# 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

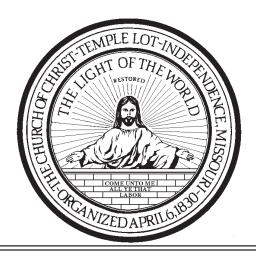
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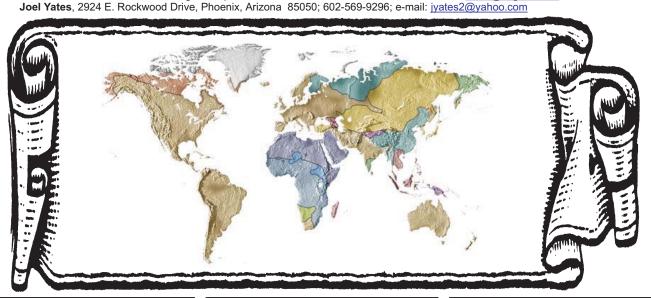
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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.

### A Short Sermon

The following is a reprint of an article published in the ZION'S ADVOCATE, Volume 3, Number 10, November, 1926, page 6. Hiram E. Moler was ordained as an Apostle in the Church of Christ on April 10, 1926, and was a member of the Board of Publications.

### By Hiram E. Moler

ext: "Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice" Psalms 50:5.

Every child of God becomes so by covenant. A covenant is a solemn contract or agreement between two or more persons. This covenant with God involves obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ. It is attested on our part by baptism in water, when we are solemnly buried in the likeness of death, and is sealed upon God's part when He sends upon us the Holy Spirit, the "Comforter," giving us a divine witness of our acceptance with Him.

A covenant thus made should never be regarded lightly, but should be held inviolate as long as we live, and all of our powers should be employed in the effort to keep it, encouraged as we are by the promise of the assisting grace of our Heavenly Father.

The sacrifice God requires of his saints now...includes the surrender of everything sinful, no matter how dear it may have been to us.

In the making and the keeping of this covenant, sacrifice is required. Sacrifice is the giving up of something of esteemed worth or value-something we may prize highly and cherish fondly. It requires the practice of the principle of self-denial according to the pattern given us by our Saviour, Jesus Christ. The sacrifice God requires of His saints now is not burnt offerings according to the practice prior to Christ making Himself the supreme sacrifice for us, but it includes the surrender of everything sinful, no matter how dear it may have been to us. Worldly and sinful pleasure, worldly friends, our former good name, and a portion of our temporal substance are some of the things we must part with. All this is required of His saints when they enter His service by covenant, and must be continued as long as we remain in that service.

"The sacrifices of God are a

broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" Psalm 51:17.

This is the kind of sacrifice that God is pleased with. Humility and contrition of heart bring us to that condition where we can partake of God's favors, and where He can use us in His great work.

But the fullness of the sacrifice required of us is beautifully described by the Apostle Paul in his Roman epistle:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service" Rom. 12:1.

The time of dead sacrifices has passed, and is past forever. It is the living sacrifice that God requires, and our bodies can be presented as such a sacrifice. We belong to God, both body and spirit, "bought with a price," and while we have our agency to do as we choose, it is proper that we give to God that

which belongs to Him. How encouraging is the qualifying statement of the Apostle: "Which is your reasonable service." Nothing impossible nor unreasonable is required of us. It is just the things we can do, that are right to do, and that we ought to do, which are required of us in this work of sacrifice.

Sacrifice does not mean uncompensated loss to those who make it. It is a good investment if we consider the spiritual and eternal results. God gives to us manifold and abundantly in return. Upon one occasion the question arose in the minds of some of the apostles as to what they should receive as a result of the sacrifice they had made, and the answer of Jesus is significant and comforting:

"Then began Peter to say unto him. Lo. we have left all and have followed thee. And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundred-fold now in this time, houses and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" Mark 10:28-30.

It will be noted that we can not hope to escape persecutions. Paul said, "Yea all that will live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecutions." But notwithstanding this, God has promised that those who sacrifice for His sake and for the sake of the gospel, shall receive again in

this life abundantly all that we need, and in the world to come receive the greatest blessing God can give—eternal life. How these words must have comforted the sacrificing disciples of Jesus when they began to be concerned about the outcome of the work they were engaged in. True sacrificing will always bring its compensation.

It is just that class of individuals, proving their sincerity by their sacrifice in covenanting with God, whom He designs shall be gathered together to "Zion, the perfection of beauty," out of which "God hath shined" (Psalm 50:2). None others are qualified for the Master's use.

Jesus is our great example. He sacrificed the glory of this world which He might have had, physical comforts that appeal to all who are in the flesh, personal ease, and finally His body and His physical life. And while He did not do these things for the sake of glory, yet there comes to Him, as the result of the great sacrifice He made, glory and honor forevermore. Finally, every knee shall bow, and every tongue shall confess "that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Read Philippians 2:10, 11.

The sacrifice that God has asked of us is not compulsory. We still have our agency after making covenant with God. It must always be a matter of choice and the exercise of our own free will. God never compels us against our wills. It is to "The willing and obedient" that the promises of good things are made. Effort on our part must

be made continually.

The gathering is a part of the great work of God in bringing fallen man back to the plane from which he, by transgression, fell. Wherever, and whenever, two or three are united in the one purpose of serving God and obtaining salvation, they are divinely drawn together. The keeping of the covenant made with God, on the part of His saints, will finally ultimate in the gathering together in one all His people of all ages, as declared by Paul: "That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth even in him" Eph. 1:10.

