

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

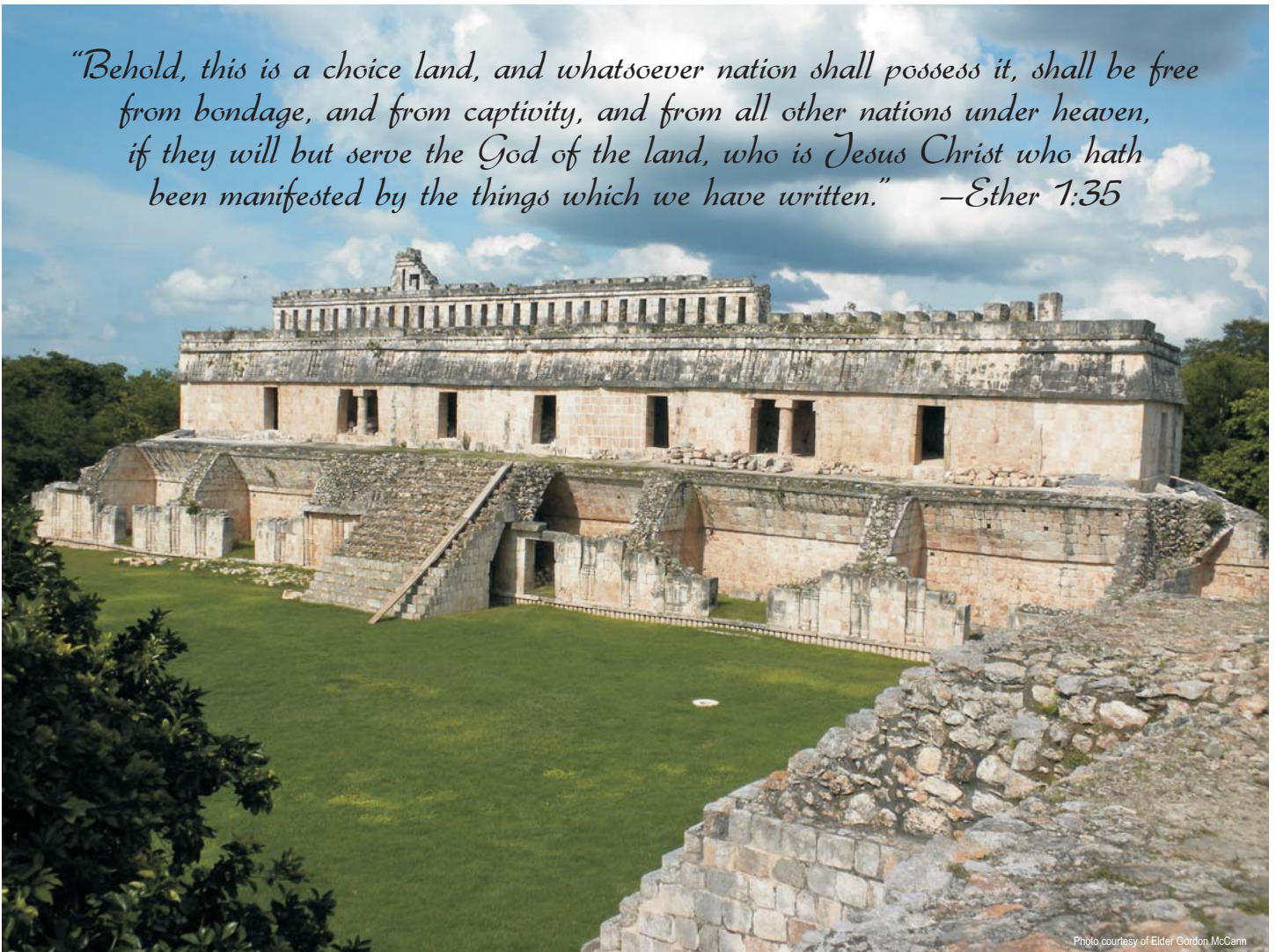
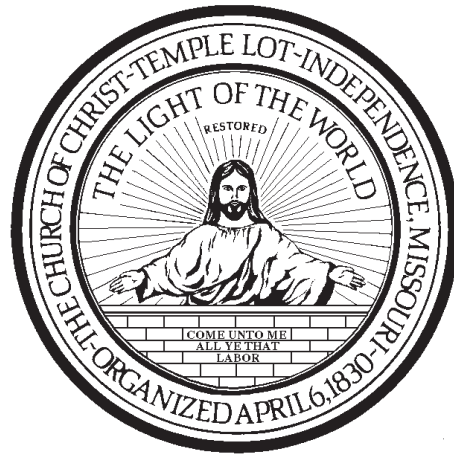


Photo courtesy of Elder Gordon McCann

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## THE APOSTLES *of the* CHURCH OF CHRIST

