

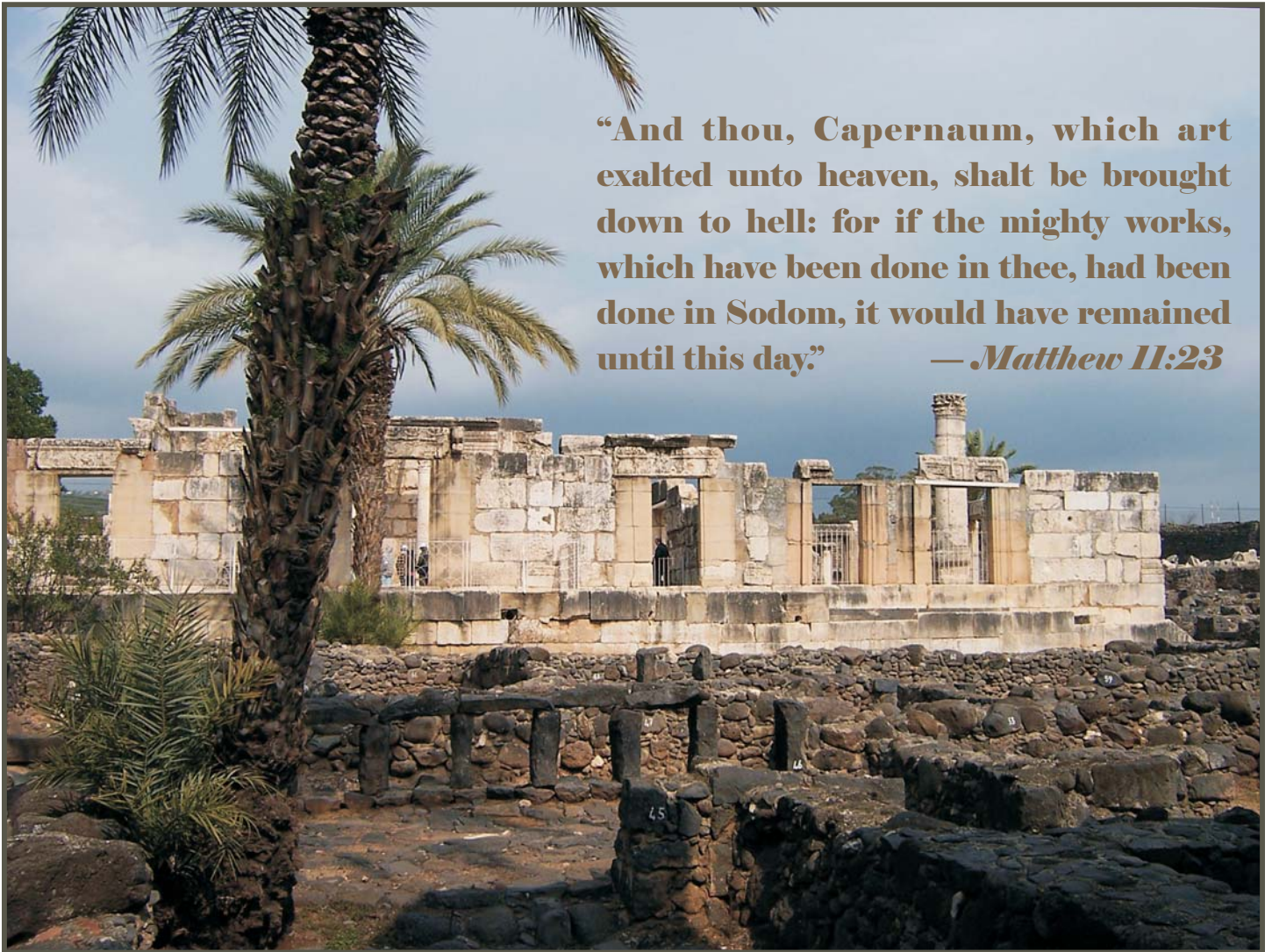
Zion's Advocate

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

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"And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day." — *Matthew 11:23*

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ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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

Do Not Despair

By Elder Chris Moran

I would like to share some thoughts I have and what I believe the Lord placed on my heart with regard to the day we are living in. I first shared these thoughts as part of a recent sermon.

To start, first consider these titles from some recent news articles:

"White House shines rainbow colors to hail same-sex marriage ruling"

"Oklahoma Supreme Court orders removal of Ten Commandments"

"Three Attacks in Three Hours"

"ISIS Bigger Threat than Al-Qaeda"

"If You Think the Water Crisis Can't Get Worse, Wait Until the Aquifers Are Drained"

"Blood Moons: 2015 End of the World Prophecy"

"The Shemitah Unraveled: What 2015-2016 Could Bring"

It's likely that many more articles like these will be published between the time this article is written and when you read this. There may also be other sig-

nificant events that transpire.

With regards to the Supreme Court decision regarding gay marriage that happened this year, there was also a recent picture of a baby in the womb that had been shared with my wife. This picture was striped with rainbow colors and it had the words "Celebrating equal rights? I'm still waiting for mine." In other words, homosexuals are given the right to marry in our country, but yet the baby in the womb does not have a right to life.

My intent is not to discuss each one of these articles and topics in any detail whatsoever, but articles and events such as these are fed to us on a daily basis and at a faster and faster rate. If one were to spend all of their time thinking about these things and worrying about them, surely a person would find themselves in a great state of despair. I myself have had to free myself of these things on multiple occasions.

I have recently been working with old issues of the

Zion's Advocate. In doing so, I came across the following quote in the very first issue of *Zion's Advocate*, dated May 15, 1922 (almost one hundred years ago):

"True it is that the anger of the Lord is being poured out upon the inhabitants of the earth in these last days, for we see wars and rumors of wars among all nations, we have famine and pestilence in divers places, and because of iniquity the love of men waxes cold. ... We only have to casually observe the events of the day in order to see the many perplexing things that are confronting the world today; thievery and outlawery that the officers of the law are hardly able to suppress, the great array of capital and labor against each other in the coal mines, on the railroads, and throughout the industrial world warns us that the day is at hand when every man who will not take up his sword against his neighbor must flee to Zion for safety, and also the crumbling of the social order of life by which the morals and spiritual side of life is being subverted by the present craze of society to

out-dress, out-paint and out-do everyone else, from which we see immorality increasing, free love, laxity in enforcement of the divorce laws and many other things warn us that the day is not far distant when God shall pour out his wrath upon the wicked.”

Also consider the following quote from the second issue of *Zion's Advocate*, dated June 6, 1922:

“The world has never before known of a condition where wickedness, lust, murder, thievery, fiendishness and anarchy have been so worldwide in its scope....”

As I read and considered these things in these *Zion's Advocates* from so many years ago, it reinforced to me the fact that we have been living in the ‘last days’ for quite some time and that we in the Church of Christ have been commenting on these type of events for many, many years. What we are seeing now is not entirely new, yet it is apparent that the return of the Lord is even more near than ever before and I believe that is being expressed to us through the Spirit.

If a person back in 1922 contemplated the events of their day and lost all hope, an entire lifetime may have been spent worrying about things that they perceived as being significant and troublesome,

as so much time has transpired between 1922 and our day. Have you found yourself in a state of despair for many of your years, but always looking back to see that God took care of you? Are we so distraught about the condition of the world that we are not able to produce fruit in our lives and have wasted the time God has given us? Consider this familiar verse from scripture:

“Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy” (2 Nephi 1:115).

Did this scripture only apply for a very short time following creation? Did this verse only apply to Lehi's day when it was written? Did this verse only apply to that time just prior to the May 1922 publication of *Zion's Advocate* when troublesome times were also noted? Did this verse only apply to a certain time period prior to the rise of terrorism in our day or the events of 9/11/2001? Of course, the answer is no. No matter the situation or events of the day, God always wants us to have joy and not to fear. There has always been distress in this world.

There are two responses we can have to the events that are unfolding in our day and I want to talk about each one.

