

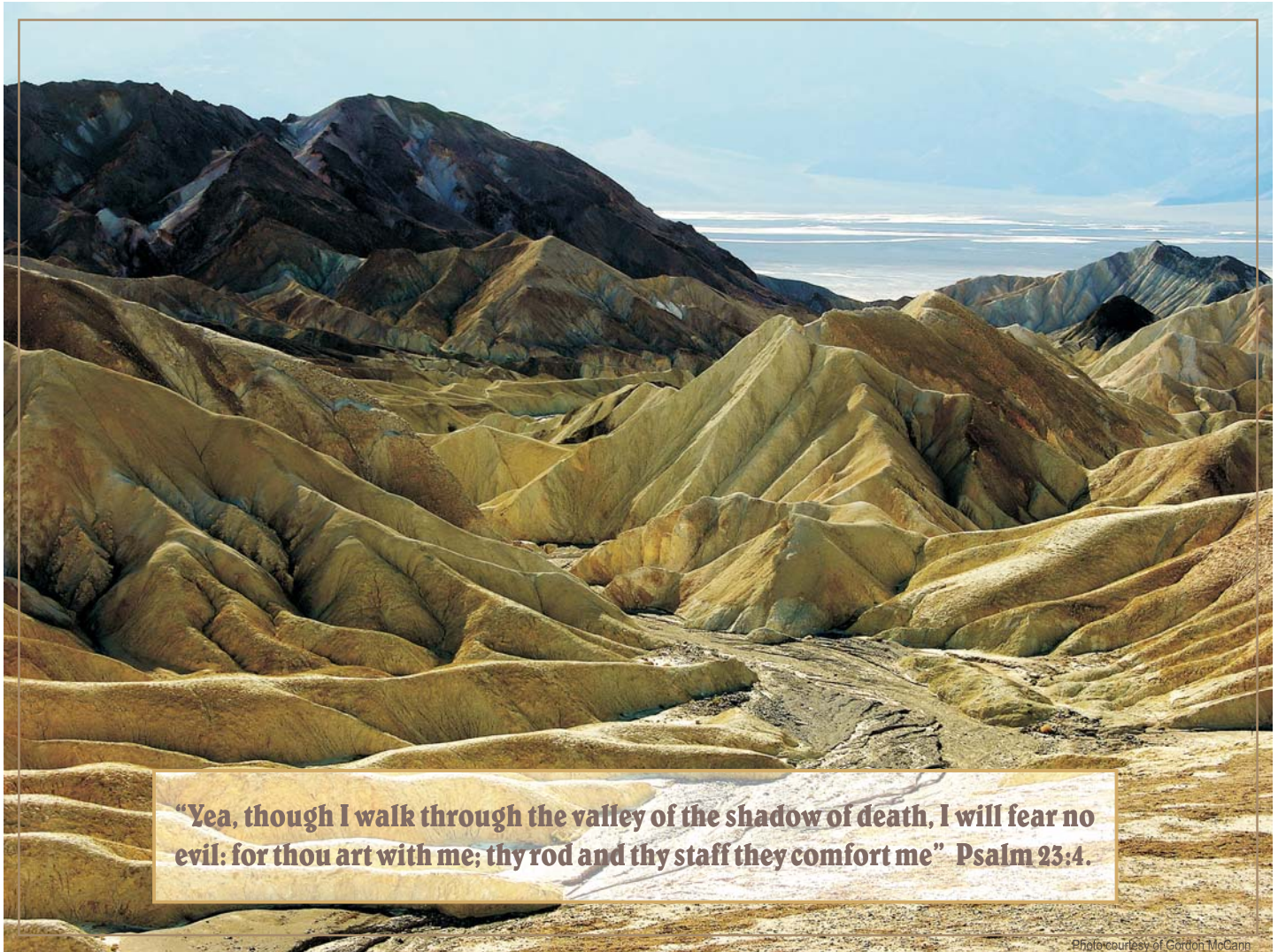
# Zion's Advocate

*"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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**"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me" Psalm 23:4.**

Photo courtesy of Gordon McCann

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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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# The Blessing comes by FAITH



By Priest Adam Yates

In this article I hope to convey to the reader a few of the wonderful blessings God has promised us in His word. I want to say right off the bat that these promises are available to everyone. I want to assure you that God will always do His part if you do yours.

It seems we rely on others to be prepared, to encourage and exhort us, and forget that this Gospel belongs to each of us and is our personal responsibility.

*“Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath: For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God. Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls. But be ye doers of the word, and not bearers only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a bearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:19-25).*

This is the first promise I wish to convey to you. God has promised that you will be blessed in your deeds, your life, if you are a doer of His word. What James is speaking of in this passage, and what I hope to convict you of, is the necessity of being a doer of the word, taking ownership of this Gospel.

I was recently talking with a fellow minister and we began comparing our observations of some of our services. It appears in the actions of the people that we are not taking ownership of our services, of our time before God. We both see people showing up late to

church, not bringing their scriptures, playing on cell phones and talking during preaching and prayers. It seems we rely on others to be prepared, to encourage and exhort us, and forget that this Gospel belongs to each of us and is our personal responsibility.

This leads me to wonder, are we being recipients of the promises and blessings God desires to give us? If not, why?

I have a simple question to ask, which may be a gauge of our dedication to following God's word, and receiving His promise—how many of us are paying our tithing on our increase? Of course we know that tithing is a commandment. We know that Abraham paid tithing and we all know the promise made in Malachi 3:7-10. Are we being a recipient of the blessing God has promised if we follow His word? If not, why?

If we want be part of healings, callings, gifts of the Spirit, marriage, parenthood, etc., we must take ownership of the things laid out in the Gospel, be a Doer of the word. This Gospel is of no effect in your life if it is only something you listen to and agree with, but never do. Let's not be like the house of Israel, who were diligent in following the Law of Moses to the letter, but never cared to understand the fullness of it. What I mean is—coming to church and taking your place in the pew, while

important, means nothing if the word is not real in your life. To reach forward and take the Sacrament means nothing if you haven't prepared yourself to take it and are convicted of your promise to follow the commandments of Christ. Even the Pharisees followed the law, but it was of no effect in their life because it was not in their heart to do and understand it.

God places before us commandments for our good, for our benefit. We must do them, not out of obligation, but because they come from a God who loves us and wishes the best for us, and because we are desirous to obtain the fullness of that love.

*“For behold, God hath said, A man being evil, cannot do that which is good; for if he offereth a gift, or prayeth unto God, except he shall do it with real intent, it profiteth him nothing. For behold, it is not counted unto him for righteousness. For behold, if a man being evil, giveth a gift, he doeth it grudgingly; wherefore it is counted unto him the same as if he had retained the gift; wherefore he is counted evil before God. And likewise also is it counted evil unto a man, if he shall pray, and not with real intent of heart; yea, and it profiteth him nothing; for God receiveth none such; wherefore, a man being evil, cannot do that which is good; neither will he give a good gift” (Moroni 7:5-8).*

When you attend church you are offering a sacrifice before God. It is a sacrifice of

time and of other personal pleasures. When you sit in church, or open your scriptures, is it being done with real intent? Do you genuinely desire to hear the message, even if it hits close to home? Are you willing to study the word, even if it proves some thought of yours wrong? When you come before God and present yourself to Him, is it out of obligation or is it because you desire to please Him? If this is not what is in your heart, I would have you remember the scripture referenced above. Are you a doer of the word?

