# 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

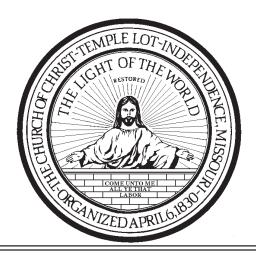
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"Know ye not that I, the Lord your God, have created all men, and that I remember they which are upon the isles of the sea, and that I rule in the heavens above, and in the earth beneath." —II Nephi 12:56

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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.

Cover Photo by Gordon McCann: Samoa, November 2014.

# "Continue in My Word"



By Elder Gordon McCann

ast month my wife and I took a trip to the beautiful Northwest to visit family and friends. I was able to visit with my brother and he told me that he had been doing some research into our ancestral heritage. My brother found a part of our ancestry tree dating back to the early 1800's on our mother's side of the family and he gave me a copy. I knew that there was an early belief in the Book of Mormon on my mother's side of the family because of the faith of my grandmother and the stories of faith that she related to us of her mother and great-grandmother.

This particular genealogy that my brother was tracing started with my grandfather four generations back in time to the year 1799 in a small town by the name of Canandaigua, New York, where he was born. Canandaigua is located 7 miles south of Manchester, NY, where Joseph Smith, Sr. owned a farm. This farm is where the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ had its beginnings, when his son Joseph Smith, Jr. had his first vision at the age of fifteen in the year 1820.

My grandfather left his place of birth and married my grandmother in 1819. Through this union nine children would be born, two of whom were boys born in Jackson County, Missouri, one in 1833 and the other in 1837. The older of the two boys born in Jackson County would become my direct predecessor. My grandfather eventually moved his family to Peoria, Illinois, where the ninth child was born in 1840. Peoria is in the general location where there were several locals that had been organized in May of 1832 (ref. An Outline History of the Church of Christ (TL), page 98). Granville

Hedrick was baptized in 1843 at Crow Creek, which was located about 22 miles northeast of Peoria.

After the death of Joseph Smith, Jr. and Hyrum, his brother, the church of about two hundred thousand members was in disarray due to the loss and the persecution from those who desired to destroy the church. There was a group of people who went west in 1847, following Brigham Young to the Great Salt Lake in the territory of Utah. Those locals mentioned earlier continued to assemble themselves, being members of the Church of Jesus Christ (of Latter Day Saints) that was organized on April 6, 1830. On March 5, 1857, they dissociated themselves with those who had followed Brigham Young.

It was on April 6, 1851, that my grandfather packed up his family in three wagons and nine yoke of oxen and headed west. They finally arrived at the place they would call home in what is now known as Sweet Home, Oregon, in September of 1852.

In the written ancestral account of my grandfather it was said that they headed west: "They were of the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ Latter Day Saints faith, and to escape persecution, they decided to come to Oregon" (Pioneers of East Linn County, Oregon, Interview with A. T. Morris of Sweet Home, Oregon, by Leslie Haskin).

In another written account the following was said:

"The Ames and Morris families were all members of the Latter Day Saints of Jesus Christ, commonly called Mormons, but not of the Salt Lake Mormon church. Our branch of the church has never consented to polygamy.

The Sweet Home neighborhood in the early days was a very active Latter Day Saint colony. Church was held at various settlers' houses. After the town of Sweet Home was started, worship was held in an old hall on Long Street just west of where the railroad now crosses the street. At a later date services were held in an old barn on the Jim Putnam place on the old Brownsville road just at the edge of town..." (History of Linn County, Oregon, Compiled by Workers of the Writers' Program of the Works Projects Administration in the State of Oregon, pg. 41).

I must note that since this his-

torical account was given some time after the events had occurred, my family eventually did associate themselves with the Reorganized Church of Iesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. About a year after my family had left Peoria, Illinois, a group of believers in the Yellowstone local branch, located in southern Wisconsin, organized themselves and became a new church known as the New Organization in 1852. It was this New Organization that eventually went through another reorganization and became the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1860 (ref. An Outline History of the Church of Christ (TL), page 92).

I would imagine at this point you are asking yourself, Why is he sharing this with us and what is his point? The following scripture verse comes to mind when I consider our shared heritage in the Restored Gospel of Jesus Christ:

"Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;" (John 8:31).

Here we find Jesus speaking to those Jews who had believed on Him, His Gospel message. This message was different from the status quo of the day. Like the Jews who believed on Jesus, there were those in 1830 who heard the simple truths of the Gospel message of Jesus Christ as it was now being taught from the Bible and Book of Mormon.

The message was plainly understood by those who heard, and it was in perfect harmony with the words of Jesus Christ. The Book of Mormon is another testimony that Jesus Christ is the Son of the living God. One of the many testimonies recorded by the ancient peoples of the Americas is when Iesus appeared and stood before them and He beckoned them to "...come forth unto me, that ye may thrust your hands into my side, and also that ye may feel the prints of the nails in my hands and in my feet, that ye may know that I am the God of Israel, and the God of the whole earth, and have been slain for the sins of the world." Jesus had appeared unto them on several occasions unfolding the same simple truths of the Gospel message that had been taught to the believing Jews, thus fulfilling the words of Christ, "And verily, I say unto you, that ye are they of which I said, other sheep I have, which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd" (3 Nephi 7:20).

