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Thank you for the love

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Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 3:28 PM

THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Penny Creek Ward

Hello great friend,

You might think because of all these emails I've written that I would have such great words to write as my final email to you as Bishop of the Penny Creek ward, but words aren't sufficient to describe my feelings at this time. Still, I'll give it a shot.

Everyone knows the Bishop. But no one knows what it's like to be a Bishop, except those who have experienced it. And even if they have experienced it, they haven't had the same experience of being a Bishop of a specific ward during a specific time. It is a very unique calling in the church.

I suppose that's the same with you. No one has experienced what you've experienced in exactly the same way. You are completely unique.

And that's why being a Bishop is so special. Because I have had the privilege to work with so many wonderful, unique individuals, and get to know you at a very personal level. A level that is sacred. It's sacred because when I represent our Savior in your behalf, I feel His immense love for you. The power of His love is indescribable. It's what cleanses you from sin.

There's nothing that I do, it's all Him. I'm just an earthly, sinful vessel like you, who has been given a mantle, a responsibility to represent the Lord in a very unique circumstance.

It's a pretty awesome responsibility. And I mean because I'm in total awe.

You have been awesome because of your love and service to the ward. Another one of the greatest joys of this calling has been to see what you and others have done to serve each other. Especially when I know it hasn't been easy.

Calling each of you to a specific duty in the ward was a wonderful experience of revelation from the Lord. I was always amazed at how you stepped into your role with such great faith, and it blessed you along with those you served. Some of you didn't think you could do it, but found that the Lord blesses those who are willing to serve and lifts them up for the occasion.

That's a pattern for life. When you don't think you can do something, remember that the Lord can make you greater than you think, and equal to the task. It's His way of helping us grow. But we must have faith in Him.

The pandemic was an epic, worldwide trial that we experienced together, apart. The world is a huge place, so it is very unlikely that the entire world will experience the same thing, but we did. And yet, our Penny Creek ward experience was unique. There was incredible service and care and love shown that will never be known. You demonstrated your faith during that time.

I can go on about how awesome you are. And I have. In all my emails. And you can read them all on our Penny Creek ward website along with your wonderful stories of faith an inspiration at: <http://pennycreek.org> . I don't know how much longer we'll keep that site up, so take some time and reminisce about the awesome experience that was the Penny Creek ward. The emails kind of chronicle our history. And your stories reveal the unique spiritual personality of our ward.

Thank you for being you.

Everything has a cycle or phase in its lifetime, and the Penny Creek Ward is making a transition. That doesn't change our connection and the wonderful experiences we've had together, it just means we get to experience new ones.

Life is a grand adventure. The difference between being anxious and fearful about an uncertain future or excited and hopeful about what amazing things might happen next is only the way you choose to perceive it. And I choose to see the future as an adventure. Sure, we don't know what is around the corner or over the next hilltop, but it might be just as exciting, or even more thrilling than the past. With faith in Christ we have no need to fear. He is the rock, "a sure foundation, a foundation whereon if men build they cannot fall." (Helaman 5:12)

I testify that Jesus is the Christ, the Savior of the world. The one who has been written about and prophesied for centuries. I can't ignore the spiritual truths that have been impressed upon my soul by a divine communication source that is indescribable. I believe there is a spectacular bigger picture that we only have glimpses of. I don't know it all exactly, but I have enough clues to know that we have a loving Heavenly Father, we are all part of same family, and He is doing something wonderful for us. Truths about the universe and our purpose have been declared, lost, and restored. We have a prophet on the earth today, just as in times past when our Father has a message for His children.

We will experience the most joy and peace when we follow the prophet whom God has ordained.

I know I have been blessed in my life. Especially during these last 3 years as Bishop of the Penny Creek ward. Thank you for all your faith and prayers.

The great work will carry on!

Take care! And Love!

(Previously) Bishop Williams

P.S.

Even though this may be my last email to the entire ward as Bishop, it does not end our friendship or connection. You can still email me whenever you want at rexawilliams@gmail.com. (I'll probably keep bishoprexawilliams@gmail.com too but won't check it after a while.)

Browse our Penny Creek ward web site and reminisce about the wonderfulness:

<https://pennycreek.org>

To go directly to my emails:

<https://pennycreek.org/emails-to-the-ward-from-bishop-williams/>

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.