

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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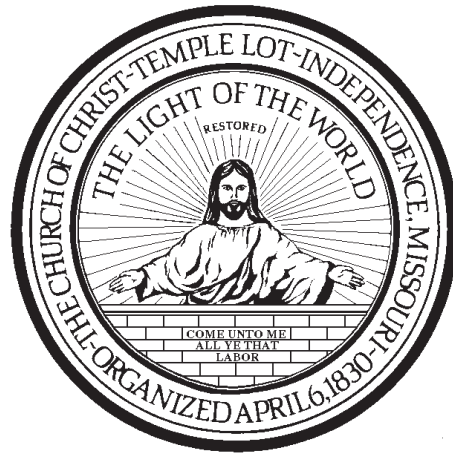
NUMBER 1



*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.... —II Nephi 9:126*

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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.

“I Will Build My Church”



By Elder Gordon McCann

This past October and November I had opportunity to accompany Apostle Brian McIndoo on a trip to Africa. Apostle Brian and Apostle Smith Brickhouse are the two missionaries who are responsible for the missionary endeavors in Africa. We flew to the Democratic Republic of Congo to visit two of our missions in the city of Lubumbashi which is located in the southeastern corner of the country. We also traveled over 3000 kilometers in a Toyota Tacoma pickup truck

over roads that most Americans would not drive on unless their lives depended upon it. We visited numerous missions and local churches in Kenya, and we also visited a contact that lives in a small village several hours by bus from the city of Arusha, Tanzania.

This was my second trip to Africa, my first being two years ago this last September. Then there were only a few ministry and a group of energetic men who took a leadership roll among the several missions. Now God has called more ministry to labor alongside the few, some of whom were part of that energetic group of men whom the Lord had prepared. There are also more men attending the Advanced Scripture classes which focus on the principle teachings of the Gospel and the beliefs and practices of the Church of Christ. The class also includes an in-depth study of the Book of Mormon. So it is with no surprise that I found our people in Kenya had matured, and I could see the evidence that God has blessed them both spiritually and temporally in their individual lives.



► Kisii Advanced Study Class

My first stop in Africa was where I met Apostle Brian in Nairobi, Kenya; we caught a plane the next day to the city of Lubumbashi in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We were greeted at the airport by some of our brethren and were taken to our hotel for the evening. In the morning we traveled to the Kenya Mission to conduct our first church service of the trip, which included a sacrament service, along with a preaching service where I was invited to speak about baptism.



► Democratic Republic of Congo Kenya Mission

The following day Apostle Brian held baptism classes at our Katuba Mission in the morning and afternoon in preparing the candidates who had expressed a desire to be baptized during this trip.

The next morning I taught a class at the Katuba Mission and we took a bus to a rural area in Kimilolo where we conducted a baptism for those who were ready to commit their lives to Christ. Apostle Brian and I conducted the confirmation service at the Kenya Mission, uniting 27 new souls to the Body of Christ in the late afternoon.



► Democratic Republic of Congo Katuba Mission



► Democratic Republic of Congo Baptism



► Democratic Republic of Congo Baptized Group

That evening was spent holding meetings with the committee representatives from the Kenya and Katuba missions to listen to their requests and concerns, and to distribute the funds that had been previously set aside for the work in the Demo-

cratic Republic of Congo. We returned to our hotel in the late evening to pack our bags in preparation for our trip back to Nairobi, Kenya, in the morning.

Upon our return to Kenya Apostle Brian and I set out on day trips from our rented home in Kisii Town, visiting the several missions and local churches following the schedule that he and the local ministry had prepared prior to my arrival to Africa. A common theme prevailed in our preaching and teaching among our church membership in Kenya—the words of Christ found in the book of Matthew, chapter 16, verses 13 thru 19, where Jesus Christ said that He was going to build His church *“and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”*

Apostle Brian, being handy with building things, had constructed a model of a church building firmly situated upon a rock which was all built of wood. The model can be taken apart where each piece is a representation of those things that Jesus was going to use to build up His church here on earth among the children of men. The following will

be a list of each piece with an explanation of its representation and use by our Lord concerning the building up of His church:



▶ Christ's Church



▶ Kababe Mission

The Foundation (Jesus Christ)

With the construction of any building, for it to be secure and enduring, it must be built on a firm foundation that will support the structure and withstand the punishment of the elements while protecting the inhabitants inside. Jesus Christ is that sure foundation for all who follow after him to build their lives upon.

Psalms 18:2: "The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength,

in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower."

