

# Zion's Advocate

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

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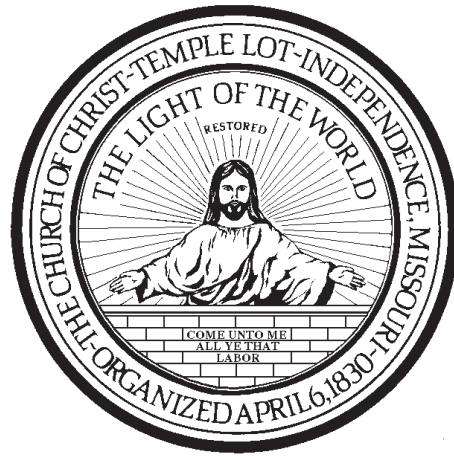
NUMBER 1



**"The scriptures are laid before thee, yea, and all things denote there is a God; yea, even the earth, and all things that are upon the face of it, yea, and its motion; Yea, and also all the planets which move in their regular form, doth witness that there is a Supreme Creator: ... And yet will ye deny against all these witnesses?" —(Alma 16:54-55)**

## ~ In This Issue ~

EDITORIAL—Contend for the Faith - <i>Elder Gordon McCann</i> . . . . .	3	The Human Brain - <i>Elder Glenn Gill</i> . . . . .	16
ARTICLE—History and Faith - <i>Apostle Joel Yates</i> . . . . .	5	LETTER—Dear New Believer - <i>Liza Hedrick</i> .	19
GSSA—SSL: Keep His Commandments . . .	12	NEWS . . . . .	21
FROM the ARCHIVES— 1964 Michigan Reunion. . . . .	14	OBITUARIES—Helen M. (Jensen) Dewaele (5/25/1927-11/18/2015) - <i>Elder Robert Dewaele</i> . David Robert Jensen (9/17/1956-10/26/2015) . . . . .	22
ARTICLE—The Wonder of God's Creation:		NOTICES . . . . .	23



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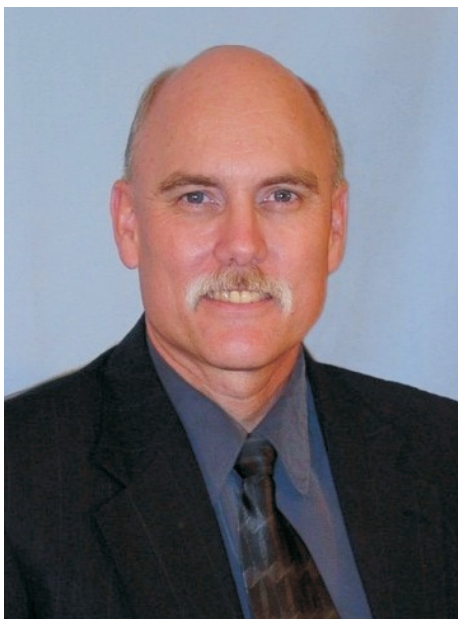
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### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

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.



# CONTEND for the FAITH



## By Elder Gordon McCann

*“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints” (Jude 1:3).*

Jude (Judas or Judah) with his fellow brothers James, Joses,

and Simon grew up alongside their half brother Jesus (Matthew 13:55). We find recorded in the book of John 7:5 that “...neither did his brethren believe in him” where the recorded text indicates that they were struggling with the thought: Is our brother truly who he says he is, the Son of God? The brothers chided Jesus by saying:

*“...Depart hence, and go into Judea, that thy disciples also may see the works that thou doest. For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world” (John 7:3-4).*

It would not be until after Jesus’ death, resurrection, and appearance before His brethren that their conversion would be complete. The evidence of James and Jude’s conversion is found in their epistles. The epistle that James wrote was of faith and works, and

his brother Jude warned against the dilution of the pure Christian doctrine of Christ in his epistle. Jude continues by admonishing the brethren to stand firm and earnestly contend for the faith that was delivered in the beginning. Both brothers acknowledged that they were a servant of their Lord Jesus Christ in their epistle salutations.

Jude’s warning is applicable to our day as well, where he spoke concerning the apostles’ warnings “in the last times” that there would be those who had been of the faith “...who should walk after their own ungodly lusts ...who separate themselves, sensual (worldly), having not the Spirit” (Jude 1:18-19). The following is a quote from Matthew Henry’s Commentary pertaining to Jude’s warning in reference to the previous quoted verses:

(3.) We ought not to be offended if errors and persecutions arise and prevail in the

Christian church; this was foretold, and therefore we should not think worse of Christ's person, doctrine, or cross, when we see it fulfilled. See 1 Timothy 4:1, and 2 Timothy 3:1, and 2 Peter 3:3. We must not think it strange, but comfort ourselves with this, that in the midst of all this confusion Christ will maintain his church, and make good his promise, that *the gates of hell shall not prevail against it*, Matthew 16:18.

So, we have been forewarned to expect that our faith will be challenged by those who were once enlightened with the truth, along with other professing Christians who hold to half truths following after the precepts of men. Thus the warning by our Savior, Jesus Christ, to "*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits.*"

After Jude's warning to those who "...are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called" (verse 1) he provides the path that the true believer should follow:

*"But ye, beloved, building up yourselves on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Ghost," (Jude 1:20).*

Those of us who have followed our Savior's example by being baptized into the Church of

Christ and having received the gift of the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, through the laying on of hands, must utilize that gift from God by presenting our burdens before Him in mighty prayer. We are called upon to exercise our faith, acting with no hypocrisy, desiring to know and to understand the truth while looking diligently into the Word of God. If we approach our God in faith believing we have the assurance that the promise from our Lord will be fulfilled where we will know the truth of all things and the truth will make us free in our lives by confirming what is of God and what is of men.

*"...the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. ...He shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:17, 26).*

Then Jude admonishes the believer to be mindful of God's mercy towards us and to keep or possess the quality of charity, which is the pure love of God, active within us.

*"Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus*

*Christ unto eternal life" (Jude 1:21).*

After we have followed that path that Jude has laid we can now with confidence in the Spirit of Christ contend (struggle or exert) for the faith, encouraging those to come to the understanding of the truth through compassion or by fear, knowing the judgments of God are eternal on the one hand or the other.

