

# 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*

VOLUME 92

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—May-June 2015

NUMBER 3



**COUNCIL OF APOSTLES — 2015**  
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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.

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

# The Church of Christ – Restored in 1830



## By Gordon McCann

One hundred and eighty five years ago on Tuesday the 6th of April, 1830, a meeting was held in the Whitmer home that began with “solemn prayer to our heavenly Father” (*Times and Seasons*, Oct 15, 1842, vol. 3, No. 24, p. 944). This meeting was in accord with a previous commandment of God that came with a promise. Once those who were in attendance were willing to accept the men God had chosen as their teachers they could proceed to be organized as a church according to the commandments given them of God. Joseph Smith, Jr. and Oliver Cowdery had been called of God and were ordained as Apostles; they became the first elders in the church (*Book of Commandments*, chapter 24, para. 3 & 4, p. 37). The promise from God was that the gift of the Holy Ghost would be given, through the laying on of hands by the newly ordained elders, on each who had been baptized previous to this meeting. This promise would extend to all who would come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, desiring to repent of their sins and to be baptized in the name of

Christ, having a determination to serve him unto the end.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting, the Church of Christ was once again restored upon the earth, in its fullness according to the Word of God in these last days.

*Webster's Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary of the English Language* provides the following definition for the word *restore*:

**Restore** – 1. to bring back into existence, use, or the like; reestablish: to restore order. 2. to bring back to a former, original, or normal condition.

The Church of Christ was now restored to its former or original order and structure as established by Christ in the early church as recorded in the Bible.

*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry for the edifying of the body of Christ;...”* (Ephesians 4:11-12).

The original order that Christ had set could not be found on earth and was needed to be restored “for the perfecting of the saints”.

*“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ: That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ.”* (Ephesians 4:13-15)

The restoration of the Church of Christ along with the advent of the Book of Mormon was the literal fulfillment of the proph-

ecy found in the 29th chapter of Isaiah where the Lord said in verse 14:

*“... I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder.”*

As is the nature of our Lord, this “marvelous work” would come with a promise to those who would humble themselves and exercise their faith in His Word as found in verses 18 and 19.

*“And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. The meek also shall increase their joy in the Lord, and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel.”*

Now the Church of Christ, having been brought back into existence and restored to its original order, had another witness to the Bible concerning the workings of God among the children of men, that God is no respecter of persons (Romans 2:11). The church was commissioned of God to preach the fullness of the gospel of Jesus Christ as found in both, the Bible and Book of Mormon.

*“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”* (Mark 1:15-16)

*“... I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me; And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God. And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned.”* (3 Nephi 5:33-35)

# REPORT FROM THE COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

**April 6, 2015**

To the 2015 General Conference of the Church of Christ,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus the Christ:

*And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh (Luke 21:28). Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man (Luke 21:36).*

The signs and conditions in the world indicate we have entered a time that must be shortened by our Saviour to preserve His people (Mark 13:20). Perplexity, rage and fear reign in many parts of the world. Do not join the trembling masses but turn to God with all your heart.

*Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart (Jeremiah 29:12-13).*

It is evident that we must continue our service to the

Lord and not forsake His work. The apostle Paul was diligent in preparing the Gentiles to be grafted into the root of God's Kingdom.

*And the last shall be first, and the first shall be last (1 Nephi 3:200).*

The house of Israel was first and the Gentiles were last to receive the gospel and promises of God. Paul was faithful in continuing his ministry as long as he was able to those early Gentiles. We are indebted to Israel who reached out to the Gentiles and to a God who includes all mankind in His promises. Many of the members we visit in the world are Israel. Whether Israel by blood or Israel by adoption they are God's children and we are responsible to prepare them for eternal life and for the Day of the Lord.

*Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be overpast. For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall*

*disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain (Isaiah 26:20-21).*

There are many unknowns for our future. We may feel exposed and vulnerable. Surely God will act and also permit sin to produce the fruit of death. The hands of evil men will bring their own end. What about God's people? He will spare them if they keep His commandments, and He will give them the necessities of life. God's people have always been helped through difficult times. However, they have not been spared from facing difficulties; but rather, have been required to shoulder them.

The scripture above from Isaiah 26 has a type in the Passover. Enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors. What were those Israelites required to do on that dark night? It was something they were capable of doing. They turned to the slain lamb and partook of all of it. Nothing was to be left uneaten. There may come a time when we are not able to do the same

things we do today. We may not be able to travel as we do now. Many things could change. Perhaps we may be closed up for a season until the indignation be overpast.

The answer is always found in our Lord. Take all of Him and do not leave any of His word out of your life. Apply it totally to your deeds and practices, relying upon the teachings found in the Scriptures. The Israelites were not commanded to do something they could not accomplish. The way was prepared for them and the means was supplied. They were in their chambers that Passover night. They were in their homes and had applied the blood of the lamb to the door posts. They waited and worshiped together. This does not mean we shall do nothing. God may ask something special of us in the future, and we can not close our minds to that possibility.

God has given us sufficient for this day and we would like to continue using the extra funds in our treasury as circumstances demand. Our goal is to provide the whole Church with the spiritual teachings and tools needed to endure whatever the Lord sees fit to bring before us. With this in mind we submit this report.

We believe our locals have been blessed this year by our Lord. We have asked

you to enter into fasting and prayer with us several times during the year for our locals. We believe that many of you have experienced blessings by the attendance of visitors, the filling of some empty chairs and newly baptized members.

We believe that the Lord's Spirit is working among dissatisfied individuals in other churches and groups, and causing them to seek for more. We also see renewed interest from members, and we are enjoying some fellowship with old friends and family.

We have continued to visit new places such as Ethiopia and Burundi. We continue to travel around the world in many countries where unrest is prevalent. The planes we travel on sometimes divert their flights around hot spots of conflict. Please pray for the protection of our brothers and sisters in the world, as well as the well-being of the missionaries.

Our hope is to begin the process of renewing our pamphlets by updating some and writing new ones to meet special needs that are being presented to us from people who believe in the Book of Mormon. We hope to create pamphlets that give help to personal and family concerns and problems. The importance of the family and tem-

poral stability of members is important to the preservation of the Church.

We hope to begin the process of redoing the Visitors Center this year after some repairs are made to the building integrity.

We hope to replace some vehicles this year that are used by some of our missionaries in foreign countries. We ask for your prayers in these temporal matters as well that wisdom can be ours in completing this.

New laws and regulations are in place which are affecting our practices, and the way we secure funds and spend them for the missionary work and for the general church.

*I will love thee, O LORD, my strength. The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower. I will call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies (Psalms 18:1-3).*

May we each be preserved by the hand of God during this year and be brought back together again.

