

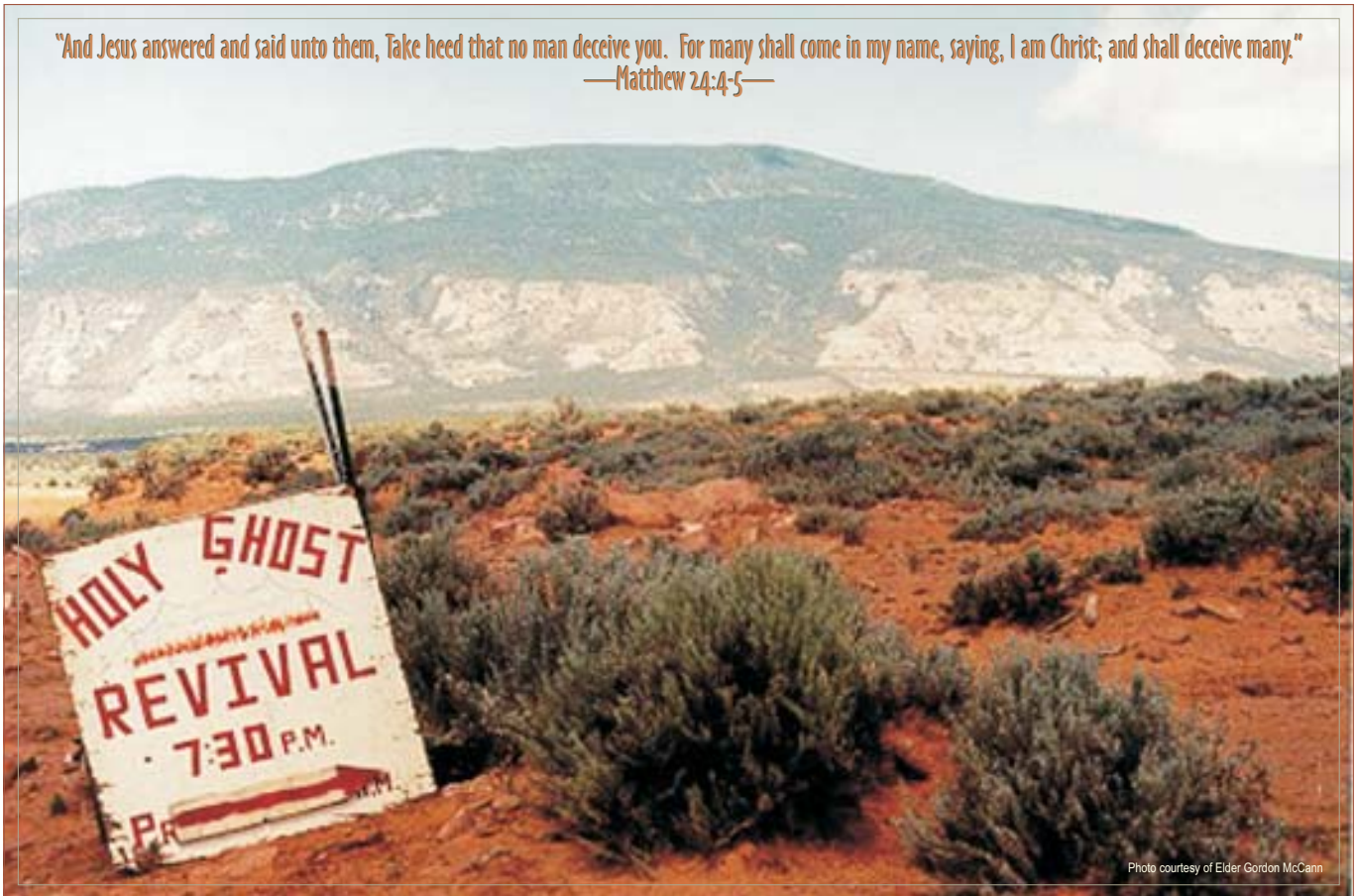
Zion's Advocate

*"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

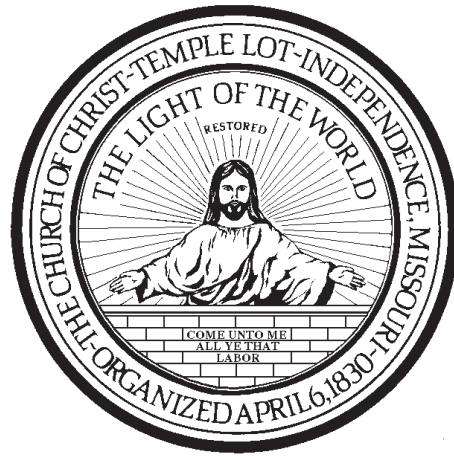
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*"And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."
—Matthew 24:4-5—*



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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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The Words of CHRIST



By Apostle Don McIndoo

“Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted

Ministers of thousands of denominations are, like the magicians of Pharaoh, casting down their rods of deception before the people.

with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not” (Isaiah 53:1-3).

About one hundred years before Lehi and his followers left Jerusalem, the Prophet Isaiah was foretelling the ministry of Christ. About one hundred years later we find Nephi speaking to his family:

“Yea, six hundred years from the time that my father left Jerusalem, a prophet would the Lord God raise up among the Jews, yea, even a Messiah, or, in other

words, a Savior of the world” (1 Nephi 3:4).

