

Zion's Advocate

"And blessed are they who shall seek to bring forth 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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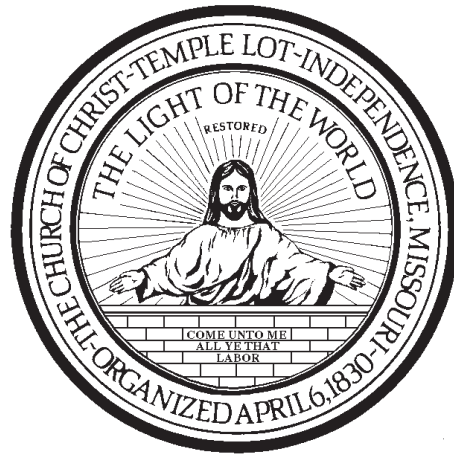
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William Allen Sheldon

May 24, 1922 - February 24, 2017

And many people shall go and say,
Come ye, and let us go up to the
mountain of the Lord, to the house of
the God of Jacob; and he will teach us
of his ways, and we will walk in his
paths: for out of Zion shall go forth
the law, and the word of the LORD
from Jerusalem. —Isaiah 2:3



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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.

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The Unspeakable

GIFT



By Apostle Roland Sarratt

Paul said this in his second letter to the Corinthians: *Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift* (2 Corinthians 9:15).

I have always favored that statement because I have taken that to mean that there are no words that can fully describe our appreciation for the gift of God in giving His only begotten Son to atone for our sins. But I have usually isolated it from the rest of that chapter thinking that it does no harm to do so. This time I read

the whole chapter to reacquaint myself with what Paul is saying. He is talking about sowing seed in ministering to the saints. In 2 Corinthians 9:6-8 he says:

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully. Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all

grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work:

That reminds me of the parable of the talents where the person with the one talent hid the talent thinking he dare not take the chance of losing it (Mat.25:14-30).

I read a little story recently where a lady named off four different times that she witnessed someone doing a good deed by giving something or helping someone else and the lady would say to herself, Why didn't I think to do that? Each time she would answer herself by saying, It was because I was only thinking of myself. She said that she was going to change her attitude and look for ways to help others.

The very character of Jesus Christ is always the same: giving of Himself for the good of others. His fame went out in His healing of the sick and performing other miracles. With His miracles, accompanied by His teachings, He became an effective example of true righteousness to the Jews and to all the people around who would accept him. Jesus' ministry was both by word and by deed. This He passed on to His disciples both in ancient times and in modern times. Thus we have the fullness of His gospel in these latter days. This has been evidenced in the various ministerial activities which I have experienced. It was said to me once

that we are a loose organization. My experience with the ministers in missionary activities, the Visiting Ministers' group and with the Visitors' Center is that it is all done voluntarily, giving each minister an opportunity to develop his own talents by guidance of the Holy Spirit. There are not any strict rules of procedure as might be in a business. We are a religion, not a business and we need to remember that fact.

I have also heard it said that the temporal things of the church should not control the spiritual things. Of course that doesn't take away from the need to carefully manage the temporal affairs. The Lord has proven that He can feed the multitude with a few fish and loaves of bread. He can bring in funds that we know nothing about when we are in great need, such as when our headquarters building was burned. What it takes on our part is faith.

We should realize that the Gentiles' time is coming to an end and Israel will soon be gathered in to take the lead of this work. Wherein we, the Gentiles, have failed to exercise our faith sufficiently we have not fulfilled the righteous example as Christ would have us do. I am persuaded that the blessings will go to the converted Israelites in these last days as is prophesied and the Gentiles will merely assist the Israelites (see 3 Nephi 10:1-3). This is something we must adjust to as it happens.

We have embraced and have

had the privilege to take the fullness of the gospel to the Israelites. What does it take to become fully converted to this gospel as it was in the days of the apostles of old? Paul gives us an answer in 1 Cor. 1:22-24:

For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.

So both the converted Israelites and the converted Gentiles in these last days will preach Christ by demonstrating the power of God and the wisdom of God. We might say that most of the Gentiles have a modern-day stumbling-block. According to the Book of Mormon, we identify the Gentiles as being the white and delightful people of the European nations (1 Nephi 3:151).

What is that modern day stumbling-block for the Gentiles? Nephi says the Gentiles shall stumble because the plain and precious things that were in the Bible had been taken out of it by the great and abominable church (1 Nephi 3:171-175). It is evident that many of the Gentiles have stumbled as a result. That is the reason that Joseph Smith was told at the time of his first vision not to join any of the sects. Their

creeds were an abomination in His sight and those professors were all corrupt at that time.

So the Book of Mormon, containing those plain and precious things, was brought forth in these latter days that we, the converted Gentiles, might not stumble (1 Nephi 3:183-186). However, the devil, having many means of deceiving mankind, used a different method of deception, not only by taking away the plain and precious things out of the Bible, but by adding innovations of man to church doctrine. This has also caused this people to stumble. The so-called Restoration Movement has been on a self-destruction cycle of continual splitting into divisions unable to correct itself. The call for unity has fallen on deaf ears because of those innovations of man.

So the great majority of the Gentiles, both those who have rejected the fullness of the gospel and also those who have accepted the innovations of man within the Restoration Movement, have failed to prove themselves to be worthy of the Lord's greater blessings of enlightenment that comes through the fullness of the gospel. Yes, we have tried to carry the fullness of the gospel, as we know it, to all those who will accept it, both the Israelites and Gentiles. In this day of great diversities of religion, even within the so-called Christian faiths, we are challenged to prove our beliefs to be more correct than any other church on earth. How can we accomplish such a great

claim? Again we turn to Paul in Hebrews 12:1 & 2:

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

We must lay aside every weight and the sin that besets us and run with patience the race that is set before us. Paul points us to Jesus Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. It is by faith in Him that we can convey the truth of the fullness of the gospel of Christ. Our intellectual comprehension of the gospel by itself will not bring the desired result. We must prove the truth of the gospel of Christ by the way we live and the spirit we carry.

Too often our practice has been a continual debate of doctrine by our own faulty human reasoning, trying to prove to the satisfaction of our limited intellect what is true and what is false. Sometimes we cannot discern between true conviction and our own human wills. We have been made aware of how easy we can be deceived and we religiously

guard against being deceived. But we resort to human wisdom and strengths rather than putting our implicit faith in the Lord as a child does with his parents. We must put our faith in our heavenly Parent. We have been commanded to humble ourselves as little children.

The true conviction that is needed to remain faithful to what the Lord requires of us must come through our faith in Jesus Christ and our relationship with Him.

In John 8:31 & 32 Jesus spoke to the Jews:

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.

Jesus went on to say that the truth shall make them free from sin; otherwise, they were in bondage to their own sins. Jesus gave an illustration of how we are to obtain that freedom from sin, referring to the entrance of a sheepfold in John 10:1-5.

Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.

But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep (Jesus Christ).

To him the porter openeth; and the sheep hear his voice: and he calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out.

And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice.

And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers.

How did the Shepherd (Jesus) enter the door to the sheepfold? He was baptized by his forerunner, John the Baptist, by being immersed in water. Baptism by immersion is a type of Christ's own death and resurrection. He was buried (immersed) and then raised up out of the water or grave. We are to do likewise and be baptized by being buried in the water and raised up out of the water.

In verse 11, Jesus went on to declare:

I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep.

In verse 14 Jesus also states,

I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine.

It is comforting to realize that Jesus knows His sheep and they know His voice and will follow Him. He goes on to say that He will give them eternal life in John 10:27-29:

My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck

them out of my hand.

