

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."
1 Nephi 3:187*

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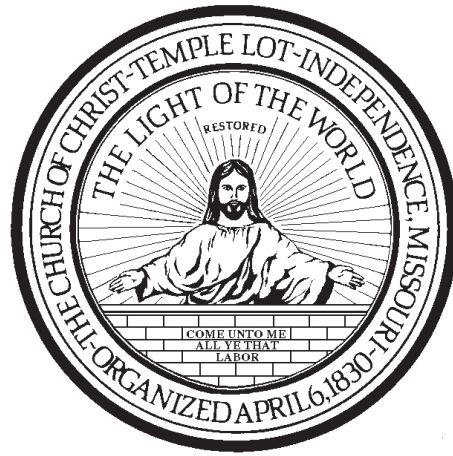
NUMBER 4



"...And the Lord added to the Church daily such as should be saved" Acts 2:47.

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THE APOSTLES of the CHURCH OF CHRIST

Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214; e-mail: smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com
Duane Ely, 18814 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; (602) 569-1516; e-mail duanekathyely@aol.com
Frank Fann, 3808 Queen Ridge, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-4346; e-mail: fann212@juno.com
Placido Koyoc Matu, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3125; e-mail: p_matu@hotmail.com
Placido Koyoc Yam, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3047
Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255; e-mail: mcgheeme@msn.com
Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900; e-mail: mcindoo@cox.net
Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050
Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414; e-mail: ajmoser3@cox.net
Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605; e-mail: r.sarratt@comcast.net
William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-833-3914; e-mail: cofctl@sbglobal.net
Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296; e-mail: jyates2@yahoo.com



GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Smith N. Brickhouse
5713 Logan Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64136

SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Leslie P. Case
8312 Lee's Summit Road
Kansas City, Missouri 64139

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Harvey E. Seibel
9800 E. 32nd Street S.
Independence, Missouri 64052

GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Elder Jim Yates, Jr.
2919 E. Siesta Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85050

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Alvin L. Harris
Church of Christ
P.O. Box 472
Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann
18808 N. 30th Street
Phoenix, Arizona 85050
E-mail: gpmccann@cox.net

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Dan Lawrence
8420 Lee's Summit Road
Kansas City, MO 64139

Bruce Haines
3904 Christopher Circle
Independence, MO 64055

PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

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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.

Spiritual RENEWAL



By Elder Dan Lawrence

Throughout history God's people have displayed an inability to remain constant in their faith and obedience to His commands, often with dire consequences. Because of their rebellion the Israelites were consigned to wander in the wilderness for forty years

until all those who transgressed had gone to the grave. On the other hand, because of His love for mankind, God is merciful to forgive the truly repentant. The psalmist David sinned greatly in his relationship with Bathsheba, but he expressed his sincere repentance in Psalm 51:1-3, 10:

*Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Create in me a clean heart, O God: and **renew a right spirit within me.***

David understood the necessity of spiritual renewal, of approaching God with a broken heart and a contrite spirit.

Whatever our spiritual condition, we can all benefit from spiritual renewal, whether it's individually, in our families or as a church. The Apostle Paul spoke of this renewal in the fourth chapter of his Ephesian letter, verses 17, 22-24:

*This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind...that ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; **and be renewed in the spirit of your mind;** and that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

I believe the world is in an era of spiritual famine, with fewer and fewer people willing to be faithful to God's com-

mands. Iniquity is rampant in our society and the repentant Christian is often looked upon with disdain. The world is comfortable in its sin and doesn't wish to be reminded of it. Now, more than ever, as the body of Christ on earth we have a great responsibility to be a spiritual light to the world, to pattern our lives after His example. In order to do this effectively, we must be more spiritual ourselves.

One morning last spring during the week of our General Conference as I awoke thoughts immediately began entering my mind. I rushed to find pen and paper to write them down. These seven specific areas of spiritual renewal were impressed upon me for our consideration.

1 Strengthen prayer, both personally and in our families. If we are to do God's will we must be in communication with Him. Every aspect of our lives needs to be guided by His Holy will. Alma left these words of admonition for us, in chapter 16, verses 219-222:

Yea, humble yourselves, and continue in prayer unto him; cry unto him when ye are in your fields; yea, over all your flocks; cry unto him in your houses, yea, over all your household, both morning, midday, and evening; yea, cry unto him against the power of your enemies; yea, cry unto him against the devil, who is an enemy to all righteousness. Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: cry over the flocks

*of your fields, that they may increase. But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness; Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, **drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those who are around you.***

Alma is telling us that even when we can't kneel in prayer, we must always be in an *attitude of prayer*, calling upon the Lord's guidance and direction in all that we do, say or think. Paul reinforced this concept of having an attitude of prayer in his first Thessalonian letter when he said, "Pray without ceasing." We are constantly attacked by Satan's temptations and evil is increasingly becoming the norm in our society, to the point that it may appear all right. Even when we have the best of intentions, without the Lord's direction we will err. Jesus said, in Matthew 26:41:

Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

2 Increase the importance of the scriptures in your daily life. The other avenue we have to know God's will is through His word. We are blessed that He preserved the records of His people on two continents so that we may renew our spiritual minds by daily reading of the Bible and Book of Mormon. By beginning each day "in the word" we set

the tone for the hours to follow, and those very words become our guide for each situation we encounter. We must judge our every thought, word and deed by those precious records. In Second Timothy 3:15-17 we read this:

*...From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. **All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:** That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.*

The example of reliance on God's word was set by our Savior when he was tempted by Satan. At each temptation Satan was rebuked by Jesus' words, "It is written." We need to be so familiar with the word of God that we can correctly judge between good and evil and have the understanding and courage to respond in the same manner.

