

# 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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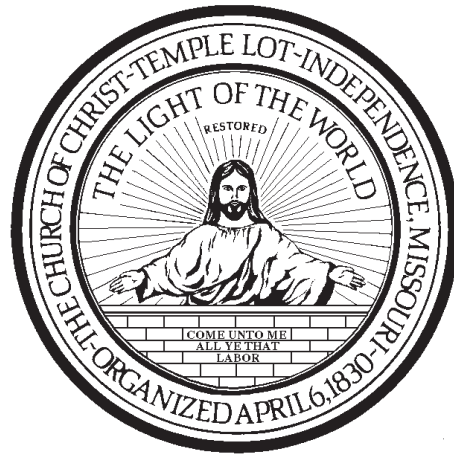
NUMBER 3



**"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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### 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.

# The Zion's Advocate



**Elder Gordon McCann**

Our annual Church Conference has come and gone, which included the election of the General Church officers where I have been re-elected as your editor of the *Zion's Advocate* for another Conference year. I am thankful for the opportunity to serve you and our Lord and Saviour by being involved with this particular missionary outreach, the oversight of the publishing of the *Zion's Advocate*.

I must, however, give credit where credit is greatly due to the support that I have received from those who have been chosen to assist in this work, along with those who volunteer their talents (i.e. formatting and layout, submission of articles and reports, etc.) and the many countless hours needed to publish the six issues per Conference year. The old adage, "You can't really understand another person's experience until you've walked a mile in their shoes," is appropriate in all cases where a lot of effort and hard work is needed to accomplish something that is of value to someone else. When the time and effort is offered out of a pure heart and desire to serve their fellow neighbor it is of great worth to both the giver and receiver.

It is my belief that the *Zion's Advocate* is an

important medium by which to keep our membership in touch with the efforts of our missionaries, locals, and children as to what they have been expending their labors on, and how God has blessed their lives. Having had opportunity to travel in the various countries where the Church of Christ has membership, the *Zion's Advocate* has become an important tool to help all our people be informed. The membership outside of the United States, through the *Zion's Advocate*, has made a positive contribution by strengthening the faith and spiritual lives of their fellow brothers and sisters with their testimonies and articles. We can readily see the Spirit of God working in the lives of all His children...may God's name be praised in all such labor!

The *Zion's Advocate* is also a very good missionary tool for others to become more familiar with our teachings and practices. I hope you have had opportunity to share your issue with a friend, co-worker, or neighbor. Over the past two years as editor, I have devoted several issues that were intended to be missionary in content (i.e. Sept/Oct & Nov/Dec 2014, Jan/Feb 2015 & 2016).

The *Zion's Advocate* has also served our "scattered" membership that are not located near an organized local or mission for them to fellowship with on a regular basis. The GSSA lessons have been included for their benefit to use as a tool to teach their children, and to be taught in some instances by promoting the studying of the scripture in preparation of teaching the classes. When you consider the Archive section to enhance your historical perspective of the Church of Christ along with the articles by the ministry, there is much material to be used in a positive way to promote your beliefs in the Gospel and Doctrine of Jesus Christ that are contained in the Bible and Book of Mormon.

Like all things in life, nothing is free. There is always a cost associated with anything and everything we do in this life. To that point, one of the challenges during this Conference year was the budget. This year the current budget was approved with the stipulation that it would be predicated on an "income" based budget.

What that means is that the aggregate of the var-

ious budget items that comprises the current budget would be funded according to the money received in tithes and offerings. For several years now our budget allowed spending more than what was received by the General Church, which meant that we were compelled to use our savings to balance the current budget deficit. If you compared that approach with your own household budget, you would quickly come to the understanding that for your own financial well-being something would have to change. The cost to publish and mail the *Zion's Advocate* today is about \$3.50 per issue, or \$21.00 a year. I am always looking for ways to reduce the overall cost per issue. Our current contractor that provides the labor to prepare and mail the bimonthly issue also provides a postal service which checks the addresses that helps reduce the additional postage fee incurred on all non-deliverable issues. We also post the *Zion's Advocate* in a PDF format on our church WEB site (<http://www.churchofchrist-tl.org/zionsAdvocate.cfm>) for those who visit our site or opt out of the hard copy delivery service, where they can download an electronic copy. I would like to encourage you, if you enjoy receiving a hard copy of the *Zion's Advocate*, to make a donation to help support the costs associated in this work. You can send your tax exempt donations to:

**Church of Christ (Temple Lot)**

**Attn: Zion's Advocate Fund**

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**Independence, MO 64051-0472**

I want to thank you for allowing me to serve you for another year. Please continue to provide your constructive feedback and suggestions that would help to enhance the goals that were set at the onset of publishing the *Zion's Advocate*:

- 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*.

# We Must Hearken unto the Words of Jesus



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

**W**e know that people often become offended or hurt when things go wrong. Our society has increasingly become involved in matters that upset the citizens of this nation in government, politics, etc. But perhaps we should ask a simple question: Does God ever become offended? To answer this question let's read what Mormon has to say:

*And wo be unto him that will not hearken unto the words of Jesus, and also to them which he hath chosen and sent among them,*

*For whoso receiveth not the words of Jesus, and the words*

**...We dare not become too philosophical or abstract in our reasoning to the point of saying that God's purposes in our existence justifies our inclination to sin because our first parents had to sin to know good from evil.**

*of those whom he hath sent, receiveth not him; and therefore he will not receive them at the last day; and it would be better for them if they had not been born.*

*For do ye suppose that ye can get rid of the justice of an offended God, who hath been trampled under feet of men, that thereby salvation might come? [3 Nephi 13:46-48]*

This scripture not only answers the question, but also gives us a clear understanding of the consequence of offending God. God becomes offended when people refuse to receive His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, and those whom Jesus has sent among them, His twelve disciples. Therefore, from the scriptures, we have reason to believe that God does at times become offended at mankind, and the consequences are not pleasant. We might think of certain times, such as when the Lord brought the flood upon the people and destroyed all but eight souls, or when He destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah with brimstone and fire.

When a prophet uses the word woe in his prophecy, we should be aware that he is giving a warning which should be received as serious counsel. The Lord spoke through Isaiah in such a warning:

*Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter!*

*Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!*

*Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink:*

*Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him!*

*Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, so their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel.*

*Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still. [Isaiah 5:20-25]*

To be more exact, we should realize that God is offended when man has disobeyed Him. When Adam and Eve disobeyed Him by eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, it offended God and it was the first offense that man had committed against God. The first lie had been told by the serpent, the devil, when he said to Eve, "Thou shalt not surely die." The consequence was the fall of man. Therefore, we should be aware that our failure to obey God's commandments is what brings the unpleasant consequences. Our disobedience is called sin.

We might take the position that God had set the stage for Adam and Eve by placing the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the midst of the other trees, which included the tree of life. Lehi has written some information on that subject.

*And to bring about his eternal purposes in the end of man, after he had created our first parents, and the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and in fine, all things which are created, it must needs be that there was an opposition;*

*Even the forbidden fruit in opposition to the tree of life; the one being sweet and the other bitter;*

*Wherefore, the Lord God gave unto man, that he should act for himself.*

*Wherefore, man could not act for himself, save it should be that he was enticed by the one or the other. [2 Nephi 1:97-100]*

We are told that there had to be an opposition for mankind to be able to make a choice. Otherwise mankind could not act for himself.

