

## Stake Emergency Preparedness & Self-Reliance

Quarterly Newsletter



### Never Stop Learning

By Brent Ellibee  
Kansas City Stake High Counselor

There are many secrets to becoming and remaining self-reliant. One secret is to never cease learning. This learning can be formal or informal. It can be virtual or face to face.

With so much information at our fingertips there is no reason why we cannot keep learning and gaining wisdom in this life. However, we must be careful where we get the information to ensure we are being taught correct spiritual or temporal principles. In D&C 88:118, we are taught “teach one another words of wisdom; yea, seek ye out of the best books words of wisdom; seek learning, even by study and by faith.” In the *For the Strength of Youth* manual, it teaches us that education is an important part of Heavenly Father’s plan. “He wants you to educate your mind and to develop your skills and talents.”

Through the Church Education system and in connection with BYU, the Church of Jesus Christ has an education program called BYU-Pathway or PathwayConnect. This program helps individuals to establish good gospel principle and study habits while working towards earning a certificate and a Bachelor’s degree. This can be done at a fraction of the cost of going through another degree program. The Church follows the same gospel principles of line upon line and precept upon precept. As the student goes through the program they earn certificates, which can help them get a better job in their desired field. Each certificate builds upon the previous, giving the student additional skills as they work towards their degree.

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### Spiritual Insights

- Preparation, both spiritual and temporal, can dispel fear
- "...if ye are prepared ye shall not fear " (Doctrine and Covenants 38:30).
- “The need for preparation is abundantly clear. The great blessing of being prepared gives us freedom from fear” (Elder L. Tom Perry)

This program offers 2 different ways to get a degree. The 1st way is the Preferred Path which starts with PathwayConnect and the 2nd is the Advanced Path.

Both programs come at a reduced cost but those that enroll in the PreferredPath have additional savings. The Preferred Path costs \$79 a credit and the Advanced Path is \$135 a credit. Depending on the program selected, an individual can obtain a bachelor's degree between \$10,000 and \$20,000

field, I invite you to investigate this inspired education program that the church has to offer. As many leaders have taught us over the years, learning is a lifelong process. The knowledge and wisdom that we learn in this life will stay with us in the life to come.

Through this program you can earn a bachelor's degree in:

- ◆ Applied Business Management
- ◆ Applied Health
- ◆ Applied Technology
- ◆ Communication

### Preferred Path *(starts with [PathwayConnect](#))*

The preferred path to a degree begins with [PathwayConnect](#). It is **recommended for most students**, no matter their age or experience.

- 3 terms: All 6–7 courses count toward a degree
- Weekly gatherings (online or in person) during first two semesters for additional support
- NO ACT/SAT required to join
- NO high school diploma/GED required (for Age 19+)
- English assessment is required
- Reduced cost

### Advanced Path

An advanced path is available **for students with significant university and online learning experience**.

- Must have completed high school (or equivalent)
- English assessment is required
- Low tuition, but costs more than starting with [PathwayConnect](#)

(depending on book costs. The cost per credit at local community college is around \$116 a credit for an associates degree and between \$350 to \$500 a credit for a bachelor's degree. With the cost savings of going through the BYU-Pathway's program, the student has less of a financial burden, which makes college more affordable.

If you are on your journey to becoming self-reliant and part of that journey is getting an education to get better work or just want additional education in a

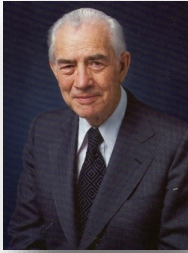
- ◆ Marriage & Family Studies
- ◆ Professional Studies

For more information on this program go to the BYU-Pathway link by clicking [HERE](#).

“For behold, thus saith the Lord God: I will give unto the children of men line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little; and blessed are those who hearken unto my precepts, and lend an ear unto my counsel, for they shall learn wisdom; for unto him that receiveth I will give more;” (2 Nephi 28: 30 )  
~Ellibee

~Excerpt from ~

## Blessings in Self-Reliance



Mark E. Peterson  
Council of the Twelve Apostles  
April, 1981—General Conference

My wife was the daughter of a sea captain who lost a ship at sea. As the survivors drifted in life-boats hour after hour before they were picked up, they all sang, “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me.” (Hymns, no. 121.)

Together with this choir and with my Brethren, I testify of the Lord Jesus Christ, the divine Son of Almighty God, the Savior of the world, our Redeemer. I am grateful for the testimony that we bear, and as we approach the Easter time, I testify with my Brethren that He lives. He is the living Christ.

Our great mission as Latter-day Saints is to bear testimony of Him. Through all the trials and tribulations of this world, if we will but pray as the choir has just sung—“Jesus, Savior, pilot me”—we shall go through life successfully, not free from troubles and trials, but always accompanied by the Holy Spirit, who will see us safely through.

