

DANA WARD NEWS

7-2013 Issue



BISHOPRIC MESSAGE

I recently spent most of a week in Pinedale at our Stake Young Women's Camp. The theme was "I'm a Mormon – I Know It, I Live It, I Love It". I was very familiar with this mindset since my Dad has always taught me to "Learn, Live and Love the Commandments".

The greatest joy, fun and happiness I have had in my life is by actually keeping the commandments.

All the years of my life I have done so have been amazing, full of confidence and peace – even through trials. Nothing we do here on earth is more important than to know, live and love the commandments until we complete and live true to saving Ordinances and Covenants. These include faith, repentance, baptism and temple worship.

Here's the great part – it doesn't matter where you are at right now – you can improve at it today. If you're not a member of Christ's Church – get baptized. If you're baptized yet less active – go to Church next Sunday and every Sunday after that. If you haven't gone through the temple – visit with me and let's make a plan to do so. If you hold a temple recommend and go there regularly – go more often! And then lovingly help and encourage those around you to do the same. John 7:17

Bishop Eyring

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

2 - Schnebly, Johanna	19 - Filhart, Gideon	28 - Mendez, Nazario de Jesus
3 - Blau, Donovan	19 - Merkley, Brenden	29 - Hird, Renle
3 - Nicholson, Tayte	19 - Sheeler, Sara	29 - Jackson, Susan
4 - Hassell, Kyndra	19 - Young, Bailey	31 - Hawks, Emmett
5 - Young, Emily	21 - Martin, Caleb	31 - Merkley, Amber
6 - Williams, Samuel	21 - Merkley, Dylon	
7 - Carter, Jennifer	22 - Beals, Denean	
7 - Macias, Susan	22 - Berryman, Dorothy	
7 - Webb, David	22 - Layton, Tanner	
10 - Reynolds, Billy Ray	24 - Brown, Ryn	
12 - James, Stanley	25 - Turner, Alec	
16 - Merkley, Lilyann	26 - Merkley, Keith	
17 - 'Ahia, 'Elemio ti	27 - Crosby, Jonathan	
Vaitu'ulala	27 - Schnepf, Kevin	
17 - Brown, Denlynn	28 - Hansen, Carli	
19 - Blau, Kaeden	28 - Kitchen, Jimmy	

BISHOPRIC

Bishop - Darren Eyring - 480-695-2346
1st Counselor - Kyle Hassell - 480-969-4276
2nd Counselor - Wes Filhart - 480-832-0391
Exec. Secretary - Dustin Redd - 480-369-7903

MESA SOUTH STAKE PRESIDENCY

President - Ray Johnson
1st Counselor - Rondal Jones
2nd Counselor - Douglas Millett
Exec. Secretary - Daniel Zufelt
Stake Clerk - Larry Schnepf
Full-time Missionaries - Elder Brooks and Elder Park: 480-495-8138



News From Around The Ward

Donovan Blau attended the National Youth Leadership Training at Camp Geronimo from May 27th thru May 31st. He did a great job and came back ready to lead the Scouts as they attend Scout Camp in July.

Sister Rosa was married on Friday, June 14th.

Alex Shope and Alecsandera Ryazanova were married on July 13th.



James & Laura Carpenter family Children Carson -10, Jacob -7 and Tressa -2
Laura and I [James] met in a singles ward and have been married for 12 years. She is a graduate from BYU and I am a graduate from University of Phoenix. Laura was raised in Mesa in the Kimball Stake, and I was raised in Gilbert. Laura taught 1st grade for 2 years until we had our first child Carson and now is a stay at home mom and teaches pre-school out of the home. I work as a bug man with my brother for his company. We have lived in Gilbert, Mesa and Florence over the past 12 years. Carson is 10 and loves sports and watching and playing sports with Dad Jacob is 7 and loves Karate and playing with his friends and Dad Tressa is 2 and loves anything pink and playing dress up. She also is the ruler of the house!