That Savior, our Lord, Jesus Christ, walked among the peoples of Israel, teaching them His words of hope and life. He established His church, called and authorized His ministry. After His crucifixion and resurrection, He left His church with this challenge:

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing

them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:18-20).

make:

“And Moses and Aaron went in unto Pharaoh, and they did so as the Lord had commanded: and Aaron cast down his rod before Pharaoh, and before his servants, and it became a serpent. Then Pharaoh also called the

into the world who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh” (2 John, verse 7). Jude, the brother of James, wrote, “For there are certain men crept in unawares...denying the only Lord God, and our Lord, Jesus Christ” (Jude, verse 4). Apostle Peter wrote, “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, denying the Lord that bought them...” (2 Peter 2:1). The Apostle Paul wrote, “For I know this, that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things to draw away disciples after them” (Acts 20:29, 30).

The great difficulty lies in the fact that so many of these denominations are teaching what people like to hear.

It would be foolish for us to forget the warning He also gave His followers as they questioned Him about His coming and the end of the world. He spoke to them about those last days and what His people would face. This is what He told them:

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ, and shall deceive many” (Matthew 24:4, 5).

Satan always stands waiting for any opportunity to destroy the work of our Savior. Deception is a favorite tool he often uses. Consider what happened to Moses and Aaron as they were sent before the Pharaoh with a particular point to

wise men and the sorcerers; now the magicians of Egypt, they also did in like manner with their enchantments. For they cast down every man his rod, and they became serpents: but Aaron's rod swallowed up their rods” (Exodus 7:10-12).

After the Savior had established His church and placed within it a ministry He had prepared and authorized, His enemy, Satan, was still at work deceiving good people that they might be unwittingly used for his satanic purposes. Within 35 years of the resurrection of Jesus the disciples were becoming aware of a problem growing within the membership of believers. The Apostle John wrote, “For many deceivers are entered

Just how did all this growing deception affect the church? We are well aware that it finally ended in the apostasy of the original church. During the “middle ages” good men began to recognize the evils of the Roman Catholic Church. A number of them left it and began the Reformation movement. New Protestant churches arose in many European nations. What was the final result of this grow-

ing movement? It has ended up as the biggest “stumbling block” to people looking for the truth. Nephi prophesied about this latter day problem:

“And the Gentiles are lifted up in the pride of their eyes, and have stumbled, because of the greatness of their stumbling block, that they have built up many churches. Nevertheless they put down the power and miracles of God, and preach up unto themselves, their own wisdom, and their own learning, that they may get gain, and grind upon the face of the poor” (2 Nephi 11:90, 91).

In our nation today there are about 1,500 different Christian denominations, each with its own beliefs and doctrines. Probably most of them are “Evangelical” churches, and the number is growing daily. Our missionaries who travel in foreign lands face an even bigger problem. The number of Christian denominations there has reached 34,000.

Because there is such a vast multitude of differing concepts and beliefs in the world today, it is essential that we remember, and put into practice, that last commandment Jesus gave His followers: “Go ye therefore,

and teach all nations... teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you....” Ministers of thousands of denominations are, like the magicians of Pharaoh, casting down their rods of deception before the people.

The popular evangelical beliefs such as man is saved by faith alone, and the “futuristist” concepts of a three and a half year tribulation when all “believers” have been raptured and an “antichrist” rules the world, are misleading millions of people. Perhaps the most dangerous beliefs are found in the rapidly growing “Emergent Church Movement.” These popular mega-churches incorporate concepts from Eastern religions, teach that all men shall be saved by a loving God, and there shall be no final judgment of mankind.

The great difficulty lies in the fact that so many of these denominations are teaching what people like to hear. These movements have brought into focus the words of the Apostle Paul, found in 2 Timothy 4:3:

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears.”

Let us consider one of the early teachings of Jesus, as he visited the synagogue in Nazareth:

“And there was delivered unto him the book of Esaias. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written, The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath appointed 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. And he began to say unto them, This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (Luke 4:17-19, 21).

Now if you were to look at that scripture as it appears in Isaiah 61:1, 2, you would see that Jesus only read one half of verse two. It goes on to say, “...and the day of vengeance of our God....” For what reason did Jesus omit these important words? Simply stated, this was not the time to speak of judgment; rather, to tell the world of the atonement, the way to life eternal and the resurrection of the dead.

After His ascension into His Father’s presence, the Lord did inspire His disciples to teach about the com-

ing Day of Judgment. He clearly described to the Apostle John, in chapter twenty of the Book of Revelation, that day when all mankind shall stand before the throne to be judged of their works. There is a passage in the 14th chapter of Revelation we have all heard numerous times. Revelation 14:6 we have heard so many times it is committed to our memory.

“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people.”

However, the following verse seven is not read so often, even though it is a part of the same sentence, speaking of that day of the Restoration of the Church of Christ and His Gospel.

“Saying with a loud voice, Fear God and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come, and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of water.”

This is speaking of our day! When Christ walked in ancient America, among some of the scattered peoples of Israel, He spoke

clearly of those things which would take place in our day. It is important to keep these things in your mind and in your prayers. We shall read a few of the verses in chapter nine of Third Nephi:

“And when these things come to pass, that thy seed shall begin to know these things, it shall be a sign unto them, that they may know that the work of the Father hath already commenced unto the fulfilling of the covenants which he hath made unto the people which are of the house of Israel” (verse 93). And this prophecy has already come to pass. “And it shall come to pass, saith the Father, that the sword of my justice shall hang over them at that day; and except they repent, it shall fall upon them, saith the Father, yea, even upon all the nations of the Gentiles. And it shall come to pass that I will establish my people, O house of Israel. And behold, this people will I establish in this land, unto the fulfilling the covenants which I made with your father Jacob; and it shall be a new Jerusalem. And the powers of heaven shall be in the midst of this people; yea, even I will be in the midst of you” (verses 56-58).