I have stated the word ownership several times thus far, and I want to now state my thoughts on ownership as it pertains to this Gospel. To own something, especially as precious as this Gospel, is to take great care of it and to use it for its intended purpose. It boils down to that all important word—Faith. I am not going to go deeply into the subject of faith except to say that faith is an action word. It is belief with an action involved. It is to do as Christ commanded, because you believe the word, its purpose, and are convicted by the promise. God's promise is yours to have; own it.

Please read Alma 17:71-82. In this passage we read about the Liahona, which was the compass given as a guide. Verses 78 thru 80:

*“And now my son, I would that ye should understand that these things*

*are not without a shadow; for as our fathers were slothful to give heed to this compass (now these things were temporal), they did not prosper; even so it is with things which are spiritual. For behold, it is as easy to give heed to the word of Christ, which will point to you a straight course to eternal bliss, as it was for our fathers to give heed to this compass, which would point unto them a straight course, to the promised land. And now I say, is there not a type in this thing? For just as surely as this director did bring our fathers, by following its course, to the promised land, shall the words of Christ, if we follow their course, carry us beyond this vale of sorrow, into a far better land of promise."*

Here we read that the words of Christ are our compass, in following them we will be led into a far better land of promise—I believe that is temporal and spiritual. Yet another promise of God, but the blessing comes by faith.

Alma 16:149-160. Here we read the words of exhortation given for us to profit. We are asked to try, take the challenge of faith and prove God. I want to tell you this, God is not afraid of being proved. He is not afraid of your testing of His word. He desires to prove to you that He is faithful, and if you exercise that faith in His word, your faith will become knowledge. Remember His word in Isaiah 55:11:

*So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accom-*

*plish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."*

I want to give you five promises I know will be to your profit if you act on them in faith. Each of these has a wonderful blessing attached to a commandment, but the blessing comes by faith.

## PROMISE #1

*"And I will also be your light in the wilderness; And I will prepare the way before you, if it so be that ye shall keep my commandments;"* (1 Nephi 5:77-78).

We are given this promise, if we endeavor to keep the commandments of God, He will light our way in the wilderness and prepare the way for us. This world is a wilderness, and to find our way through it we must have God to light our path, to show us where He wants us to go. This promise is for everyone—young or old, single or married—God is willing to guide us through this wilderness, but the blessing comes by faith.

## PROMISE #2

*"But if ye will turn to the Lord with full purpose of heart, and put your trust in him, and serve him with all diligence of mind; and if ye do this, he will, according to his own will and pleasure, deliver you out of bondage"* (Mosiah 5:52).

This requirement of this promise is threefold: 1: Turn

to the Lord with full purpose of heart—that is, with everything in you. 2: Put your trust in Him, exercise your faith and prove Him. 3: Serve Him with all diligence of mind—when you serve God, do it diligently (constant effort to accomplish, attentive and persistent). If we do this, the promise is deliverance from bondage, overcoming the trials we face. I encourage you to pray diligently, study with purpose and trust that God will do as He promised. This blessing comes by faith.

## PROMISE #3

*"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel"* (Deuteronomy 17:18-20).

Knowledge of God's word is a benefit to us, not only to us personally, but to our family and those around us. We are told in this passage that if we make reading the scriptures a priority, we will become more humble and that we and our family will be blessed. Our

lives will be blessed when we know and understand the Gospel. Again, this blessing comes by faith.

## PROMISE #4

*"Thou shalt not have in thy bag divers weights, a great and a small. Thou shalt not have in thine house divers measures, a great and a small. But thou shalt have a perfect and just weight, a perfect and just measure shalt thou have: that thy days may be lengthened in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee"* (Deuteronomy 25:13-15).

God desires His people to live honestly. This commandment was so that His people would deal honestly with those around them. Proverbs 11:1:

*"A false balance is abomination to the LORD: but a just weight is his delight."*

How does this scripture apply to us today? God expects and respects honesty, and honest judgment in your life. Are your weights—how you judge things—just and perfect? Do you act differently around people at work than you do around church friends? Are you willing to accept things in TV or in movies, although you know them to be wrong? Do you judge all things with the same just and perfect weight? There is a promise in this commandment; your days will be lengthened. Now, I can't say this means you will live until you are 100 more, but God's promise is sure—when you deal

justly and honestly in the sight of God and all men, you will be blessed...but this blessing comes by faith.

Before I reference the last promise I wish to share, I want to remind you of the words in James 1:22:

*"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves."*

I want you to take ownership, exercise your faith and do what has been prepared for you, which is for your benefit. If we only hear the word, nod our head and agree with it, but never make it real in our life, we will never realize what God has in store for us.

## PROMISE #5

*"Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the LORD thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son's son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged. Hear therefore, O Israel, and observe to do it; that it may be well with thee, and that ye may increase mightily, as the LORD God of thy fathers hath promised thee, in the land that floweth with milk and honey"* (Deuteronomy 6:1-3).

We are promised that if we make God and our pursuit of His glory the largest and most important part of our life, our

days will be prolonged. We are promised that we will be increased mightily. If we are willing to bend ourselves to His will, to adhere to His word and make it who we are, not what we do, we and our family will be blessed. This blessing, as with every blessing God promises us, comes only by faith.

Brothers and sisters, I have this vision of God in my mind: a God who has His hands full of blessing, good and righteous things, greatly desiring and waiting to give them to us. I believe that the only thing standing in my way of more fully receiving God's blessings is Aadam Yates. The same goes for each of you. I hope to encourage each of you: exercise your faith and be a doer of the word. Remember that God is not afraid to be proved, so prove Him. All His promises, each and every one, come by faith.



ARTICLE

# The ABSOLUTENESS of GOD'S WILL



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

**T**he absoluteness of God's will is hardly realized in the world we live in today. Yet God's hand is upon us at this very moment. We can be assured He will not be set aside as being a non-existing God by the leaders of nations without consequence. Even as we anticipate the reaction of God against the boldness of the heathen, we should realize that His greater concentration will first be on His church to bring correction as is needed. The bride of Christ awaits His cleansing

Even as we anticipate the reaction of God against the boldness of the heathen, we should realize that His greater concentration will first be on His church to bring correction as is needed.

power in preparation of the coming of Jesus Christ in these last days.

It would seem that the apostles of old were inspired to give counsel to the people in their time but also their words are applicable to us today. Peter wrote a letter to the "strangers" (Gentiles), reminding them of their conversion from their former lives to their obedience to the gospel of Christ. He endeavored to strengthen their faith in the Lord with these words:

*"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil" 1 Peter 3:12).*

Peter continued to remind them of the sacrifice that Jesus

had made for them while here in the flesh, exhorting them of their need to do likewise. He also indicated the change that occurred in their lifestyle which made them strangely different from their former associates.

*"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin; That he no longer should live the rest of his time in the flesh to the lusts of men, but to the will of God. For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles, when we walked in lasciviousness, lusts, excess of wine, revellings, banquetings,*

*and abominable idolatries: Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you: Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead”* 1 Peter 4:1-5.

