

Zion's Advocate

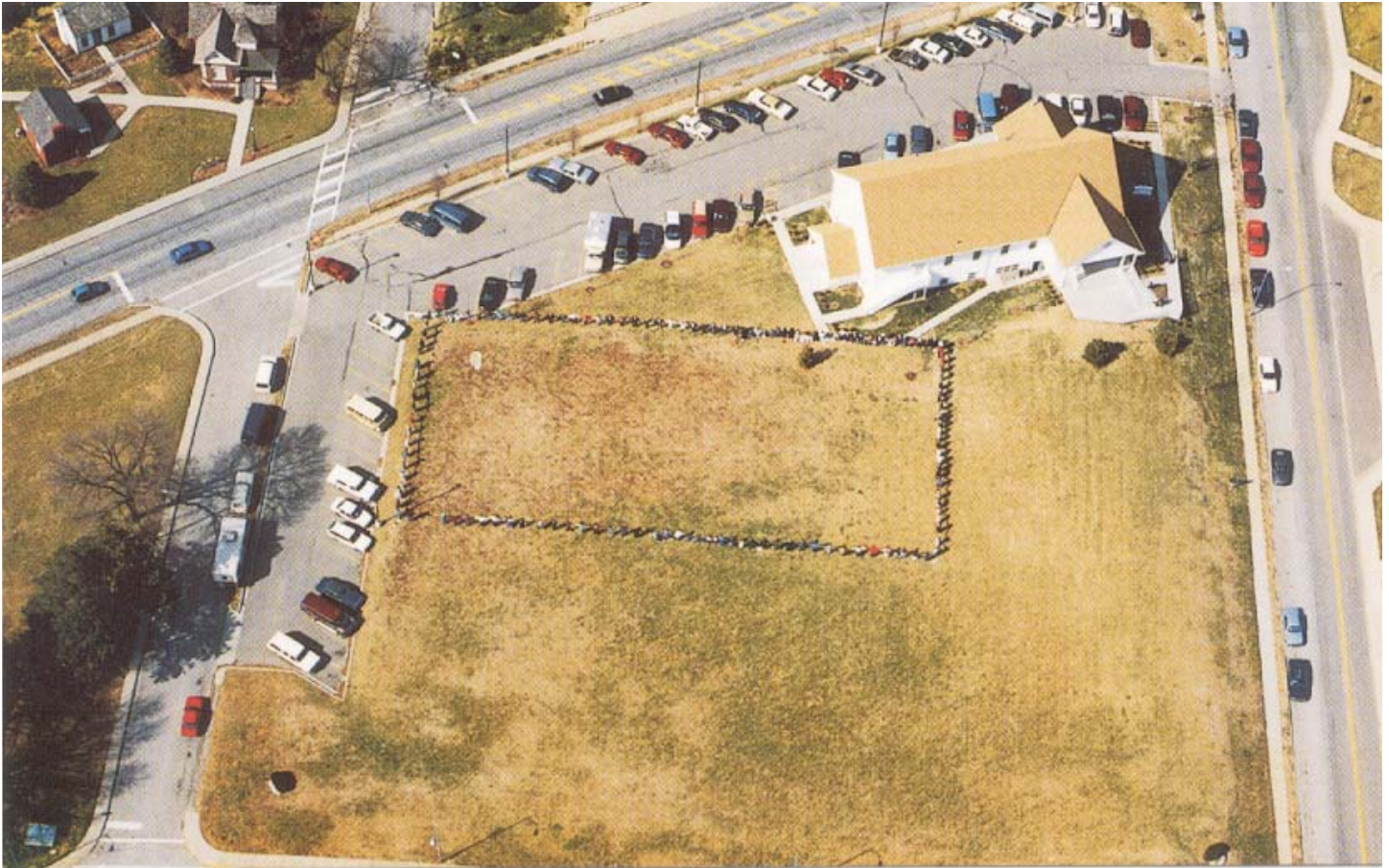
*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*

1 Nephi 3:187

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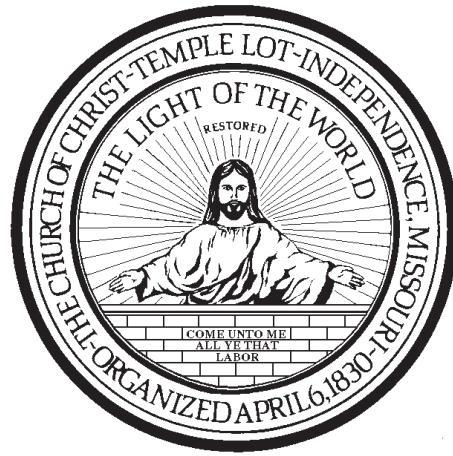


"We believe a temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal himself and endow his servants whom he chooses with power to preach the gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue and people, that the promises of God to Israel will be fulfilled."

—Articles of Faith and Practice

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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.

The Truth of the Gospel of Christ



By Apostle Smith Brickhouse

The Church recently published a tract concerning the false teachings of the doctrine called *The Rapture, A Modern Fable*, written by Apostle Don McIndoo. It is excellent reading and I suggest that everyone request a copy of it from the Church. It is offered free. The tract has been published to provide information as to the source of this false teaching which is contrary to the teachings found in the scriptures.

