

# 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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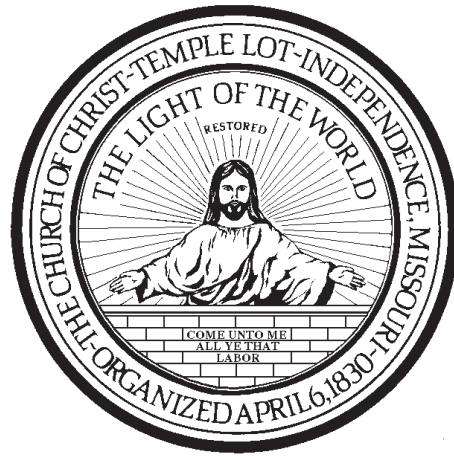


*"I seek not for honor of the  
world, but for the glory  
of my God, and the  
freedom and welfare  
of my country."  
—Alma 27:59—*

Photos courtesy of Gordon McCann

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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.

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## ARTICLE

# WHAT IS GOD'S PLAN FOR AMERICA?



By Elder Gordon McCann

To answer this question I want to first start at the very beginning when God brought forth this land we know as America today. The first scripture I want to use can be found in the Book of Mormon from the book of Ether. The book of Ether is an abridgement that came from 24 gold plates found by the people of Limhi who came out of the land of Zarahemla (Mosiah 5:2, 64). The ancient writings upon

“Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written” (Ether 1:35)

these plates of gold were translated by King Mosiah by the use of “interpreters” given to him by God (Mosiah 5:72-74; 12:14-26). The book of Ether is a record written by a people who were preserved by the hand of God during the day of the “*great tower*” where the “*Lord confounded the language of the people*” (Ether 1:7; Genesis 11:7). A spiritual leader who we know only as the “*Brother of Jared,*” a man “*highly favored of the Lord*” (Ether 1:8-36), was asked by his brother to pray to God that their family and friends’ language would not be confounded. The Lord had compas-

sion and granted the request made by the Brother of Jared. Another request was made by the Brother of Jared, if they were to be driven out of the land, that they might be driven to a choice land for their inheritance, since the Lord had said in His wrath, “*they should be scattered upon all the face of the earth*” (Ether 1:7; Genesis 11:8). The Lord granted the Brother of Jared’s request and led the people out of the land across the wilderness to a great sea. There they built barges as the Lord had directed them and sailed across the great sea to a choice land for their inheri-

tance and became a mighty nation of people. The land that they inherited is described in the following scripture verse:

*"...After the waters had receded from off the face of this land, it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord:..."*  
Ether 6:2.

According to the record contained on those 24 gold plates the Lord had reserved this land from the beginning of its existence to be a "...**choice** land above all other lands,...."

The word "choice" as defined can be used as a noun as in *selection, distinct, or set apart*. In this case God had made it known to the ancient inhabitants of the land and then to the world, when this record came forth in the Book of Mormon, that America was a land specifically chosen of God "above all other lands." Thus this land of America would be known to the world as the "choice" or "promised" land set apart with a specific identity above all other lands. I believe the following scripture clearly fits the definition of the word "choice" as a noun:

*"Wherefore the Lord would have that all men should serve him, who dwell upon the face thereof; and that it was the place of the New Jerusalem, which should come down out of heaven, and the holy sanctuary of the Lord"* Ether 6:3.

The quoted scripture speaks of "the New Jerusalem" and "the holy sanctuary of the Lord" being associated with

this land known to the world as America. The significance and importance of this understanding demands the proper acknowledgment and respect by those who occupy this hallowed land named by God as the "promised land" (Ether 3:14). It demands their reverence and obedience to the commandments of that God Who created them and the land they live upon, and who are the recipients of those blessings pronounced upon the land.

Now let us return to the definition of the word "choice." Choice can also be used as an adjective, as of *superior quality; excellent, or carefully chosen*. Again, as in this case, God used this word to describe the qualities that would be associated with this land that He chose for His purposes. Again, I believe the following scripture clearly fits the definition of the word "choice" as an adjective:

*"Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written"* (Ether 1:35).

I will let the ancient inhabitants describe to you what the word "choice" meant to them as God blessed them upon this land of their inheritance:

*"And they built a great city by the narrow neck of land, by the place where the sea divides the land. And they did preserve the land southward*

*for a wilderness, to get game. And the whole face of the land northward was covered with inhabitants; and they were exceeding industrious, and they did buy and sell, and traffic one with another; that they might get gain. And they did work in all manner of ore, and they did make gold, and silver, and iron, and brass, and all manner of metals; and they did dig it out of the earth; wherefore they did cast up mighty heaps of earth to get ore, of gold, and of silver, and of iron, and of copper. And they did work all manner of fine work. And they did have silks, and fine twined linen; and they did work all manner of cloth, that they might clothe themselves from their nakedness. And they did make all manner of tools to till the earth, both to plow and to sow, to reap and to hoe, and also to thrash. And they did make all manner of tools with which they did work their beasts. And they did make all manner of weapons of war. And they did work all manner of work of exceeding curious workmanship"* (Ether 4:68-77).

What about those ancient ones (the Brother of Jared, his family, and their friends) that were led to this land for an inheritance and who were they? We believe that those ancient ones were the Olmec people who are known as the "mother culture of all Mesoamerica" (ref. *A Book of Mormon Companion, Witnesses to its Validity*, by Apostle Donald McIndoo, pages 173-189). According to the account recorded by Ether they became a very prosperous people and they were mightily blessed of God.

*"And never could be a people more*

*blessed than were they, and more prospered by the hand of the Lord. And they were in a land that was choice above all lands, for the Lord had spoken it” (Ether 4:78-79).*

Later the account turns to a darker period of time where the people of the land allowed sin and corruption to enter into their society. There were those who set about to overthrow the freedoms of the people to get gain and power. Over time they had cast aside their beliefs and the commandments of God. They had also cast off the prophets sent of God to call the people to repentance; therefore, God gave them up to their own devices and they were destroyed.

*“And he had sworn in his wrath unto the Brother of Jared, that whoso should possess this land of promise, from that time henceforth and forever, should serve him, the true and only God, or they should be swept off when the fullness of his wrath should come upon them” (Ether 1:30).*

Besides those who came after the great tower of Babel, who else was led to this choice land of America? The Book of Mormon tells of several other migrations that have taken place where God led others out of their homelands and brought them to this land of promise, America.

