

Zion's Advocate

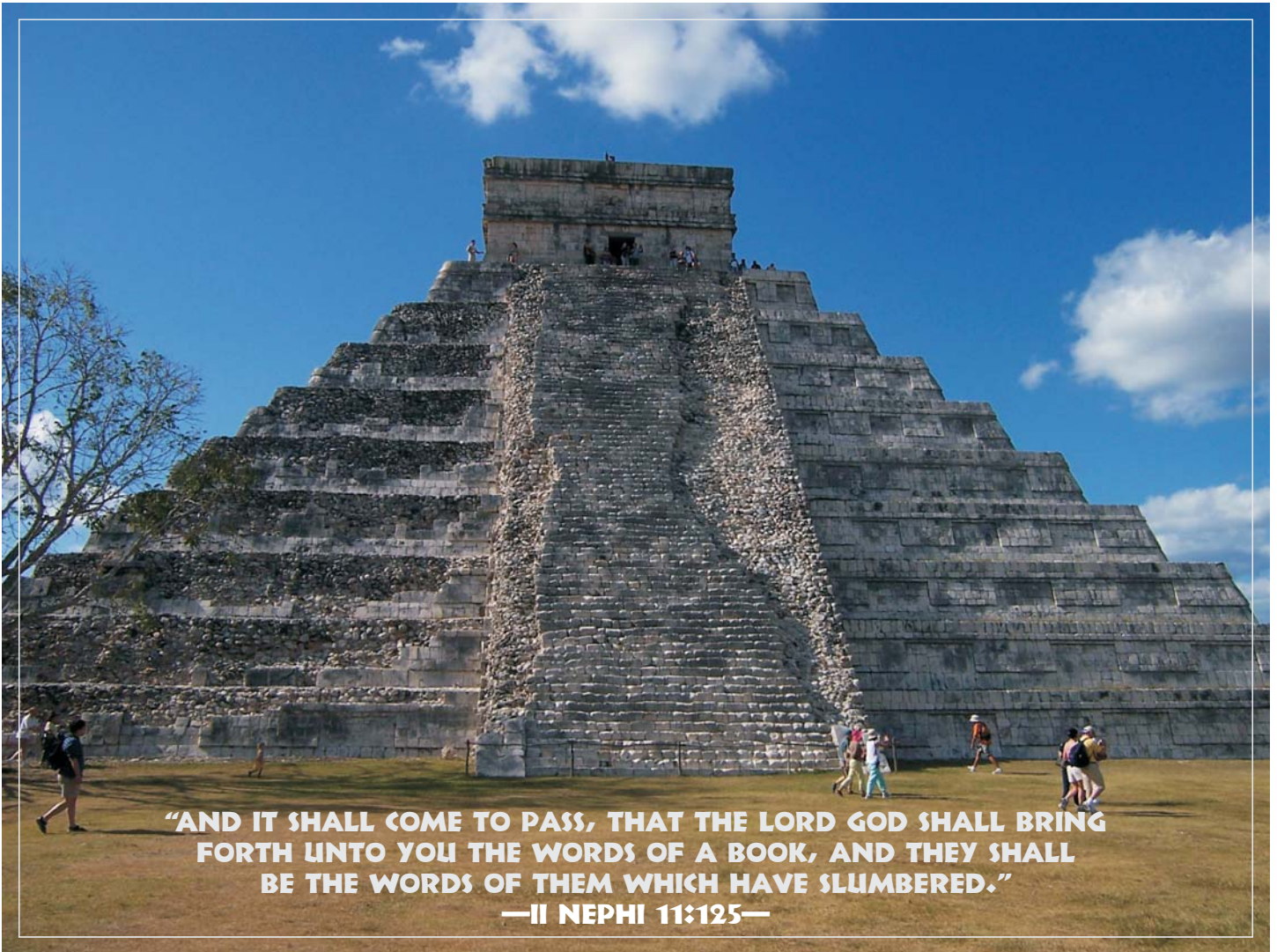
*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."*

1 Nephi 3:187

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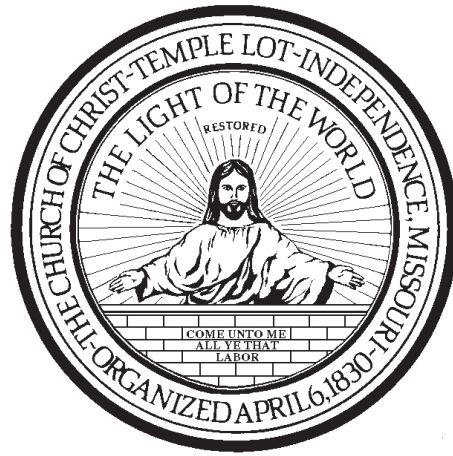
**"AND IT SHALL COME TO PASS, THAT THE LORD GOD SHALL BRING
FORTH UNTO YOU THE WORDS OF A BOOK, AND THEY SHALL
BE THE WORDS OF THEM WHICH HAVE SLUMBERED."
—II NEPHI 11:125—**

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STATUS OF PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

Chance or CHOICE



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

How do we live? By chance or by choice?

It appears that in many ways our lives are governed by chance. Accidents, health is-

Our temporal gain in this life should not be our main goal

sues, loss of jobs, etc., are things that disrupt our expected lifestyle. The modern world has adopted practices and institutions that give us some hope of surviving such misfortunes; we know them as insurance companies, government agencies, etc. They are a help but not a sure thing.

To answer the question, we, who have faith in God, have a more sure way to meet the trials of chance than trusting in insurance companies and government agencies. We have faith in God to keep us from total loss. We may suffer loss, as did Job, but the final gain we hope to receive is the promise given of God: eternal life.

