

Zion's Advocate

*"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth my Zion at that day,
for they shall have the gift and the power of the Holy Ghost...."
1 Nephi 3:187*

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**"And I will remember the covenant which I have made with my people...That I would give unto them again the land of their fathers, for their inheritance, which is the land of Jerusalem, which is the promised land unto them for ever, saith the Father."
—3 Nephi 9:67-68—**

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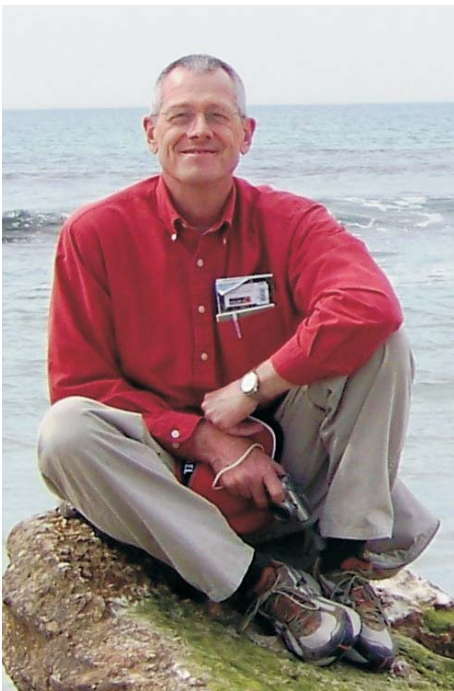
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To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;
 To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;
 To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

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Come out of BABYLON

WHY WE MUST "COME UNTO" OUR LORD AND SAVIOR.



By Apostle Alvin Moser

Jesus said, "for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened" (Matthew 24:22). The signs of the times and the Spirit of God tell me time is being

The signs of the times and the Spirit of God tell me time is being shortened.

shortened. There is an urgency in the air. Do you hear the urgency in the whisper of the Holy Spirit? Jesus is at the door of your heart. What remains for us to do? Open the door! Let Him in to your home, to your life and to your family.

In Christ Jesus we will find "pasture" (John 10:9). In Him we will find our "fortress" and our "high tower" of safety (Psalms 18:2). In Him we will "grow up as calves of the stall" (Malachi 4:2). If we remain in Babylon we shall fall along with the world, because the world *is* Babylon, and "great" shall be her fall (1 Nephi 3:94).

Jesus is our example. Jesus showed us the door that we must enter, which is baptism. Jesus showed us the path we must walk after we enter, which is endurance to the end. We must follow Him now, while it is still called "this day" (Alma 16:230). It is a hard thing to realize that this life shall end and forever shall begin. Is the Spirit telling you to come unto the Lord? Near the Lord we shall find rest, but that depends on our exit from the world.

There are many activities Jesus cannot participate in...because in reality we take part in things that pollute our minds and harden

our hearts. If we have been forced, like slaves, to be in places that we have not chosen, then God can be with us there. Sadly, we do things that we want to do, which draw away our hearts, filling our minds with thoughts unknowable to Jesus. In the parable of the ten virgins, Jesus says to the five who are foolish, "I know you not" (Matthew 25:12). They had no more oil in the vessels with their lamps. They had not purchased any from the local merchant. Who was that merchant if not the Lord Himself, who has been given all power in heaven and earth? They would not purchase from Him when it was called daytime...when there was light in the street of life to walk and purchase. They waited until the night when it was forever too late.

Our responsibility is "to be an example of the believers" (1 Timothy 4:12). Believers must be humble followers of Christ. The meek "shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). I am persuaded that is because "all the proud" shall not abide in the day of the Lord's return (Malachi 4:1). Who will be left then? The humble shall remain and be with the Lord in that day. We must remember who we are...God's children and His servants.

Paul said, "I endure all

things for the elect's sakes" (2 Timothy 2:10). One of the best helps we can each provide for others is to endure to the end. The parables of the Lord about the days before His coming are our best guide concerning the real dangers that we face. We must be responsible Christians and not be disheartened if the Lord delays or tarries His coming. The warning from Jesus must be applied to our personal lives so we do not "begin to smite (our) fellow-servants, and to eat and drink with the drunken" (Matthew 24:49). Jesus will come and catch us unaware simply because we decide we are tired of waiting and want to relax. Our way to relax is to put our faith in His word, our hope of deliverance, and our pure love which suffers long and thinks of others first.

When home life is ignored and selfish thinking begins, marriages die and good works cease...not because the Lord delays, but because we abandon our duty and responsibility. We become selfish covenant breakers and sinners who resurrect the "old man." The world does not call it revival of the old man, but the world calls it being honest with yourself (the old man of sin) and coming out of the closet. Sinners have looked into the mirror, forgotten what the sinful

man looked like, and called this a new enlightenment. It is not new at all, just the old song of the sinner reborn after his death.

The parable of the ten virgins is a parable for our day. It is the story of us as we are. The real danger is us. We enter into the world, become involved in its cares and problems, and forget to keep the Spirit of God as the number one element to preparedness. Have you been involved in politics, wanting to change the world? How is that working for us? Would not involvement in the things of God be more profitable in real change by changing one life at a time? Are you angry or afraid? Are you tired of it all? "Come out of her," this modern Babylon, and free yourself of so much vexation and vanity (Revelation 18:4). Go into your private places and churches and put your attention upon the Lamb of God. Find rest for your soul by coming out of the world and coming to Jesus. Make His cause your cause. Make His kingdom your priority.

