

# 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—OCTOBER 2005

NUMBER 10



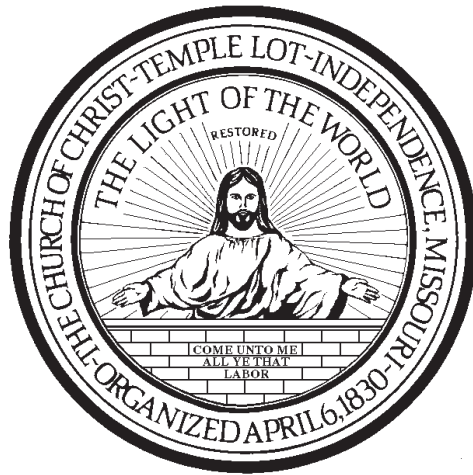
*"There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures..."*

*—Christopher Columbus*

## *~ In This Issue ~*

ARTICLE—America in Prophecy - *Apostle Donald McIndoo* . . . . . 167  
SERIES—The Great Apostasy and the Restoration, Part 10 - *Harvey E. Seibel* . . . 170

GSSA—SEARCHING FOR THE LOST PEOPLE OF ZARAHEMLA . . . . . 175  
2005 MISSOURI REUNION REPORT . . . . . 176



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### 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.

# America in Prophecy



## By Apostle Don McIndoo

*“And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren. And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land” (1 Nephi 3:145, 147).*

Our nation has long celebrated a momentous event that occurred during the month of October – the discovery of a New World by Christopher Columbus during the pre-dawn hours of October 12th 1492. It is a scene with which every

American school child is familiar. What magnifies this incident in our minds is that young Nephi foresaw this historic discovery 2000 years before its occurrence and recorded it in the narrative which would later be called the Book of Mormon.

What is not recorded on the pages of the history texts we read as children was that the Spirit of God “...came down and wrought upon the man...” Is there any evidence that such spiritual inspiration was, in reality, a vital part of this world-changing event? What have we ever learned about the spiritual nature of this great explorer? Let’s turn to a few of his biographers to find an answer to that question:

The historian, Brownell, wrote,

“When Columbus had formed his theory in regard to the discovery of America, it is singular the firmness with which it became fixed in his mind.... He never spoke with doubt or hesitation, but with as much certainty as if his eyes beheld the ‘promised land.’ He looked upon himself as in the hand of God, chosen from among men for the accomplishment of his high purpose. He supposed that he saw foretold in the Holy Writ his contemplated discovery, shadowed forth in the revelations of the proph-

ets” (Brownell, *The New World*, Vol. 1, p. 31).

“Columbus felt predestined, chosen for a mission. He had an uncanny prophetic sense of the things that lay in store for him. In the end he looked past the geographers, astronomers and philosophers and sought interlocutors among the prophets. The Bible came to his aid” (Granzotto, Gianni, *Christopher Columbus*, p. 56).

“He was man alone with God.... Always with God though; in that his biographers were right; for God is with men who for a good cause put their faith in Him. ...There can be no doubt that the faith of Columbus was genuine and sincere, and that his frequent communion with forces unseen was a vital element in his achievement. (Morison, Samuel, *Admiral of the Ocean Sea*, pp. 46, 47).

Now we turn to the words of Columbus, himself. In his personal diary which has only been recently discovered Columbus wrote,

“It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel his hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter, ridiculing me.

There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures..." (Marshall, Peter and Manuel, David), *The Light and the Glory*, p. 42).

*my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles, and were smitten" (I Nephi 3:145-150).*

The ominous portion of this prophecy concerning the indigenous peoples of this land was also fulfilled, for with the discovery of a new world by Co-

rooted and sent to neighboring cities "...for indoctrination and church attendance" (p. 171).

This great loss of population and culture is the reason many Native American peoples have no desire to celebrate, and with some validity, the epic discovery of Columbus. One could point out to them that these peoples were of the house of Israel, and God has always chastised His people for disobedience and falling away from the truth they had known, but this is frequently dismissed as coming from "white man's" thought and religion.

Although we know the Book of Mormon; hence, Nephi's prophecy, is really not "white man's" religion, it should be pointed out that American indigenous prophets have made the same dire predictions even before the arrival of the Gentiles from across the seas. We shall consider but a few of these Native American prophecies.

When Cortés arrived in the New World Montezuma, ruler of the mighty Aztec empire, and Nezualpilli, ruler of nearby Texcoco, gathered their counselors and "...some were in favor of immediate resistance. But the will of Montezuma and the king of Texcoco prevailed: they said resistance was useless." Nezualpilli is quoted as saying, "The time has arrived when the sons of Quetzalcoatl were to come from the East to take possession of the land" (Honoré, Pierre, *In Quest of the White God*, p. 67.)

As the Mexican people had signs and prophecies of the com-

This is the day when the fullness of the Gospel is to go to the remnant of Jacob; first in America and then the world.

To many Americans there is a darker side to this remarkable prophecy. Let's consider it in its completeness.

*"And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren. And it came to pass that the angel said unto me, Behold the wrath of God is upon the seed of thy brethren! And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land. And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters. And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise; And I beheld the wrath of God that it was upon the seed of*

lumbus came the conquest of that New World, first by the Spanish, followed by the migration of other Gentile nations. As an example of what transpired among Native American peoples, let's briefly consider the conquest of the Maya people of Yucatan by Montejo in 1546 through the merciless extermination of all rebellious communities. By 1549 all of the 175 known Maya towns of Yucatan were placed on a tax list. The number of households which were taxed was listed for each area.

Just thirty years later, in 1579, these tax lists showed the number of households reduced to 50% (the smallest loss) "...down to a very common reduction to one-third, and frequently to one-fifth, then even to one-tenth; and over most of the eastern region to nothing" (Gates, William, *Yucatan Before and After the Conquest*, p. 164). Gates also tells us that many Mayan towns were put to the torch and their inhabitants up-

ing of the Spaniards and the end of their power and religion, so also did those of Yucatan some years before they were conquered.... "In the mountains of Mani...an Indian named Ah-cambal...told publicly that they would soon be ruled by a foreign race that would preach one God and the virtue of a tree lifted up...." (de Landa, *Relation of the Things of Yucatan*, p. 40).