On the contrary, we may note, unfaithfulness to our covenant, and a failure to make the required sacrifice, will separate and scatter the people of God—just the opposite of the gathering together as God designed. In their scattered and disintegrated condition the people have not the strength and power they should have, and more readily fall a prey to evil influences.

Surely the words of our text, used by David, were given by inspiration from the Almighty. That men and women everywhere may be convinced of the necessity of covenanting with God by sacrifice, and maintaining that covenant by continued sacrifice, is my prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

# God is so Powerful and Mysterious





Ordination—standing: Apostle Michael McGhee, Elder Demetrio Indangano, Apostle Frank Fann. Seated: Camilo Devege Samson

### By Omega Mae Alameda

It's been 50 years since the last calling to the office of an evangelist. The work of the Church of Christ here in the Philippines is now only 9 years old, but last September 30, 2009, in one of the gatherings made by the ministers here in Panabo Local, one person was revealed by the Holy Spirit and was witnessed and declared that the calling was from God; it was His will that he was called to be an evangelist. This calling was in response to a lot of



Ordination of Camilo Devege Samson



Frank Fann and Demetrio Indangan preaching at Katipunan



Children at Kafipunan Mission (most parents are working rice fields)

prayers by the members of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), here in the Philippines, and I am sure throughout the world. This calling was considered at the April 2010 General Con-

ference in the United States of America by the assembled Apostles and Elders who determined the calling was of God and recommended Conference approval. Everybody might be thinking who that person is, and I, too, do not know him that well! This is just one way God tells us that no matter who you are, where you are from and what



Sunday School af Kafipunan Mission, Sisfers Leah Alameda, Remy Indangan feaching



Children of Kafipunan posing as we leave: "Look af me!"

you do, you are one of His children and He knows you.

The Brother's name is CAMILO DEREJE SAM-SON, a leader in Katipunan, Kapalong, Davao del Norte, one of the missions here in the Philippines. He was born August 9, 1946, and was married to Esther Samson, who already has passed away. He has five girls and eight boys, seven of them are already married. While being the leader of the church mission in Katipunan, he is also a barangay or town coordinator for the non-government organization called Moral Recovery Program in Kapalong barangay. Because of this, he is given the chance to preach the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and teach Christian ethics to police and community leaders who are members of this organization. His motto in life is, "I let God direct my life, commit everything to God and will serve Him for the rest of my life." He did not expect to be an ordained minister or an evangelist, but he is more than willing to receive it, for it is God's plan in his life.

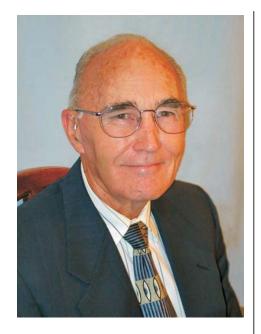
The ordination was witnessed by the members of the Panabo Local, together with the Elders and Ministers of the Church of Christ in the Philip-

pines. Apostle Frank Fann and Apostle Mike McGhee, as spokesperson, ordained His servant Evangelist Camilo Samson from the Philippines.

May this be a challenge to everyone. God is so powerful and mysterious that He has a lot of surprises for you and I. Maybe one of you will be called to serve Him as an ordained minister, and that might be you. When it would happen, will you be ready for it?

Omega Mae Alameda Reporting for the Panabo Local, Philippines

# ISAIAH ELEVEN: THE GATHERING



### By Apostle Don McIndoo

n our study we have learned that the Scriptures contain a definite timetable established by the Lord for the fulfillment of this prophecy concerning the second gathering of Israel. In the previous lesson we found that this great work shall be introduced by the restoration of the fullness of the Gospel and the establishment

### PART 3 The Conclusion

of the "restored" Church of Christ. We also discovered that the prelude to the gathering of Israel into the lands of their first inheritance will be their acceptance of Jesus Christ as their Lord and Messiah. According to the Prophet Zenos (see Jacob 3) this great latter-day work was to begin with the acceptance of the Gospel by the descendents of Lehi who had been led to this promised land. That took place in the year 1953 with the baptism of the first converts among the Mayan people. In the last decade the Lord has opened many new missions for us to carry the Gospel in Latin America, Africa and Asia. We are now ready to conclude this ancient prophecy of the Lord to the Prophet Isaiah with the study of verses 13 through 16.

(13)The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. (14) But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west: they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. (15) And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. (16) And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.

Verse 13. - "The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, ..."
The more numerous peoples of Ephraim (the ten northern tribes) had always been envious of Ju-

dah, beginning in the days of Joshua. As the ark and the tabernacle were among them they considered themselves to be the "head" of the nation. But when David was named King over all Israel their envy reached a zenith. After Solomon's reign they chose their own king and became a separate nation, often at war with their brethren of Judah and Benjamin.

"... And the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off:" Judah (and Ephraim as well) shall be safe when they come to the knowledge of their Messiah. The Prophet Jeremiah wrote of God's promise to them: "In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel, and they shall come together out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers."

"Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim." It might be well to remember that many well-known and respected commentators at this point equate Ephraim with the Gentiles. They believe this assembling of the outcasts of Israel and the dispersed of Judah refers to the peaceful melding of Jews and Gentiles as the Gospel of Christ went out to the Gentiles in the first century. And then the animosity of Judah and Jacob (supposedly the Gentile nations) would end in peace. Now it is quite likely that many of the northern tribes were dispersed among the Gentile peoples and have lost their identity, and this prophecy would, therefore, relate to them as they are gathered to Christ. But always keep in I present these thoughts to the purpose that we might consider these prophecies carefully, pray to the Lord for understanding, guidance, direction and help in preparing ourselves spiritually for the things the Lord would have us to be doing in this important time in which we live.

mind that the name, Ephraim, does refer to the ten lost tribes of Israel.

