From my friend, Bishop Lambsom, some great thoughts for July:

Hi,

Having just returned from Martin's Cove, everything I see is related to a pioneer, a handcart, a "trek" or crossing a river. I really love this quote from Thomas S. Monson. And this was in 1988...

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Oh, How the World Needs Pioneers Today!

"The passage of time dims our memories and diminishes our appreciation for those who walked the path of pain, leaving behind a tear-marked trail of nameless graves. But what of today's challenge? Are there no rocky roads to travel, no rugged mountains to climb, no chasms to cross, no trails to blaze, no rivers to ford? Or is there a very present need for that pioneer spirit to guide us away from the dangers that threaten to engulf us, and lead us to a Zion of safety?

"In the four decades since the end of World War II, standards of morality have lowered again and again. Today there are more people in jail, in reformatories, on probation, and in trouble than ever before. From padded expense accounts to grand larceny, from petty crimes to crimes of passion, the figures are higher than ever and going higher. Crime spirals upward; decency careens downward. Many are on a giant roller coaster of disaster, seeking the thrills of the moment while sacrificing the joys of eternity. We conquer space but cannot control self. Thus we forfeit peace.

"Can we somehow muster the courage and that steadfastness of purpose which characterized the pioneers of a former generation? Can you and I, in actual fact, be pioneers today? A dictionary defines a pioneer as 'one who goes before, showing others the way to follow.' Oh, how the world needs pioneers today!"

(Thomas S. Monson, "Come, Follow Me," Ensign, July 1988, 4-5)