

Tahquitz Ward Express

12-18-2023—Send info:

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We chronicle the partying and worshipping, comings and goings & general memory-making moments of our **GREAT** YSA Ward in Hemet. If you are missing, you

In other words...You snooze, You looze!!

You need us & we need you!—Do something brave today, venture out & don't be a wall flower! Go out of your way to make someone else's day better!—You have a lot to share, now's the time!

Tahquitz YSA news, future happenings & Casper's mission journal

Sunday services take place at 27020 Meridian St.

Sunday School/Priesthood at 12 pm

Sacrament meeting at 1 pm.

All FHEs —Park Hill Building at 7 pm, unless otherwise noted 1151 Park Ave, San Jacinto.

RIDES

Our ride coordinators are Keoni Buenavista (951-391-3007) and Eric Diaz (951-492-8202) Please contact either for help with rides. Give as much notice as possible.

FHE Assignments:

1st Monday - Gray

2nd - Stange

3rd - Van Jindelt

4th - Hartvigson

5th - Frosties & Fries

CFM

Gray, Stange, Diaz, Casper—(This is not week specific as we sometimes have a 5th Thursday)

Tahquitz Ward Newsletter Addresses and Info — Gray: 25355 Rockford St, Hemet—

Stange: 27077 Val Deane Way, Hemet Casper: 409 E Thornton Ave, Apt A201, Hemet—

Diaz 781 Madden St Hemet—Park Hill building: 1151 Park Ave, San Jacinto —

**Past issues of Tahquitz Ward Express available at recoveringidiot.com
Top left —“Mission Posts” To contact Ben or suggestions— Top right**

FHE

1/8 Battleship Volleyball
1/15 No FHE MLK Day
1/22 Snowman Competition
1/29 Pickle ball at stake center/Frosties and Fries

COME FOLLOW ME

1/11 at Stange's,
1/18 at Diaz's
1/25 at Casper's

TEMPLE DATES

1/19 (Fri) 6:30 pm Baptisms
2/16 (Fri) 6:30 pm Baptisms

OTHER DATES

1/14 Ward conference (regular church time)
1/21 Church in Idyllwild. Meet at 9 am to carpool.
1/27 Winter Ball, sponsored by Hemet YSA

BIRTHDAYS!

1/3 Benjamin Noel (Happy Belated Birthday!!)
1/13 Dawson Hoover (Happy Long Distance Birthday!!)

RELIEF SOCIETY

Upcoming Relief Society lesson talks for our ward can be found on the home page of your Gospel Library App. If you can't locate it ask a member of the RS presidency for help.

QUOTES

“Why do you think I’m the best player in the world? Because I never get bored with the basics.”—Kobe Bryant

It's been several weeks since the last letter because of holidays and an emergency trip out of state. We're glad to be back!!!

New callings!

Erik Diaz: Assistant ride coordinator

Jordan Carbullido: Ward bulletin coordinator

Ethan Collette: Ward PFR

Emma Johnson: Activities committee

Good News!

For them, not us—Isaac Smith, Dawson Hoover, Elijah Elsmore and Jordan Cripe have all left us to further their educations. We wish them well!

Eric Alcocer was baptized and received the gift of the Holy Ghost on 1/7/2024

Sunday:

The first Sunday of the new year was a memorable day.

First, in Sunday School, we started our study of the Book of Mormon for 2024.

Then, we had our first testimony meeting of the year. Our missionary elders bore powerful testimony that Jesus Christ's atonement is real and that consistently remembering the fundamentals of the gospel will always serve us well. Other testimonies were born about having joy, laboring diligently and reaching out to others. When you feel the spirit you feel a little bit of heaven. Heavenly Father will lead us to be where He needs us to be if we allow Him to do so. Read and study, search, ponder and pray. The Book of Mormon is true!

After this spiritual feast, we all headed for the Park Hill building and the baptism of Eric Alcocer. We're thankful to have someone as humble, teachable, and kind as Eric is to join our ward family. We are behind you, Eric, as you continue to learn and progress in the gospel of Jesus Christ.