Continuing with the words of Christ to the believing Jews, in verse 31 Jesus begins with an admonition, "If ye continue in my

word" which are powerful words to be considered carefully. Iesus understood that with the events that would soon come, including His ultimate death, the hearts of the believers would be tested by discouragement and false teachings. To "continue" in the words of Christ is to apply those principles that He taught by following the example that He has set. Only then would the following promise in verse 31, "then are ye my disciples indeed," apply to the believer. The application is simple but the follow-through is difficult in the flesh. We must allow the Spirit of Christ to help us in all the choices or decisions we make. remembering the words of Christ:

"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you" (John 14:26).

I will now give you an example as to how some of the early saints of the Restoration were able to "continue" in the words of Christ. As I mentioned earlier, after the death of Joseph Smith, Jr. the church was in disarray due to his death and the persecution from those who desired to destroy it.

False prophecies and teachings had entered into the church as early as the 1830's. Polygamy

was one of those false teachings that had reared itself towards the end of Joseph Smith's life, and it was now being promoted by several men soon after his death. The members of the church had to decide for themselves whether to accept or reject the practice of polygamy. Mind you, these false prophecies and teachings came from respected leaders within the church. Those who rejected polygamy had turned to the Word of God, and had allowed the Holy Spirit to witness the truth that the prophecies and teachings to support polygamy were not of God but of men. The following scriptures are some of the scriptures that were used to denounce the practice of polygamy:

### **Old Testament**

"And the rib, which the LORD God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man.

"And Adam said, This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man.

"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:22-24).

"Neither shall he multiply

wives to himself, that his heart turn not away:..." (Deut. 17:17).

### **New Testament**

"Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,

"And said, For this cause shall a man leave father and mother, and shall cleave to his wife: and they twain shall be one flesh?

"Wherefore they are no more twain, but one flesh. What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder" (Matthew 19:4-6).

"A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife..." (1 Timothy 3:2).

Note: Albert Barnes Commentary "It is known that it was extensively practiced, and was not regarded as unlawful. Yet one design of the gospel was to restore the marriage relation to its primitive condition;...."

"Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Hebrews 13:4).

### **Book of Mormon**

"Wherefore, my brethren, hear me, and hearken to the word of the Lord: For there shall not any man among you have save it be one wife; and concubines he shall have none: For I, the Lord God, delighteth in the chastity of women.

"And whoredoms are an abomination before me: thus saith the Lord of hosts" (Jacob 2:36-37).

"For they have not forgotten the commandment of the Lord, which was given unto our fathers, that they should have, save it were one wife: and concubines they should have none; and there should not be whoredoms committed among them" (Jacob 2:55).

Those early saints of within the Restoration had to make many of these types of decisions, such as Baptism for the Dead, Lineal Priesthood in the Presidency, The Presidency, and The Original Name of the Church, to name a few.

These types of decisions concerning false prophecies and teachings continue today within the various Restoration factions. My mother's mother, who had a long history in the Reorganized Church of Jesus Christ of Latter

Day Saints, came to a point in her spiritual life that she could not support the beliefs and practices of her church when compared against the Word of God. Through much study and prayer she found that the little white church on the Temple Lot, the Church of Christ, had endeavored from the time of Joseph Smith's death to align their beliefs and practices with the Word of God as contained in the Bible and Book of Mormon. Since that decision many years ago, the church that my grandmother left has changed their name, relegated the Book of Mormon as a historical document and not Holy Scripture, and have accepted women in the priesthood, to name a few of the changes made to date.

Last year in September I had the privilege to participate in three baptisms: Janet and Les Harpe, and Janice Howell. They, too, have had a long history in the Restoration endeavoring to follow Christ according to their faith, but came to a point in their spiritual life, like my grandmother, where they could no longer support the beliefs and practices of their church against the Word of God, and joined the Church of Christ. Soon after Janet was baptized it was discovered that she had cancer and would die a few days after her one-year anniversary as a member of the Church of Christ. Some would ask, "Why did not God lift her up since she believed?" My initial thoughts were more in line with her twin sister's thoughts in the obituary that she prepared for Janet, when she ended it with a quote from Psalms 116:15: "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints."

As I considered Janet's life of faith and the short time that we had together as Brothers and Sisters in Christ, my foremost thoughts were to give praise and honor to our Heavenly Father for His loving kindness through the beautiful gift of His Son, Jesus the Christ.

"And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:32).

# TESTIMONIES

From the Files of Leon Gould...reprinted in the Zion's Advocate, Dec. 1993

hen we read the scriptures, we find that the instances when great spiritual blessings were enjoyed were scattered over years of time, and undoubtedly there were many such happenings not recorded.

