

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

VOLUME 82

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—May 2005

NUMBER 5



Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy. And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall. And because that they are redeemed from the fall, they have become free for ever, knowing good from evil; To act for themselves, and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the Lord, at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given.

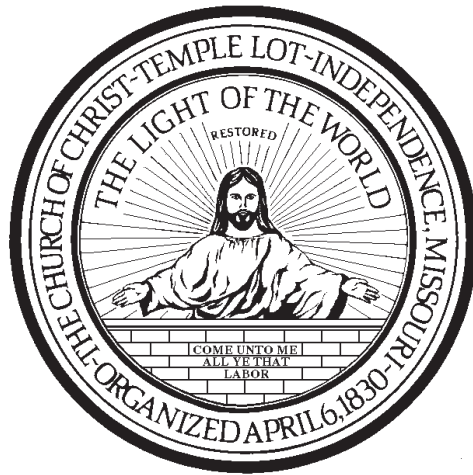
—2 Ne 1:115-118

~ In This Issue ~

SERMON—Stewardship - *Elder Glenn Gill* . . . 83
ARTICLE—The Fullness of the Gospel-
Corrupted! Part 4 - *Elder Dennis Trudgen* . . . 88

SERIES—The Great Apostasy and the
Restoration, Part 5 - *Harvey E. Seibel* 92
REPORT—Church of Christ – 2005 Solemn
Assembly and Conference - *Sr. Deb Haines* . . . 94

SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION: CHURCH OF CHRIST TEEN CAMP REGISTRATION!



THE APOSTLES of the CHURCH OF CHRIST

Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214; e-mail: smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com
Frank Fann, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-4346; e-mail: fann212@juno.com
Placido Koyoc Matu, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3125; e-mail: p_matu@hotmail.com
Placido Koyoc Yam, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-911-911-3047
Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255; e-mail: mcgheeme@msn.com
Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900; e-mail: mcindoo@cox.net
Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050
Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414; e-mail: ajmoser3@cox.net
Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605; e-mail: r.sarratt@earthlink.net
William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-833-3914; e-mail: cofcti@kcnet.com
Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296; e-mail: jyates2@yahoo.com



GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse
 5713 Logan Road
 Kansas City, Missouri 64136

SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case
 8312 Lee's Summit Road
 Kansas City, Missouri 64139

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Harvey E. Seibel
 9800 E. 32nd Street S.
 Independence, Missouri 64052

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris
 Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 472

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann
 18808 N. 30th Street
 Phoenix, Arizona 85050
 E-mail: gpjmccann@cox.net

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Dan Lawrence
 8420 Lee's Summit Road
 Kansas City, MO 64139

Marlene Oar
 19012 N. 29th Street
 Phoenix, AZ 85050

PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

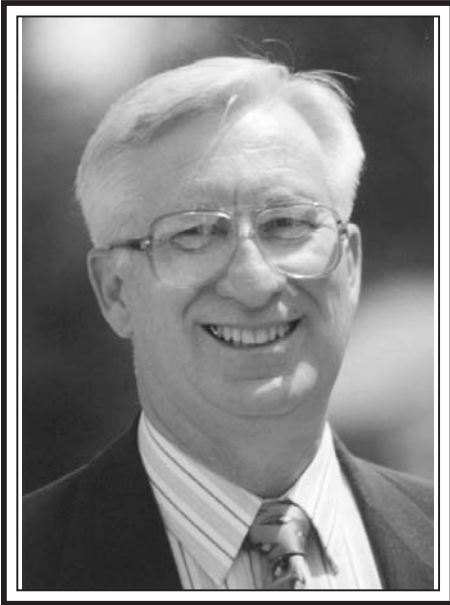
Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

SERMON

STEWARDSHIP



By Elder Glenn Gill

When God created man and woman He gave them dominion over all His earthly creation and told them to multiply and replenish the earth. This was the beginning of our stewardship responsibility. Stewardship is our management and proper use of all the things God has provided for us. It is common to think of stewardship as applying to our financial affairs and material possessions. These certainly do need our stewardship attention. However, they are only a small part of what God has provided each of us.

“Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy. And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that he might redeem the children of men from the fall. And because that they are redeemed from the fall, they have become free forever, knowing good from evil; To act for themselves, and not be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the Lord, at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given. Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man. And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediator of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil:...” 2 Nephi 1:115-120.

We have been set free by God to exercise our will over all that He has made available to us. Because of this plan which God has put in motion we have choices to make regarding each of the things God has provided, every opportunity, every provision for life, and every moment of time we have to live.

By our birth circumstances

and through our inherited characteristics, we have been given a place in time and society. God has given us various talents and He provides us opportunities to use them while we dwell in this temple of clay on the earth He created. Life circumstances differ from person to person but everyone has been given certain provisions for living and access to other people for love, learning and fellowship. Because we are free to choose we are responsible to exercise stewardship over all these gifts from God. Do you make good use of what God has given you?

God has given us life. This translates to time. We have time for growing, learning and becoming an accountable person capable of stewardship over what God has given us. We make the best use of our lifetime when we make our carnal will subservient to the will of God. Our capabilities are different at various stages of life but once we become accountable we can use our time at any stage of life to serve God and others.

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should

live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” Titus 2:11-12.

Because the time we have to live is not predictable, it is best to plan our stewardship of time on a day-to-day basis along with those long-range plans life requires of us. Each day we must decide what is best for me to do today: Is today when I have time to visit some one who needs encouragement? Is it today I will offer to some one my testimony of God’s goodness to me? Is it today that I will pay my tithe to assist the Church in spreading the Gospel? Is it today that I will begin to clear my mind of carnal, worldly things so that I will be free to accept God’s forgiving grace? Is it today that I will go to some one who has offended me to offer love and forgiveness? These acts are all examples of good stewardship over what God has given us. Our time for life is a great gift from God. He only asks us to use it joyously and well through obedience to His word and enduring to the end.

“For the kingdom of heaven is as a man traveling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents. And likewise he that had received

two, he also gained other two. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord’s money. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more. His lord said unto him, well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord” Matt 25:14-21.

In this parable, the one who had received two talents also invested and doubled the amount, pleasing his lord. But the one who had buried his one talent said to his lord,

“...I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed: And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine” Matt 25:24-25.

In the parable the lord called this servant a slothful servant and added,

“Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents” Matt 25:27-28.

What do you have to invest for Christ? He gave everything He had to provide grace for you. In the Bible “talents” is a word associated with worth or value. Each of us has things God has built into our nature that have value for others and for His purposes. Are you a “people person?” Do you have musical talent? Are you good with math or keeping accounts? Can you sell things? Do you have artistic ability? Can you write well? Are you good at speaking and keeping the attention of listeners? All of these talents can be cultivated in such a manner that they are useful in the Church. We can use our talents to the glory of God and the edification of others, or let them dry up from nonuse. Even worse, we can choose to apply our talents selfishly or to the promotion of Satan’s programs of soul destruction. Throughout life we will be given opportunities to use our talents for God’s purposes. It is good stewardship to pray for such opportunities and whenever they come be alert to them. Acting on such opportunities will never fail to bring the joy of accomplishment. Don’t let fear hold you back as with the slothful servant.

During our time on earth we must “make a living” by earning a wage or conducting a business or some other related provision. Whatever the medium of exchange happens to be in the time and place in which you live, the Church will accumulate expenses that require payment in that currency. There is a biblical standard for

handling this need. It is that each person receiving an increase of goods or money dedicate one tenth (a tithe) of the same to God's work. Speaking to the people He visited in America, the resurrected Christ quoted Malachi saying,

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" 3 Ne 11:11-13.

In the Church of Christ all monies from tithing go to general church funds. These funds are put before the members at each April Church Conference for consideration and approval.

The church does much to help church locals and those in need through tithing, and special funds are often set aside for such purposes. However, the major objective of tithing is to enable the Church financially to carry out the commission of Christ to His ministry.

"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and,

lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world..."
Matt 28:19-20.

The Church of Christ does not pay ministry a salary as is done in some churches. Each minister works to provide for his needs and those of his family. But funds must be made available to the Church for travel and other expenses in the mission fields. Where ones increase is money-based, paying tithes is a simple process. A check made out to the Church and sent to the Church business officer accomplishes the task. If your increase is crops or other produce this wealth can be shared with the Church as tithes, after sales, or given directly to those in need as an offering. God has promised a blessing to those who obey the call for tithes to the Church, saying He would open the windows of heaven and pour out a blessing. There have been many testimonies of the truth of this promise.

Offerings are in addition to tithing. They may be in the form of money put in the Sunday School offering or Church offering plate. These offerings are needed to maintain local church buildings and provide for the needs of local church activities. Your offerings can go to special church funds or to special needs in your community. You can give directly to people in need by purchasing food for them or paying some of their bills. You can furnish them transportation, clothing or shelter. You can help

with difficult or costly tasks like helping move to a new residence or with house repairs. If you are not in a position to help directly, see if your church local has a food distribution box, a storehouse fund or an assistance committee or special missionary project funds. All of these things can be called offerings to the Lord. Jesus spoke of this when He said,

"Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungered, and fed thee? Or thirsty and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me" Matt 25:37-40.

King Benjamin urged his people to,

"...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 what he hath strength..." Mos 2:43-44.

But he also said that those who cannot give to the poor should,

"...Say in your hearts, that I give not because I have not; but if I had, I would give" Mos 2:40.

A good example of doing things in wisdom and order is found in the story of Joseph in Egypt. During the seven years of plenty he had food stored to meet future needs.

"And in the seven plenteous years the earth brought forth by handfuls. And he gathered up all the food of the seven years, which were in the land of Egypt, and laid up the food in the cities:" Gen 41:47-48.

Then when the famine came, the food was distributed in an orderly manner. The food was sold rather than being given away. This helped assure it would be valued and not wasted.