In the Old Testament there were several Holy days or feasts. Everyone without exception in some way remembered what God had done or what He was going to do in the future. These days away from the world were not for worldly activities, but for

mourning for sins and rejoicing for blessings. Celebrated through fasting and feasting, by singing and hearing the Word of God. They were commanded to leave the world outside and concentrate on the things of God. Joy was expressed openly and liberally. How do we find rest? We find rest by remembering that God is good and His mercy endures forever. We should be able to go back to work on Monday or whenever your work week begins with the sure knowledge that we have God with us. We have oil in our vessels with our lamps trimmed, ready, watching for the Lord and the fulfillment of His will in ourselves and, someday, in this world.

Sharing the Gospel is a way of extending God's power into the world around us. Let your light shine. Do good, be good, be kind, be patient. Patience does not mean to do nothing. Patience means to have the quality of not quitting, waiting calmly and making an effort through love to change things. Our anger can be turned from "I hate that and want to destroy it!" to "That's wrong and I want to change it!" This changes judging as condemnation to a righteous judgment expressed by patiently waiting while we influence others in a positive way. We can face the world by pa-

tiently and lovingly working to change that thing we don't like. We can accept the fact that others around us are not perfect because our love for them is long-suffering. It waits as long as God waits because He has filled our vessels and lamps with His oil. Patience is to see the world and others for what they are. They are sinners. God sees them as sinners. We can be patient because we know God has been patient with us and has filled us with His Spirit.

We also know that God exists because we still see the love of God in the hearts of many people. The difficulty is seeing the sin of the world (Babylon) also. The love we have for the soul will hide (cover) their sins in our hearts. God kept Israel in His heart even when they left Him. He longed for their return and has put His work in motion to recover them. Think about that...a work in motion. He sent His word and restored His church. Love and patience do not abandon Israel, but Love and patience are certainly not silent. They speak to us and we should speak about right and wrong in our families or anywhere else that we have that opportunity, and patiently wait for the word to grow in the hearts of others. It is like a seed or a plant. We never actually can see it grow. We

can only see it grow by the memory of what it was like last week or last year or through the marvel of time-lapse photography.

Jesus said, "These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33). We will always have trouble. Notice where the cheer comes from. It comes because of what Jesus has done. He has won! He has set before us a path with strict rules for walking it. We cannot deviate in any way or we shall have more tribulation. Good cheer is our inheritance. The battle is not "out there" but inside each of us. The goal of this life is to conquer our heart of covetousness. Right now the joy of life is in God and in the hope of eternal life. Let us leave Babylon by destroying the idols of the heart, and come to Jesus who has already finished the battle against death.



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS: THE LORD'S PRAYER

The General Sunday School Association (GSSA) is providing portions of lessons (teasers!) for several 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@sbccglobal.net; home address: 9 Market Street; Middleville, MI 49333 for more information.

Preschool/Kindergarten/Elementary:

Objective:

- To understand prayer is an important part of our lives—it is a way we talk with God.

Lesson:

- How can we talk to God? {prayer}
- Did you know Jesus talked to His Father? (Who is Jesus' Father? {GOD!!!}) Jesus prayed to His Father.
- In the Bible and The Book of Mormon has the example Jesus gave to His people then on how to pray. This is still how we should pray today.
- Let's read it in Matthew 6:9. (Use the activity sheets available at www.cocsermons.net.)
 - *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name*
 - Pray to God, the Father, not to Jesus.
 - He is Holy! Praise His holy name!
 - *Thy kingdom come. They will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.*
 - Pray for the church, the ministry, and the members of the church.
 - Pray for those who don't know God.
 - Pray for our own needs.
 - Ask for God's will (His way) to be done in our lives and in our prayers.
 - *Give us this day our daily bread.*
 - Pray about our jobs, school, playing time.
 - Pray over our food and know that God gives us everything we need, even our food!
 - *And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.*
 - Ask God to forgive us.
 - We have to forgive others, if we want God to forgive us.
 - *And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil:*
 - Help us to make good choices and follow God.
 - *For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.*
 - God is EVERYTHING! Thank Him for all of His blessings. Thank Him for Jesus and the church.

Activities:

- There are two activity sheets on the cocsermons website to choose from.
 - One lists all of the things to pray about in different fonts that the students can cut out and either glue on a piece of construction paper with the title of "Lord's Prayer" printed at the top or they can staple all of the cut out statements to a long strip of paper. Elementary students could come up with their own lists.
 - The second is a stylized printing of the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6:9. Print it on cardstock, if possible, and have the students glue a frame around it with any variety of media (jewels, craft sticks, cotton balls,

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

colored paper squares, beans, etc.) We used Magic Nuudles, found at craft stores. They look like brightly colored packing peanuts, but when you dampen them they stick to the paper and to each other. The kids like it and it isn't messy. No glue, just dampen paper towels to tamp the Nuudles onto!

Middle/High School:

Objective:

- To understand how the Lord's Prayer can help me in my daily life.

Key Questions:

- What does the Lord's Prayer mean?
- How do the three accounts compare?
- How does the Lord want us to pray?
- What does the Lord expect from us?