**Smith N. Brickhouse**, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214; e-mail: [smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com](mailto:smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com)  
**Duane Ely**, 18814 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; (602) 569-1516; e-mail [duanekathyely@aol.com](mailto:duanekathyely@aol.com)  
**Placido Koyoc Matu**, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3125; e-mail: [ap.matu2@gmail.com](mailto:ap.matu2@gmail.com)  
**Mike McGhee**, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255; e-mail: [mcgheeme@msn.com](mailto:mcgheeme@msn.com)  
**Brian McIndoo**, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900; e-mail: [mcindoo@cox.net](mailto:mcindoo@cox.net)  
**Donald E. McIndoo**, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050  
**Alvin J. Moser**, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414; e-mail: [ajmoser3@cox.net](mailto:ajmoser3@cox.net)  
**Jeffrey Oldham**, 1006 NW Ridge Road, Ankeny, IA 50023; 515-339-6226; [jrocontact@gmail.com](mailto:jrocontact@gmail.com)  
**Roland L. Sarratt**, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605; e-mail: [r.sarratt@comcast.net](mailto:r.sarratt@comcast.net)  
**William A. Sheldon**, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-833-3995; e-mail: [cofctl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cofctl@sbcglobal.net)  
**Joel Yates**, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296; e-mail: [jyates2@yahoo.com](mailto:jyates2@yahoo.com)



### GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

#### SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Duane Ely  
 18814 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050

#### SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

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

#### GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

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

#### GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Elder Gordon McCann  
 18808 N. 30th Street; Phoenix, AZ 85050

#### BUSINESS MANAGER

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

### ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

#### EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann  
 18808 N. 30th Street  
 Phoenix, Arizona 85050  
 E-mail: [cofzcaeditor@cox.net](mailto:cofzcaeditor@cox.net)

#### ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Apostle Placido K. Matu  
 Calle 24 #99H x 17 y 19  
 Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico

Priest Bruce Haines  
 3904 Christopher Circle  
 Independence, MO 64055

#### PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

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To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;  
 To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;  
 To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

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EDITORIAL

# The Price of

# FREEDOM



**By Elder Gordon McCann**

**F**he word Freedom as defined is: the state of being free or at liberty:

- with the power to determine action without restraint;
- to be politically or nationally independent.

The word Liberty is defined as freedom from:

- arbitrary or despotic government or control

- external or foreign rule
- captivity
- confinement or physical restraint

These two words, Freedom and Liberty, are God-given rights to mankind from the beginning.

*“And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth” (Genesis 1:28).*

This did not mean that after mankind was given dominion over the earth that they were not given direction or commandments as to how they should live their lives. God, as a caring and loving Parent, taught them from the beginning. God walked with and nurtured mankind, giving them admonitions and expectations as to how they were to live their lives, which would bring them happiness, joy, and contentment.

*“Therefore God gave unto*

*them commandments, after having made known unto them the plan of redemption, that they should not do evil, the penalty thereof being a second death, which was an everlasting death as to things pertaining unto righteousness;” (Alma 9:52).*

However, the weakness of the carnal flesh was understood by God, and without a propitiation (1 John 4:10) mankind would be forever condemned. The blood of Christ became an everlasting atonement to satisfy the ends of the broken commandment, *“...for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die...”* (Genesis 2:17), where all mankind was purged or redeemed from Adam’s sin.

*“Behold, he created Adam; and by Adam came the fall of man. And because of the fall of man, came Jesus Christ, even the Father and the Son; and because of Jesus Christ came the redemption of man.*

*“And because of the re-*

*demption of man, which came by Jesus Christ, they are brought back into the presence of the Lord; yea, this is wherein all men are redeemed, because the death of Christ bringeth to pass the resurrection, which bringeth to pass a redemption from an endless sleep, from which sleep all men shall be awakened by the power of God, when the trump shall sound;*

*“And they shall come forth, both small and great, and all shall stand before his bar, being redeemed and loosed from this eternal band of death, which death is a temporal death;”* (Mormon 4:71-73).

The judgment or condemnation of the sin which was unto death was commuted, reconciled by the blood or death of the Son of God in the flesh, allowing each one of us the freedom and liberty to choose life or death.

*“See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;”* (Deuteronomy 30:15).

*“...For I know that he granteth unto men according to their desire, whether it be unto death or unto life; yea, I know that he allotteth unto men, yea, decreeth unto them decrees which are unalterable, according to their wills; whether they be unto salvation or unto destruction;”* (Alma 15:55).

The things with God are one eternal round where He does not change: *“I am the Lord, I change not”* (Malachi 3:6). We then find that the law given to mankind to *“Fear God, and keep his command-*

*ments...*” (Ecclesiastes 12:13) prevails in Heaven as on earth, where when broken the punishment of death is affixed.

*“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him”* (Revelation 12:7-9).

*“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”* (Hebrews 2:14-15).

We find therefore an eternal law that where righteousness prevails there is freedom, liberty, and life; but where evil prevails there is captivity, bondage, and death.

*“As righteousness tendeth to life: so he that pursueth evil pursueth it to his own death”* (Proverbs 11:19).

The two, life and death, are in a battle one against the other, vying for our allegiance where we have been given the freedom of choice, each having an advocate at its head:

- Jesus Christ and eternal life

- Satan and eternal death

With this thought there is found the common thread for life to exist and death to be defeated, which comes through the sacrifice by blood; to be free from bondage in this life (in the flesh) and in the life to come (in the spirit).