And of the other mighty Native American race, the Inca, we read, "When Huayma Capac (the Inca ruler of Peru in 1525 – dem) heard of strange vessels off the coast of Peru he called the leaders of the country to meet together." An Inca historian recounts the words of the ruler: "Our father, the sun has revealed to me that after the rule of twelve Incas, his children, men of a kind unknown to us, will come into our country and subjugate our states. Without doubt they belong to the people whose men were sighted off our coasts" (Honoré, op. cit., p. 66).

Six years later, Francisco Pizarro was beginning the conquest of Peru. Atahualpa, the twelfth Inca ruler was soon killed and the kingdom fell into the hands of the Spanish conquerors.

Nephi's vision contains a reference to our own history:

*"And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters. And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of prom-*

*ise; And I beheld the Spirit of the Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles; that they did prosper, and obtain the land for their inheritance; And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them;..."* (I Nephi 3:148-152).

This unimaginable prosperity was because the Lord had a definite purpose in mind for this nation. It would be the only place on earth where the Book of Mormon could come forth into the hands of Christ's restored church in God's appointed time. Its coming forth was also with a specific purpose; namely,

*"...Then shall the fullness of the gospel of the Messiah come unto the Gentiles, and from the Gentiles unto the remnant of our seed; And at that day shall the remnant of our seed know that they are of the house of Israel, and that they are the covenant people of the Lord; And then shall they know and come to the knowledge of their forefathers, and also to the knowledge of the gospel of their Redeemer, which was ministered unto their fathers by him;..."* (I Nephi 4:16-18).

*"And now behold, this I speak unto their seed, and also to the Gentiles, who have care for the house of Israel, that realize and know from whence their blessings come. Now these things are written unto the remnant of the house of Jacob; and they are written after this manner, because it is known of God that wickedness will not bring them forth unto them;*

*and they are to be hid up unto the Lord, that they may come forth in his own due time"* (Mormon 2:37, 39).

Just as God had a purpose in the land of America and in the Book of Mormon, He has a great purpose in you as well. This is the day when the fullness of the Gospel is to go to the remnant of Jacob; first in America and then the world. We have been chosen of God and called out of the world to carry this history of ancient America back to the descendants of those whose stories were told on the pages of this book.

The sufferings and losses of Native Americans since the conquest have been great. But if we, with the help of our Lord, give heed to our high calling and rise to the challenge, all their losses shall be turned to gain.



# 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

### A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

DID THE ANGEL FLY IN



## PART 10

THE MIDST OF HEAVEN HAVING THE EVERLASTING GOSPEL TO PREACH TO THOSE WHO DWELL UPON THE EARTH? DID THE LORD OF HEAVEN CALL APOSTLES ANEW? DID HE RESTORE HIS CHURCH AGAIN IN THE EARTH? CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING TESTIMONY, FOR THE TIME OF ITS RESTORATION HAD FULLY COME:

Here follows a brief history of the beginning of this work. Though the Lord did restore

His church again as prophesied, the Adversary, on the other hand, did not sit idly by doing nothing. Yet despite his machinations, God did preserve a small remnant through the cloud of error and persecution that followed. Thus the little stone kingdom cut out of the mountain without hands being preserved, and not left to 'other people,' continued to stand as prophesied, and will one day fill the whole earth.

A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF  
THE INCEPTION OF THIS  
GREAT LATTER DAY WORK  
(AS GIVEN BY JOSEPH THE  
PROPHET AND OTHERS WHO  
WERE EYEWITNESSES TO  
THESE THINGS)

"While I was laboring under the extreme difficulties, caused by the contests of these parties

HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED HOW THE CHURCH OF CHRIST DIFFERS FROM OTHER CHURCHES? OR HOW OUR CHURCH IS BETTER THAN ANY OTHER? DOES IT REALLY MATTER WHAT CHURCH WE JOIN? IF THESE OR SIMILAR QUESTIONS HAVE COME TO MIND THEN THE MATERIAL PRESENTED IN THIS SERIES SHOULD BE HELPFUL.

of religionists, I was one day reading the epistle of James, first chapter and fifth verse, which reads, 'If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth unto all men liberally and upbraideth not and it shall be given him.' Never did any passage of scripture come with more power to the heart of man than this did at this time to mine. It seemed to enter with great force into every feeling of my heart. I reflected on it again and again, knowing that if any person needed wisdom from God I did, for how to act I did not know, and unless I could get more wisdom than I then had would never know; for the teachers of religion of the different sects understood the same passage so differently as to destroy all confidence in settling the question by an appeal to the Bible. At length I came to the conclusion that I must either remain in darkness and confusion, or else I must do as James directs, that is, ask of God. I at length came to the determination to 'ask of God,' concluding that if he gave wisdom to them that lacked wisdom and would give liberally, and not upbraid, I might venture. So in accordance with this my determination, to ask of God, I retired to the woods to make the attempt. It was on the morning of a beautiful clear day, early in the spring of eighteen hundred and twenty. It was the first time in my life that I had made such an attempt, for amidst all my anxieties I had never as yet made the attempt to pray vocally" (*Times and Seasons*, vol. 3., pp. 727-728).

"After I had retired into the place where I had previously designed to go, having looked around me and finding myself

alone, I kneeled down and began to offer up the desires of my heart to God. I had scarcely done so when immediately I was seized upon by some power which entirely overcame me, and had such astonishing influence over me as to bind my tongue so that I could not speak. Thick darkness gathered around me and it seemed to me for a time as if I were doomed to sudden destruction. But exerting all my powers to call upon God to deliver me out of the power of this enemy which had seized upon me, and at the very moment when I was ready to sink into despair and abandon myself to destruction, not to an imaginary ruin, but to the power of some actual being from the unseen world who had such a marvelous power as I had never before felt in any being. Just at this moment of great alarm, I saw a pillar of light exactly over my head, above the brightness of the sun; which descended gradually until it fell upon me. It no sooner appeared than I found myself delivered from the enemy which held me bound. When the light rested upon me I saw two personages (whose brightness and glory defy all description) standing above me in the air. One of them spake unto me, calling me by name, and said, (pointing to the other,) 'This is my beloved Son, hear him.'