3 Heal spiritual wounds. All too often we give or take offense, and if left unresolved, these offenses leave lasting spiritual wounds. Divisions in families and in the church can and do last for generations, with the result that the ability of the church to accomplish the Lord's will is compromised. This healing process was so important to Christ that He placed it before other service to Him,

as we read in the fifth chapter of Matthew:

*But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; **first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.***

Do you have a dispute with a brother? NOW is the time to reconcile. Have you held a grudge against someone? NOW is the time to forgive. Are you afraid to deal with a problem you have with someone? NOW is the time to make it right. Jesus gave us specific instruction to accomplish this in the eighteenth chapter of Matthew:

*Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, **go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone:** if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother.*

4 Recognize the importance of spiritual education. Jesus said, in John 8:31:

...If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

An important component of spiritual renewal in our families is spiritual education. If we want our children and grandchildren to be freed from the sin of the world, then they must know the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is our responsibility to know and understand God's word and teach those concepts to those who come after us, both at home and in Sunday School. We find this example in the fifth chapter of Acts:

And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ.

We have to teach our children that God exists, that He is our Creator, and that His Son Jesus is our Savior. They must understand that God's word and His Spirit are the only true guide for ordering our lives, and that disobedience to His holy will has eternal consequences.

Proverbs 13:22 says: "A good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children." Any financial planner will tell you to write a will so that your heirs will properly inherit your estate. In reality we need to consider the most important thing that we can leave our children: a solid spiritual education. If we don't teach our children, **the world will!**

5 Consider your personal service to the Lord. This is an area of spiritual renewal that is easy to evaluate and improve upon. How are we serving the Lord now and how

can we increase our service to Him? The psalmist David said "Serve the Lord with gladness." I can think of nothing more joyful than being in the service of the Lord, and we do it with every thought, word and deed that we perform; just our daily example is a way to serve.

But there is more. We've each been given gifts and talents from the Lord and He has a reasonable expectation that we will utilize these gifts to glorify Him. Ask yourself if you are a good steward of your time and talents. King Benjamin addressed his people this way:

And behold, I tell you these things that ye may learn wisdom; that ye may learn that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God.

6 Diligently strive to eliminate sin from your life. In the 18th chapter of Alma, Alma spoke these words:

And as I have said, so shall it be: for this is the cursing and the blessing of God upon the land, for the Lord can not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance.

There is a prevalent doctrine in the churches of the world that once you have made a commitment to Christ that your salvation is assured and that you are somehow freed from sin. But we understand that we will be judged by our works, as we read in Mosiah 8:83-84, 89:

Even this mortal shall put

on immortality, and this corruption shall put on incorruption, and shall be brought to stand before the bar of God, to be judged of him according to their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil. If they be good, to the resurrection of endless life and happiness, and if they be evil, to the resurrection of endless damnation. And now had ye not ought to tremble and repent of your sins, and remember only in and through Christ can ye be saved?

Repentance is the avenue by which we eliminate sin from our lives. This is the meaning of having a "broken heart and a contrite spirit": that we recognize sin in our lives and are truly sorrowful (contrite spirit) and that we diligently strive to eliminate that sin from our lives (broken heart). Much as a horse's will is "broken" to conform to the will of his master, so must we approach the Lord with a "broken heart," sacrificing our will to the will of the Father. We cannot accomplish this on our own, but only with the Lord's help is this possible, as we read in 1 Corinthians 10:12-13:

Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall. There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

7 Share the good news of the Gospel of Christ. We are Christ's body on this earth. He has given us the light of His truth and has commanded us to share that light. Matthew 5:14-16:

Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.

Recently we have seen enormous growth in the Church of Christ because of our willingness to shine the light of Christ to the world and to seek His will. Whether it happens in foreign lands or in our own backyards, conversion comes one soul at a time. We each have the ability and responsibility to be, as the Apostle Paul said, "ambassadors for Christ."

