



Omaha Nebraska Stake

# NEWSLETTER

September 2025



God's plan of moral and mortal agency allows us to learn by our own experience. Some of our greatest life lessons come from things we would never choose. In love, Jesus Christ descended below and ascended above all things. He rejoices in our divine capacities for creativity and delight, kindness without hope for reward, faith unto repentance and forgiveness.

-Elder Garrit W. Gong

*Eternities Greatest Gifts: Jesus Christ's Atonement,  
Resurrection, & Restoration, April 2025*

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# SEPTEMBER

## EVERY SUNDAY

- MISSION PREP FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS, 4 PM, STAKE CENTER

## SEPTEMBER 6

- LEADERSHIP MEETINGS & DEVOTIONALS WITH ELDER GARRIT W. GONG, SEE [PAGE 3](#)

## SEPTEMBER 11

- WORLDWIDE DAY OF SERVICE, SEE [PAGE 5](#)

## SEPTEMBER 13

- RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE, 7 AM – 2 PM, STAKE CENTER

## SEPTEMBER 14

- JUST SERVE YOUTH TRAINING, 5 PM, STAKE CENTER, SEE [PAGE 8](#)
- WHY I BELIEVE FIRESIDE, 7 PM, TRAIL CENTER

## SEPTEMBER 20

- STAKE PRIMARY GOAL SHOWCASE, 3:00, STAKE CENTER, SEE [PAGE 6](#)

## SEPTEMBER 27

- STAKE CONFERENCE, LEADERSHIP SESSION, 3 PM, SEE [PAGE 4](#)
- STAKE CONFERENCE, ADULT SESSION, 7PM, SEE [PAGE 4](#)

## SEPTEMBER 28

- STAKE CONFERENCE, SUNDAY SESSION, 10AM, SEE [PAGE 4](#)



Elder Garrit W. Gong, of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, will be presiding over leadership meetings in the Omaha area, as well as a youth devotional on Saturday, September 6, 2025. Other members of the seventy will preside over additional devotionals. We encourage our members to spiritually prepare for this great opportunity.

### Priesthood Leadership Meeting

1:00 - 2:15 PM

Omaha Stake Center

UPDATE (8/15/2025):

Attendees: Stake Presidency (no secretaries or clerks), Stake Young Men's President (not counselors\*),  
Bishops/Branch President (not counselors\*),  
Elders Quorum President (not counselors\*)

\* If the President/Bishop/Branch President is unable to attend, a counselor can attend in their place.

### Combined Leadership Meeting

2:30 - 4:30 PM

Omaha Stake Center

UPDATE (8/15/2025):

Attendees: Stake Presidency (no secretaries or clerks), Stake Young Men's President (not counselors\*),  
Bishops/Branch President (not counselors\*), Elders Quorum President (not counselors\*), Stake Young Women's  
Presidency (include counselors, not secretary), Stake Relief Society Presidency (include counselors, not secretary),  
Stake Primary Presidency (include counselors, not secretary), Ward Relief Society President (not counselors\*),  
Ward Young Women President (not counselors\*), Ward Primary President (not counselors\*)

\* If the President/Bishop/Branch President is unable to attend, a counselor can attend in their place.

### Youth Devotional with Elder Garrit W. Gong

*of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles,  
and Elder Wan-Liang Wu, a General Authority Seventy*

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Omaha Stake Center

UPDATE (8/15/2025):

Zoom will be available for those that live > 2 hours away

Attendees: All Youth in Nebraska Omaha Coordinating Council

(leaders and parents can listen in via Zoom <https://zoom.us/j/98837902492>)

### YSA Devotional with Elder Rodney A. Ames

*Area Seventy*

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Martha Street Building (11027 Martha Street, 68144)

All Young Single Adults in Nebraska Omaha Coordinating Council

### Single Adult Devotional (35+) with Elder Karl D. Hirst, *General Authority Seventy*

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Maple Street Building (17606 Spaulding Street 68116)

All Single Adults in Nebraska Omaha Coordinating Council

# OMAHA NEBRASKA STAKE CONFERENCE

## SEPTEMBER 27<sup>TH</sup> & 28TH

Stake Conference details will be forthcoming.

The newsletter will be updated when  
information is available.

Thank you for your patience in this matter.





