

Zion's Advocate

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

VOLUME 93

INDEPENDENCE, MISSOURI—September-October 2016

NUMBER 5

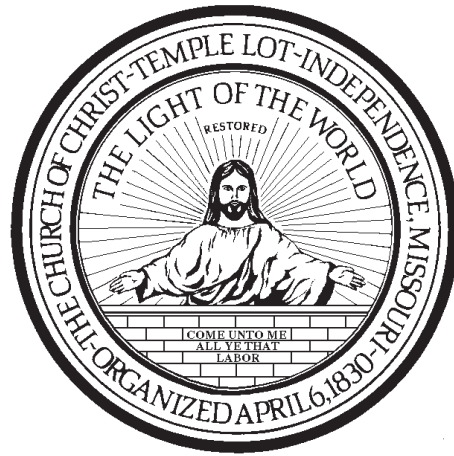


"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." —Lamentations 3:22-23

~ In This Issue ~

ARTICLE —Being Perfected in Christ - Apostle Roland Sarratt	93
FROM the ARCHIVES —The Gospel Came to Yucatan - Apostle Leon Yates	99
BOOK TALK —Papa: He Was Not a Quitter - Joseph E. Yates	101

REPORT —2016 Missouri Reunion of the Church of Christ - Deb Haines	104
GSSA —The Fruit of the Spirit	110
POETRY —Let Me See the Holes - Janeen Addie	112
NOTICES	113



THE APOSTLES *of the* CHURCH OF CHRIST

Smith N. Brickhouse, 5713 Logan Road, Kansas City, Missouri 64136; 816-356-9214; e-mail: smithbrickhouse@yahoo.com
Duane Ely, 18814 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1516; e-mail duane1ely@aol.com
Placido Koyoc Matu, 99h Calle 24 x 17y 19, Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico; #011-52-991-911-3125; e-mail: ap.matu2@gmail.com
Mike McGhee, 18907 E. 6th Street N., Independence, Missouri 64056; 816-796-6255; e-mail: mcgheeme@msn.com
Brian McIndoo, 18824 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-1900; e-mail: mcindoo@cox.net
Donald E. McIndoo, 18830 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050
Alvin J. Moser, 18829 N. 29th Place, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-2414; e-mail: ajmoser3@cox.net
Jeffrey Oldham, 2609 SW Wintervalley Circle, Lee's Summit, MO 64081; 515-339-6226; jrocontact@gmail.com
Roland L. Sarratt, 15910 E. 36th Terrace, Independence, Missouri 64055; 816-373-6605; e-mail: r.sarratt@comcast.net
William A. Sheldon, 1011 S. Cottage, Independence, Missouri 64050; 816-833-3995; e-mail: cofctl@sbcglobal.net
Joel Yates, 2924 E. Rockwood Drive, Phoenix, Arizona 85050; 602-569-9296; e-mail: jyates2@yahoo.com



GENERAL CHURCH OFFICERS

SECRETARY, COUNCIL OF APOSTLES

Apostle Duane Ely
 18814 N. 30th Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85050

SECRETARY, GENERAL BISHOPRIC

Elder Rick Olson
 5629 Logan Road; Kansas City, Missouri 64136

GENERAL CHURCH SECRETARY

Rhea Housknecht
 400 E. Sea Avenue, Independence, MO 64050

GENERAL CHURCH RECORDER

Elder Gordon McCann
 18808 N. 30th Street; Phoenix, AZ 85050

BUSINESS MANAGER

Elder Jim Case
 Church of Christ
 P.O. Box 472; Independence, Missouri 64051-0472

ZION'S ADVOCATE STAFF

EDITOR

Elder Gordon McCann
 18808 N. 30th Street
 Phoenix, Arizona 85050
 E-mail: cofzcaeditor@cox.net

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Apostle Placido K. Matu
 Calle 24 #99H x 17 y 19
 Yobain, Yucatan, Mexico

Priest Bruce Haines
 2111 S. Crenshaw Rd.
 Independence, MO 64057

PRODUCTION STAFF

Harvey L. Seibel

STATUS of PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Articles published in this paper do not necessarily reflect the teachings of the Church, nor the opinions of the editorial staff. Declarations and notices authorized by the General Conference reflect the practices and beliefs of the General Church.

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.

BEING PERFECTED IN

Christ



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

When Jesus spoke to the Jews, he usually brought out a point or two to counter their misconceived views. He wasn't hesitant to show them their errors concerning sin.

We are in bondage when we commit sin and fail to overcome the sin.

Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin. And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever. If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed (John 8:31-36).

What is the value of the truth that

Jesus was talking about? Can we put a monetary value on truth? Can we sell the truth as a commodity?

We might say that some Christian religions have been big money-making businesses through the years, but to most of us it has not been so. When I was working at the steel mill, the word got out that I was a minister. One of the men I was working with made a statement to me, probably trying to get me to reveal my involvement in religion. He said, "If I had it to do over again I would have been a preacher. There is where the money is." I didn't reply, but I have often thought of that statement inasmuch as I didn't have any monetary benefits given directly to me from the church or otherwise as pay-

ment for my services. Neither did I have any desire to make my religion a financial business.

One of the famous stories in Biblical times was when a man by the name of Simon witnessed the apostles laying hands on the people who had been baptized to bestow the Holy Ghost, and he offered to buy that power that he might also be able to give the Holy Ghost. Peter said, "*Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money*" (Acts 8:20).

The very simple lesson that Jesus was teaching the Jews was this statement: "*Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.*" We are in bondage when we commit sin and fail to overcome the sin. The knowledge of the truth, the fullness of the gospel of Christ, is the means by which we overcome the sin and be free from the sin. Knowing the truth is essential, but doing the truth is even more essential. Knowing the truth and not doing it brings us under condemnation. So, knowledge always needs to be backed up with the truth, and the truth requires personal experience by obeying it. The great benefit of learning firsthand cannot be taken from us if we have learned it through the guidance of the Holy Spirit. It will be a part of our intelligence for all times.

So how valuable is the truth to us? Jesus told the Jews that the truth shall make them free. They said they were already free, but He told the Jews that they were servants to their own sins and were not free. Are we servants and in bondage to our sins? If we are,

how do we get free from that bondage? We must repent, ask God to forgive us and retain a remission of our sins as often as we sin. We are to overcome our sins and not let our sins overcome us.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave a commandment referring to our Father in Heaven: *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect* (Matthew 5:48).

With that commandment, the standard of righteousness has been set by Jesus, commanding us to be perfect like our Heavenly Father. What is being perfect? We might say being perfect is being without sin. Jesus himself was perfect for He did not sin. Had He sinned at any time He would not have been worthy to be the sacrifice that the Father required to atone for our sins.

Although our first parents had committed sin, when each of us came into this world we were free from sin, and it is the Lord's will that we go out of this world free from sin. We came into this world as innocent little children. As we grew to adulthood we became accountable in that we became aware of good and evil.

We adults of the church all know that we have sinned, and this gives us a firsthand awareness of what sin is. It is that which offends God. But God has provided a means by which we can be free from our sins. Through sincerely repenting of our sins and asking God to forgive us we can be free from our sins.

Each of us who have been baptized realize that the initial repentance of our sins frees us completely of our former sins at that time, but the inclination to sin while we still abide in the

flesh is ever present. Therefore, we are given the commandment to retain a remission of our sins (Mosiah 2:22) and endure to the end (3 Nephi 7:10). To do this we must repent as often as we are aware that we have sinned. We must strive against our own will to sin. While we are in this body of flesh we are in a probationary state, having the awareness that we will be tempted of the devil to sin. The ministers in this church have the duty to preach and teach the gospel of Christ to help us remain steadfast in our efforts to obtain eternal life. To do so they must make us aware of our need to repent of our sins, and for us to ask God to forgive us of our sins.