"My object in going to enquire of the Lord was to know which of all the sects was right, that I might know which to join. No sooner therefore did I get possession of myself, so as to be able to speak then I asked the personages who stood above me in the light, which of all the sects was right, (for at this time it had

never entered into my heart that all were wrong,) and which I should join. I was answered that I must join none of them, for they were all wrong, and the personage who addressed me said that all their creeds were an abomination in his sight; that those professors were all corrupt, they draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrine the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power there.' He again forbade me to join with any of them: and many other things did he say unto me which I cannot write at this time. When I came to myself again I found myself laying on my back, looking up into heaven."

Joseph continues:

"I continued to pursue my common avocations in life until the twenty first of September, one thousand eight hundred and twenty three, all the time suffering severe persecution at the hands of all classes of men, both religious and irreligious because I continued to affirm that I had seen a vision. During the space of time which intervened between the time I had the vision, and the year eighteen hundred and twenty three, (having been forbidden to join any of the religious sects of the day, and being of very tender years, and persecuted by those who ought to have been my friends, and to have treated me kindly and if they supposed me to be deluded to have endeavored in a proper and affectionate manner to have reclaimed me, I was left to all kinds of temptations, and mingling with all kinds of society, I frequently fell into many foolish errors and displayed the weakness of youth and the corruption

of human nature, which I am sorry to say led me into divers temptations, to the gratification of many appetites offensive in the sight of God. In consequence of these things I often felt condemned for my weakness, and imperfections; when on the evening of the above mentioned twenty first of September, after I had retired to my bed for the night, I betook myself to prayer and supplication to almighty God for forgiveness of all my sins and follies, and also for a manifestation to me, that I might know of my state and standing before him: for I had full confidence in obtaining a divine manifestation as I had previously had one" (*ibid.*, pp. 748-749).

"While I was thus in the act of calling upon God I discovered a light appearing in the room which continued to increase until the room was lighter than at noonday, when immediately a personage appeared at my bedside standing in the air for his feet did not touch the floor. He had on a loose robe of most exquisite whiteness. It was a whiteness beyond any thing earthly I had ever seen; nor do I believe that any earthly thing could be made to appear so exceedingly white and brilliant, his hands were naked and his arms also a little above the wrist. So also were his feet naked, as were his legs a little above the ankles. His head and neck were also bare. I could discover that he had no other clothing on but this robe, as it was open so that I could see into his bosom. Not only was his robe exceedingly white but his whole person was glorious beyond description, and his countenance truly like lightning. The room

was exceedingly light, but not so very bright as immediately around his person. When I first looked upon him I was afraid, but the fear soon left me. He called me by name, and said unto me that he was a messenger sent from the presence of God to me, and that his name was Nephi (Moroni?). That God had a work for me to do, and that my name should be had for good and evil, among all nations, kindreds, and tongues; or that it should be both good and evil spoken of among all people. He said there was a book deposited written upon gold plates, giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent, and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fullness of the everlasting gospel was contained in it, as delivered by the Saviour to the ancient inhabitants. Also that there were two stones in silver bows, and these stones fastened to a breastplate constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim, deposited with the plates, and the possession and use of these stones was what constituted seers in ancient or former times, and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book. After telling me these things he commenced quoting the prophecies of the Old Testament, he first quoted part of the third chapter of Malachi; and he quoted also the fourth or last chapter of the same prophecy though with a little variation from the way it reads in our bibles. Instead of quoting the first verse as reads in our books he quoted it thus, 'For behold the day cometh that shall burn as an oven, and all the proud yea and all that do wickedly shall burn as stubble, for they that cometh shall burn them saith the Lord

of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch,' and again he quoted the fifth verse thus, 'Behold I will reveal unto you the Priesthood by the hand of Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.' He also quoted the next verse differently, 'And he shall plant in the hearts of the children the promises made to the fathers, and the hearts of the children shall turn to their fathers, if it were not so the whole earth would be utterly wasted at his coming.' In addition to these he quoted the eleventh chapter of Isaiah saying that it was about to be fulfilled. He quoted also the third chapter of Acts, twenty second and twenty third verses precisely as they stand in our New Testament. He said that prophet was Christ, but the day had not yet come when 'they who would not hear his voice should be cut off from among the people,' but soon would come.

"He also quoted the second chapter of Joel from the twenty eighth to the last verse. He also said that this was not yet fulfilled but was soon to be. And he further stated the fullness of the Gentiles was soon to come in. He quoted many other passages of scripture and offered many explanations which cannot be mentioned here. Again he told me that when I got those plates of which he had spoken (for the time that they should be obtained was not yet fulfilled) I should not show them to any person, neither the breastplate with the Urim and Thummim only to those to whom I should be commanded to show them, if I did I should be destroyed. While he was conversing with me about the plates the vision was



opened to my mind that I could see the place where the plates were deposited and that so clearly and distinctly that I knew the place again when I visited it.

“After this communication I saw the light in the room begin to gather immediately around the person of him who had been speaking to me, and it continued to do so until the room was again left dark except just around him, when instantly I saw as it were a conduit open right up into heaven, and he ascended up till he entirely disappeared and the room was left as it had been before this heavenly light had made its appearance.

“I lay musing on the singularity of the scene and marveling greatly at what had been told me by this extraordinary messenger, when in the midst of my meditation I suddenly discovered that my room was again beginning to get lighted, and in an instant, as it were, the same heavenly messenger was again by my bed side. He commenced and again related the very same things which he had done at his first visit without the least variation, which having done, he informed me of great judgments which were coming upon the earth, with great desolations by famine, sword, and pestilence, and that these grievous judgments would come on the earth in this generation. Having related these things he again ascended as he had done before.