*This year's 9/11 Day of Service will run throughout September as our stake collects household supplies for the Domestic Violence Shelter and public Pantry of Catholic Charities of Omaha (see flyer for details).*

Omaha Nebraska Stake ♥ September 2025

HOUSEHOLD

# SUPPLIES DRIVE

FOR >>>



CATHOLIC  
CHARITIES  
of Omaha

## • Items Needed •

paper towels  
plastic silverware  
styrofoam cups  
styrofoam bowls  
lotion  
dishwasher pods  
deodorant  
kleenex  
towels  
wash cloths  
tide pods



Place items in the boxes located in the coat rooms of the church buildings during the month of September.

You can click [HERE](#) too.





Sign-up here  
by August 31st

## *Join Us For Our Stake Goal Showcase!*

**New Date!** **Saturday**  
**September 20, 2025**  
**3:00 – 5:00 PM**

**Omaha Stake Center**  
**14680 California St.**

**Come support your friends!**

**Families are invited!**

**Puzzle activity included!**

**Refreshments served!**

If you have a goal to display, please arrive 10 minutes early for set up.  
If you don't have a goal to share, we would still love to see you there!

Email Chelc\_00@yahoo! @  
chelc\_00@hotmail.com

1

YOU ARE INVITED TO A

*Devotional with Elder Gong***Saturday, September 6th****7 - 8:30 PM****Omaha Stake Center***for young men and young women only*

2

**DON'T FORGET!****SUNDAY****MISSION PREP 4 PM @ THE STAKE CENTER EVERY SUNDAY  
FOR HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS**

MORE YOUTH →

# JustServe Youth Training: How to start a JustServe club in your school

Our Coordinating Council JustServe Specialist, Theresa Gerlach, will show you how easy it is to start a club in your school. The Church has provided a ton of resources so you can be successful right away.

**Sunday, September 14th  
5 PM  
Stake Center or by  
Zoom\***

\*THOSE WHO LIVE NEAR ENOUGH TO DRIVE TO THE STAKE CENTER, CAN COME WATCH THE ZOOM MEETING TOGETHER AT THE STAKE CENTER. IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE ZOOM MEETING THEY WILL MEET WITH BROTHER & SISTER DRYDEN, THE JUSTSERVE SPECIALISTS, FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THEIR ADULT LEADERS. YOUTH WHO CANNOT MEET AT THE STAKE CENTER CAN WATCH THE ZOOM PORTION AT HOME!

## WHO'S INVITED:

STAKE YOUTH COUNCIL MEMBERS, YOUTH QUORUM/CLASS PRESIDENCIES, YOUTH ADVISORS/SPECIALISTS, AND ALL INTERESTED YOUTH.



**MAIZE HIGH SCHOOL JUSTSERVE CLUB  
WICHITA KANSAS**

- THIS IS A WAY TO GATHER ISRAEL! GATHER YOUR FRIENDS, SHARE YOUR TESTIMONY OF SERVICE BY DOING. LIFT THE BURDENS OF THOSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY THROUGH JUSTSERVE.

## STAKE YOUTH LEADER COMMITTEE (SYLC)

**September 21 | 3PM | Omaha Stake Center  
(every 3rd Sunday)**



Eagle Run Youth would like to invite all youth to this fireside:

5

*You are invited to a*

# **FIRESIDE**

Featuring



Elizabeth Gentry  
Current Creighton  
University Women's  
Basketball Team



Jordyn Harris  
(Pittman)  
Former Colorado  
Mesa University  
Track Team

**COME READY TO ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT  
LIFE, SPORTS AND GOSPEL LIVING.**

September 21, 7pm  
17606 Spaulding St



## CHECK OUT THESE AWESOME WAYS TO SERVE CATHOLIC CHARITIES OF OMAHA THIS MONTH:



Grocery & Restaurant Food Donation Driver



Food Pantry Volunteer - St. Teresa of Calcutta Campus



JustServeSenior Program Volunteer - St. Martin de Porres Center



Food Pantry Volunteer - St. Juan Diego Center



Support Catholic Charities - host a food and/or hygiene item drive



Mobile Food Pantry on Omaha Tribe Lands - JustServe



**BUT CHARITY IS THE  
PURE LOVE OF CHRIST.  
AND IT ENDURETH  
FOREVER; AND WHOSO IS  
FOUND POSSESSED OF IT  
AT THE LAST DAY, IT  
SHALL BE WELL WITH  
HIM.**

**MORONI 7:47**



Thank you  
missionaries for  
serving in our  
community!

