

Westbrook 5th Ward History 2018

Unit #: 174335

By: Bruce Holman

Approved by: Bishop Ekker



Kurt Allen, Bishop Matt Ekker, Matthew Hofer

Jan 28th – Legacy assignment

The priesthood faithfully fulfilled their assignment to bless and pass the sacrament at the Legacy Health Care facility.

Feb 11th – Ward Conference

The stake presidency of the West Jordan, Utah, Westbrook stake attended, and a vote was called to sustain the leadership of the Westbrook 5th ward. The sustaining list is attached. Bishop Ekker gave an inspiring talk and encouraged the members to live the standards of the gospel and strive to adhere to the stake goals.

President Paul Starkie then concluded the meeting presenting the vision of the stake and its goals for the upcoming year.

February 24th – Ward Luau; A roasted pig, dancing & the Haka by the YM



Darryl Meier, Susan Holman, Megan Cannon, Matt Hofer, Bro. Brock(guest), Maylee Hofer



Sherisse Meier, Nick Ryan Emma Stowe, Damian Hobbs, Michelle Beverley



Sister Missionaries



Brent Malili, Susan Holman, Matt Hofer, Brocks



Michele Beverely, Megan Cannon, Benjamin Tomlinson



Saina Malili



March 1 – 3 – Roots Tech

Gaylan Luke and Bruce Holman attended at the convention center downtown.

Sister Doris Bergener passed away this month, wife of Ross Bergener who served as our previous stake patriarch.

March 16 - Kristel Orozco reception

April 11 – YW’s Camp Kickoff; Heber Valley camp

April 22 – New Elder’s quorum installed & new Ward mission leader

President Jess Hansen was recalled as the new Elder’s quorum president with Bruce Holman as 1st councilor and Brent Malili as 2nd councilor. Sheldon LaMont was called as the new ward mission leader.

April 24 – Weston Fower’s Mission Farewell

May 11 Mother/Daughter – Pedicure night









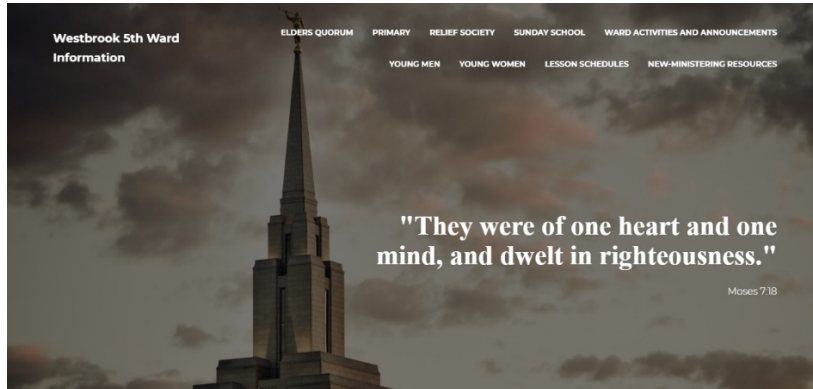


May 20 – Jordan River Temple dedication

May 30 – Youth help in neighborhood dumpster cleanup

A number of youth in the ward including Nolan Ekker and Donovan Goodwin helped load garbage, wood and junk into the county dumpsters, setting an example to the less active and non-members they served.

Ward Website Created: By Becky Tomlinson



I was called in February of 2018 to serve as Ward Communications Specialist. The bishopric asked me to build and manage a website, and to implement the use of Remind.com in our ward. Both of these tools facilitate communication of ward activities and information from leaders to the ward members.

When I was called, I was excited to see the ways I could help our ward. But when the changes to our Sunday schedule were announced in the October General Conference, I knew our bishopric was inspired. We were asked by our leaders to use our two hours in church each Sunday well by limiting announcements. Having a website gives the members one place they can go to learn about activities and upcoming lessons, any time during the week. We can include details and

information on the website that would be time consuming to announce in meetings.

June 7 -9 Ward Campout – The Old Church at Rockport State Park



Donovan Goodwin



Larson's dog



Bruce Holman



Erin Johnson, Kameron Ekker, Sister & Bro. Blake Meier



Donovan & Abbigail Goodwin, Jack & Joshua Johnson



Susan Holman, Erin Johnson



Todd Larson & dogs, Nadine Larson, Colette & Jamison Patterson, Belle Patterson



Abbigail Goodwin, Sarah Debra Bishop Kameron Ekker



Blake & Shalee Meier family



John & Austin Beverley



Aleigha Michele Hunter Beverley



Hunter Beverley, Nolan Ekker



Susan & Bruce Holman



Sarah, Debra, Bishop Matt Ekker



Maggie Johnson, Sarah & Kameron Ekker



Susan Holman, Erin Johnson, Colette Patterson



Anne Paxman holding Sadie Allen, Steve Paxman



Carmela Lowe, Kendall Johnson



Isabella Lowe, Josh Johnson, Keirslyn Turner, Maylee Hofer, Belle Hiram Jamison Patterson, Landon Fugal, Blake Allen, Brody Adams



Landon Adams



Nolan Ekker, Natalie & Tiffany Bona, Brad & Debbie Bona, Erin Johnson



Anne & Steve Paxman



Nolan Ekker, Tiffany Bona, Brad Bona



Gary Ellis, Brady Patterson, Emily Adams



Bruce Holman watching Nolan Ekker eat



John Beverley, Jerel Lowe



Kendall Johnson



Donovan & Rebekah Goodwin



Bruce Holman, Gary Ellis, Susan Holman



Landon Fugal, Sam Johnson, Brody Adams, Blake Allen, Devin Hofer, Hiram Patterson, Joshua Johnson



Jamison Patterson, Jack Johnson, Ethan Bona



Belle Patterson, Bryan Maylee & Matt Hofer



Old Church Campground near Rockport Res.