Our temporal gain in this life should not be our main goal. We must look beyond the success of worldly accomplishments, as good as they may seem to us now, to the day of judgment. Our hope lies in the final reward of being acceptable to our heavenly Father.

We can learn from some very simple facts of life. In a game of cards, we say winning or losing all depends on the way the cards fall. That is true. In life's experiences we may say the same about how various events affect our successes or failures.

In times past it was said of the small farmer who made his entire living from farming that

he was one of the biggest gamblers in the world. His success depended on elements of nature. Weather was perhaps the greatest factor: too little rain,

quick and easy answer to the complainer's statement. Knowing and understanding God requires a special education that usually starts with a simple,

happen. We have to gain His favor by repenting and turning to Him more fully in our plea for help. God has a plan and His reasoning is based according to His plan, not ours. His purpose is to bring us into a relationship which ultimately gives us an understanding of His ways. We may never fully understand His ways in this life, but when we give attention to Him in seeking that understanding, we learn many valuable lessons that aid and guide us through our daily lives. As it is said, we are a work in progress.

Learning God's ways has an effect upon us which trains our minds to think conscientiously about what God prefers us to do and not to do, granting unto us the opportunity to be reclaimed from that fallen state. Thus a probationary state was brought into being through a plan which would save man from his sins.

Being reclaimed from the fallen state brings man back into the presence of God. Man therefore must be cleansed from his sins. The only way that is possible is for man to repent of his sins. He cannot be saved in his sins.

Although man is inclined to sin while he is in the flesh, as did Moses when he struck the rock the second time, he must strive to retain a remission of his sins by repenting as often as he sins. Thus man must strive to overcome the natural man by humbling himself before God continually. This requires a lifetime effort which, in truth, becomes a way of life.

Thus man must strive to overcome the natural man by humbling himself before God continually.

too much rain, rain during harvest time, hail storms, dust bowls, etc. One year he may have a bumper crop, the next year very little or no crop at all. His livestock may have increased or decreased by good luck or bad luck.

So it is with our personal lives. We are all raised in varied conditions, some in wealth and some in poverty, some in good, secure homes, and others in broken homes. Some are spoiled with too much parental favoritism and some with little or no attention from their parents. Some are loved and some are hated.

Chance has much to do with our personal lives it seems. Yet chance is not a truth. In God's reality, chance is not a true factor. God is in control and He knows what is going on in each person's life. When things go horribly wrong many will say, if there is a God, He would not allow these things to happen.

When we hear this kind of statement, we are challenged in our belief in God. There is no

childlike belief in God. Whether that belief increases or decreases is dependant upon the person; it is a matter of choice.

When a person is raised to believe in God, it is likely that he will continue to believe in God throughout his life. But that is not always true. Also, a person who is not raised to believe in God may come to believe in Him through a series of special events, such as the touch of the Holy Spirit, a dream or vision, a ministerial visit or a small miracle. Again, it is a matter of choice as to whether a person will respond to such favorable happenings.

Knowing these things, how can we effectively bring people to accept a belief in God? It depends on how sure we are in our belief in God. Our personal decisions and choices in life reflect our convictions. Do we depend on chance or do we depend on divine intervention to sustain us? Do we pray often, as we are commanded, or just when we need some help?

Sometimes it is too late to call on God when bad things

The ordinance of baptism is not optional as some would have us believe; it is a requirement if one is to seek the reward of eternal life. After having humbled oneself by fully repenting of one's sins, baptism symbolizes the washing away of sins as we are buried in the water. It also symbolizes being buried with Christ when He was laid in the tomb. Baptism also is a demonstration of our commitment to keep the commandments of Christ. By submitting to baptism by immersion, we are making a covenant with God to keep His commandments.

God has also made a covenant with those who honestly strive to obey Him. The ordinance of laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost is the fulfillment of that covenant. It is the plan of God that man would have the benefit of His Spirit to abide in him. This is the Comforter that Jesus promised to send to His disciples which was to come after His crucifixion and resurrection. This promise was fulfilled at the Day of Pentecost. Thereafter, the Holy Ghost was bestowed by the laying on of hands by the apostles and elders.

Once the Holy Ghost has been resident in a person and that person has experienced the special guidance and understanding that the spirit gives and has become aware of that presence within him, that person has reached a greater knowledge than he could have had otherwise. Having that knowledge makes him account-

able to the point that if he should deny the existence of the Holy Ghost residing within him, he will commit a sin which is unforgivable.

So we give answer to the original question: we live by choice, not by chance. Our beliefs and religion are distinctly opposite to the increasing pro-

We should be constantly aware of our mortal weaknesses that put us into danger of losing our souls.

In realizing the possibility of falling away into sin after having made covenant with the Lord and He having made covenant with us, it behooves us to do everything that we can to remain steadfast in our efforts to fulfill the will of God in our personal lives. This is best described as enduring to the end.

The Lord has given us an incentive through His promises and a goal to work toward. We are promised that after we depart this life and we are separated from our physical bodies, we will be resurrected into a new body which will be perfect and not subject to the aging process as we are now.

Then comes the day of judgment where the books will be opened and we will be judged according to our works. All sins of which we have sincerely repented will be gone and not remembered. All our efforts and endurance toward this day of judgment will determine whether or not we receive eternal life with Jesus Christ and God the Father. This is our hope and our motivation in striving toward the day of judgment.

paganda of the atheist who tells us we are a product of chance. However, opposition is a part of the plan. It is necessary that we know evil, which is the opposite of good, that we might be able to choose good over evil. Good comes from God and evil comes from the devil.

The scriptures tell us that the devil was an angel of God. By his choice he exalted himself and fell from the favor of God. He took one third of the hosts of heaven with him. Being cast out of heaven, the devil and his angels have sought to overcome the family of Adam by deception and persecution. The devil has a reputation of lying, having committed the first lie. He has filled the earth with a great mist of lies, half truths and various forms of deception. He has divided and subdivided peoples, nations and families from the beginning of time. He has numerous means of causing contention and strife which lead into wars and violence.