"And the famine was all over the face of the earth: And Joseph opened all the storehouses, And sold to the Egyptians; and the famine waxed sore in the land of Egypt" Gen 41:56.

Another way to be wise and orderly is to be sure, before undertaking a help project, that you have what it takes to complete the project.

"For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?" Luke 14:28.

Assisting those in need takes planning. Doing things in wisdom and order suggests that we not take on projects we are not able to complete. So plan wisely, put your offerings where they will bless and help, and you will find much joy in your own heart.

Many people think of giving to the needs of others as charity. Our love for others may lead us to do this, but charity is much more than that. It includes patience, kindness and an unselfish attitude. Moroni defined charity as "the pure love of Christ."

"Wherefore, cleave unto charity, which is the greatest of all, for all things must fail; but charity is the pure love of Christ, and it endureth for ever; and whoso is found possessed of it at the last day, it shall be well with them" Moroni 7:52.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness" Col 3:12-14.

God sent His Son to teach us His pure love, and through His sacrifice He made it operative. He also provided for us to have the indwelling Spirit of God.

Our stewardship over these gifts from God is one of giving and sacrifice. When we sacrifice our wants for the material and spiritual needs of others we are exercising this stewardship. When we show our love for others we are reflecting God's love and grace offered to us. For example: when we forgive those who hurt us we are using wisely the forgiveness God has offered into the world. This is good stewardship over the grace of God and God will reward in kind. If we show a cheerful countenance, do our business honestly and bear a testimony to others of God's blessings to us, we are showing examples of good stewardship of God's grace. And when we are thankful to God in our prayers for such opportunities we are giving back to Him twofold what He has given us to invest.

Our bodies are the temple of the living God.

"And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves

from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God” 2 Cor 6:16-18 & 7:1.

By our free will we may choose to maintain a clean temple in which God’s Spirit would choose to dwell. This spiritual stewardship of our temple of clay provides us with good “fruit” that we can offer to others.

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. And they that are Christ’s have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit” Gal 5:22-25.

We are good stewards of the gift of God’s Spirit if we maintain a clean pure temple capable of bearing the fruit of the Spirit and we share this fruit with those around us in love. There are many scriptural references that address this issue. Think of them as describing residents in your temple. (A broken heart and contrite spirit; humility; loving God by loving our neighbors; charity; keeping unspotted from the world, to name a few.) Stewardship also includes the care and feeding of the physical and mental aspects of your temple. Poisoning it with smoke, dangerous drugs, non-temperate behavior and things that warp your thought processes (pornography, homosexuality, or hate obsessions for

example) are results of poor stewardship over the gifts God has given us. God will not dwell in temples infected with things of this nature.

“And this I know, because the Lord hath said, he dwelleth not in unholy temples, but in the hearts of the righteous doth he dwell...” Alma 16:235.

What is written here does not cover the subject of stewardship completely. Each person should be able to customize these considerations to his/her own situation in life and think of a plan to improve in the area of stewardship. Amulek addressed this issue in his speech to the Zoramites:

“For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. And now as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnessings, therefore I beseech of you, that ye do not procrastinate the day of your repentance until the end; For after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life, then cometh the night of darkness, wherein there can be no labor performed” Alma 16:228-230.

This suggests a need to exercise our freedom of will to improve each aspect of our stewardship. Some personal stewardship planning would help remind us to make the best possi-

ble use of our opportunities, talents, monetary provisions and time. Some suggestions to consider in making a stewardship plan are:

■ Making wise use of the life-time God has given you:

- ◆ Budget time and work to fit in thoughtful things to do for others.
- ◆ Seek direction for your life through prayer and reading scripture.
- ◆ Identify the time wasters in your life and eliminate them.

■ Sharing what God has provided you:

- ◆ List the talents God has given you and think of ways to develop them for his glory.
- ◆ Plan ways to wisely assist others using your physical, mental and spiritual abilities.
- ◆ Make tithing the first part of your monthly budget.
- ◆ Be aware and available when opportunities to serve arise.
- ◆ Seek employment where you can be active in a Church local or mission.
- ◆ Check out local and missionary assistance projects in your church local.
- ◆ Take part in Church sponsored groups appropriate to your age and circumstances.



The Fullness of the Gospel- Corrupted



By Dennis Trudgen

Did you know, for instance, that the KJV Bible of 1830 taught that, **“If the Devil, or an evil spirit troubles anyone, they can be driven away by making a smoke of the heart, liver, and gall of a fish...and the Devil will smell it, and flee away, and never come again anymore” Tobit 6:5-8.** Or that, when Christ returns, it appears from the reading that He will reign for **400 years**, not 1000 years, and then must die again before the Judgment (2 Esdras 7:28-36). Or that the basis for the **doctrine of purgatory** and collecting moneys from the surviving relatives is found in 2 Maccabees 12:43-45. Wherein Judas takes up a col-

Part 4

lection of 2000 pieces of silver for an offering for someone that had died while worshipping idols **“so that they might be set free from sin.”** Also we find, “Whoso honoureth his father maketh an atonement for his sins.... Water will quench a flaming fire; and alms maketh an atonement for sin” Sirach (Ecclesiasticus) 3:3, 30. Similarly, Tobit 12:9 states that **“alms doth deliver from death, and shall purge away all sin.”** Sirach 12:4-7 advises, **“Give to the godly man, and help not a sinner. Do well unto him that is lowly, but give not to the ungodly; hold back thy bread, and give it not unto him...give unto the good, and help not the sinner.”** The Catholic Church references the following verse as proof that Mary entered into the world holy. **“And I was a witty child and had received a good soul. And whereas I was more good, I came to a body undefiled” Wisdom 8:19, 20, DR.** Finally, in 2 Maccabees 15:12, Judas re-

lates a dream in which Jeremiah the dead prophet is continually praying for the people of the holy city and helping them. **The Roman Catholics often site this passage as authority for invoking the dead to intercede for them, and promoting the doctrine of the mediation of Mary and other saints.**

There are also historical errors as well to deal with. For example, Tobit claims to have been living when Jeroboam revolted (circa 931 B.C.) and still living when Assyria conquered Israel (circa 722 B.C.). He would have had to have lived over 200 years to see both events. (Tobit 1:3-5; 14:11). Also, it is hard to understand how Judith could twice identify Nebuchadnezzar as the king of Assyrians (1:1, 7). Another error in the book of Judith has Holofernes as a General of Nebuchadnezzar, who again ruled over the Assyrians in the great city of Nineveh (Judith 4:1). Holofernes was actually a Persian General.

I’ve no doubt confused some on where these verses are, but these very verses and the doctrines they support were

contained in every new Bible translation through almost the end of the nineteenth century. As seen above, these 14 books, known as the "Apocrypha," include several abominable doctrines of the Roman Catholic. What's more, the new English translations are once again starting to include these books. As I said in the beginning of this study, Roman Catholics, leaders of the Protestants and Eastern Orthodox Churches, have now agreed to include these books, and more, in an expanded Apocrypha incorporated into the Revised Standard Version. Where this is all heading is becoming clear to even non-restoration scholars out there!

"This concerted drive to have Protestant churches return to the Roman Catholic fold is the reason that many (including The United Church of Canada, the Lutheran Church and now, many evangelical churches as well) are including some apocryphal passages in their 'scripture' readings these days. Of course, they have declined to reveal their agenda at this point, perhaps feeling that it's a little too early in the game to risk a negative reaction by their congregations."

The word 'Apocrypha' comes from the Greek root word 'apokruphos,' meaning 'hidden.' It was generally accepted to include writings whose origins are doubtful (spurious) or known to be false and heretical. It was not until 1880 that the American Bible Society voted to

remove the "Apocrypha" Books from the King James Version. Five years later, the Anglican Church officially removed the Apocrypha from their English printings of the KJV by the authority of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The books of the Apocrypha are believed to be written between 200 B.C. and 100 A.D., but are not part of the Jewish Hebrew version of the Old Testament. Like the numerous other spurious writings of that day, the Jews officially rejected these books in 90 A.D. Sidney Collett says: "Although there are in the New Testament about **263 direct** quotations from, and about **370 allusions** to, passages in the Old Testament, yet amongst all these there is not a single reference, either by Christ or His apostles, to the Apocryphal writings."

Although many of the early church did in fact quote from these writings, many leaders spoke out against them, as they did not regard them as inspired. For the first four centuries of the Christian Church, these books were not to be placed among the sacred books. Rufinus, Hilary, Eusebius, Epiphanius, Cyril, Athanasius, Origen, Tertullian, Melito and Jerome all rejected them. "Athanasius clearly declared the canonical Scriptures alone were to be used for determining doctrine, while the apocrypha were sanctioned for reading only, but were not considered part of the canon (Philip Schaff and Henry Wace, "*Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*," Second

Series, vol. IV, St. Athanasius, "Letter 39.7" (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1953), p. 552)." Despite Jerome's disapproving feelings regarding these writings, he nonetheless intermingled these books within the Old Testament in his Vulgate compilation. Since the Bishop of Rome regarded these works as divine scripture, it seems likely that the rising Bishop was the one who insisted upon their inclusion. During the Reformation period, many spoke out against these books, pointing out that they were historical, rather than inspired, writings. Among these, most notable were Luther, the 1571 Church of England, and King James himself. A compromise was reached in these cases whereas these books would be separated out and placed in between the Old and New Testaments. Even the Roman Catholic Church did not officially recognize any of them as canon works until the Council of Trent held on April 8th, 1546. At that time 12 of 14 books were accepted. But the fact remains that every new translation through the entire Reformation period first included these books.