When the ministers are preaching the need for repentance, who is the number one being who is offended when we sin? Is it our minister, our spouse, our parents, our children, our siblings, our brothers and sisters in the church? No. The number one Being is God, because when we sin we break His law. We undoubtedly hurt our loved ones when we commit a gross sin, but first and foremost we must be aware that we offend God. God does not look upon sin with the least degree of allowance (Alma 21:18). In the world around us we are apt to be influenced by many sins that transgress the law of God.

Then what is the duty of a minister in this church? It is to teach those things that will help us obtain eternal life. We might say that their duty is to help us improve our religious character. The scriptures contain many things that can do that. That is the purpose of the word of God. Beginning

with the very character of Jesus Christ, they can take each subject He expounded on and find points in which we each might find reason to want to improve ourselves spiritually. Jesus is our example because He has overcome the will to sin.

Going back to that scripture in Matthew 5, let's start with verse 43 and read up to and include verse 48.

Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy.

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

For if ye love them which love you, what reward have ye? do not even the publicans the same?

And if ye salute your brethren only, what do ye more than others? do not even the publicans so?

Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect (Matthew 5:43-48).

Sometimes taking a verse of scripture out of context and trying to analyze it one can totally misunderstand its meaning. The word "therefore" in verse 48 definitely relates to the former statements, making the last statement refer directly to them.

The statement, *even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*, tells us that we must be like our heav-

enly Father. So when Jesus said that we must love our enemies that we may be the children of our Father in heaven, that is telling us that loving our enemies is being like Him. The reason that the Father wants us to love our enemies is that He makes His sun to rise on the evil and on the good. God is an example of loving the sinner even when the sinner offends Him. As long as there is a possibility that the sinner will repent, God will extend His love to Him. *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved (John 3:17).*

Should we not strive to help the sinner repent of his sins? Yes, but usually our inclination would be to disassociate ourselves from the sinner. Aren't we all sinners? Our mission is to reclaim the sinner, not condemn him. God will do the final judging, not us.

In Numbers, chapters 22-24, there is a story that is appropriate to relate here. The Israelites were in their final approach to their promised land. The king of Moab, by the name of Balak, became aware that thousands of Israelites had camped just across the border from his land. He was also aware that they had fought the Amorites and the nation of Bashan and had overcome those nations, taking possession of their lands.

The king of Moab feared that they would be next to be overrun by the Israelites, so he devised a plan. He sent for a prophet of God by the name of Balaam from another nation to come and curse the Israelites. The story of Balaam riding his donkey on his way to

go to the king of Moab is usually familiar to most Bible students. The donkey saw an angel of God in the path, but Balaam couldn't see him. After several efforts to get past the angel, the donkey spoke to Balaam. Then Balaam's eyes were opened and he could see the angel.

The angel gave Balaam some special instructions concerning his mission to the king. So Balaam told the king of Moab that he could only do the things that the Lord would have him do, no matter what the king's desire was. But through the king's insistence, an effort was made three times for the prophet, Balaam, to curse the Israelites. Contrary to the will of the king, the prophet ended up giving blessings each time to the Israelites instead of curses. The fourth time, the king told the prophet to get out and go back to his own nation.

Actually, the Lord had instructed Israel not to do anything to the king of Moab or to his nation, but the king had anticipated that they would. He tried to get the prophet to put a curse on them to protect his kingdom. The prophet said it this way: *"How shall I curse whom God hath not cursed? Or how shall I defy, whom the Lord hath not defied?" (Numbers 23:8).*

This is a lesson for us which goes along with the commandment to love our enemies. We need to seek the Lord to know His will before we try to condemn or judge others. More than that, we should examine our motives, that they are not self-serving, and that we are worthy to give advice in helping others.

By turning to the scriptures we

can find many examples of righteous qualities that we can adopt into our personality to improve ourselves. If a minister is inclined to give admonition to others but is lacking in the quality of which he is admonishing others, can he expect to be successful in his efforts? Is he worthy to do that? Having been taught the fullness of the gospel, we each know our own sins better than the sins of others, but sometimes the sins of others seem more obvious to us than our own. The Lord judges each one of us by our sincerity, and He knows your sincerity much better than I do. Therefore, I cannot accurately judge you.

Paul cautioned the Galatians on how to restore a person when they are at fault: *Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted* (Galatians 6:1).

This tells us that when we try to correct another person we should be spiritually guided, and that we should be aware of our own faults as well. We might get carried away in our zeal in correcting a person, and end up being at fault in the way that we are trying to correct them. In other words, we might misjudge another by not seeing our own faults. We would be hypocritical.

Jesus said it this way in Matthew 7:3-5: *And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? Thou hyp-*

ocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus was very plain and didn't hesitate to call it like it was by using the word, "hypocrite." He discerned hypocrisy and on occasion called the Jews hypocrites. Before He said these words about casting out the beam in our own eye, he said this in Matthew 7:1-2:

Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

The Lord has made it very clear that our spiritual vision can be impaired by our own personal imperfections. Surely we need to be able to judge between good and evil, but when we judge other people we can't see their faults perfectly when our own faults are as great or greater than theirs.

Going back to Paul, he makes an important point in the next verse: (Galatians 6:2) *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.*

Bearing the burdens of others is very essential in helping our fellow man. We have compassion for them much like the Lord has compassion for each of us. We want to help them overcome their burdens, but we can only do that if we have overcome our own burdens. Our efforts must be strengthening rather than condemning, by being an example to them.

Paul continues in Galatians 6:3-6: *For if a man think himself to be*

something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

But let every man prove his own work, and then shall he have rejoicing in himself alone, and not in another.

For every man shall bear his own burden.

Let him that is taught in the word communicate unto him that teacheth in all good things.

In many ways I see us of the ministry striving to do that. We are striving against our own imperfections to help others. I think we are all aware of our own faults and failings to some degree at this time. We want to perform our duties more effectively and help each other overcome the temptations in our personal lives. We keenly realize that personal weaknesses plague each of us to some extent. Jesus said He gave us weaknesses that we might be humble (Ether 5:28). But He also said we are to overcome our weaknesses, not let them take control. They have a purpose in making us strong by overcoming them.

Peter, being a rather impetuous man, has a different view of our personal inclinations to sin, and the fact that we are tempted of the devil, in 1 Peter 1:6-7: *Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations:*

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ:

Perhaps Peter was much more aware of the devil's constant efforts to tempt him into sinning than most of us, and he sees it as a trial of our faith when we remain faithful, which will be rewarding to us at the time when Jesus returns to the earth.

There are many trials each of us may have to endure, but knowing that we are prone to sin against the laws of God because we are of the natural man is not usually a cause to rejoice. We find it an inward battle to resist our own inclination to sin, which makes us have to counter our own wills of the flesh.

It can be rather disappointing and discouraging to know that even in our best efforts we are apt to sin, and we are a long way from rejoicing as Peter stated.

But have we sinned when we are being persuaded by the will of our flesh? Is temptation sin? No. It is sin when we yield to the temptation. As the song goes: *Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin.*

Pride can enter in making us angry at ourselves when we feel lust or unmentionable desires which come from the wills of the flesh. Sometimes we use our self-esteem as a source of strength in controlling our faults. At such times our resolve to resist sin can be based more upon self-righteousness than upon the awareness of human weaknesses. None of us wants to admit that we are prone to sin when the devil tempts us. We are confident that we are above such desires. We have striven to develop hatred toward sin based upon the strict word of God. We have striven to develop a con-

science which would keep us from any sin common to the world about us. It is true that not all people are tempted the same, but no one is ever totally free from the tempting power of the devil as long as they are in the probationary state.

As to self-esteem, it can be defined as a high regard of oneself. Although that might suggest pride, I'm inclined to think that self-esteem can be based on our belief in God. Our awareness of God's special interest in our existence is based on the fact that He conceived our existence and even created us in His image. This gives us purpose of life, both spiritually and physically. While multitudes are being duped into an atheistic theology with evolution being promoted, we have the great benefit of knowing that God has given us hope in the creation story and the great plan of salvation. Comparing the two, our outlook on life can be positive in that we have hope beyond this life, while they have nothing to look forward to beyond this life.