As Peter continues to write, it would appear he was addressing the Church of Christ in this very day.

*“If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye; for the spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part he is evil spoken of, but on your part he is glorified. But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men’s matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf. For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of God: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not the gospel of God? And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear? Wherefore let them that suffer according to the will of God commit the keeping of their souls to him in well doing, as unto a faithful Creator”* 1 Peter 4:14-19.

Peter used the word judgment when referring to the house of God, the Church of

Christ. Judgment indicates an acceptance or a rejection of us individually who make up the body of Christ. Surely we are nearing that time. Are we ready for that judgment to begin?

When Jesus came to the people on this land, one of the first things He did was to call His disciples and give them power to baptize.

*“And he said unto them, On this wise shall ye baptize; and there shall be no disputations among you”* 3 Nephi 5:23.

After giving specific instructions concerning baptism, he repeated and emphasized His commandment that there shall be no disputations:

*And there shall be no disputations among you, as there hath hitherto been; neither shall there be disputations among you concerning the points of my doctrine, as there hath hitherto been; For verily, verily I say unto you, He that hath the spirit of contention, is not of me, but is of the devil, who is the father of contention, and he stirreth up the hearts of men to contend with anger one with another; Behold, this is not my doctrine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away”* 3 Nephi 5:29-31.

The dictionary says a doctrine is a teaching of principles or

creed, tenet, belief, rule, law or dogma. We can say that the doctrine of Christ is contained in the commandments of Christ and we are to keep His commandments. To keep His commandments means we are to obey them by applying them to our lives. They are a guide for our personal behavior.

Jesus went on to tell us His doctrine:

*“And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and become as a little child, and be baptized in my name, or ye can in no wise receive these things. And again I say unto you, Ye must repent, and be baptized in my name, and become as a little child, or ye can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God. Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and whoso buildeth upon this, buildeth upon my rock; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against them”* 3 Nephi 5:34-41.

It is obvious that prior to Jesus’ appearance to the Nephites, they had disputations (disagreements) among them even over the doctrine that had been taught them through the years. He gave a strict commandment: There shall be no disputations among you. There is no option involved there. If your opinion



differs from what the Lord has stated, you had better reconsider it. We need to realize that we have no right to differ with the Lord. He is always right. When Jesus comes again will He give that commandment to this people? Will He be as strict with this people as He was with the people at that time?

There was a disputation which occurred among the people even after Jesus had given that commandment. During His third appearance the disciples asked Him what they should call the name of the church, because there were disputations among the people concerning it.

*“And the Lord said unto them, Verily, verily I say unto you, Why is it that the people should murmur and dispute because of this thing? Have they not read the scriptures, which say, Ye must take upon you the name of Christ, which is my name? for by this name shall ye be called at the last day; and whoso taketh upon him my name, and endureth to the end, the same shall be saved at the last day; Therefore, whatsoever ye shall do, ye shall do it in my name; therefore ye shall call the church in my name; and ye shall call upon the Father in my name, that he will bless the church for my sake; and how be it my church, save it be called in my name? For if a church be called in Moses’ name, then it be Moses’*

*church; or if it be called in the name of a man, then it be the church of a man; but if it be called in my name, then it is my church, if it so be that they are built upon my gospel” 3 Nephi 12:17-20.*

What is a disputation? It is an argument or quarrel. A more polite definition would be a debate. Many people debate, and if it is controlled it can be beneficial to the listeners. But if it gets out of control, there can be ugly things said and done, resulting in name calling and perhaps physical actions. At its best a debate will be confrontational and peoples’ feelings will likely be hurt.

Paul wrote to Timothy a profound statement that carries a message of truth to us today:

*“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” 2 Timothy 3:16, 17.*

The scriptures, the written word of God as given by inspiration, have the purpose of imparting to the intellect of man the doctrine of Christ. The scriptures were written to give disapproval or rebuke (reproof) to those who are disobedient to God and to correct them. The scriptures are also given to educate mankind in the way of righteousness, which is exemplified in the person of Je-

sus Christ. The goal is for us to become perfect both in knowledge and in works.

Also, Paul wrote to the Ephesians, admonishing them to put on the whole armor of God, that they might stand against the wiles of the devil. He described each piece of armor as a quality of righteousness, and concluded with the command to take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. (See Ephesians 6:11-17.)

Paul told the Hebrews:

*“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart” Hebrews 4:12.*

The sharp two-edged sword, the word of God, can be very offensive to a sinner. The desired result would be to cause the sinner to repent and turn from his wicked ways. Some sinners are receptive and embrace the gospel in humility, while others become angry, not giving themselves any opportunity to receive the truth. As a matter of fact, the spoken word of God may cause division among family members. Jesus said:

*“Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his*

*father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household"* Matthew 10:34-36.

When Jesus had called his twelve disciples, he told them not to go to the Gentiles or the Samaritans at that time, but to go to the lost sheep of Israel. He gave them specific instructions and counsel, which included this special information:

*"And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city"* Matthew 10:12-15.

The peoples of Sodom and Gomorrha were destroyed because of their great wickedness, yet Jesus indicated that there would be more tolerance granted those cities at the Day of Judgment than any city of the Israelites that would reject his gospel.

Later, Jesus spoke publicly to the multitudes and upbraided the cities that had not repented when he had done many mighty

works among them. He named the cities, Chorazin, Bethsaida and Capernaum, and stated that it would be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon and Sodom in the Day of Judgment than for those cities.v (See Matthew 11:20-24.)

In confirmation of Jesus' statement that He sent a sword rather than peace, John said that he beheld in vision one like unto the Son of man having a sharp, two-edged sword coming out of His mouth (Revelation 1:13, 16; 2:16). Also, John saw that the Lord will fight against His enemies with the sword of His mouth, and that He will smite the nations and rule them with a rod of iron, which also describes the word of God (Revelations 19:15, 21). The final victory will be that God will overcome all evil by His word.

So where does that put us today? We are living in a time when people are rejecting God, and they are seeking to establish their anti-Christ teachings. The peoples on this land of promise have had the opportunity to know the fullness of Christ's gospel, but the great majority have rejected it. Will God deal with them like He did the Jews when they rejected Him and His gospel? The prophecies indicate that His people (the Israelites) will be among the Gentiles like a lion among sheep.

As for us, we are to preach and teach the word of God in its fullness to the world. If they receive the truth, we are to impart

unto them our peace. If they reject our words, we are to shake the dust off our feet and leave them in the hands of God for His judgment.

Even when the great majority will take offense at what we declare as truth, we must remain steadfast in our convictions that all may hear and know the truth concerning God's will in these last days. Indeed, there will be many that will take offense at what we declare to them because they are spoiled with the precepts of men.

We can assuredly trust God to bring about His own work upon the peoples of the world, that the more honest in heart will turn to Him. He has His own plan and timetable, and He is not slack in carrying out His purposes. The absoluteness of God's will is to be realized by all the peoples of the earth when Jesus Christ comes again.



FROM the ARCHIVES

This photo was taken in 1930. Looking to the West, we see the second building on Temple Lot on the left as we look down Lexington Street. There are very few photos showing the streetcar tracks, which were removed in 1935. Also, notice the radio tower behind the stone church and all the overhead wires.



