

Zion's Advocate

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

1 Nephi 3:187

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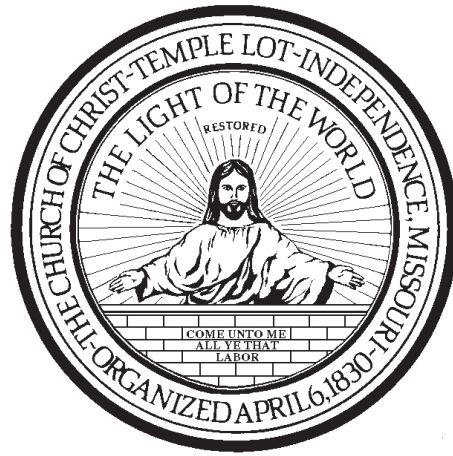


"And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight. And they said one to another, Did not our hearts burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures? And they rose up the same hour, and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven gathered together, and them that were with them, saying, The Lord is risen indeed . . ." —Luke 24:31-34.

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



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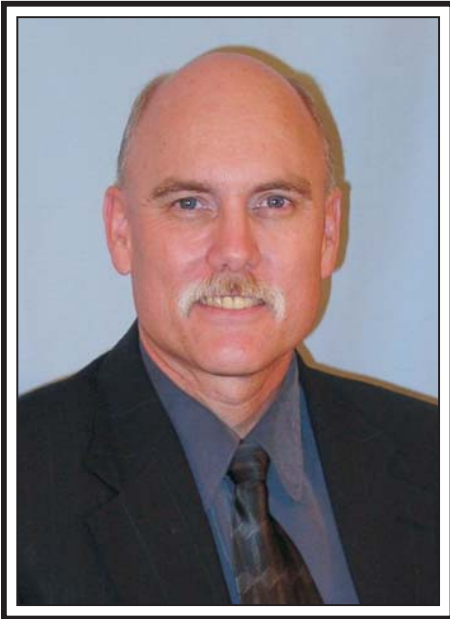
STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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.

The Power of God



By Elder Gordon McCann

King David of Israel understood where his strength came from. He poured out his heart openly (as recorded in the Bible) and expressed the hope that he had within his heart.

“My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him. He only is my rock and my salvation: he is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my salvation and my glory: the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God. Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah” (Psalm 62:5-8).

Towards the end of the 62nd Psalm David makes a simple but truthful statement concerning God. Really it is more

than just a statement: it is his personal testimony of the power of God.

God hath spoken once; twice have I heard this; that power belongeth unto God. Also unto thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy: for thou renderest to every man according to his work” (Psalm 62:11-12).

King David experienced the power of God in a very personal way when God established a “Throne of His Kingdom” that would proceed from David’s bowels that would be everlasting” (2 Samuel 7:12-17).

David struggled with his weaknesses of the flesh throughout his life. We can read about his life’s failures as contained in the scripture record. There was one thing that David knew and seemed to have learned from his youth—and that was to put his trust in God. When David would succumb to his weak fleshly desires God would chasten him as a beloved father toward his child. David was always quick to acknowledge his fault before God and man. He would humble himself at God’s throne of mercy, repentant, seeking God’s forgiveness. This cycle was repeated throughout his life. King David understood the power of God and what that meant. In his heart he loved his God and wanted to serve Him and his

people. David’s true desire was to fulfill the will of God in his life. That was his desire and life-long struggle; thus, he was willing to forsake all to receive this gift from God: eternal life with his God.

The following scripture found in the book of Isaiah sums up what we must come to understand concerning the greatness and power of our God. By God’s power we will be able to “cast the beam” from our eye to become effective servants for Him. We will be able to stand as a witness and testimony of that power in these last days as King David’s recorded testimony still does today.

“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint (Isaiah 40:28-31).