Perhaps Peter is trying to make us aware of something that should be understood by humanity in general. The devil strives hardest against those who have made a strong stand against him. He has easily persuaded those who have made little effort to resist him. It can be said that he has been extremely successful in deceiving the great majority, so upon those who have embraced the truth he concentrates his manifold temptations, as Peter said. David gives us valuable advice in this regard in Psalm 139:23-24: *Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts:*

And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

At our best we are striving to face the reality of our day of probation. The reality is knowing that we are subject to the counsel of One who is perfect, and at the same time realizing that all humanity must be judged by that perfect Being. There is no excuse for those who know the truth and claim that knowledge. So we must face the fact that the Lord has certain expectations of us.

What would hinder us by preventing us from not striving for that perfection that is in the Lord? It is a false sense of one's own concept of righteousness. It is a religion where a person has reached a level of righteousness that he determines is good enough. It is the religious requirements that a society or a religious group or church might accept as being sufficient for salvation. By determining that "good enough" status, they are likely to judge any other religious teachings or beliefs as being unnecessary to fulfill their accepted status quo. They may even judge the greater goal of perfection as being radical and contrary to their interpretation of scripture.

Are we, the Church of Christ, living the standard which we accept as being good enough, and judge each other accordingly? If so, what is our standard? Our standard is what the Lord expects of us according to His written word. So, being like the Father, perfect, is what He expects of us. Is it possible to be like the Father? Jesus has commanded us to be like His Fa-

ther, and His very life is an example of being like the Father, so we have to say it is possible.

Job was living the standard of righteousness that was expected of him, being a perfect and upright man. But he had not yet proven himself until the devil had acted upon him. He had a hedge around him by which the Lord had protected him. When the hedge was removed he was subject to be tried by the devil in very extreme ways. In some ways, that might be happening to us. Our trials are preparing us for what is yet to come in our future.

Jesus was tried by the devil, but He countered him by the written word. We must do the same when temptation or adversity comes our way. Our personal reasoning might leave an opening for the devil to plant an idea which pleases us or seems right at the time. If we trust in the Lord, He will tell us what to say to counter the tempter.

We claim a religion which has been written as the commandments of the Lord. Often, we attempt to explain, and sometimes end up debating the meanings of the commandments according to our intellectual reasoning. Sometimes we act as if we are privileged by our limited experiences and study to adequately declare our personal views. Do we know, through the trials of life, what we are saying? Have we proven ourselves to know firsthand the truth of a matter, or are we merely using our head knowledge to guide us?

Our relationship with each other is of special importance to the Lord. Judging others is something that can be a real problem. There is a scripture which gives us some special instruc-

tions concerning judging others. The Lord is talking to Alma in Mosiah 11:137-141:

Therefore I say unto you, Go; and whosoever transgresseth against me, him shall ye judge according to the sins which he has committed;

And if he confess his sins before thee and me, and repenteth in the sincerity of his heart, him shall ye forgive, and I will forgive him also;

Yea, and as often as my people repent, will I forgive them their trespasses against me.

And ye shall also forgive one another your trespasses: for verily I say unto you, He that forgiveth not his neighbor's trespasses, when he says that he repents, the same hath brought himself under condemnation.

Now I say unto you, Go; and whosoever will not repent of his sins, the same shall not be numbered among my people: and this shall be observed from this time forward.

There are two words that go together: repentance and forgiveness. We must repent and we must ask God for forgiveness. The Lord gives a commandment and a promise: when a brother or sister sincerely repents of their sins, we must forgive them and the Lord will forgive them too.

The importance of repentance has been emphasized early on in this discourse. It should be clarified that repentance without hope is a lost cause. We must have hope that when we repent of our sins the Lord will forgive. We must also have faith that He will fulfill His promise. Most importantly we must have charity, the pure

love of Christ. In fact, our greatest goal or desire is to obtain eternal life through the plan the Lord has provided. Without that goal of eternal life we will fail, but it is promised by God to you and to me and all who have heard His gospel. So let's not sell ourselves short; we can obtain eternal life by obeying the gospel of Christ, and we can become perfect even as our Father in heaven is perfect.

The words of Moroni written at the close of his record and also the close of the Book of Mormon are profound, yet simple. Their truth and beauty are beyond anything man can create, making them a divine product of God's inspiration. They are appropriate to the subject of how to become perfect in Christ. Please ponder them prayerfully...

Yea, come unto Christ, and be perfected in him, and deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and if ye shall deny yourselves of all ungodliness, and love God with all your might, mind and strength, then is his grace sufficient for you, that by his grace ye may be perfect in Christ; and if by the grace of God ye are perfect in Christ, ye can in no wise deny the power of God.

And again, if ye, by the grace of God, are perfect in Christ, and deny not his power, then are ye sanctified in Christ by the grace of God, through the shedding of the blood of Christ, which is in the covenant of the Father, unto the remission of your sins, that ye become holy without spot (Moroni 10:29-30).

FROM the ARCHIVES



1955 — Marcos P., Leon Yates, Fernando O., Filemon M., Susano Cabrera, and Sabino Cabrera.

"The Gospel Came to Yucatan," by the late Apostle Leon Yates of the Church of Christ.

Br. Yates begins by asking us to read III Nephi 13:12-45... then he relates a story told to him by an old Mayan Indian brother by the name of Susano Cabrera: While in the jungle many years before, he and his brothers and several other men were preparing to break camp and depart on horseback for a small town some distance away. At this time a man with a long beard, dressed in a robe, came to them, and began to preach. He told them that they must forsake the ways of the

world and turn unto God. They must obey the teachings of the Son of God for, said he, "*There is no other name under Heaven whereby men could gain eternal life.*" After talking to them in this manner he left them, and started afoot to the same town to which they were going. There was a small hill in the trail a short distance ahead. The men watched this person walk over the hill. It then occurred to them that they should let him ride one of their horses, for it was a journey of about seven hours to the town. They hurried over the hill, but to their surprise the man could not be found. They could not under-

stand it. He had not time to have been out of sight, yet he was not there.

They traveled on, and when they arrived in the town they inquired if anyone had seen such a person come into town. They were told that he had been there. He had preached to the people and had already departed. When they inquired as to what time the man had arrived in town, they found that it was just about the time he had disappeared over the hill that morning. In some manner he had covered the distance in a few minutes that had taken them several hours to cover on horseback.

These men had a desire to hear him preach again. They hurried on to the next town, and there they found him teaching the people. Susano said as this man talked his eyes seemed to be focused on some point over the heads of the people as though he was looking at something in the heavens. They could not see the color of his eyes, but they seemed to glow and burn as a fire. He told them that the time was soon to come when they would hear of many churches in the land, but the churches would be teaching the doctrine of men. He said, however, that there would be a man come into the land at some future date, and he would come preaching the Gospel of the Son of God. He told them that this man would come to a certain house in the city of Ticul. The house would be the house of a man by the name of Nemensio Xiu. He told them to wait for that time to come, and then for them to accept the teachings of this man that would come, for he would bring with him the Gospel. He said they would then hear the Gospel and they would understand it, and that they should heed its call.

Susano Cabrera said that some of the people who heard this man of the robe believed, and some did not believe. Those who did not believe him took him and cast him into a well, but he immediately came up out of the well unharmed. Just to refresh our memories let us read III Nephi 13:32

and see what power the three Nephites had.

According to Susano, this man of the robe was preaching the word of God, and he did smite the earth with the word of God inso-much that he was delivered out of the depths of the earth. Finally, as he departed from the city many tried to catch up with him but they could not. They could see his bare feet move as though he was walking, but it seemed his feet did not touch the ground.

All this took place many years ago...Susano and his brothers never forgot about it, and when Apostle Clarence Wheaton went to Yucatan in 1951 he went to the house of Nemensio Xiu. When he went there he did not go to preach the gospel. He had been given a letter of introduction to Nemensio from the great Council of American Indians, and he went to him for advice on how he might proceed on his journey into the jungle in his search for the white Indians. However, while he was there in the home of Nemensio he took the Book of Mormon from his pocket and began to teach them the Gospel of Christ.