This prophecy was to be fulfilled in the "latter day" when the Gospel would be restored again within this gentile nation, that it might be carried to all the world. We are well aware of the beautiful prophecy of Revelation 14:6 concerning the restoration of the Gospel. And it would be well for us who live in this day to also remember the verse that follows: "...the hour of his judgment is come:" Verses six and seven in the fourteenth chapter of Revelation identify the day in which we live. So we need to be aware of some of the ancient prophecies that pertain to this day. I shall briefly identify a few of them:

Ezekiel 30:3 – "For the day is near, even the day of the Lord is near, a cloudy day; it shall be the time of the heathen."

Joel 3:14 – "Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision."

Zephaniah 3:8 – "Therefore wait ye upon me, saith the Lord,

until the day that I rise up to the prey: for my determination is to gather the nations, that I may assemble the kingdoms, to pour upon them mine indignation, even all my fierce anger: for all the earth shall be devoured with the fire of my jealousy."

Zechariah 12:2, 3 - "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about, when they shall be in the siege both against Judah and against Jerusalem. And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it."

<u>1 Nephi 3: 220, 221</u> - "And he said unto me, Behold, there are save two churches only:

The one is the church of the Lamb of God, and the other is the church of the devil; Wherefore, whoso belongeth not to the church of the Lamb of God belongeth to that great church, which is the mother of abominations:"

1 Nephi 3:229 - "And it came to pass that I beheld that the

great mother of abominations did gather together in multitudes upon the face of all the earth, among all the nations of the Gentiles, to fight against the Lamb of God."

1 Nephi 3:236, 237 – "And when the day cometh that the wrath of God is poured out upon the mother of harlots, which is the great and abominable church of all the earth, whose foundation is the devil, Then at that day, the work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants which he hath made to his people, who are of the house of Israel."

I mention these prophecies because these are all events associated with the time frame relating to Isaiah Eleven and for which we need to be prepared. That is not to say we should be preoccupied with them or anxious because of them, for we have received a marvelous promise from the Lord: "For the time speedily cometh, that the Lord God shall cause a great division among the people; and the wicked will he destroy; and he will spare his people, yea, even if it so be that he must destroy the wicked by fire." (2 Nephi 12:90) Let us now return to our study of Isaiah Eleven with Verse Fourteen.

Verse 14 – "But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west;" Let's relate this to our day. "fly"-to overshadow them quickly, like an eagle. "upon the shoulders" – The commentator, Barnes, writes, "Here it seems to

mean, not that the Jews would be borne 'upon' the shoulder of the Philistines, but that they would make a sudden and rapid descent 'upon their borders:' they would invade their territory, and carry their conquest toward the west." The capital of the Philistines was Gaza. It is still the safe harbor of the enemies of Israel. The Jews take this prophecy literally to indicate a conquest of their enemies. However. many commentators consider it to be symbolic, a symbol of a spiritual conquest of these ancient enemies of Christ once the tribes of Israel become converted and carry the message of Jesus Christ to them.

"...They shall spoil them of the east together:" In other words, they shall plunder and vanquish those to the east. "...They shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab;" This refers to the land of Jordon. "...And the children of Ammon shall obey them." This description takes us into Arabia. All these nations mentioned were, and still are, long-standing enemies of Israel and of Jesus Christ.

Although many commentators of the past two centuries were looking for a miraculous conversion to Jesus Christ by the Muslim peoples by a believing Israel, I am anticipating, rather, a day of judgment upon those perpetual enemies of Israel and upon the great and abominable church. As the Prophet Zechariah prophesied, "Behold, I will make Jerusalem a cup of trembling unto all the people round about,..." (Zechariah 12:2) That

seems exceedingly close to a description of conditions in the Middle East today.

With the attack upon New York City and Washington D. C. by al-Qaida in 2001, I believe the Lord made known to me that we now live in the era described by Jesus Christ in Revelation, Chapter Sixteen, beginning with Verse Twelve. As we read this prophecy we find the River Euphrates being dried up. The Euphrates was long considered the boundary between the nations of Islam and the Western World, and now "...the way of the kings of the east might be prepared." (Revelation 16:12) And in verse 13 John saw unclean spirits of deception coming from the mouths of the dragon, the beast and the false prophet. This deception was to gather the nations of the world "...to the battle of that great day of God Almighty." (Revelation 16:14)

"And he gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." (Revelation 16:16) I present these thoughts to the purpose that we might consider these prophecies carefully, pray to the Lord for understanding, guidance, direction and help in preparing ourselves spiritually for the things the Lord would have us to be doing in this important time in which we live.

Verse 15 - "And the Lord shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod." The

language of the prophet seems to be figurative, going back to the prime image of the Jewish people; namely, the deliverance of their fathers from the bondage of Egypt and their crossing of the Isaiah goes on to say, "... for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; ..."
Those carried away by Assyria were the ten northern branches of Israel.

I believe this to be the great challenge and calling of the Church of Christ today, to bring Jesus Christ to those scattered people of Israel wherever they might be found.

Red Sea to reach the promised land. Now they are to be gathered once again to their ancient promised land and this verse seems to indicate that every barrier will be removed. In this great migration they will be traveling from many places in the world, yet the Lord promises that all obstructions will be taken out of the way.

