

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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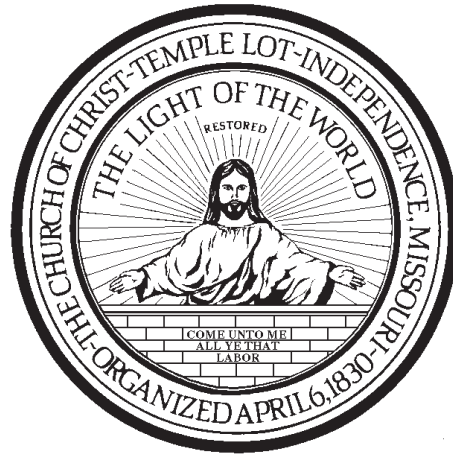
NUMBER 1

*"O ye house of Israel, whom I have spared, how oft will I
gather you as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings,
if ye will repent and return unto me with full purpose of
heart." —3 Nephi 4:58*



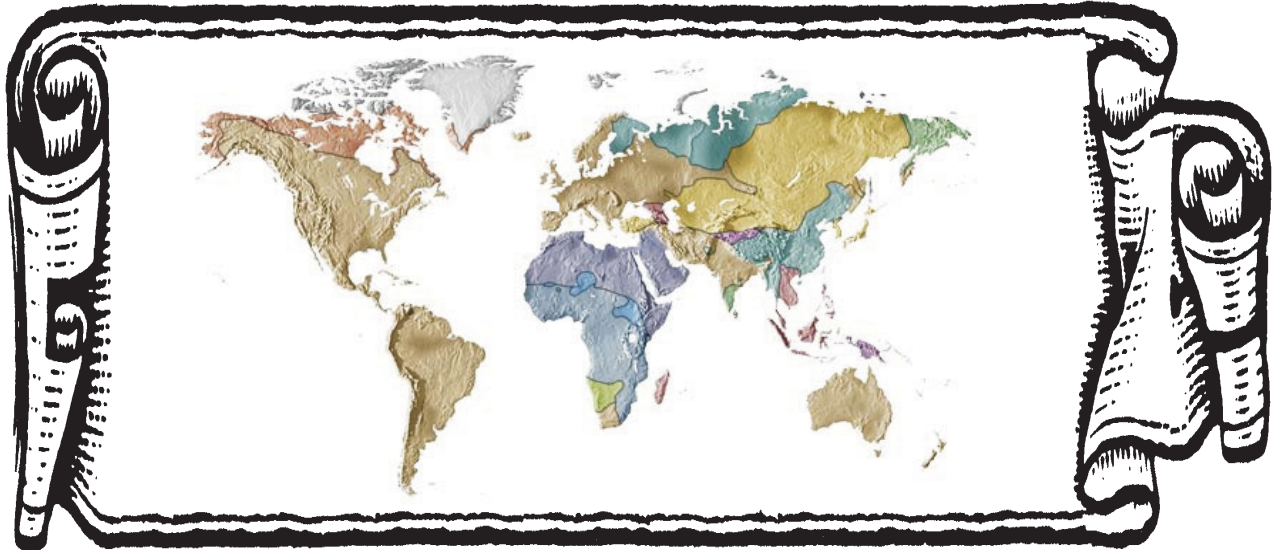
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Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

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/>

A Letter to Israel



By Elder Gordon McCann

"Hearken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, my called; I am he; I am the first, I also am the last" (Isaiah 48:12).

House of Israel listen to the prophets of old, to the voice of the Spirit as it calls out to you to recognize the Holy One of Israel, your Lord and Redeemer Jesus Christ. The days of your blindness are coming to an end. The spirit of deep sleep that has closed your eyes will soon be removed. The Lord God has proceeded to do a "marvelous work and a wonder," fulfilling the words of the prophet Isaiah:

"Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest? And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. The meek also shall increase

their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 29:17-19).

Israel, your God is unfolding His plan in these last days by bringing forth a record that has been written by "a root of Jesse," a remnant preserved of the seed of Joseph, of the tribe of Manasseh. By the power of His mighty hand the faithful were able to keep this written record for a wise purpose to be brought forth in "a book" that has opened the eyes of the blind where they can now see out of obscurity and darkness the beautiful Gospel and salvation that comes only through the Holy Redeemer and Messiah, Jesus Christ.

"And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious" (Isaiah 11:10).

This "root of Jesse" has seen the marvelous works of God, and has recognized the great condescension that their God has extended unto them. The prophecies given to Joseph of old concerning a remnant of his seed would be blessed and preserved of God have been revealed in these last days. That great plan of God to recover you, His ancient covenanted people for the second time, is being unfolded before the eyes of the nations today.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from islands of the sea" (Isaiah 11:11).

This remnant of Joseph will hold "the

book" prophesied by the prophet Isaiah containing the record of their fathers (The Book of Mormon). They will also hold the book of their brethren, the book of Judah (The Bible), in their hands before your eyes as a witness that the God of Israel will fulfill His covenant to your fathers.

"Say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel his fellows, and will put them with him, even with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they shall be one in mine hand.

"And the sticks whereon thou writest shall be in thine hand before their eyes.

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

"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, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all" (Ezekiel 37:19-22).

They will stand before you Israel as an Ensign, or standard, for you to see and believe in Jesus Christ who is the Son of God who came to redeem His people from their sins and to gather you to your own land and make you one nation.

"And it shall come to pass that their cry shall go, even according to the simplicity of their words.

"Because of their faith, their words

shall proceed forth out of my mouth unto their brethren, who are the fruit of thy loins;

“And the weakness of their words will I make strong in their faith, unto the remembering of my covenant which I made unto thy fathers.

“And now, behold, my son Joseph, after this manner did my father of old prophesy. Wherefore, because of this covenant thou art blessed: for thy seed shall not be destroyed, for they shall hearken unto the words of the book.

“And there shall raise up one mighty among them, who shall do much good, both in word and in deed, being an instrument in the hands of God, with exceeding faith.

“To work mighty wonders, and do that thing which is great in the sight of God, unto the bringing to pass much restoration unto the house of Israel, and unto the seed of thy brethren” (2 Nephi 2:41-47).