The next known problem with the KJV is an error in Matthew 5:22, addressed by Apostle Donald McIndoo in chapter 22 of his book *A Book of Mormon Companion*. "But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment...." The words, "without a cause" are not found in 3 Ne. 5:70, as it was not said

by Jesus. One of the oldest papyri in existence, P67 (100-200 A.D.) found and reprinted in 1957, also leaves out these words. Also in this chapter Apostle McIndoo lists several prophecies found in the "Plates of Brass," but missing in our Bibles. They include Jacob's prophecy (Alma 21:56-57), the prophecies of Zenos and Zenock and the specific commandment that "teaches the Holy Ghost is given through the laying on the hands by those whom Jesus had called and given such authority." Compare 3 Ne 8:70-71, Mi 2:1-2 with Acts 8:17 and 19:6. "Because this plain and precious ordinance of the Lord has been removed from these sacred texts great confusion exists in the minds of many concerning one of God's greatest promises to mankind."

With regard to salvation issues, there is no doubt that much of the plainness that is found in the Book of Mormon is missing in the Bible. Several of these essential elements are almost completely lost. **The doctrine of "faithful/faithfulness" or "endure unto the end"** is a good example. The word "faithfulness" is conspicuously absent from the entire NT of the KJV, but it is found 11 times in the Book of Mormon. The Book of Mormon is very clear that a person must be faithful ("endurance of faith") to the Lord until the end of one's life. The term "endure/endureth to the end" is found only three times in the KJV NT (Matt 10:22, 24:13, Mark 13:13). J. Vernon McGee,

one of the leaders of the baseless doctrine "once saved always saved," says that these verses are referring to His "sealed" Christians in the great tribulation period, and therefore Jesus would lose none of these. What an imagination, but this is the type of doctrine we have because of the plainness being removed from the Bible. This false doctrine is one of the great stumbling blocks in the world today. It not only teaches people to be slothful but it also promotes the idea that committing sin doesn't matter. As we know, millions believe that after a person is "saved" by saying a short prayer, this person cannot be lost no matter what they say or do.

Here's what the Book of Mormon says:

*"After that ye have repented of your sins, and witnessed unto the Father that ye are willing to keep my commandments, by the baptism of water, and have received the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost, and can speak with a new tongue, yea, even with the tongue of Angels, and after this, should deny me, it would have been better for you, that ye had not known me. And I heard a voice from the Father, saying, Yea, the words of my beloved, are true and faithful. He that **endureth to the end**, the same shall be saved. And now, my beloved brethren, I know by this, that unless a man shall **endure to the end**, in following the example of the Son of the living God, he cannot be saved...."*

It would be pretty difficult to put a tribulation spin on this or the multitude of other references in the Book of Mormon

that speak to faithfulness until the end.

I would like to give one final example of a salvation doctrine that is abundantly plain in a multitude of Book of Mormon scriptures, but that is all but missing in the Bible. It is the sin of pride and the necessity of humbling ourselves to our God. When comparing the two books, there appears to be many missing references to pride and humility in the Bible. The word pride is only mentioned three times in the entire NT, but a staggering 61 times in Book of Mormon. And as I covered previously, the New English translations have actually added that it is good for a Christian to be proud or to take pride in (eight times). When comparing the same sermons that Christ gave and recorded in the two books, it appears that the verses at the beginning and end of Matt 5:3-18 may have been omitted from the Bible. Suspiciously, principal parts of the gospel are absent. Note that we are to enter into our baptism covenant in the "depths of humility," or said another way, "with a broken heart and a contrite spirit." Compare the two accounts:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" (KJV Matt 5:3)

*"Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your word, and come down into the **depths of humility**, and be baptized; for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins. Yea, blessed are the poor in spirit who come unto me, for theirs is*

Church of Christ TEEN CAMP Registration Instructions

Remove from the Advocate and make copies as needed

**TO REGISTER FOR THE CLASSES YOU WANT,
YOU MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE 2005 Church Of Christ TEEN CAMP CLASS SCHEDULE.**

How to fill out the Class Schedule Form:

1. Write your name, social security number and phone number in the spaces provided on the form.
2. If you plan to ride the bus from the East Local to Camp, write "YES" in the space provided.
3. Mark T-shirt size if you are purchasing a Camp T-shirt.
4. Mark the 9:00 a.m., 10:05 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. classes you would like to take. Indicate 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices!
5. Mail your completed Class Schedule and Registration Form to the address below.

IMPORTANT: We must have your registration fee before we can process your Class Schedule.

Directions to Camp Far Westa from Kansas City:

Take Interstate 35 north to 36 Highway west at Cameron, Missouri. Continue west on 36 for approximately 5 miles. A sign for Camp Far Westa will be on the right side of Highway 36. (The campgrounds are approximately 1 mile east of Stewartville, Missouri.)

Transportation:

For those needing a ride from the Kansas City area, a bus will be leaving the East Local at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, the 24th of July. **Check-in for campers is from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Camp Far Westa.**

Check List:

We must have the following before we can assign your classes to you:

- Registration fee—make check out to "Teen Camp."
- Class Schedule form with completed 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices for each class time.
- Registration form with parent's and camper's signatures.
- The form must be notarized for camper to attend Camp.**

MINISTRY: There will be Priesthood in attendance at all times.

CHAPERONS: There will be one adult for every eight campers.

LIFE GUARD: The Camp provides a certified life guard.

FOOD: The Camp provides the food service—SNACK BAR AVAILABLE.

AGE GROUP: JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH, AGES 12-18

CAMP DATES: July 24-29, 2005

T-SHIRT ORDERS will be sent in on July 11th. T-shirts are \$6.00 each.

T-shirt orders and money must be received before July 15, 2005

TOTAL CAMP COST: \$115.00 (\$125.00 IF PAID AFTER JULY 3, 2005)

Mail Forms to:
Michelle Oldham
5811 Duggleby Ave.
Davenport, IA 52807
Phone: (563) 359-1693
E-mail: jnmham@mchsi.com

Mailing Address for Kids at Camp:
Camp Far Westa
P.O. Box 257
Stewartville, MO 64490
Phone: (816) 669-3359

Church of Christ TEEN CAMP 2005 Registration Form

Camper's Name: _____

Years in school, Fall 2005: _____

Age: _____ Birth Date: _____

SSN#: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone Number () - _____

Parent's Name: _____

Street address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Home Phone Number: _____

Parent's e-mail: _____

Camper's e-mail: _____

Insurance Carrier & Policy #: _____

CAMPERS ARE NOT TO ARRIVE AT CAMP PRIOR TO 3:30 P.M., SUNDAY, JULY 24th, 2005.

Will you be riding the bus? Yes No If not, who will be responsible to and from Camp? _____

Campers must leave on the bus unless written permission is given.

Camper and Parent Pledge: As a camper, I will come to Camp fully prepared to participate in all activities, unless specified previously. I understand that possession or use of any tobacco, alcohol or illegal drugs will not be tolerated. I agree not to bring video or electronic game, knives or other weapons to Camp.

I agree to be respectful of other campers, staff and all facilities. I will be on time and prepared for all activities. I have read the Rules of Camp and agree to abide by them. I know that if I break the rules I may be sent home at my parent's expense, at the discretion of the Camp Director.

I understand I can only leave and return to Camp for emergencies or with prior permission from the Camp Director. I understand that I must bring a Bible and Book of Mormon.

Camper's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

In the event of a medical emergency, by my signature below I give permission for Camp Personnel to administer and/or obtain any necessary treatment for my minor child. NOTE: This form must be notarized to attend Camp. Additionally, please list any medical conditions (allergies, asthma, etc.) that we should be aware of:

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Medical: Any medication brought to Camp must be in the original container and given to the Camp nurse to be dispensed. Please list medications that will be brought to Camp:

Note to Parents: Campers will be dropped off at the Missouri Reunion on July 29th. If other arrangements are needed, please specify: _____

Do you want a T-shirt? If so, please enclose an additional \$6.00 per T-shirt with your Camp Fee. Please specify your size: S M L XL XXL

NOTARIZATION:

Subscribed and sworn to me this _____ day of _____, 2005

Notary Public _____

County of _____

State of _____

My Commission Expires _____

Church of Christ TEEN CAMP CLASS REGISTRATION FORM

NAME (please print):

PHONE:

CLASS/ACTIVITY	TIME	1st	2nd	3rd
Choose 1 daily 9:00 a.m. class below; include a 2nd and 3rd choice.	9:00 a.m.			
Basic Beliefs Defended				
Comparison: Bible Time/Our Time				
Content in All Things				
Creation/Evolution				
A Few Good Men (ages 16 and up)				
Spiritual Warfare 1				
Women of Excellence				
Women in the Bible				
You're Baptized, or thinking about it...so now what?				
Choose 1 daily 10:05 a.m. class below; include a 2nd and 3rd choice.	10:05 a.m.			
Camp Journal				
Candy Making				
Cardio-Kickboxing				
Emergency Roadside Survival (Basic Car Know-how)				
First Aid				
Junk with Spunk (Crafts)				
Science Experiments				
Soccer				
Spiritual Warfare 2				
Volleyball				
Woodcarving				
Study	11:05 a.m.			
Lunch	12:05 p.m.			
Choose 1 daily 1:15 a.m. class below; include a 2nd and 3rd choice.	1:15 p.m.			
Aerodynamics				
Archery				
Cooking 101: Cooking from Scratch				
Digital Photography (digital camera required)				
Fishing				
The Mathematical Symmetry of Nature				
Sailing (must know how to swim)				
Sew Fun				
Water Polo				
Woodcarving				
FREE TIME: Swimming, Boating, Challenge Course, Games, Quiet Time, Etc.	2:15 p.m.			
Planned, organized Group Activities available if desired	3:15 p.m.			
CABIN TIME	4:30 p.m.			
Dinner	5:30 p.m.			
Quest Class	7:00 p.m.			
Campfire (8:15 p.m. Thursday night)	8:30 p.m.			

Church of Christ TEEN CAMP RULES and TO BRING LIST

MISSION STATEMENT: The Church of Christ TEEN CAMP is committed to edifying all who attend through spiritual education and Godly association in a fun and moral atmosphere. Commitment to this goal will create an environment where the youth will be invited and encouraged to engage in a spiritual commitment that will help to equip them to take their place in the service of Jesus Christ.

