

# 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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Photo courtesy of Apostle Brian McIndoo

"And moreover, I say unto you, that the time shall come, when the knowledge of a Savior shall spread throughout every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. And behold, when that time cometh, none shall be found blameless before God, except it be little children, only through repentance and faith on the name of the Lord God Omnipotent." —Mosiah 1:121-122

## *~ In This Issue ~*

EDITORIAL—The Feast of the Tabernacle in the Last Days - *Elder Gordon McCann* . . . 103

ARTICLE—The Time Shall Come - *Apostle Brian E. McIndoo* . . . 104

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION—Sunday School Lessons on CHRISTMAS . 110

FROM THE ARCHIVES—Apostles and their Wives in 1950 . . . 112

ARTICLE—Making the Scriptures Real in our Lives - *Priest Adam Yates* . . . 114

NEWS . . . 118

OBITUARY—Derald Dean Sarratt . . . 121

OBITUARY—Mary Thelma Schwegler . . . 121

OBITUARY—Margie Evalee Downs . . . 122

NOTICES . . . 122

2013 INDEX to Volume 90 . . . 123



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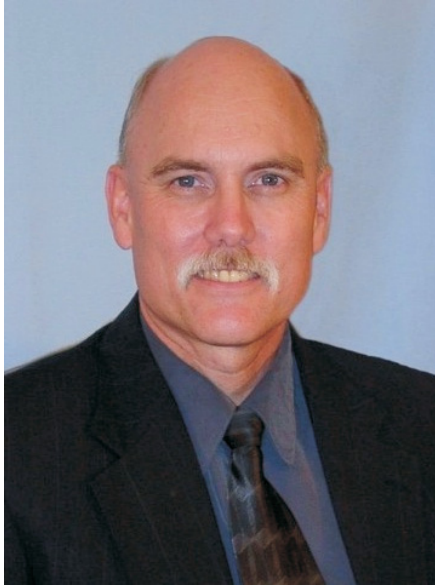
### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

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

Visit us at: <http://churchofchrist-tl.org/>

# The Feast of the Tabernacle in the Last Days



## By Elder Gordon McCann

Traditionally this time of the year is a time to celebrate and give thanks for the fruit of our labor, or the harvest. In the Mosaic Law Israel was commanded to keep three feasts in the year. One of those feasts was the "... feast of the harvest, the first fruits of thy labours..." found in Exodus 23:16-19. Israel was to gather their harvest from their fields and then bring the "first of the first fruits" before their God as an offering. This gathering or feast referred to as the "feast of the tabernacles" was to be a solemn pilgrimage to a place that was chosen of God. Once gathered the feast was to last seven days (see also Deuteronomy 16:13-15).

Though we believe and are taught that the Mosaic Law has been fulfilled by Jesus Christ we still have this inward sense at the end of the year to give God thanks for the blessing of life. These blessings of life come by way of our labor and by petitioning God's blessing upon it in faith that our labor would bring forth good acceptable fruit. Our "first of the first fruits" is our tithes and offerings that we freely give to acknowledge and give thanks to our God for those blessings.

It has also been a time for reflection upon what we were able to accomplish against our goals that were set at the start of the year, then to make plans for the coming New Year in preparation for the new harvest.

Our lives follow, to a great extent, the same cycle as the "feast of the harvest." A generation comes of age and through their labor bears fruit. That fruit normally consists of a wife or husband, children, monetary things such as homes and lands, along with other works and pleasures of life. Since God is an unchangeable God, His expectations are the same when it comes to our labor. God fully expects that our labor would bring forth good fruit, acceptable before Him, to promote His good pleasure. A new generation comes to age and hopefully builds upon the good fruit of the past generation's labor.

My wife and I had opportunity to travel to Colorado this November to attend her Aunt Margie Downs funeral. Aunt Margie was the last of her family's generation where her two older brothers, Marvin and Bob Ely, had already passed away. A portion of Aunt Margie's fruit that came from her labor was a husband. More fruit was borne when they donated the land upon which the Church of Christ in Grand Junction Colorado was built. More labor was expended by others who built a building unto their God so that they could gather to worship Him and have that fellowship with those of like determination. This fruit was laid before God as an offering with the intent that more fruit would be gained by the labor of the next generation.

It is important to note that the success or failure of the next generation's labor and production of good fruit is dependent upon how successful we (the current generation) can instill the importance or value of the fruit borne by previous generations. Along with that understanding we must provide the new generation a clear vision of God's plan or goals that become theirs to set and work to fulfill.

God has, through His Holy prophets as found in the written Word, provided a clear vision or plan for mankind to work toward that they may bring forth good fruit. It is incumbent

upon each succeeding generation to pass the "light of the Gospel" onto the next generation so that they can be a "peculiar people, zealous of good works" (Titus 2:14).

## The Mission of the Church of Christ

### Preach the Gospel

*"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature; and he that believeth and is baptized, shall be saved, but he that believeth not, shall be damned" (Mormon 4:86).*

### Gospel Defined

*"Behold I have given unto you my gospel, and this is the gospel which I have given unto you, that I came into the world to do the will of my Father, because my Father sent me; And my Father sent me that I might be lifted up upon the cross; and after that I had been lifted up upon the cross, I might draw all men unto me: That as I have been lifted up by men, even so should men be lifted up by the Father, to stand before me, to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil; And for this cause have I been lifted up; therefore, according to the power of the Father, I will draw all men unto me, that they may be judged according to their works. And it shall come to pass, that whoso repenteth and is baptized in my name, shall be filled; and if he endureth to the end, behold, him will I hold guiltless before my Father, at that day when I shall stand to judge the world. And he that endureth not unto the end, the same is he that is also hewn down and cast into the fire, from whence they can no more return, because of the justice of the Father: and this is the word which he hath given unto the children of men" (3 Nephi 12:25-30).*

### Seek to Bring forth Zion

*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).*

## The Clarion Call of the Bride of Christ

*"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely" (Revelation 22:17).*



# The Time Shall Come



**By Apostle Brian E. McIndoo**

Mosiah 1:121-122: *“And moreover, I say unto you, that the time shall come, when the knowledge of a Savior shall spread throughout every nation, kindred, tongue, and people. And behold, when that time cometh, none shall be found blameless before God, except it be little children, only through repentance and*

*faith on the name of the Lord God Omnipotent....”*

**D**uring the month of July, Apostle Duane Ely and I made the trip to Ethiopia’s Gambella Region with the expectation of teaching the fullness of the Gospel to a few small groups of people. God’s plan must have been slightly different: we would be going to share with those in complete darkness about His omnipotence and how His Son became the Savior of the world.