A Christian Position on the Sin of Homosexual Behavior

By Elder Robert Hedrick

Homosexual behavior is not new. It has been going on for thousands of years. The destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah was about two thousand years before Christ. It has been practiced in almost every major civilization throughout history. For most of the history of our modern western civilization the practice of homosexual behavior was not thrust into the public arena. The rise of western civilization was in predominantly Christian areas, and so it was viewed as a sin and not spoken about in public. However, over the course of about the last 50 years, its practitioners have become more vocal about their acts and have begun to demand special recognition for their rights to practice them. We are now bombarded by the popular culture of television, the movies, the printed media and music with examples of people living a homosexual lifestyle, and we are expected to look upon it as acceptable or “normal.” Therefore, I believe that we as the Church of Christ have a responsibility to respond to this aggressive campaign and not only speak out against this sin, but also have a proper understanding of how to correctly view this sin and those who practice it.

First of all, let’s look at what the Scriptures say about this behavior. While the Book of Mormon doesn’t

speaking directly to this issue, the Bible addresses this issue in several places. Besides the example of God’s judgment against Sodom and Gomorrah found in Genesis 19, the Law of Moses was very clear about the practice of homosexual behavior. According to Leviticus 18:22 and 20:13, homosexual acts were an abomination and were punished by death. Likewise, in the New Testament, while the penalty of immediate death was no longer the rule, the eventual spiritual death of those who practiced it and didn’t repent was still in effect. The Apostle Paul, in 1st Corinthians 6:9-10, lists some of the sins, among which are “effeminate,” and “abusers of themselves with mankind,” whose practitioners “shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” In 1st Timothy 1:8-11, this behavior is described as “them that defile themselves with mankind” and equated with being “lawless and disobedient.” Finally, in the first chapter of Romans, Paul describes the reasons for the wrath of God against the Gentiles, among which are “for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly... Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do

them” (Romans 1:26-27, 32).

Having this foundation of Scripture, I believe that the Church of Christ is united in our understanding that homosexual behavior is considered a sin, a sin which would cause the eternal destruction of the souls of those who practice it when they stand before God to be judged. With such a terrible consequence of this sin, we as the Church have a great responsibility to preach repentance to anyone that is living this lifestyle.

While we as a Church may be right in our understanding that homosexual behavior is a sin, we also need to view it correctly. This can be difficult because this particular sin has some unique factors. I know of no other sinful behavior that is supported by a movement that attempts to make its behavior acceptable. I have yet to see a parade through a major metropolitan city demanding equal rights for murderers, or adulterers. I know of no movement trying to change the laws of society to provide special protection in the workplace for thieves or liars, just because they have a natural tendency to steal or lie. Similarly, I know of no group of people dedicated to gaining the acceptance in our culture for kidnappers or drug dealers.

We in our humanness tend to rank sins according to the degrees of sinfulness. It is common for us to regard sins such as murder or adultery as

“worse” than a simple lie or drunkenness. Partly because there is such a great effort to make the sin of homosexual behavior acceptable to our society, we regard it as a “worse” sin than others. Ultimately, any human attempt to categorize sins leads to a categorization of people. We have a natural tendency to put individuals or groups into mental pigeonholes and treat them differently than others. To say that one sinner is worse than another one, and therefore saying that I will love this one and reject that one, is to equate a person’s value with their morality. If a person is involved in a particular sin that is considered “worse” or “more evil” than another type of sin, there is a temptation to treat the person as less valuable or less lovable, or to not relate to the person at all. This type of treatment must not be acceptable in the lives of Christians, who are commanded by their Lord to love their neighbor as themselves (Mark 12:31, Mosiah 11:16), and to have the same concern for another soul’s eternal welfare as their own.

In order to view this sin in the proper way, we should look to God for our example. First, James tells us that God views all sin the same, “For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all” (James 2:10). Also, Alma tells us that “the Lord can not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance” (Alma 21:18), and Nephi tells us that “. . .no unclean thing can dwell with God” (1st Nephi 3:35). There are not varying degrees of sins, with some being “worse” or “more evil” than others, and there is no sin which God tolerates.

