

# Zion's Advocate

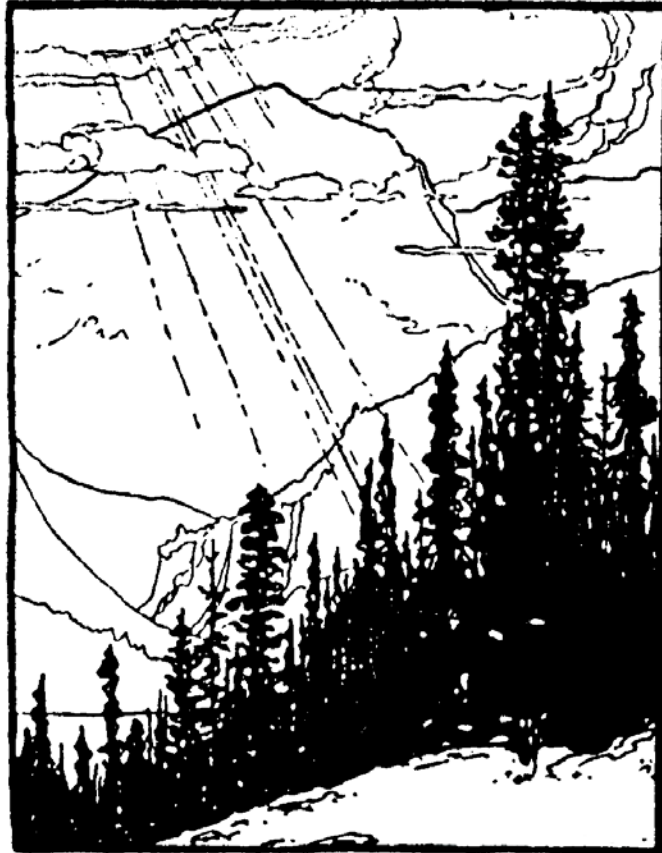
*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,  
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*

1 Nephi 3:187

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*"I will meditate in thy precepts,  
and have respect unto thy ways."*

Psalm 119:15

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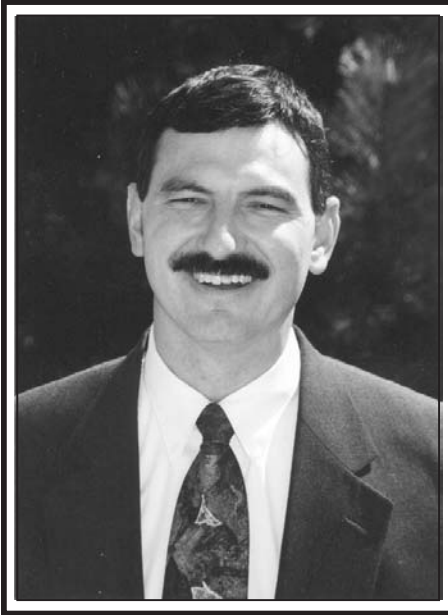
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## ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

# **GOD'S PLAN**

## **for Success in Changing Times**



By Apostle Joel Yates

*In the April through June issues of the Zion's Advocate I wrote about God's goal of salvation for each of us and how the Church organization plays an important part in accomplishing God's goal. I ask for your forgiveness in missing several months because of my slothfulness. I desire to finish these articles, as I felt led of the Lord to write about these things.*

**J**ust as our physical bodies need several important things to maintain our life and be able to function normally, the Body of Christ needs

### **Part 4**

several things to operate normally in a spiritual sense. These five themes are needed for success in the Church. They are Systems (God's rules, procedures, and principles as found in His word), Integrity, Customer Service, Accountability, and a Risk Management system. Each one of these things is necessary for the body to function according to God's perfect design, and they are all connected. These terms are not terms we use very much and need some explanation.

In the June issue I wrote about Integrity and our need to live the core values of the Christian faith that are laid down in God's Word for us. Without this element in the body, we cannot function correctly as God has designed the body. In this issue I am going to talk about the role of Customer Service in the Body of Christ. This sounds more like a business concept, but I think you will be surprised at the role customer service plays in the proper functioning of the body.

**Just as our physical bodies need several important things to maintain our life and be able to function normally, the Body of Christ needs several things to operate normally in a spiritual sense.**

#### **CUSTOMER SERVICE:**

**INTERNAL:** How we care for our members.

**EXTERNAL:** How well we care for potential members.

It is important to understand that there are two types of customer service in the body of Christ and in the business world. How well businesses do internal and external customer service usually determines how successful the company is and how happy or unhappy their employees are. The same things are true in the function

of the body of Christ. God's Systems, or His Word, have laid down how we need to treat each other, as well as those that are not members. Once again, if we have integrity to keep His Word, the body will function as it was designed. This is an area where we need to learn what God expects of us and figure out how to do it correctly. Let us consider first the rules of God in regards to internal customer service and how this affects the function of the body as a whole.

### Internal Customer Service

**W**hat are God's rules in regard to how we treat each other? How well do you follow them? Most of us have a basic understanding of God's expectations, but I find that specifics help us see the generalities much clearer. Let us consider several scriptures that give us particulars in our care for others in the body of Christ.

1st Corinthians 12:18-27:  
*"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body. And the eye cannot say unto the hand, I have no need of thee: nor again the head to the feet, I have no need of you. Nay, much more those members of the body, which seem to be more feeble, are necessary: And those members of the body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no*

*need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another. And whether one member suffer, all the members suffer with it; or one member be honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular."*

The more I study this scripture, the more I marvel at God's choice of analogies and His wisdom. Remember, the Lord is comparing the Church organization to a functioning human body so we could better understand how the Church should work. I find this to be a perfect description of the way we should be looking as a Church. In this scripture we see several specifics that we need to take note of and learn how to apply.

- **Vs 21-22:** We must not exalt man in the Church by thinking that one member is more important than another—or even worse, that some are not needed at all. When you look around and see problems, do not think things would go smoother in the Church if we did not have to deal with problems some people bring. The feeble (those without strength, sick, weak) are necessary.
- **Vs 23:** We must place greater value and esteem (honour) in those members that some do not consider as being as valuable in the workings of the body. Christ placed the same value in each of us when He gave His life

for us and bought us with a "price." Placing this value in those that think they have less value or are not important allows them to grow in confidence of the beauty that Christ has placed in them, and they become more and more valuable in the body, and begin to take a more active role in their responsibilities.

- **Vs 24:** The needs of each member are met when we are "tempered" by God as an organization. All of our strengths, mixed with our weaknesses, allow the strengths of the body to be there for each of us—since we are all weak in some area of our lives and strong in some areas. Allowing God to mix us and combine us together as a unit allows the sum of our strengths to prevail against the individual weakness we have as we work together as a complete body.
- **Vs 25:** We must learn to work together as a single unit. God does not want schism (division) to overcome us. Satan works best if he can divide and conquer. We must have the same love and care for each member, as this keeps our desire strong to remain united and work together with the help of God to overcome our weakness and differences.
- **Vs 26-27:** We need to apply the love of God for the members of the Church in such a way that we are able to feel the pains, sufferings, burdens, etc., of others so that we share that experience with them. We must also learn how to rejoice with others in the

Church when God has blessed them and good things have happened to them.

This scripture needs more than just bullet points for us to have a better understanding of how the Church should be working together and caring for each other. Let us consider several other points concerning our care for each other and what is necessary and why.