My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.

That is a great promise. Nothing on this earth can equal that promise!

In the next verse Jesus makes a profound statement:

I and my Father are one
(John 10:30).

What does he mean by that statement? When Jesus prayed to the Father, he said this in John 17:11:

And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

What is being one? Being one is being united. We hear much said about unity today. We are told that unity is necessary in the church. Unity is being in agreement with each other. We can say that it is a relationship between individuals who all believe alike.

Do we all believe alike in the church today? We probably all agree on the principles of the gospel. But do we all agree on all aspects of the gospel? Can we come together in conference and reunions and all partake of the sacrament together? No, we can't. Is it important that we are in agreement when we partake of the body and blood of Christ?

I'm inclined to think so, but that is my personal viewpoint because I feel we are not receiving the spiritual blessings that we once had when we all partook of the sacrament together. I leave that for you to consider. That is only one issue of several that we are faced with in the church today where we differ from one another.

In my opinion, for whatever it is worth, we have stumbled in our understanding of the word of God on various issues that have come up. In that very fact we are stumbling much like the Jews did when Jesus was with them, and like the modern day churches have done. We have failed to be one. The reason being is that our faith in Christ is lacking. We can only have that unity or oneness if we each become one with Jesus Christ, because He is one with the Father. If we each become one with Jesus then we will be one with each other. We can agree with each other and have a unity between us by seeing eye to eye. But we can only be right if we individually agree with Jesus Christ. True unity can only exist by each of us being one with the Lord.

These statements may seem idealistic, but how important is this oneness? It was important to Jesus because He prayed to the Father in behalf of His disciples that they would have that oneness. He did this while they were in His presence at the last supper. In His prayer He included all those who would believe in Him through their word.

Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; That they all may be one; as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one; and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me (John 17:20-23).

The oneness that the disciples and the church were to have is a oneness that Jesus has with the Father. How is it possible that Jesus, Who is in the flesh, can be one with the Father, who is in the spirit? We may not be able to answer that from a literal standpoint, but the real answer is in Jesus' example of obedience to the Father. He spoke these words to the Jews:

(John 8:29) And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him.

Jesus has set the example for us by following the example that the Father has given him. If we follow Jesus' example, we will in turn follow the Father's example. Or, in other words, we will be obeying our Heavenly Father. Jesus continued to speak plainly to the Jews, referring to God as his

Father. That made them angry and they wanted to kill him. John 5:19 verifies His will to do only what the Father does.

Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself, but what he seeth the Father do: for what things soever he doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.

In humbleness Jesus says He must obey the Father by following His Father's example. Again, we are to do likewise by humbling ourselves before the Father.

There is a motivation involved here: it is the love of the Father for the Son.

The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into his hand (John 3:35).

That relationship of love is special in what we might understand as a father/son relationship.

For the Father loveth the Son, and showeth him all things that himself doeth: and he will show him greater works than these, that ye may marvel (John 5:20).

The Father's love gives the Son a commitment to do the will of the Father.

I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me (John 5:30).

Just as Jesus submitted to the

Father, so we should submit to Jesus and do his will.

That is done through the relationship of love that carries down to us. Jesus said to his disciples: If ye love me, keep my commandments (John 14:15).

Jesus confirms that statement in verse 21.

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

Again we see that our relationship with the Father is dependent upon our relationship with Jesus Christ. If we love Jesus, we will also be loved of the Father.

If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you (John 15:10-12).

This is the relationship that we are to have in the Church of Christ. If we love Jesus, we will love one another. Can we accept this as being a reality? Or do we merely accept it as a theological idealism?

Another aspect of this relationship is for our special benefit; it is the witness of the Son by the Father. Jesus speaks of this wit-

ness to the Jews:

If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true. Ye sent unto John, and he bare witness unto the truth.

But I receive not testimony from man: but these things I say, that ye might be saved. He was a burning and a shining light: and ye were willing for a season to rejoice in his light.

But I have greater witness than that of John: for the works which the Father hath given me to finish, the same works that I do, bear witness of me, that the Father hath sent me. And the Father himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. Ye have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape (John 5:31-37).

The Jews were looking for an excuse not to accept Jesus as their Messiah. So Jesus spoke of the witness that John the Baptist gave. Then Jesus spoke of even a greater witness which were the works that the Father had given Him to do. Those works gave witness that the Father had sent Him. Jesus also declared that the Father would give witness to those who truly believed like unto the witness that Peter received through the Spirit of God.

The Jews continued to reject what Jesus spoke to them, but Jesus declared even more truth to them in defense of His obedience to the Father.

Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.

The Pharisees therefore said unto him, Thou bearest record of thyself; thy record is not true.

Jesus answered and said unto them, Though I bear record of myself, yet my record is true: for I know whence I came, and whither I go; but ye cannot tell whence I come, and whither I go.

Ye judge after the flesh; I judge no man.

And yet if I judge, my judgment is true: for I am not alone, but I and the Father that sent me.

It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true.

I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me (John 8:12-18).

As we become knowledgeable of the fullness of the gospel, we are given a witness of its truth if we pray for it. The same is true concerning the person of Jesus Christ. When Jesus was with His disciples He questioned them about who He was:

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

And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some,

Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.

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

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

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven (Matthew 16:13-17).

How did Peter know who Christ was? It was revealed to him from the Father. We can know the truth of all things by the gift of revelation if we pray to the Father in the name of Jesus Christ. The gift of the Holy Ghost is given for that purpose by the laying on of hands after we are baptized. In the Book of Mormon we are given instructions concerning baptism. Jesus said this following those instructions:

And after this manner shall ye baptize in my name, for behold, verily I say unto you, that the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Ghost are one; and I am in the Father, and the Father in me, and the Father and I are one.

And according as I have commanded you, thus shall ye baptize (3 Nephi 5:27, 28).

Jesus gave admonition against disputations and contentions, and He concluded by saying this:

Behold, this is not my doc-

trine, to stir up the hearts of men with anger one against another; but this is my doctrine, that such things should be done away.

Then He declared His doctrine:

Behold, verily, verily I say unto you, I will declare unto you my doctrine. And this is my doctrine, and it is the doctrine which the Father hath given unto me (3 Nephi 5:31, 32);

Consistent with what I have quoted from the book of John, we find the same relationship between the Father and Jesus Christ. As we continue to quote His words to the Nephites it is noticeable that He includes the Holy Ghost. That can be understood that the Holy Ghost had not been given to His disciples until the day of Pentecost after Jesus had ascended into heaven. However He did give this timely command just before He ascended, in Matthew 28:18-20:

All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

As Jesus continued to declare His doctrine to the Nephites He includes the Holy Ghost with the Father and Himself:

And I bear record of the Father; and the Father beareth record of me, and the Holy Ghost beareth record of the Father and me, and I bear record that the Father commandeth all men, everywhere, to repent and believe in me;

And whoso believeth in me, and is baptized, the same shall be saved; and they are they who shall inherit the kingdom of God.

And whoso believeth not in me, and is not baptized, shall be damned.

Verily, verily I say unto you, that this is my doctrine; and I bear record of it from the Father; and whoso believeth in me, believeth in the Father also;

And unto him will the Father bear record of me; for he will visit him with fire and with the Holy Ghost;

And thus will the Father bear record of me; and the Holy Ghost will bear record unto him of the Father and me; for the Father, and I, and the Holy Ghost, are one (3 Nephi 5:33-38).

If we are one with Jesus Christ, then we will be one with the Father and the Holy Ghost. That oneness must be through our love of God. Moses declared the first great commandment to the Israelites shortly before his death:

Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord;

And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.