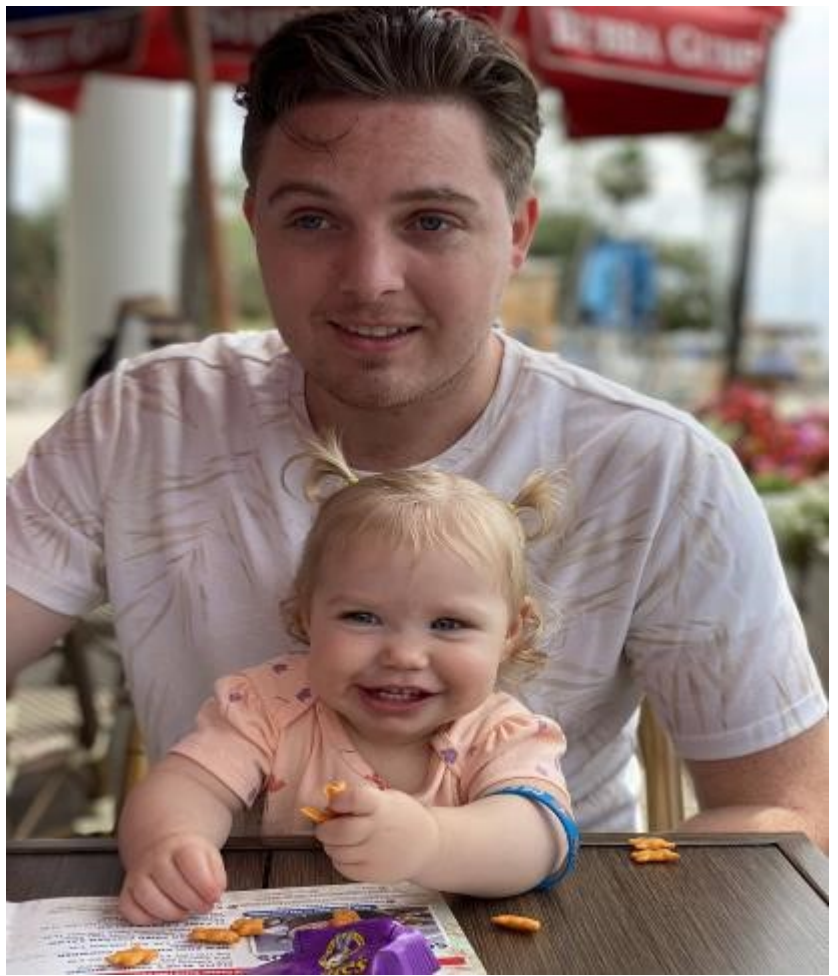
And after this spiritual feast, we had a true break-the-fast (a breakfast!) with lots of delicious food. Thanks again to our coordinators, Violet and Evelyne, and Sister Hartvigson, for never failing to make this nice for everyone.

Have you thought about how you will make 2024 a little (or a lot) better than 2023?

“Do you want to change the shape of your life? Change the shape of your day. Do you want to change your day? Change this hour. Change what you think, feel and do at this very moment . . . Minutes and hours well spent are the building blocks of a life well lived.” Dieter F Uchtdorf, Oct 2021

Spotlight: Aaron Stange

I shouldn't talk but Aaron put away too much fruitcake and eggnog over the holidays.



Aaron Stange

I was born and raised here in Hemet, the youngest of 4 boys. Each of them have families of their own now. I am the funicle.

I was born into the church, but my personal conversion didn't occur until I was 17. A close friend asked me to baptize him, and that encouraged me to start asking Heavenly Father if he was really there. He answered back with a resounding yes. After this experience is when I truly started planning on going on a mission.

I served my mission in Honduras Tegucigalpa from 2015-2017, Spanish speaking. The Honduran people live in extremely humble circumstances, and being able to live as one of them and learn their language has continually blessed me in my personal life, in my relationships, as well as my professional career.

I'm currently working in construction and saving up money for school. I'm going to graduate this year with my bachelors in Construction Management, and eventually I plan on continuing my education to get my masters.

After I graduate, I have plans to move to Birmingham Alabama and work for a company I previously interned for as a Project Manager. They are designing and building pre-manufactured temples for the Church.

I love having fun, laughing, and spending time with other like-minded people. I love being active as well, playing a wider diversity of sports like ultimate frisbee, spikeball, and other things. Board games are a Stange Family favorite, including Settlers of Catan. Of which, I'm currently holding a record of 10 consecutive wins against my dad *cough cough.

I come off as a fun loving, goofy guy, just like my dad. What people won't notice at first sight is that I have a deep passionate love for the people around me. I care deeply about their well-being, and truly will do anything for my friends.