Why are the feeble necessary? How we care for the weak among us is so important. Our physical bodies care for the weakest elements all the time without us actually thinking about it. Consider what our bodies do when we get hurt. I broke my arm once and immediately the members of my body that could make a difference took my broken arm and caressed and supported it and held it steady in the most comfortable position. Even though it still hurt some the stronger members of my body responded quickly to help the injured member to nurse it back to health. It took some time to heal but all throughout the process the stronger members of my body took on more responsibility in shouldering the load normally borne by the hurt member, until my arm was back to its proper strength and could carry its full load again. It is against the nature of our body to cut off the arm that is broken, because it has an important role and is needed to make the body whole and complete. In caring for the weaker members, the other members of my body

became stronger.

This is also true in the spiritual application of this scripture. When we care for the weaker members of the body of

**Allowing God to mix us and combine us together as a unit allows the sum of our strengths to prevail against the individual weakness we have as we work together as a complete body.**

Christ we are made stronger in the struggle and the body itself is made stronger. The body of Christ is only as strong as its weakest member, and this then becomes our duty to support and strengthen the weak. Consider the following scriptures that direct us in this regard.

Romans 15:1-7: *"We then that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Let every one of us please his neighbour for his good to edification. For even Christ pleased not himself; but, as it is written, The reproaches of them that reproached thee fell on me. For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.*

*Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be likeminded one toward another according to Christ Jesus: That ye may with one mind and one mouth glorify God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God."*

Galatians 6:1-2: *"Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ."*

Caring for the weak requires a true love for the people of God. We all know people who are burdened down with sin and struggle coming to Church for the shame of it all and the guilt they feel. Here again this scripture draws to our mind several truths which should encourage the weak to come bring their burdens and weight of sin to their brothers and sisters for help and strength. Let us consider our physical bodies again and things we know to be true about how they work. Truth shows us that our bodies are made to break down and most of us have had many things that do not work precisely. How many of us have suffered from some injury, sickness, infection, muscle strain, sprain, fractured bone.... Every part of our body at some time or another needs some help to heal properly and with help, patience, and good health habits our body will be back to form in time. All of us at some instance in our lives are numbered with the weak and

come burdened with some sin or struggle that we rely on the strength and love of the body to help us overcome to return to good spiritual health. The scriptures point out this truth several times, so let us consider this point.

Romans 3:23: *“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God....”*

1st Corinthians 6:9-11: *“Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.”*

The scriptures rightly show that we are all sinners, and that some of us came out of the works of unrighteousness into God's Kingdom where we were washed clean. Since this is the case, why is it so hard for us as brothers and sisters to come to seek help in overcoming our sins? We do not support the weak and sick very well—instead, far too often they are made to feel as outcasts and unwanted because they are not measuring up as they should. This may require some education to the membership of the Church on how to view the weak as God views them, and so change the way we respond to those that are in the middle of a

horrible struggle.

Let us consider again the analogy of the Church organization compared to a body. I marvel at God's creation and how He designed it to work. How does our body fight a virus? When a virus is introduced into our body the whole body rises up to defeat it, because it has the potential to kill us. So the body responds by turning up the heat, since viruses can only live in an optimum temperature range. Our whole body resists the virus with a fever and in time it will kill the virus when it is working according to God's perfect design. Our body does not kill the part that brought the virus into the body; instead, the whole body focuses on defeating the virus.

This is the way the body of Christ should respond to sin in one of our members. First, realize that sin will kill an individual member or the whole body if the member or body allows infection to set in and does not respond to it. Once we realize the danger, we need to rise up together to fight and defeat the sin—not drive out and kill the sinner. Remember, every member is necessary to the proper functioning of the body. This requires the love of Christ to be applied in our efforts. We do this by giving encouragement in prayer and conversation, and giving direction to the member that is in the struggle. If there is a member of the Church that has faced and defeated this same sin, they need to share their strength with the weak one, lending support to the faith

of the weakened member by reminding them that the grace and strength of God can set them free from their burden. Here also the ministry needs to be involved in giving direction to the weak by teaching them how to use all the resources God has given them to overcome sin, and laying down a plan of attack against the enemy of their souls. I am convinced that in order to defeat Satan's wiles it is important to have a strategy and a plan. Getting a better understanding of how to use the weapons God has provided us is something that the ministry should be able to supply.

I hope you will consider how you care for your brothers and sisters in the future, and rally around our weaker ones whose precious souls and cries come before God daily. Remember that tomorrow the weak one may be you, so give your best love and care to the feeble and weak, hoping to have the same care and love given to you or another of your family when it is really needed.

The next scripture that we need to consider is found in Romans 12:3-18:

*“For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith. For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: So we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another. Having then gifts differing according to*

*the grace that is given to us, whether prophecy, let us prophesy according to the proportion of faith; Or ministry, let us wait on our ministering; or he that teacheth, on teaching; Or he that exhorteth, on exhortation: he that giveth, let him do it with simplicity; he that ruleth, with diligence; he that sheweth mercy, with cheerfulness. Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good. Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another; Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord; Rejoicing in hope; patient in tribulation; continuing instant in prayer; Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality. Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not. Rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep. Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things, but condescend to men of low estate. Be not wise in your own conceits. Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."*

This scripture has certain definite points about how we should be treating each other, specifically for those that belong to the body of Christ. Let us consider the points made in these verses.

- **Vs 3:** Do not think more of yourself than you should. You are only one part of the body—think seriously about your responsibilities in the body, believing that God placed you in the body as it pleased Him.

- **Vs 4, 5:** We do not all have the same office and function in the body, but together we make up the whole body and are joined together as members.

**I am convinced that in order to defeat Satan's wiles it is important to have a strategy and a plan.**

- **Vs 6-8:** We have different gifts and functions as a body and we need to be waiting (looking for opportunities) to use them according to our proportion of faith. We should be praying and seeking to find opportunity to use the gifts listed in these three verses; some of these gifts apply especially to the ministry and others apply to any of the body.

- **Vs 9:** Our love for each other needs to be sincere, without hypocrisy, and the body must learn to hate evil and to be arrayed against it while holding fast to the things that are good.

- **Vs 10:** We need to be devoted to each other as brothers and sisters with sincere, kind, and tender affection. We must also love by putting others before ourselves, and considering their needs before our own.

- **Vs 11:** We should not be slow, but with diligence, haste, and fervent (hot), earnest desire

serve the Lord.

- **Vs 12:** We need to be a people filled with joy because of the hope that is in us as we serve the Lord—patient with one another when faced with trouble, being quick to pray for each other and the body.

- **Vs 13:** Those able to in the body should share their excess to help care for the needs of those brothers and sisters less fortunate, as well as the needs of the whole body. Also, we as a people need to be given to hospitality.

- **Vs 14:** The nature of God's people should be to bless others, even those that persecute them, for this allows for peace among the members, as well as providing an example to the world of the value God has placed on the souls of men.

- **Vs 15:** It takes the love of Christ in the hearts of His people to be able to really mourn with those that mourn and rejoice with others that are rejoicing.

- **Vs 16:** We need to be united in one mind toward each other and not be respecters of persons. We must be able to accompany the humble and those cast down by circumstances—even Christ reminded us that the whole need no physician, but the weak.

- **Vs 17:** The Lord requires us not to return evil for evil, for this is a tool of the enemy. We need to give good in return for evil so our prayers will be effective before God. Show goodness to all men we come in contact with.

● **Vs 18:** It is God's desire that we use all of our abilities to have peace with all men, inside the body and out.

The responsibility we have towards our brothers and sisters in the Church cannot be overlooked. God does give us a greater responsibility to the care and treatment of those in the body than to those outside the body, as the following scriptures will show.