I want to leave you with a final quote from Matthew Henry's Commentary with respect to Jude's admonition to the sanctified, preserved, and called followers of Jesus Christ:

(3.) The worse others are the better should we endeavor and approve ourselves to be; the more busy Satan and his instruments are to pervert others, in judgment or practice, the more tenacious should we be of sound doctrine and a good conversation, *holding fast the faithful word, as we have been (divinely) taught, holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience*, Titus 1:9; 1 Timothy 3:9.

# History and Faith



**By Apostle Joel A. Yates**

In August of this year I read an article on the LDS website which included a picture of the seer stone that Joseph Smith supposedly used in the translation of the *Book of Mormon* (Lloyd). I was curious about their claim and how they were linking it to history. I had to do some research to try to understand where this claim originated. It made me contemplate the nature of how history has played a role in the faith of millions. It seems every generation of Christian believers

is beset by scholars or “new evidence” in history that challenges their faith.

We know for every action God takes to guide and lead the children of men back to Him, there is an opposite reaction from Satan and his followers to continue to keep the children of men in the dark about God’s word and plan. History has played a part in either building or destroying the faith of many in their belief of both the *Bible* and the *Book of Mormon*.

Consider the great assault history has played against believers in the *Bible* which has caused many to lose their faith in the divinity of Christ. Today even some who call themselves Christians refer to the “historical Jesus,” the one who was married to Mary Magdalene and had children. They claim He never rose from the dead and never promised to return; in fact, they claim He did not know He was starting a religious order and did not really do any miracles but was only able to heal a few skin ailments. A group called the Je-

sus Seminar picked this popular thought up not many years ago. They made great efforts to rewrite the four gospels to reflect what they thought Jesus really said, and colored coded the four gospels to represent their beliefs. They agreed that only a very few verses in the book of John were actually spoken by the Lord, as the scholars decimated the most personal and intimate book of the gospels to share with the world their “historical Jesus” (Funk).

The lasting effect of this overconfidence in history continues today. Many theological seminaries are turning out ministers who do not believe in the divinity of Christ, and they are the teachers of another generation of Christians whose faith is being challenged. How sad to think that the precious effort our God made to preserve His word for the world for all generations has been forgotten by many because of the findings of some historians and the interpretation of modern-day scholars.

The mid 1980’s found a



similar assault on the *Book of Mormon*. Some of you may remember hearing about the Salamander Letter. It was supposed to be a letter from Martin Harris to W. W. Phelps in October of 1830 telling how Joseph Smith found the plates. It states Joseph told Martin he used a stone (seer stone) to find money, etc., and the stone told him where to find the plates. When Joseph went to get the plates, a spirit in the form of a white salamander appeared over the plates, struck at him three times and would not allow him to take the plates for one year, etc. There are many sources that identify salamanders as a symbol of the occult. It is not my intent to give all the details of this forgery, but only to point out that originally many people were stunned by the information. In fact, some in the LDS church, including some of the hierarchy, originally thought it could be authentic. The local and national media reported this new historical finding, and many opposed to the *Book of Mormon* used documents sold by this man as authentic history to discredit the *Book of Mormon*. This caused some to lose their faith in the *Book of Mormon*. Several years later the truth was revealed. According to the book, *Salamander: The Story of the Mormon Forgery*

*Murders*, by Linda Sillitoe and Allen Roberts, Mark Hofmann forged at least 107 documents, and some of these documents claimed to be authentic history of the church (565).

Hofmann went to libraries and found books written in the 1830's, then carefully removed blank pages from the back of them. He determined how to age ink and copied the handwriting of early church leaders. He was able to sell these forgeries for thousands of dollars to several churches. Later, when he was about to be found out, he committed two murders to try to cover up his crimes.

I have found some of his forgeries still quoted in anti-*Book of Mormon* literature written during that time frame and even later. Sillitoe and Roberts quote Mark Hofmann's answer to the investigators as to why he forged this history:

"I won't go so far to say I wanted to change Mormon history. Let me take that back. Maybe I did. I believed that the documents that I created could have been a part of Mormon history. I'm speaking specifically, for example, of the magic-related items – the 1825 Stowell letter, the so-called salamander letter. In effect, I guess, the questions I asked myself in deciding on a forgery – one of the questions was – what could

have been? I had a concept of church history and I followed that concept" (491-492).

It saddens me to think this deception in a history sent by Satan destroyed the faith of many. It has made me look at the source clearly. If the *Book of Mormon* was not a faithful testimony of Jesus Christ, why would Satan send lies against it? Consider this truth: if the *Book of Mormon* was not from God, Satan would strive to prove it so he could keep the children of men in darkness.

In contrast, if the *Book of Mormon* was not true, God would not use lies to disprove it. He would show in truth why it was not from Him. This understanding has strengthened my faith in the *Book of Mormon* because I have not read any publications or attacks on the validity of the *Book of Mormon* that have not included known lies. This has opened my eyes to the power of history and its use by Satan and people to forward their own beliefs, goals and agendas, often not giving a true picture of a real event.

While those two examples show how Satan can manipulate history to steer people from the truth, not all people who wrote history were necessarily under his influence, and yet there are still discrepancies. When an

event in history is shared between several writers, they will not completely agree. Normally the main event will be agreed upon, but the details often differ. We find this is true in our own lives. How many times do you begin a story of an event in your life, only to find yourself corrected by someone else who was there? Rarely are all the details agreed upon. This same thing is seen in history. The four gospels tell faithfully of many of the same events and capture in agreement the main points, but there are some differences in the details.

Another element that causes problems in history is the length of time that passes before the event or experience is written down. We have probably all heard someone say, "I remember it like it was yesterday." In general, most people remember yesterday and the main events or emotional experiences, but often correct each other on the details. In early October I was reminded of the frailties of memory and the ability to remember details over time. Almost twenty years ago when I was the pastor of the Phoenix Local the Lord gave me a dream to alert me to a situation that required my attention. I immediately got out of bed and wrote down the

dream, which was filled with details that had meaning and understanding for me. I have never forgotten that experience and the direction the Lord gave me. Not long ago, a brother gave me a copy of that dream I had given him almost twenty years ago. To my surprise there were details I did not remember at all. If I had not written them down immediately, they would have remained lost to me, even though there still was a vague memory.

This is a lesson we need to remember when we contemplate things in history that affect our faith. History is not perfect in its detail. Even well-meaning, honorable men and women who write with a desire to be truthful may not remember every detail accurately, simply because of the frailties of the minds of men. Added to this concern is what motivated the writer to record the history. Historians write for many reasons and often with a bias based on their belief and understanding. This has been the problem with history all along. There are conflicting stories and statements that we are left to interpret based upon our personal convictions and faith.