2 Nephi 5:10-40 states: *“...Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people; And they shall bring thy sons in their arms, and thy daughters shall be carried upon their shoulders. And kings shall be thy nursing fathers, and their queens thy nursing mothers: ...And now I, Jacob, would speak somewhat concerning these words: For behold, the Lord has shewn me that those who were at Jerusalem, from whence we came, have been slain and carried away captive.... Nevertheless, the Lord will be merciful unto them, that when they shall come to the knowledge of their Redeemer; they shall be gathered together again to the lands of their inheritance. And blessed are the Gentiles, they of whom the prophet has written: For behold, if it so be that they shall repent and fight not against Zion, and do not unite themselves to that great and abominable church, they shall be saved... And none will he destroy that believe in him. And they that believe not in him, shall be destroyed, both by fire, and by tempest, and by earthquakes, and by bloodsheds, and by pestilence, and by famine. And they shall know that the Lord is God, the Holy one of Israel.”*

Contrary to the false doctrine of the rapture, the Church of Christ is to stand alone and proclaim the truth that the scriptures teach of a gathering of God's people from the four quarters of the earth to a place of refuge on earth, Zion. Jerusalem of old will be built up again, a holy city unto the Lord, and a New Jerusalem is to be built, like unto it, upon the American continent. To these places of refuge the Lord will come and will gather His people and will reign there for 1000 years.

Paul states in Romans 1:16-18: *“For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth;....”*

We of this generation are fortunate, and surely have no need to be ashamed of the Gospel of Christ. The gospel has been restored and we have available the teachings that have been preserved for us by God as written in The Bible and the Book of Mormon. Within these two books (“sticks” ref: Ezekiel 37:15-20) we have the promises, teaching the prophe-

cies of God which brings us the hope that we have of eternal life.

Amos 3:7 states: *“Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealed his secret unto his servants the prophets.”*

As we endure the trials and temptations and hardness of life we have the opportunity to gain spiritual strength through the example, promises and prophecies given within these scriptures.

Hebrews 12:1-3 states: *“Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;....”*

We are to “run with patience the race that is set before us.” We are to endure the trials and look to Jesus Christ who never changes or varies.

The Book of Mormon states in Nephi 8:17-37 (and confirms the promises of God as written in the Bible concerning God’s marvelous works and promises for the last days):

“The word that Isaiah, the son of Amoz, saw, concerning Judah and Jerusalem: And it shall come to pass in the last days, when the mountain of the Lord’s house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hill, and all nations shall flow unto it, And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of

Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plow shares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.... And the loftiness of man shall be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men shall be made low; and the Lord alone shall be exalted in that day. And the idols he shall utterly abolish. And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for the fear of the Lord shall come upon them: and the glory of his majesty shall smite them, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth....”

The Lord has promised that in the last days there is to be a cleansing process, and the mountain of the Lord (His government or Kingdom) would be set up in the top of the mountains, or among the governments of the world, resulting in all nations flowing into it. Prophecy states that this government, or His Kingdom, will be set up, or be established, and break in pieces and consume all other kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to

the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretations thereof sure” Daniel 2:44, 45.

In this day there shall be a righteous branch which shall arise.

Proverbs 11:28 states: *He that trusteth in his riches shall fall; but the righteous shall flourish as a branch.”*

2 Nephi 9:116-137 states: *“And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots; And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,.... But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice’s den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain:.... And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people: to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people....”*

There is to be an ensign raised up, a remnant preserved,

a people, a generation (Note: *generation*: Webster's Unabridged #8, *a family; a race; a class; any allied group of persons*) of faithful followers of Christ which the Lord will use and bless. Who will be among them?

Daniel spoke of a Kingdom (Daniel 2:44). Isaiah spoke of a marvelous work and a wonder that was to occur (Isaiah 29:14), a restoration, a setting of His hand the second time and preparing the way for His second coming.

The Church of Christ is the sole remnant of that church that was restored April 6th, 1830. We are that people, or that generation, that has endured and has been blessed and prepared by God for His purposes.

On August 3, 1831, 175 years ago, the Temple Lot was dedicated as the area for the redemption of Zion and the spot for the Temple of the Lord, dedicated to the Lord forever for these purposes: (read the *Outline History of the Church of Christ*, page 45, 2nd and 3rd paragraph, small printing.)

The saints were driven from the area in 1833; however, once again the Lord used a servant and revealed to Granville Hedrick, in 1864, the need to prepare to return to Independence and purchase the Temple Lots. This proved to be an important revelation in that later the title to the land was questioned and a court ruled that the legal owner was the RLDS Church. However, in 1898 a handful of dedicated people

pledged their lives, homes, properties and possessions to raise money to appeal that decision. The second court ruled that the rightful owner of the Temple Lot was the Church of Christ because they had obtained legal ownership through purchase of the land, just as they had been instructed to in the 1864 revelations given through Brother Hedrick. These dedicated people believed that the spot of land in Independence, Missouri, known as the Temple Lot, was to be the spot for the Temple and the place of Zion as spoken of in the scriptures and promised of God.

