

# WILLOW CANYON 1st WARD

## JULY 2013 THEME - ORDINANCES AND COVENANTS

When we are asked what a covenant is and we answer in some way that it is a 2 way agreement with God. I have learned that in my part of the covenant with The Lord, my agreement involves work ... service. A lot of it. Being a covenant member of this church involves covenants to serve. Alma knew this out in the woods while escaping from his enemies. He had his people in a beautiful setting in the wilderness. He told them to covenant with God and enter the agreement through baptism. The words involved in their covenant were: comfort, mourn with and serve their fellowmen.

October 1991, Elder Jorge Rojas explained covenants and ordinances simply and beautifully: Remember your baptism? You first agreed to have faith in Him, repent of your sins, and live a good, righteous life. And He agreed to help you go back. That was the agreement, that was a covenant you both made.

But then you had to make the agreement official—just like you do when you write down an agreement on paper, but to make it official, to make it stand, you both sign your name on that written agreement. When you want to make an agreement with the Lord official, you don't sign a document; you perform an ordinance. Ordinances are also very sacred.

After the covenant, or agreement, is made, and after the ordinance is performed, there is yet a third, vital element. You must live up to the agreement. This third element is also very sacred. Because the other two now depend entirely on your performance. What good will a covenant do (I agree to do something), or an ordinance (I hereby sign the agreement) if you ultimately don't comply with it? Understand?

The first covenant and ordinance the Lord requires is baptism. Baptism puts us on the starting line—the starting line of that road that will take us back to His presence. As we walk along this road, there are other covenants we must accept and other ordinances we must receive. But remember the third important element for each one of them: We must live up to each new covenant we make. October 1991. Jorge Rojas.

So how do you teach this to your children and your families. The best way is to serve and share your experiences with your family. Create your families legacy of service and/or build on the one you have. The principles involved in ordinances and covenants are more effective when sharing your own stories of service and sacrifice.

In April 1984 General Conference, Theodore Tuttle spoke of the subject of ordinances and covenants:

I have served in past years as both a mission president and as a temple president. I have watched the young people as they have come to the missions in South America and come to the temple for their endowments and sealings.

I have seen those who were well prepared, and those who were not so well prepared for these blessings. But, most of all, I watched anxiously for those who were not prepared—those who did not come at all—and wondered why.

A few of them were from families where every effort had been made to prepare them for missionary service and for the blessings of the temple. Most of them, however, were from homes where they did not receive what was required to qualify them and to give them a desire to serve.

In order to prepare youth for missionary service and for the temple blessings, parents must have more in mind than schooling. They must have more in mind than preparing for a career. They must have more in mind, really, than just to be a missionary—as though attendance was all that was required.

There are three words which must be kept in mind: covenants, ordinances, and service.

The training for covenants, for ordinances, and for service belongs in the home. If these are paramount in the minds of the parents, the youth will be prepared. And they will not, because of this, miss any essential training for their careers.

## A New Challenge

Fathers and mothers are under divine instruction to take care of their parental responsibilities. The things we have done in past years are not now sufficient to protect our children in these critical times. It has long been taught in this Church that the day will come when no one will be able to stand without an individual testimony of the divinity of this work. That day is here. We are seeing some who lack testimonies turn away from the truth and become prey to error. While we mourn their loss, sorrow will come to those who, by failure to put true principles solidly into place, or by creating doubts in the faith of the weak, or openly teaching falsehoods, caused them to stray. Too many of our youth fail to receive their covenants and ordinances and give service. The onslaught of wickedness against our homes is at once more subtle and more brazen than it has ever been. It is taking its toll among our families. It will be difficult to escape these influences.

However, if we act more wisely, we will be safe. "If ye are prepared ye shall not fear." (D&C 38:30.) The solution is simple. The results are certain. No longer can we expect the Church to assume the major role in teaching our children—parents have this prime responsibility. Parents will be held fully accountable by the Lord to teach their children the principles and ordinances of the gospel and inspire them to serve. The Church, of course, will support parents through home teachers, visiting teachers, classes, counseling, and other assistance. No single parent in this Church needs to feel abandoned in carrying out the duties imposed by the Lord.

Recent studies by the Church have identified some things that parents can do to achieve our goals. Elder Dean Larsen reported the results:

"The factor that has by far the greatest effect on the private, religious life of our youth and upon their achievement of the desired outcomes is home religious observance. If a young person lives in a home situation where there is regular family prayer, regular family study of the gospel and the scriptures, and agreement on basic values, the likelihood of going on a mission and being married in the temple is greatly enhanced. This home and family influence is much more significant than that exercised by peer groups or by programmed participation. In fact, the influence of the home, whether it be positive or negative, is overwhelming." (Regional Representatives' seminar, 1 April 1983.)