*Prayerfully submitted,  
Council of Apostles  
Duane L. Ely  
Secretary*

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**GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

## *Sunday School Lessons*

The General Sunday School Association (GSSA) is providing lessons for several age groups on a common topic. To see a complete list of lessons, please visit the Church of Christ's Audio Visual Aid (AVA) committee website at [www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net) and click on the "Resources" tab to view all the lessons and studies for children and adults. Contact: Susan Porter; 9 Market St., Middleville, MI 49333, or at [porter\\_susan@sbcglobal.net](mailto:porter_susan@sbcglobal.net); for more information.

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### **My God is so Strong** Preschool

**Objective:**

To have children understand that we are not supposed to brag about what we did, but always thank God for all that He does for us. We can do nothing without God; He is so big and strong.

**Scripture Reference:** Alma 14: 91-92, Ephesians 2: 8-9

**Lesson:** Say opening prayer together, making sure that all students are trying to participate in the prayer, even if it means they just say, "Amen" at the end of the prayer. Give a high five and/or a sticker to those who participated.

Read Alma 14: 91-92. Explain that the Book of Mormon tells us that we are not supposed to boast/brag about all the things that we can do or how smart that we are, but we are supposed to thank God for being so strong and smart for us.

Read Ephesians 2: 8-9. Explain that the Bible tells us that God's strong grace is the only thing that can save us. Grace means that God will forgive us and let us live with Him in heaven even if we do not deserve it, as long as we have faith in Him and follow His will.

Discuss and explain how mommies and daddies also give you a type of grace by giving you good things even when you do something naughty. When you are sorry, then mommies and daddies forgive you and give you love and good things. They forgave you for being naughty.

Explain that God is the only one strong enough to forgive us for our sins and allow us to live with Him in heaven.

Practice role-playing scenarios with students where you can demonstrate how grace works.

Example: After passing out snacks, the teacher can take one of the student's snacks without asking. When the student says something, the teacher can say, "Sorry, will you forgive me?" When the student says, "Yes," then respond by saying, "Thank you for forgiving me and giving me grace." Also, make sure that you take advantage of any situations that may arise during class time where you can demonstrate grace/forgiveness.

Sing the song, "My God is So Big" together. Students raise their arms to demonstrate how big God is for everyone. You can find this on youtube.com "My God is Big-Faithkids." Sing this song with the children for the congregation.

Say closing prayer together, making sure that all students participate, even if it is only saying, "Amen." Give a "high- five" to all students who participated.

Have students put stickers on the chart for participating in the lesson and for saying the closing prayer.

**GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**Elementary/Middle School**

**Objective:** Students will understand the definition of strength and through demonstration will show their understanding of what God can do for them in their lives.



**Materials:** Scriptures

Play Tug of War with string or yarn

**Opening Prayer**

**Discussion:** What is strength? Is it just being muscular or strong or something more? How do we get strength? It comes from God! How? We must pray for strength from God.

**Read:** Psalms 28: 7-8 (memory verse) "The Lord is my strength and my shield."

Isaiah 12:2

II Nephi 11:94

**Activity:** 1) Take one piece of string, thread or yarn and pull on it until it breaks.

2) Try breaking two pieces of string.

3) Take several strands of string, thread or yarn and try breaking it. Have someone help you.

Play "Tug of War" to accomplish breaking the string.

**Discussion:** Each day we have some simple tasks that we can do on our own because God has given you the good health and strength and courage to do so. Think about a time when you needed to rely on God to help you do something. Did God help you? Did you boast that you accomplished it? Or did you praise the Lord for helping you?

**Story:** Johnny got off the school bus at the wrong place because he didn't listen to directions. He didn't know where he was. Johnny looked around and saw nothing familiar. He wondered what he should do and how he would get home. Tears welled up. He remembered that his grandma told him that God is his strength and his shield. Johnny bowed his head and quietly asked God to help him. He heard a small voice that reminded him that the store across the street has a cashier that his mom knows. He walked over and asked them to call his mom. He was so relieved that his grandma had told him to always remember that the Lord is his strength and his shield when he felt alone.

**Read** the story about the woman who lost one piece of her silver and she found it when she swept the floor, Luke 15:8-9. Who did she give credit to for finding the silver? (The Lord)

**Summarize:** Write or draw a story of how the Lord has helped you, being your strength and has been your shield.

**Share a testimony of a time when you relied on God  
& gave Him the credit for the blessing you received.**

# PHOENIX Local News



**H**appy Spring to all my friends and family from sunny Arizona! I know that many of you had a long and cold winter.

March has just ended and as I ponder on things I have to admit that it has always been one of my most favorite months, and continues to be here in Arizona. Back in Missouri, March to me meant the end of winter. There were more good days than bad, and I was anxious to start working in my gardens. Here in Arizona, March is still a very nice time of the year. Flowers are blooming all over the place, it is warm enough to start swimming again, but still cool enough most days to really enjoy the weather. I do have to admit that this year we had quite a few days with record-breaking high temperatures, but all in all, a wonderful time of the year to enjoy all the beauty that God has provided us.

So, what has been happening at the Phoenix local? As usual, quite a bit. We had our annual Sweetheart Dinner on February 14. A wonderful meal and a truly memorable presentation of wedding days of most of our members, put on by our Sr. Me-

lissa Oar (and those I'm sure who helped her out).

Baby Harper Kidd was blessed on February 15. Always a happy event for all involved.

On February 16, our Br. and Sr. Kimball hosted a pizza party to raise funds for new playground equipment for the church. Personal pizzas were made to order in their pizza oven, with a grand total of \$1,416.00 raised.

Zane Yates arrived on March 12, and as you can see in the picture, he has one proud big sister. Both baby and mom are doing great.

On March 14 there was a work party at the church. Quite a few projects were accomplished, including tile repair, painting, a lot of outside work, pouring of concrete, etc. Thank you to all who helped out.

Finally, on March 15, a skit was put on at church by the children. It talked about building a foundation on solid ground (Mat 7:24-27).

We've had many blessing over the last couple of months. Br. and Sr. McCann are doing well after their surgeries. Sr. Niki Herd had a blessing with the baby that she is carrying.

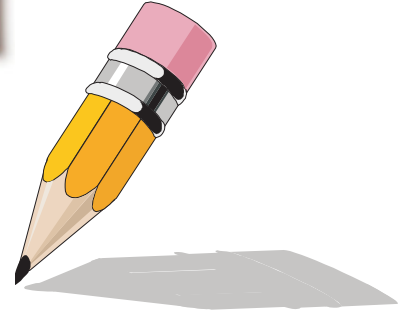
Many of our missionaries returned safely from trips around the world, and most are already back out doing the work of our Father. Sr. Marlene Oar is doing pretty well but still needs our prayers, as does Sr. Amy Moser, who has suffered yet another injury and is visiting doctors to see what options she has. Our Br. and Evangelist Hubert Yates is also in need of our prayers for possible health issues. Our Sr. Laura Gill is having some foot problems and would appreciate any and all prayers you might send her way.

There are so many others and I have to apologize if I haven't mentioned you here. Please remember all our church members around the world in your daily prayers. Have a wonderful spring.