When Susano and his brothers heard about someone preaching in the home of Nemensio, they came to listen, and their understanding was opened. They remembered the man of the robe, and they accepted the Gospel of Christ with much joy and happiness.

Thus, the Gospel came to

Yucatan, and because of it many souls have been brought unto Christ. Brother Wheaton did not know when he went to the home of Nemensio Xiu that he was fulfilling a prophesy of the man in the robe or, in other words, one of the three Nephites. In fact, Brother Wheaton never heard this story until I told it to him just recently. The Lord works in wonderful ways.

We note in III Nephi 13:21, "...for ye (the three Nephites), have desired that ye might bring the souls of men unto me, while the world shall stand..." The world is still standing, and many souls still need to be brought unto Christ. The three Nephites are still on the earth, and in accord with the promise Christ made to them, they are still ministering as angels unto the children of men. Read III Nephi 13:41-42.

Years ago it seemed good unto one of them to show himself unto Susano Cabrera and his brothers. This marked the beginning of a chain of events that has to this day brought many souls into the glorious light of the Gospel of Christ. This was the great desire that was in the hearts of the three Nephites. It was because of that desire that Christ gave them the power to remain on the earth. Indeed, in our day they are ministering as angels to the children of men.

—Apostle E. Leon "Skeet" Yates

BOOK TALK

CHURCH

Library

BOOK TALK

Recently while looking through books in the church library I found a thin tan book wedged between two others: *Papa: He Was Not a Quitter*, written by Joseph E. Yates. Brother Joe wrote this story about his father James E. Yates, a missionary in the RLDS church who transferred to the Church of Christ in 1927.

James E. Yates was a man I'd heard about soon after I became interested in the Church of Christ. Later I met some of his descendants and heard many bigger-than-life stories about the man and his family. I'd read his autobiography, *Cut from the Rough*. He was a man I'd never known, but wished I had.

Although the book has only eighty-four pages, it is packed with stories, testimonies, political opinions, poems, guest narratives, and diary entries. A true pioneer story, it begins in 1897, as the young couple, James E. Yates and Lilly Yates, with two small children, leave Kansas to homestead in western Oklahoma. By 1914, Brother Yates' missionary field was changed from Oklahoma to Arizona. The family, which now included 7 children, had been separated often because of Brother Yates'

PAPA: HE WAS NOT A QUITTER

missionary service and the demands of taking jobs away from home to support his family.

This time was different, though. It was decided that the family would all travel together to Arizona. With two wagons, two horses, and two mules, they began their long journey. Brother Joe, writing mostly about the events he had been part of, tells of the family's hardships:

"We had in the past weeks spent many days without money, without food, and without horse feed. We had forded treacherous rivers, climbed near-impossible steeps, slid down hazardous gulfs and trails, but with all the baffling problems and troubles...we made it! We came through our trials with thankful hearts. Thankful to God, for he truly had blessed us."

They never quit, and their little group arrived in Phoenix three months later. Sixteen pictures help give us faces to go along with the stories. Brother Joe includes their early years in Phoenix, and concludes his book with a tribute to the Bible and his loving parents who "taught me about God...the importance of adhering to the book of instructions, the Bible: to all who read my story let

BY JOSEPH E. YATES

me boldly make this testimony—I know that God lives. I know that he deals in the affairs of men. I know he hears and answers prayers."

This little volume, along with related books—*Cut from the Rough* and *From Thunder to Breakfast*—are located in the church library under the category: "Written by Church of Christ Members." There are twenty-four books included in the section. The Library is open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. the first Saturday of each month. It can also be available by contacting one of the church librarians.

Here are a few questions. Answers are in the book.

- 📖 After Lilly died, James E. Yates married again. What was the name of his second wife? She wrote the hymn "The Old, Old Path." (page 76)
- 📖 In 1948, James E. Yates was a member of the Greenback Party. What national office did he run for that year? (page 69)
- 📖 How did James E. Yates' son Leon get his nickname of "Skeet"? (page 46-47)
- 📖 What was James E. Yates' unusual talent? (page 13-14)
- 📖 How was James E. Yates' life saved by a teenage boy? (page 74-76)

MISSOURI REUNION SCRAPBOOK



Special Song with Smothers, Olson, Araujo and Taylor



Baby Abigail Olson chewing on Grandpa's tie.

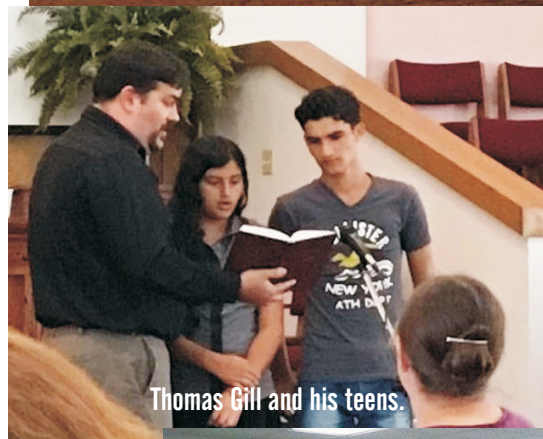


Bob and Jennifer Oldham and Carol Fann with babies.

Meleah Hedrick and Lawrence baby.



Young people sing



Thomas Gill and his teens.



MISSOURI REUNION SOCIAL



Rhea's Family Sings.



REPORT

2016 Missouri Reunion of the Church of Christ

On Friday, July 29th, the Reunion opened with a Prayer Service—Elder Leslie Case welcomed us; Priest Martin Addie assisted. Br. Martin read Alma 1:28-39; Alma 4:5-6. Br. Leslie took names for a season of prayer. Just a few of the testimonies were:

- ▶ A brother told us that while in Grand Junction, CO, on Tuesday they met a lady. She was a blood bank nurse from New Hampshire. He went back and spoke to her; he had been nudged to tell her more—to tell her that he was a miracle. They ended up having a wonderful discussion. People need to know that the Lord is not far—He's waiting and reaching out for us in so many ways.
- ▶ A brother told us he did a sister's funeral just the day before; it took him back to his childhood. He knew the family from way back. He recounted his years and getting acquainted. His mother started a Sunday School there. It was a pretty good sized group. After they'd had visiting ministry for a while they became a local. You never know what will touch someone; years before he triggered his mother's action to start the Sunday School by asking if the Baptist Church was the church they belonged to.

A sermon followed, given by Elder Darin Crull, assisted by Priest Bruce Haines.

Br. Darin told us he'd entitled his sermon, "PREPARE QUICKLY." He was inspired by a

dream given to Sr. Betsy Trudgen recently. He shared her write-up of the dream. *"In my dream I knew it was time. It was dark, but it was still light. I saw many people going toward a building to gather food. They came from all over. I didn't know anyone. When I got there I realized it was my food storage. Everyone had come inside and I began to look for food for my loved ones. No one was panicking; they were calm. I realized I didn't have anything for a meal. I could find things that helped a meal, like pickles and ketchup, but it wouldn't feed them. When I saw the milk, I thought yes, finally something substantial, and then I realized it was expired."* Br. Darin went through different parts of the dream, giving scriptural back-up. We are not prepared for the work we must do in the near future. He read Alma 3:1-26. He asked, how do we prepare? Feast upon the word of God and let it affect us in our lives; believe it; repent; baptism; humble ourselves; trust in God; be faithful until the end. We need to evaluate our preparedness. He assigned some homework: photocopy pages 315-317 in the Book of Mormon (Alma 3: 27-54). Answer yes or no or sometimes to identify the holes in your preparedness. Be honest. Provide explanations for your answers. WHERE ARE YOU LACKING? He read Alma 3:27-31. He asked, do you exercise your faith in God? Do you look forward to stand before God to be judged? He read verses 32-51. BE INTENTIONAL ABOUT PREPARATION (meaning re-

pentance). After identifying the holes in your preparation of salvation and understanding the reasons for the holes, make an intentional effort to make those changes—to repent. He told us we should listen to a sermon given by Elder Don Case on 7-24-2016. Repentance allows us to learn from all hardships, chastisements and draw us closer to God. He read Alma 3:56-60. This reunion is our opportunity to prepare; prepare quickly.