"And there Verse 16 shall be an highway..." In Isaiah 35:8 we read, "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called the way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it;..." A clearly defined way shall be opened up by the Lord for the recovery of His people, those who have taken His name upon them. There are so many preachers and commentators today who relate these prophecies only to the Jews that many are confused. Even worse, many preachers today teach that these promises relate only to the Christian church of our day. But

Jesus Christ made this clear when He spoke of this promise to the remnant of Israel that had been led here to America. He told them of the time these things would begin to happen; "... at that day even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people." (3 Nephi 10:4) That sets the stage. Now He stated, "Yea, the work shall commence among all the dispersed of my people, with the Father, to prepare the way whereby they may come unto me, that they may call on the Father in my name;" (10:6) I believe this to be the great challenge and calling of the Church of Christ today, to bring Jesus Christ to those scattered people of Israel wherever they might be found. "... like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt." Again, in 3 Nephi 10:8 Jesus states, "And they shall go out from all nations; and they shall not go out in haste, nor go by flight; for I will go before them, saith the Father, and I will be their rearward. And then shall that which is written come to pass." (10:8)

Brothers and Sisters, let us be actively engaged in this great work of the latter-day, the carrying of the banner of Jesus Christ to the nations of the world that the remnant of Israel might hear and believe. This beautiful prophecy of the Lord through His servant, Isaiah, does indeed personally relate to each one of us. It calls out for our prayers, our tithing, for a growing righteousness within the body of Christ and our earnest effort. May the Lord lead and bless us in this momentous day in world history.

# The History of the Church

The following is a reprint of an article published in *ZION'S ADVOCATE* Volume 3, Number 10, November, 1926, page 1.

fter the death of Joseph the Seer, among those who remained true to the gospel as established in 1830, was a little band of saints in Bloomington, Illinois, some of whom had united with the church in the year it was organized. They met together in prayer and fasting from time to time, and continued their local organization until they were directed in 1863 to come to the land of Zion. The following, a reprint from the Searchlight for March 2nd, 1896, will be appreciated by those who desire to know concerning the authority of the Church of Christ.

David Judy, joined the church in 1831; Jedidiah Owen, who joined about the same time. Owen and Judy having been elders in the church since about 1832, and were both among the Latter Day Saints driven from Missouri at the time of the expulsion; Zebulon Adams, who had been a high priest since about 1833; Dennis Burns, had been a member of the church for thirty years; John E. Page had been an active worker in the church for about twenty-five years; C. E. Reynolds had been in the church about three years, Jas. Bradley, J. W. Frazee, about four years; Wm. Eaton about twenty years, his wife about seven years; John Hedrick and wife had been in the church about eight years, Ann M. Hess had been in the church for over twenty years; Nancy Bradley had been a member for about twenty-seven years, and God had so blessed her that seven of her children were members of the kingdom at that time. There was one high priest and one of the quorum of the twelve and four elders that I can call to mind now. There were a great many more than those who held the priesthood, yes, there was Brother A. C. Haldeman, who was an elder also.

So you can see we trace our authority in a straight line back to 1830 platform through the hands of High Priests, and Elders, and did not form any new organization nor re-organization, but simply united the scattering members of the old Church into a working organization and pledged ourselves to continue to stand upon the platform of 1830, and we have endeavored not to waver from that position of the old original Church, clinging to the pure principles and discarding all ungodly impositions and doctrines that have been introduced among Latter Day Saints.

After the Church was got in running order the blessings of God were manifest among the Church in a marked degree.

Meetings were held and a paper was started in which to lay our claims before the world. Granville Hedrick was chosen to preside over the Church and God so blessed him that He on several occasions revealed His will unto him. In 1864, the Lord told the Church through Granville Hedrick that the way would be opened up whereby the Latter Day Saints might come back to Jackson County, and said that the year 1867 was the time to start.

At the time of the giving of this rev-

elation the civil war had not yet closed, and Jackson county was peopled by citizens who were rabidly antagonistic, not only to Mormons, but to Eastern people in general, and it seemed like courting certain death for a Mormon to dare to come back to their former possessions, but the little band of the Church was not to be daunted. They fully believed that the Lord could and would open up the way for their return, although at that time it seemed impossible.

And they remembered that God had said in former commandments that Zion should not be moved out of her place, tho' her children were scattered, and also that a Temple was to be reared "on a spot lying westward from the Court House."

Accordingly, when 1867 rolled around it found members of the Church on their way to the land of Missouri. Sure enough, the word of the Lord had been verified. The way was opened up, not only for the return of the scattered children of Zion! But happy thought! Not only might they dwell upon this land, but before long the Temple Lot had been redeemed from the hands of the world and was bought and paid for by our members and once more was in the hands of the Church. Thus were the first steps taken by any part of the Church for the redemption of Zion, according to the plan God provided in Sec. 98 i.e., BY PURCHASE.