God is making bare His arms before

the nations of the earth by bringing to pass the fulfillment of the prophecies concerning you in the last days. Israel, when your enemies surrounded you, your God preserved you “as when he fought in the day of battle” where in six days your enemies were destroyed and you reclaimed the Holy City Jerusalem as your possession. There has not been a day since Jerusalem fell to her enemies during the days of King Zedekiah. The prophecy spoken by Jesus Christ concerning Jerusalem has been fulfilled where the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled for the purpose to reclaim you according to His will “...for mine own sake, will I do it” (Isaiah 48:11).

“And they shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled” (Luke 21:24).

Israel your Redeemer, the Holy One

of Israel who is Jesus Christ, is calling to you, sending those who hold the truth of the Gospel in their hands before you to consider. The words of the prophet Jeremiah have begun to be fulfilled:

“Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that it shall no more be said, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt;

“But, The Lord liveth, that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all the lands whither he had driven them: and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers.

“Behold, I will send for many fishers, saith the Lord, and they shall fish them; and after will I send for many hunters, and they shall hunt them from every mountain, and from every hill, and out of the holes of the rocks” (Jeremiah 16:14-16).

REPORT

Dear brothers and sisters,

Last Sunday, December 15, 2013, we had our Leaders Reunion here in Yucatan, Mexico. Every year the ministry and the leaders get together to pray for the work in Mexico. Some of the them are just helpers, people that want to participate in this great work. It is the future of our church!

We had sacrament service with all of them. We heard beautiful and spiritual testimonies. I ask your continued prayers for all of them. They are doing a great work in the missions or locals that they do not have a minister. Pray for them that some day they will be called in the ministry.

Apostle Placido K. Matu
Yucatan Mexico



Modern Christianity Is Ill Prepared



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

The Book of Mormon has the plain truth that would be of much value to today's Christian/Judean peoples if they would accept it as the word of God. They are greatly handicapped, especially in understanding prophecy, because there are many things plainly foretold in the Book of Mormon that are about to be fulfilled. Also

All things that offend God will inevitably be corrected or eliminated.

the Book of Mormon makes plain many of the prophecies that are in the Bible.

As we watch the fulfillment of the various prophecies we can benefit from what the Lord has spoken through His servants in prophecy many years ago that point right to this very day. It is somewhat a major dilemma to read from the scriptures certain truths that we know as being essential to our souls' salvation and not be able to share the particulars with those who claim the same God and the same Mediator, Jesus Christ. The simple reason is that they have rejected the fullness of the gospel, which includes the Book of Mormon (an added witness), and have heeded the modern precepts of men.

Perhaps the greater

stumbling blocks are in the various altered plans of salvation which leaves them content in their individual choices that are provided through modern theology. However, the day of reckoning is coming upon us, wherein we must all defend our convictions against the atheists who are knocking at our doors. The Lord has caused His servants of old to speak directly to the Gentiles in warning them against the enemies of this nation and all the nations of the earth. But where are those warnings? They are in the Book of Mormon, which the great majority of the people don't accept.

There are many prophecies in the Bible which are very valuable and many people are looking to those prophecies seeking answers

to what they see happening around them. Some of the modern ministers have devised various means to satisfy the people's concerns by telling them that the Lord is going to "rapture" them away at a certain time, leaving all others to suffer the evils in the world. By doing so they have missed the most important events of prophecy, which involves the awakening and gathering the various remnants of Israel, the purifying of His people by which He might establish Zion and being victorious in overcoming evil throughout the world.

The greatest of all events yet to happen in these last days is the return of Jesus Christ by His descending to the earth even as He ascended into heaven. All signs and events prior to His coming points to that single event which is referred to prophetically as the day of the Lord. Indeed, the preparing and cleansing of the earth and His people are necessary to the glorifying of Him. As we face the reality of that event, we condition our minds to the mighty works of God through His power and wisdom. All things that offend God will inevitably be corrected or eliminated.

There are various scriptures that tell us that Jesus Christ will prepare His peo-

ple, and particularly His church, as His bride. Today there are many churches all claiming to be His church. Will they all be gathered into one? Or will He choose just one? Will He say to those who have accepted the precepts of men, I knew you not?

The warnings in the prophecies are not easy to accept, or even to read if we don't look beyond the trials and destructions that are coming. We must see the greater scope of God's purpose, and that is almost impossible to do without the benefit of the words of the Book of Mormon prophets such as Nephi, Jacob, Mormon and Moroni. Their words reveal the will of God and His unalterable decrees.

The scriptures fully expose us to a perfect God. The perfect God has pre-determined the course of history by the mouths of His servants, the prophets. He has seen us before we were born in our day of probation. He has seen many nations and peoples, all with the potential of being His people. We have that potential today, inasmuch as God has provided us with His divine word and His Holy Spirit, which gives us true priesthood authority.

God can favor a people if they give heed to His counsel, and He will save their souls. Or if they don't give heed to

Him, He can turn them over to their own devices and let them suffer the results. We are seeing the Gentiles willfully choosing ways prepared by the devil to deceive them. The Lord has given them a basic, Christian heritage and has graced them with even a greater blessing by giving them the fullness of His gospel. The great majority of the churches today have rejected the full truth and have accepted the altered teachings of man.

Moroni was the last prophet in the Book of Mormon and, on occasion, he spoke directly to those of us who are known as the Gentiles. He warned us of the various secret combinations which would be among us. Particularly he warned us of a secret combination whose purpose is to overthrow the freedom of all nations. Moroni said it was to be built up by the devil (see Ether 3:96-102).

Moroni's father, Mormon, wrote about the secret oaths and covenants which Gadianton and his robbers had used in their work of darkness and secret murder. Those secret oaths and covenants had their beginnings with Cain, the son of Adam and Eve, when he plotted to kill his brother Abel. However, Mormon states that those secret oaths and cove-

nants were not passed down from generation to generation, but they were put in the heart of Gadianton by the devil (see Helaman 2:149-156).

It is obvious that the same methods of darkness and secret murder have been put into the hearts of certain people in these latter days, even during the time of the restoration of the gospel in the 1800s. The devil found those who would allow him to lead them to make plans to overthrow the free nations today. This they have done with the goal to build up a one world government, their own conceived utopia.