And these words which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart;

And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up (Deuteronomy 6:4-7).

Jesus had occasion to repeat that commandment, along with the second one, to the Jews, which in turn has been passed on to us:

Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

This is the first and great commandment.

And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets (Matthew 22:37-40).

Surely we can understand that these two commandments are the genesis of all the law and all that the holy prophets have given us in our scriptures that we have today.

The TIME is DRAWING NIGH

My Child, you need to get ready, for time is drawing nigh.

Soon I will descend from My throne on high.

I'll be coming in glory and power,

When My Father tells Me the hour.

So please get ready, ready to meet Me face to face.

Child, you are one of those just doing as you choose.

You don't really care whether you win or lose.

You work hard all day, but never stop to pray.

(I've missed hearing from you My child)

You play hard at night, not caring about wrong or right,
Believing the choices you make are just a matter of give and take;

That life goes on day by day, nothing really matters anyway.

But I'm telling you what you believe isn't true.

It matters what you do, and I've been watching you.

My child, I died upon a cross to save your soul from loss.

I want to set you free from all the troubles you see.

I've been calling out your name; Oh, won't you My love claim.

Turn from the worldly wrong, hear my new song.

I seek your soul today; Oh, child let me have My way,

Come to Me today before I must say the words, "It's too late."

(I can't bear the thought of your soul in Hell.)

Child, open up your heart, let Me be a part

Of all you do each day, be it work or play;

I'm asking you to give your life to Me today.

For the time is drawing nigh,

I will soon descend from My throne on high.

I will come in glory and power,

At My Father's appointed hour.

Child, please don't waste any more time.

I don't want to have to say to you, "It's too late."

So come to Me while there is still time.

I love you, My child;

Come and accept that love before it's too late.

I love you, Jesus.

—Given to Sister Janeen Addie

REPORT

2017 Solemn Assembly & Conference of the CHURCH of CHRIST

Deb Haines
Conference Reporter

FRIDAY MORNING, March 31, we gathered in to the Church of Christ for our Solemn Assembly. Apostle Roland Sarratt welcomed us. Priest Bruce Haines assisted.

Br. Roland asked, "Why do we desire to be near the heart of God?" He read John 3:16-17 and pointed out two words... "so loved." God gave His only begotten son; this is a great gift, but we must accept it. We need to do what is required of us, then we'll have eternal life. We have the fullness of the gospel of Christ—we'll have everlasting life. In verse 14, we are told Moses lifted up a serpent; so as the Son of God was lifted, we shall also be lifted. Some of the people would not follow the direction. Six hundred years prior the Nephites were here upon this land; he read 2 Nephi 7:5-7. Br. Roland told us that one time he said, "I don't understand." Immediately he was told by the Spirit, "You don't have to understand." We must humble ourselves as a little child. He read John 1:10-13. The Lord has a purpose for His church. Things were removed from the Bible so Gentiles would stumble. The devil didn't take away, he added: polygamy, baptism for the dead, the First Presidency, etc. We abolished that office—God did that. We must leave it to God, His Spirit will guide us. We have the task of exposing that which

is wrong... and illuminating that which is of God.

There was a season of prayer, and the service was opened to us; just one testimony was:

■ A brother told us he is reminded that our hymns are a lot like scripture; they are inspired of God. His prayer is that God's purposes will be fulfilled, that He'll have His way, as He wants us to do HIS will. He wants our hearts to look to Him for correction, direction and for His will to be done.

FRIDAY EVENING, Prayer and Testimony service—Apostle Joel Yates in charge, assisted by Elder Trevor Wratt. Br. Joel read from Isaiah 58:1-7. People desire to know their God. Did we come with humility? Verses 6-7 tell us a proper fast will loosen the bands of wickedness, burdens and bondage. The Lord wants a change in us. What is our concept of a fast? Sacrifice? Romans 12 tells us to present our bodies as a living sacrifice. Thirty years ago, Br. Joel had an experience while walking across Chichen Itza. He felt the Spirit lift him like a bird—he was told, "Give of your best to the Master, give of the strength of your youth." He'll never forget it. We promised God at our baptism that we would give our all. Matthew 16:24-35. Br. Joel also told of a brother in Ethiopia. One of the members there cried out to the Lord asking, "What do I do?" He was told to build a church. When he started, others came too. He gave up

half of his coffee crop to build the church. He gave his best to God. It was a sacrifice; are you willing?

Br. Joel led us in a season of prayer. There was an administration, and the service was opened to the leadings of the Spirit. One testimony was:

■ A brother told us we are to be wise as serpents and gentle as doves. They had been meeting in a trailer for years. One sacrament service the Spirit enveloped—peace and serenity came with it. In the midst of this a mouse showed up. The mouse came out from under the piano and took refuge right under his shoe. He prayed. The mouse went back under the piano. At the closing prayer, the mouse came out again, ran up his pant leg and jumped into the trash bucket. He grabbed the bag in the bucket and tied it up, trapping the mouse. We are to be servants, gentle as God, having compassion upon others.

SATURDAY, APRIL 1st—Morning Prayer Service began with Apostle Buzz Brickhouse in charge and Elder David Rudd assisting.

Br. Buzz told us to desire the Lord, for the Holy Spirit to be with us; to seek God's will, for us and the church—with an expectation to hear the still small voice. Come with a broken heart and a contrite spirit—submit to Him... be a new person in Christ. Br. Buzz read from Alma 19:114; Ephesians 4:1-5; 3 Nephi 5:50-60; 2 Nephi 3:28-50: God will support us. Angels will minister unto us. Submit to God. Lift up our

hearts and be not concerned with what's going on in the world. 2 Nephi 3:50-66; and 2 Nephi 15:1-10. Petition God, that He'll be in our midst.

There was a season of prayer, the service was opened and some testimonies were:

■ A brother told us it's the truth, there should be no office of president in the church. We once had one. God allowed us. Once we had a president and he was humble enough to admit their mistake and repent. God used that man. He also told us that our Br. Roland had a unique message for us, about John 3:16. The meaning is for all of us; last night Br. Joel told us if we pray we'd better be ready to do something. Humility is the first step... to be a united, strong people who will do His will. Always be respectful of the Spirit that directs. There will be opportunities ahead of us—if we trust and obey.

■ A sister told us God sees our weakness; He is mindful of us. He knows what we go through. God is much bigger than we are. His thoughts are not ours, His ways are not ours. We can only hope to be workable in His hands. We can't do it on our own, we're human. We can't even see beyond who we are. We want to be potter's clay, moldable—so we can serve. She wants to be able to step up and be what she was meant to be. She's been mercifully blessed.

■ A brother told us this service is important. There is no President or High Council of God in the scriptures. Ask the Lord to direct us. In 3 Nephi we are told the name of the church... IF you're built upon His gospel. This is the church — HIS BRIDE, and He's not a polygamist. God loves ALL His children. Christ said, "few there be that find it." The books will be opened and we'll be judged by what's in them. Fast, pray and seek His direction... to do His will. Be an example of righteousness... so people can see and hear. If we're evil He won't answer our prayers. He told us to be prepared so the Lord can use us and to share with others. Ask God to direct us to His way... accomplish HIS will.

God doesn't walk in crooked paths. The church is restored to be like it was in the beginning; apostles called, not a president. We're called to teach His Bride, the Church of Christ. Anything which hinders His work is not of the Lord. The Lord is alive... He's working.