*Your sister in Christ,  
DiAnn Hedrick*



# Temple Lot Local Report



## Temple Lot Rally

**O**n an unseasonably mild January 24-25th, the Temple Lot Local, joined by the East Local, met for a new event, a rally. The theme was worship. A great deal of preparation and excitement was evident throughout the meetings, but perhaps most significantly in the first service. We experienced many beautiful testimonies and were left with the image of the Spirit of God, ablaze, roaring through our congregation, through God's church, and through this land.

In sermons, we were reminded that our purpose on this earth is to worship our God, and it is something to be continued in a heavenly home. We do this rightly when we know who God is in a deep and meaningful way, when we know in real terms our own depravity and when we discover God's purpose for us. We were challenged to consider our purpose - our worship of God - in every part of our lives. We held discussion groups



to brainstorm our personal responsibility in worship and also practical, applicable strategies for personal humility and repentance. We enjoyed a song service that was rich and full of praise and worship through musical offerings.

The entire congregation were taken up in the exuberance of our youngest children as they enjoyed a service specifically for them. They sat engrossed in the flannel-graph simplicity of some of the most well-loved Bible stories, and stood and sang with exuberant joy favorite Vacation Church



School songs. A few notable attendants include Dante Crull, born to Jose and Esmeralda Crull January 9, 2015, and Titus Richardson, son of Barron and Hannah Richardson, blessed October 26, 2014.

Saturday evening, we enjoyed games with the young people's group at a local gymnasium. The young people had prepared a devotion that included personal compositions of psalms to the Lord. It was a blessing for the whole congregation to hear their sweet messages and humble praises to the Lord. Throughout the weekend, we sang our worship, prayed our worship and basked in the Spirit of praise. It was a beautiful weekend and difficult to call to a close. It was also a great call to come nearer to the Lord in a deliberate and continuous way, which I pray we all can accomplish.

## 1980 Church of Christ Conference

At the 2015 Church of Christ Conference our Apostle Joel Yates mentioned that the first Conference he attended was in April of 1980. Thank you Br. Joel, you have dated this photo for us! See if you can find him.

### 1980 Church of Christ Conference

If you see know someone who we have not identified, please contact us. We would like to fill in all the names of those in the photo. Contact Deb Haines at [debruhaines@juno.com](mailto:debruhaines@juno.com)

Left to right, top to bottom are: Randy Sheldon, ?, Jack Martin, Betty Martin, Doris Housknecht, ?, Darl Temple, ?, ?, Ron Temple, Ella Engle, Doris Sheldon, William

Sheldon, Menda Stotis, John Jones, Kyle Temple, Darl Hunholtz, ?, ?, Jim Lacy, Lois Heath, Roland Sarratt, Trisha Pennington,?, Don Hitt, Irene Shaw, Vivian Spencer, Marvin Case, Greg Brickhouse, Leon "Skeet" Yates, Francis Yates, Max Spencer, Cherri Pennington, Bertha Case, Scott Brickhouse, Maynard Case, Darl Brickhouse, Oren Caviness,?, Kenneth Smith, Sue Brickhouse, Ruth Seibel, Arthur Smith, Minnie Smith, Belinda Smith, Irene Seibel (Datweiler), Martha Bell, Marvin Ely, Tamar Seibel, ?, Lois Harris, Hubert Yates, June Sarratt, ?, Bill Gould, Berniece Gould, Eugene Gould, Cynthia Bruner, Joel Yates, Annette Yates, Doris Huchison, Bob Dewaele, Harry Hutchison, Dorothy Wilson, ?, Martha Bruner, Rodger Bruner,?, Larry Beam, George Brantner,?, and LeRoy Wheaton



## REPORT

# 2015 Church of Christ Solemn Assembly and General Conference, April 2-7

**Friday Morning Prayer Service**—We entered the House of the Lord for our Solemn Assembly, with Apostle Smith Brickhouse and Elder Bob Oldham in charge. Br. Smith (Buzz) read Alma 3:27, 46 and Mosiah 2. He told us it's pleasing to the Lord that we come here today to seek Him. There was a season of prayer in which there were many voices raised. The meeting was opened as the Spirit led. There was an administration. Some of the testimonies were:

- ▶ A sister testified of a dream she had. She was preparing to go on a day trip with a group from church. She saw herself getting ready, dressing and putting her makeup on. Then she realized that everyone had left; she was alone. She knows God is telling her those things aren't important.
- ▶ A sister told us she is so thankful for our prayers. They told her she needed open heart surgery for her badly leaking valve, but she was too weak. She was not able to have surgery. Recently her cardiologist told her there was a new procedure; she qualified for the surgery. They put two clips on her valve leaflets to slow the leakage. It worked, and now she is getting stronger. She is so thankful to God.
- ▶ A sister told us a sister in Kenya sent her a text asking for prayers. Just last week our sister had sent her notes from a sermon after she requested sermon notes. It just happened to have been notes from the sermon given about fear. This week there was terrorist activity there.

We had another season of prayer for our brothers and sisters where there is terrorist activity. There was an administration.

- ▶ A sister gave a heartfelt testimony of the problems she has and how it has affected her brother. She said she hadn't seen him in ten years. She fears that a lot of his problems were as a result of her illness. She said she feels guilty for that. (We had a season of prayer for her and her brother.)
- ▶ A brother testified that as our sister was speaking the Spirit gave to him... "What your brother has

done—HE has done; it was his choice, not your fault. God will forgive us—if we will repent. Guilt is a tool of Satan to pull you down. Let your light be of joy, not guilt."

Names were taken for the prayer list. There was another season of prayer.

**Friday Evening Prayer Service**—Apostle Michael McGee and Elder Steve McGhee were in charge. Br. Mike read Psalms 2. He looks at all the world's churches that began with God and, in an effort to please man, they strayed from God. They leave out the teachings of Christ to please men. People imagined a vain thing—God will laugh at their vain attempt. Vs. 11-12 tell us we are to serve and fear God. Without Him we are lost in the world. Proverbs 4:18. Those who walk in darkness don't even know upon what they stumble. Remember your baptism? Pure and fresh—ready to conquer the world. Things are happening we don't understand—if we are doubtless in Christ, He'll deliver. God knows our hearts.

Names were then taken for the prayer list. There was a season of prayer followed by many testimonies and three administrations. Some of the testimonies were:

- ▶ A brother testified that during the administration as Br. Mike laid his hands on him he felt two sets of hands. So there were three sets of hands on his head tonight.
- ▶ A brother testified that years ago he fasted and fervently prayed for the Lord to let him know he was forgiven. This was before he and his wife were married. His spiritual eyes were opened by the Lord and the proof he had asked for was given: He saw a personage with imprints in His hands and feet. His future wife saw this personage too, but no one else in their group saw. The next day they heard two young boys tell of seeing the same personage. The boys explained that they had been pulling a cross with a

rope across a pond. The rope broke and they lost the cross. They saw the cross float to Christ and He picked it up from the water's edge. Our brother knew this was the proof he had asked for.