Interpreting history can be a challenge and quite disturbing. There are powerful forces in the world that have

hijacked and changed history to reflect what they want others to believe. Take our American history, for instance, and how different it is being taught today than it was several generations ago. As the morals of our society have shifted away from God, the history of our nation has mentioned less about the strong belief of our forefathers in God's providence and the role of their faith in the founding of this nation. As the new interpretations of history are pushed into society, the former becomes forgotten; the new understanding becomes the standard.

This has happened in church history as well, especially in the restoration. In 1844 when Joseph Smith was killed the church broke up into different factions. Only five to seven percent of the church followed Brigham Young to Salt Lake City at that time. Since then, they have become the largest group in the restoration, yet few have ever heard that fact in history. Under Brigham Young, new doctrines such as polygamy were introduced into the group that went West. Often, history written with an LDS point of view cause many to believe that polygamy was taking place and fairly well known in Nauvoo. Yet, reading the reaction of our forefathers in

the Church of Christ who had remained in Illinois, it has caused me to doubt that interpretation. Upon hearing the news from out West about the introduction and acceptance of polygamy into that group in 1852 they immediately called a conference to establish if these rumors were true. After determining they were being told the truth they declared themselves separate from that "wicked faction." These details are captured in a little-known piece of restoration history called the *Crow Creek Record*.

This brings me back to the news which prompted me to write this article to bring these things to your consideration. The LDS church is considered by many to be the foremost authority on the history of the restoration. In August 2015, the LDS Church released pictures of a stone they had in their possession and claimed they believed it was the seer stone used by Joseph Smith in the translation of the *Book of Mormon* (Lloyd). In a world already full of criticisms against the *Book of Mormon* I questioned this claim as well and felt it could further damage peoples' confidence in the *Book of Mormon*.

Growing up in the Church of Christ I had always understood that Joseph

Smith translated the *Book of Mormon* by the use of the Urim and Thummim, or interpreters. I had to question the history of this new claim. What is the origin of this claim and how has it become part of a new standard? We are going to take a moment and explore this claim in history and consider its source. History must be interpreted just like the scriptures and all of the elements considered, especially since it is so subjective.

From my research it appears there are two accounts about Joseph using a stone to translate. The first was written in 1881 by an elder in the LDS church, fifty-three years after the *Book of Mormon* was translated. He interviewed an 88-year-old Martin Harris, then living in Salt Lake City. According to B. H. Roberts in his book, *A Comprehensive History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints Century I*, speaking of Martin's testimony:

"He said that the Prophet possessed a Seer Stone, by which he was enabled to translate as well as with the Urim and Thummim and for convenience he sometimes used the Seer Stone. Martin said further that the Seer Stone differed in appearance entirely from the Urim and Thummim that was obtained

with the plates, which were two clear stones set in two rims, very much resembling spectacles, only they were larger. The Seer Stone referred to here was a chocolate-colored, somewhat egg-shaped stone which the Prophet found while digging a well in company with his brother Hyrum, for a Mr. Clark Chase, near Palmyra, N.Y." (128-129).

Considering this account raises more questions. God went to a lot of trouble outlining how He prepared and preserved the Urim and Thummim and what they were to be used for. In Martin's account, why would something so special be so easy to acquire simply while digging a well? Why would God give Joseph a stone just for convenience, especially after he took such meticulous care to include with the plates the means to interpret them? The word of God settles this matter for me:

*18 And now he translated them by the means of those two stones which were fastened into the two rims of a bow. 19 Now these things were prepared from the beginning, and were handed down from generation to generation, for the purpose of interpreting languages; 20 And they have been kept and preserved by the hand of the Lord, that he should discover to every creature which*



should possess the land, the iniquities and abominations of his people; 21 And whosoever has these things, is called seer; after the manner of old times (Book of Mormon, 1990 edition, Mosiah 12:18-21; Book of Mormon, LDS edition, Mosiah 28:13-16).

David Whitmer wrote in *An Address To All Believers* the other account that mentioned Joseph Smith using a seer stone. David claimed Joseph would put the seer stone in a hat, look down into the hat and a light would shine from the stone. A scroll would then appear and Joseph would read what was written on the scroll (12). We know David Whitmer went to his death testifying to the truth of his testimony of the *Book of Mormon*, and he was well spoken of by all in his community as a man of great integrity. Which leads me to believe this brother was not trying to sell a lie to destroy the work. So why did he write it? Let us look at some facts: David wrote this in 1887 when he was 84 years old—58 years after the fact. How well could he remember the details? David is the only one who mentioned Joseph using a hat and seeing a scroll and David had quite a number of other historical facts in his book that were out of line with earlier written histories.

Interestingly, at the same time Joseph was translating the *Book of Mormon* another brother named Hiram Page, “found a peculiar stone with which he claimed to receive divine revelations, and kindly disciplinary measures were necessary in order to keep the church free from confusion and disorder” (*History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*). This history goes on to say while quoting the *Times and Seasons* (Volume 4, Number 10, p. 146):

At the September conference of 1830 the question of the seer stone was taken up and disposed of as follows:

At length our conference assembled; the subject of the stone mentioned in a previous number was discussed and after considerable investigation, Brother Page, as well as the whole church who were present renounced the said stone, and all things connected therewith, much to our mutual satisfaction and happiness (44).

I am sure both of these men were sincere and honest. It is not important to destroy their character, only to acknowledge they were writing many years after the fact and understandably may not have had clear memory of the details.

Now let us look at the statements made closest to the actual event. Consider

what Joseph Smith said the angel told him as he recorded in the history in 1838 in the *Times and Seasons*, Vol. 3, No. 12, pp. 753, published in 1842.

He said there was a book deposited written upon gold plates giving an account of the former inhabitants of this continent and the source from whence they sprang. He also said that the fullness of the everlasting gospel was contained in it as delivered by the Savior to the ancient inhabitants. Also that there were two stones in silver bows, and these stones fastened to a breastplate constituted what is called the Urim and Thummim, deposited with the plates, and the possession and use of these stones was what constituted seers in ancient or former times, and that God had prepared them for the purpose of translating the book (*History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*, 23).