These are things which are shortly coming to pass; things which will affect everyone in the Church, our children and grandchildren.

They are things which we can only see vaguely at this time, but for which we need to be prepared. There will be great challenges to our ministry. For these reasons we need to be praying for wisdom and understanding, that we may be a warning voice to the peoples of the world. America has already received a “wake-up” call with 9/11, but things go on as usual.

We shall close with a scripture that is the prophesied end of those who are righteously serving their Lord:

“And it came to pass that I, Nephi, beheld the power of the Lamb of God, that it descended upon the saints of the church of the Lamb, and upon the covenant people of the Lord, which were scattered upon all the face of the earth: And they were armed with righteousness and the power of God in great glory” (1 Nephi 3:230, 231).

May this be our destiny!

The Great Reunion of the HOUSE of JACOB



By Elder Peter Gould

“Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child; for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the Lord” (3 Nephi 10:9; see also Isaiah 54:1).

A major theme emphasized in the Restoration movement since the 1830s is that of the gathering of Israel, and the

strong emphasis placed on this great work that God would do in the last days to restore the tribes of Jacob into one. This passage (above) from the prophet Isaiah, as quoted by Jesus while teaching the peoples of this continent after His resurrection underscores that work, but who are “the children of the desolate” and who are “the children of the married wife” in this prophetic passage? We look to biblical history and prophecy to answer these questions and better understand the work of God in these latter days.

That there are “children” by two different women being referred to is self-evident. So who are these women? Ezekiel in the 23rd chapter answers thus:

1 The word of the Lord came again unto me, saying,

2 Son of man, there were two women, the daughters of one mother;

3 And they committed

whoredoms in Egypt; they committed whoredoms in their youth; there were their breasts pressed, and there they bruised the teats of their virginity.

4 And the names of them were Aholah the elder, and Aholibah her sister; and they were mine, and they bare sons and daughters. Thus were their names; Samaria is Aholah, and Jerusalem Aholibah.

Here we find the answer that the two women represent the two divisions of the tribes of Israel which are: “Aholah” (who represents the northern kingdom of Israel, and Samaria its capital city); and “Aholibah” (who represents the southern kingdom of Judah, and Jerusalem, its capital city). These two women both bear children who are claimed by the Lord because of the covenants with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. From history

we know that the northern kingdom was made “desolate” by the invasion of the Assyrian armies under Sennecharib, and these “lost ten tribes” (as they have been called over the years) were taken as captives and carried out of the land, and other peoples were brought in to tend the land to replace them, but these tribes did not return en-masse, and have remained scattered to this day. The southern kingdom was subdued by Babylon, about a century later, and then was returned to their homeland to remain there until being scattered again after the destructions by Rome about 70 AD.

Why, we ask, is one referred to as the “married wife”? For both of them, according to Ezekiel, “were mine” in the words of the Lord. The answer may be derived from the words given to Jeremiah, the prophet:

“And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel [that is Aholah, or Samaria – the 10 tribes] committed adultery, I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also” (Jeremiah 3:8).

Here we find the explanation for the distinction between the “desolate” and the “married wife.” Because Israel/Samaria (the 10 tribes) was given the bill of divorcement and left “desolate” so that they did not return

to their lands of inheritance even to this day, that left Judah/Jerusalem as the remaining “married wife.” This distinction also suggests that those of the ten tribes were counted from then on as “gentiles” – being divorced from the covenant. But the prophecy of the future gathering suggests that both of these groups of “children” will be gathered in and that those of the Northern kingdom will be found to be much more numerous than those of Judah and Jerusalem for “more are the children of the desolate,” than of the “married wife.” The reunion of the Northern and Southern kingdoms of Israel in the last days is shown clearly according to the prophecy of Ezekiel in the 37th chapter:

21 And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel [Samaria, the 10 tribes] from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land;

22 And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all; and they shall be no more two nations [the divided kingdom of Israel], neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms anymore at all;

23 Neither shall they defile themselves anymore with their idols, nor with their de-

testable things, nor with any of their transgressions; but I will save them out of all their dwelling places, wherein they have sinned, and will cleanse them; so shall they be my people, and I will be their God.

24 And David my servant shall be king over them; and they all shall have one shepherd; they shall also walk in my judgments, and observe my statutes, and do them.

25 And they shall dwell in the land that I have given unto Jacob my servant, wherein your fathers have dwelt; and they shall dwell therein, even they, and their children, and their children's children forever; and my servant David shall be their prince forever.

26 Moreover I will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an everlasting covenant with them; and I will place them, and multiply them, and will set my sanctuary in the midst of them forevermore.

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Sunday School Lessons on **COURAGE!**

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 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. Contact Susan Porter: porter_susan@sbcglobal.net ; home address: 9 Market Street; Middleville, MI 49333 for more information.

Preschool/Kindergarten: **FEAR NOT... God Takes Care of Me!**

(Reference: Matthew 6:26-30; Matthew 10:29-31)

Supplies: cardstock or construction paper (draw an outline of a person's head and shoulders before class for each student on the full-size paper), yarn in many colors and cut into various lengths, glue sticks or school glue, crayons/colored pencils, googly eyes (optional), Matthew 10:29-31 printed out (small rectangle, to glue on craft)

Activity: To reinforce that God knows every hair on our head and knows every sparrow that falls, we are going to put hair on the head of our paper friend! Have the students color their paper friend and then pass out the glue sticks or put glue in portions around the head of the drawing. Visit with the students while they are coloring and gluing about how God protects us and will help us to not be afraid. Reinforce that we should talk to our parents about our fears and we should always talk to God about them. Remind the students that we can pray to God at any time of the day or night (give examples, such as at the park or the swimming pool, at Grandma's house or school...). When the craft is finished, ask the students how many hairs their paper friend has, then how many hairs they have, and write them on his or her craft...it is usually quite funny! Glue the scripture on the craft. Remind them that God knows everything about us—what makes us happy, sad, scared, and even how many hairs we have on our heads!