RESPONSE #1 – Despair and Failing Hearts

Consider the following scripture:

“*And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken*” (Luke 21:25-26).

There is indeed distress among the nations, perplexity, and turmoil in the seas. There are also various celestial events that are occurring (lunar eclipses, solar eclipses, etc.) that some believe fulfill this prophecy. I cannot say for sure.

I know of people at work that have had heart attacks while still young. I have wondered if these were in any way related to fear of “those things which are coming on the earth,” or perhaps stress due to the times we are living in. Perhaps not in these cases, but it will affect the hearts of some men to a degree as this scripture tells us. These are those that respond with great fear and despair to the point that their bodies cannot hold up under the stress.

Here's another scripture that I believe is related:

“Wherefore, there must be faith; and if there must be faith, there must also be hope; and if there must be hope, there must also be charity; and except ye have charity, ye can in no wise be saved in the kingdom of God; Neither can ye be saved in the kingdom of God, if ye have not faith; neither can ye if ye have no hope; and if ye have no hope, ye must needs be in despair; and despair cometh because of iniquity” (Moroni 10:15-16).

As I considered this verse, I asked myself how faith and despair are related. The conclusions and logic I used are as follows:

- *There is hope for you if you have faith*
- *You have something to look forward to if you have faith*
- *If you have faith in God, and a something to look forward to, you must have love which is the greatest commandment*
- *When love is put into practice, it's because of the faith we have in the things of God and the belief we have in Christ's commandments*
- *It's this love that's put into practice that brings salvation*
- *Faith and hope should produce love within an individual*
- *If you don't have faith, then you have nothing to look forward to and you will be in despair*

Therefore, despair is as-

sociated with a lack of faith. If you are in despair, and live your life with constant worry and anxiety, your spiritual life is not in order. If you are anxious about the times you are living in, do you have the faith that God wants you to have? In the following scripture passage is a question for each one of us to consider:

“Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth” (Luke 18:8)?

RESPONSE #2 – Have Peace and Rest

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid” (John 14:27).

The world cannot offer true peace. We need to be careful not to put too much confidence in the arm of flesh. If we do, God may perhaps take away anything that resulted from our own effort because we put too much of our hope in it. If we have put our faith and hope in the Lord, we will have peace. The Lord promises it. The hard part is believing this promise.

The Lord wants to give our souls rest. We can have this rest by putting on the Lord's “yoke” which is “easy” and provides a “light” burden. It is no more than the

commandments of Christ. The teaching of Christ should bring rest to our souls.

“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light” (Matthew 11:28-30).

Have you let the news and the events in our world weigh you down? We know these things are going to occur and it should not be a surprise. Do not labor day and night with the thoughts and fears of this world. Learn from these scriptures and find rest. Believe your scriptures, because they are true.

So what other things can we do to have peace and rest and live the second response? I have provided 10 different things below that will form the remainder of this article.

#1 – Remember that God is in control

“And what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and

dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all" (Ephesians 1:19-23).

"Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin" (John 19:10-11).

We have a mighty power through our Lord. Christ is above all powers in this world. Our Lord is in charge, not the President of the United States or any other. This Lord we have is the head of our organization, the church. **OUR** boss is over all and we can even go to Him directly, yet I think we tend to forget this. The head of this Church of Christ is over the entire world.

We should also remember that life and the events in our world continue on because God allows it and wants more to come to repentance.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward,

not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter 3:9).

We should pray that the events of our day will lead people to repentance and God can use us as a tool to share the fullness of the gospel with them.

There was a particular admonition given through a brother in the church back in 2003 regarding a time of upcoming conflict within the United States. This admonition has brought me comfort in the past. One particular thought from that admonition was as follows:

"The Lord has made clear to me that we should not look at the conflict that is coming as many do. The Lord is going to do a great work, and we should turn the coin over and look at it from another angle. We are to look at the good that will take place after this conflict. It is after this conflict that the House of Israel will begin to come into their rightful place, and the Church of Christ will have much of the hindering evil force removed from this land" (admonition from M. Carroll, 2003).

Unbelief in this land will be wiped away. Great and magnificent events will follow. Positive things will result from the negative. For the righteous, the destruction of the wicked will be to the benefit of the gospel. We should not look at the things to come as the world does.

#2 – Keep Faith No Matter What

"And now, O my son Helaman, behold thou art in thy youth, and therefore I beseech of thee that thou wilt hear my words, and learn of me; for I do know that whosoever shall put their trust in God, shall be supported in their trials, and their troubles, and their afflictions, and shall be lifted up at the last day" (Alma 17:3).

This passage is quoted quite often and we should not take it for granted. These are the wise words of a Father to a son. To find deliverance, there is a requirement: we must put our trust in God. Don't forget that this is the requirement the Lord has given us and ask yourself if you believe it. Do you really believe this passage? Again, do you really believe this passage? It's one thing to know the scripture, but another to actually believe it and put it into practice, even if you've read or heard it hundreds of times before.

There's another scripture that the Lord brought to my attention this year that has brought me additional comfort. It's another scripture that I had to ponder somewhat before I gained a personal understanding about it for myself.

"Let your conversation be

without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me” (Hebrews 13:5-6).

So how is covetousness related to a lack of faith? Again, here's the logic I used and conclusions that I came up with when trying to understand this passage:

- *When we covet something, it becomes an idol and a substitute God*
- *When we covet the life that someone else has it also can become an idol*
- *When we put our hope and our faith in the things of the world, we are not relying on God*
- *We don't have faith that what God has given us is sufficient*
- *We have lost faith in the Lord as our “helper”*

If God has not forsaken us, why do we covet? You need to ask yourself the question whether God is directing you to obtain something or not. If you seek something, seek it for the intent of doing good for yourself, your family, and others around you, but don't covet it. Don't think that it is the answer to all of your problems either. The Lord has promised never to forsake us, so why do we covet?

If we have put our faith

in the Lord, why should we “fear what man shall do unto me”? When it comes to contemplating on one's life, and the lives of one's children and family, it can be very hard to look to the Lord as our ultimate source of deliverance. But consider how Lot and some of his family were delivered from the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah. Consider Lehi and his family. Those that listened to the Lord and could hear His voice were delivered. Pray that you will be able to hear the Lord's voice through the Holy Spirit.

One day this year I sat in my office at work and was considering some of the frustrations I was facing. There were things that were happening in my life and the lives of others around me that did not make sense to me. To me it had seemed that my prayers were not being answered in the ways that I thought they needed to be. It seemed to be opposite of what I had prayed for. That same day I tore off the next page of my daily scripture calendar and this verse appeared:

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not” (Jeremiah 33:3).

This verse was just what I needed that day. I hung it up

in my office so I would always be reminded of this promise. If I had to pick just one verse from this article to share with you, it might be this one.

#3 – Remember That You Have an Intercessor

“Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he that searcheth the hearts knoweth what is the mind of the Spirit, because he maketh intercession for the saints according to the will of God. And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:26-28).

God is aware of our concerns and groanings. Even if we do not know specifically what to pray for the Holy Spirit intercedes for us. What an amazing thing this is. It is also something that we should take great comfort in. God knows your needs even when we don't know exactly what to ask for. God translates our groanings into things that are just what we need. We should thank our God for this blessing.

#4 – Remember That

God Offers True Liberty and There Will Be Justice

The Pledge of Allegiance is as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Do the people in America truly still believe in the pledge of allegiance? It seems that many do not with their thoughts, ideas, and laws. They continue to take away our liberties. Our leaders and our nation may turn from God, deny our liberties, and no longer implement Godly justice, but even so, we know that God offers true liberty and final justice will be executed by Him.

“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage” (Galatians 5:1).

God wants you to free yourself from the bondage of despair that Satan wants you to have. God set you free by providing a way out from the cares of this world. There is true liberty in God and freedom from the burdens of the world. We have great things to look forward to if we hold on until the end.

