

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*

VOLUME 89

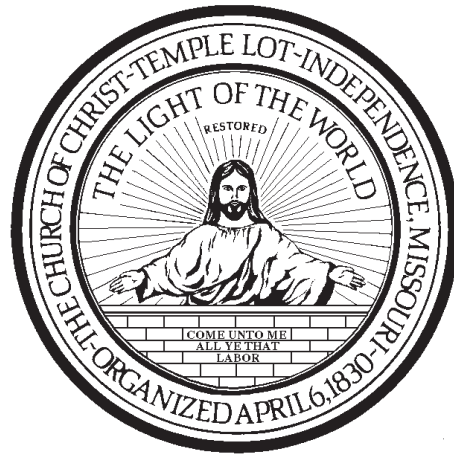
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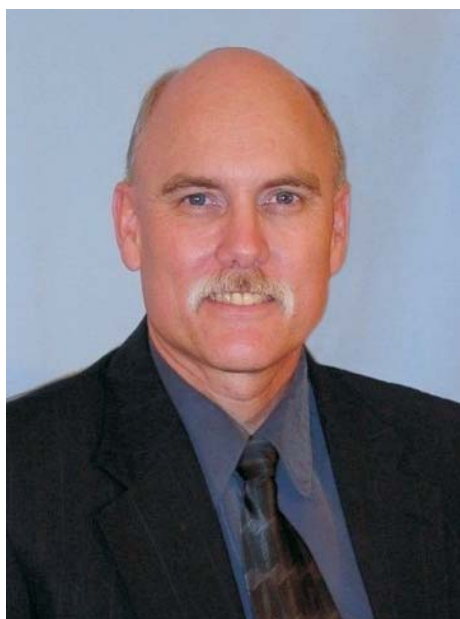
ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;

To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

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Count Your BLESSINGS



By Elder Gordon McCann

During one of our recent Wednesday night worship services we sang "Count Your Blessings" in the *Zion's Hymnal* (pg. 198). As we sang my mind focused on the words and I started to count my blessings as the song suggests we do.

The Word of God is the word of truth and life to the children of men.

The first blessing counted was that I was meeting with fellow brothers and sisters in an organized Church of Christ local. That was not the case for the first 26 years of my life. My father had made the military his career, and when I turned 18 I enlisted as well, following in his footsteps. There came a time in my life, through various trials, that God provided me an opportunity to experience a true brotherly relationship in Phoenix. God laid before me a choice: to continue to serve myself and those worldly things, or to serve him. Thanks be to God! I made

my choice, with a leap of faith, to serve Him, and I have been a participant of the Phoenix Local now for 35 years. I have been nourished and fed spiritually through many workings of His Spirit where God has spoken to me through sermons, direct revelations, laying on of hands for healings and ordinations, testimonies, through Sunday school lessons, programs, and yes, songs.

"For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:20).

The next blessing was

that I was standing next to my wife of 34 years. This was the woman that God brought into my life when I needed the companionship of a caring woman the most. It was through fasting and prayer, seeking God's will in our lives, that God heard and answered our prayers in a very public way. God chose to speak through one of His Apostles during a Colorado reunion and openly forgave me of my sins and gave His blessing to our desire to be man and wife. God truly hears the prayers of those who diligently seek him.

"If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you" (John 15:7).

"And as sure as Christ liveth, he spake these words unto our fathers, saying, Whatsoever thing ye shall ask the Father in my name, which is good, in faith believing that ye shall receive, behold it shall be done unto you" (Mormon 7:26).

Another blessing that I counted was that God had given Pat and me a beautiful daughter who has a strong love for Jesus Christ, and she was there with us,

worshiping our God together in His house.

"How excellent is thy lovingkindness, O God! therefore the children of men put their trust under the shadow of thy wings. They shall be abundantly satisfied with the fatness of thy house; and thou shalt make them drink of the river of thy pleasures. For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light" (Psalm 36:7-9).

The Word of God is the word of truth and life to the children of men. There is only one name given whereby salvation can be found and it is in the name of Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of the living God. Jesus Christ came in the flesh to do the will of His Father by overcoming sin and death, so that we through His grace might have eternal life in His Father's Kingdom.

"And moreover, I say unto you, that there shall be no other name given, nor any other way nor means whereby salvation can come unto the children of men, only in and through the name of Christ, the Lord Omnipotent" (Mosiah 1:116).

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; ... And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:31-32).

Let us always be mindful of God's greatness and mercy towards us, giving thanks by testifying of God's goodness and love that He has worked in our lives; counting our blessings one by one.



What is Life?

By Priest Adam Yates

I suppose that almost all who suffer under the burden of mortality find themselves affected in one way or another upon the loss of a loved one. We all know life is precious, and perhaps we all suffer some trepidation concerning unexpected death; that is, the reality that we do not know our own time. In light of the passing of several loved ones, today I found myself contemplating a Christian response to death.

My father's ashes are buried in a beautiful spot looking at a wide meadow and small mountain he loved to sit on at our family's ranch in northern Arizona. His ashes were put in a box made from beautiful wood with stunning

grain. My father would have been pleased with this wooden box—he admired woodwork, and would even admire the grain of boring pine boards. This spot we chose was one that he loved in life, and the human side of me likes to think he enjoys it in death, even though I know he is unaware of such a corruptible place any longer.

As humans, we find ourselves giving emotion and action to those who have passed. It gives us a sense of connectivity. It gives us a human measure of comfort. And yet, we must remember that what has been prepared by our Creator is incorruptible, an unfailing beauty and peace which we are unable to

fully understand.

As Christians, we should be comforted that one who has died is in complete rest. Human emotion likes to think that our loved one is looking down on us, yet that is only a human thought. Imagine the feelings someone in Paradise would have if they could look down and see the travail of mankind. What if they were to see their loved ones making mistakes that could be spiritually devastating? Surely that person would know how narrowly they were granted access to that place of rest, and what peace would there be for that person in Paradise then? We read that Paradise is a place of rest and peace, free from

pain and corruption.

I believe that first we must deny the human side of us which wishes to put human emotion and thought to one who is no longer here, and accept the comfort promised to us by Jesus Christ through His Spirit.

Over Memorial Day weekend this year I was up at our ranch. I woke up early on Sunday morning and went for a walk, down the canyon to the meadow and hill where my father and I used to sit. I had been asked to preach that afternoon and wanted a quiet place to pray and order my thoughts. Though the sun was just coming up and the forest world should have been awakening noisily, I found it was very calm.

After I had prayed I sat in silence and the Spirit spoke within my heart a question, which was really a statement the Lord had for me to contemplate: What is life?

A scientist would give a description of when life begins by describing the gathering and order of DNA, a cell forming, splitting again and again until it begins to function as a living being. Yet this is not life.

As I sat and thought of this question, the Lord spoke again to my heart, in answer to the question: I am life.

Genesis 2:7: *"And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the*

ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

There is within us something most precious, an eternal, living soul. We see that man was created, not by the gathering of atoms and cells dividing, but by the purpose and order of the Lord. Man was given a soul, as we read, the very breath of God. So precious indeed was this soul that a great price was paid for it, the life of Jesus Christ. In truth it was a return investment—our purpose is to return to Him. To that end He has given us great and precious promises, words for our understanding and perfecting. What is life? It is nothing without Christ. As He said to me, I am life.

The reality of life is that it is quick. It seems moments ago that I was young, and though I am not old, time has proven only to accelerate. I look at my children and see that they are no longer babies, yet it seems like yesterday I was holding a tiny life in my hands.

James 4:14: *"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."*

A loved one who is nearing her 90s told me recently about how quickly life goes by. Though she feels the

physical effects of age, the rapid passage of time could easily have tricked her into thinking she was much younger. We have but a short time on this earth, and we do not know how long. We see some called home very young, and some which seem to last forever. Because of the uncertainty of this human life, we must live our lives in preparation for death.

I feel it important that we take a few moments to contemplate this point: You are greatly loved by the Lord; you are valuable to Him. I believe with all my heart that not only does the Lord desire the eternal welfare of your soul, but He is actively engaged in fighting for it. Consider a few experiences which I feel help to illustrate this point:

A once proud and hard man, difficult to be around, who was humbled and made strides to seek forgiveness from those closest to him. The Spirit touched him and his outlook on life changed. Awakened in the middle of the night, he felt strongly to call a brother who was on his deathbed to offer words of encouragement. The touch of the Spirit had called this man to change and soon after he passed into his reward, the working of the Lord evident to all.

