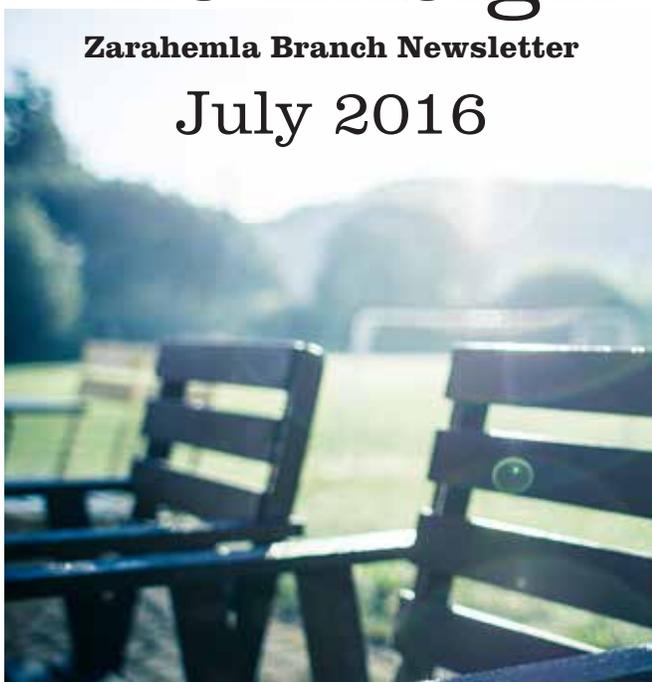


The Ensign

Zarahemla Branch Newsletter

July 2016



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Send testimonies, news and other items
for publication to Tara Broadway
thessalyrose@gmail.com

July Birthdays

1	David Frye	11	Johanna Peabody
1	Levi Straus	14	Russ Stireman
2	Andrew Perry	16	Duane Newman
3	Chris Thomas	19	Matt Stilwell
3	Seth O'Camb	22	Hazel McKay
5	Samuel Straus	26	Andy Canfield
6	Max Moore	27	Tanya Hayes
7	Marilyn Torsch	27	Alicia Crosley
9	Jenna Canfield	29	Jon Megee
9	Pam Henson		
10	DJ Falconer		

Pastor's Corner

Painting a Picture: the Talents

By High Priest Dean Falconer

Among the many challenging and beautiful stories which Jesus shared with his disciples during his lifetime on Earth, none is more significant or far-reaching in the implications than the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:12-31).

I want you to read this parable and as you do, I want you to paint a picture of what Jesus is saying to his disciples. The parable starts with a master who confronts and addresses three men who are his servants. Matthew tells us that before the master departs, he delivers to each of these men a portion of his goods, giving to one of the servants five talents, to another two and to the other one, to each according to his several abilities.

After a period of time, the servants return and are seated in front of the master. Two of the servants are in the front row and are clear-eyed and eagerly expectant. They have not been idle or slothful about their master's trust. In their hands they hold not only the original talents that he, the master, had so graciously given them, but also the increase that through wise use they had been able to accumulate.

With a benign face, the master stands ready to receive the gifts they bring as they come to give account of their stewardship. It seems that you can almost hear their master say to them, "Well done, good and faithful servant, thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things, enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matthew 25:21-23).

In the background, his empty hands folded in complacent idleness, is the unfaithful servant. He has idled away both his own time and opportunity, as well as his master's talents, in slothful, unprofitable living; and now comes to explain his nothingness with the trumped-up excuse that he knew his lord to be "a hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not scattered" (Matt 25:24). Because of this he went away in fear, dug a hole in the ground, and hid his master's talent. In the end, as we hear, this servant is trying to excuse his lazy, incompetent selfhood with the remark, "take it from me as thou hast from thine other servants, for it is thine" (Matt 25:25).

Did you see this picture painted for our understanding? This story can be likened to each and every one of us. Perhaps our Lord, just like the master of those three servants, has given to each of us five, two or one talent, or abilities, according to our capacity for development. Many of us, like the unfaithful servant in this parable, wrap our talents or abilities up in the napkin of "Oh, let Bill or Mary do it," and as a result we go through life mediocre in ability, with talents undeveloped that might have been used to the glory of God.

Others, like the two faithful servants whom their master is praising in this picture, put their abilities, no matter how meager they may be, out to the busy world in which they live. Then, when life's harvest comes for them, and Jesus calls for an accounting, they will come with alert, self-respecting eagerness to present, not just the one, two or five talents which were entrusted to them, but other talents in addition also. To these, Jesus can truly say: "Thou has been faithful ... enter thou into the joy of thy lord."

The picture you have just painted, perhaps says to each and every one: "What you are, is God's gift to you," and "What you make of yourself, is your gift to God."

