

WILLOW CANYON 1st WARD

APRIL 2014 THEME - THE APOSTASY AND THE RESTORATION

In the spring of 1820 a young boy by the name of Joseph Smith went to a grove near his home and knelt in prayer. Having been confused by different teachers of religion at the time, and being inspired by a verse in the bible which stated, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God..." (James 1:5) Joseph's desire was to learn which of the churches were true. He described the answer to his prayer as follows:

"I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun, which descended gradually until it fell upon me... When the light rested upon me I saw two Personages, whose brightness and glory defy all description, standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name and said, pointing to the other -- This is My Beloved Son. Hear Him!"

This experience marked the beginning of the dispensation of the fulness of times. A time when the fulness of the gospel has been restored to earth including many wonderful outcomes such as the priesthood, living prophets, modern revelation, sacred ordinances, temples, and new scripture, both ancient and modern.

The aspect of this restoration I would like to focus on is the Book of Mormon. I have often heard that a man can get closer to God by reading the Book of Mormon than by any other book. What a fantastic promise. This book contains the true gospel of Jesus Christ and stands as another witness of Him.

While reading the Book of Mormon is a great start in getting nearer to God, the Introduction contains the real quote by Joseph Smith, in which he says, "I told the brethren that the Book of Mormon was the most correct of any book on earth, and the keystone of our religion, and a man would get nearer to God by *abiding by its precepts*, than by any other book." (emphasis added) It is abiding by the precepts taught in this most correct of books that will get us nearer to God.

We often laud the mothers of the stripling warriors that were lead by Helaman, and for good reason. These faithful mothers were true to the covenants they had made and they taught the gospel in their homes. This gave their young men a sure foundation upon which to build, but simply hearing the words of their mothers would never be enough to build the testimony of these stripling warriors. They must have abided by the precepts their mothers taught them. Indeed, Alma 57:21 states:

"Yea, and they did obey and observe to perform every word of command with exactness; yea, and even according to their faith it was done unto them; and I did remember the words which they said unto me that their mothers had taught them."

Their mothers taught them well that if they would not doubt, God would deliver them. They exercised their own faith unto obedience and were able to see the fulfillment of the promised blessings.

With the restoration of the fulness of the gospel in these last days, there are many blessings promised "by obedience to that law upon which they are predicated." (D&C 130:21) These promises are found in scripture, and also given by modern day prophets and apostles. We have a great opportunity to hear from these inspired leaders in a week's time. Let us take full advantage and look for promised blessings offered to us in this, the fulness of times.

The true church of Jesus Christ has been restored. Joseph Smith was a prophet of a living Heavenly Father. He testified of the divine mission of the Savior. The priesthood has been restored and there are modern day prophets and apostles on the earth today. The Book of Mormon is truly another testament of Jesus Christ.

Abiding by the precepts taught in that book, and by our modern inspired leaders will get us nearer to God and bring us happiness in this life and in the life to come. Of this I testify in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

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

Mision Chile Concepcion Sur
Castellon 1063, Casilla 3560
Concepcion, Bio-Bio
CHILE

Elder Gary and Sister Susan Johnson (New Address)

105 Westpark Dr. Ste 190
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027

Elder Zach Rigby

South Carolina Columbia Mission
110 Oak Park Dr. Suite B
Irmo, SC 29063

Elder Nelson and Sister Kim Leshner

3551 Hundley Rd.
Cle Elum, Washington 98922

Missionaries Called:

Sister Sarah Jones, MTC 7/2/14

Texan Houston South Mission

Sister Samantha Ellis, MTC 7/9/14

Costa Rica San Jose Mission

PRIMARY

Yearly Theme: Families are Forever

Monthly Theme for April: The Family is Central to God's Plan

Scripture for April: "Marriage between a man and a woman is ordained of God and...the family is central to the Creator's plan for the eternal destiny of His children" ("The Family: A Proclamation to the World").

We would like to welcome Brother Kyle Clark, Sister Kelly Ellis, and Sister Nicole Miles as teachers in primary. We are glad and appreciate their willingness to serve. We would also like to thank Sister Deanna Nielsen for her service in the primary and for being such a great leader to the children.