## CHECK OUT THESE AWESOME WAYS TO SERVE HETRA THIS MONTH:

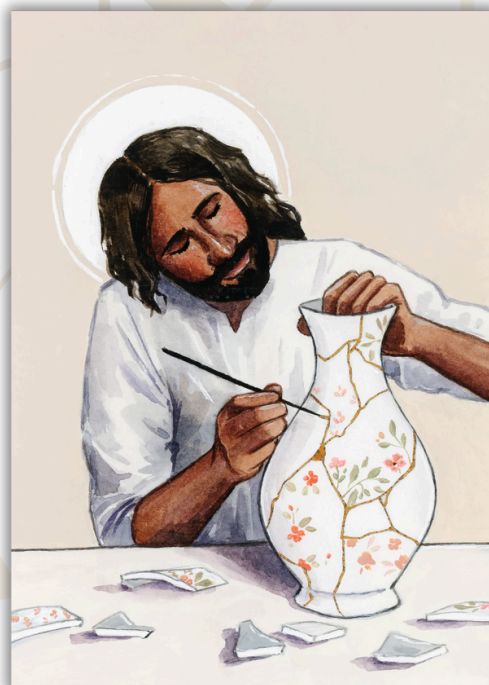


HELP AT OUR VALLEY FACILITY - JUSTSERVE



HELP WITH MARATHON AID STATION - JUSTSERVE

# Addiction Recovery Program



"HE HEALS WHAT IS BROKEN" BY PAIGE PAYNE

The Omaha Nebraska Stake offers an addiction recovery program for anyone struggling with addiction. Friends and family members of those struggling with addiction are also invited to attend. Attendees can meet in person or join virtually through Zoom. The Zoom link can be found by visiting the addiction recovery website, [HERE](#).

**Tuesday Evenings**

**7:00 - 8:00 PM**

**Stake Center**

Attendees can enter through the stake doors on the east side of the building.



### **BYU-Pathway Worldwide: Affordable, Spiritually Based Education**

Earn a certificate or degree completely online through BYU-Pathway Worldwide—a flexible, affordable, and spiritually based education. Most bachelor's degrees cost less than \$7,000, can be completed in as little as three years, and every student qualifies for a scholarship. With a certificate-first approach, students can gain valuable job skills early while progressing toward their degree. Enrollment is now open—apply by September 1 or October 27. Visit [Your paragraph text](#) to learn more or start your application. Click [here](#) to hear from previous students.

### **BYU-Pathway Worldwide: Educación Asequible y con Base Espiritual**

Obtén un certificado o título completamente en línea a través de BYU-Pathway Worldwide—una educación flexible, económica y con base espiritual. La mayoría de los títulos de licenciatura cuestan menos de \$7,000 y se pueden completar en tan solo tres años. Con un enfoque que prioriza los certificados, los estudiantes pueden adquirir habilidades laborales valiosas desde el principio mientras avanzan hacia su título. La inscripción ya está abierta: solicita antes del 1 de septiembre o el 27 de octubre. Visita [byupathway.edu](http://byupathway.edu) para obtener más información o comenzar tu solicitud.



# YSA DEVOTIONAL

WITH ELDER RODNEY A. AMES, AREA SEVENTY

SISTER AMES WILL ALSO BE SPEAKING

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025**

**7:00 - 8:30 PM**

**MARTHA STREET BUILDING**

INTERESTED IN ATTENDING  
AN INSTITUTE CLASS?  
CLICK

**HERE**

TO FIND ONE IN OUR  
AREA.



## 36+ SINGLE ADULT FIRESIDE

WITH A VISITING GENERAL AUTHORITY



**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6**  
**7:00 – 8:30 AT THE WEST MAPLE BUILDING**  
**17606 SPAULDING ST. OMAHA, NE**  
**REFRESHMENTS TO FOLLOW**