Luke 11:2-4	Matthew 6:9	3 rd Nephi 5:101-107
And he said unto them, When ye pray, say, Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, as is in heaven, so in earth. Give us day by day our daily bread. And forgive us our sins; for we also forgive every one that is indebted to us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.	After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.	After this manner therefore pray ye, Our Father which art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

Points to notice:

- Jesus is commanding us to pray unto the Father. You are hallowing His name, giving respect and admiration to our Father in heaven and the Father of Jesus Christ.
- Thy will be done on earth; teaching us to seek the will of the Father in our lives and our decisions.
- Giving us our daily bread; we are asking for his physical sustainment as well as spiritual.
- He wants us to ask for forgiveness and forgiveness is available through Jesus Christ. Forgive us our sins/debts and forgiving others is mentioned in all three accounts. The Lord makes it clear he wants us to ask forgiveness for our sins and to forgive others.
- Think of a time that you have applied this to your life and/or when you didn't. What were the consequences?
- Matthew 6: 14-15: For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.
- We pray that we do not enter into temptation. However, when you find yourself in temptation along with any other evils, ask for deliverance.
- For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. He has authority over our lives and that we should look towards His honor and glory, not our own.
- Remember the Lord's Prayer is an example to us as how to pray, although a sincere heartfelt prayer is a pleasure to God's ears. To understand more of what our Father expects from us, read 3rd Nephi 5: 97-100.



FROM the ARCHIVES

1997 Aerial View of the Temple Lot with Members Standing on the Outline of the Future Temple



Taken March 31, 1997 during the Church of Christ Conference, this aerial photo of the Temple Site shows the saints standing together outlining the Lord's Temple which will be built upon this sacred spot. This site was dedicated August 3, 1831, by Joseph Smith, Jr. and six elders from the Church of Christ.

2014 Church of Christ Solemn Assembly and General Conference

Friday morning, April 4th, we entered in to the House of the Lord for our Solemn Assembly. Br. Joel Yates asked if we have come in the right frame of mind, and with an attitude of humility. He read James 4:1-7. He told us to ask for the right things, those that are right in the eyes of God. He won't give us what we'll use amiss. He read James 4; Psalm 51 and Isaiah 58 were referred to. The things we allow in our lives sometimes keeps God from giving us what He desires. He wants us to make changes in our lives, so He can bless us. Are you afraid when your family steps outside of God's ways? He read Isaiah 58:6-12; Helaman 2:29-32. He reminded us that the Son of God is on His way, and we need humility to the purifying and sanctifying of our hearts. Br. Joel read II Nephi 13 and Moroni 6. We entered into a season of prayer in which many voices were lifted to our Heavenly Father. The service was then opened to songs and testimonies as the Spirit led; here are a few:

- A sister told us she is full of gratitude to the Lord, as she was impressed upon that she needs to focus on her own relationship with the Lord. A few weeks ago, she was brought up short in doing her own will. She looks more now at her own personal desires—examining her own motives, then submitting to His will.
- A brother admitted he has a tendency to become overly burdened by his own anxiety. With that it's difficult to find peace. Paul said to be strong in the grace that comes through Jesus Christ. Grace is God's spirit, patience and love. Once he understood that, he can now grieve and not have it overtake him. Be strong and have faith in God's grace. View with faith the deliverance of God, and rejoice.
- A sister told us she flew standby. There was a long line ahead and she knew it would be an hour and a half just to get checked through security. She prayed. She stayed in line; then discovered she needed a boarding pass. She murmured about the process and chastised herself for it. She had to leave the line to get her boarding pass. She was told to go to another place and was greatly blessed that there was no line. She ended up getting through way ahead of everyone else, but barely made her flight. She had been greatly blessed. We need to be patient; she was thankful for His working it out for her, as well as for the lesson He taught her.
- A brother told us that years ago he was coming here for an activity and was driving in from the south. As he got nearer and nearer to Independence his mind became full with

this thought—it was as if he was driving up a long, long hill, going to the House of the Lord. He was excited; he didn't notice anything else. Just felt like he was climbing a hill to meet the Lord. He told us, one day we'll be called to gather here again, like we are today, to come to the House of the Lord, and we'll see Him in all His glory. What a marvelous day that will be!

Friday evening prayer service—Br. Jeff Oldham welcomed us and confessed he was recently told by his family he has a hearing problem. He went for testing and it was determined he didn't really have a problem with his hearing, but that he wasn't paying attention. Things in this world vie for our attention all of the time; they distract us. He asked us to set those things aside tonight, as we need to be prepared when we come Sunday morning. Br. Jeff read from Mosiah 1:119-120, Col. 3:22, and I Thess. 5:16. There was a season of prayer with many voices lifted.

Saturday morning prayer service—Apostle Don McIndoo welcomed us, and read from III Nephi 5; this was the introduction Clarence Wheaton read to the Mayans. After Ramiro Lara read vs 4-20, the last Mayan King, Nemensio Xiu, said, "This is OUR BOOK that

was burned by the black-robed priests many years ago. He spoke of chapter 8, so beautiful it is to read of the 2500 people who saw Jesus as he ministered unto their little ones, with the Holy Spirit encircling them. He healed the sick and called ministry. People received communion. III Nephi 9:58 tells us of the city New Jerusalem, and that His people will be gathered in. A remnant of the house of Israel will be converted. That work began sixty-three years ago when the Mayan people received this book. We are part of this great latter-day work, the fulfillment of God's prophecy. There was a season of prayer in which many voices were lifted, and the service was opened to the leading of the Spirit: here a just a few of the testimonies given:

- A brother told us the valleys between the big events make us feel like God's not doing anything, but that's not true. He told us of taking his car into the local garage, and the mechanic told him about some men on motorbikes that drove in the last time our brother was there. He saw them come and go several times, checking out the place, and when our brother pulled in and out they followed him. The mechanic thought they were going to harm him. God had protected though, as our brother never even saw them. He told us sometimes we have no idea how much God looks after us.
- A brother testified about the "Noah" movie that has come out recently. He wants to warn anyone who is thinking about seeing the movie; it's not what you might think. He had the opportunity to talk to one of his customers about it. She thanked him over and over. The Lord arranged the whole thing.
- A brother told us his heart goes out to the local churches here who suffer; he has great concern. The work in Mexico is thriving. When he was eighteen he heard a voice calling him to serve God. It was the first time he'd heard the Lord speak. He prays for that



for our young and locals here. He called for a season of prayer about this concern.

