

Indian Ridge Ward

December 2016 – Come Unto Christ and be Perfected in Him

The purpose of nearly every talk in General Conference, every talk in Sacrament Meeting, and every Gospel Doctrine class we attend is to help us come unto Christ and be perfected in Him.

The prophet Joseph Smith said:

“When you climb up a ladder, you must begin at the bottom, and ascend step by step, until you arrive at the top; and so it is with the principles of the gospel—you must begin with the first, and go on until you learn all the principles of exaltation.”

In the Fourth Article of Faith, Joseph Smith enumerated the first four principles of the gospel:

1. Faith in the Lord Jesus Christ
2. Repentance
3. Baptism by immersion for the remission of sins
4. Laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost

When we understand and properly apply the principles of the gospel we come unto Christ. In other words, we are ascending the ladder Joseph Smith referred to above; we’re becoming perfected in Christ.

The first two principles, faith in the Lord Jesus Christ and repentance, are principles of that which we grow in over a lifetime, whereas the last two principles, baptism and laying on of hands, are ordinances that are given one time. Once we’re baptized and confirmed by the laying on of hands for the gift of the Holy Ghost, the process of increasing in faith in the Lord Jesus Christ occurs as we repent. Repentance is the key to coming to Christ and being perfected in Him.

The standing and status of repentance was revealed to the prophet Joseph Smith in these words, “Say nothing but repentance unto this generation.” (D&C 11:9) In another place the Lord again says, “I command you that you preach naught but repentance.” (D&C 19:21) This emphasis on repentance is significant.

The Savior came into mortality to die so we could repent. No wonder the Father laments, even angers when we fail to recognize the depth of the sacrifice made by His Son, in our behalf, so we can repent.

“Thou art angry, O Lord, with this people, because they will not understand Thy mercies which Thou hast bestowed upon them because of Thy Son.” (Alma 33:16)

The Savior revealed to Joseph Smith some details of the Atonement, why he did it, and the price he paid:

“For behold, I, God, have suffered these things for all, that they might not suffer if they would repent; But if they would not repent they must suffer even as I; Which suffering caused myself, even God, the greatest of all, to tremble because of pain, and to bleed at every pore, and to suffer both body and spirit – and would that I might not drink the bitter cup, and shrink.” (D&C 19:16–18)

There is a revealing account in the Book of Mormon that helps us understand the power that repentance can have for those who are diligent followers of Christ. The people of king Benjamin, “. . .viewed themselves in their own carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth. And they all cried aloud with one voice, saying: O have mercy, and apply the atoning blood of Christ that we may receive forgiveness of our sins.” (Mosiah 4:2)

How does one repent? Offering a sincere prayer will start the process of repentance.

How long does it take to repent?

For many sins, repentance is accomplished quickly. Too often we think of forgiveness in terms of months or years. Elder Hugh W. Pinnock said, “The Lord forgives us in a millionth of a millisecond.”

What if I repent, then later commit the same sin again, and then again?

This is a common problem. For some sins, it takes time and patience. We need to be wise and not fall into the trap of thinking God is like we are, impatient and easily

discouraged. When we get tired of repenting of the same thing over and over, we think God gets tired too. We need to be careful about measuring God with the measure of a man. In other words, God is perfect. If we think of God as an imperfect man, then we can fall into the trap of judging God.

Elder Neil Anderson wrote:

“Don’t be discouraged. If you are striving and working to repent, you are in the process of repenting.”

Elder Cornish taught:

“If we will sincerely repent, God really will forgive us, even when we have committed the same sin over and over again. As Elder Jeffrey R. Holland said: ‘However many chances you think you have missed, however many mistakes you feel you have made ..., I testify that you have not traveled beyond the reach of divine love. It is not possible for you to sink lower than the infinite light of Christ’s Atonement shines.’”

There are many more questions about repentance that could be asked. If you have questions about repentance, meet with the Bishop, have confidence that the Lord will guide the Bishop in answering your question(s). Remember, the Savior’s gift to us is the Atonement, our gift to Him is sincere repentance.

“Whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive, for of such is the kingdom of God. Behold, for such I have laid down my life, and have taken it up again; therefore repent, and come unto me ye ends of the earth, and be saved.”
(3 Nephi 9:22)

Often, church members believe in Christ, but struggle to believe him when he says he is merciful and forgiving. I know by experience that God is quick to forgive and far more merciful than we understand. The Savior of the world knows each of us and will lead us by the hand into the Kingdom of God to be joint-heirs with Him if we will come unto Him and be believing.

