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Care and Share

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Sun, Jul 10, 2022 at 7:11 AM

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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Penny Creek Ward

Hey friend, what's up?

Are you having a fun summer? These are the two months us loyal Northwesterners wait for all year! We endure the rain and clouds for 10 months so we can have beautiful green foliage and enjoy the perfect sunny weather during July and August. So, I hope you're enjoying it, in whatever way works for you. We're all different, and that's okay.

Some people may like to do outdoor activities, or some would rather just read a book. We all march to the beat of a different drummer. That's just fine.

So, when we think about 'missionary work' it sometimes feels like a significant effort because we think we're asking people to march to our drummer. And that's a big deal. But we're not, really. Everyone can still be unique, and their own person, we're just asking them to experience a different band.

Now, I don't know if that analogy really carries very far, so maybe it's not the best. But what I'm trying to say is that yes, ultimately, we are hoping people will choose to make a significant change in their life, but that's not what we're asking them to do first. And that's not what 'missionary work' is. In fact, in the church handbook, and most other documentation, they have removed the term 'missionary work' and replaced it with 'sharing the gospel.'

I don't know all the reasons why they changed that terminology, but maybe 'missionary work' sounded like something difficult, or hard to do, or something extra and not natural. When really, the 'work' part is supposed to be being Christlike to someone else. And what did Christ do? He loved people. So that's what we're supposed to do. It's not something 'extra'.

What else did Christ do? He shared things with people. Because of who he was, He knew a little more about life than most people. Aren't we in a similar position? Don't we know a little more about eternal things than most people? We also know what it's like to participate in a church where people serve and take care of each other. So, there are things we can share about that. Of course, we don't have the market on that, other churches serve and take care of their members, but it's still pretty rare, and we have a unique way of doing it.

The third thing Christ did was invite people to do things. This may be the most difficult part, and maybe what might constitute 'work' for some people, but not really. Not if you love someone, and you find out what you have in common, and you share things with them. Inviting them to do something is just the next step in caring even more about them. You're either inviting them to be a part of your life experience in some way, or you're inviting them to do something that will enhance their life experience. Either way, it's only because you care.

You've probably heard those words tossed around before, in relation to 'missionary work': love, share, invite. Those are simple and clearer words about what we're supposed to do when we think about sharing the gospel rather than 'working' as a missionary.

Recently, my son, Bodie, and I have been golfing more together as the weather has been better, and we usually have the experience of being put together with another group of two people, so that there are 4 people golfing together. (It allows more people overall to experience a golf course in a day.)

And golfing is just a long walk as you hit a ball every once in a while. So, we have the opportunity to have a conversation with strangers. It's actually fun and interesting for me because everyone has a story.

Since Bodie just graduated from high school the question always comes up about what he's going to do next. So, he usually talks about going on a mission. It's a great conversation topic that people are usually curious about. We also 'love' them by asking about their life, what do they enjoy doing and such. By the end of 4 or 5 hours you have some new friends.

It might not seem like we're doing 'missionary work' or sharing the gospel, but we are. We're doing two out of three elements. We could probably work on doing more inviting but doing the first two is important.

I know you do this too. As disciples of Jesus Christ, it's easy to love others, share things with them, and invite them to do something. Eventually, they may choose to experience the joy of being a member of the church, but that's a different part of the process.

Let's embrace everyone's uniqueness, and care about them enough to have a conversation. If our life is centered on the gospel of Jesus Christ, something about that will come up in conversation, and we will have the opportunity to 'share the gospel' as we love, share, and invite people.

Take care and share.

Bishop Williams

P.S.

- Thursday, July 14, 6:00 pm Relief Society Summer activity at the Lamprecht's home. Please bring a salad to share; RS will provide dessert. Pool/hot tub will be open for those who want to swim. Pickleball is available as well. This is a great opportunity to visit and enjoy catching up with one another. Hope to see you Sisters there!
- Wednesday July 20, 6:00pm - Penny Creek Ward BBQ at the Pavillion behind our church building.
- August 10-13 - Stake Young Men Encampment at Ensign Ranch
- August 15-20 - Stake Young Women Camp at Camp Zarahemla
- August 25 - Silver Firs and Mill Creek ward Relief Societies kayak and paddle board activity at Silver Lake
- August 25 - Stake American Red Cross Blood Drive.

Single Adult Activities:

- Sat, July 16, 9p to 11:30p
 - Dance: Beach Party Theme
 - [1102 S Pearl Street, Tacoma, WA 98465](#)
 - Along with dancing, there will be a photo booth, BBQ, and games (including limbo--how low can you go?)
- Sun, July 17, 6p to 7:30p
 - Fireside: The Unspeakable Gift of the Holy Ghost
 - [2925 James Street, Bellingham, WA 98225](#)
 - Pending a decision if this will be broadcast
- Sat July 23, 1:30p to 5:30p
 - Activity: Kayak Point Picnic
 - 15711 Marine Drive, Stanwood, WA 98292
 - Shelter #9
 - Entrée provided. Please bring sides, desserts, chips, or beverages.
 - Children are welcome with supervision.
 - Please bring a life vest if you have one, especially if you have a child sized one you are willing to share.
- Sun July 24, 6p to 8p
 - Fireside: Pioneers and Strengthening our Faith in the Savior
 - [15205 SE 28th Street, Bellevue, WA 98007](#)
 - Three speakers signed up to strengthen and encourage us.
 - Refreshments will be served afterwards
- Sat July 30, 7p to 10p (after party: 10p to 11:59p)
 - Virtual Activity Encore
 - Registration: [275Stakes.eventbrite.com](#)
 - Facebook Event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/360047709572400>

- Labor Day Ensign Ranch Camp Registration is now open! Get your spot early.
 - Find the link on <https://www.wewasa.org>.
- Zoom Activities
 - <https://zoom.us/j/7490526503>
 - Sun 3p to 4:30p--Come Follow Me
 - Mon 7p to 9p--FHE
 - Wed 7p to 9p--Book Club (Join to see the current book we are reading, make suggestions for upcoming books to read, and engage with others who love to read.)

If you have any questions about these single adult activities or suggestions for other ones, please contact:

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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.