

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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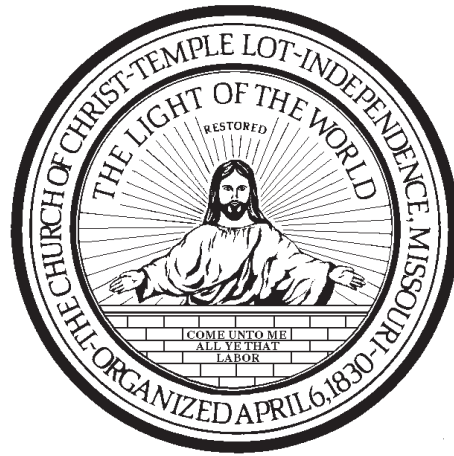
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B

ut the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess
the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever. —Daniel: 7-18





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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.

Visit us at: <http://churchofchrist-tl.org/>

The Hope of the Saints



Elder Ronnie Gill

Part 2

Which Leads Us To The 7th Day Or Millennium,

Or The 7th Feast - Sukkot

Perfect Timing

(God is never late)

When we think about the Millennium we have to keep in mind that God has a set time for what He will do, and that that time was set from the beginning. The fulfillment of God's words today are not random events, but planned events. God put into motion the world and everything that is in it, with both a beginning and a planned end. This is part of the reason that we can have confidence in all

God's plans and promises:

“God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands as though he needed anything, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation. That they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though

he be not far from every one of us:" Acts 17:24-27.

"Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? Are not his days also like the days of an hireling?" Job 7:1.

"And he said, Behold, I will make thee know what shall be in the last end of the indignation: for at the time appointed the end shall be" Daniel 8:19.

Heading out for the Wedding

(He's on His way)

As we can see through scripture there is an appointed time and God knows His time. Our confidence is that God has set things in motion and promised us that He never changes, so the time is still set. As we see the rising and setting of the sun we know time keeps moving on. Thus, at the appointed time God expects His people to be waiting and watching. He doesn't expect them to be guessing. As we can see in the parable of the 10 virgins they went out at an appointed time, expectant:

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their

lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.

"While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at mid night there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps" Matthew 25:1, 5-7.

"For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord" 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war:

"And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white

horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.

"And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" Revelation 19:11, 13-14, 16.

"The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" 2 Peter 3:9.

A Wonderful Testimony

(In the mouth of 2 or 3 witnesses)

Phoenix, Arizona
September 17th, 1957

It seems I was in a small white church. I was in a small side room studying for a sermon. In the larger room of the church there was a service in session. I heard a commotion outside in the street so I stepped to the door to see what was going on. I saw many people going along the street in one direction and all seemed to be in a hurry. I was given to know they were all going to a wedding feast. All of a sudden I noticed there were many of

my own people around me, my own church people that is. I had a great desire to introduce my loved ones to all those who were going to the feast, because it seemed I loved these people in the street with a deep love even though I did not know them. I began to introduce them to one, and as I did so they were all so happy and they would go on together. At this point I noticed that there were a great many church people asleep in the church yard. They did not care what or who the people in the street were or where they were going. I also noticed that on the streets that led into other parts of the town all the houses were dark. There were no lights in the houses and all the people in them were asleep.

At this point I turned to go back into the church so I could resume my study. I seemed to think I had plenty of time to prepare my sermon but as I entered the church I looked at a clock on the wall and, to my surprise, it was five minutes until midnight. I immediately began to study in great haste so that I could finish my work before the appointed time to meet the Bridegroom, Who would be at the feast at the stroke of twelve midnight.

Apostle Leon (Skeet) Yates

Bringing them in (For the Feast)

As noted, in order for there to be a wedding feast there must be a gathering, and prophetically God has announced this gathering throughout scripture. As we see the gathering we should understand that the wedding feast is nigh.

“For, lo, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will bring again the captivity of my people Israel and Judah, saith the Lord: and I will cause them to return to the land that I gave to their fathers, and they shall possess it” Jeremiah 30:3.

“And then shall the powers of heaven come down among them, and I also will be in the midst; And then shall the work of the Father commence at that day, even when this gospel shall be preached among the remnant of this people. ‘Verily I say unto you, at that day shall the work of the Father commence among all the dispersed of My people – Yea, even the tribes which have been lost which the Father hath led away out of Jerusalem – Yea, the work shall commence among all

the dispersed of My people, with the Father; to prepare the way whereby they may come unto Me, that they may call on the Father in My name. Yea, and then shall the work commence with the Father among all nations in preparing the way whereby His people may be gathered home to the land of their inheritance; And they shall go out from all nations, and they shall not go out in haste nor go by flight; For I will go before them, saith the Father; And I will be their rearward...” 3 Nephi 10:4-8.

“And that a New Jerusalem should be built up upon this land unto the remnant of the seed of Joseph, for the which things there has been a type – For as Joseph brought his father down into the Land of Egypt, even so he died there; Wherefore, the Lord brought a remnant of the seed of Joseph out of the Land of Jerusalem, that He might be merciful unto the seed of Joseph, that they should perish not, even as He was merciful unto the father of Joseph, that he should perish not. Wherefore, the remnant of the house of Joseph

shall be built up upon this land, and it shall be a land of their inheritance; And they shall build up a holy city unto the Lord, like unto the Jerusalem of old; And they shall no more be confounded until the end come when the earth shall pass away; And there shall be a new heaven and a new earth; And they shall be like unto the old, save the old have passed away and all things have become new. And then cometh the New Jerusalem; And blessed are they which dwell therein, for it is they whose garments are white through the blood of the Lamb; And they are they which are numbered among the remnant of the seed of Joseph which were of the house of Israel. And then also cometh the Jerusalem of old and the inhabitants thereof; Blessed are they, for they have been washed in the blood of the Lamb; And they are they which were scattered and gathered in from the four quarters of the earth and from the North Countries, and are partakers of the fulfilling of the covenant which God made with their father Abraham” Ether 6:6-12.