Matthew 7:24-27: "Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:...."

Matthew 16:16: "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

1 Corinthians 10:4: "And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that

spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ."

Jacob 3:27: "But behold, according to the scriptures, this stone shall become the great, and the last, and the only sure foundation, upon which the Jews can build."

Helaman 2:74-75: "...It is upon the rock of our Redeemer, who is Christ, the Son of God, that ye must build your foundation...."

The Sub-Floor (Christ's Example)

The importance of the sub-floor is to have a sure way to secure the structure that you are building to the foundation. Jesus Christ came in the flesh to "satisfy the demands of justice" by being a propitiation for our sins, bringing mankind back into the presence of God. Through His obedience of the commandments of His father, Jesus provided us an example as to how to abide in God's love by living our lives in the will of the Father in all things.



▶ Kilgoris Mission

1 John 4:10: "...and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins."

Matthew 3:13-15: "...And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness."

John 8:12: "...he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

1 Peter 2:21: "...Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:...."

Mosiah 2:16-17: "And again: Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you: And now, if you believe all these things, see that ye do them."

3 Nephi 12:33-35: "...For that which ye have seen me do, even that shall ye do; therefore if ye do these things, blessed are ye, for ye shall be lifted up at the last day."



► Kineni Local

The Floor (Jesus Christ and His Ministry)

Securing a well constructed floor to the sub-floor, and ultimately to the foundation, provides the "Master" builder a proven way and means to construct the rest of the building upon. Jesus Christ being the "chief corner stone," the floor is then built according to His leadership and direction, along with other stones (Christ's chosen

ministry) that comprise the floor.

Luke 20:17: "...The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner?"

Colossians 1:16-18: "...And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."

Ephesians 4:10-15: "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 ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:...."



► Bobaracho Mission



► Mesisita Local

gether for an habitation of God through the Spirit.”

1 Peter 2:5: “Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house....”

Moroni 10:29-30: “...then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.”

Revelation 3:5: “He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment;....”

Three Steps (The written Word of God and the Workings of the Holy Spirit)

There are three steps that are used by those who want to enter into the building. There is only one way to enter the building and you must use these steps that lead up to the door or entrance into the building. The same is true with the books that God has caused to be written. Holy men of God recorded the works and the commandments of God as a testimony that God speaks “*the same words unto one nation like unto another.*” God has said “*For out of the books which shall be written, I will judge the world, every man according to his works, according to that which is written*” (2 Nephi 12:60-66). As we

The Four Walls Painted White (The Bride of Christ Robed in Righteousness)

The four exterior walls are then constructed on and firmly attached to the floor. This framework is a representation of the body, or “Bride of Christ,” which is spread throughout the world. Through the atoning blood of Jesus Christ we become sanctified and made “holy without spot.”

Matthew 24:31: “...and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds....”

Ephesians 2:18-22: “...In whom ye also are builded to-



► Mgwagwa Mission

apply our faith, the Holy Ghost will help us come to understand the words that have been written and bring to our remembrance those words of God (John 14:15-26).

- 1 The Bible (Stick of Judah);
- 2 The Book of Mormon (Stick of Joseph):

Ezekiel 37:16-20: "Moreover, thou son of man, take thee one stick, and write upon it, For Judah, and for the children of Israel his companions: then take another stick, and write upon it, For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim and for all the house of Israel his companions And join them one to another into one stick; and they shall become one in thine hand."

Revelation 20:12-13 (The written records that God will use to judge man): "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."



► Mombasa Mission

3 Revelations (Workings of the Spirit)

Isaiah 28:10: "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little..."

Galatians 1:12: "For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ."

Ephesians 3:3-4: "How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery;...."

The Red Door (Narrow Gate – Repentance and Baptism by Water and the Spirit)

There is only one door that leads into the building or inner sanctuary of God. God provided us an example by way of His son Jesus Christ. Jesus was baptized of John with water and then, having the Holy Ghost descend upon him, did fulfill all righteousness by following the will of His Father in all things. His father provided a testimony to that fact by His own voice from heaven, saying: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased" (Matthew 3:13-16).

Matthew 7:13-14: "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."



► Nesaro Mission



► Nyamecheo Mission

“...Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal.”

Moroni 10:7-21: “...And again I exhort you, my brethren, that ye deny not the gifts of God, for they are many; and they come from the same God. 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.”

3 Nephi 4:2: “And there was not any man who could do a miracle in the name of Jesus, save he were cleansed every whit from his iniquity.”