- A brother told us that about forty years ago his father had a dream or vision of a great storm and flood. He saw people being washed away. He saw a log floating with a half dozen people clinging to it. His father said, "Oh no, a whole local." We're seeing it—young and old. We need to labor diligently with all our mights.

Saturday Afternoon Prayer service—Apostle Roland Sarratt welcomed us and read from Psalm 116 and 117. He told us if we go through the process of being brought low and God helps us, then we know He loves us. We are to be spiritually minded. There will come a day when the Lord will be victorious and all will praise Him. Names were taken for prayers and we entered into a season of prayer. These are just some of the testimonies which followed:

- A brother told us of examples of dedication given by servants of the Lord. There are many examples of sons of God who are willing to serve. Your children may not be listening today, but one day they'll know.
- A sister reminded us that the Lord knows our wants and our needs. She told us of an

experience she had recently when she yearned to hear a young sister sing a certain song. She turned on her live-streaming and in just a short time that very sister sang the very song she was yearning for. God knew what she needed to hear.

- A brother told us Christ is coming soon; he feels that more and more every day. He told us of an experience from years ago—a brother told him of visiting friends and discovering the house was full of ministry. He immediately left, but on his way home the Lord stopped him and told him to go back and ask for baptism. He followed the direction and eventually was baptized. Our brother admonished us to serve with all our might!
- A brother told us of years ago researching the plans for the Temple that will be built here one day. Recently that interest was renewed, as he was traveling near and saw a building that looked just like it. He stopped and learned the building was built as a Jewish Temple. It wasn't the same architect as our temple plans were drawn by, but built in the same time period. What he'd been told years ago about it being a Masonic design is not true. The Lord designed it, and He will decide what is to be built and when.

Sunday morning Sacrament Service—Apostles Roland Sarratt and Jeff Oldham were in charge. Br. Roland told us the Lord is so thorough and complete in His dealings with us. We are tested, our plans fail, but God's plan is revealed. God is here watching, and we are quickened in our purpose. He read from III Nephi 8:28-42. Br. Roland admonished us to remember what Christ did for us, for those who have been baptized, then we'll have His Spirit to be with us. The emblems were blessed and served.

Next we were blessed with a baby blessing. Sister Lisa Slager came forward with her

new baby girl, Leah. Elder Matt Case gave the blessing, offering a beautiful, heartfelt prayer unto the Lord. Following the baby blessing we entered into a season of prayer in which many names were offered up to the Lord, and many voices were heard. The service was then opened to the leading of the Spirit. Here are a few of the testimonies given:

- A brother told us that as he came from the airport the other day he was thinking about our people who traveled here, to Zion, by covered wagon. In III Nephi 10 we are told He is thankful for that kingdom, for His being in our midst this morning. He imagines God sometimes smiling, sometimes shaking His head wondering why, in loving kindness.
- A brother reminded us that today is April 6th, the 146th anniversary of the restoration of the Church of Christ. He told us we have to believe everything Christ told us—you must have faith. The mist of darkness is manifest to us today; hold on to the rod of iron, the word of God. Each person has to cry out to God, in the name of Christ, and He'll help you. Remember, it was the restoration of the fullness of the gospel that we celebrate today. It's our anniversary!
- A brother told us he is weak, and Satan visits on days that he feels the weakest. He was given things he didn't ask for during his administration: when a brother was administered to he had an experience. He felt the Lord standing there saying, "My son, I love you." He told us if there's a calling here today, he hopes we'll be open for it. He prays for God to give us strength to follow and do what we need to do.
- A brother told us about a blessing he had last week. He was having great difficulty hearing anything. At the Wednesday night prayer service his hearing was worse than ever; he was upset, and the headset wasn't helping. Afterward he went to the car, and he still couldn't hear. Then, after just one beep

(instead of many reminder beeps) his hearing aid went dead, completely dead. He got out another battery and changed it. THEN prayers were answered, he could finally hear again. He was handed a blessing, even after being so frustrated.

Sunday Afternoon Sermon—after lunch we enjoyed a beautiful song service, in which there were many musical gifts offered up in praise to our Lord. Then we were blessed with the first sermon of the conference, given by Apostle Michael McGhee, who welcomed us and read from Hebrews 4:2-9; Hebrews 1:1-7; and Ether 5:4 in showing us where our true rest will be. He used 2 Peter 1:9; Mosiah 9:66 and told us to trust the Lord. He's not done working on us, we're not clean yet. He read Hebrews 4:9-11; Mosiah 9; Ether 5:4 to remind us that we entered our commitment gladly, and through each other we are made stronger in Christ. In 2 Peter we are reminded of the virtues we desire to have. He read Jacob 2:24, noting that we are told to take care of family. He read Rev. 20:5-6, reminding us that we want to have a part in the first resurrection. He read Isaiah 60:19-21; Revelation 21:4; Proverbs 4, and told us to keep our eye on the mark.

Monday morning 8 a.m. prayer service—Elder Dennis Trudgen welcomed us and told us that Moses and the House of Israel were given mighty miracles, even though they were not a mighty or strong people. He used Numbers 11:16-17, 25-26 to explain that those in charge are held to a higher level. He read 1 Cor. 12:27-28 to show that everyone should participate. He urged us to pray for those people who are appointed and put in charge of different tasks. Focus on setting God's government in place and those people elected. After a season of prayer, many voices were lifted to our heavenly father. Here is just one of the testimonies given:

- A brother told us that last night he received a phone call from a lady inquiring about the church. He talked with her at length. It is a wonderful thing to be able to answer questions right from the scriptures.