After a lengthy multi-city flight we finally arrived at the international airport in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at about 1 AM. In spite of the fact it was the middle of the night we were able to quickly clear customs, collected our luggage then headed out into a cold dark parking lot where we were to meet our contact Koba Kotale and have the ho-

tel shuttle waiting to pick us up and deliver us to our hotel. What we found was we had neither a shuttle or Koba. Being on the last flight of the night, the taxis were starting to leave so we grabbed one before they all disappeared. We loaded our luggage in the trunk and back seat of the broken down little taxi and headed to the hotel. When we reached the hotel we were relieved to find they did have our reservation.

Where was Koba? Would he make contact? These questions weighed heavy on our minds as we tried to get to sleep at 2:30 AM; after all, we were to meet up and head out across Ethiopia in the morning. About 9 AM Koba arrived at the hotel and explained we would not reach the midway point of our two-day journey in time to get a hotel for the night if we left this late. We

suspended out departure until early the next morning so we could cover the 600 kilometers and reach the little town of Bedele in time to get a room. A day's rest after three days of flying didn't sound all that bad.

Up at 4 AM the following morning to make our departure to the Gambella region. We were picked up by our driver in a 4WD, roof rack laden with several 5 gallon jerry-cans of gasoline; apparently we would be driving to a place where gas would be hard to come by. The rental company also threw in camping gear just in case. Just in case what? It would seem they were not totally optimistic about the driving conditions or that we would reach our final destination. We drove two days across cold mountains socked in with clouds and light rain at an altitude of just under 8,000 feet above sea level before we reached the Gambella region where we would hold meetings.

Late afternoon of the second day we reached Koba's home, where we were fed and introduced to his wife and three children. The youngest child being held by Koba's wife belongs to a neighbor. After a short rest we were taken to a small town nearby and checked into our hotel.



Koba had prepared a couple of different groups of people for us to go share the gospel with. One of the groups Koba has met with for

some time, but they had a very limited understanding of Christianity. Another group lived deep in the jungle and kept to the traditional religion of their ancestors and virtually knew nothing about Christianity.

On July 24th, 2013, the seventh day of our trip, we would finally hold our first meeting in Ethiopia. We hiked through a magnificent forest with majestic hardwood trees some soaring 150 into sky before branching out into 50-foot canopies shading the coffee and banana trees below. We continued our hike until we reached Dopey village.

Our first stop was at the rustic mud-walled, thatched roof house of Ashnafi, the clan leader of the village where we would have our meeting. They led us into the smoke filled hut to partake of refreshments being prepared to refresh us after our hike before we went to the service. Scores of children sat across the room gawking at these strange white-skinned men. The refreshments came: a hot brew, not of coffee, but of water, hot spices, salt and burnt coffee leaves, served in a filthy plastic coffee cup. It got our attention quickly, but refreshing it was not.

In the Book of Mosiah, King Benjamin spoke about a time, a future time when everyone upon this earth would hear and know about Jesus Christ. When would this be accomplished? In the Bible we read how Christ commissioned the Church to take this gospel, teach His Kingdom in the entire world. Had that been accomplished by the Apostles of old and the European missionaries? Do we, the Church of Christ, have any part in such a great commission, or was our duty to only teach the Restored Gospel to those who had already been exposed to the scriptures?



M a r k  
16:15-16: *“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”*

After what had unfolded that day I know for a certainty it is our duty to preach the Christ's Kingdom and the Plan of Salvation through God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to those who have no knowledge of the Savior and are in darkness.

After being refreshed all we could stand they took us a little farther into the forest to a small open area surrounded by huts. More than 200 people

of the Manja tribe sat awaiting our arrival under the shade of trees just outside the clearing. The Manja tribe is a social outcast among the local people and tribes in the Gambela region of Ethiopia. They are looked down upon for living a hard and primitive lifestyle, living off the land with a diet including log worms and the black and white Colobus monkey. These people are among those in complete darkness and knew nothing of the Bible or Jesus Christ.



If things were not complicated enough, our teachings had to go through a two-way translation for the people to receive them. Not only did they not understand English, but also they could not speak Ethiopia's national language. We spoke in English and Koba (blue shirt) would translate into Amharic, the national language. The clan leader Ashnafi (red shirt) is one of the few who understood the national language. While Koba translated my words, Ashnafi translated for Koba into their tribal tongue.

We made no attempt to teach the Restoration, that was a moot point; we tried to convince and show them there is one supreme God and His Son Jesus Christ in which they could have hope, and they could have everlasting life. We tried to teach the need to believe and serve the true and living God rather than following traditional pagan religions of their fathers. We

thought we could accomplish this by starting at the beginning; the creation story, the fall of man, man's enemy Satan, the Redeemer Jesus Christ. We quickly understood we had a long way to go and could not just start at the beginning. These people had traditional beliefs such as praying through their clan leader to dead ancestors and they believed Satan is an enemy or someone they fought with in this life and is now dead that comes back to haunt them. We could not just teach them; we had to explain the differences in the word of God and their traditional beliefs, such as when we spoke of Satan we had to explain the whole story of Satan, or the Father, how He was there from the beginning and not a dead clan leader from their past. We would return to these people and teach classes in the hope they would come to understand some of the things they were confused about from our first basic teachings.

I have come to believe there are others who are just as ignorant concerning the gospel and the Savior of mankind. We should be asking ourselves: are we ready to head into the darkest of jungles, the most barren of deserts, and the frozen wastelands, and the wilderness at the ends of the earth to reach those God is preparing to hear the truth and come to the light of Christ?