The descendants of Joseph:

### GENEALOGY

*“And it came to pass that my father Lehi also found upon the plates of brass a genealogy of his fathers; Wherefore he knew that he was a de-*

*scendant of Joseph; yea, even that Joseph who was the son of Jacob, who was sold into Egypt, and who was preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he might preserve his father Jacob and all his household from perishing with famine” (1 Nephi 1:164-165).*

### THE BLESSING FROM GOD

*“But, said he, notwithstanding our afflictions, we have obtained a land of promise, a land which is choice above all other lands; A land which the Lord God hath covenanted with me should be a land for the inheritance of my seed. Yea, the Lord hath covenanted this land unto me, and to my children for ever; And also all those who should be led out of other countries, by the hand of the Lord. Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall none come into this land, save they shall be brought by the hand of the Lord” (2 Nephi 1:6-10).*

### THE LAND OF PROMISE

*“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, did guide the ship, that we sailed again towards the promised land. And it came to pass that after we had sailed for the space of many days, we did arrive to the promised land; And we went forth upon the land, and did pitch our tents; and we did call it the promised land. And it came to pass that we did begin to till the earth, and we began to plant seeds, yea, we did put all our seeds into the earth, which we had brought from the land of Jerusalem. And it came to pass that they did grow exceedingly; wherefore, we were blessed in abundance. And it came to pass that we did find upon the land of promise, as we journeyed in the wilderness, that there were beasts in the forests of every kind, both the*

*cow, and the ox, and the ass, and the horse, and the goat, and the wild goat, and all manner of wild animals, which were for the use of men. And we did find all manner of ore, both of gold, and of silver, and of copper” (1 Ne 5:211-217).*

The descendants of Judah:

### GENEALOGY

*“Behold, it came to pass that Mosiah discovered that the people of Zarabemla, came out from Jerusalem, at the time that Zedekiah, king of Judah, was carried away captive into Babylon” (Omni 1:26).*

### THE BLESSING FROM GOD

*“And they journeyed in the wilderness, and were brought by the hand of the Lord, across the great waters, into the land where Mosiah discovered them; and they had dwelt there from that time forth” (Omni 1:27).*

### THE LAND OF PROMISE

*“And they would no longer be called by the names of their fathers, therefore they took upon themselves the name of Nephi, that they might be called the children of Nephi, and be numbered among those who were called Nephites. And now all the people of Zarabemla were numbered with the Nephites, and this because the kingdom had been conferred upon none but those who were descendants of Nephi” (Mosiah 11:89-90).*

Our forefathers:

### GENEALOGY

*“And it came to pass that I looked and beheld many waters; and they divided the Gentiles from the seed of my brethren. And it came to pass that the angel said unto me, Behold the wrath*



*of God is upon the seed of thy brethren! And I looked and beheld a man among the Gentiles, who was separated from the seed of my brethren by the many waters; and I beheld the Spirit of God, that it came down and wrought upon the man; and he went forth upon the many waters, even unto the seed of my brethren, who were in the promised land” (1 Nephi 3:145-147).*

We believe that this scripture is a prophetic reference to Christopher Columbus and his eventual voyage and discovery of America. Columbus had been inspired by the prophecies of Isaiah found in the Bible concerning the “*isles of the sea.*”

The original journal of Christopher Columbus has been lost, but much of it was retold by Bishop Bartolome de Las Casas, a sixteenth-century historian who was with Columbus in Espanola on his third voyage (ref. see also *Christopher Columbus’s Book of Prophecies*, translated by Kay Brigham, Barcelona: Libros CLIE, 1991; and Delno C. West & August Kling (Translation & commentary 1991; *The “Libro de las Profecias” of Christopher Columbus*). The following excerpt is a translation by Cecil Jane, *The Voyages of Christopher Columbus*, pages 146, 147, as found in Peter Marshall and David Manuel’s published book, *The Light and the Glory* (1977, page 17):

“It was the Lord who put into my mind (I could feel his hand upon me) the fact that it would be possible to sail from here to the Indies. All who heard of my project rejected it with laughter,

ridiculing me. There is no question that the inspiration was from the Holy Spirit, because He comforted me with rays of marvelous inspiration from the Holy Scriptures...

“I am a most unworthy sinner, but I have cried out to the Lord for grace and mercy, and they have covered me completely. I have found the sweetest consolation since I made it my whole purpose to enjoy His marvelous presence. For the execution of the journey to the Indies, I did not make use of intelligence, mathematics or maps. It is simply the fulfillment of what Isaiah had prophesied....”

Columbus’s voyages opened the door for Spain to come to the promised land, which before times was isolated by God to protect the current inhabitants from the world.

*“And behold, it is wisdom that this land should be kept as yet from the knowledge of other nations; For, behold, many nations would overrun the land, that there would be no place for an inheritance” (2 Nephi 1:16-17).*

There were other nations of people who left their nativity, following Spain’s lead, that were brought by the hand of God to this promised land, America.

*“And it came to pass that I beheld the Spirit of God, that it wrought upon other Gentiles; and they went forth out of captivity, upon the many waters. And it came to pass that I beheld many multitudes of the Gentiles upon the land of promise; And I beheld the wrath of God that it was upon the seed of my brethren; and they were scattered before the Gentiles, and were smitten. And I beheld the Spirit of the*

*Lord, that it was upon the Gentiles; that they did prosper, and obtain the land for their inheritance;...” (1 Nephi 3:148-151).*

## THE CURSE FROM GOD

The full impact of God’s promise and curse associated with this choice land was to be realized upon the inhabitants of the land discovered by Columbus. You can read the firsthand account by Bernal Diaz del Castillo, Conquistador, memoir, *The Discovery and Conquest of Mexico*, who came after Columbus, conquered and brought under subjection those that they found upon the land. This was the beginning of “Wo” from God as promised to Lehi in the following:

*“Behold, I say, If the day shall come that they will reject the Holy One of Israel, the true Messiah, their Redeemer and their God, behold, the judgments of him that is just, shall rest upon them; Yea, he will bring other nations unto them, and he will give unto them power, and he will take away from them the lands of their possessions, and he will cause them to be scattered and smitten” (2 Nephi 1:23-24).*

## THE BLESSING FROM GOD

*“Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; Wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity: if so, it shall be because of iniquity: For if iniquity shall abound, cursed shall be the land for their sakes; But unto the righteous, it shall be blessed for ever” (2 Nephi 1:11-15).*

## **THE LAND OF PROMISE**

*“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles who had gone forth out of captivity did humble themselves before the Lord, and the power of the Lord was with them; And I beheld that their mother Gentiles were gathered together upon the waters, and upon the land also, to battle against them; And I beheld that the power of God was with them; and also that the wrath of God was upon all those that were gathered together against them to battle. And I, Nephi, beheld that the Gentiles that had gone out of captivity were delivered by the power of God out of the hands of all other nations. And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld that they did prosper in the land;...” (1 Nephi 3:152-156).*

What was God’s design in bringing about this last migration of people known as the Gentiles to this land of promise? The answer to this question can be found in the following scriptures which are contained in the Book of Mormon:

### **GENTILES WILL HAVE THE RECORD OF THE JEWS (THE BIBLE)**

*“And I beheld a book, and it was carried forth among them. And the angel said unto me, Knowest thou the meaning of the book? And I said unto him, I know not. And he said, Behold, it proceedeth out of the mouth of a Jew; and I, Nephi, beheld it; And he said unto me, The book that thou beholdest is a record of the Jews, which contains the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel; And it also containeth many of the prophecies of the holy prophets; And it*

*is a record like unto the engravings which are upon the plates of brass, save there are not so many; nevertheless, they contain the covenants of the Lord which he hath made unto the house of Israel; Wherefore, they are of great worth unto the Gentiles” (1 Nephi 3:157-164).*

### **GENTILES WILL HAVE THE RECORD OF THE SEED OF JOSEPH (THE BOOK OF MORMON)**

*“Wherefore, after I have visited them in judgment, and smitten them by the hand of the Gentiles; And after the Gentiles do stumble exceedingly because of the most plain and precious parts of the gospel of the Lamb which has been kept back, by that abominable church, which is the mother of harlots, saith the Lamb, I will be merciful unto the Gentiles in that day, insomuch that I will bring forth unto them in mine own power, much of my gospel, which shall be plain and precious, saith the Lamb; For behold, saith the Lamb, I will manifest myself unto thy seed, that they shall write many things which I shall minister unto them, which shall be plain and precious; And after thy seed shall be destroyed and dwindle in unbelief, and also the seed of thy brethren; behold, these things shall be hid up, to come forth unto the Gentiles by the gift and power of the Lamb; And in them shall be written my gospel, saith the Lamb, and my rock and my salvation;” (1 Nephi 3:182-186).*

### **GOD WILL SET UP A GENTILE NATION OF FREE PEOPLE ON THIS LAND, AMERICA**

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, When these things shall be made known unto them of the Father, and shall*

*come forth of the Father, from them unto you, for it is wisdom in the Father that they should be established in this land, And be set up as a free people by the power of the Father, that these things might come forth from them unto a remnant of your seed, that the covenant of the Father may be fulfilled which he hath covenanted with his people, O house of Israel” (3 Nephi 9:89-90).*

The United States was the first nation in history, after a revolutionary war, where a free and independent people formed a nation that would elect their representatives instead of having a King or a Dictator by force rule over them.

