The Plano Texas Stake Preparedness Challenge

For December—“Be Christ-like”

“Therefore, what manner of men ought ye to be? Verily I say unto you, even as I am.”(3 Nephi 27:27)

In the words of our Prophet, Thomas S. Monson from a conference address (delivered October 5, 2014) we hear, “Of paramount importance, we have been provided with a perfect example to follow—even the example of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. . .‘He marked the path and led the way (Hymn # 195) .” To be Christ-like is our ultimate and most important type of preparedness. We need to assure that we are worthy to be caught up to meet our Savior when He comes again in His glory. Following the spiritual goals set forth by our Plano Stake leaders, will help us and our family members be prepared and “Be Christ-like.”

Spiritual Goals

**First Spiritual Goal: Make twice daily personal prayer a habit. Set aside time for twice daily family prayer as well.** Our Savior gave us the example for prayer in what has become known as “The Lord’s Prayer” (see: Matthew 6:9-13). We are to first call on our Heavenly Father addressing Him as “Father.” We should thank Him for our blessings. We should ask Him for the things we stand in need of. We should seek His forgiveness of those things we need to repent of. We should also follow our Savior’s example and pray as He did, “Thy [the Father’s] will be done.” We also learn from the Savior that we should close our prayer in His name (Jesus Christ). Jesus told the Nephite people: “Therefore ye must always pray unto the Father in my name” (3 Nephi 18:19).

**Second Spiritual Goal: Hold weekly Family Home Evenings with your family**. Follow the advice of our modern day prophets and hold weekly Family Home Evenings (preferably on a Monday night). A wealth of information on making successful Family Home Evenings can be found on the Church’s website: [www.lds.org](http://www.lds.org) Click on “Serve and Teach,” then “Lessons and Teaching,” then, “Family Home Evening.” Try having at least one FHE this month centered on the Savior and on the theme “Be Christ-like.”

**Third Spiritual Goal: Have daily personal and family scripture study.**

The suggested scripture reading for the month of December is Ether 6 through Moroni 10. If this does not fit in with your family, go at your own pace or select other scriptures to fit your family needs.

**Fourth Spiritual Goal: Do family history work and attend the temple regularly**.

Consider that Christ-like or charitable acts may even be performed for our Heavenly Father’s children who have passed to the other side of the veil. Genealogy (including our time spent indexing), and Temple work are certainly charitable acts of service. Fulfill the Plano Stake Goals of spending at least **one hour of indexing** each month, **one hour of family history** each month and of taking **one family name to the temple** each year. Contact your ward or branch family history specialist to find out more. Register yourself at: <https://familysearch.org/>. Make plans to attend the temple regularly. If you do not currently possess a temple recommend, see your Bishop or Branch President to make plans to obtain one.

Financial Objectives:

**First Financial Objective: Adjust your budget for the coming year.** During the month make sure your budget plans for the coming year are completed. Make sure to factor in the “surprises” or unplanned events that are almost sure to happen. We never know when we may need to spend more than planned for medical and/or dental care, make repairs to or replace major appliances, make repairs to the structure of our home, or replace a vehicle necessary to our livelihood. For excellent financial preparedness advice see: <http://www.providentliving.org/self-reliance/finances/financial-calculator?lang=eng>. There you will find the interactive financial calculators to help you with your financial planning.

**Second Financial Objective: Complete (100%) of your financial goals for the current year.** 100% of your financial goals for the year should be completed at the end of the month. Be sure to attend tithing settlement during the month with your Bishop or Branch President.

Emergency Preparedness Tasks:

**First Preparedness Task: Re-inventory your home storage.** The end of the year is a good time to do this. Use the handout entitled “My Food Storage Inventory Sheet” found in the “Resource” section for January under the “Preparedness Challenge” tab of the website: [www.preparednessplano.org](http://www.preparednessplano.org)

**Second Preparedness Task**: **Check your 72 Hour Emergency Kits**. The “72 Hour Emergency Kit Checklist” in the “Resource” section for February in the “Calendar” section under the “Preparedness Challenge “tab on the Stake website: [www.preparednessplano.org](http://www.preparednessplano.org) is mainly a list of suggested items. It would be difficult for most women and children to carry a back pack with all those items in it. Carefully select what will be most important for each family member. Many of the items can go in a “Grab and Go” container you have near your car. You may also divvy some of the items up between family members. (For example one could carry an emergency shovel, another an emergency tri-fold stove for cooking, etc.) It is highly suggested that each family member have the basics of survival for themselves personally in their kits. This would include the water, change of clothing, food and whatever else you consider most necessary. Of course dangerous items and medications for small children should be kept in an adult’s back pack.

**Third Preparedness Task: Complete your three month storage or your storage goals for the year.** Whatever your home storage goals are for the year, they should be completed at the end of this month. If you fell short, do not despair. We will keep the Preparedness Challenge up on the website: [www.preparednessplano.org](http://www.preparednessplano.org) and you may begin again now to start getting your family better prepared. It may be a good time to visit our church’s local Home Storage Center to update your food storage. It is located at 1100 W Jackson Rd. in Carrollton Texas. Call 972-242-8597 for their hours. See [www.providentliving.org](http://www.providentliving.org) for an order form. Make certain that your family has a two week emergency supply of water. See [www.lds.org/topics/food-storage/drinking-water-guidelines?lang=eng](http://www.lds.org/topics/food-storage/drinking-water-guidelines?lang=eng).