- ▶ A brother testified he was called upon to help at a graveside service for a dear sister in the church who had passed. While at the service he was approached by a nephew he hadn't seen in many years. The young man started talking to him as if he knew him, but they hadn't seen each other since the young man was a very little boy. He had been raised without the knowledge of the Church of Christ or the Book of Mormon. He told our brother that he'd had a dream. He said that in his dream he'd seen two books lay open, and they agreed. He pointed to our brother's Book of Mormon and told him that was one of the books he saw in his dream. This was encouragement for our brother.

Two administrations took place.

**Saturday Morning Prayer Service**—The service was opened by Apostle Duane Ely, with Elder Marvin Carroll assisting. Br. Duane read from Moroni 7: 50-53. We must have charity. Charity never fails. Cleave unto charity; it's the pure love of Christ. 1 Cor. 16:14; Moroni 10:15. Charity endureth forever. Matthew 22: 36-40. Love Christ first and love our neighbors as we do ourselves; all the law and the prophets hang on those two. We are to come here in humility and to pray. We had a season of prayer; many voices were lifted. There were two administrations. Some testimonies were:

- ▶ A brother was the first to stand. He began slowly, overcome with emotion, and he explained that yesterday while praying the Holy Spirit fell on him. He was given peace, and the Spirit told him, "RELEASE MY SERVANT ALLEN." He continued to tell us it is God's will that Allen pick up his ministry once again. He explained that we have bound Br. Allen, but it is time to set him free so that he may do God's work once again.

We knelt in a season of prayer, and many voices were lifted up to our Father. These are some of the testimonies which followed:

- ▶ A brother testified that this is truly of God. He said in the past he hadn't been in favor. Yesterday when Allen spoke to a sister, he remembered those feelings and the Lord corrected him.
- ▶ A brother testified that he's prayed, and he sees the need. He knows those problems. We had a lesson this morning about charity. Look at our brother and feel charity—see what God wants. Do God's will. Have charity and support him in this work.
- ▶ A brother testified that he knew our brother had a message from the Lord. Recently he had had a vision of our brother standing this day with something from the Lord. . . He also knew this will soon be settled. He admonished us that Br. Allen has sufficiently humbled himself.
- ▶ A brother told us the Lord told him, 'We'd fettered Br. Allen and we need to release him to do the work.' When our brother stood he knew it would be of God.
- ▶ A brother stood and told us as soon as our brother stood he knew he had a message of the Lord. As he spoke, he also had that testimony of truth.
- ▶ A sister told us her joy is full. She prayed for God's leading; she kept being told 'God forgets.' His love and mercy are great.
- ▶ A brother said he also had a witness of this. A couple of weeks ago he knew it was coming. His heart leaped as he knew it. His thanks are to God.
- ▶ A brother told us he felt the Spirit when our brother spoke.
- ▶ Our brother testified that he is SO thankful to God. He knew it was from God and to him when our brother stood. Yesterday, another brother came to him and asked if he'd been reinstated; he also showed him what he'd been given and written in a letter to the Apostles. Br. Allen felt the Spirit upon him. He headed home, and driving down Lee's Summit Rd. he felt the Spirit and teared up. He prayed and felt such joy as the Spirit was so strong; he looked up at the car ahead of him. . . the license plate read, "It's ME." He knew God was aware of him and his situation. To all of you—he told us he'd felt our love and support from every one of us—his love and hugs are to us. He's known his closest brother's heart was broken—he'd told him once, "God is in charge, He'll take care of it." He said again how sorry he is that he fell into what he did. . . He's sorry for all the hurt to his wife and to the church. He's always wanted what was best for the church; it didn't matter about him.

- ▶ A brother knew Br. Allen had humbled himself and a change had come over him. He read several scriptures on forgiveness and admitting our weaknesses—which shows a man to be of God's own heart.
  - ▶ A brother told us there are concerns both ways. Only the Holy Spirit can make that decision—God has spoken to our brother and told the body. You are all witnesses. Br. Allen, Go forth and serve Him.
  - ▶ A brother told us that God told him, "I have forgiven you of your sins, I can forgive him."
  - ▶ A brother testified that this is a true message of God.
  - ▶ A brother testified to us that it takes strength to love and to forgive.—that's charity. We all have things to repent of. We can feel a repentant heart. Remorse is a healthy thing.
  - ▶ A brother testified that he is rejoicing. This is a rebuke on him—he didn't see this coming. He'd lost his faith. He'd wanted to do something—when Allen said to him, "Leave it alone." He knew he had to. He rejoices because God spoke. He feels assured God will do what He will do and it will be right. God will take care of this thing His way. He expressed his love and confidence that God is reassuring that He is mindful.
  - ▶ A brother testified that there's no question in his mind that when our brother stood the Lord had spoken. He is thankful; God has not left us. Thankful this group was willing to wait. He stated that he'd never seen a man grow like this before, but Allen has. There are no more criticisms, but only willingness to serve. He'd told him God would speak; he is truly repentant. We need to pray that the community will accept him. We're under a spy glass—we need to be praying for the work there; for Allen, the local's community and the church.
- We had another season of prayer.
- ▶ A brother testified he was filled with thanksgiving that the Lord spoke to us today and that he and his wife were there to hear it. He's learned about hope and forgiveness and supports the brother and sister, and the Local.

**Saturday 2 pm Prayer Service**—Apostle Jay Moser and Elder Thomas Gill in charge. Apostle Jay Moser welcomed us and told us that Friday a scripture came to him; he read Psalm 19:7 to the end of the chapter. He told us fear and hope of God drives away all other fears. Yesterday he was filled with prayer; He was trying to get closer to God. He admonished us to hunger and thirst for more of His Spirit; if we desire it, it will be given. Have courage

to ask for it. He feels things are going to happen in the world—God told him, "Get on board. Give your fire to the people—let your voice be heard." We'll be preserved, but we'll see the wrath of God poured out upon the world. God is bringing things to pass. Br. Jay led us in a season of prayer and many voices followed. Some of the testimonies given were:

- ▶ A brother told us of a cluster of small earthquakes in the SE corner of Oklahoma last night; he felt it. At Christ's resurrection there were quakes. Romans 8:22-26. Great hope God has given us while the world wonders what it all means. 3 Nephi 4:1-7. We are living in those times again—we have a hope—we do not need to fear. Be of the scriptures, not of the world.
- ▶ A brother testified of an experience he had as he was ordering three sandwiches. They kept making four no matter what he told them; he had them count them over and over; they counted three. . . but there were still four in the bag. The owner even counted them, and then asked our brother to leave with the three sandwiches that he had paid for. He told his wife, and they knew they were to give the extra one to someone in need. She was given who the sandwich was to go to. They delivered it. . . the woman said she had been praying all morning that God would send her some food.
- ▶ A brother said he had a similar experience growing up. They were hungry and there was no food in the house. His dad said to be patient. The kids decided to ask God. . . so they prayed and prayed. As they prayed Sam had a vision of two whole wheat rolls under the couch. He told his siblings, and they turned the couch up and found the two whole wheat rolls. They were so dried up and hard he couldn't break them. His dad had been preparing the tiny bit of milk they had in the house for the baby. He took the rolls and crushed them into the milk. He lifted the bowl up to the Lord and prayed mightily to God. He then began to ladle out the mixture to the children. One by one they all got enough to fill their bowls two-thirds full. It fed all of them and him. God multiplied it to take care of all of them. We must be about the work of taking the gospel to the world.
- ▶ A brother testified that at the Council meetings there were expressions made that things are about to happen. He talks with others of other Restoration groups and the dividing matter is the structure of the church. Even though we have many things in common, we cannot blend. We are to remain by ourselves. He was given a dream years ago—He was just west of the Temple Lot in a large building,

and he was looking out of a big window. Outside it was pitch black. He was looking for Christ to come; looking for a shaft of light to come down from the sky just like when He left. He had great anticipation. Suddenly a light came from the Temple Lot; it was a fire. He was given to know that it was the garments of a man being burned. A man there snickered at him as if saying, "You didn't get what you want." Sometime later, the meaning of what he saw was given to him: Thousands came here to the Temple Lot who believe in the First Presidency—but before the Lord returns the office of the First Presidency has to be removed. The Lord himself is going to reveal it to these people. One person who he knows agrees, yet still wants to keep it until then. The cleansing process is going to go on with many peoples. The Lord will do it—it's not our job. We must prepare for Christ's return. We are called unto perfection. When we compare ourselves to Him we see our imperfections. Then we become humble. We are to be meek and lowly of heart . . . as He is. We'll see Him. He has felt it this year—the religious world has good words yet they fall short. Christ, at the beginning of His ministry, told us, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand."

**Sunday Morning Sacrament Service**—Apostles Buzz Brickhouse and Jay Moser were in charge. Br. Buzz welcomed us. Br. Jay prays he can represent our Lord Jesus Christ. This day is about Him, and about the future. Pray that God will be with us. He used Matt. 11:28. This invitation is forever. It takes a while to figure out how the Lord will use you. As an 18-year-old, here in Missouri, he heard God call to him. . . "Today is the day. . . come. . . come." Every day he heard this. Our covenant with God is He'll always be with us. Our relationship with God is picture perfect. He says, "Take my yoke. . . My yoke is easy and my burden light." God is the only one who can supply what you need. We can't make decisions for someone else. God knows what He is doing. The Book of Mormon tells of the day the Lord came. 3 Nephi 8:20. He prayed for the little children and blessed them.

The emblems were blessed and served. We knelt in a season of prayer, and many voices were lifted, and these are some of the testimonies that followed after six administrations:

- ▶ A sister testified of the miracle God has done for her. During the administration she saw two hands. After others prayed she saw two hands again. She told the

doctor, no more chemo. The doctor then told her the same. . . there would be no more chemo. She felt peace. God was with them. Everything was okay. . . she has been blessed so much.

- ▶ A brother testified that he couldn't be at Conference last year because of his eye surgery. It's an aggressive form of Glaucoma. . . the type that could blind a person in a year's time. In the last few years, many events have shown that God loves him. He is blessed.
- ▶ A brother testified that it was up to him to move some long hoses around to keep the garden watered evenly. He had forgotten his pliers. It would not come apart; he tried and tried. Finally he just gave up. He prayed. He was led to turn around and try it one more time. It was loosened up and only took a small twist to get it apart. This was a great blessing.
- ▶ A brother testified that in April of 1973, his wife had a problem. The doctor said it was an ovarian tumor. His father told her, "Thy faith will make thee whole." She was administered to over and over. In October he dreamed he'd taken her to the doctor. He did take her just like in the dream. Her father looked at her and recommended immediate surgery. Two months later, in January, she was administered to again. Br. Maynard Case told her during the administration that "the Lord will heal her." She was healed IMMEDIATELY. Five months later a son was born. If she'd had the surgery—they wouldn't have had their last four children.
- ▶ A brother reminded us that God leaves the ninety and nine to search after the one that is lost. He doesn't forget. Some we thought were lost, but they were in the Hands of God—He's bringing them back to the church. He truly knows HE does things when we can't. God is working—He's reaching out to our loved ones.

**Sunday Afternoon Sermon**—Following the special music was a sermon given by Apostle Don McDoo, who was assisted by Elder Ronnie Gill. Br. Don read Isaiah 55:6-7. This is what was put on his heart to share with us: We must draw near unto Him. Psalm 145:18-20—we are told, in truth. Br. Don told us of an experience they had once in Yucatan. Br. Jay was to preach on something important; people were there from everywhere to hear it. They lost electricity and there was not only the absence of the prepared slide program, but of light to read by. People came and listened. There was only one tiny light, but people were everywhere taking notes. . . concen-

trating on the word of God. It was marvelous. He used Jeremiah 29:12-13, Mormon 4:94, 1 Nephi 3, 2 Nephi 11. In Rev. 12:13 and 14:6-7 we are told the hour of His judgment IS come. We live in that time. We need to prepare and be ready. 3 Nephi 9:56 tells us we must draw near unto God. Can you see the sword of justice falling in this day? Muslim terrorists are seeking to terrorize all Christians. Pray for our leaders, and draw near to God. Last Sunday evening at the East Local Br. Dan Lawrence preached. We are told, "Fear not for I am with you." James 4:8 tells us: cleanse your hands ye 'double-minded.' A person who vacillates between thinking of God and thinking of the world is double-minded. Purify your hearts. Judges 2:8-10. Br. Don referred to Daniel 2 and Jeremiah 24 and 23:3. We need to live closer to God and Christ, and be obedient to His word. Alma 5:39 tells us to be humble, submissive, gentle, easy to be entreated.

**Monday Morning Prayer Service**—Elder Randy Sheldon and Priest John Gill welcomed us. Br. Randy read Rev. 16:15. We are waiting and watching for that time. Back in the Jerusalem Temple the guards stayed awake; they were vigilant. The Captain saw to it that his men were awake. If one was found to be sleeping they'd strip his clothes and burn them. He would be greatly ashamed. If we expose ourselves negatively—our garments don't cover us. Keep our garments of holiness on, these are our garments of righteousness. We had a season of prayer, and many voices were lifted in prayer. A few testimonies were:

- ▶ A brother testified that he has a passion for the scripture Br. Randy read. What are we watching for? We need to see things coming and not be found naked. When they happen, look up! See prophecies happening. Don't have to wonder—it's here. We do have understanding—we are to tell everyone and give them hope.
- ▶ A brother testified that there are two powers: the devil steals, confuses, etc. The power of God wants to give all things that are good. May we permit God in and keep Satan out.

