

# Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*

1 Nephi 3:187

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*"Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land, save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord. Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; Wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity: if so, it shall be because of iniquity: For if iniquity shall abound, cursed shall be the land for their sakes; unto the righteous, it shall be blessed for ever."*

*[2 Ne 1:10-15]*

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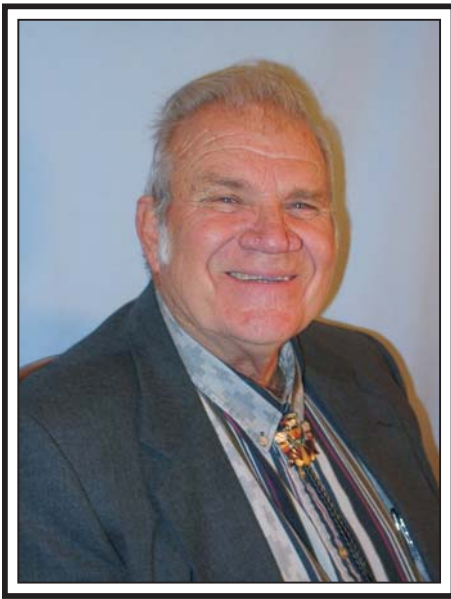
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## ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;  
To promote His Teachings & His Church, the Church of Christ;  
To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

SERMON

# Light of God



Elder James E. Yates, Sr.

Genesis 1:1-3: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form and void, and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters. And God said, Let there be light.”*

In the scriptures, the word light is mentioned 266 times; 151 times in the Bible and 115 times in the Book of Mormon.

I would like to talk a little about that light. We have a

lot of different kinds of lights.

We have matches, candles, lamps, flashlights, and handheld spotlights that are a million candle power—enough to light up this whole room and, of course, that big light outside in the sky (the sun). For most of them we have to depend on electricity or battery power to light them up. But we don't have to worry about power outages or dead batteries when it comes to the light that God provides—that light will not fail.

In the scriptures we read about many different forms of light. One is the burning bush that appeared to Moses.

Exodus 3:2-4: *“And the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush, and he looked and beheld the bush was not consumed. And Moses said I will now turn aside and see this great sight why the bush is not burnt. And when the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called unto him out of the midst of the bush and said, Moses, Moses. And he said here am I.”*

**I often wonder if the Lord had something for us to do would we drag our feet or would we immediately say to God, HERE AM I, as Moses did when God called out to him....**

The burning bush was to get Moses' attention, and it did just that. After the Lord talked with Moses awhile we find out why He wanted Moses' attention. He had something for him to do. I often wonder if the Lord had something for us to do would we drag our feet or would we immediately say to God, HERE AM I, as Moses did when God called out to him.

God does have something for us to do for Him each time the doors of our little church



are opened. He expects us to be here and listening for His voice each and every time.

This next scripture tells us exactly what He wanted Moses to do, and it was a very important project. Probably much bigger and more important than Moses could ever dream of. He would find himself in charge of lots of people and a project that would take the next 40 years of his life to accomplish.

Exodus 3:10: *“Come now therefore and I will send thee unto Pharaoh, that thou mayest bring forth my people the children of Israel out of Egypt.”*

While studying Exodus in our Sunday school class we found that after several terrible plagues the children of Israel were set free.

Here in Exodus 13:21 we find another kind of light:

*“And the Lord went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud to lead them the way, and by night in a pillar of fire to give them light to go by day and night.”*

The Lord never left them alone, day or night, just like He will never leave us alone, IF we give Him a chance to be that light in our life.

The year here is about 1491 B.C. Now let's jump almost 1500 years to the year of 5 or 4 B.C. We find another light. On a cold night a mag-

nificent Star stood over a humble stable in Bethlehem when our Lord Jesus Christ was born. This star lighted

**The Lord...will never leave us alone, IF we give Him a chance to be that light in our life.**

the whole world.

III Nephi 1:15-21: *“And behold the time is at hand, and this night shall the sign be given. And it came to pass that the words which came unto Nephi were fulfilled, according as they had been spoken. For behold at the going down of the sun there was no darkness, and the people began to be astonished because there was no darkness when the night came. And there were many who had not believed the words of the Prophets, fell to the earth and became as if they were dead for they knew that the great plan of destruction which they had laid for those who believed in the words of the Prophets, had been frustrated, for the sign which had been given was already at hand, and they began to know that the Son of God must shortly appear. Yea in fine, all*

*the people upon the face of the whole earth, from west to east, both in the land north and in the land south, were so exceedingly astonished, that they fell to the earth. For they knew that the prophet had testified of these things for many years, and that the sign which had been given was already at hand, and they began to fear because of their iniquity and their unbelief. And it came to pass that there was no darkness in all that night, but it was light as though it was midday.”*

The Son of God was born. The little Babe grew to manhood, and then we find another light.

John 8:12: *“Then spake Jesus again unto them saying, I am the light of the world, he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.”*

Christ taught the way to achieve eternal life with Him and His Father. In His teaching He spoke of another light, a personal light, which we should have in our lives.

Mathew 5:16: *“He said, Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

He is telling us to pay attention to what He taught so

that our light will shine forth and be noticeable in our lives to others around us.

Just when we think everything is going fine, we find that we have to look out for another light, the light of deception that is out there. This light of deception is not there to do us any good. This light will lead us astray and steal away our soul if we are not careful. Paul tells us this is a light to beware of.

II Cor. 11:14: *“And no marvel for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.”*

Satan does this for the sole purpose of deceiving us, to cause us to go astray and to lose that light that Jesus spoke of in Matthew 5:16.

II Nephi 6:23: *“Who transformeth himself nigh unto an angel of light, and stirreth up the children of men unto secret combinations of murder, and all manner of secret works of darkness.”*

But all is not doom and gloom. The book of Mormon clarifies the fact that Satan cannot stand before us in that heavenly light of an angel, but is still bright enough to deceive us if we are not careful. We have to recognize that something is wrong and pray for discernment that we might know the difference from the TRUE LIGHT OF

CHRIST and the FALSE LIGHT of Satan. If we live our life so our light shines and the light of Jesus shines forth in us, in the end we can hear, “Well done, my good and faithful servant, enter ye in to live with me and my Father.”

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IN CLOSING we can read about one more light given to us for our good if we have been faithful and obedient to the end.

Revelations 21:23: *“And the city had no need of the sun, neither of the moon to shine in it for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.”*

Revelations 22:5: *“And there shall be no night there, and they need no candle, neither light of the sun, for the Lord God giveth them light,*

*and they shall reign for ever and ever.”*

If we have been faithful and obedient in following the commandments of Christ and have endured till the end, we can live in that light with God the Father and Christ in all his glory for all eternity.

# LANDS OF PROMISE



By Roland Sarratt

*"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1).*

**G**od conceived the beginning of all things of which we are a part that exists today. This includes not only this sphere on which we live but all the heavens and heavenly bodies both physical and spiritual, even all that which has been proven by man to exist.

