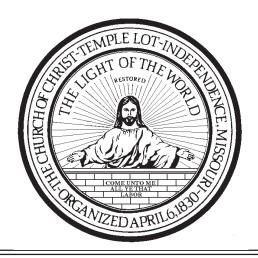


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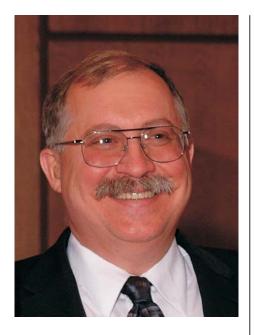
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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour; To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;

To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

MORMON The Land and the Man



By Elder Andy Brantner

t is not my intention to fault anyone's beliefs on the subject I shall present in this arti-My desire is only to magnify God and explore a fuller understanding that is available to us. It is God's desire that each of us learn and grow every day. If we are willing to plant the seed as we are admonished in Alma 16: 151-173, then we will receive a greater blessing from God. Therefore, we must be earnest seekers of the things of God. We must be willing, even eager, to put aside our pre-con-

ceived notions and vain beliefs and, as Alma says, "...awake and arouse your faculties...experiment upon my words...exercise a particle of faith..." and "...desire to believe...." Traditional belief, though not always a bad thing, can sometimes hinder or even prevent us from learning new and exciting things. It is my hope that this writing will add to your understanding, not diminish from it. I ask you, therefore, to let these things sink down into your heart and heed the counsel of our brother, Alma.

I once asked an individual a question many years ago and he gave me an answer. I was satisfied. Life went on. All was well. Then one day this same guestion was asked of me as I prepared for a service. I answered with a similar answer, just as I had been taught many years before. One might think that satisfaction would follow as it once did. But it did not. For the one who inquired of me was not a man, but was the Holy Ghost. All was not well. The Holy Ghost charged me to "prove all things." Thus began a journey of new discovery for me. I found out after the fact that I am not the first to be shown this truth. Though I did not learn this of man, I cannot lay claim to any discovery and say that I found this on my own for I know that the Holy Ghost gave the direction and led me to know the answer. The Holy Ghost has even placed in my mind certain truths as I labor to write this article...things which I was not even looking for. I hope I am not the last to receive these things. And this is why I write this article, that you might feel the joy that I feel in knowing and learning greater things than our minds can invent through our own intellect and wisdom. And what was the question I asked so long ago? It was a simple question, an honest question, a multifaceted question, a question that demands and has an answer.

Where did the Book of Mormon get its name, what does the word Mormon mean and how does this apply to the work of the Kingdom?

The answer to the first part of the question is a simple one. Where did the Book of Mormon get its name? In the fore-

part of the Book of Mormon, just prior to the beginning of the main body of the text is a "Title Page." You will find this on page xvii in our 1990 Independence Edition. A footnote is provided that explains the background of this "Title Page." The words of Joseph Smith, the translator of this record from the metal plates, speak plainly from his manuscript, *History of the Church*:

"I wish to mention here that the title page of the Book of Mormon is a literal translation, taken from the very last leaf, on the left hand side of the collection or book of plates, which contained the record which has been translated, the language of the whole running the same as all Hebrew writing in general (from right to left/Editor); and that said title page is not by any means a modern composition, either of mine or any other man who has lived or does live in this generation. Therefore, in order to correct an error, which generally exists concerning it, I give...that part of the title page of the English version of the Book of Mormon, which is a genuine and literal translation of the title page of the original Book of Mormon as recorded on the plates."

The "Title Page" was written by Moroni, as is evidenced by the fact that Moroni was the last writer upon the plates and the Title Page was found by Joseph Smith at the end of this bound volume. Also in the Title Page itself we are told that the plates were "sealed up by the

hand of Moroni." We find in Moroni 10:2 that Moroni says he was sealing up the record. This sealing of the record was more than just the depositing of them in the stone box and burying them in the earth. It also refers to the placement of the Title Page at the end of the bound volume of metal plates, thereby closing the work. This is much the same as was done with Chapter 1 of our Book of Commandments, which chapter is chronologically the last of that compilation but was given as the "Preface" to the Book of Commandments. It does not imply that there would be no more revelation, but rather that this is all there would be in this particular volume. Likewise with the Book of Mormon, the Title Page was given as the preface to the entire book. This is what a Title Page is. It is not to limit revelation, for we know that there are many more records yet to come forth in the Lord's time. The language in the Title Page text is given in past tense, giving us further evidence that Moroni must have been its author. Did Mormon know that Moroni would eventually seal the record and hide it up unto the Lord and therefore pre-author the Title Page in past tense? No, apparently Mormon did not know if his son Moroni would even be able to add to the record after his passing. This is indicated by a reading of Moroni 9:26 wherein Mormon tells Moroni to "write somewhat a few things, if thou art spared;...." And Moroni did write more things. Many beautiful and important things. Reading these things that Moroni wrote I am glad that Mormon did not seal the record before he died. According to Joseph Smith, the Title Page is intended for the entire volume, hence its placement at the beginning of the book when printed in English.

The Book of Mormon is a book of books and should not be confused with the smaller book contained in it which is also called the Book of Mormon. commonly referred to simply as. "Mormon." This may be where the first answer to my question found its beginnings. Going to the smaller book of Mormon record contained in the Book of Mormon we find Mormon saying in verse 1 of his record: "And now I, Mormon, make a record of the things which I have both seen and heard, and call it the book of Mormon." (Notice a small b in the word book is used.) And what did Mormon see and hear? I believe he was referring only to his book when he said this. He was referring to the things which he had actually seen and heard...much as John was referring only to his book of Revelation when he said that man should not add or take away from the words of "this" book (Rev. 22:18-19). Mormon validates this thought in Mormon 2:36 saying, "Therefore I write a small abridgment, daring not to give a full account of the things which I have seen, because of the commandment which I have received, and also that ye might not have too great sorrow because of the wickedness of this people." As well, in verse 100, he again says, "...I do make a record of the things which I have seen with mine own eyes."

