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You are Indispensable to Your Family

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Penny Creek Ward

Hello my friend,

Sorry about this email coming a little later than usual. I had a busy, but very rewarding weekend as I traveled to Utah to witness and celebrate my good friends' wedding, Steve LeBaron and Julie Wight Johnson. It was a wonderful event because of so many special relationships between family and friends.

The Reunion

Their wedding reception was like an old 3rd Ward Reunion because we were able to see so many friends who had moved away over the years. Both Steve and Julie also have large extended families who came to celebrate with them. We also honored Cynthia, Steve's previous wife who has passed to the other side of the veil, and felt her loving presence. Overall, it was just a very special experience that words are insufficient to describe.

Happy Mothers Day

I also want to honor all you mothers in our ward. You play a critical role in the lives of many, not only your children, but in others who you interact with. Your example of dedication, service, and sacrifice lifts so many of us up. Yet, like we learned from Brother Wood today in Sacrament meeting, you don't need to be perfect, or feel like you're not measuring up. You are enough. Our Heavenly Father knows your heart and your special love for your children.

Families are Central

Families are so special. No matter where you are in life, you are part of a family, and may fulfill a variety of roles, either mother or father, daughter or son, sister or brother, aunt or uncle, and grandmother or grandfather. Your experience is unique and may be different than what you think it should be, but there are things beyond your control that affect family dynamics. That is why it is your responsibility to live the gospel of Jesus Christ to the best of your ability, so you can receive all the blessings our Heavenly Father has promised those who are faithful.

Families are central to our Heavenly Father's plan. They have the opportunity to bring us so much happiness, but also, because of that opportunity, they can bring us much sorrow. Since they are so critical to our Heavenly Father's plan, there is a large section about them in our [General Handbook: Serving in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints](#). (I encourage you to read that entire section)

In one part it says,

"As part of His plan, Heavenly Father has established families on earth. He intends for families to bring us happiness. Families provide opportunities to learn, grow, serve, repent, and forgive. They can help us prepare for eternal life."

Our Father in Heaven 'intends' for us to be happy, but families help us prepare for eternal life because they are not always easy. That's why it says they give us the opportunity to 'repent and forgive.' And we usually can't learn and grow without some struggle, effort, and sometimes pain. In the General Handbook it also says,

"In this life, many people have limited opportunities for loving family relationships. No family is free from challenges, pain, and sorrow. Individuals and families exercise faith in the Lord and strive to live according to the truths He has revealed

concerning the family. The Savior has promised that He will help bear the burdens of all who come unto Him (see Matthew 11:28-30)."

No matter how difficult your experience may be, the Savior will bear your burdens, if you 'come unto Him'.

The Penny Creek Ward Family

I love you, our ward family. I guess we call it a family because we have a similar opportunity to 'learn, grow, serve, repent and forgive'. And by doing those things we develop relationships that bring us joy and can last a long time, if we invest effort into them.

Thank you for all that you do, for our ward family, and for your own family.

And thank you, mothers, for your indispensable service and love.

Take care,

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- May 11th, 7:00pm - Everett Stake Youth Activity at the Stake Center, having fun learning line dancing.
- May 14th, 1:00pm - Robert Van Hover's memorial service at our Penny Creek building.
- May 15th, 5:00pm - Worldwide Devotional for Young Adults with President Nelson and Sister Nelson.
- May 19th, 7:00pm - Everett Stake General Priesthood Meeting for all Priesthood age brethren, 12 and up.
- May 20-21st - Everett Stake Priesthood Commemoration Campout, Cascade Park

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.