June 14 – 16 Priest's Moon Lake Trip



Matt Hofer, Jaeden Fowers, Autsin Olson, Donovan Goodwin



John Beverley, Bishop Matt Ekker



Bishop Matt Ekker, Austin Olson, Nolan Ekker, John Beverley, Matt Hofer



June 16 – Daddy/Daughter

A Country dinner was served, and the girls dressed up like cowboys. They tried their hands at lassoing and then had pictures taken behind jail bars.

July 23 – 27 YW Camp – Heber Valley Camp













Bruce & Susan Holman, Shana Hansen, Cathy Blumenkrantz







Alyssa Hansen, Kimberlynn Fowers, Taylor Allen



Aliana Livingston, Siana Malili

WEDNESDAY July 25th	
7:00	Scripture Study
7:10	Help with Breakfast with Stake
8:30	Flag Ceremony
9:00	Prepare Skit
12:00	Lunch with Stake
1:00	Challenge Course
4:30	Practice Skits
5:00	Dinner (Miamaid's)
7:00	Flag Ceremony
7:30	Skits
8:30	Devotional
10:00	Secure camp/ quiet time
THURSDAY JULY 26th	
7:00	Scripture Study
7:30	Breakfast with Stake
8:30	Flag Ceremony
9:00	Nature Hike (Stake)
11:30	Free Time
12:30	Lunch (Stake)
1:30	Mystery Game & Prepare for Visitor's
4:00	Stake Activity YW & Bishop's
5:00	Flag Ceremony
5:30	Dinner with Visitors (Everyone)
7:30	Testimony meeting
10:00	Secure camp/ quiet time

Aug 14 – New Ward historian (set apart on 26th) Bruce Holman

Aug 19 – Church cancelled due to power outage

Aug 28 – 1st - Temple cleaning

The ward members faithfully fulfilled their assignment to clean the Oquirrh Mtn. temple

Oct 6 – Brandi Davis Wedding, daughter of Dave & Mary Davis

Oct 13 – Elder's Quorum Dutch oven dinner





Matt Hofer, Brent Malili, Susan Holman



Susan Holman, Gary Ellis



Kathrene Livingston

Oct 28 – Legacy assignment. The brethren fulfilled this assignment.

Nov 27 – Elders quorum help Fugals move(Mark & Corinne Fugal)

Dec 14 – Ward Christmas Party

We began with a 15 minute devotional in the chapel with speakers and a video of the nativity. We had pulled-pork sandwiches and pasta salad. Many members and non-members attended. The children sang Jingle Bells to introduce Santa Claus who was played by Roger King.

Dec – Youth service project

The youth collected clothing to donate to the EPIC center as a service project. It was a great success with the ward donating a lot of clothes which the members of EPIC greatly appreciated.

Organizational Histories

Elder's quorum history for 2018

After the change which combined the Elder's and High Priest quorums and groups that President Nelson announced in the Priesthood session of the April General Conference. The Stake President (President Starkie) quickly released the current Elders Presidency and the High Priest Group Leadership. And called Jess Hansen as the new Elder's Quorum President. President Hansen called as Bruce Holman as the first counselor and Brent Malili and the second counselor and Brent Sabey as the Secretary.

Following the new announcements made in General Conference, changing Home Teaching to the more effective method called Ministering the new Elder's quorum

wasted no time and met with the Relief Society Presidency to discuss ministry assignments and coordination between the Priesthood and the Relief Society of the ward.

The Elder's quorum presidency met together and made major re-assignments and adjustments from Home Teaching and met the new Ministering guidelines. These changes were reviewed and approved by Bishop Ekker and new Ministering assignments were distributed to the quorum members.

The Elder's quorum presidency then turned their attention to instructors for the quorum. Instructor callings were issued to Zach Turner, Bob Rasmussen and Damien Hobbs.

In June the quorum was heavily involved in a successful ward campout. Members of the Elder's Quorum Presidency even performed a skit at the ward campout, but unfortunately no one recorded it. Oh well, maybe next time.

In July the quorum was very involved with the Stake's annual 4th of July breakfast. Quorum members were involved in setting up, cooking, serving and cleanup of the event.

The quorum then, under direction of President Hansen, turned our attention to planning an Elder's quorum activity and conducting our first of our quarterly ministering interviews along with meeting with each quorum member for an annual interview.

The ministering interviews were successfully completed in a timely fashion and results were forwarded to the Stake. The annual interviews were completed in time for us to report our success in our Elder's quorum meeting to President Kitchens of the Stake presidency.

In October the quorum had our social, a Dutch oven cook dinner at the church. The activity was well attended, and the food was great! Everyone had a good time.

In October General Conference new guidelines and changes were announced by President Nelson concerning new church meeting times and Gospel Centered Church Supported instruction in the home. The Elder's quorum embraced these changes and assisted the Bishop in distribution of new manuals and instruction

resources and activities. The Elder's quorum is looking forward to continued success in 2019.