■ A sister stood and told us of an experience she had had recently. She witnessed to another and felt it was the Lord speaking, not her. She read the poem that she had been given of the Lord.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON Prayer Service—Apostle Mike McGhee was in charge with Elder Gordon McCann assisting. Br. Mike read Psalm 103:1-18 which describes the holy character of God. We strive to please God. Looking back to his early life there was radio programs, newspapers—many changes. Even then you couldn't believe everything you saw. Today they can make something look real that's not. We need the faith that the Lord would have us to have—by our faith in Him we will know all things God gives. He read Ether 5:4. He told us that's where our sights should be. Our faith allows us to be sure and steadfast. Be prepared for all that follows; we need to be right with the Lord now. This church is His. Be well behaved children.

There was a season of prayer and the service was opened for testimonies, song or prayer, as the Spirit leads; here are two testimonies:

■ A brother told us of a dream he had years ago about the First Presidency. He was in a building here to the west, looking at the Temple Lot property through a window. It was very dark. He looked in the sky to the east, desiring to see the return of Christ in a beam of light. There was another man with him, he doesn't know who. Just then he saw a light on the Temple Lot. It flamed big; he was disappointed. The man sneered, as if to laugh at him. Our brother was told in a still, small voice, "Those are the garments of a man being burned." The

dream ended. He has spoken with many visitors who come here; most of them are of the Restoration. They are a people who believe in the First Presidency. The Lord will correct things one day. It's time to cleanse all things that are contrary to what Christ teaches. We have to WAIT ON THE LORD! This needs to be remembered. So much has to happen yet—we can't run ahead of the Lord.

■ A sister told us that just for fun she had tried out another teacher's new blood pressure monitor. It turned out her pressure was terribly high so she was sent to the school nurse, then to her doctor, and to the hospital. Her heart was good, but an artery in her kidney was blocked. Her workmates noticed the blessing—this was found before she'd had a stroke. She's very thankful.

SUNDAY MORNING—Sacrament Service—Apostle Jeff Oldham opened the Sacrament Service with Elder Brandon Tarbell assisting. Br. Brandon read 3 Nephi 6:3-11. Seek ye first the Kingdom of God. If ye are not of little faith, or have distractions of every kind... There are so many ways to sin—we can't even count them. He asks, "Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid...?" He told us how Placido's e-mail on the CCEG a few months ago about something given to Elder Nathan Denham got his attention. He felt the Spirit, and it pricked his heart. He feels unworthy to stand before us. We come to remember His sacrifice. Christ obeyed His Father, making the ultimate atonement. Br. Brandon read Romans 7:14-24; Ether 1:37-41; Alma 19:112-115; Mormon 4:94; Genesis 22:9-18; and 1 Samuel 15:10-11, 16:1, 6-13. Where is your heart? Do we give this our all? Do we live a righteous life? Do we reject His nudge? He read 1 Samuel 17:45-50. Br. Brandon told us we are commanded to do our very best, as a sacrifice; to put our all on the altar. Fasting is sacrificing our needs. He read from 3 Nephi 5:110-112; John 3:16-17;

Matthew 26:38-44. We have made this covenant to lay our all on the altar.

Br. Jeff asked the blessing on the emblems and sacrament was served. There was a season of prayer and several administrations.

■ As part of a testimony, two men were called to be apostles, and another to the office of priest. Following a season of prayer, several (9) rose to testify that these callings were not of God, and there were no witnesses supporting the callings.

■ A brother told us he is thankful to be here; one year ago he was struggling with things on his mind. The small things are big things broken down. If you think about it that way it will be easier to get it done. This morning he thought of the small things we have to be thankful for. The Lord is not done talking to us.

■ A sister told us the last EIGHT years we have been praying for her younger sister. She had a grand mall seizure eight years ago. They spent five years investigating what could be done to help her. They were told there was less than 30% chance of survival with surgery. The last few years she has been in a wheelchair. She has had treatments for the last two years which didn't help. Her sister would get terrible headaches and get pressure in her head. She would be administered to often. She had a CTscan and it showed there was air in her brain as well as fluid. A miracle happened and a new doctor took her case. He told them he could help her by putting in a shunt. There was a less than 5% risk. They prayed. The surgery was successful. She had to have a 2nd surgery; she did well. They didn't know if she would be able to regain function. They were at the hospital during Thanksgiving giving thanks right along with the hospital staff. Today she is running!

■ Her sister (and ours) stood up. She told us she is so thankful to be mobile again! God is blessing her so much. It's not because she's so good. She's so thankful—God is so good.

■ A sister told us that she and her daughter

have changed roles. They are so thankful for God's blessings on them. She told us a story of the eagles—in a storm they fly high and into the sunlight. She tries to do the same...close to the Lord. During the administration she had this morning she asked God for a sign—that He's with her; a sign came during her administration. She was filled with the Spirit. She praises and thanks God.

■ A brother told us he has felt the Spirit ever since he got here this morning. He realized this morning that he's been doing something wrong. He told us being a sinner isn't one of the six principles of the gospel! We need to come out of Babylon. He's realized he's not a sinner; he's a REPENTER! Repentance gives us the opportunity to change. Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is around the corner.

■ A brother says God's been teaching him to lean on Him. #1- Some time ago, he'd been given sermons for an entire year. Every one of them was applicable. This year he was told it's the year of the bride. #2- A girl in Honduras dreamed she was dressed in a bridal gown and standing on top of the tallest mountain. God's Kingdom will be the highest. She was shown they need deep roots in the church—deep to hold on to Christ. Another sister had a dream about brides. She saw a bride that was hesitant about putting on her bridal gown. She saw a large auditorium and only a few white gowns. Our roots have got to be deep so we can weather the storm and be the bride.

■ A brother told us of something that happened years ago: the Spirit fell on him to write down scriptures. Later that day he was asked to fill in. The Lord is here to help us. He's also a repentor, and a forgiver. We have to be a forgiver—if not, God can't forgive us. We don't have to wait for an apology. The love of God manifests in us.

■ A brother thanked us for our prayers for him, for this day and the Spirit among us. The Lord's will has been done. The Lord told him that his ministry will be changing. He's thankful for a called

ministry. We have weaknesses of men. He looked and saw the eight men up front this morning—the next generation. Encourage wives to pray for their husbands and self to help him. Study and encourage...for strength, and the coming forth of Zion, and the millennial reign.

■ A brother told us that Mexico is praying for us. We have a great Lord...He is in charge. God gave him the best work and he is very happy to be in charge in Mexico. Technology helps them to communicate better. God has fixed many things in his life—He'll take care of him. We need to be prepared. We are blessed in the church; the church is growing. Recently they lost an elder in Cancun; he preached sermons 3-4 times a week...for ten years. The brother gave counsel to another just before he passed: "Do not stop serving God." God loves us. He loves His church, His work, His Kingdom.

SPECIAL MUSIC SERVICE SUNDAY AFTERNOON—Sr. Manon Lawrence was in charge. Elder Dan Lawrence gave the opening prayer. Many beautiful offerings of talents were heard and very much appreciated.

SUNDAY AFTERNOON sermon—Sermon by Apostle Jay Moser. Priest D. A. Vogel assisted. Br. Jay told us the title he will give us is "Disciple—Look at the Compass of Your Character; a compass to go by." In 1 Peter 2:6 we are told, "I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone." It never moves; the cornerstone is Jesus Christ.