God will also be the final

deliverer of justice. No matter what laws are passed, God will have the final say. Give your burdens to Him. Recognize that He will set things straight one day.

#5 – Press Forward and Labor

There is a general hardness of the heart of the people in the world. Consider the words of the following scripture:

“And now my beloved son, notwithstanding their hardness, let us labor diligently; for if we should cease to labor, we should be brought under condemnation; for we have a labor to perform whilst in this tabernacle of clay, that we may conquer the enemy of all righteousness, and rest our souls in the kingdom of God” (Moroni 9:6).

You hear it time and time again, but we do indeed need to “endure to the end.” Finish the race set before you no matter how hard the hearts are of those in our world. Don’t be discouraged. If we are pressing forward, we can have peace knowing that we will be saved at the last day and we have a reward waiting for us. You will be “brought under condemnation” if you “cease to labor.”

Christ suffered because of what the world did to Him, but yet He moved forward

with what the Father gave Him to do. We should do the same. Christ didn’t give up. Christ said “Not my will, but thine, be done.” Christ was long-suffering and patient and we should be also. There would’ve been great and devastating consequences for us had Christ not fulfilled His mission. What if we don’t fulfill our mission? How would what we didn’t do have an impact on those around us?

I have also considered the great desire of those three Nephites that are still tarrying on this earth (3 Nephi 13:12-23). These disciples had such a great love for the gospel that they wanted to stick around until the very end. They were willing to stay here and see the world fall apart before their eyes and would still sorrow for the sins of the world. They have been living this for two thousand years. Would any of us be willing to do this if we could escape these things? What a great love these three Nephites have for the world and for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Consider their example often.

#6 – Rejoice in Your Persecutions

“Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake. Rejoice,

and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men” (Matthew 5:11-13).

What do people say about you when they find out that you are a member in the Church of Christ and believe in the Book of Mormon? Does it matter? We cannot let persecution and the attitude of the world regarding our beliefs get us down. Christ said that “great is your reward in heaven.” If you fall into despair now, what reward will you have? Remember, this life is not forever. Remain strong and fight the good fight so Christ may one day say “well done, thou good and faithful servant.”

Another aspect of continuing to share your testimony is the need to eliminate pride from your life. If you do this, you will be able to retain joy in your life no matter what people think of your beliefs. Be different. Be a peculiar people. Find joy in your life when the world cannot find joy in theirs.

#7 – Continue To Be a Witness

On July 3, I attended a concert given by the local philharmonic at our downtown baseball stadium. Patriotic music was played and fireworks were lit. One song that was performed was the “Battle Hymn of the Republic.” As you know, this song is in our church hymnal. It was the one song that was played that was also associated with God. At the end of the song, people stood up and clapped. It was the only song where people arose from their seat. I considered why this was done. I came to the conclusion that these people rose to their feet because they were acknowledging their God and that He still holds the answers we need, no matter what we see from our leaders and our nation. I took hope in this when it occurred and it was a blessing to me. I wasn’t the first to stand, but these people to me were a witness for the Lord. We need to do the same.

#8 – Be Among the Righteous

Another scripture passage that I took great comfort in this year is the following:

“Wherefore, I, Lehi, prophesy according to the workings of the Spirit which is in me, that there shall be none come into this land, save they should be brought by the hand of the Lord.

Wherefore, this land is consecrated unto him whom he shall bring. And if it so be that they shall serve him according to the commandments which he hath given, it shall be a land of liberty unto them; Wherefore, they shall never be brought down into captivity: if so, it shall be because of iniquity: For if iniquity shall abound, cursed shall be the land for their sakes; But unto the righteous, it shall be blessed forever” (2 Nephi 1:10-15).

It’s hard to maintain the belief that this is a blessed land when there is so much sin present. But note that for the righteous, this land “**shall be blessed forever.**” No matter how those around us stray from God, this land will always be blessed for those that are righteous, even if it is cursed for the unrighteous. When God removes the iniquity from this land he will raise up a new group of people to inherit it, a righteous people. You could potentially be a part of that. God is not going to let this land be permanently inherited by the unrighteous, or the wicked that God allows to come against this land.

At a sacrament service earlier this year, I requested that we sing the song “America the Beautiful.” I wasn’t sure how I would feel when I sang it due to what has happened in our land. After sing-

ing it and thinking about it, I found that I could still be thankful for the land of America that I live in. To us it will always remain a blessed land as the scripture states.

Another scripture to consider:

“The righteous cry, and the LORD heareth, and delivereth them out of all their troubles. The LORD is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit. Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the LORD delivereth him out of them all” (Psalm 34:17-19).

We will go through periods of affliction because the world will not accept us or our message. God will answer our prayers according to His will in the end. We need to come to the conclusion that His will is sufficient.

#9 – Remember, the Wicked Will Be Destroyed

This is another item that is perhaps redundant with some of my previous thoughts, but I thought it deserved its own category. I believe we should continue and pray for those that are living their lives in iniquity, but in general, we should be thankful that wickedness will one day be eliminated.

There was a particular passage that was shared in a

recent *Zion's Advocate* that I thought deserved another mention. I spent some time one night thinking about it as I read this *Zion's Advocate* before going to bed. The scripture is as follows:

“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).

God in the past has destroyed the wicked. It shouldn't be a surprise to us if it happens again. It is part of the cycle of God, life, and man that is part of our existence in this world. It is the process that God has put in place. Remember that and be patient for “a little moment.”

#10 – Always Smile

A sister in the Church of Christ shared her testimony regarding an encounter with a messenger in 2008 (perhaps one the three Nephites, or other). There was something that was mentioned multiple times by this messenger during those encounters. It was to “always smile.”

No matter what happens in our life, or in the future, we

must always trust in God. He will always be with you and will never abandon you. Each one of us faces different burdens in life, but you should always smile simply because you have a Lord that one day you will meet face to face. I pray that one day I will meet Him with joy and not with shame.

Closing Thoughts

If you're tempted to despair or perhaps are already in despair because of the situation of this world or the situation you find yourself in, apply these scriptures to your life and find peace in them. Pray to God and ask Him to remind you of these things. Pray for the people that attend our locals. Pour out your souls to God. We are all in this together at this same period of time in the great timeline of the world and we need to help one another. Also ask the Lord to bring other scriptures to your attention that were not been mentioned here. I continue to try and do that within my life and it has alleviated burdens that I myself have had in the past, especially this year which has been quite eventful within our world.

REPORT

Yucatan, Mexico, Youth Camp

Dear brothers and sisters,
I am happy to inform you about our youth camp. The theme was in Ephesians 6:12:

"For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

We spent four beautiful days enjoying the fellowship of our youth and many adults that were present. This year we had 55 young people in attendance. They enjoyed the classes and the various activities. On Saturday we had a special night celebrating the 5th anniversary of this new administration. We had a special dinner with all the young people. The classes were centered on how to overcome the giants in life. All the young people showed interest and took notes about all the classes. We also had a special presentation about the Book of Mormon.

We appreciate the work of all the teachers and the staff for all their efforts in this marvelous work. More than 30 people were involved in all the arrangements, including the staff, counselors and teachers who made this dream possible. As well, we are thankful for the support of the two locals in Dzan, with their pastors and all the ministry and parents. Most of all we thank God for giving us the opportunity to work in His vineyard and to be a help to our youth.

We already are receiving the fruit of this beautiful camp. Two of our young people are going to be baptized August 9th. They said that during camp God touched their hearts. What a marvelous blessing!

*In gospel bonds,
Apostle Placido K. Matu
Yucatan, Mexico*



REPORT

Yucatan Marriage Retreat

Dear brothers and sisters,
I am happy to greet each one of you. It is always a pleasure to be part of this great work in these last days.

Last week we had a marriage retreat in the Hacienda Uayalch' Local in the Yucatan Peninsula. Elders Dan Lawrence, Darin Crull and Ronnie Gill with their respective wives visited us to organize this retreat. This is our second marriage retreat in this local.