*Adam fell, that men might be; and men are, that they might have joy.*

*And the Messiah cometh in the fullness of time, that he may redeem the children of men from the fall.*

*And because that they are redeemed from the fall, they have become free for ever, knowing good from evil;*

*To act for themselves, and not to be acted upon, save it be by the punishment of the Lord, at the great and last day, according to the commandments which God hath given.*

*Wherefore, men are free according to the flesh; and all things are given them which are expedient unto man.*

*And they are free to choose liberty and eternal life, through the great mediation of all men, or to choose captivity and death, according to the captivity and power of the devil:*

*For he seeketh that all men might be miserable like unto himself. [2 Nephi 1:115-121]*

Undoubtedly this scripture is part of the plain and precious things which Nephi referred to. Although this is all profoundly true, we dare not become too

philosophical or abstract in our reasoning to the point of saying that God's purposes in our existence justifies our inclination to sin because our first parents had to sin to know good from evil. We have to retain the simple fact that they disobeyed God, which means that all those who know the truth must obey the truth or they will offend God.

The character and actions of Peter in the New Testament and how Jesus reacted to him gives us an insight of how the Lord thinks. Early on Peter was favored of the Lord when Jesus asked His disciples who He was.

*When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?*

*And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.*

*He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?*

*And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.*

*And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.*

*And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

*And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever*

*thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.*

*Then charged he his disciples that they should tell no man that he was Jesus the Christ. [Matthew 16:13-20]*

Peter was given a special knowledge of who Jesus was through the gift of the Holy Spirit. He experienced the gift of revelation, which is the foundation of the gospel of Christ in any period of time, whether it be in Adam's time, Abraham's time, Moses' time, in the prophets' times, the New Testament time or in these latter days. Revelation is the means whereby truth from God to man is conveyed and is always currently available through exercising faith in God, even down to our day.

Unfortunately, it appears that almost immediately after having received this great gift, Peter sinned against that blessed gift and became presumptuous by thinking that he should protect Jesus from any physical harm that might befall him.

*From that time forth began Jesus to show unto his disciples, how that he must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised again the third day.*

*Then Peter took him, and began to rebuke him, saying, Be it far from thee, Lord: this shall not be unto thee.*

*But he turned, and said unto Peter, Get thee behind me, Satan: thou art an offence unto me: for thou savourest not the things that be of God, but those that be of men.*

*Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. [Matthew 16:21-24]*

Jesus rebuked Peter because he didn't "savor" the things of God. That seems to be just the opposite of what Jesus had said earlier when He said that the Heavenly Father had revealed to him who Jesus was. As we follow the story through, it appears that Peter and the other disciples still didn't seem to understand Jesus on that fateful night when Jesus tried to prepare them for what was to come, but Peter was vocal about it.

*Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad.*

*But after I am risen again, I will go before you into Galilee.*

*Peter answered and said unto him, Though all men shall be offended because of thee, yet will I never be offended.*

*Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, That this night, before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.*

*Peter said unto him, Though I should die with thee, yet will I not deny thee. Likewise also said all the disciples. [Matthew 26:31-35]*

Peter depended upon his finite mind and he determined to continue to defend Jesus. After the soldiers had taken Jesus, the disciples did scatter as He had said, but Peter followed at a

distance. As he did so there were those who identified him as being with Jesus.

*Now Peter sat without in the palace: and a damsel came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus of Galilee.*

*But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest.*

*And when he was gone out into the porch, another maid saw him, and said unto them that were there, This fellow was also with Jesus of Nazareth.*

*And again he denied with an oath, I do not know the man.*

*And after a while came unto him they that stood by, and said to Peter, Surely thou also art one of them; for thy speech bewrayeth thee.*

*Then began he to curse and to swear, saying, I know not the man. And immediately the cock crew.*

*And Peter remembered the word of Jesus, which said unto him, Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice. And he went out, and wept bitterly. [Matthew 26:69-75]*

Peter denied Jesus three times. Although he was one of the most supportive of Jesus' disciples, he failed to understand the full purpose of Jesus' life and death. Of course he wasn't the only one to error in that fact, but his actions manifested his own desire to control the situation. He blindly tried to protect Jesus even to the point of drawing his sword and attacking one of the soldiers. Was his heroic attitude a credit to his character? No. He was

behaving contrary to God's plan. But then he committed a very serious sin by denying Christ.

Just how important is this lesson to us? If we misjudge the plans of God by reasoning with our finite mind we can be as wrong as Peter was. Unless God labors with us to correct us, we might carry our misunderstanding to the grave. God sees the whole picture, but we see only through a glass darkly, as Paul says. How can we avoid the error that Peter made? Only by fully trusting in the Lord, and we can only trust in Him by receiving and obeying His word through the guidance of the Spirit.

Following the story of Peter we find that he, along with the others, had become discouraged and went back to the kind of work he had done before. He was a fisherman.

*There were together Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two other of his disciples.*

*Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a-fishing. They say unto him, We also go with thee. They went forth, and entered into a ship immediately; and that night they caught nothing.*

*But when the morning was now come, Jesus stood on the shore; but the disciples knew not that it was Jesus. [John 21:2-4]*

As they came to recognize Jesus they conversed with him, and Jesus asked Peter some questions.

*So when they had dined, Jesus saith to Simon Peter, Si-*

*mon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me more than these? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord; thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my lambs.*

*He saith to him again the second time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? He saith unto him, Yea, Lord, thou knowest that I love thee. He saith unto him, Feed my sheep.*

*He saith unto him the third time, Simon, son of Jonas, lovest thou me? Peter was grieved because he said unto him the third time, Lovest thou me? And he said unto him, Lord, thou knowest all things; thou knowest that I love thee. Jesus said unto him, Feed my sheep. [John 21:15-17]*

We can only imagine the change of attitude that took place in Peter's mind. He had to have felt the shame of disobeying Christ, but this repeated question, lovest thou me, indicated that Jesus recognized Peter's repentance, and He showed confidence in him by repeating the question to strengthen Peter's resolve to continue his ministry.

Although Peter greatly regretted his sin the rest of his life, he quickly corrected himself and became a spiritually gifted servant of God, standing up in defense of Jesus Christ on the Day of Pentecost and healing the sick and crippled. Peter is an example of what God's purpose is. It is God's will that the servant of God is to overcome his sins and weaknesses by repenting and asking God for forgiveness. It is not God's will that sins and weaknesses overcome the man, disqualifying

him in his service to God, especially those who are called of God into his ministry.

Some may say that when a minister commits a certain sin or crime, that he is disqualified as a minister for the rest of his life. If that be true, surely the sin Peter committed by denying that he knew Jesus would have disqualified him for the rest of his life. But that was not true. Exactly what sin would disqualify a minister? There is only one sin, and that is the sin against the Holy Ghost, which is the same for all mankind. We are all subject to sin, ministers and lay-members alike, and we are told to retain a remission of our sins and endure to the end of our day of probation. This means that we must repent and ask God to forgive us as often as we are aware that we have sinned.

The apostles went about Jerusalem preaching in the name of Jesus, and on one occasion they were imprisoned. When they were brought before the high priest they were told:

*Saying, Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*

*Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men. [Acts 5:28-29]*

On many occasions and in certain situations we are likely to consult various people on matters that have come up. We consult doctors, lawyers, insurance agents, etc., and quite often we benefit from their advice. However, we all know that

they are mortal and limited in their abilities. We know that there is one source of counsel that will never fail us if we have sufficient faith in that source. That source is God via the Holy Ghost. So Peter says, We ought to obey God rather than men.

Some say that the apostles today are the head of the church. The scriptures say that Jesus Christ is the head of the church, and there is no indication that He has ever given that position to any man or set of men. When Jesus chose His apostles He told them to follow Him. His apostles in His time were His followers. The same is true today. Actually, His apostles are His servants, the same as all of the ministers in the church. We are servants to Jesus Christ first and to the people second. It is true that when we are in the service of the people we are in the service of God. But our service to the people does not obligate us to do just what the people want. We must obey the Spirit of the Lord first.

