

# 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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Who knoweth not in all these that the hand of the LORD hath wrought this? In whose hand is the soul of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind. —Job 12:9-10

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### STATUS of PUBLISHED ARTICLES

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

### ZION'S ADVOCATE IS...

To promote Jesus Christ as our only Saviour;  
 To promote His Teachings and His Church, the Church of Christ;

To be a voice of warning to His people; to be Zion's advocate.

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

## EDITORIAL

# From the Editor

Greetings in the name of Jesus Christ our Savior! This year is flying by, and in the blink of an eye we will greet a new year, leaving this one behind.

I have been blessed to have been given this responsibility to publish the *Zion's Advocate*, and I hope that it has likewise been a blessing for the readership. I encourage your involvement in this endeavor; I welcome suggestions for articles, your submissions of testimonies, poetry and studies. My goal is still to bring articles concerning some of the basics of the Gospel and our Church.

I am pleased to announce that we have started our new online *Zion's Advocate* publication. This has been a joint effort and I would be remiss without expressing my gratitude to Sister Katie Ely and Brother DA Vogel for their effort and tech knowledge which has made it possible. While it is still in many ways a work in progress (as they try to teach this old dog new computer tricks), it is available now for you to access at [advocate.churchofchrist-tl.org](http://advocate.churchofchrist-tl.org).

I want to remind you that the hard copies of the *Zion's Advocate* will still be printed and mailed as usual; however, in our desire to reduce our budget, I encourage those who are content to access the *Zion's Advocate* online only to contact us to remove you from our mailing list.

Additionally, we would like to compile a list of email addresses for those who would like notifications when new content is uploaded to our online publication. If this is of interest to you, please send me your email address to

[contactcofcaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:contactcofcaeditor@gmail.com), or access the email address on the *Zion's Advocate* site under Contact Editor.

Finally, I do not wish to confuse anyone! However, I have a new email address for those who wish to submit articles, testimonies, suggestions or questions: [cofcaeditor@gmail.com](mailto:cofcaeditor@gmail.com). This is a different email than that listed above—the email address in the previous paragraph is intended strictly for the online site.

Before this conference year is concluded I will have a few further changes to inform the readership which will help in the accessibility and budget management of this publication.

In closing I want to remind you that we are a blessed people, not for our righteousness, but because of the mercy of our Lord. These blessings are given because of His love; however, they do come with an expectation—it is the expectation that you become a willing advocate for Jesus Christ and this Gospel of Salvation, of which we have part and responsibility. Consider the direction of our Savior as He left His servants after His resurrection: *“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”* (Matthew 28:19-20).

—Elder Adam Yates



# *How Do We Minister to a* **FALLEN WORLD?**

## —PART 2—

### Apostle Alvin Moser

*“Do ye not remember that I said unto you, that after ye had received the Holy Ghost, ye could speak with the tongue of angels?” (2 Ne 14:2, 1990 In. Ed.)*

**A**fter we have been baptized and been given the Spirit we must become witnesses. We extend Christ into the world by following Him. We are to continue to read the Word of God and pray always in the name of Christ, asking for God to bless all our activities done for Him. The major satisfaction in life is the pres-

ence of the Holy Ghost with us. “I am with you,” God told Israel. Now He says, *“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”* (Matthew 28:20 KJV).

We are to make disciples of all men everywhere, beginning where we are, in our homes. We are told that great joy shall be ours if we can help save even just one soul. Our lives become a means to glorify God and serve Him. Our careers become opportunities for service to God and to others. Marriage becomes a joint effort in making a home or

family for the extension of God's Kingdom and a safe haven for believers. Career is not the goal and marriage is not the end, but the means of fulfilling the will of a benevolent Being who sent His Son to die for our sins on a cruel cross. This begs a question for modern Church of Christ members and for all Christians everywhere: is there a connection between broken homes with a lost purpose for our lives? Have some departed from following Jesus as His disciples and begun to follow the idols of the world, earthly love and wealth? What did Jesus say? *“...Seek ye*

*first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” (Matthew 6:33).*

You can speak with the tongue of angels! When the main focus of our lives is God's Word and His will, He adds peace to our souls and contentment to our career goals and home lives. Angels speak the words of Christ. Peace on earth and good will toward men. The world is starving for this blessing and your neighbor or child needs to be fed the good will of God. God is love. Christ is both Lord and Savior. Lord of our lives. He is King of kings, nations, tribes, races, families, marriages and careers. Let Him rule in your life through your firm will and steadfast loyalty. Amen and amen.

Speak the words of angels. In your homes, do you sit down at the table and always pray in Christ's name? Do you settle disputes among your children with the scriptures? Do you bless your church family with your good will toward them and your firm

testimony? Do you go out of your way to visit the sick? Affirm the weak? Help the elderly? Be a father to the fatherless? Patient with those who are out of God's way and impatient with you? Do you call all near you to a higher level and then wait patiently as Jesus Himself waits for you?

Speak the words of angels and God will speak to you! Oh, how we long for that great day when we will sit in His presence and experience His Glory! Worry, sorrow, pain and strife shall be no more! However, today these things still exist; what have you done about them? What actions of yours have shown that you care about the spiritual needs of others? We cannot be afraid to burden our children with the weight of the Church and ministering to the needs of others. When we pass on the fullness of the Gospel to others, even with all its responsibilities, then God is with us until the end of the world. Speak and pass on your hope of eternal life and a better country when Jesus

comes again. We shall come in the clouds and those who remain shall meet all the saints from the beginning. Was this hope not first declared by angels?

*“...Behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:10-11).*

This message belongs to you. The ministering of angels is given to you. You have the calling to speak the words of angels! However, be prepared to carry the cross of Jesus when you do, for all people will not believe your words. They will doubt your actions and motives. Some will curse you and try to destroy you. Then is when we must remember that, God is Love...but that is another subject.

# Why Doesn't the New Testament Church of Christ have a Prophet, Prophet-Seer-Revelator, High Priest, First President, Pope, or any other Singularly Set-Apart Man at the Head of the Church?



**Elder Ronnie Gill**

It was because of this question, among many similar questions, that the book of Hebrews was written. The book of Hebrews was written expressly to help the house of

Israel transition over from the law given through Moses (which was a shadow of greater things), to the new and living way of Christ. The Hebrews, steeped in tradition, had a difficult time letting go (or seeing why they **should** let go) of those things which they had long held as truth.

In Hebrews 1:1-2, it tells us that truly in times past (Old Testament), God spoke through the prophets, men who were set aside by God to symbolically act in the place of Jesus Christ as mediators.

*“And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it...”* Ezekiel 22:30.

*“And he shall be thy spokes-*

*man unto the people: and he shall be, even he shall be to thee instead of a mouth, and thou shalt be to him instead of God”* Exodus 4:16.

However, today (New Testament), Christ himself takes His rightful place as our mediator with God.

*“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;”* 1 Timothy 2:5.

*“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth”* Matthew 28:18.

At no other time except after Christ's resurrection was this true. We do not have a prophet, prophet-seer-revelator, high priest, first president, or pope over the church because our

only head is Christ. Rather, we truly have many prophets in the New Testament Church of Christ who have spoken and continue to speak and guide us according to the Word of God.

*“Let the prophets speak two or three, and let the other judge”*  
1 Corinthians 14:29.

*“God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;”* Hebrews 1:1-2.