A man who had been very hurt. He spent years angry

and isolating himself. After many years an illness changed his outlook and he began making the slow progress toward change. He became helpful, encouraging and pleasant to be around,

can I hope, except they shall be reconciled unto Christ, and enter into the narrow gate, and walk in the straight path, which leads to life, and continue in the path until the end of the day of probation."

surely as death is a means to an end for us.

Leviticus 17: 10-11: *"And whatsoever man there be of the house of Israel, or of the strangers that sojourn among you, that eateth any manner of blood; I will even set my face against that soul that eateth blood, and will cut him off from among his people. For the life of the flesh is in the blood; and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls: for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul."*

The Lord loves each one of us; we are valuable to Him and worth His effort.

which he had not always been. A brother had an experience as he heard this man at work one day, and the Spirit assured him he had changed and had found contentment and happiness. This man was able to spend his last days with his family, and a few days following he was called home.

We see that through Christ, there is hope for eternity, there is life. We read in Alma 19:85-90 that man had become lost and fallen, destined for death, and yet we read that, *"it was expedient that mankind should be reclaimed from this spiritual death"*—that is, through Jesus Christ.

Why the change in the hearts of these men? The Lord could have given up on them as they had nearly done to Him, and yet He called to them still. Why? The Lord loves each one of us; we are valuable to Him and worth His effort. He is actively fighting for your soul.

There is a fact that we all know, but may not contemplate often: Jesus Christ was born to die. His death, and subsequent resurrection, was His purpose here on earth. Surely there were things He did while on the earth—healed and blessed, comforted and performed miracles, further established His word—but those things were also done before and after His advent on earth, through His ministry by the power He had given them. But there was none other who could give their life and could die for sin. His purpose was to die; it was a means to an end, just as

The House of Israel was forbidden to take any blood, because there was only one whose blood was worthy, whose blood was pure. The life of the flesh is the blood, and blood makes atonement for the soul. We read in John 6:53: *"Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you."*

There is life only in Christ; life here and life eternally. What is life? Jesus Christ is life. His blood, His atonement, brings life.

1 Corinthians 15:54: *"So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."*

Because of this assur-

2 Nephi 15:5, 10: *"And the words which I have written in weakness, will be made strong unto them; for it persuadeth them to do good; it maketh known unto them of their fathers; and it speaketh of Jesus, and persuadeth them to believe in him, and endure to the end, which is life eternal. But behold, for none of these*

ance, there should be no fear of death. A believer should look forward to that reuniting with God. Now to be honest, I know there are few among us who find ourselves longing for death, but our hope should be that when our day on earth is complete, we will find ourselves together with Christ.

2 Corinthians 5:1-10: *"For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him."*

So how are we to feel when a loved one dies? I would say that it is normal,

healthy and acceptable to mourn someone's loss. Truly we mourn for ourselves, for it is we who have to continue on. Our loved one has passed to a kind and loving God, one who judges in perfection. I am assured that, as the scripture states, *"Behold, it hath 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."* (Alma 19:43), that the first thing our loved one sees is Jesus Christ, and whether they be judged righteous or unrighteous, they are first assured of His love.

So can we be sorrowful when someone dies? I would most certainly say yes. I have often thought of the story of Lazarus' death: how when Christ arrived and met Lazarus' sisters, Jesus wept. Why would Jesus cry over someone whom He knew He would raise from the dead? The answer is simple: sorrow is a human emotion which Christ possessed. He possessed all the qualities of humanity (absent sin), and though He was able to raise Lazarus, He was sorrowful at his death. Lazarus was his friend and Jesus loved him. We read that when Jesus learned of John's death, He departed to a

desert place. And though the scripture does not say why, I personally believe that Christ was sorrowful about John's passing. Sorrow is normal, healthy and acceptable, so long as it has its place. Sorrow is not to be a lifelong process. Missing someone is also normal. It is okay to feel that twinge of longing when we remember one who has passed on. We must be careful that we do not allow grief to bring us into depression, to lead to discouragement, anger or doubting.

So what is the solution to grief that seems unending? What is the solution to grief that leads to discouragement? There is one solution—the hope which comes in Jesus Christ, the hope of a better place, and the hope that we will again see that person.

1 Peter 3:15: *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:...."*

That hope starts for you now. If you do not have hope of a better place, a world without sorrow or pain, a place where we will be with our Master, you must examine your life and ask yourself, what is life?

1 Corinthians 15:19: *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ,*

we are of all men most miserable.”

There are things that can bring us sorrow beyond the feeling of loss. I would like to address two of these things that I believe are most common, and tell you how I feel a Christian should respond.

1 How should we feel when someone has died as a result of poor decisions, or one who died bitter and angry?

First, we must remember that we return to a just God. Mormon, as he looked upon his people who were in the final throes of destruction, was caused to write about such a situation.

Mormon 3:20-23: “O ye fair sons and daughters, ye fathers and mothers, ye husbands and wives, ye fair ones, how is it that ye could have fallen! But behold, ye are gone, and my sorrows can not bring your return; and the day soon cometh that your mortal must put on immortality, and these bodies which are now mouldering in corruption, must soon become incorruptible bodies; And then ye must stand before the judgment seat of Christ, to be judged according to your works; and if it so be that ye are righteous, then are ye blessed with your fathers which have gone before you. O that ye had repented before this great destruction had come upon you. But behold, ye are gone, and the Father, yea, the

eternal Father of heaven knoweth your state; and he doeth with you according to his justice and mercy (Emphasis added).”

Mormon states that the Father dealt with his people according to justice (Justice—Impartiality, fair representation of facts respecting merit or demerit - Webster’s 1828 dictionary), and in mercy (Mercy—That benevolence, mildness or tenderness of heart which disposes a person to overlook injuries, or to treat an offender better than he deserves - Webster’s 1828 dictionary). We as humans are unable to possess these qualities in perfection as the Lord does.

Christ said in John 7:24, “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” We do not know what steps that person may have taken to resolve or repent within their hearts before they passed, nor are we able to truly know what was in their heart. We are able to look on the outward man, but only a perfect and supreme being is able to look into a person’s soul and see what truly lies within. We must believe that God sees in ways we cannot, and trust that His decisions are perfect.

2 What if we have failed to resolve some issue with that person, and now our opportunity has gone?

This situation may happen often as we tend to rehash conversations and circumstances after someone’s passing. Having that person absent, we can only seek to repent of what anger or offense we held within our hearts to God, and trust that He in turn will forgive our stubbornness to mend fences when we had opportunity.

Surely the best option is not to let offenses go uncared for, lest we lose the opportunity to do right. We are reminded in Matthew 18:15-17 that if our brother offends us we are to seek him out to repair that breach, and in 3 Nephi 5:71-72 we are told that if we know our brother is offended by us we are to seek him out to repair what has been done, and then we will be received by the Lord. These words are a commandment and were given in wisdom for our benefit. Anger, hatred and divisions are sin, and sin is not acceptable before God.

There is only one way to repair a breach with someone—you must go to them in humility and love. You must put away your anger, resentment and frustration. You must be willing to forgive, regardless of whether that offended brother grants forgiveness in return. Even Christ while on the cross forgave those who

did not ask for it. We must do the same while we have opportunity.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2: "To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;..."

We are placed where we are and when we are for a purpose, one that may be unknown to us. We have been "planted" for a reason, and for certain time. I believe we can make decisions on how long that time may be (such as suicide or self-destructive behavior), but for the follower of Christ the culmination of life, the "plucking up" of that which was planted, is something that we must recognize as a natural and ordered step. There may be times when we are called upon to lose our life, such as Stephen when he was stoned to death; and yet even that was at a time, for a purpose. Abinadi also lost his life, and yet that death was a turning point for Alma, who then re-established the church.

I would like to offer two final scriptures and my thoughts to conclude this article.

Ecclesiastes 7:1, 8: "A good name is better than precious ointment; and the day of death than the day of one's birth. Better is the

end of a thing than the beginning thereof:..."

In the days of the prophets ointment was something that was valuable, that only those who had wealth could afford. A good name, a quality Christian life, is better than what was most valuable to humanity at that time. It was not something that could be purchased, but earned through adherence to God's word. Consider your own name, reputation and character: what will be said about you when you pass?

These are words we should consider when a loved one passes, as they bring hope. The end of life is the culmination, the completion. A follower of Christ should have satisfied their day of probation; the end of their trials has come. As the Apostle Paul said, "*I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing*" (2 Timothy 4:7-8).