Second, we must have the same

love and concern for all of mankind that God has. God spoke through the prophet Ezekiel, “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord God, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live:” (Ezekiel 33:11). Peter tells us that He “. . .is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance” (2nd Peter 3:9). While God hates the sin, He does not hate the sinner. God hates the sin because He knows that it will cause the destruction of one of His creation. God did not create anyone just to be destroyed; but rather, Nephi tells us that “men are, that they might have joy” (2nd Nephi 1:115), and joy comes from obedience to God’s commandments and eternal life. God’s love for the sinner is the reason that He sent His Son.

Third, we must remember that homosexual behavior is not “the unpardonable sin.” When Alma spoke to his son Corianton he explained that “. . .if ye deny the Holy Ghost when it once hath had place in you, and ye know that ye deny it: behold, this is the sin which is unpardonable;” (Alma 19:8). Jesus Christ himself reiterates this in Mark 3:29, “But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation.”

Fourth, we must look more closely at some of the scriptures that deal with homosexual behavior. When we look at 1st Corinthians, chapter 6, we must understand that Paul is not speaking of only homosexual behavior. “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idol-

aters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (1st Corinthians 6:9-10). Paul is not listing all possible sins (see Mosiah 2:48-49), but here gives us a partial list of various examples of sins, including the sin of homosexual behavior, which all have the same consequence. The penalty for a man and woman living in an adulterous relationship, the individual who escapes to alcohol or drugs, the individual who doesn’t control his temper (revilers), the individual who is a bully (extortioners) and the individual living a homosexual lifestyle all share the same fate. But Paul doesn’t stop there. “And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God” (1st Corinthians 6:11). Paul reminds us that all of us are sinners (Romans 3:23) and need repentance and forgiveness. That puts us on an equal plane with someone who struggles with the temptation of homosexuality. Everyone has different strengths and weaknesses. What is a great struggle for one individual is not even a temptation for someone else. However, we all stand in need of the same forgiveness through repentance and the washing away of our sins.

Finally, we must make one more distinction. Throughout this article I have referred to the sin of homosexual “behavior.” We must recognize the difference between a temptation and a sin. James makes the distinction when he tells us that “every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust,

and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death” (James 1:14-15). Jesus Christ was tempted, but did not sin (Matthew 4, Luke 4, Mosiah 1:100). An individual who is tempted to lose his temper has not sinned until he lashes out verbally or physically at another. An individual who is tempted to escape to alcohol or drugs has not sinned until he takes the drink or uses the drugs. Likewise, an individual that suffers from the temptation of homosexuality has not sinned until he chooses to fantasize about it (lust) or commit an act of homosexual behavior. To sin is a choice. Christ chose not to sin, but too often we choose to sin. We do not choose to be tempted, but we do choose whether to sin or not. The temptation can be stopped before it becomes a sin.

If we understand and regard the sin of homosexual behavior correctly, how then should we respond to someone who is living a homosexual lifestyle, or struggling with homosexual temptations?

The proper response to someone who is living a homosexual lifestyle should be the same as for any other sin. First, grief that God has been hurt by the sin committed, and grief that the individual is troubled and in great need. We can only feel grief when we have a genuine love and concern for the individual. Next, that grief should lead us to action. We should pray that God would touch and convict their hearts of their error. For those of us in the ministry, we have the added burden and responsibility of approaching the individual in meekness (Galatians 6:1), and attempting to reconcile them to God. Ul-

timately it will be the power of Christ and the Holy Spirit working in their life which convinces the sinner to trust in God, accept His promise of forgiveness when they repent, and help them overcome their sin by coming out of and replacing a destructive lifestyle with a lifestyle in obedience to His will. However, we should also ask ourselves, “How can I help this person? How can I point them to Christ?” Ask God to give us wisdom and to open the door. Each situation may be a little unique, but we should view and treat each individual as one of God’s creation that Jesus Christ died to save, and be willing to share our faith in Christ, “the reason of the hope that is in you” (1st Peter 3:15), and the blessings and benefits of repentance and living according to His commandments.