2 Nephi 13:24-26: “For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water: and then cometh a remission of your sins by fire, and by the Holy Ghost. And then are ye in this strait and narrow path which leads to eternal life;”

3 Nephi 13:11: “...Enter ye in at the strait gate; for strait is the gate and narrow is the way that leads to life, and few there be that find it, but wide is the gate, and broad the way which leads to death, and many there be that travel therein, until the night cometh, wherein no man can work.”

the Holy Ghost through the “laying on of hands” after their baptism, but God also administers or bestows spiritual gifts upon individuals that exercise great faith for the edification and profit of the body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:1-12:

The Window above the Door (Gifts of the Spirit)

This window, in a church building, is typically a stained glass window that provides a beautiful display for the occupants’ enjoyment and pleasure within. Its value is only realized when the sun is shining through the glass. So it is in the Church of Christ that God has given each member the gift of



► Sengera Mission

Side Windows, Three on each side (Principles of the Gospel)

The side windows are a part of the constructed wall that lets light shine into the building or sanctuary. There are six windows (three on each side) which represent the six principles that the believer in Christ has followed and has their hope in. These six principles are the basic teachings of the doctrine of Christ that leads us on the path towards our perfection through Christ.

Hebrews 6:1-2: "Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment."

- Repentance
- Faith
- Baptism
- Laying on of Hands (Acts 8:14-17; 19:1-6; Moroni 2:2)
- Resurrection of the Dead
- Eternal Judgment

The Roof with two Halves (Fruits of the Spirit and Stewardship)

A good roof is needed to protect the building or sanctuary from the elements from the outside. Typically the roof is built with two halves peeking in the center and tapering down, resting upon the walls. In our lives the Spirit of God is that

covering or mantle that helps us to follow goodness and truth by rejecting or repelling those things that Satan throws at us. We are accountable to God for that which He has given us: i.e., the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Galatians 5:22-23: "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

Ephesians 5:9-11: "(For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord."

Luke 12:42-43: "...Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

The Steeple (Faith, Hope and Charity)

The thing that tops our building is the steeple, which sets the building apart from all other structures. It is what the world looks at to determine what kind of a building it is and what it will be used for.

1 Corinthians 13:13: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Moroni 7:50-53: "...And charity suffereth long, and is kind, and envieth not, and is not puffed up, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil, and rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth, beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things;..."

Moroni 10:15: "Wherefore,

there must be faith; and if there must be faith, there must also be hope; and if there must be hope, there must also be charity; and except ye have charity, ye can in no wise be saved in the kingdom of God;..."

The Name of the Building (The Church of Christ)

Displaying the appropriate sign on the building is very important for those searching for a specific building built by the "Master Builder." The sign would provide the following:

- Who the owner of the building is (Jesus Christ)
- How the building was built (the doctrine of Christ)
- The purpose of the building (salvation)

3 Nephi 12:13-24: "...Have they not read the scriptures, which say, Ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name? for by this name shall ye be called at the last day; and whoso taketh upon him my name, and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day; Therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name, that he will bless the church for my sake; and how be it my church, save it be called in my name."

Romans 16:16: "Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you."

Grace versus Works-based Salvation



By Michael Kelley

In the previous installment of this editorial it was shown how Paul taught that the dead works under the Law of Moses could not save you, yet also taught that Christian works were essential for salvation. Another issue that many stumble over is what the scriptures refer to as "Perfection." Often an Evangelical will come back at you with the argument "We all sin, including you. Isn't God's grace big enough for you?" and "It is impossible to be perfect; are you saying you're perfect?" My response would be to show them how God's grace applies only to those who

PART 4

sincerely try, while God's grace is withheld from those who willfully rebel and seek to justify their sins.

Revelation 3:15-16 *I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. 16 So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth.*

1 Peter 4:18 *And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*

Often the Christian stumbles over the word "Perfection." assuming it means utterly sinless. A more correct interpretation is "Completeness."

Webster's Dictionary: PER'FECTION, *adjective* [Latin *perfectus, perficio*, to complete; *per* and *facio*, to do or make through, to carry to the end.]

1. Finished; complete; consummate; not defective; having all that is requisite to its nature and kind; as a *perfect* statue; a *perfect* likeness; a *perfect* work;

a *perfect* system.