FOR SINGLE ADULTS 31+

## Nauvoo MEGA Conference for Single Adults

**Thurs 9/18- Sun 9/21, 2025**  
**Nauvoo, IL**  
*Pre Conference fun starts Wed 9/17 eve.*

### CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

- \*\*\*Elder Kirt Hodges, Area Seventy, presiding
- \*\*\*Nauvoo Tours by Kimberly Jo Smith
- \*\*\*"Lightbulb Moments" Panel Discussion\*\*\*
- \*\*\*Keynote by SISTER AMY A WRIGHT
- 1st Counselor General Primary Presidency*
- \*\*\*GlowFest- Carnival & Music Festival
- \*\*\*Free Time / Gun Range
- \*\*\*Dance Instruction
- \*\*\*A-GLOW-ha! Blacklight Dance
- \*\*\*Fiesta Fun Run
- \*\*\*AMAZING Workshop Choices
- \*\*\*Scatter Sunshine Service Project
- \*\*\*Keynote by Richard & Karen Thurman
- Nauvoo Temple President and Matron**
- \*\*\*Fire and Ice Fancy Dance
- \*\*\*Sacrament Meeting Pop Up Choir
- \*\*\*Musical Fireside
- \*\*\*Testimonies

\*\*\*PLUS\*\*\*

**Door Prizes, Mixers, Dance Instruction, Campfires, Singles Temple Sessions and MORE!!!**

**"GLOW AND DO"**  
*"I will 'glow' and do the things the Lord commands"*

**\$165** first 125 signups  
**\$185** regular price

Elder Kirt Hodges Area Seventy	Amy Wright Thurs. Keynote	The Thurmans Sat. Keynote
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**GLOWFEST PERFORMERS**  
**Nathan Osmond & Shaun Barrowes**



[www.nauvoomegaconference.org](http://www.nauvoomegaconference.org)







Remember winter is just around the corner. If you lost power for a week would you be able to take care of the needs of your family? This summer we were very fortunate in that one of the tornadoes that hit the Omaha area was in the same vicinity as the OPPD power generating plant. Thankfully it missed, but being prepared for such an occurrence and others in the Midwest is well within the realm of possibility. Please speak to your ward Emergency Preparedness specialist for information or check on line for best practices and preparatory actions to help weather whatever can come our way.

Chris LeGrow

*Stake Emergency Preparedness Specialist*



**ATTN:  
Relief Society Sisters**

We are looking for a sister to serve with Sister Clark in the Family History Center on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month from 12pm to 2pm. Those interested should contact Christina Dorius.

## FAMILY SEARCH CENTER

Open every Tuesday  
noon-2pm and 7pm-9pm,  
or by special appointment

(402) 252-5131  
Stake Center

Get free help from a FamilySearch consultant, or bring a friend!

## NEED A STAKE TEMPLE RECOMMEND INTERVIEW?

TEXT OR CALL OUR STAKE ASSISTANT  
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES!

**David Robles**  
**801-971-5194**

Schedules for members of  
Old Mill, Pacific Ridges, Eagle Run, and YSA  
Wards

**Matthew Nielsen**  
**719-464-8456**

Schedules for members of  
Bennington, Blair, Columbus, Elkhorn, and  
Fremont Wards



### SAVE THE DATE

A stake activity for families will be held on Saturday morning, **November 1** – the Day of the Dead – at the Stake Center. We invite you to bring a photo and story of an ancestor. Watch for additional details in the October newsletter!





# TEMPLE & FAMILY HISTORY MESSAGE



I have a deep appreciation for the pioneers and for our shared spiritual heritage as members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Like many of you, I have had the opportunity to visit Winter Quarters numerous times over the years, learning of the experiences of early Latter-day Saints and their preparation to continue their journey. I returned from my mission in June 1997 as Church members were celebrating the sesquicentennial of the inaugural Mormon Trail journey from Winter Quarters to Salt Lake Valley. I had the opportunity to join a chorus in singing a pioneer cantata, *Refuge and Rest*, written by Jo Ellen Fankhauser and Dan Carter, as part of local sesquicentennial celebration events. The lyrics describe Winter Quarters as a place where the Saints found reprieve:

“Here on the river banks we have found perfect  
peace.  
A home of solace, a home of safety, a home of  
refuge and rest...  
A home of solace, home of peace. A place to  
worship God.”