1st Peter 4:9-10: *"Use hospitality one to another without grudging. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God."*

Galatians 6:9-10: *"And 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."*

The importance of internal customer service, or how we care for those inside the Church, should not be forgotten. The point must be made plainly—if we do not know how to care for our brothers and sisters in the Church whom we love, how will we be able to care for others we do not even know? It has been proven in the business world that the more focus a business has in practicing good internal customer service and taking care of their people, the better their employees perform external customer service. In simple words for us, if we learn how to take care of each other in

the Church by applying the love of Christ—supporting our weak, sharing our gifts, and working together as a unit—we will be better prepared to care for those outside. Others will see something that is desirable; something they are missing and want to be a part of. If this is not happening, we find ourselves in another problem that Christ warns us of in Matthew 5:13-14:

*"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid."*

2nd Corinthians 4:1-4: *"Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. **But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:** In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."*

If the gospel we preach is not seen in how we function, support, love, and care for one another, we are compared to salt that has no flavor and is not desirable. If the power of Christ and His gospel is not seen among us, but is hid, those outside will not see it and it will

give Satan occasion to deceive them.

### External Customer Service:

The scriptures tell us it is God's plan for the Church to reach out to the whole world with the gospel of Christ. We see this in the great commission Christ gave to His servants just prior to His ascension into heaven to "...Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" Mark 16:15-16. This command by the Lord did send the gospel into all the world and the Body of Christ swelled in number. This was the intention of the Savior and remains so today, as we see in the next two scriptures.

Matthew 24:14: *"And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."*

1st Nephi 3:226-228: *"And it came to pass that I beheld the church of the Lamb of God, and its numbers were few, because of the wickedness and abominations of the whore who sat upon many waters; Nevertheless, I beheld that the church of the Lamb, who were the saints of God, were also upon all the face of the earth; And their dominions upon the face of the earth were small, because of the wickedness of the great whore whom I saw."*

The main focus of the Lord has always been to bring the world salvation. For this reason



the Church (its members) are commanded to be a light to the world. Those of us that have taken upon ourselves the name of Christ by baptism are expected to reflect the light of Christ in all our doings, and thus bring glory to God, while lighting the way for others to follow. We live in a dark and sin-sick world that suffers every kind of trouble and sadness—many dying and crying out with no hope. This was the condition that Christ found in the world when He began to walk among the children of men, and He brought light and hope to the world. For this reason we must let our light shine so others will see it and find hope in Christ just as they did long ago.

John 3:16-17: *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.”*

Matthew 5:14-16: *“Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”*

Philippians 2:14-15: *“Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and per-*

*verse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;”*

Matthew 4:16: *“The people which sat in darkness saw great*

**The invitation to come and lay your burdens at the feet of Christ and cast off the weight of your sins is the message of hope that we have to give to the world.**

*light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up.”*

John 13:35: *“By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another.”*

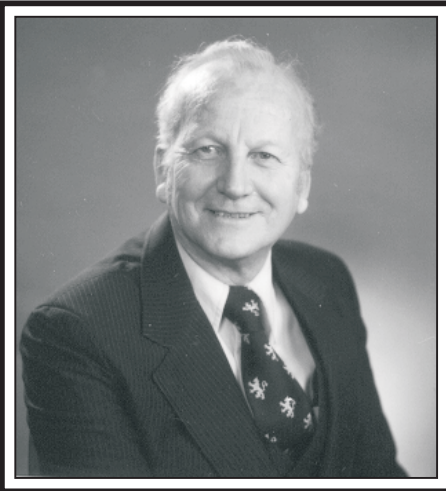
The light we are to shine is the love of Christ, and by this love we will be known as followers of Christ. The example of the Lord to those outside the body was to visit the ones that were spiritually sick and call to them in love. This same invitation must be heard and seen from the Church today. The invitation to come and lay your burdens at the feet of Christ and cast off the weight of your sins is the message of hope that we have to give to the world. For this reason we are commanded to love even our enemies, to do good to them, and to

bless them. We need to learn how to call to repentance and offer the hope we have in the gospel to those that are burdened down with sin. Consider the invitation that the scriptures give to those outside of the Church.

Revelation 22:16-17: *“I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star. And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.”*

Just as our bodies are constantly adding new cells for the maintenance and growth of our bodies, God designed the Church to receive continued new growth so His light might be seen throughout the entire world. The Spirit and the bride (Church) need to invite all to come and partake of the life-giving water offered by our Lord. It is my prayer that we will see how our care for each other in the Church effects our care for those outside that God is calling to be in His service, and that we might be faithful in our love for all people. I hope in some way we can each better understand how Customer Service—internal and external—are necessary to the Church accomplishing God’s perfect design for us. May we do His will and function in love according to His perfect plan and design is my prayer.

# Pondering the Words of JESUS CHRIST



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

## Item 36: A "Born-again" Christian

*Jn 3: 3, 5-7 ... Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God....*

*Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

Perhaps no other scripture has been as mis-used by nominal Christians as the above. "Born of the water" is often said to be the natural birth of a child (in the water within the womb). What is overlooked is: Except a MAN is born,

(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.)

etc. A man is not "born" in a mother's womb - it is a child (a babe)!

The Jerusalem Bible gives us for "born again" in v. 3 as "born from above." This is certainly a truism.

Apostle Paul spoke of the love of Christ for His church in giving Himself for it:

*Eph 5: 26-27 That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.*

The Moffat translation appropriately replaces "by the word" with "as she utters her confession." Of course - when a "man" (mankind; one who may make a conscious decision for Christ) utters his confession, having repented of his sins, he is worthy to be baptized in water, following the example of Jesus; and such a congregation of believers may become "without spot or wrinkle," cleansed from sin and sanctified by the blood of Christ. This washing of water is accomplished through a complete immersion in water by one who is divinely called of God to administer this holy ordinance.

*Heb 5: 4 ... No man taketh this honour unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.*

*Col 2: 12-13 Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God,*

*who hath raised him from the dead. And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;*

How much plainer could it be? A burial is a complete immersion; we are buried with Christ and arise through His grace to a new life in Him, being freed from our sins. So baptism, in its completeness (which includes the laying on of hands for reception of the Holy Ghost) IS A SAVING ORDINANCE; a matter denied by the general Christian community. Why then should anyone be baptized with such a philosophy? They will say it is an outward sign of inward grace. Rather lame, is it not?

Again: "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God," and he cannot be born again except he has received the laying on of hands bestowing the gift of the Holy Ghost. Most so-called "born-again Christians" declare it was accomplished by their confession of Christ and having turned their lives over to Him, or having turned from a wayward life with little or no acknowledgment of Him to one in which He has been received through faith. Well, so far, so good! But it's not far enough! Admittedly, it is the Holy Spirit which leads us TO Christ, and leads us TO repentance; and admittedly, this may be termed as salvation, or as having been

saved; but these are preliminary steps, which, if continued under the Spirit of truth, will lead also into obedience to the gospel plan of baptism, if it so be that one has not been led by the false traditions of men.

But what is it to be "born again?" Apostle John emphasized the keeping of the commandments of Christ. In our matter of consideration, i.e., being born of water and the Spirit, we must keep the commandment of Jesus, which is a baptism (burial) in water and of the Spirit; and John tells us:

*2 Jn 6 And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it.*

Again he said:

*1 Jn 2:24, 29 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father... If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.*

To be born again is to believe and obey the commandments of Jesus Christ, which will instill a spirit of righteousness within you, casting out the darkness which had prevailed.