YOUNG WOMEN

April Activities

April 2 - Skin care night with Kelly Hansen

April 9 - Exercise night with Crystal Weight

April 16 - Combined with YM. Care Center service program

April 23 - Personal Progress Party with Jen Johnson

April 30 - Sacred Gifts art exhibit at BYU

YOUNG MEN

Book of Mormon Challenge - The Priests and Teachers quorums are reading the Book of Mormon over the next 90 days.

The Deacons quorum will be reading the New Testament.

Help encourage our young men to accomplish these goals!

RELIEF SOCIETY

We would like to thank Nicole Miles for all the hard work she put into our Relief Society activities. As second councilor overseeing the activities she was always thinking outside the box and of course what the Willow Canyon 1st ward sisters needed. We would like to express our appreciation for Deanna Nielsen who accepted the call to be our Relief Society 2nd Councilor. We are very happy to welcome her to our Presidency and look forward to working with her.

Please watch for April's mini class signup sheet. We will be doing crocheting and sewing projects. Any volunteers to help with the classes or display items you have done in the past please let Deanna Nielsen or Shelly Glauser know.

As we enter into April, we have a lot to look forward to. General Conference and Easter are two events that we hope will be special to our ward sisters. We are always so blessed by the words from our Prophet and church leaders during conference. Easter is when we should especially remember the sacrifice our Savior made for us. One of my favorite pictures of Christ is with him standing by his tomb with Mary Magdalene kneeling looking up at him, realizing who he is. That painting always gives me comfort and reminds me that He loves us all. May we take time out of our busy life and remember to put Christ at the head of this Easter Season.

FAMILY HISTORY - INDEXING

Contact Natalie Nielson-Riep for help with Family History.
801-440-2799.

CHOIR

Come join us. We will meet each Sunday at Mary Bye's at 1:00 pm except for the Sundays we perform. All ages and skill levels welcome..

BIRTHDAYS



April

- 1 Spencer Ellis
Jim Hanson
David Jones
- 3 Doug Jensen
- 5 Taylee Johnson
Jared Rigby
- 7 Daniel Valentine
- 14 Bill Allen
- 15 Matthew Miles
- 16 Tamara Olsen
- 18 Logan Curtis
Ronee Scott
- 19 Sarah Jones
- 20 Addy Nydegger
- 22 David Glauser
- 23 Steven Visser
- 25 Bob Frederickson
- 27 Sallie Schmitt
Jana Tucker
- 28 Debra Bierman
Alyssa Johnson
Eric Schmidt
- 29 Virginia Timmons
Darren Pendleton

SEALINGS

Contact Lee Guest for date and time.

CUB SCOUTS

PINEWOOD DERBY, Thursday, April 3rd, at 6:30PM in the Stake Center gym.

Attend the Messiah Community Sing-in on May 4

The Stake is presenting a Handel's Messiah Community Sing-in on Sunday, May 4 at 7 p.m. in the Stake Center. The hour-long performance includes a choir, orchestra and soloists. Bring your own copy of the music to join in on some of the choir selections.

This is a great event to share with your friends and neighbors of other faiths--bring them along!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend this year's Messiah Community Sing-in.

EMPTY NESTERS

We will be meeting April 14th at 7:00 pm. Jane Johnson is hosting. We meet on the 2nd Monday of the month and welcome any Empty Nesters to join with us.

WARD AND STAKE EVENTS AND NEWS

General Conference - April 5th & 6th

HAPPY EASTER on APRIL 20, 2014

Sorry for the passing of Brother Tom Nunley, a member of our ward, on Monday, March 24, 2014. Our deepest sympathies to family and friends.

The Family History Center

will have a 4-week, Tuesday morning class for people who would like to learn the Family Tree program.

You don't need to bring anything and handouts will be available. A sign-up sheet is going around in Relief Society or you can call Linda Tischler.

(Please indicate if you need to have an evening class instead.)

TUESDAY MORNING CLASS 10-11:30 AM

- April 8 -- Introduction, Adding, Editing & Searching Records
- April 15 - Temple Process - Reserving and Submitting Individuals
- April 22 - Combining Duplicate Individuals
- April 29 - Correcting Family Relationships

Taught by Linda Tischler 801-890-0322

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

DATE FOR MAY WILL BE APRIL 29th.
PLEASE FORWARD YOUR AUXILIARY INFORMATION TO ANDREA MARX AT:
sistermarx@gmail.com