Monday Evening Sermon—After a song service, Apostle Brian McIndoo began his sermon by reminding us that God is eternal—no beginning and no end. He told us God wants us to see the whole picture so we'll understand. He has laid out a perfect plan. We can see and understand. Where are we in His timeline? (1) Timeline of God's Plan for Mankind: Genesis 1:27, 2:7. (2) The Fall of man - Genesis 3:1, 3-4. (3) God's Plan to Recover Mankind - 1 Nephi 3:28-29; Alma 12:119-120; Isaiah 55:3-11. (4) The Messiah Came with the New Covenant - Luke 4:17-21; Isaiah 61:1-2. (5) Sacrifice Made, Penalty Paid - John 19:16-18; III Nephi 12:26. (6) Resurrection - II Nephi 1:74-75; 1 Cor. 15:14; Mark 16:2-6. (7) The Apostasy, A Falling Away from the Truth - 2 Thess. 1:12; Amos 8:11-13; Rev. 13:3-7, 11:12, 12:6; Dan 7:25. (8) The Restoration - Dan. 2:44 (Rev. 13:11). (9) Coming Forth of the Book of Mormon - Rev. 14:6-7; Isa. 29:11-20; I Nephi 7:17, 3:214-216. (10) Day of the Gentiles Comes to an End - Luke 21:24, 31-32. (11) Like the Days of Noah - Luke 17:26-27; Genesis 6:5. (12) Vials Poured Out Upon the Earth - Rev. 16:12-16. Br. Brian asked, where are we on this timeline? He told us we still can't see the whole picture of God's plan, but we know it's here—it's coming. We are here to do His work of the last day. It will be accomplished—do we want to do our part? (13) The Last Labor in God's Vineyard - Jacob 3:136-139; Rev. 11:1, 3:14-16; Phil. 2:5-8. (14) Have Same Mind as Christ/A Servant, Become a living sacrifice - Romans 12:1-2; 2 Peter 1:1; Jude 1:1; James 1:1; Titus 1:1. (15) Gospel Preached in All the World - Matt. 24:14; Mark 16:15; Mosiah 1:121-122; (16) Judgment Day-Rev. 18: 4, 20:12;

III Nephi 12:27; James 2:14, 17-20; Romans 2:16. (17) Works - James 2:14, 17-20; 2 Peter 2:9. (18) We're Called to Becoming a Saint - Mosiah 11:20. (19) Endure to the End - Matt. 24:13; I Nephi 3:188. (20) Faithful Witness - Mosiah 9:40. (21) Full of Charity - Moroni 7:50. (22) The Works of Charity - Moroni 7:51-52; Rev. 22:20.

Tuesday morning prayer service—Priest Bruce Haines greeted us. He spoke of the importance of Br. Brian's exhortation/sermon the night before. He told us, "Let's roll up our sleeves and thrust in our sickles." Our sister Leydi in Yucatan has testified that her heavenly visitor told her to tell the Church that Christ is coming soon. He told her to tell us to get into the scriptures more; the signs are all there, what more do you want? We need to take this seriously. Elder Adam Porter told us the Lord's still small voice is getting louder these last days. We all have a wonder of how the Lord's work will be accomplished. We want to hear, be led, be taught and come away from the world. In Israel with Elijah the prophet had a message for us - 1 Kings 12:1-20 tells us of our many false idols and accomplishments of man. When the still small voice came to Elijah, he listened. Sometimes the Lord has to shake us. We must be careful that we don't think we are the only ones. Pray for others who are faithful and inspired of the Lord. In 2 Timothy 2:19 we read the Lord knows each and every one.

Tuesday Afternoon Sermon—With our business meetings concluded, Apostle Roland Sarratt welcomed us and told us we are a nation of laws, and God has His laws. Laws are for the good for those who obey. We need to see the mind of God in His laws. Br. Roland read Matthew 5:17-19. Christ said to Satan, "It is written." We are called to be His servants and servants to the people. The law is for us then and now. We must repent. We have the

privilege of understanding more of the scriptures than other churches. Br. Roland read Matthew 28:18-20. God will be with us until the end of the earth. Hebrews 5:4, says that no man taketh this honor on to himself. If Christ had made one mistake we wouldn't be here today. We have to prove ourselves to show we are worthy of all the blessings. We should be thirsting for the word of God. We need more meat, not just the milk. Meat is for those who have accepted the greater gospel. Are we ready for Christ's return and for what He is going to do? Br. Roland read Ezekiel 44:23-24. The Lord will bring Zion and purification, as well as judgment on this people; the only way we can be sure we'll be accepted is by His correction. He'll make us ready—to be the Bride of Christ.

Tuesday Evening Song Service and a Sermon—by Elder Steve McGhee. Br. Steve welcomed us and told us he still remembers the very first time he ever attended a sacrament service at the Church of Christ. He remembers being impressed with all the work that was accomplished, even with such a small number of people. He took notice about fifteen years ago that God was ready and things began to happen. People had been prepared, and there were people who invested their zeal and hard work. We are now seeing the fruition of that work, and we're ready for another great work. God has prepared people to receive, and sent the right men at the perfect time. He read 1 John 3:7-17; Alma 12:1-9; Mosiah 12:1-7; and 1 John 3:15-24. Br. Steve told us he doesn't like the term "they." He asked us to name them by name because they are the "Lamanites" in our life. Do you still have a concern for them? Love them in truth, that's a commandment. He read John 9:15; Romans 8:13-14. Those that Christ knew not were those who didn't have that love of everyone. The wise went out and did something about it. The foolish loved those who are easy to love.