I believe there are comparatively few one-talent people in the world. To most of us, God has given many, many capabilities, all, of course, in an undeveloped, embryonic state. This life on Earth, this world in which we live, with its rich and constantly changing environment, is our opportunity for growth and development. The choice is ours. We may be faithful to little and become much, or we may be unfaithful to much and become little. Our destiny is not with others, but within ourselves, giving the praise and glory to God for his love, his direction and his care.

The Book of Mormon Foundation invites families or other groups to help with the organization's Santa-Cali-Gon booth this year. Available times include:

Saturday 9-3-16 7pm-9pm

Sunday 9-4-16 12pm-3pm 3pm-6pm 6pm-9pm

Groups must include at least eight people.

If you would like to participate, please send your top 3 choices to Eric Woolery (deepminer04@sbcglobal.net). Time slots are first come first serve.

You will need at least 8 people to help at the booth.

Youth Activities

The Zion's League will be making Care Kits to send to troops through Operation Gratitude in August. We are collecting items to include in the kits. If you would like to donate, these are the items we are needing:

- ★ Toothbrushes (individually packaged)
- ★ Toothpaste (4 oz. or less)
- ★ Dental floss
- ★ Deodorant (solid only, 3 oz. or less)
- ★ Disposable razors (Leave in original packaging. Small packs (5 or less) are okay.)
- ★ Gum, mints, or breath strips
- ★ Foot powder/baby powder (4 oz. or less)
- ★ Hand/foot warmers
- ★ Q-tips (small packs only--50 swabs or less)
- ★ Mini flashlights
- ★ Batteries (AA and AAA, 4-pack or less)
- ★ Facial tissue (small packs only--10 tissues per pack)
- ★ Lip balm/Chapstick
- ★ Wipes (small packs only--30 wipes or less) or individual moist towelette packets
- ★ Mini sewing kits
- ★ Nail clippers

There will be a box in the South Wing for any donations. Thank you for your help!

Seventy Dan Norman and Chuck Sperry are on a missionary trip to Tahiti until July 17. The family has asked for prayers every day at 9 am.



Victoria Perry, daughter of Nathan and Aubree Perry, received her baby blessing at our branch on June 26. Chuck Perry and Bob Moore officiated. The branch prays Victoria will have a joyful life and a close walk with the Lord.



July 2016

Sunday

3

Presiding Deacon:
Jerry Gerber
8:00
Priesthood Prayer Service
Piano: Jill Moore
9:30 Sunday School

10:30
Communion Service
Presiding: Bob Moore
Preaching: Rolland James
Piano: Jill Moore

6:00 Summer Series
Saints' Haven
Restoration Branch,
Sibley, Mo.
Speaking: Joel Loving

10

Presiding Deacon:
Kyle Norman
9:15 Devotions:
Jerry & Peggy
Piano: Ashley Gault
9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship
Presiding: Carlin Talcott
Preaching:
Jonathan Broadway
Piano: Ashley Gault
Special Music:
Steve Rideout and
Rolland James

6:00 Summer Series
Zarahemla Restoration
Branch
Speaking: Eric Odida

17

Presiding Deacon:
Rudy Leutzinger
9:15 Devotions:
Ed & Flossie
Piano: Jeri Gault
9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship
Presiding:
Richard Hensley
Preaching:
Kerry Lancaster
Piano: Jeri Gault
Special Music:
Chinnery Family

6:00 Summer Series
Saints' Haven
Restoration Branch,
Sibley, Mo.
Speaking: Jonah Bates

Pot Luck after worship!

24

Presiding Deacon:
Lloyd Stilwell
9:15 Devotions:
Ashley & Sam
Piano: Lindsay McMilian
9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship
Presiding: Patrick McKay
Preaching: Tim Canfield
Piano: Jill Moore
Special Music:
Joe & Laura VanBiber

6:00 Summer Series
Zarahemla Branch
Speaking: Chris Pedersen

3:00 Baby Shower
for Alyssa Atkins

31

Presiding Deacon:
Jerry Gerber
9:15 Devotions:
Tara & Jonathan
Piano: Kevin McMilian
9:30 Sunday School

10:30 Worship
Presiding: Dean Falconer
Preaching: Bob Moore
Piano: Kevin McMilian
Special Music:
Sperry Family

6:00 Summer Series
Odessa Hills
Campground,
Odessa, Mo.
Speaking: TBA

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4	5	6 7:00 Prayer Service Presiding: Dan Norman Assisting: Rolland James	7	8	9 Young Adults Swim party
11 7:00 Priesthood Meeting	12	13 7:00 Prayer Service Presiding: Jim McKay Assisting: Rudy Leutzinger	14	15	16
18	19	20 7:00 Prayer Service Presiding: David Bronson Assisting: Duane Newman	21	22	23
25	26	27 7:00 Prayer Service Presiding: Richard Hensley Assisting: Phil O'Camb	28	29	30 Independence District Reunion begins. Zion's League 1:30 Bowling*
31	1	2	3	4	5

* Zion's League: meet for bowling at Summit Lanes in Lee's Summit. Bring money for ice cream later.