**Monday Evening Sermon**—After a song service, Apostle Joel Yates gave us a sermon. Elder Bob Hedrick assisted. Br. Joel titled his sermon: "A MARVELOUS WORK AND WONDER" . . . April 6, 1830. . . 185 years ago.

Br. Joel read from Daniel 2:44 telling us when these 14 kingdoms stood God would set up His Kingdom. . . only one time in history they all stood at once. In the Book of Commandments 4:5 God says, "I will do it." —Like unto the church which was taught by My disciples in the days of old (which was left out of the Doctrine and Covenants). Isaiah 29:9-12—The Spirit of deep sleep he speaks of is the dark ages. Vs. 13-14 and the rest of the chapter give a marvelous description of God's plan. God uses men, He did it! 1 Nephi 3:185-187. . . Cause of Zion is about redemption. Tuesday, April 6, 1830,—there were six people present—hidden from the world. Joseph and Oliver were called to be Apostles. God always starts with something small. Ephes. 1:20-23. The Book of Mormon has a function, it adds light. If we don't accept it we're missing what God has for us. 1 Cor. 1:26-31. In fourteen years the church grew to over 200,000 members. In the great trial of 1844, Joseph and Hyrum were killed. In Nauvoo strange things were introduced—the First Presidency; in 1833 the saints were driven out of Missouri. Problems began with those wanting to take over the office of the First Presidency; Sidney Rigdon, James Strang, Lyman White, Brigham Young and others left with followers. The city of Nauvoo emptied out. 144 miles to the East was the Crow Creek Branch of the church. They'd stayed there in Illinois all along; untouched in a lot of ways. In 1852 Brigham Young made a declaration unveiling a purported revelation given by Joseph Smith. . . polygamy (Read Church History Vol. 1, pg 113). Those in Illinois wondered if the rumors were true. In 1853 they declared themselves free of all wicked factions. They declared themselves separate. They did not know of changes in the revelations in the Doctrine and Covenants. The frailties of man were exposed. We are still looking at it today. Twenty years after the beginning of the church they began to put it back together. George Cole, who was not an elder at the time, had a vision. He saw himself standing on a rock on the Temple Lot. . . this rock was floating in mid-air. He began to totter. He called for God; he steadied. The stump had a small branch growing out of it with six or seven healthy buds. The tree was defective and had to be removed. There were people on the stump, moving around the edge of it; people he recognized. The people saw the flaw in the stump, they began to chop at it, but the

Lord kept them from harming the stump. We all want a perfect church—we go after the defect. People have different ideas of what they call flaws in the church. God uses frail men. Br. Cole saw the tree and where it went. He saw the servants of God. He saw Elders of Israel go through the dead top, pruning (but not like we do). Who's job is it to cleanse the church? Ephesians 5:25-27. It is the work of Christ, it is HIS church. He preserved a branch. . . we never left the root, we remain. Changes were made under God's direction—it was 1925 before the First Presidency was abolished; it was 1928 before high priests were removed. Br. Joel's great-grandfather, James E. Yates, who was not yet a member of this church, had a revelation given to him Sunday, May 1, 1927, at Independence. He was told the Church of Christ on the Temple Lot was an instrument of God's own choosing. . . and those are my chosen Apostles of this dispensation. It was this revelation that brought James E. Yates (later an Apostle) into the Church of Christ. We need to be humble and faithful. God's been with us, because we strive to do His work; He has preserved us. . . 185 years. We have imperfections. . . God knew it. Ephesians 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; 1 Nephi 3:161-164. The Bible was perfect at one time, and then it went through the "great and abominable church." Mormon 4:14-24 tells us if there are imperfections in the Book of Mormon, they are the faults of man. How can we have a perfect church? We can have His grace, but we cannot be faultless. God's golden rule is, "Do unto others as you would have God do unto you." Matt. 5:9, 7:1-2. We can't afford to handle flaws wrong. Gal. 6; 3 Nephi 5:30-32. We don't have a license to do contention even if we're right. Proverbs 27:6, 17; 2 Tim. 24-26; Revelations 19:7-8; Ephes. 5:22-27. His church needs to submit to His will. Br. Joel gave us examples of submission: 1 John 4:1, John 16:13, Jacob 3:125-126, Acts 13:1-3. The Holy Spirit is the voice of Christ. His church bears witness—3 Nephi 5:44-46; Acts 2:47; and Rev. 22:17; 1 Cor. 1:4-10 tells us grace is found in humility. May He cleanse and purify us!

**Tuesday Morning Prayer Service**—Elders Adam Porter and Chris Moran were in charge. Br. Adam told us we want the Lord to speak to us, to direct us. We believe in the moving of the Holy

Spirit. It sets us apart from the churches of the world. Br. Chris told us to take this seriously; this is why we are here. Do we consider that God is using us, not to act according to our will, but do His will? 3 Nephi 12:20; 1 Cor. 1:11-15 tells us there should be no contention among us. We tend to group ourselves by our opinions, but we are here to be directed by the Lord individually. Like Christ doing the will of the Father, WE should be united in Christ. 2 Nephi 11:90-95. We need to put down pride and rely on the wisdom of God. 1 Nephi 3:71-73. Book of Commandments 5 tells us not to trifle sacred things. 2 Samuel 6:1-7; Isa 55:8-9; II Chronicles 7:14. Do we earnestly pray for those who do not know the gospel? God will answer if we have the right attitude. Br. Adam admonished us to take off our worldly shoes and present ourselves on the altar of prayer. He took names for the prayer list. There were four administrations. We went into a long season of prayer. Some testimonies were:

- ▶ A sister testified that her heart was full of praise. God granted her gifts: FAITH, Her papa told everyone she was born with faith. Her mother died when she was eight. When Papa told her that her mother had died, she told him, 'Don't worry everything will be all right, God will take care of us'; JOY, given to her the last five years; it happened through administration; and SPIRITUAL DREAMS.
- ▶ A brother testified he was taught the power of prayer when he was young. One time he and his brothers went into the cedar swamp. Once out into the swamp it all looked the same. The brothers were concerned that they were lost. They argued. They heard loud and clear their father calling. It sounded like it came from all four directions. He understood the power of prayer and the Lord's promises. He told the others, "Let's ask God which direction we should go." He and Mike knelt and prayed, while the other two were still arguing. As he prayed, he saw in his mind's eye the direction his father had called, even though to him it still sounded like it came from all four directions. He told his brothers, "That's the way we are going to go." They still argued. As they were responsible for the younger two they couldn't leave them. Sam said, "If you want to go that way, go. . . we're going this way." It's the same as in the church. We need to give the others room to grow.