*1 Jn 1:6-7 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

If we keep the commandments of Christ, we have the promise of the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, which will be an ABIDING COMFORTER to us. The Holy Spirit may lead us to Christ, but will not ABIDE until we have yielded to those commandments, including baptism. Of course, we must continue therein, or that Spirit will withdraw.

*John 3: 7-8 Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it*

*cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.*

*1 Cor 2: 11-16 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.*

### Item 37: What About The Washing Of Feet?

*John 13:3-17 Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. After that he poureth water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean, but not all. For he knew who should betray him; therefore said he, Ye are not all clean. So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.*

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord; neither he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them.*

This appears to be a ritual ordained of Christ and to be observed in the Church. However, the practical form of that incident is not found thereafter either in the Bible or the Book of Mormon, nor ever mentioned in any way; so we are justified in saying that it was not given for that purpose. The key of understanding is given in the very last two sentences. He was teaching them humility: to serve one another even as He there served them. This is further emphasized by His saying:

*Matt 11: 29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.*

But there was also a more mundane reason for Him to wash their feet. The whole matter is probably best expressed as found in *Cruden's Complete Concordance under Wash*:

"Since the common foot-coverings of the East were sandals, and the roads were hot and dusty during the dry season and muddy during the rains it was a necessary custom to see that the feet were washed on entering a house. The common utensils made it hard to wash one's own feet, and as a rule it was the task of a menial, but when one wished to honor his visitor extremely, or to indicate his own humility, he would himself perform the service."

At the Lord's Supper the feet of the Apostles had to be washed; no disciple would acknowledge himself the lowest among them; and it was our Savior Himself who, to give them an example of humility, washed their feet.

**GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

# **BOOK OF MORMON HEROES**

## **ENOS REMEMBERS**

**INTRODUCTION:** In our last lesson Nephi gave his brother Jacob the job of writing on the brass plates. Jacob did his job well. He wrote down everything that God did for His people. Jacob taught his people the Nephites what was written on the brass plates. All was going well until a man named Sherem showed up. Sherem taught people not to believe that Jesus was coming. Jacob prayed and God struck Sherem down. Then everyone knew that Jesus was true. Jacob had a son named Enos. He taught Enos about God.

### **ENOS REMEMBERS (Book of Enos)**

Enos was like any other boy. He liked to run and play. He didn't think much about his father's words. Enos grew into a strong young man.

One day something changed. Enos went into the woods with his bow to hunt. The birds were chirping, the bugs were buzzing. Wild game must be nearby. There would be meat for dinner tonight. Then something changed. Perhaps the forest grew very quiet. Enos forgot about hunting. His mind filled with the memory of everything his father Jacob had taught him about God. Enos knew that he had been too busy working and having a good time to think about God. Enos wanted to know more about God. He wanted to feel God's love with him all the time. He wanted God to forgive him for the things he had done wrong.

Enos knelt down and prayed to God. "Please forgive me," he prayed. "Help me to learn more about you." Enos prayed all day long. As darkness began to fall, he was still praying. Then God spoke: "Enos, your sins are forgiven. You are blessed because you have faith in Jesus, even though you have never seen Him."

Faith is when you believe in something that you can't see. You can't see God but you trust Him. You know He is there. You know He will care for you.

How happy Enos was! Enos wanted everyone to be as happy as he was. He began to pray again. "Please bless my people the Nephites." Enos' heart was so full of God's love that he even began to pray for his enemies the Lamanites. "Lord," Enos prayed, "even if it takes a long time, help the Lamanites to remember you someday."

The Lamanites hated the Nephites. "We will kill you and destroy your records!" the Lamanites swore. God had always protected the brass plates with His words written on them. He had brought these records through many dangers. "Protect Your records," Enos prayed, "so that Your word will be always with us. Help the Lamanites to have Your record someday. Help them to believe in Your words again."

"I promise," God said, "that someday, when the time is right, the Lamanites will read these records and believe in Me again."

For the rest of his life Enos tried to teach the Lamanites about God, but the Lamanites would not listen. The Lamanites became wilder and meaner every day, but Enos remembered God's promise. Sometimes it takes a long time, but God always keeps His promises. Enos knew that one day the Lamanites would hear and believe the words of God.

## ENOS REMEMBERS

Look up the missing words from the story of Enos. They can be found in the Book of Mormon in the Book of Enos. Enos is only one chapter long!

1. Behold, I went to \_\_\_\_\_ in the \_\_\_\_\_; and the \_\_\_\_\_ which I had often heard my \_\_\_\_\_ speak, concerning eternal life, and the joy of the saints, sunk deep into my \_\_\_\_\_. (Enos 1:4)

2. And all the \_\_\_\_\_ did I cry unto him; yea, and when the \_\_\_\_\_, I did still raise my voice high, that it reached the \_\_\_\_\_. (Enos 1:6)

3. And he said unto me, because of thy \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_, whom thou hast never before \_\_\_\_\_ nor \_\_\_\_\_. (Enos 1:10)

4. Even if it so be, by the power of his holy arm, that it might be brought forth, at some \_\_\_\_\_, unto the \_\_\_\_\_, that perhaps they might be brought unto salvation: (Enos 1:20)

5. And I had \_\_\_\_\_, and I did cry unto God, that he would preserve \_\_\_\_\_; (Enos 1:25)

6. And he covenanted with me that he would bring them forth unto \_\_\_\_\_, in his own \_\_\_\_\_. (Enos 1:26)

7. And now it came to pass, that I, \_\_\_\_\_, went about among the people of \_\_\_\_\_, prophesying of things to come and testifying of the things which I had \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_. (Enos 1:29)

8. And I bear \_\_\_\_\_ that the people of \_\_\_\_\_ did seek diligently to restore the \_\_\_\_\_ unto the \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_. (Enos 1:30)

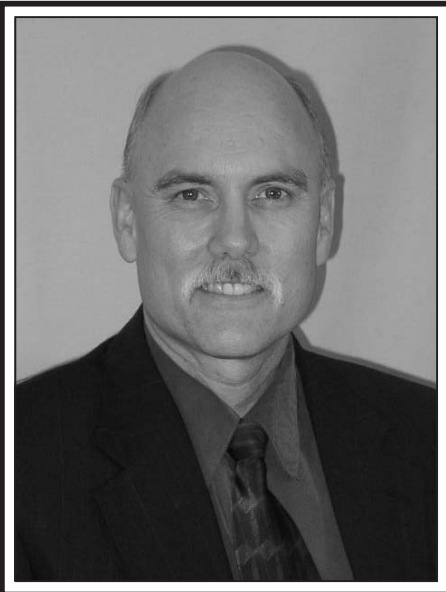
GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

# ENOS REMEMBERS



PATTERN 10

# Articles of Faith & Practice



**By Elder Gordon McCann**

## Article #21

After the flood, God acknowledged that, “man’s heart is evil from his youth” (Genesis 8:21) and with that evil came the shedding of innocent blood (murder) by wicked and perverse men. God desired to focus our thoughts upon the sanctity of His creation by reminding us that we were created after His image.

The Lord has endeavored, as verified throughout Scripture, to teach us that His will was not for us to shed the blood of our fellow man.

*“For the Lord worketh not in secret combinations, neither doth he will that man should shed blood, but in all things hath forbidden it, from the beginning of man”* Ether 3:93.

*“For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people”* Hebrews 10:30.

With that said, how is it that the Mosaic Law provided the authority to mete out capital punishment upon those deemed worthy of death according to the law?