Is it wrong to believe that the Book of Mormon was named after the man called Mormon. he being, after all, the principal abridger of the record? This was the answer I received when I first asked the original question many years ago. Is Mormon worthy of this honor? I certainly believe so, but I wonder how Mormon would feel about this. Is there anywhere in scripture where we can find direction to so commemorate a man to such a high estate? After all, the Book of Mormon is to be held "even" with the Bible (Ezekiel 37:19). How long would we be satisfied if the Bible was called the Book of Paul? Paul, it could be argued, was perhaps the most prolific writer of the Bible. Insert any name you like here. You get my point. Whether we believe that the Book of Mormon was named after the man Mormon is not the issue. Proving it is. I believe there is a good deal more to it than that.

Perhaps Mormon himself should answer the question. Let's look at 3 Nephi 2:96. While abridging the plates of 3rd Nephi, Mormon digresses for a moment to explain: "...I am called Mormon, being called after the land of Mormon, the land in the which Alma did establish the church among the people;...." Here we find our answer. The man Mormon was named after the land Mormon.

Wow! That is good information! Now I ask you, would I be in error to say that the Book of Mormon is named after the land Mormon as also was the man Mormon? I think not. Book of the Land called Mormon. Sounds right, doesn't it? In a very real sense that's what it is. It is the Book of the Land Mormon. Mormon and his son Moroni surely knew this. They knew that this record, of this people, in the promised land to Israel, a land which is choice above all other lands, were the people of the land called Mormon, and their record is the Book of (the land) Mormon, not the book of the man Mormon. Mormon wrote his book and called it after himself (Mormon 1:1) and this is only right. But if one were to call the entire record after himself wouldn't vou think it a little bit vain? Did Moroni, as the author of the Title Page, name the record after his father Mormon? This is an honest question, and it is plausible. But can we prove it? And if Moroni were to name the record after a man, wouldn't it be more logical to have called the book the Book of Lehi, the man from whence the story sprang? Or maybe Nephi, the man who was so great that his name became a perpetual name (Jacob 1:10-11)?

To gain a little perspective let's take a step back. Please imagine for a moment that somewhere in time there was a person named America (I have actually heard of a girl named this just recently). As a sidelight we might ask how our

country got the name, "America." It was named after an explorer from the 1500s named Amerigo Vespucci. His name in Latin is Americus Vespucious. The feminine form of Americus is America, and countries are generally named in the feminine gender, as are ships, planes and hurricanes. Hence, America. A few early map makers used this name, and it stuck. But getting back to my story, let's say that America was an authority of American history. So she writes a book on the subject. In the book she quotes from many historians who lived aforetime. She includes their testimonies of the peoples of this continent throughout ages past. In her book we learn who these people were and where they came from. We learn how they lived and died. Their culture, wars and spiritual lives are revealed to us in her book. America even includes some events of significant history from her time and her life. Now. to allow all this to fit in the confines of a book she selects the more compelling parts; she abridges the record. When she is all done she gives the work to her daughter in hopes that she might write in it also. Her daughter adds some and writes a Title Page to seal the volume. If you haven't guessed by now, the book was given a name. It was called, "The Book of America." Think on this for a moment. There is a lesson here. Now let us continue our journey. Maybe we can get a feel for an answer to these things by learning more.

But where and why did the land get named the land of Mormon? Mosiah 9:32 has our next answer: "And it came to pass that as many as did believe him, did go forth to a place which was called Mormon, having received its name from the king...." Oh, to get into the mind of this king and discover what motivated him to name this place Mormon. If we can understand what the word Mormon means. it will perhaps help us to reconcile our thinking to a proper conclusion. Again, let us continue our search. What does the word Mormon mean? Perhaps we may find an answer to the second portion of the main question in a letter written by Joseph Smith to the Editor of the Times and Seasons, an early Church periodical, dated May 15, 1843, (T&S 13:194):

To the Editor of the Times & Seasons:

Sir:-Through the medium of your paper, I wish to correct an error among men that profess to be learned, liberal and wise; I do it the more cheerfully, because I hope sober-thinking and sober-reasoning people will sooner listen to the voice of truth, than to be led astray by the vain pretensions of the self-wise. The error I speak of, is the definition of the word "Mormon". It has been stated that this word was derived from the Greek word "mormo". This is not the case. There was no Greek or Latin upon the plates from which I, through the grace of God, translated the Book of Mormon. Let the language of that book speak for itself. On the 532d page, of the fourth edition, it reads: "And now behold we have written this record according to our knowledge in the characters, which are called among us the 'Reformed Egyptian,' being handed down and altered by us, according to our manner of speech; and if our plates had been sufficiently large, we should have written in Hebrew; but Hebrew hath been altered by us also: and if we could have written in Hebrew, behold ye would have had no imperfection in our record, but the Lord knoweth the things which we have written, and also, that none other people knoweth our language: therefore he hath prepared means for the interpretation thereof."

Here then the subject is put to silence, for "none other people knoweth our language," therefore, the Lord, and not man, had to interpret, after the people were all dead. And as Paul said, "the world by wisdom know not God," so the world by speculation are destitute of revelation; and as God in His superior wisdom has always given His Saints, wherever He had any on earth, the same spirit, and that spirit, as John says, is the true spirit of prophecy, which is the testimony of Jesus, I may safely say that the word Mormon stands independent of the learning and wisdom of this generation. -Before I give a definition, however, to the word, let me say that the Bible in its widest sense means good; for the Saviour says according to the gospel of John, "I am the good shepherd;" and it will not be beyond the common use of terms to say that good is among the most important in use, and though known by various names in different languages, still its meaning is the same, and is ever in opposition to "bad." We say from the Saxon, "good"; the Dane, "god"; the Goth, "goda"; the German, "gut"; the Dutch, "goed"; the Latin, "bonus"; the Greek, "kalos"; the Hebrew, "tob"; and the Egyptian, "mon." Hence, with the addition of "more," or the contraction, "mor," we have the word "mor-mon"; which means, literally, "more good."

JOSEPH SMITH

More good. Is this what the king knew when he named the land? Did Moroni know this when he wrote the title page to the compilation of abridged records that Mormon had labored on for so long? Why do we find that every answer begets more questions? I believe God likes it when we ask questions of Him. All He desires is that we listen to the answers and act favorably upon understanding His word. Have I been able to plant a seed in your heart? If so, then nourish it and see if it doth grow, as Alma 16:154 says: "Yea, it beginneth to enlighten my understanding; yea, and it beginneth to be delicious to me."