After concluding our meeting we were taken out of the jungle by a different and much longer route. The tribe we visited felt responsible for us, so about thirty people escorted us through the jungle and remote villages until we reached our car. When we were almost out of the jungle Koba told us why we hiked an additional hour out of the jungle. He said government officers were laying in wait for us to hike out the way we came in so they could tax us \$150 as tourists. Some locals ran to town to report us

coming and assumed we were there to do sight-seeing. After we got back to town Koba went to the government office to explain why we were in the area and that we had already paid the tax when we applied for our visa. The government was satisfied and would leave us alone with only a tongue-lashing for not reporting to them when we first arrived.



The next day we headed to another village called Dunchai among the Majangir tribe. This was part of the group Koba had been meeting with when he first contacted us. Originally they were not meeting at this location but several miles down a steep muddy road that Koba feared we would not be able to reach in our vehicle. They erected a new structure for us to meet in hope we could drive to it. Unfortunately, because of the relocation, many families with small children were not able to meet with us. Koba was correct—we would not have been able to drive to their old location; our driver stopped about a kilometer short of the new building, fearing the mud and refusing to go any farther, so we walked the last kilometer of the way.

When we reached the building we came across three women outside working at a fire brewing us up a batch of burnt coffee leaf and saltwater drink. Inside there were a little over 60 people of very limited understanding of the





gospel, ready and waiting to hear our teachings. I taught the very basics of a living God and hope of salvation through Jesus Christ. After refreshments of roasted corn and burnt coffee leaf drink we had an afternoon class. Duane started with a simplified class on the Principles of the Gospel. He also covered the basics of where to find God's word and several other basic points. Usually when we go to a new group we try to reason with them out of the scriptures even as we read of the apostles of old doing, showing how the scriptures teach us the right way and the truth. The scriptures can convince them and bring them to Christ and an understanding of the Restoration. In this case it is much different because they never heard of the scriptures. We were left trying to convince them how the one living God has given us His word to use and how other gods of their tradition cannot bring them salvation. Salvation? Another hurdle in our path was to explain the very concept of Salvation. Nothing was easy; every word requires a lengthy explanation. There were a small handful of men in this group, about four, who knew of the Bible, Jesus, eternal life, but we did not have time to meet with them alone during this trip. We hope on a future trip we can meet with them and teach them the fullness of the gospel.

On our second visit to Dopey among the isolated Manja tribe we were impressed to see



a large group from our first meeting returned to learn more about the Gospel. We taught them more about who Satan was and, more importantly, who Jesus was. Between classes we took a lunch break of spicy burnt coffee leaves in salt water and a half ear of corn, which we preferred over getting their staple of monkey and log worms, although that would have been different and interesting. While we ate, an armed militia showed up to chase us off even though we were there with the tribe's chief and clan leader. The neighboring tribe, who sent the militia, said we needed their permission to come into this area. Seems we have to report to everyone when we do anything. We finished our class and told the group we had no fear of Satan or man and we would return if they wished. They told Koba they wanted us to come back and were already wondering how long it would be. They also said they were anxious to find out who killed Jesus.



On our last day in the Gambela region we made a second visit to Dunchai among the Majangir tribe. The numbers increased from about sixty on the first visit to over a hundred. The people filled the building and they were remarkably quiet and attentive during the



teachings, so much so Duane and I both took note of it. We had to explain to them that they were not yet Church of Christ members. Koba thought they believed they were now members since they came. This was an obvious mistake since they knew nothing about the requirements of being a member, such as faith, repentance, and baptism. Duane taught the remainder of the Principles of the Gospel class, then I taught them what they should be doing to prepare and how to hold services in our absence. I explained our intent to return and teach them further until they came to the point they could choose to be baptized.

We had endured not only cold and wet but hot and humid weather, hunger, thirst, long road trips in cramped vehicles, and long hikes through muddy forests, but it was a great opportunity to serve God and fulfill part of the great commission Christ had given the church.

A few weeks after our departure I wrote to Koba, hoping to find out how things were going on in Ethiopia. I wondered if they were still meeting, studying the things we left for them, still interested in the Church of Christ. The following is an unedited response I received from Koba detailing the efforts

they are making, and the persecutions they got from our visit. What strikes me the most is their attitude to endure through the trials they face and effort to prepare.

Dear brothers

Days passed without replying to your mail. But we are doing well and our church is growing well. It is raining heavily than usual here. Currently our members are harvesting maize. These days I have been teaching about paying tithe and the Church in the village (not the one we built on the edge of the coffee plantation for your visit) is now receiving some sacks of maize. With that maize (after we sell it) we are planning to make a pulpit and 2mx2m blackboard for literacy classes. I am planning to set up a literacy class to be conducted by me & volunteer members twice a week to help our members read and write. What do you advise us on the usage of the tithe?

With regard to the Manja group they have encountered a little problem while they are trying to get a plot of land for their church. They fenced some plot of land to locate their church without getting permission from the village authority and the villages authorities have band them until they bring legal license to gather their members. They

have arrested Azene and another man for three days at the district town (Teppi). They also called up on me from Metti (our district town) to explain about what we were doing and why we took you there last time. I explained everything smoothly to the district authority whereby they convinced that the problem lies only in reserving land without the permission of the village authority. You see, things are serious in Southern region, not like in Gambella region. The problem is that their district officials are from another tribe, not Manjas. Anyway, for future we have agreed to take some Manja people to our village and set up a small group for more lessons and baptism when you come back next time. They will then legally operate in their village after we register the church in Ethiopia.

Finally it is our prayer that you can manage to come before 2014 and teach us in detail to baptize us.

Pass our greetings to all around you.

God be with us all!

Koba

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**GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

## Sunday School Lessons on CHRISTMAS & SERVICE

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 for more information.

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### Preschool/Kindergarten & Elementary:

(Applicable for all ages; teachers tailor to own age group.)