The Wedding Celebration

(The fulfillment of the 7th feast – Sukkot)

As we read in the first part of the study, it is the Father who is ultimately in charge over the beginning of the wedding feast. We see this played out in the parable of the wedding feast:

“And Jesus answered and spake unto them again by parables, and said, The kingdom of heaven is like unto a certain king, which made a marriage for his son, And sent forth his servants to call them that were bidden to the wedding: and they would not come. Again, he sent forth other servants, saying, Tell them which are bidden, Behold, I have prepared my dinner: my oxen and my fatlings are killed, and all things are ready: come unto the marriage. But they made light of it, and went their ways, one to his farm, another to his merchandise: And the remnant took his servants, and entreated them spitefully, and slew them. But when the king heard thereof, he was wroth: and he sent forth his armies, and destroyed those murderers, and burned up their city. Then saith he to his servants, The wedding is ready, but they

which were bidden were not worthy. Go ye therefore into the highways, and as many as ye shall find, bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good: and the wedding was furnished with guests. And when the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: And he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? And he was speechless. Then said the king to the servants, Bind him hand and foot, and take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few are chosen.” Matthew 22:1-14

There are several important parts to this wedding parable: one is that there is an appointed time (no one starts the preparations for a feast without an appointed time to eat); two is that it is a gathering... many are invited but not all come. It's important to note that the people who are invited should not be confused with the bride; the two are different and separate, which is what the last statement in verse fourteen means, “...for many are called, but

few are chosen.” Those who are called, or invited, are a great many, but those who are chosen, or the bride, are but few.

“And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunders, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. Let us be glad and rejoice, and give hon-

our to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God” Rev. 19:7-9.

Armageddon

(Time to clean house)

After one millennium the world seems to have chosen to do evil once again, though throughout this past millennium the devil was chained and was not, apparently, able to tempt man. So, God chooses to once again destroy this world, only this time it isn't with water but with fire:

“And when the thousand



years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Ma-gog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them” Revelation 20:7-9.

“And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was no place for them” Revelation 20:11.

“Come near, ye nations, to hear; and hearken, ye people: let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and his fury upon all their armies: he hath utterly destroyed them, he hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses,

and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree” Isaiah 34:1-4.

“And He did expound all things, even from the beginning until the time that He should come in His glory; Yea, even all things which should come upon the face of the earth, even until the elements should melt with fervent heat, And the earth should be wrapped together as a scroll, and the heaven and the earth should pass away; And even unto the great and last day when all people and all kindreds and all nations and tongues shall stand before God to be judged of their works, whether they be good or whether they be evil – If they be good, to the resurrection of everlasting life, and if they be evil, to the resurrection of damnation, being on a parallel, the one on the one hand, and the other on the other hand – According to the mercy and the justice and

the holiness which is in Christ, which was before the world began” 3 Nephi 11:30-33.

Second Death

(Only for some)

The earth and heavens are gone; now comes the great white throne judgment.

As told by John the Revelator in Revelation 20:6 those who were part of the first resurrection have no part in this judgment, as they have already been judged. These are those who have not yet been judged:

“Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” Revelation 20:6.

“He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death” Revelation 2:11.

For those who did not overcome they must pass through the great white throne judgment, each being judged by his own works and

thoughts, each being verified with the book of Life:

“And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire” Revelation 20:12-15.

At this time we see that

God takes us into the 8th day, or the 8th millennium. There is a new earth, new heavens, and death itself has been vanquished. Life is now eternal, or without end.

And there shall be a New Heaven and a New Earth

(The 8th day)

“Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the Lord. On the first day shall be an holy convocation: ye shall do no servile work therein. Seven days ye shall offer an offering made by fire unto the Lord: on the eighth day shall be an holy convocation unto you; and ye shall offer an offering made by

fire unto the Lord: it is a solemn assembly; and ye shall do no servile work therein.”
Leviticus 23:34-36.

God's promise since the Old Testament is that there would be an eighth day, yet how can you have an eighth day if there are only seven days in a week? God was letting us know that time does not end when the week ends, but goes on into a new era. There are many great promises given in scripture in reference to the eighth day. It sounds like it will be an extraordinary time:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.



And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.” Revelation 21:1-7.

“For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a

joy. And I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: and the voice of weeping shall be no more heard in her, nor the voice of crying. There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an hundred years old shall be accursed. And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the Lord, and their offspring with them. And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear. The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, and the lion shall eat straw like the bullock: and dust shall be the serpent's meat. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, saith the Lord” Isaiah 65:17-25.

“And he shewed me a pure river of water of life,

clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever. And he said unto me, These sayings are faithful and true: and the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to shew unto his servants the things which must shortly be done. Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book” Revelation 22:1-7.