“By this time so deep were the impressions made on my mind that sleep had fled from my eyes and I lay overwhelmed in astonishment at what I had both seen and heard; but what was my surprise when again I beheld the

same messenger at my bedside, and heard him rehearse or repeat over again to me the same things as before and added a caution to me, telling me that Satan would try to tempt me (in consequence of the indigent circumstances of my father's family) to get the plates for the purpose of getting rich. This he forbid me, saying that I must have no other object in view in getting the plates but to glorify God, and must not be influenced by any other motive but that of building his kingdom, otherwise I could not get them. After this third visit he again ascended up into heaven as before and I was again left to ponder on the strangeness of what I had just experienced, when almost immediately after the heavenly messenger had ascended from me the third time, the cock crew, and I found that day was approaching so that our interviews must have occupied the whole of that night. I shortly after arose from my bed, and as usual went to the necessary labors of the day, but in attempting to labor as at other time, I found my strength so exhausted as rendered me entirely unable. My father who was laboring along with me discovered something to be wrong with me and told me to go home. I started with the intention of going to the house, but in attempting to cross the fence out of the field where we were, my strength entirely failed me and I fell helpless on the ground and for a time was quite unconscious of any thing. The first thing that I can recollect was a voice speaking unto me calling me by name. I looked up and beheld the same messenger standing over my head surrounded by light as before. He then again related unto me all

that he had related to me the previous night, and commanded me to go to my father and tell him of the vision and commandments which I had received” (*Times and Seasons*, vol. 3, pp. 753-754).

Oliver reports in his letter that:

“On the evening of the 21st of September, 1823, previous to retiring to rest, our brother's mind was unusually wrought up on the subject which had so long agitated his mind - his heart was drawn out in fervent prayer, and his whole soul was so lost to every thing of a temporal nature, that earth, to him, had lost its claims, and all he desired was to be prepared in heart to commune with some kind messenger who could communicate to him the desired information of his acceptance with God.

“At length the family retired, and he, as usual, bent his way, though in silence, where others might have rested their weary frames ‘locked fast in sleep's embrace;’ but repose had fled, and accustomed slumber had spread her refreshing hand over others beside him - he continued still to pray - his heart, though once hard and obdurate, was softened, and that mind which had often flitted like the ‘wild bird of passage,’ had settled upon a determined basis not to be decoyed or driven from its purpose.

“In this situation hours passed unnumbered - how many or how few I know not, neither is he able to inform me; but supposes it must have been eleven or twelve, and perhaps later, as the noise and bustle of the family, in retiring, had long since ceased. - While continuing in

prayer for a manifestation in some way that his sins were forgiven; endeavoring to exercise faith in the scriptures, on a sudden a light like that of day, only of a purer and far more glorious appearance and brightness, burst into the room. - Indeed, to use his own description, the first sight was as though the house was filled with consuming and unquenchable fire. This sudden appearance of a light so bright, as must naturally be expected, occasioned a shock or sensation, visible to the extremities of the body. It was, however, followed with a calmness and serenity of mind, and an overwhelming rapture of joy that surpassed understanding, and in a moment a personage stood before him.

“Notwithstanding the room was previously filled with light above the brightness of the sun, as I have before described, yet there seemed to be an additional glory surrounding or accompanying this personage, which shone with an increased degree of brilliancy, of which he was in the midst, and though his countenance was as lightning, yet it was of a pleasing, innocent and glorious appearance, so much so, that every fear was banished from the heart, and nothing but calmness pervaded the soul....

“...It may be well to relate the particulars as far as given - The stature of this personage was a little above the common size of men in this age; his garment was perfectly white, and had the appearance of being without seam.

“Though fear was banished from his heart, yet his surprise was no less when he heard him declare himself to be a messenger sent by commandment of the

Lord, to deliver a special message, and to witness to him that his sins were forgiven, and that his prayers were heard; and that the scriptures might be fulfilled, which say - ‘God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things which are, that no flesh should glory in his presence. Therefore, says the Lord, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder; the wisdom of their wise shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent shall be hid for according to his covenant which he made with his ancient saints, his people, the house of Israel, must come to a knowledge of the gospel, and own that Messiah whom their fathers rejected, and with them the fulness of the Gentiles be gathered in, to rejoice in one fold under one Shepherd.’

“‘This cannot be brought about until first certain preparatory things are accomplished, for so has the Lord purposed in his own mind. He has therefore chosen you as an instrument in his hand to bring to light that which shall perform his act, his strange act, and bring to pass a marvelous work and a wonder. Wherever the sound shall go it shall cause the ears of men to tingle, and wherever it shall be proclaimed, the pure in heart shall rejoice, while those who draw near to God with their mouths, and honor him with their lips, while their hearts are far from him, will seek his overthrow, and the destruction of those by whose hands it is carried. Therefore, marvel not if your name is made a derision, and had as a by-word among

such, if you are the instrument in bringing it, by the gift of God, to the knowledge of the people.’

“He then proceeded and gave a general account of the promises made to the fathers, and also gave a history of the aborigines of this country, and said, they were literal descendants of Abraham. He represented them as once being an enlightened and intelligent people, possessing a correct knowledge of the gospel, and the plan of restoration and redemption. He said this history was written and deposited not far from that place, and that it was our brother’s privilege, if obedient to the commandments of the Lord, to obtain, and translate the same by the means of the Urim and Thummim, which were deposited for that purpose with the record.

“‘Yet,’ said he, ‘the scripture must be fulfilled before it is translated, which says that the words of a book which were sealed, were presented to the learned; for thus has God determined to leave men without excuse, and show to the meek that his arm is not shortened that it cannot save.’

“A part of the book was sealed, and was not to be opened yet. The sealed part, said he, contains the same revelation which was given to John upon the isle of Patmos, and when the people of the Lord are prepared, and found worthy, then it will be unfolded unto them” (*Messenger and Advocate*, vol. 1, pp. 79-80).

## SEARCHING FOR THE LOST PEOPLE OF ZARAHEMLA

Only three years after Mosiah became king his father Benjamin died and went home to be with the Lord. Mosiah was a good king and his people lived in peace. There was great happiness in the land but something was worrying the people of Zarahemla. Some of their people were missing.