2. Fully informed; completely skilled; as men *perfect* in the use of arms; *perfect* in discipline.

3. Complete in moral excellencies.

Be ye therefore *perfect*, even as your Father who is in heaven is *perfect*. Matthew 5

4. Manifesting perfection.

My strength is made *perfect* in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12

Matthew 5:48 *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

Luke 13:32 *And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.*

James 1:4 *But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.*

It would be illogical for Christ to command His followers to be perfect if it were an impossible task. Yet, Jesus Himself did not claim to be perfect until after His resurrection. This is because He had not yet

done one thing that we all must also do...endure unto the end.

Matthew 24:13 *But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.*

Many Christians balk at the concept of a loving God full of grace who would consign many to hell, yet this is exactly what Jesus teaches....

When Jesus visited the Nephites He had already been resurrected and fulfilled His mission and then claims to be perfect:

3 Nephi 5:92 *Old things are done away, and all things have become new; therefore I would that ye should be perfect even as I, or your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

Clearly perfection is obtainable, but we must repent and deny ourselves of all ungodliness and endure unto the end. Like the Apostles of old, we all will slip, make mistakes and sin, but the Apostles of old (except Judas) repented, dusted themselves off and pressed on and obtained salvation. This is exactly what the Bible teaches, and the Book of Mormon.

Moroni 10:29-30 *Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in Him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and*

strength, then is His grace sufficient for you, that by His grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the

power of God. And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not His power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot.

What then exactly is “ungodliness” that we are to deny ourselves of? Paul, the chief proponent of grace, tells us exactly what is “ungodliness.”

1 Corinthians 6:9-10 *Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.*

Galatians 5:19-21 *Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these;*

Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.

Today many churches are accepting many sinful behaviors, such as homosexuality (abusers of themselves with mankind...effeminate), adultery, etc., under the guise of compassion and grace in order to increase their size and revenues. They do their flocks a great disservice and cheat their souls. Those who criticize the Book of Mormon for its teachings of “conditional grace” are ignorant of the Bible’s strict teaching of that same concept. Many Christians balk at the concept of a loving God full of grace who would consign many to hell, yet this is exactly what Jesus teaches:

Matthew 7:13-14 *Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.*

The word “strait” in this passage is the same used for straitjacket; that is, something

confining that prevents you from doing the things you would naturally do. Jesus states that only a few will do this, while many will take the easy broad way (broad mindedness) that leads to destruction. The Christian is often accused of being judgmental because he believes that the scriptures set standards for behavior. In reality, if a person's works do not adhere to that standard, then **God's word** judges his works to be evil. Others object stating that certain lifestyles are the result of nature, or being born that way, as they view homosexuality. Actually, all sinful behavior is natural. Selfishness, lusts, greed and pride are all common to man and natural, just as is homosexuality or other deviant behaviors. Adultery is no less abhorrent to God than homosexuality...they are both sins and are natural to man. The scriptures state:

***1 Corinthians 2:14** But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.*

***Mosiah 1:119-120** For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be for ever and ever; But if he yieldeth to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek,*

humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father.

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

The grace God has to offer us is the **opportunity** to repent and prepare to meet Him before it is too late.

It is not so much that a loving compassionate God will thrust sinners to hell; but rather, those who fail to deny themselves of all ungodliness will find themselves unclean and filthy before God, and they will shrink away in unquenchable guilt and shame that will be as a fire that burns forever. The grace God has to offer us is the **opportunity** to repent and prepare to meet Him before it is too late. Jesus loved all men so much that He preached repentance to the sinners, warning them of their fate if they did not repent, and He was crucified for it. He would have lacked mercy and compassion if He had taught them delusions and a watered down gospel that would cheat their souls in the end. Clearly both the Bible and Book of Mormon teach a conditional grace, conditions that are not easy, conditions that will require every fiber of our souls and effort to meet.

***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*

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.

The Fruit of the Spirit



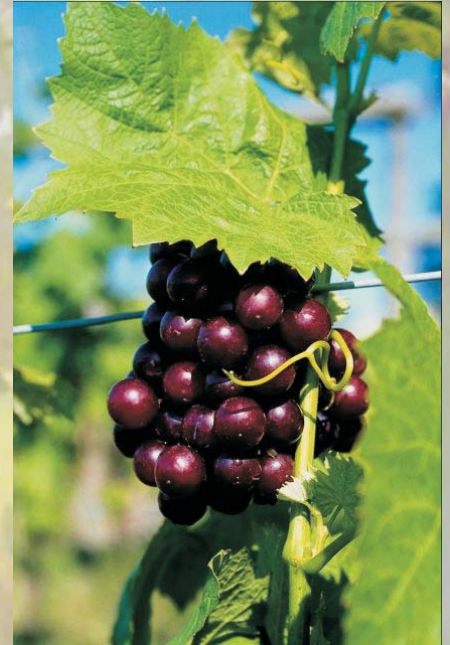
By Elder Duane Ely

This is the first in a series of articles about the Fruit of the Spirit. It is identified in Galatians 5:22-23,