CAMP RULES are to facilitate the camp mission and maintain the safety and well-being of all campers and staff. Campers who do not obey the rules will be subject to disciplinary action which may include sending the camper home at their parent's expense.

1. You are expected to behave in a Christian manner at all times.
2. You are expected to obey all safety rules.
3. You are expected to participate in all classes and activities.
4. You are expected to stay with the group unless special permission is given. Pairing off or groups found in unapproved areas will not be tolerated.
5. Sexual misconduct will not be tolerated.
6. You are expected to remain on the camp grounds at all times.
7. You are expected to wear modest apparel at all times. Inappropriate clothing includes bikini swimsuits, tank tops with straps less than 1.5 inches or with drooping armholes, "No Fear" or concert t-shirts, or shirts that expose the midriff. All campers are required to wear a colored t-shirt while in the pool.
8. You are expected to turn in all prescription medication to the camp nurse.
9. You are expected to leave all body piercing jewelry at home (girls can wear one pair of earrings in their ears).
10. You are expected to turn your vehicle keys over to the Camp Director if you drive to camp. Keys will be returned when camp is over. Access to vehicles will not be allowed during camp. Vehicles will be parked in designated areas.
11. Absolutely no pranks at Camp. Any materials for pranks will be confiscated.
12. Absolutely no electronic equipment, including video or electronic games, radios, tape/CD players, cell phones or pagers. Phones will be available for emergency calls only.
13. Absolutely no tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons (including knives) or fireworks of any kind are permitted at Camp. Use of these items at Camp will be grounds for sending a camper home at their parent's expense.

This is a "suggested" **To Bring List**. Where clothing items are listed, bring enough for five days; packing may be in a suitcase, duffel bag or camp box. **Please see that all items are marked with your name or initials.**

PLEASE BRING:

- Bible, Book of Mormon, book bag and notebook are mandatory!
- Flashlight
- Lightweight sleeping bag or 2 twin size sheets and 1 light blanket
- Pillow and pillowcase
- Tennis shoes (old and worn are best)
- Extra shoes
- 6 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of jeans/pants
- Modest shorts or cutoffs
- Short sleeve shirts
- 1 long sleeve shirt
- 1 lightweight raincoat, poncho or jacket
- 1 laundry bag/pillow case

- Kleenex
- Underclothes
- Sandals
- Modest 1 piece swimsuit or tankini

PERSONAL ARTICLES:

- Toothpaste, toothbrush, comb, hairbrush, shampoo, soap, towels, deodorant, etc.
- Insect repellent (we recommend Cutters or Deep Woods Off)
- Please do not bring expensive jewelry which might become lost or broken.

OPTIONAL ITEMS TO BRING:

- Camera and film
- Fishing pole and favorite lures
- Stationery, envelopes and stamps
- Musical instrument

- Day pack or knapsack
- Baseball gloves
- Money—canteen will be available for snacks
- Alarm Clock (**no clock radios**)

LEAVE AT HOME:

- Immodest and inappropriate clothing
- "No Fear" and concert shirts
- Alcoholic beverages and cigarettes
- Video games
- Knives of any kind
- Electronic games
- Radios, players, cell phones, pagers, etc.
- Candy or pop
- Fireworks or firearms
- Body piercing jewelry

the Kingdom of Heaven” 3 Ne 5:49, 50.

Both accounts then parallel each other for 16 verses with only minor differences, but then the record in Nephi adds the following:

*“And behold I have given unto you the law and the commandments of my Father; that ye shall believe in me, and that ye shall repent of your sins, and come unto me with a **broken heart and contrite spirit**”* 3 Ne 5:66.

Neither of these terms, **“broken heart and contrite spirit”** or **“contrite spirit,”** are found in the NT of the KJV, but are included in the Book of Mormon nine times. **Humble**, and words with **humble as the root**, are only found 16 times in NT, but 82 times in the Book of Mormon. We have many prophetic accounts in the Book of Mormon that speak out against the churches of our day. They paint a picture of a pride filled people unwilling to listen to the gospel truth.

*“Because of pride, and because of false teachers, and false doctrine, their churches have become corrupted, and their churches are lifted up; because of pride they are puffed up. They rob the poor because of their fine sanctuaries; they rob the poor because of their fine clothing; and they persecute the meek and the poor in heart, because in their pride they are puffed up. They wear stiff necks and high heads; yea, and because of pride, and wickedness, and abominations, and whoredoms, they have all **gone astray save it be a few, who are the humble followers of Christ...**”* 2 Ne 12:14-16.

Here are some scriptural examples of what is either entirely missing from the NT, or is not being taught in the worldly churches today:

We are told that to remain pure before the Lord we must continually humble ourselves to Him.

“Have ye walked, keeping yourselves blameless before God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? That your garments have been cleansed and made white through the blood of Christ, who will come to redeem his people from their sins? Behold, are ye stripped of pride? I say unto you, if ye are not ye are not prepared to meet God” Alma 3:47-50.

Those of the early Church of Christ considered pride gross sin:

“...Those which were lifted up in the pride of their hearts; the same were rejected, and their names were blotted out, that their names were not numbered among those of the righteous;” Alma 4:4.

Our sins are not forgiven at our baptism or in our daily lives unless we continually humble ourselves before Him.

“And the mean man boweth not down, and the great man humbleth himself not, therefore, forgive him not” 2 Ne. 8:25.

His grace only covers the humble follower of Christ.

“I give unto men weakness that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me...” Ether 5:28

The Lord only hears the cries of the truly humble. It is the fervent prayer that he answers!

“And except they repent in sackcloth and ashes, and cry mightily to the Lord their God, I will not hear their prayers, neither will I deliver them out of their afflictions; and thus saith the Lord,” Mos 7:37.

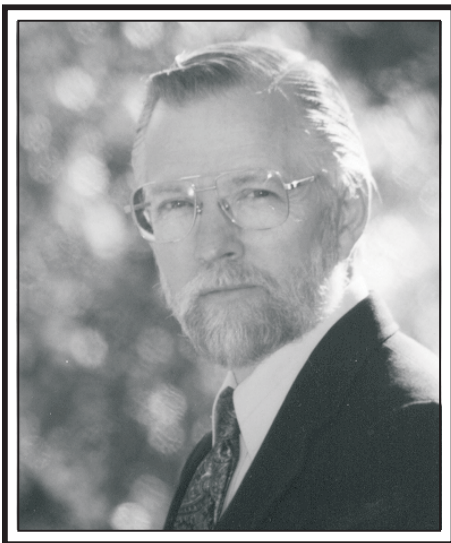
Brothers and sisters, while it is true that Satan and his followers continue to do great damage to the gospel of Christ within the Bible, it is also true that he will not win. Many scriptures tell us that this pure gospel will go forth to the House of Israel and to the world. For us to be a part of this work, we must remain humble, listen to Him as He speaks to us, and hold fast to the fundamentals of the gospel. We cannot get sidetracked away from our mission. We must be unwavering, uncompromising and unafraid to confront in teaching these simple truths! God bless.

“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” Matt. 24:14.

THE GREAT APOSTASY AND THE RESTORATION

ATTENTION YOUNG PEOPLE AND OTHER INQUIRERS AFTER THE TRUTH

**PERTAINING TO THE CHURCH OF CHRIST WITH HEADQUARTERS IN INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI
THE ONLY CHURCH ESTABLISHED THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF ANGELS**



By Harvey E. Seibel

THE DAWNING THE PROTESTANT REFORMATION

WHAT ABOUT THE REFORMATION? WHAT PART DID IT PLAY IN EVENTS LEADING UP TO THE RESTORATION AND DID IT BRING BACK AGAIN THE PURITY OF THE ORIGINAL DOCTRINE AND ORGANIZATION OF THE



PART 5

CHURCH AS ESTABLISHED BY THE LORD IN THE DAYS OF THE APOSTLES?

“The Tennessee Baptist says: ‘This woman (popery) is called the mother of harlots and abominations. Who are the daughters? The Lutheran, the Presbyterian, and the Episcopalian Churches are all branches of the (Roman) Catholic. Are not these denominated harlots and abominations in the above passage? I so decide. I could not, with the Stake before me, decide otherwise.’

“Alexander Campbell says: ‘The worshiping establishments now in operation

“I want you clearly to bear in mind from the outset then, first, that, in point of time, Protestantism is a late or modern movement; secondly, that it is, in point of sphere, a limited one; and thirdly, that it is, in point of character, a very imperfect return to primitive Christianity”

throughout Christendom, cased and cemented by their respective voluminous confessions of faith, and their ecclesiastical constitutions, are not

churches of Jesus Christ, but the legitimate daughters of that mother of harlots, the Church of Rome.' *Thoughts on Daniel and the Revelation*, by Uriah Smith, p. 796" (*The Marvelous Work and a Wonder*, p. 150).

Consider the following statement taken from Canon 3, Council of Trent:

"Whoever shall affirm that the true doctrine of the sacrament of baptism is not in the Roman Church which is the mother and mistress of all churches; let him be accursed." - *Roman Catholicism*, vol. 1, p. 202, Reverend Charles Elliott, D.D. (*Ibid.*, p. 150).

"Reverend Joseph C. Ayr, Ph.D.: 'The Roman Church is not merely the mistress, she is the mother of all churches.' - *Development of the Appellate Jurisdiction of the Roman See*, p. 199, vol. 8. (*Ibid.*, P. 150).

"The work of the Reformation, however, was necessary in its time and place. It tended to break the fetters of priestly domination, ushering in an era of investigation" (*Ibid.*, p. 151).

