

WILLOW CANYON 1st WARD

NOVEMBER 2014 THEME - SPIRITUAL & TEMPORAL SELF RELIANCE

"Have I had some prayers that were not answered? Yes, and so have you".

Elder Neal Maxwell said this. My message is on temporal and spiritual self-reliance. I am going to focus on spiritual self-reliance. What is that anyway – spiritual self-reliance? For me this phrase asks the question (in a personal way) about my belief in God, my faith and trust in the atonement and its blessings. It hints at my relationship to Christ and my belief in the ordinances of our church, the validity of its priesthood, my belief in a living prophet and my faith that the Book of Mormon is the word of God. And more.

Someone once said that you can tell how you are living the gospel by what you do when no one is around. I like that. That's a good test if you feel like you want a test! But who wants a test. No one does. But the exams will come anyway, right? Don't ask for it just prepare for it. When the trial comes do you turn to prayer, fasting, scripture reading and doing things that will draw you nearer to God. Ok. That's good and that's right. Spiritual self-reliance is really and sensibly reliance on God. Self-reliance will get you on the wrong elevator. It is only in and through Jesus Christ that we are saved. Can't save yourself. Can't atone yourself. Only reliance on Christ will work. So you turn to your faith. Then what happens when your faith/prayers aren't answered. What happens when you are left to move forward without a clear direction from the heavens. I am positive the Lord wants all of us to be happy and I am positive that our trials don't make us happy. They're trial after all. What happens when the Lord doesn't give you a solution or solves it miraculously. Sometimes miracles happen but most often not. Mortal probation. One of the answers to prayers is that there is no answer. Why is that? What good is that? Seminary students are reading the D&C right now. I love to read the headings of the sections. So and so wants to know the will of the Lord concerning himself. It seems that most of the revelations are in answer to well meaning members seeking help. And they appear to be getting answers rather quickly. Well I want in on that! And even better – the Lord never changes so he could do that now for us, right? Those early saints needed answers. Needed direction on how to run a young church. They needed very specific direction. Sometimes we do too. But the Lord is the one who understands completely when those times are and when they aren't. I have learned that His answers to me can be clear and plain but also they can appear to be the opposite. This is the time when my spiritual self-reliance kicks in. And remember spiritual self-reliance is reliance on God not self. I trust that God knows all. He has a constant view of the present before him at all times. He knows the endless past and the eternal future. He knows what I need exactly.

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I am convinced that in this mortal life we sometimes have to make choices using all our past experiences including experiences with past prayers, fasting, real life situations, long studying of the scriptures, past mistakes, input from others – and then we move forward in prayer and the Lord will confirm and/or give us course changes if needed. You go by your faith.

You are spiritual self-reliant. You trust and you believe even when things aren't going right and you aren't getting the will of the Lord when you feel like you need it. You endure because you are spiritually reliant on the Lord. You don't lose the faith. The atonement is so beautiful because we make wrong decisions all the time. But the Lord will judge us according to the desires of our heart. This is the softening touch of the Lords hand.

Elder Maxwell said,

Desire denotes a real longing or craving. Hence righteous desires are much more than passive preferences or fleeting feelings. Of course our genes, circumstances, and environments matter very much, and they shape us significantly. Yet there remains an inner zone in which we are sovereign, unless we abdicate. In this zone lies the essence of our individuality and our personal accountability.

Therefore, what we insistently desire, over time, is what we will eventually become and what we will receive in eternity. "For I [said the Lord] will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts" (D&C 137:9; see also Jer. 17:10). Alma said, "I know that [God] granteth unto men according to their desire, ... I know that he allotteth unto men ... according to their wills" (Alma 29:4). To reach this equitable end, God's canopy of mercy is stretched out, including "all that shall die henceforth without a knowledge of [the gospel], who would have received it with all their hearts, shall be heirs of that kingdom;

"For I, the Lord, will judge all men according to their works, according to the desire of their hearts" (D&C 137:8–9).

God thus takes into merciful account not only our desires and our performance, but also the degrees of difficulty which our varied circumstances impose upon us. No wonder we will not complain at the final judgment, especially since even the teletial kingdom's glory "surpasses all understanding" (D&C 76:89). God delights in blessing us, especially when we realize "joy in that which [we] have desired" (D&C 7:8).

So be self-reliant. Rely on God. Through prayer, scripture study and living how you have been taught. Your religion requires faith in a time when most people live a religion without faith.

Bishop Milne

MISSIONARY ADDRESSES

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CUB SCOUTS

Cub Scout Pack Mtg is on Nov. 19th at 6:30

which is a week early because of Thanksgiving.

PRIMARY

Yearly Theme: Families are Forever

October Theme: "The Family: Living the teachings of Jesus Christ strengthens me and my family"

October Scripture: "Happiness in family life is most likely to be achieved when founded upon the teachings of the Lord Jesus Christ" ("The Family: A Proclamation to the World").