Gary & Marla Blum the parents of **Jenn & Kyle Packer**

Amanda Phelps and her children **Taya** -12, **Kahnye** -6, and **Cambri** -5



NEW CALLINGS

Connie Rogers: Sunday School Teacher 12 yr. olds Team teaching with Randee Gardner

Miriam Martin: Flag Specialist

Myrna Pace: Activity Day Leader

Kyndra Hassell: Asst. Activity Day Leader and Primary Worker

Heidi-Ann Blau: Indexing Specialist

Ann Berryman: Ward Missionary

Grace Halliday: Ward Missionary

Sharon McCartney: Ward Missionary

Al Celik: Greeter

The ward talent show was held on Friday, June 21st.

It was a great night of entertainment. The following people participated in some very unique ways. We thank everyone who shared their talents with us.

Kyle Hassell
The Keith Merkley Family
Lena Chapman
Spencer Bury
John Nichols
Jared Nichols
Spencer Nichols
Lauren Eyring
Noah Nichols
Garrett Lans
Ernest Halliday
Clyde Ransom





News From Around The Ward



Erin Healy welcomes a new baby girl to her family. Josephine Hope Vanoss was born May 17, 2013. Her father, Jon Vanoss, passed away suddenly a few months before her birth. Erin is investigating the church and is a welcome addition to our ward family.



Jon Vanoss

Terrance Morgan was ordained to the office of Elder in the Melkezedek Priesthood on Sunday, June 9th. Terrance and Heidi were married in the Mesa Temple on June 21st.

HAPPY to know you!

Member Spotlight

My name is Heidi [Whitney] Morgan, [I was] married on Friday, June 21st in the Mesa Arizona Temple to the love of my life Terrence James Morgan.

Our families go way back. All my grandparents were in this ward at one point, so it's fun to be joining a ward I have a history with. His Grandparents Joe O' Barr and Mickey O' Barr were good friends with my Grandma Myrna Abel and my Grandpa Robert Whitney (who have since passed) and still are good friends with my Grandma Berta Whitney. For the ward Halloween party they used to block off all of Nielsen Street where Grandma Whitney lived. They had cake walks, a fishing pond with real fish to win and my family would come join in every year. Terrence used to go to those Halloween block parties too but was 3 years older than me and I don't recall ever seeing him there. But my future husband was right under my nose!

My sister married Terrence's cousin Stephen O' Barr two years ago, and we caught sight of each other at the wedding. About six months later Stephen set us up on a blind date. At first we were just friends, but over the course of two years we fell in love. On January 5, 2013 Terrence proposed to me on the same day my little nephew was born. And of course I said Yes!

Terrence and I both enjoy drawing, shooting, watching movies, camping and hiking. We recently hiked the Wind Cave Trail at Usery Pass but want to hike Flat Iron in the Superstition Mountains when it cools down a bit. As for me personally, I am the second oldest of six kids, 5 girls, one boy. I'm a home body but somehow found the courage to go on a mission when I was 21 to New Jersey. It brought me out of my shell and I loved the greenery and being close to the ocean.

When I returned home I continued my education at Arizona State University and received my BA degree in Family and Human Development. I LOVE to organize and am always picking a room or cupboard to bring some order to. I listen to Christmas music year round and rearrange furniture in the house at least every six months, usually every three. I also love to read and have recently been buried in the Odd Thomas book series by Dean Koontz. He is a new favorite author of mine.

I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you. I'm horrible with names so please don't mind if I have to ask you a few times to get it down. I honest to goodness forget my best friend's name every once in a while. So it's not personal, just a memory thing.



MISSIONARY MAIL



The new area is going so good; we saw a lot of miracles last week. We don't have any one set for baptism but we have a lot of prospective people that are really close. We got three new investigators this week. This one guy seems like a future kingdom builder. He got a notebook and took notes of what we thought would be good scriptural passages for him. And we set up to see him and his family next week. So that is exciting!! My mission is like a pair of shoes, to be worn out in diligence!!!