The plans of God from the beginning have had special significance to each happening

## (PART 1)

throughout all time. God set the stage, so to speak, for the existence of human kind. There was a Divine Intellect in control from the beginning, even to the present. That Divine Intellect is still in control and will remain in control throughout all times.

The earth was covered with water and God gathered the waters together in one place and He let the dry land appear.

*"And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good" (Gen. 1:10).*

God created man and placed him in the garden of Eden. Because of disobedience Adam and Eve were driven out. They brought forth children and they multiplied and replenished the earth. There were good people and bad people, but in time wickedness was so great that God destroyed the people with a great flood that covered the earth. Only Noah and his family were favored to be saved, and they in turn replenished the earth (see Gen. 6:7-9).

**There was a Divine Intellect in control from the beginning, even to the present. That Divine Intellect is still in control and will remain in control throughout all times.**

All the people had one language and they came together to build a tower to heaven. God decided to stop their project and confounded their language, causing them to scatter upon the land (see Gen. 11:4-9). A man by the name of Jared asked his brother to pray to God that their language be not confounded. God responded favorably, and He led Jared and his brother and their families, along with their friends, through the wilderness down to the sea. In time God took them across the sea to a land of prom-



ise. That land "...was choice above all other lands, which the Lord God had preserved for a righteous people" (Ether 1:29).

Abram, later known as Abraham, was told of the Lord,

*"Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:"* (Gen. 12:1, 2).

Abraham obeyed God, and when he had settled in the land God spoke to him again:

*"Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever. And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered"* (Gen.13:14-16).

Abraham's seed did multiply and they were favored of the Lord. His grandson, Jacob, was given the name Israel, and his posterity was known as the House of Israel (Gen. 32:28). In time the Israelites were compelled to go to Egypt and eventually became slaves to the Egyptians. The Lord raised up Moses who led them out of captivity by the hand of God, crossing the Red Sea on dry ground. The pursuing Egyptian army was drowned in the sea (Exodus 14:21-31).

The Israelites continued their journey to their promised land with Moses leading them.

They spent forty years in the wilderness because of their disobedience to the Lord. The younger generation, being led by Joshua, crossed over the Jordan River and took possession of the promised land, and they became a great nation as God had promised Abraham (see Joshua 5:6).

While purging the land of non-Israelite peoples, Joshua's army took the city of Jerusalem and the land about it, but they were not able to drive the Jebusites out of Jerusalem. Later King David was able to take his army against the city and he successfully drove out the Jebusites. It was said that David took the stronghold of Zion, which was also called the city of David (see 2 Sam. 5:6, 7). Jerusalem was to be a holy city.

David said it was in his mind to build a house in the name of the Lord in Jerusalem and he gathered materials of various kinds and of great worth to build a proper building. However, this was not to be. The Lord told David that he would not build the house because he had shed much blood. Solomon, David's son, was given the responsibility to build it, and so it was that after David died King Solomon built a temple in Jerusalem to the Lord (see 1 Chr. 22:2-11).

The Israelites had various weaknesses, which caused them to fall away from their true heritage, established by the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. From time to time they would resort to idol worship. Although the Lord sent many

prophets to warn them, they often failed to heed their warnings, and in time their erring ways brought them under condemnation.

After many generations their nation divided. The northern half was known as Israel, the southern, Judah. This weakened them considerably, and eventually the northern kingdom was defeated by Assyria. The people were taken captive and scattered among the Gentiles, their Israelite identity lost to the world (see 1 Kings 12:16-20 and 2 Kings 17:5).

Wickedness also was taking its toll in the nation of Judah. Again the Lord raised up prophets to warn them. One of the prophets sent by the Lord was named Lehi. He also was met with great resistance. The Lord spoke to Lehi and told him to flee Jerusalem with his family because the city was going to be destroyed. Through the direction of the Lord they fled into the wilderness, taking with them another family and the sacred records (see 1 Nephi 1:18-28, 145; 2:8-11).

They were guided to the sea and there they built a ship to cross over to the promised land. Lehi's son, Nephi, was told of the Lord,

*"And inasmuch as ye shall keep my commandments, ye shall prosper; and shall be led to a land of promise; yea, even a land which I have prepared for you; yea, a land which is choice above all other lands"* (1 Nephi 1:54).

Jared and his brother were

led to this same land of promise many years before. The Lord brought this colony of people from one promised land to another promised land.

As prophesied, the nation of Judah was besieged and the city of Jerusalem destroyed. The temple was burned, along with all the other important buildings. Many of the people were taken captive into Babylon (see 2 Kings 25:1-10). The entire promised land came under the control of a heathen nation and from that time the Jews were subjected to various heathen monarchies for many years.

The Lord saw fit in His mercy to grant some reprieve. Cyrus, king of Persia ordered the temple to be rebuilt in Jerusalem and the Jews returned to their promised land (see Ezra 1:1-6). This was done, and later the Roman Empire became their captor. It was in this setting that their longed for Messiah came (see Luke 2:1-7). Because of the hardness of their hearts and the blindness of their minds most of them did not recognize Him.

Jesus Christ was born of a virgin as prophesied (see Isaiah 7:14) and He established His church, the Church of Christ. He chose His twelve disciples, known also as apostles, and commissioned them to go into all the surrounding cities to teach His gospel (see Matt. 10:2-8). He also called and ordained seventy other ministers, giving them similar responsibilities (see Luke 10:1). Jesus ministered to those who believed in

Him. He healed the sick and maimed, cast out devils and raised the dead. He taught them His gospel and gave many parables.

Jesus accepted the rebuilt temple as His house of worship and reacted with a righteous anger toward those who were misusing it:

*“And they come to Jerusalem: and Jesus went into the temple, and began to cast out them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves; And would not suffer that any man should carry any vessel through the temple. And he taught, saying unto them, Is it not written, My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer? but ye have made it a den of thieves”* (Mark 11:15-17).

Jesus also prophesied concerning another destruction to come upon Jerusalem and the Jews:

*“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled”* (Luke 21:24).

Another prophecy, not as clearly explained in the Bible as is in the Book of Mormon, gives this information:

*“For there is one God and one Shepherd over all the earth; And the time cometh that he shall manifest himself unto all nations, both unto the Jews, and also unto the Gentiles; And after he has manifested himself unto the Jews and also unto the Gen-*

*tiles; then he shall manifest himself unto the Gentiles, and also unto the Jews, And the last shall be first, and the first shall be last”* (1 Nephi 3:197-200).

The Jews rejected their Messiah, Jesus Christ, and insisted He be put to death on the cross. Jesus allowed himself to be taken as a lamb to the slaughter to be offered as a sacrifice for the sins of the world (see Isaiah 53:7). After three days He arose from the dead, bringing to pass the resurrection, being the first to arise (see 2 Nephi 1:73-76). He gave His disciples the great commission to go and preach the gospel to all the world (see Matt. 28:19, 20). He then ascended into heaven with the promise that He would return (see Acts 1:9-11).