The devil has the ability to overcome God's elect if the elect give in to the devil's persuasions. If they give in to his per-

suasions, they will no longer be God's elect. The devil's efforts will be successful. He will have power over those who potentially would be God's chosen people.

It was not God's purpose to send His Son to condemn the world, for the world was already under condemnation through the fall of Adam.

It is important for us to realize that possibility. We, who are favored of the Lord, must be aware that we are a target of the devil. In his eyes, we are the big prize. Paul describes it as running a race. We are running a race against the powers of opposition which are taking the world by storm. We can only survive by trusting in God and the Holy Ghost which is resident within us.

What are our chances of surviving those powers of opposition? None. But by choice we have every promise to become victorious in the end. Without the awareness of the promise that God will be with us to the end, we cannot survive. We will succumb to the will of the devil and he will have all power over us.

Is this something we should be thinking about? Absolutely! We should be constantly aware of our mortal weaknesses that put us into danger of losing our souls. Temptation and misinforma-

tion are everywhere present in this world today.

Let us look again to the importance of faith. It is said of Abraham that he believed in God, but he did more than be-

lieve in Him: he believed God. He did what God commanded him to do. He fulfilled God's will to the very point of doing what he personally would have never done otherwise: take his own son's life.

There are no short cuts in God's plan. He requires obedience to each principle according to its purpose. Faith is essential and is a beginning to obtaining knowledge. Knowledge requires compliance to what one has learned; otherwise, it is condemnation when one knows what to do and doesn't do it.

Repentance, baptism and the bestowal of the Holy Ghost are all part of God's plan in obtaining eternal life. To omit any one of these is to try to cut short the true plan of salvation given in the fullness of Christ's gospel.

You cannot obtain salvation without believing in God, without repenting of your sins, without making covenant with God or without receiving the Holy Ghost. In other words,

you cannot obtain guaranteed salvation by performing one act of obedience and leaving all other principles unfulfilled. There is no such thing as once saved, always saved, in the true gospel of Christ.

Now, we should bring out the most important factor of all: love. Jesus Christ said it this way:

"And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life" (John 3:14, 15).

This is the subject of this article: The atonement was made for us, that our sins might be forgiven, and through our belief in Christ we will ultimately have eternal life. The next verse gives us an insight into the person of God.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God loved the world; it is His creation. The expression, "so loved," indicates a special love, perhaps showing a parental love from having created and brought into being this world. As always, God has purpose in all that He does. However, his purposes are only recognizable to those who believe in Him. In this, God is strict by requiring that essential faith in Him. God responds by extending His grace to those who believe in Him.

“For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned; but he that believeth not is condemned already,

to the light or repelled by the light. We either love the light or hate it. The light proves us to be worthy of God or it proves us to be unworthy of God. Our deeds (works) are the proving factor.

told that we are nothing. We must have all three: faith, hope and charity. We cannot have one without the other two.

As we face the world, we need to continue our faith (trust) in God, we need to keep our hope in the promises of God, even eternal life, and we must love the Lord with all our heart, soul and mind, and we must love our neighbor as ourselves. As the world turns away from God into darkness, you may be the only light some people see. Let us keep the light of truth shining for Christ. Let us continue to the end to make the right choices and not depend upon chance.

As the world turns away from God into darkness, you may be the only light some people see.

because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:17, 18).

It was not God’s purpose to send His Son to condemn the world, for the world was already under condemnation through the fall of Adam. God’s plan was an act of mercy, but even in His mercy, He was selective by stipulating the need to believe in Christ. Those who chose not to believe in Jesus Christ remained under condemnation.

“And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov’d. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be wrought in God” (John 3:19-31).

Clearly, it is a matter of personal choice that we are drawn

They are either wrought in God or motivated by the will of the natural man who is an enemy of God.

It is our desire to cause the great majority of mankind to be drawn to the light. We are that light that shines in a world of darkness when we do the will of God. We trust that we are anchored to the Rock, who is Jesus Christ, and that through His teachings and examples we are able to stand above the mists of darkness to be seen by those who seek the truth.

God’s approval of us is not just for us. If we are truly His elect, we play an important part in His plan. That which is required of us is to reflect the example Christ has set for us and to demonstrate those qualities that are in Him.

The most important quality is charity, which is the pure love of Christ. We have exercised our faith in God and looked forward with hope to obtain salvation by keeping the commandments of Christ, but if we do not have charity we are

TESTIMONY

Why I Came to Believe in the Church of Christ

By Apostle Plácido Matú

When I was young I enjoyed going to the church with my parents because they taught me about God and the way to worship Him. As I grew, I began to form my own ideas about God and it was born in the depth of my heart to serve Him and dedicate my life to Him.

As an adolescent doubts began in my head. I was not sure if it was the correct path for me, because I began to know the world and its ways that do not please God. In my life temptations became stronger every day and I wanted to make my own plans and decisions without the counsel of God. I wanted to do things my way.

This was indeed one of the most difficult times in my Christian life, because I did not desire to obey the will of God. Many times I was discouraged about serving God and very confused because I didn't know what to do with my life.

During this time many things happened that made an indelible mark upon my Christian life. For some reason I thought it was necessary to become acquainted with other groups who professed to be Christian. When I had the opportunity I didn't think twice about visiting these groups, eager to get to know them and what they believed.

But every time I met with one of these groups I saw something I didn't like or there was some belief or manner of behavior that indicated a great difference between what they said and what they believed. At the same time I was learning more about the Church of Christ.

