



Greenmount Ward

NEWSLETTER

29th March 2020

#0002

“Our love of the Savior is the key to Savior-like obedience. As we strive to be obedient in today’s world, we declare our love and respect for all of Heavenly Father’s children.”

Elder Robert D. Hales

Bishop’s Message - World Wide Fast 29th March

Hi Ward Family,

I hope this week has seen you all coping through these challenging times. Many things have changed in the ward, church and the world in only a space of a week. We know this is only temporary and we as a bishopric would like to continue to encourage all members to support each other through their ministering.



My main message this week is to remind everyone of the invitation that our beloved Prophet President Russell M. Nelson gave to all church members and friends yesterday, to join him in a world wide fast on the 29th March, for all those whose health permits. Please join us together and pray for relief from physical, emotional and economic effects of the global pandemic.

In President Nelson words “..... *plead for physical, spiritual and other healing throughout the entire world.*”

Faith is powerful and fasting together united - I know Heavenly Father will hear our plea. He loves each one of us and by exercising faith shows our love for him, the Saviour and each other.

I’d like to welcome home Elder Jordan King from the Durban mission. He has served faithfully and honorably and managed to return home to us safely.

I’d also like to show my gratitude and appreciation to Sister Alex McIlwaine who was released this week after serving almost two years as our Relief Society President. Her service, dedication and faithfulness is truly appreciated by all.

The church continues with the Saviour leading the way despite obstacles now in our 200th year since the restoration.

Sincerely
Bishop Spark

Ward Announcements

- A **BIG** welcome home to Jordan King from his mission in Durban South Africa.
- Reminder to prepare for General Conference 4th and 5th April. “.... a conference like no other...” President Nelson.
- Eligible Youth turning 14 in 2021 and older can attend FSY next year. At this stage, the ward needs an estimate of those attending. Your Youth leaders will be in contact to discuss details further.
- A special thank you to all those who attended the service project at the Lewis home on Saturday.
- Sis. Georgina Anderson baptism is on Sunday 11am. This will be a private family ceremony due to the Coronavirus.

Calls and Releases

During the week the following ward business took place via email:

We have released	We have called
Sister Alex McIlwaine, as Ward Relief Society President	Sister Nicolette Punaivaha as Ward Relief Society President
Sister Belinda King, as 1st Counselor Relief Society Presidency	Sister Belinda King, as 1st Counselor Relief Society Presidency
Sister Ineke Lentz-Reid, as 2nd Counselor Relief Society Presidency	Sister Ineke Lentz-Reid, as 2nd Counselor Relief Society Presidency
Sister Nicolette & Brother Sione Punaivaha as Ward YSA Advisers	Sister Naomi Holder as Relief Society Secretary
Sister Naomi Holder as a Primary Teacher (Nursery)	Sister Mesha & Brother Brook Desmond as Ward YSA Advisers

You can see the [original ward business email](http://greenmountward.com.au) at <http://greenmountward.com.au>

Tithing Pickup

If you have tithing to be collected, please call a member of the bishopric and they will provide instructions on how it will be collected. We plan to collect the tithing on Sunday, 5 April 2020.

Relief Society President Message

I've been in Greenmount Ward almost my whole life. We moved here from Kalgoorlie when I was 7. I love this ward. The actual building feels like a second home to me. It's a comfortable and a relaxed place for me. The people have been a part of my growing up memories. Sis Mattys was one of my Young Women's leaders, Brother Balfour was the bishop who helped me prepare and send me on my mission. Sis Waite was my primary president. The list goes on and on with the people who influenced my life and the memories I have. I just love our ward and the community we share. It's been a blessing to grow up here and for my kids to grow up here.



We are in a different time now. It's new to us all. I'm aware of how different each of us may be feeling about what's going on in the world.

The things that have often been on my mind since receiving this call have been individuals mental health. I have been wondering if some may be feeling overwhelming feelings of anxiety, loneliness, depression or boredom. I wanted to encourage people to be aware of those feelings and act to change things in your life if you feel them becoming too much. If they are too much, let people know. We can pull together in a way that is possible to help you.