Possibly the oldest source about the manner of translation came from a letter written by Oliver Cowdery around 1831. Oliver Cowdery was used as the primary scribe and wrote all but a few pages of the *Book of Mormon* we have today. This is his testimony as shared in the *History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*.

Near the time of the setting

sun, Sabbath evening, April 5th, 1829, my natural eyes for the first time beheld this brother. He then resided in Harmony, Susquehanna County, Pennsylvania. On Monday the 6th, I assisted him in arranging some business of a temporal nature and on Tuesday, the 7th, commenced to write the *Book of Mormon*. These were days never to be forgotten – to sit under the sound of a voice dictated by the inspiration of heaven, awakened the utmost gratitude of this bosom. Day after day I continued, un-interrupted, to write from his mouth, as he translated with the Urim and Thummim, or, as the Nephites would have said, “INTERPRETERS,” the history or record called the “Book of Mormon” (29).

The next testimony came from Joseph’s mother, Lucy Mack Smith, who wrote a book called *Joseph Smith the Prophet and His Progenitors*. Orson Pratt wrote in the Preface to English Edition, “The following pages, ... were mostly written previous to the death of the Prophet, and under his personal inspection” (iv Preface). Lucy wrote about the beginnings of the work which few had intimate knowledge of, including a detailed description of the Urim and Thummim and the breastplate. She never mentioned anything about

Joseph having or using a seer stone.

Remember, history is not perfect, so I believe we must also use the word of God in our research since it is divinely inspired. Let us take a moment to consider what the *Bible* and *Book of Mormon* say about these things. We read in Leviticus how Moses put the breastplate on Aaron and then he put the Urim and Thummim in the breastplate. “*And he put the breastplate upon him: also he put in the breastplate the Urim and the Thummim*” (KJV Bible, Leviticus 8.8).

Next, we read that Joshua was to ask counsel from Eleazar the priest, who had the judgment of Urim. In other words, the Lord would use the Urim to speak to and guide Joshua in what he should do. “*And he shall stand before Eleazar the priest, who shall ask counsel for him after the judgment of Urim before the LORD: at his word shall they go out, and at his word they shall come in, both he, and all the children of Israel with him, even all the congregation*” (KJV Bible, Numbers 27.21).

In Ezra and Nehemiah’s day, following the return from seventy years in Babylon, it was necessary to determine who was a true descendant of the house of Israel. Some of the sons of the

priests could not show their lineage in the registry. They were counseled to not eat of the holy things (which only a priest could do) until a priest with the Urim and Thummim would come and clear up the matter of their lineage.

*61 And of the children of the priests: the children of Habaiah, the children of Koz, the children of Barzillai; which took a wife of the daughters of Barzillai the Gileadite, and was called after their name: 62 These sought their register among those that were reckoned by genealogy, but they were not found: therefore were they, as polluted, put from the priesthood. 63 And the Tirshatha said unto them, that they should not eat of the most holy things, till there stood up a priest with Urim and with Thummim* (KJV Bible, Ezra 2.61-63).

We have read in the *Bible* the Urim and Thummim were put in the breastplate and God used them to give light and understanding, especially in matters of judgment by the priest. We know the seers were also given direction and prophecy by the use of the Urim and Thummim.

Now, let us turn to the *Book of Mormon* and determine what it says about these things. We know a portion of the plates Joseph received

was sealed and he was forbidden to translate that portion. The Brother of Jared was given two stones to accompany the sealed portion of the plates and were to be used for translating.

87 *And behold, when ye shall come unto me, ye shall write them and shall seal them up, that no one can interpret them; for ye shall write them in a language that they can not be read.* 88 *And behold, these two stones will I give unto thee, and ye shall seal them up also, with the things which ye shall write.* 89 *For behold, the language which ye shall write, I have confounded; wherefore I will cause in mine own due time that these stones shall magnify to the eyes of men, these things which ye shall write* (Book of Mormon, 1990 edition, Ether 1:87-89; Book of Mormon, LDS edition, Ether 3:22-24).

Later in history, we read the Nephites found twenty-four gold plates (the sealed portion) and the stones, which were to accompany them.

72 *Now Ammon saith unto him, I can assuredly tell thee, O king, of a man that can translate the records: for he hath wherewith that he can look, and translate all records that are of ancient date: and it is a gift from God.* 73 *And the things are called interpreters; and no man can look in them, except*

*he be commanded, lest he should look for that he had not ought, and he should perish.* 74 *And whosoever is commanded to look in them, the same is called seer* (Book of Mormon, 1990 edition, Mosiah 5:72-74; Book of Mormon, LDS edition, Mosiah 8:13-16).

The Word of God gives us a great description of the look and function of these things and the work they were destined to do. History is not perfect. We must be careful to consider what we are being told, who is telling it and what circumstances surround the writer and the history. I will finish by reminding us all what God has told us, “*Prove all things; hold fast that which is good*” (KJV Bible, 1 Thessalonians 5.21).

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GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS: KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS

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](http://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](http://www.edmodo.com). Contact Susan Porter: [porter\\_susan@sbccglobal.net](mailto:porter_susan@sbccglobal.net); home address: 9 Market Street; Middleville, MI 49333 for more information.

### WORSHIPPING THE LORD: KEEPING HIS COMMANDMENTS

By Joyce Lee, Bradley Local, MI

#### Pre-K/Kindergarten:

**Reference:** John 14:15, "If you love me, keep my commandments."

**Materials:** Pre-cut hearts for students to decorate, washable markers, glue, glitter, instruments, snacks.

**Lesson:** Say an opening prayer together; making sure the children are repeating what you say and they all say amen. Give time for all children who can pray without help to take a turn. Ask if they know what a commandment is and give time for responses. Tell them the word "commandment" means an important rule given by God that tells people how to behave (*Merriam-Webster dictionary*). Ask students to tell you some rules their daddy and mommy have at home. Give all the time they need to give their examples.

The main rule Jesus gave us was to love God with all your heart, soul, and mind and to love your neighbor as yourself. When we love God, we obey him. Sign the saying by:

- Crossing your arms over your chest for "Love".
- Form an "L" with your thumb and finger; start on your left shoulder and then move the "L" down to your right side, forming a royal banner for "the Lord".
- Point up to the sky for "your God".
- Point with both index fingers to your heart, then moving in opposite directions, draw a giant heart on the front of your body, ending with fingers together again at the waist for "with all your heart".
- Interlock thumbs with fingers open and lift hands up waving fingers to make a bird (dove) for "...and with all your soul". (DiscipleTown: How to Love God).