In conclusion, spiritual renewal is a continuous process of improvement which only ends when we pass from this life. We can't put it off for another day, because we never know when we will return to our God. Alma gives us this admonition:

For behold, this life is the time for men to prepare to meet God: yea, behold, the day of this life is the day for men to perform their labors. And now as I said unto you before, as ye have had so many witnesses, therefore I beseech of you, that ye do not procrastinate

*the day of your repentance until the end; For after this day of life, which is given us to prepare for eternity, **behold, if we do not improve our time while in this life,** then cometh the night of darkness, wherein there can be no labor performed. Ye can not say, when ye are brought to that awful crisis, that I will repent, that I will return to my God (Alma 16:228-231).*

The Lord has laid upon my heart these seven areas of concentration: prayer, scripture study, healing spiritual wounds, spiritual education, service, elimination of sin, and sharing the Gospel as a framework for spiritual renewal individually, in our families and congregations, and churchwide. Let us heed the Apostle Paul's advice to "**be renewed in the spirit of your mind.**"

REPORT

Kenya's TEN YEARS of Endurance



**By Apostle
Brian E.
McIndoo**

In the early part of the month of May in the year 2000 the Church of Christ sent two missionaries to Kenya for the first time in our history. Smith Brickhouse and I had hired a car and driver in Nairobi and set off across Kenya,

suffering the agony of bumping and bouncing our way across 120 miles of terrible roads which took the better part of the day before arriving at our final destination of Kisii, Kenya. Upon our arrival we were met by a young woman named Margaret Moraa who had been corresponding with the church, and who had invited us to come and teach our doctrines.



The following day a large group of about 75 people gathered at the village of Kebabe in an open field outside the home of Nina Osaka. Here the first service in Kenya took place on May 7th, 2000.



Now let us return to the present day, May 8th, 2010. In a rented building in Kisii Town, 1,200 people gathered together to celebrate the tenth anniversary of the Church of Christ in Kenya. Only about a thousand church members could get a seat inside, while the others stood in the back or outside listening to the service and rejoicing in their longevity.

Just a little history about how the work started ten years ago. After our initial service in

Kebabe, we extended an invitation to all those who were interested to attend a series of classes we would conduct in Kisii town. Every day for the next week we met in a rented hall at the Catholic Guest House where we taught the Apostasy and the Restoration of the Church of Christ. Looking back to those early days of basic teaching I see the impact of teaching truth. Among the pioneers who came to learn we find some whom are now the teachers of this Restored Gospel, such as Elders Moses Ohuru, Michael Otero, Simon Monari, Priests Moses Nyamira and Moses Mokeri, and our coordinator, Margret Moraa.



After we finished our week in town, several of the students took us to their villages so we could teach there also. We met under trees and temporary shelters and many times in small overcrowded huts. The people were content to meet wherever they could, preferably out of the rain if possible.



Ten years ago in the month of May there were twenty-six people baptized, as pictured here in these two pictures.

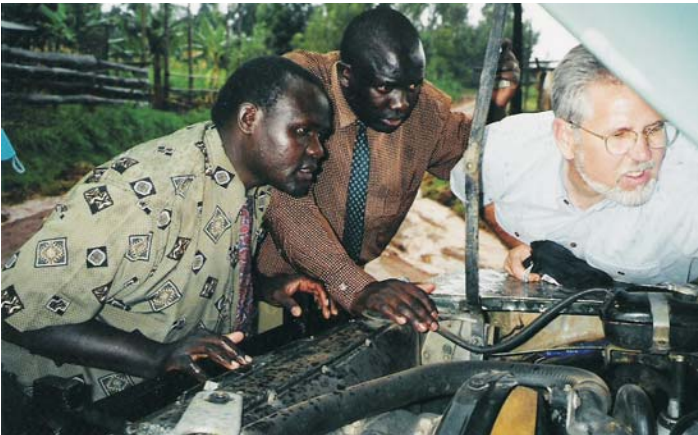


The history over the following years included our return to Kenya, even though many of the Kisii people thought we would not, because that was their experience with most churches who had come there before. Several times a year we would return to Kenya and continue to teach in the villages, drawing large groups eager to hear the gospel message. We converted many more to the Church, performing the ordinances of the gospel among them by blessing their little children, conducting baptisms and confirmation services, as seen in these historical pictures.





Another major advancement for us was the purchase of our own vehicle, a Land Rover. Our Land Rover was a blessing: it afforded us the freedom to come and go as we needed; however, it was in need of constant repair. Every day seemed the same: repair the Land Rover in the village to get home, head to the mechanic's shop to get it running for the next day. But in the many years we drove it, we only missed two appointments. In 2004 we upgraded to a much more reliable vehicle.



Over the years we have also moved many churches' congregations out of the rain into more suitable structures, such as those pictured here at Mesisita and Kineni.



As we met in celebration of ten years not all twenty-six of those original members were in attendance. Some had passed away, while others had decided to walk another path, the broad path mentioned in the scriptures. But eleven original members were present and stood and testified words to encourage the people to endure as they had done, for they had been blessed by remaining faithful through the trials, persecutions and struggles over the past ten years. This is a picture of James Omundi, an elderly man that was among the first baptized. James has always remained faithful and has been a great support to the church. He was the first of the original members we asked to speak, while Margaret translated into English for the Americans' benefit.



A big highlight of our special anniversary meeting was that congregations who had never met one another, from the eastern coast to the western border of Kenya, now sat together and worshiped together, truly knowing they were one in Christ. One of the highlights was when several different choirs came to the stage to sing. A dull roar went up in the crowd which was predominantly tribes from the Gusii people: tribes such as Kisii, Kilengi, and Kuria. We had called for the Kilgoris Congregation to come and sing, at which time eight Maasai men and women dressed in traditional attire of red robes and beads took stage. Gusii and Maasai had been rival tribes throughout the years. Maasai are a traditional people and not easily converted to the Christian faith. Although many of the congregations had heard rumors that members of the Maasai tribe had been converted and had joined the church, now they witnessed them first hand. The Maasai sang a song in a traditional way and the congregation cheered and was greatly uplifted to have been in a meeting together.