Winter Quarters became a special and meaningful place for me as a youth, and this was magnified with the dedication of the temple in 2001. In reflecting on the words of the song, I am struck by the parallels between the pioneer experience and our own. The temple near the river banks – the House of the Lord – is truly a home of solace, safety, refuge, and rest. It is a sacred place for us to make covenants and to worship God. President Russell M. Nelson has taught:

“Spend more time in the temple, and seek to understand how the temple teaches you to rise above this fallen world. ... Cherish and honor your covenants above all other commitments. As you let God prevail in your life, I promise you greater peace, confidence, joy and, yes, rest.” (1)

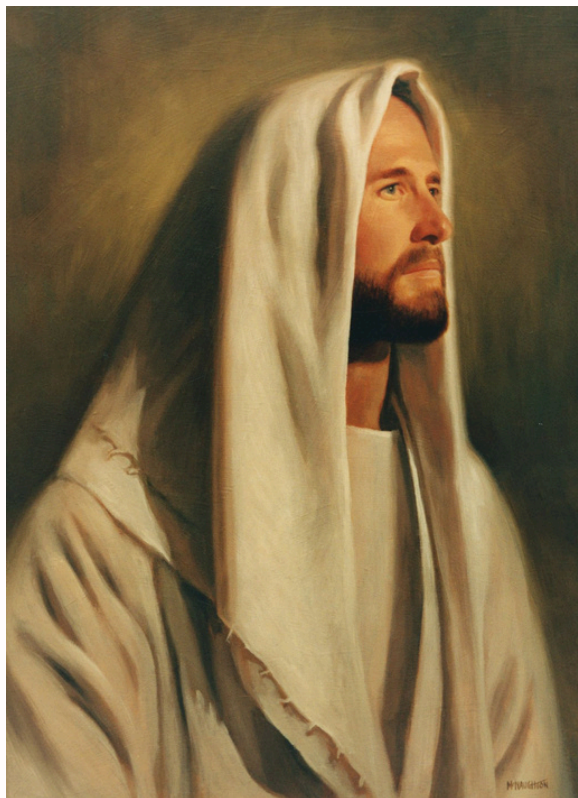
“In the temple, we receive protection from the buffetings of the world. We experience the pure love of Jesus Christ and our Heavenly Father in great abundance. We feel peace and spiritual reassurance, in contrast to the turbulence of the world.” (2)

I am grateful for our Winter Quarters – the temple – a place of peace and preparation for our continued journey.

-Creighton Omer

## References and Recommended Reading

1. “Overcome the World and Find Rest” – President Russell M. Nelson, October 2022  
“The Lord Jesus Christ Will Come Again” – President Russell M. Nelson, October 2024



## PLEASE WELCOME OUR FRIENDS WHO JOINED THE CHURCH IN JUNE

**Shari** - Blair Ward

**Blake** - Fremont Ward

**Emily** - Bennington Ward

**Aaron** - Winter Quarters YSA  
Ward

**Jeff** - Fremont Ward

**Cameron** - Winter Quarters YSA  
Ward

The Mission Prep Kickoff Fireside is all set for Sunday August 31, 2025 at 4:00pm at the Omaha Stake Center Chapel. All high school juniors and seniors are invited. President and Sister Calloway of the Omaha Nebraska Mission will be speaking along with President McAllister. There will be a brief panel discussion where the youth will be invited to ask any mission related questions. Rootbeer floats will be served at the conclusion of the fireside.



## MISSIONARY PREPARATION FIRESIDE

FEATURING  
PRESIDENT AND SISTER CALLOWAY  
OF THE OMAHA NEBRASKA MISSION

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 31, 2025**  
**4:00 PM**  
**AT THE OMAHA STAKE CENTER**

# ONS CALLED TO SERVE

**Behold, I am a disciple of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I have been called of Him to declare His word among His people, that they might have everlasting life.  
3 Nephi 5:13**

## RECENTLY CALLED!

- Codr, B. - September 1, California Arcadia Mission (English)
- Pincock, O. - September 15, Cincinnati Ohio Mission (English speaking)
- Roach, J. - September 22, Alpine German-Speaking Mission (Russian)
- Franzluebbers, D. - September 22, California Newport Beach Mission (English)

