



Waldo Avenue
Restoration Branch

September, 2023 Vol 4 #09

Minutes from the August Women's Meeting

The women put together 10 “Bags for the Beloved” Saturday, August 5th. Each woman took at least one bag to give to a Beloved they might see in their daily walk of life. We put in these bags non-perishable snack items, a pocket-size Book of Mormon and the brochure A Fathers Love Letter, a tablet and ink pen, a pair of socks, Kleenex, deodorant, dental floss and a comb. There were various hygiene items which were donated by **Team Jesus** - shampoo, conditioner, toothbrushes, bars of soap, laundry detergent packs and hand sanitizer.

Rebecca provided a worship and we discussed the coming years activities which centered around guest speakers, the fall/winter giveaway, books to read for discussing, and activities for our meetings.

A worthwhile discussion was had with our new Presiding Elder Jim Loumiet, followed by prayer closing our meeting.

Next Women's meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 9th with Regina Sperry speaking to us on *Rejoicing*. All women are welcome to come, it begins at 1 p.m.#

***To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion;
to give unto them beauty for ashes, the OIL
OF JOY for mourning, the GARMENT OF
PRAISE for the spirit of heaviness; that they
might be called TREES OF RIGHTEOUSNESS.
The planting of the Lord, that He might be
glorified*** (Isa 61:3).

Praise, Thanksgiving, Joy, Rejoicing

I have always thought it wise to set goals (Prov. 29:18), setting a theme for the year helps me focus on something specific. Without goals we simply are rambling here and there, without direction. This is called “wandering” (1N2:67). After the branch elections I went to the Lord to find out what He would like for us to emphasize for the coming year. What I felt in response to my prayers was **Praise, Thanksgiving, Joy, Rejoicing**. We should be the most joyous and happy people on the planet—we have been set free! The scriptures are replete with admonitions to praise our Father in all things.

A few days later I received the following testimony from Muriel Luedeman which confirmed to me I had heard the right voice in answer to my prayers. With her permission I have included her testimony in this months newsletter:

I am admonished in the experience below about the benefits of increasing my/our efforts and rhythm of **praise**. Allow the Holy Spirit to open more ways and times to praise Him.

Last week, the Holy Spirit woke me with rememberings about PRAISE. My mind recalled experiences where healings and deliverance occurred as a result of praising God. I think of a woman's testimony of being hijacked by killer terrorists in Africa, and her group went to their knees in front of the gunmen praising God. The men stopped, stunned and captured by the group's clear devotion in the face of death. The men made a 180 degree turn around in their intentions.

Continued on page -4- Praise

While working at the Unity Center, in the Team Jesus distribution center I came across the following which I think is crucial for this day and time we are in. Some may already be aware of this and some not. I hope it will help us in our endeavors to spread the good news of the Kingdom.

What is Dating Abuse

By Safe Havens Institute

Dear Faith Community Leaders, Members, and Faithful Friends,

Think about all the young people in your congregation and all the young lives that you have touched. So many people have been changed because of your ministry and community.

When I think back to my time as a congregational leader, one young person stands out. I'll call her Debbie (name changed for this article). She was a faithful member of the congregation and deeply rooted in one of those strong families that are pillars of the congregation and community. Debbie was a star student, a real leader, a steady and reliable young woman with a good head on her shoulders. She was the last person in the Youth Group I would have worried about. Everything seemed to be going well. Until it wasn't.

Over the course of several months, Debbie's grades dropped precipitously. She began lying to her parents, skipping classes, and engaging in risky behaviors. Her whole life shifted 180 degrees. Debbie's parents were frantic with worry about her and asked me for advice. I remember feeling both clueless and helpless. I also remember quite a lot of floundering as we searched for answers. Meanwhile, Debbie was becoming more distant and angry with every passing day.

It took us way too long to figure out that Debbie was being abused and sexually assaulted by an older "boyfriend". Her parents had disapproved of him early on, so she had been seeing him secretly. When he became abusive and dangerous, she had no one to turn to because she wasn't supposed to

be seeing him in the first place. He had also woven a web of fear and isolation around her, so she was afraid to reach out.

In addition to my pastoral response, I referred Debbie and her family to our local sexual assault service agency. They proved to be really helpful, I'm glad to say that this young woman was able to break off what was a very unhealthy relationship and get her life back on track. Healing was a long journey, but it was important to Debbie that her faith community was behind her all the way.

How many young people in our congregations and communities are not so fortunate?

At Safe Havens, we believe that faith communities and faith leaders can be important resources for young people as they are navigating relationships, learning what "healthy" looks like, taking notes on what is happening with their peers, experimenting, and soaking in all kinds of new information. Faith communities can be sources of information about what a healthy relationship looks like, where to turn for help if it's not, and what to do if you find yourself in that "gray area" in between. We do our young people a disservice if we aren't talking about this and providing information, referrals, and support.

What is Dating Violence or Dating Abuse?