The Church's approved statements of belief, as written in the Articles of Faith and Practice, state boldly our belief of Zion and the building of the Temple as follows:

"We believe a temple will be built in this generation, in Independence, Missouri, wherein Christ will reveal himself and endow his servants whom he chooses with power to preach the gospel in all the world to every kindred, tongue and people, that the promises of God to Israel will be fulfilled."

"We believe that a New Jerusalem shall be built upon this land unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph which city shall be built, beginning at the Temple Lot."

The prophet Micah speaks of this spot and the events that will occur here in chapter 4, verses 1-7.

"But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be ex-

alted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; none shall make them afraid:.... In that day, saith the Lord, will I assemble her that halteth, and I will gather her that is driven out, and her that I have afflicted: And I will make her that halted a remnant, and her that was cast far off a strong nation: and the Lord shall reign over them in mount Zion from henceforth, even for ever."

Today some have allowed themselves to become confused concerning teachings written in the scriptures and stated in our basic beliefs. This confusion has been caused by Satan's use of false revelations, such as the Fetting messages, and misunderstandings of the timing within prophecies that are written in the scriptures. Let us stand fast to the truths that have been given. There is to be built a New Jerusalem which is to be upon the land of the Americas. It shall be a holy city unto the Lord like the Jerusalem of old and there shall no longer be confusion until the end come.

The scriptures testify that

if the Gentiles repent the Church shall be established among them and that they will come in unto the covenant and be numbered among the remnant of Jacob. A city is to be built and Christ will come. Then the gathering of the Lord's people will start and they will come from all nations and be gathered to the land of their inheritance.

Christ states that we should search these things out that we might know of them.

"Yea, a commandment I give unto you, that ye search these things diligently; for great are the words of Isaiah. For surely he spake as touching all things concerning my people which are of the house of Israel; therefore it must needs be that he must speak also to the Gentiles...and according to the times and the will of the Father, they shall go forth unto the Gentiles. And whosoever will hearken unto my words and repenteth, and is baptized, the same shall be saved. Search the prophets, for many there be that testify of these things..." 3 Nephi 10:27-32.

Church history reflects that the Temple is to be built and that design concepts were given by revelation to several different sources other than the false messages purported to be given by John the Baptist to Otto Fetting. Joseph Smith and others, such as Apostles T. J. Jordon and C. L. Wheaton, received visions and dreams concerning the Temple and its design. It was understood that the false Fetting messages were not the source of the design. A 1936 Conference referendum states:

"Our present temple plans are not based wholly upon said messages, (Fetting) and not at all except where they were not out of agreement with revelations concerning the temple as given through the prophet Joseph Smith; and our continued work

and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."

Zion and the Temple are basic beliefs of the Church of Christ and have been the hope of our forefathers since the 1830s....

of building the temple shall not conform to any specifications supposed to have been given by John the Baptist to Otto Fetting merely because said specifications might appear in some unreliable messages."

Zion and the Temple are basic beliefs of the Church of Christ, and have been the hope of our forefathers since the 1830s, this having been verified in 1864-67, 1898, 1914, 1930s and the 1950s. Let us hold fast to the promises of God and look forward to the fulfilling of the prophecies. We have the statements and actions of those before us that were dedicated to these beliefs and looked forward to the day spoken of in Isaiah 11:10-12:

"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in the day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros,

We as the remnant of the Kingdom as established according to the prophecies of Daniel are to be an ensign to the world of hope and righteousness. We must stand and hold fast the beliefs that are written in the scriptures, which have been verified by revelations, statements, and actions of our forefathers. We are to be the "righteous branch" and "run with patience the race that is before us" by witnessing to the world of the hope of Zion. Our time is at hand; the prophecies declare it. May God bless us in our understanding of the events that are to take place and our desires and efforts for His Kingdom.

(Note: Some of the scripture references in this article have been condensed. For greater knowledge and understanding we encourage you to read the entire passages. Z A Editors)

SOUL AFIRE



By Apostle William A. Sheldon

What are the two great commandments of the Lord?

“Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets” Matt. 22:37- 40.

Love of God is to ask of Him, thank Him, and praise Him, both in prayer and in public confession; to keep His commandments. Do you endeavor to do this? at home, too? It is to search His word in the scriptures. Is this a part of your life? How often?

We will cover the second commandment in a more direct way. Consider the following: **Serving Others Unselfishly Leads Anxious Followers Into Rewards Eternal.** Place these large capital letters together to form a phrase. Such as these become a “Soul Afire” through the presence of the Holy Ghost.

Now we will read from Matthew 25:31-46:

“When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or

SERVING
OTHERS
UNSELFISHLY
LEADS
ANXIOUS
FOLLOWERS
INTO
REWARDS
ETERNAL

thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."



► "Can we begin such by the family coming together on that evening and permitting nothing to interfere with a wholesome communication...?"

Such service to our fellow man is part of laying up our treasures in heaven, according to Jesus, but notice that He emphasizes the service to his "brethren." The brethren of Christ are those who "do the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 2:47-50).