When someone has been convinced of their sin and is attempting to come out of the homosexual lifestyle, but is still struggling with the temptation of homosexual behavior, we should continue to support them with our prayers and our love. These individuals are in a battle for their souls against a powerful adversary. They are trying to replace a whole lifestyle and identity and need to fill their lives with Godly behavior. We all may not be able to relate to their particular temptations, but we are all tempted by other things which can be just as destructive. We can share how God has helped us overcome these temptations, or a sin in our life. We should be available for them to call upon in a time when the struggle is hardest. We should offer encouragement and support, reminding them that they are not in this battle alone, and reminding them of God’s power

and His promises to not allow us “to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (1st Corinthians 10:13). We should help them, not hinder them by not wanting to get too close emotionally. They often struggle with the feeling that God hates them because of their sin; we should not reinforce that feeling by our actions, but should communicate our concern for their welfare by our words and actions.

When we can regard the sin of homosexual behavior in its proper context, that every one of us suffers from different temptations, that there is a difference between a temptation and a sin, that the consequences are no different than any other sin, that God still loves those that are in the sin and that it is not the unpardonable sin, then we can begin to have a sure foundation of how to respond to or interact with someone who is living a homosexual lifestyle, or struggles with the temptation of homosexual behavior. The Church of Christ can then be the “city that is set on an hill,” shining the light of Jesus Christ into the lives of those that struggle with the temptation of homosexual behavior.



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 2006 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 10 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 23rd 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 23-28, 2006

T-SHIRTS are included in camp cost. Size must be received by July 11th.

TOTAL CAMP COST: \$125.00 (\$135.00 IF PAID AFTER JULY 3, 2006)

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 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

Church of Christ TEEN CAMP 2006 Registration Form

Camper's Name: _____

Years in school, Fall 2006: _____

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 #: _____

Please include a copy of your health insurance card.

CAMPERS ARE NOT TO ARRIVE AT CAMP PRIOR TO 3:30 P.M., SUNDAY, JULY 23rd, 2006.

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 28th. If other arrangements are needed, please specify: _____

Please specify your T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL

NOTARIZATION:

Subscribed and sworn to me this _____ day of _____, 2006

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.			
Building a Foundation				
Creation/Evolution				
A Few Good Men (ages 16 and up)				
Finding Your Way through the Scriptures				
Making Time for God (Time Management)				
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.			
Candy Making				
Cardio-Kickboxing				
Emergency Roadside Survival (Basic Car Know-how)				
Epic War Battles of the Book of Mormon				
Fishing				
Science Experiments				
Sign Language				
Spiritual Warfare 2				
Volleyball				
Woodcarving				
Study	11:05 a.m.			
Lunch	12:05 p.m.			
Choose 1 daily 1:15 p.m. class below; include a 2nd and 3rd choice.	1:15 p.m.			
Aerodynamics				
Archery				
Candy Making				
Digital Photography (digital camera required)				
Fann of Politics				
The Mathematical Symmetry of Nature				
Sailing (must know how to swim)				
Sew Fun				
Soccer				
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.			

PATHLIGHTS

POEM

A True Blessing from God

This letter goes out to those in our church. I felt I needed to tell of the blessing in my life.

My grandfather was Elder M. Harvey Seibel. He told me things as a child that I took for granted, but it wasn't until almost 20 or 25 years later that I realized the importance of prayer and fasting.

I have received a blessing, and it's not that I was married in May of 1995, but that my marriage was led into harsh reality from drinking, partying and all manner of sin, that my wife and I are now separated and getting a divorce. Once we were separated, my drinking got so bad I would buy a beer for the drive home, and if I was uncertain, I would buy plenty extra for fear of running out at home.

One day I felt so low that I decided I needed to talk to someone. By the grace of GOD I thought of my cousin Irene and she led me to read different scriptures. Irene and I talked on the phone for hours almost every night, studying the scriptures. With



PATHLIGHTS

GOD showing Irene what to have me read I was led to a day of fasting on September 15, 2005. At the end of my fasting I was weak and very tired, but I felt blessed. It wasn't until the next day that I realized I had received a true blessing from GOD. I no longer have the urge or want to drink. I feel the Lord has lifted that sin from me.