His 1st reference point—Proverbs 6:16-19—Things the Lord hates. (2) Filthy Fountain—1 Nephi 3:123-124—"gathered together unto battle" and "the fountain of filthy water" (3) evil spirits from the mouth—Revelation 16:13-14—This very hour—filthy words are coming out of their mouths...to gather us to a great battle. Br. Jay says, don't go with them, don't get sucked in. He gets agitated really quick, thus he takes his news in

small portions... (4) God's word—Isaiah 55:11 (5) Matthew 5:3-9—Seven characteristics. It's our calling—what do you hear and feel? "Come unto Me"? This is the light white linen of the Bride. We should strive to look like this. This is what you should look like. The clothing of righteousness and character of Christ. (6) They are hated—Matthew 5:10-12—He that loveth his life shall lose it. John 12:25; Romans 8:36-37. (7) Visible Character—Matthew 5:13-16 (8) Who is the salt? Who is the light? The poor in spirit, the mourners, and the meek. (9) Poor in Spirit—3 Nephi 5:50—the blessed, favored, happy; the poor in spirit, those humble people who are not always right; they slow down their decisions, they may ask more questions. The poor in spirit are less self-confident. The poor in spirit have accepted God as their only wealth. (10) The cursing and the blessing—Alma 21:17-18—For the Lord cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance. (11) Mourning—3 Nephi 5:51; 2 Corinthians 7:10; Romans 8:23, and James 4:9. These things bring us to do good works. We must love and suffer with others. Jacob 3:47. (12) Meek—3 Nephi 5:52, John 18:23 and Acts 16:37. (13) Hunger and thirst: 3 Nephi 5:53 and Psalm 63:1-2. Hunger and thirst for righteousness and for opportunities to reach out. (14) To be free—1 Nephi 2:46-47. (15) They become a light—Alma 13:52-53, 64. (16) Merciful—3 Nephi 5:54—We need mercy. If we need it, then we also need to give it. (17) Purify your heart—3 Nephi 5:55, Galatians 5:24, and John 2:16. Can't do many of these things without God's help—this is one you can't even start without God. (18) Make God's peace—3 Nephi 5:56; and 2 Corinthians 5:18-19. (19) A Promise—Acts 2:17-21; Moroni 7:53; and 1 Peter 2:9-10.

MONDAY MORNING Prayer Service—Elder Ken Oar in charge as-

sisted by Elder Adam Porter. Br. Ken welcomed us and asked that we use this time to petition the Lord that Conference be led by His will. He told us he has asked God to take his life and keep him guided under God's hand. He has. He read Alma 26:218. We are repenters. God wants us to be specific—He wants us to admit our sins and ask for forgiveness for each. Not to blanket them. Pray throughout the day.

There was only a short time for testimonies—

■ A brother thanked God. Some time back he had evil thoughts coming in to his mind—God brought to him that Christ never entertained such. He is not yet perfected.

There was an administration.

MONDAY EVENING Song Service—Sister Manon Lawrence in charge. Elder Rick Olson assisted.

MONDAY EVENING sermon was given by Apostle Brian McIndoo, assisted by Elder David Rudd. Br. Brian told us that we've heard everything he prepared for us six months ago in the last 48 hours. He told us we should be preparing for the end times and the return of Jesus Christ. Br. Brian read Hebrews 7:19—The moon does not produce light, it only reflects. The Old Testament only reflects His light. The moon is symbolic of the covenant made—which points to Jesus Christ. The law showed people to Christ. He read Revelation 12:1-6, 14—The woman in prophetic language is the church. The light is Christ. He told us the woman has a crown of 12 stars on her head: this describes the 12 Apostles. We're told she was with child, cried, traveling in birth, and pained to be delivered. Christ built His church with great pain. He told us the Roman Empire was ready to devour Christ's Church. The woman brought forth a man child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron, and her child was caught up unto God

and to His throne. The Church was fed and nourished for a time, times, and half a time, FROM the face of the serpent. From, meaning the source (the enemy nourished her). The wilderness in prophetic language is a place of rejection or punishment: away from God. Br. Brian read Isaiah 14:17, Hosea 2:3, Numbers 14:33, 32:13; Revelation 17:1-2, 3-6; Revelation 12:15-16; Revelation 12:4—Constantine tried to help the church. He protected it. Two great wings that let her fly in to a new era. Made church leader the government, which was the Pope. He read 2 Thessalonians 2:11; tells us God allowed them over to believe a lie; a falling away. The Roman government had to be taken away. The Earth did not love the church—people loved the lie. In Revelation 12:17 we're told the Dragon went to make war; the Christians were martyred during the Inquisition. They wouldn't swallow up the lie. This also points to the Reformation, and then there was the Restoration: the Church was restored April 6, 1830. Revelation 14:6-7 tells of another Angel... the gospel has been restored (Daniel saw an image which stood complete when the church was restored). We are to make preparations—the Day of His judgment is near. We have one last time to work in the vineyard of the Lord (Jacob 3:125-126). We are told, "this is for the last time I will prune..." That's God's judgment. He'll gather the nations of Israel. AHEAD—(which may not be far off)—in Revelation 19:7-9 we are told, "His wife has made herself ready." In the parable of the ten virgins—half were not ready for His return. We have to prepare spiritually... consciously prepare if desire to be called to that marriage supper of the lamb.

TO BE READY—1 Peter 2:9; Revelation 18:2-4. (2) Be obedient to God's word—Luke 11:28, Alma 17:51. (3) Charity—1 Corinthians 13:1-3. (4) Unity in the body—4 Nephi 1:17-20;

Ephesians 4:11-14; 1 Peter 3:8; Isaiah 52:8; 1 Corinthians 3:3. (5) Stand against sin—Moroni 6:7 and Isaiah 5:20. (6) Willing to forgive—Moroni 6:8. (7) Believe in God's ability—Moroni 10:18-19. (8) Prophecy and Revelation. (9) Miracles ceased? Moroni 7:41-43 (Unbelief). (10) Tithing—Malachi 3:8 and 3 Nephi 11:11. (11) Making the Spirit welcome—Ephesians 4:30; Moroni 6:9. (12) Example, Witness, Influence—Matthew 5:13-14. (13) Put on Robes of Righteousness—Revelation 19:7-9, Matthew 5:20; Moroni 10:27-30, Matthew 22:1-14, Revelation 7:9; Jeremiah 16:17; Revelation 19:9, Matthew 7:21; Revelation 3:5 to end. Prepare for God.

TUESDAY MORNING Prayer Service—Priest D. A. Vogel was in charge, assisted by Priest Bruce Haines. Brother D. A. read Matthew 24:3 and 12 and explained that today family bonds are eroding, there is a different normal. It's not right. He read from Ezekiel 36:23-28; Moroni 7:52-53; and James 3:13-18. Remember that Charity is the pure love of Christ.

We had a season of prayer, the service was opened to us for the leading of the Spirit—

- A sister told us that before her husband came into her life she had a date "gone bad" with another. Her mother didn't want her to go but she did. It didn't go well; she didn't go into detail. She got dropped off afterward. She found herself locked out of the house. For years she hated him, but then realized, "Who is she not to forgive him?" She wanted him to be judged righteously. Years later she saw him across the street; he had four little girls. The Lord let her know that it was his punishment as he'll worry about each one of them. Only God knows the hearts. Anger is the devil working. Pray. It'll be gone. The devil is trying to cause division.
- A sister told us she had been reading in Hebrews recently. Christ is the new cov-

enant. "Our sacrifice should be praise and from our lips thanksgiving." Christ brought the law of the heart. He wants our hearts molded unto Him. When they visited a couple recently they said they were also visiting and studying with another church. The other church told them that to be baptized they'd have to sign a paper and pledge to pay. They asked, what would they have to do to join the Church of Christ? Her husband told them that their hearts would need to be right and to repent. The man answered that that was harder. Our sister is thankful for these services, thankful for the safety and blessings during the tornado recently.

