

July 15, 2023

Dear Friends,

As in past years, we are planning for three 6 p.m. Sunday gospel meetings at Saginaw during preps, and we look forward to an edifying and encouraging convention. The gospel meetings before convention are scheduled for July 30, August 6, and August 13.

In preparation for the conventions, we seek to create a setting in which everyone can feel welcome and at-home. We all have a shared moral obligation to protect the most vulnerable among us, and to ensure that our own conduct is safe, appropriate, and encourages a healthy environment for everyone. We have planned that those of our prep crew who have not yet received any training will be able to attend a supplemental class on child abuse prevention during preps and we would encourage everyone to look into some of the resources that are available for recognizing and preventing child abuse as well. One option is the Stewards for Children program that the prep crew will be trained in. It is available at the following link: <https://www.d21.org/get-trained/> Another option is the Ministry Safe program. As Doyle communicated previously, an account has been set up and paid for so that any of our friends in Oregon and South Idaho can access that training.

If you send an email to: m.safe.awareness@gmail.com letting them know you would like to take the Ministry Safe course, a link will be sent to you.

The following is what we often share in some form after the first meeting on Thursday. Please remember that we are all guests on the Sorenson property throughout preps and convention. As guests, our behavior should be appropriate, safe, and respectful. Happy children enjoying being together with their friends is an appreciated hallmark of convention. With this in mind, we would encourage parents to visit with their children about safe behavior while at convention. This would include being careful about playing unattended in isolated or dangerous areas like the hiking trails, the pond, and the old sawmill, making excursions along the highway to the convenience store, in addition to other considerations. Also, there are times when it is necessary to use the restroom during a meeting. A good practice would be for the younger children to be accompanied by someone responsible and for older children to make the time out of the meeting as brief as possible. This year, people will be patrolling the buildings and property both during meetings and at night to watch for anything that is out of place. We encourage everyone to be mindful of each other, both for our physical and spiritual safety.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out to any of us. We appreciate your help in making our time together enjoyable and spiritually beneficial.

Signed, Zach Zimmerli and Cheryl Emborg

With the agreement of: Scott and Ellen Sorenson, Doyle Smith, Jay Wicks

Elders, please ensure that everyone in your meeting has received this note.