Perhaps the question that some will ask is: Wasn't it the pattern that the Law of Moses dictated that there was a high priest or one man set aside to guide the church? To this, the scriptures answer, *“Now these ordinances were given after this manner (Law of Moses –r.a.g.), that thereby the people might look forward on the Son of God...”* Alma 10:9.

Christ said we are called under a new and living way, and that the ministry of the law was changed, which is why we also do not have ministry from the orders of Aaron or Levi. The lineal priesthood of man (from father to son) was only a shadow during the time of the law so that we might look forward to a great time when our lineal priesthood would be under Christ, a priesthood given from the Father to His Son (the one head over the church).

*“Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities. Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors”* Isaiah 53:10-12.

Thus, God may call men where and when He chooses to serve and feed His people. This is not to say that God did not set up an order for His church in the New Testament, but that that order was to be not one man with a spokesperson, but twelve men, the Apostles. On this earth there would be no authority greater than them, not even the authority of a prophet. Nor would any one of the Apostles be greater than the rest, but that they would be equals under Christ.

*“This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them; And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more. Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.*

*Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, By a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; And having an high priest over the house of God (Jesus Christ – r.a.g.); Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water”* Hebrews 10:16-22.

There was a time in the restored Church of Christ when people were beginning to ask these very questions again: “Shouldn't we have high priests?” “Should there be a prophet over the church?” “Should there be lineal priesthood?” To answer these questions, the church came together two very specific times to address them. The first of these times was at a conference on March 17, 1867, when the church made a defining statement that separated us from many of the other restoration churches and brought us back closer to our true roots, with the Bible and Book of Mormon as our standard of faith. That resolution emphatically states that the doctrines of polygamy, baptism for the dead, lineal priesthood, plurality of Gods, and exaltation of man were all false doctrines.

Then again on April 6, 1928, at a church conference, the church reiterated that the position of high priest was not an office in the Church of Christ,

and that any who taught it, whether in public or private, would be looked at with disfavor by the church. With these public statements, the church was reaffirming the simple truths found in the Bible and Book of Mormon and rejecting false doctrines that were trying to get a foothold in the Church of Christ.

As the scriptures clearly state:

*“And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:”* Ephesians 4:11-12.

As such, we know that we have One who is set over the church, and we need and want for no other. He is Christ Jesus, the one and only Son of God. Thus, all of the New Testament Church of Christ ministry are called after the order of Christ himself, of whom Melchisedec was a figure.

*“If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood (Aaron and Levi –r.a.g.), (for under it the people received the law), what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec (actually the type for the order of Christ; Alma 10:9 – r.a.g.), and not be called after the order of Aaron? For the priesthood being changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the law”* Hebrews 7:11-12.

For this reason, in the New Testament Church of Christ, we do not see the callings of high priests or the callings after the order of Levi and Aaron, as it would be unfruitful to return to the beggarly elements of the law as given through Moses:

*“For there is verily a disannulling of the commandment going before for the weakness and unprofitableness thereof”* Hebrews 7:18.

As the Book of Mormon also states:

*“Wherefore, we speak concerning the law, that our children may know the deadness of the law; And they, by knowing the deadness of the law, may look forward unto that life which is in Christ and know for what end the law was given; And after that the law is fulfilled in Christ, that they need not harden their hearts against Him when the law had ought to be done away”* 2 Nephi 11:49-51.

Thus, any man today who would try and take upon himself the role that Christ Himself is fulfilling, as the sole leader over His church, would be attempting to usurp Christ's position; for the scriptures amply tell us we have one Leader already over the church and, because He lives forever, there will never be a need for another man to fill this role. He is the last high priest and makes intercession for us every day. He is the only One who has lived a perfect life, undefiled, who does not need to make daily

sacrifices. And, He loves us so much that He was willing to lay down His own life for us, while we were yet sinners...

*“By so much was Jesus made a surety of a better testament. And they truly were many priests, because they were not suffered to continue by reason of death: But this man (Jesus Christ – r.a.g.), because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood. Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did once, when he offered up himself. For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore”* Hebrew 7:22-28.

And Christ said: *“Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest”* Matthew 11:28.

*“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:”* 1 Peter 2:9.





# HOW TO KNOW GOD'S WILL, and what to do while you wait



## Elder Aadam Yates

**F**irst and foremost, God has a plan for you and your life... goals which He desires you to accomplish and, through all of that, a way to bring glory and honor to Christ and His Father - Jeremiah 1:5.

Christ has given us direction through scripture on how to please Him, how to accomplish His will and how to understand it. Here are several things which God requires of those who will receive His blessing and guidance:

**1** Obedience to commandments - 3 Nephi 8:46, John 14:21

**2** Diligence in prayer - Alma 3:73-80, Alma 14:102-103

**3** Active faith - Hebrews 11:6

**4** Patience - Psalm 37:3-7, Hebrews 6:12-15

**5** Discernment and the ability to listen/hear - 3 Nephi 5:1-8

As you plan for life, consider that the only way to have true success is to have your goals be God's goals. How do we know what God's goals are?

As we approach the Lord in prayer, we should be asking for answers to those very important matters of life. As you think about this in your personal life, consider these two questions: What am I asking for? How am I asking?

## WHAT AM I ASKING FOR?

**W**hat things should we ask for guidance with? (Marriage, job, location, college/education, friendship, business decisions, decisions concerning money, opportunities for service, calling to ministry).

Are these things that I am desiring God's direction in proper, moral and scriptural?

How do my desires benefit the gospel of Christ?

How does my desire bring glory to Christ?

## HOW AM I ASKING?

**H**ow should we ask for guidance? (Open heart, not putting God in a box, diligently, patiently, understanding personal weakness, asking for you to be ready for an answer and not a particular yes or no, being willing to hear what you may not want to hear.)

Not putting God in a box: this may be a phrase you've never heard. I believe it is dangerous to dictate to God how He will answer prayer or bring forth His plan. The idea of, "Unless God stops this path it must be His will," or, "If this happens it means God is behind it," fails to acknowledge that God is not the only one able to open doors. Be cautious in dictating to God how He will work. Asking with an open heart and mind, then going through the process of searching for witnesses, testing the spirits

and comparing with scripture is a way to aid in discernment.

Divide and conquer—ask a wise, moral and experienced spiritual friend to pray with you.

## WHAT THINGS SHOULD WE BE DOING AS WE WAIT FOR GOD'S DIRECTION; HOW DO WE WAIT?

**1** Service - busy yourself in the Lord's work. When something else is more important than you, you gain perspective. 3 Nephi 6:3-12, Mosiah 1:48-49, Philippians 2:3-9.

**2** Fasting and prayer - showing God your desire to know His will is not casual.

**3** Do something - move forward, do not sit idle, get an education, visit people, avoid allowing the strain of waiting to turn into discouragement, doubt or depression.

**4** Do well with what you have - God will give more if you show you are worthy of what you already have. Matthew 25: 14-29.

**5** Do not be discouraged - things take time and sometimes may never happen. This

may be to your soul's benefit; remember your purpose. Romans 8:28.

**6** Identify and build a relationship with someone who is wise, moral, experienced and temporally and spiritually grounded to confide in and to seek guidance from. Look for someone who is not swayed by emotion and will not merely tell you what you want to hear. This person will probably not be a peer. Proverbs 12:15, 13:20.

**7** Listen - God can answer in many different ways and means. Ask others for their feelings on your direction or decisions; do not put God in a box; do not miss the still small voice because you are waiting for the thunderclap. 1 Kings 19:11-13.