*Sincerely,
Andrew Nephi Carney
Baker, West Virginia*

The Master's Dog

He wasn't a pretty animal—you
might even call him a stray,
But he was important when he
walked with the Master that day.

He growled at those who spat at
Him, as he walked by the
Master's cross,
He licked His hand as He hung
there—not knowing of their
loss.

His yelps of pain were overruled by
the frenzy of the crowd,
As his Master slowly died, his yelps
became quite loud.

But his sounds were mellowed by his
Master's statement true,
"Father, please forgive them for
they know not what they do."

The old dog walked the path,
knowing of the end,
Realizing well his task was
done—he was his Master's
friend.

—Sam Kidd, July 16, 2005

Our Liberty in Christ

My testimony is that God will help you do whatever it takes to preserve your liberty in Christ.

For those of you who either don't know me or haven't seen me for a long time, I am an Elder in the Church of Christ and Pastor of the Springfield, Missouri local. I used to make a living working for a Gannett (*USA Today*) property: the *Springfield News-Leader*, a daily newspaper.

My daily activities at the newspaper included advertising sales.

If my memory serves me right, it was on June 1st when I got back to the office and had finished up my daily paper shuffling that my manager came up to me and told me we were going to have a meeting. I followed him to a conference room and met my second line manager and the director of human resources. After a few minutes of formalities, my second line manager told me, "We find that your dedication to your church is interfering with your responsibilities here at the News-Leader. To be successful here you are going to have to

choose which one is more important."

I immediately thought to myself, "Easy, I've already decided which is most important." But I also immediately thought, "What??? Did I just hear what I think they said?" All I could do, as I remember doing even before the meeting, was say a silent prayer in my heart.

I told them that in no way had my dedication to my church ever negatively impacted my work, and that if there was any effect of my church on my work it was good. I asked them if they had any specifics or proof for their comments and they quickly veered away from answering me. They told me I had 30 days to decide.

Scriptures came to mind, such as Peter 4:12-13: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy." And what Paul says in 2 Corinthians 4:8, 9:

"We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed...."

As I walked out of the office and drove back home, all I could think about was my pregnant wife and our child on the way. Tabitha had been put on bed rest a few weeks earlier to prevent pre-mature labor. I had to constantly meditate in prayer to fight off the worry. I knew that my situation was a mere hiccup compared to the torment Moses must have felt when he fled Egypt, or the stress Jesus felt in the garden. I remembered how in Luke 22:43 it says that an angel ministered to Jesus. I knew that if I was faithful, I would have the Lord's favor through this trial.

Within minutes of getting home I received an immediate blessing. The Luke Wiley family paid us a surprise visit. You can imagine how my soul felt lifted up. Before too long, I explained my situation and how I didn't know how I was going to explain things to Tabitha (since she was not home yet). Once

Tab got home, things went a lot better than I had imagined. I know that the Wileys were there just as much for Tab as they were for me. Our night together included a few prayers. I know that the Wileys are not angels, but they did the same job. I thank God for arranging that evening.

I went to work the next day and it was tough, but not as tough as I had expected. I was under the microscope and micro-managed beyond belief. The trial was to not fall into the pit of hate that was before me, as well as bring the frustration into my home or church.

I know the protection and power of the full armor of Christ. I petition all those who have ever read about it to put it on and put it to use. My loved ones helped me along with telephone calls, scripture notes, and my theme song through this, "God is my strong salvation," which was jotted down on a little pink piece of paper. I think I will save these little notes my whole earthly life (good Lord willing).

I stayed on the job almost to the date that they would terminate me. I had to wait so my insurance would be able to cover the birth of my first daughter. The Lord gave me a plan to make all of this work.