## SACRIFICE BY BLOOD

- Greater Purpose than Self
- Given Freely for Others
- Necessary for Righteousness to Prevail
- Out of Love for your God, Family, and Country to Live in Peace

The Americas, described in the scriptures as the lands of the *“everlasting hills”* (Genesis 49:22-26), were set aside by God as a land of promise to all who would have an opportunity to call it home.

*“...And that after the waters had receded from off the face of this land, it became a choice land above all other lands, a chosen land of the Lord;”* (Ether 6:2).

This land (set aside by God) came with a commandment to those who would live upon it.

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

*“And now we can behold the decrees of God concerning this land, that it is a land of promise,*

and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall serve God, or they shall be swept off when the fullness of his wrath shall come upon them" (Ether 1:30-31).

No different from the land of Canaan that God gave Abraham and his descendants, this land came with a promise of freedom and life or bondage and death, predicated on serving the God who had given them such a blessed land to live upon.

## GOD TO ABRAHAM

*"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee.*

*"And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God" (Gen 17:7-8).*

## THE BLESSING

*"And it shall come to pass, if thou shalt hearken diligently unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe and to do all his commandments which I command thee this day, that the Lord thy God will set thee on high above all nations of the earth:*

*"The Lord shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God, and walk in his ways" (Deuteronomy 28:1, 9).*

## THE CURSE

*"But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee:*

*"The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me" (Deuteronomy 28:15, 20).*

Our nation was founded upon Judeo-Christian principles and was built upon this choice land set aside by God. Our Forefathers put their faith in the God of this land Who poured out His blessings of freedom and liberty upon them because they endeavored to keep His commandments. They also understood clearly the cost of freedom and liberty, which was to confront and defeat evil. They knew that it meant even unto death, whereby others might have life, liberty, and freedom. The following excerpts from The Declaration of Independence clearly support the depth of their faith in God and conviction to prove their faith.

...We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.

...We mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor.

As a nation we have forsaken our true heritage. We refuse to teach our children of the faith our forefathers often exercised in all aspects of their lives, always being careful not to forget to give God the glory for His blessings and protection upon them.

There is a prophetic warning that is clearly directed towards our nation that was built upon this land of promise. Will we as a nation hearken to the voice of God and repent, or will we refuse, ordaining ourselves and our children to suffer the wrath of God in judgment against us?

*"And this cometh unto you, O ye Gentiles, that ye may know the decrees of God, that ye may repent, and not continue in your iniquities until the fullness come, that ye may not bring down the fullness of the wrath of God upon you, as the inhabitants of the land have hitherto done.*

*"Behold, this is a choice land, and whatsoever nation shall possess it, shall be free from bondage, and from captivity, and from all other nations under heaven, if they will but serve the God of the land, who is Jesus Christ who hath been manifested by the things which we have written" (Ether 1:34-35).*

REPORT

# Youth Forum 2013 Uayalceh, Mexico



▶ Plácido speaking to the youth

May 25th was an unforgettable day for the youth of the Church of Christ, as it marked the first Youth Forum in Yucatán, Mexico. The theme, "The Youth and Today's Technology," captured their attention as the technological era we live in can bring many benefits as long as we put it to good use.

It was a bright sunny day when we arrived in the village of Uayalceh in central Yucatán. We were greeted at the church by the local youth group, all dressed in blue shirts. The check in table was ready at the entrance and behind the church building the chairs were all precisely lined up facing the table where the guest forum members would be seated.

The food was being prepared in the kitchen and the microphones were being

tested as the fifty three young people began to arrive from all over the peninsula. Almost like clockwork, at the appointed hour for the forum to begin the sky filled with clouds and the downpour started. There were mixed feelings since it hadn't rained in two months, so everyone waited patiently for the storm to move

The theme of the Youth Forum was introduced by Apostle Plácido Matú. He explained the goal of the forum which was to discuss the appropriate uses and possible dangers of cellular phones, computers, video games and social networks. The panel members were then introduced, Lehi Cabrera, professor and assistant pastor of the Dzan local,



▶ Testimony of Marisela Pech

Felipe Uluác, pastor of the Uayalceh local, Dan Lawrence, pastor of the Temple Lot local and Ricardo Pech, student, each of whom was given the opportunity for introductory remarks.

For the next hour and a half the wide ranging discussion covered such topics as phone and texting etiquette, the wise use of time and money,

on...but it didn't. Finally the decision was made to move the chairs, the table, the giant banner, the p.a. system and all the attendees inside. We were blessed with ample space in the newly expanded and remodeled chapel.



▶ uayalceh youth outside

the importance of being a good Christian example and online safety. The subject of most interest to the youth was the use of social networks, such as Facebook, as a tool to further the spread of the Gospel, for publicizing church events and sharing testimonies and prayer requests. The youth were warned of the need to carefully control their pages to protect their personal information from online predators, scammers and identity thieves.

Brother Plácido made good use of technology by conducting telephone interviews with Elder Guadalupe Canché in Cancún, Brother Wilbert Koyoc in Mérida and Elder Nathan Denham in central Mexico. The youth listened attentively, thankful for the wise counsel. Apostle Alvin Moser sent an email to the group in which he cautioned the youth in their use of the



► *Uayalceh Youth*

internet. He offered the following suggestions:

1. Never put anything on the web you don't want the rest of the world to read. There are many who can access your information, even when you think it is secure.
2. Be very careful what photographs you put on the web. Once they are published, they are there permanently.