They started on Friday with a presentation and a discussion panel about the importance of the family and marriage. The young people had their class with Ronnie and his wife, while Dan, Darin, and their wives had the adult class. We are happy to see the interest and the participation of the brothers and sisters. After each service we had a delicious meal served by our dear brothers from the local church.

Saturday, we followed the same schedule and did an evaluation as a husband and also for the wives. All the brothers, the sisters, and the young people enjoyed these activities.

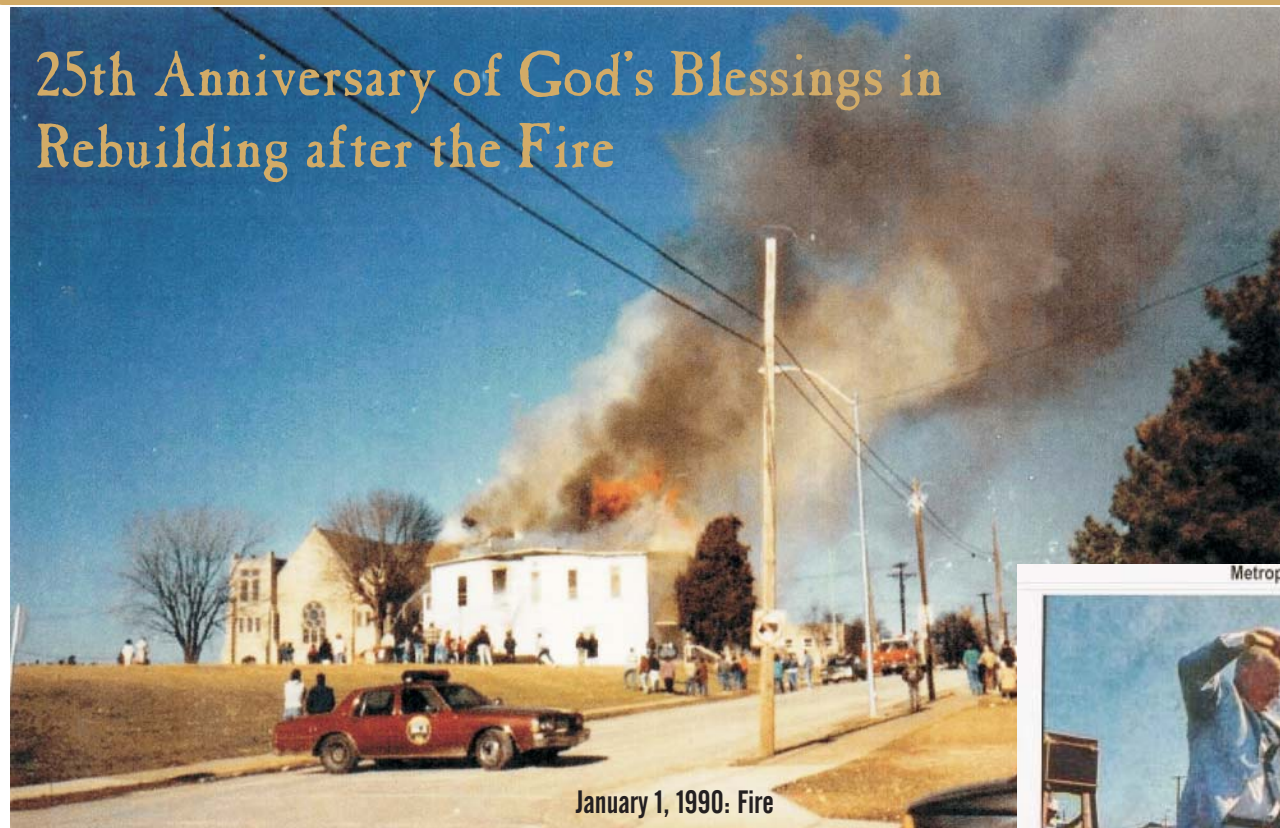
Sunday, the men had a review of the presentation and a discussion about it. After all these activities we gathered in the sanctuary to conclude this important event. We enjoyed seeing the participation of the brothers from the different locals who attended this retreat.

*In gospel bonds,
Apostle Placido K. Matu
Yucatan, Mexico*

"Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed" III Nephi 8:52.



25th Anniversary of God's Blessings in Rebuilding after the Fire

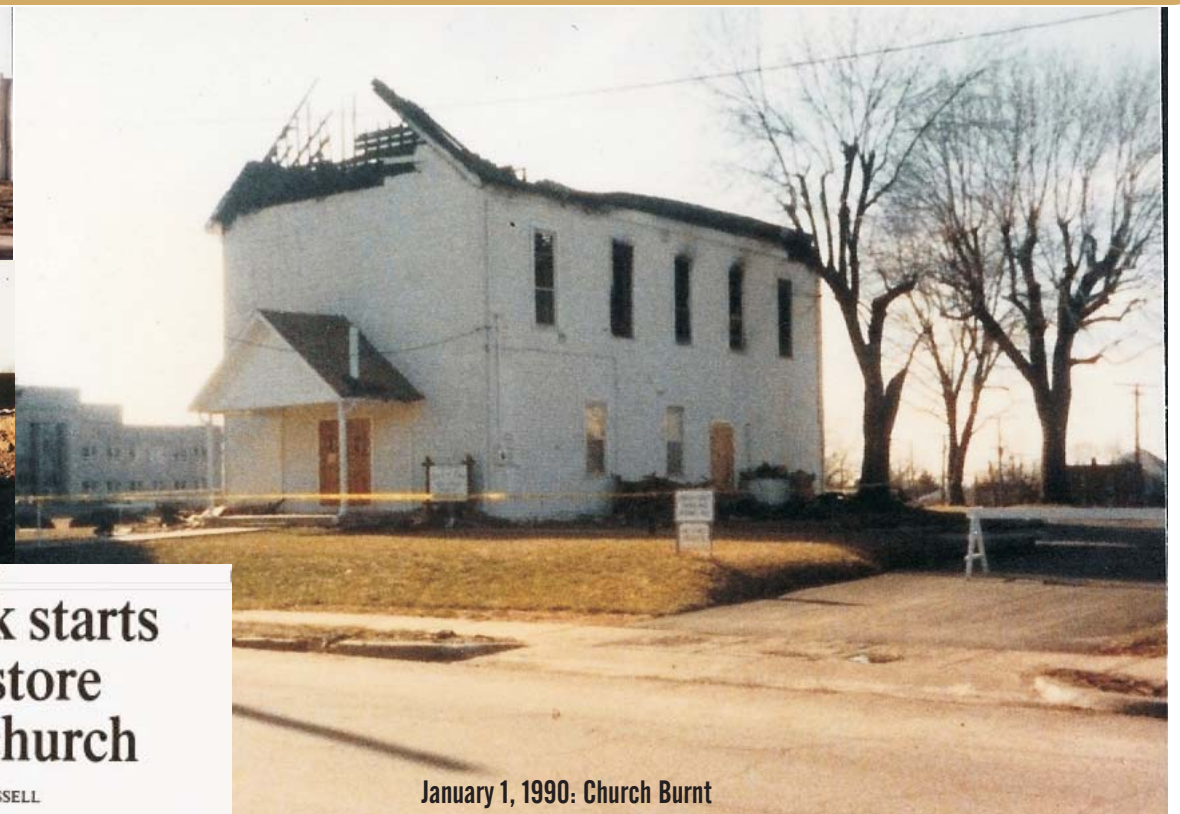


January 1, 1990: Fire



January 1990: Church Gone

Rebuilding



January 1, 1990: Church Burnt



November 26, 1990: Pouring the Concrete



January 18, 1991: Lumber Arrives



1991: From the SW Corner of Lot

Metropolitan - The Kansas City Star Sunday, August 19, 1990

Work starts to restore lost church

By JAMES A. FUSSELL
Staff Writer

LAUREN CHAPIN/Special to The Star

Eight months after it was damaged by an arsonist who danced at its doorway and watched it burn, the Church of Christ-Temple Lot in Independence is preparing to rise again.