**8** Find contentment - when you are able to happily serve God in the position you are in, and if nothing else ever changes you can still be happy, you are content. A lack of contentment leads to lusting, anger, envy, jealousy and temptation. 1 Timothy 6:6-11.

## HOW SHOULD WE EXAMINE AN OPPORTUNITY THAT IS BEFORE US?

**1** The presence and leading of the Holy Spirit - An answer through the Holy Spirit is never based on emotion, it is truth. John 14:13-17, 26; 15:26; 16:7-13.

**2** Alignment to the scriptures. 2 Nephi 9:57-58, Mormon 4:67-68, 82.

**3** Presence of witnesses. Deuteronomy 19:15, Matthew 18:16, 2 Nephi 12:59-62.

**4** Feasibility - is this currently possible? (Sometimes things need time to fall into place.) Mosiah 2:44 - requisite- Absolutely essential.

**5** Am I being led by emotion? Am I personally attached? Have my feelings for this person/opportunity/job, etc. clouded my ability to hear? Could I walk away if God told me to...?

**6** What concerns do other wise, moral and experienced family and friends have?

## WHEN WE FEEL WE HAVE RECEIVED AN ANSWER FROM GOD

**1** How has it come, to whom and by what spirit? 1 John 4:1-2.

**2** Are there witnesses?

**3** Does this answer align with the scriptures?

**4** Is this answer realistic?

**5** Confide in a wise, moral, experienced friend; ask them to pray and consider it.

**6** Openly thank and praise the Lord; share the testimony.

**7** Fast and pray in thanksgiving.

If we choose to continue in following after Christ's word diligently and throughout the course of these decisions, they will bear fruit. Following our own wisdom or that of the devil will always show itself in time. Proverbs 14:12, Romans 7:5-6.

Again... God has a plan for your life and a way to accomplish those things. His will will always bring honor and glory to Christ and the Father.

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:trucooking@yahoo.com).

During the April, 2018 General Church Conference, Apostle Placido Koyoc Matu told us that we need to do 3 things: Learn, Change, Grow.

## Learn, Change, Grow

*Poem by Jeanine Addie, Springfield, MO*

As I read and learn more from  
the scriptures each day,  
I know I need to change the way;  
I treat my best friend's younger brother,  
For God desires us to love one another.  
In my scriptures, I have read,  
Words in which Jesus said?  
Love thy neighbor as thyself.  
So I'm going to work on being  
kinder to my friend's brother each day,  
As I spiritually grow and follow God's way.



**\*This lesson is intended for older students but can be tailored for younger ones.**

### Learn

How do we learn new things?

Make a chart like this one and jot down your thoughts.

Read the scriptures on the next page. Choose one to either draw a picture of what it means to you or write a statement of its importance to you.

### Change

How do we change our ways?

Write your thoughts on your chart.

List at least one area that you feel you could improve on.

#### **Alma 3:29**

Have ye experienced this mighty **change** in your hearts?

### Grow

How do we grow spiritually?

Jot down your thoughts.

Choose one of the scriptures to memorize.

Write down how you connect with the scripture.

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

## Learn

### Alma 18:11

And now my son, I have told you this, that ye may **learn** wisdom, that ye may **learn** of me that there is no other way nor means whereby man can be saved, only in and through Christ.

### Alma 17:68

O remember my son, and **learn** wisdom in thy youth; yea, **learn** in thy youth to keep the commandments of God; yea, and cry unto God for all thy support.

### Mosiah 1:49

And behold, I tell you these things that ye may **learn** wisdom; that ye may **learn** that when ye are in the service of your fellow beings, ye are only in the service of your God.

### 2 Nephi 5:12

And I speak them unto you for your sakes, that ye may **learn** and glorify the name of your God.

### Matthew 11:29

Take my yoke upon you, and **learn** of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

### 1 Peter 3:15

But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

### 2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

### 2 Timothy 3:15

And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

## Change

### 2 Nephi 3:61

O Lord, I have trusted in thee, and I will trust in thee forever.

### Mosiah 3:3

And also, we know of their surety and truth, because of the Spirit of the Lord Omnipotent, which hath wrought a mighty **change** in us, or in our hearts, that we have no more disposition to do evil, but to do good continually.

### Alma 3:25

And behold, he preached the word unto your fathers, and a mighty **change** was also wrought in their hearts; and they humbled themselves, and put their trust in the true and living God.

### Alma 3:46

And now behold, I say unto you my brethren, If ye have experienced a **change** of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, Can ye feel so now?

### Ether 5:15

Behold, it was the faith of Nephi and Lehi, that wrought the **change** upon the Lamanites, that they were baptized with fire and with the Holy Ghost.

### Galatians 5:22

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith.

### Psalms 66:1

Makse a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands.

## Grow

### Helaman 2:121

And they did fellowship one with another, and did rejoice one with another, and did have great joy.

### Matthew 13:23

But he that received **seed into the good ground** is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some an hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty.

You can join a virtual Sunday School class (ages 12+) by contacting Stephen Stratton at [Stratton125@gmail.com](mailto:Stratton125@gmail.com).

Class is held on Sundays (except Sacrament Sunday) from 10:00-11:00 am EST.

### 2 Peter 3:18

But **grow** in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and forever. Amen.

### 1 Nephi 5:215

And it came to pass that they did **grow** exceedingly; wherefore, we were blessed in abundance.

### Mosiah 2:23

And ye shall **grow** in the knowledge of the glory of him that created you, or in the knowledge of that which is just and true.

### Alma 16:170

But if ye will nourish the word, yea, nourish the tree as it beginneth to **grow**, by your faith with great diligence, and with patience, looking forward to the fruit thereof, it shall take root; and behold, it shall be a tree springing up unto everlasting life.

Lesson prepared by Susan Porter, Bradley, MI local

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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:trucooking@yahoo.com).

## Be a Witness, Be a friend

## Let Your Light Shine



This was the theme for VCS held in Awkasasne, NY; July 9-11, 2018

### Matthew 5:16

Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

### 3 Nephi 5: 61-63

Verily, verily I say unto you, I give unto you to be the light of this people. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.

Behold, do men light a candle and put it under a bushel? Nay, but on a candlestick, and it giveth light to all that are in the house;

Therefore let your light so shine before this people, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

### A Lesson from the 10-11 year old class taught by Sue Porter

**Question:** What words or phrases are in both scripture readings? (Light, let your light so shine, good works, glorify your Father which is in heaven) Write these on a poster board along with the above scriptures.

**Read:** Matthew 5: 1-16. This will help us understand how 3rd Nephi, Chapter 5, correlates with Matthew chapter 5.

**Discuss:** Reading the beatitudes explains more of what it means by "letting our light so shine before men so they can see our good works and glorify our Father which is in heaven."

Verses 14-16 are very much like 3 Nephi 5: 61-63.

If we look at verse 13, it talks about you being the salt of the earth, then verse 14 about being a light of the world, then verse 15 that we don't light a candle and put it under a bushel but on a candlestick and give that light to all that are in our house. In other words, ***we need to share what we know about our Father in heaven and all the good things he does for us.***

Verse 16 matches with 3N 5:63.

**Brainstorm:** Everyone takes one minute to think about some good works they do that glorify our heavenly Father. After one minute, share what we wrote. Record everyone's ideas onto the poster.

**Wrap up:** What can we add to our list of good works which will glorify our Father? **Summary:** These things can all help us be a better friend to, letting our light shine and to be a witness to the gospel of Christ for others.