Show the Haiku Deck slideshows on both of these scriptures (it explains the scriptures in pictures). Links can be found on edmodo.com and on cocsermons.net. You will need an Internet connection to view them.

(Find the rest of this lesson online & many others at www.cocsermons.net)

Jennifer Yates: phxhometeachin@gmail.com

Elementary: **Be of Good Courage!**

Objective: To be able to describe what it means to have courage when we are afraid of something.

Memory verse: "Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart, all ye that hope in the Lord." Psalm 31:24

Discussion:

- What do you do when you feel fearful?
 - When you try to overcome your fears (take charge of them) you are using courage, you are being brave.
- When is it good to have fear?
 - Fear is allowable to the point that you know you need to take action to remove yourself from physical, emotional and spiritual danger. For example: fire, flood, tornadoes, when you are doing something that you know you are breaking rules, and fear of losing our soul (which then should motivate us to have good courage and stand up for what is right).
- When is it bad to have fear?
 - When you're not letting God take care of you and when you're pushing people away, building up walls in your life.
- How do we become more courageous?
 - Talk to our parents, ask God for help, pray, read our scriptures. Create a plan for targeting a specific fear. Think about how to overcome the fear. (See the lesson "With God All Things are Possible!" by Heidi Jones)
- Who should we rely on to be of good courage?
 - God and those He has placed in your life to take care of you like your ministry and family.
- When we rely on God for courage to overcome our fears we are building our faith. We learn that with God, all things are possible!

(Find the rest of this lesson online & many others at www.cocsermons.net)

Susan Porter: porter_susan@sbcglobal.net

Scan this for more lessons and studies!



From the Archives...1937 Missouri Reunion Group Photo



Pictured here (left to right and top to bottom) are: Margaret Wheaton, H. E. Moler, Laura Long, Elmer Long, Doris (Long Hedrick) Ratterree, James Hedrick, Louise Sheldon, Rosalie Davis, Bierly Davis, Stella Hedrick, Joseph Yates, J. E. Bozarth, Metta Anderson, Margaret (Long) Mann, James E. Yates, J. R. McClain, Minnie Smith, Leon Gould, Rolland Sprague, A. M. Smith, Byron

Yates, Silas Madden, Albert Rudd, Charles Derry, T. J. Jordan, Curtis Yates, Arthur Yates, Georgia Mae Smith, Vincent Yates, Richard Wheaton, Margaret Evelyn Wheaton and Oscar Case. **CORRECTION** in July/August Archive photo: B. C. Flint's wife was incorrectly named: her name was Freda. Please accept our apologies.

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

With God All Things Are Possible!

(Applicable to elementary through high school; teachers tailor to own age group.)

Objective: To overcome personal fears and/or worry.

Scripture reference: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me."

Group Activity:

1. Each person writes on an index card his or her name on one side and a fear or worry they have on the opposite side. Write it in large letters with a black marker.
2. When everyone is done, form a circle. Each person reads their card to the group.
Optional: Students further explain this fear or worry, giving more details.
3. Teacher collects and shuffles cards.
4. Teacher distributes cards to students, but no one gets their own.
5. Students hold hands and each student prays for the person on their card and for their fear. Specifically pray for a plan to overcome their fear. Encourage them to continue to pray for their friends and classmates throughout the week.

(Find the rest of this lesson online and many others at www.cocsermons.net)

Heidi Jones: heidi.lynn_jones@yahoo.com

Middle School/High School:

Activity:

Use some of the same ideas for discussion with the elementary lesson "Be of Good Courage!", however add in the following scripture readings. How many times do you count "be of good courage" repeated in the scriptures? (15+ in the Bible) What does "be of good courage" mean? How can you apply this to your daily walk with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ?

Deuteronomy 31:6
Joshua 1:9
Chronicles 28:20

Psalms 27:14
2nd Nephi 9:133
Alma 12:20

Alma 29:1
Helaman 2: 85-87

David and Goliath!

This is a two-part look at the familiar story of David and Goliath. The first part is for young students to explore the trust and faith displayed in the story. The second part is for advanced students and we will explore the story as a metaphor for defeating sin, ungodly habits, and addictions. I refer to this set of lessons as a gateway lesson. The hope is to encourage the scholar to look at stories in the scriptures with different perspectives, both literal and metaphoric. I have also asked the scholar to do further tangent studies to encourage more time in the word. Find this lesson at cocsermons.net in the Resources area.

Submitted by Steven Gill

Courage is Needed!

Check out an article titled, "Courage is Needed" by Holly Bartlett. You can find it on the church website. Courage is an honorable trait that takes strength and willpower. What is courage? Who has courage? How to have courage? When is courage needed? In life we must all have some courage in our beliefs and morals. Read the article and discuss with your friends and family the attributes of courage.

Submitted by Holly Bartlett

Poetry Lesson

Read Poem: The White Church on the Temple Lot by Vida E. Smith Yates and look at a photo of the church building on the Temple Lot. Also read, I Can Do All Things by Jeanine Addie for inspiration for your own writing.