The apostles have certain responsibilities and the authority to perform ordinances in the church. We do not have dictatorial powers according to rank as in the military, or as a hierarchy like some churches do, but we do oversee the church to keep control over bad behavior, iniquity and false teachings. Our relationship with Jesus Christ is essential in how we perform our duties. That relationship must be spiritual and not subject to the will of the natural man. The spiritual must control the temporal. The temporal should not control the spiritual if we are to remain in the favor of the Lord.

It appears that some might

think we have a double standard in the church, a higher or different standard for the ministers than the lay-members. This means that the ministers are restricted to a certain level of righteousness that the lay members don't have to attain. Well, certainly the ministers should be an example to the lay members, but we are all called to be perfect, as Jesus has said. We are all called to be a holy people when Zion is established. The whole church is to be cleansed and prepared as the bride of Christ, not just the ministers.

The double standard thing has been influenced by the society of which we are a part. The modern world has established a higher level made up of celebrities. They are people of notoriety held up to be admired and copied. Quite often they become our mentors, and they have been referred to as idols. They are modern day idols. They include people in positions such as government officials, people who have worked their way up in the corporate world, actors and entertainers, television evangelists and church leaders, and sports figures. Even though they may be people to be admired for their accomplishments in life, having gained great wealth monetarily, they seldom have qualities that make them acceptable as role models for the more common class of people.

We should realize that we may be somewhat influenced in the church by the idea of rank and position as has been done in many churches. We need to realize that influence has been the cause of apostasy and false teachings through the exalta-

tion of man. The Gentiles have been big on titles and offices. The Bible and Book of Mormon don't prefix a person's name with a title such as apostle, elder, priest, reverend or pope. We find that the title of King has been used some in the Bible.

It has been said that throughout the history of mankind all wars have been religious wars. Mankind has fought to establish certain laws within their nations or kingdoms throughout the centuries, striving to bring about a one-world monarchy or central power of control. We believe there will be a one-world power yet to show its true worthiness here on earth, and that is the kingdom of heaven with Jesus Christ at the head. At this point in time it seems that kingdom barely exists, and its potential is only a flicker of light in this divided and polluted world. Our personal frustration is that the overwhelming majority of souls have no real awareness of its existence.

Our efforts to bring to the attention of all peoples the precious truths we have embraced and hold dear have not been totally successful, especially on this land of promise. The varied religions have created a mass of choices so great that very few find the truth as we know it to be worthy of their choice. The market place of religious concepts has been flooded with many varieties of religions, all made-to-order by man to fit the wills of the erring human. It's like going into a store and trying on the religion of your choice. Just pick out your style, try it on and look at yourself in the mirror. Does it suit your taste?



The variations of beliefs which we face today have an effect upon us who hope to be able to convert the honest-in-heart to the truth. We are not only challenged to convince those who are already convinced that what they have chosen to believe is true, but we must be able to prove what we know to be the truth. How can we do that? How can we prove our beliefs are more true than their beliefs? There is only one way, and that is by our way of life. Our lifestyle must be more right than their lifestyle. What did Jesus say to his followers?

*For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.* [Matthew 5:20]

Jesus' religion is a "do" religion, not a theory religion. It must be proven by our lives, not just by our words. Our works prove our words. Our words are proven by the works we do. At the last day we will be judged by our works, not just by our words.

Jesus has challenged us by saying, "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Jesus lived His religion and proved, not only His words, but proved who He is by the example He lived. He is the Son of God, and He submitted to the will of the Father in all things. His submission was based upon His love and devotion to the Father. He trusted His Father's wisdom and direction over His own will. Jesus Christ's submission to the will of the Father is an example to us to do the will of His Father. We therefore must allow ourselves to do what the

Spirit of God tells us to do. Our status quo religion may limit us from doing all that the Lord tells us to do. If we think we are good enough just the way we are, we will likely become conditioned to the worldly influences that are around us. Our agency—our God-given right to act for ourselves—doesn't keep us from error, but actually makes us accountable in the sight of God. We are apt to err in our best efforts to do God's will, even as Peter did. We have the will of the flesh to contend with, and our very nature to sin makes us vulnerable to make mistakes when we depend upon our own reasoning mind.

God is not bound by our expectations. Although we exercise faith in Him, we can't predict by our reasoning mind what He will choose to do. God is in control of us; we are not in control of Him.

It appears that the pendulum of justice in this country is swinging back and forth, dropping to a new low of immorality by each swing. We are subject to many variations of laws which are not based on true Christian ethics. This society has proven to be unstable because of the atheistic influences that are being established.

In many ways, the mindset of government, business and schooling is directly contrary to our religious convictions. What will be the reaction of the Lord toward the new trends which oppose the established word of God? Prophecy tells us how the Lord will cleanse this land, but first He will set His church in order. That brings the truth right to us, and we must prepare to be cleansed.

There is another word in

the scriptures which we should consider in this subject, and it is related to the word *offend*. It is *wrath*. Wrath means intense anger, rage, fury, any action carried out in great anger, for punishment or vengeance.

Although we might not want to think of God as having wrath, we should be aware that He does have strong feelings against those who disobey Him, and He will destroy the wicked to preserve the righteous. Let us all pray and strive to be among the righteous when the Lord pours out His wrath. There is a scripture that I wish to use in closing. Although it reveals God's real sense of justice toward the wicked, it gives us the assurance that when the Lord destroys the wicked He will preserve the righteous.

*For the time soon cometh, that the fullness of the wrath of God shall be poured out upon all the children of men:*

*For he will not suffer that the wicked shall destroy the righteous.*

*Wherefore, he will preserve the righteous by his power, even if it be so that the fullness of his wrath must come, and the righteous be preserved, even unto the destruction of their enemies by fire.*

*Wherefore, the righteous need not fear; for thus saith the prophet, They shall be saved, even if it so be as by fire.* [1 Nephi 7:34-37]

## TESTIMONY

# A Dream

My husband and I were traveling. We were to meet our son, coming through with a group, at a small town (or village). After waiting and he hadn't come we decided to travel on toward our destination. By this time it was dusk. We passed what looked like a lion. I asked my husband, "Was that a lion?"

It was decided that my husband would continue to the destination and I would return to the town to wait for our son. When I arrived I saw that the houses of the town were built on terraces. There were lions going in and out of the houses. The people living in the houses didn't seem very afraid of the lions but would playfully go out and peek around the corner until the lions left.

I decided I should find a safe place. I went into a small white building. One lion found me and started circling around the building, which had cracks in the walls. He would occasionally stick his paw into a crack trying to reach me.

My last thought as the daylight faded in the dream was, "I wonder if Ron will find me when he returns."

When I awoke I thought of the scripture in 1 Peter 5:8, "...the devil as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour."

## INTERPRETATION GIVEN:

The destination is eternal life. Ron has gone to his reward.

The houses represent our physical and spiritual realms as shown at different levels of understanding of the truth. Even at the highest level, the people of the church are allowing, by the devil's design, philosophies and sins of the world to enter into their homes and hearts.

In the dream it is dusk showing both the "Last Days" and a lack of understanding of the way to come out of the world.

The safe place I found shelter in represents, with the cracks, my spiritual condition. I do not have understanding in some areas, and I

have allowed weakness and sin to open a way for the devil to get at me.

I wondered if Ron would find me when he returns. The Lord will return "...with ten thousand of His Saints."

I thought of the dream of Elder Merlin Eddy in which he saw a line of people stretched across ice going to the other side. Some were being assisted by a pole in each hand, representing the Bible and the Book of Mormon. When a mighty wind came those who did not have these aids were swept off the path.

The thought has also occurred to me that, by command of the Lord, we are to live by every word that proceeds from God (Christ's words). If we know His word and ask, we will receive the direction and help needed to overcome the world and the devil's attempts to destroy us.

