

Randy Baker

From: Chris Furstenau <noreply@churchofjesuschrist.org>
Sent: Saturday, March 28, 2020 2:07 PM
To: Randy Baker
Subject: Garden Park Ward Bishopric Message 3.29.20

Dear Brother and Sisters

In the Book of Mormon we read when Alma the younger, the current High Priest, was laboring and preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to cities and villages throughout the land; he was rejected by the people in a land called Ammonihah (Alma 8). The scriptures read

- 8 Now Satan had gotten great hold upon the hearts of the people of the city of Ammonihah; therefore they would not hearken unto the words of Alma. 9 Nevertheless Alma labored much in the spirit, wrestling with God in mighty prayer, that he would pour out His Spirit upon the people who were in the city; that he would also grant that he might baptize them unto repentance (Alma 8:9-10).

Even after much tribulation, hard work, fasting and prayer Alma was rejected by the people and he decided to depart from the land and move on to the next. As he was traveling an angel appeared unto him telling him to rejoice in his efforts and again return to Ammonihah to preach the word. Alma being obedient even in all his fatigue and rejection returned to Ammonihah to preach and from here a beautiful relationship is formed. The scriptures read

- 19 And as he entered the city he was hungered, and he said to a man: Will ye give to an humble servant of God something to eat? 20 And the man said to unto him: I am a Nephite, and I know that thou art a holy prophet of God, for thou art the man whom and angel said in a vision: Thou shalt receive. Therefore, go with me into my house and I will impart unto thee of my food; and I know that thou wilt be a blessing unto me and my house (Alma 8:19-20).

The man that took Alma in was Amulek. The scriptures say that Alma tarried many days with Amulek regaining his strength and teaching Amulek the gospel of Jesus Christ. Through this experience a friendship was born and both were blessed by their experiences together. Through Alma and Amulek's instrumentality miracles were rendered in the mission field and together blessed many other lives and introduced the gospel of Jesus Christ to many. Ultimately Amulek sacrificed much to preach with Alma (Alma 15:16); in fact it seems he sacrificed everything. It doesn't specifically say this anywhere but it is my belief Amulek watched his wife and children suffer the pains of death when he was imprisoned by the people on Ammonihah. Later Alma demonstrates his compassion and ministering care for Amulek by ministering unto him. In Alma 15:18 it reads

- 18 Now as I said, Alma having seen all these things, therefore he took Amulek and came over to the land Zarahemla, and took him to his own house, and did administer unto him in his tribulations, and strengthened him in the Lord (Alma 15:18).

This account is one of the great examples in the Book of Mormon to be prepared to receive revelation and then act on it. Both Alma and Amulek were given revelation and both acted upon it. The other great example this teaches us is that of ministering. First Amulek ministers unto

Alma in his tribulation and then Alma to Amulek.

Brother and Sisters as we are now faced with interesting circumstances right now might we remember these examples that the scriptures teach us in our tribulation. Might we follow the council of the prophet and learn to #HearHim in these challenging times and act on our impressions. Might we wrestle in prayer and fasting and come closer to God. Might we seek to bless the lives of others around us by listening to the still small voice and ministering unto them. Might we humbly accept the efforts of others that are ministering to us. Might we forge lasting bonding relationships that we can lean on in times of need.

The Garden Park bishopric loves you and prays for you. We know that as you draw close to our Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ you will be comforted. If anything is needed please don't hesitate to reach out to any leaders or your ministers for assistance. During this time of social distancing we want to make sure all the needs of the ward and being met.
May God be with you!

Sincerely Garden Park Ward Bishopric Rick Graham Randy Peterson Chris Furstenu
Some things to remember

- This week is fast Sunday and President Nelson has invited us to participate in a world wide fast. We hope you'll take the opportunity to join the fast.
- 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.
- Reminder for all ministering brothers and sisters to continue weekly contact and prompt reporting to Relief Society President (Kathy Youker) and Elders Quorum President (Doug Bunker).
- Next week is general conference with usual schedule and meetings except that Saturday night session is for all adults and YM/YW.
- Izzy Vaifo'ou is home from his mission and in self quarantine. Calls only to congratulate him on a mission well served.
- All temples are temporarily closed until further notice.
- Blood drive will occur on Thursday April 2nd at the Bonneville Stake Center from 2 - 7:15 PM.
- There are many great resources at LDS.org for enlightenment and studying the gospel.

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Chris Furstenu, whose calling is Bishopric Second Counselor.