"The efforts of the reformers were an important preparation, in the providence of God, for the scenes which are soon to be realized in the Christian world. It was like the dawning of the morning, in which the verge of the horizon is tinged with light; but afterwards all becomes obscure, by the collecting and thickening clouds, which are too gross and dense to be dispelled in a mo-

ment. Thus the darkness becomes greater than before, until at length the sun rises, and all obscurity is driven away. In this view the reformation may be considered as preparative to the accomplishment of this prophecy.... It was the dawning of the great work, which shall appear, and spread rapidly over the world, in the latter days. The accomplishment of this prophecy is yet future, but it is fast hastening on. - Reverend Robert Reid, in *Seven Last Plagues*, p. 202, published 1828 (*ibid.*, p. 151).

"It was not the formation of the Church, but its re-formation after its ruin by Romanism. It was not a first beginning, but a second. Pentecost formed the Church; Popery deformed it; Protestantism reformed it. Pentecost occurred in the first century, and is associated with the work of the apostles themselves. The Reformation did not occur till the sixteenth century, and was not completed till the seventeenth, and is associated with such names as Luther and Calvin, Zwingli and Knox, Cranmer and Latimer" (*Romanism and the Reformation*, p. 187).

"Moreover Protestantism - priceless as have been the benefits it has conferred on those who have joined its ranks - is yet very far from being a perfect recovery of primitive Christianity. It has risen out of the gross ignorance and superstition of mediaeval Romanism; it has altogether abandoned the idolatry of image worship, virgin worship,

saint worship, and the adoration of the priest-made wafer deity of the Latin mass; it has recovered a purer faith and a simpler ritual, and secured for the Church a measure of liberty and independence; above all, it has circulated the Scriptures in the vulgar tongues of the nations of Christendom, and has adopted as its motto, 'The Bible, the whole Bible, and nothing but the Bible'; but it has never completely purified itself from Romish doctrine and practice, it has never regained complete independence of secular domination, it has never got clear of union with the world. It has rejected the claim of the Church to rule the State, it has not as clearly refused the pretension of the State to rule the Church; it has suffered worldly ambition, priestcraft, simony, and abuses of many kinds; and it has developed two strong tendencies, one to a return to the Romish apostasy, and the other to rationalism and infidelity. The true spiritual Church of Christ is still, even in Protestant lands, but a small part of the professing Church." I want you clearly to bear in mind from the outset then, first, that, in point of time, Protestantism is a late or modern movement; secondly, that it is, in point of sphere, a limited one; and thirdly, that it is, in point of character, a very imperfect return to primitive Christianity" (*ibid.*, p. 188).

CONFERENCE REPORT

CHURCH OF CHRIST—2005 Solemn Assembly and Conference

Approximate number attending: 357. Areas represented: Arizona; Canada; Colorado; Michigan; Missouri; Minnesota; Nebraska; New York; Philippines; Wisconsin; Zamarano, Honduras.

Weather: warm and sunny every day but one, which was partly cloudy with a slight sprinkle.

The Annual Church of Christ Conference consists of two days of fasting and prayer in Solemn Assembly prior to the Sunday Sacrament Service, dinner and an afternoon sermon. Beginning with Monday morning each day starts with a prayer service, followed with morning and afternoon business meetings; fellowship during our meals together, and there is also time set aside for afternoon committee meetings. Sermons are preached in the evenings until all the business of the Church has been completed.

SOLEMN ASSEMBLY

Purpose: We were admonished to bring ourselves in closer to God and prepare our minds for business sessions, and to come desiring to do the will of the Lord.

Counsel: In 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19, we are told to rejoice...rejoice because we have the gospel of Christ. Pray unceasing, give thanks for all things and quench not the Spirit. In Moroni 6:6-9, we are told to do as the Spirit directs with our meetings. We need to come in anticipation and in humbleness of heart. As we read in Alma 3:48, we were asked, "**Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble?**" In 2nd Nephi 3:50-56, we are admonished to raise the bar of righteousness, come out of Babylon, and separate ourselves. The foundation is not complete; we need personal righteousness. Let our love flourish and grow. Set aside our differences and come closer to God. In Moroni 6:5-9, we learn how the saints are to conduct themselves and were admonished to lay aside

the things of the world; to fear and love God, for if we do we will follow Him. We were read 3rd Nephi 11:19-29, where Christ teaches the words of Malachi. In Psalms 33:1-4, we are told to rejoice in the Lord, that His works are done in truth, and He loves righteousness. In Mosiah 8:25-44 (and Isaiah 53) we were told that Christ saw His seed when He suffered, bled and died. He saw everyone who would love Him and embrace His gospel. We need to look to the Lord for all, and pray from the heart.

Sincere Prayers for: God's direction and guidance in taking the gospel out to the world; that God might bear His mighty arm, for gifts of healing, for empowering us with His Spirit; for strength and the spiritual needs to resist sin. Perfect us. Losing ourselves in the Lord's service; pray that our will may be swallowed up in His to accomplish His divine and Holy purposes. Pray that we humble ourselves before God, that we may be drawn away from the world and given strength to resist temptations. Pray that we may have charity, patience and be long suffering. Teach us and humble us. Pray that God will lead us to those who are seeking Him and His church. Pray that God strengthens us that we may be an example and a witness throughout the world. Pray for greater faith, wisdom, knowledge and gifts. Strengthen our young people, who are the future of the church; ask for direction and guidance for them. Pray that men would be prepared and called out to His service, for there is a great need; and give them witnesses; fill them with dedication and zeal to labor. We desire to glorify God as we come to Him in thanksgiving for all these blessings unto us. We ask His help to be meek and lowly before Him, to forgive us our errors, to be with all our people in their trials and tribulations. We pray for His help to see things as they are, to see what hour it is, and for the cause of Zion; to give up the things of this world; and to reach out to Israel in these last days.

Compelling testimonies: an elder told us how happy he was to be with us here in the United States. He is so thankful the Lord brought His Church to the Philippines. He told of a dream where he climbed a mountain and saw a field with clean running water flowing to it. He felt the Lord was leading him to a group of people in the mountains where this setting is. Upon visiting this place, he knew that the Lord had prepared their hearts as many accepted and were baptized into the Church of Christ. He also told us he has a little knowledge, which was given to him by God, not his teacher. God has blessed him so much in being able to understand and be understood with his broken English.

Another elder was thankful the Lord led him to those that needed him. He also admonished us that in the words of Zenos in the Book of Jacob we are told that the branches are equal...that means we have a work to do in this country also.

Another elder was thankful that the Lord's hand was present in directing him in finding and visiting a sister in need, then sitting out a hurricane while assisting another brother and sister, and leaving just before another hurricane arrived.... Then the Lord's timing was exactly right again, in bringing them back home just in time to take care of a funeral, having been asked to do so five years previously. He feels greatly blessed by our all-knowing God.

A brother admonished us with reading words from 3rd Nephi, chapter 9, and gave us the direction that the Spirit of the Lord had given and written on his heart, a direction for his local and, he believes, possibly for the entire church.

An elder read scriptures from the book of Joel, chapter 2, where we are admonished to turn to God with all our heart; that is when He begins to bless us. "**With weeping and mourning.... Blow the Trumpet in Zion**"... there is a war going on. "**Sanctify a**

fast"...make ready and purify. ***Call a Solemn Assembly.***" We were told the ministry's job is to prepare a people to meet the Lord. We were admonished to take a wrong and make it right, that there be no division between us. He asked the ministry, "Are you weeping about the ills?" Most of our children are listening to the beat of this world. We need to rise to the bar. God is asking, "Is there a faithful people here?" Those who have put aside all to wait on Him?

A young brother spoke of a dream he had been given. He was with others in the world and their faces were all distorted. He felt an evil around him, and a bug was trying to get into his ear. His family helped him, yet the bug was still trying to get into his ear. He realized this dream was telling him that he was listening to music that was evil. It is all around us...not just music, but movies too; it's Babylon, and it will destroy us.

An Apostle told us of a dream he had a few months ago. He was in a low place with a river running towards him and around one side of him, but up a little higher than where he was. The river was rising. Soon water was running on both sides of him, so he was now on an island. He knew there was a foundation behind him. He knew the river would rise and eventually go over the foundation. He wasn't alone, he saw the other Apostles there...concerned. He felt the foundation was neglected. He was concerned about the force of the water washing it away. He contemplated how to protect it. He asked himself, "Why did we build it in a low place?" The water kept rising. The scene changed. He was then alone, except for the Lord whom he was talking to. Communication was not in words. Something was to have been built on the foundation, but it wasn't prepared for what was coming. He feared for his own lack of righteousness, and then realized the righteousness of the people was to have gone on the top of the foundation. This is where the dream ends. He felt that wickedness is increasing like a flood, feels helpless, and feels this must point to him. In his dream he was doing all the talking to the Lord and not enough listening. Our righteousness is necessary to build Zion.

Another expressed the belief that there is a tremendous amount of love here with our people. He is surprised that we don't see that. He believes divisions are overemphasized and ad-

monished us to sustain and invigorate that love between us.

An apostle told us that 800 years before Christ, Israel was facing a terrible time when the Lord, through Isaiah, gave them powerful promises that pertain to us today. The prophecy of Zenos in the Book of Jacob was given for our time. He admonished us to labor with all our might for this is the last time the Lord will prune His vineyard. The wrath will pour out at the same time upon the wicked. We need to rely on the promises in Isaiah for He has chosen us to bring about His mighty purposes...this is that day. We need not fear for He is with us.

Another apostle told us he feels a burden for the work in the United States and how he sees things beginning to change with people he comes in contact with. He reminded us that in Revelation, the last chapter, in verse 17, it tells us that not only will the spirit cry, but the church also is to cry out. We must sound the invitation...there is something different here, the living water. He feels God is yet planting here in this country, we can't give up here. We need God to direct, we can't do it without Him. Pray that God is preparing hearts and pray that He gives us direction.

An elder told of an experience he and his wife had in heeding God's direction that saved her from stepping on a poisonous snake. He also told of a neighbor who heard the prompting of the Spirit tell him to pick up four or five rocks. He shrugged it off. He heard it again, but decided then to pick up the rocks. As he picked them up and stood, he saw a large mountain lion. He threw all the rocks, one after the other...with the last one thrown at the cat...it ran. He admonished us to LISTEN to GOD!