He read Philippians 4:4-9. Love your "Lamanites," and all mankind, in truth. When Christ comes He'll look for charity within you (in truth)—HIS reflection, Christ's heart within us. Our preparation is how we do it.

Wednesday Evening Song Service and a Sermon—Elder Bob Hedrick explained that Jesus was the one who gave the law. He kept it. Br. Bob related to us the story from John 5. The sick and lame were at the pool; the first one into the pool after the angel stirred it was healed. A man who had an infirmity for 39 years was there waiting. Jesus asked the man, "Wilt thou be made whole?" If he was healed, he would have to take responsibility for the rest of his life, so did he really want to be healed? Br. Bob asked if we are willfully blind, not seeing sins in our lives, not seeing each other's side of things. Do we want to walk in our own strength, contrary to how God wants? Are we holding on to hurts rather than letting them go? Are we weak or lazy in our prayers? That's complacency. Jesus said, "Rise, take up your bed and walk." This was a physical healing; the man picked up his bed and walked. The man still had to put forth the effort to stand up and take up his bed. We have a responsibility to repent—what keeps us back? The number one reason is that to do that we have to stop straddling the fence—with one foot in the world. That makes us crippled. Picture a man carrying his bed on the Sabbath—people were mad at him, but he was obeying Christ. Turn your lives over to Him, walk in that strait and narrow path. Teach and help each other.

Sr. Deb Haines



REPORT

First Children's Reunion at Rancho Kancabchen

Dear brothers and sisters, I am happy to report that our children's reunion was a success! It took place in the local of Rancho Kancabchen. All the arrangements and all the preparations were made by the local church. Yesterday we had very warm weather here in the Yucatan peninsula. We had this activity with around 60 children in attendance, from ages 3-12. Five locals participated, bringing their children to the reunion, as well as some other missions. The teachers were young people, good



members of the church here in Yucatan. Four elders of the church were present. The theme was "following the steps of Christ." Their slogans were: "Serving each other with love," the scripture theme: "By this shall all men know that ye

are my disciples, if ye have love one to another" John 13:35.

We also had classes for the parents and for the young people. The reunion started at 10 a.m. and finished at 4:00 p.m. We appreciate the help that our brothers from Phoenix, Don and Jay, gave in teaching the adult class, while Ken had a class for the young people. We have a special thanks to our dear sister Marlene Oar who taught the children from ages 10-12.

We are working with our children here in Yucatan this year. We know that they are the future of the church, if we teach them now in the present. We ask your prayers for our children here. We ask your prayers for the parents and grandparents that we can teach our children in this beautiful restored gospel.

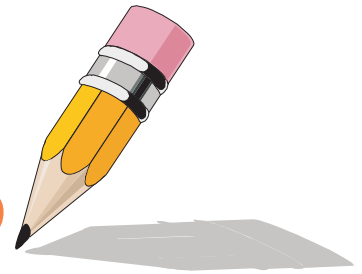
Apostle Placido K. Matu
Yucatan, Mexico



P. S. On May 25 we are going to have this same program in the south of the Yucatan peninsula in Ticul, Yucatan. In that way all the locals and missions we have there they can participate in this important activity.



Phoenix Local News



Greetings from your friends at the Phoenix Local. Hope my little article finds everyone well and happy.

A lot happens here in the winter months! As usual, it has been a very busy time. We've enjoyed many fun activities and the companionship that goes with them.



Our sister Pamela Olson had her baby, little Hannah. She arrived on February 10. And, as you can see from the photo, big sister Olivia is very happy to help out with her. Hannah was blessed on March 23rd, and Grandpa Olson was here to help with that event.

Another Women's Breakfast was offered in March and many women

showed up for this special get together. I think it is going to become a regular event, and should be attended by all those who can make it. It is really fun and always informative.

February 8th was the date for some citrus picking at the McCann house. Several people showed up and we were able to pluck both the orange and grapefruit trees for Br. Gordon and Sr. Pat. Quite a bit of leftovers were offered to anyone having a hankerin' for some really fresh citrus! I know I made some orange juice with mine, and as someone from the north, I can tell you that there is almost nothing better than fresh squeezed orange juice (except maybe chocolate)!

If you didn't make time for the Carnival Day on March 22nd, you really missed a wonderful time. The day was beautiful and there were games and food for everyone. The event also brought in much donated food items for needy families. See if you can tell who the very painted up and cute little person is in the carnival picture!

Obviously we've have some really wonderful and fun times over the last couple of months. Not everything is perfect however, as it never is. The need for prayer for our friends and



family is always in great demand. Please continue to pray for all those in need of physical healings, relationship problems, those needing new jobs and just our country and those who are in charge of making decisions for all of us.

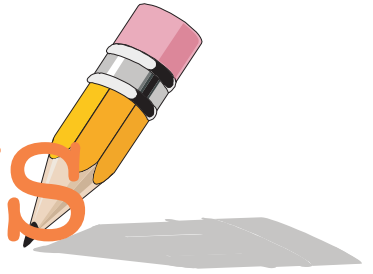
I hope that the coming months will find hope and comfort for you all.

God bless.

DiAnn Hedrick

P. S. Connor Jacobsen is the cool dude with the funny hairdo.

Treasure Valley News



Eagle, Idaho

Greetings from the Treasure Valley Local! We've had quite a year this past year with many trials, yet these have been as a tempering fire the Lord has used to mold and shape us towards His image.