After lunch we enjoyed a song service. Sr. Manon Lawrence was in charge, with br Darin Crull assisting.

A sermon by Elder Sam Gould followed; assisted by Priest Stephan Gould. Br. Stephan read John 1:6 and 4:10-14; and Jeremiah 6:16-19. Br. Sam told us he was impressed by Br. Darin's sermon and Betsy's dream. In her dream the milk was there (milk of the gospel) and it was expired. This is a living church—Christ is alive—let's keep it alive. Br. Sam explained that in 570 AD Brendon the navigator come here by direction from God. He read Ezekiel from 22; 1 Nephi 3:135-140; Helaman 2:149-158. God says, "Be Ye Perfect." So, it is possible. The Irish that came here believed this is where Zion would be established. He read 1 Nephi 3:147-149. Brendon had a dream where he saw the promised land. He had a 7-year voyage, and described the USA as a land with a river dividing it in two. In looking at a Viking map it shows the shores of continents receded back, as if there was much more water then.

Br. Sam read 1 Nephi 3:150-172, where it tells of the thirteen colonies delivered by the power of God. There was one million people in those 13 colonies. . . That makes it a 4 to 1 disadvantage in fighting the British for independence. With the power of God, they won the revolutionary war to gain our freedom. He read Ephesians 1:9-10, Rev. 14:6, Acts 3:19-21. He believes the creeds of other churches have "expired." He read Zechariah 9:13-16, and 1 Nephi 3:183-189. Br. Sam told us to try our own faith, then we'll receive more. . . if we don't reject God's word. He read Isaiah 29:13-14; Romans 1:16-17; Mark 10:28-31 and Lectures of Faith 6:5-7; 1 Nephi 3:220-231; 1 John 1:2-3; 2:15-16. In Lehi's Vision we are told to grab hold of the rod of iron and don't let go. Charity — extend the pure love of Christ. He read MI 7:52-53; Mos. 1:115-116; Alma 17:18. We must forgive all—God forgives who He wants. He decides. Who God makes free is free indeed. He read Alma 16:216-218; Luke 6:36-38; Ether 1:31, 34; Ether 6:4 declares a New Jerusalem on this land. He spoke of Ether 5 and 6; and Psalm 102:13-22. The time has come; we have not rejected, but have we sinned against the gospel? We must fulfill the laws of God.

Br. Stephan asked us to stand if you believe the word of God has been spoken here today. We did.

After dinner we gathered in again for another song service with Sr. Manon Lawrence in charge and Elder Bob Hedrick assisting.

Following was a sermon given by Elder Steve McGhee, assisted by Elder Bob Oldham. Brother Steve told us he'd sought the Lord and received thoughts and scriptures. . . . He told us Don Case preached last Sunday at the East Local, preaching on pride, and then he couldn't remember what his own sermon had been. He'll preach on humility (the reverse) instead. Br. Steve used 3 Nephi 5:29-42. He told us if the state of the world is consuming you—then you're not humble as a little child. If we're truly humble we rely on God as

we did when we relied on our parents when we were a little child. The children of Israel just had to look at a serpent on a rod to be saved—some, because of pride, didn't look as directed. We have to believe He'll take care of us. He asked what the most used scripture in the Bible is. . . the answer is John 3:16. It's the most repeated scripture of all, but they don't read the preceding verse. We know we belong to Christ. In Romans 8:31 we are asked, if God be for us, who can be against us? Br. Steve read Romans 14:7-9; John 13:13-17; Mosiah 1:116-121; Luke 22:14-32 where it talks of strife. Peter was told, when thou art converted, strengthen your brethren. In the Book of Mormon, 3 Nephi 13:15-22 we are told the three Nephites were perfected. He admonished us to be filled with the love of Christ.

On Saturday, July 30th, we opened with a prayer service with Elder Don Case in charge and Elder Darin Crull assisting. Br. Darin read Rev. 3:14-22 and 2 Nephi 3:29-50. Br. Don asked if we are like the two rivers of Laodicea. One was cool and clean, the other was hot spring fed. . . where they came together they did not mix—they were frothy and dirty where they came together. We are so in need of repentance; we are so prideful. We're not content. . . we're drawn in to the culture. We don't look any different than the world. Are we bathing in dirty water? He told a story of his working on his gutters the other day. It was a test. He'd gotten upset when losing the tip of his screwdriver from up on the third story. He asked God's forgiveness for getting upset and asked to know he'd been forgiven. He felt the screwdriver tip would never be found. As he came down the ladder he saw the tip of the screwdriver just sitting there on the last rung. . . just waiting to be used. He knew he'd been forgiven. As he looked at his responsibility for today, he felt this may be the last time we all gather before chaos hits our nation. What should he say? Repent, humble

yourselves and worship your God. Do we know and trust God? Are we His children? We need a spi ritual awakening—can't unless we repent and humble ourselves.

Names were taken and we entered into a season of prayer; testimonies followed—

- ▶ A sister told us that Br. Darin's sermon yesterday convinced her she has work to do. Contemplating this—words of a poem were given to her. She and her husband attended five reunions this summer—the Spirit has been so strong at each. At home she doesn't feel that—her sins in her life keep her from feeling it. It's difficult to share her love of Christ with others. She read the poem given to her.
- ▶ A sister told us they had been praying for her husband's cousin's wife. She was recovering well from a leg amputation until a month ago; now they feared her cancer had returned. During his wife's surgery they found she had a hematoma and not a carcinoma—no more need to further amputate. Prayers answered.
- ▶ A brother told us that 35-40 years ago he had a perirectal cyst which was throwing poison into his system; he needed surgery to remove it. He was allowed to go home and ordered to come back for surgery to completely remove the cyst. He was administered to — Br. Frank asked that he would be healed according to his faith. On Monday he had surgery. Afterward the doctor told them he couldn't find the cyst. He had been healed. Fifteen years ago he got sick again; the same sickness hit him again. He prayed again. He didn't have another problem after that. Two weeks ago, while fasting he was given Mark 11, which tells us to have faith in the Father —If He says move mountain it will move. The memory of his cyst came back. Another time, when our brother was just eight years old he fell out of a moving car—he ended up with a compound fracture of his arm. They saw the broken

bones protruding out of his arm. They prayed. It was written up in the report and an ambulance took him to the hospital. At the hospital, thirty some x-rays were taken of his arm; none of them showed a broken arm—even though earlier the doctor and his mom had seen bones sticking out of his skin. We have a loving Heavenly Father. We must trust Him.

- ▶ A brother stood to tell of a dream his wife was given recently. He prefaced it by telling of our friendship with a family from the Church of Jesus Christ (Bickertonites) who live in PA. They visited here a few weeks ago. He told how our friend's mother has been greatly blessed in receiving songs from the Lord for 40 years; over 228 of them now. He read the dream which had been given to his wife: *"In my dream, we were in our car with Becky. I recognized the area where we were driving—we were headed for the K.C. Airport. I didn't see anything out of the ordinary—although I didn't remember seeing any traffic on the road. It must have been early morning, I thought. All of a sudden, we started seeing large commercial airliners ahead of us parked on the expressway. As we got closer we didn't see any movement, no people were seen... anywhere. It was as if they were landed and abandoned. We drove right under the wings of some. We were alone—it was an eerie sight. We knew Becky would not be flying out of the airport that day. We turned around and drove to our home and let her take our car to drive home to Pennsylvania."* His wife wrote it down because the Spirit told her, "They NEED to know." Our brother told us the Lord warns His people; in Amos we are told that He tells His prophets before He will do anything.
- ▶ A brother stood to tell us that he met this wonderful sister from Pennsylvania just recently. She is a fine lady. He reminded

us that God is being very careful to tell us He is with each of us at critical times. Years ago, coming home on a hospital ship from Germany, an Angel told him that he had a decision to make that would affect everyone on the ship. There'll be a Temple and a New Jerusalem here—we have to endure things first. Take your mind from things you see in the world and television. GOD will be there for you in your time of need.