—Darl Temple

FROM the ARCHIVES

# CHURCH of CHRIST

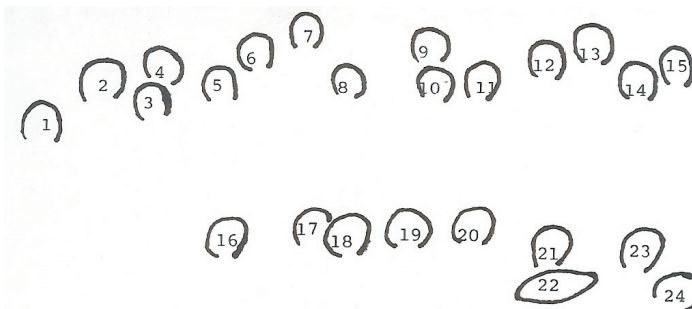
ORCHARD MESA LOCAL, COLORADO – JUNE 15, 1952



1. Deanna Hinkle, 2. Kansas Hinkle, 3. Lucy Bishop, 4. James Shaw, 5. Berniece Ely, 6. Marvin Ely, 7. David Hinkle, 8. Lila Deniston, 9. Ted Ely, 10. Mrs. R. R. Robertson, 11. Charlotte Hinkle, 12. Sybil Ely, 13. Jon (Jack) Sprague, 14. Shirley Ely,

15. Marion Sprague, 16. Arden Ely, 17. Janice Sprague, 18. R. R. Robertson, 19. Janice Ely,

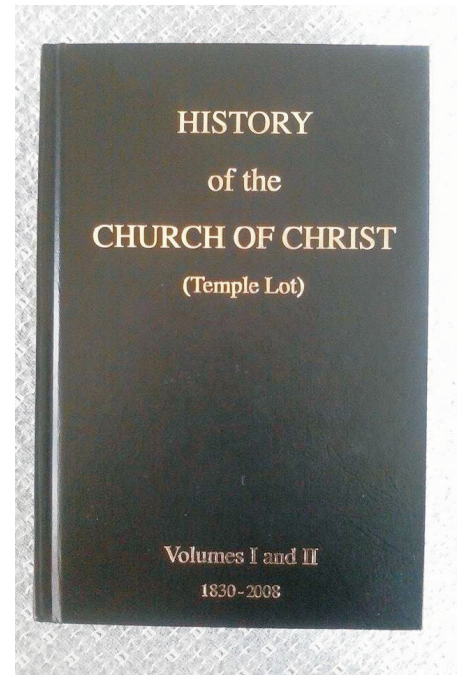
20. Patsy Ely, 21. Robert Ely, 22. Duane Ely, 23. Margie Downs, 24. Edith Downs.



BOOK TALK



# History of the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) Volumes 1 & 2 1830-2008 Copyright 2012



Volume I is a wonderfully insightful, concise history of the “Great Latter Day Restoration.” Church Historian Apostle B. C. Flint has beautifully woven the tapestry of scriptural and historical events into one enjoyable and easy-to-read volume—one that you will not want to put down! Primary source documents contained in Volume I give us a glimpse into the times and personalities which were the catalysts of this “marvelous work and a wonder!” And always most thrilling are the events of the miraculous bringing forth of the Book of Mormon.

So no matter where you are

in your study of our church history, all will enjoy this wonderful volume!

Volume 2 is equally concise and insightful as authored by our recent Church Historian, Apostle Roland Sarratt. This volume begins where Volume 1 concludes; with the Church of Christ’s missionary outreach to the Native Americans. As a guest historian Apostle Donald E. McIndoo has contributed greatly in this area because of his many years spent with the Native Americans. In addition, Volume 2 is compiled and organized by subject rather than a chronological order.

Many subjects not included in Apostle Flint’s history have been included in Volume 2. Apostle Sarratt has taken us back to the origin of these subjects which predate 1950. Most helpful in both volumes are the table of contents with topic headings within each chapter, which will aid the reader targeting specific areas of study. Volume 2 concludes wonderfully with Spiritual Manifestations that we have been blessed to receive within the body of the Church of Christ!

## REPORT

# 2016 Solemn Assembly and Conference Report

**SOLEMN ASSEMBLY** began **FRIDAY MORNING**, April 2. Apostle Brian McIndoo was in charge of the opening service and Elder Gordon McCann assisted. Br. Brian greeted us and told us we come to prepare ourselves and draw our minds in. He used Revelation 14:6-7, and told us the day of the Lord is at hand; we are to proclaim the coming day of judgment. We are told by Jacob that the Lord will call forth laborers for the last time. Conference is to prepare ourselves. He read Acts 10:1-36. Do all things commanded by God. What God has called—let us not call unclean. Things are happening faster these last days. Ask God to make us all ready for His will. Not to prejudice as to who is acceptable.

**There was a season of prayer and then testimonies; here is one to share:**

▶ A Brother testified that he has had a number of spiritual dreams. In one he saw a serpent with some baby chicks. He reached in and pulled two out. He knew that was his work. Years later... he had another dream. He was walking amongst big brick buildings that had collapsed. In the debris he sensed there was someone in there, but he couldn't see. He reached down and pulled a woman out of the mud by her hair. There were others there. The mud became clear; it was now water. He could see many people in the water; he pulled them out and saved them. He knew the Lord had more work for him to do. We need to be open and willing to be guided. Recently, he read an article in another church's paper... it quoted scripture where he saw they'd left off the word "repentance." We may have to go out and convert people of the world's churches, as they don't know what repentance is.

**FRIDAY EVENING**, Apostle Placido Matu was in charge of the prayer service; Elder Dan Lawrence assisted. Br. Placido told us it was a pleasure to be in the House of the Lord. He told us we came here to be prepared. It is a blessing to be here. He read Psalm 100:2—We are told

joy and gladness, only God can give us. We ask His help to understand and comprehend. Only God can teach us. He restored His church—we are very blessed. He read Psalm 5:1. We have to wait on God, adjust to His plan. Matt 7:7. He told us of his dad praying for a man who had left the church. For 20 years he prayed for him. It was three years after his father died when the man finally came back to church. Br. Placido told us: God will answer in His own plan. God is doing things not just for one person, but for the work. 2 Nephi 15:4, Mosiah 1:96. We are part of that great work. Are we ready?

**There was a season of prayer and testimonies; here are just a few:**

▶ A Brother told us we had received a great blessing today. Three years ago Herald House declined to rent the Book of Mormon, Spanish version, to us, so we decided to publish our own. Today we got that permission to reprint it as it is, and to use the 1960 version as the basis of our own translation. This is a great blessing.

▶ A Brother told us—one time his blood pressure was vastly different from one arm to the other. The world didn't have much to offer—he wanted to wait for his brothers so he could be administered to. As soon as he was, his pressure became the same, one arm to the other. He'd asked God. That's what God has to offer. Another time, after being diagnosed with cancer, the doctors came in and told him cancer had spread all through his lymph system. He asked them to go in and get samples to confirm the diagnosis. The next morning a brother was waiting for him, and they had prayer. The Brother assured him there was no cancer in his lymph system. The doctor wanted to see for himself as they were already going in to take care of the adrenal gland. So he did see... there was no cancer. Your faith will make you whole. Petition the Lord first.

▶ A Brother told us that one time they stopped for groceries and gas and had a quick sandwich. They went to their motorhome afterward and there was a

knock on their door. A young mother had seen them praying inside and asked if they would pray for her deathly sick mother. Be active in the Lord... people will know that it's important. We have no need to be afraid if we're working and serving the Lord.