I have learned a lot lately about the atonement, and how it doesn't matter where you are at in life, there is hope for the light of the gospel, and each person can take the righteous footsteps forward to enter into that light and receive blessings and change, it's amazing. The gospel is so simple and perfect. The Holy Ghost will teach the missionary new truths and bring to a remembrance all the things that he has studied, it will carry the truth to the heart of the hearer, and as the missionary teaches both the teacher and the listener will be edified, and so obviously I must live up to my end of the deal to obtain this, which is to pray for the Spirit, purify my heart, strive to keep the commandments, study diligently, and exercise my faith. That's all the Lord requires, is a willing heart and our best efforts, not someone else's efforts, cause they might be able to do more or give more, we just have to worry about us, that's our only obligation, to do all that WE can do, not what someone else can do, then we will become who we are designed to become.

Well the gospel is true, therefore nothing else matters (-President Millet).

Love, Elder Eyring

Elder Brandon Eyring

9327 Midlothian Tpke Ste 1-B

Richmond, VA 23235-4965

I enjoyed my birthday watching the Conference with my comp. it was great!!! This week was good. we had a baptism and we are planning on having 3 baptisms here this weekend. I am really happy to be here. We had an exchange this past week and i went to valencia and i visited the Velez Family and they showed me their Temple Sealing Certificate. They are so happy now the entire family has been baptized, just one son isn't. So i took a picture with all the members of the family. It was a great experience.

We are working really hard with the goal for this week. We have had 30 baptisms in the Zone for the moment we are pushing it for 40 this week. Its possible. The missionaries are working really hard and they have great investigators. We will be doing some exchanges this week, like 4 maybe 5. so that will be great.

Thank you all for your love and support in my last 3 weeks. I hope you all went to the Conference last night and learned a lot from it. It was amazing. Please keep working with the missionaries. the Lord needs to hasten his work. I love you all very much. STUDY PREACH MY GOSPEL

Elder Schnepf





MISSIONARY MAIL



Elder Kevin Hale
4 Norte 1112 Casilla 631
Vina del Mar
Valparaiso
Chile

6/3/3013

This past Sunday we had a baptism of a girl named Camila. She is great and will be a great help to our ward. Her baptism was a great spiritual experience and I know her dad felt that same powerful experience. Afterwards, he stood up and gave his thanks for everyone that was helping his daughter and that he would start thinking about what he could do or if he would like to join the church as well. He is a great man and will be a great leader in the church!

I know what Joseph Stark is feeling. (We told Kevin that Joseph came home this week and bore his testimony in English.) Every once in a while I try to say a prayer in English and everything comes out funny. Also, the other day I had a contact all in English. THAT was difficult... And my companion couldn't help me out because he can only speak a little English but can understand everything.

But we also found another family that is fantastic! The only problem with them is that we can't teach them when their grandmother is at their house. We need to teach them more after she leaves. We also found another man and he really likes talking to us and we feel that with time, after he comes to church once or twice, he will start to change his life for the better. It's amazing to see what the Atonement of Christ can do for the people that are searching for it's help and how we can help them find it! It's a great work that we're participating in! Keep up the good work at home and I look forward to hearing from you next week! I love you all!



6/14/13

This week I found out how patience can really pay off in the end. We have been teaching a family and their daughter is a member but she is not very receptive to the church. She loves the elders and we can go to her and her family for almost anything we need. But each week, I invite her to church and each week, she says no. But this week I was able to talk with her a little bit more about the church and what she has been going through. Her husband has been going through some medical problems and it has been hard on her family and they can't do much to help him. I shared a scripture with her and then asked if she had a Book of Mormon. She said no and I was a little shocked because I am about the 5th missionary to be going to that family for lunches and whatever we need. But she said no and I also asked if anyone had explained the Book of Mormon to her. She said no as well and so I took the opportunity to explain it to her and gave her her very own copy. Unbelievably, she accepted it! Her daughter also told me that she almost accepted the invitation to go to church with us. Her daughter told me that it was because I invited her every week. Not through an obligation, but a sincere, personal invitation. She is a great woman and I hope that one day she will be able to enter the temple with her family to be sealed for all time and eternity. Patience and sincere persistence brings miracles!