In the face of much persecution the Church of Christ continued to grow and expand into various countries. Because the great majority of the Jews had rejected Christ and His gospel, the believing Jews were instructed of the Lord to take the gospel of Christ to the Gentiles, fulfilling the first part of the prophecy given to Nephi (see Acts 11:1-18).

After a time Jerusalem was overrun again and the Jews were scattered. The land became desolate and uninhabitable because the Lord withheld the rains as was prophesied:

*“But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the Lord our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he*



*reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest. Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you” (Jer. 5:23-25).*

Several centuries later the church fell away into apostasy as the result of being subjected to the control of evil men. This falling away was prophesied in New Testament times (see 2 Thessalonians 2:3,4). Darkness reigned throughout the world for many years. Finally, certain peoples began to thirst for the truth, protesting the apostate church. Their brave efforts brought about what is known as the Reformation. The ancient records of the Jews were translated, printed and bound into a book whereby common people could read it. That book is known today as the Holy Bible. The apostasy and Reformation took place among the Gentiles in the European nations.

On the other promised land (known today as the Americas), the Jaredite people multiplied and prospered for many years. In time they divided and warred among themselves, until they finally destroyed each other except for one man. He was found by some of the people who had been brought to that land by the Lord, known as the people of Zarahemla. The records of the Jaredites dating back to the creation, which included their migration to the promised land, were also found (see Omni 1:24-39; Heleman 3:55-57).

After arriving at the promised land, Lehi's group divided into two separate peoples, one

being called the Nephites, the other the Lamanites (see Jacob 1:13, 14). The Nephites encountered the people of Zarahemla and they eventually became one people. The record of the Jaredites was translated and became a part of several sets of records held sacred by the Nephites.

At the time of Christ's crucifixion a great destruction came upon the peoples of this promised land because of their unbelief and wickedness. Storms and earthquakes greatly changed the earth's terrain and destroyed many cities. A dense darkness covered the earth for three days and nights. Only the more righteous of the people were saved alive (see 3 Nephi 4:14-20, 66).

When daylight returned Christ descended from heaven and appeared unto the people. He ministered to them and taught them many of the things He taught the Jews. He chose out twelve disciples and established His church among them. As a result of His ministering and teaching the people dwelt in peace and righteousness for two hundred years. They were all one people, no Nephites or Lamanites or any other ites (see 4 Nephi 1:20, 24, 25).

In time some of the people began to fall away into wickedness and again there were Lamanites and Nephites. There began to be much contention and wars until the Lamanites overcame and destroyed the Nephites. A Nephite by the name of Moroni escaped and finished the record

his father was writing (see Mormon 4:1-3). He hid that record in the earth to be preserved and to come forth later to the Gentiles. The Lamanites fell away into darkness and divided into various tribes.

When Jesus ministered to the Jews He spoke of His people as being sheep. He said,

*“...I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd” (John 10:15, 16).*

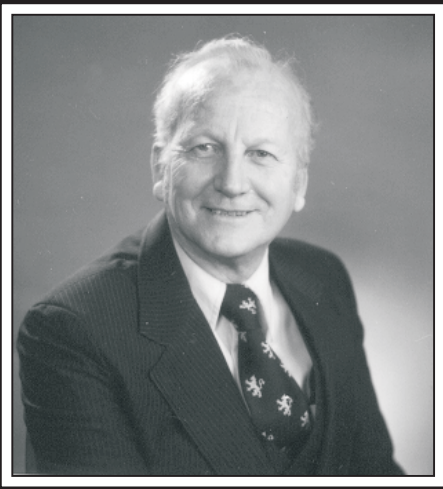
When Jesus spoke to the people on this promised land He explained who the other sheep were:

*“And verily, I say unto you, that ye are they of whom I said, Other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice, and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd” (3 Nephi 7:20).*

Jesus also informed them that He had other sheep which were not in either of the known promised lands (Jerusalem or Americas) or the Gentiles which He was to visit:

*“And verily, verily, I say unto you, that I have other sheep, which are not of this land; neither of the land of Jerusalem; neither in any parts of that land round about, whither I have been to minister” (3 Nephi 7:24).*

# Pondering the Words of JESUS CHRIST



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

## Item 33: Good Fruit - Evil Fruit

*Matt 7:15-20 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them (Same in 3 Ne 6: 27-32).*

*John 15:1-5 I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that*

**(Quotations are from the King James Authorized Edition of the Bible and from the 1908 RLDS Edition of the Book of Mormon; same chapters/verses as Independence Edition.)**

*beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me. I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing. If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and they are burned.*

In the first text, Jesus highlights false prophets, which would include modern ministers who basically serve their congregations for hire, or for their livelihood. Many of these may conscientiously seek to impart the knowledge of the Gospel to their adherents, and may do so admirably within the framework of their theological training, but which also may be considerably lacking as to tutelage by the Holy Ghost. If the total fruit of their teaching is inconsistent with the written word of God as found in the Bible (and we would say, also, the Book of Mormon) - that is, if they will twist the scriptures to suit their human under-

standing, or that of popular misconception; or if the understanding of a given text does not coincide with other related texts, and which texts are thus ignored, then the fruit of such teaching leads into the propagation of their error and the deception of the hearers. Such as these would indeed be as corrupt trees to bring forth only evil fruit. The evil fruit will be a further separation of the preacher and the hearer from the tree of life, which is Jesus Christ; and the end result, except for the grace of Christ in salvation for the ignorant, will be a hewing down for the burning (hell fire).

*Alma 10:17 Behold, the scriptures are before you; if ye will wrest them it shall be to your own destruction.*

*Mormon 4:42, 43 O ye wicked and perverse, and stiff-necked people, why have ye built up churches unto yourselves to get gain? Why have ye transfigured the holy word of God, that ye might bring damnation upon your souls?*

In the second text, the words of Jesus at the beginning of this item of consideration, He broadens the scope of His teaching as to fruitage to include all those who

would desire to be his disciples. He plainly informs us that such must ABIDE IN HIM, that is, in His word, or else, because the fruit is bad, it is good for nothing but to be cast off and burned.

In the third chapter of Jacob, the house of Israel is likened unto a tame olive tree which the Lord planted in various spots; that some of those trees brought forth good fruit and some, evil. The trees bringing forth good fruit were dugged around the roots in order to remove weeds and to prepare the soil to receive moisture. They were pruned and fertilized in order to produce more fruit. Nevertheless, while some of the branches were young and tender and brought forth some fruit, the main top began to perish. Those withered branches were plucked off for burning, while from the young and tender branches there were those removed and planted into more fa-

vorable areas. Then He took branches from a wild olive tree and grafted those branches into the tame olive tree. This all signified a corruption of the Israelites (the tame olive tree) and of branches being cut off and burned, and of the grafting in of those of Gentile nations in the place thereof; all for the purpose of the Lord's desire to produce good fruit (a righteous and obedient people) unto Himself. However, in the end-time of His labors, He was able by His own miraculous efforts to again graft in the corrupted branches of the tame tree back into the tree whose roots had remained alive because of the grafting process; and so the branches of the tame tree would again produce good fruit. This is a marvelous demonstration of God's goodness and patient, extended labor to produce good fruit unto Himself, the tame and wild trees both to ulti-

mately bring forth good fruit through their grafting into the tame tree.

