

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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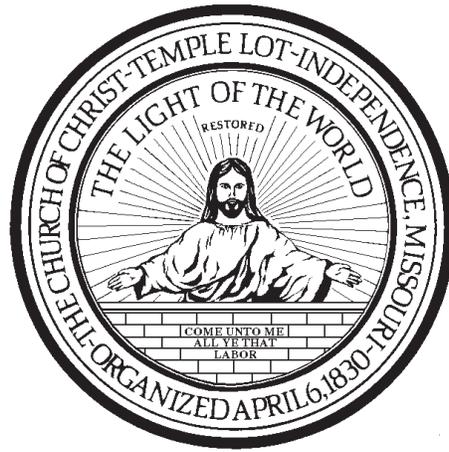
NUMBER 5



"Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land, save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord. Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; Wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity: if so, it shall be because of iniquity: For if iniquity shall abound, cursed shall be the land for their sakes; But unto the righteous, it shall be blessed for ever." —II Nephi 1:10-15

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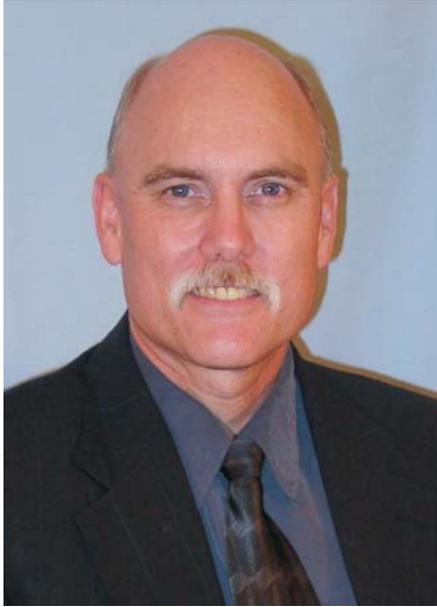
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

EDITORIAL

“THE LAND OF PROMISE”



By Elder Gordon McCann

“We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the name, and by authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States....”

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress adopted by a unanimous vote of the delegates of 12 colonies the document known as the “Declaration of Independence.” This single act was the beginning or birth of a new nation predicated on the principle “that all men are created

equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights.” The signers of the document understood full well if they were to succeed they had to rely on God as their Protector in this righteous step towards freedom: “And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.”

God holds us to that same standard as He did with our Forefathers where He blessed them with freedom through their reliance upon Him, which came by much sacrifice on their part. It is incumbent upon each of us, as the possessors of this free nation, to examine ourselves and to always remember: “Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man” (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

“And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written” Ether 1:34-35.

GEORGE WASHINGTON QUOTES

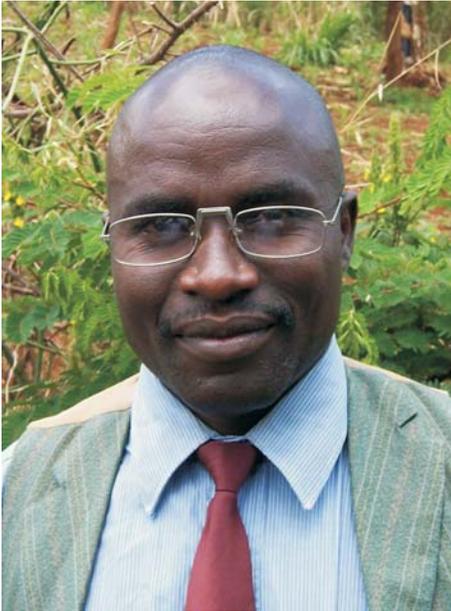
“And let us with caution indulge the supposition, that morality can be maintained without religion. Whatever may be conceded to the influence of refined education on minds of peculiar structure, reason and experience both forbid us to expect that National morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle.”

Last day of the Convention (1787) – “I see a path, as clear and direct as a ray of light.”

“At this auspicious period, the United States came into existence as a Nation, and if their Citizens should not be completely free and happy, the fault will be entirely their own.”

First Inaugural Address 1789 – “The foundation of our national policy be laid in the pure and immutable principles of private morality, ...there is no truth more thoroughly established than that there exists ... an indissoluble union between virtue and happiness; ... and that the propitious smiles of Heaven can never be expected on a nation that disregards the eternal rules of order and right; ... the preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican model of government are justly considered, as deeply, perhaps as finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people”

The Body and Its Members



By Priest Peter Moses

“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! It is like the precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard: that went down to the skirts of his garments;...” (Psalms 133:1-2).

Very true that it is good for brothers to stay together, eating, sharing and being together. Very hard, but that is how God needs it to be.

When we look to the Body we can just see its members staying, working together and bearing each other without murmuring.

“For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore

not of the body? And if the ear shall say, Because I am not the eye, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body?” (1 Corinthians 12:14-16).

Now here we can see there is no member that can boast to others that it is the only one doing work in the body. But each and every member has good works, whether more or less, they are working together to satisfy the body.

“And if they were all one member, where were the body?” (1 Corinthians 12:19)

The Church of Christ is caring types of people with many talents which help the church. One member can stand and testify of the goodness of the Lord, and when he or she has done that you can see the church rejoicing, for to that end this gives the church much strength.

In the Church of Christ there are white and black members, but all of these are in one family of our Lord. There is a surprise in the Church of Christ that when something will be decided, every member will be included or needed, like the time of Referendum. So in the Church of Christ nobody can say that he or she is more important than the other; all are the same because we are the body of Christ.

“And those members of the

body, which we think to be less honourable, upon these we bestow more abundant honour; and our uncomely parts have more abundant comeliness. For our comely parts have no need: but God hath tempered the body together, having given more abundant honour to that part which lacked: That there should be no schism in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another” (1 Corinthians 12:23-25).

Offices

“And God hath set some in the church, first apostles, secondarily prophets, thirdly teachers, after that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles? Have all the gifts of healing? do all speak with tongues? do all interpret?” (1 Corinthians 12:28-30).

From these parts of the body are where we get different offices as God pleases. And we have learned from the text that every member is doing his own work as he has been appointed or ordained to do.

As we know in the Church of Christ it is only men who are called to ministry and they are from the same body which is the church.

“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the



► Peter Moses watches as Apostle Brian McIndoo baptizes a new member of the body of Christ.

ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:...” (Ephesians 4:11-12).

Gifts of The Holy Ghost

“And there are different ways that these gifts are administered; but it is the same God who

worketh all in all; and they are given by the manifestations of the Spirit of God unto men, to profit them” (Moroni 10:9).

We can see that it is God who gives the Spirit to all men, and He is the one who worketh all in all. This same Spirit is the

one which gives gifts to those who are ready in faith through repentance and baptism. And when these gifts are working in the church there are no disputations among those who have been given them. They will not murmur or boast because they are working together in order to build the body of Christ (church).