If you are not able to look forward to your eventual death with this hope, you are not engaged in the Gospel of Christ. The words of Christ give us direction, they tell us

how to live to have this same hope.

Psalm 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints."

Why is the death of a saint precious? Webster's dictionary says that precious means of great value or worth (1828). Death is the day when the soul He created, one for which a perfect life was sacrificed, returns home to Him. It is a celebration for enduring to the end, and overcoming all the wiles of the devil through Jesus Christ. You must endeavor to live your life so that you may be considered one of His saints, so that your passing is one of celebration.

So how should we feel about death? Missing someone and being sorrowful at their loss is okay, but let it have its place. We must feel joy, happiness and hope, and that comes through Christ. What is life? Jesus Christ is life, here and eternally.

REPORT

Four Men Called to the Ministry in Kenya

Duane and I met together with the Kenyan priesthood once again to consider a manifestation received by Elder Moses Ohuru. Elder Moses delivered a calling for four men to occupy in the ministry, three to be priests and one to be a teacher. We had a season of prayer, then many witnesses were given to the validity of the callings. We instructed Moses to make a telephone call to each man and relay his experience and see if they had their own witness. We planned to have a meeting at Mesisita on Tuesday and those that had a witness and would accept their calling would be ordained that day.

Sunday service was held at Kineni, which was yet another change to the schedule; in fact, we only kept four days in our schedule for Kenya as originally planned. We always enjoy going to Kineni and this day was no exception. We had a typically great service and fellowship. One of the brothers named Shadrack is pictured standing and speaking to the congregation, and was among the men called. He attends the Kineni Local and will be a big asset to Moses and the congregation when Moses is away helping us for weeks on end.

Tuesday was soon upon us, the joyous day for us to meet at Mesisita for the ordination service. The schedule was for us to arrive at 10:30 a.m., even though we did not get started until almost noon, as we waited for members to come from many different regions around the Kisii area. When the four ordination candidates had finally all arrived we proceeded. There was an opening song and prayer, then the meeting was turned over to the missionaries. Turning the meeting over completely to us is a rarity, but when it happens we have the opportunity to show the kind of formal and organized way we hold meetings in America.



To begin, I preached a sermon about Priesthood being a gift of God to the Church. I took time to show them in scripture how men are called into the ministry by God Himself, and how the congregation should receive and encourage their efforts. I continued on speaking to the ministry and those that would be ordained, explaining their duties and the ordinances they are to perform according to the various offices of their callings. When I



was finished preaching I gave the four men opportunity to give their testimony of the validity of their calling. Each man stood and said he would not say much, but then spoke for a minimum of 20 minutes each.

Stephen Kengera from the Boboracho Congregation was ordained as priest. A man we first came to know as Mika, who later started calling himself Benjamin, and now goes by the name Mark Omonyi, of the Mesisita Local, was ordained to be a priest. Next man ordained to the office of a priest was Shadrack Tumbo of the Kineni Local. The last ordination was of Paul Koyok Sayori to the office of a Teacher. Paul is not a Kisii but a Maasai and leads the congregation in Kilgoris. The hand of fellowship was extended to our brothers after the ordinations were accomplished.



► Pictured right to left – Teacher Paul Koyok Sayori, Priest Shadrack Tumbo, Priest Mark Omonyi, and Priest Stephen Kengera

Elder Michael Owato from Tanzania was present for the service, so after the meeting we took a photo of all the ministry of Africa, except two: Priest Kepher was not present, nor was Apostle Smith Brickhouse. We feel quite blessed that now we have thirteen ministry in East Africa, but we can use even more, so we encourage all to pray for the calling of more men to occupy.



We also captured a picture of these men with their wives. This is an oddity rarely seen in nature, Kenyan men with their wives, much less four of them at the same time, some even showing affection.



Michael of Tanzania had come to Kisii so we could make a trip to Arusha Tanzania on Monday. That trip was also interrupted to accommodate the ordination service on Tuesday. We could not just push back the trip because by the end of the week we had a flight booked to the Congo. Therefore on Wednesday we sent Michael of Tanzania and Michael of Kenya to travel by bus to Arusha to keep the fires burning among those who have shown an interest in the Church of Christ.

God has blessed the work greatly by giving the Church more men called with a Holy Calling to labor among our people in East Africa.

FROM the ARCHIVES

Church History Photos



Excauation for the Temple on the Church of Christ Temple Lot property, looking southeast. This photo, taken December, 1930, was on the cover of the 1933 *Zion's Advocate*, along with the description saying: "Work has been steadily progressing on the excavation for the Temple this summer, and the required depth of nine feet 11 inches below the steel marker at the northeast corner has been reached. Four of the foundation caissons have been sunk to the solid rock, and can now be filled with the concrete and steel. These can be seen in the cut." This view shows the tall house is on the NE corner of River and Walnut Streets. At some point the work ceased and the hole had to be filled in.

—*The Church of Christ Archive Committee*

BOOK EXCERPT

SOME OF DONALD B. WILLARD'S WRITINGS

(Editor's Note: Don Willard was the husband of Sister Ruth Willard, who was the daughter of Apostle James E. Yates. The following as published by Joseph E. Yates in his book, "Papa Was Not a Quitter.")

Joe Yates writes: *"Don is not a preacher and maybe doesn't have any big reason to write on the subject, but he says sometimes he gets to thinking about things he believes and goes to his typewriter and pounds out his thoughts in writing. He gave me permission to quote him. If you are not an infidel, you will love his writing. If you are an infidel, you may say ouch and flinch a little bit, then revamp your thinking and learn something. Here is Don's writing."*

The following pages contain some views and conclusions arrived at over a period of several years. They are, of course, neither reminiscent nor historical. However, as a way of expressing my personal feeling on the subject matter, I offer them for consideration. I would hope they might not be boring or offensive to anyone, and at least be something to think about.

Science Fiction

Is there a borderline between science fantasy and scientific facts? It is reasonable to accept scien-

tific facts, but as to scientific theories we might hesitate somewhat. Of course, science fiction is another thing entirely.

We must remember that only a century ago dreamers and fiction writers were scoffed at for the ideas of communication and travel through space, or something like atomic power. Theories can have either a positive or negative direction. Their developments can be used for peaceful purposes or in warfare.

Sometimes we find ourselves thinking that much time and energy could be better spent by scientists solving the problems on earth than on star-gazing. Many of those problems have derived directly from scientific accomplishments.

Those scientists who tell us the universe was once no more than an electro-magnetic disturbance going on in a vast cloud of chemical gases which finally cooked up into lumps of primordial matter, are insisting that such material evolved into a universe

of infinite variety without any plan of direction or intelligence. Life itself they cannot explain.

Neither the vastness of space, measured by light years, or the nebular theory of original, help to tell the people on earth how to live. The microscope and the splitting of the atom are no help in breaking down hate and the seeds of war. No chemist or philosopher has yet devised a formula that explains in scientific terms such simple elements as love, kindness, loyalty, honor, trust, or belief. Would they have us understand them as only chemical or electronic reactions? Is the mind of man merely a mass of whirling atoms?

How does the scientist tell you the "laws of nature" came to be enacted? When moral and spiritual laws have been done away with, we are faced with a vacuum. One characteristic of a vacuum is that it seems to invite something to replace that which has been removed.

Here we come to consider where

a very definite source of responsibility can be shown. Our times have seen the breakdown of law and order, the increase of crime and violence, and contempt for moral values. Philosophy and pseudo-science must share responsibility as to cause and effect.

Can we conclude that certain scientific "theories" require those who accept them to be even more credulous than those who hold a belief in a Creator? *"The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament showeth His handiwork"* (Psalm 19:1).

Limits of Science

A lot has been said in these days to glorify science and its achievements. We cannot deny our debt to those scientists who have contributed to the relief of sickness, suffering, and hunger. But I have been thinking of some of the things for which we may be thankful that have not come out of classrooms and laboratories of higher education.

Scientists tell us our universe consists of certain physical and chemical elements, and that these in turn are merely an arrangement of spinning electrons tied together to form atoms. These are under the control of formulas, theories, and nuclear of nebular hypotheses. And that's it.

There are some things in life for which we can be thankful that have

values much greater than the wonders of science. Their source lies not in technology or philosophy. We learn of them from a different kind of teaching. They are not subject to chemical analysis or mathematical formulas. What are they? We use words like kindness, honesty, morality, reverence, devotion, love, and even happiness. These are the realities that surpass any discoveries in space or in microscopic analysis.