From the beginning, God has desired to preserve the sacredness of human life against evil by providing a deterrent against murder in society.

*“Now if there was no law given, if a man murdered he should die, would he be afraid he should die if he should murder?”* Alma 19:101.

God spoke to Noah, by way of commandment, and instituted capital punishment as part of the social order for mankind to be governed by.

*“Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man”* Genesis 9:6.

## Article #21

We are opposed to war. Men are not justified in taking up arms against their fellows except as a last resort in defense of their lives and to preserve their liberty.

God reaffirmed His law against murder when the Lord gave Moses the sixth commandment while on Mount Sinai: “Thou shalt not kill.” The Hebrew word for “kill” is “ratsach,” which means to dash in pieces, i.e., kill a human being, especially to murder; manslayer; murderer.

The Lord, speaking to Peter in the garden of Gethsemane after he had cut off the ear of the servant of the high priest, reminded Peter of the commandment concerning murder:

*“Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his*

place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword" Matthew 26:52.

Governments, kingdoms, states, and nations are under the same law of God when it comes to murder, or the shedding of innocent blood. Wars are the result of wicked and perverse people motivated by greed and/or vengeance. No different from the law of capital punishment for individuals, nations have the right to protect themselves against evil when all other avenues have been exhausted.

*"And they were doing that which they felt was the duty which they owed to their God; for the Lord had said unto them, and also unto their fathers, That inasmuch as ye are not guilty of the first offense, neither the second, ye shall not suffer yourselves to be slain by the hands of your enemies. And again, the Lord has said that ye shall defend your families, even unto bloodshed; therefore for this cause were the Nephites contending with the Lamanites, to defend themselves, and their families, and their lands, their country, and their rights, and their religion" Alma 20:51-52.*

## **CHURCH OF CHRIST NOTICES AT A GLANCE**

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

**November 26-28  
Phoenix Reunion**

## **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:

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## **WOMEN'S RETREAT**

**D**oes your lamp need some oil? Would you like to spend time in fellowship with other women in the gospel?

Then the **Women's Retreat** is for you!

**WHEN:** October 8 & 9, 2004

**WHERE:** Lake Mauer Assembly of God Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Missouri 64024

**WHO:** Overnight fellowship activity for women only over the age of 18.

**MEET:** at 10:00 a.m. at the Temple Lot on Friday, October 8, to spend the day in Liberty, Missouri.

**COST:** \$40.00 per person

**MEALS:** Friday—noon and evening, brown bag or eat out. Saturday—Breakfast and lunch provided.

We will break up on Saturday about 5:00 p.m.

This is an outreach opportunity, so please invite friends and relatives, members and non-members alike!

Please see sign-up form in the August Advocate.

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REUNION REPORT

# MICHIGAN REUNION

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters, Early summer in Michigan this year has been quite rainy with cooler than normal temperatures. However, we were blessed to have sunny days for our state reunion, which was held at the Ravenna Local on June 26th and 27th.

On Saturday we started with a prayer service as we gathered together to put thoughts of the world out of our minds and to prepare for a spiritual feast. The first preaching service was presented to us by Elder Tony Grzincic, from Independence, Missouri. An important scripture that was read is from John 4:24, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth." Will the gospel of Jesus Christ make you ask for help to change your ways? How are you going to change? John 3:14-15 says, "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Our Saturday afternoon service was preached by Elder Gerry Case, from Hamilton, Ohio. Some of the scriptures included Matthew 5:3-16, (Sermon on the Mount) and 3rd Nephi 5:60-63. We are the salt of the earth and it is our job to make sure our light shines to glorify God the Father. There are 86,400 seconds in a day. Are we using our seconds wisely? It takes only a few seconds for us to shine on somebody enough to help them desire to change their life.

Apostle Roland Sarratt of Independence, Missouri, preached Saturday evening, and included information from the missionary field. A common thread among Church of Christ members outside of the United States is that most often they outshine us Americans. They're humble, and they have a childlike faith that is pleasing to God. For example, there are members that will start walking down a moun-

tain at 4 a.m. to make it to church on time. Are the material things we have in our lives a blessing or a distraction to us? We are to watch and pray that we are not caught in the snare of deception. Brother Roland related to us that in 1958 Apostle Leon Yates had a dream that it was five minutes to midnight, indicating that we are near a dark period of time, time of concern, a time of decision.

During the dawn of Sunday, Elder Aaron Heath drove north to Bitely, Michigan, to pick up Sister Alice (Haines) Beardsley and her husband, Matthew. At 8 a.m., Matthew Beardsley was baptized into Christ, with white swans swimming nearby. Back at the church, the laying on of hands was performed and the hand of fellowship extended to him. Sacrament then was blessed and served. Following the passing of the emblems, the congregation participated non-stop by requesting a season of prayer, songs, a challenge question to the youth (with some promptly responding), plus many testimonies.

Sunday afternoon we were blessed to have Brother Bill Malone from Phoenix, Arizona, preach the gospel of Jesus Christ. A key question was, "What are our priorities? Is serving our Lord our top priority?" The attitude seen on his recent trip to Africa was that of people hungering for the gospel. Once they heard it and started reading they absorbed it like a sponge. Their priority is to learn as much about the Church of Christ as they can. It is a privilege to hear of the Church of Christ. God is the most important thing in their lives, as He should be in ours. Does our life show that God is our main priority? The do's and don't's can be summed up in two commandments: #1: Love God, #2: Love one another.

We are thankful to all of those that attended and made a great sacrifice to fellowship with us. We look forward to seeing

many of you at the 2005 Michigan Reunion, which is planned to be held at the Bradley local.

*God Bless,  
Sue Porter*

## REUNION REPORT

# 2004 Missouri Reunion Report

**W**e gathered in to the House of the Lord for the 2004 Missouri Reunion July 30, 31 and August 1, at the Church of Christ Headquarters on the Temple Lot in Independence.

It was with great joy and expectation that we began the opening prayer service Friday at 9 a.m. Elders Leslie Case and Richard Wheaton were in charge. Br. Leslie admonished us to come out of the world and its influences. He used III Nephi 9:105, ***“And it shall come to pass that all lyings, and deceivings, and envyings, and priestcrafts and whoredoms, shall be done away.”*** III Nephi 10:1-6, ***“...And as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem....”*** We have a great preparation and duty to perform.

Prayers and testimonies of God's blessings followed. It was noted that we already have members here from Austria, Honduras, Arizona, Colorado, Michigan and New York. It was felt that the desire to gather is making us stronger as a church.

At 11 a.m. our first sermon was given by Elder Ken Oar. Br. Ken admonished us to heed the instruction that Lehi had given his sons in II Nephi 1:27-39, which was to **awake**, to **put on**, to **shake off** and to **arise**. Be aware of danger, awake from sleep, be aware of where we are and the gospel we've been given. In Mosiah 2:13-17, we are told: ***“Believe in God....”*** Believe that He has all wisdom, believe that man doesn't comprehend all that the Lord comprehends, and believe that you must repent; then... ***“If you believe all these things, see that ye do them.”*** Put SELF aside, and allow God to lead; He will if our hearts are right. Tune out the world and be in tune to God's spirit. Shake off those things that hamper our spiritual growth. Romans 12:1-2 tells us that our bodies are a living sacrifice, and that our lives are our reasonable service unto God. Be not conformed to this world. Be in accord with God. Actively resist the temptations that chain us in unrighteousness, for no unclean thing can enter the Kingdom of

Heaven. If we pray with real intent for that desire to resist, God will strengthen us and we can overcome. We grow by our trials. Arise and put on the new man, put on righteousness. God will deliver us out of bondage (Mosiah 5:52 and Alma 17:3) and support us. David cried out for forgiveness (Psalms 51:1-2), as we are to also. Mosiah 2:3 tells us to arise and put on righteousness.