Did you notice that the three key elements are regular family prayer, regular family study of the gospel from the scriptures, and agreement on basic values between parents and children? These are the things, more than anything else, that will lead to a proper understanding of covenants, ordinances, and service.

## Family Prayer

Parents, we must start each day by kneeling in family prayer. Children need to pray and gain knowledge for themselves from the Holy Ghost. Nephi said, "For if ye would hearken unto the Spirit which teacheth a man to pray ye would know that ye must pray; for the evil spirit teacheth not a man to pray." (2 Ne. 32:8.) Scripture Study  
Our opportunity to study the scriptures as a family has been strengthened by the consolidated meeting schedule. A good part of the Sabbath can very appropriately be used for both personal and family scripture study.

## Scripture Study

Our opportunity to study the scriptures as a family has been strengthened by the consolidated meeting schedule. A good part of the Sabbath can very appropriately be used for both personal and family scripture study.

Few things sponsor spiritual growth more than studying from the scriptures. The Savior said, "He that hath the scriptures, let him search them, and see. ..." (3 Ne. 10:14.) The Lord has promised that if you will search, you shall see marvelous spiritual truths that will persuade you to turn to Christ as your great exemplar. You will be strengthened in your desire to make covenants with the Lord, to receive the ordinances, and to serve. Alma taught a great principle when he said to Helaman, "My son, ... see that ye look to God and live." (Alma 37:47.)

Parents, when you desire to really teach, what do you do? Should we not do as the Savior did? He used questions. He quoted the scriptures, used parables, told stories, and he testified. He drew on everyday experiences to teach spiritual truths, using all kinds of occasions for teaching. He created an environment for learning—drawing out instead of pouring on.

I know a man who teaches his children at mealtimes. He has a habit of asking two or three gospel questions. He says he can always get the attention of his teenagers when he says, "I have a dollar question for you."

## Agreement on Basic Values

As we seek to teach by the Spirit, we set a high priority on the importance of covenants, ordinances, and service.

A covenant is a mutual exchange of enforceable promises. "I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say; but when ye do not what I say, ye have no promise." (D&C 82:10.)

Gospel covenants are made between God and man. The terms are stipulated by the Lord. Gospel covenants have been given to us by revelation. He has given us those covenants and ordinances that are essential to bring us back into his presence.

Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins is an essential covenant to make with the Lord. Faith and repentance precede this ordinance. Confirmation and the gift of the Holy Ghost follow baptism. Acceptance of these first principles and ordinances may obtain for us a remission of our sins and assure our salvation. In the ordinance of the sacrament, we regularly renew this and other covenants, and by complying with our part of the covenant, we receive the Spirit of the Lord to be with us.

The holy priesthood is likewise received by covenant. In essence, priesthood is power—to serve. Additional covenants are made with the Lord when we receive our endowment and when we are sealed in the temple. These are the covenants of exaltation. Teach your children that only by receiving these ordinances and making these covenants can they be exalted and become like our Heavenly Father. As we endure in faith to the end and serve and love our fellowmen, we can develop the virtues and qualities necessary to qualify us to live with the Lord.

Service, then, becomes one of the highest virtues. The Savior is our example of unselfish service. Service is a divinely appointed duty. King Benjamin taught that service to others is the same as service to our God. (See Mosiah 2:17.)

Parents, if you will keep in mind that you are preparing your sons and daughters to make covenants, receive ordinances, and render service, you will do things differently. You will have different priorities. You will teach with clearer vision and more productive effort. Missions and temples will see youth coming, not only in greater numbers, but also better qualified for these blessings. And they will embark early on a lifetime of service. And when your children do these things, they shall be lifted up at the last day, and shall arise and call you blessed—because you led them to eternal life.

When we as parents have a genuine desire to teach the gospel to our children, the Lord will give us entrance into their hearts. Then may we know that as we enter there we stand on holy ground. In the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

This is a long message. I hope you made it to this point. I would share the above talk with your family members. These principles sound easy to do so some might lack the faith to implement them. Don't do that. If you have gone this far you will appreciate these words from the last general conference in April, 2013. I believe that our covenants and ordinances have a stronger hold on our wayward family members than we realize. These words are comforting: Richard G. Scott said:

I offer some final thoughts for those who love a family member who is not making good choices. That can challenge our patience and endurance. We need to trust in the Lord and in His timing that a positive response to our prayers and rescue efforts can occur. We do all that we can to serve, to bless, and to submissively acknowledge God's will in all things. We exercise faith and remember that there are some things that must be left to the Lord. He invites us to set our burdens down at His feet. With faith we can know that this straying loved one is not abandoned but is in the watchcare of a loving Savior.

