

Self-Reliance

Heavenly Father wants you to be self-reliant! (Br. Allen told us this 2 Sundays ago.)

D&C 104:15-17 The Lord has declared, **"It is my purpose to provide for my saints"**

16 But it must needs be done in mine own way; and behold this is the way that I, the Lord, have decreed to provide for my saints, that the poor shall be exalted, in that the rich are made low.

17 For the earth is full, and there is enough and to spare; yea, I prepared all things, and have given unto the children of men to be agents unto themselves.

The Priesthood brethren and Relief Society sisters, should be so plainly, accurately, and inspirationally taught that they will be motivated to implement applicable welfare principles and procedures in their personal lives and in their family and Church responsibilities" (Marion G. Romney, minutes General Welfare Services Committee meeting, 2 Feb. 1977, p. 3).

To help the Saints improve their temporal welfare is an awesome responsibility, but the Lord helps his children in building Zion when they seek his assistance through humble and sincere prayer.

Knowledge of the laws governing personal and family preparedness is not enough; it is obedience to the laws that brings the blessings. One of the most important functions is for members to set specific goals for applying welfare principles.

"When we speak of family preparedness, we should speak of foreseen, anticipated, almost expected needs which can be met through wise preparation. Even true emergencies can be modified by good planning" (Bishop H. Burke Peterson, "The Family in Welfare Services," *Welfare Services Meeting*, April 1975, p. 4).

In a General Conference address, Pr. Hinckley told us that the economic prosperity bubble we were living in would not last.

D&C 78:14 That through my providence, notwithstanding the tribulation which shall descend upon you, that the church may stand independent above all other creatures beneath the celestial world;

"All things unto me are spiritual, and not at any time have I given unto you a law which was temporal."
D&C 29:34

Is self-reliance Spiritual or temporal? YES

Self-reliance is the "ability, commitment, and effort to provide the spiritual and temporal necessities of life for self and family" (Handbook 2: Administering the Church [2010], 6.1.1).

Oct 1982 conference: Marion G. Romney

The welfare program is spiritual. In 1936, when the program was introduced, President David O. McKay made this astute observation:

"The development of our spiritual nature should concern us most. Spirituality is the highest acquisition of the soul, the divine in man; 'the supreme, crowning gift that makes him king of all created things.' It is the consciousness of victory over self and of communion with the infinite. It is spirituality alone which really gives one the best in life.

"It is something to supply clothing to the scantily clad, to furnish ample food to those whose table is thinly spread, to give activity to those who are fighting desperately the despair that comes from

enforced idleness, but after all is said and done, the greatest blessings that will accrue from the Church [welfare program] are spiritual. Outwardly, every act seems to be directed toward the physical: re-making of dresses and suits of clothes, canning fruits and vegetables, storing foodstuffs, choosing of fertile fields for settlement—all seem strictly temporal, but permeating all these acts, inspiring and sanctifying them, is the element of spirituality.” (In Conference Report, Oct. 1936, p. 103.)

The church is offering you help to become more self-reliant:

YM and YW - Character and skill building – Boy Scout Program and Young Womens Program

PH and RS classes – see list of PH and RS manual chapters

Gift of the Holy Ghost

Callings as opportunities to learn, grow, teach and lead

Some recent events have brought to mind several self-reliance points commonly missed:

Ron Blue's passing: Information to know:

Where is his Patriarchal blessing located/

What insurance does he have and why did the health insurance stop immediately upon death?

What about life insurance?

How to access the bank accounts

usernames and passwords to online accounts

etc., etc.

What about the recent flooding of the area during the past two months?

Correct welfare principles instruct us to:

1 – take care of it by yourself, if possible and feasible

2 – get your family involved for help

3 – call your Home Teacher/Visiting Teacher for help

4 – if necessary, call your Quorum leader for additional help

evils of others::

D&C 38:29-30

29 Ye hear of wars in far countries, and you say that there will soon be great wars in far countries, but ye know not the hearts of men in your own land.