Part 1

“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

In nature a fruit is a natural product of a living organism, such as a peach or an apple. But a spiritual fruit is a product of a spiritual union with Christ. The Fruit of the Spirit is produced in us when we allow the Holy Spirit to direct and influence our lives. If we hope to obtain salvation, these virtues must be practiced daily in our lives. But like everything in life, there is an opposition: good and evil, right



and wrong. There is also an opposition to the Fruit of the Spirit and that is the lust of the flesh.

“This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the

**“But the fruit of the Spirit is
Love,
Joy,
Peace,
Longsuffering,
Gentleness,
Goodness,
Faith,
Meekness,
Temperance:
against such there is no law.”**

lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God” Galatians 5: 16-21.

This scripture is very plain about the punishment for those who commit these sins. “They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” These works of the flesh will lead us to destruction and they are directly opposite to the Fruit of the Spirit. By describing the works of the flesh and the Fruit of the Spirit, we are told what to avoid and what to oppose, and what we are to cherish and what we are to cultivate. Many people today call themselves Christians, but they are living in these sins and have a false hope for eternal life. If we have been guilty of committing these sins, there is hope if we are willing to repent of them.

“And again: Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble your-

selves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you: And now, if you believe all these things, see that ye do them” Mosiah 2: 16-17.

The Fruit of the Spirit, if practiced daily in our lives, will enrich our lives, draw us closer to God, make us more pleasant, make us happier, and plainly show that we are being led by the Holy Spirit.

If we act under the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, these sins will not have dominion over us. We must love righteousness and have a hatred for sin. Scripture tells us that the natural man is an enemy to God, and this is something that we must overcome in our lives.

“For the natural man is an enemy to God, and has been, from the fall of Adam, and will be, for ever and ever; But if he yieldeth to the enticings of the Holy Spirit, and putteth off the natural man, and becometh a saint, through the atonement of Christ, the Lord, and becometh as a child, submissive, meek, humble, patient, full of love, willing to submit to all things which the Lord seeth fit to inflict upon him, even as a child doth submit to his father” Mosiah 1: 119-120.

We must yield to the enticings of the Holy Spirit and turn away from the lusts of the flesh that are common to the natural man. And it is not enough that we cease to do

evil, but we must learn to do good. The Fruit of the Spirit, if practiced daily in our lives, will enrich our lives, draw us closer to God, make us more pleasant, make us happier,

and plainly show that we are being led by the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit is working in our lives, this fruit will shine forth as a witness unto God and to the world that we are striving to serve Him. We must diligently seek to bring forth more abundantly that good fruit, which is through Jesus Christ, to praise and glorify God.

Next month we will continue this series and discuss love in detail.

This is the Church of Christ



By Lucinaldo Bezerra

My testimony begins when I was a child of about nine years of age. I had a dream in which I saw two young adults who were carrying some books in a bag. These persons were dressed in white raiment. A light was shining down upon them and their clothing was illuminated. I followed them so I could see and read the books. I could clearly see the title of the books; they said Book of Mormon. Eventually the young men ar-

rived at a large and beautiful building. Then I awoke. As a child I thought this was just another childish dream.

When I was sixteen years old I had another dream. This time I was very tired as I followed some men who were also carrying books. Again I saw the title of the books, the Book of Mormon. They were in a great hurry because they needed to give these books to many people. I was tired and I looked dirty as I followed them. Again they arrived at the same building I had seen before and this time its doors were wide open.

Once inside, I saw a personage at the front of the building. He was dressed in white clothing, and he had white hair and a white beard. His arms were opened wide and extended. He told me, "Do not be afraid. It is not yet time for you to read this book." Then he showed me a fearful sight; a place where there were many wicked people and every kind of evil. There was also a frightening-looking person sitting on a throne in this place.

The personage dressed in white told me that at this time,

"This is your king. Right now you do not have enough light or experience to resist him. This is not yet the correct time to read this book." He also told me to be at peace.

At this time in my life I was about to be baptized into the Jehovah Witness church. I had told no one about my dreams, for I had been taught to hate the Book of Mormon and the Mormon religion. At about age 18 or 19 a scripture from the book of 2 Corinthians seemed very important to me. It said, "*Come out from among them...*" (2 Corinthians 6:17).