The Bishopric

Relief Society

Merry Christmas to all! What a wonderful time of year to celebrate the birth of our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, to reflect on His life and ministry to save us all. May we all strive to emulate and follow His teachings and love, to feel the magic of this Christmas season. Let us open our hearts and hands in service, as He so often did.

We want to welcome Devin and Klarissa Wells Wheelwright to our Ward Family. They are living with the Wells's home as they are finishing school. We also want to welcome Lyman and Jennie Ann Bangerter, who live on 1380 East, to our Ward Family. We are feeling blessed as we welcome these new families to our ward.

Thank you, ladies, for all your help and service at the Alta Ridge Care Center. Our dear friends there love it when we come and spend time with them. We are so blessed as we feel their spirit and love.

We want to thank the Enrichment Committee for all their hard work and time spent on making our Super Saturday so very Super! Those who attended not only made some fun projects but we also tied three quilts to be donated to the Women's Shelter. Thank you to all the sisters for their donations that helped to make the day a success. Everyone had a wonderful time laughing and visiting and getting to know each other better. The luncheon was yummy too! Thank you again.

We also want to invite all the sisters to our Relief Society Waffle Breakfast on Saturday, December 10th at 9:00 a.m. at the Roseboro building. We know this is a busy time of year, but we want to treat you to a few minutes for yourself, and to take this opportunity to spoil you. Come and enjoy!

Upcoming dates to remember:

December 4th - First Presidency's Christmas Devotional

December 10th - RS Waffle Breakfast at 9:00 a.m. at the Roseboro building.

December 25th - Merry Christmas - Sacrament Meeting only

January 1st - Happy New Year - **2017 Meeting Schedule 9:00 a.m.**

We send our love and prayers to our dear sisters through all your many challenges and struggles and especially our dear sisters who are fighting cancer. We love you! May you all be blessed and strengthened.

Love, Kim, Kathi, Shelly, and Charlene

Primary

Yearly Theme:

I know the Scriptures are True

December Theme:

The Scriptures teach me about
the Savior's birth and second coming



December Scripture: "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."
(Matthew 16:27)

Thank you to all the Primary children for working so hard on their parts and singing for the program and for the parents for helping! The program was a huge success! Good job!

We'd like to welcome Scott Williams and Ken Plumb into the Primary, we're excited to have you with us!

The Primary Presidency

Choir

Come and celebrate Christmas morning
by singing Christmas hymns with the Choir.

Anyone who has a desire to sing
is wanted and needed.

We rehearse at 9:45 a.m.
in the Relief Society Room each Sunday.
Treats will be provided.



Young Women

Wednesday, December 7

Christmas Pajama Party at
Crystal's house

Wednesday, December 14

Temple Square Christmas lights
Meet at 5:20 p.m., leave at 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

YM/YW Combined Service Activity
Distribute gift baskets

Wednesday, December 28

No Activity

Employment

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

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit your contributions
for the January newsletter
no later than **December 27th**
to dbmahler@velvetshadow.com

**Thank you to each person who takes the
time to contribute their information
for this newsletter every month!**

Family History

The Stake Family History Center
is closed until the new year and
then resumes the original schedule
starting January 3rd

Young Men

Teachers/Priests:

Wednesday, December 7

Young Men Activity – 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 14

Young Men Activity – 7 p.m.

Wednesday, December 21

YM/YW Combined Activity

Wednesday, December 28

No Activity

**The weekly activity night for the
Teachers and Priests will be moving to
Tuesday nights in 2017.**

“Friends of Scouting” donations can still
be made through the end of the year
online at
<http://gslc.patchfunding.com/2D493>

Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year!!!



Happy Birthday!!!