It is no news to anyone that we are in a world crisis. But the basic problem is not what most people think it is. It is not fundamentally economic, and it is not basically due to any oil shortage.

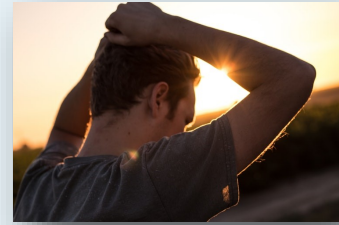
Our basic problem is moral and spiritual. We must return to God.

Since all human beings are His children, His commandments apply to everyone. They pertain to every phase of our lives. If we expect to really enjoy peace and happiness in this world, we must have faith enough to keep those commandments. If we ignore them or violate them, we bring evil consequences down upon our own selves.

There is no escaping these two alternatives. One or the other will control our lives, so it is only sensible to be realistic and face up to these hard facts.

Inasmuch as God has given us our free agency to do as we please, He expects us to use our intelligence and ingenuity to improve our circumstances both spiritually and temporally. He wants us to be successful in life and desires to help us. Man really is that he might have joy. (See 2 Ne. 2:25.)

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## Blessings in Self-Reliance

*“Life confronts us with many serious problems. Some are moral; others are economic. But all can cause us difficulty.*

*Truly we are living in a troubled world. We are surrounded by it and are subject to all its perils, plagues, inducements, persuasions, and temptations. But nevertheless, regardless of all that, we are not to be of the world.”*

*Mark E. Peterson*

Then we should plan well for our future and not live entirely for the present nor suppose that the status quo will continue on indefinitely.

We must be industrious, we must be frugal, we must seek a proper balance between our needs and our desires, and especially we must reestablish our lives upon a spiritual foundation.

Are we not the children of God? Are we not to seek first His way of doing things? If we serve Him properly, will that not place us on a spiritual foundation?

Life confronts us with many serious problems. Some are moral; others are economic. But all can cause us difficulty.

Truly we are living in a troubled world. We are surrounded by it and are subject to all its perils, plagues, inducements, persuasions, and temptations. But nevertheless, regardless of all that, we are not to be of the world. That is where spirituality comes in. Then shouldn't we sing with the choir, "Jesus, Savior, pilot me"?

What makes this a moral and a spiritual crisis is that so many people reject or ignore the standards of life that God has set up for us, and many even attempt to brush Him aside. They prefer darkness to light because their deeds are evil.

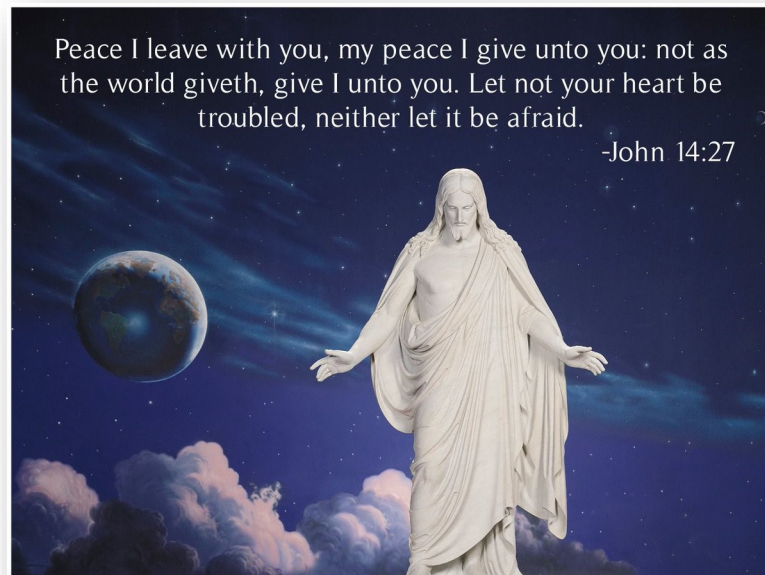
For example, there are many kinds of immorality which make a deadly assault upon purity of life. What shall we do about them? Surrender? By no means! We must

fight them with all our power!

We shall be virtuous and clean ourselves and teach our children to be pure. Don't we hear the voice of Almighty God crying out to each of us: "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord"? (D&C 38:42.)

We have the ever-increasing encroachment of liquor, wine, tobacco, and various narcotics. What shall we do about them?

We shall be loyal enough to the Lord to obey the Word of Wisdom. That law is more vital and pertinent now than ever before in our history. No one can survive the present onslaught of addiction without obeying the



Word of Wisdom.

The world tempts us to lie and cheat and steal; to be shoplifters or worse; to tarnish another person's good name; or to steal someone else's wife or husband, which is one of the worst kinds of thievery. What shall we do about that?

