

Willow Canyon First Ward

March 2015 - The Atonement

For many years I wondered why in the Church we spend so much time on Adam and Eve. Yes, they were our first parents. Yes, Michael helped in the creation of the earth for us. Other prophets have done great things. Abraham entered into a covenant with God that affects all of his posterity, including us. Moses delivered the children of Israel from Egypt to a promised land, performing miracles that have been talked about for millennia. Isaiah wrote tremendous prophecies about the Savior hundreds of years before His birth. The apostles at the time of the Savior helped to establish the Church and recorded His ministry which we can all read today. Joseph Smith was the first prophet in the dispensation of the fullness of times, restoring the gospel to a world in spiritual darkness. Ammon, that great missionary in the Book of Mormon had knowledge of Abraham, Moses, Isaiah, and other great Old Testament prophets, but when he had the attention of King Lamoni, what was the first thing he taught? “Now when Ammon had said these words, he began at the creation of the world, and also the creation of Adam, and told him all the things concerning the fall of man.” (Alma 18:36)

Aaron, when teaching Lamoni’s father, did the same thing! “And it came to pass that when Aaron saw that the king would believe his words, he began from the creation of Adam, reading the scriptures unto the king—how God created man after his own image, and that God gave him commandments, and that because of transgression, man had fallen.” (Alma 22:12)

Preach My Gospel, our modern missionary manual, seems to follow the same pattern as these very successful ancient missionaries. The chapter on the Plan of Salvation covers Pre-Earth Life, The Creation, Agency and the Fall of Adam and Eve, Our Life on Earth, and then, finally, gets to a section on The Atonement. If the Savior is the central figure in the Plan of Salvation, why wouldn’t we teach about Him first?

Imagine for a moment that Ammon, having King Lamoni’s full attention, began by saying, “Well, in a few hundred years the Son of God will be born, and will die to save you.” A logical response from Lamoni would be, “Save me from what? I’m the king, what do I need saving from?” I see so many of my friends that lose faith simply because they don’t see a need for saving. Many of the youth use the phrase “first world problems”. It means those things that we complain about simply because there is nothing better to complain about. We have sufficient food, money, transportation, even recreation, so we complain that we are tired of all the restaurants near work. Many of us literally live like kings. So what do we need saving from?

In *Preach My Gospel*, we are taught:

“In the Garden of Eden, God gave Adam and Eve their agency. He commanded them not to eat the forbidden fruit, or the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Obeying this commandment meant that they could remain in the garden, but they could not progress by experiencing opposition in mortality. They could not know joy because they could not experience sorrow and pain.

Satan tempted Adam and Eve to eat the forbidden fruit, and they chose to do so. This was part of God’s plan. Because of this choice, they were cast from the garden and out of God’s physical presence. This event is called the Fall. Separation from God’s presence is spiritual death. Adam and Eve became mortal – subject to physical death, or separation of the body and spirit. They could now experience disease and all types of suffering. They had moral agency or the ability to choose between good and evil. This made it possible for them to learn and progress. It also made it possible for them to make wrong choices and to sin. In addition, they could now have children, so the rest of God’s spirit children could come to earth, obtain physical bodies, and be tested. Only in this way could God’s children progress and become like Him.”

Ammon was laying a foundation for King Lamoni so that when he taught of the Savior, His mission wouldn’t appear superfluous. The need would be established. Lamoni was about to understand his mortal, imperfect position and the fact that he can’t fix that himself, not with the resources of an entire kingdom. A Savior was needed to overcome the obstacles of physical and spiritual death.

Preach My Gospel teaches this of the Atonement:

“We will all suffer physical death, but Jesus Christ overcame the obstacle of physical death for us. When He died on the cross, His spirit became separated from His body. On the third day, His spirit and His body were reunited eternally, never to be separated again. He appeared to many people, showing them that He had an immortal body of flesh and bone. The reuniting of body and spirit is called resurrection and is a gift promised to each of us. Because of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, we will all be resurrected regardless of whether we have done good or evil in this life. We will have a perfect, immortal body of flesh and bones that will never again be subject to disease, pain, or death. The resurrection makes it possible to return to God’s presence to be judged, but does not guarantee that we will be able to live in His presence. To receive that blessing, we must also be cleansed from sin.