GENERAL SUNDAY SCHOOL ASSOCIATION



**Jesus. My One True Friend**

I had a friend,  
Who I once thought would be a friend to the end.  
We did everything together, in every kind of weather.  
We shared our toys, climbed the highest trees,  
Took care of each other when we injured our knees.  
We laughed together, together we cried,  
Then one day my friend to me lied.  
He invited me to a party, said it would be way cool,  
But at this party they were breaking every rule.  
They were smoking and drinking  
But all I could do was say, "What are you thinking?"  
I lost a friend that day.  
Realizing he wasn't really a friend anyway.  
A true friend won't lead you down a path that's bad.  
A true friend only desires to make you glad.  
I have decided to follow Jesus,  
my one true friend in life,  
For he will never lead me down paths  
that leads me into strife.  
So when worldly friends try to lead me away,  
I'll tell them I'm following Jesus today.  
You can come and go with me,  
And from temptation be set free;  
Or follow the path of sin,  
In which you cannot win.  
But as for me,  
I will follow Jesus, He has made me free.

By Janeen Addie, Springfield, MO local

# A Random Prayer

Have faith, repent and be baptized  
it's the only way.  
Because without the Spirit within,  
you can hardly pray.

I thought and thought how to get out of sin,  
but when I turned over a new leaf and entered into the struggle,  
I left far behind me a whole lot of trouble  
As the Spirit guided me in.

Then I prayed myself awake each new morning  
and thanked Him for it all each night,  
So that no longer did the future scare me,  
In fact, it brought me hopeful delight.

Now my work, it was not a struggle,  
or my loving family a drag,  
I even began to enjoy my work and,  
about my family~it was hard not to brag.

I love you, dear Savior, and hope I can begin to lead,  
for I see others just like I was,  
struggling and thinking; Needing to be freed.

They can't make it alone and assert themselves of the plan,  
So give me the courage dear Savior,  
And a testimony as to how I got where I am.

I am so humbled to think of who I had been,  
and honored to know how You lifted me up then.  
Please help my neighbor, my friend, my loving wife and little boy,  
Guide them and protect them till that day  
When we are all filled with joy~  
In Jesus name I pray, Amen.

~John Gill



## TESTIMONY


 testimony

I have always been in excellent health, so it came as a surprise that in the last part of November, 2017, I became violently ill. I went to the doctor and she sent me for a gall bladder test that indicated my gall bladder had to be removed.

On December 4, 2017, a very cold day, I had the surgery; however, they discovered that I had stones in my bile duct and I would have to go to Kansas City to have another surgery. I had that surgery the next day, another very cold day.

That was a day never to be forgotten, a day that the Lord was with both Paul and me. I woke up from the surgery and looked at the clock; it was 5:00 p.m. (this is usually Paul's dinnertime as he is diabetic and eats on time). At that point I began to panic...our granddaugh-

ter had stayed with her grandfather (another blessing) and sensed that he was not responding to her. She got a nurse and they took him to the emergency room. I was then recovered enough to be taken down to the emergency room to be with him.

I guess because of the cold and being very upset, my pain became very bad. We were planning on going home, but I knew that neither of us would be able to make the trip. We instead went to our son and daughter-in-law's home. When we arrived there, my daughter-in-law Carrie asked if I would want to be administered to. She called Elder Dan Lawrence and he, Manon and their grandson Rogan came.

By now, the pain was very bad. As Dan administered

to me, I began to feel the Spirit enter into my body. When the administration was complete I got up and said, "I'm in no more pain!" Everyone in the room knew that I had received a great blessing. Rogan was most surprised. My thought was that he had probably never seen a healing like that happen before.

I have received many blessings in my lifetime but never an instant one like this. I have been overwhelmed with the love that the Lord has for us, and I wanted to share this testimony to give Him my grateful thanks.

—Sr. Sharon Leikness

## TESTIMONY

I want to share an experience I had that changed my life. I was living in Phoenix and attending the Phoenix Local at the time. I was going through a particularly difficult time in my life...physically, spiritually, and emotionally. I had injured my back at work as a firefighter, and the doctor had been blunt that I may not be able to return to that profession. I was 29 years old and wasn't going in any particular direction

words seemed to leap off the page and smack me in the face. As we sang the very first line, "You have longed for sweet peace, and for faith to increase, And have earnestly fervently prayed; But you cannot have rest or be perfectly blest Until all on the altar is laid"...I was convicted in my heart.

I had been trying to run my life the way I wanted and had completely failed. I had been telling God what I wanted, how

for me to return to full duty with the Fire Department. Over the next few months, things that I had been failing at seemed to be falling into place. Within a year I met the woman that I would eventually marry, and was called into the ministry.

In my humanness I still find myself tempted to reach out and grab the steering wheel of my life and try to be in control of everything. Fortunately,

# IS YOUR ALL ON THE ALTAR?

relationally or spiritually. I was baptized as a teen and was regular in my church attendance because I had been raised with a strong sense that I should. I was fairly active in the local when asked, but didn't seek ways to serve. I wasn't hanging out in bars, robbing banks or living a hedonistic life, but I also wasn't living exactly as I should; I just hid it well.

It was on a Wednesday night, during a song service, that I had an experience that changed my life. Someone called for song #166, *Is Your All On The Altar*. I had sung the song many times before, but for some reason this time the

I wanted Him to bless me (and expecting Him to), instead of giving up my will to Him. Because of the physical, spiritual and emotional trials I was going through, I was finally humbled enough to listen. That night I realized what I had been doing and completely changed my outlook on life. I finally reached a point where I could actually say, "Thy will be done," and really mean it.

The changes in my life didn't happen overnight, but my perspective on things did. Slowly, the trials I had been facing began to resolve because of the blessing of God. First, my back injury healed sufficiently

even now, every time this song is sung, I can't help but flash back to that Wednesday night song service many years ago. I can even remember where I was sitting. "Oh, we never can know what the Lord will bestow of the blessings for which we have prayed, Till our body and soul He doth fully control, And our all on the altar is laid." I thank God for His patience with me, and His mercy for showing me through this song where I was at spiritually, and for helping me to place my all, my life, and my will on His altar.

—Elder Bob Hedrick

REPORT



Matt 5:16 - *Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.*

**T**he 2018 reunion was on July 6, 7 and 8, 2018. The theme for this year's reunion was *Let Your Light Shine*. Preaching services were streamed for those unable to attend.

### Friday, July 6, 7:00 PM

**P**astor Brandon Tarbell welcomed everyone with an opening prayer. The first preaching service was given by Elder Martin Addie. Brother Martin reminded us all that it is easier to shine when we are happy and content. As none of us are perfect, we need to repent if we have

done wrong; just as David, when he saw that he had done wrong, sought forgiveness from the Lord by repenting. The Lord loved David even as he did wrong because David repented of his wrong doings. In closing, Brother Martin asked, "Will you be a light for Jesus?"

After the service, we

shared fellowship, as well as snacks and desserts. What a wonderful time re-connecting with our brothers and sisters from the US and Canada!

## Saturday, July 7, 10:00 AM

The day started with a prayer service where the heartfelt prayers of the faithful were offered up.

## 11:00 AM

The morning preaching service was offered by Elder Dennis Trudgen. Brother Dennis' sermon focused on the great servants of the Bible. While the list is quite extensive, Brother Dennis shared this list: Moses, Paul, David, Elijah. We need to be spiritually strong. We were reminded that worry and fear are spiritually unhealthy energy wasters. There is no fear in love. We need to put God first in our lives and come out from the world and be separate. The Lord expects total devotion. Brother Dennis asked a few thought provoking questions for us to consider: Do

we sin? How do we spend our time? Do we devote our resources toward the future growth of God? In closing, Brother Dennis told us tribulation is coming.