We would like to thank all of the children for the wonderful job they did on the Primary Program last Sunday. They all did great with their parts and sang beautifully. We also want to thank Sister Nydegger and Sister Clark for helping the children learn the songs and for Sister Shauna Strong for the wonderful job she did writing the program. It turned out great and we are sure that Heavenly Father was pleased listening to his children as they told about their love for him.

YOUNG MEN

Deacons Old Testament reading schedule for November (8 pages per day)

Nov 2 - 2 Samuel 16

Nov 9 - 2 Kings 4

Nov 16 - 1 Corinthians 15

Nov 23 - 2 Corinthians 31

Nov 30 - Job 3

Teachers & Priests quorums are reading the Doctrine and Covenants. They are reading four pages a day and will finish on December 10th. They are also doing a challenge to pray everyday.

RELIEF SOCIETY

Heavenly Father is Constantly
Raining Blessings
Upon Us



Sunday, November 30th
11:00 am - noon
Relief Society Room
All sisters are invited

1. Nov 8 - Relief Society Activity-9-12- mint class, etc. Anyone welcome to visit.
2. Annette Webster collecting for wedding of Rachel Bierman.
3. Thanks to all who helped clean the Temple.
4. Thanks to all who visit & take meals & help our dear sweet Joyce. Sooo good to see you in church last Sunday!
5. Gary & Susan home.

Questions? Call Jane 801-571-6355

BIRTHDAYS



November

- 2 Richard Haight
- 3 Sydney Eby
- 5 John Mahler
Debra Hawkins
- 9 Kyson Wilcox
Bonnie Ellis
- 11 Charles Schmitt
- 13 Bailie Newland
Kyle Clark
- 14 Elizabeth Rawlings
Isaac Miles
- 16 Annette Webster
Morgan Miller
- 21 Jacob Alexander Hof
- 23 Cole Lloyd
Keith Thomas
- 29 Brooklyn Glauser
Ariel Morrison
- 30 Michele Cuburu
Jack Nydegger

December

- 1 Joel Weight
- 4 Matthew Miller
Mackenzie Glauser
- 5 Rita Kelly
Allyn Thompson

WELCOME BACK

Elder Bruce and Sister Vivienne Sullivan. Thanks for your honorable service.

CHOIR

Choir Practice will be every Sunday at 1:00 at Mary Bye's, except for the third Sunday when we perform. Practice on that day will be at 8:15 am in the Chapel. We invite all ages who love to sing, to join us.

YOUNG WOMEN

Nov 5 Personal Progress
Nov 12 Young Women in Excellence
Nov 20 Special Needs Mutual
Nov 26 No Mutual due to Thanksgiving
Nov 30 Sacrament Program

FAMILY HISTORY

If anyone would like help doing family history, please call Gwen Brandt at 435-770-3410. She is the new ward family history rep. and would be happy to come into your home and help you get started.

WARD INFORMATION

The end of the year is drawing near and I need all auxiliaries to send me a current list of officers and teachers. Also anything noteworthy for your auxiliary would be welcome to put into the history. Please email to sallieschmitt25@gmail.com and indicate 1st Ward information in the subject line.

STAKE EVENTS

November 15 - Stake Cultural Arts Activity Writers Workshop

Register for the Stake Writers Workshop

The Sandy Utah East Stake invites you to register for a writers workshop, **Open Up to the World of Writing**, held Saturday, November 15 from 1-4:30 p.m. at the Sandy Utah East Stake Center. This free workshop includes a keynote address by Jeff Scott Savage, acclaimed author of the best-selling *FarWorld* series, *Case File 13* and the techno-thriller *Cutting Edge*. Brother Savage's opening address will be followed by breakout sessions with nine local published authors: Michele Bell, Thal Dixon, David Gaunt, Dennis Gaunt, LaRene Gaunt, Chris Hall, Lisa Mangum, Jeanette Matern and Karen Tuft. These sessions will cover a range of writing-related topics for both fiction and non-fiction writing. If you are a writer, would-be writer or a lover of writing, bring a friend and join us for day of fun and learning.

For more information and to register, visit SandyWritersWorkshop.weebly.com.

November 27th -- Happy Thanksgiving
December 7th - Christmas Devotional

EMPLOYMENT

For employment opportunities and information please contact Lane Clark at: info@SmashCRM.com or call at home

WEDDING BELLS

Rachel Bierman & Todd Irish Nov 15
Klarissa Wells & Devin Wheelwright Dec 30

EMPTY NESTERS

Manette Muri will be hosting our November 10th meeting at 7:00 pm. We have chosen to read the "Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt". All Empty Nesters are welcome.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

DATE FOR DECEMBER WILL BE TUESDAY, DECEMBER 2ND.
PLEASE FORWARD YOUR AUXILIARY INFORMATION TO
ANDREA MARX AT:
sistermarx@gmail.com

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