Months passed and each group that I visited made me feel more disillusioned and I didn't find the peace that I was seeking. I came to the conclusion that there was nothing that compared to the Church to which I belonged. One of the qualities that I found in the Church is putting into practice love in all its aspects, not just a superficial love but a genuine and practical love. This is one of the qualities that brought me to the full conviction of the truth of the Church of Christ.

The relationships that were developing with my brothers in the faith gave me the spiritual maturity that I needed. The strength to live this practical love that they demonstrated to me was something marvelous in my life, something that completely filled my being. In other words, I was convinced by the consistency between what they said and what they did. It's something inexplicable and worthy of admiration in the Church, a place where there is "no respect of persons," as shown in the word of God.

From that moment my life changed completely. I had complete confidence that the Church of Christ is the true church and that its teachings are based totally on the word of God. It is the only church that truly practices the great commandment, "Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself," as it is written in the twelfth chapter of St. Mark.

During my life I have had great testimonies that have confirmed this truth. God has demonstrated to me in many ways that I am in the true church. I feel very thankful to my Heavenly Father for having chosen me to belong to His Church.

Now I have my family with whom I share many blessings. My wife and my daughter are a gift that God has given me. I have put into practice the avenue of prayer to approach God, and I am convinced that He has heard my prayers and has responded with marvelous blessings.

It is my great desire that all those who wish to draw closer to God do so with a sincere and humble heart as His word says: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" James 1:5.

Registration Instructions

TO REGISTER FOR THE CLASSES YOU WANT, YOU MUST COMPLETE AND RETURN THE 2010 Church of Christ TEEN CAMP CLASS SCHEDULE.

How to fill out the Class Schedule Form:

1. Complete the Personal Information on the Registration Form.
2. If you plan to ride the bus from the East Local to Camp, check "YES" in the space provided.
3. Mark T-shirt size.
4. Mark a 9:00 a.m., 10:05 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. class preference. Indicate 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choice.
5. Mail your completed Registration Form and Class Schedule to the address below.

Important: We must have your registration fee before we can process your Class Schedule.

Directions to Camp Far Westa from Kansas City:

Take Interstate 35 north to 36 Highway west at Cameron, Missouri. Continue west on 36 for approximately 10 miles. A sign for the Camp Far Westa will be on the right side of Highway 36. (The campgrounds are approximately 1 mile east of Stewartsville, Missouri.)

Transportation:

For those needing a ride from the Kansas City area, a bus will be leaving the East Local at 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 25th.

- Campers must leave on the bus unless written permission is given.
- Campers are NOT to arrive at Camp Far Westa before 3:30 p.m.; check in for campers is from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. at camp

Check List:

We must have the following before we can assign your classes to you:

- Registration fee—make check payable to "Teen Camp."
- Class Schedule form with completed 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices for each class time.
- Registration form with parent's and camper's signatures.
- The form must be notarized for camper to attend Camp.**

CAMP DATES: July 25 through July 30, 2010

AGE GROUP: Junior and Senior High School, Ages 12 – 18.

MINISTRY: There will be members of the priesthood in attendance at all times.

CHAPERONS: There will be at least one adult for every eight campers.

LIFE GUARD: The Camp provides a certified life guard.

FOOD: The Camp provides the food service—SNACK BAR AVAILABLE.

T-SHIRTS: are included in camp cost. Sizes must be received by July 14th.

TOTAL CAMP COST: \$150.00 (\$160.00 IF PAID AFTER JULY 1, 2010).

Mail Forms To:

Michelle Oldham
1006 NW Ridge Road
Ankeny, IA 50023
Phone (515) 339-6226
mnjoldham@yahoo.com

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Camp Far Westa
P.O. Box 257
Stewartsville, MO 64490
Phone: (816) 669-3359

2010 RULES AND TO BRING LIST

MISSION STATEMENT: The Church of Christ TEEN CAMP is committed to edifying all who attend through spiritual education and Godly Association in a fun and moral atmosphere. Commitment to this goal will create an environment where the youth will be invited and encouraged to engage in a spiritual commitment that will help to equip them to take their place in the service of Jesus Christ.

CAMP RULES are to facilitate the camp mission and maintain the safety and well-being of all campers and staff. Campers who do not obey the rules will be subject to disciplinary action which may include being sent home at their parent's expense.

1. You are expected to behave in a Christian manner at all times.
2. You are expected to obey all safety rules.
3. You are expected to participate in all classes and activities.
4. You are expected to stay with the group unless special permission is given. Pairing off or groups found in unapproved areas will not be tolerated.
5. Sexual misconduct will not be tolerated.
6. You are expected to remain on the camp grounds at all times.
7. You are expected to wear modest apparel at all times. Inappropriate clothing includes bikini swimsuits, tank tops with straps less than 1.5 inches or with drooping armholes, T-shirts with inappropriate slogans or innuendo, concert T-shirts, shirts that expose the midriff or short shorts. All campers are required to wear a colored T-shirt while in the swimming pool.
8. You are expected to turn in all prescription medication to the camp nurse.
9. You are expected to leave all body piercing jewelry at home (girls can wear one pair of earrings in their ears).
10. You are expected to turn your vehicle keys over to the Camp Director if you drive to Camp. Keys will be returned when Camp is over. Access to vehicles will not be allowed during Camp. Vehicles will be parked in designated areas.
11. Absolutely no pranks at Camp. Any materials for pranks will be confiscated.
12. Absolutely no electronic equipment, including but not limited to video or electronic games, radios, tape/CD players, MP3 players, cell phones or pagers. Phones will be available for emergency calls only.
13. Absolutely no tobacco, alcohol, drugs, weapons (including knives) or fireworks of any kind are permitted at Camp. Use of these items at Camp will be grounds for sending a camper home at their parent's expense.