**SATURDAY MORNING**, Apostle Jeff Oldham opened the service, and Elder Jim Yates, Jr. Assisted. Br. Jim greeted us and read Revelation 2:23; Revelation 3:14-15; 2 Chronicles 19:6. He told us do not trust in the arm of flesh. Strive to please God, not man. He read Chronicles 20:1-13. Br. Jim said we are in a constant war for our souls. The enemy will challenge trust and belief. The church was restored by God's power, not ours. By His grace. God's name is on this house because we are established on His doctrine—not man's. God knows our path—where is our trust? On the Lord? He read Philippians 4:4-7 and Revelation 3:20-22.

**The service was opened to the leading of the Spirit; after a season of prayer, testimonies followed; here are a few:**

▶ A Brother told us that he had traveled to the Philippines last year. He had an experience. There was a phone call to a sister and she began praying. Her youngest son had been in a motorcycle accident. Headed to the hospital, and they knelt in prayer—everyone there prayed. Each voice blended in with others, all at the same time, and made a beautiful melody sent up to God.

▶ A Brother told us that he and his brother were traveling in an old station wagon years ago. It was night, they were very tired and the engine overheated. They found that a small hose burst, and it came off. He found a small hose at the bottom of his tool box that was the perfect fit. In the process, a clamp came off and flew out into the tall deep grass. They tried everything they could to get something else to work; they thought the clamp was lost forever. They prayed about it. Just then a ray of sun light came down right to it in the tall deep grass. He just

went over and picked it up. Practice your faith.

- ▶ A Sister told us she was so tired on her way home from Bolivar the night that Lanie was born; it was a 2 ½ hour trip. The Lord provided a light show from the storm to keep her awake as she drove. She saw hands in the sky...she was wide awake. She saw colors—pink, blue...amazing sights. She saw the Lord's face. It continued until she got to Harrisonville, the lights kept her awake. God has answered all of their needs.
- ▶ A Brother told us he and his son were several hours from home when their water pump went out. They knelt in prayer and asked the Lord to fix it. They filled it with water, drove it home and drove it for the next two weeks before he replaced the pump. He has seen the dead raised; he got a call one day and went to administer to his sister-in-law. She got right up afterward; she wanted something to eat. God is interested in the fact that we can recognize the lion. Endure to the end. We've been so blessed with a knowledge of Him. Satan is father of lies; Christ is father of compassion and love. Our children need to see their parents submitting to God's will. We bear testimonies to show God is active.
- ▶ A Sister told us to try the Spirits. She's prayed her ears would be opened so she would hear. Tempted with the lottery, she prayed about doing it. She was told, "Haven't I always taken good care of you?"

**SATURDAY AFTERNOON** Apostle Don McIndoo was in charge and was assisted by Br. Bob Oldham. Br. Don read 1 Peter 1:1, 2 Peter 1:5-8, 10. He told us we need to add more faith, virtue, etc. Worldly churches think all they need is faith and grace. Br. Don called for a season of prayer and the service was opened for testimonies; here are two:

- ▶ A Brother told us that a few years ago God spoke, saying, "If He told us only half of us would accept it." One of the ministry gave us this admonition from the Lord. This makes sense as God told us, "My thoughts are not your thoughts..." We don't ever want to hear, "Away with you."
- ▶ A Sister told us she helped young Honduran women prepare for marriage earlier this year. Brotherly kindness verses used were: Col. 3:12-13 where we are told to be "Forbearing"...what did that mean? She failed at that recently. She was corrected—its was the way she answered which was wrong.

**SUNDAY MORNING** Sacrament Service began with Apostle Joel Yates in charge and Elder Bob Hedrick assisting. Opening remarks were given by Br. Bob. He read 3 Nephi 8:33. What we're doing is like a testimony that we

are willing to remember His son. Isaiah says Christ suffered for our transgressions. The emblems help us to remember. Alma 16:207-217. Without His sacrifice, we would be miserable...no faith unto repentance, and subject to the whole law. Ephesians 5:25 tells husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it. We can't compare in our love for the church and each other. He sacrificed Himself for it and us, to present it a glorious church, without blemish. He cleanses us, not we ourselves. We are the bride of Christ, loved by Him enough to give His life. We're the wife, we must submit to Him to have His Spirit to be with us.

Sacrament was served. Br. Joel read Rev. 1:17-20 and 2:1-2. He told us a brother in Mexico was administering to a line of people...the brother saw one dressed in white, taking the hands of God's people. He read Matt. 17:14-21. We need to come in fasting and prayer. In our first season of prayer we asked Him to be with us. We are challenged by the enemy. Only God can save us. Pray against the enemy for God to save us.

Several administrations took place and the service was opened as the Spirit led:

- ▶ A Brother told us that one Wednesday night he thought the parking lot was clear. He didn't check as he put it in reverse. He heard a "gasp." He missed a van by an inch. His vehicle didn't pass inspection; he tried to fix it. Asked someone the right question, and was told a solution without much cost. He enjoyed fixing the brakes. Later a 5 or 6 year-old boy ran across the street, in the rain and dark; the brakes worked as the brakes squealed and he didn't hit the boy.
- ▶ A Sister told us what she has been going through the last eighteen months. The Lord taught her acceptance. He is always there, carrying her. Her fears are released of whatever might be. She asked Him to progress her symptoms enough so doctors could see what her problem is. Within a week she got so bad, strange things happened. She was able to tell the doctor plainly what her symptoms were. It caused her doctor to check things they hadn't checked before. Thankful to God.
- ▶ A Sister told us that she has confidence in our Lord; how much He loves us, the miracles for us. She had a dream—she was in a car with her son on a very dark, scary desert road. Afraid. Impressed she didn't need to have fear, that it would end okay. She had peace. She woke up and tried to figure it out. She just set it aside. She didn't know. Later, she heard her dad was

having serious health problems. She planned to visit in March, just her and her son. Her mother was already there visiting family. Her husband called her one morning; he told her he'd heard that morning that her dad had gone outside with his walker and fell into the pool and drowned. She was thankful her mom was there with her. She and her son went to her dad's house the next morning. "I will not leave you comfortless," she was told. She asked, "Why couldn't they see him just one more time?" She had to believe there was a reason. One of her greatest fears was her dad's passing, as she didn't know what the condition of his soul was. So when she and her son went on the desert road, she thought of the dream. The heavy sadness of dread was lifted. She thought of that scripture. That series of events was in God's control. We don't have to fear. God cared enough to provide those details so we could have confidence in His love and power.

- ▶ A Brother told us that they talked to a neighbor about the Church of Christ. Their neighbors were from the Community of Christ. There stands a hedge between their property and theirs. One is dying right in line with their patios...maybe the Lord doesn't want it to grow. He recounted a dream given years ago to Glen Orsted. Our church steadfast, solemn. Other group outside of church, great passion for the Lord. The two bodies came together. He also told us about his wife's dream: a storm coming, a water trough. She was told, "You're running out of time. Need to be baptized in Church of Christ." In her dream she saw people in a bunker; she was told she doesn't have time to be baptized. The thought came to her that the Lord has testified there's authority in the Church of Christ. Where else could I go?
- ▶ A Sister told us to confess your faults one to another. If we were actually able to do that, do we truly have the charity? At age 21, raised in a Godly home...she found herself three months pregnant. She did everything in her power to lose the baby outside of abortion. What would my family, church, friends think? She cleaned house and lifted a box, hoping with enough weight to lose the baby. Tore up her back and she did she lose the baby. God has wrapped me in His arms and forgiven me.
- ▶ A Brother told of an experience in Yucutan. The baptism service began early. Standing by baptismal font were four young ladies, three of them not married, but were converted to the restored gospel and had asked for baptism. After baptism, the young ladies sat up front. One of the women (the married one) wanted to speak. She told them that when elders laid hands on her head, her eyes opened, and she saw a personage come from heaven dressed in white. He touched her. We are blessed to believe in the gift of Holy Ghost to guide and direct.