## FULL-TIME MISSIONARIES CURRENTLY SERVING

- Elder Whiteley, (Pac Ridges) Ecuador Guayaquil
- Elder Urbano, (Elkhorn) Brazil Sao Paulo Mission
- Elder Dosset, (Fremont) Brazil Santos Mission
- Elder Glasgow (Bennington) (Korea Seoul Mission (Korean)
- Sister McAllister, (Pac Ridges) Utah Saratoga Mission
- Elder Haughwout (Pac Ridges) Anaheim CA
- Elder Dorrius (Pac Ridges) São Paulo Brazil South
- Elder Omer, (Old Mill) Mexico, Torreon
- Elder Bartlett, (Elkhorn) Korea, Seoul
- Sister Call (Pac Ridges) Denver, CO
- Elder Clark (Bennington) Pretoria S Africa
- Elder Jensen (Blair) Portland, Oregon
- Elder Hyde (Columbus) Argentina Buenos Aires
- Elder Sister Card (Columbus) Vanuatu, Port Vila
- Sister Jacobson (Elkhorn) Modesto, CA
- Elder Spencer (Elkhorn) Santa Fe, Argentina
- Elder Hansen (Blair) London England
- Elder Bailey (Elkhorn) Arcadia, CA
- Sister Miller (Elkhorn) Riverside, CA
- Elder Eichman (Old Mill) Alpine German
- Elder Haughwout (Pac Rid) Teresina, Brazil
- Elder Blad (Pac Ridges) Kennewick, WA
- Sister Kennington (Elkhorn) Brazil Campinas
- Elder Alvarado (Old Mill) Spanish Fork, UT
- Elder North (Old Mill) St George, UT
- Elder Wang (Old Mill) Taipei Taiwan
- Sister Hueffner (Pac Rid) Honolulu, HI
- Elder McLeod (WQ) Layton, UT
- Elder Marten (Fremont) Omaha, NE



FOR THOSE INTERESTED, THE MILLARD STAKE WILL BE CLEANING UP DANA VILLAGE IN LATE SEPTEMBER:



### Volunteer Opportunity - Dana Village Campus Clean Up

Join us for a morning of service as we help revitalize the Dana Village campus. Volunteer projects will include clearing out old volunteer trees and light construction work. Please bring gloves, limb snippers, and tools such as chainsaws if you are experienced in using them for small trees and brush. Since electricity is not available throughout the campus, we encourage you to bring battery-powered tools. Come with a heart ready to serve. Together, we can make a meaningful impact!



**September 27 | 8-11a.m.**  
**2925 Angels Share Drive Blair, NE**  
 Lunch will be provided.



### Volunteer Now.

Create your account. Search Lutheran Family Services. Select a 75-mile radius.

**Lutheran Family Services**  
 2925 AngelsShareDr. | Blair, NE 68008

f i X y in **OneLFS.org**

# 2025 OMAHA NEBRASKA STAKE VISION

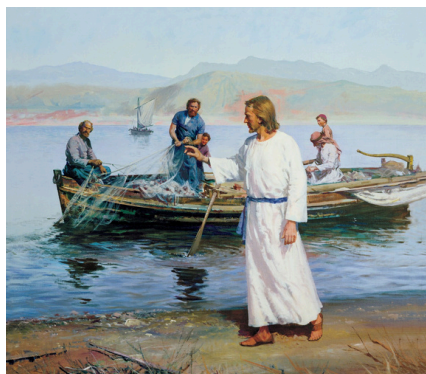
CHOOSE *Him*

JOIN *Him*

REJOICE WITH *Him*

I gave unto them their knowledge...[and] agency. And unto thy brethren have I said, and also given commandment, that they should love one another, and that they should choose me, their father.

Moses 7: 32-33



Choosing to follow Jesus Christ and live as His disciple is not a one-time choice. Every day we choose to let God prevail in our lives as we choose Him over competing choices or distractions.

What choices can you make today that will show increased love towards God, His Son Jesus Christ, and others?

Follow me, and do the things which ye have seen me do.

2 Nephi 31:12



As disciples of Jesus Christ, He encourages us to follow Him and labor with Him in His vineyard. When we do so, we become more like Him, and we help others come unto Him. We can abide in His presence more fully and join Him in God's work of salvation and exaltation.

We invite all stake members to

- Have daily experiences worshipping the Lord and studying His gospel.
- "[Worship] in the temple as regularly as your circumstances permit."
- Commit yourself to 1) pray for your ministering families by name every day and 2) have a ministering interview with your RS or EQ presidency quarterly.

And blessed art thou; for because ye have been diligent in laboring with me in my vineyard... behold ye shall have joy with me.

Jacob 5:75



Our Savior Jesus Christ rejoices in His Father's plan. He rejoices in our repentance, and in our service. He rejoices in our sacrifice and consecration. We can share in that same joy *with* Him.

What can you do that would allow you to feel more powerfully this joy that is available to you?