“For behold, to one is given by the Spirit of God, that he may teach the word of wisdom; and to another, that he may teach the word of knowledge by the same Spirit; and to another exceeding great faith; and to another, the gifts of healing by the same Spirit. And again, to another, that he may work mighty miracles; and again, to another, that he may prophesy concerning all things; and again, to another, the beholding of angels and ministering spirits; and again, to another, all kinds of tongues; and again, to another, the interpretation of languages and of divers kinds of tongues” (Moroni 10:10-11).

Behold, my brethren, it is our time now as the body of Christ to dwell together, praying for each other as one family. It is when God will give us these blessings. We know that sometimes some of our brothers and sisters are far from us, but we feel and see the blessings through the prayers they give to our almighty God.

Grace versus Works-based Salvation



By Michael Kelley

I wish to offer a multi-part article based on a Sunday School subject we recently covered at the Treasure Valley Local. The subject is dealing with what the scriptures really teach about how we obtain salvation versus the common doctrines that are found in many other churches today. There seem to be three different schools of thought on this subject:

- Many Evangelical and Charismatic denominations believe that only grace saves us, and that our works

PART 1

are considered as "filthy rags" in God's eyes. Many do, however, preach and practice good works but consider them as having little impact on our eternal salvation.

- Other larger Christian and some Restoration denominations rely more on works and religious ceremonies and traditions in order to be righteous, and primarily by these works they obtain salvation. These groups do mention the grace of God but do not make grace the central theme of their religion.
- A few churches believe that both grace and works are essential for salvation. They believe that without the grace of God through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ there could be no hope for salvation; however they also believe that this grace is conditional. They believe that only by keeping the commandments of Christ and enduring to the end, in essence works, is grace then applied.

Which is right? Each side uses various scriptures to support their point of view, often ignoring other passages that oppose their point of view. It is like the tale of three blind men who encounter an elephant. The

man feeling the trunk thinks he's feeling a large snake, the man feeling the leg thinks he's feeling a tree trunk, the man feeling the side thinks it is a large boulder. Only by taking into account all of the scriptures can a sound understanding of the subject be achieved.

The first part of this editorial will cover grace. The scriptures have numerous passages concerning grace which, when properly interpreted, and taken in the author's originally intended context, will show full agreement between the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Easton's Bible Dictionary:

GRACE (1.) Of form or person (Prov. 1:9; 3:22; Ps. 45:2). (2.) Favour, kindness, friendship (Gen. 6:8; 18:3; 19:19; 2 Tim. 1:9). (3.) God's forgiving mercy (Rom. 11:6; Eph. 2:5). (4.) The gospel as distinguished from the law (John 1:17; Rom. 6:14; 1 Pet. 5:12). (5.) Gifts freely bestowed by God; as miracles, prophecy, tongues (Rom. 15:15; 1 Cor. 15:10; Eph. 3:8). (6.) Christian virtues (2 Cor. 8:7; 2 Pet. 3:18). (7.) The glory hereafter to be revealed (1 Pet. 1:13)."

In many Charismatic and other Protestant based churches you will frequently

hear the theme: "Accept the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior and you shall be saved." They imply that belief on His name is all that is required for salvation in order to receive God's grace. The Bible dictionary states that the word grace means God's "favor, kindness, friendship and forgiving mercy," something of which all Christians would surely desire in their lives. What scriptures do they often quote to support this belief?

John 3:14-17: "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

Acts 2:21: "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

Acts 16:30-31: "And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

As you can see, these and similar scriptures taken alone would seem to indicate that only belief or acceptance of Christ is required for salvation. This will be examined further in future parts of this editorial as to what exactly belief means and how this can be misleading or deceptive.

There are additional scriptures that point to grace-based salvation found in both the Bible and Book of Mormon:

Romans 3:23-24: "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...."

Romans 10:9: "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Ephesians 2:8-9: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."

2 Nephi 11:22: "Behold, they will crucify him, and after he is laid in a sepulcher for the space of three days, he shall rise from the dead, with healing in his wings, and all those who shall believe on his name, shall be saved in the kingdom of God."

2 Nephi 11:44: "For we know it is by grace that we are saved, after all we can do."

These and numerous other scriptures from both books all point to the fact that it is by the grace of God we are saved, that we are all poor unworthy creatures and without God's divine love and forgiveness we would have no hope for salvation. Taken alone it is easy to see how many can believe in the doctrine of grace-only salvation, that there is nothing we can do of ourselves in order to be saved other than belief and acceptance of Jesus in our lives. Paul emphatically states that it is only by grace we are saved, not

of works lest we should boast. Yet this will bring up some rather stark contradictions in other places in the Bible and Book of Mormon, where works are mandated.

A closer examination of what the term "Believe" means will help answer that contradiction:

Webster's Dictionary:

BELIEVE, *verb intransitive* To have a firm persuasion of any thing. In some cases, to have full persuasion, approaching to certainty; in others, more doubt is implied. It is often followed by *in* or *on*, especially in the scriptures. *To believe in*, is to hold as the object of faith. "Ye believe in God, believe also in me" John 14. *To believe on*, is to trust, to place full confidence in, to rest upon with faith. "To them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name" John 1. *Johnson*. But there is no ground for much distinction.

In *theology*, to *believe* sometimes expresses a mere assent of the understanding to the truths of the gospel; as in the case of Simon. Acts 8. In others, the word implies, with this assent of the mind, a yielding of the will and affections, accompanied with a humble reliance on Christ for salvation. John 1:12.

Webster's dictionary shows that the word "believe" can either mean just believing in the existence of God, or can mean a deeper belief in the truths that God revealed and the *yielding of the will and affections*. Other scriptures will show the great importance of this latter interpretation of the word "believe." The following scriptures will show how our works, the deeds we commit in this life, will im-

pact our eternal salvation:

Matthew 5:16: "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

they be good or whether they be evil."

These and a multitude of like scriptures from both books reveal that we shall be judged

same way as the very chief of sinners, then good works are of no moment. And more than this, if the grace of God is most clearly displayed in the salvation of the vilest of men, then the worse men are the better. The objection has no validity. The gospel of salvation by grace shows that good works are necessary. It is true, unchangeably true, that without holiness no man shall see the Lord. "Neither adulterers, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards" shall inherit the kingdom of God.

Those who do not manifest good works are not keeping Christ's commandments, and thus do not really believe in Him.

Matthew 16:27: "For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works."

Ephesians 2:10: "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them."

2 Timothy 3:17: "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

Revelation 20:12: "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

Mosiah 8:83: "Even this mortal shall put on immortality, and this corruption shall put on incorruption, and shall be brought to stand before the bar of God, to be judged of him according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil."

3 Nephi 12:27: "That as I have been lifted up by men, even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether

by our works at the last day. How then can a Christian say he is saved by grace alone while these scriptures teach that our works shall have a profound affect on our eternal judgment? This points to the crux of the matter...what does it mean to believe?

3 Nephi 5:68: "For verily I say unto you, that except ye shall keep my commandments, which I have commanded you at this time, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 5:19: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven."

