

# WILLOW CANYON 1st WARD

DECEMBER 2013 THEME -

BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THE LATTER DAYS

## BUILDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THE LATTER DAYS

D & C 65:6, Wherefore, may the kingdom of God go forth, that the kingdom of heaven may come,

When I was a kid growing up, whenever building the kingdom was discussed, it usually referred to a literal building assignment to help construct a chapel, work on a welfare farm or contribute money to a building fund or welfare farm. I have fond memories of working next to my dad pounding nails into a roof or floor of a new chapel, being constructed, helping with cleanup or running errands so the work could progress. We are still asked to assist with the building of the kingdom in temporal assignments, cleaning our chapels and temples and welfare assignments, but we don't literally build the kingdom as we did when I was younger. Today building the kingdom has a very different meaning to me and has evolved into many different areas of focus as the church has grown and evolved. Pres. Gordon B. Hinckley, in his conference report Sep-Oct. 1995 stated, "I invite everyone of you, wherever you may be as members of this church, to stand on your feet and with a song in your heart move forward, living the gospel, loving the lord, and building the kingdom. Together we shall stay the course and keep the faith, The Almighty being our strength."

There are multiple ways and opportunities to build the kingdom of God. Each of us can find ways to contribute to this lifelong effort which will bring blessings to others, as well as ourselves, and move the kingdom forward.

Pres. Ezra Taft Benson, in a talk titled "Strengthening Thy Stakes" Ensign, Jan 1991 shared the following 10 ways we can contribute to this great work.

1. We must be a light of the Gospel to others
  2. We must seek for opportunities to share the gospel message with others....
  3. We should do all we can do to help prepare our sons and grandsons to serve missions....
  4. Our homes should be places of refuge, love, and harmony....
  5. We should seek for the blessings and ordinances of the temple...
  6. We have an obligation to do temple work for our kindred dead....
  7. As families we should strive to be self reliant
  8. Priesthood holders need to provide watchcare over quorum members and their families through organized home teaching....
  9. We should participate in the programs and activities of the church-keep the Sabbath as a holy day, attend our meetings, accept callings extended to us, and magnify those callings....
  10. Every adult member should be a full tithing payer and contribute a generous fast offering.
- Each of us, regardless of our circumstances, can be part of this great building process, moving the kingdom forward with haste and enthusiasm. We encourage each of you to prayerfully consider ways you can contribute to this great work.

Christmas is a wonderful time to reflect on past experiences and share our love for others. The Savior was perfectly unselfish and showed us the way to reach out to others with love and compassion with an eye single to the glory of God. We have wonderful opportunities, at this special time of year, to reflect on His birth and the beginning of a life that would bring the kingdom of God close to each of us as we follow His example of charity and give glory to our Father In Heaven. May this glorious gift of a Saviors love touch each of our hearts this Christmas season.

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I testify that he was born in a lowly stable, lived to do His Fathers will, and freely gave His life that we may live eternally with our loved ones, in our Saviors presence, in the kingdom of heaven.

May you all have a wonderful Christmas season with loved ones near and his peace and love in your hearts and souls.

With love and hope for a joyous holiday season, your bishopric.

## MISSIONARY ADDRESSES

### **Elder Bruce and Sister Vivienne Sullivan**

Spain Madrid Mission  
Calle Fuerteventura 4, 2, Office 8B  
28703 San Sebastian de los Reyes  
Madrid  
SPAIN

**Rachel Jean Bierman** (It has been requested that you not put Sister due to mail being stolen)

Missouri St Louis Mission  
1850 Craigshire Rd Ste 205  
St Louis, MO 63146

### **Hermana Emily Lloyd**

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### **Elder Gary and Sister Susan Johnson**

Tennessee Nashville Mission  
Welfare Resource Center  
107 Twin Hills Drive  
Madison, TN 37115

### **Elder Zach Rigby**

110 Oak Park Dr. Suite B  
Irmo, SC 29063

## PRIMARY

Theme: I am a Child of God

December Theme: I know that Jesus Christ will come again.

December Scripture: "I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth" (Job 19:25)

We would like to thank all of you parents who helped your children learn their parts for the primary program. The children did a wonderful job and we are so proud of them.

Girls Activity: December 10th at the church at 4:15 P.M. - "12 days of Christmas"

We wish all of the primary children a wonderful month and hope the holidays are happy!