#### Giving Bags (Full Lesson!)

##### Purpose/Talking Points:

- The purpose of this lesson and activity is to encourage the children to serve God by donating to others in need, with a cheerful heart. This is an activity that will require parental involvement at home. It is a good time to discuss that God gives to each and every one of us daily and that He gave us His only begotten son. God wants us to be like His Son.

##### Memory/Focus Verses:

- *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. (2 Corinthians 9:7)*
- *I have shewed you all things, how that so labouring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive. (Acts 20:35)*
- *But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. (Hebrews 13:16)*

##### Materials:

- Paper sacks (lunch or grocery size, depending upon the amount and types of donations needed)
- Glue
- Copy of the memory verse to glue on to the bag
- Markers/glitter/stickers...whatever you want the children to decorate their bags with.

##### Suggested Items for Families to Donate (they will bring them back in the decorated sacks):

- |                      |             |                          |
|----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| • Soap               | • Shampoo   | • Lip balm               |
| • Toothbrush & paste | • Deodorant | • Toilet & facial tissue |
| • Dental floss       | • Lotion    | • Nonperishable food     |

They do not have to donate all of these items...these are just suggestions and even one item is just fine. The idea is giving what one is able to give and to do it cheerfully.

The younger children may need a letter to give to their parents to introduce them to the activity and to inform them once they have placed the donated items placed within the bags, they can be returned to the Sunday School teacher. If your church local has a food pantry, the items can be placed there for when someone is in need, or they can be donated to any of the many charities in town that provide for the homeless.

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### Middle School:

#### Jesus Christ's Birthday: December 25<sup>th</sup>?

##### Objective:

- To understand that Jesus Christ may not have been born on December 25<sup>th</sup>.

##### Lesson:

- On December 25<sup>th</sup>, around the world Christians and non-Christians will partake in festivities to celebrate Christmas. Some celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ and others for the sake of tradition.
- How did December 25<sup>th</sup> come to be designated as the day for Jesus' birthday?
  - *And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. (Luke 2:8)* This indicates to us the evenings were warm enough for shepherds to be outdoors all night long. Jerusalem is in the Northern hemisphere, just like North America, so the seasons are at the same time. It is possible that 2000 years ago the



## GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

winter climate was more temperate than we experience, however, it may have been the same.

- Check out this article: <http://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/biblical-topics/new-testament/how-december-25-became-christmas/>
- Scripture references do not really let us know more details of when Christ was born; however, we do have accounts of the event in the following scriptures:
  - Matthew 1:18-25
  - Luke 1: 26-35 and 2: 1-20
  - 1 Nephi 3: 52-62
  - Helaman 5: 56-60
  - Third Nephi 1:12-22
- Since we don't know of Jesus Christ's actual birthday from the scriptures, this should tell us that it doesn't matter when he was born. However, it is important we reverence Him every day. How do you celebrate having Jesus Christ in your life every day? How do you share your love of Jesus Christ with others?

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

### **High School: The Greatest Event**

#### Objective:

- To understand what was the greatest event in history and its impact on our lives today.

#### Lesson:

- The birth of our Savior Jesus Christ over 2000 years ago was the greatest single expression of the Father's love to mankind.
- How much does God love us?
  - Read Isaiah 7:14 and John 3:16-17.
- What was most joyous to the soul?
  - Read 1<sup>st</sup> Nephi 3:52-65
- Unto us a child is born! What was the purpose of the Son of God being born?
  - Read Isaiah 9:6-7, Helaman 3:46-59 and 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 1: 9-26
- Jesus, God's own Son, was the only answer for mankind to be saved: the Father's perfect gift to us. We can give back to Him by accepting His gift and living through His sacrifice that we may be saved.
- Think about what gifts we can give back to our God the Father. What can we do for others to show our appreciation for God's love for us?
  - Some ideas to get you started:
    - Volunteer at a local food shelter
    - Sew quilts and donate to the homeless
    - Create artwork for a nursing home
    - Do yard work, housework, home repairs for elderly or disabled
    - Read to children in an elementary school

Scan this  
for more  
lessons &  
studies!



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

# Merry Christmas!

FROM the ARCHIVES

## Apostles in 1950



1950 Conference — Some of our Apostles — left to right are: Robertson, R. R. Gould, Leon A. Jordan, T. J. Wheaton, Clarence Smith, A. M. Flint, B. C. Sheldon, William Housknecht, Don W. Yates, James E. Yates.



FROM the ARCHIVES

## Their Wives (not in the same order)



1950 Conference — Wives of the Apostles — left to right are: Yates, Irene F. Wheaton, Angela Smith, Minnie Jordan, Mary Flint, Freda Housknecht, Doris Sheldon, Doris Robertson, Anna. Not present are Thomas Barton, William Anderson and Francis Jordan. Leon Gould's wife, Alice, was also not pictured.

# Making the Scriptures *Real* in our Lives



**By Priest Aadam Yates**

*“Wherefore, I said unto you, Feast upon the words of Christ; for behold, the words of Christ will tell you all things what ye should do” 2 Nephi 14:4.*

I have heard said many times over that the scriptures are hard to understand and that because of this, they are difficult to apply to our lives. My sons often ask for me to tell them stories from the Bible and

Book of Mormon before bed and I have felt strongly that to just tell them a story would be only doing part of my job. I feel that the word of God is real and applicable to life, just as much today as in the days when those words were penned. As I tell my sons stories of scriptural heroes, I have begun telling them “the real” story, the lessons inside the stories.

In this article we will look at four stories of Christ and learn the lesson behind the story. I hope this will help the scriptures become more real to our understanding.