This parable of the olive trees is as a type of the Lord's attitude toward the whole family of Adam. If the fruit is good, God nourishes each branch, and cuts off that which is offensive to Him (He chastens or corrects each one); but if not, if the branch is fully corrupted or non-productive, He will cut it off and burn it. This should be individually sobering as to ones receptivity of the gospel of Christ and of the Holy Spirit's presence within.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

# TEEN CAMP PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS UPDATE

**The photography class at the teen camp has been changed from film to digital. In order to take the class you must have a digital camera AND know how to operate it. The class will concentrate on artistic composition with the purpose of capturing the beauty of God's creation in a photographic image. The campers will be instructed in the use of Adobe Photoshop**

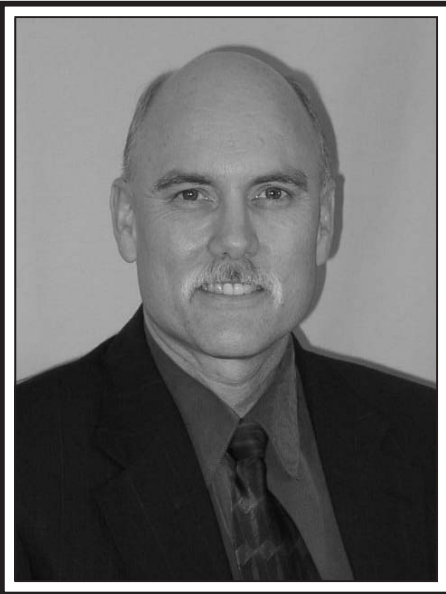
**to manipulate the images for proper cropping, brightness, contrast and color. If time permits additional features of the program will be explored.**

**If you have already signed up for the class, you will be contacted by Jeff or Michelle Oldham to make sure that you understand the change and have a digital camera.**

Questions may be addressed to Dan Lawrence: <mailto:dlviolin@earthlink.net>  
Phone: (800) 891-3422 (toll free) or (816) 524-8420 (local to Kansas City).



# Articles of Faith & Practice



**By Elder Gordon McCann**

The Lord set in the church various offices of ministry, such as elders, priests and teachers who would be responsible for the promotion of the gospel of Christ and have the oversight or care for the spiritual needs of the body of Christ. There was also a necessity for the oversight of the temporal requirements of the church and the Lord provided for those needs

through “helps” (relief) and “governments” (directorship) (1 Corinthians 13:28).

In Apostle Paul’s writings to Titus, when addressing the spiritual necessities of the church, he uses the Greek word “episkopos” (overseer, superintendent) when defining the office of elder. Elders were to be ordained for the work as pastors in all the churches (1 Titus 1:5-9). The English word “bishop” is what is found in our Bibles as the translated word for “overseer” from the Greek.

In the early beginnings of the church there arose a need for the oversight of the temporal affairs of the several locals in Jerusalem. When broached with this problem, the apostles called the disciples together to consider their solution. The apostles made a request of the church to choose among themselves

## Article #19

We believe that the temporal affairs of the general church are to be administered by the general bishopric under the direction of the general conferences of the church and under the supervision of the Council of Twelve. The temporal affairs of the local churches shall be administered by local bishops under the supervision and direction of the local congregations.

seven men. These men would focus their attention on the temporal needs of the church. The apostles would now be able to focus wholly on prayer and to the ministry of the word as Christ had called them to perform. These seven chosen men would have to meet the high standard required of God by displaying evidence of a good moral life, honest, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, that could be trusted with the business affairs of the body of Christ. The seven men were set before the apostles to be set apart (through prayer and laying on of hands by the apostles) for the work that they had been chosen to perform. These seven men became "overseers" or bishops of the temporal or business affairs of the church (Acts 6:1-7).

It is important to understand that the Church of Christ has followed this example as recorded in the book of Acts where the body of Christ has chosen seven men of good moral character and have placed them before the apostles to be set aside for the temporal (business) affairs of the church in these last days.

These men are known as the general bishopric (overseers) who are responsible for the financial oversight and administrative requirements of the church.

There are also local bishops who are chosen by the members of the organized local churches who are given the oversight for the temporal affairs of the local (1 Corinthians 16:1-4, 2 Corinthians 8:1-6, 9:12-15; 3 Nephi 12:11). The local treasurer collects the donations that are contributed by the local congregation. Under the supervision of the pastor, local ministers and elected committees administer these funds and collections as decided by the voice of the local congregation.

*"I would that ye should impart of your substance to the poor, every man according to that which he hath, such as feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the sick, and administering to their relief, both spiritually and temporally, according to their wants, And see that all these things are done in wisdom and order: for it is not requisite that a man should run faster than he has strength. And again: it is expedient that he should be diligent, that thereby he might*

*win the prize: therefore, all things must be done in order"*  
(Mos 2:43-45).

## REPORT

# 2004 Church of Christ SOLEMN ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE REPORT

- *Number attending: 316*
- *Areas represented: Arizona; Colorado; Michigan; Missouri; Minnesota; Nebraska; Zamarano, Honduras*
- *Weather: Mostly cool, light rain one day*

The annual Church of Christ Conference consists of Sunday Sacrament and prayer service, preaching services, prayer services each morning, morning and afternoon business meetings, committee meetings, meals together, and time for fellowship. Prior to the Conference is two days of fasting and prayer in Solemn Assembly. We all thank those who participated to make it another spiritually successful Conference.

## SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

**PURPOSE:** We are admonished to fast and pray for "several items of great importance in this dispensation of time," Moroni 6:6. "The scriptures tell us we are living in perilous times... The world is encroaching upon the Church of Christ... We are engaged in a fierce battle to keep from being overcome by it." We were further advised that we needed to "pray for each other, our marriages, our families, and the whole church that we might have the strength of God to be victorious in this battle and be able to reject this world and attain a more Godly life." We were also asked to pray for "additional ministry in every office of the priesthood." (Luke 10:2 was quoted.) "...Preparing the hearts of men for this great responsibility, and that He would use His servants to make the call according to His time and purpose... Let's pray that the Lord will bless our efforts to spread the gospel and give us discernment and wisdom that we might labor within His great plan, and not in our own strength. Let us pray further that the Lord would empower us with the gifts of His Spirit and show forth His power in our ministrations to our people and the world."