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

VCS: BRADLEY LOCAL REPORT

The first Vacation Church School (VCS) at the Bradley Local was held from Wednesday, July 19th, through Friday, July 21st. All the hard work of preparing lessons and crafts, finding music, decorating the church, and preparing food paid off when the kids came bouncing in on Wednesday. With this being the first year of Bradley hosting VCS everyone was excited about what the week would hold. Twenty six kids from New York, Ontario, Ohio, Indiana and Michigan made up the five classes of VCS, filling the church with laughter and singing. What a blessing it was.

All children began the day together listening to a message given by Elder Adam Porter or Elder Dennis Trudgen. They also sang together before breaking up into groups. The rest of their morning was filled with lessons, crafts, music, and skits. Lunch was also served at church for the children. Their bellies were filled each day before heading off for the afternoon activity.

Each afternoon the kids were kept busy with planned activities that left everyone ready for bed each night. Two of the days the kids went swimming at a local lake (which was a good place to clean up after an afternoon shaving cream fight!). The other day was spent at Sky Zone, an indoor

trampoline park!

The week ended with a service and an ice cream social on Friday night. The kids sang songs that they learned and shared the projects they completed with their teacher throughout the week.

A couple of the children were asked what they learned from the week. Alexandra Zehmer had Gretchen Tarbell as a teacher. She said, "Your heart must be soft for the seed to grow." Kaleb Stetcher also had Gretchen. He said, "To let God put seeds in your heart to spread around."

Children were also asked what their favorite part of the week was. Isabela Araujo said, "I liked learning new songs. My favorite was *Oil in My Lamp*." Peter Stratton commented, "I liked making things, going to Sky Zone, and being at the beach." His brother Eli said, "I liked playing with Hailey and Jayden, going to Sky Zone, and being at the beach too!"

The joy the children had being with one another could not be overlooked as it was so evident to all those around. Many of the kids walked around the entire week with smiles on their faces. New friendships were made, old friendships grew deeper, and sweet memories were made. We are already looking forward to VCS 2018!



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

The General Sunday School Association (GSSA) is providing portions of lessons for several age groups on a common topic. Please visit the Church of Christ's Audio Visual Aid (AVA) committee website at www.cocsermons.net and click on the "Resources" tab to view all complete lessons and studies for children and adults. Contact Susan Porter at: porter_susan@sbcglobal.net, or 9 Market Street, Middleville, MI 49333, for more information. The GSSA has a private Facebook group for all members. If you would like to be added contact Betsy Trudgen at trucooking@yahoo.com.

SOWING OUR SEEDS

Alma 16:152-173

Matthew 13:3-9

For this issue, the GSSA would like to share with you some of the lessons that were taught for the 2017 Bradley Local Vacation Church School. We had five classes, with each focusing on the above scriptures. The big challenge was to recite the Memory Verse and Super Memory Verse; try it! See how fast you can learn them!

Memory Verse

"But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some an hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear" Matthew 13:8-9.

Super Memory Verse

"And because of your diligence, and your faith, and your patience with the word, in nourishing it, that it may take root in you, behold, by and by, ye shall pluck the fruit thereof, which is most precious, which is sweet above all that is sweet, and which is white above all that is white; yea, and pure above all that is pure" Alma 16:171-172.

3-4 year-old class DEB BEVAART

Together we recited Matthew 13:3-9 with much enthusiasm. We talked about what happens to a seed when you plant it in the earth in comparison if your seed is scattered about. We must nurture our seed. I passed around objects such as thorns, stones, grass and earth. We talked about what happens if the seed falls onto stony places or amongst the thorns. For a craft we colored flower masks to show that if you nurture your seed you will grow and become a beautiful flower. For the seed to grow in our hearts, we must love God and each other.

This was a great time for the adults to bond with the kids from other locals.

Looking forward to next year!



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

5-6 year-old class JOYCE LEE

The 5 and 6 year-old class had a theme focused on the sunflower and how we are like the sunflower. The sunflower follows the sun, needs light, water, and good soil. We follow the Son, we need Jesus, the Holy Spirit and to endure to the end. We practiced our scripture memory verses and practiced songs every day.

The first day we read a story about the Parable of the Seed; each child had his or her own book to take home. We then discussed the sunflower theme and I had a Sun/Son on a pole and walked around the room, having the children always following the sun.

The second day we made hand pictures of sunflowers and each student glued sunflower seeds in the center of the picture.

The third day we planted sunflower seeds in pots that were purchased from Oriental Trading Company. The pots had scripture sayings and pictures of plants on inserted papers that we took out and they colored. Each student took their pots home to see if their plant grew because it was planted in good ground.

It was a wonderful week and I truly enjoyed my time with the children.



7-8 year old class HEIDI JONES & EVELYN LEE

Our all-girl class had fun bonding with each other throughout VCS. Each girl sewed a heart shaped pillow and embroidered a fruitful tree; using their own handprint and buttons. The softness of the pillow represents keeping our hearts soft so we can receive the seeds of the gospel and they can grow and bear fruit, and be full of the love of God.



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

9-10 year old class GRETCHEN TARBELL

This group of VCS kids created a Learning Lap Folder using a couple file folders. With creative folding, cutting and gluing each student brought home a comprehensive learning tool that explains the "Parable of the Sower". Included is the memory verse (Matthew 13:8-9,) pictures of soil, various seeds, a diagram, and a poem. The kids also learned how the parable of the sower goes along with Lehi's dream (1 Nephi 2:41-88.) God wants us to partake of the fruit of the tree of life to find true joy and happiness.