Luke 18:35-43: *“And it came to pass, that as he was come nigh unto Jericho, a certain blind man sat by the way side begging: And hearing the multitude pass by, he asked what it meant. And they told him, that Jesus of Nazareth passeth by. And he cried, saying, Jesus, thou son of David, have mercy on me. And they which*

*went before rebuked him, that he should hold his peace: but he cried so much the more, Thou son of David, have mercy on me. And Jesus stood, and commanded him to be brought unto him: and when he was come near, he asked him, Saying, What wilt thou that I shall do unto thee? And he said, Lord, that I may receive my sight. And Jesus said unto him, Receive thy sight: thy faith hath saved thee. And immediately he received his sight, and followed him, glorifying God: and all the people, when they saw it, gave praise unto God.”*

This story has two very important lessons I wish to convey. This man was blind and his only means of subsistence was to beg for money. I would only assume that because of his impairment he was probably looked down upon, especially when we consider the multitude did not wish for him to speak. This man must have heard of Jesus, and when he heard He



was near, he took the only action he was able to—to cry out, hoping Jesus would hear him. We see that Jesus did hear and a blessing was given.

Have any of you ever felt like this man, unable to see in life? Have you ever felt like you were barely able to eke through, the effort of keeping your head above water in life taking all the strength you could muster? I have. I remember days of uncertainty, feeling like I had no direction, no vision, and dying for direction. Do you believe Christ is able to open your eyes spiritually? I do. I know, because in that time when I finally knew I could do nothing else, I cried out in faith to my Lord, and (like He did for this blind man) He answered. As we each go through life, we should feel like this man from time to time—unable to see. We learn from this story that if we cry out in faith, Jesus will answer.

The second lesson I find is that of persistence. This man cried out, and was harshly told to be quiet. Yet he couldn't, for he desired so greatly to be blessed. And in his persistent crying out, he acknowledged there was none but Jesus who could bless him. Are you persistent as you approach the Lord? We live in a get-it-now society, one in which patience is un-

necessary. This story reminds me that the Lord rewards our persistence, much like we read in Luke 11:5-13.

Mark 4:35-41: *“And the same day, when the even was come, he saith unto them, Let us pass over unto the other side. And when they had sent away the multitude, they took him even as he was in the ship. And there were also with him other little ships. And there arose a great storm of wind, and the waves beat into the ship, so that it was now full. And he was in the hinder part of the ship, asleep on a pillow: and they awake him, and say unto him, Master, carest thou not that we perish? And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm. And he said unto them, Why are ye so fearful? how is it that ye have no faith? And they feared exceedingly, and said one to another, What manner of man is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?”*

In this story, there is a mighty storm that is beating upon the disciples, filling their boat with water. As several of the disciples were fishermen and certainly adequate seamen, one can only assume that they were doing all they could to save their ship, bailing water and fighting to keep the sails. And yet they felt they were unable to overcome the storm. We read similarly in the story of Jesus walking on the water, which

tells us the wind was contrary to the disciple's boat and they were rowing with their might, all in vain.

Have you ever felt that your life was in constant turmoil, that no matter what you did you were unable to figure it out or fix it? I have. I remember days when I felt I didn't take two steps backward, but that I was beaten backwards. I still have days like this. So what do we learn from this story? Jesus was just a few words away. I can imagine the Lord, standing at the bow of the boat and calmly speaking over the roar of the torrent, Peace, be still. I can imagine that in an instant the sea was smooth as glass.

Do you believe the Lord is able to calm the storms of your life? I do, because He has for me. The Lord is able to bring peace to any situation, yet we need to be like the disciples in this story—they knew there was none else to whom they could turn. When you are willing, truly willing to let the Lord work in your life, He surely will. We read this truth in Mark 6:31 where Christ, recognizing the need of the disciples, provided them rest.

The second lesson I take from this story is the fact that the disciples felt Christ was oblivious to their peril, as if He had no clue what was go-

ing on because He was asleep. They didn't realize that as He was the son of God, He was not going to be destroyed by any storm, and with Him they were safe.

In my life I have sometimes felt like I was unseen by the Lord. I have felt that He had no knowledge and no care for my situation. This story was a serious life lesson for these disciples, one which we must learn. Isaiah 59:1-2: *"Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear."* Oftentimes when we feel our prayers are not answered or that God does not even hear them, it is not necessarily because He isn't listening. Perhaps our sin, our lifestyle, why or even how we are asking is why we haven't been answered. But be assured of this— 1 Peter 3:12: *"For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil."*

3 Nephi 9:40-45: *"And it came to pass that he break bread again, and blessed it, and gave to the disciples to eat. And when they had eaten he commanded them that they should break bread, and give*

*unto the multitude. And when they had given unto the multitude, he also gave them wine to drink, and commanded them that they should give unto the multitude. Now there had been no bread, neither wine, brought by the disciples, neither by the multitude; but he truly gave unto them bread to eat, and also wine to drink; And he saith unto them, He that eateth this bread, eateth of my body to his soul, and he that drinketh of this wine, drinketh of my blood to his soul, and his soul shall never hunger nor thirst, but shall be filled. Now when the multitude had all eaten and drunk, behold they were filled with the Spirit, and they did cry out with one voice, and gave glory to Jesus, whom they both saw and heard."*

I often think of this scripture before participating in Sacrament. We must look back to the beginning of this chapter to see a full picture. The people had spent the previous day with Christ and knew that He would return the following day. Instead of going home and sleeping, they labored all night to call others to meet with Him.

There is no indication in this chapter what Christ intended to do when He met with them the following day. Because of this, no bread or wine had been brought to the meeting. We see that Christ felt they needed the Sacrament and served it to them, yet we read an important

thing in verse 43— *"Now there had been no bread, neither wine, brought by the disciples, neither by the multitude; but he truly gave them bread to eat, and also wine to drink...."* Knowing their true needs, Christ provided emblems for the Sacrament.

Do you believe that Christ is able to see your true needs, perhaps even those you are unaware of? Do you believe the promise in the prayer over the Sacrament which promises His Spirit to be with us when we partake? I do, because the Lord has spoken to me through His Spirit, and often things I had no clue I needed to hear. Yet the Lord in His great love for each of us is willing and able to guide us, bless us and direct us in things we may not even know we need. What amazing love He has for us.