Young Men History 2018

During 2018 the young men have made efforts to become converted to the gospel of Jesus Christ through everyday living. The young men have had opportunities to teach, serve, and actively reach out and help one another, including reaching out to their fellow quorum members. We made an effort to keep ourselves in the scriptures daily. This included a Book of Mormon challenge to read the Book of Mormon in 100 days. This also gave youth and leaders an opportunity to feel the spirit and strength that come from the pages in that book. We have focused on the importance of what we are becoming and how we can help others in the process.

The young men have made efforts to reach out and attempt to be member missionaries as we discuss the importance of displaying our testimonies daily. By living the standards in the For the Strength of Youth, others are able to see their actions through everyday living. This testimony has shown and given opportunities that help openly discuss the gospel of Jesus Christ with others.

We have made an effort to reach out and uplift all in need, including service in the ward, and through the community. Included with that we had a special ward project to help gather donations for the EPIC program rehabilitation center within our ward boundaries. There were so many donations that we were able to include bags and bags to the Road Home Project. We were also able to serve in the church food pantry and humanitarian center.

Another focus was to keep our eyes on the temple. We were able to visit the Family History Center to learn about indexing and family research. This gave the young men a spark to look for family in need of temple work. The young men were able to attend the temple at least quarterly to do baptisms for the dead. Together this was an opportunity that helped strengthen family ties and save our kindred dead. The priest quorum was grateful for the opportunity to baptize one another as proxy for those in need.

The focus for the young men in 2018 has been to find Peace in Christ through serving others and strengthening testimonies. As we have learned of Christ and served others, we have become more focused, converted, grateful, and better able to understand how the Savior felt as he reached out to the one. Peace comes as we focus on others and how we can be instruments for the Lord.

He went about doing good, and by learning of Him, that was our efforts as well.

“Learn of me, and listen to my words; walk in the meekness of my Spirit, and you shall have peace in me” (Doctrine and Covenants 19:23).

YW 2018

Theme: Peace in Christ

January

* Ali Farrer was called as Laurel Second Counselor

* Sierrah Kirby was called as Laurel Secretary

February

March

* 28th attended the Jordan River Temple Open House.

April

* Arianna Turner joined YW in the Beehive Class

* Young Women will now become ministers along with Relief Society.

During the Sunday afternoon session of April general conference, President Russell M. Nelson announced a significant change to the way members serve and care for each other. The separate programs of home teaching and visiting teaching will be “retired,” he said, becoming a coordinated effort called “ministering,” a “new and holier approach” to Christlike caring for others and helping meet their spiritual and temporal needs.

* Kimberlynn Fowers joined YW in the Beehive Class

May

* 24th at the Stake Center Church Dress Special Speaker: Meg Johnson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XEaamopHo5Y>

June

* Alyssa Hansen was called as Beehive President

* Sarah Ekker was called as Beehive First Counselor

* Arianna Turner was called as Beehive Second Counselor

* Alexis Cannon was called as Secretary

* The Youth in our ward went with Leaders and Bishopric to the Conference Center to the World Wide Devotional, June 3rd, 6:00 pm to watch and listen to President Russell M. Nelson and his wife, Wendy.

The fireside was literally a once in a life time and electrifying experience.

President Nelson said, " So, now I am inviting every young woman and every young man between the ages of 12 and 18 in The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints to enlist in the youth battalion of the Lord to help gather Israel. What will help you? As you continue to read daily from the Book of Mormon, you will learn the doctrine of the gathering of Israel, truths about Jesus Christ, His Atonement, and the fulness of His gospel not found in the Bible. The Book of Mormon is central to the gathering of Israel. And now I invite you to prepare yourself by doing five more things—five things that will change you and help you change the world.

First, disengage from a constant reliance on social media, in order to decrease its worldly influence upon you.

My second invitation is to make a weekly sacrifice of time to the Lord, for three weeks in a row, to let Him know that you want to be part of His youth battalion—more than you want anything else. For three weeks give up something you like to do and use that time to help gather Israel.

My third invitation is for you to do a thorough life assessment with the Lord, and perhaps with your parents and your bishop, to ensure that your feet are firmly planted on the covenant path. If you have wandered off, or if there are some

things you need to let go of to help your mind and heart be more pure, today is the perfect time to change.

My fourth invitation is for you to pray daily that all of God's children might receive the blessings of the gospel of Jesus Christ. You and I are living to see, and will continue to see, Israel gathered with great power. And you can be part of the power behind that gathering!

My fifth invitation is for you to stand out; be different from the world. You and I know that you are to be a light to the world. Therefore, the Lord needs you to look like, sound like, act like, and dress like a true disciple of Jesus Christ. Yes, you are living in the world, but you have very different standards from the world to help you avoid the stain of the world.

* Stake Youth Conference 29th-30th for all youth ages 12-18. At the Stake Center. Not an overnight activity.

o Missionary Training Day: Sunday dress, Bring your scriptures, Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner served at the Stake Center.

o The next day: The Amazing Family History Race and Pool Party, Casual dress, Youth Conference T-shirts handed out.

o For the Amazing Family History Race: We will be doing the Amazing Race as wards, with the larger ones split in two groups. Come prepared with 6 generation family chart. You will have an advantage in the Race if you already have your [lds.org/Family Search](https://www.familysearch.org/) login information.

o Pool party: 8-10 pm at the Kearns Oquirrh Park Fitness Center

July

* Taysia Mardini joined YW in the Beehive Class

* Ali Livingston joined YW in the Beehive Class

* Girls Camp 23rd through 27th at Heber Valley. We hiked, canoed, did the ropes course, and a lot of growing with lots of fun.