► *Youth Forum*

sites you visit. If you are in doubt, don't visit it.

The meeting was then opened

for questions and testimonies from the young people regarding their experiences. The Forum concluded with a beautiful song performed by the Uayalceh youth.

This first Youth Forum in Yucatán was highly successful and well received by the

youth. There was a genuine spirit of cooperation and desire to learn that was shared by all in attendance. Let us pray that the information they gleaned from this experience will assist these young people, the future of the Church of Christ in Yucatán, in taking the Gospel to the next generation.

—Dan Lawrence

3. Never say anything hurtful or offensive about anyone.
4. Always speak the truth.
5. Remember that you are a representative of Christ at all times.
6. Never put personal information on the web as it can be used in harmful ways. Your friends already know your information.
7. Keep your eyes, ears and hearts pure. Be careful of the

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GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

# Sunday School Lessons on HISTORY & POWER OF PRAYER!

The General Sunday School Association (GSSA) will be providing portions of lessons (teasers!) for three age groups on a common topic. To see the complete lessons, please visit the Church of Christ's Audio Visual Aid (AVA) committee website at [www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net) and click on the "Resources" tab to view all of the lessons and studies for children and adults. More information regarding Sunday School lessons can be found on [www.edmodo.com](http://www.edmodo.com). Contact Susan Porter: [porter\\_susan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:porter_susan@sbcglobal.net); home address: 9 Market Street; Middleville, MI 49333.

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## PRESCHOOL/KINDERGARTEN:

### Prayer...All of Your Heart and Believing!

(Reference: Jeremiah 29:13; James 1:5-6; Outline History of the Church of Christ)

#### Activity: **Memory Verse Fun!**

*"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart."  
—Jeremiah 29:13—*

This verse is found in the BIBLE! God is telling us to **SEEK HIM** (put your hand to your brow, like you are "seeking" something and squint your eyes) and **FIND HIM** (flip both palms up, to your side, shoulder-high, and smile, as if you are excited you found something), but only when you **SEARCH** for Him (look through "binoculars" by touching your fingertips to your thumbs, making O's!) with all of your **HEART!** (lay both hands over your heart) **JEREMIAH 29:13!** (Repeat this using the full verse several times—if a student has a good grasp on the verse, allow one to lead the group, then take turns.)

(Find the rest of this lesson online at [www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net): a story to read, a craft activity, as well as other resources for this lesson and many other lessons.)

—Jennifer Yates ([phxhometeachin@gmail.com](mailto:phxhometeachin@gmail.com))

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## ELEMENTARY:

**Objective:** To learn how prayer was used to bring about the restoration of the Church of Christ.

**Activity:** Draw or sketch a picture of what it may have looked like when Joseph was praying, or create a cartoon strip of the major events in the story.

In the Bible and Book of Mormon we read about how throughout history people have prayed for various reasons. It is fun to think about how people did something years ago and compare it to what you do in your lifetime. Talk about this with others while you are illustrating Joseph's story.

(Find the rest of this lesson online and many others at [www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net).)

—Susan Porter ([porter\\_susan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:porter_susan@sbcglobal.net))

Scan this for  
more lessons  
and studies!



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## MIDDLE SCHOOL/HIGH SCHOOL:

**Lesson:** Prayer and Modern History—Church History

In the hilly farm country of New York State lived a family with the very common name of Smith. Joseph and Lucy Smith had nine children; there were more large families than small ones in those days. The one we are most interested in is Joseph Jr. In 1820 he was just fifteen years old. The family had always been quite religious. The young ones were well taught by their mother and father.



During the same year the family's quiet life began to change drastically! To begin with, there were religious revivals taking place all over the country, and their little hometown of Manchester was no exception. Men started traveling all over the United States holding "revival" meetings. Perhaps these were a little like our church reunions. These people had no television, movies or any of the entertainments that we have today. They only had each other. Therefore, these meetings were the most exciting social event the town had seen in a long time and all the townspeople and farmers attended. The Smith family did too.

There was intense competition between different church groups. This, unfortunately, led to bad feelings. There were bitter battles of words and opinions between former friends and among families. The Smith family was no exception. Their mother Lucy and children Hyrum, Samuel and Sopronia were convinced that the Presbyterian group was the best, while Young Joseph was more drawn to the Methodist group. Due to the conflicting ideas constantly hammered into his ears, Joseph couldn't make up his mind as to which church he should join.

He began to study the Bible for himself. One day, while feeling particularly confused and troubled, he came upon a verse, James 1:5-6, which seemed to have been written especially for him. Eagerly he read it again and the words seemed to burn themselves into his heart and mind. *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not and it shall be given him."* He knew at that moment that the words were true, and he knew what he must do to get the answer he needed.

A little way away from the Smith home was a small grove of trees, quiet and peaceful, where he could be alone. Very early one spring morning, with the birds just beginning to twitter awake, he walked out into the woods and knelt down under the shadow of leaves from a big tree. With the soft morning light brightening around him, he began to plead with God for the answer to his dilemma.

