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Announcements

Upcoming Trek Related Activities

April 16th 3pm - Pre-Trek Youth Activity @ Etowah

April 22nd-23rd - Ma/Pa Overnight Practice Pull @ Fort Mountain

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2022 Youth Theme

Trust in the Lord

"Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

As a 12-year-old girl in England, Emily Hill heard the restored gospel preached for the first time. She said she was "hungry and thirsty for truth" and she found the answers she was seeking when she heard the missionaries testify. However, her parents did not allow her to be baptized. Four years later, she and her sister, Julia, who also had a testimony of the truth, were baptized. After working to earn enough money to travel, Emily and Julia left England in 1856 and sailed to America to join the Saints.

Once in America, the young women joined the Willie handcart company and began the trek westward. The company left late in the year and encountered enormous hardships. Sixty-eight members of the company died before reaching Salt Lake City. Both of the sisters suffered enormously, but they strengthened each other and survived the difficult journey. At one point, Julia collapsed in the snow from exhaustion and hunger. Emily found the strength to lift her from the snow and help her carry on with the difficult journey.

Emily had been promised in a blessing that she would "write in prose and verse and thereby comfort the hearts of thousands." Years later, Emily used her gift of expressing herself to write speeches, essays, and poems. Her poetry was an inspiration to many, including women rallying for women's right to vote in the Utah. But perhaps her most repeated lines are the beautiful lyrics of "As Sisters in Zion."

Inspired by the strength of women, her original poem read "as sisters in Zion we'll all **pull** together."

Music for Emily's poem was written by Janice Kapp Perry and added to the hymnbook in 1985. As promised in her blessing, Latter-day Saint women around the world have been comforted and strengthened by Emily's words.



Trek Leader Message

- by Jonathan Babcock

A handcart trek experience is unique in many ways. It is an opportunity to step out of our normal lives for a few days and into an immersive, challenging and faith-promoting experience.

We will be challenged in many ways – spending time with people we don't particularly know well, wearing clothes that are quite different from those in our wardrobes at home, and being pushed well beyond what are used to doing physically.

We can find a closeness to the Lord when we are being pushed out of our comfort zones, maybe even to our very limits. One of the reasons trek is difficult by design is to provide us a chance to learn who we are and what we're capable of.

He wants us to realize our potential. He wants us to trust Him (Proverbs 3:5-6); to know that if we let Him, He can make us equal to the challenges of trek, and beyond that, to the challenges of life. He wants us to witness the small, but unmistakably real personal miracles that come with trusting in the Lord completely and relying on Him for our support.

When we acknowledge Him (Proverbs 3:5-6), by fervently calling on him silently or verbally, whether individually, in our families, or as a collective group of young pioneers – we will see how he will direct our paths.

I know that if we persist through the challenges and give our best efforts, Trek can be a jump start to our spiritual growth, helping us to learn, or to remember the importance of trusting completely in the Lord and to recognize His voice.

Preparedness Goal/Tip for March

- Consider packing a small travel size pack of baby wipes. They are great to freshen up when you change at the end of the day since we will not have access to showers/baths.
- Check out the trek website. Last months newsletter is there if you missed it. As well as the Trail of Faith award details. Check it out. See what you need to do to earn this special award.
- Don't forget you need to be breaking in a pair of shoes for the trail. Tennis shoes are fine. Just make sure you have good tread on the bottom of the shoe still!