6/24/13

Dear Family and Friends,

Well this week has been a good week! We have been teaching some new investigators and we set a baptismal date with one of them for the 7th. He was committed to coming to church, but 2 days before, we saw him and he told us that he couldn't come to church this week but he'll come the next week. So we have to push back his baptismal date another week. But instead of him coming to church, we finally had the mom of a recent convert come to church! Through many weeks and Saturday nights of inviting her to church, every week, she finally came! Her daughter was giving a talk in sacrament meeting and she came and felt the spirit and just about 30 members afterward greeted her and later that night, we went to their house and she said that she liked the church! So hopefully she'll feel that desire to come again next week!

One of the things I have learned this week is more about virtue. Virtue is a whole lot more than what I had thought about before. In Preach My Gospel it explains it very well and very clearly. It has really helped me this week with the work here.

The broadcast yesterday was great! I didn't get to hear about the first 10 minutes and the announcement about the internet and all that jazz because the internet connection in the chapel was really bad. But I am going to watch that first part with some member this week. Super Bueno! And also, I really liked the part from Elder Perry, when he talked about the missionary purpose. That purpose is for every member and you should all memorize it! We can always think to that when we are in a difficult situation when we don't know how or when to share the gospel. Also, everyone should get a Preach My Gospel. That book is really powerful and helpful to anyone, not just the full time missionaries.

Well, other than that, my week has been really good. I'm so grateful that everyone in our family is alright and doing well! This gospel is true and when we put our faith in the Lord, we can do anything! I love you all!

Love,
Elder Hale



MISSIONARY MAIL



Elder Sheldon Hassell
1460 Division St #46
Corvallis, OR 97330
6/3/13

We found two new investigators this week. First was Alex. We were tracting this apartment complex and knocked a couple doors. We were about to leave but then both decided to go to one last building in the complex and just knock a couple doors to see if they might be Spanish. Well, the second door we knocked, was Alex. Young guy, going to college, and he is from Mexico City. He let us right in, taught him a very spiritual lesson on the Restoration. We both felt on top of the world after the lesson. He agreed to read and pray about 3 Nephi 11 and we got a return appointment.

Directly after that appointment, we went to see Daniel. We had met him tracting in this neighborhood and he was picking up his daughter from the babysitters house. We asked if he had ever talked to missionaries before, he said not really, but readily gave his phone number and address. So we were able to stop by and talk to him. He is a really neat guy, has 3 daughters from 9 months to 16. Really family oriented kind of guy, just might be a little harder for him to accept everything, it kind of seemed. He really knows the scriptures and has attended a Baptist church. But he's genuine and willing to listen. It was actually really funny, because he asked Elder Garcia where he was from and Elder Garcia told him Tapic Nagarit, which is in Mexico, anyway then he turned, looked at me and said "and you are from Argentina right?" I said "no, I'm from Mesa Arizona." He said "oh, the way you say Yo which is "I" in Spanish, made me think you were from Argentina." I guess Hno Henriquez, a member from my last area (Albany), rubbed off on me too much and I picked up on the accent they have for the y sound.

Fast forward now to Saturday morning. The week had been going really well, had a good district meeting, had good studies the whole week, found new investigators, etc. But for some reason, I woke up and felt off. Saturday we met an Incredible family. Luis is the dads name and the kids I can't remember. He didn't invite us in because he had to go prepare for finals, but you know how they talk about elect people. The feeling we had as we talked to this man was an undeniable feeling from the Holy Ghost, that we were talking to a genuine seeker of truth. He is from Peru, has friends who are members and very graciously accepted a Book of Mormon. He seemed shocked and just wowed that we were just going to give it to him; the way he took it in his hands, it was like it really meant something to him. Then his teenage daughter asked if we had another one that we could give her because she really wanted to read it. It was awesome. But still, throughout the day, I just had kind of this nagging feeling. Well, later that afternoon we missed a call from the Assistants. I didn't think too much of it, we called back, they weren't available but texted saying they'd call later. When they finally called back, around 6:30, they asked if we were both on the line and available "yes" we replied. They then told us that Elder Garcia was going to be transferred, due to the Visa Waiters getting their visas. So we thought, "wow, OK, so what time Monday do we need to be in Eugene?" we asked and they said "not Monday, you need to be there tomorrow at 3. So we turned back to the apartment, he started packing, I helped as much as I could before an appointment at 8, with an eternal investigator (meaning they have investigated the church for a LONG time).