A loving service mentality eventually produces the ancient scriptural condition of "all things common" (see Acts 2: 42-47 & 4 Ne. 1: 3-4). This is not "all things in common" as is the base for communism, in which the state owns everything and permits the lower classes to use a portion for basic needs. Pure "all things common" brings about ZION, and as found in the New Jerusalem to be built "by the gathering of the saints beginning at the temple lot," according to latter day revelation. This is also called a unity of the faith.

As concerning "soul fire," do you remember that Christ

said that after baptism by water He would baptize with fire and with the Holy Ghost? I suggest that such zeal and love for our fellow man, including our families, and especially our Church family, is at least a part of that fiery existence. Many others will see this and desire it also.

We cannot allow ourselves to become lukewarm.

"I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou

art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see" Rev. 3: 15-18.

For member families, this development of service should begin with the marriage and continue with the rearing of children. I urge our families to have a Home Unity Evening regularly, at least once a week. If we put the three first letters of this term together, we have the word HUE.

A "hue" is a color shading, as there is between the six basic colors – red, orange, yellow, green, blue and purple – with gradual shading between these. White is a composite of all, and black is an absence of any, and are exactly in opposition. These extremes represent God as white and in all that is good, and black represents the devil and all that is evil.

At best, we may only approach near to the purity (whiteness) which is God; and this is my purpose in urging a program of Home Unity Evening, a time for greater unity (compatibility) in the family, and as a base for the unity of the body of Christ, His Church. Do

you recall the Bible account of Moses having been with God for 40 days and nights, and when he delivered the 10 commandments to the children of Israel; that his face shone so brightly that they could not bear his appearance? He put a veil upon his face for the sake of their endurance.

I am speaking obliquely of conditions which will establish Zion; of this body becoming a HUE of what Zion will be in its purity, in the building of the New Jerusalem. I am speaking of the development of a spiritual condition in which the pure love of Christ will have been developed, beginning in our homes.

Can we begin such by the family coming together on that evening and permitting nothing to interfere with a wholesome communication, even if it be for a time that they simply have their evening meal together with prayer? That they discuss individual problems and other matters of interest to each one? In a process of development, it would be well to appoint one to express himself in the next week as to what good thing had come to him, and/or to have a scripture reading; then, as a matter of coming to greater understanding of the word of God, having a brief study of a text, with comments by any.

Let the couple and/or children have nightly prayer together, as a common occurrence. **DO YOU REALLY WANT TO BE PART OF ZION, THE NEW JERUSALEM?**

Conditions surrounding

the Church of Christ in the last days are even now as a cottage surrounded by cucumber vines, and will become as a besieged city, even as was ancient Israel.

“And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city. Except the Lord of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah” Isa 1:8, 9.

Cucumber vines spread and cover the ground. This illustrates our virtual immersion with worldly influence incompatible with spiritual growth to say the least, and really being injurious. According to divine prophecy, especially in Joel 2, we shall also be as a “besieged city,” and only delivered by united prayer of the saints. Please read it.

The development of Zion will literally be the salvation of the saints from the judgments of God because of our present likeness in all nations to Sodom and Gomorrah, an especial similarity in homosexuality. See Luke 17:28-30.

Jesus made a profoundly sorrowful statement concerning ancient Israel which is undoubtedly appropriate to latter day Israel, and which eminently, concerning the gathering of saints, includes the Church of Christ.

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children to-

gether, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate. For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord” Matt. 23:37-39.

Is it so today, that **WE WILL NOT?**

In closing this briefing on Zion, the New Jerusalem, I urge you to study the following texts in view of their application to Independence, Missouri, being transformed into the New Jerusalem by the gathering of the saints and by the expulsion of unbelievers and those who are wicked: 3 Nephi 9 (all) and 10: 1-3. Also I quote from Matt. 13: 41:

“The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.”

This will not be the lot of those who, because of their loving humility and service, have become a “soul afire” for their Lord.

Grace versus Works-based Salvation



By Michael Kelley

In the previous installment of this article it was shown how it is by the grace of God that we are saved, yet it is by our works we are judged. Many Evangelical and non-denominational sects believe that once you accept Christ and confess Him with your mouth you are saved and cannot ever lose your salvation thereafter. This is clearly refuted by the following scriptures:

Isaiah 29:13 "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear

PART 2

toward me is taught by the precept of men:"

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

Luke 6:46-49 "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great."

James 1:22 "But be ye doers of

the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."

James 2:17-18 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."

James 2:19-20 "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?"

Clearly these passages show that only those who keep the commandments and teachings of Christ are true believers. Those who only profess God and worship Him with their lips but deny Him by their works shall not inherit the kingdom of heaven. James plainly states that faith without works is dead... it is utterly meaningless and vain. He also states that the devils believe in God yet surely we know that devils will have no place in heaven. Evangelicals believe that once we are saved we cannot possibly apostatize and fall, yet many of Paul's writings refute this:

1 Corinthians 9:27 "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any

means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away.”