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## TESTIMONY

# My Testimony in Trial

By Amy Moser

I have been thinking about sharing my testimony for awhile now. I feel very strongly compelled to share some of the things I have learned through the trials I have faced and am still facing. On Saturday, August 6th, I was getting dressed for the day and felt with overwhelming intensity that I should write my testimony so that I could share it the next day on Sunday the 7th. I prayed before sitting down that I would be able to write the things that God had put on my heart and that I would be able to convey them clearly. I sat down to type and felt overwhelmed by the thoughts that were going through my mind, and I felt a sense of urgency to share them. For the next 4½ hours I wrote, with the words coming easily and quickly. When I was finished I felt such a great sense of peace. As I thought about sharing it I started to feel hesitant because I realized I had five pages and felt it may be too long to read in the service. I folded it and stuck it in my purse anyway and said several prayers asking God to give me wisdom as to when I should share it.

On Sunday morning the Sunday school message and the message during the sacrament service was so close to what I had



written that I knew God was reassuring me that this was the day I was to share it and not to second guess myself. It was difficult to read while fighting emotion but I have great peace that this is what God asked of me. I feel humbled at the opportunity to praise Him. I am happy to be able to share it with the rest of you also. I pray that it is an encouragement to you.

I am weak. I could not see some of my weaknesses as clearly before I faced these trials; I had a false sense of security. When a trial stares you in the face and there is no way around, you feel your weakness. I am going to

share a few weaknesses with you and I am going to tell you how God has given me opportunity to overcome them. I have discovered that I have pride. Asking for help embarrasses me. I am embarrassed by my weakness. In the last year, I have found myself in situations that have left me with no other option but to ask for help. Due to the multiple tendon ruptures and dislocation injuries that have plagued me, and the upwards of six surgeries that I have undergone to repair the damage; I cannot dress myself at times, cut my own food, or even go to the bathroom without help, let alone take

care of my home or my children. The irony here is that I LOVE taking care of other people. I have always felt it was an opportunity to express my love to them. I knew how much of a blessing it is to the helper to be able to assist the helpee, but I had never thought about how hard it might be for THEM to ask for the help they really needed. When faced with my own need, it was much harder than I expected. Through not having another option but to ask for help, I got to witness other servants stepping up to the plate. Yes, it "hurt" my pride, but I am glad. There is no room for pride if you are going to give others an opportunity to serve.

Another weakness I struggle with is that every time something new goes wrong, I still have trouble trusting that God is STILL aware and in control through every single detail. Worry is dangerous. Worry is a lack of trust in God's awesome power. We should have concern and caution with our decisions in life, but worry is fretting about things we have no control over. I worry too much about things I cannot change and it is useless. I can only control where I am in my relationship with God. I am responsible for admitting my weakness to God and apologizing for my wrongdoings and living my life in a way that His Spirit can abide with me. I have to trust that if I do those things, He will be with me and make me strong enough to endure whatever trial stares me straight in the face.

I am insecure. What people

think and say about me and to me has hurt me in the past. When you find out that your worst fears of what people may think of you...is what they think of you, it hurts...A LOT. My first reaction was some shock and deep hurt, then anger...then forgiveness. The BEST and easiest way to be able to forgive someone is to admit your own weaknesses. There is no room NOT to forgive them. I am just as guilty. I feel that God has shown me that if I am having a hard time forgiving someone or loving them...it is only because I have forgotten my own sin. Meek and lowly of heart is humble. Humble means low, not high, unassuming, and not arrogant. Haughty means arrogant, superior, showing disdain, feeling "higher than." The only way to feel justified in not forgiving someone is if you feel you would do better, which would put you in the haughty category. Forgiving someone is much easier when you admit that you are just as much at risk for making a mistake as they are. It's a realization of your own weakness and it makes you feel low...even humble. I am fully aware that I am full of faults. I feel a deeper love for those around me. When I was faced with this I saw myself and everyone around me a bit differently. I am going to be forgiving because I myself NEED forgiving, from those around me and from God.

Now just because I have admitted my weaknesses to you, it does not give me the freedom to fail at them. We cannot fall victim to our weakness. It does not define

us. God should define us and the only way our trials can glorify God is if we overcome the weakness that holds us back from succeeding in our trials.

Now I am going to share some lessons I am learning. God has shown me that my attitude is one of the most powerful and destructive things that I have control over. If my attitude about what I am going through is positive and full of faith, and I am concentrating on the blessings through it, it is encouraging to not only me, but those around me. It will give us the encouragement to face what is before us. If my attitude is negative and I focus on the struggle and I fail to see the blessings in it, it is not only burdensome to me, but it is a burden to others also. It will be discouraging to everyone I come into contact with. One of the biggest discouragements we face spiritually is when we watch someone give up. I have learned that I am responsible for the mind set I am spreading.

One of my favorite blessings and lessons through this trial is that it has opened the door so many times for me to talk to someone. Whether it's morbid curiosity about what on earth is wrong with me or the fact that I look so unintimidating, I don't know; but people everywhere talk to me. I guess the crutches or casts or braces or the limping makes it hard for people to ignore me. In stores, restaurants, doctor's offices, school, they all want to know what's wrong, and how I get through it. It gives me a rare opportunity to witness of God's

blessings in my life. I get a chance to give Him the credit repeatedly. It is one of the things that fills me with joy every time. Even non-believers don't waste much time trying to discourage me, they probably figure I need all the hope I can get. I just figure that even if they hate God's strength being the reason I get through it...it's still the truth.

The only way our trials are not discouraging to others is for us not to give up during them. I have had several times that when I would be injured for what felt like the hundredth time, I was so embarrassed I just wanted to hide. It was scary for me to tell people that another injury had occurred because I knew people were praying for me and I didn't want to disappoint them in telling them that things were still hard. After I tore my Achilles tendon it was the 5th injury. I was in pain and legitimately laid up but I was also avoiding everyone. Mom (Chris) Moser came over and sat with me; she said that she understood why I was embarrassed and that it was natural to want to hide but that I needed to go to church because everyone needed to see me as much as I needed to see them. I NEEDED that support so bad. I needed the encouragement. When I came back to church I was welcomed as always and it really opened my eyes as to why it is so important to meet together oft. Yes, we need the services, but we need each other too. It is natural when things are going badly for us to want to isolate ourselves, but it will only get us isolation. Meeting

together oft prevents us from feeling and being alone.

Now I want to share some blessings I have received. I have learned that I am not special and neither are you. You probably wonder why I call this a blessing. I consider it a blessing because instead of being discouraged when the next trial hits and thinking that it is a punishment, I know that it is just part of life. Yes we are all special and hold immeasurable value in God's eyes, but in the scheme of life, life will happen to us all. When I started having so many injuries, my first reaction was, "Why is this happening to me?" I was trying to live according to God's will and I was still having terrible injuries happen and it felt like my life was a train wreck. I had many people asking me if I thought I had done something wrong and God was punishing me; some thought I had something I needed to change in my life and God was going to "force" me to change it through putting me through this terrible trial. I don't blame them for thinking this. I actually wondered it myself at one time or another. I felt I should be protected from this awful stuff or something. I prayed many many times that I would know why, and His answers were not what I expected. On several occasions He led me to the scripture in Matthew chapter 5, verse 45: "That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust." Job wasn't a bad guy...so then the question is

"why wouldn't this happen to me?"