Something I've decided to do personally to keep mentally well during these times is to purposely look for the positives in my life. I look to see the Lord's hand in my life and I say things I am grateful for to myself and to my family. It's simple but with this mindset I can face what comes in a reasonably cheerful way.

We need to work hard to turn our fears inside into faith that can grow. Catch those fear thoughts early and don't let them linger too long . We are lucky we know God. We know there is a plan and all this is a part of it.

I'd like to encourage you all to step it up a notch with your ministering. People will need and do need connections. They need to know someone is aware of them. We can't visit, so text, email, call. Some may need this connection weekly, even daily.

Please report back to us that you are making contact so we can be sure that everyone is accounted for. We will be in touch on how to report back. We have all got time now. You will probably find great joy in serving one another this way. It makes me think of the scripture, "Am I my brother's keeper?". Yes, you are!

I know so many of you are already doing this. Thank you. Remember that if someone comes to mind but they aren't on your ministering list, still act on it. People may be struggling with job losses, not having enough food, feeling sick and panicking that they have the virus, missing church and the activities or just feeling plain bored. The list goes on. You could be the answer.

I keep reminding myself and my kids all the things that we CAN do right now. Maybe write your own list of CAN's, that you might have never done had it not been for the current situation. I am thinking I can spend more time having a real phone conversation. I can clean out my shed. I can take time to do scripture reading with my kids and not rush. I can teach the kids some basic recipes. I can learn to sit still and not rush about. I can try out doing family history (still unsure if I really will do this one!) I can clean out my kitchen draws. I can do pilates everyday. I can sit and draw in my backyard. I can read stories to my kids. I even thought I could take a long relaxing bath and put some bath salts in it.

We can make the most out of this in so many ways if we make the choice to do it. Ask the Lord how to do that and he'll show you.

Lastly, sorry this was a bit too long. We love you Alex. We all love her, how could we not. She is a one in a million lady. Thankyou Alex on behalf of us all for what you have done.

I'm not enough to do the Relief Society president position on my own, but I know the Lord magnifies you and I trust in that. I trust the spirit will prompt us in what to do and how to do it. I love you all. Please be quick to forgive my weaknesses as there are many.

Love Nicolette

Important Announcement Regarding Sacrament

After receiving new government advice on avoiding the spread of the COVID-19 virus last night by our Prime Minister Mr. Scott Morrison, where he stated:

"You should only go outside your home to go to those essential things...."

Visits to home, even with family, “Should be kept to a minimum and with very small numbers”

We now advise the following ward Ministering adjustments:

- Worthy priesthood holders can continue to administer the sacrament within your own homes each Sunday.
- Until further notice please do **not** administer the sacrament to your ministering families. The bishopric will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and keep you updated when we can resume sacrament.
- Unless essential, please avoid visiting your ministering families in person and keep in contact by phone, email or SMS.
- Ministering companionships should report back weekly to the Elders Quorum Presidency and Relief Society Presidency by phone, email or SMS of any of your ministering family’s welfare needs.
- Follow all other government recommendations.

This is an unprecedented situation and we are grateful to all those that are working to ensure that everyone is kept informed and looking out for the temporal needs of each other. Communication is key to ensuring that nobody falls through the cracks.

We pray for each of you to stay safe and continue to follow the Saviour message in your homes.

Sincerely,

The Greenmount Bishopric

Elders Quorum Presidency - Don Desmond: 0419 191 756, Justin Edwards: 0401 376 579, Anthony McDonald: 0412 380 210

Relief Society Presidency - Nicholette Punaivaha: 0432 155 921, Belinda King: 0431 327 558, Ineke Lentz-Reid

This email is available on greenmountward.com.au

Temple

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

After careful and prayerful consideration, and with a desire to be responsible global citizens, we have decided to suspend all temple activity Churchwide at the end of the day on March 25, 2020. This is a temporary adjustment, and we look forward to the day when the temples will reopen.