After a song service at 2:30 p.m. we were blessed with another sermon. Apostle William Sheldon spoke to us concerning things written by the prophets for our learning that are relative to our day. We should be waiting and watching as the prophecies are being fulfilled. We must prepare and measure up to the standards of the gospel, for since 1830 this ministry has been preparing for the building of Zion and the Lord's Temple.

Psalms 24:3-5 tells us THIS is the hill of the Lord, a place for those with clean hands and pure hearts, not lifted up in vanity or deceit. Isaiah 28:1-5, identifies US as that nation who is the crown of pride, as we are of Ephraim (Western Europe). The pure in heart will be gathered to Zion...THIS spot, as directed by God and which was dedicated for the Temple in 1831, right here in Independence.

What is the Temple for? Isaiah 2:2-3, tells us... ***“Let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways”***... ***“For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.”*** That's two places. Malachi 3:1 tells us that He shall suddenly come to His Temple. The Lord always makes provision for His people—even those in foreign lands will be gathered into the Center Place, as a hen gathers her chicks (Matthew 23: 37 and III Nephi 10: 1-7). Ephraim and Manassah are to be gathered HERE into the land of their inheritance, and Judah into Jerusalem. The Lord will preserve them, even unto the destroying of their enemies by fire. Isaiah 66: 6-7 describes the Temple of the Lord as a house that shall be built unto Him, His place of rest, where His voice will be heard. Haggai 2:6-9 tells us He will

shake all nations, and the desire of all nations (Christ) shall come and He will fill His house with glory...and He shall give peace.

Brother Sheldon invited us to read the vision of Brother T.J. Jordon from 1914 in which he saw the Temple, and the vision given to brother Clarence Wheaton in which he saw Christ coming down to His Temple. Br. Sheldon also admonished us that beyond our own trials there will be a time coming when we will be gathered in and shall behold the Lord's face.

After a song service at 6:30 p.m. we were blessed with another sermon. Elder Rick Olson stood before us in humility (and tears) as he spoke concerning that very subject. Using Matthew 18:1 and Mosiah 1:115-122 he admonished us to be as humble as a little child; receive Christ; be submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love and have a willingness to submit to the will of the Father through faith and repentance. Fight against the natural man and pride which gets in the way. Br. Rick used James 4:1-6, reminding us that God resists the proud. He used examples in Alma 12 and 13 showing attitudes of pride. Also in James we are told to ***“cleanse your hands”***... ***“purify your hearts, ye double minded.”*** In Luke 18:9-14, we learn of a parable concerning pride. In Philip 2:1-15, we are told for every man to have an eye to doing the will of God, and to do all things without murmuring or disputing. Br. Rick told us that we are in a world that would hate us, and that obedience is not pride. It was because of pride that Satan was cast out of heaven. II Nephi 13:13-32 tells us we should have the willingness to keep God's commandments with full purpose of heart, with no hypocrisy and no deception, but with real intent. Especially those contemplating baptism should study this. Ether 5:22-30, explains that men have weaknesses so that they MAY be humbled...and that God will make weak things strong among them. It's not God's desire that we stay in the state of the natural man; He wants us to come out of it for His glory. Put pride aside. Put hypocrisy aside. God will not leave you alone.

**W**e gathered in Saturday morning for the 9:00 a.m. Prayer Service with Elders Steve McGhee and Andy Brantner in charge. Br. Andy admonished us to EXPECT what we pray for, if it is right. If we ask amiss, we don't receive. Give God the liberty to bless us the way He wants. Pray for all things. Don't cease to pray in your hearts. Romans 8:26-28 tells us the Spirit makes intercession for us. Never have we had more problems to deal with than we do today—never have we had more opportunities to come to our Father and triumph over sin. God expects great things from us; let's not disappoint Him.

After a season of prayer and several administrations we heard many truly wonderful testimonies of God's leadings, direction, and His great blessings upon His people. It was a beautiful service in which we felt the Spirit of the Lord move in our hearts.

After another beautiful song service and several administrations we were blessed with another sermon. Preaching to us was Elder Albert Leighton-Floyd. Br. Albert expressed his joy at hearing the testimonies earlier and seeing the dedication of our young people this day. He used John 15:5 to explain how Christ is the vine and we are the branches. It is somewhat like the Help Wanted ad that reads, "Loving Vine has immediate openings, the natural man branches need not apply." The job description should read: "Will Glorify God." Br. Albert asked us if we qualify to be used by the Lord. How would we help the Vine?

We are in a spiritual battle; we need to know about the enemy. In II Nephi 10:34, Isaiah is quoted, telling us that Satan wants to be like God. He wants our attention; that's praise to him. He's like a spiritual terrorist; he does bad things to get us talking about him instead of God and HIS goodness. Satan wants us to be miserable and feel hopeless. Turn your thoughts toward God to beat back Satan.

In Romans 6:1-8 we learn we need to be dead to sin. In Galatians 5:22-23 we learn the fruits of the spirit which, when we bear them, we glorify God. In II Nephi 7:40-42 we are admonished to "**cheer up your hearts**" . . . for it is our choice as to what we shall do. Remember, to resist and beat Satan we must praise God and count our blessings!

After lunch and another beautiful song ser-

vice we began our 7:00 p.m. preaching service with the sermon being given by Elder Don Case. Br. Don admonished us that God has shown us the way; as our lives are like traveling a path, through the ups and downs of hills and valleys and then across the river . . . we all come to the river, the final river we will cross when we die.

Recently returning from Honduras he had many experiences to share with us of God's blessings . . . and how a strong faith is necessary, and not having faith only in man's medicine. Br. Don also told of his recent experiences at the Teen Church Camp . . . he was a greatly impressed First Year Camper. The theme of this year's camp was "**What Do You Believe?**" Mosiah 2: 13-17. He asked, "Is your faith in God or in temporal things?" Do your own spiritual calisthenics: Mosiah 2:7-17 and II Nephi 13:18-23. Ask yourself—how do we prepare for the future? After we enter the gate (baptism) we have to endure to the end (prepare to cross the river). Mark 8:34-38 tells us we must follow Christ, take up His cross and deny our "self" . . . sacrifice yourself, your will, your plans for your own life and your own name, taking HIS upon you. Using John 14:27 he explained that the world only gives you peace IF you have your health, or your money, or your friends and family. God gives a greater peace, a lasting peace. In II Nephi 7:40 we are told to cheer up our hearts, that we are free to choose. Our temptations give us opportunity to choose which path to go. Our hand in His should give us great peace. II Nephi 9:131-137 tells us "**there shall be a highway for the remnant of His people**" . . . "**Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of ZION; for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.**"

**S**unday morning found us once again gathering into the house of the Lord with the desire to hear the voice of the Lord (it was a VERY full house). Apostle Mike McGhee opened the Sacrament Service, asking us to have the same respect for it as we have for Christ. Apostle Roland Sarratt welcomed us using Isaiah 55:1-13, and admonished us to seek Him while He can be found. If we forget Him, we surely won't be able to find Him. Br. Roland read the commandment of serving the

sacrament from Moroni, "**Ye shall do this in remembrance . . .**"