This scripture was given during a sermon the day before I was to have a surgical procedure to bend my knee. The procedure posed some risk of a broken femur or tibia due to the force they use to bend the knee and break scar tissue. I had been very worried about this, and the scriptures that Gordon read as he started his lesson were Psalm 34 verses 19 and 20: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all. He keepeth all his bones: not one of them is broken." God reassured me in that moment that things would be okay. It was almost funny in the moment, but when they use bones in the scripture it doesn't sound like they are just talking about physical bones, it sounds like they are really talking about your strength and your foundation. It was also a reassurance that through this He would help me be strong and not leave the foundation that I have been built on.

On another occasion I was feeling so burned out and I desperately craved some encouragement. I had been reading through my Bible regularly, and on that very same day I opened up my scriptures and the first thing I read was 2 Corinthians 4, verse 17: "For this light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." Several months later I was feeling the same burden again and Aaron called me from the car on his way

to work and told me that while he was driving He heard that same scripture on the radio and knew I needed to hear it.

One morning during a particular hard week I woke up with the chorus "Praise Him trust the Fathers word, praise Him let His voice be heard" stuck in my head. I looked all over in the hymnal trying to find the song "Praise Him" with that chorus but I couldn't find it. I called Aaron and hummed the chorus to Him and he said, "Oh, that song is 'Never be Discouraged.'" It was so fitting. I turned to the song and read the chorus and was so comforted by verses. The verses are: "Never be discouraged, trust the Father's word, in the time of trial let His voice be heard; trusting in His promise though the waiting long, He will surely bless us; Praise Him with a song. Never be discouraged, if along our way disappointments meet us tempting us to stray; closely cling to Jesus, ask Him for His grace, In His words of comfort find a resting place. Never be discouraged, patiently endure, God doth often test us, trials make us pure; Soon will come the reaping, then with joy we'll sing, Praise the Lord of harvest, praise the heavenly King." The chorus is: "Praise Him trust the Father's word, Praise Him let His voice be heard; Praise Him, though the waiting long, Praise Him, Praise Him with a song."

A few years ago when I was going through a health crisis with my kidneys, they thought I might have cancer and I was afraid. I was administered to after the ser-

vice by Duane Ely and Don McIndoo in private and I asked to be healed, but throughout the whole administration I just kept asking God if it was going to be okay. We finished the administra-

card several months ago from my Aunt Barbara and Uncle Johnny that had this very same verse in it. It brought me immense comfort. I found out a few days later from my dad that the card had been

**"For this light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory"  
II Corinthians 4:17.**

tion in the closed classroom up front and I walked into the foyer and sat in a chair. Joel Yates had just finished his shift at the fire department and he walked in the doors and looked right at me and said, "I have to tell you something. I have wanted to tell you all week but I just couldn't seem to make it happen, but last week we were in a season of prayer for you and I felt that God strongly impressed on me to tell you to not be afraid, that everything is going to be okay." Three days later Debra Haines emailed me and told me she felt strongly impressed to tell me the scripture in Isaiah 41, verse 10: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee: yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness." I did go through a hard time medically, but everything did turn out okay. This year while I have been going through so many injuries that seem unavoidable, I have been afraid from time to time as to what my future may hold. I received a

bought a year before and sat on their nightstand till they decided to send it to me. I am so grateful God reminded me of His promise in such a way that I know without doubt that He still knows my struggles.

I have been abundantly blessed and reassured through these physical and spiritual trials. Many times He has let me know that He is with me and that there is a bigger purpose and what I am going through is just a tiny detail of that massive plan. This life is a time of decision. Brian McIndoo said in one of his sermons, "How can God judge us at the end of our life if He doesn't test us?" That struck a chord with me. This life is a test where every trial is a question on how you are going to handle it. Am I going to succeed or fail in each circumstance?

This is not how I pictured myself at 29, but that does not mean that it will not work together for good. I have learned that if you wait to be satisfied with your life, you will never be satisfied with your life. Things will

never be perfect; you will never see the value in the blessings that are right in front of you. This time in your life is passing every moment, and every moment is one you will never get back. You can go your entire life bitter that things are not going the way you had envisioned them, or you can decide to have joy and peace in your life right now even in trial. I can rejoice in this trial because God is teaching me and I am getting an opportunity to become closer to Him and trust Him. If this path that has been laid out before me saves my soul or even one other person's soul...it will have all been worth it. If you succeed in your trial it can be a great encouragement to others. God's plan for mankind is so great. Do not be ashamed of your trial. He can use us in so many different ways. I rejoice and thank Him for using me at all.

I want to share a blessing that I believe was one of the most touching for me. Two weeks ago I had pneumonia, I dislocated my left shoulder for the 5th time and I had just had the pins out of my right wrist a week before and I was unable to accomplish the most basic of tasks, including taking care of my own hygiene. I'm sorry if this makes you squeamish but trust me, this situation does a number on yourself esteem as well as your determination. All day I was in a lot of pain and my shoulder didn't feel right and I couldn't lift my left forearm. I asked to be administered to and I was that evening. About 30 minutes later I leaned forward to sit

down and my left shoulder slid back into socket and I could use my forearm again. I was hugely relieved, but fully aware my shoulder was probably damaged somehow and I was still hurting. I crawled into bed that night and prayed with a lot of desperation. I didn't know what to say; all I could say was, "God, please help me...please just help me. I don't even know what else to say." At about 3 a.m. my friend Ashley from Ohio texted me a message that just said, "I'm up and I'm praying for you." At 9:30 the next morning I got a text message from Laura Gill saying, "woke up in the middle of the night knowing that someone needed prayers, and I thought it might be you and I prayed for you and some others." Over the next two days I received 12 cards in the mail, all from dear friends telling me that they were praying. I know that the Spirit makes utterings for us when we don't even know what to say, and I know it made utterings for me that night. Romans chapter 8, verse 26, tells us: "Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered." God always knows what we need, even when we ourselves don't.

I know this testimony has probably been long, but I felt so strongly that I should write this and share it. I prayed before I sat down and I know that God was with me while I wrote it. My goal was to share some of the lessons

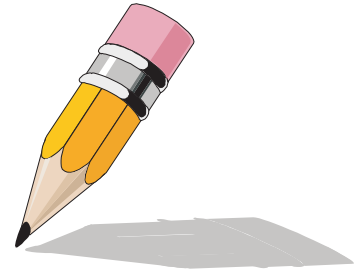
that I have learned and share that I know that even though this trial is not over, I know that God is still in control, and I thank Him so much for loving me and encouraging me through this. I thank Him for each one of you and for your support, and even for our trials, because I know it is an opportunity for Him to work in our lives and touch others. I thank Him for being faithful always and for always fulfilling His promises to us. I know that no matter what we are facing now or whatever is to come that He will guide us and it will be for the good of our souls. Romans, chapter 7, verse 28: "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose."





REPORT

# 2011 Missouri Reunion Report July 29-31



We entered into the House of the Lord at the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri, on Friday morning for the opening prayer service of the 2011 Church of Christ Missouri Reunion. Elders Benny Case and Isaac Brockman, Jr. were in charge. Br. Isaac (Bick) used Psalm 19, Isaiah 8, Psalm 33 and 100 to admonish us in the way of the Lord. After a season of prayer in which many voices were lifted in prayer, many testimonies followed.