### **THE BOOK OF MORMON COMING FROM THE GENTILES TO THE REMNANT OF JACOB IS A SIGN FROM GOD**

*“And behold, this is the thing which I will give unto you for a sign, for verily I say unto you, that when these things which I declare unto you, and which I shall declare unto you hereafter of myself, and by the power of the Holy Ghost, which shall be given unto you of the Father, shall be made known unto the Gentiles, That they may know concerning this people who are a remnant of the house of Jacob, and concerning this my people who shall be scattered by them;” (3 Nephi 9:87-88).*

*“And when these things come to pass, that thy seed shall begin to know these things, it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenant which he hath made unto the people who are of the house of Israel” (3 Nephi 9:93).*



## **GOD WILL ESTABLISH HIS CHURCH AND WILL MAKE A COVENANT WITH THE GENTILES**

*"For thus it behooveth the Father that it should come forth from the Gentiles, that he may shew forth his power unto the Gentiles, for this cause, that the Gentiles, if they will not harden their hearts, that they may repent and come unto me, and be baptized in my name, and know of the true points of my doctrine, that they may be numbered among my people, O house of Israel." (3 Nephi 9:92).*

*"But if they will repent, and hearken unto my words, and harden not their hearts, I will establish my church among them, and they shall come in unto the covenant, and be numbered among this the remnant of Jacob, unto whom I have given this land for their inheritance..." (3 Nephi 10:1).*

## **GOD WILL HAVE THE CITY NEW JERUSALEM BUILT UPON THIS CHOICE LAND, AMERICA**

*"...And they shall assist my people, the remnant of Jacob; And also, as many of the house of Israel as shall come, that they may build a city, which shall be called the New Jerusalem; And then shall they assist my people that they may be gathered in, who are scattered upon all the face of the land, in unto the New Jerusalem" (3 Nephi 10:1-3).*

The coming forth of the Book of Mormon and the establishment of the Church of Christ by the authority given them of Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Ghost in 1830 was the fulfillment of the words of Christ and prophecies as contained in the preceding

scripture verses. It must be noted that it was also the fulfillment of prophecy that is found in the Bible (Isaiah 29:9-24; Daniel 2:44-45; Revelation 14:6-7). There was no other nation that would have allowed a religious record as the Book of Mormon and the establishment of a church, the Church of Christ, based on the teachings of both the Bible and Book of Mormon, besides the United States. The other existing nations in 1830 were either under some other religious control and scrutiny, or dictatorship type of rule which would not have allowed those two things to come to light.

What do the Gentiles have to fear since God has set them up as a free nation above all other nations?

## **THE CURSE**

*"And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done. Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written" (Ether 1:34-35).*

*"And my people who are a remnant of Jacob, shall be among the Gentiles, yea, in the midst of them, as a lion among the beasts of the forest, as a young lion among the flocks of sheep,*

*who, if he go through both treadeth down and teareth in pieces, and none can deliver. Their hand shall be lifted up upon their adversaries, and all their enemies shall be cut off. Yea, wo be unto the Gentiles, except they repent, for it shall come to pass in that day, saith the Father, that I will cut off thy horses out of the midst of thee, and I will destroy thy chariots, and I will cut off the cities of thy land, and throw down all thy strongholds;..." (3 Nephi 9:99-101).*

From the beginning God's plan has been that a city called the New Jerusalem would be built upon this choice land of America. The New Jerusalem is to be built by the remnant of the seed of Joseph and by the chosen people of God who have a desire to keep His commandments, and who have made a covenant with Him to be His people. This land and the city New Jerusalem was a covenant that God made to Joseph of old (2 Nephi 2:5-6) who was sold into slavery by his brothers and who received the inheritance of the "first born" (1 Chronicles 5:1-2) of the house of Israel because of his faithfulness to God. Joseph's inheritance was a covenant from God where He would "...raise up a righteous branch unto the house of Israel;" (2 Nephi 2:7) and that "...righteous branch..." would occupy this land of promise given them of God (Jacob 2:34-35; 3 Nephi 7:13-14). Joseph was used by God to preserve the house of Israel during his days in Egypt, and God intends on using a remnant of the seed of Joseph to fulfill His purposes in preserving



the house of Israel in these Last Days.

By setting up the Gentiles upon this land as a free nation, God had fulfilled a prophecy that had been given to a descendant of Joseph whose name was Lehi (2 Nephi 1:8-10). God confirmed His covenant with Joseph (the son of Jacob) to Lehi where He would preserve this land for a remnant of the seed of Joseph "...for ever; ..." (2 Nephi 1:15), and would bring others to this land for His Divine purposes. I would submit to you that those "*who should be led out of other countries, by the hand of the Lord*" (2 Nephi 1:9) were our forefathers who were led and directed by God (confirmed by their own testimonies) to come to this land because they had a desire to be free to worship their God and to have the freedom of self government under God.

It has been 235 years since our founding fathers were joined together in congress, putting their signature to a document which declared their independence from Great Britain. The 56 men who signed their names to this declaration knew that this act was a critical first step of becoming a new nation. They had felt freedom's call to be a self-governed people where they would one day be a nation not under servitude to a self-proclaimed ruler or king, but a nation ruled by common consent of a free people. With their signatures affixed, declaring their independence, they reaffirmed their decision to each other and to the people that

they represented to be free under "*...the protection of divine Providence....*" They willingly offered their "*...Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor...*" to the cause outlined in "*The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America*" to be free, independent states, separated from all outside influences and rule of law. Those men fully understood the implications by choosing freedom, being subjects under the British rule of law, they would be accused of heresy and sedition that carried the death penalty by the ruling monarchy of Great Britain.

How did a small, insignificant group of people stand against one of the most powerful nations of the time and ultimately succeed in becoming an independent nation? There have been many historians who have asked this question, but few have been able to accept the facts which point directly to Divine intervention. Those who gave their lives, fortunes, and their all with gratitude, acknowledged the intervention of something greater than themselves that had preserved them through their great struggle to become a free people. We now have a nation that has turned its back on the heritage given it with the passing of time; succeeding generations have failed to teach and impress upon their children the sacredness of the gift of freedom given them and from where that gift originates, even the God of this land, Jesus Christ. As a nation, we have allowed our children to be taught

by historical revisionists who deny the existence of God and His purposes behind establishing a free nation under His rule.

In conclusion I want to use the words of Jesus Christ as found in the Book of Mormon that is a beckoning voice to the Gentiles who occupy this choice land, America.