Easton's Bible Dictionary:

Works-Good: The old objection against the doctrine of salvation by grace, that it does away with the necessity of good works, and lowers the sense of their importance (Rom. 6), although it has been answered a thousand times, is still alleged by many. They say if men are not saved by works, then works are not necessary. If the most moral of men are saved in the

Easton's Bible Dictionary answers the question of works very eloquently and in perfect agreement with both books. Clearly then the scriptural interpretation of "belief" is not only the acceptance of Christ as our Savior, but also the acceptance of His commandments and teachings which will thus be manifested by our good works. Those who do not manifest good works are not keeping Christ's commandments, and thus do not really believe in Him.

The following issues will address what the scriptures teach concerning those who wrest the scriptures and worship God with their lips while their works deny Him.

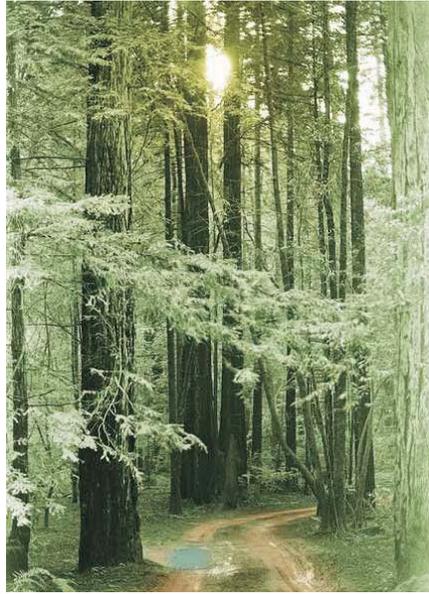
The Way to Heaven

A recent sermon from the Temple Lot pulpit caused me to remember a testimony I cherish. As a small child my mother was the disciplinary source. It was not physical, but caused me concern.

When I was naughty, Mother would shake her finger at me, and calling me by name, would say, "You'll never get to Heaven that way." It came to the point that I began to think that this Heaven must be a wonderful place. It came to be an obsession with me to want to go there, but where was it and how was I to get there? As I grew older, I began to govern my activities in such a way that I thought I might be able to go to Heaven.

When I reached seventeen years of age, my maternal grandmother's children living near her in Oklahoma helped her to visit our home via train following the death of her husband. Mother had seen her once since leaving the home in Oklahoma to attend college in Iowa. Transportation then was not like it is now. I grew up in Nebraska and our means of going anywhere was by lumber wagon pulled by two draft horses.

Grandmother brought a book with her that she would sit and read, and when finished would lay it on the top of a small



PATHLIGHTS

table in our living room. Out of curiosity, I picked the book up one day and discovered that it contained history—my favorite subject in school. I began to read it and in reading learned some wonderful things. I learned that the book talked about God's church which was called, the Church of Christ. I learned as I read that to get to Heaven one had to be baptized in water by immersion at the hands of a minister of that church. In visiting with Grandmother I learned that she was a member of the Church of Christ. Eventually, I learned that when she went home it would be via Independence, Missouri, where she intended to stop at the Church of Christ for special services there

called conference.

On the previous Christmas Eve I became engaged to be married to the Superintendent of the Sunday School in the Methodist Church we both attended. I had been teaching a class of children in that Sunday School for over a year.

My fiancé brought me home from a date one Sunday afternoon in the summer. Instead of coming to my side of the car and assisting me out as usual, he turned to me as he laid his arm across the back of the seat, not touching me, and asked who I would like to have perform our marriage ceremony.

I did not answer immediately because there was something this man did not know about me and he had to be informed before a marriage. I was apprehensive about even mentioning it because I feared what might become of a pleasant relationship. I asked him to please not interrupt or say anything until I had told him all; that it was necessary for him to know a certain thing about me before I answered his question.

My first comment was to tell him how I was disciplined as a child, then I proceeded by saying that I was not a Methodist and never intended to be. Then I told him that I had been reading a



book that I believed was the Word of God. It told me the name of God's Church and that I would need to be baptized by immersion in water by a minister in that church in order to go to Heaven. He had met my grandmother and I told him that I had already learned from her that she belonged to that church and knew where the closest one to us was located; and further, I intended to get there some way and be baptized. If and when I was married I wanted to be married by a minister from that church.

At last I had answered my fiancé's question, so now it was his turn to have his say. I was close to tears because of my apprehension.

He dropped his gaze for a long moment, then looked straight at me and said, "I am not a Methodist either. I have no intention of interfering with your desires in any way." He then asked about the book. I told him, "It is the Book of Mormon."

There was another long moment of silence and I dreaded what I thought was to come next. Again he asked, "You have this book?" I thought it a strange question in view of what had already been said.

I told him that I had it and asked if he would like to see it.



His answer was, "Yes." I left the car, went to the house and brought the book to him. He looked at it somewhat by flipping pages and I asked if he would like to take it with him and perhaps read some, if not all, of it—but I emphasized that I wanted it back. He smiled broadly and told me that I would get it back, and I knew by his reaction when he returned it to me that he had read it, or at least a part of it.

In a conversation at some time, my fiancé had told me that in his job traveling he visited dif-

ferent churches and always picked up some literature if available. He would take it home and if he left it out his mother would burn it in one of the wood burning stoves if it was not Baptist literature.

I believe that God brought Vance Hays Harris and me together. Although he was of the world, he resisted all secret organizations. He believed in God and many of His teachings. He was familiar with the King James Bible and Lois Morris had the Book of Mormon. As in all marriages there were rough spots, but many times more smooth spots, and I thank my Lord for our lives together. Vance became a faithful member of Christ's Church and represented his Lord as an Elder as long as he lived.

*Lois Harris
Independence, Missouri*





**LADIES! PLAN TO ATTEND THE
2006 WOMEN'S RETREAT
SEPTEMBER 29TH AND 30TH**

**LAKE MAURER RETREAT CENTER
EXCELSIOR SPRINGS, MO**

**"A WOMAN THAT FEARETH THE LORD,
SHE SHALL BE PRAISED."
PROVERBS 31:30**

- WHAT:** A TIME OF FELLOWSHIP AND LEARNING WITH OTHER WOMEN IN THE GOSPEL—FOR AGES 18 AND OLDER
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- MEET:** JOIN A GROUP LEAVING THE TEMPLE LOT ON FRIDAY, 11:00 A.M. TO EAT OUT TOGETHER BEFORE CONTINUING TO THE RETREAT CENTER OR COME DIRECTLY TO THE RETREAT CENTER ANYTIME AFTER 2:00 P.M.
- NEW:** TO SQUEEZE MORE FELLOWSHIP INTO THE RETREAT, THE CENTER WILL OPEN FRIDAY AFTER 2:00 P.M. BRING YOUR FAVORITE PROJECTS OR CRAFTS TO WORK ON AND SHARE, HIKE AROUND THE LAKE, OR JUST SIT AND FELLOWSHIP UNTIL SUPPER TIME. LOOK FORWARD TO OTHER PROGRAM CHANGES THROUGHOUT THE RETREAT.
- NOTE:** PLEASE BRING A FEW OF YOUR FAVORITE RECIPIES.