Discuss: How do the people you go to church with help you when you are afraid and need more courage?

Activity: Write a poem or story describing what your local church, or the headquarters at the Temple Lot church means to you. Include an illustration to go along with your writing.

(Find the rest of these lessons online and many others at www.cocsermons.net)

Submitted by Janeen Addie



REPORT

2013 Missouri Reunion Report

On Friday, July 26th, 2013, the Missouri Reunion began with a prayer service. Elder Joseph Smith and Priest Bruce Haines were in charge. Br. Joe welcomed us and told us of meeting the "Shelby" family recently. He used 3 Nephi 5 to show us Christ taught the "Be-Attitudes." He told us blessed are they who come poor in spirit for they will be in the "Shall Be" family too. A season of prayer, several administrations and many testimonies followed. These are just a few:

A brother testified how reunions are bright spots in our lives and the spirit increases. He looks forward to the day when our faith increases more and we don't need doctors; that will be when we are in Zion. The humble followers of Christ will lead us to Zion, not strong-willed leaders. God knows how, and He'll do it. He'll bring it about. We need to ask ourselves, "How much do we trust the Lord?" He assured us that the Lord will continue to bring us through the trials we'll have in the future.

A brother testified that he knows the Lord gives us trials to strengthen us. We are to lean on Him and not on our own strength. We need to open our hearts for what He has prepared for us; we need to expect to hear from Him.

A young brother testified that earlier in his life he was hard to get along with. He blamed everyone else. He admonished us that we have to correct ourselves. God has shown him to serve God with the full intent of his heart and be an example to others. He began to study in earnest. Blaming others is unrighteousness. Seek and expect miracles. To bring about Zion we all have to be righteous; seeking to serve God brings happiness; serving God makes us a blessing to those around us. Do His will, study, pray and believe.

A preaching service followed, with the sermon given by Elder Leslie Case, who was assisted by Priest Martin Addie. Brother Leslie greeted us and declared the Lord is his tower and strength, and is the source of all righteousness. Br. Leslie read Matthew 19:16-24 and Matthew 10:28-32. We need real intent. To explain who God is, Br. Leslie read Exodus 3:13-15 and Hebrews 2:9-14. He went on to tell us that when Christ was crucified in Jerusalem, on this land there was a terrible storm for three hours and darkness for three days. Cities were destroyed, and then a cry was heard. Oh, how they wished they'd repented. These are the last days, the close of the Gentile times, and a great and marvelous work of God has begun. Just as the scriptures say, the gospel has been rejected by most of mankind. The main purpose of God was to restore the plain and precious things which have been removed from the Bible. Christ came to atone for the sins of Adam, and to make resurrection possible. Nothing is more powerful than God. "Christ" is the only name by which salvation is found. We're told in John 3 that we cannot see the Kingdom of Heaven unless we're baptized. Br. Leslie read from Romans 12:1-21, Revelation 21:1-8 and 2 Nephi 1:30-66.

After lunch and a song service we enjoyed another sermon, given by Elder Donald Gill, assisted by Elder Randy Sheldon. Br. Don began by reading Lehi's vision, with volunteers doing modern voices of the people. The mist of darkness was represented by the need and distraction of things of the world (such as a cell phone). Br. Don admonished us that we were created to worship our God, but sometimes our need to worship is given to things we shouldn't worship. There has been so much that has happened in

the church during the last ten-twenty years, it can only be of God, but we're not ready yet. Br. Don asked, "Do you remember the Ten Commandments. . . do you know them?" He read Revelation 18:1-5. This speaks of the fall of Babylon and tells us, "Come out of her, my people." This speaks to our time; the world is now ripe in iniquity. The forces of evil are blatantly in our faces. . . and celebrated! Don't be a part of these things; remove things that identify with Babylon. Don't put yourself on a leash. Do these modern items take your time and attention? Do they take you away from God? Br. Don read 1 Samuel 15:22-23 and Colossians 3:5. We need to prepare for the next thing God has for us. The church has grown in loving each other; we're on the right path. God's work is going internationally; the foundation and strength of this gospel is going forward. We need to let go of whatever is dragging us backward. Br. Don read Galatians 5:19-21, Alma 16:229-234, John 10:1-5 and 1 Corinthians 12, to admonish us to stay away from things that pull us into the world, and that we need to keep Christ first in our lives. We need to prepare to be Christ's bride.

After the evening meal and another song service we enjoyed a sermon given by Priest Kevin McGhee, assisted by Elder Steve McGhee. Br. Kevin greeted us and read Ephesians 4:1 and John 1:10. Br. Kevin told us we are on a journey toward God; with His Holy Spirit we can be the sons of God. He read Mosiah 11:187, which tells us unless we become new creatures we cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. He read 2 Corinthians 6:14-18, exhorting us of the need to separate ourselves from the world. Br. Kevin read 1 Corinthians 10:13, Hebrews 5:8-9 and 2:9-10. We are in a refining process; our trials and tribu-

lations are God's way of scrubbing away impurities... if we let Him. He read Hebrews 12:1-11, Matthew 19:16-22, and John 17:1-5; 19:26-30. We have been, and will be tried, to purify us. We must become like Christ. Br. Kevin read Romans 8:1-18 and asked, "If we don't do this, who will?" God blesses us along the way; we must have a soul that is able to receive God's blessings. He read 2 Peter 1:3-10 where we are told of charity and the fruits of the spirit. We need to submit ourselves to this process that we may be worthy to be called sons of God.