During the reign of King Benjamin there was a small group of people who were not satisfied. Even though God had led them to the land of Zarahemla, they wanted to go back to their old land. Forty-five people led by a man named Zeniff had left Zarahemla to return to the land of Nephi. Many years had passed and still they had not returned. "What has become of Zeniff's people?" King Mosiah was asked over and over again. "Let us go to find them." Finally King Mosiah sent 16 men to look for Zeniff. They were led by a man named Ammon.

Ammon and his men searched for 40 days. At last they came to their old land. Ammon saw the King of the land surrounded by his guards just outside the city walls. Ammon went with three men to speak to the king. The king's guards surrounded them. They tied them up and took them prisoner! After two days Ammon and his men were brought before the king again. "I am Limhi," the king said, "son of Noah. My Grandfather Zeniff was from Zarahemla. Tell me who you are!" Ammon was so happy. They had found the missing people of Zarahemla at last! "We are from Zarahemla," Ammon said. "We've been looking for you!"

"Release these men!" the king said. "Tomorrow we will have a celebration. We have found our brothers!"



# 2005 Missouri Reunion Report

On Friday, July 29th, 2005, we entered in to the Church of Christ headquarters on the Temple Lot in Independence for the opening prayer service of the Missouri Reunion. Elders Marvin Case and Warren Johnson were in charge.

Opening remarks were given us by Br. Warren. He used III Nephi 8:43-55 and Psalms 42:1-11 to admonish us that THIS church must be built upon His rock, to keep His commandments, to beware of stumbling blocks, and that we must watch and pray always in His name. If you pray for what is right, believing that it shall be given you—you will be blessed. God is always there for us, and it is He who gives us strength.

Many voices were heard in prayers of thanksgiving and for the concerns of loved ones. Many beautiful testimonies followed, sharing God's blessings. We heard of God's hand stilling the hurricane recently in Yucatan, as our prayers were answered; of lessons being designed for Youth Camp with the Lord's inspiration; another was blessed with the prevention of a house fire.

There were more than 86 persons present—a very good beginning for the reunion.

Our first sermon of the Reunion was given by Priest Kevin McGhee. Br. Kevin used Philippians 1:2-11, "***That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ...***" The message is: don't be INSINCERE—this will cause offense to God.

Br. Kevin used Matthew 18: 7-9, "***Woe unto the world because of offenses!***" God has called us to be sincere and without offense. The dictionary's definition of sincere is: Genuine, true; not deceitful or hypocritical. We were admonished to be honest and to live our lives in a true and sincere way. Do we live what we claim to believe? If not, that's hypocritical. Do our actions match our words? People are watching us, and we are watching each other. We need to look at ourselves honestly and ask, "Are we setting the right example?" What do people think of us, and, therefore, of our church? We want to be taken seriously, don't we? If so, our actions must match up with our words. If NOT, then we are insincere! (Matthew 15:7-8)

In Joshua 24:14-15, we are told to "***fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth...***" and "***...as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.***" If we have this popular plaque on the walls of our homes, and yet don't practice the words, then we are insincere and hypocrites.

There should be NO separation in our behavior; we should be honest and true at all times. Br. Kevin used Philippians 4: 8-9, and asked if we think on those things of virtue. Also, II Nephi 13:16, and asked if our motivation is out of our love of Christ, with real intent—Are we sincere? Were you sincere at the time of your baptism? Are your prayers empty or do you have a real longing in your heart?

Br. Kevin explained that we need a TRUE DESIRE to serve the LORD; we need to humble ourselves and realize our nothingness. In Mosiah 1:57-61 we are told that is why we need to seek the Lord in prayer every day. We need to pray about everything that concerns us; in Isaiah we are told that if we do, our strength will be renewed. In Mormon 4:93-95, we are commanded to work out our salvation with fear and trembling every day. In Matthew 5:29, we are told it is better that **one** be lost than that the whole body be lost. Are you filled with the fruits of righteousness? If so, they will be evident in our lives.

Mosiah 2:13-22 tells us to, "***Believe in God, believe that he is and that he created all things...has all wisdom and all power...that man doth not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend...that you must repent...that you must humble yourselves before God; and ask in all sincerity of heart that he would forgive you...and if you believe all these things, see that ye do them...calling on the name of the Lord daily and standing steadfastly...***"

In 1st John 3:18 we are told, "***My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and truth.***" We must make sure that WE as members of the Church of Christ faithfully **represent** the Church of Christ through our daily lives.

After a lunch and a song service, our afternoon sermon was given by Elder Leslie Case.

Br. Leslie held up the Bible and the Book of Mormon together in one hand and admonished us that, "IF we all believe in **these**, then we have something to talk about."

In Mark 16:15-18 we are told to go forth and preach the gospel to every creature. In John 1:1-14 we are told, "***In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God...***" In John 5:39-40 we are told, "***Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me...***"

John 3:16 is one of the most often quoted scriptures, yet most misunderstood verse of all. John 3:17-21 explains it so we can get the full understanding. In John 3:1-8 we are told of the necessity of being born again, of the water and the Spirit.

In Deuteronomy 18:15-20 we are told that God would raise up a prophet. In III Nephi 9:57-95 we are told this prophet would be Jesus Christ, and that every soul who will not (refuses to) hear that prophet will be cut off. When His word went out to the Gentiles it would be the sign that His work had commenced, and His people would be partakers of the Covenant. Believe and be baptized. In II Nephi 1: 115-128, Nephi explains about the fall of Adam and to look for that prophet, the Son of God.

Br. Leslie told a very good story about why we should stay away from even the very **appearance** of evil—as far away as possible. We should not go anywhere even near it.

In II Nephi 13:24-32 we have another witness as to the Doctrine of Christ. II Nephi 11:43-44 tells us we need, "***...to believe in Christ, and to be reconciled to God; for we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all that we can do.***" Thus, we are judged by our works.

