

# ASHEVILLE WARD RELIEF SOCIETY

June 26 - July 24

## Lesson This Sunday

Our lesson this Sunday will be taught by Marie Behm, on Elder Gerrit W. Gong's talk: "Room In The Inn." Please come prepared to share your thoughts!

## His Perfect Power

My brother will soon be celebrating five years of sobriety, after a decade of struggling with substance abuse. I recently had a conversation with him, that reminded me of something President Nelson said in his most recent Conference talk. The quote that came to mind was: "The Lord does not require *perfect* faith for us to have access to His *perfect* power." Five years ago, after many failed attempts to remain sober, my brother found himself surrendering in a way he never had before. One of the first steps of AA is to accept that there is a Higher Power, and that recovery is only possible with help from that Higher Power. My brother was raised in the Church, so he already had many ideas in his mind of who God was; yet, he couldn't find himself connecting to any of those ideas or images. So, for a time, he exercised faith in what he could- his sobriety program. Over time, this faith evolved into a faith in God- the shift that he claims was the key to changing his course for good. It can be easy to get prescriptive in how we think about faith, using tangible measurements to define a "good testimony." Consequentially, we can experience feelings of our faith being inferior, not well-developed, not perfect. Five years ago when my brother first tried to exercise faith in a higher power, he could have gotten caught up in how he *should* view that higher power.

Thankfully, he was taught to exercise faith in whatever entity he could at the time. Alma 32 teaches us that our faith does not have to be fully formed or perfect to produce meaningful changes in our lives.

President Nelson has expanded on that, teaching us that we can still have access to God's power even when we don't have perfect testimonies. Let's all strive to be better and more diligent disciples of Christ; but also remember that in times where our faith feels not good enough, it is good enough for Him. We have a loving Heavenly Father who will not abandon us, even when all we can offer Him is a mustard seed of faith.

## BIRTHDAYS



### Catching Up On Some Birthdays

- June 26- Ashleigh Dilts
- June 27- Stacy Stewart
- June 28- Connie Johnson
- July 6- Miranda Brown
- July 7- Elizabeth Keel
- July 8- Patricia Peterson & Eve Smith
- July 9- Savannah Dalton

### Upcoming Birthdays

- July 12- Ann Barber
- July 13- Taunya Dow
- July 15- Alli Harker & Doris Jordan
- July 17- Ashley Blevins-Zivony & Marlene Moore
- July 20- Jenna Gunnell
- July 21- Karen Rubio
- July 23- Ashley Behm
- July 24- Kristen Gilliam

### Stake Service Project

The stake service project is due on September 18<sup>th</sup> at Women's Conference. More details to be shared on this on Sunday.