I've had every reason to give up in the past. Many people have that same excuse. But instead of giving up, I've done my best to keep my head held high and hope for a brighter and better future for myself. I'm happy now because I know that Heavenly Father blesses his children after the trial of their faith. Brighter days are ahead for all that choose to be patient with him.

My favorite hymn is Press Forward Saints, p. 81. I feel that this song reflects the testimony and mindset that I have about not giving up and trying to stay positive. My favorite verse is the last.

*Press on, enduring in the ways of Christ.
His love proclaim thru days of mortal strife.
Thus saith our God: "Ye have eternal life!"
Alleluia!
Alleluia!
Alleluia!*





Christmas in the California-Riverside Mission was very memorable and pleasant!



Our Tahquitz Ward had a Nativity Scene just before Christmas....



Brought John home from the hospital, met Elder Sommers doing last minute shopping, met a cheerful lady that has a few problems but no complaints, Stanges brightened our doorstep, another great English Connect and California Riverside Mission pic.



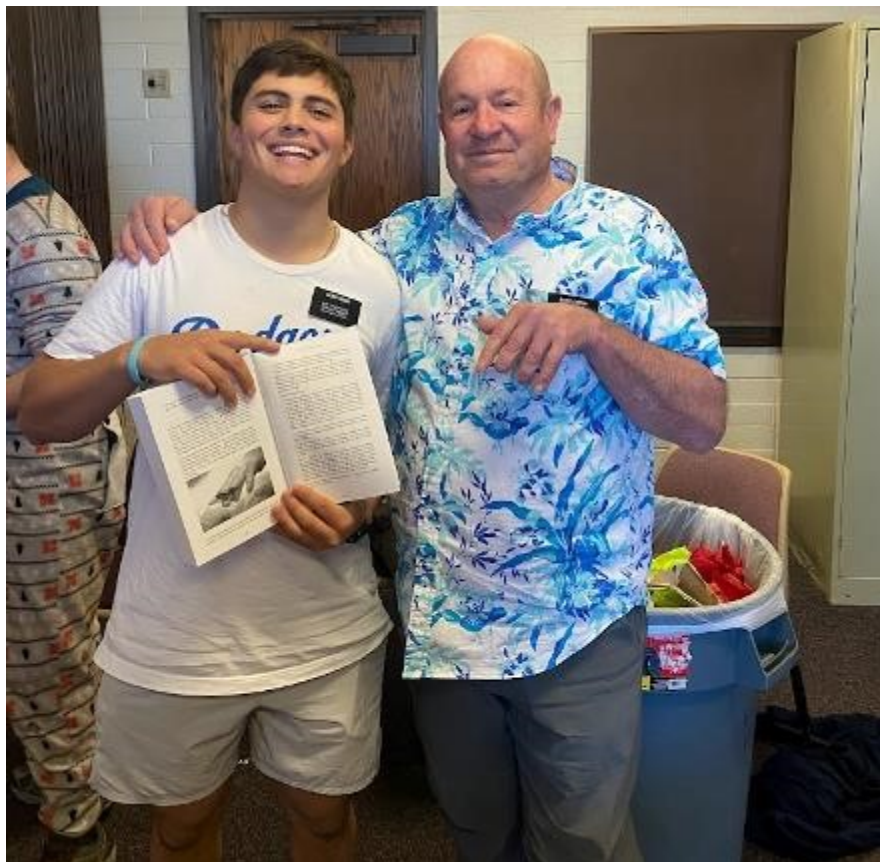


We had a nice dinner and get-together for the Hemet Zone Christmas at the stake center. I couldn't get the lock to open so I delegated it to Sister Casper.



Elder Young-ker (Sorry, I'm missing Elder Juncker) won my book in the White Elephant gifting. He insisted I autograph the pic of my fingers freshly trimmed off.

We had a nice Christmas eve at the Jergensons.



Sister Casper got word that her blind & deaf father and his wife weren't doing so well on their own so we drove to St. George. Along the way, we stopped at a California rest stop. It was grandiose on the outside. Not so grand on the inside, especially if one needed to make a deposit.



It would have been a lot cheaper to forget the building and plant a bunch of cacti in the sand to hide behind.

We got to St. George and had a fairly traumatic post holiday period. After 3 or 4 days of angst & pre-rest home delights, they finally could see there were no other options. The salesman promised the food was primo but we've heard nothing but complaints since their insertion.



