

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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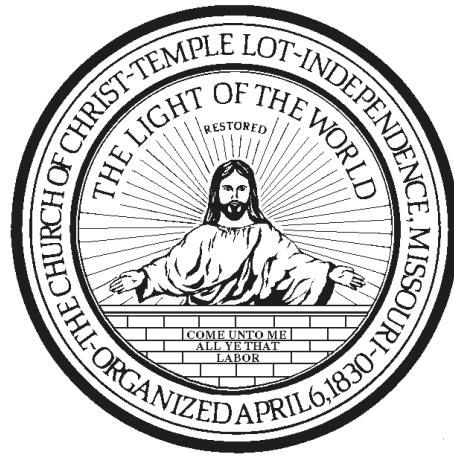
NUMBER 4



"Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the Lord. For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited." —Jeremiah 17:5-6

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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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STRENGTH IN WEAKNESS



By Elder Gordon McCann

When I sit at my desk at home I can see a pen holder that was given to me as a Christmas gift from a dear departed friend and sister in the Gospel, Louise McIndoo. On that pen holder is an inscription: *"Please be patient! God isn't finished with me yet."*

The inscription reminds me of the time when Moroni saw the weakness of his flesh while in the

...We all inherently have weaknesses due to our carnal flesh.

labor that he was performing for the Lord. It was during the time that Moroni was abridging the writings contained on the twenty-four plates called the Book of Ether. Moroni began to write about faith, and he also spoke of a promise that had been obtained by his fathers concerning the preservation of those records. The promise from the Lord was that these writings would come forth through the Gentiles to a remnant of his people at some future date. Moroni became concerned that, due to the awkwardness of their hands and the stumbling of the placement of their words, the Gentiles would not believe their record and would mock at their words, thus becoming a stumbling block to God's plan.

Moroni saw his obvious weak-

ness as compared to his God-given ability to speak by the power of the Holy Ghost. He was confident in the command of the spoken Word of God because of his faith, due to the Power that was in him. However, when Moroni saw his weakness in writing, and remembering God's plan to use the Gentiles to deliver his writings to future generations, he allowed doubt to enter into his thoughts. He doubted the wisdom of God for using him as an instrument to write since there were others who were mighty in writing, such as the Brother of Jared, yet he was chosen to accomplish this work. Instead of allowing Satan's tools of discouragement and doubt to grow, he spoke candidly in prayer with the Lord concerning it. The Lord answered him very directly

with the following:

"...Fools mock, but they shall mourn; and my grace is sufficient for the meek, that they shall take no advantage of your weakness; and if men come unto me, I will shew unto them their weakness.

"I give unto men weakness, that they may be humble; and my grace is sufficient for all men that humble themselves before me; for if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them" (Ether 5:27-28).

After hearing those words Moroni was comforted and praised God for the understanding that the Lord's righteousness would be accomplished through the works of faith.

The Lord had made it very clear to Moroni that we all inherently have weaknesses due to our carnal flesh. Those weaknesses are there for us to recognize, which means we have to consider the Word of God or His Spirit that speaks to our soul, which opens our eyes to our weaknesses. After critically viewing ourselves we then find ourselves at a junction in life where we have the opportunity to exercise the God-given freedom of choice. We can choose to humble ourselves and apply our faith in God by calling upon His grace to strengthen us unto righteousness. Or we can choose to

rebel and harden our hearts, allowing those weaknesses to destroy us.

It is important for all of us to understand that while we are in the flesh we are weak, but by living in the Spirit we are alive in Christ and can overcome the weakness of the flesh.

The Apostle Paul was also aware of this internal struggle between the spirit and the flesh when he wrote the following to help reinforce our understanding of our weakness in the flesh and the choices that are before us daily:

"But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members" (Romans 7:23).

There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit" (Romans 8:1).

"For if ye live after the flesh ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify (put to death by self-denial-gm) the deeds of the body, ye shall live. For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Romans 8:13-14).

When writing to the Philippians the Apostle Paul admonished them to:

"...Work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. For

it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (1 Philippians 2:12-13).

This brings me to the conclusion of this message, which is for you and I to examine ourselves carefully and recognize those weaknesses that are within each of us...then to remember the promise Christ made when He spoke to Moroni:

"For if they humble themselves before me, and have faith in me, then will I make weak things become strong unto them."

And the words of Jacob when he said:

"Nevertheless, the Lord God sheweth us our weakness, that we may know that it is by his grace, and his great condescensions unto the children of men, that we have power to do these things" (Jacob 3:8).