Apostle Duane Ely preached a sermon to probably the largest congregation of Church of Christ members ever assembled in our modern day. Following the sermon I gave a presentation with a slide show of the history and progress of the Church of Christ in Kenya over the past ten years.

Now history bears out on the 8th of May, 2010, the Kenyan Church of Christ met together for five hours in celebration, memories and worship. We had received a great blessing that day. The rains had been very hard in Kisii: every day and night it rained. If it had rained as usual the night before the Anniversary meeting, about half of the people would not have made it out of their villages. That night, and that night only, there was no rain, and it seems that everyone that wanted to come was able.

Throughout the past ten years, thirty-four people from America have come to visit the Kenyan churches; those that came included six Apostles, one Evangelist, six Elders, one Priest, one Teacher, four brothers, and fifteen sisters. Nineteen of those who have been here had sent their greetings and letters of encouragement to the anniversary celebration. The letters were read and greatly appreciated by the people in Kenya. I was thankful for the opportunity to participate in this celebration, joined by my wife, Becky, Apostle Duane Ely, now also appointed as a missionary to Africa, and his

wife Kathy and daughter Michelle Ely.

Today in Kenya we have thirty strong congregations spread from the east coast to the western border. There are eight men in the Priesthood, called out from among the Kenyan people. These men are diligent in their service to the members and dedicated to spreading the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ to whomever God has prepared to receive.



We look forward to the next ten years or until the Lord returns for His bride, which will include these faithful members of the Church of Christ.



REPORT

KENYA 2009 YOUTH CAMP

Hosted in Kisii Central Township

THEME:

Salvation is only through Jesus Christ our Lord; and He has promised no harm to those who fear Him. (Scripture references: Isaiah 41:11 & Alma 18:11.)

It was a week earlier before the youth camp began, the ordained ministry were requested to come to the church office and help to prepare and be participants of the youth camp; all of them came except Bro. Evans, who was absent with permission.

The 2009 youth camp came a bit earlier than usual, in November, with reasons to explain it all: a wedding had been planned on the 18th of December, 2009, and so we thought that we all were going to be involved and so pushed the camp back to the end of November when schools are closed for holiday. The camp started on Wednesday, the 25th of November, 2009. The youths started to register as early as noon, and the turnout was really good. We had appointed youths from the township to help to enroll and register the youths according to the Districts. Ministry were present to see that the youths had been allocated to their respective dormitories and supper was prepared on time; when finally we saw the school gates closed, seeing that we were no longer going to expect youths at this

late night time. We all gathered together and an abbreviated orientation meeting was held. The youths were welcomed back for another four days of youth camp challenge. It was truly a blessing to see one another, though not all of them had arrived. We counted the blessings.

I, Sister Margaret Moraa Kerosi, was given the opportunity to welcome our youth, which I did with gladness, and reminded our youths at the beginning of this camp that the Church of Christ is different from other churches or religious organizations, and emphasized that our church name may be similar to other organizations; however, we have completely separate beliefs and doctrines. I did encourage the youths to be participants of the work of the Lord in the gospel, and reminded them that they were privileged to have received this gospel while they had the strength, and gave them encouragement to arise and go and tell others of the gospel which we hold. It was their responsibility. My final remarks were that people who do not know God will accept us as His people by seeing how we live our lives before they will do so because of what we tell them point blank.

THURSDAY 26TH

It was a warm morning. Bro. Michael Otero, who is an elder in the church and the host of the camp, wel-

comed the youths, the ministry and the surrounding who were in attendance; he encouraged the youths to take advantage of this opportunity to learn the true restoration gospel of Christ. He gave an example by saying how God can use young men to do His work and quoted from the Book of Mormon concerning Lehi commanding his children to go to Laban and obtain the records. These young men did a mighty work. The same spirit God gave Nephi is in the church today. Choruses were sung and the spirit of God was felt.

Priest Moses Nyamira took to the stage and gave the topic on restoration and in his topic he explained that the Church of Christ (TL) believes that there was a complete apostasy from the New Testament church and from the fundamental principles of Christ which were taught by the apostles and their immediate followers. Out of this God withdrew the power and authority of the gospel from the earth. Satan endeavored to thwart the plan of God from the beginning and true to this, around 570 AD, a complete apostasy was the result.

He further explained how God used Joseph Smith, Jr., who was inspired of God and was used as an instrument in His hands, and through him we see the principal character of the restoration. He gave references from the Bible supporting the falling away of the earlier church. He gave scriptures supporting the restora-

tion gospel: the prophet Daniel, seeing the Apostasy, clearly prophesies of a restoration. Daniel 2:44 says in the days of these Kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms it shall stand forever.