## 2:30 PM

The afternoon preaching service was offered by Elder Mike Bevaart. Brother Mike's focus was on being "one of the crowd." While we can be in a crowd, we are to stand apart. More questions were offered for our consideration: Have we been spiritually born of God? Do we put our trust and faith in the true God?

## 4:30 PM

The evening preaching service was offered by Elder Chris Moran. Brother Chris' sermon was titled *This Church of Christ...Still Always the One*. Once again, thought provoking questions were asked of us: Are you content and satisfied with the Church of Christ? Are you living up to God's expectations? Do you ever deny or

forget the special blessings of the Church of Christ? Are you letting your light shine? Brother Chris shared some recent dreams and testimonies of church members to show that we must be prepared.

The services were followed by dinner and fellowship.

## Sunday, July 8

The Sacrament Service was led by Elder Dennis Trudgen. Many beautiful testimonies, blessings and offerings were given to confirm the Lord's love for His people.

This service was followed by lunch and fellowship.

Those fortunate to stay enjoyed dinner and a study at 7:00 PM by Elder Martin Addie.

*Respectfully submitted,  
YSIC Terry Waldruff*

## REPORT

# 2018 Missouri Reunion Report—July 27-29th

**Opening Prayer Service, Friday morning**—Priest Bruce Haines was in charge and Apostle Roland Sarratt assisted. Br. Bruce asked the question, “Where do we put our trust?” He told us perilous times are coming . . . spiritually as well as physically. Things are not always as they seem to be. President Ronald Reagan used the Russian quote, “Trust, but verify.” In the Book of Mormon (Jacob and Mormon) we are told to be a believing people—as far as the church goes. He read 1 Thess. 5:21 where we are told to prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. In Matthew 24:3-5, 24, we are told powerful discernment is needed. Matthew 7:16 we are told that, “by their fruits ye shall know them.” God tells us He wants us to be “fruit inspectors,” and to hold on to all things that are good. Br. Bruce read Moroni 10:4-5. Examine and look to the Lord prayerfully; Joseph Smith, Jr. followed this. He read James 1:5-6 where we are told to ask in faith—nothing wavering.

There was an administration and names taken for prayers. The service was opened for the leading of the Spirit, in song, prayer and testimonies; these are just a few—

- ▶ A sister asked for an interest in our prayers for their annual family trip. She had decided that if she could pack, then she could go. She has finished her packing already. Now she wonders if she can ride for such a length of time. With God’s help she’ll be able to make the trip. She is full of thanksgiving.
- ▶ A young man testified that God stopped the nightmares he’d been having. He prayed to God, took a “battle stance,” and God took his nightmares away. He’s very thankful.
- ▶ A brother told us that God has blessed him and his wife with all they need. They are aware of the day in which we’re living. Alarming things

are happening these days. We hear many sermons about coming out of Babylon, yet we have not come out. We are all tied to Babylon in one way or another. Our nation is not secure. We are in great financial straits. Scriptures tell of this, and we see it. We don’t know what tomorrow will bring. We’re dependent on this failing nation that is shutting God out. The biggest sign of this is the legalized “same sex” marriages. The Israelites had it the same—they were led to the Red Sea and had nowhere to go but to put themselves in God’s hands. He led them; that’s where we are. Moroni said, “God is a God of Miracles.” We must believe. God has to do it, there’s no other way. Zion is supposed to be here—established in the last days with the pure in heart. God will do it. King Benjamin said, “Believe in God, He is.” We have to depend on God. Something will happen very soon. Our faith in Him will bring us through.

- ▶ A brother testified that he feels something different now. He has never seen the things going on like this before. Yet, “the righteous need not fear.” He spoke of a testimony some years ago given at the 2007 Phoenix Reunion (he even carries a reminder note about it in his Bible). A brother had been referring to disturbances in the neighborhood around the church in Phoenix. This brother had taken it as a warning: “The world is closing in on us—We must prepare to have our peace shaken; we must be worthy of having the Lords’ protection. We must examine ourselves, arm ourselves with righteousness; then we need not fear.”

**The Friday Morning Sermon** was given by Priest Stephen Kimball, assisted by Elder Martin Addie. Br. Stephen welcomed us and read

Alma 19:1-9, 21-25, 32, 66-71, 81-84, 91, 112-117. Br. Stephen told us we need to draw closer to God and put away the natural man. We know the struggles of our children. They have to make their own choices. Be an example; he told us his garage was full and dirty. He cleaned it and got it orderly. Soon it was back the same way. He likened this to our lives. We need to clean and examine our souls. Even so, the weakest Christian stands out in this world. Br. Stephen read Ephesians 6:11-18 and 1 Nephi 4:52-63. He told us that whatever we need to do to be better, God will give it to us . . . and God will give us more. He read James 5:16-20, 2 Corinthians 13:5-14, explaining that WE are not the truth—Jesus Christ is the truth. He read Alma 3:46-52, Alma 16:226-233. Br. Stephen gave us an example by reading a little bit of *The Tempest* by Shakespeare. He explained that the author was speaking about forgiveness and repentance. During that time there was complete darkness, but men still had the desire to let God’s light shine. He read 3 Nephi 5:92, where we are told to be perfect. We should strive for it.

After lunch we enjoyed a Song Service.

**The Friday Afternoon Sermon** was given by Elder Larry Beem, assisted by Elder Sam Gould. Br. Larry told us he has entitled his sermon, “Can You Be Spotted?” He told us that he felt God’s Spirit here for the first time 50 years ago as he sat in the congregation. He had been considering being baptized into the Church of Christ. Suddenly he was raised up above the congregation . . . he saw a cord running from one member to the other. A voice asked him, “Do you know what that is?” He said, “No, I don’t.” He was told, “That’s the pure love of Jesus Christ.” Afterward he asked to be baptized. He read 1 Peter 2:9-10 where we are told we are a cho-



sen generation, a royal priesthood. We should be a peculiar people . . . the people of God. He has chosen us to represent Him here on earth. He explained that many from the Collins Local watch church sermons all day Sunday after their own services. He asked us if we think people can tell us apart from others out in the world? Do we believe in the scriptures? What makes us different? Do we apply the scriptures to our lives? Do we stand out as being different? He read John 15:21; John 14:15; John 13:34-35; 3 Nephi 5:60-63; Matthew 5:3-12, 14-16. Br. Larry urged everyone to stand up for their principles. He asked, "What other characteristics show us as Christians? Integrity? Do we do what we say we'll do?" God sees everything we do; who we are and where we are. He knows who you're supposed to be in this life. . . take responsibility. Don't disappoint God. Speak in truth and consideration.

After dinner we enjoyed a song service.

