

My thoughts #16

June 4, 2023

We arrived home from Alaska late on Saturday night and the next morning at 4am Ray was on a plane to Florida. He has been gone two weeks. He has been working on a rental property and of course, fishing. It is interesting just how much fishing happens on a work trip... lol



Just before leaving to Alaska, Ray and I received new callings/ assignments in church! In the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, all positions are voluntary. The bishop of a ward will pray about who he feels should do each position. Each of us do something to help in the running of a ward.

Ray was called as the Ward Mission Leader and I was called as a ward missionary. Ray's responsibility is to work with the missionaries in our ward. He has many responsibilities with this calling. Me however, I have been asked to be in charge of the meals for the Elders (missionaries) in our ward. It has been a challenge... The members of the ward sign up to feed the missionaries each night. While that shouldn't ever be a problem, sometimes it is. The Elders have many rules to follow. For example, Elders cannot go into the homes of single woman without another adult male present due safety concerns / respect. That makes it so many single or widowed women who are willing to help have not been able to.

I have spent the past couple of weeks thinking of how to magnify my calling. How can I do a really good job and make sure the missionaries are not only taken care of, but taken care of well. We all have callings in life to magnify. It may be a calling in the church or the calling of being a wife/ homemaker and many others. It may be a parent who needs to do better. Whatever the calling may be, we are commanded to do things well.

The apostle Paul felt the importance of magnifying his calling.

New Testament

Romans 11:13

13 For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office.

Jacob felt the importance of magnifying his calling, feeling that he would be accountable for the sins of the people if he didn't take his responsibilities seriously.

Book of Mormon

Jacob 1:19

19 And we did magnify our office unto the Lord, taking upon us the responsibility, answering the sins of the people upon our own heads if we did not teach them the work of God with all diligence;

I came up with new ideas that we haven't tried in our ward. I suggested we all find a way to contribute. It may be having the missionaries in our homes for dinner, or prepare a "take out" meal and have the Elders pick it up, or prepare a freezer meal, or contribute dining gift cards, Uber eats delivery (that was Raymie's idea). I was able to give a short presentation of ways to contribute and everyone signed up! It was awesome. People loved having so many options to help.

Cheyenne magnified her calling as a mother this week as she took time to teach Mercy to sew. Mercy made a skirt. She sat on Cheyenne's lap and carefully sewed the seams together. Cheyenne pushed on the foot pedal (Mercy could not reach it) and Mercy guided all the stitching. Mercy was thrilled when it was finished. She was so excited to show everyone. Everyone expressed amazement of her work, but the real star is Cheyenne who patiently guided and taught Mercy. She magnified her calling as a mother.



I hope that we can all spend a few minutes thinking about our callings in life and what we can do to magnify them. I know that the Lord loves effort. Often our callings are challenging, not something simple like feeding the missionaries, but I know that with our Savior's help we can accomplish the work He wants us to do. I want to magnify my callings so He can be pleased with my life.

With love,
Leslie

Of course, Sophie wanted a skirt... Cheyenne patiently sat and helped Sophie learn as well. Two cute little girls.



Sweet Unity turned three this week. We love her!