- ▶ A brother told us of an experience he had years ago; he was up in heaven in prayer. Praying for us; for that time and event that we are coming to. God wanted to show him how the New Jerusalem would be laid out. Our brother was in a robe and had three black stains on him. He knew exactly what they were. They would prevent him from seeing. He wept because of his sin: lust. The Angel said, that's not a problem—our brother had repented, and brushed off the spots. They flew to the holy spot here in a conduit. The power of God is so great. They landed on a building. Our brother said, "And who built this?" The Angel told him, "You know." They looked and they saw the work of Native hands. The saints that have gone on before shall come with the Lord. We'll fall on their necks. Together for 1000 years—peace with the Lord. The Bride has made herself ready—prepare. Wash ourselves in the word of God, wash off the world. See Him as He is. Ephes. 4:12-13—that we might grow up in the stature of fullness of Christ.
- ▶ A sister read Psalm 15—Who will abide in Zion? She prays Christ will make us/prepare us for Him.
- ▶ A sister told us we have a theme of preparation here... makes her heart glad. We are going to have great faith and trust in the Lord. She told of Brother Anderson who, while in the mission field, was staying with a couple. In the middle of

the night the lady of the house called for administration. He did. A little later she called for him to administer again. He did. Three or four times this happened. The last time she called he didn't want to get up, but the Lord told him to go. He did. The sister received a complete healing. We need to exercise our faith... we need to have the faith of a child. We have to believe God will give us Zion. He asks—when He comes, will He find faith? The more righteous will be saved. If we'll make ourselves ready we'll escape all these things.

- ▶ A sister told us that as a young person she was fearful of hearing things like this. She assured us that faith is a muscle—we need to exercise it. Pray when you don't feel like it—that's when you need it the most. With events coming—you need to build your spiritual muscle.

After lunch we gathered back in for a Song Service with Sr. Manon Lawrence in charge and Br. Bruce Haines assisting.

Following was a sermon given by Elder Mike Hitt, assisted by Apostle Roland Sarratt. Br. Mike read 1 John 1:1 and 2:18. In Matthew 24:21-24, and in Peter 2:3-11, we are asked, "What manner of person ought you to be?" We'd better be examining our hearts and paying attention. He read Matt. 24:11. In 2 Thess. 2:3 we're told, let no man deceive you, for that day shall not come except that man of sin be revealed, showing himself as God. We have authority from God to represent Him. Iniquity and sin are different. Sin is a slip; iniquity is willful rebellion, much more serious. He read 2 Thess. 2:7. Jesus taught gospel message... righteousness. In James 1 we are told that the law of Liberty. In Romans 8 we are told that the law of life in Christ's Spirit will set you free. When Christ comes, His words will be the law we keep. He quoted what Joseph Smith said on page 8 of the Book of Mormon. He read from III Nephi 7; Romans 8:11. We need to do what Jesus com-

manded—to be perfect. John 17:3 tells us Jesus says this is life, to know the Father. You are baptized unto repentance. Christ didn't follow the outline of men. Our sacrifice is remaining righteous no matter what someone has done to us. We are told if you love me, keep My commandments. As often as you repent you'll be brought back. Br. Mike read Luke 21:34. He had a dream of what it's like to be in Heaven; he could read other's thoughts. He read from John 14. Focus on what Christ said, then we'll have righteousness. He read III Nephi 5:41 and vs 29. He told us to love Him and each other so much that there's no room for Satan. No gifts, means no belief. He read from Psalm 95. God said, "The Spirit of contention is not of me." Arm yourself with HIS righteousness—that is what we are called to be. Keep His commandments and love Him. Love each other!

After dinner, we gathered in for another song service with Sr. Manon Lawrence in charge.

Following the song service a sermon was given by Elder Thomas Gill, assisted by Elder Brandon Tarbell. Br. Thomas told us three months ago he'd been given a dream from God and knew he would use it in a sermon, but given no more since. Once he heard Br. Darin's sermon he was told by the Spirit, "Word of warning to prepare." In 2009 he preached on a dream he'd been given two weeks prior to his visit here. *In the dream he saw the sun darken, but there was still light. It was not a blinding light—it was a light you could see clearly from. It was the truth, the Word of God made flesh. In the dream he went out (on the farm where they lived) and told his brother that they needed to plant. It was time. His brother questioned him—it was in the middle of the dry season. Br. Thomas replied, "Because the Sun has fallen—everything will change now. The curses that are on this land will be lifted."* When he awoke he was troubled; it was a vivid dream and he knew it was important,

but what did it mean? The Spirit told him, "The Sun darkened—the source of light that was blinding to the eyes is the iniquities of this nation." Two times yesterday and today—we've been told what iniquity is: willfully choosing to do evil—when you know it's evil. Unless a nation repents it will be darkened and brought down. The world will then see the light. The truth will be able to shine forth. He read Amos 3:7, telling us that God reveals things to His prophets before He acts. In 2010 he preached here again after Conference. He preached on three dreams given to church members in Honduras. He read those dreams to us. (They can be found at the AVA website under **sermons** from 2010 Conference.) The ministry were told to give their all and get the people ready; get the young people ready. Get them out of the world. Members were told, "You're not ready—get ready...you have but a short time. He read Proverbs 3:11-12. Now, 2016, he hears a sister's dream; the milk of the gospel is simple, the meat heavier. In her dream the milk was expired. He read Mormon 1:16-17. In May of this year Br. Thomas was given another dream. He was standing in a building with glass windows. He was looking out over a field of rolling hills; each hill had a small city on it. Suddenly there was an earthquake. Each city bobbed up and down. They had a little damage. Another earthquake hit, one that was much stronger. He turned around and saw another hill—but it was much larger than the rest, and it also had a city on the top. When the second earthquake hit the largest hill erupted. Lava came spewing out. It was damaged greatly. The destruction was much worse. He knew he needed to tell people, "It's time." He did; no one listened. A whisper in his ear told him there were certain places he needed to go and say it. Not just on the street. He then went house to house. Some heard, some didn't. That was the end of the dream. III Nephi 9 and 10 tells of a prophecy for the people here, the Gentiles, those who do not believe. He read Jacob

3:140-144, and III Nephi 9. It was given to our sister in her dream that the time was expired...they've rejected the milk of the gospel. He read Matthew 25; it does not mean ten Christian religions; it means ten believers who were to light the way...ministry. Talents are not to be held onto. These ten were to take their lamps and go forth to meet the Bridegroom. So how did they know He was coming (Amos 3:7)? Matthew 25:1-13 talks of the five wise and the five foolish virgins, and tells us they all slumbered and slept. At midnight the Bridegroom cometh (also Luke 21:28, 34, 36). "It is time"...time for the sun to be darkened so the world can see the light. But as in III Nephi, IF they repent...God will keep His word. We've had advance warning; we've had six years to get ready. Where are you?

THE SATURDAY EVENING SOCIAL took place in the dining hall after the evening sermon. Our MO Reunion Social Committee displayed 108 testimonies of God's wonderful, even miraculous, blessings upon His children. Brothers and sisters seemed to be very interested in reading the testimonies; the project was very well received.

