

Be Not Weary in Well Doing

Stake Youth Fireside

January 24, 2021

Mike Baird

Introduction – Be not Weary in Well doing

“Wherefore, be not weary in well-doing, for ye are laying the foundation of a great work. And out of small things proceedeth that which is great. Behold, the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind” (Doctrine and Covenants 64:33-34) -Youth 2021 Theme

- Enjoyed hearing what has been shared so far about the theme scripture for this year
- Theme scripture has always been a favorite scripture of mine
- As we have heard already, it can be applied in lots of ways and to lots of things
- I have quoted it to myself numerous times
- One example I know from my own experience that you can look to of someone who is not weary in well doing is your bishop
- Let me add to what you have heard by sharing two ways with experiences my own life that you too could apply to yours

Be Not Weary – Family History picture experience

- Sometimes be not weary means keeping at something that takes a lot of time and energy before the “great work” appears
- Family History can sometimes be that way
- Even with all the access we have now it can take lots of effort, work to track down or figure out something
- But the great work that comes from it can be very rewarding
- Margrethe’s postcard & photos collection
 - Inherited them in 2012
 - Some have labels or notes
 - A few were easily identified as they were relatives that I knew
 - A few had names but I had no idea who they were or if they were even related
 - I spent many hours trying searching, researching trying to figure out who the people were in the pictures and how they might be related
 - Talk about one of these postcards

Hjørdis, Olga and Lewis Larsen

- Post card front picture of two little girls, one looked to be 8-9 and the other 4-5 years old
- Labeled with their names
- Back: dated Jan 2, 1911 addressed to “dear cousin” and signed “your loving cousin Lewis”, with a return address of Virouque Wisconsin RFD #9.
- This Lewis indicated in the card that it is a picture of his sisters on the front
- Margrethe had an Uncle who had immigrated to Wisconsin so I figured they were probably part of this family
- I researched this family, found their children with a glaring exception: no Lewis, Hjordis or Olga to be found anywhere.
- I had a 1900 census from Norway listing 8 children but no Lewis, Hjordis or Olga
- Several times over the following years I made several attempts to find this cousin Lewis and the two girls
- Their picture touched me in a way I can’t explain and I felt this yearning to find who they were.

- 6 years (2108) after I first started looking for these girls, One Sunday I felt a prompting that I should look through the notifications that you can receive in Ancestry.com.
- I started looking through them – I had hundreds of notifications
- After a few pages one caught my eye – A 1910 census for a brother of my great-great grandmother. The same Great-uncle that I thought these girls should belong to
- I thought to myself “I don’t think I have that census attached as a source for him”
- I looked him up on FamilySearch and sure enough I didn’t have that census so I found the census and attached it
- I noticed in the census there were two additional children that had been born after 1900 – 2 little girls I didn’t recognize
- Ah you can see where this is headed.....
- After a couple of minutes, the thought came to my mind these might be the two girls whose picture had so haunted me
- I raced upstairs and sure enough the names on the postcard matched and so did the apparent ages.
- With this information I spent hours over the next few days tracking down information about these two sisters and Lewis who are my 1st cousins 3 times removed.
 - Pictures of Lewis and Hjordis as adults
 - Their marriages, children and so forth
- My granddaughter, Ivy did the baptisms for the girls and my niece Shantay did the rest of their temple work
- Well, what about Lewis who took the picture and wrote the postcard?
 - Turns out the name he was given in Norway was Laurits but when they immigrated to America he began going by Lewis and this is what threw me off those years that I couldn’t find him.
 - I was able to do his temple work
- Out of many hours of family history work came the small thing of finding them which enabled the work of salvation to be done for my cousins which is a great thing

Be not Weary – Be an example

- Another way that each of us can “Be not weary in well-doing” is being an example of a follower of Jesus Christ
 - Takes continual effort
 - Sometimes we may be tempted to “take time off” from “well-doing”

Stake Missionary

- The summer after my sophomore year in high school my family moved to the small city of Chewelah, WA (north of Spokane)
- Only several families that were members of the church lived there
- In my grade were myself and one other girl that was a member
 - All together there was about 8-9 in our early morning seminary class
- No branch, part of a ward that met in Colville, Wa – 25 miles away
- Quarterback on the football team – everyone knew who I was
- Everyone knew I was a member of our church, for many of my friends the first member of the church they had known
 - Why – because I was different, and I let them know why I did as I did
 - I didn’t go to parties drinking
 - I didn’t swear
 - On Sundays I went to church and spent time with my family
 - On Monday nights I did something called family night to the exclusion of anything else
 - I wasn’t perfect but I tried my best because I knew everyone was watching me
- In January of my Jr year, while I was in the middle of basketball season, I was called to be a stake missionary
 - Different from “ward missionaries” that we have today
 - Stake missionaries then taught people, just like full time missionaries
 - I had a companion, who was a senior in my high school
 - We were expected to spend 40 hours/month doing missionary work
 - The nearest full-time missionaries were 25 miles away
 - Over the remainder of my Junior year, my senior year and up until I left for college we taught and baptized several of our friends
 - What was it that drew these friends of mine to the gospel?
 - It was two things

- It was me and the other members in our high school simply being an example of a follower of Jesus Christ by living our religion
- I invited my friends to church where they could feel the Spirit
- Return to this in a few minutes – share something else first

“Know for myself”

- I feel to share one more thing about my high school experiences
- About the time I was called to be a stake missionary and was trying to answer all the questions my friends were asking me about the church I remember thinking I really need to know for myself the truth of what I’m saying and going to be teaching
- Experience with Book of Mormon
- I’ve had many witnesses since then, but the foundation of my testimony is the witness I received from God that night
- 1829 Oliver Cowdrey had started as scribe to Joseph Smith in translating the Book of Mormon
 - He had already received a divine manifestation of the truth of the Prophet’s testimony respecting the plates on which was engraved the Book of Mormon record
 - He desired a further witness, and this is what the Lord told him:
- D&C 6:21-22
 Verily, verily, I say unto you, if you desire a further witness, cast your mind upon the night that you cried unto me in your heart, that you might know concerning the truth of these things.
 Did I not speak peace to your mind concerning the matter? What greater witness can you have than from God?
- God is source of all truth and can speak peace to your mind
- In great measure it is that witness I have received from God that enables me to be not weary in well-doing
- It can be the same for you
 - Ian Wilde

Brad Walker

- Remember I said one thing I would do is invite my friends to church
- I would specifically invite them to fast and testimony meeting where myself and the other youth in the ward would bear our testimonies
- There they felt the Spirit and some were drawn to the Gospel
- Most of time it was 1 or 2, but one time I remember on time specifically because I about 8 friends from school there
- Brad Walker – was one of them
- As I recall I bore my testimony first and the entire meeting was nothing by the youth of our ward bearing testimony
- Brad after the meeting took me aside “Mike, I will *never* say anything bad about your church again”

Closing

- Isaiah 40:28-31

Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding.

Explain

He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall:

Explain – Other sources social media, influencers etc. will in the end fade away

But they that await upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.

TESTIFY