And today, if such blessings were recorded in a volume such as a Bible, where people could read them, we would find that they were as frequent as those we read of in the Bible, and many such happenings are never heard of by the church at large.

I am acquainted with two ministers—one dead now—and have heard their testimony in raising an individual from the dead, each one of them. One was Elder Marcus Shaw (now dead) who raised Gilbert Whitehead from the dead at St. Joseph, Missouri, and later I heard Whitehead preach. The other minister, L. E. Welch, lived at Coleman, Michigan, during the time of the great 1918 flu epidemic when people died so fast there were not well men left to bury the dead. At Coleman they put them in coffins, numbered them, and stacked them in a warehouse until the crest of the epidemic had passed, and men began to get strong enough to bury

the dead. During all this time, Elder Welch was on the go day and night answering sick calls for administration. His daughter, Mabel (now Mabel Bergey, of Flint, Michigan), was an active girl and she took care of his horse, unhitched it when he came home, and when a call came she would have the horse and cutter ready by the time he was dressed so that he could catch a little sleep between calls. Not a member of the church died during that epidemic. And then, after the epidemic was past, Sister Welch took sick and died. In all his weariness, he had watched at his sick wife's bedside, until worn out, and one day said to Mabel, "You watch by your mama's bedside for a little while. I must have a little sleep." The next thing he knew he was awakened by Mabel at the foot of the bed, jumping up and down and screaming, "My mama's dead, my mama's dead." He quieted her, and said, "Now we'll go downstairs and see what we can do." He found his wife's body cold: and when he poured the consecrated oil on her head, instead of being absorbed as it is by a live person, it ran off like water. He administered to her, and in a few minutes she began to breathe, opened her eyes, and said, "Oh, Ed, why did you call me back. I was in such a beautiful place." She lived for many years, and raised her family.

GOD'S MERCY IN TIME OF TROUBLE...A Letter to the Church written by Apostle James E. Yates in February 1939...reprinted in the Zion's Advocate, Jan/Feb 2011.

n Monday morning, February 6, 1939, in Phoenix, Arizona, a terrible accident occurred which put our young Elder E. Leon Yates, age 31, in the hospital here with a broken back. Leon was helping his father, and we were putting a rear spring in my car. The car slipped from the jack and blocks and fell with its weight across his back under the edge of the fender. I saw at once that if he had to wait there in that condition until another jack could be arranged to hoist the car—it would be too late to save his life. So, without wasting an instant I took hold of the car with my hands and by exerting my physical powers in a desperate lift I did succeed in lifting it and releasing him.

The first five or ten minutes after being released from under the car the poor sufferer seemed to be dying. A good neighbor came and helped to get Leon into the house and to a bed. Then paralysis of the limbs and of the neck in loss of power to move the head began. The pallor as of death settled upon his features and we could not keep the

hands and feet warm even while bathing them in hot water. It was then that we administered with prayer and the anointing with oil, according to the instruction given in the scriptures.

Those who were in the room at the time will give their names in testimony to witness that what we here relate is verily true. Within five minutes after the prayer of administration had been offered, with the anointing, the condition of paralysis ended; the color returned to the face, the hands and the feet became warm again and the circulation returned to normal in but a few moments. These three witnesses, aside from the writer, who were in the room at the time of the administration, here give their names in testimony that these things are true: Frances Dexter Yates (Leon's wife), Evalena Yates Campbell (Leon's sister), and Mrs. Dorothy Hogan (neighbor).

I, the writer, also verify this testimony, doing so with thanks to God, and with humility remembering that all honor is due to Him for every mercy and blessing given to us; and that we are all as nothing, except it be by His power.

When the ambulance had taken our patient to the hospital, I was there when the X-ray was taken. I saw the plate. It showed one vertebra crushed and telescoped onto another. When Dr. Greer, who is in charge, saw the plate he shook his head to indicate what he thought of the seriousness of the injury. When asked whether there was hope of restoring such a case, his only reply was, "Well, it has been done." This, to us, was not a very hopeful response. The technician, Mr. Duffv. who does the X-ray work, said, "According to all known human laws governing in a natural way in such a case, this man would be paralyzed." He then stepped to the stretcher and asked Leon whether he could move his toes. The patient not only moved his toes, but his ankles and his limbs. The technician responded, "That is like music to me."

On the hospital cot they placed the patient on his back. He was left in that posture till Wednesday the 8th. He was then placed in a plaster cast from his neck to his hips. On Friday morning the 10th, four days from the date of injury, he was then returned to the X-ray room for another picture. The purpose of this was to determine whether the cast would now have to be removed so that some kind of an operation could straighten the broken spine into place.

Imagine our gladness when this second X-ray picture was developed and one could not tell by looking at the picture which vertebra it was that had been damaged.