After the blessing and serving of the emblems we were led into a season of prayer and several administrations took place. Our service was then opened to the leading of the Spirit. The second testimony was from our Apostle William Sheldon, who told of a dream he had been given some years back, and then under the Spirit he called two young men to the office of priest: Br. Kevin McGhee and Br. Rusty Granger. Several brothers stood and bore witness; we entered a season of prayer and many more witnesses followed. Apostle Buzz Brickhouse was one of these; he also had an admonishment that there were others there that the Lord was calling out to and to prepare, prepare your hearts for He needs you, and your wives also. Many more witnesses of the Spirit were presented as praise unto the Lord. Elder Adam Porter stood and expressed his knowledge of the Holy Spirit being with us this day as he knows the work of the Spirit is not yet done. Then, filled with the Spirit himself, he called Br. Brandon Tarbell to the office of an elder. Many more witnesses were given to the truth of the Spirit and the validity of the callings. Apostle Buzz Brickhouse stood once again and witnessed that Brandon was one of those he had spoken about. Then, under the Spirit, he turned and gave admonishment to Isaac Brockman, Jr. to accept his calling to that of an elder. Once again there were many witnesses of the Spirit and truth of the calls. This wonderful service was sadly brought to a close about 1:30 p.m. The Lord greatly blessed us with calling forth two priests and two elders, which were supported by 79 testimonies to the truth of the Spirit. Our prayers had been heard and we had been greatly blessed!

After lunch and a beautiful music service of Special Offerings we enjoyed yet another preaching service.

Apostle Frank Fann brought us our final sermon for the reunion. Br. Frank spoke to us of Revelation 2 and 3, where Christ speaks to the seven churches of Asia. He admonished us to study this as YOU AND I are the church. There are consequences for disobedience, he reminded us, so judge where we stand in God's eyes. True followers will inherit His Kingdom. Are there things we need to take off or put on?

Christ praises us for not bearing evil, and for testing our ministry to see if they preach the gospel of Christ, and uphold the Scriptures...and not opinions. The ministry need to be our examples, our leadership; check their ministry by their words, deeds and service.

Br. Frank used Rev. 2:2-3, 10, 26, and 6-7, to show us that God hates sin; we need to also hate those sins and repent of them. God praises us for overcoming sin. Even though we have to be out in the world we needn't be part of it—separate from the lusts of the world. Phil. 2:15 tells us we need to be seen as different, children of God. Rev. 3:10 says He'll praise His church for keeping His word, and reward us by keeping us from **"the hour of temptation."**

Rev. 3 tells us that He knows all of our works, even what we say and think. It's our re-

sponsibility as being His children to be Christ-like. Our reward will be eternal life IF and because we OBEY Him. Rev. 3:21 and Rev. 21:7 tell us of our rewards if we will overcome sin. God condemns a church which doesn't allow the Spirit to move upon it. If we ignore the Spirit of God we don't grow spiritually. Gal. 5:19-21 explains the works of the flesh. Ether 1:31-35 tells us we'll be swept off this land if we don't serve God.

In chapter 60 of the Book of Commandments it tells us: **"Blessed are these in Mt. Zion who have obeyed the gospel..."** Our callings are revelations from God. We must sacrifice out of righteousness and pay devotions to the Most High. Do good works and pray always. Our first love needs to be Christ and His Church—we must not leave our first love. Rev. 2:29 says: **"He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto**

**the churches."**

Apostle Mike McGhee made a suggestion in closing that we study Romans 8:20, which tells of the vanities of the world we are subject to.

Then, as we closed our reunion for another year, it was "with anthems and songs of thanksgiving and praise," as we were greatly blessed to have been able "to go to the House of the Lord," and our hearts were full!

*In the Love of the Lord, My heart does rejoice.*

*Your Reunion Reporter, Sr. Debra Haines*

## NEWS

### MOGOLLON LOCAL REPORT

**G**reetings in the Lord.

As I sit in the shade, with a warm summer breeze blowing on this Sunday afternoon, some may envy. But I envy the fellowship many of you have this day. Even still the Lord has been with me in my readings today, so I praise His generosity.

The years are flying by, and our little local seems to be dwindling. My youngest will be home for one more year, then there will be no more kids in the local! My son Ben was married May 22nd; I pray the Lord will draw them fully into His church. Surely the day is coming when the Lord will awaken the Gentiles, for now their ears are dull of hearing. "Don't bother me now, the good times are rolling!" I'm praying for all our young people because there's so much corruption of innocence. We can hardly focus on the pleasing word of God, but must endure a continual voice of warning, a continual defending of the faith. But was it not so from the beginning? So the minis-

try of the Phoenix local continues to work hard for our sakes. The flocks they serve keep them busy; the average man could not do what the ministry of the Church of Christ does from their hearts.

Our visitors keep us in their hearts as well, Kim and Abbi Scher, Donna Cook, John Yates, Debbie and the boys come with Andy when they can, and Chris comes with Jay often (Brother Alvin). We had a special visitor from Missouri, D. A. Vogel. When he was a boy his family lived in Phoenix and attended church with us in Payson. We had a good crowd of people then, and it brought back a lot of great memories. He assisted our songs with his guitar. What great musical gifts Deb gave to her children; above all, spiritually they are in the Lord, and a blessing to all. We also had Ken and Marlene Oar come and minister to us with their son Tim and his wife Melissa, another day of wonderful fellowship.

One of our important sermons was,

"There are no foreigners in the Body of Christ." How can you be a stranger in a crowd of people you know? Ye must have love one for another—that's how men will know you are His. Jesus is the Rock and Cornerstone. If you're discouraged, go back and examine your foundation. Life is about being lifted up at the last day, so keep your foot planted in the Rock and stay there. So I say to my brothers and sisters, if I have made any feel unwelcome or unimportant, I surely didn't mean it. It is our prayer that each and every one hold fast and endure to the end, through all hardships and offenses.

Faith, Hope, and Charity to every soul.

*Love in Christ,  
Kathy Cloyd*

NEWS

GRAND JUNCTION LOCAL, COLORADO

The first half of year 2004 has been a busy time in Grand Junction.

At our regular first of the year election, most offices were unchanged. Elder David Larsen is again our pastor and Elder Jim Shaw is his assistant.

A new reporter to the Advocate was elected, who promptly forgot. My apologies (A.M.L.).

On March 20, the children of Sister Alice Larsen held a celebration of her 80th birthday. The church dining room was beautifully decorated. A memory book, compiled by her daughter Jeanie, was on display, as well as pictorial histories of the Bell, Schnuelle, and Larsen families. Visits and refreshments were enjoyed by members of the Local, neighbors and friends of the Larsen's, and family members. Those attending from out-of-state were Tina (Larsen) Metcalf and small daughter from Castaic, California, and Elda (Larsen) Draper with members of three younger generations of her family from Nebraska.

On April 17, Brother and Sister John and Enid Bell celebrated 50 years of marriage. Again the church building was the setting for a gathering of family and friends for a luncheon, visiting, enjoying displayed memorabilia, and a program including speakers who told their memories—some amusing, some tender—of that time 50 years ago in the lives of Enid and Johnny. Many family members were in attendance from Arizona and Missouri. The celebration continued through the weekend with a church dinner on Sunday and a picnic and supper on Monday.

We enjoyed the sermons given by Elders Leslie Case and Marvin Case on that Sunday.

The second weekend of June, as usual, was the time of the Colorado Re-

union. We enjoyed a larger than usual attendance all three days. We were richly blessed by the loving Holy Spirit during all of that time.

We met at 9:00 a.m. each morning for prayer service. While we were made aware of the needs of many, and many prayers were offered for those needs, there was a prevailing feeling of brotherly love, joy and gratitude for God's blessings. There were several who asked for and received administration. Our prayers for them continue.