ARTICLE

“It Is Written”

By Ammon Seibel

II Timothy 3:16-17: *“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*

Amos 8:11-12: *“Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.”*

First off, I am not saying that the Word is going to be taken from us. This scripture is actually referencing the dark ages, better known to those in the Restoration as the Apostasy; that, however, is another subject entirely, and one that has been more than adequately covered by others. I bring this up, though, because I would like you to think about it personally: do you know what is written, or where it is written? How will you know what is true or false when you come up against someone who claims something is true, or even possibly from the scriptures, when it may in fact not be, and very well could be false. Will you be able to refute it and defend yourself? Will you have the knowledge necessary to stand up for your beliefs when they are challenged? There is a world of difference between believing something and knowing why you believe in something. What if the time comes that you need to defend your beliefs and you do not have your scriptures handy? What are you going to do? Let me put this another way: it is the difference between being *founded on the*

truth versus being *grounded in the truth*.

Let me go further: I was, probably not unlike many of you, born and raised in this church. However, this did not mean that I didn't doubt the validity or truth of what I was being taught, because I assure you I did. My point is simple: I had to be *grounded* in the truth instead of just being *founded* on it. I had to know what I believed and why I believed it before I could take a stand for it.

Let's get started.

Are you familiar with Minnesota? More precisely, are you familiar with Minnesota history/folklore? What if I said that Paul Bunyon was in the Bible—what would you say? The answer, just in case you were doubting yourself, is No; however...

Psalms 74:5: *“A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees.”*

Interesting, isn't it? You see, the obvious response should be, “That isn't in the Bible!” But it is, and even though I'm taking it out of context, it makes for a great example.

How about one more? Have you ever read a fairytale?

Psalms 137:2: *“We hanged our harps upon the willows...”*

Almost sounds like a fairytale. Do you see where I am going with this? You need to know what is written, and you need to know where it is written. How else will

you be able to know if something is true or not? At the very least, to know that it *is* written. You may not think it, but it is very important that you know.

Just think of all the stories recorded in scripture, starting with the ones you learned as a child: David and Goliath, Daniel and the Lion's Den, Noah and the Ark, Moses and the Children of Israel... but I'm here to tell you there is so much more than that. There are such amazing things that happened, stories you wouldn't believe unless someone had written them down. For example, how about a donkey that talks to a man just like you and I do? Would you believe it? It's there (Numbers 22). Or how about flocks that bare young with the same markings of tree branches stripped of some of the bark and set before them in their watering area? Sounds crazy, but it's there too (Genesis 30). If you want to read the amazing, miraculous and downright impossible, just read your scriptures. You will be amazed at what you will find. Look at it this way: we go to school so we can learn; the same is true with the scriptures. Are you prepared? Do you know what is written? What if there was a test? Wouldn't it be a good idea to have studied for it? This isn't a fairytale. This is the same God that spoke to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This is the same God who used Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. And, this is the same God who loved King David. As the song says, He stands at the door and knocks. He is waiting, just waiting to have a personal relationship with you, just waiting to pour out His Spirit upon you, and all He

asks for is your time and your heart, time to be with Him and all of your heart. I know personally that this is what He was (and is) after in the first place: our hearts, not just part of it, but all of it, opened unto Him so that He can change us from the inside out. I am not by any means saying that I am perfect—God knows I am far from it—but with His love, His grace, His mercy and His forgiveness, we can all experience the change of heart that is needed to ultimately change our entire life.

Switching gears slightly, I'll give you some background on myself. Growing up I was blessed to have a father who was and is very knowledgeable in the scriptures, and not just scriptures, but history and anything else I could possibly want or need to know. When I was younger, I could just go to Dad and he would have the answers I was looking for, or if it was a scripture reference, no problem, Dad had that covered: whatever it was, I could run to Dad. Do you see the problem? There comes a time when we have to stop relying on someone else to have the answers for us. Can you imagine taking a test and going to someone else for the answers? That isn't going to work out very well for you: last I checked, that is called cheating. No, instead, we need the answers for ourselves; we need the answers so when someone else has questions we will have the answers ready for them. More importantly, what are you going to do when the person you rely on isn't there when you need the scripture reference to back up your beliefs?

I Peter 3:15: *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:..."*

II Timothy 2:15: *"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth*

not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

There you have it, in the simplest way put, we need to be in the scriptures daily, reading, studying, getting to know our Lord and Savior through the word, cultivating a relationship with Him and seeking Him daily.

Let's move on.