The Lord at work in the restoration is clearly evident in the last days; he gave an example of Apostle John seeing a vision on the restoration, reference from Revelation 14:6-7. He summarized his topic by telling the youths that the appearance of the angel to Joseph Smith, Jr., who was the principal character in the restoration, was therefore in the fulfillment of the scriptures. As he ended his class I will say we all felt blessed and excited to hear of all the wondrous works the Lord brought forth, and we all felt humbled in knowing we have a place in this restored gospel. A portion of the day was given to the ministry to answer questions regarding the topic on restoration.

2:00PM

After lunch was served, we all went back to the dining hall with our pens and writing materials ready to receive the blessing of God. Elder Moses Ohuru took to the stage with the Apostasy. He told the youths that truly they needed the spirit of Nephi: determination, dedication and full effort into the work of the Lord; he spoke on his lesson, which was based on the Apostasy, and warned our youths to be vigilant on what they hear lest they fall

away too. He was assisted by teacher Evans Nyaata on this topic, who reiterated the words of Elder Moses Ohuru and Priest Moses Nyamira, and emphasized the importance of the true gospel coming to us through our missionaries and the Book of Mormon, which is the second witness of Jesus Christ.

Brother Ohuru reminded the youth about Paul's words, "For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them; Therefore watch and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn everyone, night and day with tears" (he quoted Acts 20:29-31). In many instances superstition arose and various changes were made in doctrines and church organization, and even spiritual gifts ceased. Against such changes, Jesus and Holy men of God warned the church. That evening was given for the youth to ask questions, and afterwards the youth felt they were fed enough. Bro. Moses Mokweri, who had a lesson on why we believe Sunday should be the Lord's Sabbath, began his class by asking the youth if they had told everyone about the restoration gospel? He encouraged our youth and told them how important it was, and encouraged them to rise to a higher level of righteousness and work for the cause of Jesus Christ, so that when youth from other churches see them, they should envy them.

FRIDAY 27TH

The youth woke up earlier than expected for prayers and singing praises to their Lord Jesus. We knew that the presence of the Holy Spirit was surrounding this camp; it was unusual for the youth to awake the ministry, and after prayers were offered, manual was done and breakfast was not to be served as we encouraged the youth to exercise fasting. Time for lessons was at hand and Brother Isaac Ondimu took to the stage and taught about the Book of Mormon. He said it is a record of records, and people should read it to taste the true taste of God's teaching found in this book.

He further elaborated how Joseph Smith was given the gift from God to translate it; he encouraged the youth to humble themselves and learn the wonderful words in the Book of Mormon, so that they can be in a position to defend this gospel by those who do not believe in it, and he emphasized this by telling them that since they are the future generation, they will take on the battle of defense in the future. He encouraged the youths to research and search intelligently on all the written records for better understanding.

There was a short break and Elder Simon Monari took the youths on the task of discipline within themselves; he said the youth are faced with many challenges in life, and sometimes if they are not careful they may behave in a manner that can hinder other youths from joining the church. He told the youth that they needed to be alert and think of their responsibility to God. Youths who have chosen to take upon them


the name of Christ should do according to His will. He told the youth to be watchful, knowing that they have an enemy who desires to drag them to be with him, that they should know whom they associate with and always choose friends wisely as other friends can be deadly.

After Elder Simon did his lesson we had our short break and went back for more blessings: this was the climax of all lessons, a topic on courtship and marriage. This topic was given by Priest Kepha Machuma and Elder Michael Otero. The youths were given a challenge of Godly relationships and basing their demands upon God, and they were encouraged to form Bible studies of their own and get to know each other better. The elder and priest both said marriage was a plan of God and so we should value each and every plan of God. They reminded the youth that they know that they are human, but that will not give them an excuse when they want to do something they shouldn't do. They reminded the youth that they have an enemy and this enemy has a desire for them, to drag them down to his kingdom. But if they can hold firmly to our Savior who came down to save us, then He will be there for them to help them make wise and better decisions. Robert and Faith were given as an example: Robert is the son of Elder Michael Otero while Faith is the daughter of Brother Stephen Keng'ara of Bobaracho Mission, and the youth were encouraged to go after them. (They were wed in December 2008.)

After the lesson, many of the

youth came forward and asked for prayers, that God might help them make wise decisions in choosing their life partners. There were two youths who announced that they had made arrangements for their wedding on the 18th, December 2009: Edwin and Modester. Edwin is the son of Priest Kepha Machuma of Kebabe while Modester has lived with Sister Margaret for the last seven years. The youth were encouraged to be prayerful and wait on the Lord, to be of good courage to other youths, to be strong and patiently wait to hear from our Lord above. Last remarks: patience is something that many people lack, many youths don't like to be patient, to wait or endure any problems in life. But God is very patient with us and gives us plenty of chances to follow His commandments, and by so doing we become the winners.