Another elder asked us to pray for a brother in the Philippines that three years ago had been given three months to live because of lung cancer. One day he was in the hospital, near death; and after being administered to, the very next day he was at church. Following this testimony, we went into a season of prayer for our brother Felix.

Sunday Sacrament Service

Opening Remarks: We have come in expectation of the Lord speaking to us, so we must be listening. Scripture was read from Acts 3:1-8; Moroni 10:6-7; and 3rd Nephi

8:1-5, 12-19, 28-43. We were asked to bring our minds in to seeking the voice and will of our Lord. The blessing and serving of the Sacrament took place and then several administrations.

We were then blessed with witnessing the blessing of a sweet little one. Happy parents, Paul and Amanda Case, looked on as their son, Donovan Paul Case, was blessed under the hands of his grandfather, Elder Jim Case and great-grandfather, Elder Leslie Case.

Counsel: We were admonished in the opening remarks to not let our minds wander even though we are prone to. Gal. 1: 3-6 was read to us. We were asked to let the Spirit move us before we speak. The Lord wants to reveal unto us, but we must allow Him to work. We were admonished to let the Spirit dictate and rule over the service as we were led into a season of prayer, in which many voices were lifted up to our Heavenly Father in praise, in thanksgiving and for His blessings to be poured out upon His people.

Compelling Testimonies: An elder told us the Spirit had come upon him while we were in prayer, giving him several verses of scriptures to read to the congregation from 1 Nephi 3:186 and 1 Ne 7:21-25. He was given the understanding that the day to bring forth Zion, where the Lord would ***"make bare his arm in the eyes of the nations"*** is coming very soon.

An apostle spoke of his dear friend in the gospel who so often speaks of the scripture where the Lord says, ***"How oft would I have gathered you as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings."*** We are gathered under His wings this day, to adore and confess Him who is the only name under heaven by which mankind can be saved.

Another member of the ministry stood and read Alma 14:92 as he speaks; he speaks with the strength given him of God. He told us a month ago he had a dream seeing himself stand and ask for an administration to a young brother by two of the ministry to cast the evil spirits out of this young brother's body. He didn't know he would be sitting in this seat up front, sitting in the same position and with the same view of things as he saw himself in his dream. He knows it is the Lord's will that he does today as he has been shown. The brothers mentioned went forward and the administration took place. The Spirit was very strong

among us.

An elder read from 1st Nephi 3: 226-231, which tells us the Church of Christ, even though it will be few, will be found upon all the face of the earth, which will be armed with righteousness and power of great glory. He came here to help build Zion, and to feed the flocks of God. He sees this church believes as the scriptures say...and not just, "as we've always done it." He feels he is being given direction of the Lord and through several witnesses, to go and work in an area, other than what "he thought" he would do. He was given a dream: he saw himself on a bulldozer trying to push over a tree. The Lord told him no matter how hard the job is, He'll help. In another scene, he saw the bulldozer go right through the big tree. The Lord said He would take all the obstacles out of his way. The Lord calls on us to depend on Him, not to do what's easy.

A brother stood before us confessing a problem with anger that he has had for many years, but he didn't know it. In humility he asked his wife and family for forgiveness. He feels the Lord is working with him and showing him where he has been in error. He asked for our prayers in this, and we then knelt in a season of prayer in which many voices were raised.

An elder stood and gave a call to the ministry. There was a season of prayer for discernment and wisdom in this. Following that there was one witness for the call, but others stood and bore witness that this was not a call of the Holy Spirit.

Some doubt was expressed as to the success of the previous administration; a season of prayer followed. The Spirit worked through several of the ministry delivering a chastisement, and one had been given by the Spirit to know that the evil spirits would be bound as one had prayed for in the season of prayer. We were admonished to have a greater faith; not to question the Lord, but to let Him do His work. This brought about a great humility from those who had felt doubt.

Another elder told us that something else has to happen here this day. He admonished us that God has heard our prayers. He himself was chastised this day...he didn't come prepared with the right attitude. He spoke of the great call this church has, yet it is full of sin, and disagreement. We need to change, we need to repent.

We knelt in another season of prayer asking the Lord to help us be the people He desires us to be, to forgive us and to direct us.

An elder stood and read some words from 1st Peter 1:22, and admonished us to seek fervently an unfeigned love, incorruptible. He stated he feels we aren't prepared and we need to be.

A sister read Mark 11: 22-24, which tells us to have faith...believe that when ye pray ye shall receive them and ye shall have them. Be confident. Pray for the blessing of healing.

An apostle told of a time he was given the responsibility of giving a rebuke. He hadn't done all of what he was told to do, and the Lord chastised him for that. He feels it's a necessary growth, we learn from mistakes. He loves the humility he sees here and he knows the Lord does also.

A young sister stood and read Psalms 34:13-22. She felt the impress of the Spirit that she should share this with us.

Another apostle admonished that the Lord is working with us, perfecting us. He testified that he saw how we were led by the spirit to work through this, that we grew, and we allowed the Spirit to work.

CONFERENCE

During Conference each day began with a morning prayer service, then business meetings and evening sermons.

Sunday afternoon: began with a Music Service where many wonderful musical talents were shared to bring glory and praise unto God.

Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse gave our first sermon of the 2005 Conference Sunday afternoon. Brother Buzz greeted us with love sent to us by our brothers and sisters in Africa. He wants us to know that they pray for us.

In answer to his prayers the Lord gave him direction as to what he should preach. He began with asking us to think outside of our own little comfort zone and to ask God to direct us. He reminded us that there are many right here in the Americas; people who can be reached with the gospel. He urged us to reach out, witness and testify to our families, extended family and neighbors. Tell them of our hope we have in Jesus Christ and the need for the Book of Mormon; that the clarity and correction it brings is a great blessing. Allow God to direct us, to extend our hand of fellowship that they

might hear. Rise Up O Men of God!

Alma 3:27-31 asks have we been spiritually born of God. Do you look forward with an eye of faith? We need to be clean vessels, focused on the work at hand. Our personal righteousness is necessary. Are we able to be His children and be used in His outreach? In verses 47-50 we are asked if we are blameless. Have we been stripped of pride? Are we humble? Are we prepared to stand before Christ? We each have to look at ourselves. In Matthew 24 we are told that God wants us each to read and study. We might be at that time when the sun never sets on the Church of Christ (meaning that it is seen around the world). WE are the nation, which is to nourish the church throughout the world. We must allow the fullness of God's blessings to work with us. Blessings come from giving unto the work in service, in tithing, offerings, gifts and talents.

In Isaiah 11:10-12 we are told of the root of Jesse, which shall stand as an ensign...that is us! In 2nd Nephi 9:125-127 and Isaiah 52:7-10, we are told about when the Lord shall again bring Zion. We need to teach with an eye to faith; not force, but in love and compassion. We are to be a holy people, watchmen; be not ashamed but stand firm. There will be those who fight against Zion.

Satan has deceived, and that is why we have to be concerned about our personal righteousness. He's fooling others with false doctrines; there is no "Rapture." We are to withstand the trials and tribulations. God won't forsake us. The righteous will prevail. He will gather us in from the four corners of the earth to a place of refuge—a place called Zion. That call will go forth. Will we come? Do we look forward to that time? We must. The Bible and the Book of Mormon are full of scriptures telling us when and where. Jerusalem and Zion. There's a hope we have in Zion, when the Lord gathers—for the righteous. The doctrines of the "Rapture" are contrary to this. Br. Buzz read #22, 23 & 24 in our statements of belief in the "Articles of Faith and Practice," and asked, "Do you believe that?" A city of Zion is to begin HERE! A Temple is to be built HERE wherein Christ will receive and endow His servants...in THIS generation.

In 1st Nephi 7:22-46, it tells us the righteous shall not perish; that those who fight against Zion shall be cut off, and the prophet is the Holy One of Israel. We are also told that all

the churches set up to get gain need to fear and tremble, for they will burn while the righteous shall be raised as calves of the stall (nurtured and protected), for in Him they will find pasture. Then Satan will be bound because of the righteousness of the saints. God has promised, the righteous need not fear. Rise Up O People of God! Remember these words and ask God to direct you in your lives. We must throw off the shackles of Satan and rise up. If we've fallen, rise up and repent.

Conference Morning Prayer & Testimony Services

Counsel: Psalms 51:10-13, *“Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.”* The Lord's spirit was with us, He was fine tuning us. A brother's weakness was shown so he can overcome it. He wants us to set our own wills aside and go with His. God is working with us, teaching us, perfecting us so we can go teach others. Humility is a must. We need to be humble to be trusted. 1st Nephi 3:187 is the theme that has followed through: *“And blessed are they which shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day, for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...”* We need to be armed with righteousness, power and great glory. 175 years ago God did a Great and Marvelous Work, and we are part of it. The Lord has outlined our purpose—all will hear the gospel of Christ. Mosiah 8: 66-67 tells us *“...the salvation of the Lord shall be declared to every nation, kindred, tongue, and people...the watchmen shall lift up their voice; with the voice together they shall sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the Lord shall bring again Zion.”* Our God is happy we've come out of the world to be here this weekend. 175 years ago the bride of Christ was restored. We believe we have what nobody else has—the truth, the fullness of the gospel. What are we doing with what we've learned in church? In Luke 8, the parable of the sower was read. One brother asked us to be the Harvester. How do we do that? Bring the gospel to our families, our friends, and our neighbors. Rev. 22:12 says *“And behold, I come quickly...”* We pray for the gathering of the Saints, and for Zion that they'll come with one mind and one heart. We pray we will teach only the truth, as we desire the Spirit of truth.

Compelling Testimonies: An elder spoke of our being in school; a test, to see how we measure up. God is instructing us through a fierce battle.