On Saturday morning we gathered in for another prayer service. Elders Albert Leighton-Floyd and Randy Sheldon were in charge. Br. Al greeted us and told us the desire of his heart is that we would magnify Christ. He read Helaman 2:74-75 and admonished us that we stand on that Rock. Br. Randy admonished us that we are to search the words of Isaiah; he read from Isaiah 28 admonishing us that we are to be those most righteous; directing others to the right way. He read Isaiah 30:1-3; 32:17 where we are told, "the work of righteousness shall be peace." He also read Isaiah 33:14-17, which tells us the righteous have a life of order, in tune with God... those blessings can't be bought. After a season of prayer, there were many testimonies of God's blessings; these are just a few:

A brother testified that God was with him and protected him during a terrible time in his life. He is repentant for all the trouble he caused. He is so thankful that God didn't leave him; his wife was not alone either... God was with both of them. They are so thankful God protected them. The first time he was back at church love was poured out to him; he appreciates it and is thankful from the bottom of his heart.

A brother testified of God's guidance and protection in a bad situation many years ago. He had no way out, but declined to join in with the others; he spent the next several hours conversing with a young lady (who also felt trapped in the situation) about good and wholesome things of

God. God had provided them an escape from the temptation. If you ask Him for it, He will provide. God will bless those who stand up for what is right.

Following lunch and a song service we enjoyed a sermon given by Elder Chris Moran, assisted by Apostle Roland Sarratt. Br. Chris greeted us, and talked of the storms of life we all have, which vary from person to person. Br. Chris read from Mark 4:35-41 and asked us what it means to worry? He read Matthew 6:25-34 and admonished us to come out of Babylon; God will fill our needs. Br. Chris read James 1:2-8, and Mark 9:17-24. He exhorted us to listen to the Holy Ghost and God will increase our faith. Br. Chris told us God will provide, and used Philippians 4:6-7; Psalm 34:4-7 and 17-19; Psalm 55:22; Proverbs 3:5-6, Jeremiah 17:5-8 and Matthew 7:7-11 to illustrate. Br. Chris spoke about life and death during the Great Depression. He stated that during those years health actually got better and mortality rates lowered, even though suicide rates rose. This should be an example of how God will provide because we rely on God, with more humility and repentance. God is preparing us for future tribulations with our present trials. Br. Chris told us he had asked himself, why did God call him now when he has many problems? He realized the answer was, "When we are weak we are strong." He read from 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, Ether 5:28, Luke 13:11-13. He told us that repentance and baptism into the Church of Christ brings peace (Enos 1: 1-2); there is joy in persecution (3 Nephi 5:58-59 and Acts 5:34-41); the abiding Comforter brings peace (John 14:14-18, 26-27 and Romans 8:26, 8:16). There are blessings in life (Isaiah 29:18-19, Alma 10:18-25, Psalm 127:3-5, Matthew 12:46-50); and to count your blessings ("Count Your Blessings" hymn #198). Br. Chris asked if you want peace during trials... are you praying? Are you thanking God? Are you around negative people? Is God's grace sufficient for you? He read Isaiah 42:13-16 and 43:19 in closing.

After dinner there was another song service, which was followed by a sermon by Elder Bob Hedrick, assisted by Elder Dan Lawrence. Br. Bob greeted us and began by reading from Daniel 1:1-14, which takes place shortly after the fall of Jerusalem when many were taken into Babylon in bondage. Four young captives were among those many held, as an elite group by the king's men. Their names were changed in an effort to remove their identity. For three years this group was to be "reprogrammed" to serve the king, and was to be fed a portion of the king's meat and wine as a means to strengthen them. Verse 8 tells us that Daniel "purposed in his heart"; he was one of the four who requested that he might not defile himself by partaking of things which were against his beliefs. Daniel asked for the four to be allowed a provision of pulse (vegetables) and water for ten days to prove the Lord. At the end of the ten days their countenances appeared fairer and fatter in flesh than all the other children who did eat a portion of the king's meat. God blessed them for holding to their principles. We need to be willing to make a stand, keeping our principles as we promised when we were baptized. Don't let the fear of being different make you compromise your principles, but have courage to take a stand. Br. Bob read Philippians 1:12-14 and Romans 12:1-2 in explaining that we need to strengthen each other to stand up for what we know to be true. It takes courage to be a Christian, standing up to pressure, and not to compromise our beliefs. We are not to be partakers of what the world has to offer. Every day is a test. Br. Bob read Psalm 121:1-8 where we are commanded to stand as a witness to God in all things at all times. When we fail, we have the avenue of repentance and to change our lives... continually striving to do the will of the Lord.

On Sunday morning we gathered in to the house of the Lord for our sacrament service. Apostles Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse and Jeff Oldham were in charge of the service. Br. Jeff

read Psalm 34:17 and told us he'd had the story of Abinadi on his mind since being asked to speak, and now his mind is being drawn to speak of our commitment. He read Mosiah 9:1-13, Abinadi stood strong even unto death. In Alma we read of his commitment to pray for Abinadi not to be put to death. He read John 6:47-51, and Mosiah 9:50-54. We need to knit our hearts in unity and love to one another. There is nothing better than the goodness of our Lord, honoring Him, and being strengthened in our commitment to Him. The emblems were then blessed and served. We entered into a season of prayer in which many names and needs were raised to our Heavenly Father. Many voices were then lifted in testimony; here are just a few:

A brother testified that when Jesus wept, He had a reason. He was weeping for his people. Jesus wept for those who don't follow His voice. We need to have the same compassion that Christ has.

