stake of the request.

That morning the request was discussed in ward councils and elders quorum meetings throughout the stake.

What happened after that was nothing short of miraculous. Each ward mobilized team leaders and volunteers to assist on the following weekend, August 20-21. The response from volunteers was overwhelming. Each ward provided significantly more volunteers than requested. Our stake was asked

to provide 80 volunteers in total. In the end, we had 12 teams with more than 160 volunteers, over double the requested number.

I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the team leaders and volunteers for your time, effort, and service you provided to the residents of Eastern Kentucky. What a wonderful display of selfless service. I have heard many inspiring experiences.

Many lives were truly blessed.

Thank you sincerely to all who facilitated and assisted in this effort!



President Coburn

October Stake Conference – Focus on the Temple

Our Fall stake conference will be held on October 29-30. Please note that our stake conference dates are set by the President of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. So, while we note that this date falls on the same weekend as Halloween, we just want to clarify that we are not at liberty to change the date or request a different date. Thank you for your understanding and support.

For the upcoming stake conference, we feel it appropriate to focus on the temple. We are very grateful that the Columbus Temple will be reopening, and we are also extremely excited and grateful for the announcement of a Cleveland Temple. We are humbled and grateful to be able to witness the fulfillment of prophecy with temples being constructed all over the world in these latter days.

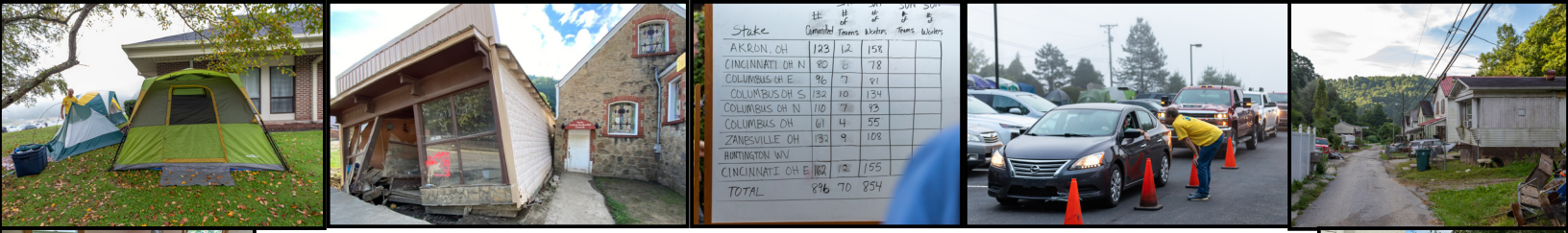
We look forward to being together for stake conference!

Some key information on the Latter-day temples:

- Dedicated current temples:	173
- Temples under construction:	52
- Temples announced:	57
- Total:	282

Temple dedications by time period:

- 1800s	7
- 1900-1949	4
- 1950-1979	9
- 1980s	26
- 1990s	25
- 2000 – 2009	62
- 2010 – 2022	43
- Under Construction	52
- Announced	57



Stake	Unit	# of Members	# of Units	# of Homes	# of Vehicles
AKRON OH	123	12	15		
CINCINNATI OH N	80	6	78		
COLUMBUS OH E	96	7	87		
COLUMBUS OH S	132	10	124		
COLUMBUS OH N	110	7	103		
COLUMBUS OH W	61	4	55		
ZANESVILLE OH	131	9	109		
HUNTINGTON WV	102	10	115		
CINCINNATI OH E	102	10	155		
TOTAL	816	70	854		

Kentucky Clean up Efforts 2022

by Brother Jacob Farrar

At 6:55 a.m. on Sunday, August 14, President Quinn Coburn sent an urgent email to ward leaders in the Akron Ohio Stake. The message was specific – each unit in the stake needed to mobilize a work crew of 8-12 to travel to Southeastern Kentucky the following weekend to assist in the cleanup efforts from the historic flooding at the end of July. The Akron Stake, along with volunteers from two Cincinnati stakes, four Columbus stakes, the Zanesville stake, and the Huntington West Virginia stake were asked to assemble at 7 a.m. on August 21, at the ward building in Martin, KY – the center of operations for the relief efforts by the Church since the flooding devastated the region.