*"Hearken, O, ye Gentiles, and bear the words of Jesus Christ, the Son of the living God, which he hath commanded me that I should speak concerning you, for, behold he commandeth me that I should write, saying, Turn all ye Gentiles, from your wicked ways, and repent of your evil doings, of your lyings and deceivings, and of your whoredoms, and of your secret abominations, and your idolatries, and of your murders, and your priestcrafts, and your envyings, and your strifes, and from all your wickedness and abominations, And come unto me, and be baptized in my name, that ye may receive a remission of your sins, and be filled with the Holy Ghost, that ye may be numbered with my people, who are of the house of Israel"* (3 Nephi 14:1-3).

## ARTICLE

# HIS MYSTERIOUS WAYS

## *The Amazing Son of God*



By Harvey E. Seibel

In the distant beginning before the creation of the heavens and the earth a singular event took place. The Father brought forth His Son. It was His only offspring. This fact is confirmed by reference to Revelation 3:14:

*“And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; these things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, **the beginning of the creation of God.**”*

Christ Himself was the beginning of the creation of God.

Imagine the wonder of the God and Creator of the universe coming to this world as a mere babe in the womb of a mortal woman.

Thus He, and He alone, was called the Only Begotten of the Father, the Son of God.

It was through Christ that all the rest of creation was accomplished, for the Son created the heavens and the earth and all things that in them are. Then when we, who are His offspring, take upon us His name (the name of Christ) through the waters of baptism, we are spiritually begotten of Him as His sons and daughters.

*“For behold, this day he hath spiritually begotten you; for ye say that your hearts are changed through faith on his name; therefore, ye are born of him, and have become his sons and his daughters”* (Mosiah 3:9).

I once wondered how this could be, since Christ alone is the Only Begotten Son. Then it was that I realized that Christ *is*,

*indeed*, the Only Begotten of the Father, but the rest are begotten through Christ who both created and saved us. Such is the mystery of Godliness.

But think of the wonder of Christ. He appeared in the plains of Mamre to Abraham along with His Father. Abraham, lifting up his eyes, looked and beheld three men standing before him. And he went and bowed himself to the ground before them. God then revealed to Abraham what He was about to do, both by way of the promised offspring to Sarah, as well as His mission to Sodom and Gomorrah. Abraham entertained them with food and drink, after which two of them departed for Sodom.

Lot also recognized these visitors and refused to allow them to remain in the street, later offering his daughters to the men of the city in their



stead. The next day the LORD called down fire from the LORD upon those wicked cities. It was the Son calling down fire from the Father. This thought is confirmed as the term *Elohim* is used, showing that the plurality of the Godhead was involved in this judgment.

Christ also appeared to Joshua as the captain of the Lord's hosts. Jacob wrestled with Him all night when he was journeying to his homeland. Christ also appeared to Moses and wrote the Ten Commandments on tablets of stone with His own finger. He appeared to the Brother of Jared when the Brother of Jared was beseeching God to touch the stones to give them light. He also led the children of Israel for 40 years as He abode in the cloud.

But the most marvelous thing was yet to transpire. It was the will of His Father that He come and offer Himself up as a sacrifice for His people. What an amazing thing this was, and how extraordinary. It was the very thing that caused the Jews to look beyond the mark. The mystery of Godliness is thus hid from the wise and prudent of this world, but revealed to babes.

Imagine the wonder of the God and Creator of the universe coming to this world as a mere babe in the womb of a mortal woman. Can you think how Mary must have felt, knowing she carried the Creator of the heavens and the earth within her own body? What a paradox that she should give birth to the very One who created her.

After His birth, brothers and sisters were also born to Mary. These were, in fact, half brothers and sisters to Jesus. Imagine how they must have felt when they realized that their sibling was the God of the whole earth.

The God of creation was born in humble circumstances and raised as a carpenter under his earthly (step) father. Of course, when Mary heard the words of the shepherds, she pondered them in her heart, remembering, no doubt, that the angel has previously told her that the Holy Ghost would come upon her and she would bring forth the Son of God. Then later, in the temple, Simeon came and uttered marvelous words concerning this child that caused Joseph and Mary to marvel at those things which were said. This was followed by the words of Anna.

Still later, when Joseph and Mary made a trip to Jerusalem, the child Jesus was left behind. Upon finding He was missing, they returned to search for Him, and after three days found Him in the temple astonishing the doctors with His understanding and answers. To His concerned parents He said, "How is it that ye sought me? Wist ye not that I must be about my Father's business?" But Joseph and Mary did not understand this saying.

So Jesus grew up, being subject to His earthly parents until He arrived to the age of about thirty. By this time John the Baptist was preaching and baptizing, telling the people of

One who was to come after him whose shoes latchet he was not worthy to unloose. When the Lord came to him to be baptized, John deferred to Him, saying that he was not worthy, but rather that he should be baptized of Him. Herein is the awesome mystery of Godliness, that a mere mortal man, a seed of Abraham, should be called upon to baptize his God, his Lord, and his Creator, yes, the Mighty God of the far-flung universe. Christ thus humbled Himself before His Father to fulfill all righteousness, setting the example for all mankind to follow.

Baptism is a simple thing, something even a child can understand, but like the foolishness of preaching, the world treats it lightly at best, or else mocks it as of no worth. When Christ entered His ministry the Pharisees and others were offended by Him, but the poor came to hear His words.

Then the day of His passion arrived. Could Judas have known the full significance of what he was doing when he gave his Lord the kiss of death? Then, as Christ stood in the judgment hall, could His interrogators have known to Whom they were directing their questions? Would they not have been humbled to the dust had they known He was God of the universe and the One to whom, one day, every knee should bow and confess as Lord, and His judgments just?

Then, those zealous ones pressed a crown of thorns upon His brow in mockery of His

kingship. They spit upon Him and mocked Him, and He bore it all. And then stripes were administered as if He were a common criminal, leaving His back bloody and painful. How ashamed and mortified they will be when they come to realize that it was their God and their Creator that they had spit upon. How ashamed they will be when they remember how they whipped the God of the Universe and pressed that crown of thorns upon his brow in mockery of His claims. What a horrifying rebuke this will be to their unbelief. The Roman soldiery may have done it ignorantly. But as for the wicked Pharisees and others who plotted this deed, Christ, Himself said they had no cloak for their sin. These will receive a just recompense from God in the Day of Judgment.

But for the others Christ prayed, *"Forgive them, for they know not what they do."* Yet, nevertheless, they will certainly sorrow that they had, through force of circumstance, been caught in a time and place to be made unwitting participants in this great drama.

After this, Christ was taken to be crucified, it having pleased the Father to bruise Him. The soldiers who drove in the nails could not have known through Whose hands they were driving them. Had they known, they would have shrunk from the deed. One day they will stand before their Lord and ponder how fate could have so consigned them.

So He hung on the cross for



six long hours, taking upon Himself all our sins, suffering the chastisement of our sins in our stead, and this after having, a short time before, plead with God that this cup might pass from Him, in great agony, sweating drops of blood, that He might not undergo that fiery trial. But He yielded to the will of His Father in all things, even to death on the cross.

Had it not been so, all would have been lost. And then, that trial ended, and He descended to the depths of hell. His disciples were scattered and all seemed hopeless, yet on the third day came a glorious dawning, and the Lord of all came forth triumphantly and victoriously from the tomb. Death had been defeated, and He became the firstborn of them that believe. To Mary, He said, *"Touch me not; for I have not yet ascended unto my Father."* But her report was as wives' tales to the disciples. Nevertheless, He appeared to them, ate fish with them, and finally ascended into

heaven, promising that as they had seen Him go so would He also return. And while the rest of the world lay in ignorance of these marvelous things, Christ went on to fulfill the remainder of His Father's commission, and over the next 3½ years visited the rest of the house of Israel.