11-13 year old class SUE PORTER

Day one we focused on reading Matthew 13 with the essential question: "What does Jesus mean by comparing the word unto a seed?" We spent time working on reciting the VCS memory verse with the aid of the old-fashioned tin can telephones. On day two we read Alma 151-172, and then planted a cutting of grapevine with the hopes that if we nourished it that it might take root and we could eventually pluck fruit from it. We practiced reciting the super memory verse; and, yes, by the end of VCS everyone from this group met the challenge! During day three we revisited Matthew 13 and made models with wood trays, sand, stones, thorns and good soil.

The sand represents our seeds being devoured, which gives us a blind heart. The stones represent a rocky heart. Thorns give us a rebellious heart. Finally, the good soil represents us being fully dedicated to Jesus. We answered our essential question each day with sticky notes; the word of God grows in us; it brings us joy; it fills us up.



GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



REUNION REPORT

2017 Missouri Reunion, July 28-30

We gathered in to the Church of Christ Headquarters Friday, July 28th, for the morning prayer service. Elder Marvin Case was in charge and Priest Bruce Haines assisted. Br. Marvin read John 13:31-end. He told us as the first day of the reunion we want God to guide and bless this time together. This gospel and church are family, dedicated to Him, the Lord. We have the gift of love, precious to our souls. Ask God to watch over us. Br. Bruce led in a season of prayer. There were three administrations and the service was opened to the leadings of the Spirit. Some of the testimonies given were:

- ▶ A sister thanked the Lord for bringing her back to Independence and into this church. She's so grateful.
- ▶ A sister told us the Lord has been giving her poems—words of admonishment. The last year she's been led to call to witness. This poem was given and read at the Colorado Reunion this year. A minister told her there that she is already being used. She feels unworthy, but led to share this with us now. She read the poem entitled "Where do we stand?"

Br. Marvin requested and led a season of prayer.

- ▶ A brother bore witness that our sister is doing the Lord's work. He also related an incident; recently he saw a parked van and a woman was screaming profanities at her children inside the van with her. He was shocked. The other day while driving he accidentally heard things on a radio channel labeled as comedy. The language was horrible. He has no understanding with the ways of man these days. We must overcome weakness to gain

strength. Unrepented sin becomes iniquity. Silence on our part is giving in; we must speak against it. The destruction coming is to cleanse. Ripening in iniquity is happening. There is no protection except through Christ. We have to stand firm, to be the light of Christ. God is ever present.

Br. Marvin closed the service telling us the Lord is showing us He means what He says. We must speak against iniquity. Believers in Christ have that responsibility to let their voices be heard... be firm and steadfast, and sound the truth.

Following this prayer service we enjoyed a sermon given by Apostle Mike McGhee with Elder Martin Addie assisting. Br. Mike told us that he has worked in the family business/garage for 61 years, since he was 11 years old. He has retired now and they've sold the garage. He told us how he was introduced to the Church of Christ. Br. Mike read Hebrews 6:1-3 speaking of principles that lead to repentance; and Matthew 17:14-21. A grain of mustard seed is small, but grows if nurtured to become the largest herb and a benefit to mankind. There must be a foundation laid for this. He read Alma 16:153. A seed needs to be planted in your heart. Ministry must plant seeds; not opinions...but the gospel of Christ. He read Alma 16:159, 161-163, 165, 167, and 173. (He also spoke of Matthew 13:19-33, the parable of the sower.) Br. Mike read Hebrews 1:1-3 and Alma 3:23-26, telling us we must make a stand against sin. We have Zion to look forward to. He read verses 27-31; then Romans 1:8-9, 11; Proverbs 4:18; 3 Nephi

4:45-47; Hebrews 11:23 and 27. Faith is something you can't hold, but—are we willing to give up all to know Christ? Faith is spiritual ownership. He read Mosiah 2:13 and Enos 1:9-10. Our path is not over until we're sealed. Until we're sealed incorruptible our path is not done. Romans 10:13-17.

After lunch there was a song service and a request for a season of prayer for a brother who had been in a car accident.

Next there was a sermon given by Priest Bruce Haines with Apostle Roland Sarratt assisting. Br. Bruce asked us to hearken back to last year's reunion for a moment...there was an important theme the Lord had for His people: to spiritually prepare quickly for the Lord's return...he will be continuing that theme. He began with using the Book of Commandments, chapter 5, verses 1-3. Then he continued with 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 and Isaiah 2:2-3. He told us if he were to title his sermon he would call it, "Israel, Israel, God is calling..." He also used hymn #89 ("Israel, Israel") in illustrating the Lord's message. Br. Bruce used Alma 3:57-63. "God is calling thee from lands of woe..." 1 John 2:15-18. "Babylon the great is falling..." Revelation 18:1-8. "Come out of her my people..." 3 Nephi 9:101-106. "Israel, Israel, God is speaking, hear your great deliverer's voice" Jeremiah 6:10, 15-19. "Now a glorious morn is breaking...for the people of His choice" 3 Nephi 10:1-7. Repentant Gentiles will also be gathered home to their inheritance. "Israel, Angels are descending..." Rev. 14:6-7; and Luke

17:34-38 (from the I.V.). Angels will gather His people together. "Come to Zion, Come to Zion, for your Lord's coming is nigh..." 2 Peter 3:3-4, 8-9; Luke 12:39-40. Are we all so involved in the cares of this life that we'll be caught in a snare? "Israel, Israel, canst thou linger?..." Alma 16:226-230; 3 Nephi 8:47-52. Watch and pray always. "Come to Zion, Come to Zion, Zion's walls shall ring with praise..." 1 Nephi 7:36-37, 41-43. All they that fight against Zion shall be cut off. Verses 55-59 tell us the righteous shall be led up as cattle in stalls. . . . Righteous need not fear. Jeremiah 31:6-12. Book of Commandments 59:3-5. After much tribulation cometh the blessings. Br. Bruce read the words of a song—from the *Songs of Zion*, by Arlene Buffington (Matthew 24:20) titled "Come Before Winter." "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter." He read 1 Nephi 3:187-188 to close.

