

Opening Song: "I walk by faith"  
Piano -

Opening Prayer:

~ Welcome to New Beginnings

~ Introduce beehives for 2011  
List of new beehives

\* We gave each new beehive a welcome packet, personal progress packet and a treat

~ Class Presidents present age group purpose statements and symbols  
Beehive  
MiaMaid  
Laurel

~ Motto and Logo-

~ Personal Progress Presentation

~ YW Theme

Today we do not have to go into battle with swords and spears like Helaman's army of 2000 Stripling warriors, but we are still faced with a battle against evil. "Today we are fighting a battle that in many ways is more perilous, more fraught with danger than the battle between the Nephites and the Lamanites. ... We fight against Lucifer, the father of all lies, the enemy of all that is good and right and holy. ... We battle literally for the souls of men." *M. Russell Ballard*

I want to talk about the swords and shields we need to be righteous, faithful, valiant young women like the 2000 Stripling Warriors. These swords are all listed in our young womens theme. We need....

\* We had each yw dress in the color of the value she was represented. We attached their part, from the value presentation sheet, onto the back of the shields.

**Faith-**

**Divine Nature -**

**Individual Worth -**

**Knowledge -**

\* See value presentation sheet

**Choice and Acct. -**

**Good Works -**

**Integrity -**

## Virtue -

Just like the 2000 Stripling Warriors each of you are warriors, young women warriors . As it reads in Alma 53:16 the 2000 stripling warriors assembled together to take up arms. That is what the young womens program is about. We assemble ourselves on Sundays and Wednesdays to ready ourselves to battle Lucifer and all evil. The 2000 stripling warriors fought for their liberty, to protect their lands, to fight in all cases. We should be fighting for all cases!! No matter the battle, big or small, we should be ready to fight to protect ourselves, our families and our church. These 2000 stripling warriors were valiant, courageous, strong, true at all times, faithful and obedient. Each one of you young women warriors have the same characteristics as the 2000 stripling warriors did. We see your strength, your dedication and know your potential to becoming a better warrior. One way to be a good warrior is relying on a support system.

The 2000 stripling warriors had tremendous support from their parents and leaders. Their mothers taught them to never doubt, to trust in God. Their fathers brought them provisions (like food, weapons, etc.) to help them. Just like the 2000 stripling warriors, you have support from your parents, grandparents, family and young women leaders. Each supporter in this room has the faith to teach you and has the provisions to help you in any battle you face. Remember, Helaman's 2,000 stripling warriors were faithful because "they had been taught to keep the commandments of God and to walk uprightly before him" ([Alma 53:21](#))—and that instruction came in their homes. Parents, we ask for your provisions to help each of these young women to strengthen their testimonies by participating with them in personal progress, attending church and young womens.

There are many provisions to help you in this battle. Some provisions are....

Following the commandments. We receive commandments from the Lord through scriptures and our latter-day prophets. In Alma 57:21, it states that the sons obeyed and observed to perform every word of command with exactness. We NEED to follow these commands and counsel with exactness. We have many other tools to help us win the great battle with exactness. We have prayer, fasting, temples, FHE and more. Along with these I would like to list specifics which will help us in our battles. They are the strength of youth pamphlet, the divinely inspired personal progress program and the young womens theme, which we focused on earlier. The values in the young womens theme will strengthen and help your armor become stronger and shinier.

These sons were young, just as you are, you may feel as though you couldn't win a battle as they have. You are winning battles every where around you. Your mind is as their minds firm and trusting in our God continually.

When the warriors were ready to battle they did not fear because, as their mothers taught them, the Lord would deliver and bless them. The warriors went to battle. Just like the 2000 stripling warriors, each of you have a tremendous battle you're fighting today. Our enemy is cunning and resourceful. We fight against Lucifer. We are fighting for truth, virtue, modesty, obedience, good media, gratitude, unselfishness , our worth, marriage, etc.,

You have hard battles to fight. The 2000 stripling warriors had a tremendous battle against the Lamanites. When the battle commenced Helaman feared the young men were

slain. As they accounted for their men, none of the 2000 sons had been slain. Helaman, being the leader of this army, was filled with great joy. Just like Helaman was the head, the Lord is the head of our army. He has experienced that great joy when a daughter of God has not fallen but she has stayed strong as she fought with the strength of God. These warriors fought with miraculous strength and mighty power that was never seen among any Nephites. As I ponder the battles each of you are facing or may face, I see that mighty power and strength in you. Hold strong to the teachings of your parents and the programs the young womens can offer you.

Are we done when we have fought one battle? No! We need to continually be fighting and be valiant. In Alma 58:10, the sons poured out their souls in prayer to God that he would retain their cities, land, and possessions for the people. The Lamanites were numerous and strong but the sons prayed that during battle they would have God by their side even though they were small in numbers. At times, We may seem small in numbers sometimes standing by ourselves, standing with only our families or standing with our young women in the (ward name) but the battle can be won with faith in the Lord. We need to be praying daily that the Lord will help us in our battles, just as the 2000 stripling warriors did. Our preparations should never cease. We should never "sleep" or be slothful in strengthening our testimonies, our armor. In Alma 58:26, the stripling warriors did not sleep while pursuing their liberties. The Lamanites and Nephites were marching to make preparation for war upon each other. The Lamanites made a decision to rest. But Helaman advised his sons to continue to march forward. In verse 28, the Nephites, the 2000 stripling warriors, took possession of the city because they were not slothful in their pursuit. Our pursuit is to return to our Father in Heaven. We should be making ourselves righteous worthy daughters of God by following the programs and values in young womens and the commandments. We need to be actively pursuing our liberties.

In Alma 56:44, Helaman asked if the 2000 young men would go to battle against the Lamanites. Are you willing to battle? Are you willing to rehearse the words in your mind that your parents and leaders taught you? Are you willing to not fear and fight for yourself, your families and the Lord, not worrying about your own life? Are you willing to actively pursue, not sleep, to battle in this war today? "And so, as the people of Ammon looked to their sons for reinforcement in the war against the Lamanites, we look to you, my young sisters of the young womens. We need you. Like Helaman's 2,000 stripling warriors, you also are the spirit daughters of God, and you too can be endowed with power to build up and defend His kingdom." - M. Russell Ballard

Handout swords/shields

Remarks from Bishopric -

Closing Song: Army of Helaman

Conducting song -

Piano -

Closing Prayer -