We went to this lesson and were teaching the Plan of Salvation. At the end of it, everything hadn't clicked, we explained, testified, asked questions and heard her answers. It was probably one of the most spiritual lessons that we'd had and all three of us: me, Elder Garcia, and Hermano Becera were definitely following promptings from the Holy Ghost, he was working through us definitely and it was a huge testimony builder. But, she denied a baptismal date. It is so true what Elder Bednar says that "we cannot force truths into the heart of an investigator. The Holy Ghost can work through us, can guide us, but ultimately, even he can only bring truth Unto the heart. It is up to the seeker of truth to allow it into the heart."

Sunday after church, we had a break the fast. We got some pictures with our Group before heading to Eugene. I hung out with the Spanish Elders for the afternoon evening in Eugene from 3:30 till 9:30, when my new companion arrived back from Medford. His name is Elder Fernandez and is from Dominican Republic. Which, if I remember correctly, is where Tyson Hill served his mission, along with Justin Schnepf. We already get along really well. He's lived in Idaho for the past while and before that in Minnesota during his High school years. He likes to play rugby and he has only been out 5 weeks.

So my trainer, Elder Ketchum, got him mid-transfer last transfer and then this transfer, they split the area of Medford, where they were at, and got two visa waiters with them. So he was basically being trained and training at the same time. Pretty crazy. But anyways, now he is with me for follow up training and Elder Ketchum, my trainer, still has one other visa waiter. The other two missionaries serving down in Medford are my previous companion, Elder Garcia, who is with my trainee, Elder Johnson, now. SO, it is pretty funny how it all worked out. I got to see Elder Johnson at the transfer spot and he was so excited to see me, he yelled from across the parking lot when he saw me pull up. I was so glad to see him too, he's an awesome missionary.

Well, that's all I've got for now. I hope you all have a blessed week. Always remember the Savior said "I have engraven thee upon the palms of my hands." He has not forgotten us, let us not ever forget him and his sacrifice. I pray we all come to more fully realize what a miracle and blessing and source of power his Atoning Sacrifice has in our lives.

Con Amor,
Elder Hassell





MISSIONARY MAIL



Sister Katie Johnson is off to Chile. She reported to the MTC in Chile on Wednesday, June 5th.

News from Hermana Johnson:

So it is now week 2 here at the MTC!!! I am learning so much Spanish! I can pray, read scriptures, bare my testimony, and teach a lesson in Spanish. I am beginning to understand a lot more of what people say. One day this week our teacher had us go out to the temple and just talk to people, we talked to this old lady who really just wanted to talk to us so we did not really get to say much but while in the middle of it I felt so much love for her! I knew in that moment how much Heavenly Father loves her and everyone and it was so great! I gave the closing prayer in sacrament on Sunday!!!! I was so nervous but it was great! then I gave a lesson in relief society (in English don't worry) and I enjoyed it so much! We all love to sing here! we sing on our bus rides home and while on breaks and walking around the temple. Which by the way we went to the temple last Wednesday!!! Oh my goodness I love the Santiago temple!!!! :) it is so beautiful inside! This week has been so great and I have learned a lot, a quote I have been reading is Strength is not something we have, it is what God helps us find - Emma Smith. This has helped me a lot this week as I come to find the strength I have and the impact missionaries have on the world. One night one of my teachers talked to me and he thanked me for serving a mission and he said as a Chilean he thanked me for coming here because we are needed! I love you all and I love hearing everything going on!!