SUNDAY MORNING SACRAMENT SERVICE—Apostle Smith "Buzz" Brickhouse was in charge, assisted by Elder Bob Oldham. Br. Bob told us we've been called to a high level with extremely good services...we know there's something coming. He asked us, does the gospel of Jesus Christ burn in your heart? Serve Him, be submissive, meek, humble. He read 1 Cor. 2:11-14. The natural man is an enemy to God. Christ came to free us from sin. The natural man doesn't know spiritually. Unless we depend on the word of God we have no opportunity. He read from 3 Nephi 10, have you taken it personally? Repent of anything that comes between us and God—anything that separates us from Him. We should have no hardened hearts. Be quick with our testimonies that lie within you. We are told we'll assist—can we take a back

seat? Can we assist instead of forcing our own way? Christ said He will establish His church. Trauma coming in this nation. God has a plan—you and I can inherit this promised land. When this land is ripened in iniquity—they'll be driven off—if we are obedient to His gospel we'll be able to stay and be gathered into the New Jerusalem. The work has been done—we are seeing the fruits of it. Then the power of Heaven will come down and His work shall commence. He mentioned Br. Donnie's dream of a puzzle that can't be put together by man—God will do it. We need to TRUST GOD, He has said He'll do it. Br. Bob read Mark 11:22. "Reservations" mean questioning God. Our faith has to be for God's plan. Faith and trust need to be in Him, not man. If we reach out and trust and take that GIFT. Natural man walks in the flesh; those in the spirit walk in the spirit. Carnal mind is enemy to God. Those in the flesh cannot please God. We invite God into our midst. We need to make ourselves ready for our Bridegroom. The emblems are symbolic of Christ's body and blood. Have faith. God doesn't lie—trust Him—He's worthy. He keeps all of His promises. The emblems were blessed and served. Following are just some of the testimonies:

- ▶ A sister told us that as we were kneeling in season of prayer she was overwhelmingly struck. Like a child's storybook—God has a plan. God's design is for HIS SON; it's not about us. God looks at His son and says, "My Son; He's marvelous; look at Him." His Son looks at God the Father and says, "My Father; He's marvelous; look at Him." We need to look to Them and praise Them in the same way.
- ▶ A brother told us he heard a lot about Zion yesterday—nothing he'd like better. He read recently that in 1972 Apostle Archie Bell had a dream. He was in Zion assigning places for people to live. He read a portion of the dream, the part where someone was asked to leave. God

showed him that person could be him.

- ▶ A sister told us one year ago she had a mammogram. God had let her know that they were going to find something. They did. It was a whirlwind of doctors after that. She was calm; God was with her. They found another lump. She went in for a mastectomy. They found a third tumor. God held her hand through the whole process. She praises and thanks Him.
- ▶ A brother told us that once a soul is created it can never cease from being. Promises of God are real and stand. God's promises have NOT expired; they are true and still stand. Prayers of the Saints are powerful. Trials are to grow our faith. God hears our prayers. One time in Tennessee he was racked in pain. All he could do was call out to God in prayer. He saw the Son of God descend from the throne—our brother rose out of his body and went to Christ, who laid His hand on our brother's head and he was healed. He will care for us—we are never alone.

There was an administration to Br. Martin Addie. Just before hands were laid upon him, a brother stood to testify that Martin will be blessed and can be healed. Two other administrations took place.

- ▶ A brother testified that during the administration to Martin he was given a call for Martin to the office of an Elder.
- ▶ Another brother testified of the truthfulness of the call, bearing witness himself, and made a call to David Rudd to the office of an Elder.
- ▶ Another brother bore witness of the call of David to that of an Elder.

A season of prayer was called for; many voices were raised.

- ▶ A sister, Martin's wife—told us she had a witness to the call for Martin. She told us that traveling this summer she saw

Martin grow, and so many ministry asked why he isn't an Elder. He's grown so much since having to be in charge of the Local.

- ▶ Another sister told us she has witness to both callings.
- ▶ Another sister told us she has a witness of Martin. So often she's prayed for an Elder in Springfield; they need one so badly. She is so pleased that the Lord answered her prayers.
- ▶ A sister told us she has witness to the spirit in this room. She believes the callings are true.
- ▶ A brother told us he has witness to both callings; he also told us others are to be called here.
- ▶ A sister told us that yesterday the Lord told her to tell us: "The messages we've heard this weekend are from God; take them seriously. She had a dream recently; she told us: "We were gathered at a camp—many people were there. We were told to go to the building and wait for the Lord. A white SUV pulled out; there were many families in it. They were going for snacks. They said, "We'll be right back." The others were telling them, "No, they need to come back and wait."
- ▶ A brother told us to pray with all the energy of your heart; charity comes from God; ask for it.
- ▶ A sister told us she knew Martin was to be called. There are more today. Don't leave a gift unopened.
- ▶ Another sister told us she'd had a witness to the call for David. She knew a long time ago that he should be. She's prayed for it to feel like heaven. It was answered.
- ▶ A brother told us he felt the Spirit during the administration—he's a witness to Martin's call.
- ▶ Our brother Martin Addie told us that he's

made this a matter of prayer. He accepts the call, with fear and love.

- ▶ Another brother told us that once we tell our testimony it's no longer ours. He told about a girl hurrying to get to a meeting when the Spirit told her to turn; and told her again. She finally did. She was told to go over to the Pepsi machine and stand on her head. She did. A man came out and asked her why she was doing that? He told her he'd been contemplating taking his own life this morning and he asked a ridiculous thing as proof not to—to have someone stand on their head in front of the Pepsi machine. God answers prayers.
- ▶ Another brother told us that last spring in Virginia there was torrential rain. A voice to his mind told him, "You drive the truck and I'll do the rest." He did for 200 miles. After the voice came to him, he relaxed. Also, he believes the calls were truly from God.
- ▶ Another brother testified of the truthfulness of the calls. He said in recent months he's felt so strongly that he's offered the Lord to make the call for David...that he'd be honored to make that call if it was His will.
- ▶ Another brother told men to prepare—God will at some point make calls—be ready.

Br. Buzz read the afternoon schedule. He thanked Br. Jeff and Sr. Michelle for their commitment to camp and made the announcement that Br. Bob and Sr. Liza Hedrick are taking on the job. Sr. Liza was a camper at the very first camp.

After lunch we gathered back into the sanctuary for a music presentation. Sr. Manon Lawrence was in charge, assisted by Br. Darin Crull.

Following the song service Br. Joel made an announcement of a change: Br. Martin Addie will be ordained before the preaching service and a hand of fellowship will follow.

He read from Luke 10; duty of the ministry to speak the truth in love, and Moroni 3. We are all witnesses today of the Spirit that was here. Ministry are called of God, not men. Br. Joel and Br. Darin ordained Br. Martin. Following, there was a Hand of Fellowship while singing hymns.

The evening sermon was given by Elder Bob Hedrick, assisted by Apostle Joel Yates. Br. Bob told us that when we're together the time seems to speed up. Most reunions are three days long. Ben Franklin once said house guests and fish start to stink after three days—coincidence? Wouldn't it be nice to just keep going? Someday that will be! Not yet, we have things to do. We're here in God's strength. What are we going to face in the future? He sees the condition of our nation and the world events. God is doing things. The world is more fractured than ever. Many dreams given to us. In 2006 the church accepted Br. Merlin Eddy's dream; God is trying to prepare us! *In the dream there was a vast expanse of smooth ice; in the middle was an island and on it was a castle (a place of refuge). There was a long line of people walking to the place of refuge, carrying baggage. A fierce wind blew, a sudden storm was upon them, and it kept blowing. People were being blown across the ice, off of the path. They laid down, some let go of their baggage. Some were swept off with their baggage. Those who were prepared had two ice picks to hold themselves from being blown off the path, the Bible and the Book of Mormon.* They had all been carrying spiritual baggage; that baggage had been sapping their strength. Some of those bags were: Gal. 5:19-21 — Works of the flesh (sin); Mosiah 2, Romans 7 — even if you don't find pleasure in others doing them; Prov. 13:20—our friends—they can be the baggage, and either help us or destroy us; Luke 8:14—toys; they distract us, it's just stuff; Mark 7:1-13—losing track of commandments and becoming ritual; traditions are not spiritual; Hebrews 12:14—Worry. Bitterness is not forgiveness. Fear and dis-

couragement are other bags; James 1:22—Being a hearer and not a doer. We all have responsibility. In Mosiah 11—As often as the Lord tells us to repent, He forgives us. We just have to let go of the baggage. Any thought of losing a soul to baggage is terrible. It's going to be difficult ahead. Helaman 2:157-168. He feels sorrow for our nation. So many changes in just the last 20-30 years. Chapter 3:1-5, 9, Nephi prayed for his people when he saw. Praying for wisdom and discernment, and asking God what He should do, people saw and gathered around him (vs 13). He spoke against their sin... He read Chap. 3:112. It's tempting to want to block out the world, but we have to engage society. We've got to be a light so they can find us. Those that are pure in heart—God is calling. In Joshua He says, "Have I not commanded thee?" Engage the world—we've been commanded; we have the blessing of God to do it. He read 2 Cor. 4:8-16. Nephi watched his nation crumble. It's about doing what God tells us to! The first coming will be mirrored by the second coming. We all have baggage—let go of it! Don't lose focus on the path. We're to be a light to the world—that's our work. Our kids will have another work. This is temporary. We have a great opportunity to witness this time. 3 Nephi 11:19-23.