***Purifier:** The purifier sits before the crucible, fixing his eye on the metal, and taking care that the fire be not too hot, and keeping the metal in, only until he knows the dross to be completely removed by his seeing his own image reflected in the glowing mass.*

There has been a greater sense of unity in our group; as we humble ourselves and focus on Christ we experi-

ence growth and many of the blessings we have longed for so many years.

Psalms 133:1: "Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

In answer to many years of prayers, our Brother Charlie was blessed with a wonderful wife, Jessica Harris. We recently had a chance to share dinner with them and were greatly blessed. We were visited by a couple of LDS Missionaries who joined us for dinner.

I (Michael Kelley) was also greatly blessed in being able to find a job near home and was able to be back with my wife and attend church with my brothers and sisters. Being away (for the most part) for three years really helped me appreciate what I was missing. I felt

a strong leading from the Lord to make this change, yet alas! my new job soon fizzled out. I really didn't care for the job that much, it was very laborious, I had some minor injuries that could have become serious, and really struggled to fit in. Why would the Lord lead me back home only to pull the rug out from under my feet? I just *knew* that the Lord had it in control and was at peace about it, and sure enough, before my last paycheck arrived I found a better job that is still dayshift, still close to home and much more oriented towards my technical skills. I give credit to God and everybody's steadfast prayers, especially my wife, who fasted several days for this.

We just had our Elections of Officers today with Rich Bove as our Pastor and Roy Coon Assistant Pastor. Charlie is





teaching the adult Sunday School and I the Thursday night Scripture studies. Ashlee and Bobbi Brain are teaching the kids, Karen Bove the Treasurer, Debbie Brain the Secretary, Mary Coon and Karen the Charity Committee and various other offices filled. Everyone was very willing in filling each need.

We are also beginning a huge project for a local our size; we are starting to build a new chapel. We've been meeting in a trailer for almost fifteen years and it was run down back then and getting close to its last legs now. The new chapel should be very nice and suit our purposes for generations. It is almost a little *too* nice... and expensive, but this is due to the strict regulations of Eagle, Idaho (compare it to Scottsdale, Arizona). Yet in each step of the way the Lord has provided for us, and in this

year alone much more than we had expected.

For prayers we wish to keep Mary Coon in our prayers, who just had knee surgery and is recovering, for myself that I will fit in well with this new job, for Bob and Charlie who will be spearheading this building project, for Debbie who is also having knee problems, for Valerie who has frequent back problems, and for CJ, who is doing well but is isolated in Utah. We do always remember the needs of our brothers and sisters in other locals, such as Marlene, Amy, Placido and many others. We had a testimony service recently and were marveling how many people had leadings from the Lord, and *listened* to them, and were immediately rewarded.

Isaiah 65:24: *"And it shall come to pass, that before they*

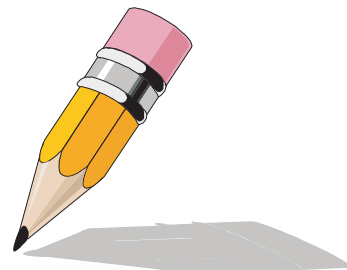
call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."

We aren't quite yet to the spiritual condition Isaiah 65 described, but we are getting a taste of it and it is good.

This past Saturday we celebrated Bobbi's 16th birthday with excellent Mexican food and great company.

*Your brother in Christ,
Michael Kelley*

Temple Lot Local Report



As the winter cold begins to abate the Temple Lot has been warming up for the busy spring and summer. Early in the spring, the Young People warmed up our palates with an Olympic themed Chili Cook-off. Sister Irene Datweiler took home the Gold Medal and a slicked-clean, empty pot. This event, a perennial favorite, is a fundraiser for the YPCL. Later in March, the YPCL joined with the Jr. YPCL to host a skating party, giving the youngsters and others opportunity to stretch their legs and test their balance on the rink floor.

As Conference and Easter approached, many of our congregation



warmed up their voices in preparation for choir contributions. Their offerings were beautifully executed and much appreciated by those in attendance. The joy of sharing this time with visitors and loved ones warmed our hearts and helped prepare us for the coming re-union season.

*With Love and Warm Thoughts,
Sister Aubrey Vogel*



NOTICES

CHURCH OF CHRIST CAMPS & REUNIONS

COLORADO REUNION

JUNE 13-15

IDAHO REUNION

JUNE 20-22

SISCRA Campground in Cascade

This will be our 16th Reunion for the Treasure Valley. If you plan to attend, let us know so we can get an accurate headcount. If you are a minister and would like to do a service during our reunion, please let us know and we will schedule a day and time for you.

Paster Rich Bove: (208) 870-3807

Asst. Pastor Roy Coon: (208) 365-3410

MICHIGAN REUNION

JUNE 27-29

Bradley Local

Friday: fellowship starting at 2 p.m. at the home of Dennis and Betsy Trudgen, with canoeing, rafting and fishing from 2-5 p.m., Followed by dinner and campfire from 6-10 p.m. Saturday: Prayer Service at 10 a.m. at the Bradley Local, followed by preaching. Sunday: Sacrament Service at 9 a.m. followed by lunch and an afternoon preaching service.

Elder Adam Porter: (616) 240-3902

9 Market St., Middleville, MI 49333

Elder Dennis Trudgen: (813) 520-6650

10862 Harkness Rd, Belding, MI 48809

VACATION CHURCH SCHOOL

JULY 7-11

Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri

Contact Cynthia Lawrence or Stephanie Welch for more information.