We are told in III Nephi 12:15-35, the church met oft, and He said unto them, "***...if it be called in my name, then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel...and the Father will hear you.***" Then, if it be HIS church and built upon His gospel, "***...then will the Father shew forth his own works in it...***" And, "***Now this is the commandment, Repent, all ye ends of the earth, and come unto***

***me and be baptized in my name, that ye may be sanctified by the reception of the Holy Ghost, that ye may stand spotless before me at that last day....***"

After supper and a song service our evening sermon was given by Apostle Brian McIndoo. Br. Brian greeted us and asked whether we believe we're living in the last days. He said IF we do believe that, THEN we have something we can talk about! If we believe that, and if we believe in this Church of Christ, then we have a great responsibility, for our duty and commission is to preach Christ's doctrine to every creature, to call them to repentance, unto baptism, and to prepare the way for His second coming (as the prophets did for His **first** coming). Reconsider your life—how are **you** to be a part of this great assignment?

In Alma 17:51 Alma writes that Christ tells us to keep diligently His commandments **as they are written**—not to change them to what we would like!

In Moroni 7:50-51 we are told to abound in charity; ***"be meek and lowly in heart, and confess by the power of the Holy Ghost, that Jesus is the Christ...."*** Also, in Ezekiel and in Mark 16 we are told that the ministry are to be the watchmen to warn us whenever we are in danger to our souls. Also, they are to go into **all** the world and preach; no exclusions, no matter what the danger. How are we to do that? It will take all of us, with God's help and direction!

Many things are up against us as we perform God's duty in these last days, but we are told that God's tender mercy will be over us, and He will deliver us (I Nephi 1: 23-24). In Romans 8: 35-39 we are asked whether peril or sword will separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus. The answer is, NO, they will not!

In I Nephi 1:18-20 we are told those things God commanded Lehi to do, and that he DID them! He prophesied to the people of coming disaster. God will command us to do the same, declaring to the world what is to come, even though such actions have gotten many a prophet killed. Even death will not separate us! In John 15:19-20 we are told to come out of the world, and that the world will hate us because we are not part of it. Don't expect to be popular.

We can read in the Articles of Faith and Practice (#14) that we are to be a missionary church, which means all of us. We all have that responsibility.

I Nephi 1:25 tells us that because you have been faithful, they will seek to take away your life. There will be consequences, and there will be difficulties. It is going to call for sacrifice, perhaps the ultimate sacrifice from some of us. II Timo-

thy 3:1 tells us there will be perilous times in the last days, and describes the world as it is in this day. It will become more and more perilous as time goes on. Rev. 17:3 tells us the woman upon the beast, which is on all the face of the earth, will make war with the Lamb of God and His saints. There will be much tribulation as was spoken of in Nephi's vision in I Nephi 3:229. We are under attack by the enemy, Satan, throughout all the world.

Romans 5:1-5 tells us to glory in tribulation, for tribulation worketh patience, and patience worketh experience, and experience worketh hope, and hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is in our hearts. We are going to run into adversity, and the world will hate us because they hated Jesus Christ. Persecution is okay since we are doing what pleases God.

In Alma 10:29 we are assured again that we have the hope of eternal life if we are obedient in doing the will of the Lord. Our hope is not in **this** life, but to have salvation unto eternal life. If we are obedient, then we can enter into rest with the Lord.

In I Nephi 1:26 Lehi was commanded by God to take his family and depart into the wilderness. The Lord promised to preserve them...if they obeyed. It is not always going to be easy; sometimes it is going to be downright hard! Obedience brings about God's greatest blessings. Even if we were to lose our life doing the will of God, the important thing is that we will have our salvation. The prophet Isaiah, as well as other prophets, lost their lives in doing the will of God.

We are called in these last days to come out of our comfort zone! God calls us out of our comforts. He will open opportunities for every one of us to come out of our comfort zones. If we only remain where we are comfortable, we will not accomplish His work! Our faith is based on God's strength. It may be hard for us to pray, or hard for us to witness; we may have concerns for our physical well-being, physical problems, and how we deal with adversity. But are we going to use these as excuses to not do our duty? When we do step out of our comfort zone we find that we **have** to depend on God to get us through. We'll know it is Him, for we could not do it on our own. He makes the way, He is in control, and He delivers to accomplish His will.

I Peter 1:7-9 tells us the trial of your faith is very precious and brings about the salvation of our souls...and thus we will satisfy the cause of Zion.

In Alma 5:38 we are told to awaken to the sense of our duty to God, and to walk blameless before Him that we may walk after the holy order of God...blameless because we are keeping His

commandments and doing His will.

In I Nephi 3:230-231 we hear God's promise to us in the face of great persecution! ***"...The power of the Lamb of God...descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, which were scattered upon all the face of the earth; and they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory."***

**T**he Saturday morning prayer service began with Elders Gerry Case and Adam Porter in charge. Br. Adam welcomed us and used II Peter 1:21; Psalms 1:1-3; Psalms 19:7-14. We were admonished that His ways are not our ways; His thoughts are not our thoughts. Br. Gerry led us into a season of prayer in which many voices were lifted to our Heavenly Father. Many wonderful testimonies followed: we learned of a brother's dreams and his knowledge that they are just dreams until God confirms them, and that our response to them should be rational and scriptural, and in all things we need to trust Him. We heard of a camper experiencing a great gift—feeling God's hand on his shoulder as well as feeling the Spirit; he was led to I Nephi 3:26. Another brother admonished us to do the "hard thing;" God is asking us to toughen up; as He's moving us and we need to heed His call. We heard a sister's experience of being called upon to witness at her workplace even though she knew others were listening; she stepped out in faith and was blessed for it. We heard of another brother's prayer being answered in knowing how to handle the need of a young sister, and the harmony that was evident at a camp staff meeting. We were asked for a season of prayer for our young people; Br. Gerry asked one of the ministry to pray aloud, while the congregation was to pray silently; thus, we could flood heaven with all our prayers. In closing, Br. Gerry told us he will not dismiss us, but told us we were to go with a testimony to share with whoever the Lord sends for us to make contact with, for it is God's desire to give increase.

After lunch and a song service, our afternoon began with missionary reports given by Priest Bill Malone and Elder Andy Brantner, with help from Br. Cody Fann.