Matthew 4:1-11: *"...It is written..."*

Christ's entire life was an example for us. Everything He did and said was for our benefit and learning. So how did He go about overcoming temptation? Remember what He did after fasting forty days and forty nights? He was led up into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. Do you recall how he dealt with each temptation? His response every time was, "It is written, It is written, It is written." So this begs the question: how will you know what is written? The two scriptures I used from Peter and Timothy show us exactly how to accomplish this. We need to have His word written on our hearts, embedded in our memory, stored and ready for the time when we will need it most. The next scripture I'm going to use is found in Matthew and granted, it is specifically meant for the ministry, but I have had instances in my own life where the Spirit has prompted me or brought to mind what I should do or say, so with that in mind, let us read,

Matthew 10:19-20: *"...It is not ye that speak, but the Spirit..."*

Just think, how many times have you been in a situation and suddenly you remember something you learned years and years ago, and up until that moment you never thought about it, and just at the right place and the right time it is brought to the forefront of your mind. This isn't coinci-

dence. The same is true for the Word of God. How can He bring to mind the things you need to know if you have never read His Word? We should be treating the Bible like a history exam. You wouldn't dare go all semester without ever reading your text book—you would be setting yourself up for failure—but is that what we do with God's Word? Do we just hear a few words here and there and figure, that's good enough? I mean, I go to church on Sunday mornings and listen to the preacher—isn't that what I'm supposed to do? Tell me, what would happen if you just went to history class and listened to the teacher each morning and didn't take notes, didn't study, and didn't do your homework—how do you think your grades would suffer for this?

Let's continue.

Ephesians 6:10-18: *"...The sword of the Spirit,..."*

In this passage we are instructed to put on the whole armour of God. You will note that the scriptures are the only offensive weapon we are given, everything else is for defense.

So here is a question for you: would you know how to use a sword, or any weapon, for that matter, without using it beforehand? Can you imagine being sent into battle without having prior training in the weapon or weapons you would be using? You wouldn't stand a chance, because you had never been trained in or learned how to use it. I think a great example of this is found in the book of Samuel.

I Samuel 17:39: *"And David girded his sword upon his armour, and he assayed to go; for he had not proved it. And David said unto Saul, I cannot go with these; for I have not proved them. And David put them off him."*

Have you proved God's Word in your

life? Have you exercised your faith?

Alma 16:151: *"But behold, if ye will awake and arouse your faculties, even to an experiment upon my words, and exercise a part of faith; yea, even if ye can no more than desire to believe, let this desire work in you, even until ye believe in a manner that ye can give place for a portion of my words."*

If the word of God is our sword, we need to be in it every day, studying it, living it, so when the battle does come, it doesn't catch us unprepared. Think of a professional swordsman: would you dare to cross swords with him if it was your first time holding one? Of course not. Practice is the key, and as the old saying goes, "practice makes perfect." Repetition is how anyone becomes good at anything. We need to be making daily habits/practice of the right choices in our lives. We need to be in the Word and on our knees every day. This is the only way to strengthen ourselves and help us to be prepared to meet the enemy.

II Corinthians 10:3-6: *"For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: . . . And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience. . . ."*

It's quite simple really: we need to be reading, studying, praying, fasting and immersing ourselves in the word of God every day.

Matthew 26:40-41: *"Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: . . ."*

Romans 10:14-15: *"How shall they believe. . . how shall they hear. . . How beautiful are the feet. . ."*

Let's talk about relationships for an example. What if you met someone and you ended up liking them a whole lot. Chances are you will want to spend a great deal of time with that person. However, what if you never spent any time with

him/her? How long do you think your relationship would last? Picture this: the guy tells the girl, week after week after week, "I love you, I really do, but I'm busy tonight—we'll go out some other time. . . I promise." Right. That relationship is over. Thankfully enough, God is always there waiting; He never gives up on us. So the question is, how much time do you spend with Him, talking to Him, thanking Him for all the blessings He has given you, pouring out your heart and souls to Him, asking Him for help and guidance in areas of your life where you have doubts and are unsure, asking Him for protection for you and your loved ones, asking Him to provide for your families; how much time do you spend with Him alone? Another way of looking at this would be: you eat so as to keep your physical body alive. Without proper nutrition, your body will die. The same is true with your spirit. The problem is, you can't see your spirit. So this brings up the question: what is the condition of your spirit? Is it healthy, full, vibrant and overflowing, or is it withered, dying and barely alive? Just like the body, the spirit needs nourishing, and you will find the nourishment in the scriptures.

Matthew 4:4: *" . . . Man shall not live by bread alone, . . ."*

2nd Nephi 13:30: *"Feasting upon the word of Christ, . . ."*

Our spiritual health is far more important than our physical health; without the spirit, the body is dead.

James 2:26: *" . . . The body without the spirit is dead, . . ."*

There is a song by an old gospel group called the Chuck Wagon Gang, and I would like to reference one of their songs, *How Long Has it Been*. In this song, they ask

the question, "How long has it been since you've talked with the Lord. . . [and] . . . how long since you prayed?" Then they take it a step further and ask, "Can you call Him your Friend?" So this leaves the question, "How long has it been since you've talked with. . ." Him, prayed to Him, opened up your scriptures and walked with Him? Just how long has it really been?

