

Strengthening Ourselves and our Children



President Ringwood

I have the opportunity to work with the youth of the stake. They face great challenges, but we have some of the strongest youth in the Church. There is a trend toward selfishness, there are attacks on religion. But our youth are navigating through these storms. I want to thank them for participating in stake baptisms. It is becoming more difficult to stand firm in our faith if we aren't daily strengthening ourselves. Do we feel just enough of the spirit to think we are okay? If we aren't steadily moving forward, we are moving backwards. As we progress on the path, the light gets stronger and brighter as we move closer to God. As we move away we can become filled with darkness and confusion. In Lehi's dream, those who never tasted the fruit, didn't know what they were missing.

Recently I was in the mountain with my brother-in-law. We came upon a snow field and my brother-in-law walked across. As I started across, I sank knee deep with every step, tiring myself out as I made my way across the field. He was able to walk atop the snow because he had less burdens. Do we miss spiritual vistas because we are weighted down with sin? Do we use too much energy getting out of the snow? We can't earn our way into heaven. King Benjamin asked us to consider our own nothingness. We are totally dependent on the Savior's atoning sacrifice. We need to ask, "What lack I yet?" Then we need to have the courage to receive an answer and follow it.