Dating abuse, aka as teen dating violence, dating violence, intimate partner violence, or relationship abuse, is a pattern of abusive behaviors that occurs over time and is used to exert power and control over a partner, in an intimate relationship. For young adults, an intimate relationship is a step above platonic friendship that usually includes a significant emotional attachment. An intimate relationship may or may not include sexual relations.

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What is Dating Abuse *continued*

What does dating abuse look like?

Every relationship is different, but the things that unhealthy and abusive relationships have in common are issues of power and control. Violent and or hurtful words and actions are tools an abusive person uses to gain and maintain power and control over their partner. Any young person can experience dating abuse or an unhealthy relationship, regardless of gender, socioeconomic standing, ethnicity, faith, or culture. Abuse can happen to anyone, in any relationship, whether that relationship is casual or serious.

Scope of the Problem

Dating abuse is a public health epidemic that can affect anyone, regardless of their background, age, immigration status, or religious community. However, it is important to note that sexual violence, physical violence, and stalking disproportionately impact young people. In fact, young women between the ages of 16 and 24 experience intimate partner violence at rates almost triple the national average. Tragically, 1 in 3 high school students who are dating report physical or sexual violence. More than 1/2 of the women (69.5%) and men (53.6%) who report physical or sexual abuse or stalking by a dating partner first experienced the abuse when they were between the ages of 11 and 24. These statistics are staggering, and they don't even include the two-thirds of young adult victims who never report the abuse. To put these numbers into perspective, over 13 million young people experience dating abuse every year, which is more than the populations of Los Angeles and New York City combined. This widespread abuse is closely connected to other problems facing young people, such as suicide, teen pregnancy, and drug use.

***And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord;
and great shall be the peace of thy children.***

(Isa 54:13)

Who perpetrates dating abuse and why?

Anyone can perpetrate abuse. However, studies have shown that if a child grows up in a home where there is domestic violence their chances of experiencing or perpetrating abuse are increased because abuse is a learned behavior. These children may learn that abuse is normal, okay, or to be expected in their future relationships.

Perpetrators of violence may abuse drugs or alcohol, which can lower inhibitions and make the abuse more severe. They also may struggle with mental health issues, such as depression. In many cases, perpetrators of abuse also show love and care for their partner. Most perpetrators are not abusive all the time, and this makes it hard for the victim to navigate the difficult and abusive episodes. Although a partner may express love and care, they're not showing love in a healthy way when their actions are abusive. Also, young people are impressionable. Social pressures, peers, and media may influence how they treat their partners. Those who abuse may also have skewed, unrealistic, or blurred ideas of healthy relationships, interactions, and boundaries.

These statistics and risk factors reflect the depth and impact of dating violence, both for the perpetrators and survivors, and point to the crucial need for prevention education. The first step is to prepare young people with critical skills around healthy communication and boundaries. As faith communities, we can emphasize the importance of compassion and respect for all people, which is at the heart of many faith traditions. It is also important to prepare caring adults with warning signs, referral resources, and response skills. Young people need and deserve support.

For more information on Dating Abuse go to Safe Havens International.

If you have young family members it might be timely to talk with them, let them know you are always there for them. #

Praise continued from page –1-

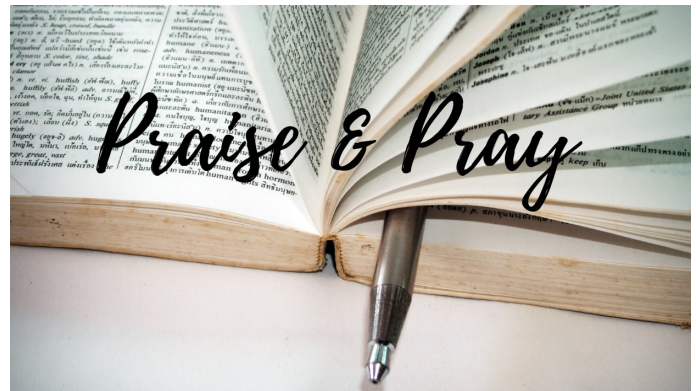
Instead, they assisted the group on their way and ensured their safety through the country.

The Spirit had me remember something someone said last week: *Praise is a weapon*. I do not remember who, just the statement. I thought to myself, prayer is essential and changes everything and Praise and blessing top the list for how to pray.

The Spirit reminded me of a time when I was helping a friend with a special kind of water I had. It was a mystery that for some reason the machine I installed in their home did not seem to work. I took the machine back and as I pondered the situation, asking the Spirit for answers and help for my friend, He reminded me of a past praise service that quickly turned into a healing service because the Lord began to pour out blessings upon the group. And the spirit said, *PRAISE is the answer to this situation. Praise Me and I will bless them*. I told my friend what the Spirit gave me and she immediately took to it and agreed. They enthusiastically received this direction and started praising God instead of looking at her husbands health issues. At the next doctor visit, he was much better.