Suddenly, shockingly, he felt as if he was being snatched up! He couldn't see anything or anyone, but he felt that he was being held by a powerful force, full of hate and destruction. He was surrounded and weighed down by a heavy darkness. He could not speak or move. He thought he must be dying. The only thing he could think to do was to cry unto God with all his might against this unseen but very real threat which had him in a death grip.

After his pleading to the Lord, brighter than the rising sun there appeared a pillar of light. Instantly the terrible personage who held him faded away. The beautiful column of light came down until it surrounded the young man. Mesmerized, he looked upward and saw two Beings, bright and glorious beyond his wildest imaginations, standing just above him in the fragrant morning air. One of these pointed to other and said, "Joseph, this is My beloved Son, hear Him."

Hardly able to speak, he managed to stutter out his desire to know which of the various churches he should join. The second personage told him that he should join none, that they were all wrong. He said, "They draw near to me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; they teach for doctrine the commandments of men, having a form of godliness, but they deny the power thereof" (*Outline History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, page 16). Again He forbade Joseph to join any of them. Minutes passed. The young man found himself alone again, on his back, looking up at the empty sky.

Story taken from: *Church History for Juniors*, by Holly Bartlett (chapters 5 and 6).

(To read the rest of this story and utilize other activities, such as a crossword puzzle, craft, and scripture references on subjects in this lesson: *Why Pray? How to Pray! When & What to Pray! and Faith in Prayer*, please visit the AVA website at [www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net).)

—Holly Bartlett ([holly.kristine@me.com](mailto:holly.kristine@me.com))

From the Archives...

1929, April 1-6, Church of Christ Conference



Upper left includes: H. E. Molar, Walter L. Gates, C. L. Wheaton, B. C. Flint and wife Bertha, Otto Fetting, Thomas B. Nerren. Lower Left includes: Robert

Campbell, Willard J. Smith. Upper Right includes: Thomas E. Barton, James E. Yates and wife Vida. Lower Right includes: Samuel Woods, William F. Anderson.

# FASTING & PRAYER

## The Way of Deliverance



By Elder Peter Gould

*“Yea, come unto him, and offer your whole souls as an offering unto him, and continue in fasting and praying, and endure to the end; and as the Lord liveth, ye will be saved” (Omni 1:47).*

*“Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke?” (Isaiah 58:6).*

The way of deliverance begins by disowning the sinful desires as belonging to the carnal man who died and was buried in the waters of baptism, and has no valid place within us anymore.

There are many wonderful promises in the scriptures. One of the most precious is that God promises the grace to overcome sin and temptation:

*“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man; but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it” (I Corinthians 10:13).*

When we read the term “fasting” in the title, it is important that we recognize the essence of fasting as making the choice to de-

prive ourselves of some fleshly desires, for the sake of some spiritual good. The following discussion describes the fast which leads to deliverance from the bondage of sin.

Often the children of God find ourselves feeling trapped in sin or overwhelmed by weaknesses of the flesh, as described by Nephi:

*“Behold, my soul delighteth in the things of the Lord; and my heart pondereth continually upon the things which I have seen and heard. Nevertheless, the great goodness of the Lord, in showing me his great and marvelous works, my heart*

*exclaimeth, O wretched man that I am; yea, my heart sorroweth because of my flesh. My soul grieveth because of mine iniquities. I am encompassed about because of the temptations and the sins which doth so easily beset me. And when I desire to rejoice, my heart groaneth because of my sins; nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted” (2 Ne 3:30-34).*

We may feel trapped in sins and excesses. But notice the ray of hope that Nephi extends to us: “*nevertheless, I know in whom I have trusted.*”

Therapists are paid a great deal of money to “help” people deal with the guilt, depression, anxiety and despair that can result from frequent failures in “trying” to dealing with such issues, but their therapy can be designed to make us comfortable with sin and failure, rather than to help us to overcome them. Whether the issues are addictions, or apparent failures at weight loss, or failure at removing some sin from our lives, the over-arching issues are the same, and all have a common cure. The cure is salvation, which is made available to us because of the suffering and death of our

Lord, Jesus. This is the “*way of deliverance*”:

*“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, **to preach deliverance to the captives,** and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord” (Luke 4:18-19).*

*“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. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. **Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin**” (Hebrews 12:1-4).*

The snare which binds us may be maintained by our own mind-set: this deadly mind-set is perhaps best expressed by the phrase “I want to...but I can’t, because it is sin.” That is, when we view temptation

we may have a tendency to ultimately defeat ourselves by acknowledging the desire, and then continuing to own it as “ours.” By saying “I want to, but I can’t because...” we have set up an internal conflict of interest, and in ways conscious and subconscious, subtle or not-so subtle, our minds begin the labor of removing the perceived roadblock from obtaining that thing that we lust after. The history of mankind and experiences of life teach us these two self-evident truisms: First: Nearly anything can be “justified” through self-deception. Second: Mankind’s ability for self-deception is as boundless as is our imagination. It was due to clinging to sinful desires that caused the early saints to be chastened by God in allowing them to be driven out of Jackson County, Missouri, in the 1830s. As they were forewarned:

*“Behold the Lord requireth the heart and a willing mind; And the willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land of Zion in these last days; And the **rebellious shall be cut off out of the land of Zion,** and shall be sent away and shall not inherit the land.” (Book of Commandments 65:44-46).*

As what happened to

them of old:

*“For behold, they have been a chosen people of the Lord; yea, **the people of Nephi hath he loved**, and also hath he chastened them; yea, **in the days of their iniquities hath he chastened them, because he loveth them**” (Helaman 5:90).*

Generally we excuse the continued ownership of sinful desires by such thoughts as “I’m only human,” and “No one’s perfect.” Consider, by contrast, those who are sanctified through the saving work of Christ described here:

*“Now they, after being sanctified by the Holy Ghost, having their garments made white, being pure and spotless before God, could not look upon sin, save it were with abhorrence;” (Alma 10:4).*

The way of deliverance begins by disowning the sinful desires as belonging to the carnal man who died and was buried in the waters of baptism, and has no valid place within us anymore, as the scripture says: *“Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death; that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).* Yet we must recognize our own

frailty and the need for the assistance of God to overcome the carnal nature that is in our flesh: *“For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure” (Philippians 2:13).* Thus the mindset of deliverance becomes: “I can sin if I choose to, but by the grace of God (to whom I belong and who has cleansed me from sin – may He be praised forever), I choose not to.” The grace to maintain this mindset must be cultivated through continual prayer, as we are directed by our Lord:

*“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil, and ye are led away captive by him” (3 Nephi 8:47).*

Every successive victory by invoking this prayerful mindset of life and grace, instead of the failed mindset of excuses, will lead to a greater strength and closer bonding with the Spirit of God, and will increase our praise to God for the grace He gives us to overcome the flesh. This mindset becomes one of perpetual fasting, as we were directed in scripture:

*“And they did not walk any more after the performances and ordinances of the Law of*

*Moses, but **they did walk after the commandments which they had received from their Lord and their God, continuing in fasting and prayer, and in meeting together oft, both to pray and to hear the word of the Lord**” (4 Nephi 1:13).*

By following this “way of deliverance” we are able to fulfill the great commission given to each individual:

*“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service” (Romans 12:1).*

# 2013 United Workers Business Meeting and Luncheon

**W**EDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2013

The 2013 United Workers Luncheon opened at the East Independence Local annex at noon on Wednesday, April 3, 2013, with a delicious brunch of salad, quiche, muffins, bread and chocolate cake for dessert. Fifty-one women were in attendance, as well as four teens in charge of the childcare of six children. Co-Chairwoman Sr. Jane Ann Carmichael opened the meeting by welcoming all who attended and Sr. Marlene Oar gave the opening prayer.

The place cards at the tables were our Passports to the World—Citizenship: Christian; Date of Issue: Baptism; Expiration: Death. Ephesians 6:19-20 was also quoted. Candle cutouts also adorned the tables with the scripture Matthew 5:16 written on them. Cardstock flowers surrounded the centerpiece on each table, with photos of first generation Church of Christ members on the reverse side. All of these people are members of the church because someone planted a seed and the Lord helped it grow. Who are you talking to about Christ? Attendees are encouraged to

take a photo or two and remember them in prayer through the year.

After food and fellowship, the business portion of the United Workers meeting began at 1:05 p.m., with those in attendance singing *We'll Scatter Good Seed*.

Co-Chairwoman Sr. Betsy Trudgen began the focus portion of the meeting by greeting the attendees in many different languages. We may not understand all of those languages, but there is one language that touches everyone's heart—LOVE. What do you do? Not as a job, but for the church? Pray about it! She testified of God revealing her calling to her. Sales...not selling, like a used car salesman, but being a traveling salesman for Christ. We are salespeople for something everyone needs, the Lord! Plant seeds of the Lord wherever you are. God will place you where you are needed, if you ask and if you are willing. It could be tomorrow or a decade later, but God will give you the job you need for His work. Love crosses all barriers, all cultures, and all languages. Serve, help, love—show them the works of being a

servant of God. Actions speak louder than words. Study the scriptures and get closer to the Lord, for when a person becomes spiritually fit, God blesses them.

**B**USINESS PORTION OPENED:

Secretary Sr. Jennifer Yates read the minutes from the 2012 United Workers Business Meeting and Luncheon. They were approved with some minor spelling corrections.

Treasurer Sr. Bonnie E. Case read the Treasurer's report and it was approved. The balance on hand as of April 4, 2012, was \$2336.08. Donations received were \$1216.19. Receipts of \$1550.00 were paid out through the year, leaving our balance as of April 3, 2013, at \$2002.27.

Sr. Sue Brickhouse read a note from Sr. Nora, wife of Br. Moses Ohuru, from Kisii, Kenya (Africa), regarding the Don McIndoo Memorial Academy. She thanked the United Workers for the donation used to provide protein in the children's meals each day, and related how it has benefitted people's lives.

There was no old business.

## NEW BUSINESS:

Sr. Betsy Trudgen discussed things she has been praying over. We should teach others to be spiritually fit and to thank God—not to rely upon people, but upon God. How can we be part of the work? How can we best serve The Lord?

She wrote a letter to the Council of Apostles asking how the United Workers can assist the work? They responded in a letter that there is a need for assistance in translating and publishing of Church materials.

Report on fundraising committee: no activity this past year.

Discussed availability of funds.