This is a *suggested To Bring List*. Where clothing items are listed, bring enough for five days; packing may be in a suitcase, duffle bag or camp box. **Please see that all items are clearly marked with your name or initials.**

PLEASE BRING:

- Bible, Book of Mormon, book bag and notebook are mandatory.**
- Flashlight
- Lightweight sleeping bag or 2 twin size sheets and 1 light blanket.
- Pillow and pillowcase
- Tennis shoes (old & worn are best)
- Extra shoes
- 6 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of jeans/pants
- Modest shorts or cutoffs
- Short sleeve shirts
- 1 long sleeve shirt
- 1 lightweight raincoat, poncho or Jacket

- 1 laundry bag or pillow case
- Kleenex
- Underclothes
- Sandals
- Modest 1 piece swimsuit or tankini

PERSONAL ARTICLES:

- Toothbrush, toothpaste, comb, hairbrush, shampoo, soap, towels, deodorant, etc.
- Insect repellent (we recommend Cutters or Deep Woods Off)
- Please do not bring expensive jewelry which might become lost or broken.

OPTIONAL ITEMS TO BRING:

- Camera and film
- Fishing pole and favorite lures
- Stationery, envelopes and stamps
- Musical instrument
- Day pack or knapsack
- Baseball gloves
- Money—canteen will be available for snacks.
- Alarm Clock (no clock radios)

LEAVE AT HOME:

- Immodest and inappropriate clothing
- Alcoholic beverages and cigarettes
- Video and electronic games
- All knives, weapons or fireworks
- Electronic music devices, cell

Church of Christ TEEN CAMP
2010 Registration Form

Camper's Name: _____

Parent's name: _____

Year in school, fall 2010: _____

Street Address: _____

Age: _____

Date of Birth: _____

City, ST Zip: _____

SSN: _____

Home Phone: _____

Street Address _____

Parent's email: _____

City, ST Zip _____

Insurance Carrier: _____

Phone Number: _____

Policy Number: _____

Cell Number: _____

Please include a copy of health insurance card.

Camper's e-mail: _____

T-shirt size: S M L XL XXL

Will you be riding the bus? Yes No. If not, who will be responsible for transportation to/from camp? _____

Campers must leave on the bus unless written permission is given. Campers will be dropped off at the Missouri Reunion on July 30. If other arrangements are needed, please specify:

Camper and Parent Pledge: I have read the Rules of the Camp and agree to abide by them. I know that if I break the rules I may be sent home at my parent's expense, at the discretion of the Camp Director. I agree to be respectful of other campers, staff and all facilities. I will be on time and prepared for all activities. I understand that I can only leave and return to Camp for emergencies or with prior permission from the Camp Director. I understand that I must bring a Bible and Book of Mormon.

Camper's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Parent's Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Medical

In the event of a medical emergency, by my signature below I give permission for Camp Personnel to administer and/or obtain any necessary treatment for my minor child. NOTE: This form must be notarized to attend Camp.

Parent's Signature: _____

Date: _____

Please list any medical conditions (allergies, asthma, etc):

Any medication brought to camp must be in the original container and given to the Camp nurse to be dispensed. Please list medications that will be brought to camp:

Please include a copy of your health insurance card.

Photo Release

I hereby grant permission to interview my child and/or to use his/her likeness in photograph(s)/video in any and all of its publications and in any and all other media, whether now known or hereafter existing, controlled by the Church of Christ Teen Camp, in perpetuity, and for other use by Church of Christ Teen Camp. I will make no monetary or other claim against Church of Christ Teen Camp for the use of the interview and/or the photograph(s) video.

Parent Signature:

NOTARIZATION:

Subscribed and sworn to me this _____ day of _____, 2010

Notary Public _____

County of _____

State of _____

My Commission Expires _____

Church of Christ TEEN CAMP

2010 Class Registration Form

Name (please print):		PHONE:			
Class/Activity	Time	1 st	2 nd	3 rd	
Choose one 9:00 a.m. class below; include a 2nd & 3rd choice.	9:00 a.m.				
A Few Good Men (Ages 16 and above)					
Archeology of the Book of Mormon					
Intelligent Design (Creation/Evolution)					
Does God Talk To Me?					
GOOOOOOAAAAAAAAALLLLLLLLS! And how to Achieve Them					
Spiritual Warfare 1					
Prime Rib: Perfection for Women God's Way (Ages 16 and above)					
Women of the Bible					
You're Baptized, or Thinking About it...So Now What?					
Choose one 10:05 a.m. class below; include a 2nd & 3rd choice.		10:00a.m.			
Advanced Archery					
Candy Making					
Car Talk					
Epic War Battles of the Bible					
Fishing					
Lacrosse					
Scrapbooking (bring 15 to 30 pictures in two to three themes)					
Self Defense					
Volleyball					
Woodcarving					
Study: Camp Theme		11:05a.m.			
Lunch		12:05p.m.			
Choose one 1:15 p.m. class below; include a 2nd & 3rd choice.	1:15 p.m.				
Aerodynamics					
Archery					
Basketball					
Candy Making					
Grilling: The Manly Art of Food Preparation (Boys ages 15 and older)					
101 Things to Do With a Cake Mix					
Orienteering (Using a compass to navigate trails)					
Sailing (must know how to swim)					
Simply Shocking (Household Electrical Repair)					
Soccer					
Woodcarving					
Free Time: Swimming, Boating, Games, Quiet Time, etc.		2:05 pm – 4:45 pm			
Planned Group Activities available if desired.		3:15 pm – 4:45 pm			
Cabin Time		4:45 pm – 5:30 pm			
Dinner		5:30 pm – 6:45 pm			
Quest Class		6:45 pm – 7:45 pm			
Campfire		8:00 p.m.			
Snack Time		9:30 p.m.			
Lights Out		10:30 p.m.			