God sent His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to overcome the obstacle of sin in addition to the obstacle of physical death. We are not responsible for the Fall of

Adam and Eve, but we are responsible for our own sins. God cannot look on sin with any degree of allowance, and sin prevents us from living in His presence. Only through the Savior's grace and mercy can we become clean from sin so that we can live with God again. This is possible through exercising faith in Jesus Christ, repenting, being baptized, receiving the gift of the Holy Ghost, and enduring to the end."

Thanks to the Savior, we will all be resurrected, and we can all be forgiven of our sins. Knowing just this much, we should be eternally grateful to our Heavenly Father for such a marvelous plan, and for sending His Son to fulfil the plan, especially at such a great cost.

I have friends that have spent two years in the service of the Lord, teaching of this perfect plan and of His Atonement, and yet have lost their testimony of Him. So many of us reach out to the Savior for help and comfort in times of need, and then forget Him in times of plenty.

When Alma taught the poor, he counseled them:

"13 And now, because ye are compelled to be humble blessed are ye; for a man sometimes, if he is compelled to be humble, seeketh repentance; and now surely, whosoever repenteth shall find mercy; and he that findeth mercy and endureth to the end the same shall be saved.

14 And now, as I said unto you, that because ye were compelled to be humble ye were blessed, do ye not suppose that they are more blessed who truly humble themselves because of the word?

15 Yea, he that truly humbleth himself, and repenteth of his sins, and endureth to the end, the same shall be blessed – yea, much more blessed than they who are compelled to be humble because of their exceeding poverty.

16 Therefore, blessed are they who humble themselves without being compelled to be humble; or rather, in other words, blessed is he that believeth in the word of God, and is baptized without stubbornness of heart, yea, without being brought to know the word, or even compelled to know, before they will believe."

When we remember the Savior in times of hardship, it is often touching and a time of growth, but let us also remember the great gift of the Atonement and not "...trample under [our] feet the Holy One – yea, and this because of their ease, and their exceedingly great prosperity."

The Atonement brings joy, comfort, confidence, and peace in every aspect of our lives; in times of ease and times of trial if we will only remember Him and keep His commandments. Let us reap the full benefits of the Atonement and continually thank our Father in Heaven for such a tremendous gift.

- Your Bishopric

Happy Birthday!



March 2015

- 3 Erika Weight
- 7 Shauna Strong
- 12 Barbara Bybee
- 13 Eliza Rigby
- 14 Susan Johnson
- 16 Charlene Farr
- 17 Betty Woolley
- 22 Rebecca McLain
- 23 Kristy Jones
- 24 Kevin Pasker
 - Arianah Cowgur
- 25 Mary Visser
- 26 Ronald Woolley
 - Matt Smith
 - Eliana Riep
- 27 Elaine Shaw
- 28 Brandon Pasker
- 29 Susan Milne
 - Barbara Pasker

April 2015

- 1 Jim Hanson
 - Spencer Ellis
 - David Jones
- 3 Doug Jensen

Relief Society

Dear Sisters, we would like to thank you for attending our annual Relief Society Birthday Social. It was a great success! It is always nice to have time to just visit. And it was fun to learn a few new things about each other. Thanks to our committee, Vanessa, Amber, Terri, and Shelly, who planned, set up, and decorated. Thanks to Shelly and her girls who made the darling hand warmers as favors.

Thank you also for your help with recent funerals and meals. It's nice to know we can count on each other. We love you all!

Coming up:

March 3rd- We need volunteers to help with an assignment to bottle honey at Welfare Square.

March 7th - Stake Women's Conference from 10:00-12:00. All sisters 12 and older are invited to attend. Sunday dress is requested. A luncheon will follow the conference. We will need the help of two sisters from our ward to assist with a quick clean-up.