As he closed the service Br. Roland reminded us that trials and destruction are coming. . . Zion with the righteous will be saved.

Following a song service we were blessed with another sermon—given by Elder Trevor Wratt and assisted by Elder Sam Gould. Br. Trevor welcomed us and read Alma 13:44, Alma 12:111-114, Genesis 1:26-27, Genesis 2:5 and 7, John 4:23-24, Jeremiah 1:5. He told us that we've grown spiritually since he's been in the church and that problems make us examine ourselves. He read Alma 12:169-179, Alma 3:27-30, Romans 8:1-8, 3 Nephi 9:10, 4 Nephi 1:17-19, 27-28, 42. They wanted the Holy Ghost—had been taken away because of willingly rebelling. Iniquity is willfully rebelling; knowing it's wrong but deciding to do it anyway. God knows our weaknesses and He uses them to draw us near. He told the story of David and Bathsheba. Our rela-

tionship with Christ makes us more responsible. David was not exempt from the commandments of God. We aren't either. Trust Him and live for Him. Until we do that we'll struggle. He read 2 Kings 6:15-17. He told us to consider this. The battle will go on.

Saturday morning, July 29th, we gathered again in to the church for a second day of Missouri Reunion. Priest D. A. Vogel was in charge of the morning prayer service with Priest John Gill assisting. Br. D. A. told us he was carrying a lot of bags this morning as he came in alone. He said a thought came to him. . . he couldn't wait to lay them down! (Br. D.A. indicated that the metaphor was not lost on him. . . .)

Br. John read 3 Nephi 8:46-55. He told us a life story of how a homeless man had come in to the church one time when he was here. He talked with the man some and ended up letting him stay at his house here for a couple of nights. He talked with him more while he was there. Sometime later, a brother in the church in Minnesota told him that the man had come to see him. . . he was looking for the Church of Christ. Br. John read Philippians 4:8 and 1 Peter 3:15. God answers prayers. . . .

Br. D. A. asked for names of those who were in need of prayers and led us in a season of prayer. The service was opened as the Spirit led—some of the testimonies given were:

► A sister told us of the blessing that she didn't have leukemia after all. She still has some health problems but they are under control with medication. She loves coffee and prefers it to eating. She has problems with the taste and smell of food. She's malnourished and there are several things wrong in her abdomen yet. She wants to enjoy food, but she just doesn't have an appetite. God gives her many blessings through all of her problems.

► A sister told us how she heard the voice of the Lord tell her, "I will heal her. . ." after her mother's diagnosis of leukemia. She learned faith at the knees of her mother. In 1970 her mother had an ovarian tumor that was cancerous. Her mother had knowledge that God would take care of it. Over a year she had it. It was a huge tumor with feelers stretching out into other organs. Suddenly her doctor told her the tumor and its feelers were gone, but that she carried a "walking tumor." Her brother, Nathaniel, was born a few months later. God works in marvelous ways.

► A sister told us she was blessed to go to camp this last week. She was blessed to teach a serious subject at camp. This year she'd forgotten all her boxes of stuff. She had to step out in faith. Her prayers for camp were that the Holy Spirit would be there. She praises the Lord—each day He gave them exactly what they needed. It was no accident. . . God knew. The Lord directed them in their class—exciting to be able to share it. God loves US that much!

► A brother told us they've made eleven trips to Honduras over the years. On the first trip they had a great blessing. They were at one of the airports en route when he was asked to provide his Social Security card; not just the number, but the actual card that he'd received when he signed up for Social Security in 1944. He looked but he knew he didn't have it in his wallet; he didn't pack it. They were led to go through his baggage looking for it anyway. They looked and looked. . . and they found it in between some layers of clothing! God knew it would be needed and had placed it there.

► A sister explained that her sister's shunt is set between 1 and 8; 8 being off. She is at 7 now. It needs to be opened more, but because of the brain bleed it can't be adjusted again until November. It is a MASSIVE blessing that she is showing signs of improvement now when it "should" be worsening.

- ▶ A sister told us, "It's no secret, what God can do!" Faith is a gift but you have to cultivate it.
- ▶ A brother told us that the Teen Camp theme was FAITH. He taught a class called Spiritual Warfare; we talked about struggling and what that does to your faith. Battle Buddies help each other; you're never alone. Our prayers are wonderful. We are troubled on every side and we are perplexed—but not in despair. We diligently seek Him; we trust our God—He's always right in the thick of it with us. Call each other back to Faith. Look for God at the worst of times, that's when He's there working the hardest. Encourage others in their faith.
- ▶ A sister told us the story of Nehemiah is so important and touches her heart. Isaiah 55 also... a personal roadmap for her heart. She told us how the Lord nudged her and moved things and she eventually went to Israel with a dear friend in the church. A month before it was time for her friend to leave on her trip she was led to look into the flight to see if it was possible for her to go. She found she had just the right amount of money left in her savings. She thought maybe the Lord wanted her to go along. She asked Him to make it possible if it was His will. She never thought her boss would let her off to go; she did, with no problem at all. She didn't think the price of the ticket would stay affordable; it did; so she committed herself to going. All went fine; she felt there was a purpose. While there they went to the Western Wall; it's a religious area, but people don't show respect as they should. While there she closed her eyes and prayed; here she was 35 years old and being open and honest with God like never before. She asked Him what He wanted her to do and a phrase came to her: "Repairer of the breach." She asked Him to help her to do that. She heard that phrase over and over. The next morning standing near and looking across from a graveyard a song come to her mind. She asked the Lord if she might sing it