Protecting Life

... Confronting "Pro Choice" Arguments



By Elder Matt Case

The thoughts contained in this document are the product of over ten years of prayer, meditation, research and dialogue with supposed Christians and true Saints. This is an unapologetic reference to counter high impact "Pro Choice" arguments that you may encounter from staunch defenders of this sin that is literally killing thousands daily. These thoughts are designed to be as effective internally—within our circles of

The ancient pyramids flowing with blood still exist in American clinics and hospitals.

family and church—as for our co-workers and neighbors.

It is estimated that over 4,000 abortions are conducted every day in the United States of America alone. 4,000 per day equals approximately three every minute. This is truly an atrocity that rivals the human sacrifice of the Lamanites (Aztec, Inca and Maya) of old. The ancient pyramids flowing with blood still exist in American clinics and hospitals. God has a judgment for the people that condone such an abomination. The judgment is revealed without enigma in the Book of Mormon, the record of a fallen people. However, that is another article in and of itself.

Beginning with a great oxymoron... "Pro Choice"

One who is "Pro Choice" does not wish to offer the unborn their God-given right to choice. Simply put,

"Pro Choice" advocates do not extend the right to live until the age one can reach an opportunity to choose. Some questions to pose to those in error may shine light on their misunderstanding of their position. Example questions include: Isn't the event in the Garden of Eden, the foundation for Biblical recognition of the God-given gift of life and the gift of choice? And... After humanity was expelled from the Garden of Eden, wasn't Cain the first to rob another human of the gifts of life and the ability to choose?

The abortionist wishes to argue how abortion is moral or is not murder

We did not write the dictionary or create the definition of murder or the definition of kill. I believe the more critical issue is the value of human life—not what

is murder or what is moral. In other words, *what is the optimal approach to the scripture 'love thy neighbor as thyself,' and stewardship within God's cre-*

fall of man in the Garden. If we look beyond the physical attributes we can see that each of us actually is created equally. We each have a soul. One

occurs only when a full human person is destroyed. Considering Psalm 139:13-16 it can be rationally determined that Old Testament scripture announces the unborn as a wonderfully made and marvelous work. Then, on the other hand, in II Kings 2:23-24, forty two children outside the womb were destroyed by God after the prophet Elisha cursed them. The "Pro Choice" arguer has presented a fair argument—not about a definition of murder or murder itself—but about the value of human life. And in particular: God's mind concerning the value of human life. Let us also consider the separate account of the termination of Laban's life found in the First Book of Nephi 1:114. The scriptural accounts show that the Lord sent the she bears that destroyed the children who mocked the prophet and the Lord commanded the slaying of a wicked man. Both of these scriptures show that the Lord weighs the balances of the value of life and death, although men are often times involved with the temporal judgments. The scriptures do not condone murder or the termination of innocent parties such as the unborn. The scriptures do point to God's judgments relating to the wicked and God's blessings on the righteous.

The considerate "Pro Choice" argument may also counter the commonly used scripture in Jeremiah 1:4-10 by stating that a blessing and value placed on a soul such as King David, the prophet Jere-

Thus, the act of abortion is actually robbing an innocent soul from God's will and design and violating God's intent for His creation.

ation rather than *what can I get by with (before God or before the laws of men)?* As Saints we have a promise to protect, defend, promote and advance the Kingdom of God as we are spiritually born of God. And because of that fact, we can attest that us killing or terminating any form of innocent human life does not advance the Kingdom of God and the cause of Zion.

As followers of Christ we can ask WWJD (What would Jesus do)? Would Jesus want Mary to abort Him? Did Jesus want to abort or terminate any of His followers or opponents? No! Not even the ones who sought His life. Not even Judas. Jesus has a plan for each of us within our choice.

The true principle is that we are all created equal by God. People wrestle with the concept of equality because humans are born with diverse physical and mental conditions and disabilities within numerous institutional, sociological, and geographic environments. This is all because of the flesh and the

soul—created by God. One soul—not influenced by genetic traits or any temporal influence. Not created by humanity. Created by God. That, most specifically, is our equality under God. Thus, the act of abortion is actually robbing an innocent soul from God's will and design and violating God's intent for His creation.

Considering the foundational accounts from the Holy Bible, the unnatural termination of any form of innocent human life shows wickedness, as did Cain's action in the Garden. Cain wished to hide his error from God. That is impossible; nothing is hidden from God's all-searching presence within our souls. God has not changed since then and He never plans on changing.

The value of human life is the value of God's creation

Back to the arguments from the shadows of what can one get by with or what is murder; one who is "Pro Choice" may argue that murder

miah or Mary the mother of Jesus does not apply to every human soul—only souls that are chosen or elite. However this argument chooses to ignore

use Exodus 21:22-25. This Mosaic scripture states that if a woman that is pregnant is harmed and she has a miscarriage that a punishment and

to others? What would you have done with yourself? How would you behave if you were your own neighbor?

The scriptures do not condone murder or the termination of innocent parties such as the unborn.

Acts 10:34-35: that *God is no respecter of persons*. Again, the scripture proves in total that the inert and organic value of all human life is equal.

One may hear Job 3:2-4, 3:11-19, 10:18-19 and Ecclesiastes 4:1-3 and 6:3-5 which can be used to basically say that a miscarriage is more of a blessing than life. The error in this argument is that miscarriage (alone) is a natural occurrence and is not within the control of a mother. A natural miscarriage is not stimulated with any human intent to terminate any life. In addition, II Nephi 1:115 states that humanity's design is for joy and not for death or eternal death. As Saints we must conclude that all innocent human life at any stage needs to be given the opportunity to magnify the Lord, the opportunity to choose the joy of choosing God's will and access to fulfillment with the Holy Spirit upon the soul's maturation—evident at baptism.

