

## Making our Homes a Haven

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Mike Baird

### Making our Home a Haven

- In process of discussing this I will introduce you to what our family calls Fort Baird
- Let me tell you how Fort Baird came about
  - My wife and I know making our home a haven is what we want
  - We know we need to teach, lead etc.
  - Problem we have struggled with can be illustrated with two analogies
    - 1<sup>st</sup> – Things to and can do - like a room full of softballs
      - Do I have them all?
      - How do I pick up what I need without dropping one?
      - How do I know I have all the right ones?
    - Like going to Fred Meyer's without a list and with \$500 to spend
      - End up buying things you want not all that you needed
  - In retrospect I felt we needed a vehicle to be able to wrap our arms around making our home a haven
    - Something to define our haven
    - Something to help with proper focus & priorities
    - Something to help review the whole matter
  - Crystallized when reading Teachings of Harold B Lee, Pg 36
    - "Satan has power over us only as we give it to him"
    - Our home which has been dedicated by Priesthood Power can only be breached by Satan where we let him enter
      - Video with black ooze
      - By this inspiration as I pondered the words of a Prophet the seeds of Fort Baird were born
- Go through Ft Baird
  - Show what we as a family have done
  - Note the principles
    - Ft Baird is a vehicle for the principles
    - You don't need to create a Ft Baird to make your home a haven
- **But** we all need to apply the principles that Ft Baird encompasses to make our home a haven
  - Doesn't matter the age of the children
  - Doesn't matter if you have no children

- Doesn't matter if you are single or the only member in your family
- The principals still apply
- Our Ft Baird **Document** encompasses 5 areas
  1. What we want our home to be – A fortress
  2. Symbols and Signs of Fort Baird
  3. The enemy (Satan) and his tactics
  4. Missions from our Fortress
  5. Strengthening our Fortress

## Fort Baird

1. We **counseled** together (FHE) on what we wanted our home to be:
  - Principle of Unity (Mom & Dad aren't running a slave camp)
  - Place of refuge
  - Place of safety
  - Place to feel loved
  - Place to be yourself
  - Place to learn of God
  - Orderly
  - Holy
  - A Fortress against the enemy – Fort Baird
    - Fort Baird Scripture
      - Stand ye in holy places, and be not moved (D&C 87:8)
  - By establishing Fort Baird we have set a plan of action in motion
    - Like the gardener who decides.
      - This is the fruit I want
      - This is what I need to do to accomplish it
  - Something to review
    - How are we doing and where can we do better
    - Have done so periodically in FHE
    - Like the gardener who tends to the garden and assesses its needs

## 2. Symbols and signs of Fort Baird

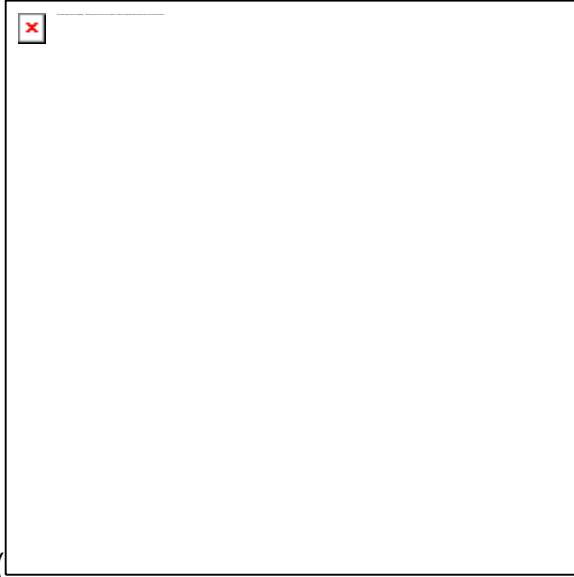
- Banner and other symbols are fun things that promote the **principle of unity**
  - Much like uniforms and symbols of armies and sports teams
- The Fort Baird Flag
- The Fort Baird motto is: "Return with Honor"
  - On the exits to our fortress we have placed "Return with Honor" plaques to remind us to return with our honor bright.
- Family sayings
  - Represent principles we teach our children
  - "Holy Ghost goes to bed at Midnight!"
    - We need to be in the right places at the right time & have the Spirit with us
  - "If you're going to do a job, do it right!"
    - Hard work, honesty, no sloth, industrious
  - "Life's not fair"
    - Adversity comes to all of us and we need to learn to deal with it
    - Turn to Family and God
  - "Between the neck and the knees, hands off please!"
    - Inherited from my Mother
    - As our children grow, they need information taught by parents more directly and plainly about what is and is not appropriate.
    - We need to teach children to avoid any pornographic photographs or stories – they are the tool of the devil.
    - Teach family members not to listen to music that celebrates the sensual.
    - Talk to them plainly about sex and the teaching of the gospel regarding chastity.
    - Let this information come from parents in the home in an appropriate way.
- All family members need to know the rules and be fortified spiritually so they can keep them.