Moroni has given us even more knowledge concerning the Gentiles and this land on which we live which is a land of promise. God has decreed that whatsoever nation shall possess it shall serve God or they shall be swept off when they have become ripened in iniquity (see Ether 1:31-35).

Jesus Christ spoke to the people on this land after His resurrection and quoted the prophet Micah telling them that a remnant of Jacob (Israel) will be among the Gentiles like a lion among sheep. They will tread down and tear in pieces the Gentiles. This is conditioned by the promise that if the Gentiles will repent He will establish His church among them and

they will be numbered among the remnant of Jacob. Also they shall be part of the New Jerusalem on this land (see 3 Nephi 9:99-106; 10:1-3).

We know that His church, the Church of Christ, has been established among the Gentiles, but the great majority have rejected it because of the creeds of the various churches who have opposed His church. Also the devil has been busy within the church itself, and has caused that it should suffer certain innovations of man to be established in it. As the result of Joseph Smith's death, many factions have come into existence. Most of them still accept the false teachings and some have added other false teachings, offices and ordinances.

Today we declare that only a small remnant of the original church still exists. There is a scripture that tells of that small remnant.

[Isaiah 1:8] And the daughter of Zion is left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city.

[Isaiah 1:9] Except the LORD of hosts had left unto us a very small remnant, we should have been as Sodom, and we should have been like unto Gomorrah.

There was a time when the city of Independence, Missouri, was referred to as Zion, which according to latter-day revelation is designated as the place for the city of Zion. Time has proven that it has not yet become the Zion which is hoped for by many people. It has taken on a worldly environment which makes it a besieged city today. The Lord has truly left us a very small remnant, which we recognize as the Church of Christ, whose headquarters is located on the property known by many people as the spot for the temple of the Lord.

Had the church fathers of this small church followed through with their consideration of merging with one of the larger groups, this Church of Christ would have ceased to exist. The Lord, in His wisdom and His foreknowledge of things to come, prevented that from happening. Otherwise we would have been, as Isaiah prophesied, as Sodom and like Gomorrah.

The prophet Jeremiah gives us additional information pointing to these last days.

[Jeremiah 23:1] Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.

[Jeremiah 23:2] Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD.

As a result of the various teachings of the modern day theologians, the people who consider themselves as being Christians have been divided into thousands of religious sects which, in a sense, is the scattering and destroying of the Lord's people, the House of Israel. The consequence of the various false teachings and doings of the pastors is forth-coming. In time the Lord will erase from the earth all evidences of their erroneous ministries.

[Jeremiah 23:3] And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase.

[Jeremiah 23:4] And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lack-

ing, saith the LORD.

Surely the day of the gathering of the remnants of the Lord's people out of all countries has begun. We suppose that the remnants of His people are those who are receptive to the fullness of Christ's gospel in these last days. They are being taught the true principles of the gospel which is essential for the salvation of their souls. They are being fed the full truth and not the shortcut versions which had left them deficient and vulnerable to the devil's deceptions.

[Jeremiah 23:5] Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth.

[Jeremiah 23:6] In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS.

We might conclude that the righteous branch is a holy people prepared as the bride, and the King is Jesus Christ, the bridegroom. Many generations of people have looked forward to the return of Christ even as we do today. It is disappointing to see the

continual ripening of wickedness in the earth, making the coming of Christ seem even more unlikely to occur in our day. Yet the scriptures are ever before us with abundant assurance that it will happen in prophetic detail as His servants have declared. We must remain steadfast in our hope for that time.

In closing let's look to the words of the prophet Isaiah and see what is to happen to the city of Zion in these last days.

[Isaiah 1:25] And I will turn my hand upon thee, and purely purge away thy dross, and take away all thy tin:

[Isaiah 1:26] And I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning: afterward thou shalt be called, The city of righteousness, the faithful city.

[Isaiah 1:27] Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

[Isaiah 1:28] And the destruction of the transgressors and of the sinners shall be together, and they that forsake the LORD shall be consumed.

Greeting Letter



► The two oldest members of the Dunchi Congregation presenting me with this letter:

Date 18/11/2013

To the Church's of Christ in the

- United States of America
- Kenya
- Philippines
- Tanzania
- Mexico
- India

and also in different countries of the world.

First of all we pass our Greeting to you in the name of God who gave us His only begotten Son He loves to save us from our sins. Very much our need is to make you aware that

all are now become a member of the Church of Christ. So we request you to pass our brotherhood greeting to the churches which are teaching and preaching the Word of Jesus Christ

to this group of people who are not baptized and also who are not aware of or heard about the words of Jesus Christ. Amen.

In addition to this we are very happy to get this opportunity because for almost one century we did not get a chance to be taught, helped, and recognized as a human being. Therefore for that reason now we hope that in the opportunity that Jesus opened to us for the coming years we will become persons who are recognized by different countries who are developed by the word of Jesus Christ.

From the Dunchi Congregation
Dunchi, Ethiopia



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Sunday School Lessons on Love!

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 & Elementary:

(Can be adapted for lower to upper elementary ages. For the activity, younger students will need assistance.)

Love One Another

Objective: God loves us. He wants us to understand that He expects us to love one another.

Scripture References: John 13:34-35, Romans 12: 9-10, Ephesians 4:31-32, Mosiah 9:54

Read and discuss with others:

- John 13:34-35 "As new commandment I give unto you, that ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."
 - Do we need to tell someone that we are one of God's disciples, or will they notice by our actions?
- Romans 12: 9-10 "Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another."
 - Brotherly love means that we love not only our earthly brothers, but also our sisters, parents, people we go to church with, our friends at school, and even people we don't know.
 - What are some ways we can be kind to one another? How can we show that we honor and respect our each other?
- Ephesians 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness, and wrath and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: And be kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
 - We all get upset and angry sometimes. We are asked by God to put that away from us. When we are upset it is wise to quickly figure out what caused us to be upset and find a way to solve the problem so that we don't continue to be bitter. God understands there are tough times, but wants us to forgive one another. When we forgive someone, we can then enjoy life and do as God asked us, to be kind to one another. How does it make you feel when you are able to solve a problem and get along with your brothers and sisters?
- Mosiah 9:54 "And he commanded them that there should be no contention one with another, but that they should look forward with one eye, having one faith and one baptism; having their hearts knit together in unity and in love, one towards another."
 - This is why we have rules in our homes and at school so that we can all get along and accomplish our goals. Looking forward with one eye means that we have one goal in mind. We have one faith and one baptism. We believe in the same God and his commandments. We believe that if we follow His commandments that we will be rewarded with eternal salvation. When our hearts are knit together in love, it is easy to follow His commandment that ye love one another. What rules do you have at home or at school that help you, and the people you are with, show kindness and love to one another?