On Saturday, church officials with speeches and shovels broke ground for a two-story, \$500,000 church building that will serve as the denomination's world headquarters. The new church will be three times larger than the historic white church that stood for 88 years on what church members consider "sacred ground."

That building was heavily damaged by fire on Jan. 1 by a former parishioner who painted his cheeks with bright-colored stripes and barricaded himself inside. The church was subsequently demolished.

Officials hope to have at least temporary occupancy in the new church by April 1991. The church will seat 300 persons and house a library and a visitors center. The church has about 150 active members, officials said.

A crowd that church officials estimated at

Continued Below

William Sheldon breaks ground for a new Church of Christ-Temple Lot in Independence. An arsonist burned the old church in January. Sheldon is the secretary of the Council of Apostles.

Rebuilding starts on burned church

Continued from above

more than 100 watched and applauded as church leaders dug shovels into the dirt and asked God to protect the new building from "evil accidents."

During a prayer, onlookers bowed their heads. Some cried. Others held hands, hugged children and videotaped the outdoor service, which was held on the old church site at 200 S. River Blvd. Church members believe Christ will make his Second Coming near that site.

Robert H. Jensen, a church

apostle from Bellevue, Neb., said the groundbreaking proved church members had the will and the faith to continue with God's work after a terrible tragedy.

"As many times, in losses and disasters, life must go on," he said. "We have been given the will to rise from the ashes around us."

Jensen encouraged supporters to give their time, effort and money to support the church, the third in the congregation's history. The first church, completed in 1889, also was destroyed by an arsonist in 1898.

Church members, who have

been meeting at a YMCA building in Independence, said they were not angry at the 25-year-old man accused of ruining their old church.

Jordan Smith, the man accused of the arson, is in the Jackson County Jail awaiting trial on the charge.

Elder Leslie Case, longtime member of the congregation, said he was excited and looking forward to worshipping in the new church.

"We feel that the Lord has blessed us through the whole thing," he said.



November 26, 1990: Forms for Walls



1991: Sign out Front



1992: New Building from Far Corner of the Temple Lot

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Sunday School Lessons: Love Thy Neighbor

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 level by Joyce Lee, Bradley local, MI

Objective: To learn that we need to show our love to our friends and family by being good to them.

Pray: Lead the children in a prayer that the Lord is with us today as we learn more about loving each other.

Talk about who we love and why we love them? (They take care of me, do things with me.) **Teach them that God created families** so that we could love each other, and take care of each other and that children are a gift from God.

Sing the Song: "Jesus Loves the Little Children of the World", "Jesus Loves Me", "Where is Love?"

Where is Love? Where is Love? Here I am. Here I am. (Point to Bible) The Bible tells of Love. The Bible tells of Love. God's love for you. God's love for me.

Activity: Use cut out hearts, foam or construction paper about 4 inches wide, and markers to write "I love you" and give to someone they said they love.

For more preschool lessons on this theme, go to http://www.cocsermons.net/children_g-l.php

Elementary level by Darl Temple, Independence, MO

Purpose: To learn the first and greatest of the two commandments- Love the Lord with all our heart, and love our neighbor (all people), like ourselves. (Include the purpose in opening prayer.)

Supplies needed: Pictures of church people, gift box, "Thinking of You" card

Discussion: The Bible and Book of Mormon tell us 10 commandments which the Lord gave us. Two of them are the most important because if we keep those it will help us keep the others- Love the Lord thy God with all your heart and Love your neighbor as yourself. The most important thing we should do is to obey the Lord. First we must find out what He wants us to do. How do we find out? (Reading His Word in the Bible and the Book of Mormon and hearing His servants.) To show that we obey we must love others just as much as we love ourselves. We want good things to happen to us. We don't want to hurt ourselves. So we should be good to other people and not hurt them in any way. We show them how to love the Lord too, and we help them when they need help. Jesus told us a story to show us how to love others.

Read Story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) directly from the Bible, explaining unfamiliar words and terms (even a child can get the gist of the story if read in this way.) Ask if any would like to tell the story again in their own words. Have the students hold the Bible as they read or say, "**Let us do good unto all**", **Galatians 6:10**. This is our memory verse.

Song to sing: "Loving Each Other", #378, Zion's Hymnal

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Activity: Using pictures of members of the church. Say, "We are happy when others do something nice for us (give examples), but we are happiest when we do something nice for other people. Jesus wants all people to be happy. That's why He wants us to do good things to others. Let's say our memory verse again, 'Let us do good unto all.' We are friends of Jesus if we do what He asks. Jesus' friends like to be together- to worship by singing and praying. They like to eat, work and play together. They are the people of the Church of Christ. Maybe you will know some of these people." (Show the pictures and discuss who they are.)

"We are going to do something special for someone who needs to be cheered up." Talk about someone you have chosen and why they would like for us to think of them. Show the gift box. Ask the children to suggest things that could go into the box for that person. Make a list. Send a copy of the list home with each child with a note about your plans, and ask that each child bring one item. Inside the card ask each child to sign their name and color a small picture. Make plans for delivery of the gift and card.

Middle School by Susan Porter, Bradley local

Purpose: To learn that if we follow the second of the two Great Commandments, "...thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" we will also be following the first of the Great Commandments, "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind." (Matthew 37-39).

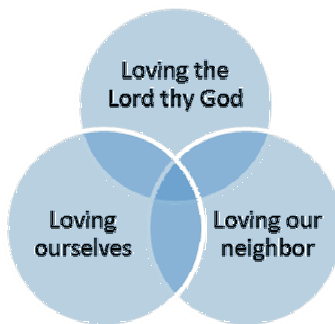
Supplies needed: Scriptures, index cards

Read: Matthew 37-40, Galatians 6:10, Leviticus 19:18, Mosiah 11:16, Moroni 7:11

Memory verse: "As we have therefore opportunity, **let us do good unto all men**, especially unto them who are of the household of faith," Galatians 6:10.

Discussion: As we read the five scriptures, think about how they tie together. The Lord expects us to love each other as we love ourselves. What does 'loving ourselves' look like? What does 'loving our neighbor' look like?

Activity: Make a list of ideas that are brainstormed during the discussion.



Write examples in each of the circles. Things that overlap go in the overlap section of this model. We take care of ourselves by reading our scriptures, eating nutritious foods, exercising daily, personal hygiene, modest apparel, righteous activities, doing our chores, school work, etc. We show love to our neighbor (*friends, family, brothers and sisters in Christ, and people we live near*) by including them in our activities, helping them with chores, tutoring them with school work if necessary, kindly make suggestions when clothing is questionable, speaking kindly of them. When our feelings are hurt by someone, we talk to them about it to avoid holding any grudges or having any contention among ourselves.

Index Cards: Write "I caught ___(name)___ being nice to ___(name)___ by ___(action)___.

Put the cards on a bulletin board to show others examples of how we are love our neighbors.

High School: Expand on the above lesson by reading from 3 Nephi 5: 89-96.

2015 Missouri Reunion Report

On Friday, July 31st, the Missouri Reunion began with a prayer service with Elder Randy Sheldon in charge. Two administrations took place. Br. Randy told us we have a hope in the Lord and for our reunion. The Lord is our director—He is preparing us to work right so we can move in the way He directs. God wants to perfect us. He read I Nephi 2:41. We want to hear the Lord, we are in a dreary waste, and we need His mercies upon us. When we have long services it is because God is there. God fills us with peace, love and joy. We must be diligent. Nephi wanted to see what Lehi did—God gave him more. He read I Nephi 3:30. There was a season of prayer, but time for only a few testimonies:

▶ A sister testified that she was reminded by Br. Randy's comment this morning—how do we prepare? She was given a verse: at Alma's conversion "...This is MY church..." We need all of our spiritual armor and weapons (Ephesians 6: 10-18-djh).

