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Bear One Another's Burdens

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Hello my fellow Penny Creek ward member.

It's a special thing we have here, this ward. Not only because you are special, but because of the covenants you've made to help each other. Many people of the world would love to belong to a community like this: A group of people who have promised to comfort and support each other during difficult times.

I'm talking to those of you who have been baptized, or who want to be baptized.

It is such a simple and common ordinance, but that doesn't lessen its significance.

I was reminded of its power and beauty during the most recent baptism of one of our ward members, Ellee Michael. She is a wonderful example of someone who cares for others and loves the Lord. Since she has been taught well, and already lives that way, it wasn't hard for her to officially commit to a life of service to her fellow beings and to God.

Making those baptismal covenants are very personal, but they affect all of us, because we are all part of each other's promises. We have made commitments to each other. Because as the 'fold of God' that's what He wants us to do. He wants us to help each other as if we were helping Him:

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Matthew 5:40)

We are reminded of the baptismal covenants in the Book of Mormon when Alma baptizes people at the waters of Mormon. What's interesting to me is that the promises we make to each other seem to be focused on when we are having difficult times. (And we all have experienced some difficult times lately.)

"...and now, as ye are desirous to come into the fold of God, and to be called his people, and are willing to bear one another's burdens, that they may be light; Yea and are willing to mourn with those that mourn; yea, and comfort those that stand in need of comfort..." (Mosiah 18:8-9)

Those are the promises we make to others. What does it mean to bear someone else's burdens that they may be light?

A burden could be a variety of things. It's something that is weighing us down. It might be physical, emotional, or spiritual. So, as we grow close to each other, and learn and share our burdens, we can get under the load and bear it together, that it may be light for each of us.

This is why our ward is so special. We have made promises to bear each other's burdens. We have been organized by God to do this. And as Bishop, I have been called by God, and given special Priesthood keys to bear your burdens in a specific way. This blesses both me and you. If you are weighed down, let me help. It's my privilege. This is how God has organized His church to help His people.

As part of our promises, we also mourn with those that mourn and comfort those that stand in need of comfort. (And don't we all stand in need of comfort?)

Along with those promises to each other, the promise we make to God is this, "...and to stand as witnesses of God at all times, and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in, even until death..." (Mosiah 18:9)

We stand as a witness of God when we act like Him, when we follow the example of Jesus Christ, and love others unconditionally.

A covenant is a two way promise. So here is the promise God makes to us when we choose to be baptized, "...that ye may be redeemed of God, and be numbered with those of the first resurrection, that ye may have eternal life... [and] that he may pour out his Spirit more abundantly upon you" (Mosiah 18:9, 10)

Baptism is a wonderful covenant that blesses you individually, and all of us collectively.

Thank you for bearing others' burdens, providing comfort, and standing as a witness of God.

That's why I love being a part of this Penny Creek ward.

Love,

Bishop Williams

P.S. SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT: The Prophet of the World, President Russell M. Nelson, will share a special message with the world on November 20, 2020 at 10:00am PT. (Because that's what a prophet does.) You won't want to miss this one. Go here for more information:

<https://newsroom.churchofjesuschrist.org/article/message-coming-nov-20-hope-healing-president-nelson>

Today Group A (last names A-L) is invited to come to church in person. Everyone else can watch the broadcast here:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCzQM_SmjDFmwHAA6lfjtseg/live

Also, to schedule a tithing settlement appointment pick a time on my calendar here:

<https://calendly.com/bishoprexawilliams>

You received this email because you made your email address available to your local Church leaders. It was sent by Rex Williams, whose calling is Bishop.