* For Girls Camp this year the service project was through an organization called Teeny Tears. They made blankets for stillborn babies. It was a really special

opportunity but we needed the wards help! The ward was asked to donation of any new flannel material, at least 15" square.

August

* Bishop Ekker has invited all ward members to join in a special fast this Wednesday August 29th, and/or Sunday September 2nd. We would like to unite in fasting and prayer for the youth of our ward. The beginning of school is a time of change and stress. We would like to show our youth support and call down the powers of heaven to bless and protect them.

* Taylor Allen joined Young Women in the Beehive Class

* Stake Service Scavenger Hunt Tuesday, August 28th

September

* Our young women, leaders, and parents join together to embark on a journey of faith and diligence reading the Book of Mormon in 100 days. All were blessed as they choose to make time for the scriptures each day. Monday September 17th is Day 1 and Day 100 just happens to fall on December 25th!

November

* Young Women in Excellence Wednesday, November 14th

* Natasha Barlow joined YW in the Beehive Class

* Addie Smith earned her YW Medallion

December

* Abby Goodwin was called as Mia Maid President

* Saina Malili was called as Mia Maid Second Counselor

* An announcement on, December 14, from the First Presidency changes the timeline of when children and youth complete Primary, move from one class or quorum to the next, and attend the temple for the first time—and for when young men may be ordained to priesthood offices. These changes are effective in January 2019. These announcements stem from a “desire to strengthen our beloved children and youth through increased faith in Jesus Christ, deeper understanding of His gospel, and greater unity with His Church and its members,”

a letter from the First Presidency states. All Changes will be made at the beginning of the year not on their individual birthdays as they have in the past.

* 7 girls complete the Book of Mormon challenge. It was the first time 5 of them had read the Book of Mormon through on their own. One Leader said, "The Book of Mormon reading was a huge testimony builder to me. It was hard for me going through it so fast because I am not so good at focusing, ha ha, but the

miracle is that it increased my love for it and a desire to study it more. The girls that read (whether they finished or not) all said they got so much out of it. It was very inspiring to me to see them working hard at it."

2018 Westbrook 5th Primary Ward History

January

7th Getting to know you - We had our annual getting to know you activity to allow the kids to get to know their new teachers. We did some rotating so it was time well spent.

14th Great to be 8! - We invited all of the children from the CTR 7 class, along with their families to come and learn about the choice they have to be baptized and become part of scouts and activity days. They each received a folder with what they would need. They met their upcoming leaders and what process they need to go through in order to be baptized. Sister Fugal gave each boy a small wolf to represent their upcoming scout group! They were very excited, then we took them down to the font to preview their baptism experience.

February

Baptism Chloie Allred

Each child receives a towel with a CTR Embroidered on it, with a poem.

12th Ward Conference - Primary Sang all verses of I am a Child of God in Sacrament. We had our stake come and visit and teach sharing time. Sister Weeks

is wonderful with the children and modeled we have discussed as a stake. It was a very positive experience.

15th Teacher Training – We had all of our teachers come to this training to get some basic information and also to discuss questions and concerns. We had a fairly good turn out and the Spirit was very strong in the meeting. It was educational, powerful and worthwhile. It represented the purpose of a true council.

March

Baptisms Isabelle Patterson and Hayden Bona

Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet – Star Wars Episode Cubs, A great time was had by all once again at this cub scout event. The gym was decorated to match the Star Wars theme and food was themed as well. We had “Hans”-burgers, with Princess Leia Buns, and more. After dinner and awards they boys and their families enjoyed playing Star Wars games and earning prizes. A new addition this year was that the cubs made cakes in the Star Wars Theme and were awarded different certificates to represent their cakes. The boys loved this and then the cakes were enjoyed by all for desert.

Relief Society History 2018

2018 was a year of many changes such as Visiting Teaching changed to Ministering. This was our primary focus for the year. Many efforts went into reorganizing these efforts. As a Relief Society Presidency much prayer and time went into this. As assignments were given to sisters we counseled with each one about their new assignments. There were many sweet spiritual experiences where we knew the Lord’s hand was in this work. In more than one incident when an assignment was being given to a sister they would begin to cry and say such things as, “I knew I would have her,” “I felt this was coming,” “I love that sister,” “I am so glad I have her.” Then later as we began the process of ministering interviews the Lord’s Spirit then testified again that this is His work. In interviews I saw the strength of the Young Women and how they knew how to

meet the needs of their sisters. As we lovingly discussed those they ministered to I could see the Lord giving the sisters the personal revelation that sister needed for those they minister to. The Lord truly does speak to us! And He loves each sister so individually, he truly knows and cares for all His daughters.

Also this year we had the new change of having council Sundays the first Sunday of the month as we began this process we were trying to find a way to include other Relief Society sisters in Young Women's and Primary. We reached out to them to get their input for our discussions. We even had sisters help take notes of those council meetings and then post them on our ward's website. We have included some of those notes in this history (they are not in chronological order), where you can find sisters sharing testimony and spiritual experiences. During those meetings we got insight from one another and encouraged each other to be more faithful sisters.