What of the future? We know that He is coming back to claim all that is His own. But more than this, we will have fellowship with the God of our salvation, the One to whom all power in heaven and earth has been given. And then we, if we have endured unto the end, will live and reign with Him for a thousand years, and after that for an eternity on the new earth. What a conclusion it will be for those of us who have endured, for a moment, the trials and tribulations of this life, to inherit the glory, the joy, and the fellowship of the Lord throughout all the eternity to come. *"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"* (2 Corinthians 4:17). In truth, we cannot even imagine what the Lord has prepared for them that love Him. What a glorious prospect that lies before us.

In view of these things, let us be found worthy (not wanting) of this high calling, for we are all called to be saints. Let us therefore bring forth fruit meet for this calling.



FROM the ARCHIVES

Looking southwest, we now see the Church of Christ building, the second building ever to be built on the Temple Lot, which was dedicated on April 6th, 1902. It was built after the first building was burned on September 4th, 1898. The photo shows the church building with the location of the black sign on the front, and the two doors, which were later changed to a single door. The shrubs which had been there originally have now been replaced by fir trees on each side of the porch. This evidence points to this photo of the church being taken in the 1950's.



Vol. 2 Church History Photos on CD available now — for church members only.

As a fundraiser for the Philippines missionary effort the Archive Committee is offering a CD of church history photos. On each CD there are nearly 1000 interesting photos of various church buildings, events, activities and members from 1887-2011. Included is a file with photo information.

If you would like a copy, please contact: Deb Haines at [debruhaines@juno.com](mailto:debruhaines@juno.com).

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

TESTIMONY

# The True Church

By Martín Tuyub Cobá

**M**y name is Martín Tuyub Cobá. Along with my wife and son, I attend the Church of Christ in Uayalcéh, Yucatán.

I am very grateful to all the brothers and sisters for their prayers, and especially to Brother Felipe Uluác for the opportunity our God has given me for my spiritual training.

After my life was changed by an accident, I used to complain to God. I would ask him, "Why me?" But our God sent me a person who told me, "God has prepared something for you." This person was Brother Felipe. With this special gift of humility, along with his compassion, he knew how to lead me to the Church of Christ.

To begin with, I felt trapped. I saw myself in dreams attacked from every side, but God manifested Himself to me in dreams also. I dreamt that I saw a road still under construction and I asked myself what God wanted from me. Later, the Lord showed Himself to me, standing on a wall next to a tomb. I asked Brother Felipe about it and he told me, "God wants you to be a new person."

Several nights passed and again the Lord taught me in dreams. I saw myself enter the waters of baptism. I felt like another person; I felt different. Also I saw myself



preaching, and I saw people of different religions telling me what I should preach, but I did not speak the words.

I asked Brother Felipe why these things were happening to me and he answered, "Allow the Holy Spirit to work in you." The most recent dream is the most beautiful of all. In the dream I saw myself attacked by crocodiles. At the same time I saw a church and a person calling me to enter, but the church had a sort of wall. From nowhere appeared a person who rescued me from the one who was calling me. At that time I wasn't sure I should go with him.

The person who rescued me knelt and touched the ground and

something marvelous happened. From the ground arose a cloud that shined with bright flashes and a voice told me, "This is my beloved Son in Whom I am well pleased." At that moment the flashes began to fall like rain and the people ran to experience what was falling from the sky. In my dream I called to my wife to bring our son so that he could feel this great blessing. It was a sensation of peace and happiness. I heard the voice again telling me, "This is the True Church."

I thank God for all his blessings.



## TESTIMONY

# God's Promises

By Ever Jimenez Perez

I wish to thank God and my brothers and sisters in Christ for permitting me to share these few words with you. A year and a half ago God called me to the church. Today I am very happy. Every day my family and I are receiving the blessings of God.

About a month before I would be baptized, I felt overwhelmed by my problems and needs, and no longer had the desire to continue struggling in this life. I was an arrogant and worldly person, but I realized that I was drowning in the vices of the world, neglecting not only my family but my work because of my foolishness.

No matter how hard I tried and fought to solve my problems, all was in vain since I found neither the happiness that I sought nor the peace that I needed in my life. One day I had a dream in which I saw a multitude around my wife and me with the intention to do us harm. I saw that she took my hand, hoping for my protection, and I didn't know what to do. Then I remembered that there was an all-powerful God who was capable of battling for me, and I told my wife that we should kneel and pray, which we did. As we prayed the multitude dispersed. This dream was so real that it frightened me, and I awoke from my dream sweating and talking to myself. As I arose and left for work thinking about this, I remembered that only God was capable of easing my burden, and that my



dream showed me that He was able to help me. I was brought to examine myself because of my wife's attitude and the good counsel that I received from the sermons of my brothers Esaul Ku and Rolando Tuk.

This is what caused me to realize that I was not able to solve these problems alone, and that only God was able to draw me out of the filthiness that I found myself in. It was then that I made an eternal pact with my God and was baptized. Today, I am blessed to live happily with my loving wife and beautiful daughter. I never tire of giving thanks to God for the miracle that He performed in me, since He was capable of changing not only my thoughts and my life, but also my eternal destiny.

Today, in the name of our Savior Jesus Christ, I invite all who are not baptized to choose the salvation that our God offers through His Son, since man cannot save himself, nor can he live separated from God. I know that without Him we only find a life empty and without purpose. The life the world offers you is like a dream that is never fulfilled, a life that will lead you slowly to your destruction, but the promises that God has made will always be accomplished.

*"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" Numbers 23:19.*

## TESTIMONY

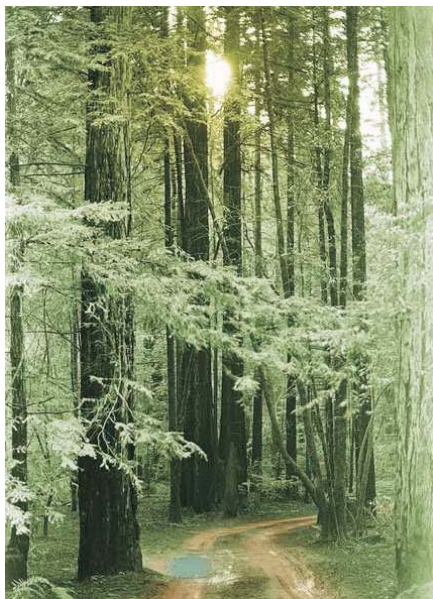
# Taken Home to God

I would like to share with you two testimonies—one happened just this morning, the other happened some time ago.

Today (July 21st) I attended a memorial service for an aunt of my nieces Angela and Michelle, my sister Dana's daughters. Susan Mauck passed away last week after suffering two very devastating strokes. I had placed Susan's name on the CCEG prayer chain.

Susan was a very kind, cheerful, strong in faith woman, and a member of a Restoration branch congregation. At the opening of the service the minister read from Luke 23:39-43, and then read from Alma 19:42-44. As he began to read the passage from Alma, I was reminded of a great blessing God gave me when our children were young.

It was bedtime; I was in Jennifer and Meghann's room for prayers and "tucking in." As I was sitting at Meg's bed, she asked me a pretty powerful question: "Mommy, what happens to us when we die?" Wow—I paused for breath and then looked at the Book of Mormon laying beside her bed.