- A sister told us that she's a peacemaker; she needs peace. Paul killed Christians before he was called. How did the people feel about Paul back then? In our humanness we find it hard to forgive. We forget how God loves. She knows what it's like to be forgiven, to feel God's love and to feel His presence. She longs for a unifying of this body. We don't know others' experiences...those who make them who they are. We can't judge their walk...we're not in their shoes. God is big enough to handle it. We have to fulfill what He wants in us. She wants to be someone who can be used by the Lord. We need to humble ourselves before Him.
- A sister told us she's had many miracles in her life. At age 15, newly baptized, she was going to a high school that she didn't like. She was participating in voice. She was to go to a competition in Columbia. She had to take the bus; she'd never taken one before. Several problems happened on the way. She didn't think she'd do well singing after all the stress, but she did. Our sister went home and told her mother what had happened and her mother just smiled. Her mother had asked the Lord to go with her because she couldn't; she had prayed for her all day and had told God that if her daughter would do well she was sure that she would sing for Him all her days.
- A brother told us he is thankful for having been raised in the church. During the sermon last night he heard there are

to be "no manner of ites." Where did they go? They were converted. Apostle Peter was told... "when you are converted..." He read 4th Nephi 1:3. Conversion brought about a condition—because of a love of God (all things common is a fruit). It prevailed until they stopped performing the actions of God. What does it look like when the love of God waxes cold? Pride. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 8:9-15: all things common. Action steps are required to gain unity.

- A sister told us that in the Book of Mormon it says, "Those that love the Lord shall find His favor forever." Last summer she went to granddaughter's wedding. She enjoyed it so much. The meal was in the old barn and it was dark—she couldn't see anything, not even her plate. They sat and waited a bit hoping their eyes would adjust—just then a sunbeam came down through the roof and right to her plate. She could see her food! God shows Himself to us.
- A brother told us in a season of prayer he found that he couldn't pray for someone. God had brought back to his memory something from twenty years prior...he'd felt he'd been slighted by the sister they were praying for. God led him to forgive her right then and there. Then it was okay. He read a poem to us (in part), a poem that he'd been led to. He used to wonder, why did we need prayer services? This poem was about intercessory prayer and it answered that. We're told even to pray for our enemies; those prayers build unity.
- A sister told us when we pray for others and they pray for us it changes our hearts. A sister was harsh with her and her family many years ago. She built up resentments. A small prayer group started; they prayed for our families on Sunday afternoon. This sister was in the group. For years, they prayed for each other's families. Our sister's heart softened towards this sister. A change happened to both of them. This sister passed away and before she died our sister let her know that she would continue to pray for her children. Resentments need to be looked at and addressed.

TUESDAY AFTERNOON Prayer Service—Priest Bruce Haines in charge, assisted by Priest Stephen Gould. Br. Bruce told us we all have human weaknesses. We are all repenters, rather than sinners. He has to repent day in and day out. He makes the same mistakes time after time. He read Romans 7:18 to the end (Nephi said almost the same thing.), Ether 5:28, 27, and Jacob 3:7-16. He told us we can only know what He has revealed unto us. He prays the Lord is revealing Himself to our apostles and elders at the East Local.

Br. Stephen told us last fall he'd had a dream given to him. In his dream, there were strands of the Restored Gospel and other faiths, all in tangles. The Restored strands were almost invisible. When he awoke his mind was filled with scriptures. The Lord told him that was the untangling.

We had a season of prayer and the service was opened to us:

■ A brother told us that his hope is that there are no hardened hearts at the meeting of apostles and elders. He'd had a hardened heart years ago; knowing, yet still pushing God away. No one had a positive effect on him. It turns you bad, but the Lord's love and longsuffering turned it around. He was baptized at age 51. The Lord loved him enough to reach out and allow him cancer in 1995. The Lord humbled him—he was compelled to be humble. The Lord showed him a different way. A hardened heart is hard to overcome. He's thankful for the Lord's love and patience with him.

There was a special done by a brother. This song was given to him by the Spirit to play even though it's a sacrament song. He played "Here at Thy Table Lord," on his violin.

■ A brother told us the Lord has given us a weapon of love. He requested a season of prayer now for harmony and love with our brothers. A season of prayer followed.

TUESDAY EVENING Song Service—Manon Lawrence in charge, assisted by Elder Bob Hedrick.

TUESDAY EVENING Sermon—given by Elder Rick Olson, assisted by Elder Mike Bevaart. Br. Rick told us he titled his sermon, "Articles of Faith and Practice - #17." He read 2 Nephi 6:56-64. He told us we need to be good stewards in our time of probation; our wealth can be our God. He read Luke 6:20-26—There's a lot in the Bible that links good or bad to money. It's important as to how you earn that money and does it cause you to sin? Br. Rick read Luke 18:19-30. He told a story about seeing a woman with a sign asking for help a few days ago; the Lord prompted him to give her something—all he had was a twenty-dollar bill. He gave it. Afterward he saw her walk across the street in the cold rain, go to a 5 or 6-year-old girl, and then they left. He thanked God that he'd given her something. He read Jacob 2:22. Be free with your substance; share it with others. He read Matthew 25:14-30. He told us the money the Lord gives us needs to be used to help others. We can't hang on to what we have and not use it for His work. God knows what we're going to need. We have a lot of hail damage on the church; the roof and the siding needs to be replaced. We have enough to do it. We have to keep our focus on Christ and do what He wants us to do. He read 3 Nephi 11:9-18. If we want to see strength and members we need to pay our tithe. We need callings. God is good for His promise—if we're doing what we should do. We need to prepare; we need to be righteous. If you're withholding tithes then you are disobedient. Br. Rick read Hebrews 7:1-10.

WEDNESDAY MORNING Prayer Service—in charge was Priest Stephen Kimball, assisted by Elder Jim Yates, Jr. Br. Stephen read Alma 16:177-187. We don't have other words

of the prophet Zenos. The Zoramites were a strange bunch with bad practices. He told us he'd woken up this morning with a scripture put on his heart: Proverbs 6:4-5. He got a phone call from his wife late last night where she told him a man had knocked on their front door and asked for a blanket. She called the neighbor and he came right over. The homeless man fought with him and police were called; the man was taken away. Br. Stephen asked us, "As you're being attacked, do you stop? No, you run with all your heart." Focus to fight the adversary. Let's pray with a sense of urgency.

There was a season of prayer, and after Br. Stephen told us we look worn and beaten. Withdrawing from the world and now in a calm and peaceful state—we're tired and beaten. This is the place we need to be.

WEDNESDAY EVENING Song Service—Manon Lawrence in charge.

WEDNESDAY EVENING Sermon was given by Elder Chris Moran, assisted by Apostle Roland Sarratt. Br. Chris told us we have a small window of time before the Lord returns; time to prepare. We have "One Shot" to get it right. Br. Chris told us of some dreams. First is- given to his oldest daughter, February 2017 – *"I was upstairs in my room in the middle of the day. It was sunny outside. I heard trumpet sounds coming from outside so I decided to go out. I walked down the stairs, through the living room, the kitchen, and out the garage door. After I was outside, I saw people, which included some of our neighbors, my mom, and one of my sisters. The trumpets were still playing. I looked up in the sky and I saw Jesus with two angels – one at his left side and one at his right side. He then came down and floated slightly above our cul-de-sac. I realized I didn't have my Bible and*

Book of Mormon and went back inside to get them. I went back upstairs to my room. My dad was there. I was really excited and told my dad that Jesus is coming back. My dad said 'Yes, he is coming back.' After grabbing my scripture I woke up from my dream."