The Akron Ohio Stake answered the call. Despite being the furthest away from the flood area, and with some of our workers traveling over six hours, 158 members of the stake in 12 work crews descended upon Martin, Kentucky. They assembled the necessary tools and relief supplies to offer the needed assistance. In addition to the ward building being the base of operations for coordinating projects, the empty field next to the chapel became a campground for volunteers – the accommodations even included makeshift showers.

Our work crews were assigned 4-5 projects in the area and the necessary supplies to accomplish the projects. Work crews in our stake assisted in a variety of cleanup efforts, including debris and mud (mucking) from flooded basements, moving junk and damaged appliances out of flooded homes set for demolition, cutting down fallen trees, placing tarps on damaged roofs, and most important, providing comfort and peace to devastated residents in that part of the country.

Despite being assigned specific work projects, some working crews noticed additional opportunities to assist and serve residents in the local communities. One of those groups was the crew from the Canton Ward. While on their lunch break from their assigned project, they made connections with a local thrift store and the fire department and organized efforts to muck the flooded store, move merchandise, and even help the cleanup efforts of the City Hall. These were not planned work orders, but the ward members saw the need and felt that the efforts would bring hope and connection to the residents in that town.

In the April 2022 General Conference, President Russel M. Nelson reminded those who have entered the waters of baptism of our obligation to assist with efforts like those in Kentucky, “Every person who has made covenants with God has promised to care about others and serve those in need. We can demonstrate faith in God and always be ready to respond.”

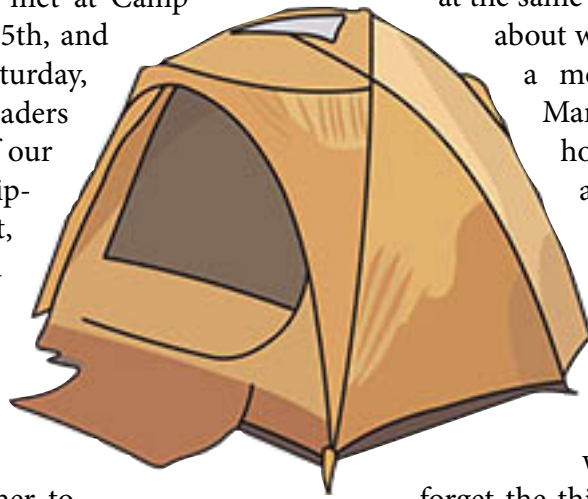
It was an amazing experience. To witness not only the devastation but also the gratitude of those served was eye-opening and something that volunteers will never forget. In addition, the opportunity to work alongside friends and ward members to accomplish these very large and overwhelming tasks was awesome. Heavenly Father loves all of his children, and He often asks some of them to help those that are in need.



YM CAMP

by Ryland Most, Canton Ward

Young Men's Camp is something I look forward to every summer. I enjoy getting together with the young men in my ward, planning out what we're going to bring, figuring out tent arrangements, and eventually driving up to camp. This year the theme was "Hold Fast." A term commonly used on ships. We were split into groups based on age, and the groups were named after famous ships. We met at Camp Tuscazora on Wednesday, June 15th, and stayed until the following Saturday, with over 100 young men and leaders in attendance this year. A few of our fun activities were volleyball, zip-line, trust ladder, human knot, axe throwing, tarp flip, and capture the flag. These activities taught all of us the importance of teamwork. Most of the activities couldn't have been completed without us working as a team and helping each other to succeed. We also got to travel to a place called "Woah Zone." Whoa Zone was an inflatable obstacle course on a lake. After we all got life jackets on, we raced to the entrance, and the fun began! We all laughed at ourselves as we slipped and fell off the course. They had climbing walls, slides, balance beams, monkey bars, and a rope swing. People had games of tag going on throughout our two hours of fun at the course.