Here are just a few:

- A brother testified of how he has found a solution for feeling low; he visits his neighbors and helps them through their rough times. Being a blessing to them in turn lifts him.
- Another brother testified of his own feelings of

being overwhelmed with the concerns for us as a people. He told us our strength needs to be in the scriptures and in prayer; recognize God and His power. God is mindful of us, it's personal. Our faith will be tried, how will we stand? There are things coming our way that will be discouraging. God has taught us our faith should be as a little child; we should have a child-like faith. No matter how old we are we need His strength and each other. The Lord is working with us and we need to pray that His will be done.

- A sister testified that her granddaughter told her about something that happened at Vacation Bible School recently. After watching a skit played out, one little boy said that he'd never seen Jesus, but he saw him today! That is the child-like faith we are to have. She admonished us to tell our children and grandchildren Bible stories and testimonies to build their faith and they will hunger for more.
- A sister testified of God's goodness unto her and her family. She was thankful for the time to spend with old friends and share their love of the gospel. She shared a blessing of some of their little grandchildren playing Jesus at the time of the crucifixion and resurrection. It's such a wonderful joy to see them even at their young age embracing the gospel.
- A brother testified of God's blessing. He told us his father was in the ministry many years ago and had been drawn away. His parents

divorced when he was only 12; he is thankful that his mother was a strong example of faith for him. He's very thankful for the knowledge and advice that was passed on to him.

The first sermon of the 2011 Missouri Reunion was by Priest Bruce Haines. Br. Bruce greeted us and asked, "Are we a believing people regarding all that has been prophesied in the scriptures having to do with the time in which we live?" He mentioned several things in the news recently which point to the time we live. Br. Bruce read Luke 21:25, Mormon 4:89-93, Matthew 24:23-24. Many ask why don't we have more spiritual gifts and healings? Is this because of unbelief in the church? He read Moroni 10:10-14, and Moroni 7:35-43. Br. Bruce asked, IF we are a believing people and putting our faith and trust in the Lord, then why is it so many of us in the Church of Christ are so comfortable in the world, and so desirous of partaking of the questionable pleasures of this life? He read 1 John 2:15-18, Revelation 18:4-5, and John 14:15. He asked us if we keep ALL of the commandments. DO we love God? Do we love God enough to keep ALL of His commandments? Br. Bruce read Mosiah 2:13-17, 2 Timothy 2:15, James 1:5, Moroni 10:4-5, Jacob 3:9-15, Moroni 7:26 and Jude 3. Br. Bruce admonished us that being the Lord's people we should study, search the scriptures, ask God, take counsel from God, look for reasons to believe rather than be-

ing skeptical, and stand up for what we know to be the truth. He also reminded us that there are uncertain times before us; we will be tested, including the strength of our trust in the Lord and our belief in His promises. Br. Bruce read Mormon 4:66-69, 79-84 and 3 Nephi 13:58-59, where we are warned there will be consequences of our unbelief. Br. Bruce read 3 Nephi 12:3, where we are told to remember Mormon's words, "And when they shall have received this (the Book of Mormon) which is expedient that they should have first, to try their faith, and if it shall so be that they shall believe these things, then shall the greater things be made manifest unto them." Br. Bruce also read Moroni's words from Ether 1:98-109. We know the scriptures tell us that many false prophets have gone out in the world. This was true in Christ's time, it was true in Joseph Smith's day, and it is still true today. . . Is it possible that we, God's people, could be deceived? Satan knows the time is short. . . surely in the days ahead he will redouble his efforts to destroy the Lord's work and His church. Thomas Jefferson said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance." Br. Bruce read Book of Commandments 48:59-67. DO we believe?

After lunch and a song service, our afternoon sermon was given by Elder Aaron Heath. Br. Aaron said if he could title his sermon, it would be "Judgment Day." He read Matthew 12:36-37, where we are told we are judged by our words. He also read 2 Nephi 1:18-24, where we are told about the inhabitants of this land. Br. Aaron admonished us that God has expectations for us to follow Him freely. He read Jacob 2:48-51, Mosiah 1:7-12 and Mosiah 1:52-58. Br. Aaron told us that because of those records preserved for us we have God's promise; the Lord requires you to keep His commandments, then He will prosper you. Br. Aaron read Mosiah 1:73-74, 79-82, 86-91, where we are told not to listen to the evil spirit, not to withdraw or rebel, but remember blessings and endure. . . so we'll have never-ending happiness.

He read Romans 8:3-10, 12-17; 1 Corinthians 2:9-14 and 1 Corinthians 6:20, where we are told to mind the things of the Spirit, receive the things of the Spirit, so we will belong to God, and have His Spirit to be with us. God has a reason why each one of us was created and brought here now. Br. Aaron read 1 Nephi 5:232-235; 1 Nephi 7:17-20; 2 Corinthians 5:10, and admonished us that we all must appear before Christ to be judged for the things we have done.

Following dinner and a song service, our evening sermon was given by Elder Rick Olson. Br. Rick told us we are here to bring others unto Christ. He read Eccl. 5:10-20; If we are living for Christ we will do the things that satisfy the soul, not the body. We will go to the next life with joy, not remembering this earthly life of vanity. He read John 13:34-38. . . love one another as I love you. Eccl. 14:1-12, 15-21. . . love one another as I have loved you. This is a commandment. Moroni 7:26-40; God will reach out, even when there is but one man to save. Time is growing shorter and shorter. Luke 21:34-36. Watch ye therefore and pray always. This life is to repent, be obedient and follow His commandments—so at the last day it can be well with our souls and we can be saved. Ether 5:5-20, 23-41; this life is to us as a trial, we need to have faith and hope. We must endure to the end. We must have charity, as without charity we cannot inherit our Father's mansions. The Lord shows men their weakness. Alma 5: 39-42. Matthew 5:13-16. Be the salt of the earth, the light of the world; see good works and glorify your Heavenly Father.

The Saturday morning prayer service began with Elders Randy Sheldon and Steve McGhee. Br. Randy exhorted us that the Lord is joining us this day; He is on duty, ready to move out and touch. Are you prepared to meet Him? Br. Steve told us that today we have an opportunity to communicate with the Lord, Who is here. When we all kneel and talk to our Father in

Heaven we become one. Br. Randy spoke of our preparing for a wedding feast. Do we want to know if we are not prepared, so we can act on that? Our little world is becoming undone; we need our God to lead us and encourage us. God will move in our midst; we want to be blessed and revived.