Ask the children to raise their hands if they love their daddy. Give positive feedback. Explain to them that God is our daddy too, and we are to love Him just like we love our daddy. Explain that one thing God wants us to do is to worship Him. Ask them what they think it means to worship God? Give time for responses. We are to only pray to God and thank Him for all the blessings He has given us. He wants us to go to church, sing songs to Him, and to learn all about Him. Then, God wants us to tell everyone about His love.

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**GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION**

**Centers:**

- Decorate precut hearts and glue them on a card that says, "I love God."
- Have musical instruments for children at the center (small drum, triangle, tambourine, recorders, etc.). They can play music and sing songs at this center.
- At this center, there will be two students; one student will tell the other student about God's love and all the blessings that God has given him/her. Give examples such as, a family, our church, the Bible and Book of Mormon, and someday living with God and Jesus.

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**WALK WITH THE LORD!**

By Kelli Moran, Bradley Local, MI

Elementary:

- Read the following verses to the children and discuss their meaning.

John 14:15 says, "If ye love me, keep my commandments".

John 14:21, "He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."

So, how can we obey Jesus? Does obeying our parents mean we are obeying God? What other ways can we show obedience to God in keeping his commandments?
- Play a game of Red Light, Green Light. After playing a few times, play again but let them break the rules however they like. Is there peace? Are people safe? We need rules to keep us safe, both physically and spiritually. Our Father knows what is best for us. We trust that our parents are going to take care of us, our needs, provide for us, etc. We should follow God's commandments, too, because He wants what is best for us.
- Ask the following questions:

Have we ever followed the rules but only halfway? Washed our hands but didn't use soap? Only put away a few toys when you were supposed to put all of them away? Shared but only shared what you didn't want?
- As a class, make a list of people in the Bible and Book of Mormon who kept God's commandments. Did they have struggles? Did they stay strong? Did God bless them?
- Give each child a poster board and have them write the John 14:15 scripture on it. Using washable paint, let them paint their feet and walk across the board. They can decorate it with hearts or whatever they like. This is a visual reminder that they can hang up in their room at home to remember to always do what God wants. Walk with the Lord!

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Middle School and High School:

Use the article, *Dear New Believer* by Sister Liza Hedrick (found in this issue) for a lesson.



FROM the ARCHIVES

# 1964 Michigan Reunion

**T**his group photo was taken by Apostle Clarence Wheaton at the Michigan Reunion of the Church of Christ in June of 1964. The reunion took place at the Flint Local that year. The Flint Local closed its doors several years ago; over the years attendance had dwindled, members died, moved, and some heard the call to Zion and moved to the Centerplace. At one time there were 35 locals in Michigan; now there are three. Please, help us to identify these people. Contact us at: [debruhaines@juno.com](mailto:debruhaines@juno.com).





FROM the ARCHIVES



- 1 Darwin Ex
- 2 George Brantner
- 3 Bud Hanes
- 4 Don Housknecht
- 5
- 6
- 7 Emery Pinder
- 8 Helen Pinder
- 9
- 10
- 11 Luella Hoare
- 12 Branford Hoare
- 13
- 14 Emery Pinder (cousin with same name)
- 15 Trudy Grinzic
- 16 Alameda Pinder
- 17 Tony Grinzic
- 18
- 19
- 20 Arthur G. Smith
- 21 Doris Housknecht
- 22 Angela Wheaton

- 23 Harold Polack
- 24 Marie Jones
- 25 Gary Jones
- 26 Thelma Polack
- 27 James Wilkerson
- 28 LaVerne Lussenden
- 29
- 30
- 31 Leon Yates
- 32 Aaron Heath
- 33
- 34
- 35 Lois Heath
- 36 Barbara Lesseuer
- 37
- 38
- 39
- 40 Sr. Ex (mother of Darwin)
- 41 Dorothy Howe

Also attending were Sarah Brantner and Clarence Wheaton and others.

## ARTICLE

# THE WONDER OF GOD'S CREATION: THE HUMAN BRAIN



By Elder Glenn Gill

**W**hile praying for guidance regarding a subject for a recent sermon I was impressed with the need to “study the human brain.” Since that was the only help I received in response to my prayer I took the instruction seriously and began a search for information about the human brain. Volumes of information were available. To my dismay I found that many scientists are still con-

cerned with a sequencing of brain size and weight from rodent, through monkeys and apes to man for the purpose of showing an evolutionary trend. I noted that those scientists were still unable to fill the gap between monkeys and apes and man in regard to the great size of the cerebral lobe of the human brain (the brain portion associated with reason, inventiveness, language and other things that make us human). I thought of the place that God gave us in creation and of the magnificent qualities of the human brain, and desired to share these insights with the readers of *Zion's Advocate*.

There was purpose in God's design:

*“So God created man in his own image. in the image of god created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, And God said unto them, be fruitful and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and fowl of the air, and over every living*

*thing that moveth upon the earth.” (Genesis 1:27-28)*

God knew it would take a very special design, unlike that of any other creature, to provide a population that would be able to replenish the earth, subdue it and have dominion over (govern) the living creatures of the earth. So He designed and created a special DNA formula that would result in production generation after generation of a brain with phenomenal characteristics right down to the almost unbelievable abilities of each nerve cell or neuron. Here are a few things I learned in my research:

The human brain has about 100 billion neurons sending and receiving up to 1,000 messages at a time. It has 1,000 trillion available synaptic pathways. There are 20 or more neurotransmitter chemicals active at any time. Nerve impulses may move at a rate equal to that of a 1 trillion per second computer processor. Human

brain memory storage is usually greater than the volume of information found in the Library of Congress.

Seeing this miracle of design and creation, I knew that God did not make such an effort and turn man loose in the world just for the fun of it. He expected a return on His investment. I knew that I must find out what He expects of you and me, how He wants us to use and care for this great treasure we have inherited as the pinnacle of His creation. I found the answer in the Scriptures.

We glorify what God has designed when we use it in ways that expand and improve His kingdom on earth.

*“Herein is my Father glorified”* said Jesus to His disciples, *“that we bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, that ye love one another, as I have loved you”* (John 15:8-12).