A preaching service followed, with the sermon given by Elder Rodger Bruner. Br. Rodger greeted us and spoke of John 1:1. Br. Rodger explained that this is the beginning...that's why God is God, and He gave us scriptures to teach us. We are all creations of God, and we're all different. Scriptures can teach us to work right—Satan doesn't want anything to work right. God doesn't destroy evil—to give us a choice. April 6, 1830, this church was officially restored. Not an innovation, but restored...to the original. Christ often referenced the Old Testament. He taught us how to restore. Joseph Smith was caused to bring forth the Book of Mormon, to restore. People then knew it was right, as he taught what Christ taught. Religion of the day was hypocritical. Br. Rodger said at one time he was real cynical about churches, but coming here he knew it was real. Why haven't you been led away? Maybe it is because you are stronger by the laying on of hands for the Holy Spirit. They don't speak of the Holy Ghost in churches today. People change; God doesn't. Every day, ask yourself—am I doing it right? There are

principles to guide. We're in a constant inner war all the time. We hunger and thirst after righteousness, because it is right, it is correct. The first song asked for today was, "Trust and Obey." We should trust each other, and trust and rely on Him. Trust is a basic Christian principle. Ask yourself what makes this religion attractive to you? Do you teach your kids? James is a story of religion, how it works, and just one week of not wavering made a difference. Many of us fail because we don't know how to be unwavering. Do you know the difference between right and wrong? Many people don't these days. A lot of people don't know anything about the restored church. God has established our laws, but people don't know that. Teach the difference between right and wrong. He read Alma 15:51-56. Teach right and wrong and how not to waver. Then at the age of accountability they will hunger and thirst for righteousness and they won't let go of it! 1 Cor. 13 says without charity we're nothing. Our marriage to Christ is like our marriage to our spouse; kids see and your example teaches them. In closing he read Alma 21:131-139.

After lunch and a song service we enjoyed another sermon, given by Priest Martin Addie. Br. Martin read Gen. 1:26. Satan dresses up sin to make it appeal to us. He read Judges 2:1-3. Satan will never tell you the truth. He used Gal. 5:7-9; II Nephi 3:29-34, 42-54. Sin afflicts and takes away your peace. It's our choice to partake of sin. He read Romans 7:15-20, 1 Cor. 10:5, Psalms 37:1-10. Consider the end of the evildoers...hell. If you're jealous of what another has you're opening yourself up to sin out of discontent. He read 1 Cor. 10:13-14. God's plan was for people to repent and obey and for other people to try to destroy. This is the plan of redemption. God created a new plan for more chances and forgiveness. He read II Nephi 6:45-50, 56-61; Romans 8:5-11. To be carnally minded leads to death; spiritually minded can lead to peace—if the Spirit dwells in you. He read Luke 23:33-43; 2 Cor. 2:1-11. Accept their repentance.

Keep berating them and you'll drive them away. Be like Him...love without limits. He read 1 Cor. 13:4-7, Matt. 18:21-22, I Nephi 5:117-131. There is a ripple effect of how one life affects others. In closing, Br. Martin read Hebrews 12:1-2; Alma 3:83-89, 98-100, 107-108.

Following the evening meal and another song service we enjoyed a sermon given by Elder Marvin Case. Br. Marvin began by reading Matthew 10:32-42. Jesus Christ is the Rock of our Salvation. Br. Marvin asked, "Do you believe everything Christ said? Do you believe He did everything to make it possible for you to repent and come unto Him?" Br. Marvin then read of the vision of Lehi from I Nephi 3:184-192. He explained that the Book of Mormon was to restore those things which had been removed. Moroni 10:3-7 shows us why it would be difficult for a Muslim to receive witness of the Book of Mormon. We must ask with a sincere heart and with true intent and He will give us witness of its truthfulness. We are a remnant of the church Christ himself built. NO other church fits that description. He read 11 Nephi 12:14; Moroni 6:4. Our courts judge on civil law—but that's NOT us. Our law is Christ's law and you don't pass things by the voice of the people. Br. Marvin read Helaman 2:66-75. Peter denied Christ three times, yet after Pentecost he stood firm, even though he was flogged. In closing we were told that in Acts 4 or 5 we learn that Paul and Peter couldn't travel together, as they had a personality conflict. The Apostles weren't perfect, they were still human.

Saturday morning we gathered in for another prayer service, Elder Steve McGhee in charge. Br. Steve told us we receive strength when we go to reunions; they bring us up to a higher level and renew us. We have a responsibility to share that. Br. Steve read Isaiah 42:5-10. Praise God to the islands of the world, share our hope. He read Matthew 25:14-15, 24-29, and we entered into a season of prayer. The meeting was then opened for testimonies, songs or prayers as the Spirit would lead.

- ▶ A brother testified—Yesterday Lehi's vision and the mist of darkness was mentioned. We're hanging on to the word of God. He has a personal testimony. Before baptism he had a dream, and still carries it with him. He was out in a field—it was winter time—everything was dead and dreary. He was sitting on a horse, not going anywhere. He had a little boy that was sitting in front of him on the horse. He felt danger. He saw a bull. He got down off the horse and he and the boy climbed over a fence. The boy disappeared, but he walked to a barn. He slid the door open and on the other side of the barn he could see light shining through the barn boards. He opened the door to that area and he saw even more light coming in from the next room. Then there was another door and with even more light shining through from the next room. Finally he was able to go out into the light. The light was so bright, and everything was so beautiful! It was very different. He saw a bus and got on it. That was the end of the dream. He felt it was his experience in coming into the church. A dismal mist keeps people in darkness. Testimonies all go back to their reaching for the light. We're trying to gather those in who are in that mist of darkness.
- ▶ A brother testified—Twenty-two years ago he sang here and at the last phrase he fell apart. The Spirit had fallen on him—he was baptized right after that. The last phrase, "I climbed the hill on Calvary..." he couldn't get the words out because he hadn't done that. He had procrastinated his baptism for ten years. He told us that when you come into the fold you get rest. He was there at the fence but had not entered through the gate. So he wasn't part of it. It was a revelation to him; you can't be HIS until you do. Become HIS.
- ▶ A brother testified—He had a contact from a man in northern Arizona. He was able to share the gospel with him and his wife. He traveled several times to visit. They believe; they've read everything about the church. They said they felt the Lord, even though their family thought they were crazy. They were baptized June 1st. Their daughter was present. At the end of the confirmation the daughter was in tears. When he saw them in July at their home the daughter was there again. She spoke of her parent's baptism and said she had felt the Spirit so strong like never before. Another time he got a contact in California. In a telephone conversation the woman told him she had had a vision of a small white church building and she had also been reading the Book of Mormon. She said the words came right off the page, and she saw

the words "Church of Christ." When she went to the AVA website (that they'd told her about) she saw the same little white church building as in her vision and the name of it, the Church of Christ. She was baptized a short time later. We have new Golden Valley members. God also led a scattered member to join in their group. We have a need to come together; God is working so far ahead of us! This week in camp was marvelous; he gained so much hope with what he saw in our young people. Parents nurture... some kids are challenged... pray for them, all of our youth.

- ▶ A sister testified that for 25 years she has been on the highway and had no accidents. A year ago while she was driving the semi, she saw something in the road and went off into the median. Her husband told her how to steer and they safely got back on the shoulder. They looked and looked and there was no damage, even though they had much dirt on the underside. They hadn't hit anything. The Lord was with them. They drive a million miles a year, but this is the first time there was an incident... how could there NOT be damage? They both realized it was the Lord's hand. God told her: *"Wake up! Stop struggling with day-to-day stuff—it's not important. Get your life back where it should be. It's coming—wake up!"*
- ▶ A brother testified that when he and his wife were expecting their daughter the ultrasound confirmed their daughter wasn't growing correctly. He fasted and took it to the Lord. Mother/unborn baby were administered to and were blessed. The baby grew normally after that. After she was born tests showed the baby was deaf. Again he took it to the Lord. There was another test, and the baby's hearing was normal. Their son has been diagnosed with Asperger's, a type of autism which resulted in difficulty with many things when he was young. The Lord has blessed him and he has adjusted so well. God is faithful and He wants us to share these blessings with others.
- ▶ A sister testified that twenty years ago she had a very bad dream that her sister had died. She prayed. She learned her sister had had an aneurism and was bleeding to death. She was administered to. God answered prayers and she survived. Then, many years later she fell and hurt her back, but as a result her lung cancer was discovered. God's blessings have made them all stronger. The real miracle is how her sister's spirit has grown. Spiritual blessings are incredible and took decades.