Indeed, if the Bible is the Book of "Good," as Joseph said, then truly the Book of Mormon can be nothing else but the Book of "More Good." This is what Ezekiel was referring to

when he said to put the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, "even" with the stick of Judah. Understanding the meaning of the word Mormon is a beautiful witness to the truth of the Restoration story. "Good" and "More Good." Companions, each validating the other. Proof from two witnesses that Jesus is the Christ. So if any are vet content that the Book of Mormon was named after the man Mormon, and that satisfies your longing to understand all truth, then be content in this. I will trouble you no more nor find fault in you. But for me, I must search all things. For better or worse that's just who I am. I will always have more questions than answers. But I now know that Mormon was named after the land of Mormon, and that the land of Mormon had received its name from the king. And I believe the king knew, as also did Mormon and Moroni, what the word Mormon literally meant. "Mon" being Egyptian for "good" and, as the plates were written in reformed Egyptian, all this just makes sense. "Mor" being a contraction for "more" is entirely plausible, my meager studies of word semantics notwithstanding. All this having been translated by the gift and power of God through the Urim and Thummim gives me great confidence that these things are indeed true, just as God designed them. We find throughout the scriptures multifaceted and multilayered truths that complement and validate each other, coming from different

times and different authors, being carried down through the generations of men. Even the archaeologist's trowel does the same. And should we expect anything less? Truth is truth, is it not? And truth will never defeat more truth.

To answer the final question, which is the third portion of the main question: How does this apply to the work of the Kingdom? I would once again refer to Alma 16, verse 162: "O then is not this real? I say unto you, Yea; because it is light; and whatsoever is light, is good, because it is discernible; therefore ye must know that it is good." Are these pearls of truth that I have strung together discernible? Are these things really true? Do they make any sense at all? Are they provable? Believe me, these are some of the questions we need to be able to answer as we promote the Gospel of Christ throughout the world. Those who pose these types of questions demand valid answers. The Holy Ghost required this one of me. As I said in the beginning of this article, it is my desire to magnify God and explore a fuller understanding. Have I accomplished this goal? As you let the true and fuller meaning of the word Mormon sink into your heart, can you feel the passion that our Lord feels for this land, this man, and this book that is called by this name, Mormon? If so, then "your understanding doth begin to be enlightened, and your mind doth begin to expand." And is not this "good"? The work of the Kingdom is glo-

rified through the sincere pursuit and discovery of truth. This is the message we take to the world, to "...ask God, who giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not..." (James 1:5). In knowing the fullness of the word Mormon we gain a greater appreciation for all that God has done, is doing, and will yet do. Our efforts are strengthened in His service and we are more effective in our missionary endeavors because the truth is our friend. And is not this "more good"? Just as one question begets more questions, so does one truth reveal more truths. And many truths all strung together become a mighty rod of iron...the same rod of iron that Lehi saw that will lead us to the tree of life. This rod of iron is elevated by the glory of God and is placed within our reach. Take hold. dear ones, and never let go.

TRUTH

Beautiful pearls are these, strung upon a necklace, Each has a value of its own, but together they are priceless.

> May God Bless, Elder Andy Brantner

A CALL TO LEADERSHIP



By Apostle Don McIndoo

n Alma 25:15 we read an interesting commentary: "Now I close my epistle. I am Moroni; I am a leader of the people of the Nephites." The time of that writing was 62 B.C. If we should go back eleven years before we learn something quite interesting about this Moroni. "Now the leader of the Nephites, or the man who had been appointed to be the chief captain over the Nephites: now the chief captain took the command of all the armies of the Nephites: and his name was Moroni; And Moroni took all the command, and the governments of their wars. And he was only twenty and five years old when he was appointed chief captain over the armies of the Nephites" (Alma 20:18, 19). Just imagine! Just twenty-five years of age and he had been appointed as the chief captain of all the armies of the Nephites.

In the final months of 2005 a very

Part 1

young, inexperienced policeman in Phoenix lost his life in a rollover accident. His comrades remembered him as a "fun guy" who always saw the light side of everything and kept them laughing. But his commanders remembered him in a different way. They thought of him as a man who would one day become a great leader in the department. So a question comes popping into my mind: What qualities did he show them that caused them to know he had leadership capabilities?

I read in the newspaper early in 2006 about the first quality common to all that exhibit great leadership. The article was about the first black woman ever promoted to be a Commander on the Phoenix Police Department. Her husband was speaking about her as a woman, a wife and a mother. He said, "She is a person with a purpose." There it is in a nutshell; the primary quality of leadership!

Abraham, Moses, Nephi and the Apostle Paul each had an understanding of the great purpose to which God had called them. "Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ;" (Ephesians 3:8).

This awareness of a great purpose was the factor that enabled them to dedicate their lives, to make great sacrifices. The Apostle could say, "And now, behold, I go bound in the spirit unto Jerusalem, not knowing the things that shall befall me there:" (Acts 20:22). This is what encourages me about the young

people of our church: most of them realize they have been called to a great purpose.

It is really important that you be able to **visualize** that purpose.

It is equally important that you be able to **verbalize** that purpose.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;" (I Peter 2:9).

It is important that you feel it strongly enough that it can sustain you in times of trial, persecution or failure. I would like to see you each have a **high vision** of God's purpose in your life. There is a story of two stonemasons at their work. When asked what they were doing, one responded, "Why, I am cutting stone." The other one answered, "I am building a cathedral." We would like to see you visualizing yourselves as being called to help change the world to a better place for mankind.

New York Mayor Giuliani, who showed such strong leadership after his city was destroyed in the disaster of 9/11, wrote, "A leader must know their objectives and their most important beliefs." Consider the sons of Issachar: "And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment" (1 Chronicles 12:32). Giuliani added another element, important in the role of leadership: "People follow optimistic leaders who have vision, confidence and solutions."

Lower Mapula

ince my last report we have been very busy. The next day after the last report we were scheduled to go to Lower Mapula, which is accessible only by 4-wheel drive. We made all the right preparations, loaded everyone and were stopped about two thirds of the way in by a road block manned by the Philippine Army. Seems there has been an active fire fight going on for two days between the Army and the New People's Army, which is Communist backed; helicopters were carrying the wounded and dead out. The squad leader said that if we waited for one hour the situation might change. I determined that if the situation has continued for two days one more hour would not make much difference or the situation could even deteriorate. We back tracked to a little village and holed up for a while and enjoyed fresh baked goods. The owner is a niece of Elder Demetrio Indangon. After this respite we did the right thing and went back home. Please say a prayer for all in Lower Mapula mission as we were

scheduled to baptize and ask the Lord's blessing upon a new church building, also their physical safety as well.