Alma 16:218-222: *"Cry unto him over the crops of your fields, that ye may prosper in them: . . ."*

I'm not sure who is quoted as saying this, but I heard it first from a lady while at a store I was shopping: "My greatest security in life is knowing Jesus loves me." Can we really believe and feel secure if we haven't cultivated a relationship with Him.

I John 3:21-22: *" . . . If our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God."*

Alma 3:27-72: *"Can ye think of being saved when you have yielded yourselves to become subjects to the devil?"*

I will now reference Elder Merlin Eddy's Dream. There was a storm coming, and when the wind began to pick up the people were instructed to ". . . let go of the luggage. . ." they were holding onto and to lay ". . . face down on the ice. . ." or to hold onto the picks which had been driven into the ground, which the "prepared" ones had brought (Eddy, Merlin — Jun/Jul '06). It was a simple directive: [we] the people were holding onto things in this life, and [we] need to let go of them. As the dream indicated, those ". . . that would not let go of their luggage. . ." were ". . . blown off the path." If we are going to make it through the hard times ahead of us, we need to be "prepared"; we need to let go of the things in this life that will take us off the path and

hold on to only the things necessary that will see us safely through. This life is temporary, and as I heard in a sermon some years back, "... we better be holding on to the right fruits in our labors" (Yates, Joel—Apr '05).

Here is a quote I came across some time back. I do not remember who was given credit for coining the phrase, but it goes along perfectly with our brother's dream.

"The less stuff I own, the less stuff owns me."

And if we go to Timothy, he gets to the heart of the matter.

I Timothy 6:7-8: "*And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.*"

I am not saying that having things is bad. It is when they take precedent over God and His kingdom that it becomes a problem. So the question is; What are you holding onto? What is it that is holding you down, holding you back? There's a hymn in our hymn book, song number 312, *Higher Ground*. Here are the opening words: "I'm pressing on the upward way, new heights I'm gaining everyday."

Hebrews 6:1: "*Let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation....*"

I Timothy 6:12: "*Fight the good fight of faith,....*"

Now this is all very well and good, but there is one thing and only one thing that makes it all work, one thing that makes the difference, one thing that changes everything, one thing that changes the heart: Love, Pure Love, God's Love, Charity, the Pure Love of Christ. Let us look at Corinthians.

I Corinthians 13:1-13: "... *But the greatest of these is charity.*"

Everything we do must be done in

charity, lowliness, meekness, tenderness and love.

Galatians 5:22-23: List them, and if we go to the next chapter, Galatians 6:1-2, it shows us how it works, and once again in Galatians 5:14, and also in Matthew 22:36-40.

The truth of the matter is this: we can know all the scriptures, everything that is written, but if we do not have His love, and if we are not filled with His love, and we are not showing His love, none of it matters, because, as I have heard from the pulpit more than once, only one thing is going to remain, and that is His love, and we desperately need it; we need to be changed from the inside out, we need to have a change of heart, to be able to love our enemies, to love even as Christ loved. Moroni realized this necessity and instructed us to pray with all the energy of our hearts to be filled with this love.

Moroni 7:48-53: "*Pray unto the Father with all the energy of heart, that ye may be filled with this love....*"

John puts it another way:

I John 4:17-18: "*There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear:....*"

Right alongside with love, is how we speak the words of love.

Proverbs 18:21: "*Death and life are in the power of the tongue:....*"

Proverbs 25:11: "*A word fitly spoken....*"

Ephesians 4:13-16: "... *Speaking the truth in love,....*"

Colossians 4:6: "*Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man.*"

Jesus is waiting, knocking at the door of our hearts. Are we going to let Him in? Are we actively seeking Him, pleading with

Him to fill us with His Love and with His Spirit to guide us and change us? Are we going to yield our lives to Him, our hopes, dreams, passion, everything, holding nothing back, so that He can change us, mold us, and make us into the people He would have us to be? Are we ready?

Isaiah 55:6: "*Seek ye the Lord while he may be found,....*"

Proverbs 3:5-6: "*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart;....*"

And with that, time is short; we do not know how soon Jesus will be returning. Are we prepared to meet Him? Have we dedicated our lives, our hearts, in full service to Him? Is He our hope, our salvation, the One in whom we believe and put our trust? Have we cultivated a deep relationship with Him? Are we in His word every day? Are we fasting and praying, finding those secret places away from the world to spend time alone with Him?

Romans 13:11-14: "... *Knowing the time,.... for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.*"

Mormon 4:93-94: "*Doubt not, but be believing, and begin as in times of old, and come unto the Lord with all your heart, and work out your salvation with fear and trembling before him.*"

And finally,

Joshua 24:15: "... *Choose you this day whom ye will serve;....*"

May God bless you in your personal walk with Christ; this is my prayer for each and every one of you.