At noon and in the evening, as we received welcome nourishment for our physical beings, we were further nourished spiritually by conversations with brothers and sisters.

Preaching services were held at 3:00 in the afternoon and at 7:30 in the evening on Friday and Saturday, preceded by a 7:00 p.m. song service. At those services we were fed by the sermons given by Elders Jim Yates, Jr., Jim Case, Bob Oldham and Hubert Yates. The final sermon on Sunday evening was delivered by Apostle Roland Sarratt. We appreciate the dedication, diligent efforts and prayerful consideration by our brothers that are necessary to present uplifting sermons to us.

Three joyous events highlighted those three days together. On Saturday afternoon Shane Larsen, the eldest son of Brother Tom Larsen, entered the waters of baptism. He was baptized by his uncle, Elder David Larsen, and was confirmed that evening. Shane and his wife April reside in Denver, Colorado, so they seldom are able to attend church services. We pray for continuing blessings of the Holy Spirit for Shane and his family.

During prayer meeting on Sunday, two young men were called to the ministry

of Christ by Apostle Brian McIndoo. Many testimonies were given attesting to the truth of the callings of Bro. Richard Bove and Bro. Andrew Brown.

On Sunday afternoon we shared in the happiness of witnessing the baptism and confirmation of Hailey Yates, the lovely daughter of Jim and Kim Yates.

Thank you to all who met with us during the Reunion. We hope to see you back next year.

*Your sister in Christ,  
Alice M. Larsen*

## COLLINS LOCAL, MISSOURI

Your brothers and sisters of the Collins Local send their greetings to each of you this mid-July. Already we have passed the longest day of the year and the evening shadows are quietly slipping up on us a little sooner each evening. I've noticed a few falling leaves as I take my early morning walks. Wal-Mart has most all summer clothing out on their "clearance" racks and are putting out fall and winter merchandise. Is it just me or does it seem as though "time" is just flying by?

Speaking of "time" I know we are all watching the news every day and keeping track of the war with Iraq. I think of the parable of the Ten Virgins, those prepared (with oil) and those unprepared to meet the Bridegroom. So much is taking place, and prophesy is being fulfilled. Perhaps we recognize the fulfillment and maybe we don't quite see it, but God is moving His hand, calling out to His people in all parts of the world. It's an amazing day and age we live in. It's more important than ever to pray earnestly for one another so that ALL our lamps will be ready and burning brightly when our Savior returns to claim His own.

Margarite Yates (Curtis' wife) had knee replacement surgery shortly after they returned home from their visit to Arizona, California, and various other places, in April. She's doing wonderfully well. I don't think she's riding her pogo stick much, but otherwise she's doing fine!

Sharon Liekness has also had her other hip joint replaced. If I recall correctly, both these ladies had surgery at about the same time last November too. Sharon is also doing well and is up and about her normal activities again.

Jack and Betty Martin have been to Oklahoma on a "heat-pump repair" mis-

sion to their daughter, Laura Mae Elwell, and husband, M.G. For those who may not know, Jack Martin had a heating and air conditioning business for years, and he still helps out and tends to the needs of his family and a few friends. When I thank God for His blessings to me, Jack (and Betty) are certainly on my list.

A few of us were able to attend the Springfield Rally, which fell on Father's Day this year. It was a beautiful day weather-wise, but even more beautiful spiritually. We got to have services at their "new" building. You know what? It had that same warm, welcome feeling that I've noticed in our other locals. (Isn't that interesting!)

I hope your summer days are spent in joy and thanksgiving. I know we have problems and difficulties; I suppose this is all a part of life, but when we have the opportunity and ability to meet together and share both joy and burdens and learn and talk of the gospel of Jesus Christ with one another we cannot help but receive strength to overcome the obstacles and temptations that every one of us faces.

I'll leave you with a few sermon quotes for you to consider.

- *If you will be faithful to God, He will be faithful to you.*
- *Our treasure is not secure until we have run the race and finished the course.*
- *Why is it so hard to understand? Why can't we just do what God has told us?*
- *We know, we know, we know and yet we know nothing. We can't even save our own soul.*
- *Be careful what you dwell on because when you're "bumped," that's what's going to come out.*

- *Every fleeting moment in this life is important.*
- *Somehow we forget our purpose in life if we fail to gather together to be reminded.*
- *It's not a passing fancy, it's a commandment to assemble ourselves together to feed our souls.*
- *Sometimes we are voluntarily deceived.*
- *If we knew this was our last day and we were to meet God tomorrow how qualified would we be?*

*Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman*

## EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL, MISSOURI

**O**ur greetings to all from the Independence East Local. We would like to bring you some news of our local's recent activities.

On the evening of May 10th we drew ourselves into church for the annual business meeting. Our newly elected officers for the coming year are: Pastor—Elder Rickey Olson, Assistant Pastor—Priest Isaac Brockman, Secretary—Sr. Diane Brockman, Treasurer—Br. Harvey L. Seibel, Sunday School Superintendent—Br. Kevin McGhee, Assistant Sunday School Superintendent.—Br. Rusty Granger... and MANY others who have "volunteered" their services in various responsibilities.

As the new Advocate Reporter I'd like to begin with recapping some of the events of our local since the beginning of 2004. If I miss anything or anyone please accept my apology in advance, as Bruce and I are still in the process of moving to Independence.

As the new year began, our two adult Sunday School classes were studying the New Testament and the Book of Mormon, being taught by Apostle Frank Fann and Elder Steve McGhee.

A Zion study group met on many Sunday evenings during the winter months, led by Elders Larry Beem and Steve McGhee. We pray the interest increases and that more classes will be held in the future.

At April Conference time once again our hearts were filled with joy as our fellowship was renewed with church family gathering in to do the Lord's business. The women's United Workers luncheon and program was very much enjoyed by all that attended. Thank you ladies for all your efforts!

We are very pleased with the arrival

of some new babies! Greg and Tammy Brickhouse were blessed with the arrival of Jack Gregory Brickhouse. Holly and Kenny Cook were blessed with the arrival of Michael Smith Cook. We will be blessed with new arrivals shortly (twin girls) for Kevin and Anna McGhee, and a little later on a new baby for Elizabeth and Matt Gahner.

On May 9th, Craig Carmichael was baptized at the East Local. Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse led Craig down into the waters of baptism and Apostle Frank Fann laid on hands for the reception of the Holy Spirit. Our newest brother in Christ then received the joyous hugs from family and friends, with wife Jane Ann being first in line. What a joyful event! Welcome and may God bless you, Br. Craig!

Welcomed into the East Local this year as transfer members were Elder Andrew and Sr. Carol Brantner, as well as Br. Bruce and Sr. Deb Haines and daughter Sr. Jenni Vogel.

A fund-raising garage sale was held at the Fann home to benefit the locals and missions established in the Philippines. Thank you to all those who participated in this effort; it is very much appreciated.

The evening of May 11th a "Mother-Daughter Dinner" was held at the local's annex, hosted by the Women's Department. It was an enjoyable evening as we were serenaded by four Independence Policemen!

As our missionaries go out into the various fields we pray for God's loving protection and guidance over them, as well as for all our brothers and sisters everywhere. Our prayers also are for the gatherings that will take place at the many reunions planned. We look forward to greeting our loved ones once again. May God Bless you until we meet

again.

*In Love and Gospel Bonds,  
Your East Local Reporter,  
Sr. Deb Haines*

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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.

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