SATURDAY 28TH & SUNDAY 29TH

 On Saturday there was entertainment from songs, memory verse, from the Bible and the Book of Mormon. It was really a blessing to see the youth perform. Sunday was the last day of our camp. Brother Evans opened with a word of prayer. He invited various choirs to entertain the youth and the members who came for the church service, and thereafter Brother Aloys from Mombassa greeted the youth and gave them words of encouragement, and reminded them that they should not lose the war, they still had all the strength to serve our Father above. They need to be strong, willing soldiers who are really prepared for the

task ahead of them: as youths they are tomorrow's leaders. Then we had testimonies of how God helped the youth the whole year by knowing that He is a perfect God, and protected them all along. Then Elder Moses Ohuru continued by giving a sermon on your young men having vision. He gave the young generation a challenge and told them that they need to be youths of vision and continue to arm themselves with the word of God that they have received during this 4-day camp.

In conclusion, I humbly ask all our brothers and sisters to continue to pray for our youth so that God can keep them until we can see them be our leaders in our churches. They are laboring to advance in the teachings of righteousness. Here in Africa, Kenya, we are content with severe circumstances in our daily life, but the Lord has kept us safe and protected us. We will keep on with the good fight.

God bless all of you richly,
Sister Margaret Kerosi

ISAIAH ELEVEN: THE GATHERING



By Apostle Don McIndoo

We will begin this study of Isaiah's prophecy with some words taught by Nephi to his people. "For I did liken all scriptures unto us that it might be for our profit and learning. Wherefore, I spake unto them, saying, Hear ye the words of the prophet, ye who are a remnant of the house of Israel,..." (let us remember that we too are of the house of Israel by adoption - dem) "...a branch who have been broken off; hear ye the

words of the prophet, which were written unto all the house of Israel, and liken them unto yourselves, that ye may have hope as well as your brethren, from whom ye have been broken off" (1 Nephi 6:5, 6). So as we consider these ancient words of Isaiah let us attempt to do what Nephi was asking his people to do: namely, see if Isaiah's prophecy has application to our lives in this latter day.

As we begin our study of Isaiah, Chapter Eleven, keep in mind that the first five verses speak of the qualities that will be manifest in the Messiah to come. "(1) *And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots:* (2) *And the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;* (3) *And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:* (4) *But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the*

breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. (5) *And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins."*

Verse 1 - "And there shall come forth a rod...." In other words, a shoot, such as starts up from the roots of a decayed or dying tree. In Chapter Ten the Lord described the Assyrians as a forest of great trees, and in contrast the Savior of Israel is described as a slender shoot rising up from the roots of a decayed and dying tree. "**...Out of the stem of Jesse,**" Not from the proud heritage of King David, but a descendent of a humble farmer named Jesse. "**...And a Branch shall grow out of his roots:**" By the time of Jesus' birth the family of David had fallen into decay. Consider the humble beginnings of His life in Nazareth.

Verse 2 - "And the spirit of the Lord (this refers to YAHWEH - dem) **shall rest upon him,"** Christ used these very words when He began preaching. In Luke 4:16-18 we read; "And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the

prophet Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised,*"

Now verse 2 goes on to describe six attributes, six gifts of the Father that are to be bestowed upon the coming Messiah: "...**the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord;**" This verse identifies six of the seven (seven is a perfect, complete number - dem) gifts the Father would bestow upon the Son. We also see here an Old Testament description of the Trinity: God the Father, His Son and the Holy Spirit. The seventh attribute is found in the next two verses.

Verse 3 - "And shall make him of quick understanding..." (from the Hebrew to anticipate, or enjoy; i.e., to look forward to and enjoy being lost in the reverence of, and service to, the Father - "...**in the fear of the Lord: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes,**" When we judge according to our human vision, wealth, beauty, power and rank begin to take precedence. Jesus was no more concerned about these than about the humblest of persons. In John 7:24 we can see the type of judgment Jesus was concerned with: "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." "...**neither reprove after the hearing of his ears:**" Again, Jesus is unimpressed by what is professed by the mouth. He is concerned with the real person inside. He knows our thoughts and reads our hearts. You can read Matthew 7:21 to 24 to clearly see this truth.

Verse 4 - "But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth: with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked." The seventh gift the Father had placed upon His Son was that of judgment. In this Verse 4 we see a significant dichotomy of character - a gentle, loving servant of the poor and meek and, as well, a bearer of God's judgment upon the wicked.

I am reminded of one of Isaiah's later prophecies: "*The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound; To proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord, and the day of vengeance of our God;* (emphasis mine - dem)..." (Isa. 61: 1, 2).

The Apostle Paul alludes to this attribute as he discusses the Roman Emperor - "*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*" (2 Thessalonians 2:7, 8).

The Apostle also correctly identifies the time of this judgment to be at His second coming. Isaiah's description of the coming Messiah relates to both these appearances. What is the rod proceeding out of His mouth? In Revelation 19:11 - 15 we read this description: "*And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head*

were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God."

That sharp sword is clearly defined by the Apostle Paul as he elaborates upon our spiritual warfare: "...*the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:*" (Ephesians 6:17).

The rapidly growing and influential Emergent Church movement stands strongly opposed to all Biblical references, or at least any interpretation of them, as referring to a judgmental punishment of any person. In their view every human will have part in the salvation of God. We must remain founded upon the teaching of the Holy Scriptures which clearly speak about a time of judgment that shall encompass all mankind.