### 2010 MISSOURI REUNION REPORT

### July 30-August 1

e entered into the House of the Lord at the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri, on Friday morning for the opening prayer service of the 2010 Church of Christ Missouri Reunion. Elders Leslie and Marvin Case were in charge. Br. Marvin read Alma 16:215-222. After a season of prayer in which many voices were lifted in prayer, many testimonies followed. Here are just a few:

- A brother testified that the church was brought forth by the Lord and He brought it here; there was no one's motive except for His. We are very unique; He is in control. We must resign ourselves to doing His will, and give all honor and glory to Him.
- Another brother told us a few years ago he was in great need, so he prayed mightily and the Lord helped him. Yet when things go well, he depends upon himself, and struggles with the little things of life until he becomes irritated and frustrated, and then he finally turns to the Lord. His desire is to turn to the Lord first, which will bring more peace. We need to turn everything over to Him and depend on Him. Let Him be in charge of our lives.
- Another brother told us he didn't have enough patience the other day. He was told, "It's not acceptable." We need to have more patience, more fruits of the spirit, so love, joy and peace come out of us. Anything less is unacceptable. The Lord is calling us to be the kind of people He wants us to be. All things common one day will be a great joy.
- Another brother testified of God's great goodness years ago; bringing him here in 1953, he felt such love. The Lord saved his life when he was shot, miraculously reattaching his femur artery, and is still blessing him. He stated, "This is indeed the Center place; the work goes out from here." He desires to serve many more years.

• Another brother told of being out looking at the sunset two days ago; God said, "I'm in control." He read a revelation given by Apostle James E. Yates, where God spoke of a people on the Temple Lot, a remnant, who were preserved by Him in the hollow of His hand...preserved for the carrying about of His word until its time of completeness.

The first sermon of the 2010 Missouri Reunion was by Elder Charles Brantner. Br. Charles greeted us and read from Hebrews 11. He told us people have changed much over the years, and our services can vary greatly from one location to another, but one thing that does not change is the love we have for one another. Most churches of the world are different; people don't get to know each other. They do not band together as the people in the early church did. Charles read Hebrews 10:23-26. We are to strengthen each other and ourselves, comfort, lift and admonish each other. If we are worshipping all alone we can't do that. He read 1 Peter 4:10 and 1 Kings 8:60. Br. Charles told us how Abraham was told, "Be thou perfect." This means to be good, upright, and sincere in heart. He read 1 Cor. 12:13-14, where we are told the body is many members, and many members make one body. Yes, it is the sifting time; God's purpose in testing His people under pressure is to increase their faith. He read Exodus 16:3;19:5-6; and 1 Cor. 3:11 where we learn our faith will be tried by fire. If we follow Him we will be abundantly blessed. He read from Matthew 5, where we are commanded to be the salt of the earth. We know salt without its savor has no use. Salt does have many uses, and is a valuable commodity. We have the full gospel, the full story. Our salt is like our testimony; we must state it in sincerity and in truth. Our daily lives bear the truth of our testimony. The second coming of Christ is close, as we know by the daily events. The Lord superintends all things, and all is for His purpose. Br. Charles read Ether 5:2-8, Alma 17:1-4, 23. We come here to be nourished and encouraged.

After lunch and a song service, our afternoon sermon was given by Elder Dennis Trudgen. Br. Dennis asked, "How can we prepare ourselves better for the work to go forth?" He reminded us there are some exceptional prophecies as to how the Lord sees our day, the first being 2 Tim. 3:1-5; 2 Nephi 12:5-8. Br. Dennis cited a 2009 Gallop Poll which showed 50% of the people had had a spiritual revelation. In 1962 it was only 25%. This shows the fulfillment of prophecy. Back in 1830 the Church of Christ was the only church that believed the USA would someday be a mighty nation; that Israel would be restored; a millennial reign; and gifts of the Spirit. Reading James 1:5-6, Br. Dennis declared there was one young boy who believed what he read and exercised his faith. Br. Dennis read Moroni 7:37-44. Miracles began again. If you don't believe-they aren't going to happen. He read Mormon 1:14-15 and Mormon 4:66-69, 79-84. If a church does not have His gifts it ceases to be His. We could have a greater portion of miracles with more belief. He read Alma 16:150-155 and 164-169. Do not resist the Spirit; our desire is most important to obtain more faith. The swelling in your heart is the good seed, which will increase your faith. Moroni 6:4-6 tells us to nourish your faith, with study and going to church oft, encourage and strengthen each other in our daily walk, strengthen the word within us and bring forth good fruit. Alma 16:170-171: With all diligence and patience ye shall pluck the fruit most precious. Br. Dennis read Alma 12:4-5. Then he referred to the brother of Jared, who moved a mountain because of his exceeding faith.

He read Jacob 3:125-126, where we are commanded to labor with our mights in the Lord's vineyard. We must be in tune with what the Lord wants. Br. Dennis also read verses 136-144 and Jacob 4:4. We must put the church first, exercise our faith and be diligent.