You need to know that the Lord can actually do this sort of thing—just like He did with the plans for Noah's Ark, just like He gave Moroni the plan to rescue the captive Nephites. Bro. Daniel Malone sings a song from the scriptures about how God watches over the sparrows. I hope you get the chance to hear it. It means so much to me now that I really know how much God cares for us all (especially the babies before they are born, like my little Keira).

Before I quit, I had the opportunity to re-vamp my resume. One day, I was in the field without my sales manager and I dropped in on a company to do a business call. After surveying their needs for newspaper advertising, I discovered that they needed a Territory Marketing Coordinator. So, I gave them my resume...and two months later I was hired as their Territory Marketing Coordinator. Thanks be to God.

The morning I gave my resignation, I went into our newspaper publisher's office. I just walked into his office and asked if he had a minute. I then asked if he knew what I had been told, about my predicament, and how I was supposed to choose between my work and my church. He then replied, "Matt, I want you to know that I agree with your managers.

The way I see it, you have two jobs and you need to pick just one."

I wasn't all that surprised. I was blessed with the knowledge that I had absolutely no misgivings about my decision to resign.

So, now that you know the long and the short of my testimony I want to warn you of the power of the media. When I started working there I was awfully naive. I learned that the "blatant media bias" really does exist. Now, don't get me wrong. There are honest at heart people in media journalism (and thank God for those few). However, I do know that most (90% or more) of the people I met in my small time with the media are in favor of things like homosexuality and abortion. I know for sure that the media establishment considers itself as relevant and important as any church. So, please understand that you can get your news from these sources, but please use discernment concerning where you get your opinions. May God be with you. And may you be with God.

*Through Christ's love,
Matt Case*

The Work of Christ

I, Isaac Ondimu Mayore, was a member of the Full Gospel churches of Kenya (Kiendege Local). I was an assistant Pastor for years, and at the same time I was a secretary of our local. Because of the kind of responsibility in our local I suffered so much, as our Pastor would not agree with the committee that was elected by the church to conduct church activities. Fights would start amongst the brethren. Some of us could not stand the fights so we decided to move. We were around 15 people who were in spiritual need. We started another group under a tree, and nobody followed us to know what had happened to us. We continued to praise God in every way and manner, and encouraged one another not to separate, but to continue in prayer that God might show unto us where to join.

We did a small fund raising that helped us purchase iron sheets (45) and the members gave themselves in finding the necessary materials for building the structure. At the same time they never hired anyone for this job, for we had no money to pay labor, but the members did the work themselves, and so we had a building for worship in the year 2003, January.

One night as I was sleeping I saw a dream. I call it a dream, for this appeared to me during my sleep time. I saw that I was in a school where I had studied during my youth in the years 1970-1975. I saw myself seated in class with other pupils. We were saddened for we did not have a teacher. As we continued to wonder I saw a white man coming towards our class having two books in his hands, a walking stick, a blackboard, and a ruler. As he

entered our class all of us stood, as it is a routine that when a teacher comes to class we should stand in his honor. He greeted us, and after greeting us, we sat down, and this man walked directly to me and gave me a book and told me to read! On looking on the book I found that it was the Holy Bible. I did not hesitate. I looked up the book of John 3:16, for this was the verse I knew well, and maybe all the pupils did too. When I finished reading I took the Bible back to him. He gave me another book and asked me to read it also. I searched for John 3:16 but I could not find the scriptures. Surprisingly, I saw words that I had never heard or seen. When the teacher (white man) saw how amused I was he asked me to read from anywhere I would like. I opened the first page and I had difficulty in pronouncing some words, but I was able to pronounce others. Then the white man teacher continued to read that book and told me I would know its meaning, and then I woke up from the dream. I prayed about it and asked God why He showed me my childhood, and why I was taken to class.