All of us can be thankful every day that we can use the best things in life like the above, if we have learned them well, from the Great Teacher.

The Mystery of the Meaning

Two opposing philosophies are represented in the atheist's declaration that there is no God, and the believer's song, "How Great Thou Art!" Perhaps they may be evaluated to some extent if we approach the matter by considering some abstract concepts.

First, we might examine some everyday words which are easier to define than to fully comprehend. Can we, for instance, grasp the infinity of space? The scientists have not been able to establish a beginning or end of either, and they constantly revise and dispute the theories. We must conclude that the mind has to accept

the reality of both without actually perceiving them objectively by any of our five senses. Again, we know that force or energy exist even though all we are able to see and feel are the effects. We do not know what electricity looks like, but would be foolish to doubt that it is real. We speak of the laws of nature such as physics and chemistry, but cannot explain their origin by any human reasoning. Even transcending all the above factors of time, space, and natural laws, the phenomenon of living things is the most baffling to scientists. They try to "evolve" system and order, and even life, out of cosmic chaos, by contriving such theories as the "nebular hypotheses," as if plan and purpose were impossible.

Second, the attributes of human intelligence, reasoning, emotion, will, belief, and even reverence are realities. They exist, even though the scientist demands laboratory analysis, using only measurements of purely physical manifestations. But we have no need for chemical or mathematical formulas to know they are real.

Man does not need to be a victim of superstition to accept the verity of time, space, energy, natural law, life, or the human qualities mentioned. Neither should it be deemed inconsistent to conclude that they are bound together under a directing intelligence that has created our universe with these and other ingredient ele-

ments.

"What is Truth?" Although the question has had many answers, the right one must be sought by taking into account the above verities and ascribing them to some master design. Such a design could only be operative under a power or force superior to all. Otherwise dust would remain dust and electrons would remain electrons. Is it possible to find there an answer that the scientists have been missing? If we can give a name to this force or intelligence, perhaps we will have found ourselves at the doorway to ultimate Truth with the key in hand.

Conclusions such as the above would seem to avoid the problems of credibility pertaining to the sophistry, conjecture, and atheism taught by pseudo-science. The answer may be one from a Voice which said: *"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty"* (Revelation 1:8).

God is Dead! That headline pronouncement is still remembered. But it seemed there was no mourning. In the first place, believers said it was a false report, and there was no reason to mourn. They did not give up their belief in the Creator of man's existence and its purpose: *"In the beginning, God..."* They have continued to believe that faith, hope, love, compassion, honesty, and goodness are

from the eternal living Architect of the universe, Alpha and Omega, beginning and end. They are sure this world and man himself are part of the Great Architect's plan, and that according to that plan man has freedom of choice for good or evil. Why then should they mourn?

There are others who do not mourn. They are variously non-believers or unbelievers. First, there are those who cannot mourn for what they have never known. No voice from within or from without has ever reached into that vacuum or absence of belief that prevails with a great part of the world's population. Another class, hearing some voice, finds it disturbs them to the point of hostility and defiance, and professes and boasts of its disbelief and enmity to God. Some, as unbelievers, are inclined to be a little more tolerant of God because they claim man invented Him. These folks pretend they themselves are creators, able to make their kind of world, with formulas, theories, philosophy, and laws. To them, doubt is high achievement, and belief merits only contempt.

A sorry testimony to the teaching of atheism and what is called humanism is to be seen in the generation of rebel delinquents, criminals, terrorists, and perverts. The affluent society has become a sick society, even as it lays claim to an era of space-age wonders and opportunities. Like the lem-

ings of the arctic north, relentlessly impelled to seek mass suicide, mankind seems to be deliberately following rulers, scientists and wise (?) men who will lead them to sure extermination by the devices of their genius, and who can offer no promise of security. The collapse of moral and ethical values, together with widespread cynical and arrogant unbelief, find acceptance and popularity, while respect for law and order, patriotism and decency, decline. *"The fool hath said in his heart, there is no God"* (Psalm 53:1).

Could it be that the world at this time has no place to turn except to a firm, living and guiding belief in man's true responsibility to Divine law, to avert a climax of atomic destruction, and a final shocking headline, for which there would be no one to write...or read...or mourn?

MAN IS DEAD!! Unless??

By Donald B. Willard

TESTIMONY

God's Love

I have been reminded lately how many times I experience the presence of God in my life...whether it be a miracle, an answered prayer or just the feeling that He is near me when I am in need. With the hustle and bustle of life, and in the day and age that we live in with all its distractions, it is easy sometimes to forget that God is always there.

My testimony is about God surprising me with His reminder of how close He is to us. I was driving home from work and it was dark and cloudy. The storms were surrounding the valley, yet just ahead of me I could see rays of sunlight coming through what I call, "Jesus clouds." I was mesmerized by the beauty of the rays that were shining through the clouds. The road I was on cleared the way for me to see across to the valley many miles north where I saw distant rainstorms. There were two separate areas where I could see the rain was pouring down. I started to think about how much this is like life as a whole. If we were to go back and look at our life, we would see the storms of life we went through. There are times when things are just stormy and uncertain. Then sometimes there are areas of heavy rain where it is dark and



grey, and you wonder when it will move on or if it will just stay right above you forever. But through it all, Jesus is there with His rays shining down on us. Even when the storm is right on top of us, Jesus and His light are right above the storm...and through the clouds we can see His beauty and love for us.

As this was running through my head, I continued down the road and turned south down another road. I turned my head and saw such a beautiful sight. In the distance, against a grey sky background, I saw a rainbow. The rainbow is one direct tie we have to the days of old when Bible stories were being lived instead of just

read. God promised man that He would never flood the Earth again. That promise is a physical beauty that we are still able to see and partake in; it is the rainbow. How wonderful to see this sight! But more than just seeing this in the sky, I related it to my previous thoughts on the storms of life. God has promised us so many things, and in the midst of all the storms, trials and troubles, His promises are still there if only we can take our focus away from the moment and see them.

At this point I started to cry and thank God for this reminder. Not only is Jesus shining down on us, but we can rely on God's promises that He will hold our hand and help us through our life if only we would seek Him. I thank and praise God for this reminder He gave me, and hope that all who read this can find comfort in knowing God loves us and is watching down on us always.

Jennifer McCann

TESTIMONY

The Blessing of Tithing

I feel compelled to share this testimony after our Brother Jeff Oldham's sermon at the Missouri Reunion this weekend. I've given this testimony before, but it continues to grow. As a young man, the practice of tithing was explained to me, and has grown to be a blessing in my life.

I'll start by sharing that one of the very first times that I tithed, a few days later I was surprised to find that very same amount in my dresser. It made a lasting impression on me, and built my faith even stronger. I have to admit that there was a time in my life that I got away from paying my tithing and living a Christian life, period. That being said, I never forgot that blessing. Later in life, when I began to get back on track and giving my tithes I've been blessed time and time again. I started by paying ten percent of my net, and did so for many years. In no way am I trying to tell anyone how to pay their tithing, so please don't think that. I just feel compelled to share the blessings I've received and the process in which they came about!

Over the years I've done side jobs for extra cash, but never paid tithing on them, because that was extra for me, right! Well, there came a time when I had a large side job, and was doing pretty good. The thought came to me of the challenge spoken of in Malachi, that if we tithe, the windows of Heaven will be opened up and a blessing poured out larger than you can receive! I'm here to say that's so true, because I decided to pay tithing on that side job and started getting so much side work that I had to turn some down. Again, what a boost to my faith.

I also had the occasion to have a group of friends of varying backgrounds discussing the topic of tithing. The thought was brought up as to how to figure how much to pay. Some said ten percent of net. Some said whatever they could pay at the time. What I remember the most was



when one answered with a question, do you want a gross or a net blessing? I pondered that for a while. That brings us back to the challenge in Malachi. Once again, my testimony grew. I thought about that and realized our family always had what we needed. There were times with small children that we didn't have a lot left over, but always got by. I can also say there were times when I mistakenly thought I could not pay tithe, and all the other bills too. I found out if I skipped paying tithing the other bills did not all get paid either. When I remembered my previous blessings I decided to pay tithing first, and whatever happened after would happen. From then on, I can tell you that there have been numerous times that the checkbook would become a mess and hard to balance, but somehow the extra money would miraculously show up. I know of a surety that all these times the Lord has blessed us. Many other times, in other ways, He has poured out those blessings.