GODLY SORROW

By Stephen Gould

So many people do not know what Godly Sorrow is. Godly sorrow is a deep sadness we feel because we have sinned and hurt others and hurt God. It is a sadness rooted in love “that works repentance unto salvation.”

Godly sorrow is not the anxiety and fear induced at the preaching of an offended God who will pour out His justice on all those who have lived ungodly lives. Such sorrow is the sorrow of the world and of the devils, from those who wait in fear and trembling looking for any means to escape the wrath of God. Such sorrow can never work true repentance, because there is NO LOVE in it, only fear of an offended God, and fear of punishment. Heaven is not the inheritance of the fearful or the unbelieving.

Godly sorrow is motivated by love. It comprehends the common Father-

Heaven is not the inheritance of the fearful or the unbelieving.

hood of God and Brotherhood of man. It springs forth from the awareness that our selfish actions have hurt our Father and our God and have damaged our fellowman. This sorrow produces within us a broken (submissive) heart and a contrite spirit, sacrifices that are acceptable to God.

Godly sorrow motivates true repentance, repentance unto salvation. This sorrow and love combined within our hearts causes us to turn away from our selfish ways and our sins, and to produce the fruits of repentance.

The fruit of true repentance is a desire and an effort to make right or to restore loss to those we have wronged in the past. When we truly repent we turn away from “Our Way” of doing things and instead

walk in “God’s Way.”

When we walk in God’s way we follow the commands of Jesus to humble ourselves as a little child, and covenant with Him in the waters of baptism to keep all His commandments, acknowledging that we can only do this by His power and Grace. This humility and obedience attracts the Holy Spirit, Who then works in us the salvation of Jesus Christ, as was promised by the Father, changing our nature and giving us the mind of Christ.

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS: TITHES AND OFFERINGS

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

Preschool/Kindergarten: Jacob's Story- A Lesson on Tithing

Read: "Stairway to Heaven" in the Action Bible by Sergio Cariello or a similar version from another children's Bible.
Also read in the Bible Genesis 28:22.

Read: The action rhyme found in the Action Bible once through.

Activity #1: Act out the action rhyme with the kids. It would be a fun to do in the front of the congregation as well!

Optional Materials: Small, kid-safe step-ladder, angel wings, building blocks or bricks.

Activity #2: An introductory lesson on tithing.

Materials: Chocolate gold pirate coins (ten for each child)

Instructions:

1. Give each child ten "coins". (Don't eat yet!)
2. Now ask each child to give you back one coin.
3. Tell the children that just like you, God gives us all that we have. Just like Jacob did, He wants us to give back a small amount to show our love and thankfulness to Him.
4. Re-read Genesis 28:22.
5. Eat your chocolate coins! (Or eat one and send the rest home with the students. ☺)

Scan this for more lessons and studies!



Lesson submitted by Sister Heidi Jones, Bradley Local

Elementary & Middle School: Tithes and Offerings

Scripture verses: Malachi 3:8-10, 3 Nephi 11:11-14, Mark 12:43

Definitions:
Tithes: one-tenth (1/10) of earnings or produce
Offerings: Something offered, especially as a gift or contribution. Something people give as a present to God.

Objective: Young children can give tithes and offerings to God just as others do. This lesson will give them a concrete picture of the how to divide their earnings and to be in a habit of tithing from an early age.

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Questions:

1. Why does God need our money and offering? To show that we love God and to share with God, to help with the missionary trips, to take care of the Lord's house, help feed the needy, etc..
2. If we earn money from doing chores, how do we share our money with the Lord? To put in the collection box at Church or to save it in a box/jar/bank until you are able to attend Church or to offer it to a missionary when he comes to visit.
3. If we don't have any money, what can we offer God? We can make an offering, which is to offer our time or talent to the Lord. Such as helping with cleaning the church, helping during a church service, or offering our time and labor.

Activity:

To show the division of moneys you will need:

- Three containers, either jars/boxes or banks.
- Labels or pictures: either the wording or pictures of 1st container – Jesus, 2nd container- bank, 3rd container- store.
- Depending on the elementary grade and math skills, you will need coins, such as pennies, nickels and dimes to count.
- For the younger elementary you will be counting out 10 pennies and showing them to put one tenth in the container with Jesus on it and then divide the other amounts for savings and for spending.
- For the other ages you will be counting 10 dimes or 10 nickels.

This could be done as a craft for the students to take home, as well. Gather three containers per student to decorate and label after the activity.