**THE RETREAT PROGRAM WILL START AT
7:30 P.M. FRIDAY EVENING.**

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AND RELATIVES, MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ALIKE!**

2006 CHURCH OF CHRIST WOMEN'S RETREAT REGISTRATION FORM

Please return form by September 10th

NAME _____ BIRTHDAY _____

ADDRESS _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS: _____ Phone # _____ Cell # _____

Do you like to stay up late? _____ Do you need a quiet room? _____

Special accommodations required? (i.e. bottom bunk, special diet, etc.) _____

Do you need additional accommodations if coming from out of town? (transportation from airport, lodging, etc.) If so please list:

Will you be coming to the Friday day-time activity? _____

Send this part of the form and a check or money order for \$45.00 payable to:

“Church of Christ (Temple Lot) Women’s Retreat”

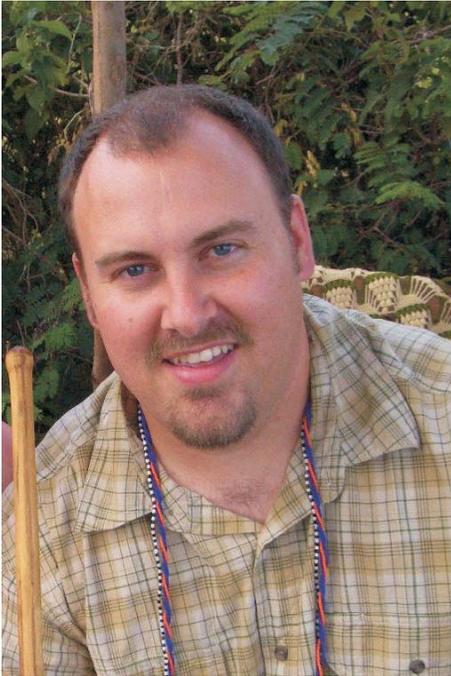
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What to bring:	Bible and Book of Mormon	towel and washcloth
	Comfy clothes	pajamas
	Pillow	sheets and blanket or sleeping bag
	Musical instruments	favorite snack for Friday night
	Games	craft or hobby for Friday afternoon if desired

Directions: To Lake Maurer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, MO from Temple Lot Local: Go NORTH on RIVER ST to 24 HWY and turn RIGHT (EAST). Go to 291 HWY and turn LEFT (NORTH) to Liberty. Veer RIGHT onto MO-33 NORTH. Turn slight RIGHT onto MO-33 /US-69 NORTH. Continue to follow US-69 NORTH for 9 miles. Stay in RIGHT lane. Take a slight RIGHT onto HWY 10 (about 2 miles). Follow HWY 10 E down into Excelsior Springs (Curves a lot, just keep following HWY 10 signs around the curves and down the big hill) Turn RIGHT onto KANSAS CITY AVE (which turns into WABASH and then turns into LAKE MAURER RD). Take a LEFT into “Lake Maurer Camp Assemblies of God” (901 Lake Maurer Rd., Excelsior Springs, MO 64024) Drive around the curve to the right and park in front of building named “Pettit Lodge”.

The Mercy Seat



By Daniel Malone

When Moses first went to God he had to climb a mountain, until one day when God gave him instructions to build a tabernacle for Him.

“A tabernacle that they could carry away from Mt. Sinai into which God would descend when He came to them; that there would be no longer an occasion for going up Mt. Sinai, but that He would Himself come and pitch His tabernacle among them, and be present at their prayers; as also, that the tabernacle should be of such measures and construction as He had shown. Hereupon, the Israelites rejoiced at what they had seen and heard of their conduc-

tor; and were not wanting in diligence according to their ability”
—*Josephus.*

And so they fell to work building the tabernacle.

Moses informed them, according to the direction of God, of its largeness and how many vessels it ought to contain for the use of the sacrifices. Inside was an ark made sacred to God. It was covered inside and out in gold so that the wood could not be seen. It had also a cover united to it by golden hinges after a wonderful manner; which cover was every way evenly fitted to it and had no eminences to hinder its exact junction. There were two beams passed along it that it might be borne on the shoulders of the priests when it was moved. Upon its cover were two Cherubims their forms not like any creature men have seen, though Moses said he had seen them near the throne of God. These Cherubims, formed the mercy seat, out of the center of which came a shining brilliance and the voice of God. In this Ark were placed the two tablets whereon were written by the hand of God the Ten Commandments, five on each table, two and a half on each side. And this Ark was set in the most holy place.

But outside of the veil not far from the most holy place there was

placed a table on the north side of the tabernacle. Upon this table were laid twelve unleavened loaves of bread, six on each heap, one upon the other, made of the purest flour, and above those loaves were put two full vials of frankincense. After seven days other loaves were brought in their stead. Against the southern wall was set a candlestick of cast gold, which was constantly burning. Between the candlestick and the table with the loaves was the altar of incense, made of incorruptible wood and plated with gold. Before this was reared a brazen altar, but it was within made of wood and adorned with brass plates as bright as gold. Hard by this altar lay the basins, vials, censers, and the caldrons all made of gold; but the other vessels made for the use of sacrifices were all made of brass.

Now when all things were prepared Moses appointed a festival, and that sacrifices should be offered every one according to his ability. When the high priest approached the sacrifices he purified himself according to the law with oil and incense. In the first place he put on a girdle of fine twined linen called a Machanase. Next he wore a Chethone, which is a linen made of fine flax that goes down to the feet and sits close to

the body and has sleeves that are tied fast to the arms and is embroidered with flowers of scarlet, purple and blue. These are wrapped and tied around the priest with a belt called an Abaneth.

Over these he wore another long robe called a Meeir made of fine linen, this time in a blue color, with the same embroidery as the other robe, with a mixture of gold interwoven. To the bottom of this garment were hung fringes, in color like pomegranates, with golden bells. Besides these, the high priest put on a third garment called an Ephod, which is woven of several colors, with gold intermixed and embroidered, but it left the middle of the chest uncovered. It was made with sleeves so that it looked like a short sweater with a square hole in the middle of it.

In the void place of this sweater there was a piece embroidered with gold and the other colors of the Ephod, and was called an Essen (the breastplate). This piece was attached to the Ephod by gold rings at each corner and tied with two blue ribbons that ran down each side. There were also two sardonyxes upon the Ephod at the shoulders to help fasten the breastplate, like buttons, having each end of the blue ribbon running to the sardonyxes. On these were engraved the names of the sons of Jacob, six on each stone on either side; and the elder sons names were on the right shoulder. Twelve stones were also on the Essen, extraordinary in largeness and beauty, and they were an or-

nament not to be purchased by men because of their immense value.