Was not that something for which to return thanks to God! It might be said that certain honor is due in such a case to the skill and understanding of the good Doctor and to those capable persons who are handling the case. Certainly, but who, after all, but God guides the intelligent mind of the learned student and the skillful touch of the practiced surgeon? Who but God, Who is all and all? For without Him none of us would be anything. And in this case, many prayers were being offered that the power of God might be given to the minds and hands of those who were entrusted with responsibilities in the care of this young servant of God—for such this beloved son of mine and brother in the faith of ours surely is.

We believe that God has a spiri-

tual work in the Church and among the world for this young man to do. We therefore have faith to believe that God will spare his precious life to do that work. We ask for the prayers of all the Church for him, that his life may be preserved to fulfill his calling and ministry, and that if it may please the Master that the suffering may be alleviated or diminished and that health and cure may be given. It is but natural to expect that the Doctor will deem it wise that the plaster cast remain about the body for many weeks.

The people of the Lord are enjoined in the scriptures to pray for one another that the afflicted may be healed; and that the earnest, fervent prayers of the righteous availeth much. So we ask the Church for prayers in this case and we are thankful to our Lord for the wonderful blessings already given.

Sincerely, your brother in the faith of Christ, James E. Yates.

P. S. Leon was brought home on the 22nd in a wonderful condition.

Aiden Moser's Dream...submitted by Apostle Joel Yates...printed in the March/April 2009 issue of the Zion's Advocate.

ackground: Aiden's parents told me that Aidan had a lot of bad dreams and prayed every night that he would not have bad dreams or wouldn't dream at all.

Aidan came out of his room on the morning of October 16th, 2008 (he was almost 5 years old) with big wide eyes.

Aiden told me, "You know what? I had a really good dream last night and it was really long!" Aidan told

me that in his dream God blew up all of the broken churches and then He made a new good church with His power, and it had a pitched roof, and it had rooms in it that you could visit and sing and read in. He said that Jesus came back to earth with all of the dead people and that it was heaven, but it wasn't heaven yet. He said that all of the flowers died but God made all new flowers and that God blew up the moon and the pieces fell onto the Earth. (Onto the bottom of the earth, Antarctica, when he was shown a globe.)

He said at the end of his dream he was really, really old and he died and Jesus told him he could stay in heaven because he had love. This account was written by Amy Moser (Aidan's mom). The day I picked this dream up to get a copy, Amy told me that she had asked Aidan if Jesus had talked to him, and he said that Jesus did talk to him but he couldn't remember what He said.

About a week later Amy said she heard him mention in a conversation that Jesus said something to him and she asked him what Jesus said to him. He told her that Jesus told him he needed to be good every day and he fell to the ground, and she asked him why he did that, and Aidan told her he was scared because he didn't know if he could do it.

The morning that Aidan told Amy about his dream she called me and told me about it. I felt it was significant and that she should write it down, and she did. Now that I have had a chance to see it in writing I have a few thoughts regarding it. My mind goes to several scriptures that no little boy would know or comprehend or worry about, which is what makes Aidan's dream so intriguing.

God reveals things to children: Matthew 11:25; 3 Nephi 12:9; Mathew 21:15-16.

What God says about the broken churches: 1 Nephi 7:31, 49-60; 2 Nephi 11:90-92, 12:3-24; Mormon 4:36-50.

The Resurrection when Christ will bring the dead with Him: 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:21-25; Revelation 20:6.

Moon will not give her light and stars fall from heaven: Matthew 24:29; Mark 13:24.

During the millennium a child shall die at 100 years old: Isaiah 65:17-25.

"This generation shall not pass until all be fulfilled" (Luke 21:20-32).

The Sixth Angel, By Apostle Don McIndoo...excerpt from the Revelation of Jesus Christ to the Apostle John: A Commentary, pp 69-71, published January 29, 2007.

uesday morning found Apostle Jay Moser and myself in our hotel room in Danli, Honduras. We were beginning the day with prayer when a knock came at our door. It was Brother Tommy Gill, and he told us we needed to go down to the lobby and watch the TV. As we did so, those terrible scenes of devastation of September 11th were indelibly imprinted upon my mind. I cried bitter tears as I contemplated the possible withdrawal of one of God's great promises to America: "And this land shall be a land of liberty unto the Gentiles: and there shall be no kings upon the land, who shall raise up unto the Gentiles. And I will fortify this land against all other nations;" (2 Nephi 7:18-19).

In shock I watched a man free-falling after he had leaped from one of the devastated towers. He seemed to fall forever, and as I closed my eyes to remove the image from my sight, I heard a voice speak to my mind, as clearly as if it had been audible: "Revelation Sixteen, Verse Twelve." That is all I heard, but I could sit there no longer without going to our room to read this passage:

"And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared."

As I sit at my desk writing this late in the year 2003, it is difficult to predict what events will take place in the future. We presently find the United States, with but a few allies, still struggling against terrorists in Afghanistan while engaged in a deadly war with Iraq, the nation presently identified with the River Euphrates. Their objective is to break and remove the power of her despotic ruler which, as yet, has not been accomplished. After six months the intensity of the guerrilla warfare and terrorism is steadily increasing. Only God knows how such a war will affect our Muslim allies, who are even now coming under the gun of terrorism. And no one can estimate how these events will affect the ever-growing "radical" Islamic movement. Even now, every American, Christian and Jew is a target for extremists among radical Muslims.

#### GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

# JOY AND PEACE

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."

**OBJECT LESSON**: Bring a fresh batch of chocolate chip cookies or substitute with something appealing to young people. Keep the cookies in sight while reading through Joy, Peace, and Happiness definitions.

#### Noah Webster's 1828 Dictionary

#### JOY, noun

- 1. The passion or emotion excited by the acquisition or expectation of good; that excitement of pleasurable feelings which is caused by success, good fortune, the gratification of desire or some good possessed, or by a rational prospect of possessing what we love or desire; gladness; exultation; exhilaration of spirits.
- 2. Gayety; mirth; festivity.
- 3. Happiness; felicity.
- 4. A glorious and triumphant state.
- 5. The cause of joy or happiness.

For ye are our glory and joy, 1 Thessalonians 2:19.

6. A term of fondness; the cause of you.

**HAPPINESS**, noun [from happy.] The agreeable sensations which spring from the enjoyment of good; that state of a being in which his desires are gratified, by the enjoyment of pleasure without pain; felicity; but happiness usually expresses less than felicity, and felicity less than bliss. Happiness is comparative. To a person distressed with pain, relief from that pain affords happiness; in other cases we give the name happiness to positive pleasure or an excitement of agreeable sensations. Happiness therefore admits of indefinite degrees of increase in enjoyment, or gratification of desires. Perfect happiness or pleasure unalloyed with pain, is not attainable in this life.

#### **PEACE**, noun [Latin pax, paco, to appease.]

- 1. In a general sense, a state of quiet or tranquillity; freedom from disturbance or agitation; applicable to society, to individuals, or to the temper of the mind.
- 2. Freedom from war with a foreign nation; public quiet.
- 3. Freedom from internal commotion or civil war.
- 4. Freedom from private quarrels, suits or disturbance.
- 5. Freedom from agitation or disturbance by the passions, as from fear, terror, anger, anxiety or the like; quietness of mind; tranquillity; calmness; quiet of conscience.

Great peace have they that love the law. Psalms 119:165.

- 6. Heavenly rest; the happiness of heaven.
- 7. Harmony; concord; a state of reconciliation between parties at variance.
- 8. Public tranquility; that quiet, order and security which is guaranteed by the laws; as, to keep the peace; to break the peace.

#### GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Peace is an effect of believing and trusting God. Peace brings freedom from worry or fear. Peace gives calm when the storm rages around us. Peace chooses to trust when there is every reason to worry. Peace remembers God's greatness and our littleness. Peace acknowledges the One with the ultimate plan. God gives peace through His comforter when we seek Him.

Happiness differs from joy. Happiness is based on, or the result of, the circumstances surrounding a person. Happiness can be a choice, but generally is temporary. Joy, a gift from God, is received when a sinner repents and humbles themselves before the Lord. Joy also fills a heart when a person loves and serves others more than themselves. The hope of the joy ahead strengthens a believer, allowing them to face trials and temptations, knowing that the work happening in their heart draws them closer to the Lord.

**OBJECT LESSON**: (Pass out the chocolate chip cookies to each student. After discussing the lesson, clarify with students that this was an example, and that God isn't really dishing out chocolate chip cookies.) To give a simple illustration, happiness is eating a fresh, chocolate chip cookie. Joy is knowing the cook, the ultimate giver of the eternal chocolate chip cookies, who wants us to have the eternal chocolate chip cookies and has given directions on how to obtain the eternal chocolate chip cookies, so the difficulties and hard times we go through will eventually bring us to stand before the cook, and He will grant us eternal chocolate chip cookies.

#### STUDY:

#### Peace-

Romans 15:13 God fills with joy and peace. Mark 4:36-41 ...where is your faith? John 14:27 Peace I leave with you.... Mosiah 8:51-54 ...the founder of peace. Alma 8:9-11 repentance brings peace.

#### Joy-

Psalm 5:11 We should be joyful.

Psalm 51:8 Joy comes from repentance.

Luke 15:7 Joy in heaven when a sinner repents.

John 15:10-14 Joy comes from loving others as Christ commanded us.

Acts 13:52 Holy Ghost fills with joy and helps through trials.

Romans 14:17 Kingdom of God is...righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Hebrews 12:2 The hope of the joy ahead helped Christ endure the trial of the cross.

James 1:2 Face temptation with joy with the knowledge of the work it will do within the heart.

2 Nephi 1:115 Man created to have joy.

Mosiah 2:13-23 Joy comes from remission of sins.