The next day we journeyed not to a fire fight but to "the Garden of Eden." Actually we traveled to Bayabas Mission, which is in a nature preserve by the

name of Eden. Here we witnessed the baptism of seven new souls in Christ and into the Church of Christ. I gave the Baptism Lecture; Elder Jonathon Alameda baptized and Elders Demetrio Indangon and Andy Brantner laid hands on. The leader in Bayabas is Rogelio Villa.

From here we drove to Maa for services: Andy Brantner gave "words of encouragement" and I

preached the sermon at this mission. The leader here is Joseph Indangon the son of Elder Demetrio Indangon.

Today we drove to Tagum mission where Elder Andy Brantner gave the words of encouragement which is really



an extending of your love in the USA and a mini-sermon. preached the sermon for the day and then we enjoyed a meal right there in the mission. The leader here is Ephraim Tamavo with his wife Ruth, who is due to have a baby within the next two weeks. From here we drove to the city of Panabo to visit the new aranddaughter of Magdalena, who has been our cook from the very beginning; her nickname is Sister "Eat More"! This is her first and she was busting with pride, her first opportunity to see the child not yet two davs old.

Until next report all our love from the Philippines, Mike McGhee

CCEG Report from the Philippines, October 25, 2007

(Update: Elder Jonathan Alameda returned to Lower Mapula at a later date and was able to dedicate the church building to the Lord. The photos are from this dedication ceremony.)





REPORT

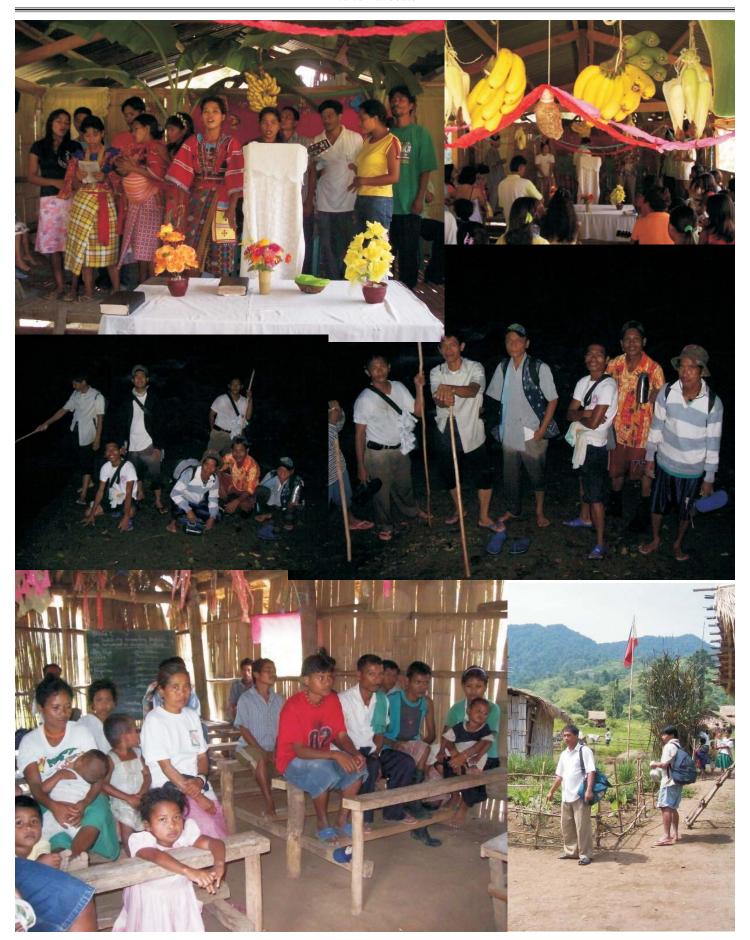
Five Hours from Tapak

the place is very far. We need to hike for about five hours from the farthest place we reached in the Paquibato area, which is Tapak, before we are able to get there. (Tapak is a long hike in itself; our American missionaries may never physically visit "Five Hours from Tapak."—Mike McGhee)

Jonathan has been there twice or thrice already. It is a long and tiring journey but the tiredness is gone when you are able to see the faces of the people there who are very hungry for the words of God. They took pictures and I will attach them here so that you will be able to see the place and some of the people over there.







MAY/JUNE -52-



MAY/JUNE

REPORT

2008 Solemn Assembly and General Church Conference, April 4th-9th

We entered the house of the Lord for the opening prayer service Friday morning. Apostle Jay Moser and Elder Isaac Brockman, Jr., welcomed us. Br. Jay spoke to us about our opportunity to lift our prayers unto God, to draw closer to Him, and used Mosiah 8:38-53. Many voices were raised in a season of prayer unto our Father.

Following the season of prayer were testimonies of God's goodness, one of which was the direction to a brother, many years ago, as to which church he should belong. As a 16-year-old he had been seeing a girl who belonged to another church and felt pulled to go with her. In his dream Jesus stood at the door of the Church of Christ and conveyed that this is where He wanted him to be. A few days later the relationship with the girl ended.

A sister told us of an experience she had in the middle of the night; she awoke and the Spirit made known to her that we are just like a refrigerator. We need to be plugged in all the time, or what is inside will become rotten.

Friday evening we reassembled for another prayer service. Apostle Brian McIndoo and Elder Marvin Carroll welcomed us. Br. Brian used Alma 12:1-9, 18-20. He spoke to us about the authority from God that we carry with us wherever we travel and through whatever troubles we have, as the world watches us. Many voices were raised in a season of prayer which followed.

Many testimonies of God's blessings were shared. A brother admonished us that we need to be awake and to heed God's direction. We need to be ready to go out to meet Him. God is reaching out and touching the responsive hearts. We need to be bound together by love's strong cord so we cannot be broken.