While in prayer at Living Hope R.B. January 16, 2016, four of us were doing *Round Robin Praise*, bouncing back and forth with short phrases of praise for a good 20 minutes. I sensed the presence of God entering. I felt that if we left that session and did not mention a single name or need in our hearts, God would bless all of them. Then, Jesus spoke, *Thank you! Thank you for taking time to praise Me this way today. You will never know what it means to Me that you praise Me for just who I am and not what I can give. If you continue like this, yes, I will take care of all your concerns and requests. You will see miracles and blessings poured out upon you and all concerns you hold in your hearts. As you grow in praise, you will become known as a **People of Prayer and Praise**.*

Later, I shared this experience with a friend and she said, *Yes. When God hears His name and is praised, He can't stay away, He always shows up to hear us. He is drawn to our praise*. That is true



of anyone. We all like to hear people praise us for the good we do. That reminds me of what the Spirit told me once, that when I praise my fellow beings for the good things they do, I am praising God who causes them to do those good things. So, I began to be more generous in my praise of others, knowing that in doing so I am praising God, too.

2 Chronicles 20 tells the story of God's deliverance of Jehoshaphat and Judah from invading armies:

On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and said — *Listen to me, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Believe the Lord your God, and you will be able to stand firm. Believe in His prophets, and you will succeed. After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the Lord and praising Him for His holy splendor.* This is what they sang: *Give thanks to the Lord; His faithful love endures forever!*

Psalm 22:3-4: *But Thou are Holy, O Thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel. Our fathers trusted in Thee; they trusted and Thou didst deliver them.*

We, God's people, are in a time of great lament and the Psalms progresses from lament to praise, from complaint to joy, not just within a single psalm, but we experience progression from lament to praise from the first psalms to the last one. So my hope for myself is to be a great honest, devoted, sincere praiser of God. I want Him to KNOW I truly love Him. Honest, sincere praise is manifest in many ways, not just in song, though I want to develop and be at ease with free, spontaneous praise in singing worship.

Continued on page –5-

Praise continued from page -4-

In the end, I believe that God is pleased at any and all attempts to worship Him authentically. We needn't be stressed over it. He completely "gets it" with us. I believe God just wants us to come, relax with Him and share what He is doing in our lives inside and out. May God bless you all today,
Muriel Luedeman

Several years ago when I was women's leader we studied the book The Prayer That Changes Everything, the Power of Praise by Stormie O'Martain. I have not forgotten the information contained in that book. I believe when we praise our Father we open doors of healing and wisdom beyond our own making and the flood gates of heaven are available to us. When we lift our heads, raise our hands and within our hearts is pure joy, we praise our Father or simply *Thankyou Jesus* raises out of our heart we open avenues unknown to our knowledge and these instances bring heavens blessings.#

Hubert Case's Christmas Vision

taken from The Red Man's Hope pg. 226-227.

In December 1947 Hubert Case had a vision of the development of Zion.

Hubert Case wrote: I had a vision December 7, 1947 in which I was engaged with others in making a level plain of a very fertile, beautiful land, on which the pure in heart should live and prosper in righteousness as did the ancient Nephites on this goodly land.

I saw these plains of peace on earth and good will towards men beginning to take form and find place in work and deed; for their hearts were attuned to God's love...I was shown love conquers hate, selfishness and kindred evils. I saw that we should pray more for love to abound, that all our Zion

Make me to hear joy and gladness; that the bones which Thou has broken may rejoice. (Psalm 51:8)

programs will go forward under the endowment of God's power to bring it to pass.

I saw the implements we were using to make smooth the rough places and remove every obstacle ahead of us for Zion and the plains of peace. Our powers and God given talents are to overcome evil with good. Those implements include loving kindness, prayers, and living the high points of the law of the Lord, of peace on earth good will to men.

Our lives preach the greatest sermons and should be guarded at all time.#

If coal can turn to diamonds and sand can turn to pearls, if a worm can turn into a butterfly, then love can change the world.

The Necessity for Zion

By Arthur Oakman

My friends and colleagues, if with the love of God in your hearts you will look into the lives of each other and the lives of all those with whom you come in contact, you will see the towers of Zion arising in their glory and beauty. And when you come in contact with those sunk in degradation and sin, and you see the image of the Lord Jesus Christ as it is intended to be, and you act towards those people as if they had already achieved that which you see is possible in them, you will cause them to be quickened, and they will find new life, and be brought to the altar of God, confessing their sins...All of us are beggars...to know God is life...To be in His presence is the essence of glory and joy. Seek His face always...seek Him for His own sake that you may dwell with Him, for love seeks its own. (Talk given in 1967 at the Seminar on the Zion Community).#

Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation; and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. (Psalm. 51:12)

DO IT ANYWAY

By

Mother Teresa

*People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centered;
forgive them anyway.*

*If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives;
be kind anyway.*

*If you are successful, you will win some false friends and true enemies;
succeed anyway.*

*If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you;
be honest anyway.*

*What you spend years building, someone could destroy overnight;
build anyway.*

*If you find serenity and happiness, they may be jealous;
be happy anyway.*

*The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow;
do good anyway.*

*Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough;
give the world the best you've got anyway.*

*You see, in the final analysis, it is between you and God;
it was never between you and them anyway.*