A brother testified that it has been twenty years since the Church of Christ came to Idaho. God has been with them and sustained them through their trials. He has been through two custody battles for his daughters over the years. Twice the Lord has shown His hand and the custody decision came out in his favor. This last time our brother was told through the voice of the Spirit, "This was of Me."

Another brother testified of being greatly encouraged by some who have come back this last year. He admonished us that we can't force things, especially with family, but know that God is working. They know where to go; who to go see. There are doors that no man can open or close except God. Looking back at his life he sees how God has worked, and there is a great joy in his life because of God.

Another brother testified of God's leadings. While at camp he helped teach a class about building a spiritual house. Just now he was shown...that this spiritual house was like a venture he had been overseeing. With God's leadings, a flaw was discovered; it was corrected and the project was saved. The founda-

tion was restored, and the building was now on a firm foundation. The message to us: we need to be built upon Christ. Not all who hear the word of God are going to accept it. He loves how God speaks to us; he was told once to have "courage" to get rid of the world.

Another brother testified of learning of the Book of Mormon. He prayed about it for a year before he read it. He watched the live streaming, and prayed for help to believe. God answered his prayer and when he read the Book of Mormon he knew it was true. He is very happy to now be a member of the Church of Christ. He knows it is one of the best things he's ever done.

A sister testified that she felt there was something she needed to put away, but couldn't pinpoint what it was. She asked the Lord to make it plain to her so she couldn't deny it. Recently at a work conference, she learned how "entertainment" is influencing our lives...encouraging dark thoughts. She didn't think it pertained to her, but the more she heard the more she knew...it was everywhere. She didn't want to see any more examples, but she needed to know. She took notes, but couldn't watch the slides. Later, in the daylight she read what she had written: "It's time to come out of the darkness and walk in the light." The darkness keeps her from seeing His light and His glory. There are new rules for her home now. She knows that on that day, God knew and set in motion what she was ready to hear.

After lunch and a song service we gathered in for the final sermon of the reunion. The sermon was given by Apostle Buzz Brickhouse, with Elder Dennis Trudgen assisting.

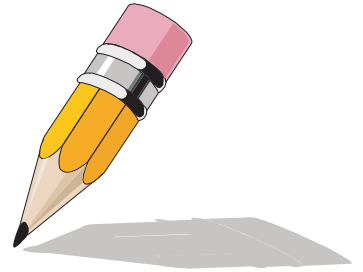
Br. Buzz greeted us and briefly explained who "WE" are: After the apostasy and the protestant movement, there were men who knew a complete restoration of the true church was to come. Twelve hundred and sixty years after the apostasy of the original Church of Christ was complete, the true gospel was restored by an angel, fulfilling prophecy with the restoration of the Church of Christ in 1830 in New York. Miracles and blessings were returned to the earth. The church moved to Independence, the place of

Zion. There were trials, mistakes were made, and the people became prideful. They were driven out of Missouri and went to Nauvoo, where they made more mistakes. They changed beliefs, and the name and structure of the church. God doesn't change. In Hebrews 5 we are told God teaches by His spirit; He molds and shapes each man He calls. According to scripture we are not a paid ministry. Our group was blessed and protected in Illinois, we repented of those errors and we were separated from the factions who went their own way. God led us back to this designated place of protection. Br. Buzz read Matthew 24:5-7. We are to preach the gospel throughout the world. We are to keep His commandments, and the righteous will be gathered in; this is a promise of God. He read 2 Nephi 13:24 and told us we must glorify God; seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all else will be added unto you. We need to feast on the words of Christ; there is no other name given by which we can be saved—only Christ. We are to do the things He's commanded us to do. In Mosiah 1:49 we are told to serve one another. King Benjamin was a wonderful example. Be doers of the word; look at ourselves, not each other. God gives us opportunities. In 1 Corinthians 13 we are told if we have not charity we become as a sounding brass; without charity we are nothing. Br. Buzz read Moroni 7:45-53, which tells us we must be meek and lowly in heart. We must live the love of Christ.

It was a wonderful reunion: we basked in the Holy Spirit, we were strengthened in the Lord, and we enjoyed the love and fellowship of our church family. We thank and praise our Lord for these blessings.

Your reporter, Sr. Deb Haines

Collins Local Report



I took a couple days off from work this past week and when I go back to work Monday, my co-workers will ask me what I did while I was gone. I wonder if that's how it will be come judgment—"what did you do" while you were gone? I know, of course, that God already knows all that I have done, but the point is—there will be that day of accounting for your time spent here on earth. We have a

lot of idle time—even when we are busy. Have we given fair representation of our Savior with not only our words, but with our actions? I fear to think of just how I would rank in standing as a witness for Jesus.

We have held our annual election of officers and granted, it was quite late in the year, but our brother and pastor, Curtis Yates, has been in the hospital and a nursing facility due to his back problems, so we needed to wait until he was back among us before we continued on. That being said, Curtis will again serve as our pastor and I believe everyone else will continue in their designated positions for the rest of the year.

Our sister, Karen "Yates" from Phoenix is caregiver for Curtis and helping him with therapy before she goes back

home in a week or so. It has been such a joy to see her every week at church.

Sister Betty Martin took a bad fall (back in early May) and broke her ankle which has required surgery and a few weeks in a nursing home. She is at home now and requires more care than Jack is able to give, so they have acquired the help of our sister, Sheala Herd. Sheala has moved into the apartment they have on the end of their house and is able to see to the needs that Betty has any time day or night. Jack and Betty's family is in to visit them quite often and Sheala keeps them informed of information from the health nurse and such via text or e-mail.