Elder Steele Crandell
4717 Ciara Dr.
Durant, OK 74701

6/3/2013

Well I have had so many humbling experiences, mostly by my companion who is trying his best to help me in what he can. As I came out in the field, I felt that I was a higher caliber than any other missionary. I listened and did the things which I was told by him with a smile on my face even. The undertone was still felt by him. I was not that aware that I was feeling "higher" than him, but it was more a feeling of a prejudice. I just instantly put him in that category of kids that I knew from Mountain View, which was wrong of me because I really didn't yet know him. So he confronted me about it and we talked for quite some time. He is young as well and is growing just as I am. So through much prayer and a couple of blessings, I was able to seek out God's help and pull myself closer to Jesus Christ and remember all that he has done for me. So through that I have been able to humble myself and become more meek and Christlike, and be more of the man Christ wants me to be.

Ok. Now for the less serious and fun stuff. So on the 20th there were some devastating tornadoes going on and it got close enough for the storm sirens to be sounded. So we were with a family of less actives. So then we drove down to the Public Storm Shelter which had 80-120 people in it so a little bit crowded. But as you know I will talk to anyone anywhere, so I was making a reference how it was similar to the movie The Other Side of Heaven, and this girl said that it was not "funny" as she overheard me say it. Then I explained to her that my companion and I are missionaries like in the movie and how they (the mom and the daughter) are now investigators and they are as sweet as can be.

Another occasion was similar to that previous one. We were with a member doing some service and he had to make a stop at the pawn shop. So we went in as well and Elder Munday felt inclined to buy his girlfriend back home a necklace. So during his selection time I started talking to the jeweler about jewelry and other things and eventually he began asking me questions about who I was and what I did (pertaining to missionary work) and I got talking to him and he is real nice and wants us to stop by. I am learning that God is preparing people everywhere and we don't even have a clue. So in the mission, we have a goal to talk to everyone and until that day it didn't really make sense, but every day I am understanding what I thought I already knew. So it is very exciting what is possible when you have unity and the Lord on your side. Alma 16:16-17.

This whole experience has been rough and not for the faint of heart. And I have gained such a love for these people. Especially their honesty and simple and easy way of living. As we go out tracting we have our scriptures open and we read and learn as we wait. Not only do we grow but it keeps all negative thoughts out of our minds. So I challenge you to try that in your daily lives the best you can. It will bring a smile to your soul.

6/10/13

I was doing service for a disabled vet all day on wednesday from our ward and he truly needed the help and I thought to my self if I was home and being selfish and I could have never been given the chance to help this man out. i love doing service projects and that brings great joy to me as well. We spent all day one day splitting wood for this man and my companion is 6'8" and 350 lbs big dude, he only split one log by himself so it was really funny me being the little guy beating him so bad i was splitting and throwing logs into the pile and it was alot of fun my daddy done raised me right. haaha and another funny thing so we were with a family that invited their friends over in Wapanaka or as they call it Wopy and we taught the friends the first discussion and it went pretty well it could have been better but i was talking to thier little boy and i asked him what he wanted to be when he grows up and he said to me, "well i think ill work in the lumber yard" haha and the whole table thought it was the funniest thing and the dad was saying how he has never heard that asperation from his 5 year old son before i thought it was the cutest thing ever.

On a spiritual note i have been teaching a ton we have been doing our best at being exactly obedient and we are being so blessed for it i am truly loving Durant the people are awesome we are just finding more people each day its pretty awesome. I find that the more we are obedient the more people literally fall into our hands. As we are able to find more people we know that this message can truly bless thier lives and the message is better given by the spirit as we are earnestly caring towards these people, but that doesnt mean to be lovey dovey all the time, because as a parent is strict with an unrully child sometimes we have to be dierect and plenty blunt to get the message to them clearly. but i am absolutly loving my mission.

OKLAHOMA IS THE PLACE TO BE

your home Elder,
Elder crandell