

Randy Baker

From: Richard Graham <noreply@churchofjesuschrist.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 21, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Randy Baker
Subject: Bishop's Message for Sunday, March 22, 2020

Saturday, March 21, 2020

Greetings to all ward and community friends:

We miss gathering together! You are in our thoughts and prayers.

If the health challenges and the disruption of our personal lives caused by the Coronavirus is not enough to capture our full attention, the unforeseen and unexpected earthquake that rumbled through our valley and shook our homes further “rattled” and disrupted our lives this week. We are all feeling challenges that are new to us and until now, challenges that seemed to happen in other parts of the world, not in our community. The emotions we are feeling and the anxiety we may find in our lives run the entire spectrum.

As we approach the second Sunday without the opportunity to worship together as a Garden Park Ward community, we wish to share a thought that we hope we can ponder on tomorrow. We wanted to introduce the Ward Theme for the calendar year 2020 at Ward Conference, but would like to do so now instead. The Bishopric and Ward Council thoughtfully sought inspiration for this theme. It is taken from the Book of John, chapter 8 and verse 12:

“I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life”.

Each of us is endowed with the Light of Christ. This light is the Spirit of Jesus Christ. It shines upon every soul who is born into this world. The Light of Christ fills the universe, it fills our earth and it can fill every heart.

There is power, a strong influence that comes by following the Savior’s light. This power can uplift, enlighten and illuminate our lives as we listen for and respond to the voice of the spirit.

When we face challenge, uncertainty, fear, and separation we hope we can allow our hearts to be illuminated by the Light of Christ. By doing so, we will find our way clearly through this period of darkness. We can rely on The Light to build our faith, to give us hope and to find ways to strengthen, to serve and to minister to our families, our Ward members, and our neighbors and community.

Please enjoy your Sabbath day worship at home tomorrow. Please spend time reading, pondering or serving others. If you want or need help arranging for the Sacrament, please contact your ward ministering brothers or sisters, or President Doug Bunker or President Kathy Younker, and they will make arrangements to meet your particular needs. Lastly, I strongly encourage you to “reach out” through an electronic message or phone call to your ministering families and neighbors. Say hello, give them encouragement and ask about their welfare. This week, many of you shared with me your gratitude for the many calls and connections others made in your behalf. Cathy and I also, personally, received many calls and good wishes. We are grateful for each one of them. We feel your love and support.

Let’s follow the Savior’s path of service and love. Let’s be His light on the hill.

With gratitude, love and hope.

Bishop Rick Graham

Items of information. . .

Weekend of Prayer. The Area Presidency invites each of us to support Governor Herbert’s call for “a weekend of prayer” on March 20 -22. As a Ward please unite with others as we pray for guidance and relief.

Fast and Testimony Sunday. March 29 is our regular Fast and Testimony Sunday, for the month of April, due to General Conference. May we join together in fasting for our community, and all communities across the world to successfully overcome the health challenges before us.

Ministering. Relief Society and Elders’ ministering teams please make an electronic or phone contact to each assigned ministering family each week. In-person visits require approval by the family or individual, and must be limited to when there is a special need. If a contact cannot be made electronically please create a safe way to stay connected. Please continue to minister to our neighbors and community members as well. Let’s expand our outreach. Ministering teams, please report your contact success to your respective Relief Society and Elders’ Quorum Presidencies each week so we can identify and respond to any gaps quickly.

Sacrament. We continue to support the First Presidency’s invitation for families and individuals to have the Sacrament in their homes at least once per month. Families and individuals that have priesthood in their homes may prepare and administer the Sacrament. Again, if you need help arranging for the sacrament, please contact your ministering brothers or sisters, or President Bunker or President Younker, who can help arrange a visit to provide the service. Ministering teams that are contacted to prepare and administer the sacrament are directed to contact President Bunker first before performing

the ordinance. The preparation and administration must follow the pattern performed each Sunday. The preferred method of preparation and administration is to use bread and water that is provided by the family or individual and the sacrament prayers are to be pronounced in the presence of the family. Proper hygiene including the washing of hands must be followed. Caution should be taken to not enter into homes of members age 60 and over. And ministering brothers age 60 and over please ask someone else to provide this service. Administering the sacrament at the doorstep, including the prayers is authorized as a health precaution. In this case please keep a distance of 6 to 10 feet.

Gathering. Use of the Ward building is cancelled until further notice. When walking through the Ward grounds, please use social distancing of at least 6 feet.

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Richard Graham, whose calling is Bishop.