Following dinner and a song service, our evening sermon was given by Elder Darin Crull. Br. Darin welcomed us and said God has a message for us; this is evident when we hear themes being repeated. Br. Darin read 3 Nephi 8:49. Christ said He is the Light, He is our example just as we are to lead by example for others. Br. Darin read 2 Nephi 13:1-17, where we are told of the coming of Christ and His baptism, for an example for us. In doing so He fulfilled all righteousness, humbling himself unto the Father. Christ set the example for us, that we also must be willing to keep all of the commandments of the Father. Br. Darin read Jacob 2:40-47 and explained that a bad example is also set by those who don't follow God. Any sexual relationship outside of marriage is sin. He read 3 Nephi 5:61-63, to show us that people see the choices we make. We are an example of Christ. Reading Mormon 4:79-94, we were told that we see miracles when we believe in Christ. We dwindle in unbelief when we are not strong in His word. Then we cease to see miracles. All despisers of His word will perish. Be believing, work out your own salvation, serve the true and living God, and strip yourselves of pride. When we do our own will and not God's...that is pride. Using Matthew 4:1-11, Br Darin exhorted us to use prayer and fasting to withstand temptation. He advised us to use the word to explain to others what we believe. Br. Darin used 2 Nephi 14:1-6 to tell us we should feast upon the words of Christ daily, and understanding will come through the Holy Ghost, if we ask in humility. Br. Darin read Alma 16:152-157 to explain how the good seed which is planted will swell within us, and this will increase and strengthen our faith. He used James 1:1-6 to show us our faith will be tested and to allow that testing for it will teach us to rely on God. If you lack wisdom ask of God in faith, for faith is a gift of God, so ask Him for it! Using Ephesians 2:8-10, Br. Darin told us if we are obedient, have been baptized, trusted and endured, then His works will be made manifest in us and we will bear fruit. Br. Darin read a portion of our Church of Christ tract entitled "The Last Mayan King and the Liberation of Jerusalem," written by Apostle Don McIndoo, which tells the story of Apostle Clarence and Sr. Angela Wheaton and their travels to Yucatan looking for white Indians which fulfilled prophecy of the church being brought back to that land. The banner of Christ is now being carried all over the world, so let your light shine, be an example and live your life in belief of Christ.

he Saturday morning prayer service began with Elders Jim Case and Isaac "Bick" Brockman, Jr., in charge. Br. Bick read Psalm 33 and 100. After a season of prayer, many wonderful testimonies were heard of God's workings amongst His children; these are some of the highlights:

- A sister testified of God's blessings with her family no matter where they went in the world. She gave several examples of how God directed events, and protected them in all their situations.
- Another sister told of an experience she had years ago. She accidentally left her coin purse on a bench in a busy location. Throughout the day when it came to her mind, she would pray that God would protect it. In the evening when they returned, her coin purse was right where she had left it...untouched.
- A brother testified of his procrastination concerning repentance and baptism. Even as a very young man, he knew this church was the true church and none other. He recalled a passage from the testimony of Joseph Smith about being told to join none of them, for their creeds were an abomination before Him. He also read a portion of the Preface to the Book of

Commandments.

A sister told of a test of faith she had recently. In preparing for their reunion this year she felt herself procrastinating. They anticipated a goodly number to attend, but it didn't happen. She wondered what she would get out of it since so few were attending. She didn't consider what He would have for them. God showed them He was in charge; His spirit was abundant, and it was just what they needed.

After lunch and a song service, we were blessed with another sermon. Elder Don Case greeted us and said he felt the theme so far in our sermons is a warning; something is coming, we must take stock of where we are on our spiritual path; we can't just go blindly forward. Using Gen. 3, he explained that man sinned and then hid himself. God put distance between himself and man. In Acts 3:19, we learn God told man to repent, be converted to Christ so his sins could be blotted out and come back into the presence of Jesus Christ. As a child we played a game of "Peek-a-Boo." As a young believer in the gospel we ask, what's my purpose and where am I going...God gives us a trial of some sort and we begin to think about our lives. We look for God, but He is out of sight. We cry out, telling Him we will change our lives and ask for His blessings. Our faith increases, and this draws us closer to God. Br. Don used 2 Chronicles 7:14 to tell us of Solomon's vision. As adults we play a game of "Hide-n-Seek," which is like "Peek-a-Boo," except God refuses to be seen until we have adequately repented and humbled ourselves. Br. Don read Mosiah 7:34-37 and 2 Nephi 11:76-77. Where do we hide? Br. Don used 1 Samuel 10:20-22 to explain that Samuel hid amongst his stuff, just as we hide. Our "stuff" is where we are comfortable. Stuff is not evil, except for when it takes a priority over Christ, over the word of God, over God, over helping others—that's when it becomes sin. Stuff can be our work, it can be civil organizations, it can be recreation, it can be entertainment, it can be communications.

What does God want from us? Br. Don read Matthew 13:22 and Matthew 5:13 to show us we must proclaim Christ, unashamed. We must be salt. We need to be bold, be a good example, let our light shine, reflecting the light of Christ so others can see that we have something desirable; something that bonds us to God that answers those big questions, a foundation that will stand through trials, tribulation and troubles. When they see our joy and our peace we are a witness. Using Luke 9:23, we were told we must stand in the will of the Father or be cast away. That is our calling. Pray that God will lead each of us as to how to reach out to someone else. Pray and then step out in faith. Whatever door God opens for you, go through it—whatever door God closes for you, don't knock again. Visit with family and friends who do not attend church. Tell them of your relationship with God. Show your light, and help someone in need. Br. Don read James 1:27, where we are told to visit the fatherless and the widows, people that are hurting. They are hungry for hope. Share your source of hope, Jesus Christ and the plan of salvation, with them. It's free. We are called to take the gospel to the world. Don't be afraid to do what God asks you to do. Don't live in fear, for fear is not of God. Unashamedly proclaim Jesus Christ. Shine that light, that love that we are so blessed with. Br. Don read 1 Corinthians 13:11. Put away your toys—get out of your stuff—be in His will and proclaim Jesus Christ.