Luke 5:17-26: *"And it came to pass on a certain day, as he was teaching, that there were Pharisees and doctors of the law sitting by, which were come out of every town of Galilee, and Judaea, and Jerusalem: and the power of the Lord was present to heal them. And, behold, men brought in a bed a man which was taken with a palsy: and they sought means to bring him in, and to lay him before him. And when they could not find by what way they might bring him in because of the multitude, they went upon the housetop, and let him down through the tiling with*



*his couch into the midst before Jesus. And when he saw their faith, he said unto him, Man, thy sins are forgiven thee. And the scribes and the Pharisees began to reason, saying, Who is this which speaketh blasphemies? Who can forgive sins, but God alone? But when Jesus perceived their thoughts, he answering said unto them, What reason ye in your hearts? Whether is easier, to say, Thy sins be forgiven thee; or to say, Rise up and walk? But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power upon earth to forgive sins, (he said unto the sick of the palsy,) I say unto thee, Arise, and take up thy couch, and go into thine house. And immediately he rose up before them, and took up that whereon he lay, and departed to his own house, glorifying God. And they were all amazed, and they glorified God, and were filled with fear, saying, We have seen strange things to day."*

Aside from the lesson that Jesus is able to forgive sins, there is another important lesson we learn from this story. This man was unable to walk, paralyzed and in need of assistance for his support. His loving friends, knowing that Jesus was able to heal him, went to great lengths to bring him before Jesus. I can only imagine the effort it took to carry this friend onto the roof and then lower him down through the rafters. Jesus, recognizing their faith (and certainly the

man had faith as well) healed him, I believe physically and spiritually.

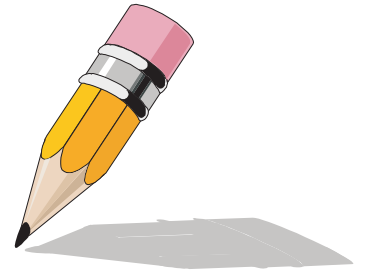
I think of this story when we enter into a season of prayer or when we receive those urgent requests for prayer. When we cry out to the Lord in behalf of our friends and loved ones, we are much like those friends of old, placing our loved ones before the Master. As we kneel, we are carrying them onto the roof. As we pause during our work day, we lower them through the rafters. Our faith in His ability to heal, strengthen and guide them is essential, much like those friends of old. If they had no faith that Jesus could heal, why should they go to such lengths? But they were not willing to be discouraged when the crowd was too many to carry him into the house. Instead they put forth serious effort on behalf of their loved one. We, too, are similar. Our dedicated, diligent and faithful prayers on behalf of others are seen by the Lord, and I believe are rewarded.

I hope through these four stories you have seen some ways that the scriptures are not just a collection of old stories, written in a way we no longer speak, but a living and applicable collection of lessons, able to tell us all things what we should do.

David killed Goliath and gave courage to an army, and to dedicated soldiers who then destroyed all the rest of the giants. But that isn't the lesson of that story either. The lesson is that there are giants in our life and with God at our side we can defeat them. And that victory will breed courage in others to fight against the giants in their lives. As you read the scriptures, look for the lesson within the story. Read through the stories in the Old Testament and learn how Josiah was blessed because he heard God's word and acted upon it, affecting an entire kingdom. Read in the Book of Mormon, how Alma left Amonihah after being rejected and spat upon, only to be swift to follow God's command and return to convert Amulek. Read of Moroni raising the banner of God, of Gideon blowing the trumpet to call the people together.

God, in His loving wisdom, caused these words to be given to us, for the purpose of our edification. I pray that you use them to bring about your perfection through His words and that you take that living word to others. God bless you.

# Collins Local Report



The days are growing colder and the leaves are dropping in swirls. The geese are lining up in long “V’s” as they take their journey toward the South. The cheer of the tiny hummingbirds are gone until spring. Though these things leave me with a kind of melancholy feeling, yet I see the beautiful colors in the changing leaves and notice the cleanness of the early morning air that warms into perfection in the afternoon, and I know that our Heavenly Father has given all these amazing changes and consistencies for His creation—good or bad we may be—He has made it all for us to have and enjoy. I hope wherever you are that you

acknowledge God’s greatness and give Him praise.

My daughter, Shawna Herd, and I were able to attend the Women’s Retreat held at Excelsior Springs the first weekend in October. I marvel at how they “knew” what I needed to hear. We are to “bloom where we are planted,” to not devalue another person as they have great worth to our Heavenly Father, just as each of us does. We were taught of the power of the things we “say”—even in jest—how it can affect the speaker and the hearer and becomes a flaxen cord to bind us to something we didn’t really intend. I suppose that everyone reading this already knows all these things, but how often do we really consider the depth of their meaning and make that conscious effort to “grow,” to improve our words, our actions, our LOVE of our Heavenly Father—and our neighbor, whether in or out of our circle of friends. I find it all the more NECESSARY to pray for each other as our days are growing shorter, much like the fall season I referenced earlier, and the sadness we witness around us is nearly overpowering. Be strong and hold to the Rod of Iron. Don’t give up—we have a destiny, and it’s worth all of our effort!

Our brother, Wendell (Slim) Yates left

this life October 1st, 2013, leaving a void in the lives of family and friends alike. Slim touched the lives of so many people with his good humor and kindly ways. He was a joy to know.

Vicky Pitts, who attends services with us here in Collins, was in the hospital for a few days due to too much calcium in her blood, causing her memory loss, among other things. Sadly there is not a cure, but it can be managed. I, however, ask you to remember her in your prayers that perhaps this may be taken away. She and her dad, Al Lind, are so dear to us here and add so much to our little group. We are most grateful to have them.

Our Sister Marjory Routh is much better, having been administered to, and also finding another doctor that understood her back and neck problems, as well as extreme tiredness. She is so grateful for the blessings she has received, and bore witness of God’s goodness during our last sacrament service.

Jack and Betty Martin are still slipping into church most every Sunday, as well as our brother Curtis Yates, who is always able and happy to share his love for the gospel with all the folks around him—whether in Sunday School or from the pulpit.