Activity: Weave a heart basket to give a friend. You can find directions at cocsermons.net, Lessons for Children, G-L tab, Lesson title "Love one another activity".

Sue Porter (porter_susan@sbcglobal.net)

Middle School & High School:

Love in the Church

Objective: In the end times, we are told "the love of many shall wax cold".

Do we in the Church of Christ have love for God, our neighbor, our enemy, those we associate with daily, and those in the church body? Do we have a lack of love equivalent to that which exists in the world today?

Scripture/Discussion:

Consider the following verses:

- Matthew 24:1-13

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

- God has shown His great love for mankind by sending His only begotten Son and offering Him as a sacrifice. We have been told that “the greatest love of all” is the love of oneself (reference Whitney Houston song “Greatest Love of All”). This is what the world wants us to believe. What does scripture tell us about the real greatest love of all?
- John 3:14-17, Romans 5:6-8, John 15:13
 - Christ told us that the greatest two commandments involve the love of God and the love of our neighbor.
- Deuteronomy 6:4-5, Leviticus 19:17-18, Mark 12:28-34, Romans 13:8-10
 - If we do not keep God’s commandments, can we say that we love God? Scripture is very clear about this. Scripture is also tells us it is a serious matter when we do not love God.
- John 14:15-24
- 1 Corinthians 16:22
 - “Anathema”: cursed
 - “Maranatha”: the Lord is coming

Do we love those in the church? Do we realize that those of us in the Church of Christ are family? Christ Himself referred to His disciples as His “brother, and sister, and mother”, etc.

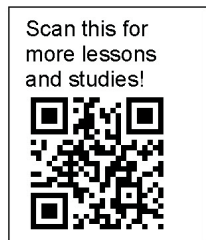
- Matthew 12:46-50, Mosiah 9:51-54, John 13:34-35, 1 John 3:14-17, 1 John 4:7-21

We know that the Father has a great love for the Son. The Son is often referred to by the Father as “my beloved Son”. We also find many in the early church that used the term “beloved” when referring to their brothers and sisters in the church. We should think the same way of our brothers and sisters in the church. Consider the following verses:

- 2 Nephi 13:14, 2 Nephi 6:1, 1 Corinthians 15:58, Colossians 4:7,9,14, 2 Timothy 1:2, Philemon 1:1,2, 2 Peter 3:15, 3 John 1:1

There are many verses in scripture that define the characteristics of love (i.e. 1 Corinthians 13). Can we say that we have a love for our brothers and sisters that includes the following characteristics?

- Caring about their needs and their sorrows
- Willing to have a conversation with them and actually listen to what they have to say
- Not thinking inappropriate things about them
- Not thinking we are better than them
- Not being envious of them
- Willing to forgive them, or willing to ask for forgiveness for something we’ve done
- Not judging their thoughts or intentions without sufficient knowledge
- Loving them in their shortcomings (what about OUR shortcomings?)
- Praying for them during the week



Also consider the following verses:

- Philippians 2:1-4, 1 Peter 4:8 (if we love, we will avoid committing various sins)
 - We are all equal in the eyes of God. God is no respecter of persons. We need to make sure we do not consider certain people better than others. We are to love all.
- Deuteronomy 10:17-19, James 2:8-9, Isaiah 53:1-3

We cannot be saved in the kingdom of God if we do not have charity (love). To prepare for eternity, we MUST have love and compassion in our hearts.

- Ether 5:33-36, Moroni 7:50-53, Moroni 10:13-15

Lesson submitted by Elder Chris Moran, Bradley, MI local.

FROM the ARCHIVES

Apostles in 1950



“1950 — Apostles” — Left to Right are: R. R. Robertson, Leon Gould, T. J. Jordan, Clarence Wheaton, A. M. Smith, B. C. Flint, William Sheldon, Don Housknecht, and James E. Yates.

Apostles Thomas Barton, William Anderson and Francis Jordan (brother of T. J. Jordan) were not present at the time.

FROM the ARCHIVES

Their Wives (not in the same order)



“1950 — Wives of the Apostles” — Left to Right are: Irene Yates, Angela Wheaton, Minnie Smith, Mary Jordan, Freda Flint, Doris Housknecht, Doris Sheldon, and Anna Robertson.

Apostle Leon Gould's wife, Alice, was not present.

We chose to rerun the photos to clarify the names as they were not listed correctly on the earlier photos. Please accept our apology.

SMARTIES TO SHARE

By Elder Brandon Tarbell

You remember Smarties, a row of multicolored, chalklike, bite-size candies wrapped in clear plastic, about ten to twelve pieces in a pack? They are perfect for sharing.

I am not a huge fan of Smarties, but when I saw little Dustin come into Church with a fresh roll, I just had to ask for one. Dustin peeled out a piece and handed it over with a smile. From that day on, for the next two years, every time Dustin got a pack of Smarties, he took out the first one and set it aside for me. Every Sunday morning before the worship service, Dustin would track me down at Church and offer me a Smartie.

Sometimes Dustin would open a pack of Smarties during the week, but he would still save me the first piece. By the time Sunday came, the Smartie was a little mangy and furry with lint, but he never forgot to bring it for me. I would thank him and put the candy in my pocket so I could "enjoy it later."

Sharing Smarties was a kind of communion for Dustin and me. Jesus was present as we shared a conversation and candy.

Dustin's mother viewed this ritual as a kind of tithing: out of ten pieces in a pack, Dustin gave the first tenth to his pastor. What I saw was a little boy who loved to share and who understood the power of generosity.

Since that time, I have asked myself many times, "How am I doing with my Smarties?"