**COUNSEL:** We were cautioned not to fret over evildoers, Ps.37:1. Trust in God... It is more blessed to be compelled by the Word than to be compelled because of affliction... Christ is the light of the world, John 1:1. There's a tremendous opportunity at home and abroad. We need the Lord's help, to share with those who walk in darkness. Alma 4:6 says to gather together oft in fasting and mighty prayer for those who know not God... We are admonished in Colossians 4:1-2 to continue in prayer and watch with thanksgiving. These are perilous times, not just perils of life, but deception in America. The non-religious activities take us away from spiritual things... God touches the hearts of people that make them want to hear. Pray that God will open the door... Pray against the adversary. Study and learn Isaiah as He has commanded (III Nephi 10:27) to have an understanding of last day events. Pray that our faith not be destroyed but increased when these things come to pass. He will hear every prayer, but we have to have faith in Him. There is no reason to fear our adversary... According to III Nephi 9, there are unfulfilled promises. The "remnant of Jacob" are to be among the Gentiles to tread down and tear in pieces. Except the Gentiles repent their horses and chariots will be destroyed, their cities cut off. The Lord will cut off witchcrafts and soothsayers. In the 10th chapter, we read that a city will be built on this land called the New Jerusalem, and that the work of the Father will commence among the dispersed of His people... The Old Testament prophets spoke of Zion in the last days. Israel is yet to become a holy people that will bring forth Zion. The work will expand. We've seen the beginning. Promises to the House of Israel - their children will be taught of the Lord, the gathering of His people. This is our heritage. The fulfillment will be in our lifetime... Pray that you will not be deceived. There are many deceptions. If you have questions, ask Him. God will hear.

**SINCERE PRAYERS:** For the filling of the Council of Apostles; For those who have wandered; For the souls of our children; To make known our faults; For great miracles in His

name; Thanks for His Word that has gone forth; That He might speak to us in comfort, instruction, warning, rebuke; For leaders of our country that they would bow down to Him; That we can endure the trials and temptations, be strengthened and overcome; For direction in Conference; To be obedient to Him; To be not deceived; To cause our minds to be open to Him; For gifts He has promised; That He would raise us up and rescue us from evil; That our children and adults will walk in the strait and narrow way; For the cause of Zion; For enlightenment of fulfillment of His promises to the House of Israel; That we would see eye to eye; For strength, courage, and wisdom; That we would hold fast to the Rod of Iron; That we be faithful unto Him; That we will be the light to the world to glorify His name; That we have a place in His kingdom; To be His people; That the priesthood would be pure and clean and worthy, truly seeking His will in all things; To cleanse our hearts; For our faith; That our children and young people be strong leaders for Him; That the Apostles and missionaries will always ask His will for which direction to take.

**May all of these desires be granted!**

## CONFERENCE

**SACRAMENT SERVICE:** Opening remarks: Are we unworthy to partake? We need to partake. We are here to remember our covenant. Think back to your baptism and reception of the Holy Ghost, the feeling of warmth. Have you lost any of that? If so, today make a commitment to come close to God. Alma 3, speaking to the church, "Have you spiritually been born of God?" Are we Christ-like? A child of God? If we're not different, start today to be more spiritual, having His countenance. Examine yourselves and re-dedicate... Moroni 6:4-6: "And after that they had been received unto baptism, and were wrought upon and cleansed by the power of the Holy Ghost, they were numbered among the people of the church of Christ... and they did meet together oft to



partake of bread and wine in remembrance of the Lord Jesus." We have met in the Lord. Remember the petitions, needs of our people that the Lord's spirit will direct. Remain steadfast. A God of miracles is available to each.

**COUNSEL:** Never cease to pray in your hearts. Pray over all things, even though seemingly insignificant... If we don't exercise our spiritual life, as we do our physical, we will become weak.

**COMPELLING TESTIMONIES:** One advises the judge for children's foster cases. One family of children was so abused that she was overwhelmed by their needs. She prayed that they would be healed from their hurts. She reported that these children were placed in loving homes... A missionary came across a picture drawn by a child living in Honduras as a thank you gift to him. He felt special. On another missionary trip in the states, at an isolated church member's home, he felt humbled when after walking up their road and coming back with mud caked on his shoes, one of their children got down on his knees to clean them. He also remembered feeling grateful for the humility of a brother in Yucatan who cleaned and checked his shoes for tarantulas every morning... One related being healed three times. She was bitten on the arm by a spider in the night. The bite swelled, became red, and a line of blood poisoning started up the arm, and eventually went onto the chest. By putting her trust in the Lord and twice receiving administration by the elders, over several days the poison began to recede, and the swelling and redness to diminish, until it was finally healed. Another healing came after something got in her eye. Not able to get it out, she was administered to. The healing didn't come until stating that she would just see what the Lord would do. The eye was healed suddenly. The third came in an unusual way. Her back was strained and painful to the point that it was affecting her legs and neck. She decided one Sunday evening after service to have an elder, a chiropractor, check her spine to make sure there was nothing serious. He felt her spine and muscles and determined the problem area causing the muscles to knot. He didn't adjust, but that night before going to sleep she noticed she didn't have any more pain. The realization came that there is God-given power with our elders. She witnessed that God is true to His promises, if we trust in

Him... Another missionary was in Yucatan and went to encourage some of the elderly before He left. He read the Word of God. There was such gratefulness for this small act that the woman gave him a handmade gift and another hugged him and cried. On the airplane coming back he sat by a woman and her son. He asked her if she liked going to America (she had been before). "No. People don't touch each other, and are unfriendly." He answered that there are some who do touch and are friendly. He talked to her about the Book of Mormon. When the plane landed, she gave him her card. She was a businesswoman from a large publishing company. She said, "When you come back to Mexico, I will hear more of this book."... One had a pain in his back that couldn't be relieved. He was worried that it could be an aneurysm. His father had died of this. He was administered to at church. The painful condition was taken from him... One told of a little girl who couldn't walk. After he administered to her, he told her mother never to give up. The child was gradually healed. One day on the playground it was noticed that she was playing on the swings and the slides like the other children. He also told of His wife's healing. When he was preparing to make the trip to the Conference, she got a terrible back pain, which couldn't be relieved in any position. She decided to isolate herself to commune with the Lord. After three days she awoke and the pain was gone... At one of the morning prayer services, the one in charge told of great blessings that came to him when he served the Lord in spite of being ill. One morning he felt sick and was supposed to be in charge of the service that day. He was administered to. Another elder offered to be his substitute. He wanted to let him, but he knew it was his responsibility. As he drove to church, he rested at each stoplight. When he sat in the chair up in front of the congregation he still didn't feel good. But the Lord is always faithful. When he stood up to take charge he was healed. He has had similar experiences when asked to preach. As long as he was standing delivering he was fine, but when he sat down he would feel sick again. He told us the Lord gives us the strength when we serve Him.