After a season of prayer, many wonderful testimonies were heard of God's workings amongst His children; these are some of the highlights:

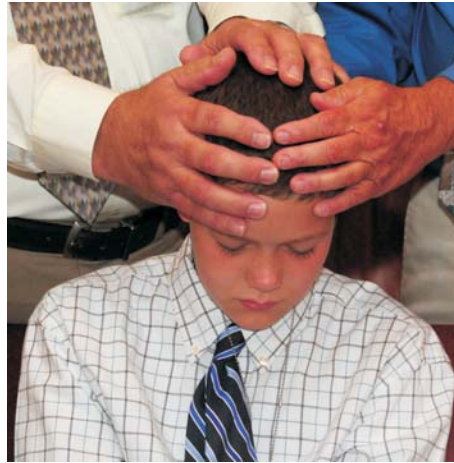
- A sister testified of the three being thrown into the fiery furnace; they were willing to go through whatever God had for them. We are so much in the world, yet we need to put our trust and faith in God. There will be safety in Zion, we will be delivered. Watch and pray that we will be found worthy to escape all of the things coming upon the earth. When His servants love Zion He will bring again Zion, and gather His children of Israel.
- Another sister told of delivering her youngest child 44 years ago. There were difficulties and she was rushed to surgery. Her husband prayed, her doctor prayed, and word went out for prayers. She got to see her baby before surgery, and as she prayed she felt God's arms come down around her. She knew all would be well. Last week her family celebrated the birth of that youngest child.
- A brother testified of his thankfulness to God for His blessings during his wife's illness. It began with a pain during the night, and he took her to the hospital. Tests showed a mass in her kidney. She underwent surgery to remove the kidney and its cancerous tumor. The surgeon didn't think he'd gotten it all; there was a little tentacle in an artery, and he "felt" it was better to leave it alone. His wife was then sent to another hospital where surgery was continued. They were able to block off her artery with filters and vacuumed that spot. As they touched it with the vacuum, it pulverized. The surgeon was very thankful that the first surgeon had not touched it. God had surely blessed them with His intervention.



► **Bobbi Brain**

Immediately following the prayer service was a sermon by Elder Albert Leighton-Floyd. Br. Albert greeted us and asked why is it that we call each other brothers and sisters? He told us, it's because we are the children of God, and joint heirs with Jesus Christ. This is a wonderful thing, as God has made promises to us. We've entered through the strait gate, entered onto the straight and narrow path, grabbed hold of the rod of iron and clung to it, desiring to have clean hands and a pure heart. God keeps His promises to His children; He has told us to seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. He wants us to be desirous of His good gifts. He listens when we ask for them and He will give us what is good for us. Our Father is a God of miracles and He is unchangeable. Br. Albert read Mormon 4:70-79 in telling us that our God, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, is an unchangeable God, a God of miracles, and that miracles will only cease as we dwindle in unbelief. Br. Albert referenced Luke 8: 43-48, using the woman looking for a miracle as an example of great faith. He explained that one of the gifts we should ask for is faith; it's a gift of God that we should desire and pray for. Br. Albert read Mormon 4:80 and referenced Acts chapter 3 in showing that the apostles even wrought miracles in that day, because they had great faith. Br. Albert read Mormon 4:81-83, admonishing us that miracles cease because of unbelief. There are those who depart from the right way (the rod

of iron), and who don't believe there is any right way. Unbelief and doubt are everywhere today. They don't know our God. Br. Albert read Isaiah 10: 6 and explained this is the God we believe in. People of this world know not the god in whom they should trust. Br. Albert referenced Judges 6: 13 and told us the story of Gideon and his 300 soldiers who fought an army of 135,000... it



► **Braden Oldham**

was God that did it; it was God who overcame with the 300 and won the battle against 135,000. We were admonished that we can trust God, we can depend on Him. Br. Albert read Mormon 4: 85-87 (which is the same as Mark 16) that they shall recover, that's a promise of God. In verses 89-94, we are told the despisers of God shall wonder and perish. In verse 95 we are told to not be baptized unworthily or to partake of the sacrament unworthily, but to endure to the end and you will in no wise be cast out. In 2 Corinthians 11: 28 we are told to examine ourselves. In Mormon 4: 94 we are told to strip ourselves of all uncleanness. Br. Albert referenced Moroni chapter 10 where we are told of all of the gifts of the Spirit, and he admonished us to trust in the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

After lunch we were blessed to have witnessed a beautiful spirit-filled baptism service. Six were led down into the waters of baptism after giving their testimonies. Following the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy

Spirit, we welcomed Sr. McKenna Yates, Sr. Mya Tarbell, Sr. Bobbi Brain, Br. Braden Oldham, Sr. Renee Arnold and Br. Tom Arnold into the family of God. May He bless you always!

Following dinner and another song service we gathered back in for the evening sermon, given by Apostle Michael McGhee. Br. Mike spoke of the work in the Philippines and showed many pictures he had taken. He had returned only a few days prior to reunion. He read Revelation 14:6-7. We are celebrating ten years of the Philippines' work. Membership in the Philippines now numbers over 6000. Sisters Lolita Alameda and Ruth Vivas were registering people for the anniversary celebration at a new arena, which only cost \$80 for the two days. Several tribal dances were offered, and there were 48 missions presented on stage. Please keep teacher Ben Retanal in your prayers, as he is terminally ill.



► **McKenna Yates**

After the sermon we gathered again in the dining hall for an Ice Cream Social put on by the Missouri Reunion Committee. For our enjoyment we "Reminisced" over photos of 102 couples in the church who have been married 20 years or more, and some for as many as 67 years; for the longevity of those marriages we give God the praise and glory.

The Sunday morning sacrament service began with Apostles Roland Sarratt and Michael McGhee in charge. Br. Roland welcomed us and Br. Mike read Psalm 103 and Isaiah 66. After the blessing and serving of the emblems, Br. Roland spoke to us. He told us we'd had very appropriate sermons and prayers we will be prepared for what is coming, as God has His purposes. We need the gifts of the Spirit to guide us. He took names for a prayer list and Br. Mike led us into a season of prayer, as many voices were lifted in thanksgiving and in 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 sister testified of God's hands of healing upon her the day before. She was working in the kitchen and removed a hot pan from the oven.



► Renae Arnold

Her hands were burned right through the oven mitts. Her first thought was for administration, so she sought that out. After administration she felt a tingling in her finger and pain. This morning there was no pain, and the blisters were almost gone. She was so thankful she was healed and will be able to help in the kitchen again today.

- Another sister testified of a miracle that happened to her son in February. While the

family was out of town he complained about not being able to walk. They desired to return back home, but were led to seek administration through an elder who lived nearby, and then take him to a hospital. The medical doctors determined that he had a virus which usually takes months, if not years, for the child to recover from, along with having physical therapy. The next morning Michael



► Mya'lee Tarbell

was able to walk normally. The hospital staff was astonished, and the family knew without a doubt that it was God's hand of healing upon their son.

- A sister stood in much discouragement as her family faces a huge trial. We immediately went into another season of prayer for our sister and her family.
- A brother stood and praised God. He said, even in our problems, God will handle them and bless us. He has been prayed for many times and has been healed many times, as have others. He has seen miracles, our sermons being all about keeping commandments, being good Samaritans. He told of the charity of a brother the day before, taking him to a pharmacy on the way home. With the charge for the medication being more than expected, he thought to go without it when a man behind him asked if he might purchase it for him.
- A sister testified of a great blessing. Last April she realized she wasn't feeling well. She went



► Mikaela Grim

to her doctor, and her medications were changed. Yet, some time later, she began to have unusual symptoms, which led her to eventually seek care from the ER. She was eventually diagnosed as having "Broken Heart Syndrome," which is a stress induced heart-attack. God was with her through the entire ordeal, as she was never afraid. Now she desires to witness to a friend, and asks us to pray that her friend will be touched by the Spirit and be blessed.