Br. Joel gave the closing announcements. There was an administration done by Br. Joel and Br. Martin Addie. Br. Martin blessed a bottle of oil to take home and use at his local, the Springfield Local.

The Lord was with us during the Reunion; He gave us clear direction, now it is our responsibility to heed it.

*Your reporter,
Sr. Deb Haines*

The General Sunday School Association (GSSA) is providing portions of lessons for several age groups on a common topic. Please visit the Church of Christ's Audio Visual Aid (AVA) committee website at www.cocsermons.net and click on the "Resources" tab to view all complete lessons and studies for children and adults. More information regarding Sunday School lessons can be found on a GSSA facebook page. Contact Susan Porter at: porter_susan@sbcglobal.net, or 9 Market Street, Middleville, MI 49333, for more information.

The GSSA has purchased
The Fruit of the Spirit posters,
Rose Publishing, to use as an aid for the
upcoming lessons. We will be using this theme
for the next several Zion's Advocate publications.
Please use the above contact information and a
poster will be mailed to you at no cost.

THE FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT

The next several issues will focus on portions of the verse from Galatians 5:22-23, "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."

The GSSA planning committee came up with the following outline:

September/October	Introduction/Temperance and Longsuffering
November/December	Joy and Peace
January/February	Love and Gentleness
March/April	(Teen Camp issue)
May/June	Faith, Meekness and Goodness

Key Questions for this series:
What does the "fruit of the Spirit" mean?
How can I apply it to my daily life?

Peter, the apostle, wrote a letter to encourage the believers to mature in God's truth and not believe in false teachings. Read the following from 2Peter 1: 1-8

1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ: **2** Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord, **3** According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: **4** Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust. **5** And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; **6** And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; **7** And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. **8** For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Moroni 6:2, Jesus Christ tells us that in order to be baptized we need to have fruit that is worthy of it. “Behold, elders, priests, and teachers were baptized; and they were not baptized, save they brought forth fruit meet that they were worthy of it; neither did they receive any unto baptism, save they came forth with a broken heart and a contrite spirit, and witnessed unto the church that they truly repented of all their sins.”

To understand more about good fruits, or firstfruit, read the following scriptures: Luke 6:43-45, Psalm 1:1-3, Isaiah 32:17-18 and Matthew 12:33-35.

Memory verse, Luke 6:44: “For every tree is known by his own fruit.”

Activity for any age group: Brainstorm a list of good fruits and bad fruits. Then discuss what you came up with, adding to the list as you learn from each other.

Teachers/parents: below are some suggestions to get you started. For younger children, explain that good fruits are things that we do that make us a person that people want to be around. We do things that make Jesus happy. Bad fruits are things that we should get rid of in our lives.

Good Fruits	Bad fruits
<p>helping others being pleasant to others praying</p>	<p>arguing fighting cheating road rage</p>

What is temperance? 2nd Peter 1:6: “And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness.”

What is longsuffering? 2nd Timothy 3: “But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience.”

temperance	longsuffering
<p>self-control peace abstinence from bad things</p>	<p>patience endurance not texting and driving</p>

**Discussion: What makes Jesus happy? What makes Jesus disappointed?
Where in our lives do we need to make improvements?
How are temperance and longsuffering related?
Who are good role models for us? What can we learn from them?**

Summary: The memory verse, Luke 6:44: “For every tree is known by his own fruit” means that we will be known for how we represent ourselves. Do we exhibit temperance and longsuffering? Or do we lack self-control and patience? For those of age, good fruit is what we need for baptism (Moroni 6:2.)

Let Me See the Holes

Where do the holes in my preparedness lie?
Let me see the things I need to fix Lord, I humbly cry.
I repent of the sins that hold me back.
Reveal to me Lord wherein I lack.
Prepare me for thy service Lord, all my holes fill,
Those that keep me from doing thy holy will;
Keep me from being who you want me to be.
Open my eyes Lord, let me see,
My heart the way you see it today;
May I see myself through your eyes I pray.
Open my eyes Lord to my guilt and shame,
Reveal to me the amount of my life it claims.
Show me those things that I may not even see,
That keep me from giving my all to thee.
May I see myself as you see me,
Only then can I fully your child be.
Let all fear cease, let selfish pride fall
As I wholly give myself to answer your call.
When I can see myself the way you see me
The holes in my preparedness will begin to flee.
The time draws near
Lord I desire to hear
Well done, my good and faithful child
Come abide with me where love flows tender and mild.

—Janeen Addie

NOTICES

2016 ACTIVITIES

■ **SEPTEMBER 30 & OCTOBER 1—WOMEN'S RETREAT** at Lake Maurer Retreat Center, Excelsior Springs, Missouri
Contact: Carrie Geier: 816-739-9386
geiers214@sbcglobal.net

■ **OCTOBER 1-2—ONTARIO REUNION**
Teeterville Church of Christ
Contact: Marn Vieveen:
519-759-8087
marnieveeen@sympatico.ca

Michael Bevaart: 226-934-4250
mikebevaart@gmail.com

Please be advised travel back into the US from Canada requires a passport, passport card, enhanced drivers license, or nexus.

■ **NOVEMBER 25-27 PHOENIX REUNION**
For information contact:
Pastor Andy Brown
2916 E. Rockwood Dr.
Phoenix, AZ 85050
(602) 769-3595
tipp.dog@juno.com

Assistant Pastors:
Adam Yates
a.m.yates@centurylink.net
Gary Jacobsen
glacobsen@live.com

HONDURAS

■ **OCTOBER 2-4—GENERAL REUNION**

■ **JANUARY 5-8, 2017—YOUTH CAMP**
Contact: Elder Ronnie Gill
rorgill@la-comarca.org
Elder Thomas Gill
thomasgill@la-comarca.org

YUCATAN, MEXICO

■ **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

CCEG

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

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

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

RHEA HOUSKNECHT
CCEG Manager
ccegmgr@icloud.com

THE HOPE of ZION

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

AVA WEBSITE

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

CORRESPONDENCE COMMITTEE

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

MARLENE COBB (Chairman)

725 S. Pickwick
Springfield, MO 65802

SUE PORTER

9 Market St.
Middleville, MI 49333

PAT MCCANN

18808 N. 30th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85050

PRIESTHOOD VISITATION

If you or someone you know (member or non-member) would like to be visited by a member of the Priesthood of the Church of Christ, please call or write to the Council of Apostles at Church Headquarters in Independence. The phone numbers and addresses are listed on the inside front cover.



Church of Christ

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

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
INDEP., MO
PERMIT NO. 259

CHURCH OF CHRIST PUBLICATIONS

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

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

THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:*

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

*Donations will be accepted to cover postage & printing costs. (Multiple copies available: 6-50¢/100-\$5.85 plus postage.)

CHANGE OF ADDRESS NOTICE

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

MEMBER'S NAME: (First) _____ (Middle) _____ (Last) _____

OLD ADDRESS: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

NEW ADDRESS: (Street address) _____

(City) _____ (State) _____ (Zip) _____

NAMES of all Church of Christ (Temple Lot) members residing at new address: _____

CHANGING YOUR ADDRESS?

Speed delivery of your *Zion's Advocate* by sending us your new address immediately. Each undeliverable *Zion's Advocate* costs the church more than the value of a first class stamp, in addition to regular postage.

VISIT US AT:
ccegmgr@icloud.com