**Tuesday Afternoon Sermon**—Apostle Jeff Oldham gave a sermon this afternoon, and Elder Bob Oldham assisted. Br. Jeff told us he is humbled

by the responsibility of a servant. When he was called he had no doubt it was from the Lord. 1 Cor. 2:1; Jacob 3:7-5; and Matt 17; Jacob 3:8. Elder Dan Lawrence preached that perfect love casts out fear. Ask for the blessings of God. We can be fearful for that which is to come, but we have an awesome God. Be bold, be confident, be strong. Ephes.1:10. Be strong in the Lord. Heb. 13:1. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever. He talked with an individual sharing his faith. . . he asked, "Do you have faith?" He shared, "Do you mind if I tell you about my faith?" This is a good way to start a conversation. . . are we sharing our faith? Ether 1:105. Hebrews 12:1. Run with patience the race that is set before us.

**Tuesday Evening Song Service and a Sermon**—by Priest Aadam Yates, assisted by Elder Gordon McCann. Brother Aadam told us when he was asked to preach the Lord gave him the subject. He told us he hates flying—it's always too tight. Two years ago he found himself praying he wouldn't have a person in the seat next to him. He did. He didn't speak to him. The Lord pricked his heart for his bad attitude. During the layover, he found the man and they had a great conversation, even talking about the church, for hours. They shared their information, but he hasn't heard from him. 3 Nephi 5:61-63 tells us to let our light shine. "I give unto you" means we are commissioned to be a light; given the authority. Responsibility goes along with that authority. He read Ephesians 5:8, 11, 13. Being a police officer he sees the world is full of darkness; a lack of hope and joy. He prays that God will help him see people as precious souls. He's working nights now and he's had to get used to the darkness. He has a new flashlight; he has to hold it every time he gets out of the patrol car. If we're a light of Christ—we need to be cautious of what we say and do every time we come in contact with anyone. He referred to Titus 2—he wants us to be representatives of Christ. There are people who are trying; the family from the Duck Dynasty show stand up for their beliefs. 2 Nephi 12:16-17—Some are humble followers of Christ, but they err in following the precepts of men. John 3:19-21. Br. Aadam told us the people who get involved in the bad things don't like the light. Many desire to have hope, but don't know how to get it. Parents, when we see our children struggling,

straying, what do we do? Continue to be a light. Pray that God will touch them. God will plant seeds—some are later in coming up than others. 2 Tim 1:6-8. Alma 8:31 and 33. Do you think you could be placed at the right place at the exact moment to be used by the Lord—to spare one person? We have an opportunity, all of us, to accomplish the Lord's will. 1 Nephi 2:83-84. Christians are being challenged. Don't heed the mockers. Be strong enough to ignore it. 2 Tim. 4:1-2. Be ready to share, even when it's not convenient. How long does it take to plant a seed? The Lord will always stand with us, and the Spirit will lead the conversation. Mosiah 9:40. Do you see yourself in a plowed field? . . . the Harvest is ready. 3 Nephi 13:5.

**Wednesday Evening Baptism**—Kelli Moran was baptized by her husband Elder Chris Moran, who was assisted by Elder Dennis Trudgen. The confirmation was done by Apostle Roland Sarratt with Elder Adam Porter in charge. The couple's three daughters, Lydia, Clara, and Adalynn, were among those in attendance to witness the baptism and to give Sister Kelli a warm welcoming hug in the hand of fellowship. Welcome to the family, Sister Kelli; we are so happy to have you as our sister in the body of Christ!

**The Wednesday Evening Sermon**—by Elder Brandon Tarbell, assisted by Elder Mike Bevaart. Brother Brandon greeted us and he read Ether 5:28, and asked, "What if we opened the newspaper tomorrow morning and saw our obituary posted there? How would yours read? He spoke of an incident where that happened; the paper had accidentally printed a man's information instead of his deceased brother's. It was an eye-opener; he decided that he had to have a better legacy. He made some changes. What would yours read, as far as being a brother or sister in Christ? What kind of an example have you been? Br. Brandon spoke about the body of Christ. We all have a place, a responsibility. Apostle Paul said in 1 Cor. 12:18-27, there are many members in the body, different, yet one body. We must have patience. He read Ephesians 4:16, which tells us we are to fit together perfectly and we are to edify one another in love. . . whether we know each other or not. There is much love in the Church of Christ. We have responsibilities: (1) Love and for-

givenness—love one another as I have loved you. Matt. 18:22 we are told to forgive seventy times seven times. In a family we love unconditionally, as does the body of Christ; and to have the ability to forgive. (2) We must have charity. John 4:10-12. Moroni 7:52-53. The pure love of Christ is doing the will of the Father. How can we have charity? John 15:12-17. Love one another. We must be willing to make the ultimate sacrifice. He showed a photo taken in Kenya (mall shooting) which depicted a mother covering her children to protect them. (3) Be an example. He did an interview on Skype for his son, and in it he was able to put in all his Christian beliefs. They just flowed, as the Spirit led. We need to be ready and willing to be a witness. He told a story of a woman pleading to Ghandi to stop her son from eating sweets. He just gave her son a look. In two weeks they went back to him. This time when asked why he didn't tell her son to stop eating sweets, he answered that he had to first stop eating them himself. He then looked at the woman's son and said, "Stop eating sweets." We have to be an example for others. Matt. 7:1-5. James 4:11-12 tells us to use self-control. We must be a doer, not a judge. Think before you speak, or give "a look." Ephes. 3:19-22. . . Christ is the Chief Cornerstone; we are of the household of Christ. Ephes 4:11-16: Ministry is for perfecting the body. Romans 12:4-16. We've been given different talents to use for the good of the body. It takes collaborating. Gal. 6:1-3. Mosiah 1:48-51. Spend days of your service in the service of your fellow beings, and also in service to your God. When humility and trust are built we strengthen the body. This message is to remind us we're all different, yet we are all one in the body of Christ. Specific responsibilities in the body of Christ are: to love, to forgive, to have charity, to be examples, to collaborate, to help one another, to be a team and, as the body of Christ, we should be adorned as the bride of Christ. . . pleasing and ready. John 13:34. Love one another.

Thus ends another Solemn Assembly and Conference. We were so thankful for the Spirit which was with us, and the love we have for one another.

*Your reporter,  
Sr. Deb Haines*

# Collins Local Report



**By Czerna Kauffman**

I've been seeing lines of geese returning from the south lately and I have several fat little robins waddling around my yard, chirping and hunting for a fresh worm. It makes me anxious for spring again. There is such anticipation! My Aunt Elaine lives at Big Spring Care Center in a neighboring town, and when we visit she speaks so often of looking forward to spring and the new leaves appearing on the trees across the street and hoping for green grass again. It is important to have that "hope" for newness of life. I heard a sermon on "live stream" just this past week speaking about how necessary it is for us to have "hope," not particularly of "spring" and such, but that hope of salvation the scriptures speak about. In these days it seems that our hopes are dashed to pieces by ugliness on TV, our lawmakers, the corruptness we see in our own elected officials and such. BUT there is HOPE and it is eternal and cannot be taken from us be-

cause it is a gift from God. He has made promises to those who will follow Him and obey His commandments. He said he would not leave us or forsake us...we have HOPE! Luke 21:28 says, "*when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.*" We have HOPE, and isn't it wonderful and good to give praise to God who has provided this for us, that we might not fall into despair as those who have no "hope," but will hold tight to our Father's hand in what appears to be a very trying time. Praise Almighty God, we have HOPE!