They were in four rows of three. The first three were a sardonyx, a topaz, and an emerald. The second row contained a carbuncle, a jasper and a sapphire. The third a ligure, an amethyst, and an agate. The fourth row had a chrysolite, an onyx, and a beryl, which was last. The names of the sons of Jacob were engraven on these stones as well. This plate also had large gold rings that reached toward the neck and received finely wrought chains, which connected them with golden bands to the tops of the shoulders to help bear the weight. There was also a girdle or belt sewn to the breastplate of the aforementioned colors with gold intermixed, which when it had gone once round was tied again upon the seam and hung down. There were also golden loops that admitted its fringes at each extremity of the girdle, and included them entirely.

The Mitre was a linen cap above which was another with swathes of blue embroidered, and round it was a golden crown polished, of three rows, one above another; on this crown called an Ephielis there was a golden plate above the forehead which had written the name of God, which was never translated into another language until around 70 A.D., and its inscription "Holiness to the Lord" was in the Samaritan language.

After the sprinkling of blood, oil and spring water for seven days purified them, their garments and the tabernacle, they had the feast. Then, as God commanded them, they sacrificed either a bull, a ram, or a kid of the goats, for a sin offering had to be a male. These offerings had to be of their first year, though of bulls it may be of a greater age. When they were slain, the priests sprinkled the blood round about the altar, they then cleansed the bodies, and divided them into parts and salted them and laid them upon the altar. Then they piled the wood and started the fire. Next they cleaned the feet and innards of the sacrifices in an accurate manner and laid them to rest to be purged by the fire, while the priests received the hides.

But those that offered thank offerings sacrificed the same creatures such as were unblemished and above a year old; however, both males and females were acceptable. The blood of these were also sprinkled around the altar; but they laid upon the altar the kidneys the caul and all the fat, and the lobe of the liver together with the rump of the lamb; then, giving the breast and the right shoulder to the priests, the offerers feasted upon the remainder of the flesh for two days, and what remained they burned. And all of this was done according to the decrees of God.

There are many examples in the Old Testament which we

can look to and gain an understanding of God's ways. The previous story is paraphrased from sections of Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews*, the stories of Exodus, and the Mosaic laws of Leviticus. It is a glimpse of the preparations the Lord desires of us when we approach Him. We should be aware of what God has asked those of old. It is no small undertaking. He required Moses to climb a mountain each time he spoke to God. He commanded the Israelites to build Him a tabernacle and offer sacrifices that required all kinds of preparations and special clothes and processes. God desires us to prepare ourselves for His presence. Since the veil is now rent in two with the sacrifice of our Redeemer, God asks us to be a living sacrifice with a broken heart and contrite spirit.

Wouldn't it be wonderful to come to church and see the mists that surrounded the tabernacle in times of old telling everyone that The Lord Jehovah is inside? That the great I Am is among us? Would we have the audacity to walk through the doors and look upon the mercy seat without becoming a living sacrifice? Consider now the consequences of two men whose sacrifice was not as the Lord commanded. They were not prepared.

But as they laid their offering upon the altar a sudden fire was kindled of its own accord, and appeared to the sight like fire from a flash of lightening, and consumed

whatsoever was upon the altar. But the offering of Aaron's two eldest sons, Nadab and Abihu, was not as Moses bade them bring, but as they used to do formerly, which sacrifices were already burnt to death. The fire from the altar rushed upon them and nobody could quench it. And they burned to death because of it (paraphrased from the historical record of Josephus).

Don't let your lack of preparation, or lack of a proper sacrifice cause you to share the same fiery conclusion as the sons of Aaron. Our God is a jealous God and desires our full heart. We can understand the lengths He wishes us to go to by remembering what He commanded the house of Israel so long ago. Of course we don't have to climb a mountain, and we are no longer under the Law of Moses. However, now that Christ has made the last sacrifice and has become sin's final atonement, we are every day required to remember Him and keep His commandments, that the Holy Comforter will be with us. This is a preparation we make every day, all the time. I am led to believe also that when we conduct our services and approach God in our sanctuaries we are required to make even greater preparations.

In times of old the Lord was in the tabernacle. He was seen: As the surrounding mists, He was the consuming fire, He was the light that beamed from the Sardonyx on the high priests robes, He was the rushing wind

and the lightening. He was there and made himself known and dwelt with them. It says He wanted them to build Him a tabernacle that He might be present at their prayers. And surely He is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

So now I am caused to reflect upon the preparations I have made when entering the house of the Lord. Have I revered Him enough? Have I expected Him to be there? Have I listened for His voice? Have I sung praises to His name with all the joy of my heart as if I were standing before Him? Have I offered up to the Lord the sacrifice He is asking for? Did I prepare myself before I reached the door? It is my hope that this article will reach the hearts of those reading and cause some reflection and self-inspection, so that as a church we can answer all of these questions in the affirmative when we meet together and approach the mercy seat.

"Which repentance mercy claimeth: otherwise justice claimeth the creature, and executeth the law...and mercy claimeth the penitent...according to their works:...thus none but the truly penitent are saved" Alma 19:104-106.

REUNION REPORT

COLORADO REUNION — 2006

The month of June greeted us with a time of very hot weather. We reached the one hundred degree mark by Sunday, June 4, so we were wondering what the next weekend would bring for our Reunion here in Grand Junction. The Lord saw fit to bless us with a drop in the temperature and some rain, so it had cooled considerably by Friday when the Reunion began.

Friday, June 9, brought a beautiful, cool morning as we gathered at 9 a.m. to express our thankfulness to God for providing us with the things we needed for our comfort, and to welcome the guests to the Colorado Reunion. If you have not been here, the Orchard Mesa

Local Church is located in a rural area, surrounded by orchards and vineyards, making a pleasant retreat from noise and confusion. Bro. David Larsen, Pastor, welcomed us with a reminder from Luke to “watch and pray.” His reading from 4 Nephi 1 pointed out that the people of God were blessed with mighty miracles and no contentions when they obeyed the commandments. Many who are sick, as well as those in need of other blessings, were named in our prayers. There were songs of praise and testimonies that showed our dependence on God’s goodness.

After the noon meal and visiting, we convened to hear Bro. John Case of

Loveland, Colorado, bring us the message. He related from Alma 12 how Ammon and his brethren went to bring the Lamanites to a knowledge of the truth, and the miracles that God worked to bring the message of salvation to the King. We were encouraged to take stock of our lives and see if our actions bring good to others. We should ask God, “What more can I do in thy service; can I give an extra measure?” I may be able to touch one person (myself), but if I can touch more, that is better. Only God can plant the seed of change in other people, but we can be that good example to follow. Would the Israelites have taken the Promised Land if they



► Orchard Mesa Local, Colorado Reunion—Group Photo

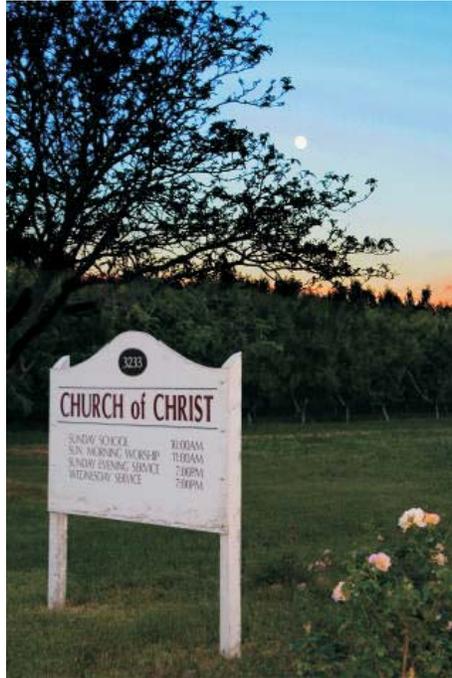
had not followed Moses? No, he was the leader, but God was (and is) the ultimate authority.