Philippians 3:11-14 *“If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.”*

Hebrews 6:4-6 *“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.”*

Clearly Paul did not take his salvation for granted. He states that he had not yet apprehended this salvation, but that he was pressing forward in the hope of obtaining it. He also stated in Hebrews it was possible for those who had been partakers of the Holy Ghost, who had been enlightened, to fall away into apostasy. The apostle Judas Iscariot is a perfect example. He started out as a chosen apostle who went forth performing mighty miracles like the rest...healing the sick, casting out devils etc., and later betrayed Christ and committed suicide, yet hardly any Christian would say he was saved in

the kingdom of heaven. Some dismiss this by saying he was never saved or was never a true apostle, but this is ludicrous. The Bible states that Mathias was chosen to replace Judas' ministry, so clearly he had it.

It is common for a Christian to become converted and again entangled in the sins of their previous life, yet many are able to repent and recover.

Acts 1:17 *“For he was numbered with us, and had obtained part of this ministry.”*

Clearly then it is possible for a truly converted and “saved” Christian to apostatize. Israel...God's chosen people...apostatized many times throughout their history and faced harsh punishments when they did. Even chosen men like the prophet Balaam and King Saul were utterly rejected by God after their repeated apostasies. Peter speaks of this:

2 Peter 2:20-22 *“For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.”*

Peter had a very sound perspective on the subject of apostasy. He himself denied Christ thrice yet was able to repent and be forgiven. All of the twelve apostles made many mistakes and were rebuked by

Christ time and time again, yet were forgiven. It is common for a Christian to become converted and again entangled in the sins of their previous life, yet many are able to repent and recover. The key word in Peter's passage is being “overcome,” wherein the Christian totally apostatizes and fails to repent and goes back to their old ways as a dog returns to its vomit. Typically these individuals become hardened and more evil than they ever had been before they were converted. Our prisons are filled with such individuals.

The next section of this series will cover works, the type of works that Paul states won't save you, and the Christian works that will. A closer examination of the scriptures can help clear up many misunderstandings of Paul's writings that so many stumble over.

ARTICLE - Part 2

The Mercy Seat: Part Two

"PERHAPS THEY MAY BE OF WORTH."



By Daniel Malone

"Oh God, the eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it, that they may eat in remembrance of the body of thy Son, and witness unto thee, O God the eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy son, and always remember him, and keep his commandments which he has given them, that they may always have his spirit to be with them. Amen."

In my previous article, "The Mercy Seat," it was my goal to show the preparations God expects us to make before we approach Him in any of our services. Please take notice

that I did not say requires of us. The Lord "required" many preparations of the house of Israel under the Law of Moses. We are "expected" to make similar preparations based on our individual knowledge of God and His new covenant of the heart. The blood of Christ our Redeemer has purchased us. Our debt has been paid and we have been set free to choose our own path. This debt I refer to is the fall of Adam. In Hebrews we are told that through one man sin entered the world, and through one man, mankind has been redeemed. Mosiah 1:107 says, "For behold, and also his blood atoneth for the sins of those who have fallen by the transgression of Adam..."

We are left then with a choice. It has been given to all men to know good from evil. Alma 19:70 says, "for behold, they are their own judges, whether to do good or evil." In fact, Alma explains this subject clearly to his son Corianton throughout chapter 19. We are to be judged by our works according to our knowledge of what is written. If you are a member of the Church of Christ you have heard the words of the first paragraph. They were written long ago.

Moroni was through abridging and compiling the records that have come to be known as the Book of Mormon

when he supposed he should write a few more things. I can feel his grief and pain when I read these first few verses.

"I supposed not to have written more but I have not as yet perished; and I make not myself known to the Lamanites lest they should destroy me. For behold, their wars are exceeding fierce among themselves; and because of their hatred, they put to death every Nephite that will not deny the Christ. And I, Moroni, will not deny the Christ; wherefore I wander withersoever I can, for the safety of mine own life. Wherefore I write a few more things contrary to that which I had supposed...that perhaps they may be of worth unto my brethren, the Lamanites, in some future day, according to the will of God" Moroni 1.

Indeed they are of great worth to us today. Contained in chapters 4 and 5 of these "few more writings" is the prayer and manner of worship that was administered according to the commandments of Christ to the people on this land. Chapter four, verse two, states "...wherefore we know the manner to be true...."

Brothers and sisters in Christ: what we call a sacrament service in this modern day is an ordinance of God similar in nature and necessity, if not even more important, than the Ark of the Covenant, the Mercy Seat and the Holiest of Holies were

to them of old. Apostle Roland Sarratt, at the 2006 Missouri Reunion, said, "This (the Sacrament Service) is our most sacred church service."

Moroni 4:1-4 tells us:

1 An Elder or Priest may administer the flesh and blood of Christ.

2 It is a commandment of Christ and the manner described is true.

3 The minister and the church members all knelt for the prayer.

4 The Prayer is given exactly how Christ commanded.

The words cannot be debated for they have been translated into our language (English) by the power of God. A close look at the prayer over the bread and wine and what the emblems represent will support my comparison to these old testament symbols of God and his Divine Presence.

"Oh God, the eternal Father, we ask thee in the name of thy Son Jesus Christ, to bless and sanctify this bread to the souls of all those who partake of it...."

