

spiritual defining moments .

This is a first for us. Having a fireside this way over social media is definitely different. Some of us would rather stand at a pulpit in front of 100 people, than sit in front of a camera recording yourself!

But thank you to those who have spoken to us and given us uplifting words, we all appreciate the time you spent.

The music has been fantastic and you probably deserve a bigger pat on the back. Thank you.

As a Stake Presidency we wanted to all come together and share Testimony and thoughts that would put a smile on faces and uplift us all in these different and somewhat difficult times. And maybe ask, What matters most to you?

I am a convert to the church. I was almost 13 years old when I was baptized along with my family.

As a child I can remember my Mum teaching my Sister and me to say the Lord's prayer. We knew about God, I believed in God way before Missionaries knocked on our door.

I was certainly taught well by my Mum.. at this point in my life I'm not sure what my Dad believed but I would soon come to know that he believed the same as I did.

Mum taught me many things but one of them was to be Thankful. Even in the last few days of her being with us, she would always thank the Nurses for the needle she just had, or the Dr for asking how she was. She was always thankful.

So as I think of her and what she taught me and gave me I have to give thanks.

I am grateful to my Wife and my Children, my Son in Law and my Daughter in law. My Family and my Testimony is what matters most to me.

It was serving as a Missionary for the church of Jesus Christ of Latter day Saints that I came to a better knowledge of My Saviour and the love he has for us all.

I cannot share a Testimony or thoughts about this church and not think of my Saviour. As I think of his life, one full of learning and love, service, pain and agony and complete obedience. always giving thanks to His Father. As I think of his final few days I cannot imagine the feelings he had.

Those he taught and even healed would question him. Those closest to him that he loved would betray him.

He would bleed from every pore, so you and me can be forgiven for the mistakes we make.

He would have a crown of thorns to pierce his head.

He would be put on trial, mocked, spat at, hit, scourged and crucified...and I have to ask myself WHY?

Through all of this I have wondered How does he feel? As each day passes leading to crucifixion, how does he feel, what is he thinking??

I share with you my Testimony that he knew His Father's plan. He knew that on that beautiful Sunday morning he would be resurrected, that the bands of death would be broken. He would be totally obedient to His Father's will..

Prophets of Old on both sides of the world told us of His great Sacrifice.

Mosiah 3:7-11. (Read)

He paid the price for you and me so we can be resurrected. I am so thankful for Him and His

love, So we can be with our loved ones again.

In these weeks of isolation, we have read the scriptures from come follow me and from toward the end of 2nd Nephi, to the allegory of the olive tree, to the wrestle that Enos had, to the wonderful words from King Benjamin. my Testimony has been strengthened and comfort has come. As we have read and thought of the events I am thankful that I know that the book of Mormon can only be the word of God.

We have had a wonderful general conference where peace and comfort have replaced our worries. We have joined in a fast where members and non members have all come together in prayer.

What a privilege I have had to be able to speak to our Missionaries who, with no fault of their own have come home early. and then I have seen their desire to want to get back out to another mission and continue to serve.

I have seen how much the church loves these young Missionaries and been amazed at how quickly the church moved to protect them all.

We have wonderful Missionaries serving in our Stake and from Our Stake, who are continuing to teach all that will hear. They have the greatest message that has ever been told. A message that will disperse all dark clouds and turn every question of Why?? Into a chorus of Thankyous.

I have had reports of ministering Brothers and Sisters just looking after each other, caring and loving.

As members of this great gospel we have committed to share what we know with those who will listen.

Can I invite the members of the Ashton Stake to again commit to pray daily for opportunities to share your Testimony. I know blessings will come as you pray in Faith.

This coming week is our stake Temple week. We have studied how many came to listen to the words of King Benjamin and how they brought tents and placed them facing the Temple. We maybe in lockdown and cannot go to the Temple but it is still our Stake Temple week ..so I invite you all to hold a recommend. If you do not hold a Temple recommend please set your own goal as to when you will and share your goal with a ministering Brother or Sister.

Submit a name to the Temple. Many have already done this.

If you have submitted a name, then help someone else. Is there someone in your immediate or extended family you could help? Is there someone in the ward you could help?

Do you need help to do this? Don't wait, please ask someone to help you.

Please lets all set a goal to submit a name to the Temple this week.

Lets be ready and eager to enter the Lords house as soon as possible. Lets face our doors towards the Temple.

It is still Stake Temle week, lets do what we can to have the spirit of Elijah in our homes and blessings will abound.

During this time I have had moments to reflect and ponder.

I have thought of the 1st vision and the events of that time.

Why would Joseph and Hyrum lie about the book of Mormon, Angels, revelation?? Why would

they not want to continue to be with their families, whom they loved?

Why, were so many people against Him and the church? Was there an evil wanting to stop them by any means possible? Why?

I know that Joseph Smith saw Heavenly Father and Jesus Christ in the grove of trees in the spring of 1820. He did exactly what the Saviour told him to do. He is a Prophet of God. You know that and I know that.. there is no other explanation!!

How does a Mother watch Her Son suffer and not ask Why?

(M Russell Ballard said)

Following the martyrdom, Joseph's and Hyrum's bodies were returned to Nauvoo, washed, and dressed so the Smith family could see their loved ones. Their precious mother recalled: "I had for a long time braced every nerve, roused every energy of my soul, and called upon God to strengthen me; but when I entered the room, and saw my murdered sons extended both at once before my eyes, and heard the sobs and groans of my family [and] the cries ... from the lips of their wives, children, brothers, and sisters, it was too much. I sank back crying to the Lord in the agony of my soul, 'My God! My God! Why hast thou forsaken this family?'" At that moment of sorrow and distress, she recalled them saying, "Mother, weep not for us; we have overcome the world by love."

End quote



Shall We Not Go On in So Great a Cause?

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<https://www.churchofjesuschrist.org/study/general-...>

How can the 1st vision not be true?

Have you had a spiritual defining moment? What was it, when was it? Was it a moment alone to ponder?

Was it a prayer, a verse you read, birth of a child, a marriage, a talk you heard, a Testimony, a Convention, death of a loved one? What ever the moment was, ponder on it and ask Is God in these moments?... and you will come to the conclusion that he is and that you are loved and not alone.

During all of this crisis do things for yourself that will lift you physically and spiritually.

A few years ago whilst visiting my 92 year old Nan we were just chatting, watching TV and eating chocolate. The weather was awful, it was windy and rainy.. as I was about to leave she was telling me how she loved me and I flipently said. If you love me that much can you stop me from getting wet in the rain.. for a few seconds she said nothing, then she said.. Do you have a coat?. I said Yes... then wear it she said...

Sometimes we all have a coat that will protect us but choose not to wear it. We all have the love of a Father in Heaven and His Son Jesus Christ and have everything we need to stay close to them and be protected.

Brothers and Sisters as a stake Presidency we want to thank those that have lifted our spirits tonight, for the testimonies and words that have been shared, for the music and prayers. We hope you have felt the spirit and felt the love that Heavenly Father and His Son Jesus Christ have for you. Thankyou for all you have done and continue to do we love you, we miss being with you but we will soon. But for now please ponder, what matters most and wear your coat.. stay protected.

In the name of Jesus Christ. amen.