A sister saw a clear message of the day before with being told in three testimonies that we haven't built a strong enough foundation. She believes the Lord wants us to give more of ourselves.

Another sister told us how happy and thankful she is to be here with us, in more ways than one. She has inoperable cancer and perhaps will be on chemo the rest of her life, but God is in charge...whatever He desires will be. She knows she has been greatly blessed. She sees things much differently now. Her belief has grown firmer, and she urged us to put our own will into His hands. She no longer desires to be in control...His way is so much better!

An elder told us he was also humbled in the Sunday sacrament service. He was too quick to come to his feet with his witness. It was not the right time. He is thankful God was patient with us and allowed His Spirit to come in and bring us back. He believes this Conference has been a learning experience for him, and he hopes he's learned.

A sister gave witness that it has been 25 years since her mother-in-law walked across the street to the Church of Christ and met Br. Sheldon. She, herself, is very thankful for this. She told us what she has felt here has surpassed all else. She has seen much progress, with the Teen Challenge Camp they've been privileged to be involved with, the C.C.E.G. to be involved in each others' lives, to be with the body of Christ traveling to Yucatan and Kenya. She feels so blessed in opportunities. She is so thankful that God has led them here and they want to attend many reunions. She wants to be a Harvester!

An apostle told of the decision he made 40 years ago to join the church. God had to tell him twice. He is involved with the Church history now, and even though it's not easy, he has begun to appreciate it. He knows in 1832 the church took a wrong turn; an innovation of man, the First Presidency happened. Factions and splits occurred. In the 1920's this church made a definite change and came out from under that cloud, and at the same time the RLDS gave more power to their First Presidency. Our relationship fell away as they went further into

apostasy. This is documented history. We must stand firm and be resolute. We want to remain faithful to HIS work.

The belief was expressed by another that the people here don't know what is happening “out there.” The first time you come here to this church you think it is the same as the others, but now he knows they are just trying to be what they are not. He had to work through the fact that THIS is the ONE and ONLY TRUE CHURCH. He understands this now. THIS is the Church of Christ. We need to have earnest effort toward humility and repentance so we can be more pleasing to God. We have to be careful. What is happening here is very real. There is real love here, not just a pretext of love like out there. Humility comes from seeing how small, insignificant and broken we are.

Monday Evening Preaching Service

Monday Evening our second sermon for the Conference was given to us by Elder Prudencio Alameda from the Philippines. Br. Prudencio's first words were: “Good afternoon, how are you?” He told us that when they came into the Minneapolis Airport it was cold; he thought, “This is America?” He says all the people here are beautiful and handsome (Br. Prudencio has a wonderful sense of humor). He told us he only has one wife, and he pointed to Sr. Lolita. She came forward and they sang us a beautiful song...that goes: “The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows, the more I love Him, the more love He shows.”

Br. Prudencio referred to scriptures in Mosiah 11:148 and Rev. 14:14-16. He then prayed for God to open up his heart and our minds so we could understand his message. He said there is a time to joke and a time not to joke.

Our brother Prudencio told us the field is ripe, and asked, “Where are the Harvesters?” He asked if we know what the attributes of a Harvester are. He admonished us that a Harvester must humble himself to witness to the people. He said a Harvester must be dedicated; He's nothing if he's not. He must have strong determination. His mission should be to work hard for the Lord. He must have goals; no goals make one lazy. Do you want to be called a lazy minister? Bring people to Christ! Come to church, learn! A Harvester has a purpose to witness; learn and study first. We must

understand what we believe. Then purpose is to become a strong Christian. A Harvester must be a prayerful man. Some don't know how to pray...not good. We must pray in our heart always. Be kind; love in a Christian-like love. You must be committed in your work, not lazy. Be an example; your life must be an example. A Harvester must labor for the Lord, be prayerful, and humble.

Br. Prudencio told us that Rev. 22:12 tells us the Lord's coming is near. God calls us like we call our children. We are called by God one by one. A Harvester must only have one wife. No smoke. No drink. We must love our spouses and love our children. A Harvester must be active in the work. He's a Pastor, a Janitor...all. Pastor must endure hardship and do all God has for him to do. The field is ready to harvest, we must go...anywhere they are waiting for you. Witness for the Lord. Bless you.

Tuesday Afternoon Preaching Service

Evangelist Hubert Yates was our preacher for the third sermon for the Conference. Brother Hubert feels there is nothing, no work as beautiful or powerful as the work of the gospel of Christ. He admonished us that we must have charity. We have to be able to forgive and forget and embrace each other with compassion. We have a desire to share this hope within us. We desire to show our fruits that glorify the Father in Heaven. We teach a different gospel than what the world teaches. They are always changing; God does not. 3rd Nephi 11:9 tells us plainly that God does not change.

God parted the Red Sea and the river Jordan, where the people walked on dry ground, so He can certainly give us all one mind and one heart! — The one mind and one heart of Jesus Christ. In 2nd Nephi 9: 19-22, we are told in the day when He makes up His jewels, He will spare them, discerning between the righteous and the wicked, between them that serve Him and those who don't. We must apply the gospel to our lives, day by day, moment by moment. Christ will come to His Bride who is making herself ready to meet Him, in a garment without spot—clothed in righteousness. Without Christ we are an easy prey for Satan. We need to get ourselves in the position where Satan has no power over us—with our own righteousness.

In Ezekiel 37, we are told of the Bible and the Book of Mormon being the two sticks that shall be one in thine hand. In Rev. 20, we are told the books were opened, and another (the Book of Life), and they will teach the same gospel and be the same footprints of the Lord. Every good and perfect gift comes from God and there is no changing. If God changes—He is not God. The word of God shall stand forever. The two sticks shall grow together to confound false doctrine. We can know all this from our Savior; He will reveal himself unto us. The guidelines are that it will agree with the Bible and the Book of Mormon. We can speak with authority because He doesn't change. The words of long ago are still valid today. Teaching the gospel is our role, we must accomplish what He has for us.

Tuesday Evening Preaching Service

Apostle Joel Yates gave us the fourth sermon for our Conference. Br. Joel humbly said as we saw this weekend, he is still learning and asked us to be patient with him. He also told us the Lord gave him what he will be presenting here, and asked us to watch and listen carefully.

Br. Joel began by asking us "Whose church is the Church of Christ?" Answer: **CHRIST'S!**: Matthew 16:16-18. "What is our part in it?" We are **members**: Romans 12:3-5, Ephesians 5:30. "Ownership compared to members?"—Christ, the owner owns it, He has the rules. Membership is subject to Christ: Ephesians 5:23-24; we are to be in submission to Him. "Who started the Church?" Christ: He chose the priesthood; He declared requirements of membership; He caused laws, commandments and procedures; He gave the list of benefits in His word.

Br. Joel admonished us to believe, repent, and be baptized, keeping the commandments of God. The commandments, all of them, are for everyone: Romans 2:11, Colossians 3:24-25. There is no respecter of persons. "Do we know all the commandments? Where do we find them?" We need to be reminded.

"How many of us are bothered by what we see in the church? Is Christ bothered by what He sees? What will He do?" Romans 14:11-13 tells us every knee shall bow and every tongue shall confess to God...that means ALL of us. "Who will give an account first?" The ministry:

Luke 12: 47-48. He asked the ministry, "Are you doing your job as described in the word of God?" In order to do our job, we need to understand the objective. Ephesians 4: 11-16: Are you perfecting the Saints? How? In truth and with love.

PERFECT the CHURCH of CHRIST: In 4th Nephi 1-21. Be realistic; we shouldn't have divisions or sins? Is it all about the sins or is it about—what we're doing about it? We are all children, and children have to learn. We need to learn how to deal with the problems and sins we encounter. Ministry—how do we start? 1st Peter 5: 1-3 tells us by being examples to the flock, and taking the oversight willingly. 2nd Timothy 4:2 tells us to preach the work; be instant in season and out of season. Mosiah 2:21-27 tells us to humble ourselves and to study to show ourselves approved. Ephesians 6:4 tells us not to provoke our children to wrath, but be consistent, having the same rules across the board with no preferential treatment. Show the fruits of the Spirit in our lives.

For the body of the church: Br. Joel read Hebrews 13:17 where it tells us to obey and submit...because of our love for one another. Our love is bigger than the divisions. Ezekiel 33:1-9 tells us the watchmen (the ministry) are to blow the trumpet (when the sins come) and warn the people. No matter what the cost, the ministry is accountable.

Br. Joel asked, "What about members, what is your responsibility?" (Especially mature members.) In Romans 14:13-23 we are told we are our brother's keeper. The whole body suffers with injury to a member. Be charitable to a brother, don't keep divisions alive. It's not right to break a brother's conscience; if he thinks he shouldn't partake—don't bother him. Walk charitably. It's God's duty to change our minds.

Our responsibility to deal with sin: Romans 15:1-2. Most problems are fixed by education and communication. If we have been there ourselves and learned, then help someone else through it. Gal. 6: 1-3 tells us to get the beam out of our own eye, before we help someone else with the same problem. It's not beyond us, it's our duty. Go in meekness and love. Prepare spiritually. Reply in kindness and love, not contention. Help each other. We bear one another's burdens. We must try to take care of our own problems within the lo-

calls. 3rd Nephi 5:71-72, tells us this is a commandment; God's way is the only way that works. Reconcile; work it out with a brother. Matthew 18:15.

Watching, a duty of members: In Moroni 6:6-8 we are told of things that aren't found anywhere else. They are "How To's," and not suggestions. Look out for the young ones; take responsibility, the whole membership, it's our job. They are His and He loves us all. These things work when done consistently. Reasons for discipline in the church are: Spiritual danger to self, to others, to the body, or to the nation. It's NOT a right to endanger anyone else. Any time a church goes into apostasy it says the sins in the church took over. What causes need for discipline? 1 Corinthians 5:1-7, tells us it is PRIDE; being puffed up. 1st Samuel 15:23, tells us rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft. 1st Peter 5:5 tells us we cannot be saved without grace, and we can't get grace without being humble.