To sanctify anything is to declare that it belongs to God. Sanctification is to separate from the world and consecrate unto God. I believe that the bread and the soul of anyone who partakes of the bread belong to God. It is an emblematic transference of ownership of our souls to God through the body of Christ who redeemed us, bought us and paid our debts. "...That they may eat in

remembrance of the body of thy Son...." "...That they may do it in remembrance of the blood that was shed for them..." (prayer for the wine).

We are remembering the body of Christ, or the flesh, by eating the bread. From the very beginning flesh was sacred (Gen. 9:4), and was forbidden to be eaten because it contained life, which is blood. Under the Law of Moses the Jews were forbidden to eat raw meat, that is, flesh that contained blood, and flesh that was from something strangled, or that had the life choked out of it. So God calls us even today to use bread as an emblem of His body or His flesh. He was not strangled, so His blood remained an acceptable sacrifice for sin. See also Acts 15:20-29.

The flesh and blood of Christ go together in our sacrament service because they are both symbolic of Christ's death. "Without the shedding of blood, there is no remission" Heb. 9:22-28. "Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many." Since you can only offer up a sacrifice once, all of the Old Testament blood offerings were provided not to take away sin, but to point forward to the Last and True Sacrifice.

Also, in the Law of Moses it was recognized that the nearest of kin would pursue a killer, so entire cities were built and placed under the protection of the Levites to give refuge to those guilty of manslaughter, but not murder (Num. 35:6, Joshua 20:1-6). The Avenger of Blood was the next of kin to the

deceased and it was their right to pursue the slayer that killeth any person unawares.

This relates to the Jewish law of kinship, (see also the story of Ruth and Boaz) to be the next of kin, and as such, to buy back a relative's property. The Hebrew word "ga'al" means: avenge, deliver, purchase, ransom, redeem. The word is used throughout Lamentations and Ruth, occasionally in Psalms and almost exclusively in Isaiah. Twice in the entire book of Isaiah is the word redeemer (or redeemed, redeemedst, etc.) used without being a root of this word ga'al. One of my favorite scriptures, Job 19:25: "I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth:..." is also a root of the word ga'al. As the son of man, Christ was our kinsman; He died on the cross and thus became our Redeemer; and when He returns again He will be the avenger of blood and will seek out those who let Him die on the cross in vain, and who do not choose to live uprightly before God, taking advantage of His redeeming love. Therefore, I believe the Sacrament is also a "pointing forward" to the second coming of Christ, especially for our day and time.

"...And witness unto thee, O God the eternal Father, that they are willing to take upon them the name of thy son, and always remember him...."

To take upon the name of Christ and witness to God that we do it means to be baptized in

the Church of Christ and have our names written down in heaven in the Lamb's Book of Life.

"For if a church be called in Moses' name, then it be Moses' church; or if it be called in the name of a man, then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name, then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel."

These are Christ's words in the third book of Nephi, chapter 12. We are to be baptized in the Church of Christ that is built upon the gospel of Christ and always remember Him.

"...And keep his commandments which he has given them...."

In Matt 26:26-28 Christ commanded them to eat and drink of His body and blood both in America and in Jerusalem, and it is still a commandment today. In 3rd Nephi 8:33-36 we read the words of Christ,

"And this shall ye always observe to do, even as I have broken bread and blessed it, and gave it unto you. And this shall ye do in remembrance of my body which I have shown unto you. And it shall be a testimony unto the Father, that ye do always remember me. And if ye do always remember me, ye shall have my Spirit to be with you."

Very similar to the prayer we have been given in Moroni, the difference being that we will not see the physical body of Christ until He comes again. Verse 40 is almost identical to the prayer we have for the blood. We are to follow the com-

mandments of Christ and His example exactly the way He has showed us. Take special notice of the verses following this first-hand account of Christ's administering of the sacrament to the people on this land so long ago.

Vs. 42-44, "And I give unto you a commandment that ye shall do these things. And if ye shall do these things, blessed are ye, for ye are built upon my rock. But whoso among you shall do more or less than these, are not built upon my rock, but are built upon a sandy foundation."

I would also like to make note that there are some aspects to the Sacrament that we as a church have disagreements on. For example, in Africa they all stand up to receive the sacrament and sit down once they have partaken of the flesh and blood. In 3rd Nephi 9:39 Jesus gave us this example to stand; He commanded it even. This is also an easy way for the ministry to tell who is a baptized member. However, in 3rd Nephi 8:29 the Lord commanded the multitude to sit themselves down upon the earth before he administered the sacrament. I don't believe either way is wrong or that one way is better. I believe it is important that we all follow "the manner that we know to be true" that is given in Moroni.

"...That they may always have his spirit to be with them. Amen."

This is the promise. Every time we partake of the Sacrament worthily, His spirit is with us (3 Nephi 9:44-45), just like in the old testament when He

dwelt with them in His holy temple.