There came a day when I went to work to find the gate locked. I no longer had a job. I was

blessed in getting work in just a couple of days. The problem was it was only part-time, but the only way to get back into the industry I was a part of. I had to make a conscious decision to pay my tithing no matter what. Only working a couple days a week, when you are just getting by at full-time, can seem impossible. I can tell you the Lord will provide no matter what life throws at you, as long as you put your faith in him! It took ten months to get hired full-time, and the only way we made it through was by His blessing. I know paying tithing even through this trial was the only thing to do! Still, that statement, do you want a gross or a net blessing, came back to me. We were paying our tithing from our net, and we were blessed, but did not seem to be getting ahead. The thought occurred to me, what if we paid from our gross? Well, I can testify that from that point on we started doing even better. We were able to do more, not just getting by. That net blessing turned into a gross blessing. How Amazing! Since the last time I shared this testimony, I have received several checks over a ten year period from the bankruptcy of my former job, and they always come at a time of need, blessings indeed! He truly works in mysterious ways! Several months after Dana changing jobs, and already having cashed out her 401k, we received another check from her 401k that was an unexpected bonus, at a time we really needed it!

I'll finish by saying that I hope the young people that read this put this blessing to use in their life. You'll learn as I did it's not a burden, it's a blessing and a promise you can rely on all through life!

David Taylor II

REPORT

Church of Christ - Akwesasne New York Reunion 2012 Report

Friday, July 13, 2012 7:00 PM

Welcome.

Pastor Brandon Tarbell welcomed everyone with an opening prayer. This year the local crafted mobiles representing the fruits of the Spirit for each family.

Galatians 5: 22-23: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

Preaching Service: Apostle Duane Ely
Brother Duane shared his experiences getting to New York with delayed flights and making connections. Each time, the Lord's hand was evident. The Lord provides for us. Brother Duane shared some of his experiences where he has seen the Lord's hand at work—a meeting with a young person, priesthood callings.

God is mindful of each of us. He knows our thoughts and desires. The Lord provided the Scriptures for us; He preserved the Scriptures for us.

2 Timothy 3:16 — *"All scripture is given by the inspiration of God..."* It is given to us for a purpose. We should not be offended if the Lord steps on our toes.

Galatians 6:9 — *"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."*

We need to run toward our spiritual responsibility. Each of us has a different spiritual responsibility. The path is not always smooth to fulfill His purposes.

Alma 17:79 — *"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."*

We must follow a straight course to eternal bliss — Christ's plan for us.

2 Nephi 11:44 — *"For we know that it is by grace that we are saved, after all that we can do."*

We are judged by our works. Christ's judgment will be fair.

Mormon 1: 86-87 — *"And for this cause I write unto you, that ye may know that ye must all stand before the judgment seat of Christ; yea, every soul which belongs to the whole human family of Adam; And ye must stand to be judged of your works, whether they be good or evil; and also that ye may believe the gospel of Jesus Christ, which ye shall have among you;..."*

The misconception in the world is that all will go to heaven. We cannot trick Jesus as we did our teachers and professors. There will be no grading on a curve. We will be graded by the Word of God.

We are to hold fast to the Word of God, the commandments of God (Luke 4:3-4).

In Luke 8:4-15 we read the parable of the sower. The seed is the Word of God.

The United States is a rich nation, but the people feel they do not need God. In other nations

where they have nothing, the people grasp on to the Word.

2 Nephi 6: 22-23 — *"Yea, to that being who beguiled our first parents; Who transformeth himself nigh unto an angel of light, and stirreth up the children of men unto secret combinations of murder, and all manner of secret works of darkness."*

Satan has flowery words to lead us astray. He gently leads us away to destruction.

Moroni 7:10-14 reminds us that all good is from God. We must know good from evil. All will bow before Christ at the Judgment Day.

Isaiah 5:20-21 refers to today's world. We must be ready for the things to come. The scriptures are very plain that this is a blessed nation. If the people do not serve God, they will be swept off.

Matthew 24:21-22 says there will be a great tribulation; this is a warning. We are the elect, the chosen of God. We are not to fear. Take up the cross and follow Me. The righteous need not fear; they shall be saved.

Luke 9:23.

1 Nephi 7:36-37.

Isaiah 41:10.

We must study the scriptures, follow the Lord; we need not fear.

After the sermon, we shared fellowship and snacks.

Saturday, July 14, 2012 at 9:00 AM

Praying Service: Comments by Brother Dennis Trudgen.

We need to be thankful for all we do, for all we have.

Colossians 3:14-17: *"And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."*

The Gentiles were an unthankful people.

Romans 1:18-22: *"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. . . ."*

Be joyful when persecuted for God's sake. Be perfect and want nothing.

James 1:2-4: *"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; Knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing."*

David in the Old Testament showed us how to be thankful. We are to be sincerely thankful in all we do.

10:00 AM, Child Blessing Service

Comments by Elder Gordon McCann.
Five of Tom and Renee Arnold's children were blessed: Tristan, Jacob, Caleb, Cameron and Erika.

God is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. We are made in the image of God. We want to keep our bodies pure. The truth will set you free; the knowledge of the truth will set you free. The soul will never die; the body will perish but not the soul. We have full control of choice—not God.

We are weak in the flesh. We are now in our probationary time.

Moroni 8:7: *"For immediately after I had learned these things of you, I inquired of the Lord concerning the matter."*

Baptism is necessary to fulfill all righteousness. Baptism is a commandment of God.

There were many administrations during this prayer service.

11:00 AM, Elder Dick Wheaton

Brother Wheaton's sermon was on the fruits of the Spirit. Galatians 5:22-23: There are many fruits of the Spirit.

Brother Wheaton read Hymn 175: "Unto God Who Knows Our Every Weakness."

Love: Galatians 5:13-14: *"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."*

Galatians 6:2-10: We are to help each other and fulfill the law of Christ.

We are to hope for that which we see not. We must have patience to wait upon the Lord. All things work together for good for them that love the Lord.

Romans 8:23-28: *"And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body. For we*

are saved by hope: but hope that is seen is not hope: for what a man seeth, why doth he yet hope for? But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. 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 groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. 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."

Charity is the true love of Christ. It is brotherly love.

Alma 5:38-42.

Ether 5:33-34.

3 Nephi 5:66-68

The fruits of the Spirit are faith, hope, love, charity, peace, longsuffering, meekness, gentleness, goodness, repentance, baptism, receiving of the Holy Ghost, eternal life. We are all sinners. We must live by the fruits of the Spirit to receive our rewards.

3 Nephi 12:25-28: *"Behold I have given unto you my gospel, and this is the gospel which I have given unto you, that I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me; And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, I might draw all men unto me: That as I have been lifted up by men, even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil; And for this cause have I been lifted up; therefore, according to the power of the Father, I will draw all men unto me, that they may be judged according to their works."*

At noon, we shared lunch and enjoyed the fellowship of our brothers and sisters. After lunch, a special kids' activity was held which focused on the fruits of the Spirit.

3:00 PM, We enjoyed a Song Service.

3:30 PM, Preaching Service by Elder Gordon McCann

The Lord shall set His Hand again. Brother Gordon led us on a historical journey through the Scriptures.

3 Nephi 10:27-32.

Vigilance is required.

The Voice of warning.

Look for the signs — Hebrews.

Search the prophets (3 Nephi 10:32).

Search the scriptures (John 5:39):
"Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me."

Isaiah 11:10-12: *"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth."*

The following Scriptures are additional references.

Verse 10, 4 elements:

1 A root of Jesse: Matthew 1:6, Luke 3:23, 31-32

a His works: Luke 4:16-18

b Abraham: Gen 26:17-18

c Isaac: Gen 26:4-5

d Jacob: Gen 28:13-14

e Israel: Gen 35:10-12

f Judah's blessing: Gen 49:9

g Scepter: Gen 49:10

h Shiloh: Rev 5:5

2 An ensign: John 10:27

a Strong #5251: an ensign is a standard, an approved model

3 The Gentiles will seek: 3 Nephi 7:30

4 Will find rest: Matt 11:29-30

Verse 11:

1 When was the first time? Gen 12:1, 18

2 Abraham's vision: Gen 15:13-15

3 Joseph's blessing: Gen 49:26, Deut 33:17

4 Joseph's separation: Gen 37:28, Acts 7:9

5 Joseph prevails: Gen 41:39-40, Num 18:20

6 Moses (a Levite): Exodus 2:1-2, 10

7 God speaks to Israel: Exodus 6:6, 8

8 Israel recovered the first time: Exodus 12:40-41

9 Words of Zenos: Jacob 4:3-4

Verse 12:

1 Book of Mormon, another witness of Christ: 2 Nephi 11:29-31

2 Words of Christ before their eyes: Ezek 37:19-20

3 The Bride of Jesus Christ: 1 Nephi 7:22, 3 Nephi 5:43

4 Searching for the outcasts of Israel: Jeremiah 16:15-16

5 God is relentless in looking for His children

6 Gathering the outcasts: Ezek 37:21-22

7 The Words of Jesus: Rev 22:16-17

A traditional Mohawk Thanksgiving dinner was served after the service.