Middle School Adaption:

Middle and High school students start to earn more money, as they might have after school jobs and their allowances might become greater. At this age, they can create a budget that allows room for tithing. At the top of a piece of paper, write what money they have on a monthly basis. Have them calculate what 10% of that would be first and then see how much money they have left for other expenses. Ask them for ideas of what other ways they can give to their church, in addition to financial contributions.

Lesson submitted by Sister Betsy Trudgen, Bradley, MI local, trucooking@yahoo.com.

High School: "Tithing" and "Principles of Financial Management"

- Two lessons are available for download at www.cocsermons.net under the Resources section, Adult Studies.
- The "Tithing" lesson, by Apostle Brian McIndoo teaches specifically on tithes and offerings with a list of scriptures pertaining to each topic and subtopic.
- The "Principles of Financial Management" lesson by Elder Bob Hedrick teaches on the responsibility to live within our means and the need for careful planning and budgeting, which includes tithing and offerings as the Lord has commanded. Scripture references are included.

FROM the ARCHIVES

1990 Church of Christ Teen Camp



Foreground left to right: Sam Kidd, Joel Yates, Ben Seibel, Sam Gould, Terry McGhee.
Front left to right - Isaac Ferrier, Jason Oldham

FROM the ARCHIVES

1990 Church of Christ Teen Camp



Left to right - Unidentified, Holly Smith, Heidi Temple, Tabatha Sheldon, Ruby Seibel, Rebecca Oar, Darl Brickhouse, Michele Ely, Elizabeth Smith.

Photos courtesy of Becky Sheldon.

TESTIMONY

A Prayer of Thanks



By Pat McCann

I want to share my testimony of the blessing I have received this past year.

After attending the 2013 General Church Conference I traveled to Houston, Missouri, to visit my Aunt Berniece Ely and her daughter Janice Moore.

Each afternoon Janice and I went for a walk to the nearby Walmart. I noticed that I was a little winded but thought that this was because I was walking further than I had been doing at home. One day on our return trip I felt a twinge inside my body and wondered if I would be able to finish our walk. I stopped and rested for a few minutes. (As I think back, I am sure this is when my heart went into atrial fibrillation; AFib.) We continued to Janice's house and I went in and took a nap. On Sunday after we returned from church I was ex-

hausted and slept all afternoon, which is unusual for me.

A few days later I returned to my home in Phoenix. As I did my household chores I noticed that I would get out of breath easily and was tired all the time. My thoughts were that I was just tired because I had been gone for three weeks. I was going to be taking a ten-day trip to Colorado the following week and decided I would go to the doctor after my return. During all of this time I was lifting my need to God and asking that I might begin to feel better.

The night of April 27th I got very little sleep because my breathing was so labored. The next morning I asked Gordon and my brother Duane Ely to administer to me, after which Gordon took me to the hospital. My heart rate was above 200, and I was given blood thinners and oxygen while the medical team ran numerous tests. It was determined that I was in atrial fibrillation and that my ejection fraction was quite low, which meant my heart had sustained damage. I had a cardioversion procedure, which shocks the heart back into rhythm. I began taking several medications and five days later returned home.

Within a week I was back in AFib and returned to the hospital. I had a second cardioversion and a change of medications. As I returned home a few days later I felt tired and concerned, but strengthened by all the prayers that were being lifted up on my behalf.

The third time I went into AFib the doctor scheduled me to go for my cardioversion as an outpatient. He

told me that if this did not work I would have to go to a specialist for a more invasive procedure. I give thanks that this time my heart rate stabilized with the increase of my medication.

My heart damage was a concern to my cardiologist, and he told me that the next six months would be crucial to my long term health. I complied with all that he told me to do and began to regain my strength. My brothers and sisters in Christ continued with me in lifting my needs to our Heavenly Father. To my doctor's amazement within four months my heart had repaired itself. I attribute this to God's graciousness in answering our prayers and supplications.

One day while I was thinking about all I had gone through, I realized that my blessing began weeks before my hospital stay. All those days after I first felt that twinge I was being cared for by our Father in Heaven. My heart was racing, which I did not feel, and although my breathing wasn't normal I just attributed that to overexertion. I wanted to go on my trip to Colorado so I intended to wait until my return to see a doctor.

So, I feel even more humbled and blessed that God saw my need and willingly cared for me while in my ignorance I delayed seeking help. I give my thanks for the blessings seen and unseen. And I see this as a wonderful reminder of the importance of our daily prayers asking for God's constant protection.