We shall keep the Ten Commandments, avoiding dishonesty in all its forms and rejecting every temptation to covet anything or anybody that is our neighbor's.

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We shall obey our thirteenth article of faith, which says, “We believe in being honest, true, chaste, benevolent, [and] virtuous.”

Is there any other answer?

Can any liar, can any thief, can any unchaste person invade the kingdom of God? Not in their sins! They can enter only after the most sincere and complete repentance, nothing less!



But the world affects us in other areas, too, especially in economic ways. These include strong persuasions to overspend our financial resources, to buy beyond our means, to overextend our credit and thus sink deeply into debt. Oh, the inducements of sales pressures, of persuasive advertising, of easy credit, and the unwise use of credit cards!

What shall we do about all that?

First and foremost, we shall determine to live within our means, to carefully budget our affairs, and to stay within the budget.

We shall determine before God that we will be honest and pay our just obligations and not try to escape them. Most assuredly we shall avoid any further debt exceeding our ability to pay.

If temporarily we must limit our customary life-style, shall we not be willing to do so as a means toward financial survival? Shall we not be willing to sacrifice our ordinary desires when necessary and cut our cloth to fit the pattern of revised circumstances forced upon us by this recession?

There are many very good people who keep most of the Lord’s commandments with respect to the virtuous side of life, but who overlook His commandments in temporal things. They do not heed His warning to prepare for a possible future emergency, apparently feeling that in the midst of all this trouble “it won’t happen to us.” It is not always the other fellow’s problem. It is our problem also whenever there is economic trouble afloat.

To prepare for the future is part of God’s eternal plan, both spiritually and temporally. To protect ourselves against reversals and hardships is only good sense.

*Excerpt from “Blessings in Self-Reliance”  
Mark E. Peterson, Council of the Twelve Apostles  
April, 1981—General Conference*

## Blessings in Self-Reliance

*“Our welfare storehouses help many worthy people in emergencies. That is what they are for. Any one of us might suffer a tragedy which would make it necessary for us to receive such assistance. And that help is always available to worthy people and is cheerfully given.*

*But the most important storehouses in the entire welfare plan are those that are within the walls of our own homes. We must provide our own storehouses for our own families in our own homes as far as possible to meet any rainy days that may come our way.”*

*Mark E. Peterson*

### Self-Reliance Services

#### What is Self-Reliance?

“Self-reliance is the ability, commitment, and effort to provide the spiritual and temporal necessities of life for self and family” (Handbook 2: Administering the Church[2010], 6.1.1).

President Thomas S. Monson has counseled, “[Self-reliance] is an essential element in our spiritual as well as our temporal well-being.” (“Guiding Principles of Personal and Family Welfare,” Ensign, Sept. 1986, 3)

## 12 Principles of Self-Reliance

The Lord has declared, “It is my purpose to provide for my saints” (D&C 104:15). This revelation is a promise that the Lord will provide temporal blessings and open the door of self-reliance. He has also declared that “it must needs be done in [His] way” (D&C 104:16). To receive the blessings of self-reliance, we must accept and live the principles of self-reliance, which include the following:

Exercise Faith in Jesus Christ (D&C 104:15)

Use Time Wisely (Alma 34:32)

Be Obedient (D&C 130:20–21)

Manage Money (D&C 104:78)

Work: Take Responsibility (D&C 42:42; 2 Nephi 2:16, 26)

Solve Problems (Ether 2:18–19, 23; 3:1, 4)

Become One, Work Together (Moses 7:18; D&C 104:15–17)

Communicate: Petition and Listen (D&C 8:2)

Persevere (Hebrews 12:1; D&C 58:4)

Show Integrity (Mosiah 4:28; Job 27:5; Articles of Faith 1:13)

Seek Learning and Education (D&C 88:118–119)

Stay On Task, Receive Ordinances (D&C 84:20; D&C 136:4; 1 Nephi 18:2–3)

## Kansas City Stake Self-Reliance Committee Members

### President Daryl Ward

**Brother Bryant Staples**

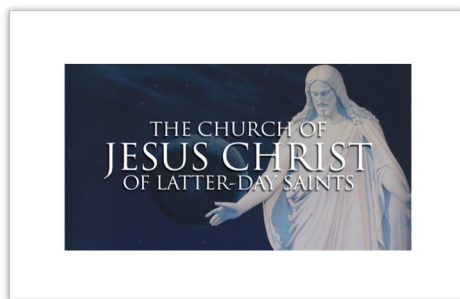
**Brother Jason Bowne**

**Sister Karen O’Riley**

**Brother Arlen Tanner**

**Sister Patty Tanner**

**Brother Van Celaya**



**Sister Michelle Truman**

**Sister Rhonda Bonner**

**Brother Brent Ellibee**

**Brother Lee Lacy**

**Brother Mark Forth**

**Sister Libby Forth**