When you feel that there is only a thin thread of hope, it is really not a thread but a massive connecting link, like a life preserver to strengthen and lift you. It will provide comfort so you can cease to fear. Strive to live worthily and place your trust in the Lord.

All our love,  
Bishopric

## RELIEF SOCIETY

During the month of July we honor and celebrate the Pioneers who traveled through freezing blizzards, cold, heat, exhaustion--sweat and tears to come to Utah---they suffered so much---Here we are in our cool homes and so grateful for their love and hardships. They suffered for you and me to give us the blessings of the restored gospel.

One Martin Handcart survivor said----"Everyone of us came through that experience with the absolute knowledge that god lives, for we became acquainted with Him in our extremities.----was i sorry that i chose to come by handcart? No. Neither then or any minute of my life since. the price we paid to become acquainted with god was a privilege to pay"

Thank you,

Who has performed an angel like service for a dear sister in our ward? There are many, many angels among us here. Please help us fill our box for a December activity! Have a wonderful month!

## CHOIR

There are no practices during the summer, except a short run-through the Sundays (3rd week of month) we perform. We will meet in the Chapel at 12:15 on July 21. We are doing a wonderful arrangement of "America the Beautiful." Anyone is invited to join us.

## EMPTY NESTERS

Empty Nesters will be held the 3rd Monday in July and August. Note the times.  
July 15 Mary Bye's 7:00; Aug 19 Merrill & Ronee Scott 6:30 Annual Bar-B-Q.

## BIRTHDAYS



### July

- 2 Jennifer Milne  
Sawyer Glauser
- 5 Lothair Pendleton
- 6 Richard Clegg  
Mariah Wells
- 9 Margaret Woolsey
- 11 Jaxon Olsen  
Nancy Williams
- 13 Carson Clegg
- 14 Elizabeth McMullin  
Hunter McMullin
- 15 Robbie Morris
- 16 Kent Nunley
- 17 Marilyn Crapo
- 18 Margie Guest
- 21 Marion Stooft
- 25 Robert Rawlings
- 26 Jerry Farr
- 27 Craig Fritzsche  
Brent Gardiner
- 29 Gerry Fisher  
Monica Jensen  
Steven Rich
- 30 Brooke Tuft  
Robert Reynolds

### August

- 1 Madeline Wright
- 3 Greg Miles

# Young Women



We are looking forward to the exciting camp that Gina Messerly has planned for the Young Women. We are certain to grow our friendships and love for each other, but more importantly, our love and understanding for the gospel, our Heavenly Father, and Savior Jesus Christ.

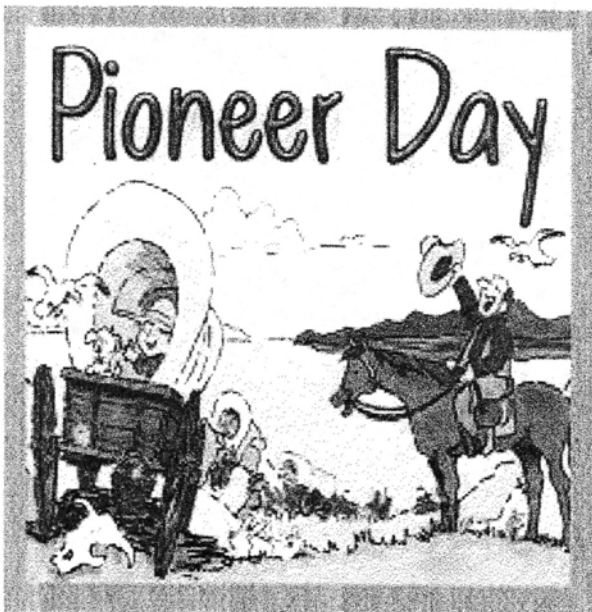
**Tuesday, July 9<sup>th</sup>** - All Young Women attending camp need to bring their bags to Gina's home Tuesday evening at 7:00pm. Please make sure you packed everything on the list that Gina supplied you with. If you are missing the list, please contact any of the YW Presidency.

**Wednesday, July 10<sup>th</sup>** - Arrive at Gina's home at 7:00am for breakfast and a devotional. Load up the cars, buckle up, and head off for a fun adventure! We will not be stopping at Wendy's or McD's along the way so please **don't forget your packed lunch**.