REPORT

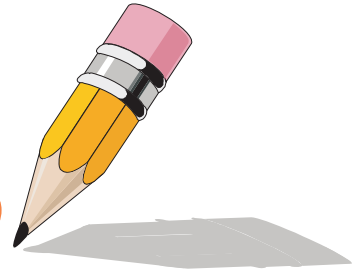
Second Children's Reunion at Ticul, Yucatan



Dear brothers and sisters,
I am happy to report that on May 25th we had our second children's reunion in the south part of the Yucatan peninsula. We had 85 children in attendance and about 100 adults, including the teachers and the staff. Four elders were present and they brought the children of their local. We were happy to see that we have a future in the church with so many children. This event was held in Ticul, Yucatan, where the work began 63 years ago. The local church provided the food and the facilities for this activity. We rented a place so that we can hold many people. All the locals and missions of "zone two" were present. Here are some pictures.

Apostle Placido K. Matu
Yucatan Mexico

Phoenix Local News



Greetings from your brothers and sisters in the Valley of the Sun! Although it is only the beginning of summer, we are already experiencing some very hot weather. I guess it's only fair after the beautiful winter we were allowed to enjoy while the rest of the country suffered a very cold and long winter.



► **Erik Jacobsen, Easton Yates, Jacob Kimball**

I was very fortunate to spend the month of April in Kansas City earlier this spring. It was great fun visiting old friends and family, along with joining in for the General Church Conference.

Once back in Phoenix, things began to get very busy for the Phoenix Local. Spring time is graduation time, and we had several young people graduating from both high school and college. Hailey and Kaitlyn Yates, Mary Galvan, and Caleb and Jeremiah Case were just a few. Congratulations to you all.

Many other events and activities filled the month of May in the church. The men

put on quite the spread for the women on Mother's Day. The women got together for another Women's Breakfast. These are being held every other month now and I would encourage each lady to consider attending as many as you are able. The Young People have started a sale of apple butter to raise money for their activities and giving. On May 31st there was a trenching party at church to prepare the ground for new sprinklers. In early June, everyone will have another chance, if they missed the trenching party, to come out and help lay sod! Sr. Wanda and Br. Jim Sr. Yates celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary in May—what an achievement! We wish them many more. Decals are being sold to put on your car in support of the Church of Christ. These can be purchased from Jennifer McCann for \$10. Please consider one as a way of declaring your belief in and support for our church.

I love it when we have specials during our services. Possibly this is because I can't sing a note myself. It is especially neat when the children get up and present us with their songs. Imagine how scary it might be for them when only a couple are up in front of all the many faces. Thank you to Easton Yates, Jacob Kimball and Erik Jacobsen for your praises to God and making the rest of us smile.

A special business meeting was held to discuss the possibility of adding solar panels to the church for our electrical needs. It

was a very heated meeting and most people were very cool to the idea of taking on any debt for a project of this type. Much prayer and more research will be needed to decide the best way to proceed or not.

As usual, please remember all those who continue to need prayers for health issues, help obtaining new jobs and just the

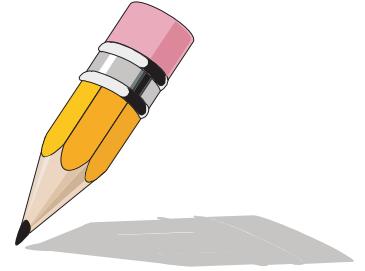


strength to make it through many of the bumps that go along with everyday living. Remember, also, those who are always in the field, spreading the important message of the church. As we read about all the dangers traveling abroad it is important that we hold up all our missionaries in our daily prayers.

I wish you all a very nice summer.

*God bless you all,
DiAnn Hedrick*

Collins Local Report



By Czerna Kauffman

It is finally summer! The weather has been kind of silly this year, with frost in May, etc. We had to cover up plants several times to keep them from freezing or being frostbitten, but it appears that summer has arrived. The Lord has blessed us with good rains to get our gardens off to a good start, our yards growing and the fields ready to hay. The storms have slipped around us and we have been kept safe, for which I am grateful. There are other kinds of storms, though, that we have to pray for protection and guard against—the storms of life. Our nation and the world seem to be at odds with each other and, in fact, among its own people. Reading in the scriptures we can see where it is all leading to. We must make ourselves available to our Heavenly Father and set ourselves apart from the ungodly ways that are ever-present around us. I know you already know these things—just a reminder that I'm aware and battling along with you!

Our Brother Jack Martin passed from this life May 17th, 2014, at the Big Spring Care Center in Humansville, Missouri. He had taken a fall at his home a few weeks before and cracked his pelvic bone in a couple places so was in the care center for therapy. He was improving to the point that he was to be released in a day or two when he had what appeared to be a heart attack and was gone instantly. He and his wife Betty were to celebrate their 70th wedding anniversary in just three days. In fact, Jack had planned a sur-

prise party for Betty at the care center. He had ordered flowers and a cake, and certain ones were to bring ice cream, etc. *"For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away"* (James 4:14). Jack was 91 years old, he loved his wife and family so very much, and he loved the Lord God, and his desire was to serve Him to the end. I believe he did.