▶ A Sister told us God wants us to be open with each other. When first married she had significant physical issues . . . pre-cancerous. They told her that she might not be able to have children. She had surgery, and afterward the doctor told her he had seen what was there before surgery, and the problem was now totally gone. One time, she was administered to by two elders, there was a third person behind her with hands on her shoulders. Her problems didn't go away, but He was with her.

▶ A Brother told us they had a hole in their floor stairway to basement. His wife was going to have a party. He had procrastinated. He wanted to do it for her. He was working on it, got to the last bolt and had problems. At that instant he was told, "You didn't ask me once!" He realized he had slighted God. He gave it one more try. The bolt went in and the railing was fixed.



▶ Song by Trish Ferrier, Hubert & Joel Yates

There was a Special Song Service and afternoon sermon by Apostle Duane Ely; he was assisted by Elder Gordon McCann. Br. Duane told us a month ago thoughts started pouring into his head. Scriptures all inspired of God, and preserved for thousands of years. Our relationship with family, friends, the world, and even Satan—all affect our relationship with God. He read Mosiah 1:119-120; 1 Nephi 11:39; 3 Nephi 4:44; Alma 16:53-54; Mosiah 1:53-54; Matthew 6:33. He told us there are 1050 commandments in the New Testament. In the Old Testament there are 613. Br. Duane read Matthew 22:36-40; 1 Nephi 4:41; 2 Nephi 6:44; Mormon 1:11; 1 Nephi 6:44-48; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Luke 9:62; Alma 14:58; 1 Peter 5:8. He told us to be aware and awake. A roaring lion goes after the weakest. Discouragement



▶ Elder Isaac Brockman, Jr. set aside as Bishop

robs confidence in God; the remedy for this is the word of God which regains your perspective to gain strength. In Lehi's vision the Rod of Iron leads to the tree of Life, a representation of the love of God. Put our complete faith and trust in Him. He read Romans 3:23; Mosiah 11:139-140; Mosiah 2:16-17; Mark 3:28-29. Br. Duane told us that when we're baptized we receive the Holy Ghost. It's a part of us, a gift, an abiding Spirit. He read Hebrews 10:17; Jeremiah 31:34; Micah 7:19; Isa 55:8-11; Jeremiah 3:15; Psalm 147:5. We will have sickness, pain and sorrow; we will have decisions. God sees the whole picture. We only know and understand a very small part of it. He read Proverbs 3:5-7, and told us the world picks the commandments they will follow. Our lives are a barren wasteland without Christ. He is our living water. He read 3 Nephi 7:10-11; Moroni 7:52. Charity described as pure love of Christ.

**M**ONDAY MORNING prayer service—Evan-gelist Hubert Yates in charge with Elder Mike Bevaart assisting. Br. Hubert exhorted us to ask the Lord to direct us. It's His church and not ours to direct. Go forth and prune; the Lord of the vineyard will go with us. He read 2 Nephi 14:11-12. He told us the Spirit of the Lord leads us in righteousness. We must not do anything but we pray first . . . for the welfare of our soul.

His spirit to take full control . . . His will be done.

There was an urgent request made for the Brantner family; their son Jake was killed the night before. A season of prayer followed in which many voices were lifted up to the Lord.

MONDAY EVENING an ordination took place. Elder Isaac (Bick) Brockman was set aside as a bishop. Apostles Buzz Brickhouse and Jeff Oldham performed the Laying on of Hands. May God guide Br. Bick in the decisions he is called on to make.

The Monday evening sermon was given by Apostle Placido Matu. Br. Placido greeted us and said it is a privilege to be part of the gospel and the restored church. God gave him this sermon, pay attention. "Do not lose your salvation." The most important gift we could receive.



▶ Bick Brockman during the Hand of Fellowship.

God has given us many things we don't deserve—more than we've asked for. He knows what we need. He read Hebrews 2:3. The kingdom shall never be destroyed. We need not fear. Revelations tell us and experiences tell us. A young man had a dream with an angel and the devil both there in the dream. The devil is there and ready to destroy. Br. Placido told us that when he was three weeks old the doctor said he would not survive, but God had a plan for him. His father prayed all night; God heard. When he was 15—he decided to be baptized. He had been praying for God to call servants (meaning others), but God called him; God had a plan. He read 2 Nephi 9:133. God is our salvation. Br. Placido told us he waited 1½ years to accept his call to be an Apostle. Again, he told God to call others. We need to trust, give Him time to work with us. Last week during the services in Yobain a brother saw an angel. The angel was coming with a plate of fruit for us. The angel was dressed in white, ready to serve

us. God is our salvation; the Lord is our strength. Problems are going to come, but God has a plan for His children. One brother in Mexico was given two months to live; he had cancer. God healed him; he is now an Elder in the church. This was eight years ago. He is enjoying good health; his family has come into the church; God is great. Br. Placido read 2 Nephi 1:30-63; 1 Nephi 5:246. He told us that a few days ago he visited a local. He heard the voice of God tell him: "You need to pay more attention to that local, they need your help." He read Psalm 9:14; 2 Corinthians 6:2. We need to be prepared; Christ is coming soon. He needs you in His vineyard. He read 2 Peter 3:15, 18. To Him be the glory.

**TUESDAY MORNING** Prayer Service—Priest Martin Addie in charge, assisted by Priest Bruce Haines. Br. Martin welcomed us and Br. Bruce gave the opening remarks. He asked us to pray for the welfare of the church, and what we see happening in this country. We have to depend on the Lord—we can expect persecution. 2 Timothy 3:12 says... "all that shall live Godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." This morning did you wake with determination to be better, closer with the Lord each day? He read 1 Peter 1:3-9; 1 Peter 3:8-17 and 1 Peter 4:1-5, 12; John 15:16-19. What we can expect to happen if we follow God.

Br. Martin spoke, telling us he knows the Lord led Bruce. He touched on all that was in his heart. Each experience teaches us. He invited us to be an advocate for Jesus Christ. Br. Martin lead the season of prayer.

Service was opened to us for the leading of the Spirit, here are a few testimonies:

- ▶ A Sr. told us that Br. Oren Caviness taught by using the example of a single stick versus a bundle of sticks. A single stick you can break easily; a bundle you can't as they are much stronger. First thing is important—we have to love each other; we don't have to always agree on everything.
- ▶ A Sr. told us that fasting brings answers. Her mother died recently—cancer. On a Wednesday they'd decided to fast and pray for her. She got strength to get up and be with family, then God took her. God answered their prayers. He hears when we take time to fast and pray. God is always faithful. He's faithful when we are. He deserves our praise and He will continue with us.
- ▶ A Sr. told us that a trial of your faith worketh

patience. She read Romans 5:1. This is a trial we are going through, but we can have joy in recognizing that God is working. We're in our scriptures, praying and fasting. People are carried away by concerns of the world until we're humbled.

**TUESDAY AFTERNOON** prayer service—Priest Bruce Haines in charge, Priest Stephen Gould offered a message. Br. Stephen told us he'd had a night vision of Christ coming to him with ravenous wolves all around. Christ had His staff and drove the wolves away. Christ asked him if he'd share the staff and he replied "Yes, Lord." He was told, "Don't scare my sheep." He read Mosiah 1, beginning with verse 116. We need to becometh a Saint, the Natural man has to die. Natural man is not humbled, rarely can be. He read Mosiah 2:1-5; Alma 15:16-18; Mosiah 3:1-6; John 19:7-11; Omni 1:43-44. We must have belief in prophesying; it's a gift to the Bride. Go to the Lord and ask if it's true—don't decide on your own. Satan tries to lead us NOT to believe. When you don't understand prophecy does that make it right to throw it out—NO. He read Mark 16:16; Alma 3. He asked, have you been spiritually born of God? This was spoken to church members. Their fruit did not show that were of the Holy Spirit...they were dead. He read verses 46-63. Are ye stripped of Pride? Or can you be offended? (Can anyone make you angry?) If so—you're not prepared to meet God. He's kind and loving and also JUST. Prepare quickly. He read Matt. 26:50; Psalm 51:10-12.