there someday. The Spirit reminded her that she was there now... so she sang. She noticed nearby in the cemetery that there was an archaeological dig going on. Later she learned that the dig was dated to back at the time of Nehemiah. She learned that he struggled to repair the breach in his time. In the months since she's been given so many opportunities to be part of His Kingdom. The desire of her heart is to be a "repairer of the breach" and in service to Him.

The next service was a sermon by Elder Bob Oldham, assisted by Elder Bob Hedrick. Br. Bob began by telling us he has a very serious sermon to present to us with a lot of points to consider. He told us he's had beautiful experiences in the traveling ministry. Live-streaming is a blessing for those seeking the Lord. He read Isaiah 55:7-9. God will pardon. In Matthew we are told, "be ye perfect." His thoughts are higher than ours. He read Alma 16:208. There must be an atonement. He read from 3 Nephi 8:55 and asked if we believe that? At the time you repent, asking for forgiveness... at that moment you are perfect. "Be ye perfect," we are told, and He meant that. God's ways are not ours, and His thoughts are not ours. Incorporate Him into us... when He forgives, He forgets, totally. He read 2 Timothy 3:1-7. He asked us what was restored in 1830. Priesthood authority and the gospel message was restored. He read Hebrews 6:1-3. Faith, repentance, baptism, then the resurrection and judgment. He read 1 Corinthians 10:13; 1 Nephi 1:65, 101. He told us this life is not our reward... God's salvation is. He read 2 Nephi 13:18-32. This lays out the principles of the doctrine of Christ. Press forward with a perfect brightness of hope. Hang all the law on these two commandments (Matthew 22:37-40). Ye shall have eternal life. Our God has promised and fulfilled.

After lunch we had a song service and a sermon followed. Elder Don Case preached and assisting was Elder Dan Lawrence. Elder Don Case told us he covets our prayers. Our children make God #1—that's his sermon this day: it's all about Jesus. He told us he recently had a trial; it was his sin. He had an attitude problem. He couldn't deal with it. He couldn't change it. Where was God? He had to believe circumstances would change—they did, but he didn't. All of a sudden, it was gone. He read Luke 24:1-53. He asked if we ever realized Moses gave a prophesy? His eyes were opened and he read Luke 24:27. In Genesis we see that the plan of redemption is through Christ. Br. Don was stuck in chapter 3. He read Gen. 4:3. Why did God reject Cain's offering? It wasn't a blood sacrifice; thus it wasn't perfect. In Gen. 6:5 we read man was wicked; God offered grace. In Gen. 12 God shows Abram what His expectations are. In Gen. 15:13-16 we are told we cannot save ourselves; it's His plan that we must follow Him. He read Gen. 16:1-5; Gen. 22:3-14. God wants us to see Him and His Son. Comparisons were made that Joseph and Moses were each a type of Jesus. He urged us to study Ruth-lesson of kinsman-redeemer; David-Kingdom; Job-no one can fathom the mind of God; Esther-salvation of a people by the risk of one life; and Ecclesiastes-utter futility of life without God. Br. Don read Alma 5:13-14. He told us the definition of sin is any behavior or attitude that is counter to the nature of God. Charles Wesley's mother once said, "Whatever weakens your reason, impairs your tenderness..." 1 John 3:1-3. Know who Christ is—"it's all about Jesus."

After dinner there was a song service; a sermon followed given by Elder David Rudd, who was assisted by Elder Brandon Tarbell. Br. David read Psalm 150. He titled his sermon, "Priorities." He read

Joshua 1:8-9; Jacob 2:14-23; Matthew 22:37-40 telling us to love thy neighbor as thyself. He then used 3 Nephi 5:110-112 and asked, "where is your treasure?" He read Mosiah 3:21—Be steadfast and immovable... be a doer of the word. He continued with 3 Nephi 8:47-57 where we are told we must watch and pray always. He used 2nd Timothy 3:14-17 to show us that all scripture is given by inspiration; Luke 10:38-42 to tell us about Mary and Martha; James 1:17-24 again to tell us to be a doer of the word and not a hearer only. He used 1 Peter 4: 8-11, Moroni 7:50-52, Colossians 3:1-17 to seek those things which are above. He continued with Matthew 15, Alma 10:27-28 to admonish us not to procrastinate; Ephesians 6:10-18 to put on the whole armor of God. He read Psalm 23 in closing.

On Sunday morning, July 30th, we gathered again in to the church sanctuary for a Sacrament Service. Elders Jim Case and Rick Olson were in charge. Brother Rick welcomed us and read 1 John 3:1-3. He explained that we have a special service today and hopes that we have had time to prepare. We must be willing to follow His commandments. If there are any problems with one another we must take time to clear those things from our hearts. He read 1 John 4:19-21; Ephesians 4:1; 3 Nephi 8:59-65. He urged us to wait upon the Spirit today. We need a unity of the Spirit and love for one another to be expressed.