In less than two months a brother who is now in the Church of Christ, who also had left the Full Gospel church with me, sent a word with a man who was helping me in this group that they had found a church, and the name of the church was Church of Christ (Temple Lot). And then I heard that the elders were coming to bring teachings to this group at Bobaracho. We decided to go up to this place with my assistant and hear more about this group. This was the first time I met with Apostle Smith Brickhouse and Apostle Brian

McIndoo with our local elders, Michael Otero and Moses Ohuru. After listening to their teachings they invited us to travel with some of our members so that they might hear their teachings too, at a place called Getuka Church of Christ. This was 2003, February. Apostle Brian taught about the Holy Bible and the Book of Mormon and how they teach the same gospel, and after much listening on the teachings we went back to our home, and we believed this message.

Brother Michael and Peter Moses came and taught us more on the Book of Mormon, and we accepted the teachings and started the Church of Christ (Nyamaramber). Later when I was given the copy of the Book of Mormon and started to read it is when I recalled my dream, which I saw being in school and the white man teacher with two books. After a few days as I was sleeping on my bed I heard a voice calling and telling me, "That is my church, if you will be faithful, and humble yourself, I will show you much more."

I, Isaac Ondimu, this day believe that the Church of Christ is not the work of man, but it is the work of Christ Himself. I believe the scriptures from the Book of Mormon and the Holy Bible contain the true testimony of Jesus Christ.

*By Isaac Ondimu
Nyamaramber Local
P.O. Box 1129
Kisii*

OBITUARY

Wilma Jean Bryant

July 1931 – March 2005

Wilma Jean Bryant was born July 12, 1931, in Dawn, MO, to Vernon and Rachel Goll, and passed from this life March 7, 2006, at the age of 74 years 7 months and 23 days.

Following her graduation from Braymer High School, Wilma married Gerald Ray Bryant on June 26, 1949, in Hamilton, MO. To this union three daughters were born: Nancy Jean, Karen Rose, and Donna Kay.

Wilma was a faithful, loving wife, mother, homemaker, neighbor, and farm hand. She was baptized into Christ, August 1956, and remained a faithful member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Georgeville. She was a member of the Georgeville Extension Club as well.

Wilma is survived by her daughters and their families: Nancy and Dean Swafford of Savannah, MO; Karen and Kenneth Claypole, of Polo, MO; and Donna and John Clock, of Kansas City, MO. Wilma's grandchildren are: Marshall and Deborah Swafford, of

Blacksburg, VA; Brandon Swafford, of Dallas, TX; Austin Swafford, of Monroe City, MO; Jacob Sprouse, of Belton, MO; Canaan Sprouse, of Kansas City, MO; Kandace and Kasey Claypole, of Polo, MO; one great-grandchild: Mychaela Sprouse, of Kansas City, MO; and two brothers: her twin brother Dean Goll of Pittsburg, KS; and William Goll of Hamilton, MO.

In addition to her parents, Gerald, her husband of 54 years, grandson Aaron Sprouse, and four brothers, Wayne, Eldon, Lloyd, and Gail Goll, preceded Wilma in death.

Wilma will be greatly missed by her family, neighbors, friends, and church family, and remembered for her smile and loving nature.

Visitation was held at the Pitts Funeral Home in Braymer, Missouri, Friday night, from 7 to 8 PM. Friends and relatives from miles around came and honored our Sister Wilma. There was much getting acquainted between those that had not met before, though they were all special

to Sr. Wilma.

The funeral service was held on Saturday, March 11. Again, the funeral home was packed with friends, neighbors, and family, as we remembered how special she was to her family, community, and the Georgeville Local Church. Her children and grandchildren spoke of her special gifts to them. The daughters sang "God Will Take Care of You," and they asked the congregation to sing, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" with them.

"How Great Thou Art" was sung by a friend, Royce King, and Karen King was the pianist. We all were caused to remember what her life meant to us.

Sister Wilma was laid to rest beside her husband Gerald Bryant in the beautiful Evergreen Cemetery in Braymer, Missouri, close to Gerald's parents and her sister-in-law Mary Lois (Harris) Bryant. The pallbearers were grandsons and nephews.



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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2007 General Conference** of the Church of Christ will be held Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, April 1, 2 and 3, at Independence, Missouri.

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.

The **2007 Ministers' Conference** of the Church of Christ will commence Sunday, April 2. The business sessions will start at 9:00 A.M. Monday, April 3.