Following dinner and another song service we gathered back in for the evening sermon. Elder Dan Lawrence explained that he had just returned from the young people's camp in Yucatan. The camp theme this year was, "I walk with Jesus," with the verse Alma 17:69. He gave us a description of his travels, his experiences and the activities held there. Br. Dan admonished us all that we must have Godly and righteous thoughts, and in all we do we must do to honor God, glorifying His name. We are ambassadors of Christ, His representatives, His body on earth. At camp they learned about the various spiritual gifts we are all given; when these gifts are all put together we have a functional church. We must develop, use, and nourish our gifts like a well-oiled machine, ready to go out. Therefore, what manner of men shall we be? "Even as I am," Christ explained. They developed a list at camp which asked questions of the campers to get them thinking...they were asked: Are all your actions unto the Lord? Are you walking with Jesus? Do vou let vour light shine? Are your actions virtuous? Are they responsible? Are they generous? Are your actions showing obedience to God's will? Are they respectful? Chaste? Loving? Wherever you go can you take Jesus with you? (If not, you shouldn't be doing it). Are your words respectful, truthful, and honest? Or do you use street language? Are they foul, ugly words or put downs? Or is your language loving, truthful and encouraging to those around you? This is how we can let our light shine. Our appearance and what comes out of the mouth are the two things people notice immediately. They need to be shining the light of Christ. "Every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof...in the Day of Judgment." The things we think become the things we do. The things we think become the things we say. Sin starts between the ears. "A good tree brings forth good fruit, a corrupt tree brings forth evil fruit...." This speaks of baptism, and Br. Dan was blessed to be able to perform his first two baptisms while in Yucatan. It was a humbling experience, yet joyous. His heart was filled. "Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden." Problems, sadness, worries, confusions; He is waiting to take these things from you..."Come and I will give you rest." This is a rest unlike any other we can have. "Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me...for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." When we are bound with Christ it's an easy thing; it's not a burden, it's a joy. Walking with Jesus, my yoke is easy and my burden is light. We meet together to learn more about walking in that path. It all comes from the love of Jesus Christ, understanding His love and sharing His love. That's the beauty of being the body of Christ...sharing our joys, sorrows and encouraging each other...being the true Church of Christ is walking with Jesus.

he Sunday morning sacrament service began with Apostles Michael McGhee and Roland Sarratt in charge. Br. Mike welcomed us and used Ether 1:69-85 in telling us the story of the Brother of Jared and his great pure faith. In Ether 3 the story continues through a great trial where the people leaned upon God. After the blessing and serving of the emblems we were led into a season of prayer by Br. Roland, followed with many voices in thanksgiving and lifting concerns unto God. There were many administrations that took place, and then the service was opened to us for the leading of the Spirit; in song, prayers or testimonies of God's blessings. These are just a few:

- A brother confessed that he, too, is a procrastinator. He bore witness that God's last minute will be the last minute...there'll be no more. When time is gone, it's gone. He read Alma 16:219-222, where we are instructed to cry out over our fields, crops...and admonished us to pray. Pray every day, this is the last minute.
- Another brother spoke of a thought he had as he entered into the sanctuary this morning...the parable of the ten virgins came to his mind and that this is the last minute. He read the parable to us.
- Another brother testified of God's goodness to him and his family during his recent surgery and recovery. He asked, "How can we express our gratitude to God? We live for Him." Given a dim outlook by one doctor after surgery, he told the doctor that God and his spiritual family could turn things around. He is getting much better now. He feels this world is a pressure cooker and the heat is being

turned up, and admonished us to serve God

- Another brother bore testimony that when we read the word and find the truth, we exercise our faith. He also told us if the preacher doesn't step on our toes, then he isn't doing his job. Truth, when applied, is no longer sharp, but beautiful to embrace and to hold, and then it penetrates one's heart. Truth is like a beautiful flower; when held out like an open hand it can bring people into it. Seek to help one another and give of your best to the Master.
- A sister told of wonderful memories she has of knowing years ago that a loved one was praying for her and many others every morning. She desires to follow that example. She made a vow to pray each morning for her girls that were in her cabin at camp. She chooses to love enough to pray for them every day.
- A brother read from Psalm 37 and explained that God led him to a different job...one he'd never thought of having. He knows God puts us where He wants us.
- A sister declared that she feels our theme today is prayer. She remembers loved ones gone before her were people of prayer. Youth camp in Yucatan was about prayer and self examination. In preparing for Youth camp she asked herself, "What does God want us to work on?" She was given 1 Tim. 1. She wants to be that person.
- Another sister gave a testimony of her mother's. She was always constant in prayer. Her mother had a dream years ago where she saw herself above the clouds. There above the clouds were strands of lights. She was given to know that they were the prayers going up to God. The small strands were the individual prayers, and the larger strands were the groups of prayers. She knew without a doubt that God hears and answers our prayers.

After lunch we entered in for a special music service and the last sermon of the 2010 Missouri Reunion. Apostle Frank Fann told us he's enjoyed the three days of reunion so much. He told us, like the title of his sermon, it's a commandment to meet together oft.

He had noticed that each sermon before his had touched on this topic...it's very important that we meet together oft. In our first sermon we heard that some say we can worship alone just as well as we can here. This is true, but there are many reasons why it's important that meet together...our salvation is at stake. We pray for each other's salvation. First we must become part of His Kingdom on earth, His church here on earth-WE ARE His church on earth. Br. Frank told us many stories about his experiences in the Philippines. On the first trip, in 2001, they saw that God had prepared the people for the gospel to come to them. God had already convinced them this was the true church. God took the lead. Without that we would fail. It's the power of God. They meet together oft in the Philippines...every chance they get. They are not late, they are all early for services...ready and singing in anticipation, welcoming the ministry when they arrive. Meet together oft...it's a commandment. He read Hebrews 5:8-9: We must learn obedience. Do we have to learn through our suffering? We should desire to obey because of our love of God, and our wanting to be His. Romans 6:16 says, if we are servants, to whom do we obey? We are obeying the call of the world when we don't go to services. Satan wants to lead us away. We should desire fellowship with one another. We desire to support each other. He had personal experience in 2007 when he was ill, that the saints coming to meet in his home strengthened and lifted him. Br. Frank read 1 John 5:1-3, from Psalms 119, and Romans 10:13. He then told us that in the Philippines before baptisms they have a list of questions they ask the candidates: Do you believe in God; do you believe in Christ His Son; do you believe in the Holy Ghost; do you believe in the Bible; do you believe in the Book of Mormon; do you believe that Christ established His Church and that the Church of Christ is it; do you have a personal witness or testimony that Christ wants you to enter into His Church? If they