Just like in the days of old the Lord has made requirements for us to follow. This is a definitive set of rules God has set for us to follow. He is omniscient, all wise and all-powerful and He caused Moroni to write these plain and precious things that we may have the fullness of the gospel. The Bible does not have this prayer in it, and when Christ's Church was restored this sacred ordinance was put into practice once again. The Lord is the same yesterday, today, and forever. I believe this ordinance should be treated with the same respect and reverence that God required the Jews to have for the Ark of the Covenant. If you were not a Levite priest and you touched the Ark you died. The Lord said "whosoever eateth and drinketh my flesh and blood unworthily eateth and drinketh damnation to his soul" 3 Nephi 8:60. I believe a sacrament service is special; it is powerful and contains a promise; it requires greater preparation and anticipation; and it is not to be treated like a regular prayer service.

Florida Mission



By Apostle Smith Brickhouse

In 2002 the Church approved the organization of groups of members into Missions where there is not ministry present to establish a Local Congregation. A Mission recognizes groups that have committed to meet together regularly and be identified and numbered among an official congregation of the Church of Christ.

Referendum Bill #1 of 2002 states in part:

"Missions—

An organized mission is a location where there are at least six baptized members, which meet together regularly, but in the absence of Elders they must depend upon missionaries to perform the Ordinances of the Gospel. Missions are also subject to the Articles of Faith and Practice and are governed thereby.

Missions will operate under the supervision of the Missionary (s) in Charge of the area in which they are located. They will welcome in and receive ministering by General Church officials and visiting ministry whenever circumstances permit them being present.

The criteria for Missions in the Church of Christ shall be as follows:

- 1 There will be at least six baptized members.
- 2 They meet together on a regular basis to hold meetings such as Sunday School, prayer and testimony service, study classes, song services and preaching services when visiting ministry are present and available.
- 3 They will hold their meetings at a predetermined location (home, rental building, church building, a plot of ground etc.).

4 The baptized members of the Mission will elect officers from among themselves, such as a leader or coordinator, secretary, treasurer, bishops' agent, Sunday School teachers, etc.

a A Leader will take charge of organizing and overseeing the services, coordinating with the Missionary in Charge, and make arrangements for visiting ministry to teach and preach to the congregation.

b A Secretary or Clerk, who shall take care of the secretarial work of the Mission and keep its records.

c A Treasurer, who shall be the financial agent for the Mission.

d A Bishops' Agent will collect tithing from members, issue receipts and forward the funds to the General Church.

5 They hold regularly scheduled Sunday School classes for the children and adults alike.

6 They will be established at the time an organizational meeting is held by the Missionary in Charge, and baptized members who desire to be members of that Mission will then be recorded and recognized as such by the General Church."

Since the approval of this referendum many missions have been established in Africa,

Honduras, Mexico and the Philippines. Each of these groups have been richly blessed by the commitment and united fellowship with others of the "Body of Christ." Missionaries, when able, continue to regularly minister, preach and perform the ordinances of the Church.

This past year a mission was formed here in the states. On April 24, 2005, six members of the Church located in Florida requested the approval to organize a Mission in Altoona, Florida. This was approved by

the Missionaries and today the Altoona, Florida, Mission meets regularly at the home of George and Geraldine Payne. They have elected Bro. Tom Barton as their coordinator and Sunday School teacher.

Several missionaries schedule visits to the groups and minister to them as often as possible. Recently my wife Susan and I met with them, enjoying their fellowship. The group has grown in number with others of family attending whenever possible. They have grown

spiritually and in their desire to serve. Presently they are studying in the Book of Mormon. Below is a picture of the group outside of the Payne home. Unable to attend the day we were there, but one of the original members of the Mission, is Nina Matheny.

If planning on visiting Central Florida and would like to fellowship with this group there please contact me and I will provide the contact information.



▶ Left to right: Sue, Randy Payne, Rick & Shell Craig, George & Geraldine Payne, Karen Anderson and Tom Barton.

REPORT

2006 New York Akwesasne Local Reunion

By Terry Waldruff

The New York Reunion was held on July 7-9, 2006, at the Akwesasne local. It was very nice to see many of our Canadian brothers and sisters again, along with familiar faces from the States. It is certainly nice to put names and faces together. It is wonderful to realize the vastness of our "family" – as we are all related in Christ.

Friday, July 7, 7:00 PM

Our pastor, Brandon Tarbell, welcomed everyone and opened the reunion with song and prayer. The entire Akwesasne Local sang a special – *The Savior at Your Door*. This helped to bring everyone's attention to the new front door of our church

building, along with a sidewalk and parking – which is an open invitation to our local communities.

Elder Keith Hoare was the first speaker of the reunion. Keith's theme was, "Why should we fear the Lord?" The Lord is powerful and we are precious to our Lord. He is a loving God. Among the scriptures that Keith brought forth were: Psalm 33:1-4; Genesis 1:1-9; 1 Nephi 5:247-256; Genesis 8:22; Psalm 8:4-6; Romans 8:28.

Brandon shared a testimony of a recent business trip that he had taken with his father, Eli. They had meals with their associates and before each meal Eli asked a blessing on the food. In each instance, the associate thanked Eli for the blessing.

After the closing hymn of this service we enjoyed fellowship and snacks.