After the sacrament emblems were blessed and served brother Jim gave a bit of a testimony before taking names for the prayer list. He told us that there were fears out at the Teen Camp of the storms that were forecasted. We all prayed for them and it didn't happen. Instead, the storm split in two and we saw some of it here so we know what it would have been like had it all hit up at camp. Brother Jim led in a season of prayer. There were nine adminis-

trations which took place. The service was opened to the leading of the Spirit for testimony, song or prayer—these are some of the testimonies:

▶ A brother told us that the youth outnumber the adults in the Warrensburg Local. He asked for our prayers for their project of adding on to their building. He was able to teach out at camp once again this year. One of the campers asked, "What does Jesus look like?" He explained, just average... it tells us in the scriptures that he didn't stand out. He afterwards thought: there is another part of the answer that he should have given. We are to recognize Christ by the nail prints in His hands and feet (as well as the wound in His side). We'll see Him as His purpose and we'll recognize His Spirit as our Savior. Spread that message—He'll look like a Lamb.

▶ A sister told us that God has been working with her mightily this last year. The Lord has been giving her poems to share and to witness to others. Recently she was given one entitled, "MY JUDGMENT." It is quite long with a strong chastisement and a voice of warning. She doesn't like to give it, but that is what the Lord wants her to do. She read the poem.

A brother asked for a season of prayer and led us.

▶ A brother told us he felt the Spirit as the poem was read. He asked the Lord what is holding us back?

▶ A sister told us it's always good to remind us to repent. Young people sitting around bothered her and she spoke to them years ago. She did a lot of damage in the way she handled it. She apologized. Today she sees that we focus on actions but we need to focus on hearts. Those hearts are hurting—not getting enough instruction. Here is the feast; how do you deal with these things? How do you overcome? How do you get back up? Call out to hearts. How do we handle challenges?

The feast is here.

▶ A brother told us that our sister's poem fits with the scriptures; we know these things will happen. He also told us that years ago there was an incident that took place. It is written in our history. There was a personage that appeared claiming to be Christ. Brother Cole asked to see the nail prints in his hands. The personage disappeared right before their eyes. Our brother once read that a man could wound himself to appear as Christ. In the scriptures we're told, "His sheep will know His voice."

▶ A brother told us that at the 1968 Missouri Reunion he had an experience he'll never forget. He saw himself in an open vision; he was raised up above the congregation. From above he looked down at the congregation; he saw a cord running from one heart to another. A voice told him that cord is the pure love of Christ and he was told, "You belong here." From 1968 to the present he's never doubted that Christ reigns in this church. Yes, we have problems and we need to correct ourselves. Accept Him into your heart and you'll never be sorry.

▶ A sister told us that one night while with her mom when she went to bed she felt a little dizzy. She got up later with terrible vertigo. She prayed for God to take it from her. It was gone in the morning. They experienced many spiritual blessings during those last weeks with her mom. She believes that right now we are in a carnal state, physical. She listened to a sermon by Priest Glen Orsted recently in which he made the statement that life is like going to a hotel room... this is not our real home. She is thankful for the blessings of the heart.

▶ A brother told us that the way he sees it is that everyone here is on a conveyor belt... we are all moving toward our final destination... whatever God has for us. We can't help but be affected by losing two good people recently—his dad and his

mother-in-law. They taught us how to die. We're all going to be affected. Trials are the antidote to sin; tribulation is the means. Death is on his heart now—all the time. His own mortality, he has to rebuke it. Hell is the absence of everything God has promised His children. He told us that Br. Roland had a dream of his dad recently. He saw him all in white with joy on his face—he'd made it. Our brother explained that he has some things cooking inside of him that could greatly alter their lives or take his. He wants to endure to the end. What's coming is coming—the Lord has it and us in His hands, and we have Him.

- ▶ A brother told us he was told by the Lord that our sister's words were of "Him."
- ▶ A sister told us sometimes God gives us things we don't ask for. We have to look for the good or the bad in everything He gives us. She had "zits" all the time when she was younger. It taught her compassion for others because we all have zits from time to time, in one form or another. Then guilt comes to us and we repent daily. Christ washes us. We all need each other. We look at behaviors and forget we all have hearts and souls.
- ▶ A brother told us to feast on His words. Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God. There is a war among us. Word given—grab it and take heed. Will you live or perish with the multitudes? When we don't address sin we're saying, "that's okay." We should rebuke anyone we see doing sin, for their sake. This has been given over and over, as well as from our brother or sister here today, Granville Hedrick revelation, etc. The kingdom of God shall rise up here. The wicked will not dare come against it. Hear the word of the Lord, cast out things not of God. Hear and obey. Feast of love today, will you hear it? Amen.
- ▶ A sister told us His love is in our midst . . . even though we are not altogether righteous. Her friend who's been attending church with her

sees truth here. He has seen love here, and felt the Spirit here. He also sees things that aren't right here. She told him what she heard in a sermon once, that the Church of Christ is a spiritual entity—we are just part of it. We do preach the things of Christ. Please pray for her friend. We've let the world in in some ways and he sees that. He needs prayers.

- ▶ A young man of eight years told us that he heard God speak to him one night and that helped him sleep.
- ▶ A brother introduced himself. He said he is part Yates, so probably related to a lot of us. He spoke of the blessings at Teen Camp this year, and told us that his grandmother was blessed right to the end. He heard in a sermon about a testimony last year that we are "Repenters" — he liked that. He told us there is a message in the word of God, to give us hope and faith.