Our brother Curtis Yates was in the hospital back in February with pneumonia. Sometimes he still has to use his oxygen just to give him a little "help." He is such a "trooper" (as the late Apostle Jensen used to say). Curtis is still our pastor and is so pleased and willing to serve.

Our Sister Nancy Harrison left this life March 5th, due to a stroke. Nancy was such a bundle of life—always busy and helping others. She was so proud of her family and had pictures of the grandkids readily available for viewing. She always had a ready smile and could see the "bright side" of most any circumstance. She loved pretty things, and so at her funeral the chapel was decorated with several "tokens" of her life. Nancy was a friend to all of us.

Our brother and sister, Evangelist Hubert and Louise Yates, came to visit our area after Conference. We were able to attend some of the classes he held over at Randy and Renee Livingston's house, as well as enjoyed a sermon at church. We look forward to his next visit.

Our sister Marjory Routh has had cata-

ract surgery and is doing well. On June 7th her grandson Travis Routh married the love of his life, Summer, to which Marjory and much of her family were able to attend in Oklahoma, where the couple will live.

It seems so much has been happening lately and I feel I have not done well in keeping you informed. Our hearts are saddened from our losses, but we have hope in our Savior Jesus Christ. I will leave you with a few sermon quotes to consider.

- *Preach, declare, teach and defend the gospel of Christ.*
- *This is the day of deception.*
- *The day will not unravel if we stitch it up in prayer.*
- *Be ye converted.*
- *If we are not pressing forward we will fall back spiritually.*
- *We are free to choose. Why? He wants WILLING servants!*
- *The Lord led his sheep, he didn't herd them.*
- *There is a result of sin AND there is a result of righteousness—we can choose.*
- *Trials can be so cleansing if you face them with the right friends.*
- *Life is intentional!*

Your Reporter,
Czerna Kauffman

OBITUARIES

James Wendell "Jack" Martin

February 14, 1923 ~ May 17, 2014



James Wendell "Jack" Martin, of Collins, Missouri, died May 17, 2014 at the age of 91. Jack was born on February 14, 1923, in Independence, Missouri, to James Hudson Martin and Myrtle May Barnett Martin, the youngest of nine children. He was raised on the Martin homestead south of Collins, Missouri. Jack attended Collins school, graduating in 1941. He was a member of the Greatest Generation, joining the Army Air Corps soon after graduation, and served as radio operator, bombardier, navigator, and B-25 and B-17 pilot. Jack was united in marriage to Betty Olive Gentry of Roscoe, Missouri, on May 20, 1944, at the base chapel while serving

in Hondo, Texas. His passing was just three days shy of their 70th anniversary.

After his honorable discharge he and Betty returned to Missouri and bought the family farm at Collins. Three children were born there: Michael Lee, Andrew Wendell, and Laura May.

Jack went to work for Lockheed Aircraft in 1954 where he traveled and relocated to six different states. After retirement in 1983, he and Betty returned to the family farm in Collins and operated J&B Heat and Air.

Jack was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) on November 11th, 1934, and was ordained an Elder

on July 2, 1967. Jack served his Lord for many years, pastoring the Collins Local.

Jack is remembered as kind, impeccably honest, considerate and sensitive to others, who would cry readily in sympathy with others while enduring his own difficulties.

He is survived by his loving widow Betty, of the home, children Mike (Sheri), Andy (Sharon), and Laura (MG) Elwell, ten grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren, five great-great-grandchildren and many friends, all of whom were touched by his kindness.

NOTICES

CHURCH OF CHRIST CAMPS & REUNIONS

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

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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
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What the Restoration Teaches Concerning God	2.50
Zion's Hymnal	7.00

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Ancient Prophecies Fulfilled in 1830	God's Promises to Israel
Apostasy from the New Testament Church	God's Purpose in America
Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ	The Great Plan of Redemption
Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)	Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)	The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem
Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy	A Latter Day Apostasy
The Book of Commandments - Its Role in the History of the Restoration	The Latter Day Restoration
Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants	The Position of the Council of the Apostles Regarding Some Issues of Today
A Brief History of the Church of Christ	Priesthood—Divine Authority
A Call to National Repentance - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ	Principles of the Gospel—Baptism
The Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day - Sunday	Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
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The Cost of Salvation	Sermonettes on the Teachings of Jesus
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El Libro De Mandamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion DeLa Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of Commandments Commentary)	A Synopsis (Compares beliefs of three Restoration churches)
Evidences of the Book of Mormon	That Sacred Spot is Definitely Located
First Presidency or First Apostles?	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.

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churchofchrist-tl.org