**T**he Friday Evening Sermon was given by Elder John Bryant, with Elder David Rudd assisting. Br. John told us sometime during the winter he had a dream. He saw Br. Buzz call him on the phone and ask him to preach at the Missouri Reunion. About July 4th, he got that call—Br. Buzz asked him to preach at the Missouri Reunion! Br. John told us we need a refresher: how do we overcome our pride? Pride takes us down Satan's path. Br. John asked, "What is pride? To put it simply, good pride is thankfulness. Bad is puffed up." He took their beautiful new tractor to lift a big limb that had fallen. As he lifted it up, the limb fell and crashed on the tractor's roof. His dad calmly said, "Now that you have broken it in, can we use it for

what we bought it for?" We all have pride issues. Fathers, have you ever noticed when you put things together you have problems? You think you can do it without reading the instruction manuals? We need to set aside our pride and read the directions! (We have two wonderful instruction books.) Br. John read Proverbs 16:18-19 and explained that listening is deciphering and understanding, not just hearing. He read Matthew 6, Psalms 10:1-5; 1 John 2:15-17; Mark 7:20-23; 1 Peter 5:5-8; 2 Timothy 3:1-5; Alma 2:8-10; Moroni 10:30-32; Alma 3:50-51; Alma 4:3-4. Br. John told about something that happened back in 1976, mid-winter, a month after his grandpa died. His grandmother went to a closet and took out a very old shoe box—she handed it to his dad, Loren (her son). In the box were war medals; one he noticed right away was the Purple Heart (John was about 12 years old then). His father said to him, "The pieces mean nothing . . . but remember the prayers of the church people who prayed me out of that situation." He knows his dad never wanted those medals to stand above the blessings given (that can be a prideful thing). Br. John has come to understand what his dad was trying to teach him about pride. He read Job 1:21. Naked I came and naked I return. Let our garments be washed white when we stand before our Lord and may He say—"Well done, good and faithful servant."

**T**he Saturday Morning Prayer Service — Elder Steve McGhee in charge. Br. Steve used 1 Cor. 1:18-31. He told us he'd been helping at Teen Camp all week. We come here now for prayer, testimony, songs to offer up to God, to praise Him.

There was an administration and the service was opened for the leading of the Spirit, in testifying, prayers and song. These are just a few of the testimonies heard:

- ▶ A brother told us about the blessing of tithing. He's unemployed right now; not for anything he did wrong, but that's the way it is. The Lord has done amazing things. He and his wife went on a missionary trip with his last check, which turned out to be bigger than they'd expected. They paid tithing on it. He has lots of projects to do to help financially. He explained that through it all, their bank balance was still the same. God is holding them up. He's gained phenomenal confidence in God. He's most blessed; We're blessed over and over . . . for our obedience to His word.
- ▶ A sister testified of the miraculous power of God to show us our fears. Most of the month she felt stress with the trip, camp and other family activities. The pressure overwhelmed her. She kept re-working her budget. She had enough, but still felt stressed, burdened. Last week—she was still feeling it. By Monday night she laid it all out to God in prayer. On Tuesday at work a tightness in her chest began. The pressures had overwhelmed her. The thought came to her, "Are those things really what's bothering her? What if it's her new job?" As soon as she allowed herself to think and pray about that—it melted away. That was it. So, she listed on a sheet of paper the "true" and the "false" — like pros and cons. She knows fears are not of God; fears are the lies that Satan uses. As soon



as she was willing to look at it, it was gone. God showed her truth.

**T**he Saturday Morning Sermon was given by Priest Aaron Moser, assisted by Elder Bob Hedrick. Br. Aaron told us he'd had an injury at camp, but even though he broke his arm, there is a blessing as he can wait until he gets home to take care of it. He's so glad that in his youth he went to camp—it made him who he is. He learned how to keep focus and look to the goal. Br. Aaron told us he wants to talk about being unified. Our national flag, with the stripes and the field of stars, allows for growth. The USA was set up by God. Political cycles, etc., get in the way of our peace, with the divisions getting worse. We're hurting ourselves with the disunity that Satan enjoys. Br. Aaron read Alma 8:93-98, tells us the story of Zeezrom; 1 Cor. 6:20 tells us we all belong to Christ, good or evil; Ephes. 4:1-7, 11-16 tells us it takes work to be united, we have to look to God, 30-32 tells us it takes time to heal; John 8: 3-11 tells us the unworthy can be healed; 2 Nephi 14:1-7; 2 Tim. 3:16-17. We need to unite—we're called to action. He read Matthew 25:31-46, which shows how He's going to separate us in the end; Mosiah 2:24-31; Ephes. 5:1-7 which tells us to keep your lives clean...be forgiven; James 1:22-27. Br. Aaron mentioned that he thought last night's sermon (on Pride) was a wonderful lead-in to his sermon. He read 3 Nephi 5:97-106; 2 Nephi 14:12; Alma 14:103; John 17:9-11, 20-22. The key is that we be united in humility, not in pride. 2 Nephi 6:75-87; Hebrews 12:5-11 tells us He corrects His children; Luke 14:7-11; James 4:1, 6-10; 4 Nephi 1:1-21. Br. Aaron briefly told us the story of Gideon in summation and asked, "Can we let God take over?"

After lunch there was a Song service.

**T**he Saturday Afternoon Sermon was given by Elder Albert Leighton-Floyd, assisted by Elder Bob Oldham. Br. Albert made note that God has spoken to us at the reunion already. He wants us to focus today on "How Much We Should Love God." If you love Him, you'll keep His commandments. First is love God with all your heart, soul, and mind. Second is to love your neighbor as yourself. Jesus said in Matthew 6:33, Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all else will follow. There's responsibility with love. If we love God we need to pray, study, trust Him, have faith, forgive and love our fellow man. Can we forgive if someone doesn't agree with us? He read Matthew 18:23-35; Jesus paid our debt. God gave us a great opportunity. Religions around us have doctrines that are different than what we know. The scriptures say, "After all we can do, it is by grace we are saved." We desire more gifts of the Spirit: prophecy, healings, etc. People in the world do also and yet, God told them, "Workers of iniquity, depart from me." They were those that never entered in by the gate (not baptized). Once through that gate we're on His path. They must not have been on the right path...they hadn't kept the commandments of God. We have a responsibility of going through the gate. He read 1 Nephi 3:168-171. We know we must endure to the end. These other doctrines are precepts of men. We need to be able to sit and share the scriptures with people and explain the differences in what is thought and what is actually in the scriptures. If you partake of the Sacrament unworthily...means we need to get all ill feelings out of us first before we partake. Resolve those things that are offensive. Br. Albert told us to remember it says in 2 Nephi 1:10 that none

would come to this land except that the Lord would bring them. We are told if we don't repent we'll be wiped off too. 3 Nephi 9:98-106 and 10:1-3. Repentant Gentiles will assist in the building of the New Jerusalem/the city of Zion. Israel will also be gathered. He read Jeremiah 23:3-8 and told us that we need to love God more so we can assist. In Rev. 7 we are told that a great multitude will be gathered before God, and they will see Him on the throne and they'll worship Him.

After dinner there was a Song Service.