30 I tell you these things because of your prayers; wherefore, treasure up wisdom in your bosoms, lest the wickedness of men reveal these things unto you by their wickedness,... but **if ye are prepared ye shall not fear.**

Lord's Law of health – D&C 89

4 Behold, verily, thus saith the Lord unto you: **In consequence of ^aevils and designs which do and will exist in the hearts of ^bconspiring men in the last days, I have ^cwarned you,** and forewarn you, by giving unto you this word of wisdom by revelation—

18 And all saints who remember to keep and do these sayings, walking in obedience to the commandments, **shall receive health in their navel and marrow to their bones;**

19 And shall **find wisdom and great treasures of knowledge, even hidden treasures;**

20 And **shall run and not be weary, and shall walk and not faint.**

21 And **I, the Lord, give unto them a promise**, that the destroying angel shall pass by them, as the children of Israel, and not slay them. Amen.

design: carefully crafted and engineered

Gullible Gulls Story: Marion G. Romney, Oct 1982 GC

I clipped the following article from the *Reader's Digest* some time ago and have told it before, but it bears repeating. It reads:

"In our friendly neighbor city of St. Augustine great flocks of sea gulls are starving amid plenty. Fishing is still good, but the gulls don't know how to fish. For generations they have depended on the shrimp fleet to toss them scraps from the nets. Now the fleet has moved. ...

"The shrimpers had created a Welfare State for the ... sea gulls. The big birds never bothered to learn how to fish for themselves and they never taught their children to fish. Instead they led their little ones to the shrimp nets.

"Now the sea gulls, the fine free birds that almost symbolize liberty itself, are starving to death because they gave in to the 'something for nothing' lure! They sacrificed their independence for a handout.

"A lot of people are like that, too. They see nothing wrong in picking delectable scraps from the tax nets of the U.S. Government's 'shrimp fleet.' But what will happen when the Government runs out of goods? What about our children of generations to come?

"Let's not be gullible gulls. We ... must preserve our talents of self-sufficiency, our genius for creating things for ourselves, our sense of thrift and our true love of independence." ("Fable of the Gullible Gull," *Reader's Digest*, Oct. 1950, p. 32.)

How do we sometimes fall into the category of Gullible Gulls?

- 1 – we rely on the testimony of others instead of developing our own.
- 2 – we rely on corner supermarket to have what we want when we want it instead of growing it for ourselves and preserving it.
- 3 – we rely on government to tell us what foods are good for our physical health instead of researching the nutrition base for truthful facts.

THREE great food failures in History:

- 1 – Green Revolution using explosives and nerve gas to make chemical fertilizer and insecticides, along with hybridization, reducing our self-reliance abilities. (seed saving)
- 2 – Tax dollars going to the tobacco, meat and dairy industries, along with subsidies and checkoffs through the efforts of lobbyists, influencing the food pyramid recommendations.

3 – Govt funding GMO development with subsidies to crops for the benefit of few at the expense of all. Corn, Soybeans, Cotton and Canola are currently being subsidized with tax dollars.

Those were some things to watch out for!

What did we just hear recently in **sacrament meeting** from Srs. Eschmeyer, Garner and Br. Allen:
E Be a Force for Good; don't be unprepared or unqualified for your finest Hour
G Prepare these people that they may shine forth in darkness. If we cannot care for ourselves, we are objects to be acted upon.
A Use our blessings and resources to help others. Pray to know who needs our help. There is no growth in the comfort zone and no comfort in the growth zone.

On that very same day, the PH and RS lessons were from Pr. Hinckley about Peace and Self-Reliance.

Pr. Hinckley:

“I learned a great lesson from that monster of a furnace: if you wanted to keep warm, you had to work the shovel.

I have had a wood stove as the sole source of heat for 20 years, It was like having a child: you had to look after it, feed it and clean up after it.

“There is no substitute under the heavens for productive labor. It is the process by which dreams become realities.”

I believe in the gospel of work. There is no substitute under the heavens for productive labor. It is the process by which dreams become realities. It is the process by which idle visions become dynamic achievements.⁴

Where there is widespread poverty among our people, we must do all we can to help them to lift themselves, to establish their lives upon a foundation of self-reliance that can come of training. Education is the key to opportunity. ...

The individual, as we teach, ought to do for himself all that he can. When he has exhausted his resources, he ought to turn to his [family](#) to assist him. When the family can't do it, the Church takes over. And when the Church takes over, our great desire is to first take care of his immediate needs and then to help him for so long as he needs to be helped, but in that process to assist him in training, in securing employment, in finding some way of getting on his feet again. That's the whole objective of [the Church's] great [welfare program](#).¹¹

We shall go on in this work. There will always be a need. Hunger and want and catastrophes will ever be with us. And there will always be those whose hearts have been touched by the light of the gospel who will be willing to serve and work and lift the needy of the earth.