Following lunch we gathered in for a baptism. Angel Stevens, from the Ava local, was baptized Sat-

urday, August 1st, by Elder Brandon Tarbell. Br. Brandon was assisted by Elder Jim Case. The confirmation was done by Apostle Joel Yates with Br. Brandon Tarbell assisting. Our new little sister said she was very thankful for her friends and family that helped her get to where she is now. Following the confirmation we went on into a song service and then a sermon.

The afternoon sermon was given by Elder Gordon McCann. Br. Gordon told us to "Reconcile Yourself to God" and read Jacob 3:16 and 2 Nephi 11:43-44. Reconcile means, "to cause to be friendly or harmonious again; adjust; settle (differences); to bring to submission or acceptance or a change of relationship between God and man based on the changed status of man through the redemptive work of Christ," 1 Nephi 11:44. Sin will separate you from God, Isaiah 59:2. Pathway to reconciliation, Isaiah 55:7. Believe in Jesus Christ, 2 Nephi 11:39; Acts 4:12. Make yourself clean, Isaiah 1:16-17. Reconcile yourself to God, Isaiah 1:17-19. Repent of your sins and forgive others, Mosiah 11:139-140. Reconcile with others, 3 Nephi 5:71-72. Our new life in Christ, 2 Corinthians 5:17-18 and Philippians 4:13. Examples, Alma 3:46-48. Have ye walked keeping yourselves blameless before God? Could ye say, if ye were called to die at this time, within yourselves, that ye have been sufficiently humble? Are ye stripped of pride? Alma 3:49-51 and Proverbs 16:18. Are you conceited? Proverbs 26:12; 1 Nephi 3:126; and Isaiah 14:12-14. Who is not stripped of envy? Alma 3:52-53; Proverbs 14:30; 1 Timothy 6:5-7; Proverbs 27:4; James 3:13-16. Do you mock a brother? Alma 3:54-56; Jude 1:17-19; 1 Nephi 2:71, 73-75. Do you persecute? Psalm 10:2; 1 Nephi 2:82-83; 1 Corinthians 2:12-14; Mormon 4:46-48. Work out your own salvation; Mormon 4:93-94. Finally, we must press forward feasting on the words of Christ and endure to the end; 2 Nephi 13:29-30.

After dinner there was another song service, which was followed by a sermon given by Elder David Keeney. Br. David told us it was the Holy Spirit that prompted him in this warning; "To be forewarned is to be forearmed." Br. David read Ephesians 6:11-13, in exhorting us that our battles are spiritual, and to take upon us the whole armor of God. He read Genesis 11:1-8, speaking of times

both past and now. He told us man has developed technology that is way beyond our imagination. He explained that we need to know technology is trying to change what we think of as "human." Scientists want to redesign us to enhance our intelligence and body; they desire the ability to make humans "immortal," despite negative consequences. They don't know what will happen but they want to do it anyway. Br. David told us there is a "Trans-Humanism" movement supporting these ideas. He read Mormon 4:71-73 and Genesis 1:24-27 to explain to us that we shouldn't tamper with what God has created, as after all God created us in His image. Br. David asked, "When they tamper with our DNA, at what point do we stop being human?" He read 1 Corinthians 3:16-17; Matthew 24:15, 21-22, Revelation 13:14. He also spoke of the great deception which has been going on for years; a narrative that God did

not create man, but that we were "seeded" by aliens from another planet. This is an effort to omit and deny God. Br. David encouraged us to look at these things through the lens of the Bible and the Book of Mormon. He gave us words of encouragement from 1 Nephi 7:30 and reminded us God is in control and He will deliver His people.

There was an evening event for our young people; an Ice Cream Social also took place in the dining hall where we celebrated the 25th Anniversary of God's Blessing in the Rebuilding of the Church, with photos of the fire and rebuilding. The evening was greatly enjoyed, with much reminiscing among our brothers and sisters.

On Sunday morning we gathered in to the house of the Lord for our Sacrament Service. Elder Rick Olson and Elder Don Case were in charge of the ser-

vice. Br. Don greeted us and told us we witness to the world we've taken upon us the Lord's name. He is a perfect God. He spoke of a comparison of us raising our children as similar to our God raising us. Our love isn't perfect—God's is. There were ten plagues on Egypt in Moses' time. Pharaoh stood in defiance of God. The fact that it took ten plagues was for all of us to understand what God did for us. So we could understand—the Feast of Passover is to remember this great blessing of our Redeemer... the perfect firstborn of our perfect God. Humans have a tendency to forget—in the prayer we say "we remember"—yet we know we do forget. Sacrament is so we will remember what He did for us. Our intellect doesn't trump what God did for us. Don't let anything separate you from partaking of the Sacrament. Hebrews 12:1-3.

The emblems were then blessed and served. We



entered into a season of prayer in which many names and needs were raised to our Heavenly Father. Eleven administrations were conducted. Many voices were then lifted in testimony; here are just a few:

- ▶ A brother testified that God watches over kids with no sense. . . Him. While at school one day he saw snow up on the mountaintop. He was 14 and his brother was 9. They decided to ride their bikes up the mountain to feel the snow. It was real bad going up. His brother was so exhausted that he could see his heart beat right through his shirt. They got to the top right at dusk. There was only a small patch of snow left. It wasn't worth the effort. They started down the mountain. . . their brakes wouldn't work. In the dark they ran over rough road. . . but never fell as they tore down the slopes. God was with them and they never realized it until years later. . . He had saved them from serious injury or even death. It was a miracle.
- ▶ A young brother told us at camp a young brother had been told by the Spirit that the youth were going to have a tough time in the next year. . . they are not making good decisions. Our brother gathered a group of young men together to pray. He was given a scripture, Alma 17:3; and read it to us. Tough times are coming; this scripture strengthened all of them.
- ▶ A sister told us it has been 27 years since her second bout with cancer. She survived her little sister. She has Parkinson's. There is no cure. She wants to be more joyful. Pray for her. She is thankful for us.
- ▶ A brother told us that back in college—a girl challenged him—"If God answers your prayers, ask Him who you are to marry." Several weeks went by—but he had a dream given. The person you marry is very important. God showed him whom he was to marry. He saw a young woman on a path, walking ahead of him. He heard, "The woman in front of you is to be your wife." Our brother asked, who? The Lord told him the same thing again. He broke up with his girlfriend, as it wasn't her. He met his future wife six times, not knowing she was the woman in his dream. . . until one day they walked down to the lake, and on the walk he viewed her from the back while on the path. It was the same view as in his dream. He thought, "Now what will I do?" Three weeks later he asked her to marry him, but he had to ask five more times before she finally said yes. They've had 33 years together so far. He told us our spouse is the one who knows us the best and has the strongest desire for us to have eternal happiness—to encourage or discourage. Do God's will—ask

Him whom He desires for your spouse.