**A special season of prayer was held for our sons, daughters, and grandchildren who are not within the safety of the fold of God.**

## CONFERENCE

**M**orning Prayer Services, Business meetings, Sermons

**SERMON INSPIRATION** by: Apostle Don McIndoo, Apostle William Sheldon, Elder Allen Kauffman, Apostle Jay Moser, Apostle Frank Fann

**SERMON #1:** 1 Nephi 3:210-216 encompasses the history of humanity to our day. He is speaking to us. The marvelous work relates to Daniel 2—the image, 14 parts. When the image was all standing, **His kingdom was set up. It is not to be left to another people.** It shall stand forever... The restoration of Christ's church is our heritage. Why was a restoration needed? There was an apostasy of the original church. Amos 8:11—"I will send a famine in the land... of hearing the words of the Lord." Paul said they would turn away the ears and follow fables. The Christian world places confidence in things that are not in His Word. They walked in darkness... Nephi saw the final dispensation... The Lord will manifest Himself. **Those who seek to bring forth Zion will have the gift and power of the Holy Ghost** (1 Nephi 3:187)... The "Stick of Joseph" and the "Stick of Judah" contain the fullness of the Gospel. It will come to the Gentiles, then to the remnant of Jacob—the grafting of the natural branches, Israel (4:15-16). "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in." Then Israel shall hear the gospel again and be grafted back in (Romans 11:25-26)... **The "Day of the Lord" is in the latter days.**... The prophecy of Zenos, Jacob 3:125-6: The vineyard. The natural fruit. The end is nigh. Prune the last time... John 10:16: "Other Sheep I have." The work began with Lehi (II Nephi 9:125). Placido's dream: There was a young man in white on a rock reading a book. As Placido came toward him, he saw the words of Isaiah 11:1, "A root of Jesse as an ensign." He saw an airplane and a map. The U.S.A. is an island on the sea (A Shoshone chief prophesied that God has given this great island of the sea to the Indian people). "Today this work has commenced with your people."... Jacob 3:136-7: God sent Christ and brought other servants to labor with their might... **The Lord will recover His people.** We are to be a peculiar people. **We are purchased at a great price, called out of darkness into His marvelous light.** This gospel is to be preached among the nations.

Then the end of the world will come... The *Admonition*: "Get ye up then to your mountain... God has residence below."

**SERMON #2:** Answer and have mercy on Zion. "The time to favor her... is come." Psalm 102:13-16. **The Lord shall build up Zion. He will gather to Himself those who love Him. A gathering to dwell on earth for 1000 years in peace...** "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth," Sermon on the Mount, Matt. 5:5. What events must take place before this can be realized? **A great turning of hearts and dramatic changes in this world to prepare a place of peace, righteousness and joy. There were contending powers from the beginning to draw people away from God. God will stand supreme in the end... What will He see in us?** There will be a gathering to bring about His righteous will, a literal and spiritual gathering of the Saints that His kingdom will prevail against evil to reign with Him, a separation of the wicked from the righteous... Matt. 13: 36-43 – an explanation of the parable of the tares and the good seed. The wheat is the righteous, the tares are the evil ones... In the last days there will be two churches: One on the right hand, the church of the Lamb of God, the Church of Christ, of all who will have faith and keep the doctrine of Christ and have love toward Him and their fellowman. And the other on the left hand, of the Devil, the Great and Abominable church, of those whose hearts are filled with evil (See Matt. 25:31-6)... All nations gathered together, at the time of His coming in glory in the last days... Matt. 13:30-1: Harvest. Bind tares to burn first. Gather wheat into the barn. **The Saints will be gathered into Zion, a literal place, the New Jerusalem.** He will gather together all "that offend and them that do iniquity, includes false doctrines and other things that ought not to be in the Church."... **In our daily lives we are determining which side we are going to be on.** Here are some human attitudes which motivate our thinking: 1) Pride or humility, 2) Indifference to, or love of, God; 3) Worship of national idols (money, property, sports and entertainment figures) or of the God of Israel (pray always, spiritually minded, scripture study, obedience to His commandments); 4) Indifference to human needs or concern for humanity; 5) Spousal family carelessness (increasing divorce rate, children not having guidance and care of

parents) or spousal family care; 6) Gluttony (obesity, desire to satisfy cravings for food, no wisdom) or moderation; 7) Sexual lust (live-in and other forms, bringing us to Sodom and Gomorrah state) or sexually satisfying marital relations... Nations will be gathered to battle against Jerusalem (that's beginning now). **He will spare His people and destroy His enemies, "even if it so be as by fire,"** Zech 14:1-3, Ezk. 38-39. Judgment of the Gentiles: III Nephi 9:101-6; The New Jerusalem: III Nephi 10:1-7. He is bringing about this now. Things won't remain the same as now. We are living in the time just before His coming. **There will be a literal gathering of the Saints to the New Jerusalem in the U.S.A. for the safety and peace of His Saints to escape those things coming upon the earth...** The remnant of this people is to carry forth His work. There is some fruit now in Mexico, Honduras, Africa, and the Philippines. **When you see these things, the kingdom is nigh at hand (see Luke 21:29-32).** Matt. 23:37-39: He will "gather His chickens under His wings." Jude 14: "The Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints." The righteous will be gathered with those saints in that place prepared for His people. **It will be at the time of the resurrection of the dead, and be caught up with Him and come down with them to Zion, the New Jerusalem. The priesthood should not only teach His doctrines but the prophecies concerning the time of Christ's coming and watch in anticipation of that event. Have our trust in Him that we will "not be ashamed when He shall appear."**

**SERMON #3:** A lot of today's music doesn't ring true according to the gospel of Christ. **We live in momentous times.** There were three questions asked in Matthew 24: When shall these things be? What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world? Christ's answers: "Take heed that no man deceive you." "Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. Iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold." **We need to prepare ourselves by gathering, studying scripture. "Endure unto the end." "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." God said it would. We need to do our part.** Jacob 3:30 is a prophecy to the House of Israel: The

vineyard is the world. The "tame olive tree" is the House of Israel. The "wild olive tree is the Gentiles. The gospel was taken to them because the House of Israel rejected it. Vs. 37-127 explain what has and will happen: He scattered Israel (Lehi, Mulek, etc.); He will preserve the House of Israel where they are; the scattered tribes were prepared by God so that when the gospel came they were able to receive it. When Apostle Clarence Wheaton first went to Yucatan, the people were prepared beforehand. When the Book of Mormon was read, they recognized it as "their book." **When this work began in Africa and the Philippines, the missionaries came back here and said, "There's going to come a day that the people in foreign lands will outnumber those of the U.S.A. It is happening because the gospel is going from the Gentiles back to Israel as the scriptures say.** Vs.63: The poor spot of ground is a poor place – None much poorer than Africa and the Philippines. Vs. 125 is the Restoration of the Church. Christ has called servants to labor with their mights for the last time. Vs. 126 was from 1830-1951. It is being pruned. The first will be last and the last will be first, that all may be "nourished once again for the last time" (vs.127). The Gentiles must still be preached to. I think this will happen when the "marred man" preaches. II Peter 3:7-11: **The heavens and earth are reserved unto fire. The Lord is longsuffering and wants all to come to repentance. The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night. "What manner of persons ought ye to be?"** When Christ comes will he find me in a filthy TV show or involved in righteousness? Be diligent, found in peace without spot and blameless. Matt. 25: In the parable of the ten virgins, it is talking about the church, not the world. We are dwindling, falling away in the congregations, in our families. They all slumbered and slept. There was an awakening in the church when the last apostles were called. At midnight a cry was made. Five were armed with righteousness. Five were not ready. The door was shut. **Are we ready? Study, pray, humble ourselves for the return of Christ. Remember Noah. The door was shut. Which side of the door are we going to be on?** Vs.13: "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh." We are going to see perilous times. We are going to face



persecution. Satan desires to have you. God has promised us He will be with us. This work is up to us and will not be left to another people. The laborers will be few, and we are. Pray, "Where would you have me to be?"