The Spirit of the Lord guides this work. This welfare activity is secular activity, expressing itself in terms of rice and beans, of blankets and tents, of clothing and medicine, of employment and education for better employment. But this so-called secular work is but an outward expression of an inward spirit—the Spirit of the Lord, of whom it was said, He “went about doing good” ([Acts 10:38](#)).¹³

Prophets have encouraged us to prepare ourselves spiritually and temporally for catastrophes to come.

. Catastrophes come to people sometimes when least expected—unemployment, sickness, things of that kind.¹⁴

Our people ... have been counseled and encouraged to make such preparation as will assure survival should a calamity come.

We can set aside some water, basic food, medicine, and clothing to keep us warm. We ought to have a little money laid aside in case of a rainy day.¹⁵

...The best place to have some food set aside is within our homes, together with a little money in savings. The best welfare program is our own welfare program. Five or six cans of wheat in the home are better than a bushel in the welfare granary. ...

end of Pr. Hinckley

The Lord has counseled us to develop the sort of practical skills that will allow us to support ourselves and our families honorably.

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DOCTRINES AND PRINCIPLES OF SELF-RELIANCE

Doctrines

1. The temporal and spiritual are one
2. The Lord commands us to be self-reliant and has all power to help us
3. Self-reliance is a principle of exaltation

Principles

12 Principles of Self-Reliance

The Lord has declared, “It is my purpose to provide for my saints” ([D&C 104:15](#)). This revelation is a promise that the Lord will provide temporal blessings and open the door of self-reliance. He has also declared that “it must needs be done in [His] way” ([D&C 104:16](#)). To receive the blessings of self-reliance, we must accept and live the principles of self-reliance, which include the following:

1. Exercise Faith in Jesus Christ ([D&C 104:15](#))
2. Use Time Wisely ([Alma 34:32](#))
3. Be Obedient ([D&C 130:20–21](#))
4. Manage Money ([D&C 104:78](#))
5. Work: Take Responsibility ([D&C 42:42](#); [2 Nephi 2:16, 26](#))
6. Solve Problems ([Ether 2:18–19, 23](#); [3:1, 4](#))

7. Become One, Work Together ([Moses 7:18](#); [D&C 104:15–17](#))
8. Communicate: Petition and Listen ([D&C 8:2](#))
9. Persevere ([Hebrews 12:1](#); [D&C 58:4](#))
10. Show Integrity ([Mosiah 4:28](#); [Job 27:5](#); [Articles of Faith 1:13](#))
11. Seek Learning and Education ([D&C 88:118–119](#))
12. Stay On Task, Receive Ordinances ([D&C 84:20](#); [D&C 136:4](#); [1 Nephi 18:2–3](#))

These principles are taught more fully in the booklet [My Foundation: Principles, Skills, Habits](#). "We invite you to diligently study and apply them and teach them to your family. As you do, your life will be blessed. You will learn how to act on your path toward greater self-reliance." Pr. Monson

Person and family preparedness

6 areas of self-reliance - HERSHEY

Introduce Essentials of Home Production and Storage here:

Ward Preparedness Standards?

Ward Emergency preparedness and response plan. Finalizing it now.

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EMPLOYMENT

Wear Stake Employment Specialist Hat HERE

Employment is such a HUGE part of any preparedness plan as it lubricates all other aspects of life.

Pr. Hinckley Quote here: **Be an Asset to your Employer!**

Church employment resources

What does the church have to offer in terms of employment resources?

Programs and services:

Employment Resource Center, Lisle, IL ,

Career Workshop

Resume writing, job search, interview tips, Power Statements, etc.

Me in 30 seconds – a 30 second sales pitch to sell YOU!

"I am a self-starter with skills and knowledge in many areas. I can see the BIG picture and fit the pieces together, ..."

Development Program – Br. Tanner of the 2nd Ward

Ldsjobs.org – profile and job postings, job searches, resume creation (Resume Builder free access)

Jobs can be posted to ldsjobs.org for all to see

Unit and stake employment specialists

Unit specialists help the individual develop the necessary skills to secure a job, such as reinforcements to the Career Workshop program. The unit can provide mentors and job coaches to assist you. Disseminate information regarding local job fairs, hiring binges, etc.

The Stake specialist trains the unit specialist and provides additional resources. Monthly email regarding self-reliance and employment training.

2 questions to ask in every Priesthood and Relief Society meeting:

1 – do you know of anyone who needs a job?

2 – do you know of any jobs available?

The answers to these questions need to be forwarded to the unit employment specialist.

