

“AS JOSEPH OF EGYPT . . . THIS DO AND LIVE”

(An idea that may help a stake or community become better prepared for emergencies or that may help spawn the development of another idea.)

The biblical story of Joseph of Egypt teaches us to prepare in times of prosperity for future emergencies that lie ahead. Modern day prophets have also abundantly counseled church members to become more self-reliant by storing a long term one year food supply and to be prepared for emergencies. In an effort to help people living in the community, the South Jordan Utah River Stake recently successfully hosted a food storage/emergency preparedness event based on the Joseph of Egypt biblical account and was entitled “As Joseph of Egypt . . . This Do And Live.” The format for the event was originally developed in the Sandy Crescent Utah Stake and has been successfully adapted and duplicated in several other stakes. Over 200 volunteers were involved and approximately 500 families or 1500 people attended. Individual wards and other community participants and agencies each sponsored venues on various themes such as food storage, first aid, 72 hour kits, water, sanitation, fuel, personal records, financial security, responding to various disasters, emergency communication, employment, natural gas and electrical power safety issues, temporary housing and shelter, gardening, neighborhood emergency plans, computer safety and identity theft.

The event was family friendly with most venues having a hands-on, interactive activity geared to children of all ages. Families also collected pages of written information for future reference and use. Besides visiting the numerous venues, attendees also enjoyed viewing a thematic video which recounted the biblical Joseph of Egypt story, sampled donated wares made from food storage products in the Egyptian food court, had their family photo taken with Egyptian backdrop in “King Tut’s Photo Hut,” and assembled to hear Joseph of Egypt (enacted by the Stake President) address the people with the challenge that as he “had prepared Egypt, it was now up to each one of us to prepare our families for the days ahead.”