Finally, the most well-trained and studied professors of abortion that claim to draw wisdom from scripture

payment will be the judgment towards the perpetrator of the crime and that if the woman has complications: *life for life, eye for eye, tooth for tooth...* The arguer often states that this clearly states that Godly wisdom places a distinct and greater value on the harm to the mother's life and limb than on the harm of the unborn's life and limb. Further study would point to the fact that the punishment for the harm and loss of the unborn is similar to that of the harm or loss of livestock. Thus the "Pro Choice" argument hinges upon the single Mosaic law that the unborn is not a full person and this scripture places a lesser value upon an entity inside the womb than an entity outside of the womb.

After full consideration of this argument, Christians have the perfect report to submit. The report is essentially summed up with Galatians 5:14 *For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.* Do you want to finagle about the law or do you want to be a Christian and be alive and grant life

I pray that you choose life and joy

As all work with the hands of humanity is imperfect, this writing would be absolutely imperfect without the following addition: If you have experienced an abortion in your past—this document is meant to draw you closer to Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the Father. You are fully capable of confessing your errors, changing your heart about the past and changing your ways for the future. I, for one, do not condemn you. I do condemn the act of abortion. However, I want to help you find peace in this life through Jesus Christ and His truth. Please contact a minister that can support your mind and help your soul begin anew in Jesus. You have been created for joy in Christ. You are in my prayers.

STATEMENT

MISSION STATEMENT OF THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

The primary function of the general church, of which each local church is a component part, is missionary and the building up and extension of the Kingdom of God in all the world.
14 Articles of Faith and Practice

The world is changing as always. Perhaps each of you ponders the future course of the Church of Christ. If everything changes tomorrow what is your duty as members of Christ's Church. If persecutions arise, if the dollar fails, if you lose your job, if there is more war or great political earthquakes, will your mission change? The world will not help us serve God. We should do as Nephi said, *but we heeded them not* (1 Nephi 2:83). The duty of the Church is best understood by the actions of Jesus Christ. We know what should be done through the gifts and callings of God unto the Church (reference 1 Corinthians 12:20-31).

"And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved" Acts 2:47. The measurable success of the Church is determined, as it always has been, by the fact that souls are added daily. *First apostles* is not only a description of the organization of God's Kingdom, but also a description of the Church's chief duty, which is missionary. In Acts 10:9-20 a story is told of Peter, who is prepared by God to receive the gentiles into the fold of Christ. The gentiles were also called by the Spirit, causing them to inquire after Peter. This scriptural model is still true today. Our greatest joys and successes have been after this same manner. New openings did not come to us because of any work which we have done. We

had no televangelist or radio show; no concerts or bestselling how-to-books; we did not go from door to door or blanket other countries with advertisements; the Spirit prompted them to seek us out and we just responded. We can not claim lofty efforts for our part. Our duty is to continue to go when we are sought.

Secondarily prophets: The secondary duty of the church is to be a warning voice. Prophets were called, not to express their own anxieties or to preach a drive-by sermon, but to express thoughts of God's heart to a people. They were sent through hardship with a bittersweet message carrying the two-edged sword of God which cuts to save or to condemn. We should pray that the Lord would send prophets into the world to call back mankind once again. We should be prepared to receive prophecy as a warning voice in God's house first, for surely His judgments will begin with us. Sometimes this work of the prophets may be the main thrust of our work in a nation and we should not think that we have failed if there are no converts.

Thirdly teachers: One of our greatest responsibilities is to endure to the end and to hold up the light of Christ in the local Church. We live in a dark world and in a time when the lights of the world will be darkened further. The local Church will become more relevant to the needs of

God's people and the mission of the Church of Christ. We can be content in fulfilling our duty to provide continuous teaching of God's word. Jesus said, *therefore hold up your light that it may shine unto the world* (3 Nephi 8:54). This light, of course, is Jesus Christ. The local Church is commanded, in the full reading of this text, to hold up their *light* by meeting together often and praying for the non-members that come in their midst.

After that miracles, then gifts of healings, helps, governments, diversities of tongues. We should not look upon the gatherings of the Church as unimportant events. God makes provisions for us to continue on through changing conditions and problems. He makes provision for the temporal circumstances of His children. We should make ourselves available to God to be instruments in His hands. He is a God of miracles, healings and angels. He uses conferences, reunions and local meetings to call servants, provide aid, establish His doctrine, and govern the affairs of His Church. These provisions from God to the Church are given to nourish the Church. They are given to help accomplish His purposes. Let us pray that our hearts be pure and united in His will.

Council of Apostles

NOTICE

Women's Retreat 2010

Deb Vogel and Kate Malone

"It's much more than a big slumber party, believe me." That was one woman's response when asked about the annual fall Women's Retreat. For the past seven years around sixty women have "retreated" to the Missouri countryside to sing, study, pray and fellowship together. This year on October 1-2, we will meet again in Excelsior Springs at the Lake Maurer Retreat Center.

Missouri is beautiful in the fall, and the weather is comfortable with crisp mornings and sweater-wearing afternoons. The retreat center is surrounded by gentle hills covered with the colors of changing leaves. Paved paths



Group Pose after Shawna Herd's makeup class.

wander around the lakes, and rustic walking bridges cross the water. About thirty-five minutes northeast of Independence, it is just far enough out of the city to leave

the world behind for twenty-four hours.

The retreat will begin officially on Friday, October 1, at 7:30 p.m., but the retreat center is open to us in the afternoon as early as 2:00. The afternoon is free for visiting in the lodge, walking the paths or doing a provided craft. Some also gather for lunch together before going to the campgrounds. After supper, served from 5:00-7:00, the retreat is opened with an icebreaker and a skit and songs to introduce the theme. This year's theme is from Mosiah 1:49: "...When ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God." The rest of Friday evening is relaxed with free



Candlelight song to close Retreat

time to visit, play games, and enjoy snacks.