Pure love and pure wisdom come from the pure and wise use of the human brain. *“But the wisdom that is from*

*above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy”* (James 3:17). So it is by how we think and the decisions we make that we may both glorify God in our lives and maintain a healthy brain, unpolluted and capable of bearing the fruit of love and service to our God. It is by using what God has given us for good (not for selfish desires, anger or strife) that we can glorify His creation.

God has given His human creation freedom of choice. We are free to bear good fruit unto Him and encourage others by teaching and example, or to rebel and go according to our carnal instincts.

*“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance”* (Galatians 5:22-23).

*“Be careful for nothing; but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known unto God, and the peace of God, which passeth all understanding shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Finally brethren whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, what-*

*soever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both learned and received, and heard, and seen in me, do: and the God of peace will be with you”* (Philippians 4:6-9).

Like a computer, the brain needs an operating system, an overall program that directs its many functions. Paul was aware of this when he wrote to the Corinthians.

*“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither hath entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit, for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. —Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God”* (I Corinthians 2:9-10 & 12).

If God’s Spirit is not our operating system, Satan will be glad to fill the void.

The brain God designed for us provides an ability to plan for and make decisions for the course of our lives, decisions that affect future events and possibilities. So we are brought to where we must consider how we relate to Him and what His expectation is toward us.



*“There is no other name given, whereby salvation cometh. Therefore, I would that ye should take upon you the name of Christ, all you that have entered into the covenant with God, that ye should be obedient unto the end of your lives. And it shall come to pass that whosoever doeth this, shall be found at the right hand of God, for he shall know the name by which he is called; for he shall be called by the name of Christ”* (Mosiah 3:11-12).

Because we have been given freedom of will our thoughts and the actions which follow them can be pure, reflecting God’s will, or impure, reflecting the desire of Satan. Pure thinking leads us to believe and obey the commandments of Christ. Wrong thinking is reprobate and it leads us away from God toward eternal death. Pure thinking embraces the things that are true, honest, just, pure, lovely, of good report, virtuous and worthy of praise. Pure thinking results in days that are filled with the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, longsuffering, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance. And that is not all. Pure thinking leads to more wisdom and understanding than anyone can achieve on their own. Wrong thinking leads to strife and confusion, addiction and

death.

*“Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? Let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness and wisdom— for where envy and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work”* (James 3:16).

*“...For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that I do. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. Now it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me”* (Romans 7:14-17).

Sin emits from an impure mind and brings confusion and ultimately death. Confession, repentance, fasting and prayer help clear the mind of confusion just as in the days of Helaman.

*“Nevertheless, they did fast and pray oft, and wax stronger and stronger in their humility, and firmer and firmer in the faith of Christ, unto the filling of their souls with joy and consolation, yea, even to the purifying and sanctification of their hearts, which sanctification cometh because of the yielding of their hearts to God”* (Heleman2:31).

We see around us in our nation and in the world wors-

ening conditions that result from wrong thinking, unwise and self-serving use of the magnificent gift God has given to mankind. Now more than ever it is essential for us to maintain pure thought processes in tune with God and glorifying our Lord Jesus Christ, our source of freedom, peace and salvation. A pure thinking brain is a healthy functioning brain. As with other things of value it needs our careful attention to remain strong and healthy, or to return to health if there is wrong thinking present. Here are a few points to consider. Let’s call it my prescription for a healthy brain:

- 1** Stop undisciplined thought patterns and fantasies.
- 2** Do not take everything you think as gospel.
- 3** Confess out-of-control impure thinking and addictions, and repent by replacing them with positive Godly thoughts.
- 4** If #1 through #3 are difficult consider surrounding yourself with a new right thinking circle of friends (The others weren’t really friends.).
- 5** Seek the fruit of the Spirit in all your endeavors.
- 6** Pray a lot about everything.



## LETTER

# Dear New Believer,

How do you worship God? What does that mean? Where do you start? As a young person and a new believer, I had these same questions. I knew that just because I went through the “gate” of baptism that I wasn’t done; in fact, this was just the beginning of my new life—I had to worship Him with all my heart, mind and strength. Yet I still didn’t know where to begin. I believe God “led me into all truth.” He taught me each step of my spiritual life. What were some of those lessons? I am glad you asked. From my years of being taught by reading His word and hearing the many sermons and testimonies of our brothers and sisters, I believe worship includes three important pieces—prayer, sharing His goodness, and the actions in your life that reflect your praise of Him.

One of my favorite scriptures about prayer is found in the book of Alma, in the Book of Mormon, chapter 16:218-222. It outlines how you should pray and what you should pray about, and then specifically says in verses 221-222, “*But this is not all: ye must pour out your souls in your closets, and your secret places, and in your wilderness; Yea, and when you do not cry unto the Lord, let your hearts be full, drawn out in prayer unto him continually for your welfare, and also for the welfare of those that are around you.*” Pouring out your soul to Him in your closets or secret places, like the car or school bathroom, is where you are humbling yourself before Him and acknowledging you can’t do it on your own. It is only through His power and might that trials or troubles can be faced. When you spend time in prayer before God, you are putting on that spiritual armor that He gives us to face the battles of this life.

I am fascinated when science explains Godly principles. It is like God gives us humans a tiny glimpse of His

greatness. I recently read a book called, *How God Changes Your Brain*, by a neuroscientist named Andrew Newberg, M.D. and in this book he studied monks and nuns and people from all walks of life. He scanned their brains while they prayed as well as during normal activity. Without going into the scientific detail, he found that the portion of your brain that shows empathy and compassion is active while praying. The people who consistently spent time in prayer had more activity in that brain area, leading them to conclude that people who pray have greater compassion and a lesser focus on themselves. I find it interesting that this principle that Jesus taught two thousand years ago science just now can prove, not that we couldn’t have just taken Jesus’ word in the first place. His plan down to the minute details is so intricate that man truly can’t comprehend it all. God is pretty smart!