Council Sunday notes:

Ministering should be more about the sister than the message. Be a good listener. Get to know the sisters on a personal level. It can be hard to branch out, but when impressions come to us we should act on them. Those impressions come for a reason.

You can pray for your sisters, build relationships with them. Go the extra mile with ministering, reach out and give counsel. Stay in tune and the Lord will guide you and help you with ministering. Don't treat ministering as a chore. It is to care for and uplift others.

Think about your ministering companion. Is she here? Companions are matched based on look or social status. Think about the sisters you minister to. Think of how you've ministered and what you haven't done.

It is hard to ask for help but when you do it helps everyone. Everyone needs something. We all have needs.

Women are primarily responsible for teaching children. It is important to strengthen family and extended family. The best thing a child can learn from a

mother is the gospel. It is a gift to be a woman and everything a woman can do and be.

We can always do better, but don't look at it in a negative way. Be positive, do the best you can. Just do it. You need to receive revelation and follow it.

You are responsible for yourself. It is for your change and growth. It is individual. We can all individually come closer to Christ.

Council Sunday notes:

What are you doing to accept these invitations from President Nelson? -we all have something we can sacrifice for a time. We should seek the Spirit in knowing what the Lord wants us to do. -I think the Social Media fast has been given to us again because we missed the point. A lot of us joined the youth in their social media fast, but after, we went right back to our usual habits. If it didn't change you, you missed the point. It should be something very personal and not something you post about to get congratulated on completing. -We have fast Sunday every month. Maybe we should have social media fasts more often too. It can help us be removed from the influences of the world, to better see and feel what the Lord wants to teach us, what he wants us to be. -We should use social media with intention, not just because it is a habit or something to fill our time. This is individual. -The invitation was not just about social media, but about anything negative. -Why was this given to just the women? Because the Lord needs us. He needs our strength and example. So even though you may not be on social media all the time or think you have a problem, you can still do this, to be an example and follow the prophet. -We need to seek personal revelation about each of the challenges President Nelson gave us. If we are humble and ready to be taught by the Lord, he will show us where we can improve. He will take us from where we are and bring us higher, help us be more than we are.

What about our temple attendance? Why do we go to the temple? -to be taught -to feel peace, comfort and to find answers -to do work for our dead -to make covenants for ourselves and receive those blessings -to have eternal life and eternal family relationships

Many sisters shared very personal experiences about the temple. -When I go to the temple I feel an amazing Spirit. I come out feeling like a new woman. It is

important to take time for myself in the Lord's house, to feel and think. -When we were sealed there were many people who were a part of getting us there, they helped answer my prayers and the prayers of my family. I knew that day, that through the atonement of Christ our family would improve and be blessed. -My grandmother was physically unable to attend the temple, it was too difficult. But she made it to her grandchildren's' sealings and she always kept a current temple recommend. She knew how important that was. -When I went to the temple I was sad that my grandparents could not be there, as they had recently passed away. But I felt that they were there, I could feel their presence in the temple. I love being in the temple, feeling apart from the world and peaceful. -My first time in the temple, in the Celestial Room, my dad leaned over and whispered, "Want to know the best part of being in the temple?" I was sure he would say something spiritual, but he said, "The Mexican food after!" This is a tradition for my family, it is important to us. And that is what the temple is about, bringing families together, for eternity. The temple is all about families.

What will you do to establish a pattern of regular temple attendance? -we should decide what is regular for us personally and do whatever helps us get there. -you can go with a group. -you can put it on your calendar and commit to going on that day and not let anything stop you, because stuff will always come up! -You should remember the excuses will always be there. We may say there is a time and a season for everything, like it's hard to go when you have a baby, yes, but the time and season for the temple is now, it is always time for the temple. -when we want to make excuses we should ask for help. Be willing to humbly say, "I can't do this without you, my sisters." We can help each other, support each other. -Our ward had sealing groups already set up. If you are part of one, you should be sure to attend. If you want to be part of a group you can talk to the bishopric. -We are all different and one thing won't work for all of us. Some of us need to go with a group, some will want to go to the sealing groups, some will go with their husband, some will go alone. There are a lot of possibilities and options.

Please ask yourself: What is my commitment to God and how will I keep it?

We know you will be blessed as you seek personal revelation and strive to accept President Nelson's invitations. We can be fiercely faithful women. We can find peace and purpose in the temple.

Council Sunday Notes:

Our Relief Society Presidency has felt the need to take time to focus on President Nelson's words. If it is important for our youth to understand and participate in the Gathering of Israel, it is important for us as well.

The 10th Article of Faith reads:

"We believe in the literal gathering of Israel and in the restoration of the Ten Tribes; that Zion (the New Jerusalem) will be built upon the American continent; that Christ will reign personally upon the earth; and, that the earth will be renewed and receive its paradisiacal glory."

President Nelson said:

"My dear extraordinary youth, you were sent to earth at this precise time, the most crucial time in the history of the world, to help gather Israel. There is nothing happening on this earth right now that is more important than that. There is nothing of greater consequence. Absolutely nothing.

This gathering should mean everything to you. This is the mission for which you were sent to earth."

What is the gathering?

- The people of the lost tribes aren't literally lost, but their identities have been lost. The gathering of Israel restores to them their identities.
- It is extending and strengthening the stake of Zion.
- It is gathering in our families, gathering in our tribes.
- We are gathered to the gospel of Christ, not necessarily to one place.