**SERMON #4:** Meekness and Gentleness. Hard work doesn't get it all done. How do we open up God's door and the door of men? III Nephi 5:50-52 The Beatitudes. **People have hardened their hearts.** Ether 4:22: What is ripened in iniquity? What is the condition of the fruit when ripened? It is past the point of absorbing anything again. **Don't give up. Don't be past the point of receiving something else from the Lord.** We could be tempted to say, "What's the use? It's as far as I can go." "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," Matt. 11:28. As soon as you step out of the yoke of meekness, you get tired. III Nephi 4:49-51: "...No more the shedding of blood...sacrifices...burnt offerings...ye shall offer for a sacrifice unto me a broken heart and a contrite spirit...whoso repenteth and cometh unto me as a little child, him will I receive; for of such is the kingdom of God." **The yoke of meekness opens doors.** There is rest, and the burden is easy. Galatians 6:1: "...Restore (a man overtaken in a fault) in the spirit of meekness." Kindness is the only thing some recognize as love...**We have to be careful getting into evangelical movements**—Temperance movement, Civil Rights movement, Right To Life, etc. Be cautious! Don't confuse activism with doing God's perfect will. How many times did people leave their yoke of meekness? Did the ends justify the means? "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven," Matthew 7:21-23. **Activism is the new righteousness of America.** Churches may be active, not really doing bad, brought good, but where is it going? Be careful to stay in the yoke. Be firm but in meekness... "Let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith," Galatians 6:9-10. Our adversary wants to destroy you, your families, and the work (see Moroni 9:3-6). It is your responsibility to keep peace. Read Romans 12:9-21 to know how to "...**Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with**

**good."** **We are facing hard times. Rest in Him; Learn of Him; Follow His example.**

**SERMON #5:** The Church was restored and organized on April 6, 1830. Christ established the church. It was a marvelous event. We have failed the younger generation in not making this of greater importance. **It is humbling to be a part of this great work. Have you taken it seriously? There is no other church in the world like the Church of Christ.** We are different. I Corinthians 12:28-31 gives us a glimpse of what the church should be like. Do any doubt that Christ set up His church on earth? Man's ideas, false doctrine became part of the church over a long period of time. Prophecy foretold it. Finally, God withdrew authority from the earth. It went into the wilderness for 1260 years. **When the church was restored it was restored as at the first with Apostles, Prophets, Healings, Tongues and interpretation of them, Revelation, etc. Without revelation it isn't Christ's church.** The preacher gave examples of each. **Healings:** A young boy, fevered, limp, listless. He was administered to. Before the prayers were finished the fever vanished, he opened his eyes, became bright, jumped from his Mother's lap, and ran around. A woman hadn't gotten out of bed in three days. They thought she would be dead by the next day. After administration the elder talked to the people. When he turned around, here came the woman. **Tongues and interpretation:** A woman bore her testimony in her native tongue. The missionaries couldn't understand. Suddenly the interpretation came. It was plain. She belonged to another church. She was happy and didn't want another church. But the Church of Christ missionaries came and she felt their spirit. The missionaries checked with the interpreter. That is exactly what she said and what he heard. **Revelation:** Callings to the priesthood. There was a church-wide prayer service. One of the missionaries was given the names of three people...The people of this country know more about the Church of Christ than we do. One man studied out the church history and gave a test. They can tell why we are the true Church of Christ...You are privileged to be a part of Christ's kingdom on earth, of a "great and marvelous work." What should we do with it? Nourish it. Obey it. **I'm filled with anticipation of those marvelous works God is going to**

**bring about and we are going to be a part of it.**

**IN CONCLUSION** we can see a unity of thought and purpose:

This church is the true Church of Christ, restored and established by Christ. It is patterned after the church that Christ set up when He was on earth and it can be found today in the same order. We are privileged to be a part of His kingdom...We are in the latter days when the prophecies will be fulfilled. We live in momentous times...The Church of Christ is going to be an instrument in the Lord's hands for bringing the gospel to Israel, to all the world, for the establishment of Zion. The time is now! We must get prepared by following the commandments written down for us in Christ's Sermon on the Mount, by studying the scriptures, praying, by humbling ourselves...Learn the prophecies. There will be great and dramatic changes in our world. There will be a gathering of the Saints for safety to the literal place of Zion...We must not be deceived by the Great and Abominable Church, but make sure we are with the Church of the Lamb of God...We are living in the time just before the Lord's coming. We must watch and trust in Him that we will not be ashamed when He comes...The Lord will prepare us. He will prepare Israel to hear the gospel. The gospel is taken from the Gentiles and going back to Israel, as we see now taking place...Endure to the end. Remember Noah. The door was shut...We must be meek and have a broken heart and contrite spirit...Don't confuse activism with being in God's perfect will. Let us be motivated by right attitudes. Every day we determine which side we are on.

We were invited "to go from this place with the expectation that you can make a difference. The things you have heard here will strengthen us to move out with faith and conviction."

Plan now to attend next year with the rest of us for another enjoyable and edifying time with each other and the Lord.

*Darl Temple*



## PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Happy, hectic, and hot...just a few words I would use to describe life around the Phoenix local as of late. Our thermometers have been threatening the beginning of summer here in Arizona for some time now, and I think they have finally decided to quit teasing and stay warm! As the temperatures rise we know that more and more of our people will be leaving the Valley of the Sun. Not for long, of course, but summer months are very busy for everyone here. The reunions, youth activities, and other missionary trips keep many traveling far from home. I'm happy so many are participating in God's work, but always grateful when they return home safely.