Verse 5 - "And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins." Just as the girdle, or belt, held the man's robe and clothing in place, so shall righteousness and faithfulness clothe the Messiah.

This concludes Isaiah's prophetic description of the Messiah. The next few verses are a poetic description of the conditions that will prevail on earth when Christ returns and His kingdom is established in all the earth.

Verses 6 to 8 - Now the prophet gives a description of the Kingdom of God as it will be ushered in upon the return of the Mes-

siah. *"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den."* Pictured are pairs of creatures that are natural enemies but now living in harmony. The inference is that the reign of the Messiah will establish peace and tranquility throughout the earth.

Isaiah's purpose is to describe the reign of the Messiah, not in terms of time, but in terms of the conditions He will bring to mankind. However, this same poetic description is repeated in Chapter 65 of Isaiah. In this Chapter Verse 17 introduces the picture: *"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."* This description of God's plan is also revealed in Revelation 21:1 as the introduction of the New Jerusalem coming down from heaven. Yes, this is a description of life during the Millennium, when Christ shall reign on earth with His people.

Verse 9 - tells us *"... for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea."* Just as every cave and grotto beneath the ocean's surface is filled with water because of the pressure above, all the inhabitants of the earth will be filled with a knowledge of the Lord at that time.

Verse 10 - *"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek ..."* As we read about *"that day"* it seems obvious to many that it speaks of the *"day of the Lord"*, the second coming of Christ in glory.

The prophet within a few verses predicts the birth and ministry of Christ as the humble servant of the Father and then His glorious return to gather His people and His coming with judgment upon the wicked.

There are commentators who relate these verses to King Hezekiah, his stand against Assyria, his cleansing of the Temple and establishment of proper worship again in Judea. 2 Chronicles 30 does tell that a few refugees from the lost tribes came and participated in the king's great Passover Ceremony, and there are some ancient seals that validate that record. It is also true he was a descendent of David. But I think the main reason people relate this prophecy to Hezekiah is because he reigned during the days of Isaiah, and many people do not believe in prophecy that foretells things in the distant future.

And the **"ensign of the people,"** the banner around which they shall gather is none other than Jesus Christ. No one in the days of Hezekiah could ever imagine raising a banner to which the gentiles would seek. It was unheard of, except in prophecy directly from on high.

But in Isaiah 49:22 we see that it is the Lord who will do so: *"Thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I will lift up mine hand to the Gentiles, and set up my standard to the people."*

Verse ten continues; and in that day **"...his rest shall be glorious."** The Hebrew word used here by Isaiah means *"to repose peacefully,"* and by implication it refers to a resting place. In the 60th chapter of Isaiah, the prophet is speaking of this same period of time. Here he says, *"...to beautify the place of my sanctuary;"* Just as the Temple in Jerusalem was the resting place of the Ark of the Covenant, the true Church of Christ shall be the resting place of the Lord in the latter day, and His consolation and peace will

be found within her.

The Apostle Paul boldly proclaims this truth: *"Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone; In whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto **an holy temple in the Lord:** In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit."* (Ephesians 2:19 – 22 Emphasis mine – dem).

In his vision which revealed the history of Christ's church and what would befall her, Nephi writes, *"And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, who were scattered upon all the face of the earth; And they were armed with righteousness and with the power of God in great glory"* (1 Nephi 3:230, 231).

We will continue our study of Isaiah Eleven in the next issue of the Advocate with Part Two: The Kingdom of God.

The True Church

I am very happy to have received the plan of the Church of Christ. Days had passed, and I was a full time member of the gospel church, Nyabitungwa, I had followed their doctrines for many years before I had found Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

One time, I encountered difficulties in my life and I lost all my friends and to whoever I went to, they dishonored me! My wife and children rejected me, my fellow members of the gospel church rejected me! I was hit on my head and some of my fingers were chopped off! The next place of refuge was the hospitals. While I was sleeping at the hospital bed I had a dream. I saw light, and I saw an angel, and the angel stood before me and I looked at the angel and had a lot of fear in my heart. The angel had a message for me and these were the angels words "Leave your sinful ways," and still in my sleep I saw a new heaven and I was overjoyed with this place, as it looked marvelous. After my sleep I woke up only to find that I was in this world of many sorrows. I was angry and bitter! I had a question, why did I come back here to this world? My heart had a lot of joy from the visitation I had with the angel. I knew the Lord was with me and I started to pray and praise the Lord again. As I continued to marvel on the works of the Lord I fell asleep again and during the sleep I had a second dream and this was what I saw, a blackboard

written, "THE TRUE CHURCH, The Church of Christ." I woke up only to find no blackboard, only nurses and medicines awaiting my aching head and arms. After several stays at the hospital I was told that I was fair and needed to go home for a rest. I left the hospital on March 12, 2002, came home and as I was resting under the shade of the trees I started asking God to give me a church that He showed me while I was in the hospital, a church of truth.