Saturday morning we once again entered the house of the Lord for another prayer service. Apostle Joel Yates and Elder Glenn Gill welcomed us. Br. Joel spoke of the greatness of our God and our need to come before Him with thanksgiving and praise. He used Rev. 3:7-13. Br. Joel told us it has been 178 years since the restoration. The world is against us and we have just a little strength. God opens the doors He wants us to go through. He preserves us so His name is known. He bears us up for a

reason. We need His help to spare us from the hour of temptation. We need to seek Him; we need His help to maintain our strength. Many prayers were lifted up to our Heavenly Father and testimonies followed.

A brother asked for our forgiveness and testified of his trials and how God is helping him through them. He prays that we will all learn from his mistakes.

Another brother spoke of the trial he and his wife went through during the delivery of their youngest child. He had concern for the birth, yet put it in the Lord's hands. When the time came there was a problem but God preserved them and the baby is just fine.

Another brother spoke of the temptations we all have in life and the need to stand strong. If we wander off the path we are in jeopardy. The devil knows how to tempt us. We must throw these temporal things out of our lives, avoid the very appearance of evil and cast them away.

Another brother spoke of the importance of the opportunities we are each given to serve Him. We must make preparation so that we are ready when He calls. We must be ready and willing to share the gospel and have His spirit with us. When Christ was tempted, His reply was, "It is written..." We must study so we can do the same. If we are afraid, then Satan has won.

A sister testified of God's goodness to her and her family. Their grandson was born perfectly fine, even though medical tests indicated there could be a problem. The cord was wrapped tightly around his neck when he was born but God answered our prayers and he was just fine.

Saturday afternoon we reassembled for another prayer service. Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu and Elder Ronnie Gill welcomed us. Br. Placido told us God only gives us what is good for us, and urged us to be in permanent communication with God and He will provide our way of escape from temptations. Br. Placido used Matthew 7:7, Matthew 26:40-41, John 14:13 and II Nephi 14:11; 15:4. We were led into a season of prayer and many testimonies followed.

A brother related a dream told to him by another brother. He dreamed he saw a church with people

worshipping quietly. There was a hedge on the right and then another people in another mode of worship involving much movement and noise. Behind the second group there was darkness, so dark that there was a tribulation. The second group was louder and more active. The first group goes on as normal. From the second group a young girl walks to the hedge. She begins to beckon those in the first group to come over, and some of them go. Out of the darkness comes a beast. The airl and the second group go to the beast. The first group walks down a narrow path from a grayish-white church building, walking right past the second group, all remaining on the path. They go to another building, which is bright white, and they go in with no concern for the tribulation. He explained that this is why we are to always be in prayer.

A brother related a dream he had just a few nights previous. He saw desolation and a man walking real fast, with everything he owned in his coat. He was looking and scavenging. In this dream, he was in the same condition; there had been great destruction. He saw prophecy being fulfilled. Society is dependant on temporal things. We are too distracted. We must prepare spiritually. We must look to God. There is a better way than that which we are living—and that's Zion.

Another brother testified that as he preached he felt someone standing behind him. He had no fear, but peace, and a feeling of his nothingness. He feels it was the Lord in his life. He felt the presence of God.

A brother told us of a dream he was given. He saw a peaceful little hamlet that he had seen many years previously, and was told that it all can be taken in a twinkling of an eye. Because of what man has done, this will be: there will be foreign soldiers here. We will have to depend on God. He also told us of an experience he had in the service. He was afraid to go home and a Messenger came to him and told him he didn't have to. He would see to it that the ship would go down and all lives would be lost. He came back the following night for his answer. Our brother told him that he couldn't do that to the others and asked him if he could have a way by which he could give something back. He was told that he could do that. We were admonished that we need to be humble enough to hang on to our God—He will provide all



Church of Christ members Sr. Sarah Brantner, Elder Nicholas Denham and Sr. Lois Harris. They were our oldest "attendees" at the 2008 Church of Christ Conference. All three of them are 97 years young.

we need.

The Junior Young Peoples met for a trip to the Puppetry Arts Institute for a private show; and the YPCL met for a study with Apostle Joel Yates at the home of Leslie and Irene Case.

Sunday morning we gathered in again unto the House of the Lord for a sacrament service. Apostles Joel Yates and Mike McGhee were in charge. Br. Mike spoke to us using John chapters 13, 14, and 15. He spoke to us about our time, our choices and our covenant with the Lord, and asked us if we give our all. The sacrament was served and we entered a season of prayer in which there were many voices lifted up in concern for others, and in praise and thanksgiving unto our Lord. Five administrations took place. Many testimonies followed.

A brother spoke of a trip, 12-15 years ago, when he and his father met a young woman on the Navajo nation. Their motor home happened to break down nearby. She was in distress, and the Lord told her that they could help. Years later she happened to move near the church, married and had a family. Recently her husband suddenly passed away. She told this brother last summer that the Lord told her they had the right way. She and the children are coming to church and she is teaching her children. He marvels at the way the Lord works with His chil-

dren.

Another brother told of an experience he witnessed when he was eleven years old. His baby brother had pneumonia. His mother had given up on the baby; there were no signs of life. His father called the family together and they prayed fervently. Within an hour the baby was up and happy. He urged us to take our trials and gain in strength, for the prayers of the righteous availeth much.

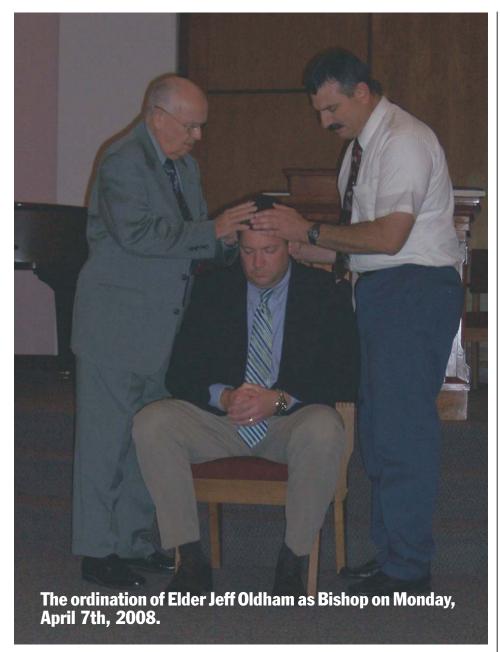
Another brother testified of God's chastisement of him. He was prideful about his skill in driving in the winter weather when others were having trouble. No more than a moment later he found himself stuck. He repented and the Lord brought him out of that predicament. A few moments later he again found himself being prideful. The Lord again caused him to be humbled when he lost control of the vehicle. God is merciful. Now he has a burden of fear, for a spot has been found on his lung which has grown 8 times its size and changed shape since its discovery. He asked for administration, and a season of prayer followed.