Of course the story talks about Dustin saving a Smartie every time he opens a new pack of the candy and giving a Smartie to his pastor to show his way of being generous.

I would like for us to see this as an analogy.

We all have been given "Smarties" in life (our money AND our time). And as the body of Christ we make decisions daily about what we do with our "Smarties" (our money AND our time). Do we covet (desire wrongly) our money and our time? Do we keep it all to ourselves? Do we waste it? We are taught from a young age to be frugal with our money and NOT to waste time on things not important.

The question for all of us is, am I truly a good steward of my "Smarties"? Do we commit both our money and our time intentionally to the work of the Gospel of Christ?

We are all called...TO GIVE (freely impart of our increase and our time) and TO BE A GOOD STEWARD (responsibility to oversee and manage) our money and our time!

1ST - GIVE of OUR FINANCIAL INCREASE

- Tithes and offerings
- Brothers and Sisters
- Needy, Poor, Sick & Afflicted

- The beggar

Alma 10:8-10: "...Even our father Abraham paid tithes of one tenth part of all that he possessed."

An ordinance or responsibility we have. We are to pay our tithes to God, 1/10 of our increase, a direct commandment. I know you all know this, but what does it mean to you? Something you do because you have to? Or something you do because deep, deep down you want to do? What is the why? I mean, there is a point when you do something because you are told, and then there is a point when you want to! You develop a passion, a deep desire to be intentional.

Luke 21:1-4: "...For all these have of their abundance cast in unto the offerings of God: but she of her penury (extreme poverty) hath cast in all the living that she had." So here are rich men casting in their money, looking like "it's a lot" and the poor widow casting in "very little" (that's what it looked like).

It's not how much we give in comparison to others, but are we truly giving of our heart?

See, they gave of their abundance (they didn't give of all they had), but the widow gave all that she had.

3 Nephi 11:11-13:

"Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse, for ye have

robbed me, even this whole nation. Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in my house, and prove me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it."

Jesus was giving commandment to pay our tithes and offerings, so there will be "meat in my house...." For the work, for sustenance, for plane tickets today, for new Church buildings, for repairs from storms, for medical reasons, and for whatever the need is.

Before that He talks about us robbing God of what's His...I had a personal experience about four years ago, not paying God what was His. I took it upon myself to take God's 10% and use it to make more. I needed it to do projects we had planned at work. As soon as I made the decision to not give God what was His, it started to go all downhill from there!

Why we take what's not ours to begin with is beyond me, but what really amazes me and really causes one to self-examine themselves, is when we neglect and don't take seriously the fact that there is a BLESSING tied to giving of our increase!

Proverbs 3:9-10:

"Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine."

To bring HONOR to the Lord, give of your increase, and watch the blessings mount up. This is His promise for His children that give of a pure heart! That they are excited when they write

their check to give to their God, right?

Think right now when you write that check or however you give. How do you give?

"Oh I could really use this money right now, but I guess I'll give it to you God." We should be excited and passionate about signing the biggest check we can for the work of the Lord!

What is the status of our heart when we pay our tithes and give our offerings? Is it just obedience or is it because you have reached a point of passion and excitement for giving and for helping, being a part of the work of the Lord.

Mosiah 9:60-64:

"And again, Alma commanded that the people of the church should impart of their substance, every one according to that which he had; If he have more abundantly, he should impart more abundantly; and he that had but little, but little should be required; and to him that had not should be given. And thus they should impart of their substance, of their own free will and good desires towards God, and to those priests that stood in need, yea, and to every needy, naked soul. And this he said unto them, having been commanded of God; And they did walk uprightly before God, imparting to one another, both temporally and spiritually, according to their needs and their wants."

I personally believe this speaks to those of us in the United States, Canada (richly blessed lands and people) or any other country that has been blessed with good paying jobs, the ability to afford good housing, food for three meals a day—cupboards with months of food supply, a vehicle or two to drive, money for educating our chil-

dren, ability to travel and take vacations, etc.

Galatians 6:10:

"As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

We are to GIVE to our brothers and sisters that stand in need much more than we do. We have many in Central America, Honduras, Mexico, Philippines, India, Kenya, Tanzania, and elsewhere that we have to give of our substance too!

Remember, we are like those "rich men" I read about. We are the ones with the abundance, whether you know it or not! Talk to your missionaries for this confirmation.

Alma 16:223-225:

"And now behold, my brethren, I say unto you, Do not suppose that this is all; for after ye have done all these things, if ye turn away the needy, and the naked, and visit not the sick and afflicted, and impart of your substance if ye have, to those who stand in need; I say unto you, If ye do not any of these things, behold, your prayer is vain, and availeth you nothing, and ye are as hypocrites who do deny the faith; Therefore if ye do not remember to be charitable, ye are as dross, which the refiners do cast out, (it being of no worth,) and is trodden under foot of men."

Alma in chapter 16 is speaking in the verses before about prayer and the fact that we are to pray over everything. We are to pray for our jobs, our families, over the power of our enemies, all day long, wherever we are, including our closets, for our welfare and the welfare of those around us. Why? Because God will hear and answer the

desires of our heart!

But Alma says immediately, if we turn away the needy and the naked and visit not the sick and impart of our substance, then "we are hypocrites who deny the faith!" And our prayer is in vain.

I'm not sure we remember enough to be CHARITABLE with our abundance as the verse says!

Again, we are the blessed people of the earth! We must be filled with desire to want to give of our abundance.

I know we pray from the heart on behalf of ourselves, our brothers and sisters, situations we all face, challenges, temptations, sickness, our jobs and many other things. We can't let a greedy heart hinder our cries and pleas to God.

Luke 6:30-38:

"...Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful... Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Merciful: is Compassion toward an offender.

I believe God places people in front of us for a reason, to see if we will show this mercy.

We are being tested to see if this compassion exists in us. To see if we will bestow mercy upon someone, as Christ extended His compassion to us, the offender, and the sinner. He's looking at us and waiting to see how we will respond.

A quote from a Roman Stoic Philosopher in 65AD:

"We should give as we would receive: cheerfully, quickly, and without hesitation; for there is no grace in a benefit that sticks to the fingers."

It is written to not judge, but I guarantee you we judge, don't we?