7:00 PM, Preaching Service by Elder Dennis Trudgen

Truth, Deception, Disinformation.

We are engaged in a spiritual warfare for our hearts and minds. There are two big lies in the world today.

▶ Satan is all powerful, always present, all knowing, reads our minds, and has power over us.

▶ Man has supernatural power within himself.

We should look to Jesus as our superhero. Instead of looking to the world's superheroes, we should look to the Bible and Book of Mormon for our heroes.

Satan copies everything the Lord does. Why?

▶ Alma 16:66-68 — Satan appears

▶ 2 Thes 2:8-12 — half truths

▶ 2 Nephi 12:11

▶ Luke 4:1-13 — The temptation of Christ

▶ Rev 12:7-10

▶ Job 11:6-12

▶ Col 1:15-16

▶ Psalms 139:7-13

Only God knows the thoughts and desires of our hearts. He is omniscient, all knowing.

▶ 2 Chron 6:30

▶ 1 Cor 2:9-11

▶ Rev 2:23

▶ Jacob 2:5

▶ Alma 12:110

▶ Alma 9:4 - He knows our thoughts

▶ Alma 9:24 - Our thoughts will also condemn us

▶ Hebrews 4:12 a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart

▶ Daniel 2:9, 30

Prophecy — Only God knows the future.

▶ Matt 24:2

▶ Nephi 7:15, Nephi 9:65

▶ 1 Cor 14:24-25

▶ Helaman 5:115

▶ Jeremiah 23:11-13, 27:9-10

▶ Daniel 2:27-28

▶ Gen 40:8

▶ Isaiah 45:21

▶ Isaiah 46:9-10

▶ Isaiah 44:7-8

▶ Isaiah 48:3-5

Brother Dennis ended the service with these questions:

▶ Would Satan have taken God's challenge against Job if he had known Job would be more blessed?

▶ Would Satan have rebelled if he knew the outcome?

We were reminded to come fasting and in prayer for Sunday morning.

9:00 AM, Sacrament Service

Many beautiful testimonies were given. There were additional administrations.

This service was followed by lunch and fellowship.

Those fortunate to stay enjoyed dinner and a study at 7:00 PM by Elder Dennis Trudgen.

REPORT

2012 Missouri Reunion Report

On Friday, July 27th, 2012, the Missouri Reunion began with a prayer service. Elders Marvin and Benny Case were in charge. After opening remarks and a season of prayer many testimonies followed. These are just a few:



▶ A sister testified that the words of a recent sermon were a blessing to her and her husband because of a loved one that has fallen away.

The sermon was about the prodigal son, which eased their heart and gave them hope.

▶ A sister testified of a great blessing she received. She interviewed for a teaching job working with

▶ **Gideon Case, Dylan Malone, Rogan Lawrence, Daphne Case**

special-needs students. She had prayed for this position which she desired. At the interview she asked to be notified by phone if she was hired, for she would be in a church reunion all weekend and wouldn't be able to be reached. They were

delayed in their arrival at the church by an hour, but as they were about to get out of their car she received a phone call and was offered the job that she had prayed for.

▶ A brother testified of his mother teaching him to pray when he was a young boy and how that has blessed him throughout his life. He also told us of a dream he received where he was in a congregation and he saw tubes of light come down from above. Each tube of light ran between one who was praying and going up into the heavens; their prayers were going straight up to God.

▶ A brother spoke of the despair he felt while in the armed forces many years ago. The Lord sent a heavenly messenger to him—sent because of the prayers of the loved ones back home. He told us that was the turning point for him to start loving people.

A preaching service followed, with the sermon given by Elder Alvin Harris. Brother Alvin greeted us and explained why we come together for a reunion. He used Psalm 86:11, Omni 1:34, 2 Nephi 1:36, 3 Nephi 8:52-55, Moroni 6:6 to explain



▶ **Bob Hedrick, Joel Yates, Donald Gill and Darin Crull**

why we come together to get invigorated so we can all be united in the Lord. He went on to use Matt. 18:15-18, 20, and 1 Peter 4, explaining that our goal is to cease from sin, to live the will of God, not socializing with the world and partaking in their activities. The world wants you to join them, and when you don't you are peculiar. Be sober and watch unto prayer, as we are looking forward to Christ's second coming. When you are persecuted you will have joy because His glory will rest upon you and He will always help you.

After lunch and a song service we enjoyed another sermon, given by Priest Bill Malone. Br. Bill began by reading Mosiah 1:119-120. He explained that this applies to all, for we are enemies to God if we don't change that natural man. We need to be actively drawing closer to God... every hour of the day. Most of us allow His Spirit to lead most of the time. By doing nothing we are an enemy to God, saying "Let go, let God!" We must physically let go of the control. Being humble takes active thought every hour of the day. How do we maintain the love of God? It's more than just saying the words—He wants to see action... in our keeping His commandments. There is no other way except by accepting Christ as our Savior and being equally yoked with Him. John 14:15 says if



► Paul & Sharon Leikness, David and Cheryl Taylor, Irene Datweiler, Jiefei and Jacob Seibel

you love me you will keep my commandments. We are not to be selective in keeping them; we are to keep all of them. Br. Bill referred to the foolish virgins in Matt. 25. The foolish just sat and waited; Jesus knew them not. We want to hear, "Enter in thou good and faithful servant." When we pray do we say THY will be done? And mean it? Br. Bill used Matt. 6:14-15 and explained that at

the judgment day it will be too late for mercy. He admonished us that there will always be trials, but we have to make the choice of how we deal with them. If serving God is the most important thing in your life we must give up the natural man. It's not MY will be done, but thine be done. Listen to what He says.

After the evening meal and another song service we enjoyed a sermon given by Elder Brandon Tarbell. Br. Brandon was led to preach on "Enduring." He began with using Hebrews 12:1 and 1 Peter 5:8. Br. Brandon explained that there were four things he would like to talk about:

- 1 Satan and his deception
- 2 Separate ourselves and submit to God
- 3 Be that light (Matt 5:14-16) and let your light shine
- 4 Endure to the end, that they may see your good works

Br. Brandon read 2 Nephi 6:22-23, Ephesians 6:12, 2 Nephi 11:94, Mosiah 2:48-50, Isaiah 5:20-21, 2 Nephi 12:9-11, 2 Nephi 11:116-117, Alma 21:17-18, 3 Nephi 9:98-105, and 1 Nephi 7:32-41. Br. Brandon used Rev. 18:1-5 to tell us of Babylon, which is falling, and to come out of her that ye receive not of her plagues. He also used 2 Corinthians



► McKenna Yates and Mary Galvan



► **Tabitha Case, Becky Sheldon and Cynthia Lawrence**

6:16-18, Mark 4:18-19, 1 Nephi 2:62-84. He told of Lehi's vision of the tree of life and the mocking finger of the world and asked, are we ashamed? He continued with 1 Nephi 4:38-42, Mosiah 1:119-20, Alma 19:12-13, Luke 9:23, James 4:7-8, Ephesians 4:22-32, Alma 17:65-69. Br. Brandon read 2 Nephi 3:42-66, and asked, do we cry out to God with a broken heart and a contrite spirit? In repentance? He read Matt 5:14-16, explaining there is a great importance for us to let our light shine; God has chosen us to represent Him in these last days. He read 3 Nephi 3:16, Titus 2:11-14 where we are told God has called us out of the world to be a peculiar people. He read Alma 16:228-230 (this is our time to prepare to meet God); and Alma 5:33-38. Br. Brandon admonished us to endure, make it to the finish line so we may hear those words, "Enter in my faithful servant."

On Saturday morning we gathered in to the house of the Lord for another prayer service. Elder Robert Oldham and Apostle Smith (Buzz) Brickhouse were in charge. Br. Buzz greeted us as he used Psalm 100 to admonish us that we must seek the will of God so He can mold us. He also

read Psalm 133:1-3 and 134, Psalm 1:3, and Isaiah 55:3. After a season of prayer, there were many testimonies of God's blessings; these are just a few:

► A brother testified of God's goodness on a recent missionary trip. His wife was able to accompany him, and she was given direction as how to assist

him in helping minister to a young family. He felt very blessed of God.