can't answer "yes" to each of these questions, they'd best wait. How shall they believe if they've not heard? 1 Corinthians 1:21 tells us that it pleases God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. This tells us that we get better by meeting together oft to learn about the gospel of Jesus Christ. His words into our life give us light and understanding. He read Hebrews 10:22-25 as an example of exhorting, encouraging and so much more, to come closer to Jesus and assure ourselves a place in Heaven. The next reason Br. Frank gave is to help us obtain salvation and eternal life. The full meaning of our lives here on earth is to give us time to prepare ourselves, to be ready to meet Him. It strengthens us to do it together. He read Psalms 119:28 and John 7:17, and declared if we are truly the church of Christ we will have a desire for each other to have eternal life...do we care enough about each other to tell someone when they are separating themselves from the body of Christ? How do we know who needs comforting if we aren't together to learn? Br. Frank read Mosiah 2:48-49, where we are told that the number of ways we can sin can't be counted, so watch yourselves and keep the commandments of God. Sin comes into our lives so quickly. We are the early warning signs for each other. We are our brothers' keepers. Save each other from eternal damnation.

Thus, the 2010 Missouri Reunion came to a close. The Lord did have a message for us...and we are very grateful for His Spirit which was present. We give our thanks and praise to our Heavenly Father for a wonderful reunion.

May God bless you and yours, In Love & Gospel Bonds, Sr. Deb Haines **NEWS** 

### **GRAND JUNCTION, COLORADO LOCAL**

n behalf of the Grand Junction, Colorado, local I would like to greet each of you. It is with great pleasure that I give you an update from this area. This truly is a beautiful area of God's creation and a lovely setting to worship God. With views of mountains all around us, a surrounding of peach orchards, grape vineyards, and sweet smelling hay fields, one cannot help but be amazed by God's incredible creation.

Although the surroundings are beautiful, it is nothing compared to the love and the fellowship with our Brothers and Sisters in Christ. It is with great wisdom that God requires us to meet together oft, to share testimonies, to praise God and glorify His name.

This past year has been one of change for the local. As with many places in the nation, our area has seen many weather records, including: snowfall, record low temperatures, late frost, and early high temperatures. These things are a continual reminder that God is in control of the weather, our lives, and His purposes.

Our Pastor David Larsen continues to "labor with his might" for the local. He has gone through many physical trials, yet he continues to glorify God for his physical and spiritual blessings through it all.

Our family moved here in July of

2009: you will have to check with some of the other church members to determine whether that has been a blessing or a hardship. It has been quite a change in temperatures, but an enjoyable one. After being directed by God to move here, we know that this is where we should be.

The local was blessed to have another Colorado Reunion. We enjoyed visitors from many parts of the nation. The young people gathered together to have a campfire and a few words from our Brother Joel Yates, reminding us that you are never too young for God to speak to you. Our services were filled with His Spirit, and reminded us of the times we live in. Some of the statements that stood out in my mind: We are God's children, we need to come out of the world and avoid its distractions, our testimony and smile testifies of the goodness of God, God has a feast for us every time we meet together if we come willing to partake, we need to make sure others can see the joy and peace that comes from serving the Lord, and finally, those that wait on the Lord shall renew their strength. We truly did partake of God's sweet spirit that weekend.

Our Sister Enid Bell had knee surgery in June. She continues to heal and strengthen each day. She feels like she has received a great blessing.

Our Sister Viva Shaw has faced a



difficult bout with a Staph. infection; it has been quite a trial that has zapped her strength, but she slowly seems to be regaining her energy.

Our local has been blessed by the addition of a new member. Debbie Shaw was baptized on August 8th, 2009. Randy and Debbie have been in regular attendance and have blessed our local with their presence, their joy and ready smiles.

Our local has enjoyed the many visitors throughout the year, and welcomes the opportunity to see and meet with more throughout the year.

Love in Christ, Liza Hedrick

### **NOTICES**

### 2010 CAMPS & REUNIONS

• Arizona Reunion: November 26-28, at the Phoenix Local. Contact:

Elder Gordon McCann 602-569-2341 or gpjmccann@cox.net,

Elder Jim Yates, Jr. 602-692-4205 or jimyatesjr@yahoo.com,

Priest Glenn Orsted 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*, search-

able 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 <a href="https://www.cocsermons.net">www.cocsermons.net</a>.

### 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 <a href="mailto:rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net">rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net</a>, 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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To insure your membership records remain as current as possible when moving or relocating, fill out this form and return it to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Attn: General Church Recorder, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64050-0472, or e-mail the information to cofcrecorder@sbcglobal.net. One form per family, please.

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

### **CHANGING** YOUR **ADDRESS?**

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

**VISIT US AT:** churchofchrist-tl.org