Brother Allen Kauffman has had hip replacement surgery and is getting along well. He is

able to walk to the post office and the neighbor's house, but at night he has a lot of pain. He doesn't believe his pain is from the hip, but perhaps due to being diabetic, as the pain seems to be from his knees down.

Sister Marjory Routh has also been having some serious back and neck problems and visits the chiropractor for assistance with this. She is better now. Marjory is a hardworking person and likes to tend to her farm and cattle where she lives.

Marjory's son, Jimmy Routh, has had back surgery due to a fall he had several years ago. He is getting along better, but like all of us—we just don't bounce back like we would like to. We're getting older, here at Collins, and we are having physical problems—not unlike the problems everyone else has to face from time to time—but I am asking an interest in your prayers for the grace of God to help us (and others) get through these times and to keep our eyes on the Giver of Life and His matchless mercy. Pain can bring frustration and depression to most anyone. Please help with your prayers.

I have searched through my

notes and found a few quotes I would like to share with you and have you to consider their meaning in your own life.

- *Do we practice what we preach?*
- *Do the lessons and get your diploma!*
- *If we don't come (to church) we're missing an opportunity to be strengthened.*
- *"No Jesus—no peace. Know Jesus—know peace!"*
- *How can you stay steadfast without being reminded?*
- *HE is available to us—we need to make ourselves available to HIM.*
- *Today is the time to separate ourselves from the world.*
- *We can't be complacent.*
- *The page has turned—we are in difficult times—no more "time" to procrastinate.*
- *The world is in shades of "grey"—the truth is in Black and White.*
- *Where is our HOPE?*
- *We don't get to choose how we die, but we DO get to choose how we LIVE!*
- *Do we take "liberties" with the word of God?*

May our God, who is mighty to save, reach His loving hand

down and surround each of us with His mercy and kindness, and may we each respond to Him by living as He has taught us—that we may be found worthy of His salvation.

*Your reporter,
Czerna Kauffman
Collins, Missouri*

Phoenix, Arizona

Hello from sunny Arizona to all my friends and family. We are deep into the summer months here in Phoenix, and really feeling the heat! I think it will be safe to say we'll all be ready for some relief in a month or so (I hope). I still haven't figured out which is the hottest month of the year. Different people have different opinions. Depending on what your idea of "hot" is, and whether it involves some degree of *humidity* or not, it could be July, August or September. Everyone agrees that by October, the weather is once again getting really nice.

The summer months brought many

chances for family fun and togetherness. Activities included a fundraiser at Sweet Tomatoes, the Salsa Cook-Off, Bible School and even a graduation party for our Sr. Aimee Yates.

We were very blessed to have both Br. Brandall and Sr. Rebecca return home safely from their most recent tours overseas. We must continue to pray for all the other military members who continue to fight for us, as well as those who are in charge of leading our country.

I found myself wondering what there really was to say this month. With all our sources of "instant" gratification



these days, what could I have to say that hasn't already been said many times? Elder Gordon McCann was kind enough to remind me that there are still some folks who don't use computers or cell phones and rely upon the *Advocate* for their source of communication within the Church. So, I shall strive to do a better job in bringing the ongoing business and social gatherings of the Phoenix local to you, for it is indeed a very active group of people.

I would ask that you continue to remember and pray for several members of our local who have continuing health problems or recent surgeries. These include, but of course don't exclude others....

Srs: Marlene Oar, Amy Moser, Melissa Oar, Debbie Brown, Louise Yates and Pat McCann.

I would pray that you all have a wonderful finish to your summer and look forward to the coming fall season.

*Your sister in Christ,
DiAnn Hedrick*



NOTICES

UNITED STATES

**CHURCH OF CHRIST
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.

**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 Vieveen
(519) 759-8087

marnievieveen@sympatico.ca

Mike and Deb Bevaart
(519) 805-9790

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

Assistant Pastors:

Aadam Yates

19018 N. 29th Street
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 300-9013

a.m.yates@cox.net

Gary Jacobsen

1317 W. Mohawk Lane
Phoenix, AZ 85027

[gjacobson@live.com](mailto:gjacobsen@live.com)

HONDURAS

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

Elder Ronnie Gill

Cell phone: 011-504-32067285

rorgill@la-comarca.org

MEXICO

OCTOBER 13: Reunion, Cancun, Quintana Roo

DECEMBER 8: Children Reunion, Motul, Yucatan

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 rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net, or any member of the Board.

AVA WEBSITE

On the Church of Christ AVA web site you will be able to access media such as archived sermons in video and audio formats, past issues of *Zion's Advocate*, searchable Bible and Book of Mormon studies and Sunday School lessons. Real time live streamed sermons are broadcast every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. central time, which can also be accessed from the site. We invite you

to take a look and discover what a useful tool this site can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. The address is www.cocsermons.net.

**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.



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INDEPENDENCE MO 64051-0472
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Book of Commandments (hardcover)	11.00
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Apostasy from the New Testament Church	God's Promises to Israel
Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ	God's Purpose in America
Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)	The Great Plan of Redemption
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem
The Book of Commandments - Its Role in the History of the Restoration	A Latter Day Apostasy
Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants	The Latter Day Restoration
A Brief History of the Church of Christ	The Position of the Council of the Apostles Regarding Some Issues of Today
A Call to National Repentance - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ	Priesthood—Divine Authority
The Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day - Sunday	Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
Colored Tracts to Native Americans: 1) Book in the Stone Box, 2) Did You Know?, 3) Epistle to American Indians, 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk	Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
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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

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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. 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: _____

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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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churchofchrist-tl.org