- A sister testified of her thankfulness to God for being able to attend the reunion. She told us of the leading of the Lord (in the middle of the night) to purchase her own airline tickets over the internet, something she'd never done before. The Lord led her and she followed. She believes this was in answer to her prayer that if He wants her to be here, that He would clear the way.
- A brother testified of an accident he and his wife had a few months ago. It was slippery, their truck slid and then rolled over several times, coming to a stop up against a tree. It was a huge blessing that they were able to crawl out a window. Help came and the truck was pulled out...but the biggest blessing was that other than his wife suffering a concussion, there were no other injuries. God surely blessed them.
- A sister testified of God's blessings during a middle of the night trip she had to make recently in an emergency situation. She was concerned about being able to stay awake as she drove. God blessed her greatly by bringing a storm front through and putting on a light show for her. She saw colored lightning in a cloud that completely covered the sky in front of her for 1 ½ hours as she



► **Daniel Malone, Jacob Seibel, Jesse Lawrence and D.A. Vogel**



► **Apostle Roland Sarratt**

drove. She saw several formations in the clouds during the storm and was told by the spirit, "I am with you."

Following lunch and a song service we enjoyed a sermon given by Elder Jim Case. Br. Jim began by telling us he went to camp a little discouraged this year, but he felt better after witnessing a quiet young man give his first testimony, and did it well. There were many things on his mind this very morning and he cried out to the Lord, "Why Lord?" and he prayed. Br. Jim went on to explain that we can't depend on our GPS, just like you can't enter into heaven with priestcraft. He explained that there is no charge for God's Plan of Salvation (GPS). Br. Jim used 2 Nephi 11:95-105 and Alma 19:87-114 where we are told that only the truly penitent are saved. How do we qualify, he asked. He used 2 Nephi 11:106, Mosiah 9:38, 2 Nephi 11:116 to answer and explain that Zion is for those who are diligently trying to serve God. He admonished us to keep ourselves pure, and to not rejoice in iniquity. He reminded us that in Ether 5 we are told if we have faith, hope and charity it will be well with us in the end. Br. Jim read Rev. 20:1-6 in closing.

After dinner there was another song service, which was followed by a sermon given by Elder Jeff

Oldham. Br. Jeff told us we can be proud of our campers—they had a great camp this year. He felt God's direction in preparing his sermon. He began by using 2 Nephi 3:61-66 to admonish us that we should not put our trust in any arm of flesh. He continued by using Proverbs 3:1-10 to admonish us not to lean unto thine own understanding. Br. Jeff explained we all have a responsibility to

tithe. He used 3 Nephi 11:9-14 and asked, will a man rob God? We have been very blessed in the church in past years; even though we are living in challenging times we are thankful we are still blessed. Our youth have a calling; they also have a responsibility to tithe. Br. Jeff used Numbers 18:24, Hebrews 7:1-6, Alma 10:1-10, Luke 11:42, Luke 6:30-34, Gal. 6:9-10, Luke 21:1-4 to show us the example that has been set. . . it is the responsibility for all of us to give. In Jacob 2:22 we are told to seek ye for the kingdom of God, and to seek riches that we might do good. In Mosiah 9:60-64 we are told we should impart to one another, both temporally and spiritually, according to their needs and their wants. Br. Jeff ended with reading 2 Nephi 3:61-66 once again.

On Sunday morning we gathered in to the house of the Lord for our sacrament service. Apostles Mike McGhee and Roland Sarratt were in charge of the service. Br. Mike greeted us and reminded us that we are new creatures in Christ. . . spiritually perfect. He read Mosiah 2:12-17 where we are told to "Believe in God. . . see that you do them." He knows we are full of hope and knowledge and we have a pursuit of joy. Br. Mike admonished us not to accommo-



► **Marjorie Routh and Helen Kidd**

date others' beliefs by compromising our own. He explained that there are works of darkness in our great nation, but the light of Christ exposes us for a healing in Christ; a healing and a cleansing. He'll take our weakness and make it strength—in Him. Make His light shine through you. Look to God to come into your heart, mind and soul and reflect upon God.

The emblems were blessed and served. We entered into a season of prayer in which many names and needs were raised to our heavenly Father, and an administration took place. After this many voices were lifted in testimony of blessings received; here are just a few:

- ▶ A brother testified of a wonderful missionary trip he and his son had when they visited Tanzania and Kenya last spring. In Tanzania he recalled the statement of a newly ordained minister of the Church of Christ who testified to them of his faithfulness to his calling to God. How wonderful this was to hear. Our brother is thankful for the Lord's strength and encouragement each and every day.
- ▶ Another brother testified that with each affliction he's had, he has been raised up. He is so thankful to God for His miraculous power.
- ▶ Another brother testified of witnessing to those at



▶ **Barbara Kimball and Manon Lawrence**

his workplace. He has been sought out for a Bible study class among those he works with, with more and more joining in. Our brother told us that our lives are the most important testimony we have. He reminded us Paul didn't read the book of Romans; he wrote it. He also testified that people are looking... their churches have let them down, and reminded us that each of us has a calling.

- ▶ A sister testified of her extremely bad eyesight, caused by macular degeneration. She can't drive, and now also has glaucoma in her bad eye. She was administered to and now is seeing some color again. She admonished us to call for the Elders, and believe.
- ▶ A brother testified that six months ago he was very ill, but prayers were answered and he thanked us all for our prayers on his behalf. He went to camp this year for the first time, and testified the Holy Spirit is at work among the campers.
- ▶ Another brother testified that every day he prays for God to put someone in his life that he can witness to. His prayer was answered one day recently when he was helping a couple while at a work site. The couple stopped going to church because of things that were being preached. Our brother quoted some scriptures (from the Book of Mormon) and the woman cried, loving what he had shared with them. Our brother admonished us that we never know where that testimony will go, but that our testimonies should be how God works in our lives. God takes us as we are and then changes us into something He can use. We all fall short because of our weaknesses. If you pray, God will put someone in your life every day



▶ **Janeen and Martin Addie**



► **Dana Taylor, Michelle Oldham and Alex Gahner**

to witness to, so they'll have a better walk with God.

- A sister testified of a blessing that her husband was able to come to reunion this weekend. She also told us of a great blessing she received after administration. She was hospitalized with a tubal pregnancy and needed to have surgery. After administration she felt peace and her strength return as she felt the power of God. He answered all prayers for her and she is very thankful.
- A sister testified of God's hand at work in her preparation for her class at camp. She was looking forward to camp again this year, but God had somewhere else for her to be. She was prepared to be off from her job, and since her camp lessons were all prepared she was able to hand them over to someone else and be at the hospital with the family during the time of their loved one's passing. Everything she needed to do, and be, all became crystal clear to her. God had it all covered.
- A sister told us it was a year ago her husband was diagnosed with cancer. He didn't want to go through treatment, but a granddaughter told him she didn't want him to die. The granddaughter told him it was Jesus that told her he shouldn't die. The Lord has been carrying them

both through this last year and she thanks Him for all his love and care for all of us.

After lunch and a song service we gathered in again for the final sermon of the reunion. Apostle Roland Sarratt read Leviticus 26:3, 14-28, 31-38, 40-44, where we are told to walk in the statutes of God...or be punished. He told us God's plan is complete; we have to trust in Him and obey all of His commandments...not rejecting the fullness of the gospel, but to accept it and take it to Israel. Our adversary has not sat by idly; in fact, he's hard at work among men, attacking us through our weaknesses. It's only by the grace of God that the true church still exists. We've seen a great change in our society; we've become a permissive society, and a "demanding" society; demanding changes in teachings, and changes are being made as they want to establish new guidelines. We find our world ripening in iniquity; we're living in a day of deception. Prophecy warns that we'll see these changes, and we are seeing them. Some are changing the teachings of Christ, thus becoming "anti-Christ." We need to know the prophecies so we can recognize the fulfilling of them. Br. Roland used Isaiah 5:20, Luke 21:34-36 to admonish us that this is real and it is happening. The pit of deception is being dug, and

those that dig it will fall in it. We want to warn everyone about this. We have been told to "Watch and pray always" that we may not fall into this ourselves. Br. Roland told us God's promise to Israel is happening, and used Ezekiel 37:21-23 to show us that Israel is being gathered and brought to their own land now. One day they will be His people and He will be their God. Then God shall cleanse His church, purging it from all unholiness. He used 3 Nephi 9:57-59 and admonished us to seek to establish the cause of Zion (be a holy people) as we are commanded in latter day revelation.