As my healing advanced, I was able to move around, and as I was taking a walk around my home village I met some men (pastors) who were doing home evangelism. They invited me to their home village Tabaka. When I went to visit with them I found that they were fellowshiping with Lutherans. During the service, I heard a voice telling me, This is not the church I showed you. Then I thought to myself, what kind of voice is this? Now where should I go? I did not know where to go and since I was not working anywhere, my work was traveling and visiting with friends. I was very idle! I thought I had a friend at Suneka village and my mind was set to go and know where this man had been and what he was doing as it had been awhile without us meeting. This man's name was Michael Otero (this day he is an Elder in the Church of Christ). As I ascended to the compound, Michael was welcoming and

Anna (Michael's wife) and the rest were happy to see me after a long time. I was invited to stay as long as I desired, but I was able to stay with them for two days only.

He testified to me his testimony and I was overjoyed, except for this Book of Mormon! Oh no, Michael is lost, I thought to myself. As I had never heard of this book, neither never had I seen it (my testimony from my earlier church, I used to hear Mormon as a devil). As I stayed with Michael's family I could listen carefully to hear where they would speak Satan's name, but in vain: all I would hear was Jesus Christ the Savior. But then when I would try to read this Book of Mormon, I would hear nothing at all!

The time came when I had to go back to my home village Nyabitungwa, but they invited me that they would come to visit with my family and continue to share their message. So Michael and brother Peter Nyamira came. They talked about this wonderful message and invited us to Kebabe or Kineni, as here they had churches where we could go and hear more teachings and services. When they were telling us all this, it was me, my wife and some of my brothers, and so I tried the nearby churches and my Brother Moses Ohuru who told me more about the Church of Christ.

On June 14, 2002, I decided to visit them again. During this visit, I met one sister, by name Margaret

Moraa, and she took much of her time to explain to me the beliefs as well, and though I wanted to accept, it was hard to believe. I took a long time to accept these beliefs.

I chose to pray, and study the Bible and the Book of Mormon, and the Lord saw that truly I needed to understand what was written in the two books and so He gave me the ability to understand the Book of Mormon as I do the Bible.

The Leaders were patient with me in teaching and guiding me to

understand the scriptures, and they have as well helped me physically. My father, Mr. Nyagokwa, my mother Miriam, my wife Mercella and all our children have believed in these words. The Lord has done wonderful works in our lives and this day I am ordained as a teacher in the Church of Christ.

Since my acceptance in the teachings of Christ through His church I have seen marvelous things in my own family and in my personal life. I have seen miracles. I have

seen missionaries coming every year to our country Kenya to teach us his gospel, to help us grow spiritually and physically. I pray that the Lord may help both Brothers Smith Brickhouse and Brian McIndoo and all their leaders in our country Kenya and all the Brothers and Sisters all over the world who pray for us.

Teacher Evans Nyaata

PATHLIGHTS

Deeply Rooted and Standing Against All Storms



Recently I was hiking at a creek near Young, Arizona. As I walked up and down the creek's carved canyon, I saw great devastation from the powerful wind and rain storms that past through our state all winter. All around me numerous trees, larger than I could reach around, were snapped in two or uprooted. Hundreds, once lofty beauties, lay upon the ground. As I looked at the mass destruction of this beautiful creek and steep, densely forested canyon walls I saw a small fir tree. Immediately the thought came to me that the large, broken and

uprooted trees were like the churches of the world. The small fir was the Church of Christ, still deeply rooted and standing against all the storms.

Karen Yates-Reiser

OBITUARY

Melissa M. Seibel

January 3, 1971 ~ June 10, 2010



Beloved wife, sister, daughter and friend, Melissa Minette (Chance) Seibel was born January 3, 1971, in Independence, Missouri. She graduated with honors from William Chrisman High School and attended the University of Missouri Kansas City Honors program for Microbiology.

On April 7, 1993, Melissa was baptized into the Church of Christ. On April 9, 1993, she married Harvey L. Seibel, who survives her.

She is also survived by her father, Harry H. Chance of Independence, sisters Mary M. Chance of Independence and Michelle M. Wall of Diamond, Missouri, nephew Christian T. Morrison of Independence, and nieces Courtney T. Wall of Webb City, Missouri, and Samantha E. Chance of Independence.

She is predeceased by her mother Tonya M.

(Watson) Chance, November 7, 1999.

Melissa enjoyed reading, traveling, working with miniatures, stamping homemade greeting cards and designing jewelry.

She worked at a local Christian bookstore for several years. For many more years she babysat and nannied the children of family and friends. She also shared in the responsibility of teaching Sunday School at the Independence East Local.

In 2008, health issues brought an end to these responsibilities, and on Thursday, June 10, 2010, she passed away in the home.

The memorial service was held on Monday, June 14, 2010, at the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Independence, Missouri.

NOTICES

2010 CAMPS & REUNIONS

- **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: Mam Vieveen at mamie.vieveen@sympatico.ca or Elder Michael Bevaart at eigheten30@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 gpmccann@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

THE HOPE OF ZION

The Board of Publications has made available a copy of the report from the Committee to Study Zion entitled, *The Hope of Zion*. Contact Elder Robert W. Oldham at rworldham1@sbcglobal.net, or any member of the Board.

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.



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