One day I was talking to a Jehovah Witness friend, and he told me, "You know that in our Bible it says that Jesus is God the Father." "No," I replied, "Jesus is the Son of God." And at that time I began to have doubts about the doctrine the Witnesses were teaching. So I began in secret to seek out the beliefs of other churches. I visited a lot of different churches and I could see there were many errors in all of them. I decided I would not belong to any church until one day I was looking in the telephone book at the

names of all the churches. I began to pray to God that He would guide me in the correct direction. As I looked at the names of all of them in the list I realized I knew them all until I came to the name of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. I did not know anything about this denomination.

I called them on the telephone, telling them I knew nothing about their church. They invited me to come and learn. I asked them two questions; first, "Is it true that you do not receive Negroes in your church?" The person on the phone told me that they loved all people. Then I asked them, "Do people call you Mormons?" He told me that they did because of their belief in the Book of Mormon. Then, for the first time, I knew the book I had seen in my dreams really existed.

Arrangements were made for me to be visited by their missionaries. I decided I would study a lot so I could resist them, but I heard a voice telling me, "Don't do this; you must first listen." When they gave me a copy of portions of the Book of Mormon I was surprised as I saw it. "Why did I have to wait so long? This was the book of my dreams!"

They told me the story of

what happened when young Joseph Smith was reading in

investigation of these groups. I followed his advice.

He told me not to be afraid, for the Book of Mormon, together with the Bible, is the true Word of God.

James 1:5, and the missionary said, "You can do the same thing. As you read the Book of Mormon pray to God to see if it is true." I read what they had left me, and as I was kneeling in prayer asking God to show me if this book was really true, something marvelous happened, something I had never before experienced. It seemed that a personage was present in the room. He told me not to be afraid, for the Book of Mormon, together with the Bible, is the true Word of God.

However, I became confused when I went to their church because many of their teachings did not conform to the words found in the Book of Mormon. I wondered, "Why did the Lord leave this book with a people whose practices and doctrines were different from its teachings? I had a friend who had gone to the United States, and when he came back he told me there were other churches who believed in the Book of Mormon. He counseled me to make an

As I contacted these different groups I could see there was a great difference in their beliefs. When I wrote to the Church of Christ in Independence, Brother Jay Moser answered my letters. From February to September I had communication with Jay and Plácido Koyoc. All this time I was fasting and praying to know if this was the true church. I know I received the answer to my prayers.

This is the Church of Christ, identical to the primitive church. I have no reason to continue searching!

*Lucinaldo Bezerra
Belford Roxo, Rio de Janeiro
Brazil*

TESTIMONY

“Call Unto Me”

I, Jacqueline Bosiboin, age 25 years, from Getuka Church of Christ Mission, met with Jesus and He made me His daughter, and now I praise His name.

It was on Saturday, May 6, 2006, when I had a small misunderstanding with my mom about my studies. I had completed my form four course in the year 2000 and had been promised to join college in the following years, but all in vain. On this day, as I remember, my uncle Priest Moses Nyamira had come to our home and told me about a friend of his who had a relative in the United States who would like to assist a few people financially. I talked to my mom and she agreed, although with doubts. I decided to go to my uncle's place after this misunderstanding. I found they were not at home but their children (my cousins) were. After a few minutes they arrived home and welcomed me



► Jacqueline Bosiboin

as their daughter.

The following day we went to church, although I was not willing to attend this church because earlier I had been told that this uncle had joined a devil worshiping church and that they ate children. Because I had no other alternative we went to church, and after the service we went home.

The following day, Mon-

day, they went to the Shamba and left me alone at home. I decided to arrange some books in the shelf when I saw a certain book. I stopped arranging the books and ran outside and waited until they came home. I did not say anything about what I had seen, although fear flowed in me not to sleep in that room alone. After my uncle had prayed that night the fear went away and I slept as usual.

The following morning I gathered courage and took that book, not to open it, but I overturned it and read its cover. On it was written, “The Book of Mormon.”

I wondered what Mormon meant. Thoughts started in me that night and I took that Book of Mormon and placed it on the second shelf because I wanted to see the following morning whether I would find it on the second shelf as an experiment. I found it there on the second shelf in the morning. That night I put it under the chair

and the following morning it was there under the chair. I did many experiments on this book until one day I gathered courage and opened it. I tried to read it but could not understand. I did not ask anybody and went to church as usual.