Our more spiritual-based activities included a class titled Hold Fast Scriptures. The class taught us how to get more out of our scripture study. The leaders taught us the importance of engaging and wanted us to strive to put in more focus while reading. They gave us suggestions on how to do so, such as starting with a prayer, listening to and reading the scriptures at the same time, and talking with our friends about what we read. Another activity was a motivational seminar titled Time Management. Leaders discussed ways how to end procrastination. Such as setting goals, taking away the decision, and prioritizing what we need to get done over what we would like to get done. The food this year was spectacular! The cooking staff outdid themselves, and their hard work was greatly appreciated. I will never forget the things I learned this summer, but I will also never forget the eventful thunderstorm we had on the second day. It rained very hard over our camp for about an hour. Things did get a little wet, but it was nice for everything to cool off a bit because the day before was about 100 degrees. Young Men's camp was so much fun, and I appreciate all the leaders and stake members that helped make it fun and enjoyable for all of us. The Young Men are very grateful for you!



GIRLS CAMP

by Pepper Adams, Akron Ward

The theme for Girls Camp this year was “Fear not: Believe Only.” The name comes from a talk given by Elder Holland in the April 2022 General Conference. This year I was in the second years, but it was my first year because I wasn’t able to make it last year, so I did have a lot of fears and worries going into it. I had a great experience making bracelets, trying archery, and meeting with all the young women from other wards, but I also really enjoyed the spiritual aspects. Each day for about an hour, we had scripture study at our campsites. We would all sit in a big circle in the shade at the center of our campsite and do our personal study. I could really feel the spirit, surrounded by all the young women who believe the same things I do, and the devotionals were really awesome.

To guide us through our personal studies, they gave us these little booklets to break down and analyze the talk, and I really liked this because sometimes the scriptures can seem a little daunting, and this really helped me. It gave us part of Elder Holland’s talk and then some questions; here was one of my favorite pages. From the talk, it says: “begin your search for

happiness by embracing the bounty we have already received from the giver of every good gift.” The guided question then talked about those spiritual gifts and then had us read in Doctrine & Covenants. One scripture, in particular, was D&C 46:26 - “And of all these gifts come from God for the benefit of the children of God.” These scriptures really allow me to feel God’s love. It shows how much He truly wants to help us through our trials, big and small.

One of my other favorite experiences from camp was the Faith Walk. It was set up down in a big field past the third-year campsite. Along the path were five pairs of young women, each with one dressed up as a bible woman. There was Esther, Eve, Ruth, Rebekah, and Mother Mary. Each of them would tell us their story, explaining their trials and how they overcame them, and then the other YCL beside them would talk about how the Bible women’s story touched them personally. It was a really cool experience, especially to learn more about each of the women, focusing on the faith and perseverance they showed even in their hardest times by just believing in Him.



YOUTH CONFERENCE

Youth Conference this year was both a fun and spiritually enriching experience. We were given lessons on missionary work and acknowledging the Lord. There were many fun activities, including a day at Mohican Adventure, hanging out in the rec center, and a dance. We also had tons of time to socialize with friends who we don't get to see as often. I was personally able to get to know my friends better and make many new friends. One way that I made new friends was through the "Speed Friending" game. At first, I was a little disappointed because I got put at a different table than the rest of my friends, but in the end, I was able to make many new friends, and I still managed to have an amazing time.

Despite all of the fun from the first two days, the last day was even better. In the morning, we had the opportunity to help clean up a local park for the Ashland community. My friends and I were able to get a lot of work done in the two hours we were there. My group, and others, pulled weeds while others painted things. After we had left, I felt accomplished with the work that we did. It felt good to have served the community in a simple way. The last thing we did was the testimony meeting, which was a very spiritual experience and an amazing way to end youth conference. Youth Conference was super fun, and I'm super glad I got to go.

— Ava Cartwright, Wadsworth Ward



This 2022 summer youth conference was a great time. All the youth arrived at Ashland University on Friday afternoon, where we got organized into our rooms. From there, we went to a building next door, where we were split into groups to talk about missionary work, faith, and speed "friendshipping." Speed friendshipping is a new name for speed dating to include the younger ones not old enough to date. That night, we headed to the Ashland rec center, where we played basketball, soccer, and billiards and swam in the pool. We left the rec center to socialize in the lobby of our apartment building. By 11, everyone was in their dorms or waiting for an employee to unlock their room for them.

The next morning we headed to Mohican Adventures. We had a fun time kayaking and canoeing down the long river. It was a beautiful connection to nature we all experienced. Mohican Adventures also included a super fun aerial course. It was a series of obstacles you had to pass, elevated from the ground, safely connected to a cord with a vest. The afternoon also included mini-golf and go-karts. By the end, everyone was tired, wet, and hungry.