Another scripture I love to remind myself of is Alma’s instruction to his son Helaman. It is speaking of more than just prayer. Worshiping the Lord includes a weaving together of constant prayer, communication, and praise. Alma 17:68-70:

*“O remember my son, and learn wisdom in thy youth; yea, learn in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support; Yea, let all thy doings be unto the Lord, and whithersoever thou goest, let it be in the Lord; yea, let thy thoughts be directed unto the Lord; yea, let the affections of thy heart be placed upon the Lord for ever; counsel the Lord in all thy doings, and he will direct thee for good: Yea, when thou liest down at night, lie down unto the Lord, that he may watch over you in your sleep; and when thou riseth in the morning, let thy heart be full of thanks unto God; and if ye do these things, ye shall be lifted up at the last day.”*

There are promises to all of God’s

directions and commandments. Here are a few:

Psalm 55:16-17: “*As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice.*”

Alma 7:23: “*And many of them will be saved, for the Lord will be merciful unto all who call on his name.*”

Mos. 2:21-23: “*And humble yourselves even in the depths of humility, calling on the name of the Lord daily, and standing steadfastly in the faith of that which is to come, which was spoken by the mouth of the angel; And behold, I say unto you, that if ye do this, ye shall always rejoice, and be filled with the love of God, and always retain a remission of your sins; And ye shall grow in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true.*”

The second aspect of worshiping God involves sharing His goodness. What do I mean by that? I mean one of the biggest ways we can worship Him is to tell someone else about Him and all He is doing in your life. In 1 Peter 3:15 it says, “*But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear...*” It is hard and takes courage to tell others about Him. One of the easiest ways to begin is to start with someone who shares the same hope. Make an effort to bring God to your conversations with church friends and family on a one-on-one basis. Don’t stop there! Start talking to friends or people you meet about the things you read, hear in church or answers to prayer. Then prepare to share those same things at a prayer service at church. Yes, that means standing up and giving a testimony. I know it is hard and I have heard from young and old alike all the reasons they give that they can’t give a testimony.

*Reasons We Don't Share Our Testimonies:*

◆ Fear of public speaking. Answer—Love God more than your fear. 1 John 4:18:



*"There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love."*

- ◆ I can't seem to stand up. Answer—Count silently to five and then stand up! Don't give yourself a chance to talk yourself out of it. (This was a secret shared by a good friend of mine.)
- ◆ The prayer service is for adults. Answer—1 Timothy 4:12: *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."*
- ◆ God's direction, answers to prayer are for me alone. Answer—Matthew 10:32: *"Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven."* And Mosiah 9: 39-41. This is one of the promises you make when you are baptized, *"...stand as witnesses of God at all times, and in all things, and in all places that ye may be in...."*
- ◆ My testimonies are just about little things. Answer—Read any chapter in the Book of Psalms. Pretty much you can praise God about something as simple as breathing. There are no little things when praising Him.

### *Blessings From Sharing Our Testimonies:*

- ◆ God will be pleased. Hebrews 13:15-16, *"By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."*
- ◆ Makes us humble—John the Baptist knew this truth when they questioned him about Jesus Christ. John 3:30: *"He must increase, but I must decrease."* It puts our lives into perspective. It is all about Him and not about me.
- ◆ Our words will be remembered—Malachi 3:16: *"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon his name."*
- ◆ We glorify Him—Psalm 50:23: *"Whoso offereth praise glorifieth me: and to him that ordereth his conversation aright will I shew the salvation of God."*

Brother Andy Brown is known for saying that being a Christian isn't a spectator sport. Thinking about it that

way helps you realize that until you put your faith into action, you aren't in the game. You are a fan and not one of the players on the field. God wants us to be in the game. Mark 16:15: *"And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."* Testimonies are one way of getting into the game. In Matthew 7:21 it says, *"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."*

This leads me to the third aspect of worshipping God. Your actions and words are the only word of God some people will ever read. Think about that a minute. What do your actions or words say about your relationship with the Lord? What do your Snapchat selfies say about yourself? In John 14:15 it says, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* In verse 21 it goes on to say, *"He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him."* He will make himself known to the ones that keep His commandments. Those commandments are more than just the ten commandments found in Exodus 20:1-17. It can be summed up in Jesus' own words found in Matthew 22:37-39, *"Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."* Like one of the pictures floating around on Social Media, you can also ask yourself the question, "If I put my name in place of the word 'charity' in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7, does it describe me?"

*"Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things."*

In Hebrews chapter 11 it lists the examples of the heroes that were ex-

amples to us of great faith which was evident by what they did. In James 2:17-18: *"Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works."* If you are trying to follow Jesus, there will be evidence in how you treat, speak and serve the people around you. Hubert Yates is always repeating the saying he was told, "If you want to increase your faith, increase your service." Look for ways to serve your teachers, your friends, your parents, your boss, the stranger, or even your enemies. With all of this doing, you show others Jesus Christ and what you truly believe. I want to be that instrument for the Lord, not that I would be lifted up, but that God would be lifted up by my example like Aaron in the Book of Mormon, as found in Alma 13:52-52, who by his prayers, conversation, and example led King Lamoni to turn to God and pray, *"O God, Aaron hath told me there is a God; and if there is a God, and if thou art God, wilt thou make thyself known unto me, and I will give away all my sins to know thee, and that I may be raised from the dead, and be saved at the last day."*

How do you worship God? You sincerely pray, distraction free—put the phone and electronics away. You tell others about Him and His goodness and you bring up the conversation. This means you need to continue to read His word as well. You worship Him through your actions, by what you do or don't do, say or don't say. You do all this that He would increase and you will decrease. You can do it! *"I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me"* Phil. 4:13. He will teach you as you go. He will whisper to you, so make sure you don't drown out His voice with the 'noise' of the world.

*Love in Christ,  
Sr. Liza Hedrick*



# East Independence Local Report



**By Sister Deb Haines**

**G**reetings from the East Local. We are so thankful to have had many blessing to share since our last report! We give our Lord all our thanks and praise for each and every one of our blessings.

Our Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse was blessed to make a missionary trip to Kenya recently. He was blessed that his health remained stable during his trip. Upon returning home and undergoing a test on his kidney, brother Buzz became ill. We are thankful the Lord blessed him in his recovery

again. We hold him up in our prayers that his ongoing tests and treatments will be guided by the hand of the Lord, and he'll be blessed with another healing.

Apostle Mike McGhee was blessed to make a missionary trip to the Philippines; Elder Gordon McCann accompanied him.

Sister Melissa McGhee was blessed with a successful breast surgery to remove cancer on September 28th. The Lord's hand has been busy with her, and she has a wonderful testimony to share.

In early October Elder (and Bishop) Rick and Sister Becky Olson were blessed to attend the Ontario reunion.

Sister Deb Haines was blessed during breast surgery on October 30th; there was no malignancy found.

We were blessed with a special Thanksgiving prayer service in mid-November. Our thanks to those who contributed to the program; it was a beautiful tribute to our Lord and Savior.