## TESTIMONY

The girls had recently completed swimming lessons and were to receive a prize. I had asked them what they wanted. They wanted a Book of Mormon. So we had given each one a Book of Mormon.

I picked up Meghann's book—thinking, "how am I going to answer this?"! I let the book fall open—it fell open to page 448 and 449, Alma 19. And there, beginning at verse 42, was written:

*"Now concerning the state of the soul between death and the resurrection: Behold, it have been made known unto me, by an angel, that the spirits of all men, as soon as they are*

*departed from this mortal body; yea, the spirits of all men, whether they be good or evil, are taken home to that God who gave them life. And then shall it come to pass, that the spirits of those which are righteous, are received into a state of happiness, which is called paradise; a state of rest; a state of peace where they shall rest from all their troubles, and from all care, and sorrow, etc...."*

A very great blessing indeed. The girls were satisfied by the simple explanation of the separation of body and spirit, and the promise of paradise if we are righteous. I believe it was a miracle. I thank God for it.

I found the reading of that same passage at the service this morning another great blessing, and thank Him once again for the gospel He has prepared and provided for us.

*God bless each of you,  
Janice Welch*



## PHOENIX LOCAL, ARIZONA

As is typical, time has flown by and the months have quickly passed into summer here in Phoenix. So much has happened in our local that the past few months seem a blur. As a child I remember counting down the months, weeks and days awaiting some event; now, as an adult, the time goes by so fast I can hardly keep up. Being busy is a good thing, though, and our local definitely has been.

Our Sunday school classes have done an amazing job lately of giving their students the opportunity to share what they've been learning in their classes. We've been entertained with small performances during our evening song services presented by the children. They've acted out the birth of Christ, a story of Moses, and have done presentations for holidays, such as Mother's Day. It's a joy to see the children of all ages sharing their gifts and talents with us. Learning to serve at any age is a valuable lesson, and we thank their teachers for giving them the opportunity.

Along with Sunday school there are many other things to keep the young people busy in our local. The Junior Young Peoples group meets monthly to do activities. Then later, when they move on to the next level of Young Peoples, they meet weekly to spend time in service, study, and fellowship with one another. Even those who aren't quite old enough for either of these groups are able to participate. The children ages 3-10 recently performed a short play depicting the story of Daniel and

the lion's den. The kids did an amazing job memorizing lines, learning songs, and coming to weekly practices. The parents were a huge help in supporting this effort as well. The end result was awesome, from the littlest lion, to the princes and king. We loved watching them perform and using their talents to praise God. From the almost weekly trek to the stage to sing "Don't Step There," to learning to sit quietly, even our youngest ones add something to each service.

The summer traveling has begun and our numbers at each service rise and fall with the activities going on through these months. In May, many were able to make the trip Northwest for the Washington Retreat. This was a casual weekend filled with wonderful services, food, and conversation. The kids love the outdoor setting and the new friends they made that weekend, hopefully the start of lasting lifelong friendships. It's wonderful when even the youngest children can see they are part of not just one local, but of the church as a whole.

We also had many who went to the Colorado and Idaho reunions where they were met with the same loving kindness. The upcoming Teen Camp and Missouri Reunion also have many who will attend.

The travel isn't limited to Reunions though. Apostles Brian McIndoo and Duane Ely have been in India and Africa on different occasions throughout the year. Sometimes it seems they are home for just a moment, then off



again.

Apostles Jay Moser and Don McIndoo have made trips to Yucatan and California. Don was also recently in Honduras with Elder Ken Oar. Ken and his wife Marlene have made several trips to Honduras as well as Yucatan.

Apostle Joel Yates is often traveling throughout his field in the United States, as well as working many hours to make up shifts he gives up to travel. He will be retiring from his job as a fire captain this year to go full time into the missionary field. We know the Lord will bless him and his family as they make this change in their lives.

Elder Andy Brown and Priest Adam Yates have also made trips to Seattle and Toppenish to visit with our members there who are without ministry on a regular basis. This group is blessed to have ministry from Missouri meet with them as well throughout the year.

The past few months have brought both joy and sorrow to our local. Our Brother Ed Yates recently passed away unexpectedly and was mourned by not only his family, but by all who were blessed to have him in their lives. He will be missed by many, but we take comfort in the many testimonies

shared of God's peace given to his family and friends. We are blessed with the hope and assurance that there is more awaiting each of us beyond this life.

Although we have great sorrow at our loss, we have also been blessed with new life in our local as well. Justin and Holly Bartlett are expecting their third child this summer. We all anxiously await his arrival, and to hear his name. His parents have been seeking opinions and advice in choosing just the right name for their little one. We know when he arrives they will have settled on the perfect one and we can't wait to meet him. Holly has suffered many physical afflictions during her pregnancy. She has been lifted up in prayer many times and we have all witnessed God's blessings to her throughout this time. We are thankful for God's contin-

ued care for her and their baby.

We will be having our annual Vacation Church School in July and look forward to several visitors. We are expecting friends from Colorado, Missouri, and Nevada to join us for the week.

This busy time extends well past the hours of the craft, music, and study classes throughout the entire day. Many of the kids and their parents spend the entire day together eating, swimming, and playing. They also enjoy their yearly trip to the bowling alley. The bumpers go up for the younger ones, and everyone has a great time. It's a good escape from the heat for a few hours and a nice way to wrap up the VCS week. As always our final program is the perfect end to VCS. We love listening to the students share what they've

learned in their classes and taking a look at a week's worth of crafts they've completed. It is a time of year each child in our local looks forward to with great anticipation.

As in every area throughout the world we have our struggles with physical afflictions, as well as temporal and emotional needs. We appreciate each of your prayers on behalf of those needs and have witnessed the blessings that come from those prayers. We continue to pray for our brothers and sisters as well, and are confident those prayers are heard and answered according to the Lord's will for His people.

*Rebecca Yates*

## NEWS

### BRADLEY LOCAL, MICHIGAN

Greetings from the Bradley, Michigan, local of the Church of Christ.

With the last of the snowbirds migrated back from Florida, we all came together for Sunday service on May 1, 2011. It was wonderful to all be back together for our services.

As one of the snowbirds in Florida this past winter, we were blessed to participate in services in a number of different ways. Early on we had Sunday morning services by way of a speaker phone from our home in Hobe Sound, Florida, with Elder LaVerne Lussenden in Lakeland, Florida (this was our way of staying connected with the church for about six years – our early technology). We also participated in a confer-

ence phone call with Independence. Elder Dennis Trudgen then set up Sunday morning services and Tuesday night study group through Skype from his home in Lakeland, Florida. Finally, we now have live streaming video over the internet direct from the Bradley local on Sunday mornings.

Elder Trudgen continues the Tuesday study group through Skype from his home in the Belding, Michigan, area. When he's on a missionary trip or not available he has Randy Lee, from Michigan, and Chris Moran, from Indiana, lead the Tuesday night study. Also, when Elder Trudgen and his wife Betsy went to Africa recently and stayed at the Missionary house in Kissii, they were

able to hold services through Skype from there. One service was led by Elder Dennis Trudgen and another by Elder Moses Ohuru. What an amazing experience, both because of their heartfelt messages and the fact it was coming from Africa (as clear as if they were just in the next town).

If you would like more details, our Bradley website is: [churchofchrist-bradley.org](http://churchofchrist-bradley.org).

