

WILLOW CANYON 1st WARD

JULY 2014 THEME - ORDINANCES AND COVENANTS

In *Handbook 2: Administering the Church*, which is available online to all members, we are instructed that, "Priesthood authority is required to perform the ordinances of the gospel. An ordinance is a sacred physical act with symbolic meaning, such as baptism, confirmation, or the sacrament. Each ordinance opens the door to rich spiritual blessings."

I've often wondered why the ordinances are symbolic. Why couldn't we just receive these covenants in an easy to understand manner? I stumbled upon one answer in my martial arts class.

When I was only a student my instructors would tell me the same thing over and over again. "Anchor your elbows. Check your stance. Keep your eyes up." I would try to perform each movement the same way I saw them perform it. I would try to digest what they were saying, but I still didn't move like a black belt. Over the years of study I had more and more "ah ha" moments where a particular movement would "click" for me. I would understand the reasoning behind the movement and would then be able to apply that reasoning to other facets of the art, which would unlock more power and advanced movement. Those "ah ha" moments cemented in my mind what was being taught. While the repetitious instruction helped me focus on what was most important for me at the time, it was my sense of discovery that made it real for me.

After years of study and practice I received my brown belt and began to act as an assistant instructor. I then had the opportunity to teach those newer to the art. I found myself repeating the same instruction over and over again. "Anchor your elbows. Check your stance. Keep your eyes up." I knew the power that came from throwing a punch or block with my elbows anchored. I also knew how it protected me from other attacks. I would try to instill this on my students, showing them over and over. It would never click until they had their "ah ha" moment. It would then unlock more power and advanced movement for them.

It was easy to recognize the students that were practicing and studying the art because they were continually getting better. Those that were in casual attendance wouldn't learn nearly as fast, and some would even forget the lessons that had previously "clicked" for them. Even while I was acting as an instructor I was continuing my own progression toward black belt and occasionally even had my own "ah ha" moments while teaching others.

I consider understanding the symbolism of our sacred ordinances much the same, but with far more eternal consequences and rewards. They are like a physical parable, with many levels of understanding and we need our own "ah ha" moments of learning to solidify the teaching in our own minds. As we study the symbolism and participate in sacred ordinances for ourselves and as proxy, "the mysteries of God shall be unfolded unto you" as D&C 6:7 states, "and then shall you be made rich. Behold, he that hath eternal life is rich."

Indeed, the Handbook continues, "Some ordinances are required for exaltation in the celestial kingdom for all accountable persons. These ordinances include baptism, confirmation, Melchizedek Priesthood ordination (for men), the temple endowment, and temple sealing. All the ordinances necessary for salvation and exaltation are accompanied by covenants with God. A covenant is a sacred and enduring promise between God and His children. God gives the conditions for the covenant, and His children agree to comply with those conditions. God promises blessings that are conditional on the person faithfully fulfilling the covenant. As Church members honor and keep their covenants, they are greatly blessed in mortality and become eligible for exaltation."

(Continued on next page)

(Bishopric message continued)

What a privilege to be able to enter into a covenant with our Heavenly Father. We know from D&C 82:10 that "I, the Lord, am bound when ye do what I say;"

This evokes faith and confidence for me. We've all been let down by friends and family on occasion, but we can be confident that if we keep our covenants by being obedient to the conditions set forth, then our Heavenly Father is bound to bless us.

I have long been fascinated by D&C 121:45, "Let thy bowels also be full of charity towards all men, and to the household of faith, and let virtue garnish thy thoughts unceasingly; then shall thy confidence wax strong in the presence of God; and the doctrine of the priesthood shall distil upon thy soul as the dews from heaven."

How could I, a simple, imperfect man in need of a Savior, have confidence in the presence of God, my Eternal Father and King? I believe that confidence is born of our covenants. If we obey the commandments as talked about earlier in D&C 121, then while I'm certain I'll be on my knees, weeping in His presence, we can have confidence that He will maintain His part of the covenant, and the great blessings associated with those saving ordinances will be granted.

Further confidence is given knowing that the Holy Spirit of Promise will "testify to the Father that the saving ordinances have been performed properly and that the covenants associated with them have been kept." (Preach My Gospel pg. 91)

What an incredible blessing to have these ordinances and covenants available to us in this life; that we may participate on our own behalf, and what a sacred obligation to see that our ancestors who have died without this same opportunity receive it through our work. We can indeed become saviors on Mount Zion.

Let us each renew our commitment to worthily partake of the sacrament and attend the temple and receive all those saving ordinances for ourselves, or for our ancestors. One Name Each is the challenge from our Stake Presidency.

