

We need to remember a previous YW theme and still apply it to our lives. In D&C115:5 we read "Verily I say unto you all: Arise and shine forth, that thy light may be a standard for the nations."

One of the greatest ways we can arise and shine forth is to confidently obey the commandments of God. Heavenly Father wants us to look to Him and follow His guidance. He wants us to live the gospel and lead others to by setting the standard high.

In the scriptures, we see the example of Daniel who chose to pray to God, instead of following the king's worldly decree that that no one should pray to anyone but the king for 30 days. Daniel was not afraid to arise and shine forth in following God's commandments. Although he spent a night in the lion's den for standing for what was right, he was protected and blessed for his obedience.

In the area we just moved from, besides a few Jewish families, we were the only ones in the neighborhood who didn't belong to the local Catholic Church. We were very much the minority-- outsiders. However, we found opportunities to be involved in the community. Our Ward took part in an annual Christmas concert held at the Catholic church. It was a great way to arise and shine forth in sharing testimony through music and service.

When we lived in Munich, Jake was expected to attend Oktoberfest with his work colleagues. He partied with the rest of them there in his lederhosen, as they all sang and danced on the tables. Only difference being, that they all had beer in their large Biersteins and Jake had apfelschorle in his. They would say to him in awe "how can you have so much fun like the rest of us without drinking!?" They had a respect for him, and he became their designated driver at such functions. Jake chose to arise and shine forth by staying true to his beliefs and being an example for good in doing so.

As we look for and find opportunities to be an example to those around us, we will find that in doing so, we can inspire others to obey the commandments.

I add my testimony that God is truly our Father in Heaven. He loves each one of us and sent His son Jesus Christ to atone for for sins, and make it possible for us to return to live again with Him some day. Joseph Smith truly saw God and Jesus Christ in the Sacred Grove, and through him, the true church is restored on the earth today. The Book of Mormon is true, and President Thomas S. Monson is a true and living prophet today. I am so grateful for my membership in this church and I am thankful for my testimony.

In the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.