There are many trips to report on since it has been too long since the last update. Apostle Jay (Alvin) Moser and his daughter Erica spent the month of February traveling through Mexico. I heard many wonderful testimonies of their experiences and I know they were blessed throughout their time there. Apostle Don McIndoo has made trips to Mexico and Honduras this year. He and Elder Gordon McCann recently returned from California where they were meeting with some members from Yucatan who are working there. Don has also expanded his travels of the world to now include Africa. He accompanied his son Apostle Brian McIndoo on a month long journey to the beautiful continent. He returned anxiously awaiting another opportunity to meet with our brothers and sisters there. Brian has introduced the wonders of Africa to several members of our local. On his last trip he was accompanied by his wife Becky and Duane and Kathy Ely. Bill Malone and Michelle Ely, along with Eli and Gretchen Tarbell from Hogsburg, New York, later

joined them. I know each one of them appreciated the opportunity to spend time with our members and visit the locals there. Many have heard the stories Brian has shared of their adventures there. Each tale is proof of God's mercy and protection over the people there and the traveling missionaries.

Several of us recently had the opportunity to visit one of the wonders of the natural world, and although it was not a missionary endeavor it was a wonderful opportunity to experience the splendor of God's creation together. There were 16 brave souls from Missouri, Michigan, and Arizona who took off on a journey to hike the Grand Canyon in Northern Arizona. I know there was not a person on the hike who did not marvel at the majesty of God's handy-work and reflect upon the awesome power He possesses to fashion something so intricate and beautiful. I can only imagine the same feelings of awe and wonder are felt when looking across the plains of Africa, standing on the beaches of Mexico, hiking the mountains of Honduras, walking through the jungles of the Philippines, or simply looking at a sunset in whatever corner of the world you are in. God has given us things of beauty to enjoy, and I consider each one of them a precious gift.

Aside from the many travels the members here are involved in, there are several things happening at home. As a local we have been fellowshipping together on picnics, church barbecues, birthday celebrations and the occasional softball game with the young people. We have been blessed with many visitors since the New Year: Kate Vogel, Daniel Malone, Laura Gill, Aubrey Case, David-Andrew Vogel, Dan, Manon, and Jesse Lawrence, Rick, Becky, Joe, and Erica Olson, Gerry, Cindy, Caleb,

and Jeremiah Case, and Rebecca Owen have all been in our midst. The Gerry Case family now has both daughters living here in Arizona. Amy Case Moser relocated here a little over two years ago, and now Suzanna has joined her sister, and the rest of us, here in Phoenix. We are very happy to have her here; her arrival has been long awaited. Both girls originated from Missouri, but had been in Ohio the past several years. I'm thankful to have both of them here, and a part of our lives.

As always we in Phoenix are thankful for the many blessings God bestows upon each one of us, and our brothers and sisters throughout the world. Until next time, our love and prayers are with you all, and we appreciate yours for us.

*Rebecca Oar*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CHURCH OF CHRIST  
NOTICES AT A  
GLANCE**

**July 2-4  
Minnesota Reunion**

**July 9-11  
New York Reunion**

**July 25-30  
Church of Christ Teen  
Camp**

**July 30-August 1  
Missouri Reunion**

**October 8-9  
Women's Retreat**

**November 26-28  
Phoenix Reunion**

**WAKE-UP CAMP**

**D**ear Brethren of the Church of Christ: Greetings from your Brothers and Sisters of the Church of Christ, Bemidji Local. It is with divine joy that we invite you to attend our 2004 Minnesota Wake-up Camp Reunion.

*Dates:*  
Wake-Up Camp: **June 28-July 02**  
Minnesota Reunion: **July 2-July 4**

*Contacts:*  
**Peter Gould:** (218) 586-2774  
**Leah Ferrier:** (218) 586-2367  
**Charity Gould:** (218) 586-3362

*"And the Spirit and the Bride say, Come. And let him that heareth, Come..." (Rev. 22:17).*

**MISSOURI REUNION**

**T**he Missouri Reunion Committee would like to invite all to attend the 2004 Missouri Reunion, which will be held **July 30, 31 and August 1, 2004**. All meetings will be held at the Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri.

*For information please contact:*

**Roland Sarratt**  
15910 E. 36th Terr.  
Independence, MO 64055  
(816) 373-6605  
E-mail: [r.sarratt@earthlink.net](mailto:r.sarratt@earthlink.net)

**Michael McGhee**  
18907 E. 6th St. North  
Independence, MO 64056  
(816) 796-6255

**PHOENIX REUNION**

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters, The Phoenix Local would like to extend an invitation to all to attend the 2004 Phoenix Reunion, which will be held **November 26th, 27th and 28th**. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We look forward to seeing you there.

*For information contact:*

**Bob Hedrick**  
2908 E. Rockwood Dr.  
Phoenix, AZ 85050  
(602) 494-9661  
[bobnliza@juno.com](mailto:bobnliza@juno.com)

**Jim Yates**  
1449 E. Rockwood Dr.  
Phoenix, AZ 85024-2969  
(623) 582-4163  
[jimyatesjr@yahoo.com](mailto:jimyatesjr@yahoo.com)

**NEW YORK REUNION**

Where: Hogsburg, New York  
When: **July 9 -11, 2004**

The Akwesasne, New York Local welcomes all of our brothers and sisters to fellowship and worship with us starting **Friday evening at 7:00 P.M., July 9, through Sunday afternoon, July 11, 2004.**

In order that proper preparation may be made, please let one of the people listed below know if you will be attending, how many, and any dietary restrictions that you may have. We have some housing available with church members, as well as some space for campers. There are also plenty of motels in the area.

*In Canada:*

**Wayne and Susan Miller**  
868 Tollgate Road  
Cornwall, Ontario  
Canada K6H5R6  
(613) 933-5469

*In the United States:*

**Eli and Gretchen Tarbell**  
PO Box 21  
600 State Route 37  
Hogsburg, New York 13655  
(518) 358-2911  
[egtarbell@hotmail.com](mailto:egtarbell@hotmail.com)

**Dale and Terry Waldruff**  
429 County Road 34  
Canton, New York 13617  
(315) 265-1221  
[terrwald@slic.com](mailto:terrwald@slic.com)

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### CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2004 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 2, 3 and 4, at Independence, Missouri.

The **2005 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 3. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 4. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on April 1 & 2. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

### CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the **Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472**

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Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)	God's Promises to Israel
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	God's Purpose in America
Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	Great Plan of Redemption, The
Book of Commandments, The - Its Role in the History of the Restoration	Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
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Brief History of the Church of Christ, A	Latter Day Apostasy, A
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	Synopsis, A (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
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	What about the Book of Mormon?
	Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
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\*Note: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage)

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Specify program(s) wanted, anticipated dates of use, and the make of your projector. Slide projectors and tape players are not provided except in the Independence, Missouri, or Phoenix, Arizona, areas.

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**RETURN, THE** (12 minutes)—Reveals the significance of the return to the "land of Zion" in 1867 by the members of the Church of Christ, especially as holders of Title to the previously dedicated Temple Lot.

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Send orders for Sunday School materials to Debbie Vogel, 403 West Colonel Drive, Independence, Missouri 64050. All materials are free of charge to members of the Church of Christ, except as noted. Donations will be accepted to cover postage.

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