Sr. Irene Datweiler moved that the United Workers donate \$1000 to the Don McIndoo Memorial Academy and \$500 to the Church of Christ's Board of Publications for translation/publication of books and tracts. Sr. Sue Brickhouse seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

A collection was taken to fund the amount we wanted to provide to the school and the Board of Publication. The amount collected this afternoon was \$1527.62.

## ELECTIONS:

Chairperson: Sr. Karin Malone nominated Sr. Jewel Beem; Sr. Grace Rudd nominated Sr. Irene Datweiler. Sr. Jewel Beem and Sr. Grace Rudd were elected as Co-Chairwomen.

Assist Chair: Sr. Chris Moser moved

we suspend election of Assistant Chairwoman for this year. Sr. Pat McCann seconded the motion. Passed with none opposed.

Secretary: Sr. Chris Moser moved Sr. Jennifer Yates succeed herself. Sr. Sue Porter seconded. Passed, 0 opposed.

Treasurer: Sr. Karin Malone moved that Sr. Bonnie E. Case succeed herself. Joanne Moser seconded. Passed, 0 opposed.

Fundraising committee: Karin Malone moved to change the name to Public Relation Committee. Seconded by Bonnie E Case. Discussion followed with reading of responsibilities of the group.

Sr. Karin Malone moved as a substitute motion to change the name and the description of the Fundraising Committee to Public Relation Committee. The committee will keep the United Workers activities in the forefront to sustain awareness through public relation communication. Sr. Bonnie E. Case seconded the motion and it passed with none opposed.

Nominations: Sr. Chris Moser volunteered, Sr. Irene Datweiler nominated Sr. Karin Malone, and Sr. Chris Moser nominated Sr. Bonnie Case. There were no other nominations, so these three sisters will comprise the Public Relation Committee.

Sr. Tara Tarbell volunteered to send a percentage of the profits of her new skin care line for these needs the United

Workers are embracing—the Don McIndoo Memorial Academy and the Church of Christ's Board of Publications for translation/publication of books and tracts.

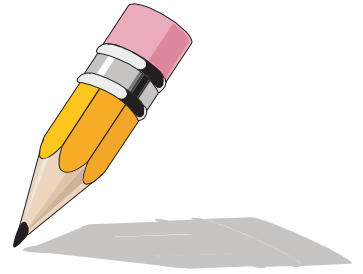
Donations can be sent at any time to: Sr. Bonnie E. Case, United Workers Treasurer; c/o The Church of Christ (Temple Lot); P. O. Box 472; Independence, MO 64051-0472.

Chris Moser moved for adjournment of the meeting. Jennifer Oldham seconded and it passed with none opposed at 2:40 p.m.

The body sang *Brighten the Corner Where You Are* as a closing hymn. Sr. Chris Moser closed the meeting in prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Sr. Jennifer Yates  
Secretary*

# Phoenix Local



**H**ello Church of Christ Brothers and Sisters! Here we are in the middle of spring and my friends and family are still watching the snow fall while we in Phoenix are enjoying what I would consider has to be the best time of the year.

My question for you this month: How many members do we have in the Church of Christ (and) how many of those members reside in the United States?

I'd like to dedicate my little article this month to the marvelous blessings that we continually receive from our Father. Among all the tragedy and sorrow in the country and throughout the world, all of us have so much to be thankful for.

Many members in the Phoenix Local have challenges to face each day – I'm sure we can



▶ Amy Moser



▶ Ken & Marlene Oar

all relate – health, employment, financial, spiritual, family, etc. Blessings have come our way, though, in the last several months.

You might have read the very poignant testimony from our sister Amy Moser. In April, it had been one full year since she had had an injury from her condition. When Dan and I first moved here, I remember watching her painfully walking, barely speaking, and not being able to function much at all. Today I'm going to have lunch with her, and last Sunday she and her father performed the most beautiful song at our service. Additionally, there was a testimony from her son Aidan telling her that God told him that she would be completely healed, but it would take awhile. Miracle? What else could it be?

Sr. Marlene and Elder Ken



Oar just got back from Honduras. How was that possible? How many people do you know with cancer that are able to travel, and out of the country? Both she and Ken have had medical issues and Marlene especially needs our continued prayers, but blessings have been poured upon both of them.

Others who are struggling, but have had great strides, include Sr. Wanda Yates, Sr. Suzie Case and Br. Jose Galvan. Please continue to remember

them all in your prayers, and make sure to thank God for the many blessings He continues to pour out upon His people.

What else is happening at the Phoenix Local? Lots! On March 23, we had a Fry Bread Dinner. What fun this was.

A new club has been started for those who are interested in a healthier lifestyle. It meets weekly and sounds like a lot of fun. So you might ask, "Why do you have a fry bread dinner?" Well, just omit the bread and there were all kinds of healthy

options. And for those not wanting or needing to lose weight, a little bit of the fry bread was really good!

The Church of Christ has 7,310 members, with 1,909 of them found in the United States. I hope that you all have a great start to your summer.

*Your Sister in Christ,  
Amy Moser*



## NOTICES

## UNITED STATES

CHURCH OF CHRIST  
TEEN CAMP

**JULY 21-26** at Far-West in Stuartville, Missouri. Questions? Please contact **Jeff** or **Michelle Oldham** at (515) 339-6226 or [mjoldham@me.com](mailto:mjoldham@me.com).