Saturday starts early for those who want to begin the day with a cool walk, followed by breakfast and a devotional at 8:00. The morning session begins at 9:30 with a powerpoint program and scripture study on the theme. We then break into focus groups, according to ages, to brainstorm on how we can apply those scriptures in our daily lives.

Something new this year: We will have a "variety show" following Saturday's lunch. It's being organized by Neva Housknecht, and all volunteer talent will be appreciated, whether humorous or serious, readings, music or skits.

During the afternoon, we have three classes that we all rotate through as groups. This year the classes are:

photography, making meals to take to those in need, and early childhood parenting. The retreat then ends with a wrap-up session and a final song.

Most of the activities plus overnight lodging take place in Pettet Lodge. Each room has a queen size bed plus a set of bunks and a bathroom with shower. Bed linens and towels are provided. The dining hall is about a block from the lodge, and assistance is available for those who need it. The retreat center's staff will also accommodate special diets if told in advance.

The retreat is a wonderful relaxing time of fun and fellowship, but we also hope you will find it a time of growing closer to God and His word, of strengthening old friendships and of making new ones. So please consider coming this

year. If you're curious and have questions or want a registration form, check the Women's Retreat web site at: <http://home.comcast.net/~ccwr/index.htm> or contact Jane Ann Carmichael at 14930 Tomasha Drive, Independence, MO 64055, (816) 478-7166, janecarmichael@sbcglobal.net. The cost is \$35 if registration is received by August 31, \$40 after. See you in October.

Church of Christ Women's Retreat's Mission Statement: "To provide an opportunity to learn practical applications of God's word in our lives, so that we may develop a closer walk with the Lord, while strengthening relationships and enjoying fun and fellowship."



2009 Women's Retreat Group Photo

NOTICES

2010 CAMPS & REUNIONS

- **Scripture Theme Camp:** May 14-16 at Camp Bobwhite at Knob Knoster State Park in Missouri. The scripture theme is "Faith and Works" from James 2:14-18. Cabins, tent and RV sites available. Meals provided; donations accepted. Contact: Mark Hill, Darin Crull, Tim Eddy, Jesse Lawrence, Ken Vick, DA Vogel or José Crull,
- **Michigan Reunion:** June 19, 20 at the Bradley Local. On the 18th there will be a potluck starting at 5 p.m. Contact Elder Adam Porter at 616-240-3902 or Elder Dennis Trudgen at 616-302-6364.
- **New York Reunion:** July 9-11, at Hogansburg, New York. Contact in Canada: Wayne and Susan Miller at 613-933-5469 or wmliller12@cogeco.ca; in the United States contact: Eli and Gretchen Tarbell at 518-358-2911 or egtarbell@hotmail.com, or Brandon and Tara Tarbell at 518-358-9153 or egtarbell@hotmail.com.
- **Colorado Reunion:** June 11-13, at the Orchard Mesa Local, Grand Junction, Colorado. Let us know if you plan to attend. Contact: Marvin Carroll at 970-523-9047 or beemarvin@gmail.com, Allen Downs at 970-245-8344 or addowns@mailstation.com, or Bob Hedrick at 602-750-9661 or rhedrick11@gmail.com. RV Parks in the area fill fast so make your reservations ASAP: RV Ranch at Grand Junction at 970-434-6644 or 1-800-793-0041, or Grand Junction KOA (formerly Big J RV Park) 970-242-2527 or 1-800-562-1510.
- **Idaho Reunion:** June 25-27 at the Southwest Idaho Senior Citizen Recreational Association campground just south of Donnelly off Cascade Lake (approximately 95 miles north of Boise on State Hiway 55). Contact: Elder Rich Bove mailto:ppinapod@msn.com.
- **Youth Camp:** July 25-30.
- **Missouri Reunion:** July 30, 31 and August 1 at the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri. Contact: Apostle Roland Sarratt at 816-373-6605 or r.sarratt@comcast.net, or Apostle Michael McGhee at 816-796-6255.
- **Minnesota Reunion:** September 3 - 5. Contact: Elder Merlin Eddy at 651-438-9738, or Elder Peter Gould at 218-586-2774.
- **Women's Retreat:** October 1-2, at the Lake Maurer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, for women 18 years and older. Cost: \$35 if registration is received by August 31, and \$40 afterwards. Registrations are available on the retreat website: <http://home.comcast.net/~ccwr/index.htm>, or by contacting Coordinator Jane Ann Carmichael, 14930 Tomasha Drive, Independence, MO 64055, (816) 478-7166. This year's theme is: "...When ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God" Mosiah 1:49.
- **Brant-Norfolk Reunion:** October 9-10 in Teeterville, Ontario, Canada. Contact: Marn Vieveen at marnie.vieveen@sympatico.ca or Elder Michael Bevaart at eighteen30@sympatico.ca.
- **Collins Rally:** October 17, at the Collins Local, Missouri. Contact Elder James Martin at 417-275-4424.

- **Arizona Reunion:** November 26-28, at the Phoenix Local. Contact Elder Gordon McCann at 6020569-2341 or gpjmccann@cox.net, Elder Jim Yates, Jr. at 602-692-4205 or jimyatesjr@yahoo.com, or Priest Glenn Orsted at 623-780-8764 or gorsted@gmail.com.

AVA WEBSITE

On the Church of Christ AVA web site you will be able to access media such as archived sermons in video and audio formats, past issues of *Zion's Advocate*, searchable Bible and Book of Mormon, studies and Sunday School lessons. Real time live streamed sermons are broadcast every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. central time which can also be accessed from the site. We invite you to take a look and discover what a useful tool this site can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. The address is www.cocsermons.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

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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- 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
- A Brief History of the Church of Christ
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- 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

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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) _____

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