## YOUNG WOMEN

December activities are as follows:

Dec. 4 - Making decorations for the ward party

Dec. 11 - Baptisms

Dec. 18 - Temple Square lights

Dec. 25 - Canceled

## RELIEF SOCIETY

Since it is the time we spend with our family and loved ones and express our gratitude, we as a presidency would like to express our love and gratitude to all our sisters. We appreciate all that you do in your homes as wives and mothers, as neighbors and friends. This church rely's on women who have courage and faith to do what is right, in a time that is so precarious. Thank you for being those women. We are truly blessed to have the fullness of the Gospel of Jesus Christ in our lives! We wish you love and joy this Christmas Season as you celebrate our Saviors birth.

Just a reminder to come join as sisters for our Relief Society Christmas Dinner "Angels Among Us" December 17 at 7:00 pm

Love, The Relief Society Presidency

### FAMILY HISTORY - INDEXING

Holidays are a great time to find out about your family. A tradition of telling family stories at Christmas passes the family history to the next generation. Need Family History help? Natalie Nielson-Riep 801-440-2799

### SEALINGS

Our ward temple sealings for December have been cancelled. We will resume our regularly scheduled temple sealings on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:00 PM at the Draper Temple.

### EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

If you can't quite decide on a Christmas gift for someone, why not consider a gift from our Sandy Dry Pack (many items are now pre-packaged for your convenience). The new price list is now available. Children love the dried apples and purchasing a can or pre-packaged (both at \$8.95), filling up a small gift bag and securing it with a ribbon, makes a nice stocking stuffer for a number of loved ones. The same could be done with the hot cocoa mix. Check out the commercial retail emergency supply stores or the big-box stores, either personally or on the computer and you will find a huge variety of items, from stocking stuffers all the way to major items. Many of the items at one of the retail stores are now on sale. ( I have the catalog if a computer is not available.) Don't forget to give a gift for you and your family, too.

## WARD AND STAKE EVENTS AND NEWS

- \* Ward Party -- Friday, December 6th at 6:30 PM
- \* First Presidency Christmas Devotional -- December 8th at 6:00 PM
- \* Ward Relief Society Christmas Dinner -- December 17th at 7:00 PM
- \* Welcome Steve Visser to the ward. He is living at the home of Mary Visser.
- \* Our meeting schedule will change - January 5th to Sacrament Meeting starting at 9:00 AM. with the other meetings continuing in the same rotation.
- \* Merry Christmas - December 25, 2013 - May we always remember our Savior.

## CHOIR

Join with us as we rehearse for our Christmas program. We meet each Sunday at Mary Bye's at 11:00 am. All ages and skill levels welcome. The only requirement is that you love to sing about the birth of Christ.

## CUB SCOUTS

Pack meeting December 11th at 6:30 PM at the stake center in the primary room. The boys will have pizza and do a service project.

**NO PARENTS/FAMILIES**

## EMPTY NESTERS

The Empty Nesters will be holding our annual Christmas Potluck on December 9th. Annette Webster will be hosting.

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

DATE FOR JANUARY WILL BE DECEMBER 31st  
PLEASE FORWARD YOUR AUXILIARY INFORMATION TO ANDREA MARX AT:  
[sistermarx@gmail.com](mailto:sistermarx@gmail.com)

It is desired that all the auxiliaries contribute to the newsletter.

## BIRTHDAYS



### December

- 1 Joel Weight
- 4 Matthew Miller
- 5 Rita Kelly  
Allyn Thompson
- 9 Jennifer Mc Lain  
Larry Curtis  
Cristian Diaz  
Richard Saddler
- 12 Melissa Anna-Lea Hof
- 13 Dale Hanson
- 17 John Williams  
Erik Barnhart
- 18 Dorothy Mahler
- 22 Marlene Baarz
- 23 Amber Williams
- 26 Lynn Marie Jensen
- 28 Kristina Ellis
- 29 Kurt Young
- 30 Scott Williams  
Winona Maria Hof
- 31 Bob Thompson



A  
**Neighborhood Family  
Christmas**

You are cordially invited to join in on  
a Christmas celebration of  
Christmas's past and present  
Friday December 6th at 6:30 P.M. in  
the recreation hall of the L.D.S. chapel  
located at 9636 South 1700 East  
Come join us for free dinner and  
entertainment.  
Meet your friends and neighbors and  
enjoy the season