Isn't technology wonderful, especially for those that are in isolated areas or are unable to get out for the church services? Of course nothing can replace being able to come to church and meet with our brothers and sisters in Christ.



In January, Elder Dennis Trudgen with his wife Betsy, Norm and Georgia Trudgen from Lakeland, Florida, made a trip to Jensen Beach, Florida, for a visit to Bev and Jeff Butts' home for a Sunday service. Mary and Randy Lee came from Fort Pierce, George and Loretta Greig came from Hobe Sound for the service, special time to meet together, receive sacrament and testify of God's blessings He gives to each of us. Also, Jeff and Bev are guardians over two special needs adult children who received administration for their health issues.

In February we were also blessed to have our Sister Irene and Elder Leslie Case and their son Elder Jim Case and his wife Bonnie come down to our home in Hobe Sound for a night. It was truly a blessing to have church service and have the sacrament served and hear more of how Christ works within

each of our lives.

At our May service we had our annual business meeting and the following duties were voted on:

Our Treasurer remains Rick Lussenden; Sunday School Superintendent, Gerry Lee and Ted Lee with Ty Lussenden to assist; Adult class teacher is Randy Lee and Children's class teacher is Heidi Jones; our organist is Mary Lee; Business Secretary, Betsy Trudgen; Sunshine Committee, Heidi Jones; *Advocate* Local Reporter is yours truly, Loretta Greig; AVA Committee, Rick Lussenden, Tony Jones, Chris Moran and Alicia Yost; Church Recorder, Laurie Jones and Kitchen Committee Chair, Cindy Sebring.

Our Pastor is Elder Adam Porter and Assistant Pastor Elder Dennis Trudgen. Elder LaVerne Lussenden served as our Pastor for 37 years and continues to help in any way he can with ministering

to the needs of the local.

We concluded with a prayer from our Pastor, Elder Adam Porter.

I overheard the Kitchen Committee Chair, Cindy Sebring and some of the ladies, discussing menus for the upcoming Michigan State Reunion on June 18 and 19 with a fellowship potluck dinner on Friday the 17th at 5 pm. We are all looking forward to seeing many of you then.

Again, we thank God for his blessings in keeping everyone safe through the past winter and ask for His help and care for those in need.

May God bless you and send our love to you all from the Bradley Local.

*Your Sister in Christ,  
Loretta Greig*

## NEWS

### EAST INDEPENDENCE LOCAL, MISSOURI



*"But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint" Isaiah 40:31.*

This scripture gives us so much strength that I wanted to begin with it in this report. There has been much trial for so many of our loved ones in the East Local recently, and we find so much strength and comfort in the scriptures... this scripture seems to fit these days as we pray for continued strength. We still count our blessings,

there are even blessings in our troubles, for we know God has a purpose, even if it's helping each other through the rough times, we grow closer, leaning on God and growing stronger in the gospel... together.

On February 13th, two-week-old Grayson Robert Lomonte was blessed by his great-grandfather, Elder Charles Brantner, assisted by his great-uncle Elder Andrew Brantner. Attending were the proud parents, Sr. Jenni and Jason Lomonte, as well as his big sister, Enza Jeanne Lomonte, age 2½. Also attending were grandparents Br. Bruce and Sr. Deb Haines, and Ralph and Tracy

Lomonte; as well as his great aunt and uncle, Andrew and Crystal Lomonte.

Also in February Br. Bruce Haines was hospitalized for pneumonia; a few days later Br. Andrew Brantner had back surgery; both were at the same hospital, and both were released the same day, and have recovered nicely. The following week Jason Lomonte was hospitalized for ulcerative colitis.

Young Alex Gahner had ear surgery to remove a tumor and has recovered wonderfully.

Sr. Jewell Beem had surgery related to her cancer. She has undergone chemo treatments and is doing well. Sr. Barbara Kimball is still undergoing treatment for a Melanoma; please keep these sisters in your prayers.

There were several missionary trips by our ministry: Apostle Buzz and Sr. Sue Brickhouse made a missionary trip to Africa. Elder Dennis and Sr. Betsy Trudgen, from the Bradley Local in Michigan, accompanied them. Apostle Mike McGhee and Apostle Frank Fann made a trip to the Philippines. Br. Buzz also made a missionary trip to India in the spring and he was accompanied by Elder Dennis Trudgen.

On April 19th the East Local held our annual business meeting. Some of the results are: Pastor—Elder Isaac “Bick” Brockman; Assistant Pastor—Priest Bruce Haines; Secretary—Sr. Diane Brockman; Sunday School Superintendent—Br. David Rudd; Assistant Sunday School Superintendent—Priest Kevin McGhee; Sunday School Secretary—Sr. Deb Haines. There were many other positions filled by “volunteers.”

Also in April, our Sr. Wendy Granger was hospitalized for a stress-related



heart attack called the “Broken Heart Syndrome.” Sr. Wendy was admitted and underwent a heart cath the day before Br. Bruce Haines was scheduled at the same hospital (and the same cardiologist) for a heart catheter also. Sr. Wendy has recovered very well.

On May 4th, Br. Bruce Haines underwent open heart surgery to repair two leaky valves and is recovering ahead of schedule.

Sr. Lindsey Rudd graduated from the University of Central Missouri (UCM), and there was an open house held in her honor. Sr. Lindsey’s degree is a Bachelor of Science in Family and Consumer Science Education.

Also in May, Jason Lomonte was hospitalized for ulcerative colitis. He was admitted once again the first week of June and kept there in an effort to build him up until his surgery to remove his colon on June 8th. The surgery went

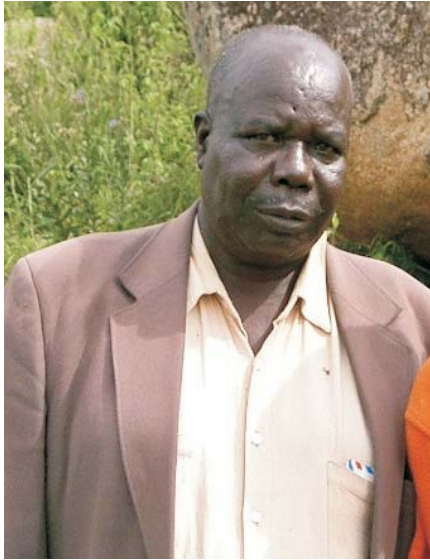
well and he was released on June 13th and is recovering at home. He will need to have two more reconstructive surgeries in the next six months.

On June 11th, the Annual East Local Garage Sale took place and over \$900 was raised to benefit the missionary effort. There was also a Fish Fry June 18th at the Local’s Annex to benefit the Teen Camp.

We do have many blessings along with the trials of life, just as we know all our brothers and sisters do everywhere. We keep you all in our prayers and do ask an interest in yours for those who stand in need.

*May God bless you all,  
Deb Haines*

OBITUARY



# Elphas Odira

Elphas Odira died at the age of 72 on 21st, July 2011, in a hospital in Mwanza Tanzania, due to complications of a stroke. Elphas is survived by his wife, Angelina; eleven children: four sons and seven daughters; and 19 grandchildren. Elphas was a retired schoolteacher who taught English, and has served as the Coordinator for the Tanzania Church of Christ since 2002. Let me tell you a little of his story on how he helped the church take root in Tanzania.