East Local members who were blessed to be able to attend the Phoenix Reunion in November were: Buzz and Sue Brickhouse, Craig and Jane Ann Carmichael, Bruce and Deb Haines,

Mike McGhee, Betty Olson, Steve and Melissa McGhee. It was a wonderful reunion, but warmer temperatures were not found this year; it was very chilly...much like Missouri weather this time of year. The warmth we found inside the sanctuary, gathered with our brothers and sisters, made up for the chill outside.

Please keep these that stand in need of blessings in your prayers: Br. Eric Sarratt and his ongoing health problems...it has been determined so far that he has had a bad case of internal shingles and pancreatitis. Br. Charles Brantner was hospitalized with pneumonia; Br. Mike Smith is undergoing chemotherapy for cancer of the liver; and Br. Ralph Clark was recently in the hospital for a few days with upper respiratory problems. Sr. June Sarratt, Sr. Dana Taylor, and Apostle William Sheldon stand very much in need of our prayers also. We ask for prayers that the Lord's healing hands will bless each of them with healing.

May God answer our prayers and bless you all throughout this new year!

OBITUARIES

# Helen M. (Jensen) Dewaele

—Faithful and True—

May 25, 1927~November 18, 2015

On November 18th, 2015, Helen (Jensen) Dewaele passed on to her Heavenly reward. She was born on May 25th, 1927, to the late Henry and Opal Jensen. Her brother was the late Apostle Robert Jensen.

Helen was a 75-year member of the Church of Christ, Temple Lot. Both she and her brother Robert were baptized in Turtle Lake near Bemidji, MN, on September 1st, 1940, by Apostle Leon Gould.

One of Helen's earliest experiences was to come home from school to find her Mother, Opal, reading the Book of Mormon or the Bible. She would always encourage Helen to join her in studying the scriptures. One day, her mother mentioned that we will be given a new name in Heaven. When Opal asked Helen what she thought her new name would be, Helen answered, "Faithful and True."

Little did anyone know what a precursor

that special moment would be in Helen's spiritual journey. Those three words are the best way to describe her that I can think of. During her school years, she read about every religion that she could as a means of understanding other religions, which allowed her to better defend her own strong beliefs. Her belief in the restored Gospel was absolute and unshakable.

One of her favorite hymns contains the words, "I'm not afraid to own my Lord or to defend his cause." As her life was drawing to a conclusion, she repeated those words ever more frequently. She truly was not ashamed to own her Lord.

Helen married Raymond Henry Dewaele, Sr. on January 1st, 1948. She and Raymond became the parents of two sons, Raymond, Jr., and Robert. Eventually they had two grandsons, Ryan and Jeremy.

Helen's final spiritual experience was to have a long and wondrous view of Heaven

two days before she passed away. She related a very detailed account of Heaven to her family members present. Christ, and some family, and ministry who had passed on already were seen in her vision. Those people were savoring the special blessings that are given for anyone who dedicates themselves to the Lord and His Gospel.

Helen died in the faith of Christ, among those of like-minded faith. It is a great comfort to those of us who remain to know what we have been taught is factual. There is a priceless promise made to all who humble themselves and take up the Gospel given to us by our Lord and Savior.

What more can be said other than that Helen was the embodiment of "Faithful and True."

*Elder Robert Dewaele*

# David Robert Jensen

September 17, 1956~October 26, 2015

David Robert Jensen died October 26, 2015, at the age of 59, following a long illness. He was born September 17, 1956, and lived in Bellevue, Nebraska, all his life. His parents, Apostle Robert Henry Jensen and Doris Winegar Jensen, preceded him in death.

David graduated from Bellevue High School. He was self-employed most of his life as a certified blacksmith and a certified locksmith. Both trades were not only his occupation, but also his passion. He learned blacksmithing by working a summer in Silver Dollar City, Missouri. He was also active in Nebraska and Iowa blacksmithing organizations. In his youth, David was a member of the Boy Scouts of America.

David lost the ability to speak several years ago as a result of radiation treatment for throat cancer. But he did not lose his voice.

When he had guests, he communicated by typing on his laptop, using a large type size so visitors could read over his shoulder and reply. He got so good at it that his fingers fairly flew over the keyboard, and you could tell his mood by the intensity of his key strokes. He also sent plenty of emails and texts, as well as writing letters.

David was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) when he reached the age of accountability. His faith was actually strengthened by his fourteen-year ordeal. The more disabled he became, the more he

lived his faith. In recent years, he was often house-bound. He took comfort in attending live-streamed Church of Christ services on Sundays.

His quiet strength in the face of adversity inspired many people. The pulmonary social worker who worked closely with him in his final months wrote of David, "Each of my residents are special, but some leave a lasting impression or teach a life lesson...and for me David has done both."

David is survived by two sisters, Marilyn Ostermiller and Kathleen Clark. His funeral service was officiated by Elders Robert Dewaele and Robert Oldham. Interment was at Bellevue Cemetery.

## NOTICES

## APRIL GENERAL CONFERENCE 2016

As instructed by the 1964 April Ministers' Conference, please be advised that the 2016 April General Conference (name changed per 2006 conference action) will begin on Monday, April 4, 2016; "Conference Sunday," will be Sunday, April 3, 2016. The first business session will begin at 9:00 a.m. Monday, April 4, 2016, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot. According to action taken during the 2015 April General Conference, two days of fasting and prayer will be held Friday, April 1st and Saturday, April 2nd, 2016, at the General Church Building on the Temple Lot.

All committee reports should be forwarded to the Conference Secretary at least two (2) weeks in advance of the beginning of the first business session. As is always the case, it is requested that any business to be placed before the 2016 April General Conference be forwarded in advance of the first business meeting (please) so that document packets may be completed for distribution.

**NOTE:** Please address all reports, i.e. missionary reports, etc., to the General Conference of the Church of Christ. This will help your Secretary distinguish periodic missionary reports from those intended for the General Conference and their inclusion in the Minutes.

The mailing addresses for the above requested information are:

**Rhea Housknecht**  
General Church Secretary  
400 E. Sea Avenue  
Independence, MO 64050  
Email: [housknecht@icloud.com](mailto:housknecht@icloud.com)

*Your sister in Christ,  
Rhea Housknecht  
April 2016 General Church Secretary  
Church of Christ (Temple Lot)*

## 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 in-

vite 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

**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.





# Church of Christ

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

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