Saturday, July 8, 9:00 AM

The Morning Prayer service opened with administrations. Elder Adam Porter offered thoughts to bring our thoughts to the service. We were reminded that we need to be together and to pray together. Satan is trying to scatter the sheep. We must walk in faith, also walking in the Spirit. We must be in the will of the Lord. We were also reminded that the price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

Among the scriptures that Adam brought forth were: Colossians 3:1 – 10; Galatians 5:13-18, 22–26; Philippians 2:1–4 and 13–18.

During the season of prayer, there



were many prayers and uplifting testimonies offered.

After the prayer service we continued to enjoy the sweet Spirit that was evident during this reunion, and fellowship during lunch.

At 1:30 PM Gretchen Tarbell conducted our song service, accompanied by Kim Yates on piano. Many lovely songs were offered, bringing our thoughts to the Lord.

At 2:00 PM, Elder Richard Wheaton was the speaker of the hour. He told us to remember the dream and to reach high. We were admonished to listen to the Lord when He gives us a command. We are to be attentive to the needs of others and to always be on guard because it is not an easy road. We are to take our instructions from the Lord. Among the scriptures that Brother Wheaton brought forth were: 1 Nephi 1: 24–37 and Ether 1: 76–79.

After the afternoon sermon, once again we enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters.

At 6:30 PM, another song service

was held. Many songs were offered, including some specials.

At 7:00 PM, Elder Jim Yates, Jr. was the evening speaker. His topic was “The Gifts of God.” A demonstration with a fruit basket showed us that we have a choice. We are free to choose to listen to God and to take His gifts. Among the gifts that God has bestowed upon us are the Scriptures, Christ, eternal salvation, communion and the commandments.

In closing, Brother Jim reminded us that we need to be something that God can use.

After the service, we continued to enjoy fellowship and the sweet spirit that was evident to all.

Sunday, July 9, 9:00 AM

A sacrament service was held. Elder Gordon McCann opened the service with the reminder that [Eccl 3:1] “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven;” that we must prepare to meet God and to live with Him. The way is simple; God’s promises are

true. As a closing scripture, Brother Gordon left us with [Alma 5:38] “And now my beloved brethren, I have said these things unto you, that I might awaken you to a sense of your duty to God, that ye may walk blameless before him; that ye may walk after the holy order of God, after which ye have been received.”

During the season of prayer that followed, many wonderful prayers and testimonies were shared.

After the service, we enjoyed a cookout lunch.

At 7:00 PM, a question and answer study was held for all those who could attend.

Many wonderful testimonies were offered during the reunion. I did not take the time to write them down as I was too busy listening. How wonderful also to see and hear Brother Bill Vieveen after his trial with cancer. Truly God provides us with daily miracles!



OBITUARY

Junella Polack

November 12, 1920—July 9, 2006

Junella Louise (Smith) Elliott Polack, 85 years of age, passed from this life to her Eternal Reward, July 9, 2006, at Crest Haven Care Center in Creston, Iowa, where she had been a patient since February 2006.

'Junie', as she was affectionately known to family and friends, was the second daughter in a family of five girls and one boy born to Irma Julia Ve (Caldwell) and Emlin Albert Smith. She was born November 12, 1920, at Mount Ayr, Iowa, where she spent her school years and graduated from High School in 1939.

In pre-school years, 'Junie' fell victim to polio, leaving her physically handicapped for the rest of her life, but she overcame those limitations with grace and determination, and on January 22, 1943, was united in marriage to Frank Albert Elliott in Albany, Missouri. During her husband's absence in the military in World War II, 'Junie' worked as a clerk for the Mount Ayr municipal government; then, upon Frank's Honorable Discharge she began her career as housewife, and eventually mother to three sons who now survive her: Warren Elliott of



Ichikawa, Chiba, Japan; Allan Elliott of Manhattan, Kansas; Maurice Elliott of Folsom, California.

Since her husband Frank's career in National Defense industries led them to many different locations, 'Junie' met the challenge of frequent relocation despite her physical restrictions. Her door was always open to families in need and several yet today are indebted to the generous hospitality she unselfishly gave them.

While the Elliott family lived in Wichita, Kansas, in the mid 1950s, 'Junie' and her husband Frank were baptized and became members of the Church of Christ (TL) and followed their faith in a

move to Independence, Missouri, where they lived until defense work led them to the Western States. Eventually in the 1970s, after their sons had grown, the couple managed apartments in Denver, Colorado, before Frank's death in 1975.

Subsequently, Junella moved to Mesa, Arizona, and was active as a member of the Phoenix local of her church. There she met and married Harold Polack, a member of the priesthood of that church, who preceded her in death.

Of her immediate family Junella leaves: Luella Young of Creston, Iowa; Ramona Sweeney of Friendship, Wisconsin; Annabelle Maley of Lafayette, Louisiana; Harriet Rhody of Mesa, Arizona; and Wallace Smith of Las Vegas, Nevada.

In her extended family Junella leaves grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, plus a long list of friends who knew her and will treasure memories of her life and friendship.



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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.

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2006 CHURCH OF CHRIST REUNIONS SEPTEMBER

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
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gpjmccann@cox.net

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