#### **APPLICATION:**

- 1. After reading the definitions and scriptures related to joy and peace, summarize your understanding of the concepts of joy and peace. How would you explain joy or peace to a friend?
- 2. Find a spiritual mentor or believer and explain to them your understanding of joy and peace. Ask them to check your understanding: "Does this my summary make sense to you?" "Is there anything you would add to this description?" Ask them about their understanding of the concepts of joy and peace or their personal experience with the topic.

#### **NEWS**





Greetings from the Bradley, Michigan, Local of the Church of Christ. We continue to receive many blessings and thank our Lord and Savior for all He provides us each day.

It's hard to believe we are in the fall of 2016. We would like to share the many blessings that we have received here at the Bradley Local.

Starting with the blessings we each receive through our ministry, we are truly blessed having three elders at the Bradley local. We have Pastor Elder Adam Porter, Elder Dennis Trudgen (who also resides with his wife Betsy during part of the winter months in Lakeland, Florida), and Elder Chris Moran. We are truly blessed to have these men working so diligently for the Lord.

Pastor Adam finished the 2015 year with a sermon on the Power of Prayer on Dec. 27, 2015. Prayer is our spiritual threshold of communication to an all-knowing, loving Lord that wants to hear from us. Jesus not only told us we should pray, He gave us an example in The

Lord's Prayer. Br. Adam asked the all-important question: Are we faithful in prayer? Are we praying for one another? Do we pray in our family? Do our children witness us in prayer? Are we afraid to witness by prayer in public? Philippians 2:10-11 says, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 1 1 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Pastor Adam ended his sermon with a special prayer for the blessings of our children and administration. Let us also remember to take all things to our Lord in prayer.

On Jan. 17, 2016, Elder Chris Moran gave us this message – The Lord's Plan for You. Are we living our lives according to the Lord's plan, or our own plan? Br. Chris also asked us if we have chained ourselves to worldly things. We need to pray for the ability to be free from these things. If we do not know the plan God has for our lives, we should ask the Lord. Isaiah 55:6 says, "Seek ye the Lord while he may

be found, call ye upon him while he is near." He then shared Jeremiah 33:3, "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not." We need to make sure that we do not fall into temptation and redirect our lives in ways that are not according to the Lord's plan for us. 3 Nephi 8:47 says, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye must watch and pray always, lest ye be tempted by the devil, and ye are led away captive by him." Brother Chris shared that we need to ask things such as – Does this help me be a better Christian? Am I a better example because of this? Am I helping others through this? We should always ask in His name, pray with our heart and not with empty words. He ended his sermon with Psalm 27:1, "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"

Elder Dennis Trudgen gave a sermon the week before our Michigan Reunion on June 12, 2016, on God's Blessings: Are they important? Why do we receive His bless-

ings? Is it because we just believe, because of repentance/baptism, prayer or seeking, because of our faith or trust, hope of righteous desire, because of labor, or keeping His commandments? Turning to the Bible and the Book of Mormon, Br. Dennis shared 3 Nephi 13:14, Jesus talking to his Disciples - "And he saith unto them, Blessed are ye, because ye desire this thing of me...." He also shared 3 Nephi 8:52, "Pray in your families unto the Father, always in my name, that your wives and your children may be blessed." In Alma 4:6 he read, "Nevertheless the children of God were commanded that they should gather themselves together oft, and join in fasting and mighty prayer." And in Mosiah 11:121-123 (the voice of the Lord came to Alma), "And blessed are they because of their exceeding faith in the words alone which thou hast spoken unto them." In Helaman 5:16 he read, "But blessed are they who will repent...." Br. Dennis stated that repentance/baptism is mentioned 23 times. He then read from Hebrews 13:15-16. Elder Dennis Trudgen ended with this thought and scripture; If we are to expect His blessings, we need to sacrifice our prime time, our labor, our praise in thanksgiving and communication continually. Alma 16:238, "And that ye live in thanksgiving daily for the many mercies and blessings which he doth bestow upon you; yea, and I also exhort you my brethren, that ye be watchful unto prayer continually, that ye may not be led away by the temptation of the devil, that he may not overpower you, that ye may not become his subjects at the last day; for behold, he rewardeth you no good

In May, Betsy Trudgen and

Amanda Stratton hosted a women's luncheon. The theme was, What an anchor we have in Christ. We sang, "We Have an Anchor," and read Hebrews 6:18-19 — "...lay hold upon the hope set before us: Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast...." Many women were in attendance. We discussed outreach possibilities and the women's retreat in October.

Our Michigan Reunion was on June 18 and 19th. We were blessed with church family from Canada, Mexico, and several states. Fellowship started June 17th at Elder Dennis and Betsy Trudgen's home in Belding, Michigan. Some people stayed in campers, but the Trudgen's also opened their home to many members for the weekend. Many enjoyed river rafting and other outside activities on Friday. This year the Trudgen's home was filled to capacity with over twenty guests. It always is an added blessing to be among those lucky guests. The three Trudgen F's (and we don't mean failure) are food, fun and, above all, fellowship. Pastor Porter along with others from Bradley also opened up their homes for visitors.

