

Garden Park Ward Newsletter

April 5, 2020



"I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness but shall have the light of life." John 8:12

Bishopric Message

Blame it on the coronavirus and the earthquake, but it's been hard not to think often this month about Moses and the plagues in Egypt. Rereading the story in Exodus, we may all have some newfound empathy for both the Egyptians and the captive Hebrews. Clearly, the primary target of the scourges was Pharaoh, but the devastation wasn't limited to Pharaoh and his household. Every Egyptian and Hebrew must have been negatively affected by the swarms of lice, flies, frogs, and locusts, and by the hail, bloody water, and boils. They must have really learned the meaning of "shelter-in-place."

Were the masses who suffered through the Egyptian plagues simply collateral damage of a message meant for Pharaoh? Probably not. More likely, the plagues were "journey preparation" for the Hebrews, who were about to embark on the journey of their lives, a decades-long journey through the wilderness to the promised land. Had they not been softened and unsettled by the plagues, would they have been ready to abandon their homes and way of life to journey into the wilderness?

Although incredibly stressful and unsettling, the events we are experiencing may end up being "journey preparation" for the important journeys ahead of us. Many of us are learning to give up old habits and old assumptions. We're seeing how fragile life is, and how interdependent we are. We're spending time doing new things and thinking new thoughts. And we're making new plans for what we're going to do "when this is all over." Perhaps we're getting ready for a journey, maybe even a long-distance journey to finally forgive someone, to get healthy, to start a new career, to quit a destructive habit, or to heal an old wound.

Kitty O'Meara captured this sentiment in the following poem:

And the people stayed home.
And read books and listened and rested and exercised,
And made art and played games and learned new ways of being,
And were still.
And listened more deeply.
Some meditated, some prayed, some danced.
Some met their shadows.
And the people began to think differently.

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Bishopric Message (continued)

And the people healed.
And in the absence of people living in ignorant, dangerous, mindless, and heartless ways,
The earth began to heal.

And when the danger passed and the people joined together again,
They grieved their losses, and made new choices,
And dreamed new images and created new ways to live
And heal the earth fully, as they had been healed.

As a bishopric, we pray you will all be safe and well throughout this pandemic, and we pray we will all come through it stronger, more unified, and ready to embark on the important journeys ahead.

Warmly,
The Garden Park Ward Bishopric

Ward & Stake News

- ◆ If you would like the sacrament and don't have any way of receiving it please let your leaders know so we can provide it to you.
 - ◇ For those families or individuals without priesthood representation, it is critical their ministering brothers reach out. What a wonderful opportunity for all ministering brothers and those haven't had the opportunity to reach out prior. If you aren't being contacted by your ministering brother, please contact President Doug Bunker or Bishop Graham.
- ◆ Reminder for all ministering brothers and sisters to continue weekly contact and prompt reporting to Relief Society President, Kathy Younker and Elders Quorum President, Doug Bunker.
- ◆ All temples are temporarily closed until further notice.
- ◆ There are many great resources at churchofjesuschrist.org for enlightenment and studying the gospel.

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Ward Contacts

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★ Happy Birthday ★

April 1—Marni Chandler
April 2—Nicole Choules Paul
April 2—Amy Davidson
April 3—Oren Barry
April 4—Regan Anderson
April 4—Jade Binks
April 4—Maya Binks
April 5—Glenda Shenkal

April 6—Abram Johnson
April 8—Rick Fuller
April 8—Chris Furstenau
April 9—Jon Penman
April 9—Melissa Totzky
April 10—Brian Clinger
April 10—Joshua Stewart
April 12—Jeanette Church