President Nelson said:

"The gathering of Israel ultimately means offering the gospel of Jesus Christ to God's children on both sides of the veil who have neither made crucial covenants with God nor received their essential ordinances."

(Further reading: The Gathering of Scattered Israel, President Nelson, October 2006 General Conference)

What does the gathering mean to you?

- Do we know what it means to receive the blessings of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob? To really understand it we need to study it and attend the temple. We aren't going to get it today in this room. We can't spend all our time on the basics, we need to study, go deeper. Then we can help the youth understand too.

Are you willing to help gather Israel? What would you be willing to do? What would you sacrifice? What do you want to start doing or stop doing so you can participate in the gathering?

- If you have accepted a calling in the church you are participating within that sphere of responsibility. • Gather your lineage. Know your family, do what work you can. • Perhaps the gathering starts in your own family, in your own home. Do we see others as deserving of a second chance, that their lives are also precious to God? • With family, the most important thing is to love them and pray for them. We don't have to love what they are doing, but we love them. • Nurturing relationships with family is difficult and takes time. We can go to the temple and in a short amount of time perform ordinances for others and feel good about our service. It can be harder to maintain relationships with our family, especially if they are negative toward the gospel. This takes trusting the Lord and hoping for good things to come. • We can be a good example and trust in the Lord as we love those closest to us. How is our temple attendance? Does it require sacrifice?

- One sister was invited to go to the temple but didn't feel she could make it because of family responsibilities. The sister who invited her said, "There will always be kids, there will always be dogs." Meaning, there will always be things that could keep us from the temple, excuses, difficulties, and road blocks. • We think we are a church going people, but are we a temple going people? We should be. What keeps us from going to the temple?

- It is hard to fit it in our schedules. • Our recommends expire. • We don't have anyone to go with. • There is not time. • We are out of the habit. • We need to make going to the temple a priority. What can you do to fit it in your schedule?

- Suggestions from the sisters: get up early; find someone to go with you so you are held accountable; take the opportunity to clean the temple; do initiatory or

sealings; take your kids to do baptisms; take your kids to see the temple; walk around the temple grounds. • Of course, to be participating in the gathering of Israel we need to actually go inside and do the work! But giving our children an example is important. Final questions to ponder:

1. What would it take to get each of us into the temple more? 2. What you had experiences that have taught you the importance of the temple? 3. Have you had trauma or trial in your your life that has turned you to the Lord and the temple? 4. What about those you minister to? Are they on the covenant path? How can you help them? We are all God's children and he wants us all to come home. Study President Nelson's words, ponder them. Consider what you can do to follow the prophet in this matter.

President Nelson has given the youth, and us, a call to action:

I promise you that if you will sincerely and persistently do the spiritual work needed to develop the crucial, spiritual skill of learning how to hear the whisperings of the Holy Ghost, you will have all the direction you will ever need in your life.

How can we do what the Prophet has asked?

- Take time to pray and listen, as taught by President Ezra Taft Benson: "Do you take time to listen to the promptings of the Spirit? Answers to prayer come most often by a still voice and are discerned by our deepest, innermost I tell you that you can know the will of God concerning yourselves if you will take the time to pray and to listen." • President Nelson asked the youth to have a seven-day social media fast. But if you do that and then go right back to your previous habits you haven't really followed what President Nelson asked. He said, "See if you notice any difference in how you feel and what you think, and even how you think, during those seven days. After seven days, notice if there are some things you want to stop doing and some things you now want to start doing." • Ask yourself, "Can I recognize the hand of the Lord in my life today?" The more you look for it, the more you will see it. • It takes patience to step back and let the Lord work miracles. • Our effort will be reflected in the outcome. We cannot simply stop eating and drinking for 24 hours and call it fasting. It requires our faith and prayers. It is the same with listening to the Holy Ghost, praying and studying the scriptures. When you put in daily effort you see daily blessings. President Nelson

promised as we learn to listen to the Holy Ghost, “You will be given answers to your questions in the Lord’s own way and in His own time.” Do you want answers to your questions? How does the Lord give us answers?

- Sometimes we don’t actually want answers; maybe we aren’t sincere in our prayers or our seeking. We have to ask ourselves if we are willing to accept the Lord’s will and if we are asking the right questions.
- We can find answers through prayer and in the scriptures.
- We must be patient with the Lord’s timing and accept that he may not answer exactly how we want.
- We need to receive personal revelation. Sister Nelson asked, “What were you born to do?”

- We can and should ask this question often, all through life; even if you think you’ve already done what the Lord needs you to do, even if you think you’ve fulfilled your earthly mission. You might wonder why you are still on earth.
- Maybe we should also ask ourselves “Who need me?” We might not know everything the Lord has sent us to earth to do, the people we can help, the people who need us. Sister Nelson said,

“How I wish you could watch a 10-minute video of your premortal life... for a moment, imagine the effect on your life right now if you were permitted to watch 10 minutes of your premortal life.

... I believe that every one of you would have the increased power, increased commitment, and eternal perspective to help you overcome any and all of your confusion, doubts, struggles, and problems. All of them!”

How might knowledge of our premortal life help us now?