### 3. The enemy - Satan

- Teachings of Harold B Lee, Pg 39
  - Satan can only enter where we let him in
    - Media
      - TV
      - Music
      - Magazines
      - Books
      - Internet
      - Pictures
    - Thoughts and attitudes
    - Word of Wisdom
    - Criticism
    - Spirit of Dissension
      - Argue / fight
      - Call names, making fun, insults
- Many principles
  - Focus on Intervention
  - Elder Ballard:

"It is the parents' duty to intervene when they see wrong choices being made. That doesn't mean parents take from children the precious gift of agency. Because agency is a God-given gift, ultimately the choice of what they will do, how they will behave, and what they will believe will always be theirs. But as parents we need to make sure they understand appropriate behavior and the consequences to them if they pursue their wrongful course.

Remember, there is no such thing as unlawful censorship in the home. Movies, magazines, television, videos, the Internet, and other media are there as guests and should only be welcomed when they are appropriate for family enjoyment."



(M. Russell Ballard, "Like a Flame Unquenchable," *Ensign*, May 1999, 85)

#### 4. Missions from our Fortress

- Short Term missions
  - Sometimes as a family, sometimes alone
  - Put on the Whole Armor of God
  - Hold to the iron rod
  - Return with honor
- Extended missions when children get older
- Kevin is out on an extended mission from the fortress
  - Serving The Lord as a full time missionary
  - Serving with honor
  - Has on the Whole Armor of God
- Scott is out on an extended mission from the fortress
  - Served an honorable mission
  - Looking to establish his own fortress
- Jennifer is on an extended mission from the fortress
  - Serving with honor – Married in the Temple
  - Establishing her own fortress
  - Has on the Whole Armor of God
- When we leave our home we enter a world where we have less control or protection from the tactics Satan throws at us.
- To return with honor we must be taught and fortified (Principals of teaching, strengthening)
- My Mom used to send her “eye” with me.
  - Symbolic of remembering what I was taught and to return with honor.

## 5. Strengthening our fortress

- Priesthood Power
  - Mike's Patriarchal blessing
  - Father's blessings
  - Dedication of our home
- Cleanliness
  - Do chores
  - Clean rooms
  - Pick up after yourself
- Scriptures
  - Family & Individual
- Prayer
  - Family & Individual
- FHE
- Service
- Temple service
- Church
  - Attend meetings
  - Do callings
- Family History work
- Show love
  - No argue or fight
  - No criticism

Summation: What we want our home to be – A fortress

## Feeling overwhelmed?

- My intent is not to leave anyone feeling overwhelmed
- My intent is to witness that we can make our home a haven
- It can seem overwhelming to us
  - Perhaps we feel like our family fortress lives stumbles from one crisis to the next
  - Perhaps we feel like our family fortress is marked by apathy toward family and gospel things
  - Perhaps we feel like our fortress has been overwhelmed by the forces of Satan at times
  - Perhaps we have felt the siren call of Satan and have stumbled at times
  - Perhaps we feel like this is a mountain too high to climb
- The beauty of God’s plan and the gospel of Jesus Christ is we are not alone.
  - We have each other as brothers and sisters in the gospel
  - More importantly we have the Savior
    - Moroni 10:32  
“Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness; and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, **then is his grace sufficient for you**, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ;...”
  - I can promise you - if we will come unto Him and let our covenants be the primary force in our lives, by His grace we shall be enlarged or made equal to the task of establishing our homes as havens
  - If we don’t, if we turn aside and let personal pleasure and self-interest rule then we will reap what we sow. We will fall short and the fruits will be bitter that we reap.

I know that Fort Baird has made a difference in our family’s lives. It has made a difference in how I see things and what I do.

Close