A song service was held after the evening meal, followed by preaching by Bro. Glenn Orsted of Phoenix, Arizona. Bro. Orsted's primary theme was from 3 Nephi 5:60, which gives God's people the responsibility to be the "salt of the earth." The two elements of salt are deadly alone, but combined they are very useful. Likewise, man, by himself, has tendencies that lead to death, but, combined with God, can lead to eternal life. The presence of salt makes food more palatable, and our lives should make life more pleasant for those we influence. However, as salt is an irritant, sometimes our faith is irritating to others. Many feel they should be bland in their faith, but we cannot sit in the shaker, but must try to add a good flavor to life. Salt is a food preservative. Everything in a society will decay unless there is a beneficial stimulus, so our faith must be applied to the society we live in. Because we are human, we cannot produce God's perfect Kingdom, but we can help preserve what we have. Christ did not give an alternative, because if we choose to follow Him we are the salt of the earth. It may not be easy to accept being the salt and the light of the world, but this is our commission.

On Saturday morning we again came to the church at 9 a.m. to participate in a prayer and testimony service. Bro. Ken Oar of Phoenix, Arizona, pointed out that we were in God's house to commune with Him, and that this is a privilege for mankind. His readings were from Psalm 1: "Blessed is the man...his delight is in the law of the Lord," and Psalm 102: "Hear my

prayer, O Lord." These scriptures helped bring our minds to the purpose of this meeting, which was to express our praise and thanks to God, and to remember those in need.

The afternoon service was a sermon



► Orchard Mesa Local; Grand Junction, Colorado

by one of our own local ministers, Bro. John Bell. His first remarks were that he really didn't know how much he could tell us about learning to trust the Lord, as it is evident that we trust Him for all that is personal to us. Since we are human, however, we beg and wheedle, saying, "Here we are again." He wondered if God might think: "Americans! I have given them the best, and they argue about whether God is real." God alone holds all our hopes, and here in this Church that is not odd, as it is elsewhere. The language of the scriptures holds the power of God. From 2 Nephi 11:95 we learn that God does not work in darkness, but extends the invi-

tation to all mankind to partake of His salvation, which is free to all who repent and obey. In 2 Nephi 13, Nephi delighted in the plainness of the word of God as He speaks to all in their own language. In Proverbs 4:10 we are told to receive the Lord's sayings and take hold of instruction, becoming part of the path of the just, which is a shining light (verse 18). Men do not truly merit eternal life, for it is given by the grace of God after we have done our best.

The evening song services always include some special numbers, and we especially enjoy those that the children offer. "Don't Step There" is a favorite, which always features the children singing. We also had two piano numbers offered, and we will look forward to seeing their progress as they gain greater skills.

Bro. Leslie Case of Kansas City, Missouri, was the evening speaker. He brought to us from Revelation 17 and 18 the prophecies of the foundation of that great city, Babylon, and how it has encompassed the earth, making war with the Saints. We are warned in these scriptures to "come out of her...be not partakers of her sins." Reading from 1 Nephi 3:139-188, we were reminded of the work of the devil in the foundation of the great and abominable Church, and how many plain and precious things were taken from the scriptures by this organization. Continuing this part of the history, our speaker brought us to the time when the Gentiles would bring these precious things back (in the Book of Mormon) to the Lamanite people. In John 17, Jesus prayed for his disciples. Verse 20 reads: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their

word,” so this prayer was for us, also. In Galatians we are told to walk in the spirit with love, joy, peace and long-suffering. If we avoid the contamination of the world we have hope for the resurrection of our souls.

On Sunday morning we gathered quietly while Sr. Joan Larsen played hymns on the piano. Each of us knew that we had come here to commemorate the sacrifice of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, on the cross, giving us the hope of eternal life. Bro. David Larsen was in charge of the service, assisted by Bros. John Bell and Joel Yates. Bro. David's reading from Revelation 20:12-15 pointed out that we will be judged from the book of life, which is kept by the Lord. If our names are not written in this book, we are not worthy of eternal life. Satan tries to exercise his powers over all people, but we need not fear him if we have faith in God. Those who fear God are written in a book of remembrance, and shall be His when he makes up His jewels (3 Nephi 11:19-20). In 3 Nephi 8:60-66 we are told why we are worthy to partake of His flesh and blood. Jesus commanded His disciples to give to the multitude in verses 30-31 of this chapter.

After partaking of the bread and wine, we were invited to name those to add to the prayer list. There were some specific needs that were asked for, and additional seasons of prayer were held. Some were for those who have been absent from our midst and some were for others who have very great decisions ahead of them. In our many testimonies and songs, we gave God praise for His goodness and spoke with each other concerning the welfare of our souls.

After dinner we were privileged to have time to visit with each other or to see a little of the beautiful valley where we live. At 6 p.m. we once again gathered at the church for a song service. We were fewer in number because some had to leave in the afternoon for their homes. At 7 p.m. the final speaker of the reunion was Bro. Bob Hedrick of Phoenix, Arizona. He reminded us that we could not have reunions if we were not separated for a time, so we would soon be singing “God be With You,” and having to say our good-byes for a while. When we leave this place are we ready to face the world? Being here together we are strong, but the temptations of the world are right before us to use up our time when we leave here. In 1 Peter, we are warned that the Devil is a roaring lion seeking people to devour and we will enter into a battle that will try to take away the influence of this reunion. In Alma 20 we find the story of Moroni who had to prepare constantly against the enemy, the Lamanites, who sought to kill him and his people. He expected to be attacked, and, likewise, we will be attacked and must prepare our defenses. Moroni knew military strategy, which helped him defeat the enemy. Some of his strategy, and ours, must be the armor of God, which is offered by God, but we must be the ones to put it on. Once you declare yourself to be a Christian in the world you cannot take it back for you are held to a higher standard. In Alma 21:149-185 we read that the Nephites had prepared for the enemy attacks and knew how to protect themselves. Satan preys on our weaknesses. We must each look at ourselves and understand our own weaknesses and learn to overcome them, for

our spiritual battle is constant. Remember as you leave this place that Satan is there every day, waiting to kill your soul. “God be with you ‘til we meet again.”

We are always delighted at the number of brothers and sisters who are so willing to help make these occasions so special. Our thanks go to all who came with warm handshakes and hugs, all who brought food, grabbed a dish towel, sang a song or helped in any small way. You lightened our load and made us feel blessed by your presence.