Days passed and one day I decided to ask my uncle about

tized in the Maranatha Church before, I agreed to be baptized

As we read in Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will

The Church of Christ teaches that baptism should be done by someone who has been called by Christ, and has the authority to baptize.

"Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not."

this book. He explained to me in detail. I agreed that this book is the same as the Bible. From this day I agreed to receive Jesus in my heart to be my Savior. I have seen His hand of blessing unto my life. I used to dream bad dreams such as of these people who had passed away, or I am falling into a hole but can not reach the bottom, and others. Since I believed, I sleep well and dream good dreams.

In fact, I have seen a difference in the teachings that I get in the Church of Christ which are different from other churches, like baptism. The Church of Christ teaches that baptism should be done by someone who has been called by Christ, and has the authority to baptize.

Although I had been bap-

again through the teachings and the explanations from my uncle who is an ordained Priest in the Church of Christ. He read many scriptures from the Bible and the Book of Mormon which convinced me. On July 30, 2006, I went into the many waters and I was baptized by my uncle and had hands laid on me by Elder Michael Otero at Getuka Church of Christ and became a member. From that day I am free in my heart; I forgave my mom and even the worldly thoughts that were disturbing me went away and I came to realize one thing: God has a plan for me and that it's a plan for prosperity.

I thank God because my uncle opened a small business for me and I am seeing God's hand of blessings in my business.

answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." I called Him and He is opening the way for me, Amen.

PHOENIX, ARIZONA



By Rebecca Yates

Greetings from Phoenix! As always life is busy here in Arizona. We've had our reunion, some baby showers, a calling, and the Christmas holiday all pass by in what seems such a short time. We can all definitely see the hand of God working in the lives of the members of our local and throughout the world. I'm grateful to be able to share these times with my brothers and sisters.

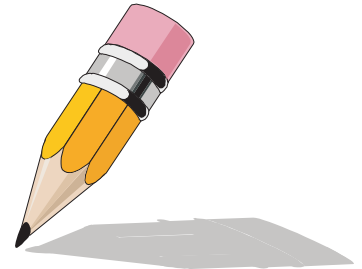
Earlier this year our brother Duane Ely was called to be an elder in the Church of Christ. He was soon after ordained and has been serving in this capacity for the last few months. We are always thankful when the Lord chooses a willing individual to serve His people. Duane has been that for all of us here in Phoenix and many other places he has traveled as well.

The Young Peoples group here in Phoenix has been active in planning activities for the local to share in. They hosted our annual Cider Press and Pig

Roast in October. The young people here worked very hard to plan and prepare for the evening. They barbecued, and hand pressed cider most of the day and into the night. It was a lot of work, but well worth their efforts. The evening was a fundraiser for the local fund. We've got a lot of improvements that need to be done to our building and it was a good opportunity for the youth to help out. Not only did they work hard setting up the event, but also donated their own homemade apple desserts, along with a few other willing volunteers from our local, to be auctioned off. The best part of all was the number of visitors we had. Many people invited their friends, coworkers, teachers and other acquaintances to share in the evening with us.

Our Phoenix reunion went very well this year. Although our numbers were small the services were wonderful. The sermons and testimonies spoke to us of God's blessings in our lives, preparation for the Lord's work, the truthfulness of the gospel and Christ's restored church, and our need for humility and unity among our people. It was a time of spiritual strengthening and fellowship with those we don't get to see often.

After the reunion many of us were able to share in a baby shower for Amy Moser and her daughter Allison. Although we haven't gotten to see the little girl yet, we all anxiously await her appearance. We are practicing patience though, as Amy still has several weeks until her due date. Amy has been on bed rest because of some complica-



tions in her pregnancy, but we know God has given her peace and comfort during this time of being stuck at home. The rest of the family, Daddy Aaron, and big brothers Aidan and Alex, are all ready to see the new little one as well.

As we prepared for another baby shower in January for Melanie Breyer, her little girl decided she couldn't wait and wanted to be there too. Melanie delivered her baby girl a few weeks early on December 26. Although Kaia was not expected until the end of January we are all thankful to hear she is doing well. Melanie and baby are still in the hospital and we pray for their quick recovery and return home. Melanie and her husband Brandon are very happy with their new arrival, even if she was a little early.

The past year has been a busy one, full of many changes and travels. We can't wait to see what God has in store for us in 2007!

*Advocate Reporter for the Phoenix Local,
Rebecca Yates*

OBITUARY

Prudencio Pasagad Alameda

December 18, 1944 – July 7, 2006

Elder Prudencio Alameda's physical body gave up this life, weakened by the effects of kidney failure and diabetes. His spiritual soul never gave up the fight, as just hours before his death the two American Missionaries were able to visit and say farewell. In parting, one exhorted our Brother, "Get up brother, there is work to done!" His reply, though only a whisper, was determined, "no problem!"