Mosiah 2:28-44:

"...Perhaps thou shalt say, The man has brought upon himself his misery; therefore I will stay my hand, and will not give unto him of my food, nor impart unto him of my substance, that he may not suffer, for his punishments are just... And if ye judge the man who putteth up his petition to you for your substance, that he perish not, and condemn him, how much more just will be your condemnation, for withholding your substance, which doth not belong to you, but to God, to whom also, your life belongeth;"

Our substance does not belong to us in the first place, but to God. Just ask the dead, right?

The call is to those of us that are rich, (living in lands of freedom, lands of jobs, lands of conveniences, lands of running water, lands of power and electricity, lands of good roads and highways, lands of food that runneth over).

WE ARE TO GIVE of our abundance.

We truly have an obligation living in our blessed lands to impart of our substance and to be obedient to the law of God and pay our tithing. To give of our hearts freely to help our brothers and sisters worldwide! To not forget the needy, the poor, the sick and afflicted or neglect the beggar! But to give of the abundance we have been given.

Article: Honoring God with

Chick-Fil-A...

"Truett Cathy, the founder of Chick-Fil-A restaurants, is a successful businessman, but many know and respect him more for how faith guides his work.

"For example, Cathy's restaurants have been closed on Sundays since 1948. The seventy-nine year-old CEO of the nearly one thousand Chick-Fil-A restaurants doesn't mind losing millions of dollars of business to honor the Lord's Day.

"Also, at his first restaurant in 1948, Cathy hired Eddie J. White, twelve, an African American. This was an unpopular choice during a time of segregation. Cathy also mentored an orphan, Woody Faulk, from the time Woody was thirteen. Woody eventually became vice president of product development at Chick-Fil-A.

"Cathy also developed a successful foster home system called WinShape Homes. There are now eleven homes in the United States and one in Brazil. His daughter Trudy and son-in-law John were Southern Baptist missionaries at the Brazil home for ten years. His Camp WinShape and WinShape Foundation provide scholarships for kids and college students.

"One of Cathy's favorite sayings is 'It's easier to build boys and girls than to mend men and women.' So Chick-Fil-A Kids Meals don't come with promotional toys from the latest popular movie; instead, they offer VeggieTales books, audiocassettes of Focus on the Family's 'Adventures in Odyssey,' and other character-building materials.

"Woody Faulk gives a good summary of Cathy's character: 'A lot of

people look on Truett as Santa Claus, but he's not. He'll meet you halfway so that you can learn a lesson from the process. He is the personification of James 1:22, "Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." I sincerely owe my life to that man.'

"Tom Neven, 'A Doer of the Word'

—Focus on the Family Magazine (September 2000)

I've always been inspired by Chick-Fil-A and the founder for closing stores on Sunday. I wish I had the faith this man had to do this with our businesses back home in New York.

From the website of Chick-Fil-A, I copied this quote from Samuel Truett Cathy, the founder: "Nearly every moment of every day we have the opportunity to give something to someone else - our time, our love, our resources. I have always found more joy in giving when I did not expect anything in return."

There are so many distractions for our money today that we can very easily forget the purpose of the abundance we receive.

We are richly blessed for a reason—to help further the work of the Gospel of Christ! We can't be distracted from that purpose that we have. Be a doer of the word and give, not because we have to but because we want to!

2ND - GIVE OF OUR TIME

Those smarties are hours in a day too. What are we doing with them?

Unknown—"You give but little when you give of your possessions. It

is when you give of yourself that you truly give."

Have you ever woken up with a song on your heart? "Give of your best to the Master" was on my heart when this thought came to me.

We need to be giving our absolute best to the Master. We need to be about HIS work. We need to be carrying HIS Gospel, HIS message of love and hope, HIS message of repentance, HIS message of eternal life and eternal damnation to as many as we can.

Give of our time:

- A. The Right Foundation
- B. The Call
- C. The Why
- D. The Decision

A. To give of ourselves and our time, first a FOUNDATION CHECK!

1 Corinthians 3:10-13:

"According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is."

You can never ASSUME the foundation, but you must examine and ensure the foundation is solid all the way through. The foundation must be solid rock all the way through, it must be 100% Jesus Christ.

This example I share with you, is the same example I shared after a season of prayer at the 2013 Missouri Reunion.

Example of my own job: Four years ago we were putting on a large addition, 180' by 300', onto a 180' by 100' building. The engineer for the project opted to not do drilling samples to determine the foundation of the building because the current building and surrounding buildings were fine and have been there for many years.

My brother-in-law Marcelo, who had just moved back and was put in charge of the project, asked me to stop the project and do a few sample drillings to be sure. We stopped the project, drilled and found a huge "vein of organic clay" went through $\frac{3}{4}$ of the addition being built. Organic clay is basically soup. We had about 10 feet of solid ground then 30 feet of this "soup" until bedrock. We had to make changes. We pounded 100 steel piles around the perimeter of the building from the concrete footing to the bedrock, and 200 wooden piles in the middle of the building.

If we didn't do this we were told the columns in the middle of the building would eventually give way in a short number of years. We knew this was true, as our local Wal-Mart about five miles away had this very problem and had to condemn the building and eventually tear it down.

The point is, don't assume! Are you grounded FIRM and DEEP in Jesus Christ? Not just on the surface, but all the way through. If you don't have the burning desire to share Jesus Christ with others, maybe a foundation check is in order.

Matthew 7:24-27:

"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it."

Check yourself. Are you really founded sure and steadfast? Do you think you're "ok" (built your life, but didn't do the drillings)? —See, the large vein of clay didn't stop me! I had a building to build! I just didn't have the convenience of bedrock two feet below the foundation for the building. I had to do the "difficult, but necessary" part. Every building built has different circumstances, just like our lives! We all have different circumstances, but the same requirements; like buildings, we must be founded on the ROCK.

To give of ourselves, to make commitment, to make sacrifices — requires the right foundation. We must be firmly grounded, sure and steadfast on the right foundation, which is only Jesus Christ! Everything hinges on our ability to perform based on our foundation.

We must do foundation checks not only today, but all the time! With the right foundation, anything is possible.

With the right foundation, that leads into "the call"...