December 2016



- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Joel Weight
Barbara Wightman | |
| 2 Luc West | |
| 4 Mackenzie Glauser
Matthew Miller | |
| 5 Jeanene Clayton | 18 Dorothy Mahler |
| Rita Kelly | 19 Logan McLeskey |
| Mike Smith | 20 Bill Mertlich |
| Allyn Thompson | 22 Marlene Baarz |
| 9 Larry Curtis | 23 Amber Williams |
| Jennifer McLain | 24 Liam Ellis |
| Stuart Nebeker | 26 Lynn Jensen |
| 10 Amanda Messerly | 28 Kristina Ellis |
| Hannah North | 29 Nick Taylor |
| 11 Scarlett North | Kurt Young |
| Marie West | 30 Joseph Olsen |
| 16 Alan Harris | Scott Williams |
| 17 Chloe Smith | 31 Bob Thompson |

Our Ward Missionaries

Elder David Coleman Lloyd
AUG02 ARG-CMRV
2005 North 900 East, Unit 202
Provo, UT 84602

Gary and Susan Johnson
Inner City Mission,
Columbus Branch

Chris and Kathy Machinski
Addiction Recovery Program
Missionaries

Robert and Andrea Marx
Guest Service Missionaries
at Temple Square

Bruce and Vivienne Sullivan
Helsinki Finland Temple Mission
Leppäsillantie 3,
FI-02620 Espoo, Finland
Check out their missionary blog at:
SullivansinFinland.blogspot.com

Bob and Marie Thompson
Service Missionaries
at the Bishops' Storehouse

Joshua Ellis
Leaves December 7th for the
Dominican Republic
Santo Domingo West Mission

Ward Missionaries:
Robert & Carrie Burnett
Jim & Myrna Christensen
Richard & Linda Hackett
Ryan & Allison Terry



A big thanks to all who contributed to the

Sub for Santa

last year for the Burmese Refugees in the Columbus Branch in Salt Lake, where Gary or Susan Johnson are serving their mission.

If you would like to donate this year, cash donations will be the most helpful.

Gary and Susan will be buying \$25 and \$35 Walmart gift cards with the money that they collect no later than today, December 4th.

If you'd rather buy the gift cards to donate, they will be gratefully accepted.

Please contact Susan Johnson at 801-842-7427 for further information.

The Bishop is also handling a local Sub for Santa family if you would like to donate for that. Just put "Sub for Santa" in the "Other" spot on the donation slip.

Cub Scouts



Only the boys will meet this time, and it will be on December 14th.

The time of the meeting will be announced by the boys' leaders, but it will probably be in the afternoon.

We will be doing a service project.

High Priests

The new Ward Temple Sealings time is the second Friday of each month at 7 pm. In February and August we will not do sealings due to temple cleaning.

Call Kevin Pasker for additional information at 801-414-0338



Empty Nesters

Empty Nesters will meet on Monday, December 12th at 7:00 p.m. at the home of Jane Johnson, 1476 Eastpoint Circle.

We are still reading "The Autobiography of Parley P. Pratt".

All Empty Nesters are welcome, but please give Jane a call at 801-831-2355 or 801-571-6355 if you plan to come, just so we have enough seats.

“Light the World” this Christmas season

Follow Our Savior Jesus Christ. In 25 Ways. Over 25 Days.

Every day leading up to Christmas is a chance to look at the things Jesus Christ did and resolve to do the same. To help, *mormon.org* will be providing daily inspiration, suggestions, and encouragement on how we can follow the example of Jesus Christ and #LIGHTtheWORLD.

December 1st: Jesus lifted others' burdens, and so can you.

December 2nd: Jesus honored his parents, and so can you.

December 3rd: Jesus helped other, and so can you.

December 4th: Jesus worshipped his father, and so can you.

December 5th: Jesus healed the sick, and so can you.

December 6th: Jesus read the scriptures, and so can you.

December 7th: Jesus fed the hungry, and so can you.

December 8th: Jesus prayed for others, and so can you.

December 9th: Jesus visited the lonely, and so can you.

December 10th: Jesus helped people walk, and so can you.

December 11th: Jesus ministered to children, and so can you.

December 12th: Jesus taught others, and so can you.

December 13th: Jesus showed humility, and so can you.

December 14th: Jesus taught us to clothe the naked, and you can help.

December 15th: Jesus worshipped through song, and so can you.

December 16th: Jesus showed compassion, and so can you.

December 17th: Jesus cared for his mother, and so can you.

December 18th: Jesus honored the Sabbath, and so can you.

December 19th: Jesus calmed the storm, and so can you.

December 20th: Jesus saw potential in others, and so can you.

December 21st: Jesus forgave others, and so can you.

December 22nd: Jesus showed gratitude, and so can you.

December 23rd: Jesus was a peacemaker, and you can be one too.

December 24th: Jesus cared for his loved ones, and so can you.

December 25th: Jesus's disciples followed Him and so can we.

For additional information and ideas, go to **mormon.org**