I have some thoughts from several



sermons I'd like you to consider:

- *What is MY sacrifice?*
- *We can't be "cardboard Christians."*
- *Riddle: What is greater than God—Meaner than the devil—The poor don't have it and the rich don't need it?? NOTHING!!*
- *Every day is a test!*
- *We're called to CHOOSE—either the things of Satan or the things of God.*
- *God "allows" evil men to correct us.*

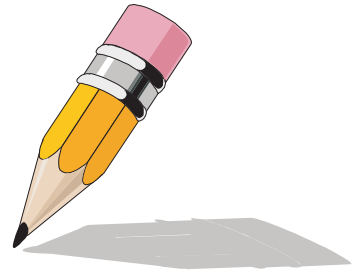
- *Civil liberties are only maintained if we exercise our spiritual liberties.*
- *The word of God brings peace like nothing else can!*
- *It isn't what you gather—it's what you scatter!*
- *If He has forgiven you and purified your soul—your sins are cast away—are gone—to be remembered no more.*
- *Our service we give MUST come from the HEART.*

Thank you for your time in reading these few words and please carry us in your prayers.

*Your Reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman  
Collins, Missouri*

NEWS

# Temple Lot Local Report



Recently completing our annual business meetings and election of officers it is a blessing to reflect on the efforts and service of the members of our congregation. We had opportunity to thank Dan Lawrence for his many years of service as our Pastor and welcome Jim Case for the coming year. We reported on the previous year's activities, filled our committees with ready hands and servants' hearts and looked forward to a new year of service.

We also had special thanks for those who have served in our Sunday school program. In the past few years, much effort has been focused on building and

promoting a strong Sunday School program, especially for our children. Our congregation has the express blessing of a growing population of very young children. Along with the challenges of coralling their lively energy came a great opportunity to fill the seats around our classroom tables. Through gracious efforts from our teachers we enjoy weekly presentations where our little ones get to showcase their crafts or highlight their lessons. We also have special music classes throughout the month for even our youngest wee ones. The patient guidance of their boisterous voices is evident as they share their songs, their lessons,

and their exuberance in our services. It is a blessing to watch them grow and improve.

So as our services hum with the restless rustling of spirited youngsters we are thankful for the lively addition to our congregation and feel so greatly blessed to have willing hearts and talented hands to help shape their little minds and souls.

*Aubrey Vogel*

# Phoenix Local Report



Greetings to all my brothers and sisters from your friends and family at the Phoenix Local. The weather has cooled here and as far as I'm concerned, has to be the best time of the year—and, it seems, very busy at the church as well.

The Cider Press, which celebrated its 10th anniversary, was held on October 12. A whopping 200 people attended and \$1000 was raised from the sale of baked goods brought in by the young people and a few others. There were many activities and a large bouncy "thing" to go into—great fun for kids *of all ages*. I wanted to try myself, but the line never cleared enough for me to have a chance. A big thank you goes out to all the young people.

We all know that many perils face our missionaries as they travel around the world. In mid-October we received word that our dear Apostle Don McIndoo was in the hospital with a broken nose, stitches all over his face and receiving an x-ray on his shoulder. He had fallen after becoming very sick. Apostle Jay Moser was not doing too well himself, although thankfully, he was still on his feet—more or less. Both brothers did make it home safely (although our dear brother Don looked as though a bunch of thugs had run into him); we praise our Heavenly Father.



I am sorry for any of the ladies who missed the Women's Breakfast on October 26th. The food and fellowship was wonderful. A big thank you must go out to sisters Karen Yates, Patricia Ferrier and Rebecca Yates for all their hard work in putting on this event. I would truly like to see it happen more often.

Finally, I'd like to introduce now and then a member of the church who chose to come to our family. Often times we hear about someone but *wonder* who that person really is. When I was in Kansas City, I was warned about a woman named Michelle Yates when Dan and I were ready to move here. She was someone who knew everything about everything, but be careful because she'd grab you and have you participating in

everything—and for me, that meant choir! I had no idea who Michelle Yates was, nor did I know what she looked like so I could make sure to stay clear of her! All kidding aside, Sister Yates is a wonderful woman who does and has done a lot for the church here in Phoenix. And I can say, she has truly become a friend of mine.

Sister Michelle met her future husband Br. Ed Yates in high school. It was a case of athlete attracting athlete. They met their freshman year and ended up getting married. Ed was the one who brought her to the church.

It was four years after they were married that sister Michelle was baptized. She explained to me that she never had any huge revelations about needing to be baptized but instead to her the Book of Mormon and the Bible just made *sense* to her after much study. Now, should you happen to be in Phoenix, please make note of running into our sister Yates and make sure and tell her thanks for all the hard work she does for the church.

That's about it for now. My hope is you and your families are well.

*May God bless you all,  
DiAnn Hedrick*

OBITUARIES

# Derald Dean Sarratt

January 21, 1930~October 19, 2013

Derald Dean Sarratt of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away October 19, 2013, at his home. He was born January 21, 1930, in Independence, Missouri. He spent most of his childhood years near Collins, Missouri. He graduated from Weaubleau High School in 1947. He was baptized in 1939 near Collins, Missouri, and remained a member of the Church of Christ with headquarters on the Temple Lot in Independence, Missouri throughout his life.

Derald served in the U. S. Army in active duty for two years (1951-1953) spending most of his time in Germany. He worked for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Kansas City District, and retired after 30



years. Derald married Eugenia Lewis

December 31, 1957, and lived in southeast Kansas City.

He is survived by his wife, Eugenia Sarratt; daughter, Carol Lynn Weaver; grandchildren, Angelique, Colton, and Gabrielle Weaver; great-grandchild, Adrianna; brothers and sisters, Warren Sarratt, Roland Sarratt, Carol Cooper, and Elaine Wilson. He was preceded in death by his parents, Leonard and Jessie Sarratt; brothers and sisters, Leora Martin, Aaron Sarratt, Dorothy Sarratt, Norma Cook, and Mary Palermo. The funeral service and burial was at Floral Hills in Kansas City, Missouri.

# Mary Thelma Schwegler

May 30, 1918~October 4, 2013

Mary Thelma Schwegler, of St. Charles, Missouri, was born on May 30th, 1918, a daughter of Andrew and Emma Maude (Langford) Shanks, and departed this life on Friday morning, October 4th, 2013, in the Missouri Baptist Hospital, St. Louis.