B. The call...

- DREAM BIG
- WORK HARD
- DON'T QUIT

Matthew 4:18-20:

"...And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left their nets, and followed him."

Fishers of men, How can we spend one hour a day as a "fisher of man"?

Can we reach out to a brother or sister we haven't spoken to in a while? Can we reach out to a friend that you never shared Christ with? Can you take advantage of conversations in the coming week to make it a point to reference your faith and share a testimony of the hope in you? Can we make it a firm decision to set the Godly example starting right now, no matter what? Can we give REAL TIME to our God?

Quote by Helmut Thielicke:

"The word of God is demanding. It demands a stretch of time in our day—even though it be a very modest one—in which it is our only companion...God will not put up with being fobbed off with prayers in telegram style and cut short like a troublesome visitor for whom we open the door just a crack to get rid of him as quickly as possible."

Do we accept the call? The call is not to be taken lightly. It is demanding!

Alma 11:22-25:

"...And as many as would hear their words, unto them they did impart the word of God, without any respect of persons, continually...And the estab-

lishment of the church became general throughout the land, in all the region round about, among all the people of the Nephites."

"The Call": To dream big, work hard and don't quit at giving of yourself! What can you do to bring souls to God. Write down, what can I do to be a fisher of men? And write down the answers! We must Commit!

C. The Why

Deuteronomy 6:5

"And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might."

This is the commandment. Love the Lord with all our heart. But the why I'm talking about is when we desire this beyond it just being a commandment. What is our Why?

Let's look at the example found in 3 Nephi 13:11-21 and consider what the deep down desire of the disciples' hearts were before our Lord. The nine were righteous and faithful followers. But the three had this zeal, intensity, passion to bring the souls of men unto God. There was a WHY in them.

I will give you a couple different examples...

By Simen Sinek (on youtube)

Apple example:

Just a computer company, same access to everything like everyone else, but why are they different.

Everybody knows WHAT they do, few know HOW they do it and very, very few know WHY they do what they do. Not the "why" to make a profit, that's a result. But what's the purpose, the belief. Why do they get out

of bed in the morning? We communicate from the outside-in. Go from the clearest thing to the fuzziest.

Very few people/organizations communicate from the inside-out! If Apple were a normal company, they would say, We make great computers, they're beautifully designed and simple to use—want to buy one? Eh, that's how most people/companies communicate.

Here's how Apple really communicates: Everything we do, we believe in challenging the status quo, we believe in thinking differently. We make our products beautifully designed and simple to use and user friendly. We just happen to make computers, want to buy one?

Totally different. Just reverse the order. You're ready to buy a computer now. People don't buy what you do; they buy WHY you do it! If you don't know WHY you do what you do, how can anybody buy into your belief!

•Our What: We try to bring souls unto God

•Our How: Living the example, invites to Church, share a testimony, pray with someone, through conversation, missionary work, etc.

•Our Why: The love of God in our hearts is so intense, so passionate, so real, and so true. Not because we have to, but because we want to.

We have to communicate from the center-out. The "why" is so strong. Passion and servitude for Jesus Christ is at the heart of what we do. —Eternal life is the result

Wright Brothers example:

Why did the Wright brothers figure out controlled powered man flight before anyone else? There were

better teams, well-funded, but they didn't achieve controlled powered man flight. The Wright brothers beat them to it.

Most people don't know about Samuel Pierpont Langly. In early 20th century, flight was like the dot com era. Samuel Pierpont Langly was given \$50,000 by the army to fund figuring out flight. He hired the best minds money could buy. The media followed him around everywhere. But yet no one has heard of Samuel Pierpont Langly.

A few hundred miles away in Dayton, Ohio, were the Wright Brothers. They had no money. No one educated. No media coverage. The difference was they believed if they figured out FLIGHT it could change the world! Samuel Pierpont Langly was after the result, the money—to be famous. The ones that worked with the Wright brothers worked with blood, sweat and tears. The ones that worked with Samuel Pierpont Langly worked for money. Stories about the Wright Brothers: they had to take five sets of parts with them because they would crash five times before dinner! On December 17th, 1903, the Wright Brothers took flight. No one was there to experience it. We found out a few days later. Do you know what happened to Samuel Pierpont Langly? He quit. He could have improved upon it, but he quit.

People don't buy what you do; they buy WHY you do it! If you don't know WHY you do what you do, how can anybody buy into your belief!

Dr. Martin Luther King example:

Why did he lead civil rights movement? He wasn't the only man that suffered or was a good orator. In the

summer of 1963, 250,000 people showed up to hear Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. speak. He sent out no invitations, there was no web site. He told people, "I believe" and that's what people carried. How many people showed up for him? Zero. They showed up for themselves. It wasn't all black vs white, as 25% of the people were white. He gave the "I have a dream speech" not the "I have a plan speech."

1 Nephi 3:63-64:

"Knowest thou the meaning of the tree which thy father saw? And I answered him, saying, Yea, it is the love of God, which sheddeth itself abroad in the hearts of the children of men; wherefore it is the most desirable above all things."

The why?

The why is our PASSION, our deep desire for the love of God in our hearts. We want to love Him and follow Him not because He commands us, but because we want to!!! We have to have this dedication, this loyalty, this willingness, this selflessness, this commitment to give of ourselves, to give of our time! Having a real zeal for Jesus Christ! Do you see the different level I'm talking about?

D. The Decision

Mosiah 1:25-26 ...To stir them up in remembrance of their duty."

Alma 2:1-3 ...They were awakened to a remembrance of their duty.

Alma 5:38 ...Awaken you to a sense of your duty to God

Don't wait for the "sore afflictions," make "The decision." It's our duty! The "why" is so great, we make the decision to bear the duty! "Awaken" and "Stir them up to remembrance," of the DUTY. If the be-

lief is strong enough, then take action.

Impart the word of God to others. Tell them of the hope that's in us. ASK if they are looking for something that's missing in their lives.

Time is the most precious thing we have! I mentioned DISTRACTIONS earlier. Just as there are distractions for our money, there are even more DISTRACTIONS for our time.

I have a book, called the Energy Bus that talks about "energy vampires" that suck the energy out of life! Well there are "time vampires". They suck the life out of our precious time!