Br. Chris reminded us we have "One Shot" to prepare. He read Alma 9:40-41 and Alma 16:227. He also told us about a revelation given by a lady (not of the Church of Christ). He read part of it and explained that our watchmen need to sound the trumpets. He read Matthew 7:21-23. We are told for "Him to know us, and us to know Him."

We have ONE SHOT to: (1) Develop a relationship with the Lord: Revelation 1:10; Ephesians 5:18. (2) Remove things from our lives that are a hindrance to our walk with the Lord. Luke 21:34-36. (3) Hear the Lord: 3 Nephi 7:13-22; Isaiah 6; 3 Nephi 9:98-106. (4) Remove sin from our lives; Ecclesiastes 12: 13-14. (5) Trust the Lord even if it involves uncertainty or perceived risks: 1 Nephi 1:65-66; and Isaiah 42:16. (6) Be careful of what we say about others or to others: Matthew 12:36-37. (7) Attend church regularly; be a regular attender of church. (8) Not be lost: 1 Nephi 2:65-67. (9) Remain positive, and endure to the end. (10) Seek the Lord: Isaiah 55:6; 2 Chronicles 15:1-19.

Br. Chris told us more dreams, of one given to Adam Porter: he was in a place of business and it was his responsibility to be profitable. He was found to be lacking and his superiors were about to take his life. He pleaded with them that he would do better. He then opened his eyes to realize that the peril had ceased. At least for then.... Br. Chris asked, "Are you profitable?"

Another dream, given to his wife, February 10 or 11, 2017 – "I had a dream and wondered after waking in the middle of the night whether it was a spiritual dream or not. I then fell

back to sleep and had the exact same dream again. In my dream I was driving south down a local road (O'Day), traveling to my parent's house. It was a beautiful day. The sun was shining and the sky was blue. Although I never saw the vehicle I was in I assumed I was driving. I was alone in the vehicle but others were outside as I drove by. I didn't know any of them. As I approached a crossroad (Washington Center) I stopped and got out of my car and stood with the other people. We were all looking up to the sky when I heard a loud trumpet sound. I was looking and trying to determine where the sound was coming from. Nobody else heard it, though they were also looking in the sky. I remember feeling alone and wondered why all the other people around me didn't hear the trumpet. I continued to my parent's house. Once I was on the road my parents live on (Leesburg Rd.) and nearing my parent's home I looked further down the road past where my parents lived. Passing our family farm was a large ship-like structure covering both car lanes moving very slowly towards me. It was just passing the woods on the south side of the road. It was black and wooden and had swinging axes on it. Men were riding on it and also walking beside it. The men were wearing black and carrying guns. They were trying to find anyone that had heard the trumpet to kill them. As I pulled into my parent's driveway people were running to and fro trying to find a place to hide from the ship that was approaching. They were running around my parent's barn and trying to get into the doors and hide under anything they could find. I saw my mother standing on the pavement by the garage. She was calm, unlike many around her. I began telling her about the trumpet sound I heard and

she said she heard it as well. I was greatly relieved to know that I wasn't the only one to hear it. She asked me to come into the house with the others who had heard the trumpet. There was a great peace among the people inside. We all made our way into the basement and embraced in a circle with our arms around each other. My mother was beside me and our arms were linked. We then all knelt with our faces down. Each one of us had one hand over the other. We were all very calm. We at that time didn't feel as though it was the end of our life here on earth, but rather we were 'practicing' what we were to do when Christ returned. We knew that we would be safe for some time. There was a great peace among all of us. This entire process from beginning to end (hearing the trumpet, etc.) would be repeated when it is really time for us to spend eternity with God."

Not everyone heard the trumpets— (1) Joel 2:1. Those that heard the trumpets were being hunted down. (2) 1 Nephi 7:34-48. Some people were panicking, others were calm and had great peace. Those that were assembled were knelt down in prayer. Need to help other Christians and teach of the Church of Christ. Share, don't be guarded. (3) Romans 12:12. Work with the Lord. Those who heard the trumpet were 'practicing' for the return of the Lord. Look up the definition of practice. (4) Revelation 19:7-8. Sense of urgency—don't forget about this.

With thanksgiving and praise to the Lord,

Your reporter, Deb Haines





OBITUARY

Apostle William A. Sheldon

May 24, 1922 ~ February 24, 2017

Apostle William Allen Sheldon, at the age of ninety-four, passed away Friday, February 24, 2017 at his home. He was born May 24, 1922 in Independence, Missouri, and lived most of his life there. The second of three siblings, William was by all accounts a good kid and spiritually minded. Because of hard times, he and his siblings were separated at an early age, and he ended up living for a time with an aunt and uncle, and then with his grandparents, before finally being reunited with his father. It was during this period that his biological mother died and his father married Sister Alta Case, the sister to Brother Maynard Case. He also lived in the home of the Kenneth Smith and B. C. Flint families for a time before being drafted into the military. He served his time in the Army Air Corps during the Second World War.

William was baptized into the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) August 18, 1940, by Elder Kenneth J. Smith. At the age of twenty he was called to be an elder and was ordained on April 12,

1942. Because of his relationship with Christ he suffered a little persecution in the military. He got the nickname of "Father" because he knelt beside his bed to talk with his Savior before going to sleep.

It was on leave from the military that he met the love of his life, Doris Babcock. Not surprisingly it was at a church service in a member's home in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He never really had a chance. The pretty girl that caught his eye followed him into the other room where he had left his coat, and she kissed him. They were married April 13, 1944, and life changed forever for him. After the war he resumed civil life with all its responsibilities, which included working at the Butler Manufacturing Company in Kansas City, and raising children.

At the 1950 General Church Conference of the Church of Christ, William was called to be an apostle, along with Brother Don Housknecht. They were ordained April 11, 1950. This led to an early retirement for William to pursue full time missionary

work. His most important contribution to humanity was his example of stability in an uncertain world. The example of Christ as an unchanging standard was no doubt his model for his family and the church. He truly became a representative of the "old school," having been taught by some of the early apostles and church members. He defended what he knew were the beliefs of this church. He preached sermons, taught classes, wrote articles in the *Zion's Advocate*, and wrote tracts and other literature on church doctrine for the Board of Publications. He also served as the editor of the *Zion's Advocate* from time to time and served many years on the Board of Publications. He was on the song book committee and was primarily responsible for putting together our *Zion's Hymnal*.

Brother Sheldon did some traveling throughout the U. S. and he had occasion to travel in some foreign countries with his wife or with other ministers to visit contacts and church members. His wife Doris often gave testimony of them picking up

hitchhikers when they were traveling by automobile. She would tell how the riders were given short sermons as they traveled. The Sheldons never missed an opportunity to spread the Gospel, and they never seemed to fear the danger they might encounter by picking up hitchhikers.

On one occasion while en route to Phoenix, Arizona, Brother Sheldon suffered a near death experience with a burst appendix. He was stranded in Oklahoma at a member's home. One of the apostles was sent for and administered to him. The Lord heard the cries of the people and he recovered completely. He bore his testimony many times, saying it was a miracle.

One of Brother Sheldon's most successful missions was in upper New York State where the Akwesasne Local in Hogansburg was established. He followed through with a contact made in Independence at the Visitors' Center. The Spirit of God guided him by going there and teaching those people the gospel that we proclaim. We now have a strong congregation there today. Most of our contacts that have been successful came to him there at the Visitors' Center, which he passed on to the other apostles. They have traveled near and far to follow up in spreading the gospel throughout the world.