The Reunion services started on Saturday with a 10:00 a.m. prayer service. The opening prayer was given by Priest Bruce Haines. Before starting our season of prayer, Elder Aaron Heath then gave a short sermon on obeying God and the consequences of not obeying God.

Elder Brandon Tarbell was our first speaker. He began by asking if we are being good stewards for the Lord. He talked about the old say-

ing, "no pain no gain." He stated that we will surely suffer pain in life, either pain of discipline which weighs ounces or the pain of regret which weighs tons. He posed the question, What am I willing to suffer? Hebrews 6:1 says, "let us go on unto perfection." In order to do this we have to be disciplined. We need to use the spiritual side of our lives to control the temporal side of our lives. He referenced 2 Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." Our brother ended with I Peter 4:10, "As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace

After the noon meal there was a children's activity and song service which was truly another blessing that we all enjoyed.

Elder Porter introduced our first afternoon speaker, Apostle Placido K. Matu, from Yucatan, Mexico. He talked about the work in Mexico and mentioned that there are several new churches and how they are working with the children. He also shared that they are having reunions for the children to get together and how they are inviting new people. They have also been having meetings for the wives of ministry as well as marriage retreats. They have a Strong Youth Forum. Br. Placido also mentioned their customs, how they celebrate birthdays with a service to give thanks (no matter the age), and how they have services filled with singing where the young adults are sharing their gifts.

One of the scriptures he talked

about was I Nephi 3:237, "Then at that day, the work of the Father shall commence, in preparing the way for the fulfilling of his covenants which he hath made to his people, which are of the house of Israel." He stated how God is in control of our lives, our families, and in our country. He concluded with I Nephi I:157-158 in summary — Rejoice exceedingly unto the Lord, give thanks unto the God of Israel, and search the scriptures.

Our last speaker was Elder Mike Bevaart from Canada, titling his sermon "M & M's," with a big jar of M & M's sitting on a stand before us. The next time you see him, if you weren't at this reunion, be sure to ask him about that jar of M & M's!

Br. Bevaart conveyed a story of a potential truck wreck where only God could take that deadly situation and change the outcome. He asked the congregation if we were ready to meet our Lord. Alma 10:27-28 says, "And cast off your sins, and not procrastinate the day of your repentance; 28 But that ye would humble yourselves before the Lord, and call on his holy name and watch and pray continually, that ye may not be tempted above that which ye can bear, and thus be led by the Holy Spirit, becoming humble, meek, submissive, patient, full of love and all long suffering, having faith on the Lord." He ended with the message that we need to have a close relationship with the Lord.

After our last sermon we all went to our Sister Joyce Lee's home for the baptism of her son Eric Lee. Eric's Grandfather, Elder Conley Addington, performed the baptism. We all continued on to Pastor Adam and Sue Porter's house where the laying on of hands was done by Pastor Adam Porter and Elder Conley Addington. Another one of those blessings we've been talking about. We enjoyed food and fellowship at the Porter's during the evening.

Our Sunday service began at 9:00 a.m. with a Sacrament Service. The different testimonies truly testified of how the Lord is working in each of our lives and bringing us together in our common faith. We also were able to share our thankfulness for our Lord's love. The common theme was "How God is in Control."

We enjoyed a song service at 1:00 p.m. So many talents came together on Saturday to praise our God. Another blessing.

At 3:00 we were thankful to hear from Apostle Buzz Brickhouse. He started with 2 Nephi 13:32, "And now behold, this is the doctrine of Christ, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen." In summary, let us hold fast, let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works. He told us to let the Lord direct us with His Spirit. The Lord might use us to bring someone to God.

Apostle Brickhouse ended his sermon with Colossians 3:15 – "And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."

Again, as one of the congregation, we were very blessed to have attended the Michigan, Bradley Reunion. So many hours went into getting ready. Thanks to all the ladies in the kitchen for great meals. We are also thankful for all the fellowship we enjoyed at each of the homes we attended. We thank God for His safety for everyone that traveled distances to come and safe returning home.

Elder Dennis Trudgen and wife Betsy again hosted the Labor Day weekend at their home in Belding, Michigan. They have done this for many years with some bringing campers. There is rafting as well as other outdoor activities, fireworks in town with celebrations, parades, and rides among other things. But the best is having everyone come together to enjoy Sunday Service. This year Elder Chris Moran's sermon was about being thankful for our blessings (both temporal and spiritual) while recognizing the portion God has given us in this life. He shared how we should be thankful to live in this land, which is a blessed land, and we should not take it for granted. He read Ecclesiastes 5:18-19, "Behold that which I have seen; it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him; for it is his portion. 19. Every man also to whom God hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion, and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God." Elder Chris talked about the blessings of reunions in each of our locals, temporal blessings of home, car, fellowship with others, and the different interests we have, as well as blessings of our outdoor surroundings. He talked about the spiritual blessings of church to have fellowship together, finding the narrow gate. He also mentioned how some

have been in church a long time and have stayed steadfast, which is a great example and blessing. He closed with reminding us that we need to remember all our blessings are from God. Ephesians 5:20, "Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Our annual September Pig Roast was held at a local park in Middleville, Michigan. There was plenty of food, games for everyone, and the "blue barrel train" came to keep the kids entertained.