NEW YORK REUNION

JULY 11-13

Akwasasne, New York Local

Brandon Tarbell: (518) 358-9153

*btarbell@thetmg.com

<<http://btarbell@thetmg.com>>*

CHURCH OF CHRIST YOUTH CAMP

JULY 27-AUGUST 1

Camp Far-West, Stuartsville, Missouri.

Our mission at camp is committed to edifying all who attend through spiritual education and Godly association in a fun and moral atmosphere. Commitment to this goal will create an environment where all youth will be invited and encouraged to engage in a spiritual commitment that will help to equip them to take their place in the service of Jesus Christ.

Camp Theme: Ephesians 6:11: *"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."*

Camp website: cofteenecamp.org

Jeff or Michelle Oldham: (515) 339-6226

mjoldham@me.com

MISSOURI REUNION

AUGUST 1-3

Temple Lot, Independence

Roland Sarratt: (816) 373-6605

Mike McGhee: (816) 796-6255

Smith Brickhouse: (816) 356-9214

Jeff Oldham: (515) 965-5773

MINNESOTA REUNION

AUGUST 29 - SEPTEMBER 1

Bemidji Local

Activities begin Friday afternoon and conclude Monday morning. From Bemidji, take Irvine Ave NW north for 7.5 miles, turn right onto Island View Drive NW (CR-22) for 4 miles, turn right onto Wilderness Drive NE (dirt). The Church is immediately on the left at 14748 Wilderness Dr. NE, Bemidji, MN 56601. The Bemidji Local property is equipped with water and electrical hookups, bathrooms and showers for campers. If you need assistance finding lodging in members' homes or local campgrounds, resorts or hotels, please contact Sister Linda Gould or Brother Winfield W. Gould.

Elder Samuel Gould: (218) 368-1427

Elder Winfield W. Gould: (218) 586-2743

Elder Merlin Eddy: (651) 338-2253

Sister Linda Gould: (218) 368-8419

WOMEN'S RETREAT

OCTOBER 3-4

Pettit Lodge at Lake Mauer Campground in Excelsior Springs, Missouri

We meet for lunch in Excelsior Springs on Friday, followed by unstructured activities until our first meeting at 7:30 p.m. Three meals are served, and special diets are accommodated. The cost is \$40 before August 31 and \$45 after. (Please note that the actual cost is \$59 per person overnight, not including any cost for supplies. Our fundraisers throughout the year help to curtail the costs for everyone.)

Carrie Geier: (816) 739-9386

geiers214@sbcglobal.net

ONTARIO REUNION

OCTOBER 4-5

Brant/Norfolk Church of Christ, 163 Teeter St., Teeterville, Ontario, Canada.

Bill and Marn Vieveen: (519) 759-8087

marnieveen@sympatico.ca

Mike and Deb Bevaart: (519) 805-9790

mbevaart@rogers.com

A passport, enhanced driver's licence, fast card or nexus card are required to re-enter the United States.

PHOENIX REUNION

NOVEMBER 28-30

2929E. Siesta Lane, 85050-3415

Jim Yates, Jr.:

(602) 374-3688 (home)

(602) 692-4205 (cell)

Gary Jacobsen:

(602) 421-4606

Aadam Yates:

(602) 300-9013

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.



Church of Christ

GENERAL HEADQUARTERS TEMPLE LOT
200 S RIVER BLVD PO BOX 472
INDEPENDENCE MO 64051-0472
churchofchrist-tl.org

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Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate Members (optional)	\$4.00
Zion's Advocate Subscription Rate Non-Members	12.00
Babylon's Fall and the Way of Escape	2.50
Book of Commandments (plastic bound)	6.00
Book of Commandments (hardcover)	11.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition—plastic)	12.00
Book of Mormon (1990 Independence Edition reprint—leatherette)	46.00
A Book of Mormon Companion (plastic)	6.00
Book of Mormon Concordance	8.00
Changing of the Revelations50
History of the Church of Christ Volumes I & II	8.00
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A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, by Daniel MacGregor	4.50
Outline History of the Church of Christ (paperback)	6.00
Temple Lot Deed30
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Un Libro de Mandamientos - Spanish Book of Commandments (paperback)	3.00
What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Zion's Hymnal	7.00

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:*

Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830
Apostasy from the New Testament Church
Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)
Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy
The Book of Commandments - Its Role in the History of the Restoration
Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants
A Brief History of the Church of Christ
A Call to National Repentance - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ
The Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day - Sunday
Colored Tracts to Native Americans: 1) Book in the Stone Box 2) Did You Know? 3) Epistle to American Indians 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk
Concerning Marriage and Polygamy
The Cost of Salvation
Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
El Libro De Mandamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion De La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of Commandments Commentary)
Evidences of the Book of Mormon
First Presidency or First Apostles?
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God's Purpose in America
The Great Plan of Redemption
Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem
A Latter Day Apostasy
The Latter Day Restoration
The Position of the Council of the Apostles Regarding Some Issues of Today
Priesthood—Divine Authority
Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
Resurrection and Eternal Judgement
Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
Some Misconceptions about the Book of Mormon
A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
The Teachings of the Gospel - As verified in the Bible and Book of Mormon
What about the Book of Mormon?
Why? (Amplifies absence of a First Presidency in Scripture)
Zion and the Temple of the Lord
*Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

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

MEMBER'S NAME: (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Last) _____

OLD ADDRESS: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

NEW ADDRESS: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

NAMES of all Church of Christ (Temple Lot) members residing at new address: _____

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

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

VISIT US AT:
churchofchrist-tl.org