SCRIPTURE ADVENTURE  
DAY CAMP

**JULY 25** at the East Independence Local for ages 5-11 from 8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. A \$5.00 donation per family will be accepted. Questions? Contact **Dana Taylor** at (816) 853-1200.

## MISSOURI REUNION

**JULY 26-28**

The Reunion Committee members and the Missionaries in Charge of Missouri welcome you to the 2013 Missouri Reunion. Services will be held at the Temple Lot Local in Independence, Missouri.

For more information contact:

**Apostle Roland Sarratt:** (816) 373-6605

**Apostle Mike McGhee:** (816) 796-6255

**Apostle Smith Brickhouse:** (816)356-9214

**Apostle Jeff Oldham:** (515) 577-8400

## MINNESOTA REUNION

**AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 2** at the Bemidji Local. We hope that you will invite friends and family to join us as we meet to sing, pray, receive sermons, hear spiritual lessons and play Christian games and sports.

The Bemidji Local is equipped with water and electrical connections, and bathrooms and showers, for campers. Brother Bill and Sister Elaine Gould will coordinate home accommodations for those who would like to fellowship and sleep in member's homes, or

will help you find accommodations in local campgrounds, resorts or hotels. Note: the weather is transitional at this time of year so come prepared. Swimming and boating are available.

Contact:

**Elder Samuel Gould:** (218) 368-1427

**Elder Bill Gould:** (218) 586-2743

**Sister Elaine Gould:** (218) 586-2774

2013 WOMEN'S  
RETREAT

**OCTOBER 4-5** at Lake Mauer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Missouri, 64024

Cost: \$40/person—\$35/person if registration is received before August 31. Included: one night's accommodation and three meals: Friday supper from 5-7 and Saturday breakfast and lunch.

Meet for lunch and shopping at 11 a.m. Friday at the Excelsior Springs Ventana Gourmet Grill at 117 W. Broadway, OR come directly to the Retreat Center after 2 p.m.—the Retreat Program begins at 7:30 p.m. 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>

Registration Forms are available in the foyer of the Temple Lot Local, or by contacting **Jane Ann Carmichael** at (816) 478-7166 or at [janecarmichael@sbcglobal.net](mailto:janecarmichael@sbcglobal.net).

## ONTARIO REUNION

**OCTOBER 5-6** at the Brant/Norfolk Church of Christ at 163 Teeter St., Teeterville, Ontario, Canada.

For more information, contact:

**Bill and Marn Vieeen**

(519) 759-8087

[marnievieeen@sympatico.ca](mailto:marnievieeen@sympatico.ca)

**Mike and Deb Bevaart**

(519) 805-9790

[mbevaart@rogers.com](mailto:mbevaart@rogers.com)

## PHOENIX REUNION

**NOVEMBER 29 - DECEMBER 1**

If planning to attend, please contact:

**Pastor Jim Yates, Jr.**

2919 E. Siesta Lane

Phoenix, AZ 85050

(602) 374-3688

[jimyatesjr@yahoo.com](mailto:jimyatesjr@yahoo.com)

Assistant Pastors:

**Aadam Yates**

19018 N. 29th Street

Phoenix, AZ 85050

(602) 300-9013

[a.m.yates@cox.net](mailto:a.m.yates@cox.net)

**Gary Jacobsen**

1317 W. Mohawk Lane

Phoenix, AZ 85027

[gljacobsen@live.com](mailto:gljacobsen@live.com)

## HONDURAS

**SEPTEMBER 4-5: General Reunion** in Zamorano

**JANUARY 16-19, 2014: Youth Camp** in Zamorano

If interested in attending please contact:

**Elder Thomas Gill**

Cell phone: 011-504-32966474

[thomasgill@la-comarca.org](mailto:thomasgill@la-comarca.org)

**Elder Ronnie Gill**

Cell phone: 011-504-32067285

[rongill@la-comarca.org](mailto:rongill@la-comarca.org)

## MEXICO

**JULY 25-28: Youth Camp**, Merida, Yucatan

**OCTOBER 13: Reunion**, Cancun, Quintana Roo

**DECEMBER 8: Children Reunion**, Motul,

## NOTICES

## 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 Oldham at [rworldham1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rworldham1@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:

**MARLENE COBB** (Chairman)

725 S. Pickwick

Springfield, MO 65802

**JUNE HAINES**

11589 Genuine Rd

Clare, MI 48617

**PAT MCCANN**

18808 N. 30th St.

Phoenix, AZ 85050

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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Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
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El Libro De Mandamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion DeLa Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of Commandments Commentary)	Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon
Evidences of the Book of Mormon	A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
	That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
	What about the Book of Mormon?
	Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
	Zion and the Temple of the Lord

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

### CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

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

**MEMBER'S NAME:** (First) \_\_\_\_\_ (Middle) \_\_\_\_\_ (Last) \_\_\_\_\_

**OLD ADDRESS:** (Street address) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

**NEW ADDRESS:** (Street address) \_\_\_\_\_

(City) \_\_\_\_\_ (State) \_\_\_\_\_ (Zip) \_\_\_\_\_

**NAMES** of all Church of Christ (Temple Lot) members residing at new address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

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

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