The ladies are busy planning their annual Woman's Retreat/sleepover that is scheduled for October 28th-29th. It will be held at Betsy Trudgen's home in Belding, Michigan. It's always a time for strong faith to join together to learn and praise God.

We have also been blessed recently with the birth of two babies. Amanda and Steven Stratton welcomed their third son, Daniel James, on November 5th of 2015. He is the grandson of Dennis and Betsy Trudgen. He was blessed on November 15, 2015, by his grandfather Elder Dennis Trudgen and Elder Chris Moran.

We also added to our family with the birth of Ashland Grace Lee, daughter of Emily and Jordan Lee from Middleville, Michigan. She was born on September 8, 2016, weighing 5 pounds 14 ounces and 18 1/4 inches long. Her grandparents are Joyce and the late Duane Lee, and Adam and Sue Porter.

In addition to all of these blessings, the church building being used by Bradley members is being expanded. Two classrooms are being added at the back of the church which will be used for teaching our younger members. This will free up more room in the main fellowship and eating area, which is also currently being used for Sunday School classrooms space. Various men of the church have been working hard to finish this effort before the end of 2016. They have at this time enclosed the addition and are presently doing inside finishing. All of this has been done over the summer, and they have expressed how the hand of God has been present each and every step of the way. Again, we praise God for His good-

If you haven't visited our website yet, please, check it out at www.churchofchristbradley.org. You can listen to past sermons that you may have missed or want to revisit. We also have live streaming from this website every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for Bible and Book of Mormon study (also can be part of this study directly through Skype), and Sundays at 10:00 for study and 11:00 for a preaching service. If you have any questions, our website provides contact information and answers questions about our church and what we believe.

I (Loretta Greig) also would like to mention for my husband George and myself that we are now scattered members of the Church of Christ (first year we are year around in Florida). There are other members of the Church of Christ such as Randy and Mary Lee, with parents Jay and Evelyn Lee, that are also "snowbirds" living in Florida dur-

ing the winter months. What a blessing to have elders and other members that travel to homes for fellowship, delivering messages from God, administration, and bringing the sacrament to us. This past winter we were visited either at the Lee's home or our home, both in Port St. Lucie, Florida, by Eli and Gretchen Tarbell on Feb. 7, 2016, and Elder Bob Oldham on March 20, 2016. We also had Jerry Lee visiting during this time, as well as our daughter Sheryl Bush and her husband Marty. We had a nice group attending this service. Also, Elder Dennis and Betsy travel our way when possible from their winter home in Lakeland, Florida, for Sunday service. On behalf of all the scattered members we truly are thankful for these visits and count them among our many blessings.

We do not know if you have been keeping track of all of the blessings that have been mentioned within this report. We are sure you noticed that there are a lot of them and we only touched on a few, as they have been endless. We thank God for each of them and with lots of prayer we know they will keep coming. We need to remain steadfast.

That's it for now from the Bradley Local. We send our love and prayers to you all.

Your Sisters in Christ – Loretta Greig and Kelli Moran.

Dennis Trudgen and the Barrel Train at the Pig Roast

#### **OBITUARY**

## Janet "Jan" Harpe

May I, 1941 - September 8, 2016

wins, Janet Irene and Janice Ilene, were born May 1, 1941, to Restoration parents Wayne and Audrey Rodgers in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Jan married the love of her life, Lester W. Harpe. They shared 56 years together and to their union were born two sons, Brent and Brian.

Jan was active in church work all of her adult life. She was knowledgeable in the scriptures and taught Sunday School classes to adults and children at church and camps. Jan played piano and organ at

church, and for many weddings and funerals around the community.

Given the opportunity she always told others about the Restoration faith. During her time of illness she was able to witness of the Lord's love and grace to her caregivers.

Les, Jan, and her twin, Janice Howell were baptized as members of the Church of Christ in September of 2015. Les and Jan attended church with the Yakima Valley Mission in Toppenish, Washington, as her health permitted. Other Sundays the two

of them played sermon DVD's that were provided by the church so they could still worship at home.

Thank you for the many prayers offered by the Saints on Jan's behalf. Also, thanks for the priesthood visits and administrations that were attended by a loving Spirit.

Jan had great faith as we prayed for healing if it was the Lord's will and said we would accept it. And so we do. Knowing she is at peace with Him gives us comfort.

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints" (Psalms 116:15).

—Submitted by Janice Howell (Harpe).

#### **NOTICES**

#### **HONDURAS**

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

#### YUCATAN, MEXICO

- 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 visit-

ing the Web site at <a href="www.cceg.net">www.cceg.net</a> 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 <a href="mailto:rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net">rwoldham1@sbcglobal.net</a>, 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.

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