**T**he Saturday Evening Sermon was given by Elder Jim Case and assisted by Elder Bob Oldham.

Brother Jim told us he's titled his sermon, "Is It Well with Your Soul?" Br. Jim read 2 Nephi 1:115. The joy we need comes from the realization of what our heavenly Father has done for us; Merciful, He gave Himself. We have a merciful God. He read 1 Nephi 1:13. We're told God won't suffer us to perish, but seeks those that serve Him, so they won't perish. Br. Jim told us a story of one who wanted to serve God. He spoke of a lady who is now passed on. In her younger years she had been an unwed mother. She was determined to have a Godly life, years later she met a man and married. Later she was given a dream and she went to her mother-in-law and asked what the dream meant. She told her mother-in-law that in her dream she saw Jim baptize her. Making a trip north in the early Spring, he visited her and did the baptism. He explained that we are so that we may have joy. Br. Jim read 2 Nephi 1:115 again, and 3 Nephi 5:90. He told us he'd explained to her that it's no longer, "An eye for an eye." Don't hold grudges, but correct things we've done in error. When he told her that



she said, "I'll do that." And she did. She wanted to share this truth with her daughter she'd had so many years ago. God blessed her and eventually she was put back in touch with that daughter. She was able to rectify things with her and they had joy... because she had followed God. Everything had been cared for, and she was taken home to be with the Lord soon after. Br. Jim read Alma 19:78 and Romans 8:16-17 and explained we are joint heirs with Christ. We must persevere and have hope eternal. There is only one place to find wisdom, and that's in His word. The scriptures will confound the wisdom of man. God will give eternal life; that's our inheritance. He read from 3 Nephi 11:4-15. God is going to purify us... if we let Him. God's commandments have never changed for He changes not. Are we robbing God in tithes and offerings? If we belong and have the name of Christ... we become a nation. We're told to bring all tithes in unto the storehouse, God's storehouse, then all nations shall call you blessed. Pride is in the way when we don't do this. We think we know better. When we send monies directly to places we want it applied to and bypass the storehouse, aren't we shortening God's Arm? Do we want control of it, or do we want to give God the control? If we do our best to do things right before God, He'll bless us greatly. Is it well with your soul?

**Sunday Morning Sacrament Service** began with Apostle Jeff Oldham in charge with Elder David Rudd assisting. Br. Jeff told us of an incident between his niece and his nephew. He had to correct their behavior. He told us he could just imagine how the Lord would look down at us, and His re-

action. In Isaiah 55:8 the Lord tells us that, "My thoughts are not your thoughts..." He's calling out to us. There is joy in the journey. This is our opportunity to re-energize, to renew and refresh. We need to engage with people. He read Luke 16:19-23, which tells us what matters is right here and right now in this service. He continued with verses 24-31 which tells us to go from here stronger...

The blessing of the emblems took place and they were served. Br. David then asked for names for the prayer list, and we were led into a season of prayer in which many voices were heard. Following were four administrations. The service was then opened for testimonies as the Spirit would lead; these are just a few:

- ▶ A Brother testified that he always comes back from camp tired. It's always great, God is so good and blesses us. He remembers last year thinking that he needed to address people's despair and bring hope. The subject came to him: "Pressing Forward." He read 2 Nephi 13. Grow in Christ. Our hope is that God gives us strength through our troubles. Life is full of obstacles; it's a path full of adversaries. Every teacher in each class was perfect for what part they were teaching. God had it all lined up—even the weather. It was perfect-wonderful-beautiful. God's at work behind the scenes ALL the time. We look at world events—God is behind the scenes busy all the time. He is at work everywhere. It's joyous to know that. God has been directing and always will. He's great and wonderful and de-

serves all the praise.

- ▶ A brother testified that he is thankful for the opportunity to be here. A verse from Psalms says, "Lord is faithful to all generations." Thinking back on this last week and the family histories we have... God is so far ahead of us. There was a reoccurring theme—God gives constant care and is reaching out to His children. The work in Ethiopia is young. Their coordinator had been accused of horrible things (there was no evidence, but he reacted bad to the accusations). Another brother, the accuser, admitted he was wrong. He confessed and asked for forgiveness. God is always at work. It's a different culture. God is faithful to all generations. Thursday night at camp there was a statement made by a sister—"A burden shared is a burden divided." He thinks it's the same as joy multiplied. Rejoice in God's faithfulness to us.
- ▶ A sister told us she had fears going to the dentist, although she had to recently. It turned out to be less invasive than what she thought it would be though. That was blessing #1. She didn't feel any pain; that was blessing #2. Before she went, she had prayed about it. But she still couldn't let it go. She needed to trust Him, let Him work and take control. She had to fully give it up.
- ▶ Another sister told us she'd been having knee problems. She was away from home when it was bad. She got a shot to help her. Time went on, past the time for when she would have had to have another shot. She realized that God had



healed her after she asked.

- ▶ Another sister told us that God speaks to her in analogies. God sees us for who we are—He's loving and long suffering. He wants us to build, not destroy. He sees all, calling us, building us. She asked us, "How can we be less with anyone else?"
- ▶ Another sister testified that last year she did something that wasn't good. God saw her fault and brought her to change. She had been mad, and depressed. She went to God. She was administered to and God filled her. He guided her. He loves.
- ▶ A brother told us he sees testifiers... we're bringing forth our evidence. We are His witnesses. This is God's opportunity to talk to us. While at home recently the phone rang. He heard screaming on the other end of the line. He was asked to come right away to administer to a young child. He felt like the Lord was saying, "Get ready, rise up." As he was about to lay his hands on he said to the child, "Jesus is going to bless you." It wasn't long after the administration that the child was up and riding his bicycle like nothing was wrong.
- ▶ A sister told us of a saying she heard once— "If you dwell on the world you'll be distressed; if you dwell on yourself you'll be depressed; if you dwell on God you'll be at rest." God has a work for each of us.
- ▶ A brother testified that the Lord sees us regardless of our ages or the dispensation we're in. When he was young the idea was that when you get a call to go administer to someone you needed to be cleaned up and even take time to prepare first. Now he knows, "Just go!" —the Lord will take care of it. It was M. Harvey Seibel that told him that many years ago. Years later, the family began to call on him to administer to them many times. He's prayed on his way to their home, to prepare himself. M. Harvey came from a group in a time that they "prayed through" the difficulty. Be ready, don't hesitate; move, respond. He has to seek the Lord against his own routine. Don't wait. Last year he made a change in the schedule for the Missouri Reunion; He removed the Friday morning preaching service. This year he forgot all about it. The Lord had HIS WAY. He thanked us for another successful reunion.

- ▶ A brother told us he greatly enjoyed the photos displayed at the Social the evening before. (Church Reunions and group photos). He told us he enjoyed it very much and, as he looked at the pictures he felt a strong sense of family. He told us we ARE related you know... by the blood of Christ. He's so thankful for that. Yes, we have trials, in the church, in the nation and in the world. We need not be partakers of ills. Bear each other's burdens. God corrects if we'll allow Him. Prayer is mighty powerful. Look at what our brothers and sisters endure and accomplish—let that encourage us. There are times when he feels our prayers and he prays for us.
- ▶ A sister testified about an answer to prayer. She asked that those who prayed for them at camp raise their hands. EVERYONE raised their hands. This has to be a lesson for the campers. Pray, don't worry!

After lunch, we greatly enjoyed a special song service of talent offerings given by many saints.