A brother testified of the health problems he had last year. God saved his life. He knows it was God's mercy because of our prayers. He related the problems, the diagnosis and the surgery. There was cancer in his liver; the surgeon had to remove that portion which was dead. Because they had removed an

area where an artery had to be tied back in they needed to use an artery from somewhere else to reconnect things. The surgeon left for a few minutes to think about where he would go to find one. While he was gone the assistant turned the liver over and found another artery on the back side—something that was not supposed to be there, but exactly what was needed! It was a miracle! Two arteries; this showed the foreknowledge and love of our Father.

A sister stood and testified of God's love in His people. She has been in the church for over 65 vears. She told of an experience her late husband had when he was just a boy of 14 or 15 years. His family was attending the RLDS church and A. M. Smith came to visit and preach. He felt if Joseph Smith, Jr., went to the woods to pray, he should also. for he had a guestion. He had a vision of the Father and the Son, although the evil one was there also. He was told by God the Father, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye him." The Son asked our brother what he wanted to know. He told Him he wanted to know which church was right, the RLDS or the Church of Christ. He was told by the Son, "Where you see twelve Apostles at the head, you see my church."

A brother admonished us that the Lord has more for us...if we seek Him. He read Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righ-



teousness; and all these things shall be added unto you." He also asked for a season of prayer, and so we knelt.

After our lunch we gathered in again for a special choir presentation. Sr. Manon Lawrence had put together a group of songs telling the story of the life of Christ. Members coming from the Temple Lot, the East Local Choirs and the combined Children's Choir sang beautifully.

The Sunday afternoon sermon was given by Apostle Jay Moser. Br. Jay declared that we are a chosen people and that, "The Old, Old Path" should be our theme song. Br. Jay spoke of the sacrament service the group of church members had while on their trip to Jerusalem. He was told by the Lord, "You

should do this." Br. Jay wondered when the last time was that the Church of Christ served the sacrament in Jerusalem. Br. Jay used Acts 2:21; Psalms 119:1-6; 9, 45, 48. He also used 1 Nephi 2:77-81; Alma 17:81; Ether 6:25. He explained that it cannot be a NEW Jerusalem, since Jerusalem has already been. He exhorted that the Lord is still with us, IF we're walking in that path. He read Matthew 25. Pick up God's word and see what happens. Let the Lord point the way. Remember your heritage in God's word, or you're lost...which is the cause of your greatest problems. God has opened a door; no one can shut you out but YOU. God chooses you.

A pancake supper at the I-Hop took place as a fundraiser for foreign missions, and was sponsored

by the East Local Women's Department.

The Monday morning prayer service was opened by Elders Adam Porter and Glenn Gill. We were welcomed by Br. Adam. Reading from 1 Corinthians 3:9-23, Br. Adam told us we are in a very important time; we'll see many wonderful things come to pass for God is at work amongst His children. A season of prayer followed.

We gathered in again for a special ordination service shortly before the evening sermon. Elder Jeff Oldham was ordained as a bishop under the hands of Apostles Frank Fann and Joel Yates.

The evening sermon followed, given by Elder Jeff Oldham. Br. Jeff was touched by the special, "He Leadeth Me," sung by his sister, Kim Yates, and his son. Braden. Br. Jeff spoke of our investment by using the story of Alma and the four sons of Mosiah. Br. Jeff challenged our youth using 1st Timothy 4:12 to be an example of the believers. Br. Jeff used Moroni 10:15, Matthew 25:1-10, and admonished us that the strength of the church is each one of us. The diversity of our talents is strength. Br. Jeff used Jacob 3:8-16, reminding us that we are living in a time to prepare. Br. Jeff used Rev. 3:7-8, and admonished us that there are doors opened. Once again he challenged our youth to pick up the Bible and the Book of Mormon...even if to try to prove us wrong... STUDY. Like a refrigerator, we must stay plugged in to God.

The Tuesday morning prayer service was opened by Teacher Dan Lawrence and Priest John Gill, while the Apostles and Elders met at the East Local. Br. Dan reminded us that the meetings should be conducted by the Spirit. We were then led into a season of prayer. Br. Dan then spoke to us about the luxury of time and liberty that morning, to conduct our meeting as to how the Lord wants them. Romans 12:1-2 was read and Br. Dan explained there were two major themes at the Passover—sacrifice and redemption. The Passover was a precursor of our Savior's sacrifice: His blood painted on our hearts frees us from the bondage of sin. No more blood sacrifice, but a broken heart and a contrite spirit. We must break our own will and take upon us His will. When we go into the water, we are to come out a new creature, transformed by the renewing of our minds. Galatians 5:22-23 and Romans 12:9-13, 19-20, 15, and 21 were read. Many testimonies followed sharing God's blessings.

A sister told of the passing of a young student this last week, and the turmoil that surrounded the loss.

She felt frustration at those who did not handle the situation correctly, but prayerfully put the matter into the Lord's hands. Her prayers were answered. The Lord saw to it that she was able to attend the funeral service and was an example of goodness, without anger.

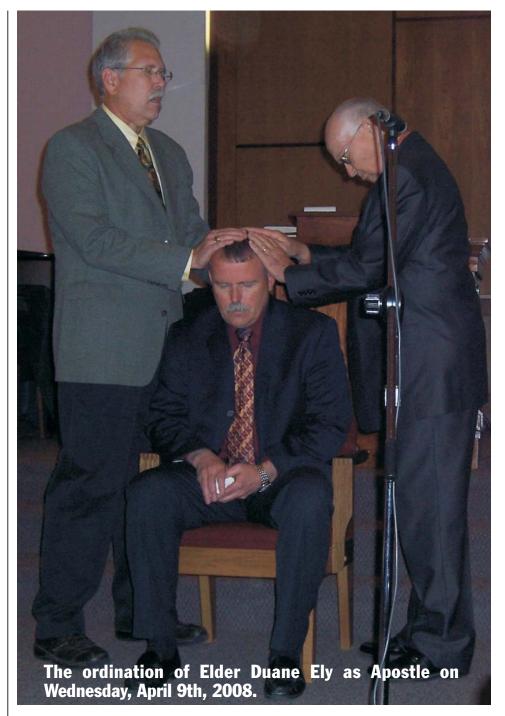
Another sister told of finding a set of keys in the parking lot. They were claimed by the sister sitting right in front of her, as they had been missing all night. Our sister went on to tell us about losing several things and how the Lord led her to find them, in answer to her prayers. Another time, a lost item did not turn up, but He provided and directed the way in which it could be replaced.