ZION'S ADVOCATE SUBSCRIPTIONS

The annual subscription rate to the *Zion's Advocate* is \$12.00 (optional \$4.00 for members). Send subscriptions and donations to:
The Church of Christ
P.O. Box 472
Independence, MO 64051-0472

2006 CHURCH OF CHRIST REUNIONS

MAY

Scripture Theme Camp

- ▶ May 19-21, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Camp Bob White, Knob Noster State Park.
- ▶ For information contact: **Mark Hill, Dan Lawrence, Randy Sheldon, Jesse Lawrence, Tim Eddy.**

Washington Youth Retreat

- ▶ May 20-21, Saturday-Sunday
- ▶ Sadus Pass, Washington, at the home of David and Becky Ray
- ▶ Contact:
David and Becky Ray

PO Box 1497
Goldendale, WA 98626
Home: (509) 773-6060
Cell: (509) 949-7080

Houston Rally

- ▶ May 21, Sunday
- ▶ Houston, Missouri, Local

JUNE

Idaho Reunion

- ▶ June 3-4, Saturday-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
racocon21@juno.com or
racocon21@earthlink.net

Colorado Reunion

- ▶ June 9-11, 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

Springfield Rally

- ▶ June 18, 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

Michigan Reunion

- ▶ June 24-25, Saturday-Sunday
- ▶ Bradley Local, Michigan
- ▶ For information, contact:
Duane Lee
2053 Fawn Ave.
Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 795-7420
- Elder Adam Porter**
9 Market St.
Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 795-2694

JULY

New York Reunion

- ▶ July 7-9, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Hogansburg, New York
- ▶ For information contact:
In Canada:
Wayne and Susan Miller
868 Tollgate Road
Cornwall, Ontario
Canada K6H5R6
(613) 933-5469
wmiller12@cogeco.ca
- 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 13617
(315) 265-1221
terwald@slc.com

Tri-State Reunion

- ▶ July 7-10, Friday-Monday
- ▶ Wyalusing State Park Indoor Group Camp
- ▶ Contact: **Merlin Eddy**
418 7th Street East
Hastings, MN 55033
(651) 338-2253
eddyml@earthlink.net

Vacation Church School

- ▶ July 10-14, Monday-Friday
- ▶ Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri
- ▶ Contact:
Carrie Geier (816) 836-0035
Becky Sheldon (816) 229-6712
Debbie Vogel (816) 254-5230

Church of Christ Teen Camp

- ▶ July 24-29, Sunday-Friday
- ▶ Camp Far Westa, near Stewartville, 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 27, Thursday
- ▶ East Independence Local, Missouri
- ▶ For kids ages 5-11
- ▶ For information contact:
Jennifer Yates
(602) 790-0852
hometeachin@cox.net
- Aimee Brockman**
aimee.brockman@tmcmcd.org
- Randy and Becky Sheldon**
(816) 229-6712
r-bsheldon@juno.com

Missouri Reunion

- ▶ July 28-30, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Church of Christ, Temple Lot, 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
mcgheeme@msn.com

SEPTEMBER

Arizona Scripture Camp

- ▶ September 1-3
- Women's Retreat**
- ▶ September 29-30, Friday-Saturday
- ▶ Lake Mauer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Missouri.
- ▶ For women ages 18 and older
- ▶ 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

OCTOBER

Ontario Reunion

- ▶ October 7-8, Saturday-Sunday
- ▶ Brantford, Ontario

Collins Rally

- ▶ October 15, Sunday
- ▶ Collins, Missouri

NOVEMBER

Phoenix Reunion

- ▶ November 24-26, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Phoenix, Arizona
- ▶ For information contact:
Bob Hedrick
2908 E Rockwood Dr
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 494-9661
bobnliza@cox.net
- Duane Ely**
18814 N 30th St
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-1516
duanekathyely@aol.com
- Gordon McCann**
18808 N 30th St
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 569-2341
gpjmcann@cox.net