This is the car of their Visiting Angel:
My semi-sweet wife fell for her ad and
donated 50 bucks.

Here they are resting to make the move...(Actual picture excised by my sweet wife)

I had a lot of pictures of the move but was informed that they didn't pass muster.

Here is a picture of a caretaker at the facility. He had our last name tattooed on his arm. I'm trying to figure out how he knew we were coming.



This is their sweet across-the-hall neighbor who lived in St. George all her life. She told me she was Jeffery Holland's first girlfriend. She was five and he was six. She even had a picture to prove it!



So Michele and her dad went to church Sunday morning. I stayed home with Mary. A nurse came in & took Mary's blood pressure and temperature. Then she put the cuff on me and took my BP. Next she took my temperature. I was perplexed. Then she asked me to sit on this chair so she could weigh me.

I asked her how much she thought I weighed?

She guessed 150. At that point I liked her a little more but also knew she was delirious. I'm 235 and gaining fast. I sat on her chair. It said I weighed 200. I want that chair! At that point I asked her why she was doing all this stuff to me. She pointed at my 92 year-old step-mother-in-law and asked "Aren't you together? Isn't she your wife?" I like her a little less.



We went to Zupa's that night. I ordered New England Clam Chowder. It was good except for all the Mexican chilies they put in it. That single act took the New England taste out of it and introduced a taste located about halfway between Tijuana and Ensenada. If I want that kind of taste, I'll head for a Taco Bell.

I started writing a review but quit after I found I couldn't slice the one-star in pieces. I complained but the entire crew (most of them looked high-school age but had probably dropped out) snickered at me. Zupa's just got moved to my long list of places not to frequent.



That evening we visited Jay and Janece Wood. They are friends tried and true!

They invited us to come over and play pickle ball the next day. Michele was busy so I went.

I was determined to show them how skilled and fast an overweight pickle ball player could move. It went ok for a while and then I had a chance to fly horizontally toward a ball. I'm not sure if I tripped or was just too aggressive but I flew face-first into the 10,000 lb test weight cable the net hangs on.

My upper lip hit the cable first (see pic) which stretched the cable as far as it could go and then snapped back with my head and neck in it's quiver. I smacked down inverted on the court floor, arms and knees suffering the reversal of momentum.

It hurt pretty much all over but I ignored the other pain centers and focused on my left back. It felt like the wind was knocked out of me and there was a good chance I was now a paraplegic. Like Forrest Gump once said, "That's about all I have to say about that."



On our travels we stopped and saw the family of Sister Holt and met up



With Sister Bowler.

After arriving home, We realized Sisters Brady and Clawson had heart-attacked our apartment. Probably the nicest homecoming we've had for a while!



We enjoyed a visit from Hauni, our oldest daughter and her family. We also got to experience Eric Alcocar's baptism. I performed it but struggled. Turns out the font had about 2 feet of water in it. I guess California's water shortage is real!



After the stake food distribution on Friday, we had lunch with the Bensons at the Habit. Sister Casper found a big piece of chain link in her salad.

At English Connect this week, we had a great experience with these people who are trying to learn and improve. There is such a good spirit between the teachers, missionaries and students! Tears of love and service were shed.

I've been in a lot of important and uppity meetings over the years, oftentimes concerning money. Never have I felt such feelings as when we are working with humble and sincere people. Priorities get so messed up with people race to get on the influence and money train.

Yesterday we had another Break the Fast at the Park Hill building after Eric's baptism.

Have a great new year and week!



HEMET YSA STAKE INVITES YOU TO...

WINTER BALL

JANUARY 27TH, 2023

**COME ONE AND COME ALL TO THE WINTER BALL
DINNER WILL BE SERVED ALONG A NIGHT FULL OF FUN AND DANCING!
WEAR YOUR BEST FORMAL SUIT AND GOWN
THAT IS UP TO CHURCH STANDARDS.
WE CANT WAIT TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!**

**DINNER STARTS AT
7 PM**

**DANCE STARTS AT
8 PM - 12 AM**

\$10

INDIVIDUAL

\$5

COUPLE

**FORMAL AND
MODEST WEAR**

ADDRESS: 425 N KIRBY ST HEMET, CA 92545

ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS
PLEASE CONTACT ISSAC COLLET: (951) 392 7281
AND/OR
RAEGYNE GEMO : (951) 322 3343