Tuesday evening's sermon was given to us by Evangelist Hubert Yates. Br. Hubert used Matthew 24, speaking of the last days when the gospel will be preached in all the world as a witness. There are "Do's and Don'ts" in the law of God. He used the Book of Mormon, pg 8, verses 82-83, and page 11, verses 110-120. He also used Romans 1 to show us the scriptures tell us that homosexuals are subject to death...spiritual death. Br. Hubert admonished us that every time Satan came against Christ, Christ said, "It is written." Everything we need is in the Holy Scriptures. God hears—if you approach Him properly.

Wednesday afternoon the General United Workers lunch took place. The ladies enjoyed fellowship and a nice luncheon at the East Local.

A special Conference Business Meeting was called before the last evening sermon to accept Elder Duane Ely as an apostle. The calling had been given earlier that day. The ordination took place immediately following his acceptance by the people. Brother Duane was ordained as an apostle under the hands of Apostles Brian McIndoo and Frank Fann.

The evening sermon followed, given by Elder Ronnie Gill. Br. Ronnie spoke about how the early church members gave so much; they made great sacrifices as they followed the Lord's direction. What are our children going to say about our lives? Are they going to say we were complacent? Br. Ronnie used Hebrews 6:1-2 and admonished us that this is the beginning, now let us go on to perfection. There is much more required than coming to church on Sundays and Wednesdays. The devil is working hard to get at us and our children. It only takes a moment for him to lead us away. We need to stay on the right track and in the right path. Br. Ronnie read some excerpts from diaries of some of the early church members. Many had lost all of their possessions, their



families and even their lives in doing the will of God. They made great sacrifices. Look in the mirror and reflect on your life. Be willing to give ALL. There is no room for excuses. This is the path to salvation. We have a purpose, and we need to put goals in our life with the information God has given us...put our lives in focus with God. Stand up and serve Him.

The 2008 General Church Conference came to a close. Our hearts were full.

We give all thanks and praise to God for His gifts and blessings. We especially thank Him for His

Spirit which was with us and spoke to us with the calling of another apostle. Our prayers are for each of you and for the work of the gospel.

May God bless you all is our prayer, Your reporter, Sr. Deb Haines

OBITUARY

Alexander H. Smith

February 15, 1935~March 19, 2008

lexander Hale Smith, the oldest son of Kenneth and Edna Smith, was born February 15, 1935, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The family moved to Independence, Missouri, in 1940, where he grew up and graduated from high school. Alexander joined the ROTC and graduated as the highest ranking officer.

Alexander and his sister June Carol were baptized September 7, 1947, and joined the Church of Christ. He married Carol Baldus July 22, 1955. To this union were born four children.

Alexander received a Civil Engineering degree from Finley Engineer- | ing College. He retired after



thirty-seven years from the Lake City Ammunition Plant in Independence.

Alexander was active with the East Independence Local Church, hosting it in his home for a short time after it was organized. Later he was involved in the building of the new church east of Independence.

Alexander passed away March 19, 2008, in Overland Park, Kansas. He was preceded in death by his wife Carol. He is survived by his children, Raymond Smith, Lesa Bevacque, Cary Smith and Christopher Smith and their spouses; his sister, June Sarratt, two brothers, Kenneth James Smith and Robert Smith, 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

OBITUARY

Beth M. Stivarius

August 23, 1917- March 31, 2008

Cister Beth passed from this earthly life in peace after failing health and a brief upturn as the candle that burns brightest near the end. She endured much suffering throughout her life with the loss of two babies and her husband Leo, her three brothers: Oscar, Clyde, and Virgil Mathews, four of five sisters: Ruby Tindell, Florence Tracy, Harriet Mathews, Sylvia Axtell, and her parents William and Toni



(Spease) Mathews. Beth is survived by one sibling, our Sr. Kitty Crone, who cared for Beth to the end. Beth endured the pains of life with an optimism and a hope in the glory to come. Her faith in Iesus and her adherence to the Gospel of Christ sustained her through each trial and hardship.

Elder Andy Brantner

NOTICES

AVVAA WEBSITE

The Church of Christ AVVAA Committee is pleased to announce the launching of our Web Site. On this site you will be able to access media such as sermons on-line, studies, *Zion's Advocate*, Bible and Book of Mormon, and much more. We invite you to take a look and discover what a useful tool this can be in expanding your knowledge and faith.

The site is cofcavvaa.net.

CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE

The General Church Correspondence Committee would like to extend the opportunity for any who wish to communicate through written correspondence to contact one of the following three committee members:

Pat McCann - Committee Chairman 18808 N. 30th St. Phoenix, AZ 85050 Marlene Cobb 630 S Pickwick Springfield, MO 65802 June Haines 11589 Genuine Rd Clare, MI 48617

CHURCH HISTORY PHOTOS on CD

As a fundraiser for the Philippines missionary effort we are offering a CD of church history photos. On each CD there are over 800 photos of various church buildings, activities and members from 1887-2006. Included is a file with photo information.

If you would like a copy, please contact:

Deb Haines (816) 478-6839 debruhaines@juno.com Barbara Kimball (816) 252-5829 michael.and.barbara@comcast.net Pat McGhee (816) 796-6255 mcgheeme@msn.com

Please send your Philippine Fund donation (amount to be determined by you) to the Church of Christ, East Local, P. O. Box 2243, Independence, MO 64055-9243.

IDAHO REUNION

Where: SISCRA Campground in

Donnelly, Idaho When: June 13-15

If anyone would like to RSVP or find out other information please contact:

Rich & Karen Bove 1-208-859-0501 1-208-870-3807

e-mail: ppinapod@msm.com.