This brought the 2012 Missouri Reunion to a close. We were blessed with many musical gifts offered up to the Lord by talented brothers and sisters, edified through the preaching of God's word, and enjoyed the fellowship with our church family. For all, we thank thee O God for thy Spirit in these latter days!

Your reporter, Sr. Deb Haines

OBITUARY

Apostle Frank Fann

February 12, 1937~September 27, 2012

Our brother Apostle Frank Fann, 75, of Independence, Missouri, passed from this life on September 27, 2012, at the Kansas City Hospice House.

Frank was born February 12, 1937, in Martin City, Missouri, to Frank and Orvetta Fann. Frank married his high school sweetheart, Carolyn (Nast) Fann on February 3, 1956. They were united in marriage by brother William A. Sheldon.

Frank had a long career of 44 years, working the majority of the time as a foreman and supervisor at LaFarge. Frank was a loving and devoted husband and father. During these years he and his wife raised three children. He is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Carolyn Fann; three children: Bill Fann, Bob Fann and Becky Rudd and husband David; one sister, Jeanne Cantrell and husband Jerry; five grandchildren: Jenny, Courtney, Cody, Lindsey, Trevor; and three great grandchildren: Addison, Collin and Averie.

In addition to his immediate family, Frank was beloved and respected by his extended family of sisters and brothers-in-law, friends and loved ones in the gospel in many lands. Almost all who spent even a little time



with our brother Frank recognized in him, and were drawn by, the Spirit he always carried. His was not a part-time vocation. Frank truly lived his calling and his love for Christ, and never took it lightly.

Frank was baptized into the Church of Christ on June 26, 1960, and was called of God and ordained an Elder on May 9, 1971. Frank would later be set aside to serve as a Bishop on April 21, 1981. The Lord was preparing Frank to serve as a special witness of Christ, and he was called and ordained an Apostle on April 8, 1998.

Frank loved doing the Lord's work. His labor of love and life's passion particularly in the past ten years was taking the gospel to the Philippines. During his work there

over 80 missions were established. His love for the brothers and sisters in the Philippines is exceeded only by that for his Lord, his wife and children. Frank expressed only one regret, and that was not being able to return to his loved ones in the Philippines one last time.

Frank was known for telling all who would listen, "Do not doubt." He would go on to quote his favorite scripture in the Book of Mormon, the book of Mosiah, chapter

2, verses 13-17: *"Believe in God; believe that he is, and that he created all things, both in heaven and in earth; Believe that he hath all wisdom, and all power, both in heaven and in earth; Believe that man doth not comprehend all the things which the Lord can comprehend. And again: Believe that ye must repent of your sins and forsake them, and humble yourselves before God; and ask in sincerity of heart that he would forgive you: And now, if you believe all these things, see that ye do them."*

In only days before he passed, Frank continued to admonish those closest to him to remember, "Forgive others. If we don't forgive others, God will not forgive us."

OBITUARY

Samuel Roy Kidd

May 26, 1923 ~ January 30, 2012

Samuel Roy Kidd, 88, passed from this life into his eternal rest with our Savior Jesus Christ Monday evening, January 30, 2012, while in Phoenix, Arizona. Sam died with his friends near and family by his side.

Sam was born Saturday, May 26, 1923, in Cherryvale, Kansas, to Guy and Edna (Catlin) Kidd. He attended Kansas University and served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater (the Philippines and Australia) during WWII. He married Helen Maxine Martin on June 21, 1952, in Kansas City, Missouri, and soon after made Raytown, Missouri, their home. Sam worked in the insurance business for forty years and retired as an underwriter and manager from Zurich American Insurance Company in 1990. After his retirement, Sam and Helen were



able to spend many winter months each year in Phoenix, Arizona, visiting their daughter, Jennifer, and her family. In August of 2003, Sam joined the Church of Christ through baptism, becoming a member of the East Independence Local in Missouri.

Sam was blessed with a gift of poetry, writing numerous poems for friends and family in many

different tones. Sam enjoyed people — he loved to visit with others, no matter their age or circumstance. He had a giving heart and encouraged people with his humor, compassion, and time.

Sam is survived by his wife of nearly sixty years, Helen Kidd; son, David Bruce Kidd and wife Teresa of Independence, Missouri;

daughter Jennifer Raye (Kidd) Yates and husband Joel of Phoenix, Arizona; six grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Sam was preceded in death by all six of his siblings.

OBITUARY

Priest William (Bill) Malone

On August 5, 2012, Bill passed from this life at 67 years at his home in Independence, Missouri.

Bill began life on December 15, 1944, in Cottonwood, Arizona, to Mearl (deceased) and Meredyth (Willard). After 11 years of civilian education, PFC Malone earned his G.E.D. in the Army Reserves in 1962. He served his country as an auto maintenance helper and was honorably discharged February 29, 1970. He married the love of his life, Karin DeBoer, on June 12, 1965, at the Church of Christ Orchard Mesa Local in Grand Junction, Colorado. Late that summer they made their home in Phoenix, Arizona, where they attended the Church of Christ, Phoenix Local. Bill was baptized September 17, 1977, and during the

Dec. 15, 1944~Aug. 5, 2012



Phoenix Local reunion he was called to serve his Lord as a Priest and ordained on December 11, 1977. This he did for 35 years. At one point during his ministry, Bill was admonished from the Lord to financially support the Church and its people. To whom much is given, much is expected. This too, he took to heart and served His Lord well.

Bill is survived by his wife of 47 years; sons: Dennis, Darin, Daniel and wife Kate; mother Meredyth, brother Jim, sister Becky; grandchildren: Tasia, Dane, Dylan, Tyler and adopted grandchild Alyssa; nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many, many friends. He was loved by many and will be missed, but he has a much greater life and reward with our Lord in Heaven.

OBITUARY

Priest Emery J. Pinder

Our Brother in Christ, Emery J. Pinder, was called home to our Lord on Wednesday, June 20, 2012. Emery died at home with family by his side. Born to Stanley and Bertha (Elmer) Pinder and raised in Haynes Township, Michigan, Emery served in the United States Army during WWII and the Korean conflict. On February 20, 1954, he married Mary Louise Larson in Harrisville, Michigan; then on August 14, 1955, Emery and Mary were baptized in Flint, Michigan. They lived in Harrisville, and were visited often by Bro. Don Housknecht, Bro. Clarence Wheaton and Bro. Harold Pollack. After the birth of their son Charles, Emery moved his family to the Flint area where they resided for 30 years and were members of the Flint and Stanwood Church of Christ (Temple

May 2, 1927~June 20, 2012

Lot) local in Michigan. After retiring in 1987, Emery and Mary moved back home to Harrisville, traveling to Arizona for the winters where they were a part of the Phoenix Church of Christ (Temple Lot) local. Emery was called as a priest on June 21, 1964, by Bro. Clarence Wheaton and ordained by Bro. Don Housknecht. Emery taught young peoples Bible study along with giving many memorable sermons. He was blessed with being able to baptize both of his daughters, Helen and Beth, at a Michigan reunion in June 1973, then later his daughter-in-law Gail Pinder, along with witnessing both Charles and Emery David's baptisms.

He is survived by his wife, Mary; two daughters: Helen (Dave) McKnight of Waterford, and Beth (Marvin) Wood of Harrisville; two sons: Emery David (Gail) Pinder of Swartz Creek, and Jason (Annette) Pinder of Flint; nine grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; one sister, Ethel Lalonde of Blanco Texas; and one brother, Cecil (Charlotte) Pinder, of Harrisville, as well as many nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and two sons: infant Ray Pinder and Charles Pinder in 2001; his sister, Helen Sharboneau; and his brother, Elmer Pinder.

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		On the Church of Christ AVA web site you will be able to access media such as archived sermons in video and au- dio formats, past issues of <i>Zion's Advo- cate</i> , searchable Bible and Book of Mormon, studies and Sunday School lessons. Real time live streamed ser- mons 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 .	
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To insure your membership records remain as current as possible when moving or relocating, fill out this form and return it to the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Attn: General Church Recorder, P.O. Box 472, Independence, MO 64051-0472, or e-mail the information to cofcrecorder@sbcgloba.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.

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