March 28th - General Women's Conference. The meeting will be broadcast at the Stake Center at 6:00 p.m.

Love, The Relief Society Presidency

Family History

The Riverton Family History Center is an amazing source of information for those interested in the subject. On the third Saturday morning of every month, they have a seminar which features a guest speaker and several classes, from which you pick two to attend that day. They also teach classes almost every day, all day on some days, that cover many topics of Family History on all skill levels. I have the schedule for March; if anyone is interested in obtaining a copy, please contact Gwen Brandt at 435-770-3410

Young Men

The annual Scouting for Food drive will be Saturday, March 21. The scouts will drop off a flyer reminder a couple days before and then come by on the 21st at 9am to pick up your generous donations. Thanks.

Teachers/Priests Quorum:

Wednesday, **March 4** - Baptisms for the dead
- Meet at 6:15 p.m.

Tuesday, **March 10** - Combined Activity -
Road Home - Meet at church at 6:15

Wednesday, **March 18** - Dinner Activity

Wednesday, **March 25** - Tour of the Conference
Center - Meet at Brother Glauser's
house at 6:20 p.m.

Wednesday, **April 1** - Night Games - 7 p.m.



Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your contributions for the April newsletter no later than March 31st to dbmahler@velvetshadow.com. All auxiliaries are encouraged to contribute to the newsletter each month.

Missionary Addresses

Elder Zach Rigby

South Carolina Columbia Mission
110 Oak Park Drive, Suite B
Irmo, SC 29063-6110

Elder Nelson & Sister Kim Leshner

Ensign Ranch Mission
3551 Hundley Road
Cle Elum, WA 98922-9431
lesher100@msn.com

Elder Jerry & Sister Charlene Farr

Ensign Ranch Mission
3551 Hundley Road
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Sister Sarah Jones

Texas Houston South Mission
602 Eldridge Road
Sugar Land, TX 77478-2804

Hermana Samantha Josie Ellis

mision san jose costa rica
apartado postal 249-2010
zapote
san jose, costa rica

Elder Jared Rigby

Mississippi Jackson Mission
1875 Burnham Road
Brandon, MS 39042

Employment

For employment opportunities and information, please contact Lane Clark at: info@SmashCRM.com or call him at his home at: 801-571-7857.

Young Women

March 4 - Baptisms for the dead
March 10 - Road Home activity for children
at Midvale shelter - combined with YM
March 18 - Personal Progress
March 25 - Self Defense class

Cub Scouts



Pack Meeting
will be held
on Wednesday,
March 25th
at 6:30 p.m.
at the Stake Center.

Choir

**ALL THOSE WHO LOVE TO SING
YOUNG OR OLD - PLEASE JOIN ME!**

Thank you to all choir members
who participated last month
in our Sacrament meeting.

The choir was wonderful
and Stefan Well's solo was beautiful.
We encourage those who love to sing
to come join us every third Sunday.

We practice from 10:15 to 10:50
on the same day of our performance.

We will be singing familiar songs
from the hymn book.

See you on March 15th!

Donna Strong
Ward Choir Director



Primary

The theme for the year 2015 is "I Know My Savior Lives".

The theme for March is "God Speaks through Prophets".

The scripture for March is: "He spake by the mouth of his Holy Prophets, which have been since the world began."

(Luke 1:70)

We just want to remind you that with our theme of Knowing that the Savior Lives, we have challenged the children to find opportunities to help others by being the Savior's hands. When they do something for someone else they can write what they did on a paper hand and then pin it on the wall in the Primary Room. The children have been great at doing things for others and we would like to keep this up, and help them realize that by doing things for others we are helping the Savior.

Thanks,
The Primary Presidency



Empty Nesters

FHE will be held March 9th at 7:00 pm.
Bob and Andrea Marx will be hosting.

We are enjoying reading the
"Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt."

We welcome all Empty Nesters
to join us on the
second Monday of the month.