**July 11 – 12** – Fun, Fun, Fun and some more fun!

**Saturday, July 13<sup>th</sup>** - Return home from the best camp ever!

Many thanks to all those that are helping make our camp a wonderful experience. We appreciate the time and energy you have put into making this a wonderful experience for our Young Women. We also send our love to those that won't be able to make it on the camp with us...we will miss you.



## MISSIONARY ADDRESSES

### **Elder Kirk and Sister Marie-France Arnold**

Tahiti Papeete Mission  
L'Eglise de Jesus-Christ des Saints des  
Derniers Jours  
B.P. 93, Mission Mormone  
Papeete 98714  
FRENCH POLYNESIA

### **Elder Richard Rawlings**

Ohio Columbus Mission  
19 Clairedan Dr  
Powell, OH 43065  
USA  
Blog Spot  
[www.rawlingsfamilynews.blogspot.com](http://www.rawlingsfamilynews.blogspot.com)

### **Elder Kenneth Milne** (Returns July 18th)

Paraguay Asuncion North Mission  
Avenida/Santisima Trinidad N 1280  
Casilla de Correo 1871  
Asuncion, PARAGUAY

### **Elder Clayton Williams** (Returns July 24th)

Mexico Monterrey East Mission  
Cerralvo # 134  
Col. Libertad  
67130 Guadalupe, Nuevo Leon  
MEXICO

### **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**

Misión Chile Concepción Sur  
Casilla 3560  
Concepción,  
CHILE

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

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

## PRIMARY

Yearly Theme: I am a Child of God

July Theme: Families Are Part of Heavenly Father's Plan

July Scripture: "The Family is ordained of God" ("The Family, A Proclamation to the World," paragraph 7)

July 14th - the Senior primary will be doing Sacrament meeting at the Care Center from 10:00 until 11:00. The primary presidency will pick up your children unless parents want to take them and attend sacrament meeting at the Care Center.

Just a reminder - during the second quarter the children were challenged to listen to the CD of songs that the children need to learn for the primary program held in November at least 8 times. The quarter is over, but we ask that you continue to listen to the CD's with your children so they can continue to learn the songs.

We love working with your children in primary and would like to thank you parents who are so willing to help your children prepare and give talks, scriptures, and prayers in primary. They are always so willing to do whatever they are asked.

## FAMILY HISTORY - INDEXING

Summer is a great time to learn about your family history at family gatherings. It's also a great time to write your history to share with your children and grandchildren. I would love to hear about your stories in the fall.

Natalie Nielson-Riep

## SEALINGS

Our Ward Temple night for sealings will be Tuesday, July 16th. The session will start at 6:00 PM.

## NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

DATE FOR AUGUST WILL BE JULY 30th.

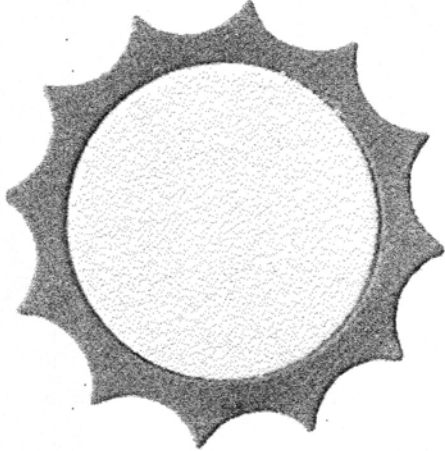
PLEASE FORWARD YOUR AUXILIARY INFORMATION TO  
ANDREA MARX AT:

[sistermarx@gmail.com](mailto:sistermarx@gmail.com)

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

Willow Canyon Community Council  
invites you to their annual

# Pool Party



July 18th  
8pm to 10pm  
Crestwood  
Swimming Pool  
(1700 East Siesta Drive)

Free to all residents of  
Willow Canyon Community



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

As children mature, they should understand the family financial position. Involve them in creating a family budget and setting family financial goals. (A basic family budget form is found on [lds.org/familybudgetworksheet](http://lds.org/familybudgetworksheet) and click on budget form). Teach each family member of their individual responsibility regarding the family welfare. Encourage inexpensive fun projects that contribute to a family goal or joy. As a family don't miss the tremendous financial and spiritual experience of sitting down together, preferably during family home evening, and each put in his share of the monthly amount going to their brother or sister or other family member who is serving in the mission field. When this monthly activity is engaged in by all, he or she becomes "our" missionary.