You know what they are. I'm not going to go into the details. We all have them. Some are the same and some are very different for each of us, but they accomplish the same goal. THEY STEAL OUR TIME!

I was at a trade show in Hamburg, Germany a few weeks ago. It was at the end of the trade show and I was speaking with a woman from China. She was asking about life in the USA and I was asking about life in China.

Our conversation led into the next trade show we would be attending. She said she was excited to be going to Las Vegas for the next trade show. I began to tell her how much I hate Las Vegas and that I have to go to trade shows a couple times a year there. She asked me why I didn't like Las Vegas. I said, "I don't gamble, drink, or desire to cheat on my wife."

Just as I said this, a customer of ours from the US was talking with our sales rep next to me and he interrupts and says yes, Brandon, finally someone who thinks like me!

I'm in shock! He's a Palestinian man, hard-working, nice guy, married,

two children, but I wasn't expecting this.

He steps over and draws with his fingers an imaginary box!

He says, "This box is my life. These are the things I choose to put in my life and if they are not in the box then there's no room for them."

Draw your own box:

-Time for my children (Leadership, example, good conversations, love)

-Time for my spouse (Men: Grant Her Honor. Women: Capture that man's heart)

-MOST IMPORTANT: Time for my God (attend all the services I can, time to read-fast-pray, fellowship with brothers/sisters, time to be hard-working for the Lord—bringing souls unto Him, share with others!)

WE CAN'T ALLOW THE DISTRACTIONS OF THE WORLD IN OUR BOX!

Get those distractions out of your box!

Alma 11:22-23:

"...And as many as would hear their words, unto them they did impart the word of God, without any respect of persons, continually."

Be INTENTIONAL (deliberate, with purpose) WITH YOUR LIFE! Be INTENTIONAL in spreading the Gospel of Christ! Many are called, but few are chosen. We are to be a light unto the world!

Give of your best to the Master, dedicated to God, dedicated to His service, dedicated to His work. Don't pass the opportunity to share, to impart the word of God with others.

2 Corinthians 5:20:

"Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God."

We are Ambassadors (A Diplomatic official of the highest rank, sent by one sovereign to another as its resident representative) of Jesus Christ.

Do you remember the story I shared in the beginning? "Smarties get a little mangy and furry with lint." Don't worry if it's a little we can give, don't worry if the words don't come out perfect when we share of that hope that's within us. What matters is that we take action! Progress before perfection.

May God bless us in our endeavor to be good stewards of our time and money, for we have all been called!

Phoenix Local News



Busy, busy, busy. It seems that something, if not several things, are always going on here at the Phoenix local. What is truly refreshing to see is how many children are always involved with the different activities at the Church of Christ.

In the last couple of months we have been blessed to have a very wonderful Thanksgiving and Reunion to follow. Many folks from all over the country came to praise the Lord and visit friends and family. The children, directed by our Sister Michelle Yates, put on a wonderful little presentation. I hope that if you weren't here in Phoenix, you were able to watch it by other means.



► Presentation during Reunion by children.



► Melissa & Rebekah Oar singing.

We all know people who have wandered away from our church family. Sometimes all we can do is pray and hope that most will find their way back to the “fold.”



► Break time at Reunion.



► Kid's Thanksgiving Party

With the help of dedicated parents and others who put in countless hours of time and effort guiding and teaching our children, I watch in amazement how interested these children are in the Bible and Book of Mormon. They're in church, involved in activities and interested in what is going on. Staying involved will help keep these future young people from wandering away from our family.

We have so much to be thankful for. I would pray that the coming year brings joy and happiness to each one of you.

*Your sister in
Christ,
DiAnn Hedrick*

NOTICES

COLORADO REUNION

For those of you that need to request time off in advance, the **2014** Colorado Reunion will be **June 13-15**. The **2015** Colorado Reunion will be **June 12-14**. I apologize for the confusion last year.

*Love in Christ,
Liza Hedrick*

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.

POEM

Dear
God

We need thee every moment, every hour.
Help us to take hold of Thy great power.
Help us to know we have a place
In the chambers of Thy exceeding high tower.
Help us to avail all our God-given assets,
Lest we lose face and shamefully cower.
God's hourglass is almost empty, time and grace are spent.
Lord, our willful ways are a burden, help us to repent,
That we could wear the robes of righteous adornment,
Then our days and ways could know contentment.
Politics and sinners have pushed us into a corner,
Where the Christian stayed, because of the scorner,
While our freedoms are being stolen by executive order.
I wish and I hope and I read and I pray,
That I could make a difference somehow, someday.
I tried and I tried till I just gave up,
And I put all my pearls in my bitter cup.
But the pearls are more precious than diamonds and gold
And must be laid before men who are worthy
To seek the way of the Shepherd's fold.
I know it's time again to try and be bold,
The truth of the Gospel must always be told,
Faith, hope and charity, no matter what,
Will see us thru the battles yet to be fought.
We must have courage to suffer for You, if we have to.
Your promises we love, You are always true.
For this day we've waited, along with the Jew.
There is moral demise throughout the nations,
And they lift up their voice for segregations,
Not for the color of your skin, but pure religion.
We stand every day now in the valley of decision.
This veil of evil over all lands is electrified, bountified,
unsanctified, accepted, and dastardly magnified.
The great plan of Satan to corrupt the bride
To conceal her treasures, he flattered and lied.
Truth, hell, a devil, he plainly denied,
Smother her, distort her, crush her, he cried,
For he's a ravenous beast that kills souls on the inside.
His lofty and deceitful creeds help the world to slip and slide.
But the truth and the bride are still here for which
Jesus came, lived, taught and died,
and in the shadows and vales it can only be found,
If you yield him your all with your knees on the ground.
The gospel was faithfully preserved, let it be your guide.
Now is the time to look up and fully comply,
These are the things that come to my mind,
Men's ears will not hear and eyes are blind,
And cast not your pearls before the swine.
But surely there are many vessels yet to find,
Help us to look under, above, in front and behind,
For the precious soul that will hear the everlasting truth divine.

Sister Kathy Cloyd 2013
(dastardly: mean-nasty-teacherous-cowardly)



Church of Christ

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