Br. Bruce told us that he appreciated Br. Stephen's sermon. We need to humble ourselves. He read Alma 16:134-138 (to the Zoramites). He testified about being compelled to be humble.

**TUESDAY EVENING** Song Service and then a sermon was given by Priest Kevin McGhee, who was assisted by Elder Gordon McCann. Br. Kevin told us he's been questioning things recently. He read #14 in the Articles of Faith in Practice. He read Matthew 28. He said, "WE think, Why aren't WE doing that?" Wrong. We should ask ourselves, "What am I doing? What is MY goal?" He read #16 of the Articles of Faith and Practice. His answer was, "I am not loving my neighbor as myself." He read Mosiah, page 286, verse 159 and Philippians 2. He asked, Are we shining lights in this crooked perverse nation? He read Galatians 6:2-10. He said we need to make a conscious commitment

every day to be an example. We must be a REAL example. Be REAL. He read Matt. 10:16. We need to help build the kingdom more. He'll use us—if we allow HIM (submit to His will). He read pg 40 of the Book of Mormon. We are living in the last days. He read 1 Nephi 3:226.

**WEDNESDAY EVENING** Song Service and a sermon by Elder Adam Porter, who was assisted by Elder Mike Bevaart. Br. Adam said he's titled his sermon, "Our Legacy in the Restoration." Br. Adam read Book of Mormon 4:45-47. Truly Daniel's prophecy of many running to and fro, and knowledge being increased, is being fulfilled. He read 3 Nephi 13:54-56; Ether 6:4-5; 2 Nephi 8:68. Br. Adam commented that we're in that time of the Zion Vineyard; servants to labor. He read Isaiah 4:4; 2 Timothy 2:20-21; 1 Corinthians 1:25-29; 1 Timothy 4:1-2; 2 Nephi 11:146; Matthew 15:8; Mark 7:6. Br. Adam told us to hold on to the rod of iron—through the mist of darkness. People see a mirage, not the truth. They'll drink the sand because they don't know the difference. He read 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Corinthians 4:7-10; 2 Timothy 4:2; Hebrews 13:15; Alma 3:46; 1 John 1:3-4. Br. Adam exhorted us not be robbed of our joy. We must be aware of the time in which we live and world events, yet not be entangled. We are called to stay the course—to the end. Our freedom in Jesus Christ is only one decision away from bondage into sin. He read Romans 6:15-18; Galatians 5:13; 2 Peter 2:20. He told us our tools of the gospel—when we study—listen, learn, experience the gospel we can become more confident in our testimony and witness of Christ. When we are faithful in His service, we may realize the greater things: gifts, blessings, miracles, protection, comfort and His love for us. He read 1 Corinthians 2:9; 1 Peter 2:20; 1 Peter 5:6-7; 1 Kings 19:4-16; Deuteronomy 11:1-12. He asked, are our children learning about testimonies, miracles, and blessings of generations past and present, the faithfulness of the Saints? He read 1 Corinthians 2:5; Helaman 2:74-76.

*Your Conference Reporter and Sister in Christ, Deb Haines,  
With the assistance of Sr. Darl Temple*



POEM

# Without JESUS

By Sister Kathy Cloyd

At what point do you know you need  
God?

A great illness, divorce, calamity,  
warring powers,  
Deprivation of food, water, shelter, or  
cell towers?

When all your attempts to rise fail,  
Without Jesus you find yourself at the  
bottom of a very dry well.

Most people want love, mercy,  
contentment and peace,  
He is the holder and giver of these  
gifts,

Without Jesus our America and our  
security will cease.

Without Jesus my life would have been  
so different,

I wouldn't have known every soul, even  
mine, was important.

Every day a darker world is chilling my  
bone,

Without Jesus I wouldn't have known,  
We have to walk in His light and not  
our own.

Even I was a sickly tree that had to be  
grown,

Trials, hardships and woeful sorrows  
continue to chisel this stone,  
He purposely shapes it till more  
perfection is shone.

Without Jesus I wouldn't have known  
how to fight the adversary,  
I didn't even know I had one,

He showed me the weapons and armour  
I would need to carry.

The commission came from God the  
Father,

Jesus, called the Word of God, is the  
Rock that doesn't change.

In His law all truth and beauty hangs,  
But it went against our nature; His  
doctrines were too strange,

Let's keep the miracles and the rest  
rearrange.

He had laid it all out, He hoped we  
wouldn't fall prey,

To what any earthly man may proclaim  
or say.

Even now a multitude of deceptions  
have corrupted our day,

But every generation is given the choice  
to stay the course or stray.

His Word was despised and rejected by  
the children of men,

So into the dark ages they would  
descend,

Till the future day, His church, His  
gospel would be here again.

The men in charge are about to commit  
high treason,

Without Jesus I would be prepping for  
all the wrong reasons.

The Word and the Spirit are sounding  
the alarms,

Without Jesus I wouldn't hear the call  
to arms,

Rise up Christian soldier; break the  
bondage of this world's charm,  
Without Jesus you won't escape His  
prophesied harms.

At what point do you know God is with  
you?

When you are led to fall on your knees,  
And your faith is growing by humbled  
pleas,

Your prayers are answered by mercy and  
might,

And you see the truth of His glorious  
light.

Without Jesus there's so much I  
wouldn't have known,

That through the rugged trails and  
roaring waves we must be blown,

That the whispers of the ancients  
through the earth are flown,

That the rebellion of this world He will  
no longer condone.

Hear; O Man, be far from sin and near  
in solemn tone.

I thank my God we are not alone,  
He sees all from His heavenly throne,  
And He's about to secure His earthly  
home.

Atone for thy people Israel...Lord  
redeem thine own.

## OBITUARIES

## Charles Wesley Brantner

November 29, 1929~March 1, 2016

Charles Wesley Brantner, 86, of Lone Jack, Missouri, passed away March 1, 2016, at his son's home in Lee's Summit.

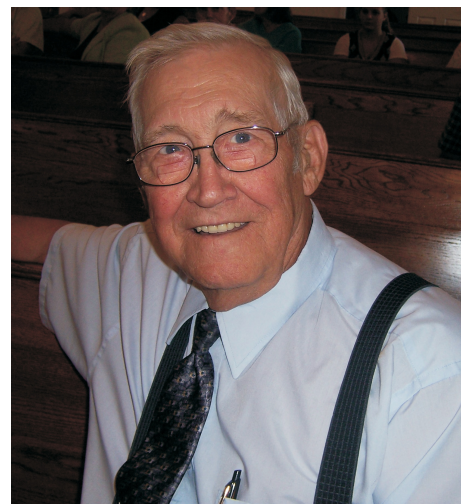
Charles was born on November 29th, 1929, in Rockford, Michigan, to George and Sarah (Hoskins) Brantner, and as a youth bore the responsibility of a man on the family farm. He was a proud United States Army veteran, serving in the Panama Canal Zone from 1947-1950. Following his tour of duty, he married the love of his life, Jeanne Platt in 1951.

Charles was employed as a mechanic and fleet supervisor with United Parcel Service (UPS) in Grand Rapids, Michigan, for ten years, and after moving to Missouri in 1974 worked as a machinist at Whiteman Air Force Base for ten years until his retirement in 1985. Life had made a full circle as he then owned his own farm in Missouri raising cattle.