Understand the reason: 1st Corinthians 5:9-13, tells us to not keep company with the wicked. There are consequences for actions. Discipline is for our good, to bring us back. It changes our relationship when those doing wrong don't change their behavior. Charity rejoices not in iniquity. God chastises those He loves. Be sure you are not an "enabler" to iniquity.

One person is not more important than the whole body. Alma 2:8-21, 26-27, tells us if we fail we are bringing condemnation onto our own nation. Are you ready to be accountable? Or do you want to keep on complaining?

Understand the purpose—we need to be humble! This starts with each of us, me and you. Problems aren't going away—it's about what we're doing about it!

Wednesday Evening Preaching Service

Apostle Alvin "Jay" Moser gave us our fifth and last sermon for the 2005 Conference.

Brother Jay started out by telling us we must fight pride all the time. With humility, he told us that in Phoenix they call it the "Mo-Zone" when they see him as he sits and his mind is busy thinking about other things. He admonished us that the broken heart is a strong heart. He told us when he came in Sunday morning early the Lord put six stories from the scriptures on his mind; three for the

brothers and three for the sisters! He was also reminded of the story of Elijah. In 3 Nephi 11:26-27, we read the words of Jesus as He quotes the words of Malachi to the people here in this land. It reads, "***Behold, I will send you Elijah, the prophet, before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord; And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.***"

Where is Elijah? Br. Jay feels he is standing in front of the lawful remnant of Elijah. The Book of Mormon comes to us in the spirit of Elijah. The Jews consider the prophet Elijah to be the greatest prophet, one who never died, who smote the river Jordon and it parted, and the children of Israel walked across on dry ground. Br. Jay thought about this earlier when he heard the dream about the foundation that was not built strong enough. We are the Spirit of Elijah... the spirit which will turn back the hearts, turn back Israel's heart to serve God once again! We need the heart of David, Jacob, Abraham, etc. — we need a brave heart, a broken heart. Turn from iniquity. The coming flood of filthiness is going to try to drown us. Make our stands for righteousness in and out of love.

The six stories began with Job. He lost everything he loved, his friends came and they conferenced and conferenced. Then the Lord spoke. In Job 38:3-4, he was told to gird up his loins like a man. In Job 40: 3-11, he answered he was vile and would shut his mouth. We just don't know why things happen, but we are to accept whatever the Lord has for us.

In 2 Samuel 12:18-23, we find the story of David and how he suffered the consequences for his actions; a child stricken and died as a result of his having a man killed so he could have the man's wife, and having had committed adultery with her. David fled the city. He accepted everything God gave or did to him. There were numerous consequences for him. We have to accept consequences for our own behavior.

In 2nd Nephi 1:34-36, we learn through Lehi's exhortation that God's ways are righteous, forever. We are told to be a man of God and take it, whatever happens. Be determined. Maybe we don't believe everything alike, but we can still be unified. It will happen one at a time.

In Esther 4:8-14, we learn that King Mordecai saw something special in Esther. We can't appease the enemy; no one can escape who they are. Only God will save you. God will use one person at a time (however He chooses) to accomplish His purposes. Be sure people can trust you; be humble and trustworthy.

In Luke 1:35-38, we are told a portion of the story of Mary. She and her cousin Elizabeth both were with child, as to fulfill God's purpose. Children are God's heritage. Be thy Lord's handmaiden. Accept whatever God has for you.

In John 20:11-17, we are told the story of Mary Magdalene at the tomb. She was told not to touch Christ as he had not yet ascended to His Father. Touching Him would have made Him unclean, and impure. No unclean thing can enter the Kingdom of Heaven so she would have frustrated God's work. Sometimes God says "Don't touch it, leave it alone." We must either leave things in His hands and/or wait for His direction.

If we take up the work and do it ourselves, we'll mess it up. God HAS to LEAD us! Have a pure character like Esther. May God bless and direct us all.

In conclusion: We thank the Lord for His presence with us, for all those who made the effort to attend the Solemn Assembly and Conference, and all those who contributed their efforts in making this a successful gathering. We thank the Lord for the business of the Church being done, and the fellowship of the saints. He has blessed us immensely with His love and patience!

The "theme" of this Conference seemed to be summed up by the song, "More Like the Master." My prayer is that we can be more like Him, that we be a loving, humble people seeking Him and striving unto perfection so we may share in the glory of God in the city of Zion.

I thank the Lord for His direction in the writing of this report.

*With the Love of Christ,
Sr. Deb Haines*

Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS
 TEMPLE LOT
 200 S. RIVER BLVD.
 P. O. BOX 472
 INDEPENDENCE, MO 64051-0472

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
 U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
 INDEP., MO
 PERMIT NO. 259

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your *Zion's Advocate* by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable *Zion's Advocate* costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.

CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2005 Ministers' Conference** (priesthood membership) of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, August 1, 2 and 3, at Independence, Missouri.

The **2006 Ministers' Conference** (general membership) for the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3. A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on March 31 and April 1. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

2005 CHURCH OF CHRIST REUNIONS

MAY

Scripture Theme Camp

- ▶ May 13-15, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Camp Shawnee Camp Area at Knob Noster State Park.
- ▶ For information contact:
Mark Hill, Jesse Lawrence, Randy Sheldon, Dan Lawrence, Dan Malone.

JUNE

Idaho Reunion

- ▶ June 3-5, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Southwestern Idaho Senior Citizen's Recreation Association, Inc. (S.I.S.C.R.A.).
- ▶ For information contact:
Roy Coon
 3995 County Line Road
 Emmett, Idaho 83617
 (208) 365-34109
 racoon21@juno.com or
 racoon21@earthlink.net

Colorado Reunion

- ▶ June 10-12, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Orchard Mesa Local, 3233 B½ Road, Grand Junction, Colorado
- For information contact:
Karen Bell
 PO Box 1137
 Palisade, CO 81526
 (970) 464-4624
 kbell@gvii.net
- John Bell**
 572 34 Road
 Clifton, CO 81520
 (970) 434-7100
 jeeb54@gvii.net
- Allen Downs**
 515 28½ Road
 Grand Junction, CO 81501
 (970) 245-8344
 addowns@hotmail.com

Michigan Reunion

- ▶ June 25-26, Saturday-Sunday
- ▶ Bradley Local, Michigan
- ▶ For information, contact:
Duane Lee
 2053 Fawn Ave.
 Middleville, MI 49333
 (269) 795-7420
- Randy Lee**
 2953 Wing Rd.
 Hastings, MI 49058-9537
 (269) 948-8971

Springfield Rally

- ▶ June 26th, Sunday
- ▶ 2251 N. Golden; Springfield, Missouri.
- ▶ For information contact:
Elder Matt Case
 (417) 832-8349
 tabianhdmatt@hotmail.com
- Priest Martin Addie**
 (417) 862-2255
 ec05959@earthlink.net

JULY

Wake Up Camp 2005

- ▶ July 1-3, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Bemidji Local Church, Bemidji, Minnesota
- ▶ For information contact:
Hannah Gould
 (218) 586-2774
- Sam Gould**
 (218) 586-3759

New York Reunion

- ▶ July 8-10, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Hogansburg, New York
- ▶ For information contact:
 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
 Hogansburg, New York 13655
 (518) 358-2911
 egtarbell@hotmail.com
- Dale and Terry Waldruff**
 429 Country Road 34
 Canton, New York 113617
 (315) 265-1221
 terrwald@slc.com

Church of Christ Teen Camp

- ▶ July 24-29, Sunday-Friday
- ▶ Camp Far Westa, near Stewartsville, Missouri
- ▶ For kids ages 12-18
- ▶ Camp Cost: \$115.00
- ▶ For information contact:
Michelle Oldham
 5811 Duggleby
 Davenport, IA 52807
 (563) 359-1693
 jnmham@mchsi.com

Scripture Adventure Camp

- ▶ July 28, Thursday
- ▶ Independence, Missouri
- ▶ For kids ages 5-11
- ▶ For information contact:
Randy and Becky Sheldon
 (816) 229-6712
 r-bsehdlon@juno.com
- Jennifer Yates**
 (602) 569-9296
 a2zyates@cox.net

Missouri Reunion

- ▶ July 29-31, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Church of Christ headquarters building located on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri
- ▶ For information contact:
Roland Sarratt
 15910 E. 36th Terr.
 Independence, MO 64055
 (816) 373-6605
 r.sarratt@earthlink.net

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

SEPTEMBER

Camp for All Ages

- ▶ September 16-18, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ The Pinnacles, about ten miles north of Columbia, Missouri
- ▶ For information contact:
Jesse Lawrence
 jesselawrence@earthlink.net

Women's Retreat

- ▶ September 30-October 1, Friday-Saturday
- ▶ Lake Mauer Retreat Center in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.
- ▶ For women ages 18 and up
- ▶ Cost: \$45.00/person (includes one night accommodation and 3 meals)
- ▶ For information contact:
Carrie Geier
 14609 E. Phelps
 Independence, MO 64055
 (816) 836-0035
 geiers@kcnet.com
- Geri Adams**
 2804 Westbrooke Circle
 Blue Springs, MO 64015
 (816) 228-8283
 admsgeri@cs.com

NOVEMBER

Phoenix Reunion

- ▶ November 25-27, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Phoenix, Arizona
- ▶ For information contact:
Pastor Bob Hedrick
 2908 E Rockwood Dr
 Phoenix, AZ 85050
 (602) 494-9661
 bobnliza@cox.net
- Assistant Pastors:**
Duane Ely
 18814 N 30th St
 Phoenix, AZ 85050
 duanekathyely@aol.com
- Gordon McCann**
 18808 N 30th St
 Phoenix, AZ 85050
 gbjmccann@cox.net