Your Bishopric



*Happy
Pioneer
Day this
July 24th*

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 (Returns July 14th)
Missouri St Louis Mission
1850 Craigshire Rd Ste 205
St Louis, MO 63146

Elder Gary and Sister Susan Johnson
105 Westpark Dr. Ste 190
Brentwood, Tennessee 37027

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

(The Leshers and Farris have the same mailing address:)

Elder Nelson and Sister Kim Leshar
Ensign Ranch Mission
3551 Hundley Rd.
Cle Elum, Washington 98922

Elder Jerry and Sister Charlene Farr
Ensign Ranch Mission
3551 Hundley Rd.
Cle Elum, Washington 98922

Sister Sarah Jones
Texan Houston South Mission
602 Eldridge Rd
Sugar Land, Texas 77478

Called:

Sister Samantha Ellis, MTC 7/9/14
Costa Rica San Jose Mission

PRIMARY

Yearly Theme: Families are Forever

Monthly Theme: We become members of the Church through Baptism and Confirmation

Monthly Scripture: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God"

(John 3:5)

We would like to thank Sister Sarah Jones for her service in the primary as a teacher teaching. We wish her well as she continues to serve the Lord as a missionary. We will miss her but wish her the best!

Just a reminder that we are still learning the scriptures each month and when your child learns the scripture they can pass it off to their teachers and get a prize. A lot of the children are doing great but a few can still use extra help from you. Thanks so much.

YOUNG WOMEN

July Activities:

July 9 - No activity due to Youth Conference
July 16 - Missionary care packages
July 23 - Personal progress
July 30 - Temple walk

SEALINGS

For the July sealings schedule contact
Lee Guest.

CUB SCOUTS

Wolves and Bears have Cub Twilight Camp July 16 & 17. Leaders will contact you.

RELIEF SOCIETY

Our July visiting teaching lesson is on "The Divine Mission of Jesus Christ: Advocate" It is through him that we can ask our Heavenly Father for blessings, answers to prayers etc. The side note "From the Scriptures" says:

Throughout the history of the Lord's Church, female disciples of Jesus Christ have followed his example. Esther was faithful and courageous. Her cousin Mordecai sent her a copy of the king's decree that the Jews should be destroyed and he charged her "to make request before {the king} for her people. " He added: "And who knoweth whether thou are come to the kingdom for such a time as this" (Esther 4: 8, 14.)

Despite the danger, Esther agreed: "So will I go in unto the king, which is not according to the law: and if I perish, I perish" (Esther 4:16)

Esther then spoke humbly to the king and "fell down at his feet, and besought him with tears...to reverse the letters.....to destroy the Jews. "she added, "How can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?" (see Ether 8:3,5-6). The king's heart was softened, and he granted her petition.

We hope that our sisters will share this message with the sisters they are assigned to visit and we want to thank them also for all that they do for their friends, neighbors, and sisters in the ward.

Thank you sisters who signed up for Wednesdays in July to be at the Alta Ridge Care Center for Relief Society, we really do appreciate your willingness to be there for those sweet sisters at the center. Please remember to be there 10 minutes before 10:00 am so that we can be ready to start at 10:00am.

Thank you also to the Glauser family for helping out with July 6th Sacrament Meeting.

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
- 15 Robbie Morris
- 16 Kent Nunley
- 17 Marilyn Crapo
- 19 Margie Guest
- 21 Marion Stoof
Teri Leslee Johnson
- 25 Robert Rawlings
- 26 Jerry Farr
- 27 Craig Fritzsche
Brent Gardner
- 29 Gerry Visser
Monica Jensen
Steven Rich
- 30 Robert Reynolds

August

- 3 Greg Miles

CHOIR

The Choir is changing the practice schedule for summer. In July, August and September we will practice when we sing on the 3rd Sunday at 8:10 am. Since we will sing easy hymns and the time commitment is low, this is the perfect time to try us out. All ages and skill levels welcome.

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

For employment opportunities and information please contact Lane Clark info@SmashCRM.com or

EMPTY NESTERS

We will be meeting July 14th at 7:00 pm. Annette Webster is hosting. We welcome any Empty Nesters to join with us.

MUSIC

"There are so many lovely songs in the hymn book that we never sing. "Great God Attend While Zion Sings", hymn # 88, is one of these songs. It is a hymn of praise about ZION with a beautiful melody.

During the month of July we will try to become more familiar with this song. Listen to the prelude for sacrament meeting each Sunday. Manette and Evah will play it a couple of times. Then on July 20th the choir will sing it. Follow the words along in the hymn book as they sing. Then the congregation will join in singing the last verse."

WARD AND STAKE EVENTS AND NEWS

Hope you had a safe and joyous 4th of July.

We will celebrate Pioneer Day on July 24th. We are grateful for the courage of those faithful pioneers who first settled in the Salt Lake Valley.

Sister Rachel Bierman returns from her mission July 14th and is scheduled to speak in Sacrament Meeting July 20th.

Welcome to the ward:

Andy Clegg; Mark Brandt; and Chloe & Matt Smith and three sons (house north of Annette Webster).

The Arnolds moved and asked to share their forwarding address and phone:

6096 Schooner Ln
Stansbury Park, UT 84074
Ph. 385-242-9908 or 435-882-6000

Sorry for the passing of Larry Kershaw. Services were held June 30th at the Sandy East Stake Center. Our prayers and condolences to the family. A great neighbor and friend will be missed.

The Stake is making a float for the 24th of July Parade. They can use your help on the float on Tuesday and Wednesday 6:00-7:00 PM. Also on Saturday mornings 8:00 until 12:00.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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