Please be assured of our sincere love and appreciation for your devotion and faith.

Sincerely,

The First Presidency



Ward Member Updates

I am sure we are all missing seeing each other on Sundays. We would love to hear how you are all doing and how you have been keeping out of trouble through these measures. If anyone has done has some news to share let us know and we can add it to the newsletter so everyone can celebrate with you (but from an appropriate distance away)

The Return of the Elder King

Elder King has safely returned home and is currently in isolation. With the constantly changing situation he doesn’t know what the remaining months of his mission will look like but we are happy to have him home and safe.

Birthdays this Week

Georgina Anderson
Sam Hamilton
Ron Hamilton
Rachael De Bellis
Mouena Ah Sang
Kembry Desmond
Margeret Davey

Ward Updates On Website

All newsletters and updates will be posted on greenmountward.com.au
Check there to see past updates and newsletters.

Primary

Children aged 8 to 11 continue with your Goals that you set at the beginning of the year at home.
Parents please continue to sing primary songs with your children!

Youth

Youth Activity

We are planning an at home youth activity using Zoom to host a short devotional and play some games. You need a device with a microphone camera such as a laptop. The activity will be held on Wednesday Evening 01/04/2020 from 7pm to 7:30pm. We will post out a zoom meeting code at 6:50pm on the ward facebook group and the Youth chat. If it is successful we will look at continuing these types of activities. We encourage parents to supervise their children during these meetings.

Youth and your parents, remember to continue in your gospel development. Each of you should have set goals as part of the new youth program. Make plans to achieve those goals with the extra time you have been given. If your goal is not achievable because of the current circumstances put it on hold and start something new that you can work on

Weekly “Come, Follow Me” Home Centered Learning

“Fun” Facts from this week’s study by Gospel Doctrine teacher Sister Haynes
Three Separate Civilizations (Omni 1:12–17)

In Omni, we learn there are 3 groups of people whom the Lord brought to the land of promise in the Western Hemisphere.

- Lehi’s family
- The people of Zarahemla, (descendants of Mulek, a son of King Zedekiah who left Jerusalem and traveled to the Americas after Babylon destroyed Jerusalem around 587 B.C.)
- The Jaredites (who came following the time of the “great tower” mentioned in Genesis 11.)

Small and Large plates (Omni 1:23–25)

From 1 Nephi - Omni the prophets kept the small plates and the king kept the large plates
A major shift happened at this point. Amaleki gave the small plates to King Benjamin (see Omni 1:30).
From King Benjamin’s time forward, the religious and the historical information were kept on the large plates.

The lost 116 Pages

“At least six times in the Book of Mormon the phrase ‘for a wise purpose’ is used in reference to the making, writing, and preserving of the small plates of Nephi. You and I know the wise purpose—the most obvious one—was to compensate for the loss of the earlier mentioned 116 pages of manuscript.

“But it strikes me that there is a wiser purpose than that. ... As the Lord instructs Joseph ... he says, ‘Behold, there are many things engraven upon the [small] plates of Nephi which do throw greater views upon my gospel’. “So, clearly, this was not ... tit for tat, this for that—you give me 116 pages of manuscript and I’ll give you 142 pages of printed text. Not so. We got back more than we lost. And it was known from the beginning that it would be so. It was for a wiser purpose.”

-Elder Jeffrey R. Holland

We encourage you to continue your home centered learning by continuing the “Come, follow me” program. If you need a “Come, follow me” manual, please call or message Luke Holder 0435 553 357 your name and address to get one delivered to your door this week! The learning schedule:

March 23–29 Enos–Words of Mormon	March 30–April 12 Easter	April 13–19 Mosiah 1–3	April 20–26 Mosiah 4–6
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The Isolation Cantillation



If you did not receive the business email or this newsletter via email, please contact Neville King (0412 684 403) with your email address to be added to the ward list.

If you want to add something to the newsletter then please contact Michael McIlwaine on

michael.mcilwaine@gmail.com