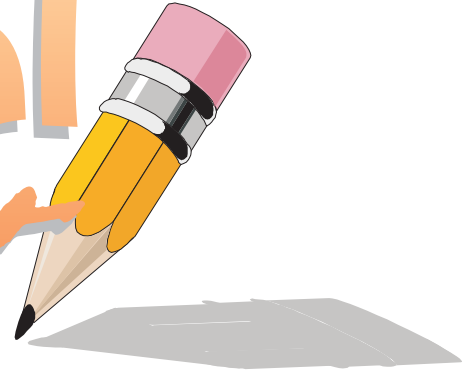
**T**he Sunday Afternoon Sermon was given by Elder Aadam Yates, assisted by D. A. Vogel. Br. Aadam told us the Lord's Spirit was with them at camp this past week. A year ago, due to his job as a police officer, he shirked his responsibility at camp. This year the Lord gave him something to share at camp: Look at your life. We're called to be conquerors and to overcome. We're in a battle of life and there are victims everywhere. There were false accusations against him at work and he resigned last February. He had been an officer for over thirteen years. Is he a victim and powerless? The Lord didn't call us to be victims or to be powerless... Br. Aadam read 2 Tim. 1:6-7 where we are told God has not given us a spirit of fear. He also read Romans 8:31-37 where we are told to let go of our burdens—give them up to God. Remember, Satan whispers. He read Isaiah 61:1 in telling us the Lord binds up our broken hearts. Today many have a victim mentality. We don't want to "own it." He read 2 Samuel 12:7-9. David didn't take ownership of his deed. Nathan chastised David in vs 12-13. In the law they were under the penalty of what he'd done was stoning. David took ownership and the Lord forgave him. Repentance is ownership. Excuses and finger pointing doesn't repair. We want to conquer Satan. Ephesians 6 tells us about the Armor of God. We need to be on the offense against Satan's influ-

ences. He read 3 Nephi 8:20. It appears to him that when Christ is there—Satan is completely overcome. Keep Christ with you. By learning to pray we overcome our spiritual adolescence. God does not conform to the image we've built. We have free will agency—that's why bad things happen. He read Judges 6:36-39 where he read the story of Gideon about the dew on the cloth. Satan's wiles bring doubt and uncertainty. Doubt has an effect on us—it makes us powerless. 1 Nephi 3:26-29 tells us if we ask, the Lord will answer. We know there are things coming upon the church. 3 Nephi 5:110-112. We need to overcome discontent, which means there's something lacking in you. Lay not up treasures on earth. Lay up not treasures that rust... we need to be spiritually mature. Lay out your heart to God. The world can't live up to our expectations. He read Philippians 4:11-13 where we are told to be content. If the Lord is with us—we can be content wherever we are. 1 Nephi 1:13. We're in this life to get out of it! There's no reason to fear death. We conquer death with Christ in our lives. There's no other way. Are you owning that? 1 Cor. 15:54-58 assures us death is swallowed up in victory. Br. Aadam thanked us for our support in his family's trial. He's felt such an outpouring from God. He's so grateful. Our labor is not in vain when we're assisting others. God rewards those who diligently seek Him. He read Jude, vs 1-3, 20-21, 24-25. We have to contend, every day; we can't sit back. God will keep you from falling. He can make us conquerors. Job didn't deserve what happened, but he conquered and persevered. We're all blessed to be part of this gospel!

It was time to close the 2018 reunion, but we were very blessed. The Lord's message given at the Missouri Reunion this year was clear to this reporter: "It's Our Responsibility" to clean up our lives, examine our souls and do better, so that we may "Be spotted as a Christian." We must "Overcome pride," be "United in Christ," focus on "How Much We Should Love God"; then ask yourselves "Is It Well with Your Soul?" Finally, we need to "Persevere and Overcome" with the Lord as we Endure to the End.

*Your reporter,  
Sister Deb Haines*

# Collins Local Report



If I met you on the street and asked you, “Where’re you headed?” what would your response be? I guess we’re all “headed” somewhere—but WHERE? At work I often tease people who are headed out to go shopping (or something), and ask them where they’re going, and then whine that I want to go too! (All in fun!). But my question today is not in fun, but serious—“Where are you headed?” Are we setting an example that would invite a passer-by to “want to go along?” Have we mentioned to anyone the hope that we have for eternal life with our master, Jesus Christ? Well, I suppose if you met me on the street and asked me this same question, I might not have a good answer either, but I should! (1 Peter 3:15). This thought came across my mind the other night when I was hoping for a good sound sleep, and I’ve been thinking about it for several days. We have this destination planned for us; however, we also have the

God-given ability “choose” from all the influences we come in contact with every day—and these choices we make are going to help, if not totally determine, where we spend eternity. I watched a sermon recently on livestream Sunday evening where the speaker had the little kids come forward and sing a neat little song called, *Be Careful Little Eyes*. The point to the song is that we are in charge of what we look at, what we listen to, what we say, what we do and where we go! We get to choose, and it behooves us to choose wisely! The Lord is watching and waiting, but make no mistake, the devil is pushing and shoving temptations into our heads and in front of our feet to entice us away from the straight and narrow path we pledged to follow. So, *Be Careful Little Eyes* and, “Where are you headed—can I come too?”

Way back in April, Shawna and Dale (Herd) drove to Phoenix and brought Niki and lil’ Ethan (Herd) back to Missouri for a

few days. We all enjoyed their visit immensely, but poor Aaron probably wasn’t quite as happy as we were since he had to stay home and go to work! Allen and I just returned from a visit to Phoenix the early part of August and enjoyed their sunny “warm” weather for a few days. It was, however, the company, not the weather we enjoyed most.... It was great to visit with our grandkids, and also a joy to get to attend church there and visit with our brothers and sisters in the gospel.

Our sister, Peachie (Yates) Mathis fell and broke her leg in May and is still recuperating from that. She was in a nursing facility for a while to get her started on therapy and such, but now is home with her daughter Renee, and husband Randy Livingston. Randy, as you may remember, is diabetic and needs dialysis. They are getting a room ready so they can do this in their home, and Renee is being trained on how to manage this process.

Please remember them in your prayers.

Our brother Mike Hitt from the Anderson, Missouri, area recently had a bad wreck on his motorcycle/scooter. He and Faith, his daughter, were going down the road just a ways and on their way back some dogs ran out in front of them and Mike hit one that dumped the bike and them. Faith was scratched up quite a bit and, I believe, has a broken wrist, while Mike has some serious facial injuries and one leg in bad condition requiring surgery. Brothers Larry Beem and Allen Kauffman went to see Br. Mike, as did Brother Albert Leighton-Floyd, and then that evening, I believe, Brother Trevor Wratt from the Independence area also came. Many prayers have been offered and many more are needed—please remember this family in your continued prayers.

Our dear friend, Al Lind from Preston, has not been able to attend services here for quite some time. He requires a good amount of care, which has been divided

up among family members. They have recently found a care facility that is VA-approved and he has agreed to go there for a while. This is a difficult decision for all concerned.

Our sister, Ann Yates, from the Preston area, is in the hospital in Springfield due to an infection. She is doing better, but must stay until this is all cleared up. She has been administered to by Brother Martin Addie and also Brother Allen Kauffman. When you go visit her SHE cheers YOU up! What a blessing!

Brother Paul Leikness is still having trouble with his knee, but nothing more can be done until he gets his AIC under control (diabetic term). Brothers Larry Beem and Allen Kauffman also are diabetic, as is Vicky Pitts. It is a mean disease and so unpredictable, with the highs and low sugars.

I have a few sermon quotes to share with you and hope it will give you a moment of thought:

■ *If the occasion arises, I hope I can arise to the occasion.*

- *It's hard to get ahead when you're running backwards.*
- *If you've never heard the voice of God—try listening*
- *Go to the One who knows all—He will not lead you astray.*
- *You could be a "good" person, but when brought before the judgement seat of Christ, He could say—"I know you not!"*
- *Your "attitude" in life determines your "altitude" in life.*
- *In the life of every human being, Jesus encounters you!*
- *We don't call each other out—we call each other UP!*
- *Can you be "spotted"? Do you stand out from the rest of the world?*
- *Why does evil have to be so "evil"??? Because good is so GOOD!*

Your reporter,  
Czerna Kauffman

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### 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 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](mailto:ccegmgr@icloud.com)

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

### AVA WEBSITE

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

[www.cocsermons.net](http://www.cocsermons.net).

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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

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