Who was Brother Alameda? To help us understand, his children prepared a list of who he was before in the "world," and afterward as a member of the Church of Christ, T.L.

- He attended school only until the 4th grade. He was a chain smoker from childhood until adolescence. He was a drunkard.
- He came to know Jesus Christ during a crusade and entered into a seminary, continuing his education irregularly until he graduated from high school.
- He joined 7 denominations until he met the Church of Christ, receiving the truth.
- He hated the Book of Mormon until he understood the contents of it, and his love of the truth continued to be developed.
- He was baptized into the Kingdom July 13, 2001, and ordained to the office of elder March 10, 2002.



► Prudencio Alameda

He was an active citizen of the Philippines and even busier for the Church of Christ as an Elder, Pastor, Elder in charge of Region 1 in the Philippines and as Chairman of the Board of Trustees Philippine Branch.

His children remind us he was a "jack of all trades and master of none."

- Electrician — installing the wiring in the church and our house.
- Carpenter — put up the church building, constructed chairs and tables, made a stand-alone blackboard, created personalized trash bins — his own designs!
- Photographer — all occasions he is there with his bulky photographer's bag.
- Driver — he drives four-wheeled, three-wheeled, two-wheeled vehicles. If there were a unicycle in the

house he would love to try it.

- Preacher — even when he is asleep.
- Singer — sings his heart out while mumbling the lyrics.
- Trying-hard guitarist — he knows only three major chords, C, F and G, but will strum the guitar to death.
- Clerk-typist — he does his own paper work and organizes his own documents, only he can find them!
- Police — he considers himself as a peacekeeper in the neighborhood and acts like one if there is trouble in the neighborhood.

Brother Prudencio is survived by his wife Lolita and his children: Lody Jay, Prulie Ann, Omega Mae, Julie Den, Bobby Mark, Lorna, Jonathan, and Joel.

Again his children summarize his life: "He is the most caring and loving person on the planet. A responsible father of all. Though not competent in all the trades he undertakes, the acceptance of the truth and being used as an instrument to help bring souls to Jesus Christ, he became more than superman that saves the day!"

NOTICES

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.

ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be two days of fasting and prayer held at the Temple Lot preceding the General Conference on March 30 and 31st, 2007. We encourage all members of the Church of Christ who are unable to attend these meetings to dedicate the same period to fasting and prayer in their locals or homes that the whole Church may be united in one heart and mind.

*Smith N. Brickhouse,
Secretary Council of Apostles*

2007 CHURCH OF CHRIST TEEN CAMP

Attention young adults between 12 and 18 years old: You are invited to attend the Church of Christ Teen Camp, held at Camp Far Westa in Stewartsville, Missouri. The Camp will run from Sunday, July 22nd, through Friday, July 27th, 2007. This spiritual, fun-filled week will be packed with scripture classes, campfires and group activities designed to deepen your relationship with Jesus Christ and make friendships that will a lifetime.

Camp forms can be found at www.cofcteencamp.com and should be filled out and returned by June 8th, 2007. Do you have a friend who might be interested in attending? Want to make sure all the youth of your local or area can attend? Do you have family members that would love to go with you to camp? Print off as many copies as you like—camp attendance is not limited to members of the Church of Christ. If you have any questions contact Camp Directors Jeff or Michelle Oldham at 816-554-0263.

2007 Teen Camp Theme: *Proverbs 3:5-6: "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."*

We look forward to seeing you there!

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Send all orders to the **Church of Christ, P.O. Box 472, Independence, Missouri 64051-0472**

Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate:	Price Each†
Members (optional)	\$4.00
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- Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)
- Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)
- Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy
- The Book of Commandments - Its Role in the History of the Restoration
- Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants
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- The Cost of Salvation
- Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
- El Libro De Mondamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion De La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of Commandments Commentary)
- Evidences of the Book of Mormon
- First Presidency or First Apostles?
- God's Promises to Israel
- God's Purpose in America
- The Great Plan of Redemption
- Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
- The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem
- A Latter Day Apostasy
- The Latter Day Restoration
- Priesthood—Divine Authority
- Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
- Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
- Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
- Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
- Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
- Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon
- A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
- That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
- What about the Book of Mormon?
- Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
- Zion and the Temple of the Lord

*Note: Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage.)



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(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

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