Addiction recovery program – helps you get on track if you need additional help
BYU Idaho, Pathways Program

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Introduce SRS manuals here@

Employment materials: www.srs.lds.org

Job search

My foundations

Education

Self-employment

My Path

Leaders Guide

(Smartphone access through Gospel Library)

Form Self-reliance groups –

The Lord has told us that “men should be anxiously engaged in a good cause, and do many things of their own free will, and bring to pass much righteousness;

“For the power is in them, wherein they are agents unto themselves. And inasmuch as men do good they shall in nowise lose their reward.” ([D&C 58:27–28.](#))

How do you get out of your comfort zone, recognize your responsibility to be self-reliant?

Volunteer opportunities:

Red Cross /LDS Statement of understanding

Find an organization whose purpose you wish to support to become involved with: I was VP for 2 (GRAB/Greater Rockford Area Bytemasters and VIM/Vegetarians in Motion) and Pres for 1 (Sinnissippi Valley Freenet Association): learned leadership and organization skills;

Director of the Illinois Citizens Utility Board for 2 years, addressing ICC hearings, Live radio and TV interviews.

You can volunteer as mentors and job coaches to help others in your unit

Elders Quorum Connection (need, provider, observers) – opposition is now a Bishop
LDS Just Serve Program (What's That?)

Self-Reliance Club – set up your own club? (since July 2014)

(Past: Deer skinning and processing, lotion bars, caramels, gardening, food preserving, fruit tree grafting, grape juice and jelly making, spinning and weaving, suturing, fishing picnic, knot tying, ...

goal setting formula – Zig Ziglar

- 1 – clearly identify the goal (must be your goal)
- 2 – set a date when the goal will be accomplished
- 3 – identify the obstacles you must overcome
- 4 – identify the people you need to work with
- 5 – identify the knowledge, education, skills you need
- 6 – develop an action plan
- 7 – identify what's in it for me – why accomplish this goal?

We have many poor and needy in today's world and they are joining the church. There are a couple of generations where children were not required to work to help take care of the family, or to take care of themselves. They are floundering in their lives as a result of not learning and living self-reliance principles. The Lord has provided a way to help them.

[Nov. 2011](#)

Providing in the Lord's Way

By President Dieter F. Uchtdorf

At the Root of Our Faith

Sometimes we see welfare as simply another gospel topic—one of the many branches on the gospel tree. But I believe that in the Lord's plan, our commitment to welfare principles should be at the very root of our faith and devotion to Him.

Since the beginning of time, our Heavenly Father has spoken with great clarity on this subject: from the gentle plea, "If thou lovest me ... thou wilt remember the poor, and consecrate of thy properties for their support";¹ to the direct command, "Remember in all things the poor and the needy, the sick and the afflicted, for he that doeth not these things, the same is not my disciple";² to the forceful warning, "If any man shall take of the abundance which I have made, and impart not his portion, according to the law of my gospel, unto the poor and the needy, he shall, with the wicked, lift up his eyes in hell, being in torment."³

The Lord's Way

There are many good people and organizations in the world that are trying to meet the pressing needs of the poor and needy everywhere. We are grateful for this, but the Lord's way of caring for the needy is different from the world's way. The Lord has said, "It must needs be done in mine own way."⁹ He is not only interested in our immediate needs; He is also concerned about our eternal

progression. For this reason, the Lord's way has always included self-reliance and service to our neighbor in addition to caring for the poor.

The Blessings of Providing in the Lord's Way

Whether we are rich or poor, regardless of where we live on this globe, we all need each other, for it is in sacrificing our time, talents, and resources that our spirits mature and become refined.

This work of providing in the Lord's way is not simply another item in the catalog of programs of the Church. It cannot be neglected or set aside. It is central to our doctrine; it is the essence of our religion. Brethren, it is our great and special privilege as priesthood holders to put the priesthood to work. We must not turn aside our hearts or our heads from becoming more self-reliant, caring better for the needy, and rendering compassionate service.

The temporal is intertwined with the spiritual. God has given us this mortal experience and the temporal challenges that attend it as a laboratory where we can grow into the beings Heavenly Father wants us to become. May we understand the great duty and blessing that come from following and providing in the Lord's way is my prayer in the name of Jesus Christ, amen.

Closing statement

We invite you to read and study about this program, and to study the principles of self-reliance, so that you will be prepared to assist in building the Lord's kingdom when the need arises. Pr. Monson.

Testify!!!!!!