On Monday we had the privilege to invite all who desired to join us for a picnic in the mountains west of Grand Junction at noon. There was a stream, beautiful iris and columbines to look at, and plenty of rocks and trees for the children to play in. These activities continued all afternoon as we sought the shade of various trees and drank gallons of liquids. Some had to leave about the middle of the afternoon, but there were several families that stayed for supper. Our ride down the mountain was highlighted by seeing many deer and a few elk in the aspens and pines.

Until next year — we send our love and God's blessings with you all.

The Orchard Mesa Local, Grand Junction, Colorado, by Enid Bell.



REPORT

IDAHO REUNION

The Idaho Reunion began on June 2, 2006, in a secluded campground nestled in the woods beside beautiful Cascade Lake.

Elder Roy Coon opened the Friday evening prayer service with the story of how prayer became a part of his life. He told us that he was not raised in a family that prayed. His first prayer was as a grown man, a simple desperate prayer for the life of his wife. "I didn't realize it then but that simple prayer was the beginning of my faith." He read Alma 16:217-225, which admonishes us to pray over everything and against the power

of the adversary.

During the service we heard the sound of gentle rain on the roof overhead. The rain wasn't loud enough to drown out the service but it did look as if the traditional evening Campfire/Peanut war might have to be cancelled. For those who haven't been to Idaho, part of the Idaho Reunion tradition is munching on peanuts as we gather round a campfire. Somewhere along the line some of the young, and not so young, people discovered that peanuts make great missiles. No one gets hurt and all the peanuts eventually get eaten. God was good to us and the

rain stopped in time to have a campfire.

Elder Rich Bove opened the first service on Saturday morning with the words that would set the theme of the Reunion, "Would you say no to God?" Rich gave an example from his time as a crew member in Air Force planes. "If you're off by 10 degrees you can be off by a matter of miles in minutes. The straight and narrow is like this. If you stray, He's going to discipline you until you're back on that path. God is disciplining us, He's giving us correction. It's because God loves us. Even in darkness, know that God is with you.



► Treasure Valley, Idaho Local Reunion—Group photo

For those of you that lack confidence, the Lord is going to be your confidence. If you know you did wrong, face up to it and correct it.”

After a brief intermission Apostle Brian McIndoo presented a fascinating presentation on his missionary trip to India. “India is a nation given over to idolatry,” he told us. Brian showed us slides of the literally hundreds of shrines to different gods that stand along the roads. “Even a Christian church had concepts of idols. The pastor had a stature of himself in front of the church.” He warned us that here in the United States we have fallen into idolatry. He told us that in ancient times, “Men worshipped pagan gods of pleasure, war and beauty. They were sacrificing to Molech, the God of pleasure.” He told us that in being entertained by the depiction of graphic violence, “We are worshipping the god of war. Our abortions are sacrificing to the God of pleasure.”

He explained to us a little about Hindi, the prominent religion of India. Hindus, “believe we go through thousands and thousands of reincarnations unless we become enlightened enough to become God. Yoga and meditation are the path to insight and enlightenment. Enlightenment equals good Karma.

Good Karma equals becoming God.” He warned us that this philosophy is creeping into every segment of our society.

After a break for lunch we returned to the afternoon service preached by Elder Ken Oar. Brother Oar asked us, “Do we realize what we have? Do we treat the gospel like it’s precious or do we sometimes not treat it with the respect and dignity that it should be treated with?” “...The trials of life begin to swirl around us and we become afraid. If we have faith and exercise that faith won’t Jesus reach out His hand and help us across that boisterous sea?” “Are we willing to give up those things that lie within our hearts and our minds that hinder our service to God?”

Elder Randy Sheldon preached the evening service. He passed out sheets with scriptures addressing some of the issues on which Christians are challenged today: Creation vs. Evolution, the validity of the scriptures, the fulfillment of prophecy, Israel vs. Islam, the Book of Mormon, gay marriage, and if Jesus was married.

“The devil wants to breed within us a diminished God. Homosexuality is an abomination, no matter what is told you. When Christ died, all nature declared that He

had died. When Jesus begins to disappear from our lives, there’s groaning and there’s anguish.”

The following morning Apostle Joel Yates took charge of the Sacrament Service. “We have come this far by relying on the merits of Christ.... There’s not one of us that’s going to be able to continually dwell in the presence of God, save we fall back and call out to God, relying on the grace and mercy of Christ.”

A few thoughts from testimonies:

Brother Brian McIndoo told of having a witness that several of our brothers in Kenya were to be called to the priesthood. He waited on the Lord expectantly but the calls did not come. Then the spirit spoke to him, “They have not been properly taught.” Realizing the need for greater preparedness of our ministry there the missionaries began holding leadership classes in Africa. Not long after, as the ministry were meeting in prayer, God called four brothers to His service. They were called to different offices of the priesthood. Brother Brian told us that he believed they were “called to different offices to show the complete church.” He asked us to pray for men to be called throughout the church. “Pray that the Lord will prepare them and call them at

the perfect moment and set them in His service.”

Sister Becky McIndoo told us that at different periods in her life growing up she had a “best friend.” Circumstances changed and best friends changed. As an adult her best friends married and moved on. She was lonely. She decided it was time to move near a church local. There she met her husband, and she had a new best friend. As her husband’s ministry took him to Africa she traveled there with him and found new “best friends.” She told us that within the Church of Christ she now has “best friends” all over the world.

Bill Malone rose and said, “I have a burden on my heart.” He quoted the parable of the virgins from Matthew 25. He feared that perhaps half of his brothers and sisters in the gospel might not be ready to meet Christ when he comes. He plead with us, “When you see other’s weaknesses, pray for them. Go to them if you have to. But don’t tear them down. If we do, we’ll have enough oil.”

Elder Rodger Bruner gave the closing sermon of the reunion. He talked about how we can say no to God. “We get used to sinning. We get used to cutting corners. We get used to telling the

Lord no. They (the Israelites m.o.) told God no, suffered the consequences, then God gave them an out; they still told Him no, we’re not gonna do it your way.” Rodger referred to the time of absolute peace and joy written about in 4th Nephi. “They were blessed because they did what God told them to do. “How do you say yes to God? In the Bible and the Book of Mormon there are thousands of examples. He wrote these books so that we could function right.”

Marlene Oar



► Church Reunions—A Place to Build Friendships for Life (Clockwise from top: Trish Bove, Ashley Brain, Bobbie Brain, McKenna Yates)

PHOENIX, ARIZONA



By Rebecca Oar

Summer has arrived upon us again here in Phoenix. I know there are many who believe it never leaves but I can assure you there are times when you definitely know summer is here. The months of June, July, and August would definitely be those times. We've learned ways to beat the heat though. Young and old alike can be found in one of the many backyard pools of our members here at any given time. Many of us are lucky to live close enough to enjoy this hospitality of our neighbors. The kids especially love it. There are afternoons when the neighborhood is full of the sounds of splashing and laughter as they play in the water.