- ▶ A sister told us she doesn't know why she needs to share this. She's worked hard to make God first in her life. The last three years there have been many things coming at her: work, home, heartbreak, disappointment, etc. She's had trouble dealing with them—but pressed on. You need every piece of armor—you can't deal with it with just one piece. She talked with God and asked him to fix her problems. She realized she was angry with God. She prayed and read songs of thankfulness, and she realized she had SO MUCH to be thankful for. She feels blessed to once again feel grateful.
- ▶ A brother told us his testimony is about Joyce's "Little Sister." It's because of Janice that he is here today. She introduced him to this expanded view of God. He'd already heard of the white God who came to Central America. Then he got to know Janice. He was baptized. He learned God is merciful and can heal—if it's His desire. God, through people here today, healed him well enough that he could be here today. God can heal your spirit too. God found all sorts of ways to touch him and heal him—of whatever problem; He can. Remember and pray to God.
- ▶ A brother told us that Titus 2 came to him after Braden testified and he read it for us.
- ▶ A brother told us as a young man called to the ministry he was told to be concerned about the youth. Ask the Lord to send those who are serious. Young br. had a vision; as another brother prayed, he saw some wearing armor. We are in a battle now more than ever before. He was impressed last Saturday that the Lord is stepping up in our needs. In every battle there is blood, sweat, and tears. This is our day. For God's reason and purpose. We'll be given strength if we'll get to the work.
- ▶ A brother told us many years ago on a canoe trip that as they reached their destination, hot and tired, they went to load up the bus to return to cars. There the church folks got on the bus right along with the crude and drunken. Some put on their armor. They could have been silent cowards; instead they were led to sing hymns. They got stronger and united and they shut the other's mouths. We'll serve the Lord, not be silent. Don't be afraid.
- ▶ A sister testified that when our young brother stood she was given a thought: Helaman's young 2000—be those and be brave.
- ▶ A young brother told us he didn't get to go to camp this year, mainly because his sister was having

problems. Last year he had been taken out. He had done some wrong things, and he'd been over-thinking things. He felt anguished. He went to a mental hospital and felt really bad. He felt like there was a demon that wouldn't stop bothering him. He was thankful that ministry came to see him.

Following lunch and a special music service, we gathered in for the final sermon of the reunion.

The last sermon of the reunion was given by Apostle Mike McGhee. Br. Mike greeted us and told us there have been times when he has been down in the depths of depression. This sermon he received during a sermon at the East Local. He began receiving thoughts for it one right after another. He "Hopes to Encourage and Refresh." He wants to talk about our "Perspective, Relationship with Earth, You and God;" Ether 5:4, II Nephi 1:120. Our home is shrinking—depression is increasing. There are new normal, morals, economy, government, laws, populist not constitutional, truth, marriage, terrorist, division and falling away into apostasy. II Nephi 3:46-50 speaks of the valley of depression. We need to be confident in Jesus; Proverbs 4:18. Choice in perspective is ours to make: II Nephi 3:42, Jeremiah 6:16, even though the world says, "We will not walk therein." God's word lifted the depression or the valley, Isaiah 55:8-9. I know in part/His knowledge higher/step out of this valley, 1 Cor. 13:11-12; Mosiah 3:4; Romans 8:35, 38-39; Eccl. 12:13. The mind of Christ makes us free of the valley, 1 Cor. 2:14. And as many as would hear His word he did teach. Was this Alma's only duty? Let your light so shine. As Nephi witnessed so must you, and we must stay out of the valley with our new perspective. Helaman 3:12. We should stand out as Christ's, not blend in with the world. Our "sphere of influence, each of us has it. . . is like a ripple in the pond." As we look beyond this earth. . . when you're weary with your toil. . . still have your hope.

We thank and praise our Lord for all His blessings, and may He bless you is our prayer.

Your reporter, Sr. Deb Haines

NEWS

PHOENIX Local News



Greetings from a very warm Phoenix. Let me rephrase that – a very hot Phoenix!

It has been a very busy summer here in the Valley of the Sun. June gave us a local church business meeting, a special presentation on Sunday, the 21st for all fathers, and a baby blessing for Zane Yates. And of course, there was Vacation Bible School, with a program for that on July 5th.



The Herd Family

Our Sister Niki Herd was given a baby shower on July 11th and baby Ethan came into the world just a few short weeks later on August 2nd. The whole family is doing really well.

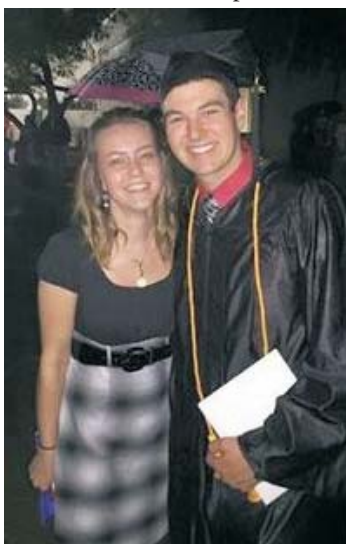
Two couples here in Phoenix have announced engagements—our Sr. Mary Galvan and Br. Jeremiah Case, and Sr. Sasha Gill and Br. Zach Yates. The future Mr. and Mrs. Yates have set their wedding date for December 19th. I'm sure we all wish them well and know they will continue to walk the rest of their lives with our Holy Father.

There is always work to be done at the church. Even on a very hot Saturday afternoon in August you can find the hardiest of folk working on the sprinkler system. Thank you to all involved in that project!



Mary & Jeremiah Engagement

As always, I want to remind us all to remember the ministry of the church in our prayers. The world is becoming more and more dangerous, but yet these brave men continue to travel to more and more countries to spread the word of the Gospel. We need to



Sasha & Zach

thank them, and God for always watching over them.

So many of our members are in need of your prayers, and I know I won't remember to mention them all. Sr. Marlene Oar continues to battle her cancer, Sr. Amy Moser, well, she and her broken body won't give up. I know the Lord is with her because no matter what is thrown at her, her faith has always stood firm



Working on Sprinklers

and strong. The Saracino family could really use your prayers as Br. Glenn continues to have problems with his surgery. We don't want to forget our Sr. Wanda Yates and Br. and Evangelist Hubert Yates.

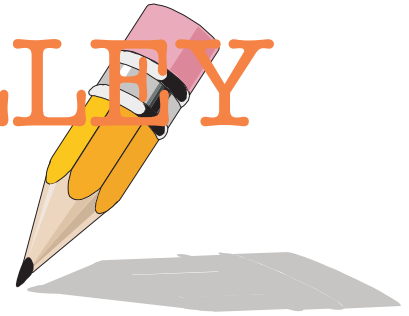
Please pray for all those members who are looking for new jobs, trying to decide a career path while in school or just graduating, those who are having marital trials and especially those who are wrestling with their faith.

My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

God bless,
Sr. DiAnn Hedrick

NEWS

TREASURE VALLEY Local News



Greetings from the Treasure Valley Local! With your generous donations, prayers, a few minor injuries and more work than we care to remember, we got the chapel finished just in time for the Idaho Reunion. This project has been in our dreams for many years, and finally we decided to reach out in faith and go for it and, after many (seemingly endless) challenges we have a beautiful and comfortable place to meet in. We really thank God for answered prayers, as well as to all the locals and individuals who made generous donations and the hard work that was done



that made this possible.

Just in time, we had our first reunion here and everything turned out beautifully. There were many visitors from Phoenix, Colorado, Missouri, and other places, and we had just enough room to accommodate everyone comfortably. We had fine fellowship with our brothers and sisters and look forward to the next reunion.

Our little local has finally had time to rest and enjoy a few well-earned vacations, recover from injuries and just catch our breath. Please keep Roy and Mary Coon in your

prayers; Roy is still recovering from knee injuries and falling, and they really need to sell their large home out in the country so they can be closer to family and the doctors that they often have to visit. Everyone else is do-

ing very well and we keep each of those in need in our prayers. By the way, if you're looking for a nice small local that has plenty of room for growth and an area with a low cost of living...we would welcome you with open arms!

*God Bless,
Karen Bove*



NOTICES

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 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

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

SUE PORTER

9 Market St.
Middleville, MI 49333

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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CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

Prices for continental U.S. only, plus shipping & handling charges.

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

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:*

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

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

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