Our sister Betty Martin has had a stroke in her right eye and has lost most of her vision in that eye. She has to have drops put in at regular intervals to help with the discomfort she has. Betty is still in Oklahoma, primarily with her daughter Laura Mae Elwell and husband M.G., but also visits in the homes of Andy and Sharon, as well as Mike and Sherrie Martin. She was home a few weeks ago to visit her doctor, but returned

to Oklahoma to settle in for the summer there. We will miss her, but fully understand her decision.

Our brother Curtis Yates had opportunity to travel to Phoenix by way of his son, Layton Yates, back at the first part of December. He enjoyed his visit, seeing family and friends, along with being able to attend services at the Phoenix Local. However, after returning home a few weeks later, Curtis was admitted to the hospital with fluid around his heart and a lot of swelling in his legs and feet. He was there for about a week, came home on a Wednesday, and was at church the following Sunday! No, he probably shouldn't have been there. He is thinner, still using oxygen, and looks pretty frail, but his desire is to be at church and so there he is! He often says, "we're where we want to be." May the Lord bless him for all his efforts and his willingness to serve. We thank God for our dear brother.

Our grandson Aaron Herd and wife Niki from Arizona were here for Christmas. They got in at some ri-



diculously early morning hour on Sunday, but somehow were able to come to church; it was our little Christmas program day. Aaron handed his Grandpa Allen Kauffman a Christmas card and asked that it be read aloud; they thus announced the coming birth of their first baby!! Allen was so happy he cried all the way through the reading of their card, as did the new-to-be grandparents, Shawna and Dale Herd! What a gift! Our poor Niki has been having quite a time of sickness and discomfort, so we keep her in our prayers, as I imagine many of you do in the Phoenix area too. Thank you to all.

We have a new family attending church with us! They are Frank and Shauna Inglis, with daughter Katlyn, 11th grade, and son Payton, 8th grade. They drive about an hour to come be with us. We are so grateful

to have them. They have visited the Temple Lot Local a couple of times, but we are hoping to “lay claim” to them. They know Vicky Pitts and her dad, Al Lind, who have been meeting with us for quite a while. What a blessing to us to have these come.

Paul and Sharon Liekness are here with us when weather permits, as also are Peachie Mathis, Curtis’ sister, and niece, Joy Elaine.

I have a few sermon quotes I have jotted down over the past couple of months that I would like to share with you.

- *Are we caught up in this web—our nation’s and world’s influence?*
- *If every prayer was answered (as prayed) God wouldn’t be God—we would!*
- *What path are you going to take?*

- *Get your heart right and I promise—all else will follow.*
- *God gives us choice.*
- *God’s not going to let you down.*
- *In faith, we must endure to the end of life—we don’t retire from following Christ.*
- *Proclaim, profess, declare, teach and defend the gospel of Jesus Christ.*
- *What is our probation for?—to show God the evidence.*
- *He loves you—but will hold you accountable.*
- *Look at things through the lens of the scriptures.*

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

## OBITUARY

# Alan W. Scott

April 22, 1935—March 25, 2014

Alan W. Scott passed from this life at his home on March 25, 2014, at 8:40 a.m. He leaves behind his wife Bernice May Scott (Carney) of Marne, Michigan; sons Lowell Scott of Sparta, Michigan; Alan Scott, Jr., of Kent City, Michigan; Edmond Scott of Grand Rapids, Michi-

gan; David Scott of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and Beverly Scott, who lives at home with her mother; plus many grand and great grandchildren.

Alan was born in Elk Raids, Michigan, April 22, 1935, and passed away in the 79th year of his life.

He served in the Armed Services and worked as a Technician for a local utilities company.

He also served as Priest in the Church of Christ (Temple Lot).

## NOTICES

## REUNION NOTICE

## AKWESASNE NEW YORK LOCAL

We welcome all our brothers and sisters to fellowship and worship with us starting 7 pm Friday, July 10th, through Sunday afternoon, July 12, 2015.

Contact: Brandon Tarbell  
(518) 358-9153

[btarbell@thetmg.com](mailto:btarbell@thetmg.com)

## CCEG

The Church of Christ Email Group is a church member-only (and spouses, even if not a member) email communication group existing to keep the general church membership informed about prayer needs, blessings, and more. It does not have officially elected management (member volunteer only), although it regularly functions for the Church of Christ for missionary news and various announcements, like state rallies and reunions.

If you have email capability and are not a member of the CCEG, you may join by first visiting the Web site at [www.cceg.net](http://www.cceg.net) and after reading about us on the home page, click the link in the left sidebar, "Join the CCEG" and follow the simple instructions.

If any existing members feel you are not getting CCEG emails as expected, contact the CCEG manager (below) so you can be verified.

Rhea Housknecht  
CCEG Manager  
[ccegmgr@gmail.com](mailto:ccegmgr@gmail.com)

## THE HOPE of ZION

The Board of Publications has made available a copy of the report from the Committee to Study Zion entitled, *The Hope of Zion*. Contact Elder Robert Oldham at [rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net), or any member of the Board.

## AVA WEBSITE

On the Church of Christ AVA web site

you will be able to access media such as archived sermons in video and audio formats, past issues of *Zion's Advocate*, searchable Bible and Book of Mormon studies and Sunday School lessons. Real time live streamed sermons are broadcast every Sunday at 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. central time, which can also be accessed from the site. We invite you to take a look and discover what a useful tool this site can be in expanding your knowledge and faith. The address is [www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net).

## 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.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

The Church of Christ Library is now offering digital materials! We have "Church of Christ" materials in the Library that we would like to share digitally; check often, as we are adding to our file as we see things you may have an interest in!

Examples of those things downloaded are:

- **Book of Commandments (Church of Christ 1833 edition)**
- **Church of Christ—A Few of the Differences, by Priest Bill Malone**
- **Revelation given to James E. Yates May 1, 1927**
- **Revelation given to Granville Hedrick April 1864**
- **Revelation given to Granville Hedrick April 1865**
- **Points of the True Church (Study)—Author unknown**
- **Points of Uniqueness to the Church of Christ (Study) by Elder Andy Brantner**
- **The Hope of Zion (study) done by the Zion Committee**
- **Vision given to A. M. Smith 9-7-1964**
- **Vision of the temple given to Apostle T. J. Jordan 1931**

Please go to the AVA Website at <http://www.cocsermons.net>. Go to the "Resources" tab, then the "Library Resources" button. There you will find a button labeled "Book and Document Library." Click on it. Go to the "Online Library Documents," and it will take you to an alphabetical listing of materials.



# Church of Christ

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 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](mailto: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](http://churchofchrist-tl.org)