MICHIGAN REUNION

Where: Bradley Local When: June 21-22

There will be a cookout at the home

of Adam and Sue Porter at 6:00 p.m. Friday, June 20. For any that need directions, a place to stay or camp please contact:

lease contact:
Elder Adam Porter
9 Market St.
Middleville, MI 49333
(269) 795-2694
Brother Duane Lee

2053 Fawn Ave. Middleville, MI 49333 (269) 795-2694

2008 SPRINGFIELD RALLY and OPEN HOUSE

When: Sunday, June 22

Now is the time to plan your vacation or YPCL trip to the beautiful Missouri Ozarks. The Springfield Local is close to many fun summertime activities, including fishing, boating and float trips on many scenic rivers and lakes.

A picnic-style lunch will be provided. Some brothers and sisters in the area are happy to accommodate guests in their homes during your visit—call for details.

See you this summer! (471) 832 8349 tabandmatt@hotmail.com

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

Where: Church of Christ, Phoenix, Arizona

When: July 7-11, from 9 - 11:30 a.m., with a program the evening of Sunday, July 13

Who: Kids ages 3-15

Contact **Liza Hedrick** for registration information at bobnliza@cox.net.

NEW YORK REUNION 2008

Where: Hogansburg, New York When: July 11-13

The Akwesasne New York Local welcomes all of our brothers and sisters to fellowship and worship with us starting Friday evening at 7:00 p.m. through Sunday afternoon.

In order that the proper preparation may be made, please let one of the people listed below know if you will be attending, how many in your group, and any dietary restrictions that you may have. We have some housing available with church members, as well as some space for campers. There are also plenty of motels in the

We are looking forward to spending another Spirit-filled reunion weekend with many of our brothers and sisters.

In Canada: **Wayne and Susan Miller** (613) 933-5469

(613) 933-5469 wmiller12@cogeco.ca In the United States:

Eli and Gretchen Tarbell (518) 358-2911

egtarbell@hotmail.com
Brandon and Tara Tarbell

(518) 358-9153 btarbell@thetmg.com

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

"Growing with Jesus!"
When: July 14-18

If you would like to assist during the week please feel free to let one of the committee members know!

VCS Committee Members:

Wendy Granger Michelle Oldham Sherry Rowett Becky Sheldon Debbie Vogel

Church of Christ TEEN CAMP

When: July 27-August 1 Where: Camp Far Westa, Missouri

SCRIPTURE ADVENTURE 2008

When: Thursday, July 31 8:45 a.m. Door Registration 9:00 a.m. Day Camp Begins 1:00 p.m. Pick up Campers Where: The Church of Christ East Independence Local 78 Highway and E. Holke Road Independence, MO 64050

If your children are between 5 and 11 years old and enjoy learning Scripture Truths in fun, active ways, then be sure to come to this year's Scripture Adventure! Bring a friend to share in the fun!

Pre-register by contacting Aimee Brockman at

aimee.brockman@tmcmed.org, Jennifer Yates at (602) 790-0852 or hometeachin@cox.net, or Debbie Vogel.

2008 MISSOURI REUNION

Where: Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri

When: August 1-3 For information please contact:

Roland Sarratt 15910 E. 36th Terr. Independence, MO 64055 (816) 373-6605

r.sarratt@comcast.net
Michael McGhee

18907 E. 6th St. North Independence, MO 64056 (816) 796-6255

2008 TRI-STATE REUNION

Where: St. Croix State Park (Head of Rapids Group Center), located about 70 miles south of Duluth, Minnesota, off I-35 (Hinckley, MN)

When: August 29-September 1 What you will need: Each vehicle will require a state-park pass (\$5/day or \$25/year), which can be purchased at the park entrance.

Bedding or sleeping bag and personal care items (shampoo, bath-towels, etc.).

It can be a bit chilly (or quite warm) so clothing should be packed accordingly.

For further information, including lodging information near the camp, contact:

Merlin Eddy 418 E. 7th St. Hastings, MN 55033 (651) 438-9738 (home) (651) 338-2253 Peter Gould 3490 Peter Ln NE

Bemidji, MN 56601 (218) 586-2774 (home) (218) 586-2443 (work) (785) 285-1504 (cell)

2008 WOMEN'S RETREAT

When: October 3-4

What: A time of fellowship and learning with other women in the gospel—for ages 18 and older

Cost: \$35.00/person (includes one night's accommodation and three meals)

Meals: Provided at the retreat center: Friday supper served 5:30-6:30 pm.; Saturday breakfast and lunch.

Meet: Join the group leaving the Temple Lot on Friday, 11:00 a.m., for an activity and lunch together before continuing to the retreat center, or join us at the retreat center any time after 2:00 p.m.

New: Friday afternoon there will be card making supplies and instruction available for those interested, or just come early and enjoy the fellowship.

Outreach: The Retreat Program will start at 7:30 p.m., Friday evening. This is an outreach opportunity, so please invite friends and relatives, members and non-members alike!

2008 PHOENIX REUNION

Where: The Phoenix Local When: November 28-30, 2008 For information please contact:

Pastor Duane Ely 1884 N. 30th St. Phoenix, AZ 85050 (602) 569-1516 duanekathyely@aol.com

Assistant Pastor Bob Hedrick

2908 E. Rockwood Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85050 (602) 494-9661 bobnliza@cox.net

Assistant Pastor Glenn Orsted

1327 E. Wescott Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85024 (623) 780-8764

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

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Book of Commandments (plastic bound)6.00	tion history)	God's Purpose in America
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	of Jesus Christ	Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
Changing of the Revelations	The Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day - Sunday	Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
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	Stone Box, 2) Did you Know?, 3) Epistle to	A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of three Restoration
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	The Cost of Salvation	Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in
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Zion's Hymnal (members)	El Libro De Mondamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia	*Donations will be accepted to cover postage & print-
	De La Restauracion De	ing costs. (Multiple copies available:
Zion's Hymnal (non-members)18.00	La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of	6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

To insure your membership records remain as current as possible when moving or relocating, fill out this form and return it to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Attn: General Church Recorder, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64050-0472, or e-mail the information to cofcrecorder@sbcglobal.net. One form per family, please.

MEMBER'S NAME: (First)	(Middle)	(Last)		
OLD ADDRESS: (Street address)				
(City)	(State)	(Zip)		
NEW ADDRESS: (Street address)				
(City)	(State)	(Zip)		
NAMES of all Church of Christ (Temple Lot) members residing at new address:				

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your Zion's Advocate by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable Zion's Advocate costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.