- We may not remember, but those choices and the knowledge we had can still influence us here. Asking “why me” in a helpless or bitter way isn’t good but acknowledging that we knew what we would be facing in this life and we choose to come to earth can give us strength. We can ask the Lord “What is your plan for me?” then we can understand what the Lord wants us to learn and do with our experiences here.
- Each of us individually can do so much good in our homes and in our community. You don’t have to be famous to have an important mission in this life. There is no limit to the good we can do, especially when we know who we are and whose side we are on.
- We can rely on our patriarchal blessings In

them we learn who we are, where we came from. • Each time we read our patriarchal blessings we can learn different things. Maybe the specific wording in your blessing will not make sense until later in your life. The Lord knows what we need, but we have to go it and read it. • Several sisters shared experiences and specific things from their patriarchal blessings. They testified of the guidance and comfort that can come through these words. The Gathering of Israel is going to happen. Do I want to be part of it? We need to be honest and serious in our introspection: What does the Lord need me to do?

- I feel a great sense of urgency. I want to grab my family and bring them along with me.
- Today we have the technology to do so much work for our ancestors, in less time than it's ever taken. The work the youth do can bless us too: they can find family history information that we have not been able to find. President Nelson used these words to describe the Gathering of Israel and our role in this work: majestic, challenge, sacrifice, change, time and effort.

Are you willing to enlist in the Lord's Battalion for the Gathering of Israel, to work alongside our youth, who have been challenged and called by the Prophet?

Once you decide, yes, you are willing, ask yourself, "What am I going to do to help gather Israel?"

Though President Nelson was speaking to the youth, as adults we can also benefit from his counsel. As adults who influence, interact with and teach youth, we need to know what President Nelson is asking of our youth. Do we know how to support our youth in their efforts to follow the prophet? Are we setting a positive example for the youth in our ward?

We can learn from the way President Nelson approached and talked to the youth. He did not preach to them. He invited them to make a choice about how they spend their time, to evaluate how it makes them feel, and to discover for themselves. He taught them that they too can receive personal revelation.

We, as parents and leaders, need to follow through with the counsel President Nelson has given. We can talk to our youth about how to follow the prophet. We can discuss specific actions we can take as a family, they can contribute their ideas and make their own plans. They can take ownership and responsibility as we continue to give support and encouragement.

President Nelson used boldness to invite the youth to be part of the Gathering of Israel. He taught us we will not survive what the future will bring if we do not increase our spiritual strength.

President Nelson gave the youth “five invitations for you to enlist in the Lord’s youth battalion to help gather Israel.”

Comments from sisters about each of these invitations:

1 Hold a seven-day social media fast:

- I found that social media was skewing my relationships. If I’m not on as often, other people’s posts don’t affect me.
- I didn’t think (social media use) was a problem for me, but then I chose to accept President Nelson’s invitation.
- There may be a lot of negative, but there is also a lot of good. We can use technology for good and teach the youth how to do the same.

2. Make a weekly sacrifice of time to the Lord for three weeks:

- Are the youth having experiences where they feel the Spirit? What anchors their testimonies? Are we doing these things for ourselves? Do we sacrifice time for the Lord?

3. Keep on the Covenant path. If you are off, repent and get back on the path:

- If you want to teach your children about covenants, Mosiah 5 is a wonderful chapter to read together. It is King Benjamin’s last words to his people and it talks all about covenants and the blessings of keeping covenants
- We can be an example of keeping baptismal and temple covenants.

4. Pray daily that all of God’s children might receive the blessings of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

- Changing our prayers can be difficult. But this is a specific and simple thing the prophet has asked us to do. We can follow President Nelson’s example, as he followed the counsel of President Kimball in 1979 to pray for the people of China, to “be of service to the Chinese people. We should learn their language. We should pray for them and help them.”

5. Stand out. Be different. Be a light. Give to a friend on copy of the booklet For the Strength of Youth.

• I made a choice to focus on my family and faith on Sunday and some of my friends laughed at me. But I want to do what is right. • If we are true disciples of Christ we will be different, we will stand out. President Nelson told the youth “If you are sometimes called “weird,” wear that distinction as a badge of honor and be happy that your lights is shining brightly.” We can help in our neighborhood by being aware of what the youth are doing, maybe (as appropriate) follow them on social media and post positive things. We can work to have strong relationships with each other as adults, so that if we see something concerning we can let a parent know.

Our youth don’t need everyone breathing down their necks or hovering, but we can watch out for each other. We should especially make an effort to point out the positive, let them know we see them and the good they do.

The youth need to be taught correct principles and then be allowed to govern themselves. They need opportunities to exercise agency and self-govern.

What can we do?

• be positive and express belief in the youth of our ward • encourage them, support them • include the youth of our ward in your prayers, in your fasting, and remember them as you attend the temple • acknowledge the youth when you see them, say hi, know their names • evaluate your own social media use and other things that influence your ability to feel the Spirit Sister Cannon ended by saying: “Please know that you may not be able to reach everyone, but you may be the one that someone needs.”

Elder D. Todd Christofferson has taught: “A major reason the Lord has a church is to create a community of Saints that will sustain one another in the ‘straight and narrow path which leads to eternal life.’...This religion is not concerned only with the self; rather, we are all called to serve. We are the eyes, hands, head, feet, and other members of the body of Christ.” Why the Church, October 2015

Questions for you to ponder:

1. Why do you come to church? 2. What about meetings other than sacrament? Are Sunday School and Relief Society important? 3. How do ALL meeting bless our lives, including all Sunday meetings and additional Relief Society meetings held during the week? 4. Why don’t we attend our meetings? What have you observed

about attendance at church, in Relief Society, at our weekday meetings? Can we do anything about it? 5. Are there things we can do as a Relief Society that can create a greater feeling of community in our neighborhood? We can make an effort to be aware of who is not in church, to contact them and let them know they were missed. We can speak of the blessings we receive through our activity in the Church. We can be aware of the example we are setting to our families and our neighbors.