Br. Bill began by using the scripture from Mosiah 1: 49. We are told to be in service to our brothers and sisters in love and joy, and we will have unspeakable gifts from God, as there is no greater joy than to proclaim the doctrine of Christ to those who are hungering and thirsting. He next used Alma 1:17-18 to explain how destructive priestcraft is, as it is a big problem in

Kenya.

Br. Andy began his slide show of photos from the recent missionary trip to the Philippines with the report of the warm, unconditional acceptance that was shown to them on their visit. The Philippines is a land of great contrast; from extreme poverty, pollution, and congested traffic they saw on the way to their motel, to the beauty of their lands and vegetation, and to the wealthy gated communities; surely extremes in those who "have" and those who "have not." We were all warmed by the beauty we saw in the many photos, and especially the warm smiles of those who have been touched by God; That's the beauty that overwhelms!

After supper and another song service we were privileged to hear a sermon of admonition in the evening.

Elder Mike Bevaart greeted us and admitted he was a little nervous, as the group is a "little" larger than the 13 he is used to preaching to in Brantford, Ontario! He invited us all to their Reunion and dedication of their new church building on Oct. 8-9 this year.

Br. Mike used Matthew 18:1-5 to illustrate the fact that the Lord desires us to become as little children. In Mosiah 2:36 we are told to depend on God for everything. Mosiah 2:20 tells us to remember the greatness of God and our own nothingness.

Two years ago while driving home from the Ministers Conference, Matt. 18:1-5 was brought to his mind, and the Spirit told him to preach it here; however, he didn't have the opportunity until now.

Br. Mike came out of the Dutch Reformed Church; they were disciplined, but they kept God at arm's length. They just sat and listened. Br. Mike continues to marvel at this church; its changes, growth and expectations... while developing much better attitudes. Yet, he was told on this drive home two years ago that we are not receiving all that we can and should receive, because the church is not completely "as a little child." Why not? Because we're not ready to receive **correction**. We need to concentrate on this individually—we, who together ARE the church.

There needs to be CORRECTION in this life. Br. Mike used Proverbs 23:13-14 and Proverbs 19:18 to illustrate that we are not to withhold correction. He told a story from his youth where he received the "stick of correction" from his earthly father. He learned not to do it again, as the punishment got doubled each time he repeated the error. He admonished us that the Judgment Day is not the day of correction—it's all over then. Our ways must be corrected before

that day.

In the 2003 Ministers' Conference they received a correction. God spoke; He still wanted to correct us. We should all rejoice at this!

Br. Mike asked, "If there was a proclamation today for chastisement from the Lord tomorrow—would you come?" The product of correction is a feeling of being closer to that one who loves us so much that he does want to correct. Isn't that the point... coming closer to God? After all, the closeness we have with God on the last day of our lives is that which you will take with you. In Alma 19:73-80, we are told we will be restored just as we left.

Job 5:17-19 tells us, "**Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty: For he maketh sore, and bindeth up: he woundeth, and his hands make whole. He shall deliver thee in six troubles: yea, in seven there shall no evil touch thee.**"

Br. Mike tells us he was fully commanded to bring forth this message to us this night.

**F**or the Sunday morning Sacrament Service we gathered in to the House of the Lord with great expectation. Again this year the sanctuary was full to capacity and overflowing. Apostle Roland Sarratt opened the service and Apostle Michael McGhee gave us the opening sermon.

Br. Mike asked us, "Who this day will declare the generation of Jesus Christ—That He lives here this day?" Br. Mike used Colossians 1:16 to tell us that all things were made by Him and for Him. In Helaman 4:56 we are told that worldly men do not desire to have God as their guide. In Alma 12 we are told the word of God is like a sword. Ephesians 4:11 tells us in whom we have retained an inheritance. Mosiah 2 tells us how the Nephites viewed themselves in a carnal state, even less than the dust of the earth. Br. Mike asked again, "Who shall declare His generation? Believe in Jesus Christ. We make that declaration this day." Isaiah 43:7 says, "**Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.**" In Mosiah 8:38-47, we are told **who** shall declare this generation—those who have hearkened, those who have heard the knock on their door, those who have searched. We are His seed, His heirs. Who shall declare? Those who will reach out and **receive**.

After the blessing and serving of the emblems, a baby blessing took place. The parents of newborn Kady, Beth and Jason Hall, brought

him forward for the blessing given by Elders Gerry Case and Bob Hedrick. May God Bless this precious little one and his parents.

Br. Roland led us into a season of prayer, where others followed. The service was then opened for testimonies. An "almost" sister shared her joy with us, as she will be baptized later this day. She admonished us that if we stand shoulder-to-shoulder we can successfully fight the adversary. A brother admonished us to "Believe and **do**" as it commands us in Mosiah; that we must repent and rid ourselves of all bitterness so we can feel God. Another brother told us of the miracle of his cancer; that God led him to call the doctor and make an appointment for an exam, which led to a diagnosis. The prompting of the Lord was there, and His hand was evident. Now, he has been given the opportunity to share the blessings of God and the gospel of Christ with even more boldness. Another brother told us he felt Elder Mike Bevaart's sermon the night before was of God. He is thankful also for the zeal to declare Jesus Christ this day. Another brother told of his and his wife's great blessing of a miraculous presence with them as they went through the last year and a half of chemotherapy.

Another brother tells us he was an eye witness to the opening of a new era in latter-day history. He told us of the night he first met Sabino Cabrera fifty-two years ago in Dzan. It was shortly after the first members of the Church of Christ had been baptized. Several people were visiting in a candlelit room. He noticed Sabino's swollen, wounded feet. Trying to maintain eye contact with others in the room, his eyes always wandered back to those damaged, bare feet. Sabino had run through the jungle one night several weeks before with only sandals to protect his feet. His intent was to run to Ticul and warn Fernando Ojeda, the only elder of the church, not to come to Dzan on the bus. When the bus arrived later that evening, Fernando was not aboard. There was a crowd of people, enemies of the church, in the street waiting to take him off the bus and kill him. Some of the young church members, not knowing if Fernando was present, pushed through the mob to protect him. They were drug through the street by their hair and thrown into the jail for the night. It was Sabino, and his brother Susano, who testified that they had heard the prophet preach to the people in 1914. This most unusual person told them God had sent him to prophecy of many things, one of them being that one day the Gospel would be brought back to the Mayan people, to the home of Nemensio Xiu (the last Mayan king). This prophecy was fulfilled when Apostle Clarence Wheaton, and his wife Angela, spoke to a group of

Mayan people in the home of Nemensio Xiu in 1951. Sabino and his brother, Susano were present as Clarence had read a passage from 3 Nephi 5 to those assembled. Nemensio took the book, and holding it to his heart said, "This tells the same history as the ancient Mayan books that were destroyed by the black-robed priests in Mani." So began the latter-day work of reaching out to God's people, Israel.