Mrs. Schwegler was united in marriage on February 14, 1953, at St. Louis, Missouri, to August L. Schwegler, Sr. She was preceded in death by her husband on December 11th, 2001; one son, William

McCormick, her father and mother; five brothers, Irvin Graham, James Graham, Charles Shanks, Homer Shanks, and Edgar Shanks; and one sister, Minerva Comegys.

Mrs. Schwegler followed her Lord in baptism early in life, becoming a member of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot), Houston, Missouri. She was a devoted housewife and homemaker and was always diligent in providing for the needs of her family.

Those left to mourn the passing of

Mrs. Schwegler include: one son, August Leonard Schwegler, Jr.; two daughters, Nancy Peyerl and husband, Rudy O'Fallon, Karen Renaud and husband, Charlie Vienna; one step-daughter, Dorothy Verbeck and husband Robert; twelve grandchildren; twenty-two great-grandchildren; eight great-great-grandchildren; and many other relatives and friends.



## OBITUARY

# Margie Evalee Downs

February 8, 1926 ~ October 28, 2013

**M**argie Evalee Downs was born on February 8th, 1926, in Delta, Colorado, to Ted and Sybil Ely. She passed away on October 28th, 2013. She was the youngest of the family of three children. When Margie was still small, the family moved to Palisade, Colorado, where her father made his living by working in the orchards.

On September 22, 1939, Margie was baptized into the Church of Christ, and on March 7th, 1948, she married Archie D. Downs. For a time, Margie and Archie lived on the Downs family farm near Yoder, Colorado, then returned to Grand Junction where they moved onto the peach farm just west of the Ely home. A few years later, they donated the parcel of land on which the Orchard Mesa Local Church of Christ is located.

Margie worked as a ward attendant



at the State Home and Training School. She also worked at the R-5 High School, where she cared for babies of students who were finishing high school. Finally, she worked as a foster grandparent with day care and

pre-school groups. She derived considerable pleasure from working with these children and delighted in telling of their antics and surprisingly serious moments.

Margie was preceded in death by her husband, Archie, who died on December 1st, 1974; her parents, Ted and Sybil Ely; her brothers Apostle Marvin Ely and Priest Bob Ely, Bob's wife, Shirley and her grandson Danny Arden. The surviving members of the family are her children, Allen Downs of Grand Junction, and her daughter Edith Arden of Herndon, Kansas; six grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and her sister-in-law, Berniece Ely.

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

## AVA WEBSITE

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

time, which can also be accessed from the site. We invite you to take a look and discover what a useful tool this site can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. The address is [www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net).

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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.

# Index to Volume 90 (2013)

Title/Author	No.	Pg.	Title/Author	No.	Pg.
<b>ARTICLES</b>			<b>ARTICLES</b>		
Caring for Others through Prayer - <i>Elder Moses Oburu Chumna</i> . . . . .	1	8	Sunday School Lessons on CHRISTMAS . . . . .	6	110
Fasting & Prayer, The Way of Deliverance - <i>Elder Peter Gould</i> . . . . .	4	72	Sunday School Lessons on HISTORY & POWER OF PRAYER . . . . .	4	68
The Great Reunion of the House of Jacob - <i>Elder Peter Gould</i> . . . . .	5	87	Sunday School Lessons on OBEDIENCE . . . . .	3	46
Making the Scriptures Real in our Lives - <i>Priest Aadam Yates</i> . . . . .	6	114	<b>OBITUARIES</b>		
Resolutions - <i>Priest Bill Malone</i> . . . . .	1	3	Margie Evalee Downs (2/8/1926~10/28/2013) . . . . .	6	122
The Time Shall Come - <i>Apostle Brian E. McIndoo</i> . . . . .	6	104	Bernice Ruth Gould (2/26/1922~2/10/2013) . . . . .	3	58
The Words of Christ - <i>Apostle Don McIndoo</i> . . . . .	5	83	Virginia "Ginny" Kidd Phillips . . . . .	2	35
<b>EDITORIAL</b>			Derald Dean Sarratt (1/21/1930~10/19/2013) . . . . .	6	121
The Feast of the Tabernacle in the Last Days - Elder Gordon McCann . . . . .	6	103	Mary Thelma Schwegler (5/30/1918~10/4/2013) . . . . .	6	121
The Price of Freedom - <i>Elder Gordon McCann</i> . . . . .	4	63	<b>REPORTS</b>		
Teaching Our Children - <i>Elder Gordon McCann</i> . . . . .	2	32	2012 Phoenix Local Reunion - <i>Rebecca Yates</i> . . . . .	1	14
<b>FROM THE ARCHIVES</b>			2013 Church of Christ Solemn Assembly and Conference - <i>Deb Haines</i> . . . . .	3	48
Church History Photos: Apostles and their Wives in 1950 . . . . .	6	112	2013 Missouri Reunion Report - <i>Deb Haines</i> . . . . .	5	93
Church History Photos: Landscaping . . . . .	1	13	2013 United Workers Business Meeting and Luncheon - <i>Jennifer Yates</i> . . . . .	4	75
Church History Photos: 1997 Teen Challenge Camp . . . . .	2	30	Church of Christ Teen Camp (USA) - <i>Jennifer Yates</i> . . . . .	2	29
Church History Photos: 1928 Conference . . . . .	3	44	Kenya Youth Camp 2012 - <i>Apostle Brian McIndoo</i> . . . . .	2	19
Church History Photos: 1929 Conference . . . . .	4	70	Youth Forum 2013, Uayalceh, Mexico - <i>Dan Lawrence</i> . . . . .	4	66
Church History Photos: 1937 Missouri Reunion Group Photo . . . . .	5	90	<b>SERMON</b>		
<b>GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION</b>			To the Law and to the Testimony - <i>Apostle Roland Sarratt</i> . . . . .	3	39
Sunday School Lessons on COURAGE . . . . .	5	89, 92			



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