As we discussed these questions it also became clear that if our focus is simply on “getting them to church” we are missing the point. Our focus should be to love one another, to create a community, to have mutually supportive relationships with all our neighbors. We are disciples of Christ and we reach out to others in love.

What should we do? What is our action plan?

Sister Cannon read the names of every sister on the Relief Society rolls and asked: Did any names stand out to you? Were there names on the list that you didn’t even know? Were you inspired to take action and reach out to anyone? These are our sisters, they each have their own stories, struggles and needs.

Do we know our neighbors?

Can you name those who live by you?

Can you do one thing to get to know them or serve them?

As we council together, we hope the Spirit has inspired you to take action personally. Our

Best Relief Society activities of 2018 Goodbye Visiting Teaching, Hello Ministering!

Thursday, April 12th Dinner served at 6:30 pm In the Cultural Hall

With the changes announced at General Conference, now is a wonderful time for us to discuss our roles in the Lord’s work, learn about Ministering, and strengthen each other.

All Young Women who will be 14 this year or older are all invited to attend. We are excited to share the blessing of ministering with you!

*This activity was a great success. We asked sisters to share their testimonies about Visiting Teaching, now ministering. The spirit was strong that night as we learned to love each other in a more holy way. A humorous skit was preformed “The adequate visiting teacher” many sisters helped put that on and it was a delight away to show how we can look at ourselves and see how we can make improvements with how we truly should minister.

Improving the way we communicate with others Thursday, September 20th, 7:00 pm

All adults and youth 12 years and older are invited to attend this activity.

A Licensed Clinical Social Worker, will be our special guest speaker. She has been a therapist since 2007 and currently owns her own counseling center. Prior to opening her own private practice, she worked for DCFS and LDS Family Services as a therapist.

She is also a full time wife and mother and currently serves as Stake Young Women President in her stake.

This activity will help us improve the way we communicate with others, whether it be family, friends, coworkers, or ward members.

This activity helped strengthen the way we communicate with one another. Those who attended received great insight and had their own personal questions answered. The speaker brought a great spirit as she taught us by using our Savior as the greatest example.

Westbrook 5th Ward Leadership History

Bishops

Gale Searle '84

Scott Rosenlof '89

Bruce Holman '94

Glen Johnson '99

Brad Bona '04

Lloy Romrell '09

Matt Ekker '16

H. P. Group Leader

Jarl Jacobson '84

Gaylan Luke '87

Darrell Meier '88

Chris Emmons

Joe Linford

Kelvin Meier

David Goddard

Craig Pendleton

Glen Johnson

Sheldon LaMont

Lloy Romrell

Scott Rosenlof

Jerry Paul

Ryan Stowe '16

E. Quorum President

Bruce Despain '84

Todd Barrett

Brian Garner

Bruce Holman '89

Sheldon LaMont

Glen Campbell

Joseph Bradley

Steve Neff

Brett Fowers

Kurt Allen

Jess Hansen '16

Jess Hansen '18 recalled

Relief Society President

Elaine Hendrickson '84

Sarah Meier

Jolene Brown

Danette Crawford

Teresa Anderson

Janet Willes

Debbie Luke

Diane Romrell

Anne Paxman

Corey Neff

Debbie Woolsey

Debbie Ekker

Sarah Meier

Megan Cannon

Primary President

Paula Osgathorpe '84

Ann Garner

Lisa Barrett

Diane Romrell

Connie Hal

Cathy Blumenkrantz

Stephanie Monson

Laura Dixon

Martha Armstrong

Debbie Ecker

Launa West

Michelle Bell

Tiffany Bona

Rebekah Goodwin '19

Young Men President

Ken Allred '84

Richard Hendrickson '87

Jeff Terry '88

Doug Mechling

Todd Crawford '90

Lloy Romrell

Monte Searle

Gaylan Luke

Brent Sabey

Scott Rosenlof

Brad Bona

Rich Simpko

Kelvin Meier

Gary Olson

Moysh, Scott

Matt Cannon

Matt Hoffer

Joey Bona '16

Young Women President

Collett Ashcroft '84

Monique Nielsen '87

Shawna Faulkner '88

Sherry Price '90

Debbie Luke

Anne Paxman

Janet Willes

Jill Owen

Debbie Woolsey

Dee Bulkley

Debbie Bona

Melanie Tripp

Erin Johnson

Scout Master

Ken Allred

Dave Goddard

Scott Rosenlof

Jerry Paul

Gary Olson

Jess Hansen

Moysh, Scott

Ken Bulkley

Brett Fowers

Kendall Johnson

Dennis Blumenkrantz

Andrew Cross

Joel Potter

Jason Tomlinson

Mission Leader

Gordon Gudmundson '87

Brian Woolsey '89

Gilbert Fortune '90

Daryl Meier

Kelvin Meier

Craig Pendleton

Steve Paxman

Gaylan Luke

John Roberts

Brad Bona

Bruce Holman '15

Sheldon LaMont '18

The old 51st ward met the first time after being separated from the 22nd ward, on April 29, 1984. We met in the Dixie valley chapel until the new stake center was finished in late 1985.