Br. Jim Case stood before us with an urgent need for prayer . . . a sister's family had suffered a tragedy. We knelt in a season of prayer holding her family up to the Lord.

- ▶ A sister told us that she and her co-teacher had an experience at camp. Her co-teacher was told by the Spirit to "Look up." They took it to mean look up to their goal—Jesus Christ. Diligently seek Him. We've got to look to Him—not just say it . . . but LOOK UP TO HIM. We'll see His hand working. Encourage each other; He'll be with us.
- ▶ A brother told of a recent experience he and his wife had on the road. An oncoming car pulled into their lane and was coming toward them. At the very last moment the other car pulled back into their own lane. They learned since then that this can be a "game" some people are playing now just to get a thrill. He's so thankful they weren't injured.

After lunch there was a special music service for hymns and talent offerings. We

went right into a sermon service afterward—with the sermon given by Apostle Buzz Brickhouse, assisted by Apostle Jeff Oldham. Br. Buzz told us he likes to write down "one-liners" from previous services and recited some of them: "Step up and speak out, Plug into the Lord; Our own responsibility; Prepare quickly, Zion is nigh, Be baptized, Repentance, It's all about Jesus Christ, Priorities, Never be discouraged." We are a blessed people. He explained we believe in the restored gospel, the pure gospel and the pure love of Jesus Christ and His church. Br. Buzz spoke of the prophecies in Isaiah written 2,700 years ago. He told us the Nephites had that record. In Ether they had them and that was 2000 years before Christ. Scriptures verify what we know. He read 2 Nephi 12:50-63. He explained that the church in Jerusalem fell away into apostasy. Man was put at the head of the church and it went from there. He read Amos 8: 11-12, that there was a spiritual famine. For 1260 years the Church of Christ went into the wilderness; this is the time that we commonly call the "dark ages." There was no light of Christ there, no ministry with authority. He read 2 Thessalonians 2:1-8. He explained that the world believes in the Reformation. He read Isaiah 29:10-14 . . . there we are told there is a book to come forth and our eyes would open. Be a light, be an example.

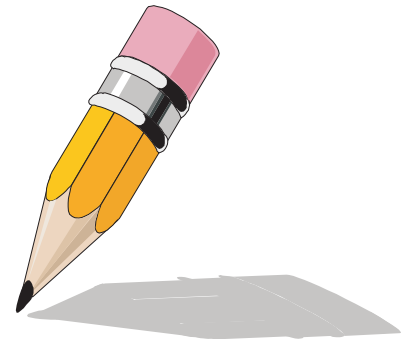
In closing, your reporter would like to observe and note that the verses from 3 Nephi 8:47-52 were referred to at least three times from different sermons during the reunion . . . must be important.

Thanks be to God for all our blessings and His Spirit with us.

*Your reporter,
Sr. Deb Haines*



PHOENIX Local News



I'd like to give out a very warm (ok, hot!) welcome to all of you from those of us melting in Arizona. I think this has been the hottest summer since Dan and I have moved here. We've been breaking several records and there is still a lot of summer to go! I guess it gives one a better appreciation of the winter months.

It might be hot outside, but it hasn't stopped all the activity going on within the church community. In May, we held our yearly Salsa Competition. Dan and I had to miss it this year because we were in Kansas City. I've come to really enjoy this event.

Vacation Church School started on June 26, and the turnout this year was really fantastic. It is just wonderful to see the support for this program. A big thank you goes out to all those who helped make it such a success. It is so important in helping to guide these young minds in the right direction.

The fellas put on a dinner at the church on July 4th. It was very good. I heard a rumor they might have had a little help from home with some of the dishes, but all in all, they did a great job, did all the clean-up and it was a fun time. Afterwards the children had time to

play and swim. The next day followed with a Patriotic Program at church which was equally amazing. There is so much talent and a willingness to serve God and the people of our church community within this local.

We have a new program during our Sunday evening song service - Bible or Book of Mormon Narrative. Any member of the congregation may choose a person or topic from one of these books and, by themselves, write and then present this little narrative. They have been given both by adults and children and are amazing.

Well, as I'm quickly running



Vacation Church School



Firefighter Yates

out of space, I'd like to ask you all to praise our Lord for all the many blessings He has given to each and every one of us. I know that I have been the recipient of many more than I deserve. I would also ask that you take the time to remember and pray for all the needs of the church and our members. Just a few that come to mind include our Br. Don McIndoo and his

eyes; Br. Gordon McCann and the health issues he has had since returning from his last missionary trip; both Yates' families; Sr. Kim Scher; Sr. Suzie Case; Br. and Sr. Jose and Esmeralda Crull and their little son. The list is long with those looking for work, better jobs, searching for spiritual answers, suffering with medical issues, marital problems and just



Katie reading Narrative

many more of the problems of everyday life. Let's make sure we are there for each other.

*God bless you all,
DiAnn Hedrick*

NOTICES

REUNIONS

- ▶ **OCTOBER 20-22:** Ontario Reunion
Mike Bevaart (226) 934-4250
mikebevaart@gmail.com

HONDURAS

- ▶ **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 func-

tions for the Church of Christ for missionary news and various announcements, like state rallies and reunions.

If you would like to become a member of CCEG, or if you are an existing member and are not currently receiving emails as expected, please email the CCEG manager at:

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 rwo1dham1@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:

DEBBIE VOGEL (Chairman)
403 w. Colonel Drive
Independence, MO 64050
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.



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