After the church was well established in his own village in 2002, Elphas wasted no time in spreading the news of his church, and

arranged for us to go to many new places where he had family members or contacts that might be interested in the gospel. A good share of the 30 congregations we have presently in Tanzania can be attributed to Elphas making the contact, and he was always there to introduce us and arrange for our meetings, part of his duties as a coordinator.

Goodbye dear friend and may God bless you for all the help you gave the church in setting deep roots in Tanzania, Africa.

OBITUARY

# Hubert Edward Yates Jr., "Ed"

October 29, 1959~June 3, 2011

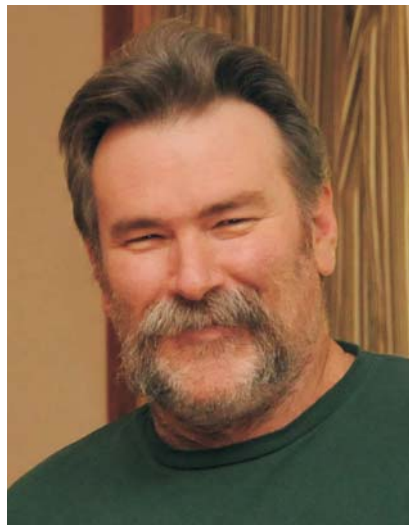
Hubert Edward Yates Jr., affectionately known as "Ed," was born on October 29, 1959, to the very loving parents of Hubert and Louise Yates. He was the oldest of four children, having two sisters and one brother, Annette, Joel, and Patricia. He was protector of all of his family and friends.

At age nine, Ed was talking to his dad about baptism. He suddenly asked to use the phone. His dad and mom asked who he wanted to call and he said, "Granddad!" Ed called and asked if he would baptize him. He was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) on January 26, 1969.

When Ed was growing up, he spent summers at the Walnut Ranch with his grandparents and cousins, helping with the trail rides and ranch work.

Ed married his high school sweetheart, Michelle Bishop, and they have two children, Alesha and Aadam.

Ed loved the scriptures. He studied out and cross-referenced many topics, as evidenced in any of his Bibles and Books of Mormon. Ed was not afraid to bear his witness of Christ at school, work, or at any other place. He was able to take his place in the body of Christ. He was a great encour-



ager to many who were down and was known for his wink, laugh, and words of comfort to many.

Ed loved people and he did not know a stranger. Ed was not afraid to bring someone home that had no place to stay. He would give you the shirt off of his back if you needed it.

Ed loved his family and his family loved him very much. His children and grandchildren were a great joy to him and he was very proud of them. He enjoyed the time spent with them for birthdays, church activities,

and other get-togethers.

The Lord blessed Ed throughout his life. Ed was a believer from the time he was a young boy until the day the Lord called him home into eternal life on June 3, 2011.

Ed was survived by his father and mother, Hubert and Louise Yates; his daughter, Alesha Jacobsen, and son-in-law, Gary Jacobsen; son, Aadam Yates, and daughter-in-law, Rebecca; six grandchildren: Logan, Brooke, Erik, Easton, Asher, and Conner; his brother Joel Yates and sister-in-law Jennifer, and sisters Annette Whitehead and Patricia Ferrier and brother-in-law Isaac, along with an aunt, uncle, many cousins, nieces and nephews.

We were truly blessed by the Lord to have Ed in our family. The Lord blessed Ed and our family with many precious memories throughout all of his life, and especially in the last week. God gave Ed a wonderful week and a perfect plan to bring him home, for which we praise Him.

Ed will be greatly missed!

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" Psalms 116:15.*



## *Be Still And Know That I Am God*

(UNKNOWN DATE)

I sat and watched the sunrise  
across the beauty you created  
and wondered long upon the verse  
of beauties within Heaven

Your Son came to set us free  
from bonds we had created  
and gave His life upon a tree  
that we might see this Heaven

I've seen the beauty  
of the mountain, canyon and the flower  
the bird who soars on breezes high  
and the song of summer shower

Within the hustle of this life  
there never seems the time  
to sit and see the beauty  
created by Hands divine

I thank you for my life Dear Lord  
and moments just like this  
to know that You have given me  
a portion of this bliss

By Hubert E. Yates, Jr. "Ed"

**NOTICES**

**2011 WOMEN'S RETREAT**

This year's theme:

*"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God" Hebrews 12:1-2.*

- **When: September 30 (Friday) – October 1 (Saturday), 2011**
- **Where: Lake Mauer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, MO 64024**
- **Cost: \$35.00/person if registration is received before Aug. 31, 2011, \$40.00/person if received after Aug. 31, 2011, which includes one night's accommodation and 3 meals**
- **Meals are provided at the Retreat Center: Friday supper served 5-7pm, Saturday: breakfast & lunch**
- **Meet for lunch and shopping at 11am Friday in Excelsior Springs, Ventana Gourmet Grill, 117 W. Broadway, or come directly to the Retreat Center after 2 pm (see Retreat registration for further details)**

The Retreat program will start at 7:30 pm Friday evening. This is an outreach opportunity, so please invite friends and family, members and non-members alike!!

Visit the Women's Retreat Website at:  
[HTTP://HOME.COMCAST.NET/~CCWR/INDEX.HTM](http://home.comcast.net/~ccwr/index.htm)

**WOMEN'S RETREAT MISSION STATEMENT:**

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

For registration forms:

They are available in the foyer of the Temple Lot local or contact Jane Ann Carmichael at 816-478-7166 or [janecarmichael@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janecarmichael@sbcglobal.net)

We look forward to seeing you!!!

**ONTARIO, CANADA**

- **October 8-9**  
 Brant-Norfolk Church  
 163 Teeter St.  
 Teeterville, Ontario  
 Canada, N0E 1S0.  
 For accommodation information and directions please contact:  
**Bill and Marn Vieveen**  
 519-759-8087  
**Michael and Debbie Bevaart**  
 519-805-9790  
 Note: from Canada, you must have a passport or enhanced driver's license to return to the United States.

**ARIZONA REUNION**

- **November 25-27**  
 Those who plan to attend or requiring more information please contact the following people:  
**Pastor Elder Gordon McCann**  
 18808 N. 30th St.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85050  
 (602) 569-2341  
[gpmccann@cox.net](mailto:gpmccann@cox.net)  
**Asst. Pastor Elder Gerry Case**  
 19015 N. 28th Place  
 Phoenix, AZ 85050  
 (623) 234-4684  
[gerrycindy1@gmail.com](mailto:gerrycindy1@gmail.com)  
**Asst. Pastor Priest Glenn Orsted**  
 1327 E. Wescott Dr.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85024  
 (623) 780-8764  
[gorsted@gmail.com](mailto:gorsted@gmail.com)

**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 [rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net), or any member of the Board.

**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](http://www.cocsermons.net).

**CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE**

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

**PAT MCCANN**  
 (Committee Chairman)  
 18808 N. 30th St.  
 Phoenix, AZ 85050

**MARLENE COBB**  
 630 S Pickwick  
 Springfield, MO 65802

**JUNE HAINES**  
 11589 Genuine Rd  
 Clare, MI 48617

**PRIESTHOOD VISITATION**

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



# Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS TEMPLE LOT  
200 S RIVER BLVD PO BOX 472  
INDEPENDENCE MO 64051-0472  
churchofchrist-tl.org

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**THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:\***

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

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

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

To insure your membership records remain as current as possible when moving or relocating, fill out this form and return it to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Attn: General Church Recorder, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051-0472, or e-mail the information to [cofcrecorder@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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](http://churchofchrist-tl.org)