— Cannon Foutz, Wadsworth Ward



Self-Reliance Corner

He Polished My Toes

Elder Enrique R. Falabella: *When I was growing up, we didn't have much. I remember one day when I approached my father and said to him, "Papa, I need a new pair of shoes. These ones are already worn out." He stopped and looked at my shoes and saw they were really worn out. He said, "I think this is something we can fix." He took a bit of black polish and polished my shoes, leaving them shiny and nice. He said to me, "Now they're fixed, son." I replied, "No, not yet. You can still see my toe sticking out of my shoe." He said, "Well, we can fix that too!" He took a little more polish, and he polished my toe!*



That day I learned that there is a solution to every problem. I am convinced that this principle of self-reliance and this initiative is a way to hasten the Lord's work. It's part of the work of salvation. All of us can become better than what we are now. You have to let go of apathy. Many times we become complacent, and this destroys our progress. Every day is a day I can make progress if I decide to do something different to improve what I've done poorly in the past. If you do it with faith, exercising faith and hope in Christ that He will be there helping you, you will find the way to make progress in temporal and spiritual things. This is because God lives, and you are His son or daughter.

From the Personal Finance manual

Watch the video: <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/video/self-reliance-videos/my-foundation/2014-06-2090-he-polished-my-toe?lang=eng>

Self-Reliance Groups

We will be holding an online devotional on Sunday, September 11, at 7 p.m. to provide an overview of how the self-reliance groups work. We will focus on the "Emotional Resilience – Finding Strength in the Lord" group. We will provide a brief overview of the other groups, but without enough interest, we will not be able to start a group.

To Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83850848214>

Meeting ID: 838 5084 8214

Or dial: 309 205 3325

There is now a **new way to sign-up for a group!** You can also search for online groups outside of our area. We will demonstrate this during the devotional.

The first Self-Reliance group will tentatively start on Sunday, September 25.

To view a copy of the manuals, go to <https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/self-reliance/manuals-and-videos>.

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

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.



Do You Know Your Neighbors?

The second greatest commandment is to “Love thy neighbor as thyself.” From the scriptures, we understand that our neighbors are all our brothers and sisters.

Here are seven key traits that make someone a good neighbor:

- 1) Friendly
- 2) Quiet
- 3) Respectful
- 4) Mature
- 5) Helpful
- 6) Trustworthy
- 7) Tidy

What efforts do we take to know our actual neighbors? Do we know their names and their family situation? Do they know us and feel comfortable asking us for assistance if it’s needed?

Lately, I have spent considerable time on my family history. Both of my parents come from large families, so I decided that I would see what I could find my first cousins and their families. In

just the last few weeks, I have made contact with cousins in the Columbus area and am excited to meet each other, and they want to know more about their family history. But the real surprise was that I found two cousins living right down the street from me. How is that possible that I have lived here for 40+ years, and I don’t know my neighbors, especially those that I am actually related to and that live less than a mile from me? I grew up knowing one of them well, and he was a police officer for the Akron Police Department. And the exciting part is they are also related to each other.

This is one of the many reasons we do family history research. Because of the blessings of modern technology, we have opportunities to reach out easily and quickly. If you need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact your ward temple and family history consultants, or you are welcome to come to the Akron Ohio Family History Center. We are open Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. If this doesn’t work for you, contact us, and I am sure we will work around your schedule—Jeanne and David Peugh at djpeugh@sbcglobal.net

“Just Serve” in our stake is having a

TOY DRIVE

for Akron Children’s Hospital.

Every ward has 6-7 items they have been asked to contribute. Our goal is to collect as many of each of those items as possible.

Each ward is collecting until Sunday, September 25.

Please join us in the spirit of service and have your family members get involved in this project.

Maybe go together as a family and let the children pick out the toys. Great joy comes from contributing to others’ needs.

MISSIONARY UPDATES



SPRING BIGGS

Tallmadge Ward

Starts 5 September 2022

**New Zealand
Hamilton Mission**



HOPE SHOCKEY

Akron Ward

Starts 3 October 2022

**California Arcadia
Mission**



CHRISTINE HEADRICK

Wadsworth Ward

Starts 3 October 2022

**Utah Provo
Mission**

CHECK US OUT

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