- Another sister testified of how our testimonies help prepare us for the things that can happen. She and her husband were blessed the week before, as they were nearly in an accident right out at the corner. Another day their air conditioner quit, and with prayers answered, it was up and running again in a few hours. God takes care of us when we don't even know it!
- Another sister told of her son being in law enforcement and she is not afraid for him. She prays for him and knows God is with him. She spoke of problems with her daughter's situation and asked for our continued prayers for her grandchildren.
- A brother testified of an illness years ago. After seeing a doctor, he was sick in bed, and got much worse. When he was at his worst a brother came to visit and administer to him. During the administration the Spirit fell on

him; he felt stronger, and he was led to ask for administration again. He was administered to again and the strength he felt come from that was twice what it was before. He was led to ask for again another administration. The third time he was blessed again! He was led to tell us to reach out to God, with both hands!

- A brother testified of being blessed to be able to be at teen camp this year, and thanked parents for sending their children. Even if they don't want to go, send them. He is also thankful that slips of paper with names of teen campers were passed out at church, which gave us an opportunity to pray for those individual teens at camp. His hope and prayer is that each one there was touched by God.
- Another brother testified he greatly enjoyed being at teen camp. He told us our children are exceptional. He reminded us of the statement in the Book of Mormon, "Believe that we (man) cannot comprehend all the things that God can comprehend" (page 220). There are things that God allows us to understand.
- Another brother stood to testify of an experience which happened the week before. In the early hours of the morning he had awakened sobbing; he had asked the Lord what to preach about. He was told some things, but for now he was told to tell the ministry, "Remember the hope and faith we had when we were baptized, and the knowledge He gave us when we were called into His ministry. We are to take this and give it to our families, neighbors, friends and the people we work with. We are to act now."
- Another brother testified of God's blessing after being taken to the hospital the day before, after suffering chills and the shakes. He was greatly blessed during and after his administration, and began to feel relief.
- A sister testified of the blessings of having "phone church" since they live so far away from a local. It is good, but not as good as being together.
- A brother testified of being blessed in more



▶ Thomas Arnold

ways than he could count.

- Another brother testified of being on the road traveling and becoming so sick he collapsed in a restaurant. There was no ministry there. His wife drove to get him, and brought him home to a hospital where he underwent surgery. They were not able to remove all of the cyst that was causing the problem. Later he was administered to, and he heard the words spoken, "healing in unison with your faith." He didn't understand, but after more surgery he was told the part that had not been removed before was no longer there. He was healed in unison with his faith. God expects the praise of His children. Our brother feels if his faith slacks that he is in jeopardy of the cyst returning. We need to thank and praise God for all our gifts!
- A brother testified of a testimony he has given before. Br. Mike McGhee's comments fit, and he referred to Psalm 34. He thanked everyone for their prayers when his brother passed away. It was a great trial having to tell his parents. He saw God's hand in everything that had happened, both in his brother's life recently, his brother's passing, and all that has happened since. The whole situation was a wonderful example for his brother's friends, they had never seen anything like it. God is worthy to be exalted!
- A young sister testified of God's hand at work on her during her uncle's memorial. She wanted to sing, but couldn't. Yet, there on the

screen in the video made, there she was, singing. A thought of a time came to her mind, and then came up a picture of that particular time. She had the desire to see her family, and the picture of her family came up on the screen. God knew of the comforting she was needing and blessed her with it before she could even ask.

- A young sister testified that she missed having the rest of her family present at her baptism, but she knew they will be happy for her.
- Another sister testified that the Spirit gives utterance; she feels she's been led to pray for those who haven't felt the Spirit of the Lord. Others have been praying for that too. She prays the Lord will increase that portion of His Spirit.
- A brother testified that song #417 (A Thanksgiving Prayer) is so very appropriate for this service.
- Another brother testified that at the baptisms the day before he recalled something from earlier in the week: it was a meeting and listing of priorities. There was the most humble moment with his daughter. (He is waiting for that time with his son, too, but he's thankful he didn't ask. His son takes it seriously, and he's stated he has to take care of a couple things first.) Our brother told us he was examining himself all week, and he told that to his cabin. He examined himself more after another's admonishment to us. We need to pay attention to what we are given to preach, as it's usually meant for us. We need to look at our priorities. Our brother gave another testimony concerning his wife and the ordeal they recently went through with her having a cancerous tumor removed, along with her kidney. She was in terrible pain. He administered to her and knew she'd been healed. The doctor said the surgery went perfectly. Our brother admonished husbands to love your wives, and wives to love your husbands. Love so strong, with all your hearts.
- A brother testified of an experience he had

when he was a young man. Sitting in a meeting, he felt the Spirit for the first time. He didn't want it to leave him. He didn't ask for baptism then, but in time he did. Feeling the Spirit is very special. The day before he felt it really strong. It reduces the human will and magnifies something great. Give God the credit for His Spirit being different than us.

After lunch we entered in for a special music service; we enjoyed such beautiful gifts of talent given in praise to our Lord. . . then it was time for the last sermon of the 2011 Missouri Reunion.

Apostle Joel Yates told us the last year has been packed with opportunities to serve God, and he has been reminded this past year just how much we need the Lord. God has put on his heart that just one person can have a huge impact on others. He read James 4:13-14 and Jacob 5:42-44 and asked us, How much time do you have to make a difference? We are told to give of our best to the Master. He asked, What are you doing with your talents? Br. Joel read

James 4:15-17 and admonished us that the Lord wants us to give Spiritual help to others and to, "Declare ourselves." He asked, What good things do we know we are supposed to do? Br. Joel read Alma 21:132-134, Philippians 2:1-7. Br. Joel asked, Are we looking after one another because we love them? Let us have the mind of Christ. He read Philippians 2:9-15 and Ephesians 6:10-18. He asked, What is righteousness? Repentance, obedience, judgment, humility, love of God/fellowman, controlling our thoughts, renewing our mind. Br. Joel read Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:18, 2, Corinthians 10:3-6, Romans 12:17-21, Moroni 10:6-7, Alma 26 (the story of 2000 young men). The word of God is EXACT.

Following the last sermon we witnessed another baptism, after our new little sister testified of God leading her in this decision. After the laying on of hands for the confirmation and reception of the Holy Spirit, we welcomed our new sister, Mikaela Grim, into the family of God. May

He bless you always sister!

The 2011 Missouri Reunion then came to a close. We had an estimated 370 members attending, from as far away as AZ, CO, IA, ID, MN, NY, OK, TN, TX, WVA and Honduras. The Lord gave us His message of believing on Him, obedience to His commandments, our righteousness and faith in Him, and to take this message to our family and friends. 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 and Gospel Bonds, your Reunion Reporter,  
Sr. Deb Haines*



► 2011 Missouri Reunion Ice Cream Social, from left to right: Eli Tarbel, Joani Hawkin, Karin Malone, Renaye Livingston, Kate Malone, Debbie Vogel, Hannah Richardson; in the background: Shaughn Sprague, Gretchen Tarbel, Sam Kidd, Glenn Gill, Helen Kidd, Roland Sarratt, Patsy and Benny Case, and Manon Lawrence..

## 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
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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
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	A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
	That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
	What about the Book of Mormon?
	Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
	Zion and the Temple of the Lord

\*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)