There were administrations to several sick who called for the elders, and more testimonies followed. A brother told of his experience with anger; driving all night in a rage, falling asleep, then flipping his vehicle over, rolling it four and a half times. All he could do was pray, "Help me God!" When it stopped, he crawled out with only a bump on his head and a scratch. God heard his prayer. He received a chastisement from the Lord that night, and knew a week ago he was to stand and testify of his sin and shame, as well as the love and chastisement given. He thanked God for loving him enough to preserve him. He knows if he does it again, he will **not** be preserved. He warned us that if we receive a warning... HEED IT! Another brother stood and told us that until recently his life was filled with anger, pride and idols. Last year a tragedy hit, and now he is learning. God cares what we do, say and how we act. God has given him the opportunity to change.

Another administration took place as one called for the elders. A sister tells us she is a miracle; she has cancer. God has granted her this extension of life for her to learn to let Him have control. Having cancer has also given her a power; people listen to her now when she talks of God. It has given her an opportunity to further testify of His goodness. Another sister told us she hadn't planned on attending, but her heart was here so she decided to bring the rest of her. She told of how God sent His Spirit to comfort her over a situation that was a burden to her. A brother admonished us that our **soul** is what is most important. We need to be sincere, we need to come out of our comfort zones; these are the last days, and we need to become as little children and **accept** correction, for this is the time to prepare to meet God. Everything, except our souls, will pass away. Each and every day we must preserve our souls. It will all be worth it to spend eternity with our Lord and Savior. A sister told us of the voice of the Spirit telling her she would have another child when the time was right. Five and a half years later she was told by the Spirit the time was right, that she would conceive and bear a son. She did, and her teenage son is with them this day. She admonished us that when the Lord speaks to you—you can't

deny it. We DO have to step out in our faith. She urged everyone to prepare for what the Lord has for you.

The service came to a close as we relished the Spirit, feeling greatly fed, and gathered into the dining hall for another wonderful meal provided by the Dining Committee.

A short time later we gathered again in the sanctuary for a song service of specials, in which were many beautiful offerings of music and song in praise to our Lord.

A baby blessing then took place. The parents of newborn Kira, Tabitha and Elder Matt Case, brought her forward for the double blessing given by Elders Randy Sheldon and John Case, who are also the proud grandfathers of little Kira. May God bless this precious little one and her parents.

Next we received the message of that sermon no one likes—the LAST one of our reunion for this year, given Sunday evening.

Apostle Joel Yates greeted us and asked, "Do we want to see our youth take their place in the church?" Do we know what to tell them? Let's work on it.

What heritage do we want to pass down? Ephesians 6:4 tells what a father's duty is. Are we effectively communicating the gospel of Christ to our children, preparing them for a life of service to God?

Parents, what are the **three** major decisions our children make?

Surely, to **have Christ** in their lives; who to **marry**; and what **career** to choose.

- What kind of dangers are in these challenges?
  - To follow Christ, or not; they often don't even know they need him. Mosiah 1:119, II Nephi 1:71-73. Our righteousness is because of His righteousness.
    - Many messages; which one is right?
    - Many churches; which one is right?
    - Differences of belief within the Church of Christ.
    - Differences in what we say, and what we **practice**.
      - Lack of righteousness today in God's people.
  - What elements make up righteousness?
    - Must understand man's sinful nature, and the need for the redemptive power of Christ through repentance.
      - Must have a love of God and all men.
      - Must exercise judgment.
      - Must be humble and submissive to the Lord.
  - We have a need to teach judgment to our youth.
    - Psalms 19:9-11; Alma 19:78; Proverbs 8:17-20.

- Basic Elements of Judgment.— Moroni 7:9-25
- What gets in the way of judgment?
  - How will it affect my family?
  - I don't want to hurt someone's feelings.
  - Everyone else is doing it.
- Life's work: figuring it out—
  - Education, direction, and other pursuits getting in the way.
- Challenges in who they should marry?
  - Power of minor decisions.
  - What does God expect of them before marriage? To stay chaste.
- Give them the big picture—Take it seriously, so they will.

**A**s the final sermon ended with prayer we still looked forward to more. A short time later there was a baptism service held in the lower level of the church, where seven were led down into the waters. Our new brothers and sisters are:

Sherry Rowett, has attended the Temple Lot Local for four years.

DiAnn Hedrick, wife of Dan Hedrick, Temple Lot Local.

Peggy Geier, wife of Brian Geier, Temple Lot Local.

Ryan Lesh, engaged to Kelly Pinder, Temple Lot Local.

Hannah Vogel, daughter of Dave and Debbie Vogel, Temple Lot Local.

Laura Greenwood, daughter of Randy and Becky Sheldon, Temple Lot Local.

Aimee Yates, daughter of Joel and Jenny Yates, from Phoenix, Arizona.

Also, several days later there was another baptism service held following the Wednesday evening prayer service. Two more were baptized into the Church of Christ:

Kaitlyn Yates, daughter of Jim, Jr. and Kim Yates from Phoenix, Arizona.

Noah Geier, son of Jon and Carrie Geier, Temple Lot Local.

Thus nine more souls were added to the family of God! Welcome, and may God Bless you all!

May God bless you!  
Your reporter,  
Sr. Deb Haines



## Church of Christ

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### 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  
racoont21@juno.com or  
racoont21@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-bsheldon@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  
gjmccann@cox.net