Our 2006 Vacation Church School in June was a success as always. We had a smaller group of students than we've had in awhile, but they still

managed to keep everyone busy. They learned new songs, made crafts, and learned about Bible and Book of Mormon heroes. It takes a lot of preparation and commitment from the teachers, but the effort is well worth it from the smiles on the faces of the children. They aren't the only ones smiling though. The rest of us can't help but smile back as they stand in front of the congregation during the VCS program singing songs and sharing what they learned in class. We've got everything from the shy one who covers his face with his hand the entire time to the ones who want to be as close to that microphone as possible. The best part, though, is seeing the way God touches even the youngest hearts and opens up their understanding more and more. Their example of faith and trust in the Lord is one we could all learn from.

Although this year's group was small we have no doubts that will not be the case over the next few years. With the number of new babies continuing to bless our families here the classes in the future will be much larger. Gary and Alesha Jacobsen had their second child, Brooke Elizabeth, this past December. Tim and Melissa Oar had their first, William Russell, in March. Our sister Melanie Breyer and her husband Brandon are expecting their first child towards the end of the year. We all enjoy having these little ones around and look forward to the ones who are yet to come.

Traveling is always a big part of the lives of the ministry of our local. Don McIndoo and Jay Moser are currently in Mexico visiting members there. Jay also had the wonderful opportunity to accompany our brother Jose Galvan and his daughters Mary and Didi to a new part of Mexico. They went to visit Jose's relatives there and were able to hold studies and services with them. We are prayerful they will continue to desire to learn more of the gospel. Don also has been to California and Honduras prior to his latest trip. Brian McIndoo has made several trips to the continent of Africa, as well as to meet some newer contacts in India. He made a very quick stop there with Smith Brickhouse to continue studying with the group there. Another trip is planned soon to continue working with those individuals. Ken and Marlene Oar have been spending more time in Honduras working with the brothers and sisters there. The many reunions and events around the country also keep many members of our congregation busy throughout the summer months. I'm grateful to know we can travel anywhere in the world and be welcomed with open arms. Home is not only here in Phoenix, but anywhere we meet with our brothers and sisters.

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI, EAST LOCAL REPORT



By Sr. Deb Haines

Our love and best wishes to all from the East Independence Local! We are so thankful for all our Lord's blessings upon us that we would like to share some of them with you.

We were filled with joy at the baptism of Dana Taylor on March 8th during the Wednesday night prayer service. Sr. Dana was taken down into the water by Elder Isaac Brockman, Jr., with the laying on of hands by Elders Isaac Brockman, Jr. and Rick Olson taking place afterward. There to welcome her with the hand of fellowship were her husband, Br. David Taylor, her daughters Faith and Samantha, and other family. Welcome Sr. Dana; we are so happy to have you in the family of God!

Solemn Assembly began on March 31st, with the General Conference following. Our Women's group hosted a pancake dinner at the local I-HOP restaurant on Sunday evening. This is a very pleasant fund raiser for the local and gives everyone a break before the meetings begin. The ladies' General United Workers Luncheon took place at the East Local annex on Wednesday afternoon and was very much enjoyed by all. This year's theme was "Hospitality," which was a common interest for all of us.

Hannah Sue Brickhouse was born March

9th to parents Kelli and Jason Brickhouse. Big brother Tanner welcomed her home. Grandparents are Br. Smith and Sr. Sue Brickhouse. On April 9th, Hannah Sue was blessed by Grandfather Apostle Buzz Brickhouse, who was assisted by Elder Bob Oldham.

Also on April 9th, 3-month-old Joshua Dylan Collings was blessed by Great-Grandfather Apostle William Sheldon, who was assisted by Great-Uncle Elder Randy Sheldon. Parents are Sr. Heidi and husband John Collings, and happy grandmother is Sr. Darl Temple.

Sr. Darl and husband Jeff Williams' baby boy, Tucker Smith Williams, was born on Friday March 31st. Welcoming him home was his 2-year-old brother, Tyler. The blessing of Tucker by Grandfather Apostle Buzz Brickhouse took place on April 16th, assisted by Elder Robert Oldham.

A wedding shower for Sr. Jenni Vogel, daughter of Sr. Deb and Br. Bruce Haines, was given by her aunt, Sr. Carol Brantner, and good friend Sr. Lisa McGhee, at the East Local annex on March 30th.

Annual East Local business meeting—officers for the next year are:

Pastor—Elder Larry Beem; Asst. Pastor—Elder Isaac Brockman, Jr.; Secretary—Sr. Diane Brockman; Treasurer—Br. Harvey L. Seibel; Auditor—Elder Steve McGhee; Sunday School Superintendent—Br. Bruce Haines; Assistant Sunday School Superintendent—Priest Rustsell Granger; Sunday School Secretary—Sr. Deb Haines; Chorister: Elder Gerald Cox; Asst. Chorister—Sr. Melissa Seibel; and many more who volunteered their talents to fill the needs of the local. Thank you to all!

On May 6th the wedding of Sr. Jenni Vogel and Jason Lomonte took place at the church on the Temple Lot. Parents Br. Bruce and Sr. Deb Haines escorted Sr. Jenni down the aisle to the awaiting groom, Jason. A beautiful ceremony was performed by the bride's uncle, Elder Andrew Brantner, and a prayer was given by the bride's grandfather, Elder Charles Brantner. Many family members and friends were in attendance from Michigan, which



► Jason and Jenni Lomonte

made the day even more special. May God bless and guide them as they begin their new lives together.

The annual Mother-Daughter Banquet was held Tuesday evening, May 16th, at the East Local annex. We greatly enjoyed the wonderful food and fellowship.

We are thankful for the safe return of Apostle Buzz Brickhouse and Apostle Brian McIndoo from their extended missionary trip to India, the Congo and Kenya. We ask a continued interest in your prayers for our other missionaries who are sent forth doing the work of the Lord wherever He may lead.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to Joseph and Erica Olson who have both recently graduated from Longview College with Associate of Arts degrees. Happy parents are Br. Rick and Sr. Becky Olson.

Once again, we are so thankful to God for all His blessings upon us, as we have had some wonderful health blessings and healings among us. We are very thankful for all our brothers and sisters in the Gospel, and our thoughts and prayers go out to each and every one as we ask a continued interest in your prayers for those who are still in need. May God bless you all.



Church of Christ

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CHURCH OF CHRIST CONFERENCES

The **2007 General Conference** of the Church of Christ will commence on Sunday, April 1st. The business sessions will start at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 2nd, at Independence, Missouri.

A **Solemn Assembly** will be held prior to the conference, on Friday and Saturday, March 30th and 31st. All services will be held on the Temple Lot.

The **2007 Ministers' Conference** of the Church of Christ will be the three days following the General Conference.

ZION'S ADVOCATE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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2006 CHURCH OF CHRIST REUNIONS

MAY

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 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@tmcomed.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

Camp for All Ages

- ▶ September 8-10, Friday-Sunday
- ▶ Longview Lake Park in Lee's Summit, Missouri
- ▶ For information contact:

Mike Smith

(816) 737-0846
thelandgroup@yahoo.com

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
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18814 N 30th St
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