Charles was baptized into the Church of

Christ (Temple Lot) on May 10, 1942, and was called to the ministry as an elder on October 9th, 1983. He served the church in the office of a bishop from April 3, 1991, until the time of his passing. Charles began traveling on missionary trips to the Philippines in 2002, making five trips to that country in all. He was a regular member of the Visiting Ministry Program in Missouri, and was also a fixture at the Church of Christ Visitor's Center on the Temple Lot in Independence. Charles was also a member of the church's Board of Publications for many years.

Charles was preceded in death by his wife of 59 years, Jeanne Brantner; infant daughters Brenda Beth and Karen Jo Brantner; brothers Danny, Gale and Richard Brantner; sister Jeanette Cunningham; parents George and Sarah (Hoskins) Brantner; and a great-grandson, Trevor. Survivors include: daughters Debra Haines (Bruce) and Cheryl Pease (Carl); son Andrew Brantner (Carol);



sister, Jeanee Stephens (Ross); 9 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

He came from a generation with grit and perseverance, who knew hard times and survived by hard work and integrity. God blessed him with good health up until this last year or so, and his passing was sweet unto him. He was a man whose word was as firm as his handshake. He shall be greatly missed and the example he set is one to be aspired to.

## Loren Daniel Bryant

November 15, 1927~November 8, 2015

Loren Daniel Bryant was born on November 15, 1927, to D. Ray and Ruby J. Bryant, in Braymer, Missouri, and passed from this life to his heavenly reward on November 8, 2015, at Liberty Hospital while surrounded by a host of loving family members.

Loren was raised on a farm eight miles south of Cowgill, Missouri, with his brother Gerald, along with his two sisters, Grace and Marcia. Loren was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) at the age of 12 and served his Lord with a never-ending faith as an Elder in the church until he was called home by his Heavenly Father.

Loren served his country during WW II and the Korean War. While serving in Korea he was captured and held as a prisoner of war

for thirty months and two weeks under horrific circumstances. Loren gave many testimonies and praise of the goodness of his Lord relating to these times in which his life was sustained through the earnest prayers of many devoted loved ones and church members.

After serving his country, Loren returned to Cowgill where he married Mary Lois Harris on May 28, 1955. To this union they raised one son, John Loren Bryant. Loren enjoyed reading, working on the farm, anything associated with horses, and being with his grandchildren, whom he dearly loved.

Loren was an honest, hardworking, well-respected member of the community, as well as a faithful servant of his Lord, and will be greatly missed by all those that knew and

loved him.

Loren was preceded in death by both of his parents, his brother, his wife Mary Lois, and one great-granddaughter.

Loren is survived by his son, John and wife Chrissy of Kansas City, Missouri, four grandchildren: Joshua, Joseph, Alayna, and Andrew; along with two great-grandsons, Jayden and Caleb. Loren also leaves behind his two sisters and a host of nieces and nephews that loved him dearly. No one that knew Loren can forget his kind, gentle smile, and loving words when you spoke to him that always made you feel loved and cared about.

Loren was a very humble man who never wanted to be the center of attention with regard to anything he was involved in. He always gave credit and praise to his Lord, wanting to ensure his eternal life through the righteous actions he attended to in this his probationary period on earth.

## Norman Heath

By Elder Aaron Heath

Norman Heath, 71 years old, passed away January 5th, 2016. He was the brother of Aaron Heath, Vivian Spencer,

Lois Armstrong, Betty Hoffman, Glen Heath and son of Cleo and Lois Heath. May God rest his soul.

## NOTICES

## 2016 ACTIVITIES

- **MAY 20-22—SCRIPTURE THEME CAMP**  
Camp Bob White at Knob Noster State Park  
Contact: Dan Lawrence: 816-914-7052  
[dlviolin@earthlink.net](mailto:dlviolin@earthlink.net)
  - **JUNE 3-5—IDAHO REUNION**  
Treasure Valley Local at 2200 E. State St.,  
Eagle, Idaho 83616  
Contact: Pastor Rich Bove: 208-870-3807  
Asst. Pastor Roy Coon: 208-365-3410
  - **JUNE 10-12—COLORADO REUNION**  
Contact: Karen Bell 970-210-0097  
Jean Larsen 970-361-0423  
Liza Hedrick 970-462-9200
  - **JUNE 17-19—MICHIGAN REUNION**  
Bradley Local  
Contact: Elder Adam Porter  
9 Market St., Middleville, MI 49333  
616-240-3902  
Elder Dennis Trudgen  
10862 Harkness Rd., Belding, MI 48809  
813-520-6649
  - **JULY 8-10—NEW YORK REUNION**  
Akwasasne Local  
Contact: Barndon Tarbell 581-358-9153  
[btarbell@thetmg.com](mailto:btarbell@thetmg.com)
  - **JULY 29-31—MISSOURI REUNION**  
Temple Lot, Independence, Missouri  
Contact: Roland Sarratt 816-373-6605  
Mike McGhee 816-796-6255  
Smith Brickhouse 816-356-9214  
Jeff Oldham 660-631-3963
  - **SEPTEMBER 2-5—MINNESOTA REUNION**  
Bemidji Local  
Contact: Elder Samuel Gould  
218-368-1427  
Sister Elaine Gould 218-586-2774  
Elder Merlin Eddy 651-438-9738
  - **SEPTEMBER 30 & OCTOBER 1—  
WOMEN'S RETREAT** at Lake Maurer  
Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Missouri  
Contact: Carrie Geier: 816-739-9386  
[geiers214@sbcglobal.net](mailto:geiers214@sbcglobal.net)
  - **OCTOBER 1-2—ONTARIO REUNION**  
Teeterville Church of Christ  
Contact: Marn Vieveen: 519-759-8087  
[marnieveveen@sympatico.ca](mailto:marnieveveen@sympatico.ca)  
Michael Bevaart: 226-934-4250  
[mikebevaart@gmail.com](mailto:mikebevaart@gmail.com)
- Please be advised travel back into the US from Canada requires a passport, passport card, enhanced drivers license, or nexus.

## HONDURAS

- **MAY 28—MARRIAGE RETREAT/KIDS  
BIBLE SCHOOL** (12 and under)
- **JULY 23—PRE-MARRIAGE RETREAT**
- **OCTOBER 2-4—GENERAL REUNION**
- **JANUARY 5-8, 2017—YOUTH CAMP**  
Contact: Elder Ronnie Gill  
[rongill@la-comarca.org](mailto:rongill@la-comarca.org)  
Elder Thomas Gill  
[thomasgill@la-comarca.org](mailto:thomasgill@la-comarca.org)

## YUCATAN, MEXICO

- **JULY 28-31—YOUTH CAMP** in Dzan
- **SEPTEMBER 11—SECOND CHILDREN'S  
REUNION** at 10:00 a.m. in Ticul
- **OCTOBER 9—REUNION** at 4:00 p.m. in  
Merida
- **DECEMBER 11—YOUTH FORUM** at 4:00  
p.m. in Merida
- **FEBRUARY 26—66TH ANNIVERSARY OF  
THE FOUNDATION OF THE CHURCH IN  
YUCATAN** at 4:00 p.m. in Merida  
Contact: Apostle Placido K. Matu:  
[ap.matu2@gmail.com](mailto:ap.matu2@gmail.com)

## CCEG

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

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

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

**RHEA HOUSKNECHT**  
CCEG Manager  
[ccegmgr@gmail.com](mailto:ccegmgr@gmail.com)

## THE HOPE of ZION

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

## AVA WEBSITE

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

CORRESPONDENCE  
COMMITTEE

The General Church Correspondence Committee would like to extend the opportunity for any who wish to communicate through written correspondence to contact one of the following three committee members:

**MARLENE COBB** (Chairman)  
725 S. Pickwick  
Springfield, MO 65802  
**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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- 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
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- 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

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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 [ccegmgr@icloud.com](mailto:ccegmgr@icloud.com) One form per family, please.

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