In later years his most dedi-

cated efforts were spent in the Church of Christ Headquarters building meeting visitors who came to see this historic site. He was given the appointment as General Church Representative in the Office for many years. He used the opportunity to tell visitors the history of this church and our beliefs. With little effort he could recite from memory the story of the church and the particulars of the historical site of the temple and the place for the establishment of Zion as was revealed to the church in 1831. His hope for Zion was very evident when he proclaimed the need for us to become the pure in heart that we might become residents in Zion. For many years Brother Sheldon was obviously blessed by the protecting hand of the Lord while he spent six full days a week, year around, at the Church Visitors' Center, mostly by himself.

Brother Sheldon was active in the establishment of the East Independence, Missouri, Local Church. He and Brother Curtis Yates took the lead in building the church for the local and spent much time and labor to accomplish that work. He was motivated both physically and spiritually, whether he was hammering a nail or preaching a sermon.

William Sheldon was preceded in death by his brother, Arthur, his sister, Virginia, and his wife,

Doris, of sixty-six years. He leaves behind three children: Darl Temple of Kansas City, Missouri, Randy Sheldon and his wife, Becky, of Grain Valley, Missouri, and Ron Sheldon and his wife, Julie, of Blue Springs, Missouri; six grandchildren, fourteen great-grandchildren and a host of church family members that he held great hope of reuniting with at the sound of the last trump.

Due to health problems in the latter part of Brother Sheldon's life he needed additional help in his home. Caregivers were hired and obtained as his need increased. We know that Brother Sheldon appreciated the care he received by the caregivers and he expressed himself from time to time for the kindness that was shown him. Special efforts were made to comfort him, such as reading to him and singing hymns with him. The family wishes to thank all those who have so graciously given of their time and efforts to aid them in the care of their loved one.

A visitation followed by the funeral service was held at the Church of Christ (Temple Lot) in Independence, Missouri, on Sunday afternoon, March 5, 2017. Burial was Monday morning, March 6, at New Salem Cemetery, Independence, Missouri.

NEWS

PHOENIX Local News



Greetings from the Phoenix local. I can't begin to tell you the wonderful winter and spring we had here in the desert! The temperature over the Hedrick home never went below freezing, we had quite a bit of rain and the cool spring weather lasted into April! What could be better?

As is usually the case, quite a bit is going on within our church community if you choose to take the time to get involved. There are numerous get-togethers for young people, junior young people, Bible study classes throughout the week—pretty much something for everyone! Something new that started up that I have not had the opportunity to attend yet is a Thursday evening study class put on each week by a different minister. The study travels from home to home and is a good chance to increase your understanding of different subjects.

Along with that, we don't want to forget the union in January of Sr. Natasha Gill to Br. Nathan Brown. Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Brown and the happy parents! In February a dinner was held for all our senior members (and a few of those who happened to be visiting). We



Nathan & Natasha

had a church clean-up day in March and I, for one, have to tell you that my lovebirds were a very happy group of birds, benefiting from the fruits of our labor. They absolutely devoured several branches I took to them from the mulberry tree (I believe) that was pruned. Should anyone notice any more branches missing at some point, I think you may know who the thief is!

A very important group that our pastor put together is focusing on the present and future needs of our local. They are delivering real solutions to our growing pains for the coming years, giving us many things to think and pray about.

The Program Committee is doing a really neat thing at church on Sunday evenings before our 6:00 service. We usu-



Skit with Melissa, Jen, Laura and Katie

ally have a song service from 5:30-6:00pm. They have started presenting specials where songs will be sung depicting a special person in church history and/or a reading will be done by someone. It doesn't happen every single Sunday so if you don't want to miss one be sure to make it to each song service! You will find it very much worth the effort.

Please remember to continue to pray for all of our brothers and sisters in need. It seems that, although we see so many blessings happening around us all the time, the pressures from the world keep creeping in, be it physical, mental, monetary or social. I would ask that we try to remember each member in our local, and even if you don't know specifically what types of problems that family may have, you ask the Lord that He may bless them.

I hope that you all have a very happy and fruitful summer.

*God bless,
Sr. DiAnn Hedrick*



February Senior Supper

NOTICES

REUNIONS

- ▶ **JUNE 2-4:** 18TH Annual Idaho Reunion at 2200 E. State St., Eagle, ID 83616.
Pastor Rich Bove (208) 870-3807
Asst. Pastor Roy Coon (208) 288-5344
- ▶ **JUNE 9-11:** 2017 Colorado Reunion, with a picnic on Monday, July 12.
John Larson (970) 812-2820
john.julie98@yahoo.com
Karen Bell (970) 210-0097
kbell@gvii.net
Liza Hedrick (970) 462-8200
liza.hedrick@gmail.com
- ▶ **JUNE 16-18:** Michigan Reunion. Please RSVP to reserve a cabin or campsite (if possible by June 2nd for a final count).
Elder Adam Porter (616) 240-3902
preacherporter@sbcglobal.net
Jordan Lee (269) 945-7784
jordanmlee22@yahoo.com
- ▶ **JULY 7-9:** Akwesasne New York Local Reunion.
Brandon Tarbell (518) 358-9153
btargbell@thetmg.com
- ▶ **JULY 28-30:** 2017 Missouri Reunion
Apostle Smith Brickhouse
Apostle Michael McGhee
Apostle Jeffery Odham
Apostle Roland Sarratt
- ▶ **SEPTEMBER 1-4:** 2017 Minnesota Reunion at 14748 Wilderness Drive NE, Bemidji, MN 56601.
Elder Samuel Gould (218) 368-1427
Elder Merlin Eddy (651) 338-2253
Elder Winfield (Bill) Gould (218) 586-2743
Sister Linda Gould (218) 368-8419
- ▶ **OCTOBER 20-22:** Ontario Reunion
Mike Bevaart (226) 934-4250
mikebevaart@gmail.com

HONDURAS

- ▶ **MAY 27:** Marriage Retreat/Kid's Bible School (12 and under)
- ▶ **JULY 8:** Pre-Marriage Retreat
- ▶ **SEPTEMBER 21-23:** General Reunion
- ▶ **JANUARY 11-14, 2018:** Youth Camp
Elder Ronnie Gill
rongill@la-comarca.org
Elder Thomas Gill
thomasgill@la-comarca.org

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

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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
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A Marvelous Work and a Wonder, by Daniel MacGregor	4.50
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THE FOLLOWING GENERAL CHURCH PUBLICATIONS ARE FREE OF CHARGE:*

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 Apostasy from the New Testament Church
 Articles of Faith & Practice of the Church of Christ
 Article of Faith, #1 (concerning God; earliest Restoration history)
 Article of Faith, #9 - (concerning the Bible and Book of Mormon)
 Baptism for the Dead—A Fallacy
 The Book of Commandments - Its Role in the History of the Restoration
 Brief Commentary: Book of Commandments & Doctrine and Covenants
 A Brief History of the Church of Christ
 A Call to National Repentance - Hearken to the Words of Jesus Christ
 The Christian Sabbath is the Lord's Day - Sunday
 Colored Tracts to Native Americans: 1) Book in the Stone Box 2) Did You Know? 3) Epistle to American Indians 4) Promises of God and Straight Talk
 Concerning Marriage and Polygamy
 The Cost of Salvation
 Does it Make a Difference to Which Church You Belong?
 El Libro De Mandamientos - Su Funcion En La Historia De La Restauracion De La Iglesia De Cristo (Spanish Book of Commandments Commentary)
 Evidences of the Book of Mormon
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 God's Promises to Israel
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 Is Marriage for Time and Eternity?—A Fallacy
 The Last Maya King and the Liberation of Jerusalem
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 The Latter Day Restoration
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 Principles of the Gospel—Faith & Repentance
 Principles of the Gospel—Laying on of Hands
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 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:
<http://www.churchofchrist-tl.org/>